

IPARD IN FOCUS

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
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IPARD
EU4Rural Areas

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The European Commission has adopted the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021 - 2027

According to the Decision of the European Commission No. C (2022)1537 of 9th March 2022, within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in the policy area "Agriculture and Rural Development" (IPARD), the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027 is adopted. The financial contribution of the European Union for the adopted IPARD III Programme amounts to EUR 288 million, which represents an increase in comparison to the previous programming period. EU support, together with national and private contribution, is expected to amount more than EUR 580 million of investments' value in rural areas of the Republic of Serbia.

Through the IPARD III Programme implementation, the Republic of Serbia achieves its own goals related to increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change and increasing the attractiveness of rural areas. The IPARD Programme also contributes to the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans through: improving manure and waste management, modernization of assets, producing energy from renewable resources and increasing energy efficiency, transferring innovative and environmentally friendly technologies, as well as an environmentally and climate - sound agricultural production methods.

Investments supported by the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia relate to the procurement of equipment and machinery, construction and reconstruction of facilities, which will significantly contribute to achieving European standards in the field of hygiene, food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection, empowering agricultural producers and processors for better placement on the EU market.

Measures that will be supported by the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021 – 2027 are:

- **Measure 1: Investment in physical assets of agricultural holdings;**
- **Measure 3: Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products;**
- **Measure 4: Agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure;**
- **Measure 5: Implementation of Local Development Strategies – LEADER approach;**
- **Measure 6: Investments in rural public infrastructure;**
- **Measure 7: Farm diversification and business development and**
- **Measure 9: Technical Assistance (support to the Managing Authority in the IPARD Programme implementation).**



In addition to the already entrusted IPARD II Programme measures, the IPARD III Programme envisages the introduction of new measures, new sectors, new limits of financial support, as well as new specific criteria.

The Third IPARD implementation Workshop with European Commission

The Third IPARD implementation workshop of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) for candidate countries, organized by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG), is held from 29th to 31st March 2022, in Novi Sad. The objective of the workshop was sharing of successful experiences between the IPARD countries in order to improve the IPARD II Programme implementation and optimize the preparation for IPARD III Programme implementation.

IPARD Managing Authorities and IPARD Agencies from Serbia, Albania, Northern Macedonia, Turkey and Montenegro presented, at the workshop, the state of the IPARD II Programme implementation, including experiences in preventing de-commitment, improving / simplifying procedures, acting upon appeals, on-the-spot controls, etc. IPARD support recipients for Measure 1 and Measure 3 from the Republic of Serbia, agricultural producer Matija Perčić and Desing d.o.o Belgrade, presented their stories to the workshop's participants.

Representatives of DG AGRI informed participants about the IPARD III regulatory framework, procedure for entrustment of IPARD III measures and the activities timeline of candidate countries in 2022.



Promotional and educational activities of the IPARD Managing Authority

The head of the IPARD Managing Authority, Jasmina Miljković MSc, participated as guest lecturer in seminar “Intensive production of vegetables and fruits in protected areas and postharvest storage of products”, organized by AgroNET - Education and Research Centre, of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, on 12th March. She has introduced the participants at the seminar about the support possibilities for the investments in the fruit and vegetable sectors through IPARD Measure 1 - Investment in physical assets of agricultural holdings and Measure 3 - Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products.

Representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority, presented the new IPARD programming period to local self-governments of the Republic of Serbia within the regular meeting of the Network for Rural Development of Local Self-Governments organized by Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM), held on 15th March. In the field of environmental protection and food safety, technical bodies presented checklists for meeting national standards for IPARD support recipients.



Furthermore, at the meeting held on 21st March, the representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority informed the SCTM's representatives in detail about the plans for the implementation of Measure 5 – Implementation of Local Development Strategies – LEADER approach and Measure 6 – Investments in rural public infrastructure, as local self-governments are direct and indirect recipients of these measures. In order to successfully use the allocated funds for the implementation of Measure 5 and Measure 6 within the IPARD III Programme, it is agreed that the SCTM will include all its available resources.

Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad

The largest fair event of the Republic of Serbia and one of the largest events in the Europe in the field of agriculture, the 89th International Agricultural Fair, will be held in the period from 21st to 27st May 2022 in Novi Sad. The agricultural fair returns to its standard, spring term, retains the traditional format and enables exhibitors the opportunity to present themselves in the best way.



Traditionally, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management will be present at the International Agricultural Fair at a stand in the “Master” hall and will organize various accompanying events - lectures, tribunes, workshops, round tables... At the MAFWM stand, all visitors have opportunity to gain information on current subsidies, as well as on other topics under the scope of the Ministry.

The National Exhibition of Livestock, the Exhibition of Organic Products, Products with Geographical Indications, Serbian Quality and the Exhibition of Craft Beer are just some of the parts organized under the auspices of the MAFWM.

Conferences at International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad

During the International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad, the EU project “Capacity building for the alignment with the *acquis* in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy” will organize several conferences, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and international experts.

Monday, 23^d May - A regional conference on the Green Architecture of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) presents the main objectives of the EU's CAP with a focus on supporting and strengthening the environment, including biodiversity and climate actions. The new green architecture is the main tool for achieving these goals through rules on enhanced conditionality, eco-schemes and voluntary agri-environmental-climate measures.



Tuesday, 24^h May – “IPARD Programme – Be informed”; at this conference, the representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority, the Directorate for Agrarian Payments and the recipients of IPARD support measures will present the results so far and examples of IPARD recipients’ successful projects. The participants of the conference will share with interested audience information on how to make the best use of support measures, as well as novelties which IPARD Programme brings in the next programming period.

Wednesday, 25^h May - Visit of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management officials to the MAFWM stand.



Thursday, 26^h May – The conference on food safety, animal health and welfare official controls. The aim of this conference is to provide information on a new approach based on the risk of official controls performed by the competent authorities on all goods (products of animal origin, plants and plant products, by-products, etc.) and live animals. The new rules will provide a better legal basis, which will reduce the administrative burden on operators and harmonize official controls in mandatory areas - food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, plant protection products, organic farming.

Thursday, 26^h May - The second conference, co-organised with EU funded project “Reinforcement of animal health and welfare in Serbia”, is dedicated to animal welfare and harmonized measures for the control of African swine fever, the application of biosecurity measures in animal facilities and the role and importance of animal welfare and good breeding.



The last public call for tractors has been finished

Within the Seventh, and in the same time the last, Public Call of the IPARD II Programme, 647 applications for the purchase of a new tractor are received. The public call was published on 17th April and the deadline for submission of applications was 26th April 2022.

The allocated funds within this Public Call amounts to approx. EUR 11.5 million. The support intensity was 60%, 65%, in the case the applicant is a young farmer (up to 40 years) or 70%, in the case the agricultural holding is located in a mountainous area.

Eligible sectors for investments, within this public call, were: production of milk, meat, fruits and vegetables, other crops (cereals and industrial crops), grapes and eggs. Tractor, as a subject of IPARD investment, should belong to types T1 to T5 or C1 to C5. Also, it was necessary that the tractor meets the requirements in the field of environmental protection, i.e. that the exhaust gas emission corresponds to the "Stage/Tier V" standard.



The next public call for the procurement of a new tractor is planned, within the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027, for the first half of 2023.

The first payment request for advance payment has been approved

The first payment request for advance payment has been approved within IPARD Measure 1 – Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings for investments in Egg sector. Under the public call for Measure 1, 13 requests for advance payment, that have been submitted, are in the approval stage, with the total amount of approx. EUR 1.02 million.



Upon adoption of The Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, possibility of advance payment to IPARD recipients in the amount of up to 50% of the subsidy value is introduced. IPARD support recipients who submit a request for advance payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Decision on project approval are eligible. Also, the request has to be accompanied by a bank guarantee, corresponding to the value of 110% of the requested advance payment. After approved project is realized, IPARD recipient submits request for final payment of IPARD support to the Directorate for Agrarian Payments (IPARD Agency).

Announcement of the Ninth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

Ninth session of the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the IPARD II Programme (IPARD II Monitoring Committee), chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Mr. Branislav Nedimović, will be held on 21st June 2022 in Belgrade. In addition to the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members, the session will be attended also by the representatives of the European Commission's Directorate - General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of European Integration, the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds and others.



At the Ninth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee the achieved results of the IPARD II Programme implementation, as well as the proposal of Annual Implementation Report on the IPARD II Programme for 2021, which will be subject of adoption by the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, will be discussed. Furthermore, one of the topics on the agenda of the session refers to the IPARD III Programme, including presentation of possibilities for potential recipients during the new programming period 2021-2027.

Annual Implementation Report on the IPARD II Programme for 2021

The IPARD Managing Authority has prepared the Third Annual Implementation Report on the IPARD II Programme of the Republic of Serbia, covering the period from the 1st January to 31st December 2021. The purpose of reporting is to provide information on implementation of priorities and measures related to the achievement of the IPARD II Programme objectives, based on financial realization, as well as in relation to common and specific indicators and quantified target values.



A significant contribution to the preparation of the Report was provided by the IPARD Agency, the National Authorizing Officer Support Office, the National Fund, the Ministry of European Integration, as well as the Sector for International Cooperation, MAFWM.

The report contains eight chapters, which include an overview of macroeconomic indicators, applied measures to improve the quality and efficiency of IPARD II Programme implementation, financial obligations and expenditures per measures, activities undertaken related to programme evaluation, use of other international financial support instruments, review of financial flows by measures, as well as activities for the implementation of the plan of visibility and communication activities

The Annual Implementation Report on the IPARD II Programme for 2021 will be presented at the Ninth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, after which it will be subject to adoption by the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members. Also, this Report will be submitted to the European Commission for approval until 30th June 2022.

Example of successful project

Branislav Crveni (38), from Turija near Srbobran, after finishing high school, decided to follow in his father's footsteps and be engaged in agriculture. He plants wheat, corn, and mercantile soya bean on approx. 60 hectares of fertile land in Vojvodina. In addition to cooperation with the well-known Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad, Branislav needed new machinery to achieve record yields, for which his family has been known for many years.

According to his words, reducing inputs and reaching yields on the level of European farmer is achieved by careful planning of each step in production. The most crucial stage and prerequisite for a successful yield is sowing. The same strategy Branislav has used to purchase of machinery – carefully, step by step, in accordance with the possibilities and available types of support.



Branislav participated in the First Public Call for the procurement of new machinery and equipment. He is one of the first paid IPARD recipients in Serbia. He modernized his mechanization with a tractor connected mineral fertilizer spreader and navigation for agricultural mechanization, for which he received EUR 21,410 of IPARD support.

Branislav has participated also in the Fifth Public Call within Measure 1, for the procurement of a tractor mounted sprayer. The realization of this investment was not easy, given that the COVID pandemic introduced new challenges in many sectors, including the sector for production and distribution of agricultural equipment and machinery. After the deadline for realization of the investment was extended, Branislav has obtained a sprayer, and also the IPARD support in the value of EUR 22,345.

Though, this is not the end. With the IPARD support, Branislav is planning to renew more of his mechanization. He submitted an application for the Sixth Public Call for Measure 1. Considering that he is well placed on the ranking list, Branislav hopes that he will accomplish, step by step, modernization of his farm with IPARD support.

One click to first-hand information

For the newest information on events, announcements, calls and rules regarding the implementation of the IPARD II Programme in Serbia, follow the official IPARD Managing Authority accounts - on Instagram (@ipardnadlanu) and Facebook (IPARD na dlanu).

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR US?

For prompt answer, please contact us through e-mail ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs or Instagram and Facebook pages!



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