

# IPARD IN FOCUS

# 18

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Water Management



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas

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# The new Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is appointed

The handover of duties between the former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Mr. Branislav Nedimović, and the newly elected line Minister, Mrs. Jelena Tanasković, took place in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, on the October 27th. On that occasion, they exchanged information about activities of the Ministry so far, as well as the upcoming tasks and responsibilities of Minister Tanasković and the employees of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, with the goal to improve results.



## Workshop organized by DG AGRI

DG AGRI has organized online workshop with national IPARD authorities on IPARD II and IPARD III implementation, in October 2022. The workshop was attended by representatives of NAO Support Offices, Managing Authorities and IPARD Agencies, Audit Authorities from Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey, as well as representatives of EU Delegations and DG AGRI.

After the update on progress with implementation of IPARD II and preparation of IPARD II to IPARD III transfer presented by all candidate countries, representatives of DG AGRI have presented Guidance concerning the entrustment for budget implementation tasks for IPARD III with three scenarios. The first scenario refers to submitting a request for roll-over in the case when there are no significant changes within measures and procedures compared to the previous programming period. The second one refers to the case of significant amendments when it is necessary to carry out a process of self-assessment of the functioning of the system before the request for roll-over is submitted. The third scenario refers to the entrustment for new measures, where, among other things, an external audit opinion is also necessary. Whatever option is in question, the roll-over or entrustment process for new measures could begin before the signing of the Sectoral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission setting out provisions for the management and implementation of Union financial assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the rural development programme of the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPARD III).



The final List of Eligible Expenditures that earlier commented by candidate countries, and the process and requirements for use of Simplified Cost Options in IPARD III were presented and discussed at the meeting.

The new Guidelines for communication, publicity, and visibility for projects funded under IPARD III programmes, highlighting differences in comparison with the previous programming period were briefly presented. This is an obligation that recipients of IPARD III support have also to respect.

# Serbia progress towards EU accession - Commission Report for 2022

European Commission has communicated the Report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 2022 on EU Enlargement policy, as well as detailed Report on Serbia progress towards EU accession.

Considering progress in Chapter 11 - Agriculture and rural development, in the report is stressed that Serbia has made some progress, in particular through the adoption of the amendment of the Law on agriculture and rural development in November 2021, improving the efficiency of processing IPARD applications, as well as the timely submission of the IPARD III Programme for the period 2021-2027.



In regard to IPARD, Serbia should take measures to improve implementation and avoid loss of IPARD II funds, in particular Serbia has fully to implement its action plan for better absorption of funds, to fill vacant posts for improved and timely processing of IPARD applications and to start implementation of the Measure 9 - Technical Assistance, as well.

Recommendation to Serbia is to ensure timely and smooth roll-over of entrusted IPARD measures to the 2021-2027 period and to prepare new measures for entrustment under the programme: "Agri-environment-climate and organic farming", "Implementation of Local Development Strategies (LEADER approach)" and "Investments in rural public infrastructure".

## AEC Measure - Experience of The Republic of Slovenia

The Serbian delegation, composed of representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority, the IPARD Agency and representatives of other relevant organizational units within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Finance, has visited Slovenia in the period 26-30th

September 2022, within the IPA 2017 project “Support to the IPARD Operating Structure”. During the visit, two workshops were held in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia and in the Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development of the Republic of Slovenia, where the experiences and challenges in the creation and implementation of agri-environment-climate measures, as well as the procedures for the approval of these subsidies, were presented.



During the study visit, participants had the opportunity to visit two farms, namely: “Grm” Biotechnics and Tourism Center, Novo mesto, Sevnoska and the farm “Pri Martinovih” in Krška Vas. Farmers have presented their experiences and concrete achievements due to the application of agri-environment measures and demonstrated the method of their control during the implementation.

The experience gained during the visit will contribute significantly for further preparation of Rulebook on Measure 4 - “Agri-environment climate and organic farming measure” within the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia.

# LEADER Measure- Experience of the Republic of Croatia

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, IPARD Managing Authority, IPARD Agency, LAGs network, as well as SCTM, have visited the Republic of Croatia in the period 10-14th October 2022, organized by the IPA 2017 project "Support to the IPARD Operating Structure". The main goal of the study visit was to introduce the delegation of the Republic of Serbia with implementation of LEADER measure in the Republic of Croatia. During the study visit, two workshops related to implementation of LEADER measure in the Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Croatia and Agency for Payments in Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development were held. Three Local Action Groups: Vallis Colapis in Ozalj, Laura in Biograd na moru and Moslavina in Kutina, were visited. Furthermore, successfully implemented projects, financed from EU funds with LAGs support, were presented to the participants. Experience gained during the study visit will be of the great benefit to activities related to the entrustment of LEADER measure within IPARD III Programme for the Republic of Serbia.



## Announcement of the Tenth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

The Tenth session of the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the IPARD II Programme (IPARD II Monitoring Committee) will be held on 14th December 2022, in Belgrade. In addition to the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members, the session will be attended by representatives of the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of European Integration, the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds and other relevant parties.

At the Tenth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee the achieved results of the IPARD II Programme, the Audit Report will be discussed, as well as the Proposal of the Action Plan for Technical Assistance for 2023, which will be also the subject to adoption by the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. Furthermore, one of the topics refers to the IPARD III Programme and steps to be taken in order to start the implementation.

The IPARD Managing Authority has prepared a Semi-Annual Implementation Report on IPARD II Programme, in order to inform on Programme implementation up to June 30th, 2022. After the session, the report will be published on the website of the Ministry.

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural Policy Forum held in Albania

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural Policy Forum, “Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges”, was held in Tirana, Albania, in the period 18-20th October. Forum gathered 140 representatives of various institutions from 12 countries of Western Balkans. Focus of the Forum was on impact of climate change on agriculture of Western Balkans countries, political responses on mitigation effects of climate changes, including support for organic production, sustainable production of wine, sustainable forest management, developing of operational Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems, and Regional Soil Partnership in the Western Balkans.



Forum was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania and the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-Eastern Europe (SWG) and supported by European Commission (DG AGRI), Government of Federal Republic of Germany, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Forum summarized outcomes and recommendations from the four working groups dedicated to regional cooperation and legal harmonization in wine sector, sustainable forest management on Western Balkans, Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems and role of youth in rural development. Forum has encouraged all Western Balkans countries to implement the Green Agenda for Western Balkans despite current challenges.

## Example of a successful project

### Voćar AD Svilajnac - renewable energy sources are key for development

Voćar AD was founded in 1948 with headquarters in Belgrade and owned facilities for hot, cold, sweet and sour processing of fruits and vegetables. The plant for cold processing of fruits and vegetables in Svilajnac, where the company headquarters is located today, was built in 1985. Main activities of Voćar AD include primary fruit production, purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, cooling, freezing and deep freezing of fruits, vegetables and fruit purees for export/further processing, storage of goods in an environment of above and below 0 C° and providing service processing of fruits and vegetables. The raw materials utilized in the processing originate from their own plantations as well as from plantations of local producers.



Flow tunnels have processing capacities ranging from 20 to 100 t per day, depending on the raw material being processed, while the average annual production is 5000 t. The processing plant is equipped with the state of the art processing equipment that ensures a high quality in the processing and deep freezing of fruits and vegetables.



Voćar AD has received subsidy under the Second Public Call for Measure 3 in the fruit sector for purchasing the following fruit processing equipment: fruit rotator (rotativa), shipping ramp, air curtains, strip curtains, evaporators for chamber, aerator, inspection lines, electric pallet stacker, electric stacker with a cabin, canopy panels, chamber panels, cooling room panels, three phase fruit crusher, metal pallets-shelves, office equipment.



The amount of the investment is approx. EUR 270 thousand, while the recipient was paid approx. EUR 90 thousand (EU contribution was approx. EUR 67 thousand). The main challenge in the process of submitting a request for project approval, besides the extensive documentation, was to obtain adequate offers. Also, the project approval process itself must be much faster and more efficient.



The company keeps investing in new, more contemporary processing lines, as well as in energy efficiency. In this respect, company has submitted a request for approval of the IPARD project for the installation of 1,700 sq. meters of solar panels and the construction of a solar power plant capable of producing 650 kW of electricity. These planned investments are essential for the company, especially in light of the current energy crisis.

## One click to first-hand information

For the newest information on events, announcements, calls and rules regarding the implementation of the IPARD 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](mailto:ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs) or Instagram and Facebook pages!



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