

# IPARD IN FOCUS

# 22

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Water Management



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas





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## The Eleventh session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

The last, Eleventh session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Beside the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members, the session was attended by representatives of the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of European Integration, the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds and others.

The MC session were chaired by Milica Đurđević, State Secretary within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. After the adoption of the proposed Agenda and the Minutes from the previous session, the MC members discussed the achieved results and progress in the IPARD II Programme implementation. Until 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 786 projects in the total amount of EUR 69.2 million of public support was realized, out of which the contribution of the European Union is EUR 51.9 million.



## The First session of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee

The First session of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee, which was also chaired by Milica Đurđević, State Secretary within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, was held after the last session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. The main topics were related to the presentation of the Rules of Procedures of the MC, the Evaluation Plan and the Plan of Visibility and Communication Activities for the period 2021-2027, as well as selection criteria within Measure 7 – Farm diversification and business development. Furthermore, the Draft First Modification were presented to the members, as well as next steps regarding the beginning of the IPARD III Programme implementation. The proposals of the above mentioned documents were adopted by the members of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee after the voting procedure.

The State Secretary pointed out that the intensive preparations for the roll-over process of the already entrusted measures for support to the agricultural producers are in the final phase. Also, she stated that documentation, rulebooks and procedures for measures that will be implemented for the first time in this programming period are in the process of preparation, Measure 4 – Agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure, and Measure 5 – Implementation of Local Development Strategies – LEADER approach.



After the sessions, representatives of the European Commission, accompanied by representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency, in order to visit recipients of the IPARD support.

## The First Modification of IPARD III Programme

The First Modification of IPARD III Programme proposal was adopted at the First Session of IPARD III Monitoring Committee. Within the First Modification of IPARD III Programme, alignment of the administrative procedure with the Sectoral Agreement was proposed, which will lead to faster processing of applications in the IPARD project approval phase for all selected measures within the IPARD III Programme.

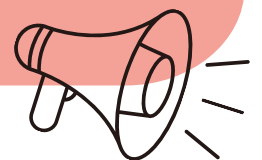


Within the Measure 1 and Measure 3, it is proposed to prepare a simple business plan for investments of more than EUR 50,000 up to a maximum of EUR 100,000. Furthermore, modification will enable support for nursery production in the Vegetable Sector within Measure 1. In addition, Measure 1 proposed changes to the criteria for scoring and ranking, based on the initiative of the association of producers who are members of the Monitoring Committee. Considering the specifics of goat/sheep milk production, with this amendment, the separation of facilities for the processing of goat/sheep and cow's milk within Measure 3 in the Milk Processing and Marketing Sector is proposed. Facilities for the processing of goat/sheep milk with a daily capacity of 500 to 5,000 l at the end of the investment will be eligible, while the capacity of the facility for processing cow's milk will remain the same, i.e. from 3,000 to 100,000 l at the end of the investment

Also, the target values of the indicators were modified based on the experience gained in the implementation of the IPARD Programme, as well as in accordance with proposal of the European Commission. The First Modification of the IPARD III Programme proposal was submitted to the European Commission for adoption, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It is expected that the IPARD III Programme will also be adopted by the national legislation.



**THE LAW ON RATIFICATION OF THE SECTORAL AGREEMENT IS ADOPTED**



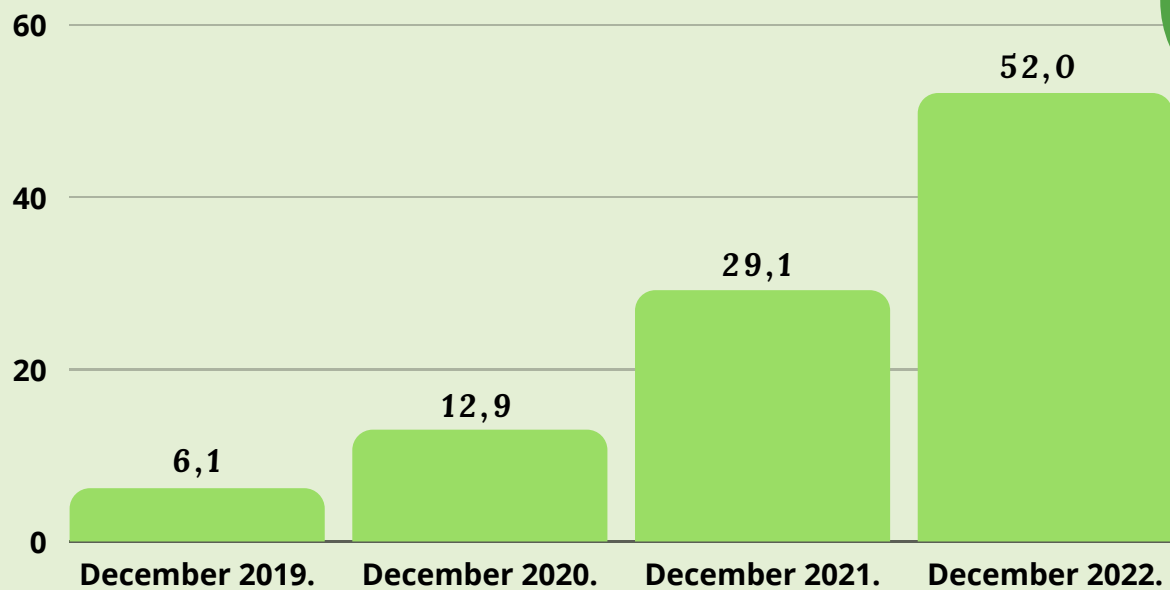
## **Annual Implementation Report of the IPARD II Programme for 2022**

The IPARD Managing Authority has prepared the fourth Annual Report on the implementation of the IPARD II Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The draft Annual Report, presenting the most significant results of programme implementation, was adopted by the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee and approved by the European Commission.

From the beginning of the IPARD II Programme implementation until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 14 calls were published, as follows: seven for Measure 1 with total allocated funds in the amount of EUR 111.2 m, four for Measure 3 with total allocated funds in the amount of EUR 81.5 m, two for Measure 7, with total allocated funds in the amount of EUR 26.3 m and one for the non-investment Measure 9: “Technical Assistance”.

From the aspect of processing of all submitted applications, the First and Second Call for Measure 1, as well as the First Call for Measure 3, are closed, out of 14 public calls.

**Chart 1. Paid public support (EUR m), 2019-2022**



The purchase of a new tractor under Measure 1 was the dominant type of IPARD investment during the Programme implementation period. The dominant type of investment for Measure 3 refers to the construction/reconstruction of processing facilities, as well as the modernisation of processing and packaging equipment, while within Measure 7, potential IPARD recipients expressed the greatest interest in investments in the setting up of tourist households and recreational areas.

## The IPARD II Programme implementation

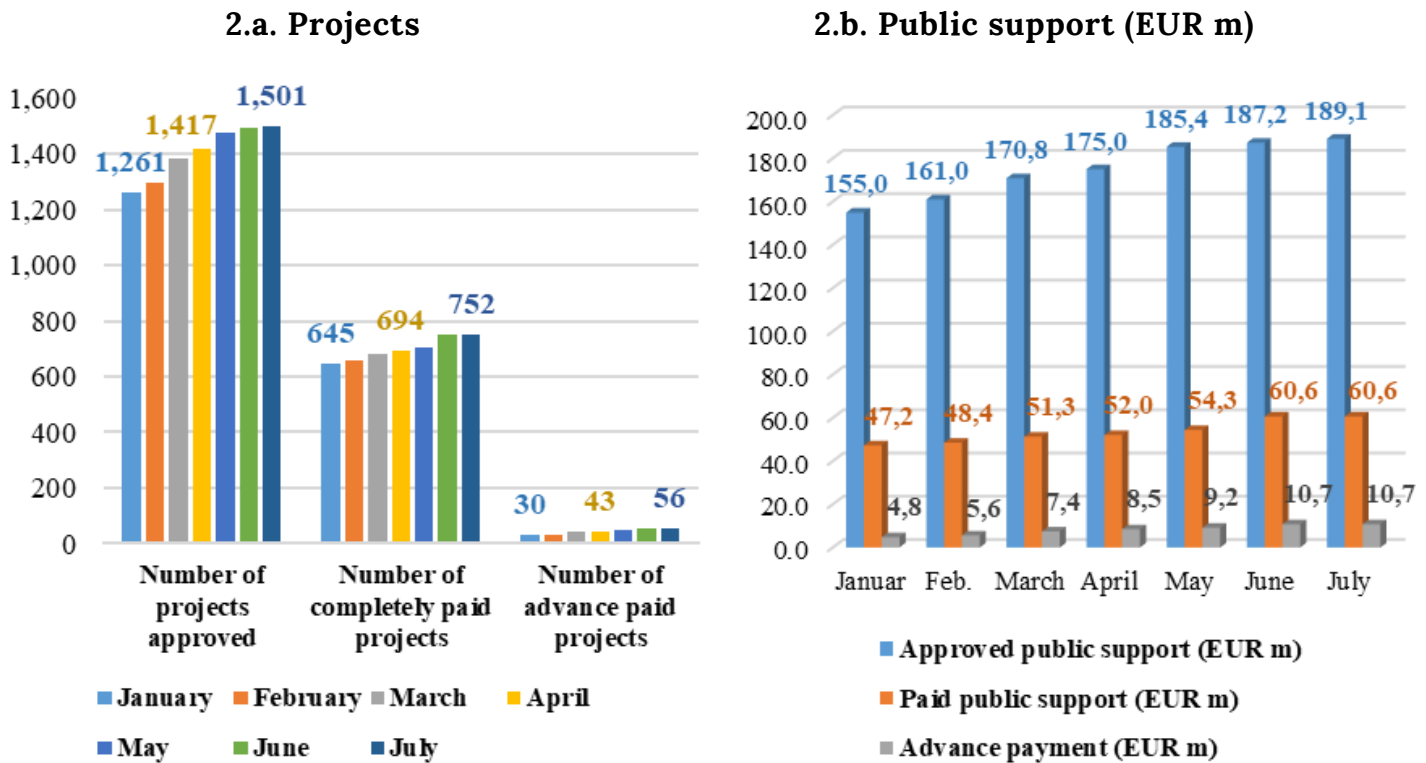
Since the beginning of the IPARD II Programme implementation until July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1,501 projects were approved, with the amount of approved public support of EUR 189.1 m, 752 projects were completely paid with public support in the amount of EUR 60.6 m, while advance payments were made for 56 projects with the public support amounting to EUR 10.7 m.

The total number of approved projects was 308, out of which 107 projects were completely paid and advance payments were made for 26 projects, in the period from the beginning of 2023 until July 25<sup>th</sup>. During the same period, EUR 42.2 m of public support was approved, EUR 13.4 m of public support was completely paid and EUR 6.0 m was paid in advance.

The increase in the number of approved projects compared to the previous month was achieved in March and May, and for those paid in March, May and June. The increase in the amount of approved public support compared to the previous month was achieved in February, March, May and July while the increase of the amount of completely paid public support compared to the previous month was achieved in February, March, May and June.

Approval and payment of IPARD projects continued during 2023. The average monthly growth rate of the approval of projects for 2023 (as of July 25<sup>th</sup>) was 2.9% and for project payments was 2.6%. At the same time, the approval of public support in 2023 on a monthly basis was carried out with an average growth rate was 3.4%, while the average growth rate for paid public support for the same period was 4.3%.

**Chart 2. Approved and paid projects and public support in the period January - July 2023, cumulative**



Acceleration of the process of payment of projects to a significant extent is conditioned by the dynamics of realization the investments that are the subject of IPARD support by potential recipients, and therefore the appeal to potential recipients is to speed up that process, as well as the documents preparation and submission of requests for support payment.

## The IPARD III informative workshop for consultants

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the IPARD Managing Authority, in cooperation with the IPARD Agency, held an online information workshop on the topic “Presentation of the IPARD III Programme”. The workshop was attended by representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority, the IPARD Agency and interested business companies and entrepreneurs engaged in providing consulting services, preparation of business plans, projects and technical documentation, as well as other stakeholders.

Representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency presented the IPARD III Programme and the innovations that this program period is going to bring. The main topics were related to the general and specific eligibility criteria, selection criteria, amounts of subsidies and types of investments, necessary documentation and other elements important for approving and paying subsidies for IPARD Measure 1, Measure 3 and Measure 7.

The workshop was attended by more than 90 representatives of business companies, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders, who had the opportunity to ask questions during the workshop session. The questions were related mostly to selection criteria, as well as to the specific eligibility criteria.





The successful implementation of the IPARD measures and ability of potential recipients to use IPARD funds, depends directly on the quality of the submitted applications, the awareness of the recipients, as well as up-to-date information for providing support. Within this chain consultants have an important role, as they provide support to potential recipients, both in the preparation of applications for project approval, and through the entire process from the moment of application submission to the payment of support, so their continuous education is necessary. Considering that the First calls within the IPARD III Programme, are planned for the last quarter of 2023, the next IPARD III informative workshop should be held in September.



The material from the IPARD III informative workshop is available and can be downloaded from the following links:

**Presentation:**

<http://gofile.me/4ws4M/R1Yy9CJkg>

**Recording of the IPARD III informative workshop:**

<http://gofile.me/4ws4M/lAUjTW5Wd>

## Example of good practice



After the Eleventh Session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, representatives of the European Commission, the Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Serbia, the IPARD Agency and the IPARD Managing Authority have visited the IPARD recipients within Measure 1, Measure 3 and Measure 7. One of the recipients during the field visit was company “Atos Fructum” located in Mala Remeta on the southern slopes of Fruška Gora.

“Atos Fructum” d.o.o. deals production and processing of fruit. During the visit, representatives of this company pointed out that the idea of growing apples has been prepared for a long time, by carefully examining different locations, learning about different technologies and different types of apples, they came up with a plan that started to be implemented in April 2007.



The orchard owned by this company covers over 90 ha of high - quality and healthy land, at an altitude of 220 to 250 m. In addition to primary production, with the aim of adding value to raw products and responding to market demands, this company also deals with fruit processing. The company "Atos Fructum" submitted application within the Second Public Call for Measure 3 in the Fruit Sector. The subject of the investment was related to the construction and equipping of a facility for fruit processing. The amount of the investment was approx. EUR 2 m, support of EUR 917 thousand was paid to the recipient, of which the EU contribution was over EUR 687 thousand.



## 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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