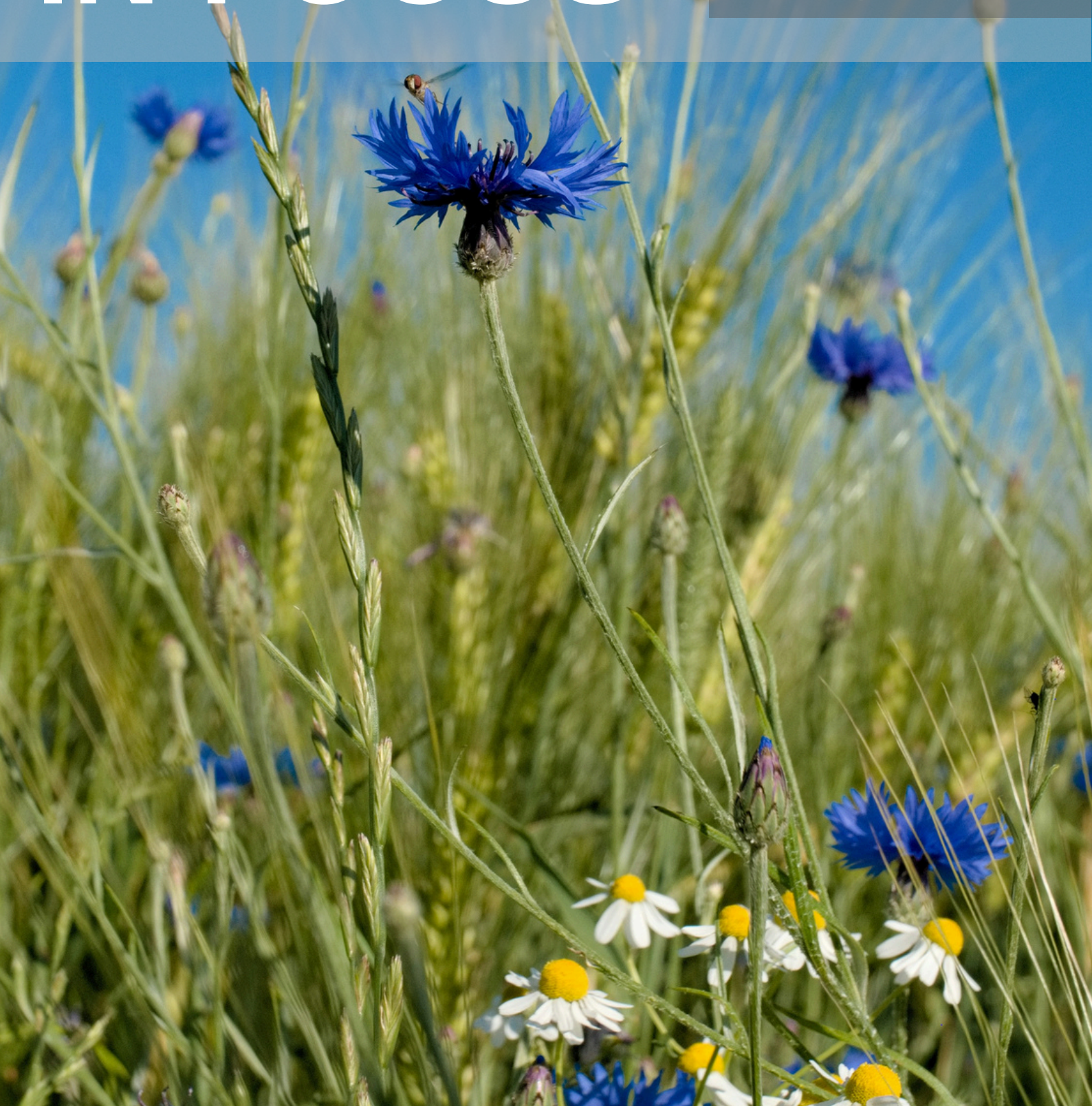


IPARD IN FOCUS

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IPARD



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Water Management



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The deadline for the submission of applications within the First Public Call for Measure 1 of the IPARD III Programme is extended



The First Public Call for Measure 1 within the IPARD III Programme refers to investments in the physical assets of agricultural holdings in the construction and equipping of facilities, as well as the establishment of perennial production and mother plantations.

Due to the great interest of potential recipients, who expressed their interest to submit application under this public call, as well as recipients who are not able to collect all necessary documentation related to the construction and equipping of facilities, the deadline for the submission of applications within the First Public Call for Measure 1 under the IPARD III Programme is extended until 21st June 2024.

91. International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad

The 91. International Agricultural Fair was held in Novi Sad in the period from 18th to 23rd May 2024. The fair was opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Miloš Vučević, while the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, addressed to present visitors at the opening. The partner country of this year's fair was the EU, at whose Pavilion numerous info-sessions and panels were held during the fair.

After the official opening of the fair, the first panel "Benefits of applying the EU standards in Serbia" was held at the EU Pavilion. The speakers at this panel were the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, D. Sc. Aleksandar Martinović, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, as well as D.Sc. Vesna Bengin from the "Biosens" Institute from Novi Sad. The topic of this panel was related to the advantage of joining the EU to our agriculture, as well as the benefits to our country, as a member of the EU.



During the fair, the representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency answered visitors' questions regarding the IPARD Programme implementation at the stand of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. They introduced the new Programme period to the visitors as well as gave practical advice on how to obtain IPARD support in the best and the simplest way possible. Additionally, numerous info-sessions and panels in relation to the IPARD III Programme were held within the EU Pavilion, at which representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency participated, namely:

- **Presentation of the IPARD III Programme measures - Measure 1, Measure 3, Measure 4 and Measure 7, held on 18th May 2024,**
- **Steps to the IPARD III support, held on 19th May 2024,**
- **IPARD from a different angle, held on 19th May 2024,**
- **IPARD - presentation of new measures - Measure 1, Measure 3 and Measure 7, held on 20th May 2024 and**
- **IPARD - what do Measure 4 and Measure 5 bring, held on 21st May 2024.**

IPARD from a different angle

The panel “**IPARD from a different angle**” was held on 19th May 2024, within the EU Pavilion, in the organisation of the Ministry of European Integration, at the 91. International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad. The aim of this panel was to present the IPARD Programme from the point of view of IPARD recipients and consulting houses/agencies that assist the IPARD recipients during the process of exercising the right to IPARD support. The participants of this panel, who presented their view on the IPARD Programme, were Jasmina Miljković, the head of the IPARD Managing Authority, Đorđe Mirković from the consulting company “AgroSolutions Group”, as well as the recipients of IPARD support - Mitar Deurić, the “Atos Fructum” company and Nikola Kotarac, the Agricultural cooperative “Voćar Slankamen”.



During the panel dedicated to the experience of the IPARD Programme implementation, Jasmina Miljković summarised the results of the IPARD II Programme implementation. She concluded that the IPARD Programme and funding opportunities should be more relaxed and more available to agricultural producers, which is constantly being worked on. All challenges have to be overcome during the IPARD Programme implementation, through continuous communication between all stakeholders and their education, as well.

The representative of the company “Atos Fructum”, Mitar Deurić, said that, in addition to primary production, this company has been engaged in fruit processing for many years, in order to add value to raw products and respond to market demands. He emphasised the positive experience of the company “Atos Fructum”, which submitted an application within the Second Public Call for Measure 3 in the Fruit Sector and obtained the IPARD support for investments in construction and equipping of a fruit processing facility.



The experiences of agricultural cooperatives in the process of exercising the rights for IPARD support was shared by Nikola Kotarac from the Agricultural cooperative "Voćar Slankamen". He pointed out that, for agricultural cooperatives, investments in the production of electricity from renewable sources are possible only with IPARD support, and that the funds invested in their investment will be completely returned within the five years.



Presentation of IPARD III investment measures

During the 91. International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad, at EU pavilion, two info sessions on IPARD III measures were held, on 18th and 20th May 2024. Representatives of IPARD MA have presented Measures 1, 3 and 7 of IPARD III Programme. Support related to administrative verification has been provided by representatives of IPARD Agency.



The representatives of IPARD MA explained in detail what are measures 1, 3 and 7, who are these recipients, the aims of these measures, which type of investments can be supported by these measures, as well as other information related to specific measures. They explained in detail what conditions have to be met in order to claim IPARD support, and provided all necessary information about maximum and minimum of IPARD support expressed in percentage and in nominal value.

The present audience is informed that the implementation of IPARD III Programme has started by launching the first Public call for Measure 1 - Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings, while in coming period is expected launching of public call for Measure 3 - Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, as well as launching public call for Measure 7 - Farm diversification and business development. More information about Measure 1- Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings you could find [HERE](#).

IPARD - what do Measure 4 and Measure 5 bring

At the 91. International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad, representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority presented the possibilities of the Measure 4 - Agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure and Measure 5 - Implementation of local development strategies - LEADER approach under the IPARD III Programme. The event was organized by the Delegation of the European Union (DEU) to Serbia, within the EU Pavilion. In the part of the session related to the presentation of Measure 4, the objectives of this measure, as well as its importance from the aspect of environmental protection and improvement were presented. During the session it is emphasised that, in order to ensure a sustainable future, establishing a balance between agricultural production and conservation of natural resources is of great importance. Also, it was stated that, in an effort to achieve that balance, the IPARD III Programme will provide support to agricultural producers through the Measure 4 implementation. In addition, it was pointed out that Measure 4 is created with the aim of encouraging agricultural producers to protect and improve the environment on the agricultural holdings they manage. This could be done through the agri-environmental activities implementation, i.e. operations, for a period of at least five years. The payments will be made once a year and the amount of support will vary depending on the type of operation selected by the recipient.



The examples of small projects, that can be supported under Measure 5, are: village festivals, participation in fairs and similar events, minor renovation of public buildings, improvement of public spaces and tourist trails, promotion of local products, etc. Additionally, steps for the Measure 5 implementation were presented, especially the role of LAG, the IPARD Agency and the IPARD Managing Authority.

In the part of the session related to the presentation of Measure 5, the following topics were presented: what does the LEADER approach mean, what are the goals of the measure, who are the potential recipients, what are Local Action Groups (LAGs) and how are they established, i.e. what kind of strategy do they prepare. Also, level of support within this measure, the LAG's eligibility criteria and the basic elements that will be part of rural development strategies and implemented by LAGs were presented. It was pointed out that LAGs in the Republic of Serbia will be able to implement activities related to the acquisition of skills, i.e. animating the population of the LAG territories for capacity building and animation of selected LAGs, running costs for the functioning of LAGs and the implementation of "small projects" up to EUR 5,000, within the Measure 5 of the IPARD III Programme.



Steps to IPARD III subsidies

The info session “**Steps to IPARD III subsidies**” was held during the 91. International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad, at EU pavilion, on Sunday 19th May 2024.

The representatives of IPARD Managing Authority presented IPARD III Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021 – 2027, emphasising opportunities for potential recipients within already entrusted measures of the IPARD Programme – Measure 1, Measure 3 and Measure 7. Also, representatives of IPARD Agency (Directorate for Agrarian Payments) presented process for exercising the rights for IPARD subsidies – from submission of application for project approval, procedure for on-the-spot control, as well as procedure for advance payment approval and final payment approval. About 40 interested agricultural producers attended this event.



The most interesting question during the session was related to the implementation of on-the-spot control. The representatives of the IPARD Agency pointed out that in the IPARD III programming period, the on-the-spot controls of the projects will be carried out by alternative means, and that for the majority projects the applicants will submit photos of the investment's place of control. In this way, the number of physical visits to potential IPARD recipients will be reduced and the entire process for exercising the rights for IPARD subsidies will be accelerated.

IPARD III Programme - support to regenerative agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is an approach to food production and land management that focuses on restoring ecosystems and soil. The main characteristics of regenerative agriculture include: covering of soil, crop rotation, minimal soil tillage, integrated livestock farming and agroforestry.

In order to promote regenerative agriculture, the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance was established by the Association for Eco-Innovation in the Balkans, Novi Sad, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Novi Sad, the company "GiLab" Ltd., Belgrade, and the Institute for Development and Innovation, Belgrade. The Alliance has presented the realised and planned activities in all areas of its operation: education, demo farms, research and innovation, digital technology and mechanisation and mechanisms of financial and social support, at the Faculty of Agriculture, Novi Sad University, on 12th March 2024.

One of the conclusions of the panel discussion "Preparing the environment for Regenerative Agriculture," in which the IPARD Managing Authority participated, is: the stable financial assistance to farmers is necessary for the faster development of regenerative agriculture. In support of this conclusion, the IPARD III Programme has envisaged opportunities for financing projects and certain sustainable agricultural practices that can be linked to regenerative agriculture, primarily through Measure 1 - "Investments in Physical Assets of Agricultural Holdings", which provides support for the purchase of equipment and mechanisation for conservation tillage as the first activity applied by agricultural producers in the transitioning from conventional to regenerative agriculture.

Additionally, through Measure 4 - "Agro-environment-climate and organic farming measure" agricultural producers can receive annual payments per hectare of agricultural land for certain activities, characteristic of regenerative agriculture, if they implement any of the operations under Measure 4: Crop rotation on arable land, Grassing in inter-row area in permanent crop land, Establishment and maintenance of pollinator strips and Sustainable management of meadows and pastures. IPARD funds for Measure 4 will be available to agricultural producers after the entrustment of this measure.



In addition to agricultural producers and government institutions, local communities, non-governmental organisations, educational and scientific research institutions, as well as consumers should play important roles in promoting and supporting regenerative agriculture.

The Third Session of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee

The Third session of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee will be held on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024, at the "Conference room I" of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.

The main topics of the session will refer to the presentation of the Rulebook for implementation of Measure 3 - Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, the implementation of Measure 9 and the presentation of the IPARD website, as well as presentation of the results achieved during the IPARD II Programme implementation and plans and activities related to the IPARD III Programme implementation. Furthermore, representatives of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia will present the results of the Census of Agriculture 2023.



In addition to the IPARD III Monitoring Committee members, representatives of the European Commission, the 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 will attend the upcoming session.



After the session, representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency, together with representatives of the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, will visit IPARD recipients.

Example of good practice

Dušan Ilić from Belgrade, grows berries on 2.88 hectares of agricultural land in the village of Mala Vranjska, near Šabac. While he grows currants in an open space, 1.21 hectares of protected area with controlled conditions (greenhouses) are used for raspberry production.

For the development of indoor production and the construction and equipping of 33 greenhouses for hydroponic production of raspberries, Dušan received IPARD support for the investment worth of EUR 271,557.45. He submitted the request for project approval within the Sixth Public Call for IPARD Measure 1 and received support of a total of EUR 152,261.10 (EU contribution 114,195.82). Before this realised investment, he had two greenhouses for strawberry growing.



According to Dušan, in the new greenhouses, it is possible to create very favourable microclimate conditions for growing during the whole year. All greenhouses built with IPARD support are covered with sun protection netting in order to reduce the impact of the sun and enable the post-season harvesting. The surface of the greenhouse is covered with agro textile and foil on which bags with raspberry seedlings are placed and an irrigation system is installed.



Hydroponic production involves growing vegetables and fruits on inert and chemically non-reactive substrates, of which mineral wool and perlite, granite gravel, and sand, stand out. The substrates do not contain pathogens and harmful substances, and therefore they are considered ideal substrates for growing plants. The advantages of this type of growing are healthy and unpolluted environment, completely sterilised substrates, higher yields, high quality fruits and reduced incidence of diseases and pests.

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 or Instagram and Facebook pages!



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