





REPUBLIC OF SERBIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

The third session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

MONITORING REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPARD PROGRAMME IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

2018

Belgrade, 05/06/2018

List of Abbreviations

AAS - Agricultural Advisory Services

AP - Autonomous Province

APP - Approximately

CBC - Cross-border Cooperation

DAP - Directorate for Agrarian Payments

DG AGRI - Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

EC - European Commission

EU - European Union

FADN - Farm Accountancy Data Network

FwA - Framework Agreement

IPA II - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance 2014-2020

IPARD - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development

IT - Information Technology

LPIS - Land Parcel Identification System

MA – Managing Authority

MAFWM - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

MC - Monitoring Committee

NAO - National Authorizing Officer

NAP - National Action Programs

RP - Radio program

RS - Republic of Serbia

SA - Sectoral Agreement

TVP - Television program

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The process of European integration of the Republic of Serbia and obtaining the status of a candidate country for the EU membership have enabled the use of the EU pre-accession assistance funds for rural development (IPARD).

On January 20, 2015, the European Commission made the Decision No C(2015) 257 and has adopted the proposal of the EU pre-accession assistance programme for rural development for the period 2014-2020 (IPARD II programme).

By the European Commission decision, allocated funds for the implementation of the IPARD II programme amount to EUR 175 million for the following measures:

- Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings;
- Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products;
- Agri environment climate and organic farming measure;
- Implementation of local development strategies LEADER approach;
- Farm diversification and business development;
- Technical Assistance.

Table 1: Budget breakdown by measure 2014-2020

| | EU Contribution (EUR) | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Measures | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 2017 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2014-2020 |
| | | | | 2017 | | | | EUR |
| Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings | - | 7,535,248 | 9,900,325 | 10,622,224 | 11,199,743 | 17,002,434 | 19,780,025 | 76,040,000 |
| Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products | - | 6,164,752 | 8,099,675 | 8,690,276 | 9,162,757 | 13,910,066 | 16,182,475 | 62,210,000 |
| Agri-environment- climate and organic farming measure | - | - | - | 2,187,500 | 2,187,500 | 2,187,500 | 2,187,500 | 8,750,000 |
| Implementation of local development strategies – leader approach | - | - | - | 500,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,900,000 | 1,850,000 | 5,250,000 |
| Farm diversification and business development | - | 1,000,000 | 1,500,000 | 2,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 4,000,000 | 4,000,000 | 17,500,000 |
| Technical assistance | - | 300,000 | 500,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,450,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 5,250,000 |
| Total | - | 15,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 25,000,000 | 30,000,000 | 40,000,000 | 45,000,000 | 175,000,000 |

Source: IPARD II Programme

Legislative Framework

The Framework Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission on the Arrangements for Implementation of Union Financial Assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) was adopted by the National Parliament in December 2014.

The Decree on the Management of EU Pre-accession Assistance programs of the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020, which determines the duties and responsibilities of all persons and bodies within the system for the management of pre - accession assistance, was adopted by the Government in October 2015.

New Decision on the Appointment of the Responsible Persons and bodies for the management of EU Pre-accession Assistance Programs of the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance - (IPA II) for the period 2014-2020 was adopted by the Government in November 2017.

The Decree on the Appointing the Audit Authority for Auditing the Management system for Preaccession Assistance Programs of the European Union under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance was adopted by the Government in October 2015.

IPARD Sectoral Agreement was adopted in November and signed in December 2015.

Amended Law on Agriculture and Rural Development was adopted by the National Parliament in December 2016 ("Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia", no 101/2016). New amendments to the Law have enabled the implementation of the IPARD programme related to a project approval and payments, procedures for modification, complaints, on-the-spot check and, have introduced provisions relevant for the FADN, LPIS and Agricultural Marketing Information System, as well.

Institutional Framework

Decision on the Appointment of the Responsible Persons and Bodies for the Management of EU Pre-accession Assistance Programs of the European Union under the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) for the period 2014-2020 determined the following institutional establishment: the Minister without portfolio responsible for the European Integration as the National IPA Coordinator, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance as the National Authorizing Officer, Sector for EU funds Management within the Ministry of Finance with its internal units as the Management Structure (the National Fund and the NAO Support Office), and the operating structures for the implementation of national action programs (NAP) crossborder cooperation programs (CBC) and the agriculture and rural development programme (IPARD).

The Operating Structure for the implementation of IPARD consists of: the Department for Rural development within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management as the Managing Authority and the Directorate for Agrarian Payments within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management as the IPARD Agency.

Entrustment of budget implementation tasks for IPARD II Programme

With respect to the second benchmark (which, is considered to be closed with sending the entrustment package, but needs to be monitored in terms of progress in the entrustment process) the great progress has been made in the preparation for the entrustment of budget implementation tasks and closing of findings.

External audit, of the structure responsible for conducting the IPARD Programme, has been carried out from August 14 until September 15 during 2017. External audit mission included IT audit, internal audit and financial issues and simulation of the whole process conducted by the Sector for On-the-Spot Check, as well as all other findings that required corrective actions according to the reports of previously conducted audits. Corrective actions for aligning and improving of the procedures according to this external audit mission report were further implemented in the IPARD Operating Structure. A complete package for the entrustment of budget implementation tasks for IPARD has been prepared and provided to the DG AGRI.

Audit mission of the DG AGRI of the European Commission was conducted over the structure relevant for implementing the IPARD Programme in the period November 20-24, 2017 year. Evidence of addressed findings were given to auditors, so as the adjusted internal procedures, and also, interviews with employees were conducted. Furthermore, simulation was conducted with the Sector for On-the-Spot Check, in order to confirm the ability of employees for the implementation of the IPARD process after the confirmation of the accreditation.

The additional external audit mission in the period December 11–15, 2017 year included audit of the Reference Price Database and verification of closing the findings from the external audit mission in August-September 2017 and the DG AGRI's mission in November 2017. All findings regarding the Reference Price Database were closed.

On February 26, 2018 the **Letter of closure with recommendations** for the IPARD II – Enquiry No PRE/2016/001/RS concerning the review of the request for the entrustment of budget implementation tasks to Serbia under Article 13(4) of the IPA II Framework Agreement for Measures 1 and 3 of the IPARD II Programme was received and the procedure for conclusion of Financing Agreement has started.

The DG AGRI has confirmed that the Serbian authorities have successfully addressed the main issues communicated in the letter of findings Ares (2016) 4202174 dated August 8, 2016 that so far have prevented giving a positive opinion for the entrustment of the budget implementation tasks and that the structures and procedures set up for the IPARD II fulfill the minimum conditions referred to in Article 13(4) of the Framework Agreement (FwA), as complemented by the Sectoral Agreement (SA).

The Financing Agreement has been fine- tuned and its signing is expected in the following days.

IPARD Calls for Applications

Plan of Calls for applications for the period 2017-2018 was prepared and published in December 2017 on the websites of the MAFWM and the DAP. Five calls have been envisaged till July 2018 (please see Annex 1).

Serbia launched the First, the Second and the Third public call in December 2017, January and March 2018, respectively prior to the official signing of the Financing Agreement.

The First Public Call for IPARD subsidies for the investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings for new equipment, machines and mechanization (Measure 1) was opened on December 25, 2017, and the Second Public Call for the same measure for the investments in purchasing of new tractor was opened on January 4, 2018, both closed on February 26, 2018. In total for both calls, 478 applications were submitted, 82 for the First and 396 applications for the Second Call (please note: during the next IPARD MC meeting, information will be provided related to the implementation, processing of applications, rejection rate etc.).

The First Public Call for IPARD subsidies for the investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products for new equipment (Measure 3) was opened on March 27, 2018 and will be closed on May 28, 2018.

Launching of the Fourth Public Call for applications is planned in the period June – August 2018, for Measure 1- Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings for construction, new equipment, machines and mechanization, including tractors.

Launching of the Fifth Public Call for applications is planned in the period July-September 2018, for Measure 3- Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products for construction and new equipment.

Implementation of IPARD measures for the period 2014 - 2020 in 2018

The total budget for the 1^{st} and the 2^{nd} Call for Measure 1 amounts 1,555,761,895 RSD or 13,020,018 EUR. The total budget for the 1^{st} Call for Measure 3 amounts 878,498,105 RSD or 7,352,064 EUR.

On the other hand, the allocations for Measure 1 amount:

- 10,046,997 EUR in 2015 and
- 13,200,434 EUR in 2016.

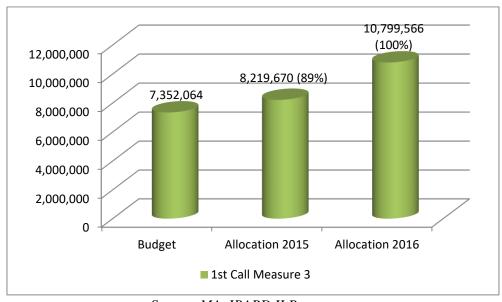
The First and the Second Public Call for Measure 1 provided public support that comprises 100% of the allocation for the 2015 and 23% of the allocation for the 2016. The aforementioned allocations should be spent by the end of 2018 and 2019 respectively (Graph 1).

13,020,018 14,000,000 12,000,000 10,000,000 4,000,000 2,000,000 Budget Allocation 2015 Allocation 2016 1st and 2nd Call Measure 1

Graph 1: Budget for the First and the Second Public Call compared to allocations 2015, 2016 (EUR) - Measure 1

Source: MA, IPARD II Programme

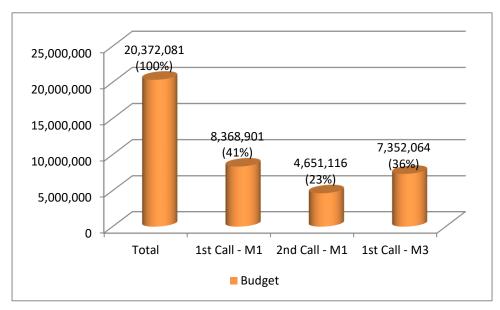
Regarding Measure 3, the First Public Call provided the budget of 878,498,105 RSD, i.e. 7,352,064 EUR, which makes 89% of the allocation for the 2015, while launching of the Call from the allocation for the 2016 is planned for July 2018 (Graph 2).



Graph 2: Budget for the First Call compared to allocations 2015, 2016 (EUR) - Measure 3

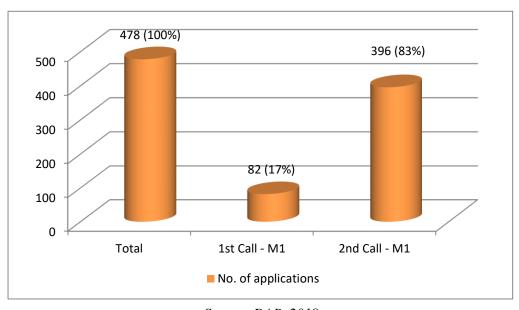
Source: MA, IPARD II Programme

Graph 3: Total budget and budget per call (EUR)
Measure 1 and Measure 3



Source: MA, 2018

Graph 4: The total number of applications received Measure 1 (1st and 2nd Call)



Source: DAP, 2018

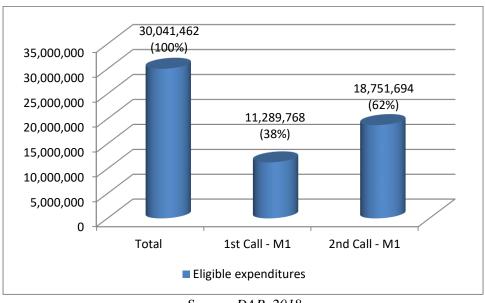
In total for both calls, 478 applications were received, 82 for the First Public Call - 17% and 396 applications for the Second Public Call - 83% (Graph 4).

Out of the total number of received applications, in 4 Applications there was no sector specified to which the investment relates, nor the required amount of funds, in 9 Applications a required amount of funds was not specified. Three Applications were related to ineligible expenditures according to the requirements under the First and Second Public Call, and one Application contained both elegible and ineligible expenditures.

The total expenditures for Measure 1 (both for the 1st and 2nd Public Call) amounts 30,397,730 EUR. Thereof, ineligible expenditures amounts 356,268 EUR. The aforementioned ineligible expenditures relate to investments for which potential recipients requested support, although they were not on the List of eligible expenditures and investments for the First and the Second Public Call. Processing of applications is currently on-going, after finalization of this process the total amount of eligible and ineligible expenditures will be available.

Eligible expenditures amount 30,041,462 EUR, thereof 38% for the 1st Public Call and 62% for the 2nd Public Call (Graph 5).

Considering that there was high interest for the purchase of new tractor through national support measure the ratio of eligible expenditures between the 1^{st} and the 2^{nd} Public Call was expected.



Graph 5: Total eligible expenditures and eligible expenditures per Public Call (EUR) - Measure 1

Source: DAP, 2018

In the total eligible expenditures for Measure 1, general costs amount 1,186,430 EUR or 4%, while eligible expenditures related to the purchase of equipment, machinery and mechanization, including tractors, amount 28,855,033EUR or 96% (Graph 6).

Observed individually, per call, the mentioned relations remain unchanged, i.e. within the First Call, the general costs amounts 480,435 EUR, while in the Second Call general costs amounts 705,995 EUR. At the same time, eligible expenditures for the purchase of new equipment,

machinery and mechanization amounts 10,809,333 EUR, while for the purchase of new tractors eligible expenditures amounts 18,045,699 EUR.

Note: Preliminary data. The exact amount of eligible and ineligible expenditures will be available after finalization of processing of applications.

Total 96%

1st Call 96%

2nd Call 96%

Graph 6: Structure of total eligible expenditures and eligible expenditures per call - Measure 1

Source: DAP, 2018

■ General costs
■ Investments

60

80

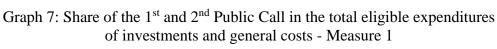
100

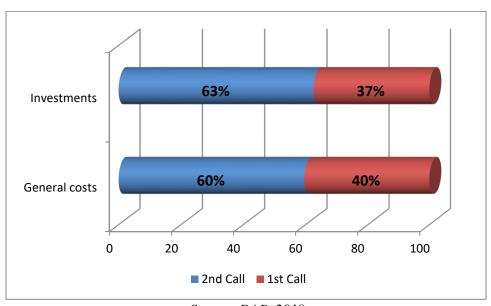
120

0

20

40





1st Call
2nd Call
0 5,000,000 10,000,000 15,000,000
Support Budget

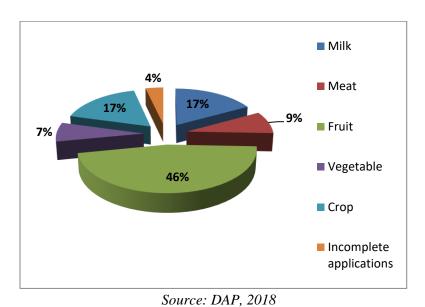
Graph 8: Estimation of support in relation to available budget per call (EUR)

Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

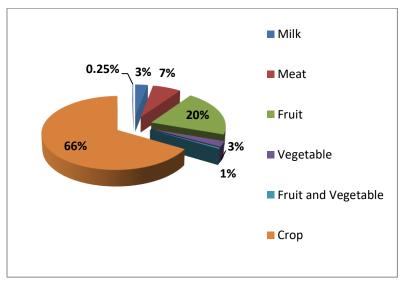
Based on currently available data on the amounts of eligible expenditures of investments and general costs, bearing in mind the aid intensity of 60% of the value of investments and 100% for general costs, it can be roughly estimated that the required support for the First Public Call will amount to EUR 6,966,035, which is 83% of available budget for the First Public Call.

On the same basis, it is roughly estimated that the amount of support required for the Second Public Call will amount to EUR 11,533,415, which points to the expected higher amount of required support in relation to the available budget for the purchase of tractors by around 2.5 times.

Graph 9: Structure of received applications per sector Measure 1 - The First Public Call



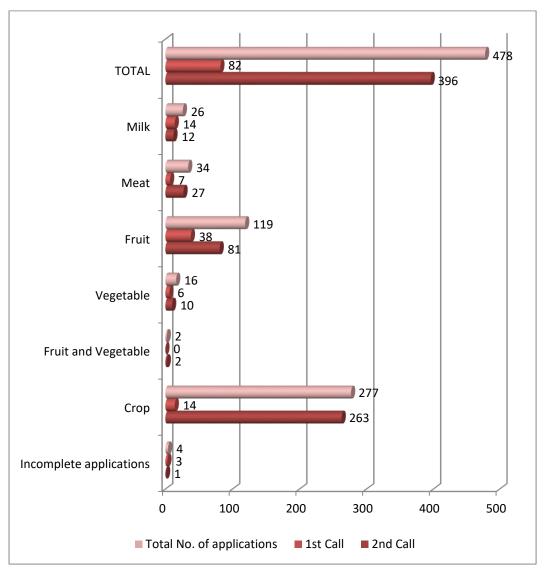
Graph 10: Structure of received applications per sector Measure 1 - The Second Public Call



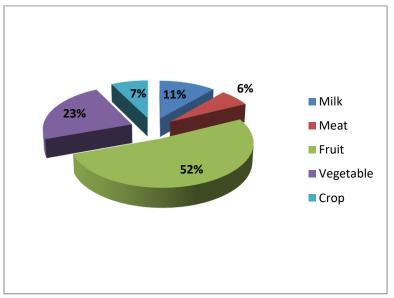
Within the First Public Call, in the total number of submitted Applications (82) the fruit and vegetable sector accounts for over half of the share with 53% (fruit 46%, vegetable 7%), then the other crops sector (cereal, oilseed, sugar beet) and the milk sector with a share of 17%, the meat sector with a share of 9%, while 4% of the submitted Applications are treated as incomplete (Graph 9).

When it comes to the Second Public Call, the situation is much different. Namely, in the total number of submitted Applications (396), the other crops sector has a two-thirds share or 66%, while the fruit and vegetable sector accounts for 24%. Other sectors under the Second Public Call have significantly lower share, the meat sector 7% and the milk sector 3% (Graph 10).

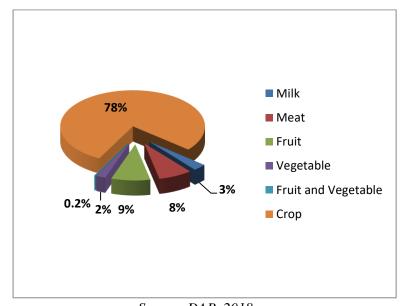
Graph 11: Received Applications per Public Call and per sector Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call



Graph 12: Structure of eligible expenditures per sector Measure 1 - The First Public Call



Graph 13: Structure of eligible expenditures per sector Measure 1 - The Second Public Call



Source: DAP, 2018

From the point of eligible expenditures, the fruit and vegetable sector dominates with the share of 75% of the total eligible expenditures under the First Public Call. The second most important sector is the milk sector with a share of 11%, while the sectors: other crops and meat, make almost equal share, 7% and 6% respectively (Graph 12).

Within the Second Public Call, from the point of eligible expenditures, the sector of other crops is dominant with a share of 78%. Other sectors have significantly lower participation, which was expected since the subject of the investment under the Second Public Call is the purchase of new tractors (Graph 13).

30,041,462 (100%) 11,289,768 **TOTAL** 18,751,694 1,839,026 **(6%)** 1,281,731 Milk 557,294 **2,135,783 (7%)** 715,365 Meat 1,420,419 **7**,480,351 **(25%)** 5,849,332 Fruit 1,631,019 **]** 3,003,883 **(10%)** 2,602,324 Vegetable 401,559 **31,219 (0,1%)** Fruit and Vegetable 31,219 15,551,200 **(52%)** 841,016 Crop 14,710,184 5,000,000 10,000,000 15,000,000 20,000,000 25,000,000 30,000,000 35,000,000 ■ Total eligible expenditures ■ 1st Call 2nd Call

Graph 14: Structure of the eligible expenditures per Public Call and per sector Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Harvesting, sorting and packaging 5.168.376 (48%) 1.926.405 (18%) Irrigation systems 1.270.899 (12%) Manure handling equipment 1.171.093 (11%) Other mechanisation and equipment 604.181 (6%) On-farm system for protection againss hail 268.3\$2 (3%) Land cultivation equipment **1**90.940 (2%) Fooder preparation equipment **137.47** (1%) Equipment and machinery for vegetation period Equipment for storage and drying of grains and oil 71.618 (0,7%) seeds 1,000,000 2,000,000 3,000,000 4,000,000 5,000,000 6,000,000 ■ Eligible expenditures for investments

Graph 15: Structure of eligible expenditures per group of investments

Measure 1 - The First Public Call

In the First Public Call, potential recipients expressed the greatest interest in purchasing harvesting, sorting and packaging equipment (fruit and vegetable sector), with a share in total eligible expenditures of 48%. The next groups of investments in terms of eligible expenditures relates to irrigation systems (18%), and manure handling equipment (12%).

Note: In the case where the applicant submitted an application with more than one investment, the dominant group of investments was determined on the basis of a financially dominant investment.

18.045.699 (63%) **Tractors** 5.168.376 (18%) Harvesting, sorting and packaging **1**.926.405 (7%) Irrigation systems 1.270.899 (4%) Manure handling equipment **1.171.093 (4%)** Other mechanisation and equipment **4** 604.181 (2%) On-farm system for protection againss hail **268.352 (1%)** Land cultivation equipment 190.940 (1%) Fooder preparation equipment 137.470 (0.5%) Equipment and machinery for vegetation period 71.618 (0,2%) Equipment for storage and drying of grains and... 0 5,000,000 10,000,000 15,000,000 20,000,000 ■ Eligible expenditures for investments

Graph 16: Structure of eligible expenditures per group of investments Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Considering also the Second public Call with eligible investments in the purchase of tractors, the dominant investment is the procurement of a new tractor with a share of 63%. The next significant group with a share of 18% is harvesting, sorting and packaging equipment, while other groups of investment have significantly lower share in total eligible expenditures.

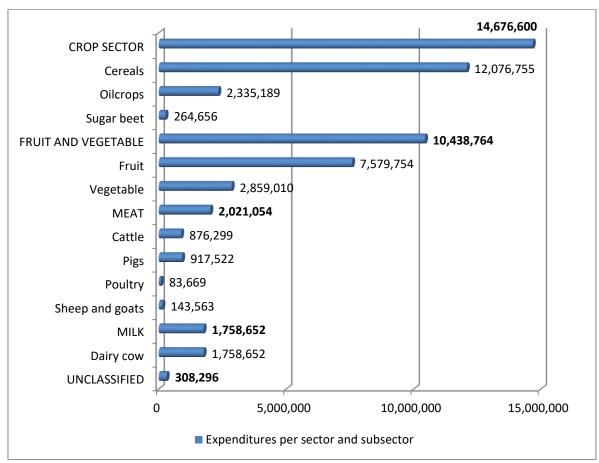
268 **CROP SECTOR** 225 Cereals 39 Oilcrops Sugar beet FRUIT AND VEGETABLE 137 **121** Fruit Vegetable **1**6 MEAT Cattle **1**4 Pigs 13 Poultry Sheep and goats **2**6 MILK 26 Dairy cow UNCLASSIFIED 100 250 50 150 200 300 ■ No. of applications received

Graph 17: Structure of received applications per sector and subsector Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Note: 9 applications that are unclassified relate to the crop sector. Applications are incomplete, without a Business plan or information regarding the type of production.

Furthermore, four (4) applications do not provide information regarding sector and total eligible volume of investment.

Graph 18: Structure of expenditures per sector and subsector (EUR)
Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call



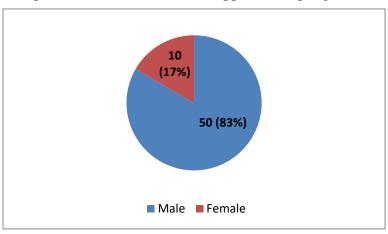
50% **CROP SECTOR** 56% 36% FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ■ Expenditures per sector **MEAT** Received applications MILK UNCLASSIFIED 10 20 30 40 50 60

Graph 19: Share of sectors in total expenditures and received applications (%)

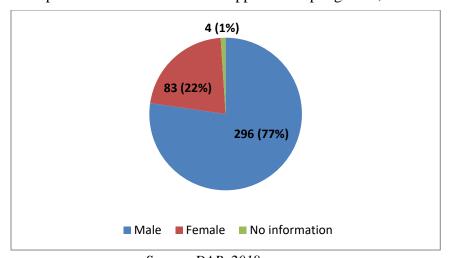
Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Observing the structure of submitted applications as well as the expenditures under the First Public Call share of female, potential recipients of IPARD support, both in the number of requests submitted and in expenditures accounts 17%, while in the Second Public Call this share has a tendency of increase with 22% in the total number of submitted applications and 23% in the total expenditures (Graphs: 20-23).

Graph 20: Structure of received applications per gender, 1st call

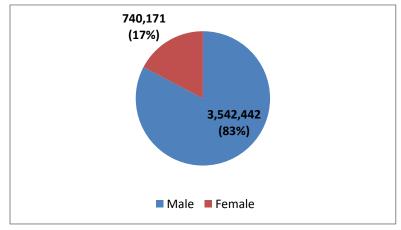


Graph 22: Structure of received applications per gender, 2nd call



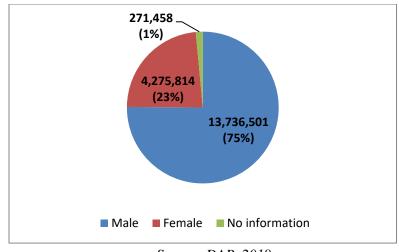
Source: DAP, 2018

Graph 21: Structure of expenditurs per gender, 1st call

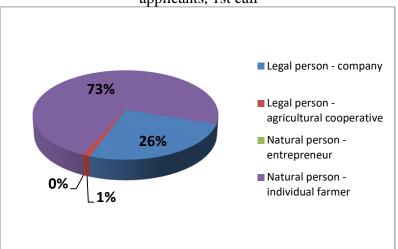


Source: DAP, 2018

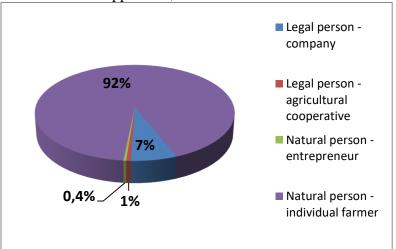
Graph 23: Structure of expenditurs per gender, 2nd call



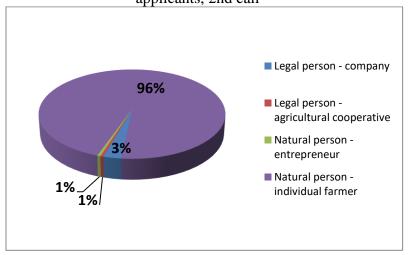
Graph 24: Structure of received applications per type of applicants, 1st call



Graph 26: Structure of received applications per type of applicants, 1st and 2nd call



Graph 25: Structure of received applications per type of applicants, 2nd call



In the total number of submitted applications for both calls, natural persons - individual farmers have the dominant share (92%), while legal persons-companies have a share of only 7%. Observed by calls, natural persons make a greater share in the Second call (96%) compared to the First call (73%).

From the point of the total number of submitted applications, legal persons - companies had greater interest in the purchase of new equipment, machinery and mechanization (26%) in relation to the procurement of a tractor (3%).

The most important investment for natural persons-individual farmers from the point of expenditures is the purchase of tractors with a share in total expenditures of 81%, while the expenditures for procurement of equipment, machinery and mechanization amount around 4.3 million EUR, or 19% (Graph 27).

From the point of the total expenditures for both calls, legal person – companies are next significant group with a greater interest in the purchase of new equipment, machinery and mechanization (93%) in relation to the procurement of a tractor (7%).

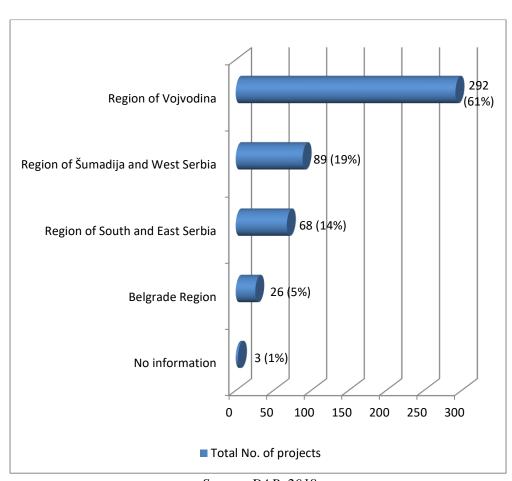
22,464,229 4,282,614 (19%) Natural person - individual farmer 18,181,615 (81%) 102,159 Natural person - entrepreneur 102,159 (100%) 218,438 124,950 (57%) Legal person - agricultural cooperative 93,488(43%) 7,612,904 7,081,174 (93%) Legal person - company 531,730 (7%) 5,000,000 10,000,000 15,000,000 20,000,000 25,000,000 ■ Total ■ 1st Call - M1 ■ 2nd Call - M1

Graph 27: Structure of expenditurs per type of applicants Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

REGIONS & DISTRICTS

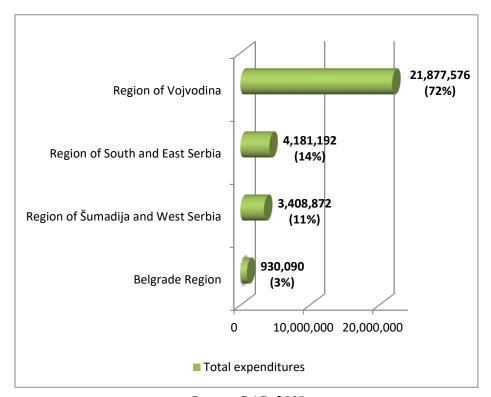
Observing by the regions, for measure 1, the Region of Vojvodina has the largest share in the number of submitted projects and the amount of expenditures. The share of Vojvodina in the total number of projects for Measure 1 is 61%, while in the total expenditures this region participates with 72% (Graph 28-29). The same trend was observed in national rural development measure which refers to the primary agricultural production in the previous period.

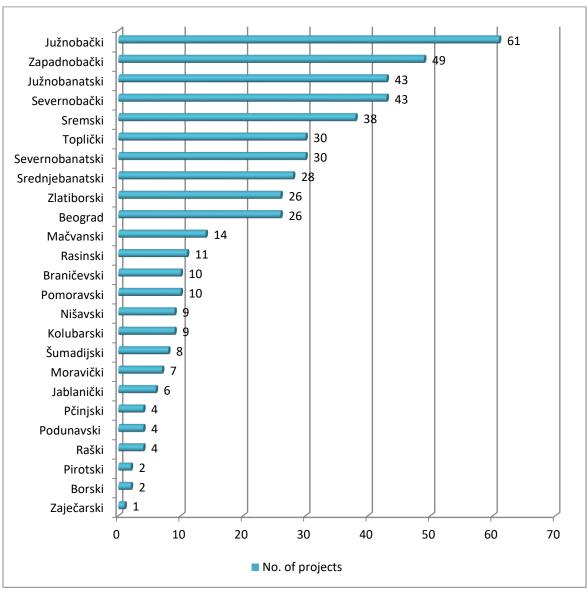
Significantly lower participation in the total number of projects is recorded in the Region of Šumadija and West Serbia and the Region of South and East Serbia (19% i.e. 14% respectively), while the Belgrade region has a share of 5% (Graph 28).



Graph 28: Total number of projects per region Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

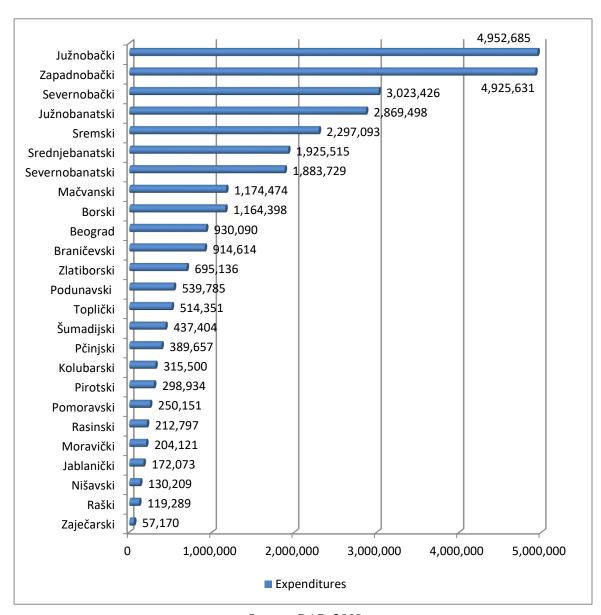
Graph 29: Total expenditures per region (EUR) Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call





Graph 30: Total number of projects per district Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

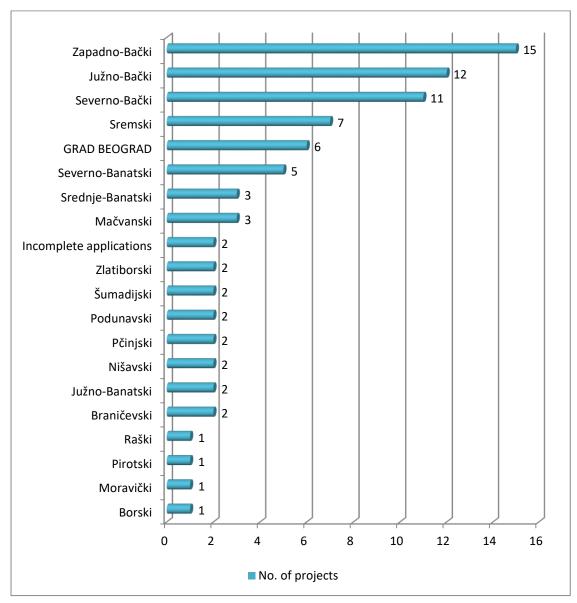
Observed by the district's participation in the total number of projects, the first five districts belong to the Region of Vojvodina, with the following share in the total number of projects submitted: Južnobački 13%, Zapadnobački 10%, Južnobanatski and Severnobački 9%, and Sremski 8%.



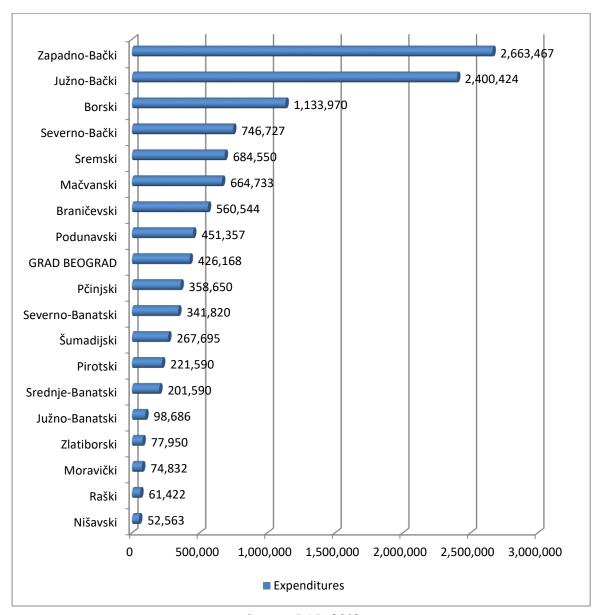
Graph 31: Total expenditures per district (EUR) Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Related to total expenditures, two administrative districts of the Region of Vojvodina have a dominant share: Južnobački (16%) and Severnobački (16%). The districts with expenditures up to EUR 200,000 are the following: Zaječarski (0.2%), Nišavski (0.4%), Jablanički (0.6%) – the Region of South and East Serbia and Raški (0.4%) - Region of Šumadija and West Serbia.

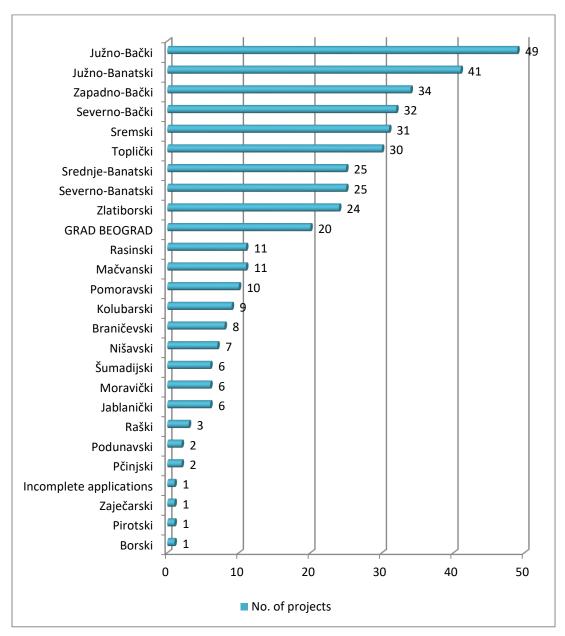
Graph 32: Total number of projects per district Measure 1 - The First Public Call



Graph 33: Total expenditures per district (EUR) Measure 1 - The First Public Call

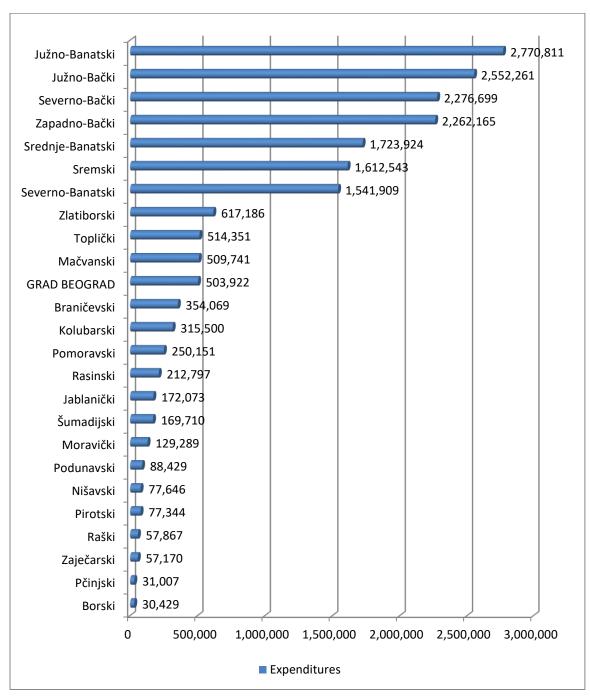


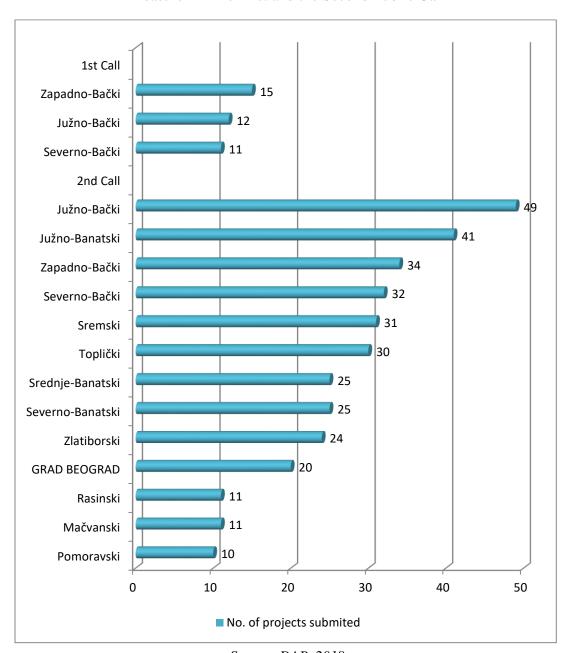
Graph 34: Total number of projects per district Measure 1 - The Second Public Call



Graph 35: Total expenditures per district (EUR)

Measure 1 - The Second Public Call



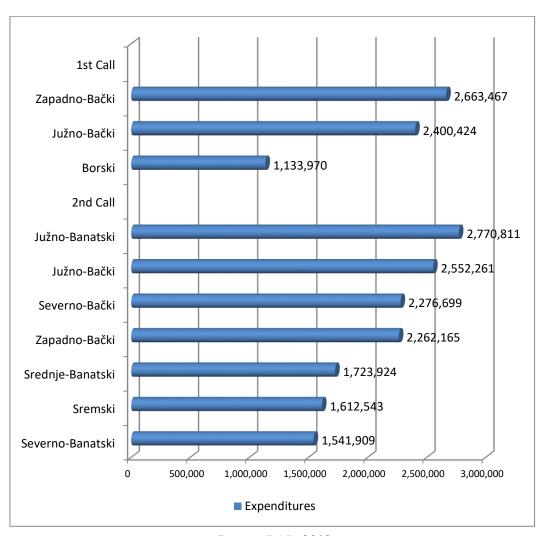


Graph 36: Districts with more than 10 projects submitted Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Districts with more than 10 projects submitted participate in the total no. of projects (478) for measure 1 per call with the following shares:

- The First Call: 46.3%;

- The Second Call: 86.6%.



Graph 37: Districts with expenditures of investments exceeding 1 mill EUR

Measure 1 - The First and the Second Public Call

Districts with expenditures of investments exceeding 1 mill EUR participate in the total expenditures for measure 1 per call with the following shares:

- The First Call: 53.9%;

- The Second Call: 78.0%.

Out of the total number of received projects (478), AAS have prepared 29 business plans for potential recipients of IPARD support for measure 1 (Table 2).

Table 2: Business plans prepared by AAS per district

| District | No. of prepared business plans |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Rasinski | 11 |
| Beogradski | 7 |
| Jablanički | 4 |
| Mačvanski | 3 |
| Braničevski | 1 |
| Borski | 1 |
| Šumadijski | 1 |
| Kolubarski | 1 |
| Total | 29 |

Promotional activities and visibility

The implementation of communication and the visibility plan, the promotion of IPARD II Programme was postponed and has started after the adoption of amendments to the IPARD II Programme, Rulebooks for the implementation of IPARD measures.

Promotion of the IPARD II program in 2016 and 2017 was carried out through the activities of advisory services. After the modules held in 2015 on IPARD II Programme advisors were obliged in their annual plan of activities to disseminate information on the IPARD II Programme to potential recipients through winter schools, tribunes, workshops, media, bulletins.

In the 3rd quarter of 2017 a new module for agricultural advisors from the Advisory Service of Serbia and the AP of Vojvodina was organized in Belgrade. Four two-day trainings were held. 116 participants in the module were representatives of 36 Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) from the territory of central Serbia and the AP of Vojvodina. Each AAS has trained teams that include agro-economists and experts from the sectors covered by the IPARD Programme and who have passed the IPARD introductory module. They are involved in the promotional activities related to the IPARD Programme as well as in direct work with potential IPARD recipients. Therefore, it was necessary to introduce them with all the details of the application and approval processes, to facilitate their future work with the recipients and to accelerate the process by improving the quality of the IPARD applications. The training also involved a number of newly-recruited staff from the DAP with the aim to expand their knowledge on the work of other sectors and thus gain insight into a comprehensive process. The lecturers were employees from the Rural Development Sector and the DAP of the MAFWM, as well as representatives of technical bodies that will check the fulfillment of prescribed relevant national and EU standards in the field of environmental protection, veterinary public health, animal welfare, plant protection, food safety of plant origin products.

20 regional information events for representatives of local self-governments, agricultural cooperatives, farmers associations, regional development agencies, regional chambers of

commerce, consultants and bank representatives were held in period December 2017 - March 2018 for the IPARD measure M1 and 11 more for measure M3 co-organized with Chamber of commerce of Serbia and Chamber of commerce of AP Vojvodina. One national event on Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad was held in May 2018. Planned activities in forthcoming period for the future calls: one two-days module for the AAS, eight regional events.

The Guides for Applicants/Recipients for IPARD Measures M1 and M3 have been prepared and published on the web pages of the MAFWM and the DAP. The Web pages of the MAFWM and the DAP contain all relevant information for potential recipients and applicants.

INDICATORS FOR VISIBILITY & COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

| Type of indicator | Indicator | Value on April 10, 2018 | Target | Execution Rate (%) |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Number of potential recipients attending information events | 1,500 | 4,000 | 37.5 |
| | Number of promotional events implemented | 31 | 30 | 103.3 |
| | Number of National events | - | 5 | 0.0 |
| Output | Number of promotional materials disseminated | - | 6,000 | 0.0 |
| | Number of national and regional media, reached by informational materials (press conferences, press releases) | 19 through news agencies | 20 | 95.0 |
| | Number of sector stakeholders acting as multipliers (providing links to IPARD II website, distributing promotional materials) | 6 (42 with AAS) | 10 | 60.0 |
| | Number of TV and/ or radio presentations | 33 (23 TVP, 10 RP) | 1 per call | Achieved |
| | Number of press conferences organised | 3 | at least 5 national and at least 4 regional | 33.3 |
| | Number of press releases provided | 7 | at least 20 | 35.0 |
| | Number of people accessing the IPARD II website | 1,000 app | 2,000 | 50.0 |

| Type of indicator | Indicator | Value on 10. April | Target | Execution Rate (%) |
|-------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Result | Level of satisfaction from the informational events | 89.5% | at least 80% satisfied by the content and organisation | 111.9 |
| | Number of publications/ articles, TV and radio reportages for the IPARD II Programme | 1,079 | 60 | Achieved |
| | Number of applications for grants per measure | M1 - 478 M3 – public call in progress | At least 80 for the measure 1 and at least 45 for the measure 3 | Achieved for measure M1 |

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