# G No. 28 - Sep/Oct 2024





Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



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#### IPARD in focus

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# Signed Financing Agreement for agriculture and rural development under the instrument for pre-accession assistance IPA III

The Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission for the IPARD III assistance for agriculture and rural development under the instrument for pre-accession assistance IPA III, was adopted, by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Prof. Tanja Miščević, PhD, Minister of European Integration, signed the Financing Agreement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Mr. Wolfgang Burtscher, the Director-General of DG AGRI, has signed the Financing Agreement, on behalf of the European Commission, followed by an exchange of verbal notes, which fulfilled the prescribed conditions for its entry into force and the withdrawal of EU funds within the IPARD III Programme.



# Public call for the procurement of a new tractor

The Second public call for Measure 1 of the IPARD III Programme – Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings was published on 4th October, 2024, and the deadline for submitting applications for project approval is 8th November 2024. This public call refers exclusively to investments in the purchase of a new tractor, nominal engine power up to 100 kW. The allocated funds under this public call amount to RSD 2,696,025,600, i.e. EUR 23,040,000. Eligible applicants for project approval, for the procurement of a new tractor in the milk, meat, egg, fish, fruit, vegetable, grape and cereals and industrial crops sectors, are natural persons, entrepreneurs, business companies and agricultural cooperatives.



# Activities related to the preparation of the LEADER measure under the IPARD III Programme

Within bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia in the period from 25th to 27th September, the IV mission was held as part of activities Community Leader Initiative in the Serbia, related to the strengthening of capacities for establishment of the IPARD III Measure 5. In addition to representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, the activities related to the IV mission were also attended by representatives of the Slovenian Local Action Group "Bogastvo podeželja". The activities within the mission were related to the field visit of four potential local action groups in the Republic of Serbia: "Fruška gora – Dunav", "Sremski Karlovci – Kovilj", "Katena Mundi" and "Rtanj". Over the course of two days, representatives of potential local action groups had the opportunity to get first-hand information about the LEADER measure implementation in the EU member state, as well as to learn more about the implementation of this measure during the pre-accession period.

Representatives of potential local action groups presented activities and projects implemented in their territories.

On the final day of the mission, at the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, a meeting related to all missions, was held, attended also by the representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia. In addition, the importance of the support provided by the Republic of Slovenia to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management was highlighted.

# Visit of the delegation of the Republic of Georgia to the Republic of Serbia

The IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency have organized workshop related to their experiences in implementing the IPARD II Programme, for the representatives of the Agency for Rural Development of the Republic of Georgia on 12th September 2024. The experiences transferred are of great importance for the Republic of Georgia, taking into consideration that it has gained a candidate country status for EU membership and it is preparing for the implementation of the Union's pre-accession support for rural development.



### Visit of the delegation of the Czech Republic

IPARD Managing Authority held a meeting with representatives of three local action groups from the Czech Republic on 7th October 2024. The meeting was also attended by representatives of four potential local action groups from the Republic of Serbia, as well as the delegate to the EU Parliament, Mr. Roman Haken.

During the meeting, Czech Republic delegation was informed about the activities carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in previous years, related to the establishment of the LEADER approach in the Republic of Serbia. The dynamics of the upcoming activities related to the start of the implementation of the LEADER measure within the IPARD III Programme were also presented. Representatives of local action groups from the Czech Republic had the opportunity to transfer their knowledge and experience regarding the work of their local action groups to representatives of potential local action groups in the Republic of Serbia. During the meeting, future cooperation between two countries was discussed, in order to prepare and implement the LEADER approach in the Republic of Serbia.

# TAIEX multi-country workshop on the implementation of the IPARD programmes

The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), the European Commission in cooperation with TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) has organised a workshop on the implementation of the IPARD Programme, in the period from 9th to 10th October 2024, in Brussels.

The exchange of successful practices between the IPARD countries was one of the goals of the workshop, in order to optimise the implementation of the IPARD Programme through the use of the best practices of the EU Member States.



Some of the topics of the workshop were related to: the closure of the IPARD II Programme; annual acceptance of accounts with focus on the debtors' ledger; SME guidelines; ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme; entrustment of budget implementation tasks; Measure 9 – Technical Assistance; digitalisation/cyber security/e-application; simplified cost options, as well as the presentation of new Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. Furthermore, the participants took an active part during the discussion, while a special segment of the workshop was dedicated to work in small groups, where the participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences gained during the IPARD Programme implementation.

In addition, during the stay in Brussels, technical meetings were held between representatives of the European Commission and the IPARD Managing Authority, regarding the current state of play and planned activities within the IPARD III Programme implementation.

## **Example of good practice from IPARD II Programme**

**Green group LLC** has been growing and processing fruit for 28 years. A total of 70 hectares of orchards are used for production, out of which 40 hectares are under pears and 30 hectares under apples. Each orchard has an irrigation system and anti-hail protection nets. Their own production capability ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 tons annually.

In our orchards we grow apples (Red Chief, Granny Smith, Gala – Must, Galaxy, Golden Delicious – Reindeers, Fuji, Jonagored, Ajdared) and pears (Villiam, Abate Fetel, Carmen) of the highest quality – says Zoran Grozdanić, director of this micro-enterprise.

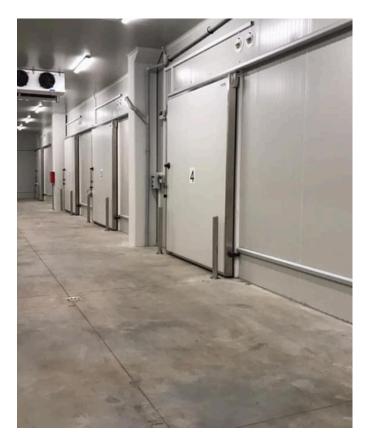


**Green Group** owns a modern ULO cold storage, with a 2,000 ton capacity, as well as a packing hall with an area of 800 m2 with a three-track line for apples and pears sorting, with a water flow.

#### IPARD in focus

With the help of the IPARD Programme, the Green Group company purchased the cooling and freezing apparatus and components for the flow tunnel. They submitted applications under the Fourth public call for submission of the applications for project approval for the IPARD subsidies for investments in physical assets concerning the processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products and received EUR 546,275.98 subsidy, for a EUR 1.16 million investment (EU contribution: EUR 409,693.48).





### **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 email ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs or Instagram and Facebook pages!



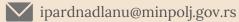
Photos used in the newsletter are from the following sources: https://unsplash.com/, MAFWM photos and FB page Green Group-fresh frozen.

### **NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY::**



IPARD Managing Authority, MAFWM Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 84, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

#### **CONTACT US:**



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