



# IPARD programmes

## Brief overview and update

The 4<sup>th</sup> IPARD III Monitoring Committee meeting

Belgrade, 27 November 2024

European Commission

DG Agriculture & Rural Development

*Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development*

# IPARD II programmes [2014-2020]

- For all 5 programmes, implementation ends on 31/12/2024
- Situation after the **third quarter of 2024**:

(in EUR)	ALLOCATION 2014-2020	Pre-financing	EU interim payments	Absorption rate	Decommitments
Albania (*)	71 000 000	13 200 000	41 934 886	59,1%	
Montenegro	39 000 000	6 900 000	28 145 105	72,2%	
North Macedonia (**)	60 000 000	11 700 000	47 735 412	79,6%	
Serbia	175 000 000	34 500 000	85 979 132	49,1%	
Türkiye (**)	601 000 000	95 640 000	580 115 130	96,5%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>946 000 000</b>	<b>161 940 000</b>	<b>783 909 666</b>	<b>82,9%</b>	<b>23 294 638</b>

(\*) Reimbursements are interrupted as of July 2023

(\*\*) Reimbursement by Commission subject to maximum 95% for pre-financing and interim payments

# IPARD III programmes [2021-2027]

	Adoption programme (+ last modified)	Sectoral agreement	Financing agreement	Entrustment for measures	
Albania	09/03/2022	31/01/2023			
Montenegro	29/06/2022 (14/12/2023)	23/01/2023	02/02/2024	1, 3, 7	Conditional
North Macedonia	09/03/2022 (24/06/2024)	15/02/2023	29/11/2023	1, 3, 7, 9	
Serbia	09/03/2022 (20/10/2023)	09/08/2023	29/10/2024	1, 3, 7, 9	Conditional
Türkiye	14/03/2022 (27/03/2024)	12/04/2023	08/04/2024	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9	

# IPARD III programmes [2021-2027]

	Calls	Launch	Measures	Status
Albania				
Montenegro	No 1	07/02/2024	7	Call closed
	No 2	28/03/2024	7	Call closed
	No 3	19/06/2024	3	Call closed
	No 4	29/08/2024	1	Call open (until 29/11/2024)
North Macedonia	No 1	01/09/2023	1 & 7	Call closed
	No 2	13/04/2024	3	Call closed
	No 3	.././2024	7	Under preparation
	No 4	.././2025	1	Under preparation
Serbia	No 1	23/02/2024	1	Call closed
	No 2	04/10/2024	1	Call closed
Türkiye	No 1	21/03/2024	3	Call closed
	No 2	12/07/2024	7	Call closed
	No 3	16/09/2024	1	Call closed
	No 4	23/08/2024	4	Call open (until 28/02/2025)
	No 5	12/11/2024	7	Call open (until 12/12/2024)

# IPARD III programmes [2021-2027]

- Pre-financing: maximum 30% of 3 most recent years; at least 50% for first instalment; subject to budget availabilities
- Envelopes 2021-2022: eligible for EU contribution if paid by **31/12/2025** [N+3]

(in EUR)	ALLOCATION 2021-2027	Pre-financing	EU interim payments	Absorption rate	Decommitments
Albania	112 000 000	0	0	0,0%	
Montenegro	63 000 000	4 200 000	0	0,0%	
North Macedonia	97 000 000	6 300 000	1 543	0,002%	
Serbia	288 000 000	17 850 000	0	0,0%	
Türkiye	430 000 000	30 750 000	0	0,0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>990 000 000</b>	<b>59 100 000</b>	<b>1 543</b>	<b>0,0%</b>	<b>0</b>

# IPARD III programme in Serbia

- All lessons learnt from IPARD II should be efficiently used
- Accelerate with new measures
- Possibility of “over-contracting “ – useful tool implemented by other IPARD countries

# IPARD



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА  
МИНИСТАРСТВО ПОЉОПРИВРЕДЕ,  
ШУМАРСТВА И ВОДОПРИВРЕДЕ  
ИПАРД АГЕНЦИЈА



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# IPARD PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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IPARD AGENCY

SLOBODAN NIKOLOVSKI, DIRECTOR

Belgrade, November 2024



# IPARD in numbers

## Applications filed

Requested support:  
306.81 mil EUR



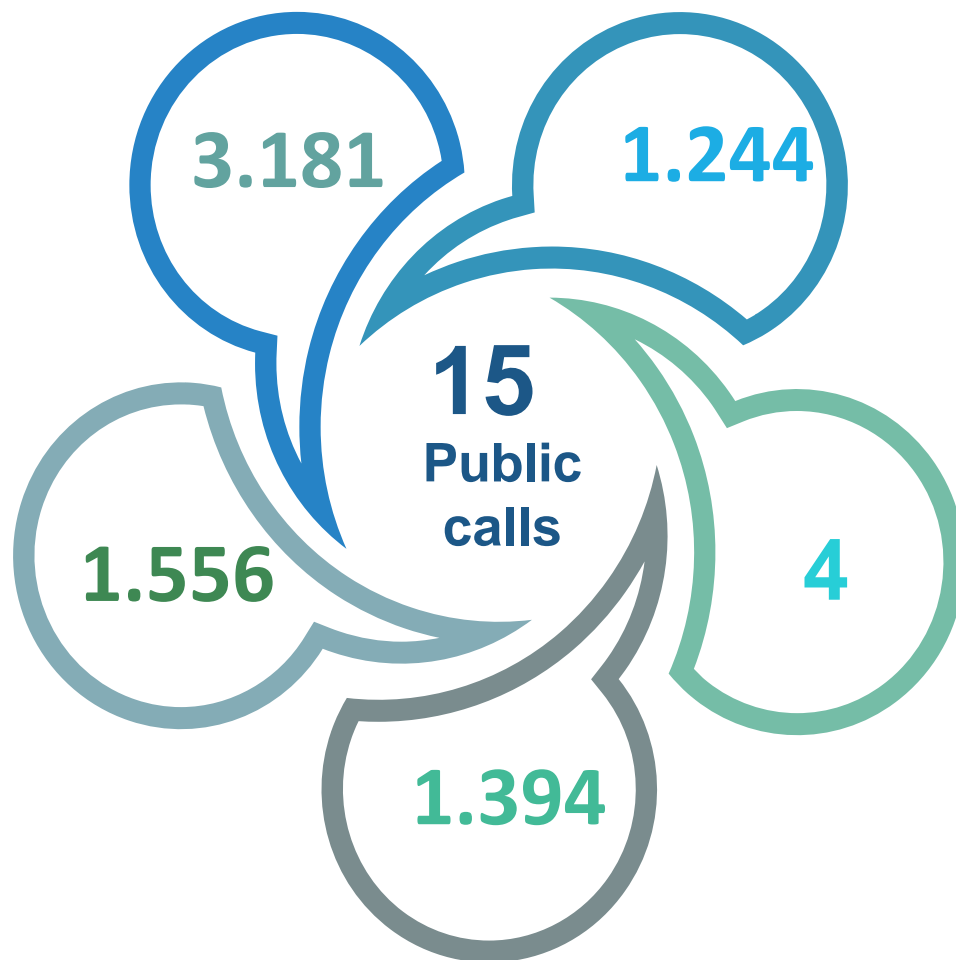
## Projects approved

Requested support:  
148.06 mil EUR



## Payment requests

Requested support:  
120.24 mil EUR



## Disbursed beneficiaries



Funds disbursed:  
90,3 mil EUR

## Measures

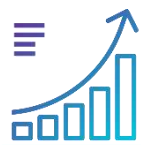


Dedicated funds:  
175 mil EUR  
*-21,56 unused funds*

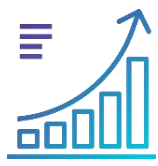
Overview: 25/11/2024



# Overview



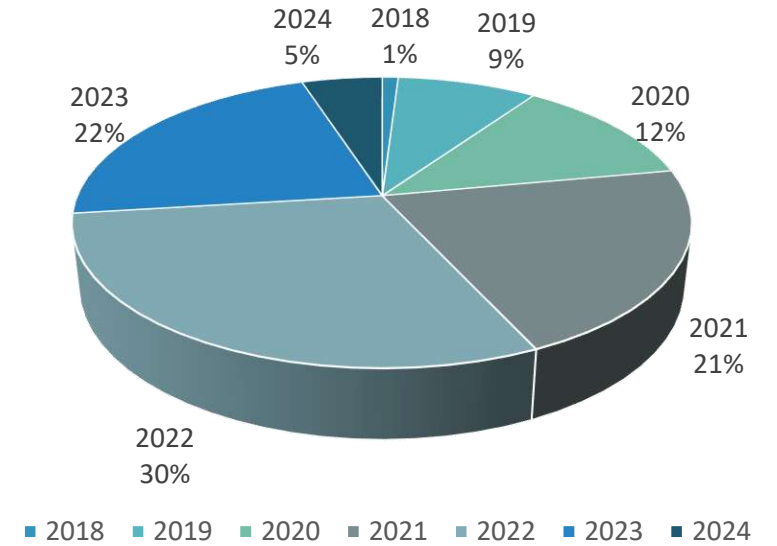
Measure	APPLICATIONS FILED		PROJECTS APPROVED		FINAL PAYMENT		ADVANCE PAYMENT		FUNDS DISBURSED (final + advanced payment)	
	Number	Requested support	Number	Approved amount of support	Number	Funds disbursed	Number	Funds disbursed	Number	Funds disbursed
M1	2.260	154.142.925	1.185	83.502.279	1005	57.670.919	25	3.531.253	1.030	61.202.172
M3	313	73.662.208	174	40.877.369	105	17.586.346	21	4.397.132	126	21.983.478
M7	605	78.974.490	195	23.664.819	67	5.462.340	20	1.634.283	87	7.096.623
M9	3	29.933	2	18.785	1	2.721	0	0	1	2.721
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.181</b>	<b>306.809.555</b>	<b>1.556</b>	<b>148.063.252</b>	<b>1.178</b>	<b>80.722.326</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9.562.668</b>	<b>1.244</b>	<b>90.284.994</b>



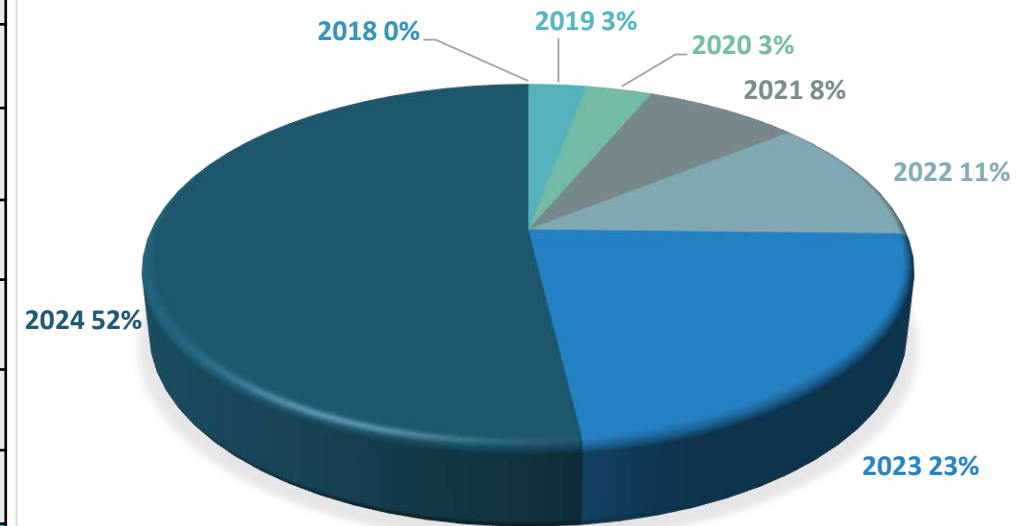
# Per annum implementation

Overview 31/10/2024	APPLICATIONS FILED		PROJECTS APPROVED		PAYMENT REQUESTS		DISBURSED BENEFICIARIES	
	Number	Requested support	Number	Approved amount of support	Number	Requested support	Number	Funds disbursed
2018	736	151.357.649	22	1.520.324	10	212.276	0	0
2019	701	155.574.276	244	13.296.794	175	5.891.523	145	4.577.520
2020	311	75.334.471	332	18.957.127	177	9.807.325	72	5.112.389
2021	774	290.791.752	239	32.235.348	223	12.817.760	293	12.113.315
2022	657	27.916.992	381	45.827.714	190	19.678.824	165	17.221.415
2023	2	31.415	323	33.585.590	406	36.296.318	389	34.989.297
2024	0	0	15	2.640.354	213	35.540.891	180	16.271.058
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.181</b>	<b>701.006.556</b>	<b>1.556</b>	<b>148.063.252</b>	<b>1.394</b>	<b>120.244.918</b>	<b>1.244</b>	<b>90.284.994</b>

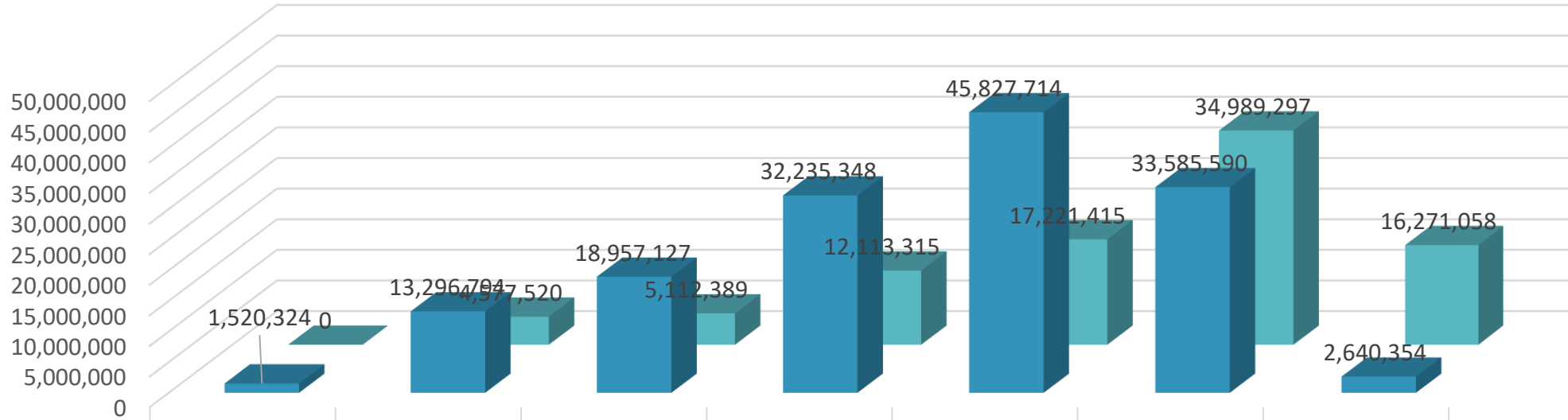
## APPROVED AMOUNT OF SUPPORT



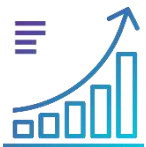
## FUNDS DISBURSED



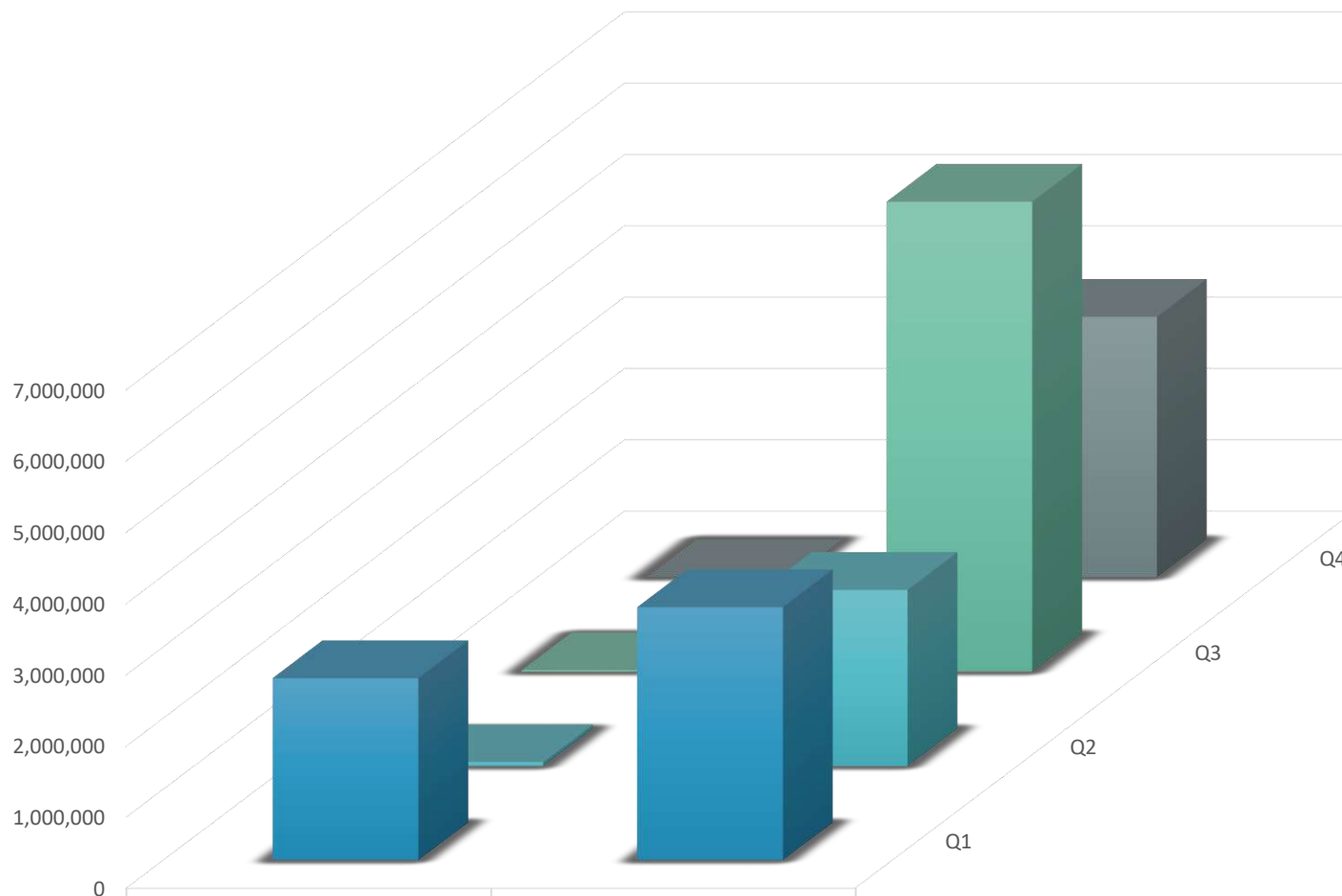
# Per annum implementation



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Approved amount of support	1,520,324	13,296,794	18,957,127	32,235,348	45,827,714	33,585,590	2,640,354
Paid funds	0	4,577,520	5,112,389	12,113,315	17,221,415	34,989,297	16,271,058



# Implementation in 2024

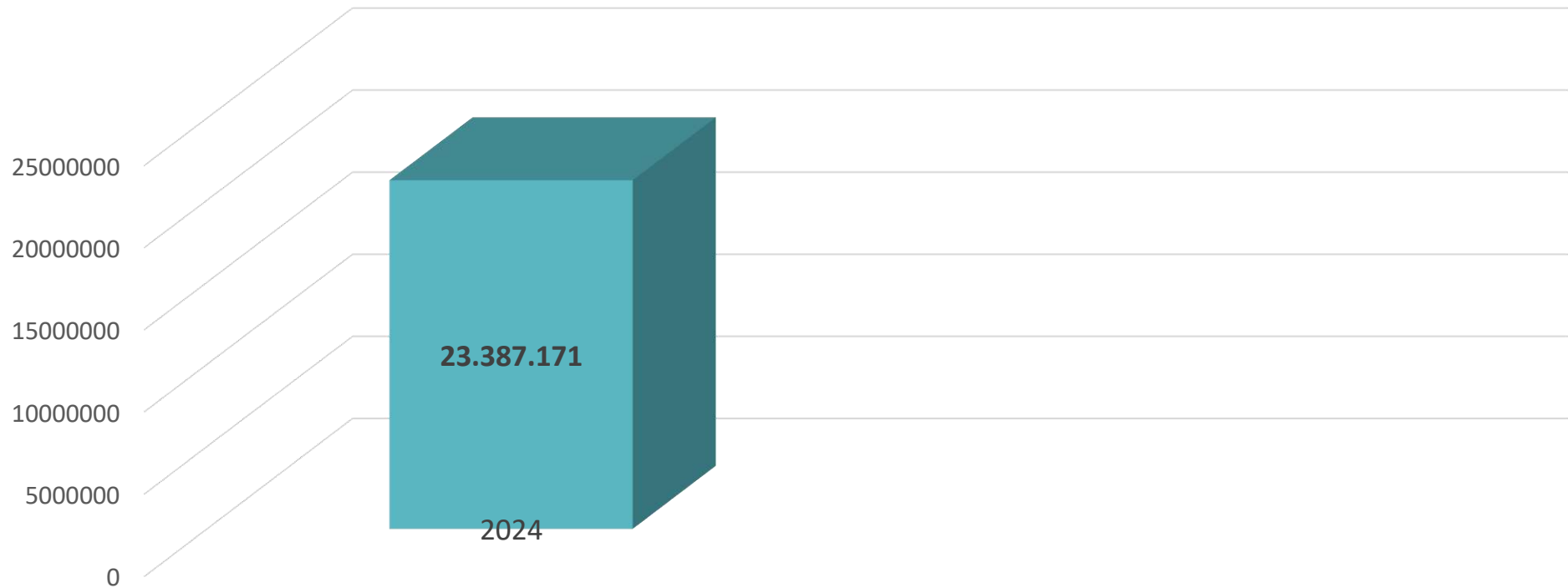


	Projects approved	Funds disbursed
■ Q1	2,561,632	3,556,609
■ Q2	55,437	2,472,585
■ Q3	23,284	6,591,178
■ Q4	0	3,650,687

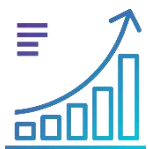


## 2024 Disbursement forecast (for approved projects)

# 2024 Forecast



**\*\*In 2024, the current implementation amounts to 16,271,058 EUR, while the forecast is that an additional around 7 mil. EUR will be paid out by the end of 2024.**



# IPARD III PROGRAMME Measure 1

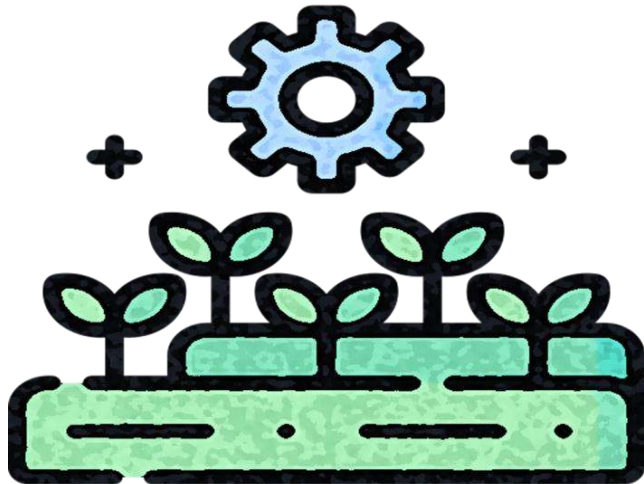
- The Rulebook for Measure 1 - Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings under IPARD III Programme was adopted on February 14, 2024
- The Rulebook on the Methodology for generating reference prices on IPARD incentives under the IPARD III Programme was adopted on September 6, 2024
- Since the beginning of the IPARD III Programme implementation, two public calls have been announced under Measure 1
- The accredited procedures of the IPARD Agency for the implementation of Measure 1 were approved by the NAO on September 17, 2024, after which the IPARD Agency commenced processing the submitted requests from Measure 1



# IPARD III Public Calls

## ■ Measure 1 – The First Public Call

The **first public call** refers to the submission of requests for project approval for IPARD incentives for investments in the physical assets of agricultural holdings, including the **construction and equipping of facilities**, as well as the **establishment of perennial production and parent plantings**



## ■ Measure 1 – The Second Public Call

The **second public call** refers to investments into the physical assets of agricultural holdings **for the purchase of a new tractor**



# M1 – The First Public Call

Number of applications	389
Requested support	169 mil EUR
Allocated funds	41 mil EUR (EU part 30,8 mil EUR)

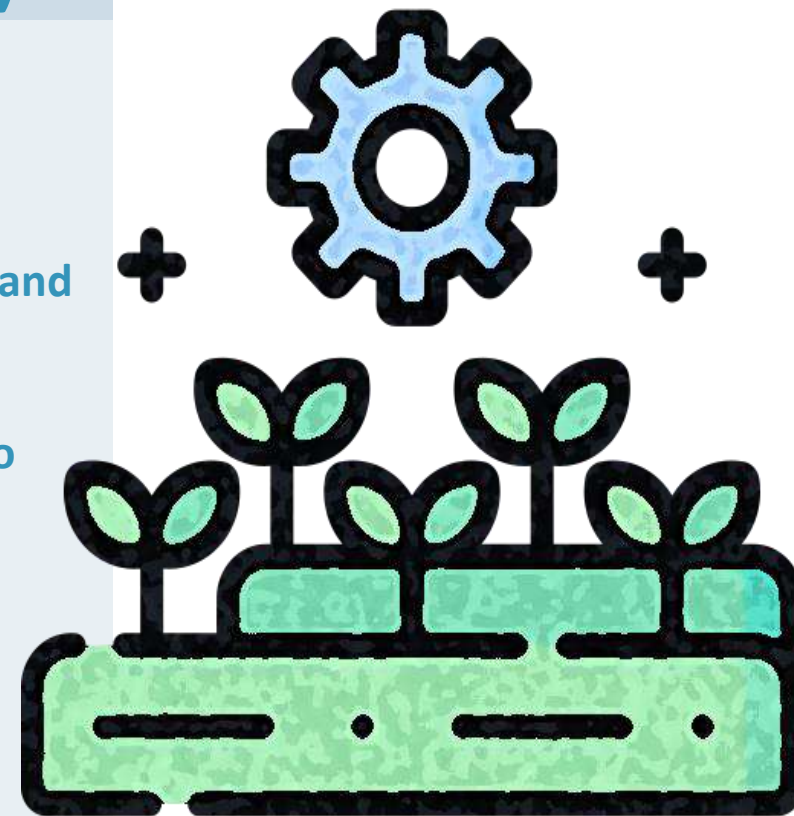
- From February 23 to September 16, 2024.
- Incentives for the construction and equipping of facilities, as well as for the establishment of new perennial fruit plantings and foundation plantings of fruits and grapes
- The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to allow applicants to better prepare their documentation

82% of applications for construction and equipping of facilities

1% of applications for equipping of existing facilities

17 % of applications for establishment of new perennial and parental plantings

## IPARD III Public Calls





## M1 – The Second Public Call

Number of applications	847
Requested support	In progress
Allocated funds	23 mil EUR (EU part 17.25 mil EUR)

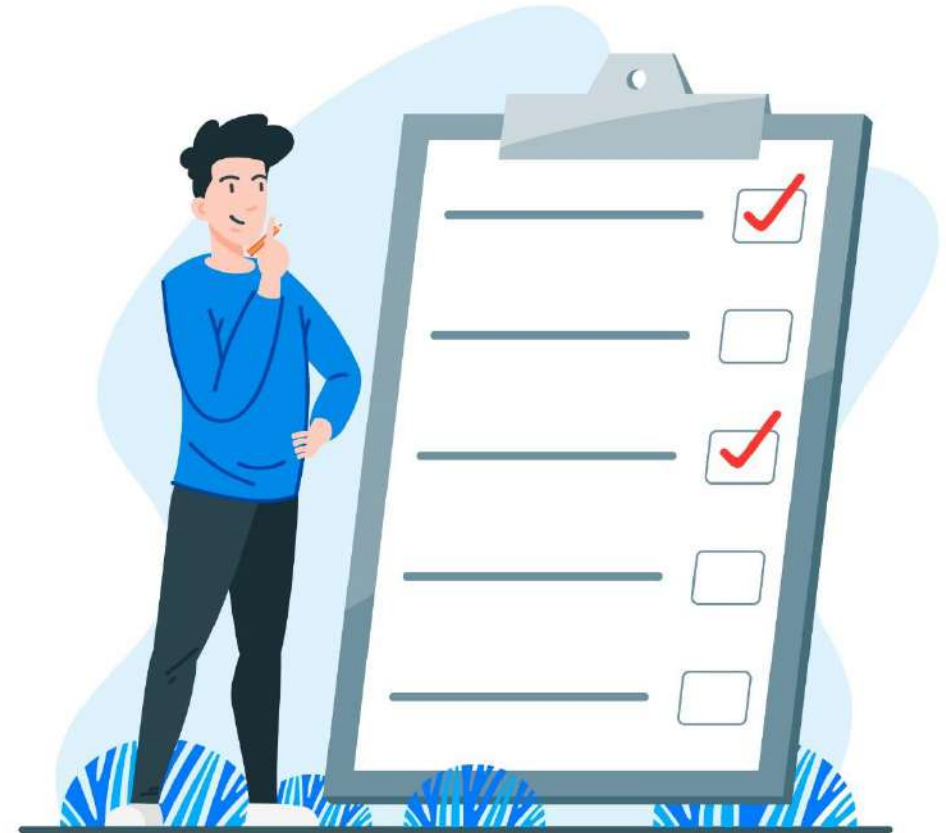
- From October 4 to November 8, 2024
- Incentives for the purchase of a new tractor with a power of up to 100 kW

## IPARD III Public Calls



# Re(accreditation) process - M3, M7 and M9

- On October 29, 2024, the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement under the IPARD III Program was ratified
- The procedures for M3 and M7 that are undergoing reaccreditation will be completed upon the adoption of the Rulebook for the relevant measures
- The Rulebook for Measure 9 was adopted on September 6, 2024
- The alignment of procedures for Measure 9 with the new Rulebook is currently underway, and their adoption is expected in the near future
- The defining of the procedures for the measures which have not been implemented so far – Measure 4 and Measure 5 will follow the preparation of the Rulebooks for these measures



# Human Resources – The Path to a Stable and Efficient System

## Ensuring continuity through long-term mandates of the management structure

- A new director appointed for a period of five years starting from August 1, 2024 (from the ranks of civil servants of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments)
- Four assistant directors have been appointed for a period of five years.
- Two assistant directors have been appointed for a period of six months.

## Continuous announcement of job vacancies

### Public competitions in 2023:

- The competition for filling IPARD executive positions, announced on May 17th, has been completed.
- 19 employees began working in 2024

### Public competitions in 2024:

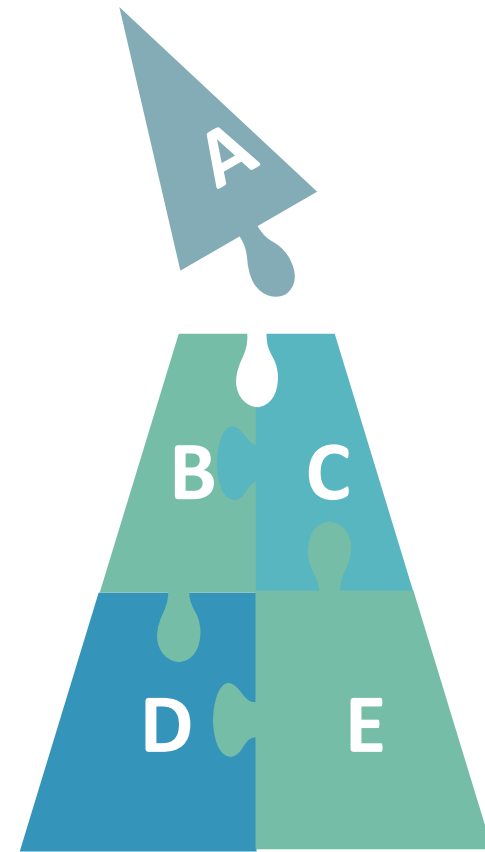
- The announcement of a competition for filling 30 IPARD executive positions is planned for the fourth quarter of 2024

## Drafting a proposal for a new Regulation on internal organization and job classification

## Staff retention policy

- The Government of RS approved DAP to systematize a larger number of senior positions
- 15 civil servants were promoted to higher positions, while 83 moved to a higher salary grade in 2024
- Salary increase for civil servants by 10% starting from January 1, 2024

232 systematized IPARD positions  
162 filled positions  
32 employees on temporary contracts



# Strengthening institutional capacities for the implementation of the IPARD III program



- **The propose of the new job classification act is in progress**
  - In line with the request for introducing new IPARD measures
  - More IPARD positions
- **The preparation of the Training Plan for 2025 is in progress**
- **Basic information package for newly employed personnel** (introduction to work, organizational structure, IA procedures, and job description tasks)
  - **Newly employed personnel training:**
    - Presenting and implementing IPARD III measures
    - Concept of irregularity
    - IPARD
    - IPARD within IPA
  - **Support of the mentor during the first six months from the date of employment**
  - **Trainings for all employees:**
    - IPARD III – implementation M4, M5 and M9
    - Specific LPIS trainings (for M4 implementation)

# IPARD



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Управа  
за аграрна  
плаћања

SLOBODAN NIKOLOVSKI, DIRECTOR  
DIRECTORATE FOR AGRARIAN PAYMENTS – IPARD AGENCY  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
BELGRADE, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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# IPARD



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
IPARD MANAGING AUTHORITY



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## MAIN ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BETWEEN TWO IPARD III MC SESSIONS

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**Jasmina Miljković**

Head of the IPARD Managing Authority  
Head of the Department for Management of IPARD Programme

27th November 2024, Belgrade

# Main activities performed between two IPARD III MC sessions



Legal  
base



Public  
calls



- Adopted Rulebook on conditions, manner and procedure for Technical Assistance measure implementation under the IPARD III Programme;
- Adopted Rulebook on methodology for determining the reference prices of investment for calculating IPARD subsidies under the IPARD III Programme;
- Rulebook on IPARD subsidies for investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products is in the normative procedure.



- The First Public Call for Measure 1 was closed on 16th September 2024;
- The Second Public Call for Measure 1 for the procurement of tractors was closed on 8th November 2024;
- The announcement of the Third Public Call for Measure 1 for the procurement of equipment, machinery and mechanisation is expected at the beginning of December 2024;
- The announcement of the First Public Call for Measure 3 is expected after the publication of the Rulebook, i.e. in mid-December 2024.



Financing  
Agreement



Second modification  
of IPARD III  
Programme



- Financing Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission for the IPARD III Programme.



- Second modification of IPARD III Programme is prepared.

# PUBLICATIONS

## GUIDELINES



## BROCHURE



## IPARD NEWSLETTER



## LEAFLETS





# PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES – IPARD INFO DAYS

## MEASURE 7

Regional Chamber of Commerce for Šumadija and Pomoravlje administrative districts, Kragujevac, 24 October 2024



Regional Chamber of Commerce for Šumadija and Pomoravlje administrative districts, Zaječar, 06 November 2024



## MEASURE 1 and MEASURE 3

Chamber of Commerce Vojvodina, Novi Sad, 29 October 2024



Regional Chamber of Commerce for Nišava, Pirot and Toplica administrative districts, Niš, 04 November 2024



**In the period between the two IPARD III Monitoring Committee sessions, the following changes of members/deputy members took place:**

Amendment to the Decision on the establishment of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee for monitoring of implementation of the Programme for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027

Sector for Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure

Ministry of Rural Welfare

Fund for the Development of the Republic of Serbia

National Society for Fruit Production "Our Fruits of Serbia"

Poultry Business Association "Poultry Community"

## Measure 7 – Scoring and ranking criteria

### - Proposal for modification of scoring points -

The proposal of the representatives of the European Commission was to modify List for scoring and ranking criteria within Measure 7 of the IPARD III Programme, which was adopted in July 2023 by the IPARD III Monitoring Committee. The modification was performed in the sense of significantly increase the current scoring points awarded to applicants within the Sector for direct marketing of agri-food products and home-made products, as well as the Small-scale services sector, with the aim of promoting these two new sectors and creating preconditions for the best realisation of investments.

## Measure 7 – Scoring and ranking criteria

### Proposal for modification of scoring points

Criteria for scoring and ranking		Points
I	STATUS OF APPLICANT (PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION)	up to 9 at most
1.	The applicant has a three - or four - year secondary education (Secondary vocational school/Gymnasium)	5
2.	The applicant has a higher or higher professional degree obtained in a Higher school of vocational studies, i.e. VI level degree, or obtained 180 ECTS points	7
3.	The applicant has completed academic studies at the University or master's studies, i.e. VII level degree, or obtained 240 and more ECTS points	9

Criteria for scoring and ranking		
<b>II</b>	<b>CATEGORY OF APPLICANT</b>	<b>up to 17 at most</b>
1.	The applicant is under 40 years of age on the date of submitting the request for project approval	7
2.	The applicant is female	5
3.	At the time of submitting the request for project approval, the applicant does not have a decision on project approval from the previous IPARD public call	5
	<b>TYPE OF INVESTMENT</b>	<b>up to 6 at most</b>
1.	The subject of the request for project approval is the construction of a facility	6
<b>IV</b>	<b>IMPACT OF INVESTMENT ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b>	<b>up to 9 at most</b>
3.	The request for the project approval includes investments in construction of a facility in accordance with a special regulation regulating the technical standards of planning, design and construction of facilities, which ensure unhindered movement and access for people with disabilities, children and the elderly	9

Criteria for scoring and ranking		
V	PLACE OF INVESTMENT	up to 6 at most
1.	The place of investment is located in an area with difficult working conditions in agriculture, namely in a mountainous area or in a devastated area, in accordance with a special regulation that determines areas with difficult working conditions in agriculture	6
VI	CONTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT	up to 12 at most
1.	One new employed	7
2.	At least two new employed	12
VII	SECTOR CRITERIA	up to 5 at most
1.	Direct marketing sector	<del>5</del> 25
2.	Small-scale services sector	<del>3</del> 25
VIII	IMPACT OF INVESTMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT	up to 10 at most
1.	The subject of the request for project approval is the construction of a facility for performing non-agricultural activities and the construction and/or equipping of facilities for the production and storage of energy from renewable sources	10
<b>HIGHEST NUMBER OF POINTS</b>		<b><del>74</del>94</b>

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**Jasmina Miljković**

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ИПАРД УПРАВЉАЧКО ТЕЛО



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## IPARD III PROGRAMME

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

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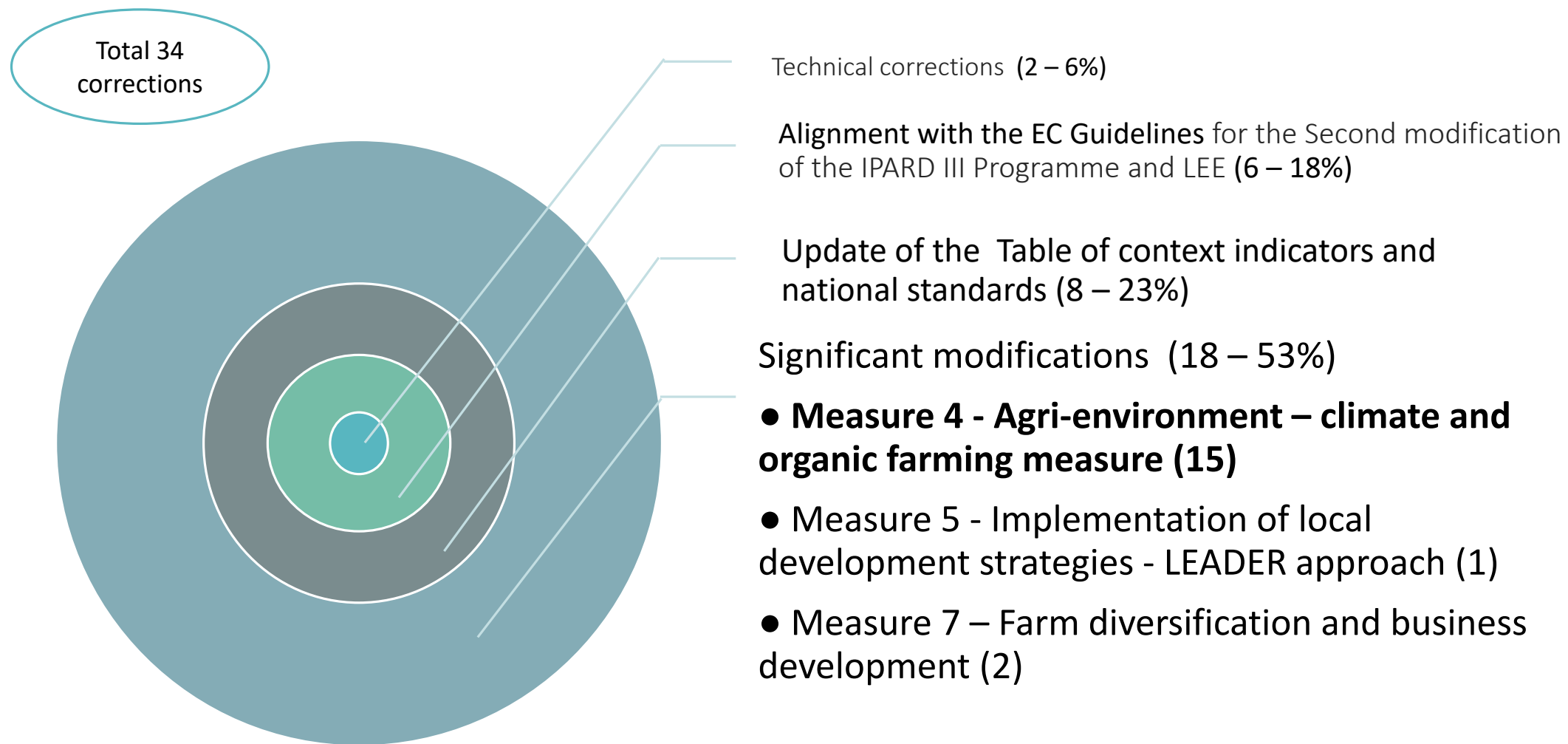
**Marina Vujovic**

Senior adviser for programming agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure  
Group for for improving life in rural areas  
Managing Authority for IPARD Programme

**Belgrade, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme



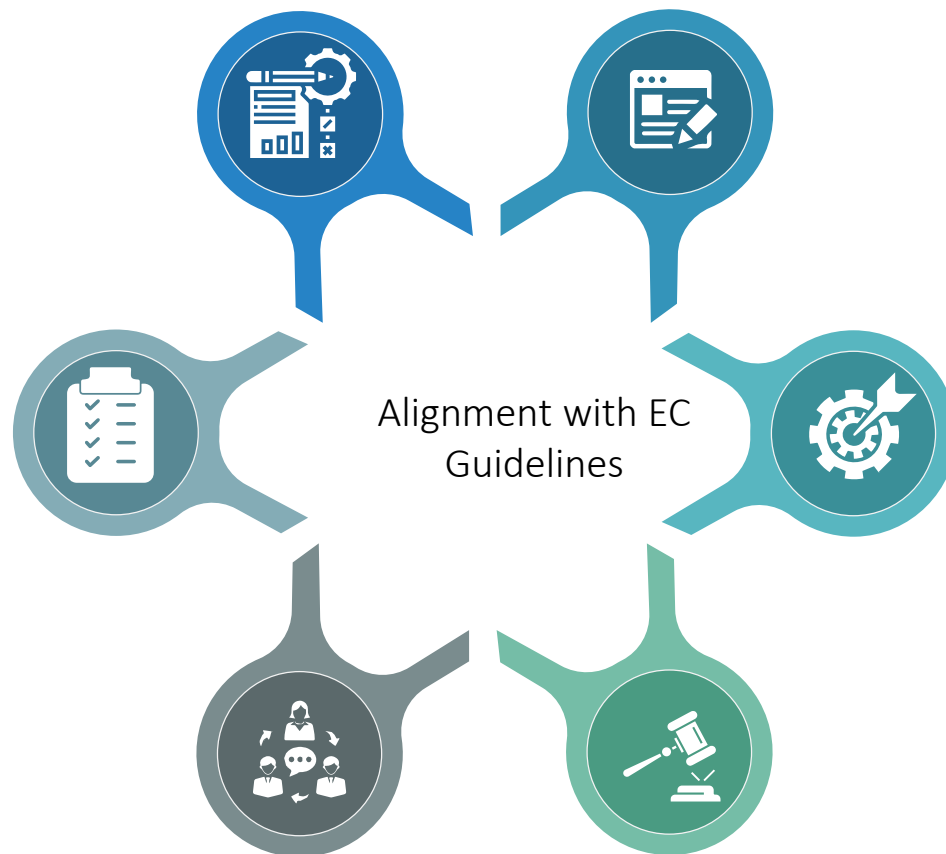
# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

Investments in the tobacco and hemp production are not eligible

For an investment in irrigation system, water metering enabling measurement of water use shall be in place or shall be put in place as part of that investment.

Not eligible, the purchase of :

- combine harvesters and vehicles, **except for specialised vehicles,**
- animals, **except of animals for rearing endangered breeds under Measure 4**



Investments in production of alcoholic beverages, **except for production of wine up to 15% of the alcohol/vol.**

On-the spot checks after payment (ex-post) shall be carried out within 5 years of the date of final payment, **with the exception for Measure 9, and Measure 4**

Investments in renewable energy - production and **storage of renewable energy.**

Reason for change:

Alignment with EC guidelines for Chapters 8.1 and 8.2 - Requirements relating to all measures and administrative procedure

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## Table of context indicators



2023 Census of Agricultural  
2022 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings  
Updated data for 2021, i.e. the initial year of the program period of the IPARD III  
program

Amended Table 3.6. Table of context indicators (amendments are marked as **bold**)

Context Indicator Name	Measurement unit	Context Indicator value	Year	Comment & source of verification
<b>Population</b>				
<b>1. Population numbers</b>				
1.1. Total population – The RS	No. of persons (in 000)	6,687.7	2021	<i>Comment:</i> Data refers to the end of the year (31 <sup>st</sup> December) for territory of the Republic of Serbia without AP Kosovo* and Metohija. <i>Data by type of settlement, are given by national methodology.</i> <i>Source:</i> SORS
1.2. Share of total population by type of region				
Predominantly rural	%	38.1	2021	
Intermediate	%	N/A	2021	
Predominantly urban	%	61.9	2021	
1.3. Share of total population by sex				
Males	%	48.6	2021	
Females	%	51.4	2021	
<b>2. Population density</b>				
2.1. Population density	No. of persons/km <sup>2</sup>	86.2	2021	<i>Source:</i> SORS, RGA
<b>3. Age structure of the population</b>				
3.1. Share of total population by broad age groups				<i>Source:</i> SORS
Less than 15 years	%	14.3	2021	
From 15 to 64 years	%	63.7	2021	
65 years or over	%	22.0	2021	
3.2. Share of population by sex by broad age groups				
<i>Males</i>				
Less than 15 years	%	15.2	2021	
From 15 to 64 years	%	65.3	2021	
65 years or over	%	19.5	2021	
<i>Females</i>				
Less than 15 years	%	13.6	2021	
From 15 to 64 years	%	62.1	2021	
65 years or over	%	24.3	2021	
<b>Total area</b>				
<b>4. Total area</b>				
4.1. Total area (including inland waters)	km <sup>2</sup>	77,589	2021	<i>Comment:</i> Data refers to the territory of the Republic of Serbia without AP Kosovo* and Metohija.

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## List of relevant national standards



Added regulations relevant to certain sectors:

### **National standards for Measure 1** - *"Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings"*.

- Law on planting material of fruit trees, vines and hops
- Air Traffic Law
- Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources
- Law on innovative activity
- Law on Recognition of Agricultural Plant Varieties
- Law on the National Framework of Qualifications of the Republic of Serbia

### **National standards for Measure 3** – *"Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products"*

- Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources
- Law on innovative activity

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## List of relevant national standards



### **National standards for Measure 4 – • Measure 4 – “Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure”**

- + Rulebook on the Code of Good Agricultural Practice (Official Gazette of the RS, no. 23/23)
- ~~Rulebook on the declaration and protection of strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and mushrooms~~
- ~~Law on Land Protection~~
- ~~Law on Environmental Protection~~

### **National standards for Measure 7 – “Farm diversification and business development”**

- + Rulebook on minimum technical and sanitary-hygienic conditions for arranging and equipping catering facilities

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme



Small projects can receive support of up to EUR 5,000, regardless of the total value of the project (eligible and ineligible costs).

5.000 EUR → 10.000 EUR



- **Expanded definition of rural areas** → Areas of seats of administrative centers of cities are not considered rural areas.
- Updated List of settlements outside rural areas
- **Members of agricultural holdings cannot be eligible beneficiaries of IPARD incentives**

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 4 - Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure



### Operation 1 – Crop rotation on arable land

- Changing the mandatory elements of the crop rotation plan
- Crop rotation plan:
  - at least 3 main crops (rotating according to the principle of hoeing-leguminous-cereal), 2 intercrops and green fallow in one year
  - at least 3 main crops from different groups (mandatory legumes), 2 crops for green manure. The same crop cannot be grown two years in a row, except in the case of growing perennial crops.
  - Repeal of the ban on herbicides
- Extension of the conditions related to the use of manure from own farm.



### Operation 3 – Establishment and maintenance of the pollinator strip

Maintenance of the buffer zone around the Pollinator strip (by mowing or other methods).



### Operation 4 – Sustainable management of meadows and pastures

**The condition related to burning and other disturbance of land has been deleted** because it is part of the baseline and the costs for its implementation are not compensated.

Proposals for changes within the conditions of operations Measure 4  
General eligibility criteria - Record keeping - deleted

The proposal for changes was prepared after workshops and online consultations were held in connection with the preparation of the rulebook for the implementation of measures.

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 4 - Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure

### Changes in the baseline - new elements of the baseline

Operation	Regulation	Provision
1 - Crop rotation on arable land	Rulebook on the Code of Good Agricultural Practice	Art. 5. point 4 (8) - ensuring that the same crop is not grown on the same surface for more than two years in a row, except in the case of growing perennial crops.
3 -Establishment and maintenance of pollinator strips 4 - Sustainable management of meadows and pastures	The Law on Nature Protection	Art. 9 - In the process of drawing up plans, foundations, programs, projects, works and activities for the management and use of natural resources, an act on the conditions of nature protection is obtained.
4 - Sustainable management of meadows and pastures	The Law on veterinary	Art. 84 - Cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and ungulates on the territory of the Republic of Serbia must be marked and registered, in the Central Database on Animal Marking.
4 - Sustainable management of meadows and pastures	EC Nitrates Directive	Limit of 170 kg/ha of N per year.



# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 4 - Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure

### Измене/Changes in the Methodology for calculating the payment level for Measure 4



Crop rotation on arable land

Changes in accordance with the amended conditions for conducting the operation:

- No loss of income,
- Excluded costs for mechanical weed control,

**Additional costs:** purchase of organic fertilizers, soil preparation, sowing and plowing of green manure.



Operation 3 – Establishment and maintenance of the pollinator strip

#### **Additional costs:**

- Purchase of seeds and planting material, including seedlings of woody and shrubby plants,
- Maintenance of the buffer zone, not only by mowing but also by other land management methods, depending on the needs of the farmer.

# Second Modification of the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 4 - Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure

### AMOUNT OF SUPPORT

- annual payments per hectare of the total area of agricultural land under a certain operation -

Agri – environment operation	Amount of support based on calculations in 2021	Amount of support based on calculations in 2024
Operation 1 - Crop rotation on arable land	436,16 EUR/ha	<b>560,16 EUR/ha</b>
Operation 2 - Grassing in inter-row area in permanent crop land	332,40 EUR/ha	<b>390,00 EUR/ha</b>
Operation 3 - Establishment and maintenance of pollinator strips	-	-
(i) on arable land	264,65 EUR/ha	<b>312,98 EUR/ha</b>
(i) on permanent crop land	333,77 EUR/ha	333,77 EUR/ha
Operation 4 - Sustainable management of meadows and pastures.	312,43 EUR/ha	<b>337,18 EUR/ha</b>

# IPARD



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
IPARD MANAGING AUTHORITY



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**Marina Vujovic**

Senior adviser for programming agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure

Group for for improving life in rural areas

Managing Authority for IPARD Programme

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 @ipardnadlanu

 IPARD na dlanu

# IPARD



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
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AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
IPARD MANAGING AUTHORITY



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# ACTION PLAN FOR THE MEASURE 9: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 2025

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**Sanja Prodanović**  
Head of the Group for Technical Assistance and  
IPARD Programme Promotion  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Belgrade

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## ACTION PLAN FOR THE MEASURE 9: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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9.4. Expenditure related to capacity building of the IPARD entities, including technical bodies and the national advisory services, to perform tasks associated with implementation of IPARD Programme

9.5. Expenditure related to "acquisition of skills" to prepare potential LAGs for the implementation of the measure "Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies – LEADER approach"

9.6. Expenditure related to the preparation, reduction of the administrative burden for recipients or streamlining of implementation of measures in the Programme to ensure their effectiveness, including pilot projects for those measures where entrustment implementation is foreseen at a later stage

9.7. Expenditure related to evaluations of the IPARD Programme

9.9. Expenditure associated with the purchase of IT equipment and software licences for the purpose of IPARD implementation

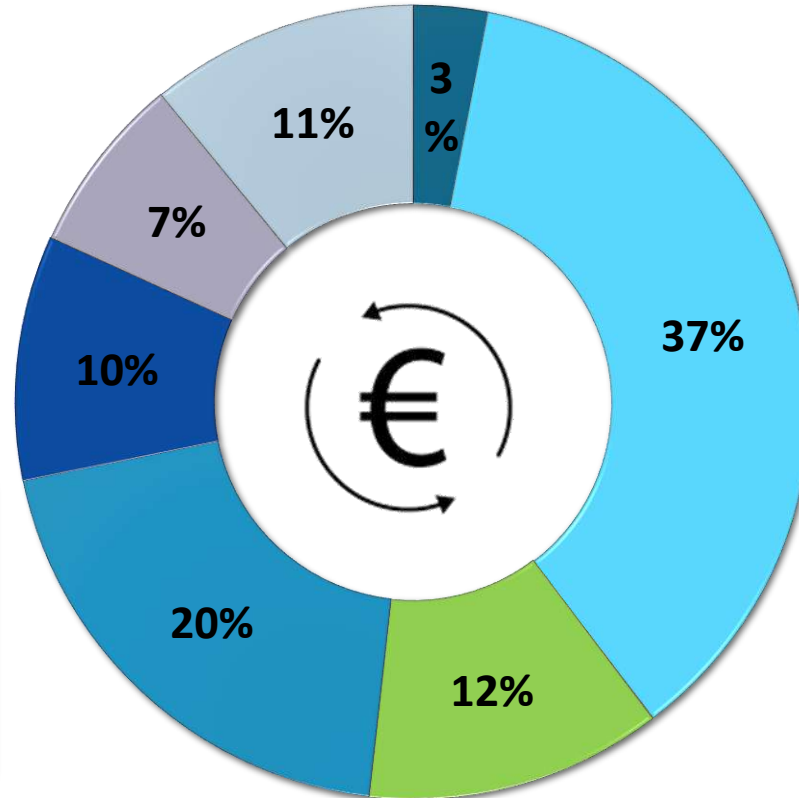


# ACTION PLAN FOR 2025

## Structure of the expenditures per group of activities in total budget for 2025

 **TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2025**  
**1,097,830.00**

**EU CONTRIBUTION**  
**933,155.50**



- Functioning of the MC (3,05%)
- Promotion and visibility of the IPARD Programme (36,61%)
- IPARD entities capacity building (12.11%)
- "Acquisition of skills" to prepare potential LAGs (20,04%)
- Preparation, reduction of the administrative burden for recipients or streamlining of implementation of measures (9,97%)
- Expenditure associated with the purchase of IT equipment and software licenses for the purpose of IPARD implementation (these costs are limited to up to 5% of the TA budget (7,29%)
- Evaluation of the IPARD II Programme (10,93%)

# 9.1. Expenditure related to the functioning of the Monitoring Committee

Organisation of IPARD MCs sessions **33,500**



Three day  
MC in  
Belgrade

- Field visits
- Rental of facilities
- Equipment
- Accommodation
- Catering
- Translation
- All cost for participants

Three day  
MC out of  
Belgrade



# 9.2. Expenditure related to promotion and visibility of the IPARD Programme



Indicative allocation

€ 401,890

1.82%	• Supply of promotional materials
0.24%	• Design and updating of Web pages including support for maintenance and content management
4.34%/21.42%	• TV campaign - Production of video spots /Broadcasting of TV spots/video material
5.59%	• IPARD Info days - 20 days
3.07%	• Preparation, printing, producing, copying, distributing of promo materials
0.14%	• Office supply



# 9.4. Expenditure related to capacity building of the IPARD entities, including technical bodies and the national advisory services, to perform tasks associated with implementation of IPARD



Capacity building, organisation, participation in seminars, congresses, visits, study visits, trainings, etc.,



**Domestic**

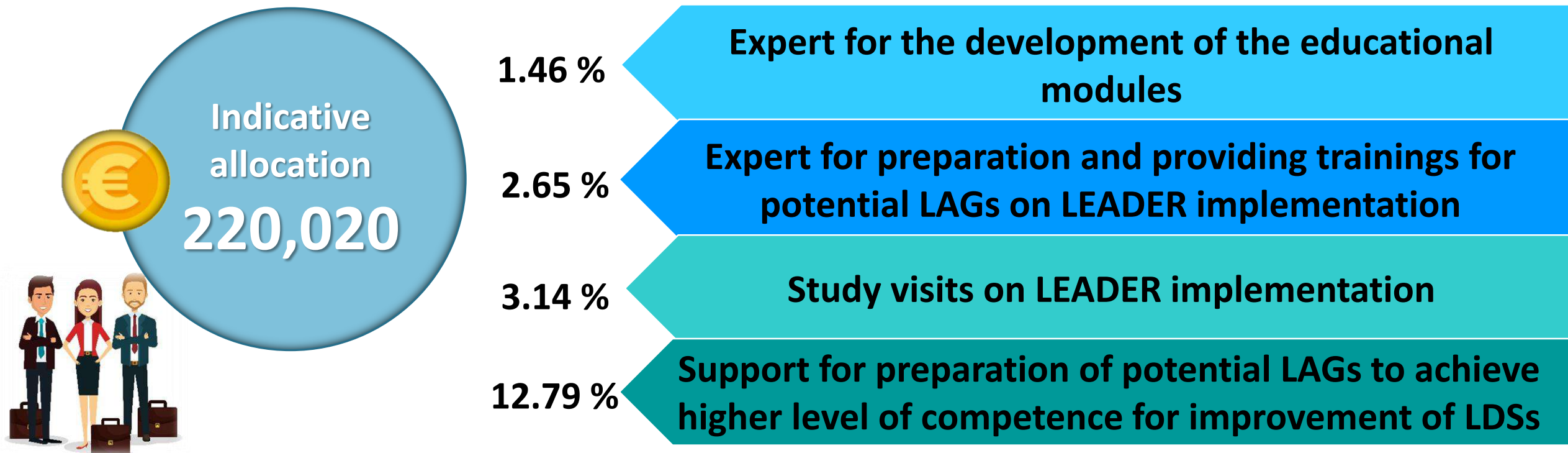
**EUR 65,750**



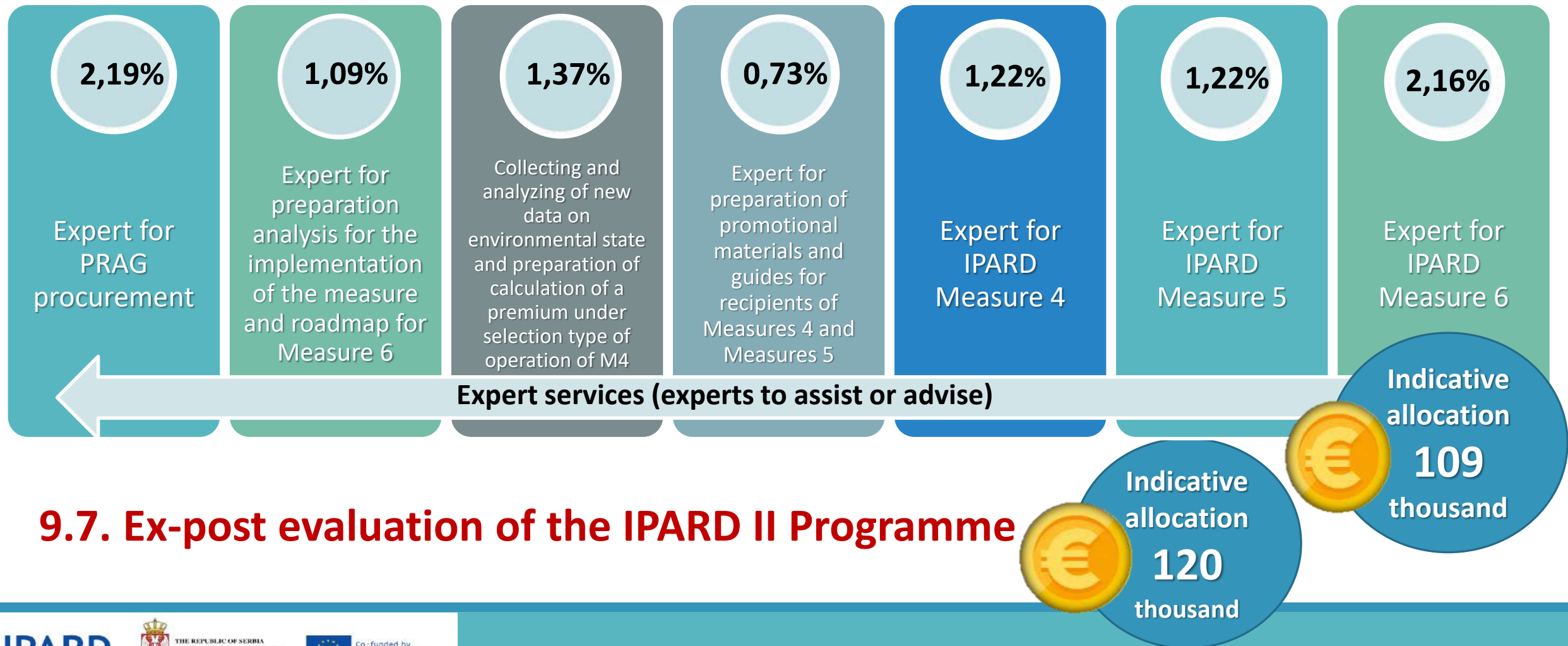
**Abroad**

**EUR 67,200**

# 9.5 Expenditure related to "acquisition of skills" to prepare potential LAGs for the implementation of the measure "Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies – LEADER approach"



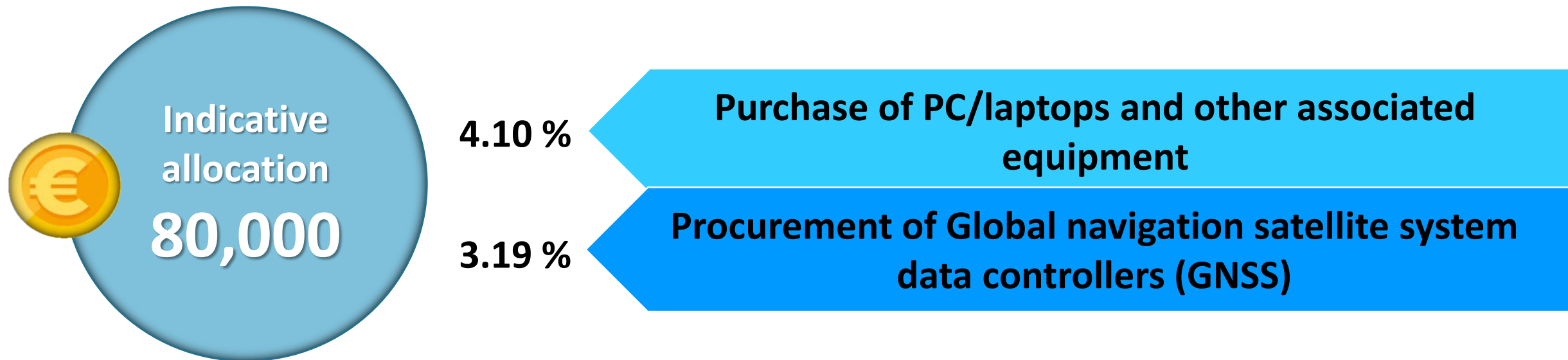
## 9.6. Expenditure related to the preparation, reduction of the administrative burden for recipients or streamlining of implementation of measures in the Programme to ensure their effectiveness, including pilot projects for those measures where entrustment implementation is foreseen at a later stage



## 9.7. Ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme

# 9.9 Expenditure associated with the purchase of IT equipment and software licenses for the purpose of IPARD implementation (these costs are limited to up to 5% of the TA budget)

Purchase of IT equipment and software licenses for the purpose of IPARD Programme implementation



# IPARD



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
IPARD MANAGING AUTHORITY



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the European Union

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**Sanja Prodanović**

**Head of the Group for Technical Assistance and IPARD Programme Promotion**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management**

**Belgrade, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 84**

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 **@ipardnadlanu**

 **IPARD na dlanu**

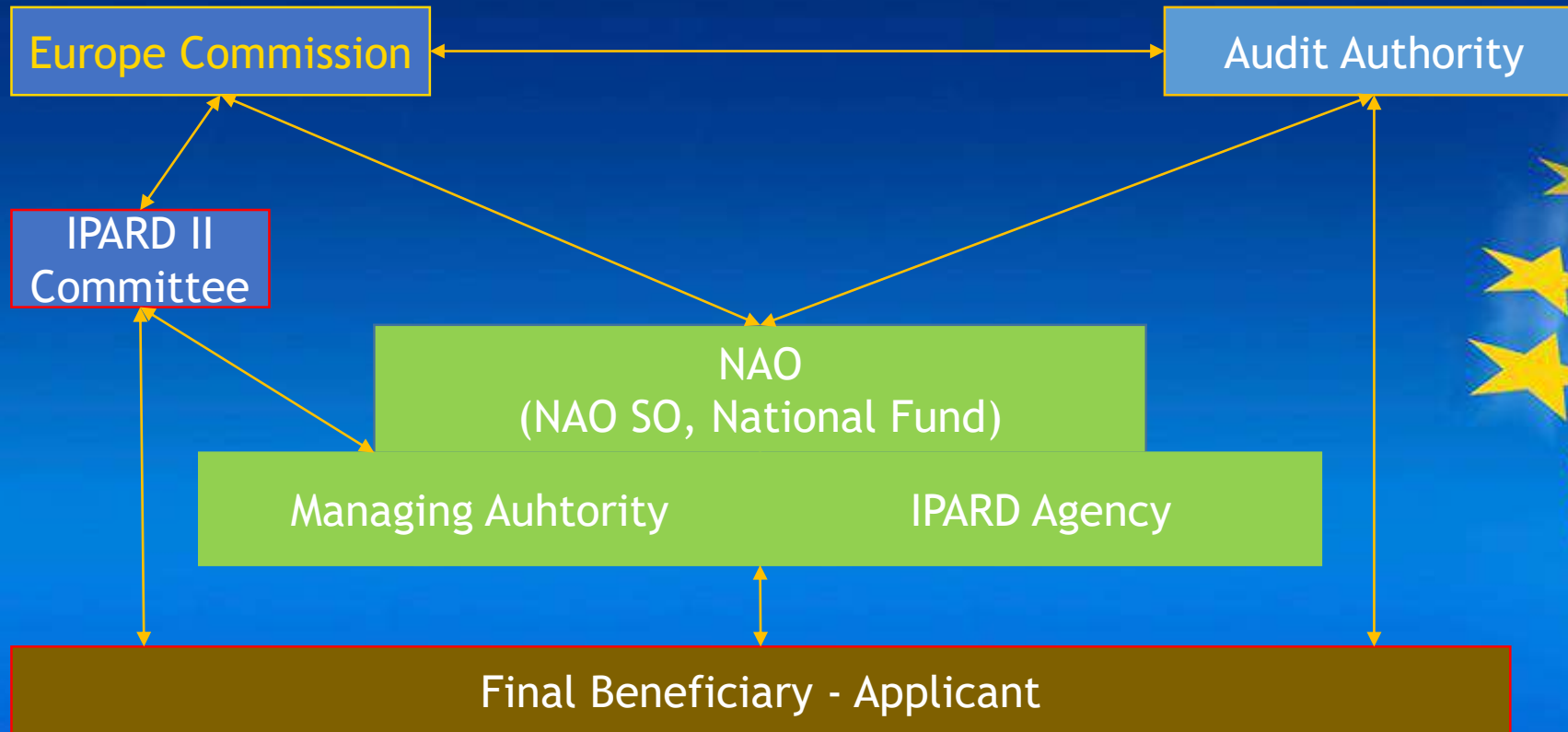
# Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds (GAO)

Report on the activities of the Audit Authority  
for the period 2023-2024



# IPARD System - Republic Serbia

## IPARD Structure



# Activities of the GAO for the period 2023 - 2024

- Audit of operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023;
- Audit of the annual accounts and the Management Declaration for the IPARD II program for 2023;
- Issuance of the Annual Audit Activity Report and Annual Audit Opinion for the IPARD II Programme in the Republic of Serbia for 2023;
- System Audit of the IPARD II Programme for 2024;





# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023

- In 2023, a total of 355 applicants were paid through the IPARD II Programme:

-328 applicants for Measure 1

-18 applicants for Measure 3

-9 applicants for Measure 7

-35 Advances

- The total amount of IPARD support paid by the EU was EUR 34,989,296.11, i.e. 4,102,116,251.68 dinars);



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023

- The audit procedure was conducted in the period August 2023 - March 2024 on a sample of **72 final payments and 9 advances**.
- The total amount of funds audited by the Audit Authority for 2023 is **EUR 6,334,711.20**, i.e. **RSD 742,755,314.08** (18.10% of the disbursed EU support funds);



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023

- The audit team also realised On-The-Spot control of paid IPARD incentives at **72 locations** on the territory of the Republic of Serbia (for the first time, the sample included applicants from Kuršumlija, Svrljig, Knjaževac - regions of **South Serbia and East Serbia**)
- General conclusion of the Audit team is that the applicants comply with the regulations related to the storage of the prescribed documentation and the marking of the IPARD investment, but in individual cases the lack of a **guarantee** or other document that was forwarded to the Directorate for Agrarian Payments was noted;



# Audit of operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023

- During the System Audit, the Audit team also identified certain deficiencies in the process of confirming the legality and regularity of transactions related to IPARD incentives - **2 findings for 4 applicants** with financial implications for the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia, in the total amount:

-Overpaid EUR 168.46

-Underpaid EUR 2,450.52



# Audit of operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2023

- The IPARD Agency, in accordance with the Framework Agreement and the Sectoral Agreement, initiated the procedure for the return of more paid funds from the applicants;
- At the same time, the IPARD Agency, by adopting new Decisions on payment, compensated the final beneficiaries of IPARD support for part of the less paid IPARD funds;



# System Audit for the IPARD II Programme for 2024

- The aim of the audit was to determine the reasonable assurance of the Audit Authority about the functioning of the Control and Management System of the IPARD II Programme in the Republic of Serbia;
- The audit was conducted in the period April - September 2024 in all IPARD bodies (IPARD Agency, Managing Authority, NAO Support Office, National Fund);



# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2024

- The Audit Authority determined the existence of certain deficiencies in the Management and Control System in the IPARD institutions in the Republic of Serbia;
- In **3 findings**, the recommendations of the Audit Authority for improving the functioning of the Management and Control System were given;
- During the audit of the IPARD bodies in 2024, **1 financial error** was found during the payment of IPARD incentives in the total amount of **EUR 2,024.46 (EU part EUR 1,607.53)**;



# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2024

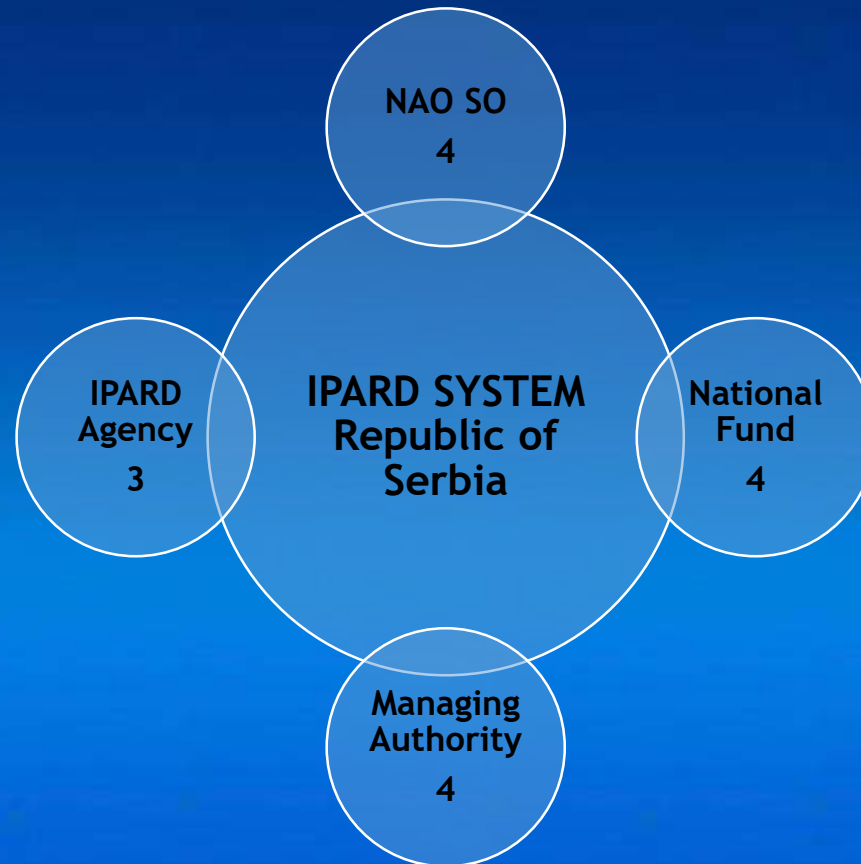
- Based on the completed System Audit of the IPARD II Programme for 2024, the Audit Authority assessed the institutions in the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia;
- Grades range from **1 to 4**, with grade **4** being the highest grade that indicates that the institution/system is **Works well**, while grade **1** indicates that the institution/system is **Not Working** and that preparation and implementation of an Action plan to eliminate irregularities is required;

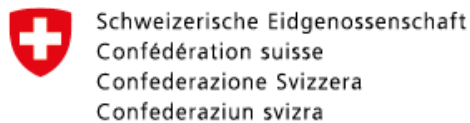




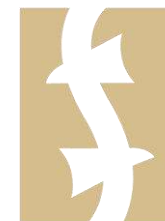
# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2024

Assessment of the IPARD body in the Republic of Serbia





Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



СТАЛНА  
КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА  
ГРАДОВА И  
ОПШТИНА

САВЕЗ ГРАДОВА И ОПШТИНА СРБИЈЕ

## Fourth Session of IPARD III Monitoring Committee

# Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities

hotel M, 27.11.2024.

Ову активност СКГО реализује у оквиру пројекта  
„Партнерство за добру локалну самоуправу” који подржава Влада Швајцарске

# National Association of Local Authorities

*Houses of all towns and cities for 71 years*





# **STANDING CONFERENCE OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES – UNION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF SERBIA**

---

**CITIES  
MUNICIPALITIES  
CITY MUNICIPALITIES**

**EQUALITY OF ALL  
MEMBERS**

**VOLUNTARY  
MEMBERSHIP**

**FUNDING FROM MEMBERSHIP FEES,  
PROJECTS AND SERVICES**

# SCTM STRUCTURE



## **ASSEMBLY**

**All cities and municipalities meet at least once a year, the highest body of the organization**

## **PRESIDENCY**

**25 members (24 cities and municipalities and the Secretary General of the SCTM, the executive body of the organization)**

## **PRESIDENT OF THE SCTM**

**A city or municipality elected by the Assembly for a two-year term**

## **SUPERVISORY BOARD**

**5 cities or towns elected by the Assembly. It oversees the financial operations.**

## **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Represents the organization, manages the Professional Service and manages the implementation of activities**

## **8 POLICY COMMITTEES AND 28 SCTM NETWORKS**

**Working bodies composed of representatives of the LS dealing with specific issues**

# ***EXPERT SERVICE of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities***

---

**Secretary-General  
Deputy GS**

**SECTOR FOR ADVOCACY AND  
CAPACITY BUILDING LS**

**SECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS OF LOCAL SELF-  
GOVERNMENT**

- 1. SG CABINET**
- 2. DEPARTMENT FOR LEGAL AND GENERAL AFFAIRS**
- 3. FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

- 1. Program Unit for System Affairs and Administration**
- 2. Program Unit for Finance and Planning System LS**
- 3. Program Unit for Economic Development**
- 4. Program Unit for Social Activities**
- 5. Program Unit for Urban Development, Environment and Communal Activities**

- 1. Project Preparation and Management Unit LS**
- 2. Unit for Financial Management and Financial Control of LS Projects**

# COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

- The Committee on Economic Development discusses issues in the field of agriculture and rural development
- Networks are working bodies of the SCTM that bring together experts from specific fields and represent a mechanism for their mutual communication, exchange of experiences, knowledge from practice and information on issues within the scope of the network.
- There are currently 28 networks operating in the SCTM.
- Network for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Current topics are covered (agricultural land, eagrar, IPARD, land consolidation, conversion, etc.).
- Between 150-200 representatives of local self-governments present
- One of the largest gatherings for years on the topics of agriculture and rural development.







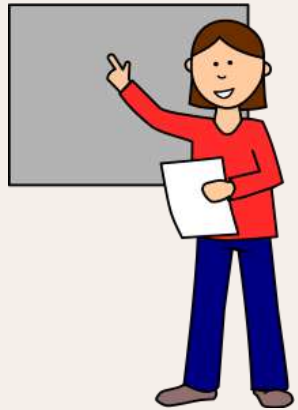


# **THE BASIC FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

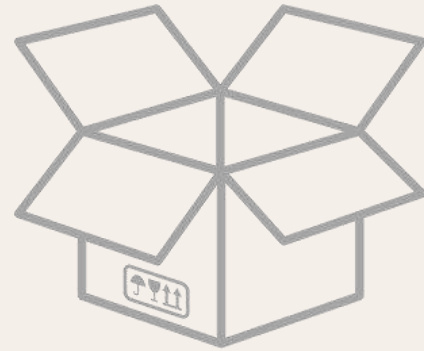
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- 1. REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**
- 2. SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES**
- 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**
- 4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**
- 5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

# SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LS CAPACITIES



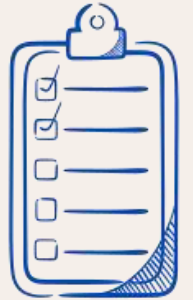
**Workshops,  
seminars**



**SUPPORT  
PACKAGES FOR  
MUNICIPALITIES**



**LOCAL PROJECTS**



**SPECIAL SERVICES  
(manuals, model  
acts, e-questions,  
legal news,  
Performance  
Evaluation, Funding  
Source Portal)**

# TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- In the period 2019-2023, SCTM organized 381 accredited trainings (webinars and regional workshops)
- More than 7,800 participants have received an official certificate.
- In the past 5 years, over 500 professional conferences have been held (workshops, round tables, conferences, networks, etc.).
- In 2023 alone, more than 5,000 participants will attend.



## CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE SCTM

■ Partnership for Good Local Self-Government  
(donor Swiss Confederation)

■ Exchange 6 (EU donor)

■ Sustainable and inclusive services at the local level  
(donor from the Government of Sweden)

■ Support to sustainable community-based social  
protection services and inclusion policies at local  
level (EU donor)

■ Project Joint Approach to Social Inclusion(donor  
GIZ)

■ Project Improving the Implementation of Good  
Governance Principles in LS (donor UNOPS, Swiss  
Confederation)

■ Project Strengthening the Capacity of LS for  
Public Procurement (donor USAID)

# AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Ретроспектива

- In 2011, the first contact with the topic of rural development
- Practicum for local actors – the first published document of the SCTM on this topic
- Introduction to the topic in general and the role of local self-government in the management of rural development





## Agriculture and Rural Development

### 2014 – 2024 Manuals:

*Manual for the development of the annual program for the protection, development and use of agricultural land in state ownership;*

*Manual on the Implementation of the Annual Program for the Protection, Development and Use of Agricultural Land in State Ownership;*

*Manual for the Commissions of local self-government units participating in the process of development and implementation of GP;*

*Manual for Monitoring the Support Program for the Implementation of Agricultural Policy and Rural Development Policy of LGUs and Reporting,*

*Guidelines for Development, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting on the Implementation of the Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of LGUs, Manual for Programming Budget Support to Agriculture and Rural Development in LGUs,*

*Manual for the development and implementation of GP through the information system of the Agricultural Land Administration (all 145 local self-government units);*

# NATIONAL MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## The Role of Local Self-Government in Rural Development Policy



# CONFERENCE ON THE IPARD PROGRAMME with special reference to the measure rural public infrastructure in Croatia

- Agriculture and Rural Development of Serbia in the Negotiation Process, detailed presentation of the IPARD 2 program, experiences of the Republic of Croatia in the use of pre-accession assistance intended for agriculture and rural development;

Participation of Mr. Tugomir Majdak – led the process of accreditation of rural infrastructure measures in Croatia.





# Other SCTM activities in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development

## Regional events and analyses

### *2014 – 2024 year of workshops/trainings/meetings:*

**A large number of workshops/trainings for LS: for the development of local programs of rural development and agriculture and the beginning of cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Budgets of LGUs and AP Vojvodina used to be larger than the budgets of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and IPARD Programs combined!**

**Regional and local meetings on IPARD II and IPARD III (Workshops on IPARD 3 program, business plan development and implementation of agrarian schemes).**

### *Some of the analyses performed:*

**Two analyses on the IPARD measure – rural infrastructure – one for the preparation of Measure 6 of the IPARD III Programme have been carried out.**

**2014 – Local Self-Government and Rural Infrastructure: Analysis of the Readiness of Local Self-Governments for the Implementation of this IPARD Measure;**

**2020 – Analysis of the capacities of local self-government units, challenges and opportunities for the use of funds from the IPARD program as well as the current state of rural infrastructure – also used in the development of the IPARD 3 program.**

**· A new Analysis is being prepared regarding the opportunity costs of non-implementation of Measure 6 in Serbia in the past 10 years, with a parallel with the preparations of this Measure 6 in North Macedonia and Montenegro**

## Rural Infrastructure – Possible Steps

- SCTM may be a partner to the Ministry in the preparation and implementation of this measure:
  - in the preparation of additional analyses (if necessary).
  - in the exchange of experiences with other countries implementing IPARD (organization of joint workshops).
- About a third of local self-government units in the last 5 years have carried out procurement procedures according to PRAG procedures
- During the last workshops, the interest of local self-government units was expressed in the implementation of Measure 6 Rural Public Infrastructure
- according to the statements of the employees of the local self-government units, investments are continuously made in the project and technical documentation – there are ready projects.
- Organizations such as SCTM in Macedonia and Montenegro are intensively assisting their IPARD structures with this measure.
- SCTM mechanisms for communication with local self-government units: Network for Rural Development and Economic Development Committee.

**Consider the option of delegating part of the competencies outside the IPARD structures for faster accreditation and implementation of the measure!**

- Important!
- To organize a gathering/conference of countries from our speaking area (Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia) that would bring together the UT and IA of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as their associations of cities and municipalities with Croatia in the role of a transmitter of experience, all in cooperation with DG Agri!

## Improving living conditions in rural areas of the Republic of Srbija

*Changing the focus of support from agriculture to measures that encourage the quality of life in rural areas – in order to mitigate migration and emptying of villages!*

*From the point of view of local self-government units, the most important measure of the IPARD program is measure 6;*

*Infrastructure is the most important prerequisite for rural and overall economic development;*

*The diversification of activities that we want to see in agriculture and in the countryside is not possible without infrastructural equipping of both the farm and the villages themselves.*

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

## PUBLICATION



50 DIFFERENT PUBLICATIONS IN THE PERIOD 2018–2023.

## WEBSITE



OVER 500 POSTS PER YEAR  
10,000 VISITS AVERAGE

## E-NEWS/NEWSLETTER



OVER 5,000 USERS

## SOCIAL NETWORKS



MORE THAN 12,000 FOLLOWERS AND  
OVER 1 MILLION VIEWS ON THE CHANNEL.

## MEDIA



OVER 850 TV REPORTS, 10,300 ARTICLES,  
IN THE PERIOD 2019–2023.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**



СТАЛНА  
КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА  
ГРАДОВА И  
ОПШТИНА

САВЕЗ ГРАДОВА И ОПШТИНА СРБИЈЕ

*Слађана Грујић*

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