

IPARD IN FOCUS

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IPARD



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
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The Seventh Session of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee Held

The Seventh Session of the IPARD III Programme Monitoring Committee was held on June 17th 2026 in Belgrade, with the participation of Committee members, representatives of the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, relevant ministries and other institutions.

The introductory part of the session highlighted the importance of the efficient use of IPARD funds, accelerating payments and further implementation of the IPARD III Programme. Representatives of the European Commission pointed out the importance of avoiding automatic decommitment of unused funds, while the current status of the implementation of the IPARD Programme in the candidate countries for membership in the European Union was also presented.

During the working part of the session, key results and progress in the implementation of the IPARD III Programme were presented, as well as planned activities for the coming period. It was specifically announced that the first public call for Measure 7 would be launched in September 2026, following the adoption of the Rules of Procedure.



The members of the Committee adopted the Proposal for the Third Amendment to the IPARD III Programme and the Draft of the First Annual Report on the Implementation of the IPARD III Programme for the period 2021–2025. They also discussed activities related to the accreditation of new measures, activities under Measure 9 – Technical Assistance, the Communication and Visibility Plan, as well as the results of audits carried out by the IPARD bodies.

A bilateral meeting between representatives of the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management was also held during the session. The following day, a field visit to the beneficiaries of the IPARD III subsidies was organized, which was attended by representatives of the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union, the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency.

Third Modification of the IPARD III Programme

By Decision (C(2026) 5780) of August 7th, 2026, the European Commission adopted the third amendment to the IPARD III Programme for the 2021–2027 period, following the prior approval of the Monitoring Committee for the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia. The main objective of these amendments is to ensure more efficient utilization of IPARD funds and to simplify procedures for the beneficiaries.

Overview of the key amendments by IPARD III Programme Measures.

Modification related to Measures 1, 3, and 7 – Simplified tax compliance verification procedures

- The requirement to verify settled tax liabilities at the time of submitting both the project approval application and the payment claim has been abolished, which significantly simplifies the procedure.

Modification related to Measure 1 – Change in the Funding Limit

- The maximum support amount per project has been reduced from one million to EUR 700,000. The objective of this amendment is to mitigate the risk of funding projects that would have been implemented even without state aid (deadweight loss), thereby directing support toward small and medium-sized agricultural holdings.



Modification related to Measure 4 – New and More Precise Conditions for Land and Digitalization

- **Registration Period:** The land must be registered in the Register of Agricultural Holdings (RPG) for at least one year prior to submitting the application. This rule does not apply solely to state-owned agricultural land.
- **Digital Application:** The option to use a specific mobile application of the IPARD Agency has been introduced to facilitate easier identification and mapping (digitalization) of land parcels.
- **Meadows and Pastures:** In order to define obligations under Operation 4 more precisely, the eligibility criteria for implementing this operation have been supplemented as follows: the beneficiary must own grazing animals on the holding, while grasslands may be maintained by grazing and/or mowing based on a management plan prepared by an agricultural advisor.
- **Grassed Perennial Plantations:** Under Operation 2 – Inter-row grassing of perennial crop land, the recognition of already established cover crops is now enabled, subject to a corresponding, proportionate reduction in the level of financial support.

Modification related to Measure 7 – „eTurista“

- All applicants in the rural tourism sector are required to be registered on the national „eTurista“ platform and to put the investment into operation in full compliance with the project approval decision.

Modification related to Measure 9 – Higher Advance Payment for Technical Assistance

- An option for advance payments of up to 90% of the public support for technical assistance has been introduced.

In addition to these amendments, the financial tables have been revised, and the European Commission's new methodology for defining indicators and target values for monitoring the results achieved has been applied. Furthermore, the List of National Standards (Annex 5) has been updated in line with the applicable legislation.

Ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme

In accordance with the Sectoral Agreement under the European Union Instrument for pre-accession assistance within the Republic of Serbia policy area of agriculture and rural development, ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme, that ended on 31st December 2024, has been carried out. The ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme is implemented with the financial support of the European Union, i.e. funded through the IPARD III Programme Measure 9: Technical Assistance.

The evaluation will assess the achieved results of the IPARD II Programme, including their sustainability and at the same time identify key factors that contributed to the Programme implementation results, in order to use the lessons learned for the current and future programme cycles. In addition to relevant representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency, representatives of other IPARD bodies, the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, as well as recipients of IPARD II support selected on sample base, are involved in the evaluation process.



On this occasion, we appeal to the recipients of IPARD II support, who in the previous period received an invitation from the Ministry via e-mail, to participate in the evaluation process by filling provided online survey. The survey is anonymous and all responses will be used exclusively for the purposes of conducting the ex-post evaluation of the IPARD II Programme. The survey can be accessed until 31st August 2026.

The key results of the IPARD II Programme implementation and the evaluation recommendations will be presented to the IPARD III Monitoring Committee members at the regular session, while the Final report with the purpose of informing other stakeholders and the wider public, after finalization of the evaluation, will be available on the IPARD website.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SECTORAL AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPARD III PROGRAMME

The Law ratifying the Amendments to the Sectoral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission on the mechanisms for implementing Union financial assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPARD III) was adopted and entered into force on 8 July 2026, with the aim of aligning the rules and procedures for the use of rural development funds for the 2021–2027 period.

The Amendments to the Sectoral Agreement for the implementation of the IPARD III Programme aim to improve the efficiency, transparency and flexibility in the use of European Union pre-accession assistance for agriculture and rural development.



The most important amendments concern the modernisation of the control system through the possibility of using geotagged photographs and other documentation instead of relying exclusively on on-the-spot checks, a more precise definition of eligible and ineligible expenditure, as well as further alignment with the rules of the European Commission.

The Amendments also improve the financial management of the Programme by establishing clearer rules for the calculation and recovery of amounts due, clarifying the responsibilities of the IPARD III Monitoring Committee, and further regulating the procedures for Programme evaluation and reporting on its implementation.

The Annexes to the Agreement introduce improvements to the internal control system, provide for more favourable conditions for advance payments under certain measures, and introduce terminological adjustments aimed at ensuring a clearer definition of beneficiaries of support.

These Amendments contribute to the simpler and more efficient implementation of the IPARD III Programme, strengthen financial discipline, and further align the Republic of Serbia with European Union standards and rules.

How “Robins” became a regional leader with the help of IPARD

One of the most successful stories of a domestic farmer is being written in the village of Glibovac, where the company “Robins” d.o.o. under the leadership of Igor Stanojlović is successfully using European funds to completely modernize the production of one-day-old broiler chickens. Through large investments from the IPARD Programme, this company has built new production capacities, invested in the most modern supporting equipment and transport, and thus moved to the highest European business standards and took a place at the very top of the poultry sector in Serbia.

The capital step was initiated by submitting an application within the Third Public Call for Measure 1, with a focus on the construction of two modern facilities for fattening and housing livestock with a total area of 3,500 square meters. This initial project included the complete arrangement of the infrastructure, the installation of protective fences, an internal road network and parking spaces, as well as the purchase of advanced automatic nests, for which the company was paid a total of EUR 420,546.05 of joint funds from the European Union and the Republic of Serbia at the end of February 2022.



The successful development cycle continued through the Sixth Public Call under the same measure, where the company was entitled to an additional incentive in the amount of EUR 531,461.28. These funds, finally paid in September 2023, were invested in the technological equipment of the farm, which included ventilation, air conditioning, heating systems, incubators, artificial brooders, as well as security alarm systems with their own generator and a complete supporting network for water supply, gas and electricity. The investment was completed with the purchase of a specialized transport vehicle with a capacity of 60,000 one-day-old chicks.

Thanks to these funds, "Robins", which has been on the market since 2001, today achieves an impressive production capacity and represents a complete system, which additionally relies on its own field production on more than 15 hectares of land under wheat, corn and clover.



One click to first-hand information

For the newest information on events, announcements, calls and rules regarding the implementation of the IPARD Programme in Serbia, follow the official IPARD Managing Authority accounts - on Instagram (@ipardnadlanu) and Facebook (IPARD na dlanu).

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR US?

For prompt answer, please contact us through e-mail ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs or Instagram and Facebook pages!



Photos used in the newsletter are from the following sources: <https://unsplash.com/>, MAFWM photos, "Robins" d.o.o.

NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY:

IPARD Managing Authority, MAFWM
Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 84,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
www.minpolj.gov.rs
www.ipard.gov.rs

CONTACT US:

✉ ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs

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