

# IPARD IN FOCUS

Bi-monthly news about  
IPARD in Serbia

# 07

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Water Management, Serbia



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas





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### **THE AMENDMENT TO THE SECTORAL AGREEMENT AND IPARD II PROGRAMME**

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee was held**

Examination of the IPARD II Programme achieved results, meeting objectives defined for entrusted measures and progress in absorption of financial resources are some of the functions performed by the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. The IPARD II Monitoring Committee is established by a Decision issued by the Minister and composed of representatives of the competent state authorities and bodies, relevant economic, social and environmental partners with the voting right. On the other hand, the European Commission, the National IPA coordinator, the National Authorizing Officer and the IPARD Operating Structure participate in the work of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee without voting rights.

The Seventh session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee was held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, at the "Mona Plaza" Hotel in Belgrade. Due to the epidemiological situation caused by the coronavirus, the Seventh session was held through online conference call and physical presence of the maximum permitted number of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members in the meeting room. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management chaired the session and addressed the audience in the introductory part.

At the Seventh Session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, an overview of the results achieved in the implementation of IPARD subsidies and a plan of activities for the next period from the aspect of the Managing and IPARD Operating Structure were presented. The IPARD II Monitoring Committee members adopted the Proposal of the Fourth Modification of the IPARD II Programme, as well as the Amendments to the Action Plan for Technical Assistance for 2020 and the Action Plan for Technical Assistance for 2021. In addition, the results of the evaluation in regard implementation of the IPARD II Programme so far, as well as the findings of the conducted system audit in 2020 were presented at the session.

Beside the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, the Seventh session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee was attended by representatives of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of European Integration, the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds and others.

Support to the organisation of the session was provided by the IPA 2015 project: "Capacity Building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy", financed by the European Union.

# Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Climate change and environmental degradation, along with health and socio-economic problems, have been assessed as an existential threat at the global level. To overcome these challenges, Europe adopted a new development strategy at the end of 2019 - the **European Green Deal**, which contains a set of policies and binding measures with the goal to make Europe climate neutral by 2050.



The green transition for Europe will also include the surrounding countries. In the framework of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, the European Commission, in October 2020, has adopted guidelines for the implementation of the **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans** which, as well as in the European Green Plan, define activities in five key areas:



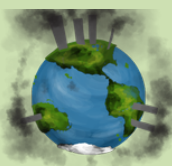
**climate action** (decarbonisation, transition to the renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility)



**circular economy** (efficient use of resources and sustainable production, waste management and recycling)



**biodiversity** (protection and restoring of the natural wealth of the region)



**fighting air, water and soil pollution**



**sustainable food systems and rural areas**

For each of the five afore mentioned areas, the guidelines bring the most important initiatives and the proposal of possible measures that will be jointly adopted by the EU and each partner country of the Western Balkans.

At the regional level, particular attention will be paid to the rural areas and the agricultural sector, since the countries of the Western Balkans continue to face a number of challenges. Investing in sustainable agriculture and compliance with EU standards can have a positive impact on other areas covered by the Green Agenda.



EU pre-accession assistance, and in particular the Instrument for agriculture and rural development (IPARD) support can be used to assist the economies of the region in reforming and restructuring of their agri-food sectors and to meet EU standards for food safety and animal welfare, in order to be able to compete in the global markets upon EU accession. IPARD measures also contribute to enabling rural communities to harness opportunities of the circular economy, which includes efficiency usage of resource, waste reduction and reuse of raw materials. In that way it will make the rural economies of the region more resilient to potential climate change impacts and the rural areas more picturesque for the citizens of the Western Balkans, more attractive for investments and tourism.

In this regard, the European Commission encourages the countries of the Western Balkans to use existing IPARD programmes and to further support the modernization of physical assets in the agri-food sector, economic diversification, better rural infrastructure, expansion of organic production areas and implementation of the LEADER programme. Sustainable agriculture and food production should be the essence of the IPARD Programme, so in the coming period additional efforts should be made to achieve the set of goals and especially to give support to short supply chains and collective investments.

**AT THE WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT IN SOFIA ON 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020, WESTERN BALKAN LEADERS AGREED TO FULLY ACCEPT THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND EXPRESSED THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES WITHIN ALL FIVE KEY AREAS OF THE GREEN AGENDA.**

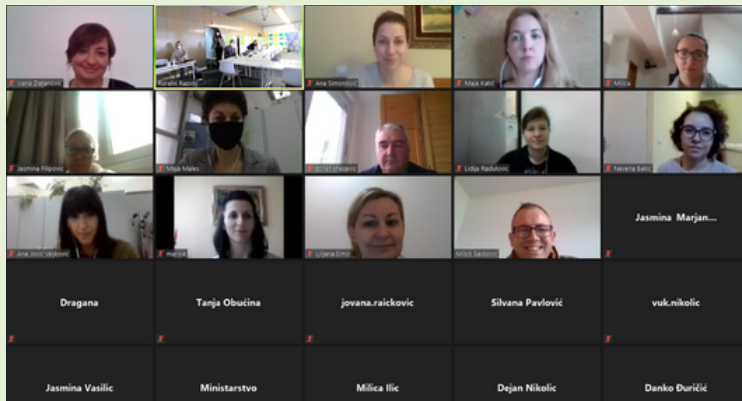
### **Financing Instruments**

The implementation of an ambitious Green Agenda for the Western Balkans will require significant public and private funding, at national, regional and international level. The European Commission has proposed to provide up to EUR 9 billion from the IPA III funding for the period 2021-2027, in order to bring the region economically closer to the EU. The investment capacity of the region should be boosted also by the mobilisation of a new Western Balkans Guarantee facility, with the aim to potentially attract investments of up to EUR 20 billion.



# The FwC SIEA project "Support to IPARD Managing Authority and IPARD Agency with the implementation of IPARD measures" has started

The implementation of the nine-month project "Support to the IPARD Managing Authority and IPARD Agency with the implementation of IPARD measures" formally started through the introductory online meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The project is funded by the EU with the aim of supporting the Operating Structure in the initial phase of implementation of the IPARD II Programme newly entrusted measures and effectively contribute to all activities of the Managing Authority during the preparation of the IPARD III Programme.



Also, the project envisages the upgrade and initialization of a software solution for rural development, which will enable electronic processing of IPARD applications. This will support the IPARD Agency in the transition from manual to automatic application processing for all IPARD measures, which will facilitate and speed up the application processing in the future.

Due to the current epidemiological situation, all planned activities from the project are implemented according to a combined model, i.e. with the personal presence of participants at the meetings and workshops in limited number and online, by using the e-platform.



The first activity within this project, five-day workshop: "Case simulation Training on preparation of tender dossiers related to the implementation of IPARD II Measure 9 and ex-ante control of prepared tender dossiers – Module 1", was held in the period from 23rd to 27th November 2020. The workshop was performed by Zoran Krtinić, an expert for PRAG and Željka Gudelj Velaga, an expert in the field of programming. The focus of the workshop was the preparation of two tender dossiers, one related to the engagement of evaluator and the other related to the simplification of IPARD Agency procedures. The next module of this workshop will be held in December.

# The Amendments to the Sectoral Agreement and IPARD II Programme

The Sectoral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission setting out provisions for the management and implementation Union financial assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in the policy area Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD), which entered into force on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and is a part of the legislative framework for implementation of the IPARD II Programme.

In order to improve the implementation of the IPARD II Programme, the European Commission has proposed certain amendments to the Sectoral Agreement, which will be reflected in the proposed amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as to the amendments to the IPARD II Programme.

The most important modification refers to the definition of a young farmer, according to which young farmer is a person under the age of 40 at the time of submitting application for project approval.

**YOUNG FARMER IS A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 40 AT THE TIME OF SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR PROJECT APPROVAL**

**MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MEASURE 1 AND MEASURE 7**

The proposal of the Fourth Modification of the IPARD II Programme was adopted by the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee and includes the reallocation of funds from non-entrusted measures and unused allocations of entrusted measures in Measure 1 and Measure 7, for which potential recipients are interested most.





## Example of a good project:

**Aleksandar Tišma** (40 years old) from Novi Kneževac participated in the First IPARD Public Call for the purchase of new machinery and he is one of the first paid recipients.

Aleksandar received IPARD support for investments in the purchase of a new seeder and seed drill machinery. He established a very good cooperation with the Agricultural Advisory Service and was an active participant in all winter schools and educational workshops, seminars and study visits in the field of agriculture. He inspires other producers in his community to this cooperation, because according to his opinion, to be timely informed it is of most importance. One of those workshops, removed Aleksandar's prejudice that IPARD is a "spooky ghost" and he decided to submit an application.



Aleksandar inherited his agricultural holding from his grandfather. After graduating from high school in agriculture, he chose agriculture as his profession and expanded his farm from 10 to 80 hectares, which he is currently cultivating.

## One click to first-hand information

For the newest information on events, announcements, calls and rules regarding the implementation of the IPARD II 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](mailto:ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs) or Instagram and Facebook pages!



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