# IPARDA 02 INFOCUS

Monthly news about IPARD in Serbia



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia





IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL READ:

WITH IPARD FUNDS TO MORE COMPETITIVE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE

VISIT TO A SUCCESSFUL IPARD RECIPIENT

IPARD MEASURE 7: SUPPORT FOR RURAL TOURISM IN SERBIA

PREPARATION FOR IPARD MEASURE 5 HAS STARTED

# With IPARD funds to more competitive national agriculture

Modernization and empowerment of the national agricultural producers and processors, in order to raise competitiveness on the market and meet the standards, are the main focus of the implementation of the IPARD II Programme in Serbia, which started in December 2017.

So far, sources from the IPARD fund were available through eight Public Calls for two entrusted measures, Measure 1 – Investment in physical assets of agricultural holdings and Measure 3 – Investment in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products. IPARD funds, beside procurement of the new equipment and mechanisation, also support construction and reconstruction of the facilities in agriculture. Except for investments in Dairy Sector, Meat Sector, Other Crops Sector, Fruit and Vegetable Sector, investments in Sector of Eggs and Grapes/Wine Sector are available from 2019.

As a large part of agricultural producers in Serbia has outdated mechanisation, when IPARD fund became available, the highest interest rate was for procurement of the new tractor, and 830 applications were submitted for this type of investment.

News in the implementation of the IPARD II Programme in Serbia is support for investment in rural tourism through Measure 7, which will be available from spring. Launching of new Public Calls for Measure 1, 3 and 7 is expected in 2020.

More than a half of approved projects have been paid out from IPARD fund and 6,5 million EUR came to the recipients already.

#### Example of good project: Procurement of tractor

Recipient of the IPARD support, Mrs. Borka Savanović, comes from the Region of Šumadija and Western Serbia, produces quinces and she is working in agriculture for more than four years. She submitted an for application **IPARD** support for procurement of the new tractor in Measure 1 - Fruit and Vegetable Sector, under the Public Call and realized Second this investment successfully with IPARD fund from EU.



## Minister of Agriculture and Head of EUD visited a successful IPARD recipient



Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Branislav Nedimović, and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Sem Fabrizi, visited agricultural holding of the IPARD recipient, Aleksandar Mauković, from the hazelnut production company "Pam-Promet", Šid, at the end of February 2020.

So far, this recipient has already implemented two projects through the IPARD II Programme and has also submitted application for a third one. With the IPARD fund support, he purchased a hazelnut harvesting machine under Measure 1 and a hazelnut dryer through Measure 3. Total amount of the support which Mr. Mauković has received is over EUR 65,000.

Mr. Mauković submitted a third application under the Fifth Call for Measure 1 during the autumn 2019. This time, it was for purchasing a hazelnut sorting machine, a branch cutter, as well as two trailers, which will significantly improve the hazelnut production and processing of the company "Pam-Promet".





# IPARD Measure 7: Support for Rural Tourism in Serbia

Amazing nature, rich cultural heritage, local cuisine, traditions and customs are just some of the potentials that Serbia provides for the development of rural tourism. Regardless of whether they want to improve their offer or to start the new business – all interested parties will find support for the development of tourism in rural areas of Serbia under IPARD Measure 7.

Potential recipients of this measure (natural persons, entrepreneurs and companies) can refund up to 65% of invested money from the IPARD fund and thereby receive between EUR 5,000 and 300,000 per project. One project presents a single application and may include multiple investments (for example, at the same time one project can include investments in the construction of accommodation capacities and in procurement of equipment for recreational activities).



Through IPARD Measure 7, Funds for a set of different investments will be available, such as for the construction and furnishing of accommodation facilities, scenery arrangement, the construction of grounds for recreation, children's playgrounds, spaces for tasting and selling of food and drink, procurement of boats and bicycles, development of Web Sites for displaying tourism offers, procurement of equipment for renewable energy production, etc. At the time of submitting of applications for project approval, potential recipients will not need to have a categorized touristic-catering facility, but upon completion of the project they will be obliged to categorize the facility and fulfill all other prescribed obligations in order to refund sources from the IPARD fund. As IPARD aims to support small caterers through this measure, the recipient can have a maximum of 30 individual beds in categorized touristic-catering facility on the territory of Serbia.

LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST CALL FOR THIS MEASURE IS EXPECTED IN SPRING THIS YEAR.

IPARD Measure 7 will significantly widen the circle of potential IPARD recipients and provide support for utilization of rural potentials in Serbia, as well as for engagement in non-agricultural activities in rural areas. Launching of the First Call for this Measure is expected in spring this year.

## Preparation for IPARD Measure 5 has started: National Budget Supports rural development in accordance with EU principles



Local area priorities, as well as its strengths and weaknesses, can best be recognized by the local population. This is the basis of the LEADER approach of the EU, in which Local Development Strategies, adjusted to the real needs of the local community, are prepared and implemented at the local level. By forming civil organizations, i.e. Partnerships, local actors obtain the opportunity to carry out activities to improve the local environment.

Providing support for LEADER approach is planned through IPARD Programme, both through Measure 9 (Technical Assistance) and through Measure 5 (Implementation of the Local Development Strategies – LEADER approach), which entrustment will start by the end of 2020.

Work on this approach in Serbia has started in 2007, and up to date, several projects, supported by European and Provincial funds, have been implemented.

In order to prepare for the support to LEADER approach through the IPARD Programme, MAFWM has initiated a new subsidies measure which is provided from national budget.

Application for subsidies for foundation of Partnerships and preparation of the strategies, under the new measure, were submitted by 22 civil organizations, requesting the support in the amount of over 145 thousand euro. All organizations, whose strategy becomes approved, in 2020 will have an opportunity to be supported for implementation of the strategy. Funds for the foundation of new Partnerships, in order to make LEADER access present in other areas of Serbia as well, will be provided through a new Public Call in 2020.

In order to ease the foundation of Partnerships and preparation of the Strategy by interested civil organizations, MAFWM has prepared the Guide which is available at the website and can be downloaded here.



### **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

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