



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

**SWG Workshop on Early IPARD II Calls
successes// challenges// lessons learnt**

**IPARD Operating Structure
Managing Authority and IPARD Agency
Republic of Serbia**

Montenegro, 10 April 2019

IPARD II PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

2014-2020

- ✓ IPARD II Programme was adopted by the European Commission on 20 January 2015.
- ✓ Process of accreditation of structures for IPARD implementation was finished in 2017.
- ✓ The first Public Call was published in December 2017.
- ✓ 5 Public Calls have been published so far (3 calls for M1 and 2 calls for M3).
- ✓ Financial Agreement between the Government of RS and EC was signed in June 2018.

The First Phase - 2017 – 2018

Measure 1: Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings

Measure 3: Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products

The Second Phase - 2019

Measure 7: Diversification of agricultural holdings and business development

Measure 9: Technical assistance

The Third Phase - 2020

Measure 4: Agriecological climate measures and organic production measures

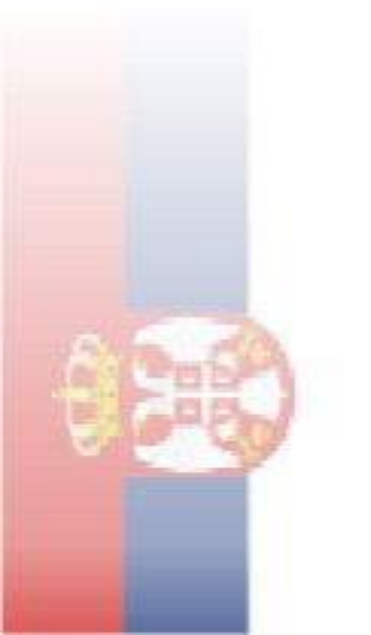
Measure 5: Implementation of local rural development strategies - LEADER approach

IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC CALLS -IA

- **Measure 1:** Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings – **total 629 applications**
 - ✓ The First Public Call - procurement of equipment and machinery – 85 applications
 - ✓ The Second Public Call - procurement of tractors- 393 applications
 - ✓ The Third Public Call - construction of facilities and procurement of equipment and machinery – 151 applications
- **Measure 3:** Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products – **total 107 applications**
 - ✓ The First Public Call - procurement of equipment – 26 applications
 - ✓ The Second Public Call - construction and procurement of equipment and machinery - 81 applications

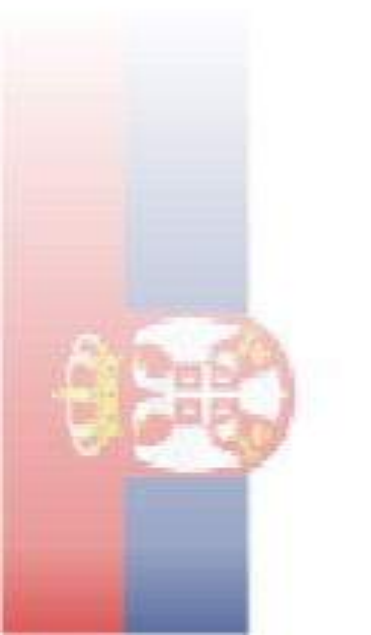


CHALLENGES DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION - MA

- Limited human capacities
 - Frequent changes in the managing structure
 - Lack of information among farmers
 - Perception that applying for IPARD is too complicated and time consuming
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CHALLENGES DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION - IA

- Limited human capacities
 - Processing of Applications has proven to be more complex than expected
 - ✓ incomplete and inadequate quality of Applications
 - ✓ 45% of Applications are in the process of supplementation. Most of the supplementations are related to business plans and offers
 - ✓ the main reason for withdrawal – a potential risk that national and EU standards cannot be met by the end of realization of the investment
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WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES - MA

- Limited human capacities →
 - New employees and continuous trainings for staff (MA&IA)
- Frequent changes in the managing structure →
 - For the first time HoMA is person employed permanently
- Lack of information among farmers →
 - Continuous education for advisory services
 - Raising awareness events: 9 IPARD Info Days across the whole country
- Perception that applying for IPARD is too complicated and time consuming →
 - Intensive promotional campaign planned for 2019.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES -IA

- Limited human capacities



✓ An initiative for filling in vacancies has been launched. A Recruitment Plan has been prepared with the aim to strengthen capacities for the implementation of measures under the IPARD programme

- Processing of Applications has proven to be more complex than expected due to incomplete and inadequate quality of Applications



✓ Harmonization of the legal framework for the implementation of the IPARD programme
✓ Daily monitoring of an administrative status of processed applications by the DAP top management
✓ Trainings of the IA staff
✓ Development of customer service

- The main reason for withdrawal – a potential risk that national and EU standards cannot be met by the end of realizing the investment

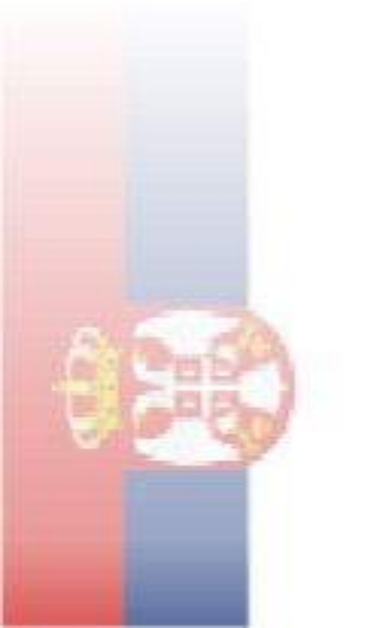


✓ Raising awareness of users about the necessity of fulfilling national and EU standards, and conducting workshops with TB representatives





CHALLENGES AHEAD: ENTRUSTMENT OF NEW MEASURES -MA

- **Measure 7:** A Rulebook has been prepared, followed with the LEE; consultations with DG AGRI; promotion campaign for potential IPARD users
 - **Measure 9:** An Action Plan and a Procurement Plan have been prepared; an Agreement between the MA and the IA is drafted and prepared for signing; the MA and the IA employees completed the PRAG procedure training and got certificates
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CHALLENGES AHEAD: ENTRUSTMENT OF NEW MEASURES -IA

- Draft procedures have been prepared for M7 and M9
- The TNA has been prepared and most of the trainings have been conducted through workshops, on-the-job trainings and case simulations
- The relevant training for TB is planned and it will be conducted after signing the MoU, which is prepared
- The IPARD Agency initiated establishment of new organizational unit for public procurement/PRAG rules

LESSONS LEARNED - MA

- **New Plan for Public Calls for 2019.**
 - reduced number of calls, based on previous experience
 - according to the capacities and dynamics of IPARD Agency
- **Proposals for the 3rd modification of IPARD II Programme**
 - introducing new sectors (Vine/Wine and Eggs)
 - listening the needs of farmers
 - open for dialogue and new solutions

LESSONS LEARNED - MA

- **Importance of evidence based policy**

- Sectoral analysis
- Evaluation
- Reporting

**USING DATA AND EVIDENCE FOR IMPROVING
IPARD PROGRAMME, ACCORDING TO THE
NEEDS OF FARMERS**

Example: available data on differences when it comes to:

- *Structure of the applicants / beneficiaries (low number of young farmers and women)*
- *Structure of applications (low number of applications in milk and meat sector)*
- *Geographical distribution of applications*



LESSONS LEARNED-MA

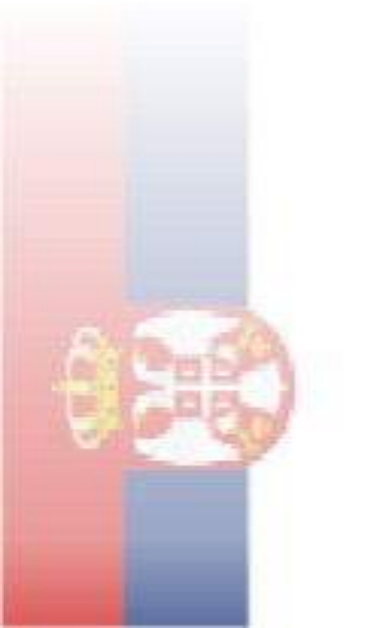
- **Importance of continuous education and trainings**
 - advisory services / consultants / MA & IA employees
 - topics: business plan development, eligible expenditures...
 - additional trainings for farmers, especially for young farmers and women
- **Importance of promotion**
 - broad dissemination of information (TV, leaflets, guidelines, public events...)
 - especially in regions wherefrom we received less applications



Goal: to motivate and empower farmers for reaching standards and encourage them for applying for IPARD



LESSONS LEARNED -IA

- Conducted public calls are the most important steering wheel for future activities, in the process of detecting weaknesses in which we shall have to put some additional effort
 - Close cooperation with the MA regarding planning of time for public calls and the budget for public calls
 - Overcoming obstacles arising from the discrepancy between the domestic and EU legislation through initiatives for harmonization and fine tuning of internal procedures
 - Permanent trainings of employees
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PROGRESS MADE

- **Enhanced communication with IPARD Agency**
 - regular coordination meetings
 - mutual understanding and support
- **Fully operated IPARD Working Group**
 - high-level commitment of all stakeholders
- **Enhanced communication with DG AGRI**
 - regular contacts with the desk officer
 - assistance and clarification when needed

Strong political will for IPARD implementation and broad consensus on its high importance



Thank you for your attention!

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