

KEP – Know-how Exchange Program ‘Capacity Building Program for extension services in the WESTERN Balkans to support participation in IPARD calls’  
Centralized training session  
Belgrade, September 16th – 20th, 2019

**Report**

**on engagement on workshop: KEP – Know-how Exchange Program, ‘Capacity Building Program for extension services in the Western Balkans to support participation in IPARD calls’, Centralized training session held in Belgrade on September 16-20, 2019**

The workshop agenda had foreseen set of lessons and then the practical exercise performed by participants divided into working groups. The agenda was presented to the participants, ground rules for working was established and the participant expressed their expectations of the workshop (Picture 1 and Picture 2).

**A) Lessons**

During the first day of the workshop I held lectures divided into three titles: *An IPARD work-programme and a call: main elements and operational details*, *Elements of Project Cycle Management (PCM) and Logical Framework Approach (LFA) applied to IPARD calls* as well as *Practical application of PCM and LFA applied to a real IPARD call and technical contents for the building up of innovative proposals*. Because of the relatively big number of participants I choose combined techniques: power point presentation, flipchart and metacards on pin board. The entire time participants were allowed to raise the questions, to comment and to discuss every topic, what participants extensively used.

1. Lesson *An IPARD work-programme and a call: main elements and operational details* explained two topics - the architecture of the system for the implementation of the IPARD programme and an analysis of the elements of the call for applications – flipchart (Picture 3 and Picture 4).
  - 1.1. In the frame of the first topic involved institutions, tasks, cooperation, interaction and stakeholders have been explained. The main aim of the lesson was to explain the complexity of the institutional structures involved into the preparation and implementation of the pre-accession programme for agriculture and rural development. Changing the perspective of every present group (managing authorities, paying agencies, extension services) the should be able to better understand the functions of the system (Presentation “Progress report 1”).
  - 1.2. Analysis of the elements of the call for applications embraced information on legal framework, scope, involved institutions and segregation of duties, annual publication

plan, informing final beneficiaries. Aim of the lesson was to stress the importance of the well prepared call of application including all important elements

2. In the lesson *Elements of Project Cycle Management (PCM) and Logical Framework Approach (LFA) applied to IPARD calls* is given overview of the roles of two important stakeholders of IPARD programme: national rural networks and the extensions services
  - 2.1. in the implementation of the IPARD programme with emphasis on NRN's working groups for innovative partnership and LEADER program and role of the NRN as an IPARD programme stakeholder. The main aim of the lesson, to clarify the role of NRN in the overall implementation of the IPARD program was achieved (Presentation "National rural networks").
  - 2.2. The main objective of this lesson was to clarify the role of NRN in the overall implementation of the IPARD program with emphasis on NRN's working groups for innovative partnership and LEADER program and role of the NRN as an IPARD programming stakeholder
  - 2.3. The role of the extension service was elaborated through following topics:
    - a) overview of the development of the farm advisory system (FAS) in EU; role of the FAS in the implementation of the IPARD programme with special emphasis on issues related to cross-compliance issues
    - b) informing the potential final beneficiaries and preparation of project application
    - c) Croatian example of the involvement of the extension service in the implementation of the IPARD programme (Presentation "Role of the extension service in the implementation...").
3. Practical application of PCM and LFA applied to a real IPARD call; technical contents for the building up of innovative proposals was elaborates through three different topics:
  - 3.1. PCM and LFA history, theory, significance, technical details, use in different situation aiming to ensure that all participant have the same level of knowledge of PCA and LFA (Presentation "PCM")
  - 3.2. To increase technical skills and understanding of the participants the lesson on practical application of the PCM and LFA principles in different stages of the IPARD implementation was held. The each phase of the PCM in preparing and conducting the call for applications was explained (Presentation "LFA").
  - 3.3. To increase awareness of the participants related to innovations and to find practical solutions to recognize innovative investments or approaches in agricultural production and life in rural areas the lesson on definition of innovation, role of innovative

approaches in agriculture, rural economy, combating climate changes, new approaches in local strategic planning was held.

## B. Practical exercises

- 1. Part 1:** The aim of exercises was explained and ground rules of the workshop agreed among the participants. The participants has been divided into two groups: in one group were representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia and in second group were representatives of Serbia, Montenegro and part of representatives of N. Macedonia. North Macedonia is a most advanced in the implementation of the IPARD programme so they split into two groups. The aim of the excersise was to increase awareness of the participants related to innovations, to find practical solutions to recognize innovative investments or approaches, to enable participants to change the perspective, taking the different role than they have in the implementation of the IPARD programme and to help Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop “IPARD like measure”. Both groups have prepared call for application– documentation, conditions, procedure, role of extension service, information of final beneficiaries (Picture 5 and Picture 6).
- 2. Part 2:** The aim of the second exercise was to increase knowledge and skills of the extension service (and NRN) to prepare applications to the IPARD programme for the final beneficiaries Both groups prepared procedures for extension service for screening of potential final beneficiaries of the IPARD programme (checking their eligibility) and preparation of application for final beneficiaries – procedures, check lists, informing the final beneficiaries.
- 3. Part 3: every group presented the outputs of the common work. An open discussion was conducted during the presentation of group work.**
- 4. Part 4:** Instead of the conclusion, on the basis of the results of the working groups and lessons the SWOT analysis of the role of the extension service in the implementation of the IPARD programme was prepared (Picture 7)

Annexes:

Pictures 1-7

Presentations: Progress report, National Rural Networks, Role of the extension service, PCM, LFA