



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Water Economy  
IPARD Managing Authority

# **LEADER in North Macedonia – state of play and implementation of Technical Assistance and current national support**

**Second interim meeting of the REAWG on LEADER**

**11, 12.02.2020**

**Pogradec, R.Albania**

# Historic Overview

- **Law on Agriculture and Rural Development (LAG measures introduced with the initial LARD version)**
  - Article 87 (Local development of rural areas)
  - Article 88 (Local Development Strategies)
  - Article 89 (Local Action Groups)
  
- **By-laws of the LARD related to LAGs were enacted in 2013**
  - Strategy content and methodology (OJ 40/13)
  - LAG's registering and register (OJ 40/13)
  - Criteria and support measures (OJ 80/13, mod. 178/18)
  
- **National Programme on Rural Development**
  - Measures introduced in NPRD in 2013
  - LAG's established as beneficiary in NPRD 2014
  
- **IPARD Programme**
  - Measures Fiche designed under (EuropeAid/135765/DH35765/DH/SER/MK) project - Introduction of New IPARD measures (LEADER and Advisory Services) to be implemented under IPARD II (started in 2014)
  
- **APTA (Action Plan for Technical Assistance)**
  - Support to LAG's and LEADER foreseen in the first approved version of APTA (APTA 2015)



Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development  
(IPARD 2014-2020)



# State of Play

## ➤ LAGs status

- Under the public call 01/2018 13 LAGs have been registered in the MAFWE Register

## ➤ Under the **LARD** and its by-laws, as well as **NPRD** the following non-refundable **financial assistance** is being offered for:

- Supporting acquisition of knowledge and skills for the preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies, as well as to inform and train the population on the role and function of the LAG (up to 200.000 MKD)
- costs for the establishment and operation of LAG (up to 800.000 MKD)
- costs for preparation of local development strategies and realization of projects (up to 800.000 MKD)

## ➤ Under the **NPRD 2019** a public call no. 03/2019 on LAGs was announced (establishment of LAGs + realization of strategies):

- 12 application submitted
- 9 agreements concluded with total expenditure of 7.600.000 MKD
- LAGs are entitled to an advanced payment of 40% of the approved amount

## ➤ **IPARD Programme 2014-2020**

- Forthcoming big “thematic” modification
- Measures to be introduced (LEADER, Advisory, AE)

## ➤ **APTA** up and running, but never used (Expenditure associated with "acquisition of skills" to prepare potential LAGs for the implementation of the measure "Implementation of local development strategies – Leader approach")



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# Next Steps

## ➤ IPARD Programme 2014-2020

- Review of the prepared LEADER Measure fiche
- Introduction of LEADER Measure in the IPARD Programme

## ➤ TA for LEADER – (APTA possibilities)

- Technical support + Studies, analysis and research activities (Expert services)
- “Raising awareness” and “Acquisition of skills” materials (Translation, Editing, Printing and Distribution of materials; Advertisements and announcements - media costs for TV/RADIO/PRESS/WEB)
- Training activities (Rental of venue and presentation equipment, Catering, Training materials, Translation and Rental of interpreting equipment, as well as Participation of presenters and speakers and trainees on trainings and national representatives in study tours)

# Next Steps

## ➤ Analysis of the LAGs needs

- January 2020 a two day seminar has been held in Gevgelija involving all registered LAG's, Paying Agency, MA and DG Agri representatives

## ➤ The already prepared Draft Guidelines for LAG establishment and LDS preparations & evaluation as well as the procedures for implementation of the LEADER approach (the accreditation package) have to be reviewed

## ➤ More clarification meetings between established LAG's, IPARD Agency and MA on LEADER Measure Implementation are needed.

## ➤ Planning of support for LAG's under NPRD 2020



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