



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

***LEADER* approach in Serbia - current situation -**

February, 2020



Establishment of an institutional framework for implementing the *LEADER* approach - national level

- Amendments to the Law on Incentives in Agriculture and Rural Development in 2013, provided financing of subsidies for preparation and implementation of the LDS, from the national budget, as preparation for the implementation of the LEADER measure under EU regulations;
- Within NPRD 2018 – 2020 the measure "Preparation of local development strategies of the partnerships for territorial rural development (*LEADER* approach)".



Establishment of an institutional framework for implementing the *LEADER* approach

- IPARD II Programme– through instrument for EU pre-accession assistance for rural development - *LEADER* measure is envisaged;
- Measure 9: Technical assistance (in the entrustment process) - envisages support for the preparation of the potential LAG establishment, as a basis for implementing the *LEADER* measure under the IPARD II Programme;
- Measure 5: Implementation of the local development strategies– *LEADER* approach– (planned beginning of the accreditation process during 2020).



Implementation of the *LEADER* approach – national budget

- Rulebook on subsidies for support to programmes related to preparation and implementation of the Local Development Strategies in accordance with LEADER approach, published on 18th January 2019 „Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No 3/19;
- Rulebook in accordance with the LEADER measure- „LEADER Like“
- At the national level, in 2019 a public call for the establishment partnerships (potential LAGs) and preparation of the Local Development Strategies has been launched for the first time in 2019 (IA);



Implementation of the *LEADER* approach– Public call

DURATION OF THE PUBLIC CALL FROM 7TH JUNE 2019 TO 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Envisaged support for:

- **Establishment of partnerships** for territorial rural development (LAG), as well as **drafting of the Local Development Strategies (LDS)**;
 - ✓ Funds per beneficiary have been determined:
 - 200,000.00 RSD for establishment,
 - 600,000.00 RSD for strategy drafting
 - ✓ Implementation of the small projects is envisaged for 2020 (after approval of LDS by the Evaluation Committee)
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Implementation of the *LEADER* approach- Public call

- ✓ Beneficiary of subsidies is a partnership for territorial rural development, i.e. association, registered in the Business Registers Agency;
- ✓ The area covered by the Partnership must be accepted by all local self-government units within it is located;
- ✓ The area of the Partnership is coherent, clearly defined, in geographical sense a continuous area with a population of more than one settlement, within the territory of two or more local self-government units, with a minimum of 10,000 and a maximum of 150,000 inhabitants, which does not overlap with that the area of the other Partnership;
- ✓ Settlements within the Partnership can not have more than 25,000 inhabitants;



Implementation of the *LEADER* approach-Public call

Members of the Steering Committee must be represented in appropriate percentages:

- ✓ public sector representatives in the Partnership area with at least 20% and at most 49% members;
- ✓ private and civil sector representatives, with at least 51% members;
- ✓ civil sector representatives must also include representatives of women and young people in the Partnership area.



Implementation of the **LEADER** approach - Public call

- Partnership submits to the IPARD Agency (IA) documentation related to establishment;
- If the requirements are met, the Partnership will start preparation of LDS which must be drafted in accordance with the mandatory elements and recommendations (*LEADER Like*);
- The Partnership submits to the IA evidences of the realization of activities – expenditure of funds regarding LDS;
- After verification, the IA forwards the LDS to an independent Evaluation Committee formed by the Minister.



Mandatory elements and recommendations for drafting of Local Development Strategy

1. Definition/description of the area and population covered by the Local Development Strategy;
2. Analysis of the development needs and potentials of the Partnership area, including SWOT analysis;
3. Description of the Local Development Strategy and its aims;
4. Description of the process of involving all stakeholders and the wider community in the preparation of the LDS;
5. Indicative list of priority projects - Action plan for the implementation of the LDS;
6. Description of the Partnership capacities for implementation of the LDS;
7. Financial plan that contains information on expenditures for realization of Local Development Strategy;

The facts related to the national „LEADER“ measure in Serbia

- 22 complete requests have been submitted;
- The process of signing the contract in progress- all contracts will be signed by the end of February;
- The contract defines a deadline of 6 months for drawing up the LDS;
- Thereafter, an evaluation of the LDS will be conducted by the MAFWM Evaluation Committee;
- The complete process of establishing a Partnership is after the adoption of the LDS;
- Last quarter of 2020 (October), planned Public call for the implementation of the LDS;
- Public call for the establishment of new Partnerships also in the second quarter of 2020;
- The LEADER measure will not be implemented in the IPARD II Program;
- In 2020, prepare LEADER measures for the IPARD III Program 2021 - 2027;
- During this time in 2020 and 2021, the LEADER measure will be implemented through the NRPP - the LEADER Like measure.



Entrustment of IPARD M9 – Technical Assistance

Preparation according to AP for entrustment budget implementation tasks for M9:

- ✓ Accreditation package submitted;
- ✓ Signed **MA/IA Agreement** on the Implementation of the Technical Assistance Measure under IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 - establishes the method and procedures;
- ✓ Signed **Protocol** on the manner and conditions for keeping accounts opened with the Ministry of Finance - Treasury Directorate- Determining of the Financial Flow for M9;
- ✓ Proposal of the **Action Plan** for Technical Assistance for 2020;
- ✓ **Trained employees** of MA and IPARD Agency through EU technical assistance: IPA 2013 project;
- ✓ **Recruitment** – Open competition for the recruitment of two vacancies in UT approval is obtained for launching a recruitment procedure for two vacancies in MA.



LIST OF ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES FOR MEASURE: M9 "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE"

Expenditures related to "Acquisition of skills" for preparation of potential LAGs for implementation of the measure "Implementation of the local development strategies- *LEADER* approach"

- ✓ Animation, awareness raising and promotional activities, events (e.g. seminars, workshops, meetings, etc);
- ✓ Publicity to support the LDS preparation process and the production of promotional materials;
- ✓ Training and education of the LAG staff and members involved with the setting up of LAG and the implementation of the LDS;
- ✓ Participation of the LAG members in seminars, workshops, study visits, including events of the RD network;
- ✓ Planning, monitoring, follow-up recommendations and revisions of LDS for the territory of the contracted LAG;
- ✓ Preparation of studies of the potential LAG (data necessary for preparation and implementation of LDS);
- ✓ Information and publicity activities to support the implementation of the LDS, to stimulate cooperation and networking among rural stakeholders within the contracted LAG territory and to enhance the involvement of vulnerable social groups (women, youth, the elderly, minorities, the disabled and other) in the implementation of LDS;
- ✓ Expert services and animators;



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!



Ljiljana Simić
Senior adviser for programming
of local initiative measure
ljiljana.simic@minpolj.gov.rs
www.minpolj.gov.rs