



Republic of Macedonia

**IPARD II Monitoring Committee**

***Minutes of the FIRST IPARD II Monitoring Committee***  
***February 17<sup>th</sup>***

Arch. No. - \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_, 2016

Skopje



## I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Biljana Kostovska, Head of Department for management of EU's pre-accession funds for rural development (IPARD).**

### **Members present at the IPARD Monitoring Committee:**

1. **Abdilgafar Sinani**, Head of the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
2. **Igor Zlatkov**, Director, National Extension Agency;
3. **Maja Lazareska. Head of EU Department**, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
4. **Gjorgi Bozinov**, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
5. **Vulnet Arifi**, Ministry of local self-government;
6. **Darko Pesevski**, Ministry of transport and communication;
7. **Suzana Popovska**, Agency for Food and Veterinary;
8. **Ljiljana Vukovic**, Agency for promotion of entrepreneurship of the RM;
9. **Stevanche Jordanoski**, President of the Federation of Farmers in the Republic of Macedonia
10. **Robertina Brajanoska**, Executive Director of the Macedonian Ecological Society;  
**Eftim Shaklev**, President, Association of Farmers;
11. **Petar Georgiev**, President of the Rural Development Network of R.M;
12. **Ana Kotevska**, Faculty of Agriculture and Food.
13. **Sasho Ristevski**, Secretary, Macedonian Association of Processors;
14. **Olga Stoimenova**, Association of Women Farmers "Agro-Vinca", Vinica;
15. **Ognen Orovcanev**, Union of Chambers of Commerce of the Republic of Macedonia.
16. **Vladimir Petkov**, Faculty of veterinary medicine – Skopje;
17. **Lazar Kotevski**, ZELS
18. **Verica Ilieva**, Faculty of Agriculture and Food.

### *Present deputy members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee:*

1. **Violeta Dimitrova**, Ministry of labor and social policy ;
2. **Biljana B. Zlateska**,MAFWE.



**3. Ljubica Gerasimova, SEA**

***Representatives of the European Commission (EC) in an advisory role:***

1. **Gerard Kiely**, Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri);
2. **Elitsa Zhivkova**, Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri).

**Representatives of the European Delegation**

1. **Olivier Maes**, Delegation of European Union in the Republic of Macedonia

Representatives from NAO and NF:

1. **Aleksandra Simjanoska**, National Fund, Ministry of Finance.

Representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority (MA):

2. **Biljana Kostovska**, Head of IPARD Department;
3. **Mladen Kolaric**, Head of Unit for monitoring of the implementation of IPARD funds and reporting;
4. **Viktor Mladenovski**, Acting Head of Unit for implementation of Technical Assistance of IPARD funds;
5. **Vasilka Tamburkova** Head of Unit for monitoring of the implementation of IPARD funds and reporting;
6. **Oliver Stefanovski**, Unit for Technical Assistance of IPARD funds;
7. **Jasmina Hadzhibulic**, Junior Associate, Unit for monitoring of the implementation of IPARD funds and reporting;
8. **Zlatko Kolevski**, Unit for Technical Assistance of IPARD funds;
9. **Angel Karapetrov**, Unit for Technical Assistance of IPARD funds;
10. **Sadzide Demiri**, Unit for coordination of preparatory activities for agri-environmental measures and “LEADER” under IPARD funds;
11. **Dusko Jakimovski**, Unit for programming and evaluation of IPARD funds;
12. **Muhadin Limani**, Unit for programming and evaluation of IPARD funds;
13. **Gordana Smileska**, Unit for monitoring of the implementation of IPARD funds and reporting;
14. **Gabriela Petrova**, Unit for Technical Assistance of IPARD funds.



*Representatives from the Agency for Financial Support to Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD):*

1. **Biljana Vukovic**, Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD);
2. **Maja Brajovic**, Head of Internal Audit, Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD);
3. **Nikola Dimitrovski**, Head of Sector, Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD);

*Results: Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, 19 members and 3 deputy members with voting right (out of a total of 26 members with a right to vote) participated in the meeting. A quorum of 2/3 of the members with a right to vote (or their replacements) was achieved to hold the meeting in accordance with the Rules of Procedure Article 9 paragraph 4.*

*The Checklist for presence of members from the meetings of the IPARD Monitoring Committee is shown in Appendix 1 of these minutes.*

*The List of observers is shown in Appendix 2 of these minutes.*



## II. AGENDA

### III. RESULTS OF THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING:

#### **1. In reference to Item 1 of the Agenda:., Approval of the Draft Agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> IPARD MC 2014-2020 meeting ""**

The meeting was opened by Ms.Kostovska - Head of Department for management of EU's pre-accession funds for rural development (IPARD), welcoming all the present at the meeting and also apologized on behalf of the Chairman of the IPARD Monitoring Committee- Mr. Kostadinovski who due to urgent commitments, was unable to attend the meeting.

Taking into account that due to the harmonization of documents i.e. supporting materials submitted to the members before the meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee on EC, particularly Evaluation plan for IPARD 2014-2020 and Plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD 2014- 2020 were submitted to the members of IPARD MC with delay. Due to lack of time to review the documentation by the members, HoD informed the members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee that they can be adopted by written procedure. The members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee were further informed about the draft agenda for the IPARD II Monitoring Committee.

Having no further comments, the following decision was adopted:

**Decision No.1:** The IPARD II Monitoring Committee adopted the Agenda for the first IPARD II Monitoring Committee.

**The adopted Agenda is attached in Annex 1.**

#### **2. In reference to point 2 of the Agenda:., Adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee for IPARD 2014-2020 of the Republic of Macedonia "**

The Head of Department for management of EU's pre-accession funds for rural development (IPARD), informed about the Rules of procedure of the IPARD MC II.

Having no further comments, the following decision was adopted:



**Decision No.2: IPARD II Monitoring Committee adopted the Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee for IPARD 2014-2020 of the Republic of Macedonia**

**3. In reference to point 3 of the Agenda: „ Information on the adoption of the Sectoral Agreement for IPARD II "**

SEA representative informed about the status of ratification i.e Sectoral Agreement of IPARD II.

Having no further comments, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.1:** The IPARD II Monitoring Committee was informed on the adoption of the Sectoral Agreement for IPARD II

**4. In reference to point 4 of the Agenda:: „ Status on implementation of IPARD 2014-2020"**

**4.1. In reference to point 4.1 of the Agenda:: „ Information on the status with the entrustment of budget implementation tasks IPARD II measures "**

The Head of IPARD Sector informed about the new IPARD II Programme which contains the last 3 measures from IPARD 2007- 2013 Programme but also a new measure: „ Rural infrastructure", which will be designed for the municipalities. The NAO representative reported on the final version of the package (procedures) for re-accreditation of IPARD II Programme. Taking into account that the accreditation of the measure „Rural infrastructure" is expected, it requires modification of the existing documents and to adapt to the new requirements of IPARD II program. Draft package was submitted to the European Commission in July 2015 and the EC comments were received in January 2016 and their review is still ongoing. Currently the IPARD Operating structure works on adjustment of the procedures that should be submitted to NAO for further consideration. It is expected that the final documents for re-accreditation of measures under IPARD II Programme will be submitted to EC in April 2016.



First draft of the accreditation package for measure, Rural infrastructure" where municipalities are the only beneficiaries, has been prepared and submitted to NAO. The second revised draft was also submitted and currently is under examination. The final version of the measure „Rural infrastructure" will be submitted to EC in June 2016.

Leader and Advisory services measures are still in preparatory phase and they will be included in IPARD 2014-2020 at later stage.

Having no further comments, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.2:** The IPARD II Monitoring Committee was informed about reaccreditation and accreditation of new measure.

**4.2. In reference to point 4.2 of the Agenda:: „ Information on the plan for public call under IPARD 2014-2020 "**

The representative from IPARD Agency, Mrs. Brajovik informed about the plan for public call under IPARD 2014-2020. Next programming period has available about 60 million euros which will start to be used after IPARD I. The first public call for IPARD II is expected to be announced in the middle of July 2016. In 2016 two public calls are expected and from next year, it is expected to have four public calls per year.

Having no further comments, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No. 3:** The IPARD II Monitoring Committee was informed about the plan for public call under IPARD 2014-2020 "

**4.3. In reference to point 4.3 of the Agenda:: „ Introduction of new measures in IPARD 2014-2020,,**

Mr. Donald Aquilina, the representative of NIMS project, informed about the preparation of Leader and advisory services measures that are in final stage. Fiche measures are ready and will be submitted to IPARD MA on last control. If there is any objection, it will be taken into account and measures will be sent to the European Commission for their adoption. Mr. Donald Aquilina noted that in next few weeks will hold a technical workshop with external experts, MA and AFSARD, where experiences regarding national rural networks from other countries will be debated and will certainly contribute to the



development of implementation strategy recommendations for MA to establish the national rural network in the country. About this point, Mr. Petar Georgievski-representative from the Rural Network Macedonia, opened a discussion about the trainings provided by the measure Leader. Mr. Donald Aquilina emphasized that the exact time for maintenance of the trainings will be determined in consultation with MA.

The representative of AFSARD Mrs. Maja Brajovic informed about the ongoing twinning project „ Further strengthening the capacity of the IPARD Agency for the new programming period 2014- 2020 'carried out in cooperation with EU Member States: the Netherlands, Slovenia and Estonia. It started on December 15, 2015 and will last 21 months. The first expected result of this project is the so-called assessment of the overall capacity of the IPARD Agency, both in terms of human resources and in terms of the procedures i.e. examining the possibility of simplifying procedures. This project will make a detailed analysis of the reason for rejection of projects and will follow further training for existing measures. The second component of this project is re- accreditation of existing measures. The third component is the accreditation of the new measures.

Having no further comments, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No. 4:** : The IPARD II Monitoring Committee was informed about new measures in IPARD 2014-2020.

**5. In reference to point 5 of the Agenda:: „ Adoption of the Evaluation plan for IPARD 2014-2020 "**

The Head of IPARD Sector informed about the Evaluation plan for IPARD. Considering that the Plan of evaluation was previously submitted to IPARD MC members but with delays, Head of IPARD Department added that they will have an additional 7 days for review and comments .

**Decision No 3:** Monitoring Committee on IPARD II reviewed the Evaluation Plan of IPARD Program 2014- 2020 and will plead within 7 days for comments. If there are no comments, Evaluation Plan of IPARD 2014-2020 will be considered adopted by the Committee.





The Federation of Farmer`s representative, Mr. Shaklev, opened a discussion about improving the communication between AFSARD and farmers. Also he added that EU funds are intended to increase the competitiveness of the market, and so far most are used for agricultural mechanization. Giving the possibility to farmers to legalize their farms will lead to better use of funds from the IPARD 2014-2020. Also he talked about the procedure for processing of applications which takes a very long time. The acceleration of the procedure will increase the interest and it will improve the utilization of funds from IPARD II program. Mr Shaklev asked the representative of the European Commission Mr. Kiely, whether it is possible to arrange a visit with the EC in Brussels to discuss the problems that the country is facing with, and to gather experiences from the European Union to improve the development of agriculture in the country. Thus, Mr. Shaklev expressed concerns and asked what measures will be taken if there is a shortage of funds in the IPARD II.

The representative of the European Commission Mr. Kiely noted that the idea for visiting Brussels by representatives of the IPARD Monitoring Committee will not contribute to getting special benefits. Indeed, the European Commission sends in Macedonia its representatives or experts to share their knowledge and ideas for successful implementation of IPARD in Macedonia. Also, he added that through the measure Technical assistance, the representatives of the IPARD Monitoring Committee can meet with members of the Committees of other countries in order to exchange experiences.

Mr. Kiely said that there is no need for concern about the possibility of deficit of funds in the IPARD II Programme because the incomplete utilization of funds from the IPARD I program leads to the likelihood that also IPARD II will not be used in full- sufficient reason that there is no need for concern.

The AFSARD representative Mrs. Maja Brajovic regarding the discussion about improving communication between farmers and AFSARD said that currently in AFSARD three people are working in a call center providing information to farmers on each program. Two people are in charge for e-mail communication. Every farmer who came to AFSARD for information about any program is adequately served.

Head of the IPARD Sector, Biljana Kostovska, based on the discussion that was raised by Mr. Shaklev added that the poor utilization of IPARD I program is due to the influence of many other factors as legislation problem, the adoption of detailed urban plans and others.



Ms. Biljana Kostovska also informed that from March 1 to May 31, 2016, IPARD info days will be held (Visit to 1,000 villages) on which the opportunities for co-financing in the framework of the new programming period IPARD 2014-2020 will be presented.

**6. In reference to point 6 of the Agenda:: „ Adoption of the plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD 2014- 2020"**

The representative of the IPARD MA-Viktor Mladenovski, informed the IPARD Monitoring Committee about the Plan for communication and visibility activities for IPARD 2014-2020.

Considering that the plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD 2014-2020 was previously submitted to IPARD MC Members but with delays, Head of IPARD Department added that will have an additional 7 days for review and comments.

Having no further comments, the following decision was adopted:

**Decision No 4:** The IPARD II Monitoring Committee reviewed the Plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 and Annual Action plan for Publicity of the IPARD Programme for 2016 and will plead within 7 days with comments on it. If there are no comments, Plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 and Annual Action plan for Publicity of the IPARD Programme for 2016 will be considered adopted by the Committee.

**7. In reference to point 7 of the Agenda:: „AOB"**

In relation to this point, a discussion was not raised.

**8. In reference to point 8 of the Agenda: „ Proposals for the Agenda of the next (second) IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date."**

Ms. Kostovska proposed the agenda of the next IPARD II Monitoring Committee, whereas the exact date of the meeting would be agreed in accordance to the availability of the European Commission representatives.



*Organization of the IPARD Monitoring Committee*



FOR THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:	FOR THE SECRETARIATE:
Nefrus Cheliku	Biljana Kostovska, MSc
Title: Chairperson	Head of IPARD Managing Authority
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date::

## Attendee list

No	Title and name of member	Institution	Present “√”	Absent “√”	Represent ative “√”	Replacement	Number of absences
1.	Vancho Kostadinovski  Chairman	MAFWE				Biljana Kostovska	1
<b>Government Institutions</b>							
2.	Maja Lazareska	MAFWE	√				0
3.	Zivko Brajkovski	MAFWE		√		Biljana B.Zlateska	1
4.	Abdilgafar Sinani	MAFWE	√				0
5.	Gjorgi Bozinov	MAFWE	√				0
6.	Evgenija Serafimova Kirkoski	SEA	√			Ljubica Gerasimova	1
7.	Vulnet Arifi	Ministry of local self- government	√				0
8.	Aleksandra Matik Sever	Ministry of culture		√			1

9.	Darko Pesevski	Ministry of communication and transport	√				0
10.	Dusan Tomik	Ministry of labor and social policy		√		Violeta Dimitrieva	0
11.	Suzana Popovska	Agency for food and veterinary	√				0
AGENCIES							
12.	Igor Zlatkov	NEA	√				0
13.	Ljiljana Vukovik	Agency for support of entrepreneurship	√				0
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS							
14.	Vasko Ristovski	Macedonian Chamber of commerce		√			1
15.	Ognen Orovcaneć	Agrobiz chamber at the Association of Chambers of commerce of RM	√				0
16.	Saso Ristevski	Macedonian association of processors	√				0
17.	Stevance Jordanovski	FFRM	√				0

18.	Veljo Tantarov	Association of farmers of Macedonia		√			1
19.	Lazar Koteski	Association of local self-government units	√				0
20.	Ana Koteska	Faculty of agricultural sciences and food, Skopje	√				0
21.	Olga Stoimenova	Association of women farmers Agrovinka, Vinica	√				0
22.	Dragan Dojcinovski	Chamber of craftsmen		√			1
23.	Verica Ilieva	University of agricultural sciences and food – UGD Stip	√				0
24.	Eftim Shaklev	Association of farmers of Macedonia	√				0
25.	Petar Gjorgiev	Rural network of RM	√				0
26.	Vladimir Petkov	Faculty for Veterinary Medicine	√				0
27.	Robertina Brajanoska	Macedonian ecological group	√				0
	<b>Total</b>						

### **Representatives from government institutions:**

- Andrijana Velevska- MAFWE;
- Aleksandar Andovski - Deputy Prime Minister
- Sanja Kostadinovic Velickovska -- Faculty of agricultural sciences and food – UGD Stip
- Ana Micevska - NEA
- Zlatko Sireta-NEA
- Katerina Krstevska - Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Elena Gotovska - Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Nazmie Idrizi, MOEPP
- Dana Petreska, SEA

### **Representatives of the Audit Body:**

- **Vesna Mladenovska** – Sector for audit for component V – SAO;
- **Elizabeta Sazdovska** - Sector for audit for component V – SAO

### **Representatives of ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS:**

- Petar Gligorov - Association of Secondary agricultural schools, Претседател;
- Klime Baleski - Agriculture institute,
- Vasil Kostov - Institute for Livestock,
- Biljana Angelova - Economic Institute
- Jorde Jakimovski - Institute for Sociological, Political and Legal Research;
- Dine Mitrev - **Faculty for Veterinary Medicine.**

### **Representatives of the IPA project for introduction of new IPARD measures LEADER and Advisory services:**

- Donald Aquilina – Expert for advisory services.