



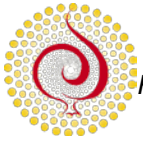
**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER ECONOMY  
IPARD MANAGING AUTHORITY**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE MEASURE OF THE IPARD PROGRAMME 2014-2020  
(for 2019)**

*(in accordance with Article 52(10) of the Sectoral Agreement)*

**Sixth meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee**

**December 2019**



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## 1. Introduction

The Technical Assistance measure of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 is defined as Measure 9, which covers technical assistance for successful implementation and realization of the programme. The measure is accredited in 2015. It covers costs related to: preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, administrative support, information and communication, networking, control and audit activities. Legal basis for the arrangement of the Technical Assistance measure derives from Article 2, paragraph (1) of Regulation 236/2014 of the European Parliament of 11 March 2014 and Article 22, paragraph (1) and Annex 4 to the IPARD Sectoral Agreement. The financial support is regulated through the list of eligible expenditures for this measure, and the manner of implementation of the measure is regulated through a Memorandum for cooperation, signed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (IPARD Managing Authority) and the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development.

## 2. Activities related to the Action Plan for implementation of the Technical Assistance (APTA 2019)

On December 4, 2018, the IPARD II Monitoring Committee approved the Action Plan for Planned Activities of Technical Assistance Measure (APTA) for 2019. (Decision No. 11-12276 /1 of 05.12.2018)

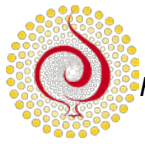
In APTA 2019, the following procurements were planned in total amount EUR 257.584:

- Procurement for organizing the fifth and sixth meeting of the "Monitoring Committee of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020" in the amount of EUR 13.860;
- Procurement related to visits and seminars, amounting to EUR 19.908;
- Procurement for preparation of Programme measures and implementation of measures, totaling EUR 98.316;
- Procurement for the IPARD Programme 2007-2013 Ex-post assessment, totaling EUR 87.900 and
- Procurement for Streamlining of specific parts of the management and control system, totaling EUR 37.600.

During the implementation of APTA 2019 and the dynamics of implementation of the activities, the Unit for Implementation of Measure Technical assistance, identified the need to simplify the APTA template as it is an indicative (planning) document. For this purpose, the IPARD Managing Authority sent a request for simplification of the Technical Assistance Action Plan (APTA) to the NAO. Following a meeting to modify the IPARD Paying Agency documents related to APTA, a document, which regulates the simplified layout of APTA, was submitted to NAO in May. This activity is already completed and the new APTA template is already in use.

The "Publicity Campaign of IPARD Programme 2014-2020" is conducted in accordance with the dynamics of publishing public calls for proposals under the IPARD Programme 2014-2020. Until December 2019, there were 47 IPARD info days, 1 forum and 3 workshops realized in as many different municipalities, and the events were enriched with publicity materials (user guides, brochures, banners, etc.).

After receiving the offer for procurement of "Ex-post evaluation of IPARD Programme 2007-2013", the Evaluation Committee, in the form of a report, made a recommendation for awarding a contract with the bidder. The procurement was concluded with a contract with a company (Project Planning and Management, Sofia, R.Bulgaria) whose bid was evaluated as the most favorable and activities are currently underway to implement the IPARD programme 2007-2013 evaluation itself. This procurement was carried out in a simplified



procedure. After signing the contract with the contractor, kick off meeting was held and experts starts with evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013.

In February, procurement activities for organizing meetings of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee began. The Evaluation Committee, in the form of a report, recommended the award of contract with the bidder. This procurement was carried out through a single tender procedure.

Following the implementation of procurement activities for "Organizing a Workshop on Improving the Implementation of the Technical Assistance Measure" (procurement below 2.500 euros), a workshop was held in Strumica in April 2019. The subject of this workshop were the documents and procedures of the Managing Authority, Unit for Technical Assistance and the IPARD Paying Agency which implement the measure "Technical Assistance". The payment request has been made for this activity. This procurement was carried out under a €2.500 procedure.

Activities for implementation of procurement for translation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020 are ongoing. The tender dossier has been prepared in accordance with the new version of PRAG and is approved and an invitation for the participation on a tender procedure was sent to companies.

### **3. Second Amendment to the Technical Assistance Implementation Plan (APTA 2019)**

After approving the simplified layout of APTA, the Managing Authority, submitted a request for APTA 2019 first modification. The modification was imposed as a need to reflect changes in the APTA form and to insert procurement for:

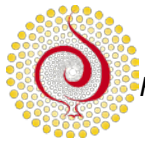
- appropriate system for checking the connection of companies outside the country, which are requesting IPARD funds;
- office supplies needed for the Managing Authority;
- translation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020 and all its modifications;
- services for IPARD Website Maintenance and extension of ipard.gov.mk domain

Bearing in mind the process of adoption of the new APTA template and its first modification, the whole process of implementing APTA 2019 has been slowed down, as the EC has further requested an intervention in the new APTA template, with the aim of inserting a column to explain the type of procurement under the EU PRAG rules. The change was implanted in cooperation with NAO, along with other modifications to the programme that were implemented during October 2019.

For this reason, the need for a second modification of APTA 2019 is being imposed at this time, due to the transfer of part of the unrealized procurements to APTA 2020.

### **4. Planned activities by APTA for 2020**

In accordance with the procedures for implementation of the IPARD Technical Assistance measure, the Technical Assistance Unit within the IPARD Managing Authority is required to prepare an Action Plan for each following year, by 31.11 at the latest, in the current year and should propose it for adoption to the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. Therefore, in accordance with the procedures, the Unit responsible for implementing the Technical Assistance measure, in line with the needs of the IPARD Managing Authority and the departments working on the implementation of the IPARD Programme in AFSARD, developed a draft APTA 2020, which is planned the following activities to be implemented:



- Procurement for organizing the next 6 meetings of the “Monitoring Committee of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020” in the amount of EUR 76.380;
- Procurement for the “IPARD Programme 2014-2020 Publicity Campaign” in the amount of EUR 285.000;
- Procurement related to visits and seminars, amounting to EUR 65.000;
- Procurement of office supplies for the needs of the IPARD Managing Authority, in the amount of EUR 2.400;
- Procurement for the IPARD Programme Evaluation 2014-2020 and Procurement for Organization of Evaluation Steering Groups, totaling EUR 22.400
- Procurement for the Enhance the capacity of the administration engaged in the management, implementation, control, monitoring of TA measure, totaling EUR 20.900;
- Procurement for Improvement and Upgrading of IPARD Programme 2014-2020 monitoring system, totaling 10.500 Euros.
- Procurement for a Workshop to Improve the Implementation of the Measure of Technical Assistance, amounting to EUR 2.450 and
- Engagement of Experts for IPARD III Preparatory Activities - revision of existing measures and LEE in the IPARD II Program and support for programming new measures in the IPARD III Program, totaling 114.000 euros.

All of the above procurements are planned to commence in 2020.

Given that in the past period of implementation of the Technical Assistance measure, the unit has gained the necessary experience and knowledge, proposed APTA 2020 is in a format that is significantly greater than the value, so far implemented, and of importance for the implementation of The IPARD Programme 2014-2020.