



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy  
IPARD Managing Authority  
IPARD II Monitoring Committee

*Draft minutes of the sixth IPARD 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee  
meeting*

*12 December 2019  
Hotel Aleksandar Palace  
Skopje*

## I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Nefrus Celiku - Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee;

### Members present at the IPARD II Monitoring Committee Meeting:

1. Ms. Neda Gruevska - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
2. Ms. Maja Lazareska Joveska - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
3. Mr. Vulnet Arifi - Ministry of Local Self - Government;
4. Ms. Nazmije Idrizi - Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning;
5. Mr. Marjan Kopevski - Ministry of Transport and Communications;
6. Mr. Elgafar Jusufi - National Extension Agency;
7. Ms. Ljiljana Vukovik - Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship of the Republic of North Macedonia;
8. Mr. Igor Tasevski - Economic Chamber of Macedonia;
9. Mr. Ognen Orovchanec - Macedonian Chamber of Commerce;
10. Mr. Sasho Risteski - Macedonian Association of processors;
11. Mr. Sashko Arsov - Food and Veterinary Agency;
12. Ms. Daniela Dimovska - Faculty of agricultural sciences and food – UGD Stip;
13. Mr. Vladimir Petkov - Faculty for Veterinary Medicine;
14. Mr. Zoran Zimbakov - Local self-government units;
15. Mr. Petar Gjorgjievski - Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia;
16. Mr. Vlado Babadzovski - Trade union association of agricultural producers, SPAS;
17. Mr. Sasho Krcoski - Network of young farmers;
18. Mr. Eftim Shaklev - Association of farmers;
19. Mr. Jani Kjuka - „Wines from Macedonia”.

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

1. Mr. Goce Georgievski - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
2. Ms. Mihaela Mihajlovska - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
3. Mr. Refet Amety - Ministry of Culture;
4. Ms. Frosina Pandurska- Dramikjanin - Macedonian ecological group;
5. Ms. Valentina Smiljanov - Chamber of craftsmen;

### Representatives of the European Commission (EC) is an advisory role::

1. Mr.Liam Breslin - Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission ;
2. Mr.Zigo Rutkovskis - Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. European Commission .

### Representatives of the European Delegation::

1. Ms. Margarita Deleva - Delegation of European Union in the Republic of North Macedonia;

2. Mr.Kostas Soupilas - Delegation of European Union in the Republic of North Macedonia;
3. Ms.Virve Vimpari - Delegation of European Union in the Republic of North Macedonia;
4. Mr.Sergej Mihajlov - Delegation of European Union in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Representatives of IPARD structure:

Representative from NAO and MS:

1. Mr. Vlado Karamanolevski - Ministry of Finance;
2. Ms. Aleksandra Nakovska - Ministry of Finance;
3. Aleksandra Simjanoska - Ministry of Finance.

Representatives from IPARD Managing Authority (MA):

1. Mr. Zhivko Brajkovski - Head of IPARD MA;
2. Mr. Viktor Mladenovski - IPARD MA;
3. Ms. Aleksandra Dika - IPARD MA;
4. Ms. Jasmina Hadzhibulic - IPARD MA;
5. Mr. Zlatko Kolevski - IPARD MA;
6. Mr. Oliver Stefanovski - IPARD MA;
7. Mr. Kiril Ristoski - IPARD MA;
8. Ms. Saska Jovanovska Vukjelic - IPARD MA;
9. Mr. Dusko Jakimovski - IPARD MA;
10. Ms. Gordana Smileska - IPARD MA;
11. Ms.Gabriela Petrova - IPARD MA;
12. Mr. Aleksandar Anteski - IPARD MA;
13. Mr.Muhadin Limani - IPARD MA;
14. Mr. Isah Imishti - IPARD MA.

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

1. Mr. Nikolche Babovski - Director of the AFSARD;
2. Avdulj Selam Selami - Deputy Director of the AFSARD.










Results: The Chairperson of the Committee, 19 members and 5 deputy members with voting right (out of a total of 33 members with a right to vote) participated in the meeting. A quorum of 2/3 of the members with a right to vote was achieved to hold the meeting in accordance with the Rules of Procedure article 8 paragraph 3.











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

### For the 6<sup>th</sup> IPARD II Monitoring Committee meeting

No.	Time	Topic	Presented by:	Documents
	09:00	Registration	MA Secretariat	
	09:30 09:45	Confirmation of presence of members/deputies at the meeting and reached quorum to hold the meeting according to the Rules of procedure	MA Secretariat	
1.	09:45 09:50	Opening of the meeting Adoption of the draft Agenda for the sixth meeting of the IPARD 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee (MC)	Chairperson	 Draft Agenda
2.	09:50 10:00	Adoption of the Minutes of the fifth IPARD II MC meeting, held on 21 May 2019	Chairperson	 Final draft minutes
3.	10:00 10:15	Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the fifth IPARD II MC meeting, held on 21 May 2019	MA	 MA report
4.	10:15 10:20	Information on appointments of new members of IPARD II MC	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
5.	10:20 10:30	Information regarding IPA Monitoring Committee meeting held on 30 October 2019	NIPAC	 To be presented at the meeting
6.		Status on implementation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020		
6.1	10:30 10:50	General information about programme / measure implementation on the basis of monitoring indicators, tables	MA	 MA report
6.2	10:50 11:10	Information on the progress of activities of IPARD Agency	IPARD Agency (IA)	 IA report
6.3	11:10 11:30	Information on functioning of the monitoring and control system  Information on the status with the entrustment of budget implementation tasks for measure Rural Public Infrastructure  Information on financial implementation of IPARD and use of interest earned	NAO	 NAO report
	11:30 11:45	Coffee break		
7.		Discussions on modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020		
7.1	11:45 12:00	Information on approved second modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
7.2	12:00 12:15	Discussion on the third modification of the IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 and List of eligible expenditures	MA	 To be presented at the meeting

<b>7.3</b>	12:15 12:30	Preparatory activities for Agro Environmental measures	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>8.</b>		Technical Assistance activities		
<b>8.1</b>	12:30 12:45	Information on the progress of APTA 2019 implementation	MA	 MA report
<b>8.2</b>	12:45 12:55	Adoption of APTA 2019 (modification 2)	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>8.3</b>	12:55 13:10	Adoption of APTA 2020	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>8.4</b>	13:10 13:20	Information on the progress of activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020	MA	 MA report
<b>8.5</b>	13:20 13:40	Adoption of Action Plan for Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for year 2020	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>9.</b>		Information / discussion on results of the on-going evaluation of IPARD Programme		
<b>9.1</b>	13:40 13:50	Information on ex post evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>9.2</b>	13:50 14:00	Information on ongoing evaluation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020	MA	 To be presented at the meeting
<b>10.</b>	14:00 14:20	AOB		 Discussion
<b>11.</b>	14:20 14:30	Proposal for the Agenda of the next seventh IPARD 2014-2020 MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date	Chairperson /European Commission	 Discussion
	14:30	Closure of the meeting	Chairperson	
	14:30 15:30	Lunch break		

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

#### Opening of the meeting

Mr. Liam Breslin, representative of the European Commission, welcomed members of the Monitoring Committee. He noted that 2019 was a challenging year for North Macedonia, as it had to pay EUR 8.7 million by end of the year. Mr. Breslin emphasized that the country would achieve this target if all submitted payment claims would be authorized and paid until 31 December 2019. If done, this would be a historic year as North Macedonia never has paid so high amount under IPARD and avoided de-commitment. It is also historic year as the IPARD Agency paid the largest IPARD amount per project - Podgorka.

Mr. Breslin thanked the Minister and all the responsible authorities – particularly, staff in the IPARD Agency – for achieving this result despite all the challenges and difficulties.

He invited the Government and, particularly, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy together with Ministry of Finance to address the issue of the staff vacancies as soon as possible by filling in the human resource gap and providing constant improvement of their professional knowledge and qualities along with relevant working environment. This has been one of major problems that has significantly affected successful implementation of IPARD Programme so far.

Mr. Breslin emphasized that North Macedonia would now be considered as a country introducing new progressive solutions like elimination of incomplete applications and plans to introduce e-applications, which would make it exemplary in Western Balkans.

At the end of his opening speech, he reminded the MC members that 2020 would be the last year of the current programming period, which would require significant efforts by the national authorities to prepare for IPARD III. In this regards, DG AGRI is happy to see that relevant activities are already foreseen in the Technical Assistance Action plan for 2020. Mr. Breslin assured that the IPARD Unit would provide further assistance in this respect.

#### **1. With reference to point 1 of the agenda: "Adoption of the draft agenda for the sixth (autumn) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020".**

The Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee (IPARD II MC), Mr. Nefrus Celiku opened the sixth meeting of the Committee by welcoming all attendees. He informed the members on the proposed agenda for the sixth meeting of the IPARD MC.

None of the members of the Committee had any remarks regarding the agenda, and the following decision was adopted:

<b>Decision No. 1: IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 adopted the agenda for the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee.</b>
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**2. With reference to point 2 of the agenda: "Adoption of the minutes from the previous fifth (spring) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 held on May 21, 2019"**

The Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 informed that the minutes from the previous meeting of the Monitoring Committee of IPARD 2014-2020 held on 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2019, were sent to the members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, and no comments were submitted to the Secretariat of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 till July 8, 2019 from the members of the Monitoring Committee of IPARD 2014-2020.

The members of the IPARD MC did not have any remarks on the minutes and the following decision was adopted:

**Decision No. 2: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 adopted the minutes of the fifth meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020, held on 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2019, as final.**

**3. With reference to point 3 of the agenda: "Information on the implementation of the decisions /conclusions adopted at the previous fifth (spring) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020"**

The Head of the Managing Authority, Mr. Zhivko Brajkovski, informed on the progress made in the implementation of the decisions/conclusions adopted at the previous meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 as well as on the decisions adopted by written procedure, i.e.:

- Second amendment of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, in the part of the financial plan and financial tables with reallocations of funds for 2019 and 2020;
- Annual Report on the Implementation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for 2018;
- Proposal for first modification of the Action Plan of planned activities with the measure "Technical Assistance" (APTA) for 2019.

Regarding this item, the members of the Committee adopted the following conclusion:

**Conclusion No. 1: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the progress made in implementing the decisions/conclusions of the fourth meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020.**

**4. With reference to point 4 of the agenda: "Information on appointments of new members of IPARD II MC"**

Regarding this item, the Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020, Mr.Nefrus Celiku informed about the new members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020. New members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee are:

- Neda Gruevska - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
- Eftim Shaklev – Association of Farmers;
- Liljana Jonoski - Rural Coalition;

- Jani Kjuka - Association of Producers of Wine Exporters and Other Grape Beverages "Wines from Macedonia".

The following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.2: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on appointments of new members of IPARD II MC.**

**5. With reference to point 4 of the agenda: "Information regarding the IPA Monitoring Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2019"**

Considering that NIPAC representatives were not present at the meeting, point 5 was not presented and there was no discussion or conclusion.

**6. In relation to point 6 of the Agenda: "Status with the implementation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020"**

**6.1. Sub-item 5.1 of the agenda: "General information about programme/measure implementation on the basis of monitoring indicators, tables"**

Regarding this sub-item, the MA representative, Mr.Viktor Mladenovski presented the Annual monitoring report for the implementation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, informing that the main indicators for implementation are with status as of 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019, while the indicators that provide information regarding the type of production or type of investment are with status as of 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. Attendees at the meeting were informed about the implementation of the three measures of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, public calls and etc. The representative of the EC, Mr. Zigo Rutkovskis noted that this was a successful year for the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 and asked for an assessment of the made progress, i.e. identifying in which areas additional support is needed, in order to avoid a situation where some sectors would become more advanced than others.

Regarding the question by the representative of the EC, Mr.Liam Breslin why farmers cannot obtain building/reconstruction permits, the Head of MA Mr. Zivko Brajkovski responded that the basic problem is that rural areas do not have detailed urban plans based on which construction permits are issued. He also pointed out that the Law on Agricultural Land provides a procedure by which MAFWE can issue an approval for any type of construction that is in function of agriculture, as well as for rural tourism. IPARD MA has prepared a guideline explaining how to obtain this license and it will be published on the IPARD website.

Regarding getting a building permit, the representative from Association of Farmers, Mr.Eftim Shaklev, noted that the problem exists since the beginning of the IPARD Programme. Obtaining a building permit for agricultural land and a building permit for construction land were identified as major problems for farmers. For construction land there are other requirements for obtaining a permit, and almost no municipality has developed a detailed urban plan for suburban areas and villages. All this prevents farmers from applying for IPARD because they do not have the basic document: a building permit.



Regarding the question by Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) representative, Ms. Frosina Pandurska Dramikanin, whether subsidies for landscape management (subsidies for local people to breed livestock for pasture on a certain landscape) can be provided under Agro-ecological, EC representative Mr. Liam Breslin responded that IPARD Operating Structure can think in that direction and ask for the issue of permits to be resolved as soon as possible.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.3: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on general information about programme / measure implementation on the basis of monitoring indicators, tables.**

#### **6.2. Sub-item 6.2 of the agenda: "Information on the progress of activities of IPARD Agency"**

The AFSARD representative, Mr. Vangel Nanevski noted that the IPARD Agency has been working intensively in order to avoid de-commitment for 2014, 2015 and 2016 worth € 8,7 million (EU contribution). He presented the data from the Public Call 01/2017 of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020. Concerning Measure 1, 893 contracts were concluded with total EU contribution of 8,3 million €. For Measure 3, 31 contracts have been concluded with a total EU contribution of 4,8 million € and 23 contracts were concluded for Measure 7 with a total EU contribution of 3,22 million €, i.e. total financial amount of 16.000.000 € (EU contribution) only from Public Call 01/2017.

The AFSARD representative, Mr. Vladimir Hristov presented the data regarding the payment. Regarding Public Call 01/2018, 8 payment requests have been processed with total amount of 550.000 € or € 410.000 (EU contribution). Regarding Public Call 01/2017 as of 10.12.2019, 819 applications were approved (regarding the three measures including the Technical Assistance Measure) in total amount of 9,9 million € (EU contribution). 8,3 million € was paid, but the payment will continue and these funds will be paid to all applicants that have received a decision for payment. Regarding Measure 1, 847 payment requests with a total amount of 8,2 million € have been received, 779 requests with 5,7 million EU contribution have been approved for payment. As for Measure 3, 30 payment requests were submitted with a total amount of 6,1 million €. 27 requests were approved with a total amount of 4,1 million € (EU contribution). There are still 3 payment requests that are being processed. Regarding Measure 7, 9 payment requests were submitted, out of which 6 are already approved, totaling 52.000. The value is lower than other measures as it is an investment in beekeeping. Contracts worth 3,2 million euros (EU share) have been concluded.

The representative from AFSARD, Mr. Vangel Nanevski presented the results of other public calls. Regarding the first Public Call for Measure 3, 37 contracts have been concluded (3 more are expected to be concluded by the end of 2019). The current financial support is in total amount of 4,8 million €, and the remaining 3, around 3 million €. Regarding the second Public Call in 2018, 1.099 applications were received, 403 were rejected, and 371 contracts were concluded with total amount of 2.500.000 € (EU contribution). The first public call for Measure 7 in 2019 lasted 60 days. 261 applications were received with a total requested financial support of 43,8 million €. 18 applications have been rejected due to incomplete applications. He also announced a public call for Measure 3 by

the end of 2019, and Measure 1, in the second half of January 2020. Attendees at the meeting were informed about the modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, which provides processing only complete applications.

Responding to question raised by Mr. Z.Rutkovskis on quality of project applications since the decision on refusal of empty/incomplete applications, Mr. V.Nanevski informed that the overall quality of the applications has improved. This would reduce time required for assessment and signing project contracts.

Mr. Z.Rutkovskis raised attention of the MC members to the issue of staff capacity at the IPARD Agency, which prevents from even better results in IPARD implementation and might lead to burnout of current employees. He invited the MC members as IPARD stakeholders jointly to raise attention of the responsible Government authorities to the issue.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.4: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the progress of activities of IPARD Agency.**

**6.3. Sub-item 6.3 of the agenda: "Information on functioning of the monitoring and control system"**

**"Information on the status with the entrustment of budget implementation tasks for measure Rural Public Infrastructure"**

**"Information on financial implementation of IPARD and use of interest earned"**

The NAO representative, Ms. Aleksandra Simjanoska, informed the Committee regarding the management and control system of IPARD.

She proposed that projections for announcement of Public Calls or payments should be submitted to NAO, as part of the Operation Structure, after appropriate processing and consultation of all concerned parties involved. She also asked for accuracy of projections.

In order to facilitate the accurate determination of the required number of employees, which affects the speed and quality of the processing of applications and the approval of payment requests at a later stage, it was suggested that AFSARD and NAO refer only on sectors directly related to application processing and payment requirements in their Workload Analysis.

The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was also informed regarding the verification visits by NAO, the internal audits carried out during 2019 by the Internal Audit Department within each institution.

Regarding this sub-item, members of the MC adopted the following conclusion:

**Conclusion No.5: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on functioning of the monitoring and control system.**

**7. With reference to point 7 of the agenda: "Discussions on modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020"**

### **7.1 Sub-item 7.1 of the agenda: "Information on approved second modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020"**

The MA representative, Mr. Aleksandar Anteski informed about the second modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020. The reason for the second modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 is the prolonged accreditation of the measure "Rural Public Infrastructure", as well as the increased risk of de-commitment. Therefore, funds from this measure were allocated to Measure 7 and Measure 3.

Regarding this sub-item, members of the MC adopted the following conclusion:

**Conclusion No.6: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the second modification of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020.**

### **7.2 Sub-item 7.2 of the agenda: "Discussion on the third modification of the IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 and List of eligible expenditures"**

The MA representative, Mr. Aleksandar Anteski informed that in order for successful implementation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, a third modification of the Programme is planned in the upcoming period. It foresees increasing total eligible expenditure for proposed projects from 3.000 € to 10.000 € in denar equivalent and introduction of new measures in the IPARD Programme 2014-2020:

- „Agri-environment-climate and organic farming” measure;
- „Advisory services” measure;
- „Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER Approach” measure.

The EC representative, Mr.Zigo Rutkovski pointed out that the proposal for third modification proposal is acceptable in principle. He raised attention of the MC members to importance of having common understanding among all national authorities and the MC members that the introduced measures do not guarantee their implementation under IPARD II – due to lack of the staff in the IPARD Agency,- but would rather serve as a preparation for IPARD III.

Mr. Z.Rutkovskis invited the MA to consult the Audit Authority in order to overcome certain discrepancies and delimitations between Measure 1, Measure 3 and Measure 7 related to the criteria that define the eligibility of investments under Annex 1 of the EU Treaty, in order to improve comprehensibility of the program document.

Regarding this sub-item, the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 adopted the following conclusion:

**Conclusion No.7: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the third modification of the IPARD II Programme 2014-2020 and List of eligible expenditures.**

### **7.3 Sub-item 7.2 of the agenda: "Preparatory activities for Agro Environmental measure"**

The MA representative, Mr. Aleksandar Anteski informed about the preparatory activities for Agro Environmental measure. Regarding activities that already have been undertaken, he noted that with the support of an EU funded project (EuropeAid/129386/C/SER/MK) "Development and Implementation of Agri-environment Measures" in 2010, documents/procedures have been drafted:

- Agri-environment programme;
- Working procedures in AFSARD;
- Memorandum of understanding (MoU);
- Proposals for amending Law on Agriculture and RD;
- System for sanctions (and all the necessary documentation needed for accreditation of the measure).

Considering that these documents were prepared many years ago, it is necessary to update them in accordance with the needs of harmonization with the legislation and the defined national strategic needs.

Regarding planned/future activities, he pointed out that a study visit to the Republic of Turkey is planned, in order to gain the necessary experience in programming, control, implementation and financial management of agri-environmental measures. Consequently, the operating structure for IPARD (MA, AFSARD and NAO/NF) would start with preparation and updating all the necessary accreditation documents in order to introduce the measure in IPARD Programme and its successful implementation.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.8: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on preparatory activities for Agro Environmental measure.**

#### **8. With reference to point 8 of the agenda: "Technical Assistance activities"**

##### **Sub-item 8.1 of the agenda: "Information on the progress of APTA 2019 implementation"**

The MA representative, Mr. Kiril Ristoski informed about the undertaken and future activities of APTA for 2019. Bearing in mind the lengthy 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 implemented in cooperation with NAO, along with other modifications to the Programme that were implemented during October 2019.

For this reason, a 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.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.9: IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the progress of APTA 2019 implementation.**

## **8.2 Sub-item 8.1 of the agenda: "Adoption of APTA 2019 (modification 2)"**

The MA representative, Mr. Kiril Ristoski presented the changes of 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.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Decision No.3: IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 adopted the APTA 2019 (version 2).**

## **8.3 Sub-item 8.3 of the agenda: "Adoption of APTA 2020"**

The MA representative, Mr. Kiril Ristoski presented the activities foreseen in the APTA for 2020 i.e.:

- Procurement for organizing the next 6 meetings of the "Monitoring Committee of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020";
- Procurement for the "IPARD Programme 2014-2020 Publicity Campaign";
- Procurement related to visits and seminars;
- Procurement of office supplies for the needs of the IPARD Managing Authority;
- Procurement for the IPARD Programme Evaluation 2014-2020 and Procurement for Organization of Evaluation Steering Groups;
- Procurement for the Enhance the capacity of the administration engaged in the management, implementation, control, monitoring of TA measure;
- Procurement for Improvement and Upgrading of IPARD Programme 2014-2020 monitoring system;
- Procurement for a Workshop to Improve the Implementation of the Measure of Technical Assistance;
- Engagement of Experts for IPARD III Preparatory Activities - revision of existing measures and LEE in the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 and support for programming new measures in the IPARD III Programme.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Decision No.4: Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 reviewed and adopted the APTA for 2020.**

#### **8.4 Sub-item 8.4 of the agenda: "Information on the progress of activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020"**

The MA representative, Ms. Saska Jovanovska – Vukelic, informed about the activities within the Publicity Campaign for the IPARD Programme 2014-2020, foreseen in the Annual Action Plan for Publicity and Communication of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for 2019. She presented the realized activities as well as the future planned activities regarding communication and publicity for 2019.

EC representatives expressed their approval with the undertaken publicity activities, noting that this is another area with outstanding results.

In response to the question by EC representative Mr. Liam Breslin whether successful IPARD projects are published on IPARD website, MA representatives Mr. Alexandar Anteski and Mr. Zivko Brajkovski answered that successful IPARD projects were presented during the info days. They will also be published on the IPARD website.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.10: The IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on the progress of activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020.**

#### **8.5 Sub-item 8.5 of the agenda: "Adoption of Action Plan for Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for year 2020"**

The MA representative, Ms. Saska Jovanovska – Vukelic presented the activities foreseen in the Action Plan for Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for year 2020. The Action Plan for Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for year 2020 envisages:

- Organization of IPARD info days by promoting successful examples;
- IPARD forums for more successful implementation of IPARD Programme 2014 - 2020;
- IPARD workshops for preparation of IPARD applications;
- Appearances/articles in written and electronic media;
- Publishing the list of final beneficiaries of funds under the IPARD Programme 2014-2020;
- Preparation and distribution of applications for use of funds and guidelines devoted to the IPARD Programme 2014-2020;
- Preparation and distribution of brochures dedicated to the promotion of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020;
- Preparation of posters for promotion of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020;
- Audio and video clips;
- Update the web site [www.ipard.gov.mk](http://www.ipard.gov.mk).

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Decision No.5: Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 reviewed and adopted the Action Plan for Communication and Publicity of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 for year 2020.**

**9. With reference to point 9 of the agenda: "Information/discussion on results of the on-going evaluation of IPARD Programme"**

**9.1 Sub-item 9.1 of the agenda: "Information on ex post evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013"**

The MA representative, Mr. Aleksandar Anteski presented the undertaken activities regarding ex post evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013. The purpose of the ex-post evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013 is to evaluate:

- Level of resource utilization;
- Efficiency and effectiveness;
- Socio economic impact and
- Impact on defined priorities.

Mr. Anteski informed that the activities for ex-post evaluation of IPARD 2007-2013 are ongoing and in final stage. Independent evaluator contracted using Measure 9 assistance, to prepare and submit to MA first draft of the Final Ex-Post Evaluation Report. Even though activities under the contract and evaluation of IPARD Programme 2007-2013 are well advanced and underway, the MA shall request extension to the EC services (DG AGRI) in order to receive high quality report which will particularly assist within the next programming period by the end of April 2020.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.11: IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed on ex post evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013.**

**9.2 Sub-item 9.1 of the agenda: "Information on ongoing evaluation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020"**

The representative from MA, Mr. Aleksandar Anteski, informed about the on-going evaluation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020. The following were identified as obstacles to the implementation of the evaluation activities:

- Lack of human capacities in terms of evaluation activities;
- Delayed data submission by the IPARD Agency;
- Manual data processing in the IPARD Agency;
- Incompatible data regarding the implementation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020.

The Head of MA, Mr. Zivko Brajkovski expressed his gratitude to the Delegation of the European Union in Republic of North Macedonia and the cooperation with IPARD Agency for the development of the future software, where MA is planned to have access to read-only data regarding the

implementation of the measures of the Programme and use the data for monitoring and evaluation purposes. He also noted that a significant part of the identified weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation system will be overcome with the help of this software.

Regarding this sub-item, the following conclusion was adopted:

**Conclusion No.12: IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 was informed about the ongoing evaluation of IPARD Programme 2014-2020.**

**10. With reference to point 11 of the Agenda: "AOB"**

The EC representative, Mr. Liam Breslin, proposed for the next IPARD Monitoring Committee, to add an item to the agenda regarding the IPARD Programme 2021-2027. The proposal was accepted by the Head of MA, Mr. Zivko Brajkovski, noting that it is the goal of the IPARD MC, to provide positive guidance to MA, IPARD Agency and all IPARD structures in order to improve the successful implementation of the IPARD Programme.

**11. With reference to point 11 of the Agenda: "Proposal for the Agenda of the next seventh IPARD 2014-2020 MC meeting/agreement on indicative new date"**

Regarding point 11 of the Agenda, the Chairperson informed on the draft agenda for the seventh meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020. He proposed the date for the next seventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee to be agreed in accordance with the availability of the representatives of the European Commission.

The Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee closed the meeting and declared it as successful.

<b>FOR THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>FOR THE SECRETARIAT:</b>
<b>Nefrus Çeliku</b>	<b>Zhivko Brajkovski</b>
Title: Chairperson	Title: Head of IPARD Managing Authority
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:



**Appendix 1: List of present members (or their deputies) at the meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee 2014-2020**

No.	Name of member	Institution	Present	Present (deputy member)	Deputy	Number of absences
1.	Nefrus Cheliku	MAFWE	√			
<b>Government institutions</b>						
2.	Neda Gruevska	MAFWE	√			0
3.	Nikica Bachovski	MAFWE		√	Mihaela Mihajlovska	0
4.	Maja Lazareska Joveska	MAFWE	√			0
5.	Andrijana Velevska	MAFWE		√	Goce Georgievski	0
6.	Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkovski	SEA	/	/	/	1
7.	Marina Arsovska	Ministry of Economy	/	/	/	1
8.	Vulnet Arifi	Ministry of Local Self – Government	√			0
9.	Avzi Demiri	Ministry of Culture		√	Refet Ameti	0
10.	Nazmije Idrizi	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	√			0
11.	Marjan Kopevski	Ministry of Transport and Communications	√			0
12.	Dushan Tomshikj	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy				2
13.	Sashko Arsov	Food and Veterinary Agency	√			0
<b>Agencies</b>						
14.	Elgafar Jusufi	NEA	√			0
15.	Ljiljana Vukovikj	Agency for support of entrepreneurship	√			0
<b>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS</b>						
16.	Igor Tasevski	Macedonian Chamber of Commerce	√			0
17.	Ognen Orovchanec	Agrobiz Chamber at the Association of Chambers of Commerce of RM	√			0
18.	Sasho Risteski	Macedonian Association of processors	√			0

19.	Asen Dukovski	Association of farmers	/	/	/	1
20.	Zoran Zimbakov	Local self-government units	√			0
21.	Ana Kotevska	Faculty of agricultural sciences and food	/	/	/	2
22.	Agron Fazliji	Chamber of craftsmen		√	Valentina Smiljanov	0
23.	Daniela Dimovska	Faculty of agricultural sciences and food – UGD Stip	√			0
24.	Marina Toshevska	Agro - LIDER	/	/	/	1
25.	Petar Gjorgjievski	Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia	√			0
26.	Vladimir Petkov	Faculty for Veterinary Medicine	√			0
27.	Sasho Krcoski	Network of young farmers	√			0
28.	Vlado Babadzovski	Trade union association of agricultural producers, SPAS "	/	/	/	1
29.	Gordana Lozanovska Stefanovska	LAG Pelagonija	/	/	/	2
30.	Natalija Melovska	Macedonian ecological group		√	Frosina Pandurska Dramikjanin	0
31.	Liljana Jonoski	Rural Coalition	/	/	/	1
32.	Eftim Shaklev	Association of farmers	√			0
33.	Jani Kjuka	Wines from Macedonia	√			0
TOTAL:			19	5		

## Appendix 2: Checklist for presence of observers from IPARD Monitoring Committee

Ms. Stefani Arsovska - Cabinet of the President of the Government of the Republic North Macedonia;  
Ms. Natasha Vrteska- Local self-government units;  
Ms. Zeljka Gudelj- MAFWE.

### Representatives of the State Audit Office (Audit Authority)

Mr.Zoran Ristovski - Audit Authority;  
Ms.Mimoza Shishkovska - Audit Authority.

### Representatives of ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS:

Mr. Vladimir Hristov - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Vangel Nanevski - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Panche Arsov - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Ms. Svetlana Ristevska - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Kjamil Sulejmani - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Igor Stojmenoski - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Ms. Marija Aleksikj - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Ivan Despotovski - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Ms. Verica Pavloska - Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;  
Mr. Ljulzim Fejzulai - Public Enterprise for Pasture;  
Ms. Katerina Hadzi Naumova - Institute of Economics, UKIM, Skopje;  
Ms. Elizabeta Angeleska – Association of agricultural schools.