REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

IPARD Monitoring Committee

Minutes No. **13**

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee

05 December, 2013/ Parliamentarian Club

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I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee, Zoran Konjanovski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE)

The Secretariat of the IPARD Monitoring Committee was presented by: Acting Head of Department for management of EU's preaccession funds for rural development (IPARD), Ms. Biljana Kostovska and Secretary of the IPARD Monitoring Committee, Ms. Vasilka Tamburkova, Advisor for monitoring of the implementation of IPARD funds and reporting.

Members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee and representatives/ deputy members:

1. **Abdilgafar Sinani, Head of the Agriculture Department**, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.
2. **Zivko Brajkoski, Head of the Department of fruit growing, viticulture and wine production ,** Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.
3. **Igor Zlatkov, Director,** National Extension Agency of Republic of Macedonia, (NEA).
4. **Saso Ristevski, Secretary,** Macedonian Association of Processors.
5. **Andrija Sekuloski, President,** Federation of Farmers of the Republic of Macedonia.
6. **Natasa Vrteska, Legal Advisor,** Association of the Local self-government Units.
7. **Veljo Tantarov, President,** Association of Farmers of Macedonia.
8. **Robertina Brajanoska, Executive Director,** Macedonian Ecological Society.
9. **Ljubisa Nikolovski, Head of Sector,** Coordination and institutional support, Agency for Support of Entrepreneurship of Republic of Macedonia.
10. **Ognen Orovcanec, President,** Union of Chambers of Commerce of the Republic of Macedonia.
11. **Snezana Gerasimova Matevska, Advisor,** Ministry of Culture.
12. **Olga Stoimenova, President,** Association of Women-farmers „Agro-Vinka", Vinica.
13. **Olivija Shterjova, Director,** Craft Chamber of Republic of Macedonia.
14. **Eftim Saklev, President,** Association of Farmers.

Deputy members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee:

1. **Katerina Ivanovska, stand-in for the member Mrs.Valentina Stojanovic-Tufa,** Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water economy.
2. **Ana Kotevska , stand-in for the member Mr. Dragi Dimitrievski,** Dean, Faculty for Agricultural Science and Food.
3. **Zuica Zmejkovska , stand-in for the member Mrs. Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkova,** Secretariat for European Affairs.
4. **Memet Adzami, stand-in for the member Mrs. Ardiana Abazi – Ramadani,** Ministry of Economy.
5. **Rahim Musliu, stand-in for the member Mrs. Slavica Jakimovska,** Ministry of Local Self-Government.

Results: The Chairperson and 14 members and 5 deputy members with voting right (out of 24 members with voting rights) were present at the meeting. Therefore, the quorum_of ¾ of members with voting right (or deputy memebers) of the meeting was in accordance with the Rules of Procedure Article 9, paragraph 4.

Representatives from the EU in advisory role:

- **Werner Schiessl,** Directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri) .
- Representatives from the EU Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia.

- **Dimitar Malinovski,** Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia.
- **Olivier Mas,** Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia.

Representatives of the IPARD structure:

Representatives of National Authorising Officer (NAO) and National Fund (NF):

- **Aleksandra Simjanovska , Head of unit,** National Fund, Ministry of Finance.

Representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority (IPARD MA)

- **Viktor Mladenovski,** Senior Associate, Unit for monitoring of IPARD funds and reporting
- **Mladen Kolarik,** Head of Unit for monitoring of IPARD funds and reporting

- **Stojan Gacov,** Head of Unit for Programming and Evaluation of IPARD funds,
- **Jasmina Hadzibulik,** Junior Associate, Unit for monitoring of IPARD funds and reporting .

- **Muhadin Limani,** Junior Associate, Unit for Programming and Evaluation of IPARD funds.
- **Igor Agoski,** Head of Unit for Technical assistant
- **Zlatko Kolevski,** Associate, Unit for Technical assistance.
- **Oliver Stefanovski,** Junior associate, Unit for Technical assistance.
- **Angel Karapetrov,** Junior associate, Unit for Technical assistance.

Representatives of the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD Agency):

- **Toni Dimovski, Director,** Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD Agency).
- **Maja Brajovik, Head of sector,** Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD Agency).
- **Biljana Vukovik, Head of sector,** Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD Agency).

The Attendance Checklist of the members on the IPARD MC meetings is presented as **Appendix 1** *to this document.*

The Attendance List of Observers is presented in ***Appendix 2*** *to this document*

Results: The Chairperson and 14 members and 5 deputy members with voting right (out of 24 members with voting rights) were present at the meeting. Therefore, the quorum was reached and decisions could be taken.

II. AGENDA

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

1. In relation to item 1 of the Agenda: "Opening of the meeting / Approval of the Draft Agenda for the 13th IPARD MC meeting".

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the IPARD Monitoring Committee by welcoming all present participants at the meeting and the representatives of the European Commission (EC). The President referred to the Draft Agenda of the meeting and opened a discussion regarding the proposed items.

After the completion of the discussion , the Chairman adopted the following decision:

Decision No 1:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee approved the Agenda on the (13th) thirteenth *(autumn) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee.*

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

2. In relation to item 2 of the Agenda: " Adoption of the Minutes of the 12th IPARD MC meeting, held on 29en of May, 2013"

The Chairman informed the members that the Draft Meeting Minutes of the 12th meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee (held on 29 May 2013) was submitted for commenting to all members of the Committee and the present representatives of the European Commission. He informed that the remarks given by the representatives of the European Commission are taken into account and included in the proposed Draft Meeting Minutes.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following :

Decision No. 2:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee adopted the draft Minutes of the 12th twelfth (autumn) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee, May 29, 2013, as final.

The adopted Minutes is presented in ***Annex 2.***

3. In relation to item 3 of the Agenda: " Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the 12th IPA MC meeting".

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Tamburkova informed on the progress in the implementation of decisions/conclusions adopted at the 12th meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee held on 29th May 2013.

The director of the IPARD Agency - Dimovski informed about the conclusion No.6 that the list of most frequent mistakes made while applying for the IPARD funds is posted on the website of the IPARD Agency and is inserted in the report of the IPARD Agency. Dimovski (IPARD Agency) noted that the most common mistakes are overcome by simplifying the application procedure and things will continue in that direction by taking steps to eliminate errors in the application phase.

In the absence of discussion, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No. 1:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on the progress made in implementation of the decision/conclusion from the 12th IPARD Monitoring Committee held on 29th May 2013.

Progress Report on the Decisions/Conclusions taken on the 12th (spring) IPARD MC held on the 29th of May, 2013 is presented in **Annex 3.**

4. In relation to item 4 of the Agenda: "Feedback from the IPA Monitoring Committee 2013."

The representative of the SEA - Zmejkova informed on the activities of the NIPAC Secretariat and the next IPA Committee, which will be held on 06.12.2013, where all five components will be discussed and specific decisions will be presented on how to continue work in the next year.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No. *2:*
The IPARD Monitoring Committe was informed about the upcoming IPA Monitoring Committee

5. In relation to item 5 of the Agenda: "State of play of implementation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013"

5.1. In relation to item 5.1 of the Agenda: " Presentation of the results of the IPARD Programme via monitoring indicators/data "

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Mladenovski, informed about the current results of implementation of the IPARD Programme and realization of the Programme objectives based on a report from the period May 2013-October 2013.

The following discussion took place regarding item 5.1:

EC Representative- Schiessl , proposed that information on the current evaluation of the IPARD Programme should be added to the report and that the evaluation should be initiated as soon as possible because it is an obligation prescribed by the Sectoral

Agreement between the EC and RM. The representative of the association of farmers Shaklev asked how much the funds available from the EC.

The Representative of NAO - Simjanovska upon the question of Shaklev (Association of farmers), explained that with the financial allocations for 2007-2013 for IPARD, there are around 60 million Euros available.

EC Representative - Schiessl (EC), informed that so far, out of the 60 million Euros, that are available to R, EC has paid RM 12 million Euros,
After the completion of the discussion, the following was adopted:

Conclusion No. 3:
The IPARD Monitoring Committe has reviewed the results of the implementation of the IPARD Programme through indicators and data for monitoring the programme.

Semi-annual report for monitoring the implementation of the IPARD Programme for the period May 2013 – December 2013 is presented in Annex 4.

5.2. In relation to item 5.2 of the Agenda: " Report on approved/rejected projects "

The representative of the IPARD Agency-Vukovic, informed about the last 8th public call and the difficulties faced by the IPARD Agency in the process of project approval and approval of payment requests, as well as actions taken to improve the implementation of the IPARD Programme 2007 -2013 in the sense of strengthening the control system. She reported on the list of most common errors made when applying for the IPARD Programme:

- Incomplete application files even upon submission of additional documents.

- For investment over 10.000 Euros, the most common reason for rejection are inadequate offers, i.e., offers with capital, commercial or family relations.

- Starting an investment prior to signing the Contract for financial support with AFSARD.- Non-eligible investments in accordance with the IPARD Program.- Applicant that are non-eligible size.

- Non-eligible candidates in compliance with production capacity criteria.

- The eligible amount of the investment for co-financing is below the minimum amount predicted in the IPARD Program.
The following discussion took place regarding item 5.2:

The representative of FFRM - Sekulovskireported on the ongoing problems that farmers have when applying for the IPARD Programme and implementation of an approved project that is related to the natural timing for crop and livestock production. He discussed the problems on financing the projects and proposed a permanent open public call for application under the IPARD Programme.

The director of the IPARD Agency - Dimovski explained that as part of the solution to the problems pointed out by Sekulovski, the applicants can apply under the Programme for Rural Development, which would be more suitable for projects related to crop and livestock production. Regarding the proposal of the FFRM representative, Dimovski pointed out that the IPARD Agency announces an average of three public calls annually, which covers the whole calendar year, but in spite of this, the option for a permanent open public call remains open and the possibilities for its implementation are analyzed.

The representative of MAP –Ristovski, talked about the difficulties that applicants have due to the rule of three independent offers and their comparability, on which he expressed his opinion that this is unnecessary and that it is necessary to tolerate a certain percentage of difference of comparability of offers.

The director of the IPARD Agency - Dimovski confirmed that the rule of three independent offers is a major problem for the applicants and explained that the IPARD Agency has made a database of reference prices, a type of tool that provides the possibility for modifications, simplification and facilitation of the whole process, and all this is shared with the representatives of the European Commission, from where a positive response is expected to delete the rule of three offers.

The representative of the (Association of farmers, Shaklev, asked whether this means that there is no need any more to ask for the ownership structure of the bidders and is there a possibility for the applicants to additionally submit documents within the deadlines defined by the IPARD Agency.

The director of the IPARD Agency – Dimovski, responded that a document for the ownership structure will continue to be a requirement, and regarding the additional period for submission of the required documents, he replied that this is already regulated in accordance with the working procedures of the IPARD Agency.

The Representativeof the Association of Farmers of Macedonia-Tantarov, asked about the size of the land should be possessed by the applicant in order to be eligible for tractor, and whether there is an option to apply also for combines.

Regarding the question of the representative of the Association of Farmers of Macedonia, Dimovski (IPARD Agency) responded that one can apply under measure 302, the sub-measure for "machine rings".

EC Representative – Schiessel, added that the sub-measure "machine rings" is a good opportunity for obtaining combines because it provides an opportunity to implement major investments by joining resources. He noted that the combines are not included in the green or cereal sector, because the sector analysis showed that the green sector is very competitive and this program is developed for sectors where aid is needed most.

After the completion of the discussion, the following was adopted:

Conclusion no.4:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the monitoring of the IPARD Programme projects

Project follow up report for the IPARD Programme is presented in Annex *5.*

5.3. In relation to item 5.3 of the Agenda: " Information on the de-commitment of 2010 funds "

The representative of NAO, Simjanovska ,informed on the decommitment of IPARD funds for 2010, as well as on the possibilities for losing the funds for 2011. Taking into consideration the aforementioned incentives of the IPARD Programme, the fourth modification, the rule of three offers and the amendments of the Sectoral Agreement, noted that there is a possibility that the losses be smaller than predicted.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion no.5:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the possibility for de-commitment of the 2010 IPARD funds.

5.4 In relation to item 5.4 of the Agenda: "Action Plan for improving the absorption"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority, Kostovska, informed on the progress of implementation of the Action Plan to increase absorption, pointing to the changes being made in the administrative capacities in NEA and other IPARD structures, changes of the IPARD programme, which positively affected the 8th public call where the number of received applications was 402, as well as the introduction of new measures in the IPARD Programme.

The Director of NEA, Zlatkov gave a more detailed information about the organization of NEA and the activities undertaken by NEA advisors in order to improve the number of applicants.

The representative of ZELS, Vrteska, requested for more information on the measure for rural infrastructure and proposed a better cooperation of the IPARD MA with ZELS.

The representative of FFRM Sekuloski, proposed to make a unified manual for IPARD and increase the level of awareness among the beneficiaries.

The Director of the IPARD Agency Dimovski ,answered to Sekulovski (FFRM) and explained that detailed guidelines per IPARD measures have been prepared and are already in use.

The representative of SEA, Zmejkova ,informed that, in reference to the rural infrastructure measure, it has been agreed with the European Commission and the World Bank that the majority of the funds from 2013, which are around 18 million euros, be transferred to Component I, that is, in the budget of RM, and are operated through World Bank projects, as grants to municipalities. She noted that these funds should begin to be used from 2014.

After the completion of the discussion, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No.6:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the Action Plan for absorption improvement.

6. In relation to item 6 of the Agenda: " Information on the V-th Modification of the IPARD Programme (modification of financial tables)"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority, Kostovska, informed that the fifth modification of the Programme 2007-2013 was approved on November 21 , 2013 at the EU Rural Development Committee, and the official decision is expected by the end of 2013. Kostovska informed that the fifth modification refers to the financial tables in the IPARD Programme 2007-2013, i.e. introduction of allocation of funds for 2013. She explained that the original allocation was 20 million Euros, however in order to help the rural infrastructure, it was decided together with the European Commission (Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development and DG Enlargement) that the funds from IPARD to be transferred to the first IPA component, where through the World Bank, the Rural Infrastructure Program will be implemented.

The representative of the Association of farmers, Shaklev, requested information about the possible restrictions for the rural infrastructure measure.

The President explained that the terms and conditions for this measure will be known upon accreditation of the measure.

The representative of MES, Brajanovska, expressed concern for the environment, fragmentation of the natural habitats of the endangered species and pointed to its protection with greater involvement of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

The President clarified that no infrastructure facility in the country can be built without a study report of the influence on the environment, which means that there will be protection in that respect.

The representative of EU Delegation, Maes informed that the final decision on transferring the financial funds for rural infrastructure will be made in Brussels, by the end of December. Of these 18 million Euros, 16 will be used for rural infrastructure, and the other 2 will be used for pilot projects for small-scale irrigation. Sixteen million Euros will be implemented through the World Bank and there will be many activities in consultation with all stakeholders. So far, the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank primarily worked with the large urban municipalities, and now this money is intended for rural municipalities that are generally smaller and with smaller capacities.

6.1 . In relation to item 6.1. of the Agenda: " Approval of the VI-th Modification of the IPARD Programme"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority, Troshanski,informed that the VIth modification of the IPARD Programme is mainly aimed at facilitating the work of the IPARD Agency, particularly in the Sector for project approval. Troshanski emphasized the role of all members of the Committee, , the Association of Farmers, Federation of Farmers, Processors' Association, and all potential beneficiaries of this support, as carriers of initiatives and guidelines for improving the absorption of funds.

The Chairman added that everyone should be creators of a better Programme and there is a possibility to submit suggestions at any time for improving the Programme. He also pointed out that the IPARD Managing Authority should intensify the contacts with Chambers and the Associations through dialogue in order to determine the actual needs and to be recorded in a particular modification and enhancement of the Programme, if they comply with the European rules.

EC Representative Schiessl, explained that the proposed modifications are substantial and that a little more time will be needed for approval by the EC. He asked for an explanation of section 3.2 Investment in game, where the term professional hunters is given. The Chairman proposed that a detailed and accurate answer to this question to be given in the further communication.

After the completion of the discussion, the Chairman adopted the following:

Decision No. 3:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was reviewed and adopted of the proposal for VI modification of the IPARD Programme and authorised the Managing Authority to undertake all necessary activities for preparation of the technical documents and to carry out the necessary adjustments for the process of adoption of the proposal from the EC.

Proposal for VI modification of the IPARD Programme is presented in ***Annex 6.***

7. In relation to item 7 of the Agenda: "Information on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD"

The representative of NAO- Simjanovska, informed on the authority of the institutions for management and control of IPARD and activities to overcome the weaknesses determined during the operation, reduction of risks and their closure, as well as certain irregularities and their correction.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No. 7:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD..

Information regarding the effective functioning of the management and control system under IPARD presented in ***Annex 7.***

8. In relation to item 8 of the Agenda: "Technical assistance activities"
In relation to item 8.1 of the Agenda: "Progress on accreditation of the Measures 501 - Technical Assistance in 2013"

The representative of NAO- Simjanovska , informed that the Ministry of Finance submitted the latest comments of the accreditation package, which are implemented and there is an announcement by the EC that towards the middle of next year, there will be a mission for evaluation of the readiness of the structure to implement the measure 501- **Technical assistance**. She noted that they hope that next year the Managing Authority can fully use the funds available from measure 501 Technical Assistance.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No. 8:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the progress of the accreditation of Measure 501, Technical Assistance, from the IPARD Programme.

The Report on the progress of accreditation of the Measure for Technical Assistance from the IPARD Program *2007-2013 is presented in* ***Annex 8.***

8.2. In relation to item 8.2. of the Agenda: " Approval of the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2014"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Stefanovski, informed about the planned activities for the Annual Action Plan for implementation of the measure for Technical Assistance for 2014

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Decision No. 4:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee reviewed and approved the Annual Action Plan for implementation of the measure for Technical Assistance for 2014

The Annual Action Plan for implementation of the measure for Technical Assistance for 2014 *is presented in* ***Annex 9.***

9. In relation to item 9 of the Agenda: " Information on the progress on the activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the Programme."

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Gacov, informed on the progress in the implementation of communication and publicity in 2013 by summarizing the undertaken activities.

The Chairman added that a strong campaign has been started for use of the IPARD funds through the national and local television stations, radio and print media, financed by the national budget.

The Director of the IPARD Agency- Dimovski , informed about the publicity activities of the IPARD Agency and presented statistical data on the number and types of contacts with final beneficiaries.

The representative of FFRM- Sekulovski, added that there is a possibility to increase the awareness for the IPARD Programme of interested beneficiaries through the FFRM website.

After the completion of the discussion, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion No. 9:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the progress of the activities regarding the implementation of communication and publicity of the IPARD Programme for the period May 2012 - December 2013 by the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency.

Report on the progress of implementation of the Annual Action Plan for communication and publicity

for *2013, May 2013 – December 2013, is presented in* ***Annex 10.***

9.1. In relation to item 9.1 of the Agenda: " Approval of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2014"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Gacov informed on the Annual Communication Plan for 2014.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

Decision No. 5:

The IPARD Monitoring Committee reviewed and approved the Annual Communication Plan for 2014.

The Annual Communication Plan for 2014 is presented in **Annex *11.***

10. In relation to item 10 of the Agenda: " Progress on preparation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020"

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Gacov informed that IPARD MA, upon receipt of the rules and the list of 11 available measures by the EC, started the preparation of the new IPARD Programme. Besides the already accredited measures, for the new programming period, the following measures are also available: the agro-environmental measures, the measure for support of establishment of a group of producers, the establishment of forest protection, development of rural infrastructure, development and implementation of the strategy for local economic development, i.e. the LEADER approach, improvement of training, as well as a new measure for advisory services. There is an ongoing update of data with other departments and the groups in the Ministry of Agriculture, which are composed of members of educational and scientific institutions, chambers and associations of farmers, and this will enable finalization of the draft version. The material will be delivered to all members, who can also participate in its creation with their suggestions and comments, before being sent to the EC.

According to Ristovski (MAP), the cooperation should be formalized and a timeframe should be given for review and provision of suggestions on the draft version of the new programming period.

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Gacov, responded that upon finalization, the draft version will be forwarded to all stakeholders, and meetings and appointments are also planned.

The representative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Kostovska (explained that generally the measures remain the same. The accredited measures remain and there will be an opportunity to introduce new ones. A request from the production sectors will be needed for the new measures, as well as analysis for supporting those requests. Kostovska noted that the members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee have not yet submitted written proposals and analyzes for the new Programme.

The representative of Association of Farmers of Macedonia - Tantarov, informed that the sub-sector groups in the Ministry basically don't function because a suitable way was not found to cover the travel expenses of the members. In reference to this, Kostovska pointed out that we have an understanding of the problem and that we are looking at legal possibilities to overcome this, but yet suggested that it is in the interest of all to have a quality Programme that corresponds to the conditions and demands of the farmers.

The representative of FFRM, Sekulovski , added that direct contacts should be established with authorized persons in the institutions, which will facilitate the communication and increase the efficiency. Schuessel (EC) explained that the Programme is also important in terms of environment, which needs to paid attention to.

The representative of MAP – Ristovski, gave a remark that beside the agro-ecological point, attention should also be paid on the food quality and safety.

After the completion of the discussion, the Chairman adopted the following:

Conclusion no. 10:
The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed of the progress of the preparation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020

Conclusion No. 11:
Immediately after the preparation of the draft version of the IPARD Programme

2014-2020, the IPARD MA is obliged to submit it to the members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee for consideration and give a deadline to submit their comments and suggestions on the draft version to the IPARD Managing Authority

10.1/10.2. *In relation to item* 10.1/10.2. of the Agenda: " Information on the adoption of Country Strategy Paper for IPA 2014-2020" and " Information on the adoption of IPA 2014-2020 legislative framework "

EC Representative, Schiessl ,covered both ite 10.1 and 10.2 in his presentation and explained the work plan of the EU and the importance of the legal framework as a precondition for any further stage. Schiessl informed that the Sectoral Agreement is a bilateral agreement between the EC and RM containing essential and non-essential parts and explained the process of amendment of these parts. In reference to the three offers, Schuessel stressed that there should be a common opinion on the database of referent prices, which is a good basis for improving the implementation of the IPARD Programme. Schiessl informed that the process of adoption of the new Pby the European authorities is ongoing, it is not yet completed, but is expected to be done by the beginning of 2014.
The representative of NAO- Simjanovska, reported that in the area agriculture and rural development, it will be easier to set the target in comparison to the other areas because there is a general strategy which also covers the period 2014-2020. The new IPA also foresees a performance ratio, which means that a an area can get more funds if it proves successful in the mid-term review, but also there will be seizure of funds if it proves unsuccessful. This is why for now it is necessary to prepare a Programme with good quality.

In the absence of comments, the Chairman adopted the following:

***Conclusion No.12**:*

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed by the EC representative about the approval of the Country's IPA Strategic Plan and the approval of the IPA 2014-2020 Legal Framework.

11. In reference to item 11 of the Agenda: "AOB"

epresentative of the IPARD Managing Authority- Mladenovski, informed that nments were received from the EC on the Annual IPARD Monitoring Report and are ent to the IPARD Agency and the NAO to be carried out.

12. In relation to item 12 of the Agenda: " Proposals for the Agenda of the next (14th) spring IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date."

The Chairman proposed the next IPARD Monitoring Committee to be held in May 2014 and the exact date of the meeting to be be arranged in accordance with the availability of the representatives of the European Commission
EC Representative-Schiessl, suggested to discuss the continuation of the mandate of the Committee for the IPARD Programme 2014-2020 at the next meeting, in order to have legitimacy in discussing it.
In the absence of further comments, the Chairman concluded that the 13th meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee is completed.

SIGNATURES:

FROM THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:	*FROM THE SECRETARIAT:*
Zoran Konjanovski	*M-r Margarita Deleva*
Title: Chairperson	*Title: Head of Managing Authority*
Signature:	*Signature:*
Date: 20/06/2014	*Date:* 20/06/2014

Attendance Checklist of the Members on the IPARD Monitoring Committee

No	Title and name of the members	Institution	Present "√"	Absent "√"	Represented "√"	Represented by	Subsequent absences
1.	Mr.Zoran Konjanovski Chairperson	MAFWE	√				0
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS							
2.	Mrs. Valentina Stojanovik	MAFWE			√	Mrs.Katerina Ivanovska	0
3.	Mr. Zivko Brajkovski	MAFWE	√				1
4.	Mr. Abdilgafar Sinani	MAFWE	√				0
5.	Mrs. Slavica Jakimovska	MoLSG		√			5
6.	Mrs. Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkovski	SEA			√	Mrs.Zuica Zmejkovska	0
7.	Mrs. Snezana Gerasimova Mateska	MoC	√				1

Appendix 1 – Attendance Checklist of the Members on the IPARD Monitoring Committee

8.	Mrs. Ardiana Abazi- Ramadani	**MoE**			√	**Mr.Memet Adzami**	**0**
9.	Mr. Dejan Runteski	**Agency for food and veterinary**		√			**4**
10.	Mrs. Jadranka Ivanova	**MoEPP**			√	Mr.Rahim Musliu	**3**
AGENCIES							
11.	Mr. Igor Zlatkov	**NEA**	√				**0**
12.	Mr. Ljubisa Nikolovski	**Agency for Support of Entrepreneurship**	√				**2**
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS							
13.	Mrs. Stojmirka Tasevska	**Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia**		√			**2**
14.	Mr. Ognen Orovcanec	**Association of Chambers of Commerce**	√				**2**
15.	Mr. Saso Risteski	**Macedonian Association of Processors**	√				**0**
16.	Mr. Andrija Sekulovski	**Federation of Farmers of Macedonia**	√				**0**
17.	Mr. Veljo Tantarov	**Association of Farmers of Macedonia**	√				1

Appendix 1 – Attendance Checklist of the Members on the IPARD Monitoring Committee

18.	Mrs. Natasha Vrteska	Association of Units of Local Self-government	√				0
19.	Mr. Dragi Dimitrievski (PhD)	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food			√	Mrs.Ana Kotevska	4
20.	Mrs. Olga Stoimenova	Association of Women Agricultural Producers Agrovinka, Vinica	√				1
21.	Mrs. Olivija Sterjova	Craft Chamber of Republic of Macedonia	√				2
22.	Mr. Ilija Karov (PhD)	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – UGD-Stip		√			4
23.	Mr.Eftim Shaklev	Association of farmers	√				0
24.	Mr. Petar Gjorgiev	National Rural Network		√			1
25.	Mrs. Robertina Brajanoska	Macedonian Ecological Society	√				0
	TOTAL	19	15	5	5		

List of observers at the IPARD Monitoring Committee:

Representatives from Government Institutions:

1. Andrijana Velevska, MAFWE, Sector audit
2. Aleksandar Dimitrovski, MAFWE, Sector Audit
3. Goran Kovacev, Agricultural Discount Credit Fund, Ministry of Finance,

Representatives for IPA Audit Authority :

1. Sonja Veljanoska, State Audit Office,
2. Jasmina Vukicevik, State Audit Office

DRAFT AGENDA
of the 13th IPARD Monitoring Committee Meeting

Date: 05.12.2013
Location: Parliamentarian Club

No	Time	Subject	Presented/ Endorsed by:	Documents
	8:30	Arrival and Registration	MA Secretariat	
1.	9:00	Opening of the meeting Approval of the Draft Agenda for the 13th IPARD MC meeting	(Chairperson Cp)	Draft Agenda
2.	9:10	Adoption of the Minutes of the 12th IPARD MC meeting, held on 29en of May, 2013	(Cp)	Final Draft Minutes
3.	9:20	Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the 12th IPA MC meeting	(Managing Authority -MA)	MA Progress Report
4.	9:35	Feedback from the IPA Monitoring Committee 2013.	(NIPAC representative)	(to be presented at the meeting)
5.	09:50	State of play of implementation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013		
5.1.	09:55	Presentation of the results of the IPARD Programme via monitoring indicators/data	(MA Monitoring Officer)	Monitoring Report (Status May/December)
5..2.	10.10	Report on approved/rejected projects	(IPARD Agency)	IPARD Agency progress report
5.3.	10:40	Information on the de-commitment of 2010 funds	(MA/EC)	(to be presented at the meeting)
5.4.	10:50	Action Plan for improving the absorption	(MA)	(to be presented at the meeting)
6.	11:00	Information on the V-th Modification of the IPARD Programme (modification of financial tables)	(MA/EC)	

6.1.	11:10	Approval of the VI-th Modification of the IPARD Programme	(MA)	Proposal for VI-th Modification of IPARD Programme
7.	11:40	Information on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD	(NAO)	NAO Report to MC
8.	11:50	Technical Assistance Activities -	(Cp)	Progress report for TA preparations.
8.1.	11:50	Progress on accreditation of the Measures 501 - Technical Assistance in 2013	(NAO)	(to be presented at the meeting)
8.2.	12:00	Approval of the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2014	(MA)	Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2014
9.	12:10	Information on the progress on the activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the Programme.	(MA)	Annual Report on communication and publicity activities.
9.1	12:20	Approval of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2014	(MA)	Annual Communication Plan
10.	12:30	Progress on preparation of the IPARD Programme 2014-2020	(MA/EC)	(to be presented at the meeting)
10.1	12:40	Information on the adoption of Country Strategy Paper for IPA 2014-2020	(EC)	
10.2	12:50	Information on the adoption of IPA 2014-2020 legislative framework	(EC)	
11.	13:00	AOB		
12.	13:10	Proposals for the Agenda of the next (14th) spring IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date.	(Cp)/European Commission	Discussion