



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
IPARD Monitoring Committee

Minutes No.3

Minutes of the third meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee

28 November 2008 / Hotel Arka Skopje

Abbreviations:

AFSARD	Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development
AOB	Any Other Business
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction Development Agency
DG-AGRI	General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FFRM	Federation of Farmers of Republic of Macedonia
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IPA MC	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance Monitoring Committee
IPARD	Instrument for Pre-accession Agreement and Rural Development
IPARD MA	IPARD Managing Authority
IPARD MC	IPARD Monitoring Committee
MAASP	Macedonian Agricultural Advisory Service Project
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
MC	Monitoring Committee
MFA	Multi-annual Financing Agreement
MIPD	Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document
NAO	National Authorizing Officer
NF	National Fund
NIPAC	National IPA Coordinator
NPAA	National Programme for Adopting of the Acquis
RD	Rural Development
SEA	Secretariat for European Affairs
SFARM	Support of Farm Association of Republic of Macedonia
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIPP	Support to IPARD Preparation Project
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. LIST OF ATTENDEES

Chairperson:

Pero Dimsoski (PhD), Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee;

The Meeting was attended by MC members:

1. Perica Ivanoski (MSc) - State Advisor Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;
2. Mr. Zivko Brajkovski - Head of EU Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
3. Mr. Abdilgafar Sinani - Head of Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;
4. Mrs. Rodopi Korzeti - Jakovljevic – State Advisor, Ministry of Economy;
5. Mrs. Gordana Kozuharova – Head of Sector, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning;
6. Mr. Aleksandar Nikolovski – NIPAC representative, Secretariat for European Affairs;
7. Mr. Jordan Kuzmanovski – Director, National Extension Agency of Republic of Macedonia;
8. Mr. Ljubisha Nikolovski, Agency for Support of Entrepreneurship of Republic of Macedonia;
9. Mr. Zoran Danevski, President of Agribusiness Chambers, Association of Chambers of Commerce;
10. Mr. Saso Ristevski – Secretary, Macedonian Association of Processors;
11. Mr. Veljo Tantarov – President, Association of Farmers of Macedonia;
12. Mr. Blagoj Ignovski – President, Movement of Ecologists of Macedonia;
13. Mrs. Natasa Vrteska, Units of the Local Self-government;

The meeting was attended by the following deputy members dully representing the members:

14. Mr. Rahim Musliu, Ministry of Local Self-government, representing the invited member Mrs. Slavica Jakimovska;
15. Mrs. Marija Gosevska - Kovacevic, Federation of Farmers of Republic of Macedonia, representing the invited member Mr. Gjoko Danailov;

The Meeting was not attended by MC members (or their representatives):

1. Mr. Dejan Runtevski - Director of the Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;
2. Dragi Dimitrievski (PhD) - Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food;
3. Ms. Zoja Gavrilovska, Association of Women Farmers" Agro-Vinka", Vinica;
4. Mrs. Stojmirka Tasevska, Director, Chamber of Commerce in Republic of Macedonia,
5. Mr. Gjorgji Kocovski, President, Craft Chamber of Republic of Macedonia;

<p>Result: The Chairperson and total of 16 members or their representatives with voting rights were present at the meeting, out of a total of 21 members with voting rights. Therefore the quorum was reached and decisions could be taken.</p>
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European Commission was represented by:

1. Mr. Werner Schiessl, General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-AGRI)
2. Ms. Andrea Grajner, General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-AGRI), Department for pre accession assistance
3. Mr. John Barker, Delegation of the European Commission in Republic of Macedonia

IPARD structure was represented by:

1. Maja Parnardzieva (MSc), National Authorizing Officer (NAO),
2. Ms. Aleksandra Nikolovski National Fund (NF),
3. Mr. Toni Dimovski, Director of the IPARD Agency.

Representatives in role of observers:

1. Ms. Biljana Kostovska, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, in the Mission of the Republic of Macedonia under the European Communities;
2. Mrs. Efimija Pecinska, Agricultural Discount Credit Fond, Ministry of Finance,;
3. Mr. Veljko Juren, Agency for Employment of the Republic of Macedonia;
4. Mr. Petar Gjorgievski, Macedonian Agriculture Advisory Service Project (MAASP) phase 2, funded by SIDA;
5. Mrs. Birgit Shaefer, Team Leader, CARDS 2006 Support to IPARD preparation Project (SIPP), funded by EU;
6. Mr. Jan Barsavry, Key expert, CARDS 2006 Support to IPARD preparation Project (SIPP), funded by EU;
7. Mr. Nikola Naumovski, Secretariat for European Affairs;
8. Mr. Jeton Starova, Deputy Director, AgBiz Project, funded by SIDA ;
9. Mrs. Gordana Sukleva, Ministry of Economy;
10. Mr. Kostadin Kus-Ivanov, Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development;
11. Mr. Aleksandar Zarkov, Association of Chambers of Commerce;
12. Mrs. Dori Pavloska Gorgieska, National Coordinator Project for Support of Farm Associations of Republic of Macedonia (SFARM), funded by SIDA;
13. Mrs. Vesna Ilievska – National Extension Agency for Support of Agriculture

Representatives of the Secretariat of the IPARD Monitoring Committee:

1. Margarita Deleva (MSc), State Advisor for Rural Development/Head of IPARD Managing Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
2. Ms. Tina Angeleska, Junior Associate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;
3. Mrs. Gordana Smileska, Administrative Assistance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;
4. Mr. Viktor Mladenovski, Senior Associate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,;

5. Ms. Vasilka Tamburkova, Junior Associate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
6. Ms. Bosilka Mitrevska, Junior Associate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
7. Ms. Andrijana Slavkovska, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
8. Ms. Maja Lazareska, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
9. Mr. Stojan Gacov, Ministry of Agriculture, Advisor, Forestry and Water Economy,;
10. Mr. Aleksandar Mitrevski, Junior Associate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

The list of members with a check list for attendance on the Committee meetings, list for representatives and observers is given in **Annex 1**.

II. AGENDA

The meeting was held with the following Agenda:

1. Start of the meeting and welcome.
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Adopting the minutes of the second IPARD MC (held on May,27 2008)
4. Presentation of the officialising of the IPARD MC
5. Information on progress for accreditation of the IPARD operating structure
Presentation of the results from the last advisory mission of auditors held on September/October, 2008
6. Information on preparation for accreditation of the IPARD Agency
7. Information on preparation for accreditation of the IPARD MA
8. Establishment of system for monitoring of IPARD Programme. Presentation of monitoring tables'
9. Information on the ongoing evaluation of the IPARD Programme
10. Information on adopting of the strategic planning documents of the European Commission for IPARD: The Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2009-2011
11. Information on signing the IPARD Sectoral Agreement and ratification
12. Technical measures/presentation of the progress in publicity campaign:
 - a) Presentation of the Action Plan for Publicity for 2009
 - b) Presentation of the activities of the Agency for Development of Agriculture for publication of the IPARD
 - c) Presentation of the activities from the Farm Federation for publication of the IPARD Programme
 - d) Presentation of the activities supported by the USAID for publication of the IPARD
13. Information on preparing additional measures under the IPARD Programme
14. Information on the first IPA MC meeting
15. Any other business (AOB)
 - e) Progress of adopting of NPAA
 - f) Information on the finalization of the farm register on MAFWE
 - g) Presentation of the project: "CARDS 2006 Supporting the IPARD preparation"

16. Proposals for the agenda for the next meeting/agreement on the new date
17. Closing of the meeting

III. OUTCOME OF THE IPARD MC MEETING

In relation to item 1 of the Agenda:

The Chairperson opened the meeting welcoming the attendees and the presence of the representatives of the European Commission and the National Authorizing Officer.

In relation to item 2 of the Agenda:

The chairperson referred to the Agenda of the meeting, which was delivered to all attendees, and asked for comments.

There were no additional comments and the Chairperson concluded that the Agenda is adopted. *The adopted Agenda is presented in **Annex 2** of this document.*

Decision No 1:

The IPARD MC members gave a positive opinion on the draft Agenda.

In relation to item 3 of the Agenda:

In relation to the draft Minutes of the previous IPARD MC meeting held in May, 27 2008, Mr. Schiessl, representative of EC, informed that there are some inconsistencies that need to be clarified in the text of the Minutes on bilateral basis with the Managing Authority. Therefore the Commission can not accept the draft Minutes presented in this form. He suggested that after the issues are clarified and consulted with the Commission, the Minutes should be adopted in written procedure.

Chairperson emphasized that the comments made by the EC at the preparatory meeting held on the 27th of November, 2008, are technical comments and they are accepted. He agreed to implement the comments and to adopt the Minutes by the members of the IPARD MC in written procedure. There were no additional comments by the attendees and the suggestion made by the Chairperson was accepted.

Decision No2:

The IPARD MC agreed to adopt the draft Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th of May, 2008 by written procedure after the draft Minutes are amended by the IPARD MA in consultation with the European Commission.

*The draft Minutes of the second IPARD MC are provided as **Annex 3** of this document.*

In relation to item 4 of the Agenda:

Chairperson informed that the IPARD MC should not be referred to as a shadow IPARD Monitoring Committee since the Committee is operational and the IPARD Programme is officially adopted.

In relation to item 5 of the Agenda:

The National Authorization Officer informed on the progress made in the accreditation process of the IPARD structures since May 2008. She informed the members on the status of employment process and training of the IPARD Structure employees.

NAO has also informed on the self-assessment process where the internal auditors from the Ministry of Finance prepared a report on the accreditation process of the IPARD structures for the period from July to September 2008. The report was submitted to the EC, DG-AGRI. From 22nd of September till 3rd of October a two-week DG AGRI mission was conducted. During this mission final consultations regarding the internal procedures of the IPARD Operational Structures were made. The comments and recommendations given by the auditors were in order to start the national accreditation in the upcoming period. The national accreditation is expected to be finalized in February 2009. At this moment, the external auditors are revising the procedures of the IPARD structures in the so called compliance assessment process prior national accreditation takes place. On the basis of this report, NAO will decide if the system is ready for the accreditation. In addition NAO informed that the Government has adopted a Decree for regulating the relations between all IPARD structures therefore the system is established and has no legal shortcomings at the moment.

In relation to the presented information, discussion was initiated by Mr. Tantarov who stated that there are on-going media speculations about the delay of the accreditation process of IPARD structures and asked for the reason for that.

The Chairperson explained that there is an Action Plan regarding these activities and there is no deviation and delay with the accreditation in 2009.

Mr. Schiessl shared the experience regarding this process with the other 8 candidate countries currently new EU member states, and stated that the Republic of Macedonia is not late, but that doesn't mean that efforts should not be done to speed up the process. He also explained that IPARD is different than the others IPA components, in the way of approving the projects which is in the hands of the beneficiary country whilst in the other IPA components every project shall be approved by the EC (so called ex-ante). Therefore the IPARD structure must be fully operational to start with the implementation. He also noticed that although the establishment of the structures is a long process, the benefits are bigger on the long term period.

Mr. Ivanoski pointed out that Republic of Macedonia should work on introducing the farmers with the IPARD Programme and informing the farmers about the period when they should expect the beginning of the IPARD funds.

The Chairperson informed that the publicity campaign of the IPARD Programme has officially started with the presentation of the IPARD Programme on a two-day seminar funded by the TAIEX instrument, held on the 24th – 25th of November, 2008 in Skopje.

Mr. Nikolovski, informed that in relation with the Governmental action plan for activities prior accreditation, prepared on the basis of recommendation of the EC Auditors, to overcome the identified shortcomings, the NIPAC is monitoring the process on weekly basis in order to avoid any delay. For that purpose NIPAC organizes meetings on the weekly basis where the IPARD Structure reports the progress on implementing the

Action Plan and if there is any critical moment the reaction is direct and immediate. He agreed with Mr. Schiessl and NAO that accreditation will be finished in 2009 and he pointed that public campaign follows, for the purpose introducing the public in details with the IPARD Programme and the criteria for using the IPARD funds.

Mr. Barker emphasized that the experience from Romania and Poland shows that the pressure from the media and the criticism for non transparency are expected, and also he proposed to respond with balanced and proactive public campaign.

Mr. Danevski agreed that the only solutions to overcome the speculations of the media and that the public, the information on the IPARD opportunities must be provided to the beneficiaries.

*Full information related to this item is given in **Annex 4** of this document.*

In relation to item 6 of the Agenda:

The Director of the IPARD Agency informed about the progress in accreditation of the IPARD Agency regarding the legal frame, the support of the project for support of the work of IPARD Agency staff, the employment and training, the agreements for cooperation with other IPARD structures and the report of the EC Auditors Advisory mission held in the period of 23rd of September – 3rd of October, 2008.

*Full information related to this item is provided in **Annex 5** of this document. In addition, semiannual report about the progress of the IPARD preparatory activities is given in **Annex 6** of this document.*

In relation to this topic, discussion was initiated by Mr. Starova who said that establishment of the implementation system for IPARD is demanding process which requires allocating of appropriate recourses. He asked whether the recourses needed for the accreditation process are provided in order to complete this process in the following two years.

The Director of the IPARD Agency explained that this process is not supported only by the foreign investments, but financial recourses are allocated from the national budget as well.

In addition, NAO pointed out that although the World Bank project had significant role in the process of establishment of the IPARD structures, the accreditation of the IPARD structures is one of the highest priorities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, which strongly supports this process within the national Budget by providing new employments, training for the newly employees as well as providing the necessary conditions for functioning of the IPARD structures. Parts of the trainings provided to the employees in the IPARD structures are financed under the EU instruments and projects.

Mr. Schiessl pointed out that one of the most important accreditation criteria which are essential for successful implementation of the IPARD Programme is to have appropriate number of qualified staff. These criteria will be carefully reviewed by NAO and EC auditors, through checking the Workload analysis as well as the competences of the employees.

In relation to item 7 of the Agenda:

The Head of Managing Authority, informed about the role, function, legal frame and organizational structure of the IPARD MA.

Mr. Nikolovski, added that apart from the IPARD Agency, the IPARD MA is subject to accreditation as well.

*Full information related to this item is given in **Annex 7** of this document.*

In relation to item 8 of the Agenda:

Mr. Mladenovski presented the process of establishing the system for monitoring of the efficiency and quality of the IPARD Programme and the monitoring tables for the monitoring of the IPARD Programme implementation that shall be used for accurate and timely reporting on strengths and weaknesses of the IPARD Programme implementation. He gave an overview of the monitoring process, the purpose of the monitoring process and explained in detail the structure of the monitoring tables.

Regarding this presentation, Ms. Grajner informed that there are still some open issues regarding the Monitoring Tables and Explanatory guidelines on how to complete the indicator tables for monitoring and evaluation and that EC will continue to monitor the setting up of a system for monitoring of the IPARD Programme. Ms. Grajner also pointed out that the monitoring tables are developed only for the three measures that will be supported in the first period.

Mr. Ivanoski asked if the IPARD Monitoring Tables can be further used for monitoring of the National Programme for Rural Development in order to test whether the system is functional, considering that some measures from the National Programme are the same as the IPARD measures.

Mrs. Deleva answered that all available data from the IPARD Agency concerning the implementation of the National Programme for RD are being used in preparation of additional monitoring tables for monitoring of the implementation of the national RD measures. These tables shall be agreed with the IPARD Agency and will be used to monitor the implementation, to analyze the data and develop a report for the Government of Republic of Macedonia.

*Full information related to this item is given in **Annex 8** of this document.*

In relation to item 9 of the Agenda:

Mr. Mitrevski presented the system of evaluation of the IPARD Programme. He informed on the phases of evaluation, the evaluation process, the participants in the evaluation process and the cooperation with the external evaluator. In order to successfully manage this process, it is necessary to establish an Evaluation Steering Committee.

Mr. Schiessl said that the function of this Committee is monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the IPARD Programme. He clarified that the process starts with an ex-ante evaluation, continues with interim evaluation if the Commission considers that interim evaluation is necessary, and ends with an ex-post evaluation at the end of the implementation of the IPARD Programme. Mr. Schiessl suggested that the Evaluation Steering Committee shall be established within this IPARD MC. Furthermore, the Evaluation Steering Committee should prepare an Evaluation Strategy. The independent evaluator should prepare an Evaluation Plan, revise the indicators and the system for data collection, formulate credible evaluation questions and suggest improvements of the system.

Mr. Schiessl suggested the independent evaluator to be selected from the Macedonian expertise if possible, while foreign experts should be considered in case there is a lack of capacity within the country. Considering the financing of the evaluation, Mr. Schiessl pointed out that the measure technical assistance should be accredited as soon as possible because financial support for the evaluation process is envisaged in this measure.

In addition Mr. Barker emphasized that the new Project for Support of IPARD preparation among other activities shall support the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system for the IPARD Programme.

The Chairperson proposed members of the Evaluation Steering Committee of the IPARD Programme to be nominated at this meeting. The members of the following institutions were nominated: Farm Federation, Chamber of Commerce, Association of farmers, National Extension Agency, Macedonian Association of Processors, Crafts chamber, members from the Scientific research institutions and external experts and others. The establishment of the Evaluation Steering Committee shall be initiated by the IPARD MA in charge of coordination of the Committee also.

Decision No. 3:

The IPARD MC have agreed on establishment of the Evaluation Steering Committee with representatives from the Farm Federation, Chamber of Commerce, Association of farmers, National Extension Agency, Macedonian Association of Processors, Crafts chamber, members from the Scientific research institutions and external experts provided by the Support to IPARD preparation Project.

*Full information related to this item is given in **Annex 9** of this document.*

In relation to item 10 and 11 of the Agenda:

Mr. Nikolovski informed on the draft Multi-annual indicative planning document 2008-2010 (MIPD). Briefly he stated that this is a document of the EC, which provides the strategic guidelines regarding to all five components for a multi annual period and is updated annually depending on the progress of the country. SEA has received a draft document for the period 2008-2010, which includes the new opportunities for the rural development policy to be considered in the forthcoming programming process. The document is submitted for inter-service consultations within the Government institutions.

The document announces the introduction of support for producer groups, agri-environmental measures and preparation for LEADER measure in 2011.

*Draft Multi-annual indicative planning document for the period 2008-2010 concerning the IPA Component V (IPARD) is given in **Annex 10** of this document.*

In addition, Mr. Nikolovski informed that the IPARD Sectoral Agreement has been signed on 23.10.2008 by Mr. Ivica Boceski (Deputy Prime-Minister in charge of European integration) and Mr. Jean-Luc Demarti (Director General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development, EC).

*Full information related to this item is given in **Annex 11** of this document.*

In relation to item 12 of the Agenda:

a) Presentation of the Action Plan for Publicity for 2009

Ms. Slavkovska presented the Action plan for publicity of the IPARD Programme. She explained the activities envisaged in order to inform the public and to carry out a campaign for raising public awareness, gave overview of the legal framework, informed about the structure of the target groups, about the tools for information which will be used, about distribution of the responsibility between IPARD structures. Also she informed for activities in relation to the publicity for IPARD already taken.

Discussion on this item was initiated by Mrs. Korneti – Jakovljevic who proposed the first step, in the implementation of the Publicity Plan to be the designing of logo, under which the IPARD Programme will be recognized.

Mr. Nikolovski added that the IPARD MA and SEA are discussing the IPARD logo and it should point out the main characteristics of the IPARD Programme.

Mr. Schiessl stated that the Publicity Campaign should start as soon as possible. Before the Action Plan, Communication Strategy should be developed, according to the guidelines given from the EC. The Strategy should clearly divide the responsibilities between the IPARD MA and IPARD Agency.

The existing Action Plan needs to be reconsidered and it should contain detailed division of activities for all competent bodies. The IPARD MC should also be informed. The MC members should also be informed for the actions taken on regular basis. Mr. Schiessl again pointed out that it will be of great benefit if the Technical Assistance measure under the IPARD Programme is accredited for financing publicity activities, underlining that IPARD MA must have capacity for usage of funds according PRAG. In addition he asked how the presented activities for publicity will be financed.

Mrs. Deleva answered that the presented activities are going to be financed from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 12** of this document.*

b) Presentation of the activities of the Agency for Development of Agriculture for publication of the IPARD

Furthermore Mrs. Ilievska, from the National Extension Agency, presented their contribution in implementation and publicity of IPARD Programme, through informing and educating individual agricultural producers, preparation of investment programmes, introduction of on-farm accounting, improvement of quality, processing and dissemination of data, inclusion of agricultural companies, institutional support, stimulating the individual agricultural holdings to submit data, applying the Programme for human resources and development of advisory capacities.

In relation with the training of advisors, representative from the MAASP Project presented the trainings on business planning, trainings for providers of services in rural areas and other trainings and informed on the existence of data base on service providers.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 13** of this document.*

c) Presentation of the activities from the Farm Federation for publication of the IPARD Programme

Mrs. Gjoseva-Kovacevic presented the activities undertaken for publicity of IPARD Programme, as well as future activities on informing about the Programme towards awareness raising in agricultural sector, training on advisory network, use of the Federation network for raising public awareness about the IPARD Programme, through the women farmers network, young farmers network and FFRM advisory network.

Discussion was initiated by Mr. Ivanoski who asked about the profile and background experience of the trainers. Mrs. Gjoseva-Kovacevic said that the trainers will be experienced consultants from Republic of Macedonia.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 14** of this document.*

d) Presentation of the activities supported by the USAID for publication of the IPARD

Mr. Starova, presented the AgBiz Programme for increasing the economical growth in Republic of Macedonia; through increased sustainable production and marketing of agricultural products in the sectors of table grapes, bottled wine, fresh vegetables, preparation of vegetables and additional forest product. It was confirmed that there will be no overlapping of support because of the dead lines of the projects.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 15** of this document.*

In relation to item 13 of the Agenda:

Head of MA informed the first three measures of the IPARD Programme will be included in the initial accreditation package. In the upcoming period intensive preparations will be made for accreditation of technical assistance measure. Due to high need of publicity for the IPARD Programme, national funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia are planned in order to finance activities from the Publicity Action Plan.

In relation to item of 14 of the Agenda:

Mr. Nikolovski informed about the first meeting of IPA MC held on the 21st of November, 2008 and proposed the minutes from that meeting also to be disseminated to the members of the IPARD MC after their adoption by the IPA MC members.

In relation to this topic, Ms. Grajner informed the members regarding the comments provided by the EC on the first IPA MC Meeting related to the "monitoring report" for the IPARD Component whereas in accordance to the Sectoral Agreement only Annual and Final Reports shall be prepared related to the IPARD funds implementation. The first Annual Report on IPARD implementation is expected to be submitted in 2011.

In relation to item 15 of the Agenda:

a) Progress of adopting of National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA)

Mr. Brajkovski informed on the progress of adopting the national legislation connected with the IPARD Programme according to the NPAA. The NPAA is one of the most important documents and it gives directions for the integration of Republic of Macedonia in EU, which is updated annually. Its goal is to harmonize the National Programme with the EU. This progress identifies the Budget for all issues and managing. The whole process is managed by the SEA.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 16** of this document.*

b) Information on the finalization of the farm register on MAFWE

Mr. Ivanoski gave information on the finalization of the Farm Register. He explained the basis of the establishment of the Farm Register. MAFWE is the institution that establishes this Register, which defines the way of recording the farms into the Register. The Register is already functional and its finalization is expected at the beginning of the next year. All the activities are paid from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

Discussion was initiated by the Chairperson asking if there is any risk in the implementation of these activities. Mr. Ivanovski answered that following the progress of the implemented activities, there is absolutely no risk.

Mr. Schiessl stressed that the operational Farm Register is one of the preconditions for accreditation since it is an eligibility criteria in the IPARD Programme.

*The full presentation is provided in **Annex 17** of this document.*

c) Presentation of the project: "CARDS 2006 Supporting the IPARD preparation"

Mrs. Schaefer presented the CARDS 2006 Project for Support of IPARD preparation, with a duration of 2 years, as technical assistance to the IPARD Agency and MA in the accreditation process for the first 3 measures and for additional measures, especially technical assistance measure, environmental measure and preparation of local rural development strategies through strengthening the administrative capacity and improving the skills of the employees.

*The full presentation is provided in the **Annex 18** of this document.*

In relation to item 16 of the Agenda:

The Chairperson proposed the next spring meeting of the IPARD MC to be held in May 2009. Mr. Nikolovski proposed the next meeting to be logistically organized in rural area.

Mr. Schiessl proposed that the Agenda for the next meeting should comprise information on the status of establishment the ongoing evaluation system, communication strategy, final version of the communication action plan, draft modification of the IPARD Programme, progress in the accreditation process, as well as the items of the Agenda from this meeting.

Head of MA added that in the Agenda for the next meeting the Rules of Procedure of the IPARD MC, after reconciliation with EC, should be presented to the Committee's members for adoption.


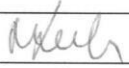
Ms. Grajner asked all the documents and presentations, for the next meeting to be given to the MC members before the meeting.

Mr. Ivanoski recommended that for the next IPARD MC meeting, the press should be invited. Mrs. Deleva added that the press was invited and that short information for the public, regarding the work of the Committee, is already send to the media.

In relation to item 17 of the Agenda:

The Chairperson asked if there are any other comments concerning the IPARD MC. No comments were given, so the Chairperson concluded that the third IPARD MC is closed.

SIGNATURES:

FOR THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE	FOR THE SECRETARIAT
Perica Ivanoski (MSc)	Margarita Deleva (MSc.)
Title: Chairperson	Title: Head of IPARD Managing Authority
Signature: 	Signature: 
Date: 20.05.2008	Date: 20.05.2009