



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
*IPARD Monitoring Committee*

Minutes No. 9

Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IPARD Monitoring  
Committee

09 December, 2011/ Debate Hall of the Government of the  
Republic of Macedonia

*Decision No. :* The IPARD Monitoring Committee adopted the Minutes of the (9<sup>th</sup>)  
nineteen (autumn) meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 2011 as final.

Archive. No. - 30-8026/ 2

Date: 18.07, 2012

Skopje



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
*IPARD Monitoring Committee*

Minutes No. 9

Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IPARD Monitoring  
Committee

09 December, 2011/ Debate Hall of the Government of the  
Republic of Macedonia

***Decision No. :*** The IPARD Monitoring Committee adopted the Minutes of the (9<sup>th</sup>)  
nineteen (autumn) meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 2011 as final.

Archive. No. - \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

Skopje

## I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

**The Secretariat of the IPARD Monitoring Committee was presented by:** The Head of the IPARD Managing Authority, **Ms. Margarita Deleva** (MSc.), State Advisor for Rural Development and Secretary of the IPARD Monitoring Committee, **Ms. Vasilka Tamburkova**, Senior Associate for coordination of the work of the IPARD Monitoring Committee .

### **Presence of members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee and their deputies:**

1. **Mrs.Valentina Stojanovic-Tufa**, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy,
2. **Mr. Abdilgafar Sinani**, Head of the sector Agriculture Department, Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy,
3. **Mrs.Biljana Bojkovska Zlateska**, stand-in for the member Mr.Zivko Brajkovski, Head of the Sector of wine, Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy,
4. **Mrs. Snezana Gerasimova Matevska**, Advisor, Ministry of culture,
5. **Mr. Jordan Kuzmanovski**, Director, National Extension Agency of Republic of Macedonia, (NEA),
6. **Mr. Saso Ristevski**, Secretary, Macedonian Association of Processors
7. **Mr. Andrija Sekulovski**, President, Federation of Farmers of the Republic of Macedonia
8. **Mrs. Natasa Vrteska**, Legal Advisor, Association of the Local self-government Units
9. **Mrs. Olga Stoimenova**, President, Association of Women-farmers „Agro-Vinka”, Vinica
10. **Mrs.Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkovski**, NIPAC representative, Secretariat for European Affairs,
11. **Mr. Nikola Stamenov**, stand-in for the member Mr.Veljo Tantarov, Association of Farmers of Macedonia
12. **Mr. Vasko Ristovski**, stand-in for the member Mrs. Stojmirka Taseva, Chamber of Commerce of Republic of Macedonia,
13. **Mrs. Robertina Brajanoska**, Macedonian Ecological Society,
14. **Mr. Petar Gjorgiev**, National rural network,
15. **Mrs. Jadranka Ivanova**, Ministry of environment and physical planning,

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

1. **Mr. Gerard Kiely**, Head of Unit G.4., Directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri)
2. **Ms. Elitsa Yanakieva**, Desk Officer, Unit G.4, Directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri)
3. **Mr. John Barker**, Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Commission in the Republic of Macedonia

**Representatives of the IPARD structure:**

1. **Representatives of National Authorising Officer (NAO) and National Fund (NF):**
  - **Mrs. Aleksandra Simjanoska**, National Fund, Ministry of finance,
2. **Representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority (IPARD MA):**
  - **Mr. Viktor Mladenovski**, Senior Associate, Unit for monitoring of IPARD funds and reporting
  - **Mr. Aleksandar Mitrevski**, Senior Associate, Unit for Programming and Evaluation of IPARD funds
  - **Mr. Stojan Gacov**, Advisor, Unit for Programming and Evaluation of IPARD funds,
  - **Mr. Igor Troshanski**, Advisor, Unit for Programming and Evaluation of IPARD funds
  - **Mr. Zlatko Kolevski**, Associate, Unit for Technical assistance.
  - **Mr. Oliver Stefanovski**, Junior associate, Unit for Technical assistance.
  - **Mr. Angel Karapetrov**, Junior associate, Unit for Technical assistance
3. **Representatives of the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPARD Agency):**
  - **Mr. Toni Dimovski**, Director of IPARD Agency,
  - **Mrs. Biljana Vukovic**, Head of Unit for legal affairs,
  - **Mr. Pance Arsov**, Head of Sector for control.

*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 15 members or their representatives with voting right (out of total of 23 members with voting rights) were present at the meeting. Therefore, the quorum was reached and decisions could be taken.***

## II. AGENDA

The proposed Agenda for this meeting is presented in Appendix 3 to this Minute.

## III. OUTCOMES FROM THE MEETING OF THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:

### ***1. In relation to item 1 of the Agenda: “Opening of the meeting”***

The Chairperson of the IPARD Monitoring Committee opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and the representatives of the European Commission (EC).

### ***2. In relation to item 1 of the Agenda: “Approval of the draft Agenda for the 9th IPARD Monitoring Committee meeting”***

The Chairperson elaborated on the draft-Agenda and initiated a discussion on the proposed items asking for comments. The representatives of the European Commission proposed the deletion of item 10, Contribution of the IPARD Monitoring Committee to the forthcoming Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document, and to add a sub-item 13.1 Rural Crediting under the Item “AOB”.

Having no further comments, the Chairperson adopted the following decision:

#### **Decision No. 1:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee approved the draft Agenda on the (9th) ninth (autumn) meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee.

*Draft Agenda is presented in **Appendix 3**.*

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

### ***3. In relation to item 2 of the Agenda:” Adoption of the Minutes of the previous (8th) IPARD MC meeting, held on 09en of June, 2011***

The Chairperson informed the members that the draft-Minutes from the 8th meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee (held on 9th of June, 2011) have been delivered to all members of the Committee on 13.07.2011. The Minutes in English language have been delivered to the representatives of the European Commission on 20.07.2011. The representatives of the European Commission have made comments which have been included in the Minutes.

Having no further comments, the Chairperson adopted the following decision:

**Decision No. 2:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee adopted the draft-Minutes of the (8th) eight (spring) meeting, held on 9th of June, 2011 as final.

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

***4. In relation to item 3 of the Agenda: "Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the previous (8th) IPA MC meeting and discussion "***

Mrs. Deleva reported on the progress in the implementation of the Decisions reached at the 8th IPARD Monitoring Committee meeting, held on 9th of June, 2011. She addressed the conclusion no. 4 and elaborated that the conclusion was implemented and that the more detailed information are presented in current Report on the Implementation of the IPARD Programme, while for the conclusion no. 5 she informed that it was included under the miscellaneous item, where the representatives of the Macedonian Bank for Development Promotion would elaborate in great detail on the rural development credit financing. In relation to conclusion no. 6, she informed that the proposal is still in the stage of development and review and that it shall be delivered to the members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee in the forthcoming period.

**Conclusion No. 1:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on the progress made in implementation of the decisions/conclusions from the 8th IPARD MC held on the 9th of June, 2011

The full report is presented in **Annex 3**.

***5. In relation to item 4 of the Agenda: " Follow-up, feedback from the IPA Monitoring Committee "***

Mrs. Kirkova informed that the 3rd meeting of the IPA Monitoring Committee was held on 3rd of December, 2010. She informed that the IPA Monitoring Committee

for the current year will be held on 13 December 2011, and that it is expected that the meeting shall stress the success of the Macedonian institutions and the great endeavours of the EC to avoid the decommitment for the current year, with a reservation that great efforts shall be required and expected in 2012 so as to avoid any further risks of decommitment.

***6. In relation to item 5.1 of the Agenda:” Examination of the results of the IPARD Programme via monitoring indicators/data “***

Mr. Mladenovski reported the results achieved hitherto from the implementation of the IPARD programme and the realization of the Programme’s objectives based on the collected monitoring data in the period from May 2010 until December 2010.

Mr. Kiely emphasized that out of the total interest shown for 43 million EUR, IPARD would provide support amounting to 21 million EUR, thus using the financial allocations from 2007, 2008 and 2009. The sum of the approved investments is disappointing; too many applications have been rejected, although there is a rising trend of approved applications. He indicated that the structures are aware of the reasons for the high rejection rate and that they should undertake activities to overcome this issue. It is disappointing that after two years the applicants still have problems providing the documentation and such problems should have been dealt with long time ago. In relation to the primary producers and the diversification, he stated that the assistance from the advisory services shall be required, emphasizing the need to strengthen the role of the public advisory service. It is of great significance for these beneficiaries to have access to capital for financing of investments and for the banks to intensify their operations.

Mr. Jakimovski requested that the conditions for the small businesses in the rural areas under the Measure 302 should be improved, so as to improve the social structure in the rural areas.

Mrs. Brajanoska requested an elaboration on the reasons concerning the Measure 302, and called for the organization of additional trainings concerning Measure 302 for the local population at the administrative offices of the National Park Mavrovo in order to increase the number of applications for the next public call.

Mr. Dimovski explained the reasons behind the low interest of the applicants for the Measure 302, pointing out that the greatest problem is the legalization of buildings at local level, obtaining construction permits for such buildings, which are to be a subject of co-financing. He also emphasized the problem of investments already under way, since, in accordance with the procedure for awarding of funds used by the Agency, such applicants have to be rejected, disregarding the acceptability of



their investments and the compliance with the Programme's criteria. Furthermore, one of the reasons for the low quality of the applications made for the Measure 302 is the lack of adequate high quality advisory services.

Mr. Sekulovski pointed out that the Programme is not sufficiently implemented and that it is not adjusted to the small agricultural holdings, adding that it is a standing shared by all farmers. He also stated the problems with the obtaining of application documents and that there is still no adequate correlation among the institutions with competencies for the issuing of the necessary documentation for IPARD. He proposed the development of a guideline on the procedures for legalization of buildings, aimed at facilitating and additionally clarifying the process to the applicants interested in investments of such a type.

Mr. Ristevski expressed the satisfaction of the target group represented by him in the Monitoring Committee. This target group has no problems obtaining the relevant documents. It is a result of the commitment and readiness of the applicants, as well as of the increased interest for investments in this sector.

Mr. Zlatkovski pointed out that provisions have to be made for capacity building of the consulting services providing assistance to the applicants.

Mr. Shaklev proposed that, in view of attaining a greater number of approved applications, all stakeholders, i.e., the farmers themselves and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in its entirety should take active participation in the implementation of the programme.

The Chairperson pointed out that the responsibility for the more efficient utilization of the funds is shared equally by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, IPARD Managing Authority, as well by the Farmers' Association. He called for open suggestions and proposals concerning the IPARD Programme in a constructive discussion, in order to improve the absorption capacity.

Mr. Zlatkovski emphasized that one of the main reasons behind the lower interest is the low financial power of the farmers and the fact that they are required to full fund the investment.

Mrs. Vrteska pointed out that, in relation to the guideline that has been requested by the FFRM, the municipalities, too, are facing problems with the implementation of the law for legalization of the illegally constructed buildings, and within that context a range of initiatives have been opened to clarify the contested issues that the municipalities are facing when implementing the law in the field. She stated that the greatest problem that the administration is facing concerns the issuing of



the construction permits for the farms built on construction land managed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy is competent for the buildings constructed on agricultural land. She informed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy proposed a draft law governing such buildings, but the Association of Local Self-Government Units (ZELS) dismissed the draft law, since it only imposed new competencies on the municipalities, instead of offering a solution to the problem. However, she informed that on 16 and 17 December the administration and the municipalities will hold a joint meeting and present and discuss all open issues. She informed that the problems and the questions have already been submitted to the Ministry of Transport and Communications for reviewing.

Mr. Kuzmanovski informed about the activities undertaken by the Agency for Promotion of Development of Agriculture.

Having no further comments, the Chairperson adopted the following decision:

**Conclusion No. 2:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee examined the results of the IPARD Programme implementation via programme monitoring indicators and data

*Annual monitoring report of the implementation of the IPARD Programme 2007 - 2013 (for the period May 2011 – October 2011) is presented in **Annex 4**.*

***In relation to item 5.2 of the Agenda: “ Report for implementation of IPARD Programme- Contracted project, Paid project, Reason for rejection”***

Mr. Dimovski informed about the contracts awarded under the public calls 01/2009, 01/2010, 01/2011, 02/2011, gave a list of the contracts paid in 2011, with payments made under the public calls 01/2009, 01/2010, 01/2011, reasons for the rejection for the public calls 01/2009, 01/2010, 01/2011, irregularities and realization status of the IV public call 02/2011. He informed that they have the final results of 3 public calls, where the Agency has made 103 contracts for co-financing and 2/3 are currently being processed. He informed that for the first public call the payments have already been made under the contracts with IPARD. He elaborated on the co-financing funds under the contracts made within the frames of the three public calls and pointed out that they amount to around 6.5 million EUR, which means that investments in the amount of approximately 13 million EUR have been supported in this sector, and that they will be published soon for the 4 public calls,

as well as for the 5th call which is to be completed in some time. He informed that the Agency has utilized 1.2 million EUR of financial support under the IPARD Programme. Mrs. Vukovic further informed about the reasons for the rejected applications for the public calls, pointing out that one of the reasons is the permit for water exploitation rights and requested from the representative of the Ministry of Environment to answer what is the current state of play with the by-laws concerning the Law on Waters.

Mrs. Ivanova informed that, as far as the use of water from a privately owned well, and provided that the Framework Directive for daily use of water (10m<sup>3</sup> for 20 persons per day); it shall suffice to notify the Ministry of Environment and the local self-government about the existence of the well. However, she clarified that in the case of use of greater amounts of water, the relevant procedure for the permits for exploitation of water or water rights will have to be observed. She informed that the relevant by-law is in its final stage of enactment.

The Chairperson proposed the scheduling of a meeting, with attendance by the farmers and the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, so as to develop an action plan how to overcome this problem.

Mrs. Kirkova asked from the IPARD structures to clarify whether they are undertaking any activities aimed at addressing the problems faced by the applicants, so as to avoid such problems for the next public calls.

Mr. Sekulovski proposed that, prior to the adoption of the laws; the current state of play has to be assessed in order to establish the problems that the farmers are facing in the field.

Mr. Dimovski explained that the in the beginning, when the decisions have been distributed, they have been accompanied by a letter stating the reasons for the rejection, aimed at the encouraging the applicants and enabling them to address the issues for the next public call.

Mrs. Vukovic informed that in relation to the irregularities, the Agency reports to NAO, and all such irregularities detected in the working process are discussed at its quarterly meetings. She clarified that if such irregularities have financial implications, the issues are referred to the EC.

Mr. Kiely proposed that such problems of the applicants should be made available to the public.

Mr. Dimovski stated that relevant materials may be developed, whereby each applicant, prior to making its application, can be informed about the most frequent reasons for rejection of the applications.

**Conclusion No.3:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on the implementation of the IPARD Programme by the IPARD Agency

*Report on the implementation of the IPARD Programme by the IPARD Agency is presented in **Annex 5**.*

***In relation to item 5.3 of the Agenda: “ Use of interest earned”***

Mrs. Simjanovska informed that so far contracts have been awarded and signed amounting to 4.7 million EUR of the IPA funds, of which 90,000 EUR have already been paid. She informed that for these funds, in the amount of 600,000 EUR, which have been paid out in the course of 2011, three declarations have been sent to EC, informing it about the expenses incurred. The outstanding amount to be paid by the end of 2011 is around 500,000 EUR, and it shall also be declared to the EC. She pointed out that in June 2010, when the EC transferred the first pre-financing instalment at the account of the National Fund; interest rate is accrued on these funds. She stated that the funds are deposited at the National Bank, since the Fund is a budget beneficiary and cannot open an account in any of the commercial banks. She informed that the interest accrued by 30.10.2011 amounts to 25 thousand EUR. She said that, in accordance with the guidelines and regulations, these funds remain a property of the Republic of Macedonia and can be used for national co-financing purposes. She informed that these funds still have not been utilized, that they are kept at the account and, in line with the regulations, can be used by the end of the Programme, and that EC has been informed about such funds and they have been recorded in the accounting books of the National Fund.

***In relation to item 5.4 of the Agenda:” Other points e.g. matters arising particularly from correspondence relevant to the Programme”***

In relation to this item there were no additional questions concerning the IPARD Programme.

***7. In relation to item 6 of the Agenda: “ Proposal for fourth modification of IPARD Programme” and item 6.1 of the Agenda:” Progress with the third modification of IPARD Programme”***

Mrs. Deleva informed that the proposal for the third modification of the IPARD Programme was officially submitted by NIPAC on 3.05.2011 and contained significant amendments of the IPARD Programme. She informed that on 5.12.2011 EC approved the third official modifications of the EU funds for 2011 (increase from

14 to 16 million EUR). Furthermore, Mrs. Deleva informed about the proposal for a fourth modification of the IPARD Programme, and pointed out that the proposed modifications were based on the proposals by the representatives of the potential beneficiaries, and the greatest number of proposals was received from the IPARD Agency. She noted that one of the proposals concerned the resolution of the problem with the Measure 302 due to the manner of registration of small and medium enterprises by the Central Register. She informed that in view of the above, the IPARD Agency made a proposal for alignment with the EU standards concerning the classification of small and medium enterprises, and that such classification should be made by the IPARD Agency, instead of relying upon the Central Register. She appealed to all members, due to the fact that the report was delivered with a delay, to provide, in writing and following the IPARD Monitoring Committee meeting, their views and proposals for improvement of the IPARD Programme to the IPARD Managing Authority.

Mr. Ristevski stated that the proposal by the processors had already been included as one of the proposals for modification of the programme. He elaborated that their proposals concerned the Measure 103, where the maximum amount had been increased from 800,000 EUR to 1,000,000 EUR for investments for marketing and processing of agricultural products, and an increase of the total maximum eligible costs of the beneficiaries from 1,000,000 EUR to 2,800,000 for the entire eligible period for implementation of the programme.

Mr. Sekulovski noted that most of the proposals from FFRM were included, but the threshold of 0.5 Ha for the investment into ancillary facilities regarding the modernization of the existing agricultural holdings could present a problem, in particular in the residential areas, and that it should change.

Mrs. Deleva pointed out that the Rulebook of the MAFWE should be amended accordingly.

Mrs. Brajanoska asked for a clarification about the Measure 302, i.e., its component for development of rural tourism, regarding the accommodation capacities and the maximum of 20 beds, whether this maximum applies to one building or those beds can be distributed in several buildings.

Mrs. Deleva explained that the maximum refers to beds in any building, provided such buildings are owned by the applicant - a single person.

Mr. Ristevski noted that they are expecting problems in relation to Measure 103, since the Programme provides for a limit of up to 3000 tons for the export of fruit and vegetables, while the bigger exporters suggested that they were usually

dealing with quantities in the range of 4000-5000 tons per season, and therefore proposed the raising of the limit.

Mrs. Deleva informed that the proposal to raise the limit had been submitted to the EC.

Mr. Dimovski stated that the Agency would publish the modifications of the IPARD Programme with the forthcoming public calls.

Mrs. Deleva informed about a new measure for rural infrastructure development, and noted that ZELS had been informed about such measure, and that it had been agreed with the Ministry of Finance and support from the World Bank had been arranged for pre-financing of the municipal projects.

*Proposed for the fourth modification of IPARD Programme is presented in **Annex 6**.*

#### **8. In relation to item 7 of the Agenda: “Technical assistance activities”**

##### ***In relation to item 7.1 of the Agenda: “Progress on the preparation for accreditation of the Measures 505 (501) Technical Assistance activities in 2011.”***

Mr. Kolevski from the IPARD Managing Authority informed about the technical meeting for the preparations for accreditation of the measure 505 (501) in Brussels, as well as about the alignment of the proposed derogations, modifications and payments in relation to the measure 505 (501), as well as about the postponement of the national accreditation of the measure 505 (501).

Mrs. Vukovic informed that the final version of the accreditation package for the Technical Assistance measure 505 (501) was proposed and delivered to NAO (NF) on 12.09.2011 for the purposes of the announced pre-accreditation audit. She informed that in September the employees of the IPARD Agency / Sector for Control went on a study visit, in the organization of TAIEX, to the Republic of Bulgaria in order to share the experiences with the agricultural fund (SFA) – SAPARD

Mrs. Simjanovska informed that, according to the current status of the activities, it is expected for the accreditation package for the measure 501 to be delivered to EC in March/April 2011.

#### **Conclusion No.4:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed about the progress made for the accreditation of the Technical Assistance measure under the IPARD Programme 2007-2013.

*Progress report for the accreditation on the measure technical assistance under the IPARD Programme 2007-2013 (for the period from May 2011 – December 2011) is presented in **Annex 7**.*

***In relation to item 7.2 of the Agenda: “ Approval of the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2012”***

Mrs. Deleva informed that the EC representatives had comments on this item regarding the budgeting sources. She elaborated that the action plan covers 2012, and the budget of the IPARD Programme does not include the indicative allocation for 2012. She explained that owing to that fact the budget reflects the financial allocations in accordance with the Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework, which sets forth the budgets for R.M. and cumulates the national co-financing and the European funds.

**Decision No. 3:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee reviewed and approved the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of the Technical Assistance Activities for 2012.

*Annual action plan for implementation of the technical assistance activities in 2012 is presented in **Annex 8**.*

***In relation to item 7.3 of the Agenda: “ Approval of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2012”***

The Chairperson informed that the Annual Communication and Publicity Plan for 2012 is presented under item 7.3 of the brief.

**Decision No.4:**

*The IPARD Monitoring Committee reviewed and approved Annual Communication Action Plan for 2012.*

*Annual Communication plan for 2012 is presented in **Annex 9**.*

***9. In relation to item 8 of the Agenda: “ Information on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD “and In relation to item 9 of the Agenda : “ Information of controls, Controls and audit undertaken, Follow-up actions taken, Annual Audit Report, Statement of assurance “***

Mrs. Simjanovska informed about risk management, the verification visit of the National Fund to the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency, about the activities undertaken to monitor the implementation of the follow-up actions, activities relating to the administrative capacity for the meetings held, about the monitoring of the implementation of the IPARD Programme and the absorption of the IPA funds and about the statement of assurance.

Mr. Kiely proposed that an action plan identifying the bottlenecks and the means to overcome them should be developed within a specific time frame and delivered to all members of the IPARD Monitoring Committee.

The Chairperson proposed the establishing of task group within the frames of the IPARD Monitoring Committee that shall meet twice per month.

**Conclusion No.5 :**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD.

*Information on activities undertaken by NAO for improvement of implementation of IPARD Programme and Management and Control System during 2011 is presented in **Annex 10**.*

***10. In relation to item 10 of the Agenda: “ Information/discussion on the results of on-going evaluation “***

Mr. Troshanski informed about the on-going evaluation activities and elaborated on two elements of the administrative organization of the on-going control and the preparation of the questions and gathering of monitoring data. He also explained the analysis of problems per measure and elaborated on the problems, in particular: the use of water from wells for irrigation of agricultural land, use of water from other sources for irrigation purposes, restrictions found in the List of domestic and foreign recognized and approved varieties of fruits, the procedure for integrated



environmental permit (pig and poultry fattening), the legality of the animal husbandry buildings and greenhouses, procedure for obtaining a construction permit in the rural areas, etc. He also informed about the 2012 Action Plan for on-going evaluation, wherein one of the activities provides for informing the Monitoring Committee about the activities for evaluation of the IPARD Programme.

Mr. Zlatkovski made a comment on the acceptance of the varieties not included in our list, i.e., for the acceptance of the EU list of varieties as a domestic one, and noted that the list suitable for our region should be accepted.

Mr. Mukanov elaborated that the Government of R.M. is developing a recommended list that would include all varieties yielding the best results and thus being entitled to enter the recommended list. However, he explained that the national list has to be accepted, since it is a requirement of the EU.

Mrs. Deleva explained that the Republic of Macedonia, by approximating its systems and markets to the European markets, as well as in its capacity of a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and a signatory of all relevant conventions relating to the observance of the intellectual property rights and copyrights for the production and use of seeds and seedlings, has adapted its laws accordingly. She explained that the Law on seeds and seedlings provides for the entering into the registry of each variety assumed by the country, but one should not confuse the European List of Varieties and the National List of Varieties.

Mr. Sekuloski pointed out that the Institute in R.M. should assume the protective role in the agricultural sector.

***Conclusion No.6:***

*The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on the results from the on-going evaluation activities in 2011.*

Annual progress report on-going evaluation (status October, 2011) is presented in **Annex 11**.

***11. In relation to item 11 of the Agenda: “ Information on the progress on the activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the Programme ”***

Mr. Gacov informed about the annual progress report on the implementation of the Annual Communication and Publicity Plan for 2011. He elaborated on the realized activities, the updating of the web page [www.ipard.gov.mk](http://www.ipard.gov.mk), the organization of the IPARD INFO days, workshops, seminars, IPARD forum, panel discussions on the problems in the process of filing of applications for support under the IPARD Programme, etc.

Mr. Dimovski elaborated on the activities undertaken in accordance with the Annual Communication and Publicity Plan of the IPARD Programme for 2011. He explained that the IPARD Agency had signed a Memorandum of Co-operation with the Association of Bankers, which, in cooperation with the cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, shall discuss and address the problems that the farmers had been facing for the financing of their projects. He also informed about the forum where the IPARD Agency presented the opportunities offered by the IPARD Programme to an audience including representatives of the banking sector. He pointed out that the forum reached the conclusion that the IPARD Programme offers possibilities not only for farmers, but also for the banking sector. He stated that the Association of Bankers requested to be involved more intensively in the processes for public promotion and information about the advantages of IPARD and in the identification of the problems of the potential beneficiaries.

Mr. Mukanov explained that at strategic level, the facilitation of the accessibility of the IPARD funds is part of the third anti-crisis measure within the fourth package of anti-crisis measures of the Government of R.M. He noted that the third measure provides that the IPARD business plan should be used by the banks too, in order to make it easier to the applicants and help them not make double expenses and lose excessive time with their applications. He said that the credit facilities offered by the Macedonian Bank for Development Promotion ((MBDP) belong to the set of measures that the Government of R.M. had been undertaking in order to improve the access to the IPARD funds.

Mr. Sekulovski proposed that the Federation of Farmers of R.M. should be used more extensively for the purposes of dissemination of information to the farmers. Mr. Gacov added that FFRM had been duly notified prior to each organized INFO day.

**Conclusion No.7:**

The IPARD Monitoring Committee was informed on the progress on activities related to the implementation of the Communication and publicity of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013 for 2011.

*Progress report on the implementation of the Annual Action Plan for communication and publicity for 2011 is presented in Annex 12.*

***12. In relation to item 12 of the Agenda: "AOB"******12.1. Rural crediting***

The representative of MBDP explained the Agricultural Credit Discount Fund credit facility, its target group, the institutional framework, the refinancing model, the financial institutions involved, the loan categories, the alignment of the criteria for refinancing under the ACDF credit facility with the criteria for the use of funds under the IPARD Programme, the interest rate, as well the structure of the credit portfolio 2003-2011 (according to the purpose of the funds) and the available funds for new placements via the ACDF credit facility – 1.4 million EUR.

***12.2 G2G Project -Improvement for training in agriculture.***

Mr. Toshev elaborated on the strategy for the ITAM project, the objective of the measure 303 and the strategic elements of the measures 303 and 303 (2), the assistance provided by the IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency in the implementation of the measure and the future activities.

***12.3 IPA Component I- IPARD Projects.******Development and implementation of Agri-environment Measures.***

The representative of the project for development and implementation of agri-environment measures elaborate on the development of the AE Programme, IPARD pilot AE measures, the preparation of implementation elements, trainings provided and the priorities of the system for implementation of AEM.

***12.4 IPA Component I - IPARD Projects***

**Adoption and implementation of the Acquis vis-à-vis CAP, specifically CMO establishment**

Mr. Abot presented the Main results to be achieved, Legal alignments, General capacity building/restructuring, AMIS capability development, Economic assessments and capability development and IPARD Agency capabilities for managing agricultural funds.

#### ***12.5 NPAA and TAIEX planning activities***

Mrs. Veta presented the progress of the National Programme for Adoption of the acquis communautaire (NPAA) and the TAIEX activities realized in 2011, as well as the activities planned for 2012.

*Presentation from Agricultural Credit Discount Fund is presented in **Annex 13**.*

*Presentation from G2G Project - Improvement for training in agriculture is presented in **Annex 14**.*

*Presentation from project Development and implementation of Agri-environment Measures is presented in **Annex 15**.*

*NPAA and TAIEX planning activities is presented in **Annex 16**.*

#### **14. In relation to item 13 of the Agenda: “ Proposals for the Agenda of the next (10th) spring IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date.”**

The Chairperson proposed that the next IPARD Monitoring Committee meeting should be held in May 2012, whereas the exact date of the meeting would be agreed in accordance to the availability of the European Commission representatives.

No additional comments were given therefore the Chairperson concluded the 9th Meeting of the IPARD Monitoring Committee to be closed.

**SIGNATURES:**

<b>FROM THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>FROM THE SECRETARIAT:</b>
Zoran Konjanovski	Margarita Deleva, MSc
Title: Chairperson	Title: Head of IPARD Managing Authority
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:

### Attendance Checklist of the Members on the IPARD Monitoring Committee

Bp.	Title and name of the members	Institution	Present “√”	Absent “√”	Represented “√”	Represented by	Subsequent absences
1.	Mr. Perica Ivanoski, (MSc).Chairperson	MAFWE	√				0
<b>GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</b>							
2.	Mrs. Valentina Stojanovik	MAFWE	√				0
3.	Mr. Zhivko Brajkovski	MAFWE			√	Mrs.Biljana Bojkovska Zlateska	1
4.	Mr. Abdilgafar Sinani	MAFWE	√				0
5.	Mrs. Slavica Jakimovska	MoLSG		√			2
6.	Mrs. Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkovski	SEA	√				0
7.	Mrs. Snezana Gerasimova-Mateska	MoC	√				0
8.	Mr. Ilir Sabani	MoE		√			4

9.	Mr. Dejan Runteski	Agency for food and veterinary		√			1
10.	Mrs. Jadranka Ivanova	MoEPP	√				2
AGENCIES							
11.	Mr. Jordan Kuzmanovski	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			√	Mr. Vasko Ristovski	1
14.	Mr. Zoran Danevski	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			√	Mr. Nikola Stamenov	1
18.	Mrs. Natasa Vrteska	Association of Units of Local Self-government	√				0



19.	Mr. Dragi Dimitrievski (PhD)	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food		√			3
20.	Mrs.Olga Stoimenova	Association of Women Agricultural Producers Agrovinka, Vinica	√				0
21.	Mrs.Olivija Sterjova	Craft Chamber of Republic of Macedonia		√			1
22.	Mr.Ilija Karov (PhD)	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – UGD-Stip		√			1
23.	Mr.Petar Gjorgiev	National Rural Network	√				0
24.	Mrs.Robertina Brajanoska	Macedonian Ecological Society	√				0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>		

### **List of observers at the IPARD Monitoring Committee:**

#### **Representatives from Government Institutions**

1. Mrs. Biljana Kostovska, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, in the Mission of the Republic of Macedonia under the European Communities,
2. Mr. Goran Kovacev, Agricultural Discount Credit Fund, Ministry of Finance,
3. Mr. Viktor Kalajdziski, Agricultural Discount Credit Fund, Ministry of Finance,
4. Mr. Zlatko Nestoroski, Association of Banks, NLB Tutunska Bank,
5. Mr. Petar Andonov, Agency for Support of Agriculture (NEA).

#### **Representatives for IPA Audit Authority :**

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

#### **Representatives of social partners:**

3. Mr. Vasko Zlatkovski, (PhD), . Faculty for agricultural Science and Food - UGD Stip ,
4. Mr. Eftim Saklev, President, Association of farmers,
5. Mr. Jorde Jakimovski, Director, Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research.

#### **Representatives from IFI's, Donors and Donor projects:**

1. Ms. Lidija Fajdiga, representative from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
2. Mrs. Daniela Buzarovska, FAGRICOM

#### **Additional participants and presenters:**

1. Mrs. Sonja Bukovec, Team Leader, – Project for Development and Implementation of Agro-Environmental Measures,
2. Mr. Humphrey Abbott– Team Leader, Project for Adoption and Implementation of the Acquis for Common Agricultural Policy, and particularly for establishing a common market organisations.
3. Mr. Ljupco Tosev, G2G Project, Project-Improvement for training in agriculture

## DRAFT AGENDA of the 9<sup>th</sup> IPARD Monitoring Committee Meeting

Date: 9th of December, 2011,

Location: Debate Hall in the Government of Republic of Macedonia

1. Opening of the meeting /Approval of the Draft Agenda for the 9th IPARD MC meeting
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous (8th) IPARD MC meeting, held on 09en of June, 2011
3. Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the previous (8th) IPA MC meeting and discussion
4. Follow-up, feedback from the IPA Monitoring Committee.
5. State of play of implementation of the IPARD Programme
  - 5.1. Examination of the results of the IPARD Programme via monitoring indicators/data
  - 5.2 Report for implementation of IPARD Programme
    - Contracted project
    - Paid project
    - Reason for rejection
  - 5.3 Use of interest earned.
  - 5.4 Other points e.g. matters arising particularly from correspondence relevant to the Programme.
6. Proposal for fourth modification of IPARD Programme
  - 6.1. Progress with the third modification of IPARD Programme
7. Technical assistance activities
  - 7.1. Progress on the preparation for accreditation of the Measures 505 (501) Technical Assistance activities in 2011.
  - 7.2. Approval of the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2012.
  - 7.3. Approval of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2012.
8. Information on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD

9. Information of controls: Controls and audit undertaken, Follow-up actions taken, Annual Audit Report, Statement of assurance.

10. Input from the IPARD MC on next MIPD

11. Information/discussion on the results of on-going evaluation

12. Information on the progress on the activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the Programme

13.AOB

13.1. Project IPA 2008 – Development and implementation of Agri-environment Measures

13.2 G2G Project-Improvement for training in agriculture.

13.3. Project IPA 2008 – Adoption and implementation of the Acquis vis-à-vis CAP, specifically CMO establishment

13.4. Project IPA 2008 – Strengthening institutional capacities for management and implementation of operational programs.

13.5. NPAA and TAIEX planning activities

14. Proposals for the Agenda of the next (10th) spring IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date.

**FINAL AGENDA**  
**of the 9<sup>th</sup> IPARD Monitoring Committee Meeting**


**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 2011,

**Location:** Debate Hall in the Government of Republic of Macedonia

1. Opening of the meeting /Approval of the Draft Agenda for the 9th IPARD MC meeting
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous (8th) IPARD MC meeting, held on 09en of June, 2011
3. Information on the implementation of decisions/conclusions taken at the previous (8th) IPA MC meeting and discussion
4. Follow-up, feedback from the IPA Monitoring Committee.
5. State of play of implementation of the IPARD Programme
  - 5.1. Examination of the results of the IPARD Programme via monitoring indicators/data
  - 5.2 Report for implementation of IPARD Programme
    - Contracted project
    - Paid project
      - Reason for rejection
  - 5.3 Use of interest earned.
  - 5.4 Other points e.g. matters arising particularly from correspondence relevant to the Programme.
6. Proposal for fourth modification of IPARD Programme
  - 6.1. Progress with the third modification of IPARD Programme
7. Technical assistance activities
  - 7.1. Progress on the preparation for accreditation of the Measures 505 (501) Technical Assistance activities in 2011.
  - 7.2. Approval of the Annual Action Plan for the implementation of Technical Assistance activities in 2012.
  - 7.3. Approval of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2012.
8. Information on functioning of the IPARD management and control system of IPARD

9. Information of controls: Controls and audit undertaken, Follow-up actions taken, Annual Audit Report, Statement of assurance.
10. Information/discussion on the results of on-going evaluation
11. Information on the progress on the activities related to the Communication and Publicity of the Programme
12. AOB
  - 12.1. Rural crediting
  - 12.2. Project IPA 2008 – Development and implementation of Agri-environment Measures
  - 12.3. G2G Project-Improvement for training in agriculture
  - 12.4. Project IPA 2008 – Adoption and implementation of the Acquis vis-à-vis CAP, specifically CMO establishment
  - 12.5. Project IPA 2008 – Strengthening institutional capacities for management and implementation of operational programs.
  - 12.6. NPAA and TAIEX planning activities
13. Proposals for the Agenda of the next (10th) spring IPARD MC meeting / agreement on indicative new date.

## SIGNATURES:

FROM THE IPARD MONITORING COMMITTEE:	FROM THE SECRETARIAT:
Zoran Konjanovski 	Margarita Deleva, MSc
Title: Chairperson	Title: Head of IPARD Managing Authority
Signature:	Signature:
Date: 18.07.2012	Date: 18.07.2012

