



Republic of North Macedonia

Agency for Financial Support of the Agriculture and Rural Development

Human Resources

Staff situation in AFSARD

- 285 systematized work posts
- 238 employees in total + Director and Deputy director
 - 203 permanently employed (of these, 111 are working on IPARD and 3 working in the Sector for IT)
 - 20 employed on temporary basis (of these, 11 are working on IPARD, 3 in the Sector for IT and 6 on the National programs)
 - 15 employed on contractual basis (for the implementation of the National programs)
- 122 employees working on the IPARD Program 2014-2020
 - 111 permanently employed
 - 11 employed on temporary basis

On-going procedures for employment

- The Ministry of finance approved funds for employment of 27 new administrative civil servants. The procedure for employment should start by the end of June or beginning of July, this year.

Promotions

- The Ministry of finance approved funds for promotion of 16 administrative civil servants. The procedure for promotion should start by the end of June or beginning of July, this year.

Staff situation per organizational unit (IPARD structure):

- Sector for Project Approval – 34 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Authorization of Payments – 19 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for on-the-spot Control – 20 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Financial Affairs – 12 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Internal Audit – 5 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for General and Legal Affairs – 14 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Registers – 11 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Analytics – 4 administrative civil servants and
- Unit for Human Resources Manager – 3 administrative civil servants.

Financial data regarding implementation of the IPARD II Program; especially related to realization of the financial allocation of the 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Total commitments taken from the contracts signed for financial support from the public call 01/2017, 01/2018, 02/2018, 01/2019, 02/2019 and 01/2020 is 45.413.134,42 € (EU contribution),

Taking into consideration the financial allocations and the prefinancing requested by NAO and approved by the EC, there is no risk for any de-commitment of funds for the financial years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Status with accreditation of the rural public infrastructure measure

Regarding the accreditation of the rural public infrastructure measure, the following activities have been agreed with the National Fund and the Managing Authority:

- finalization of the necessary employments for the realization of this measure by July 2019 - the WLA for 2019 takes into account the workload for this measure and the projected number of 150 employees for IPARD in 2019 includes the new employments for this measure,
- implementation of basic trainings for this measure (PRAG, fraud/irregularities etc.) in the period until September 2019 (depending on available experts and funds through the TAIEX instrument),
- and
- harmonization of the work procedures for implementing the rural public infrastructure measure with the comments of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development by 15.09.2019.

Status with regard to implementation of the accredited measures 1, 3 and 7

During the previous period, AFSARD continued with the evaluation process for all received applications of measure 7 of the public call 01/2019, measure 3 of the public call 02/2019 and measure 1 of the public call 01/2020.

According to the modification of the IPARD Program and amendment of the law for establishing the AFSARD, procedure for work of the relevant departments within the Agency has been modified and approved for work by NAO and EC. The modification envisages processing only the complete applications, while the incomplete applications according to the list of documents attached to the public call announcement, shall be immediately rejected.

From the above-mentioned public calls, Agency for financial support in agriculture and rural development has issued in total 75 decisions for allocation of funds for measure 7, 47 for measure 3 and 278 for measure 1 the process is still ongoing.

Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects for measure 7 is 7.719.078,00 (EU contribution 5.789.308,50 €). For measure 3, total amount of the public expenditure of the contracted projects is 11.257.445,00 € (EU contribution 8.443.083,75 €) and for

measure 1 total amount of the public expenditure of the contracted projects is 2.256.853,00 € (EU contribution 1.692.639,75 €) .

In the evaluation process, Agency has also issued 172 decisions for rejection of the application for measure 7, 12 decisions for rejection of applications submitted under measure 3 and 244 decisions for rejection of applications submitted under measure 1 .

Main reason for rejection of applications in all three measures is the incomplete applications. Huge delay in the process of contracting the applications presents the slow respond of the Burro for Court Expertise in the process of determining the reasonableness of the costs. Also, due to the pandemic of the virus Covid-19, the respond of the companies contacted in the process of market research of the prices was very low. Large number of received applications and insufficient number of employees, still remains as one of the bottle necks in the process of assessment of the applications.

With the last three public calls (01/19, 02.19 and 01/20) announced for all the three measure separately, has been exhausted all the budget of the measures for the whole program period 2014-2020.

The breakdown of the received and processed applications per public call for the reporting period is given in the table below.

Information regarding the submitted applications per public call:

Public call 01/2019 (all the prices are in Euros)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount	No. of rejected applications	Main reason for rejection of applications	No. of contracted projects (decision for allocation of funds is issued)	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure -IPARD II contribution of the contracted projects
7	1	103	892.404,27 €	57	Incomplete applications	40	351.943,00 €	263.957,25 €
7	2	23	3.050.807,57 €	14		8	832.497,00 €	624.372,75 €
7	3	75	26.009.749,89 €	54		18	4.281.702,00 €	3.211.276,50 €
7	4	1	31.863,36 €	1		0		- €
7	5	8	64.583,08 €	6		1	10.614,00 €	7.960,50 €
7	6	10	2.887.858,04 €	9		1	549.400,00 €	412.050,00 €
7	7	40	10.492.062,69 €	30		7	1.692.922,00 €	1.269.691,50 €
7	8	1	455.042,91 €	1		0		- €
Total on 21.05.2021		261	43.884.371,81 €	172			75	7.719.078,00 €

Public call 02/2019 (all the prices are in Euros)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount	No. of rejected applications	Main reason for rejection of applications	No. of contracted projects (decision for allocation of funds is issued)	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure -IPARD II contribution of the contracted projects
3	1	2	977.921,71 €	0	Incomplete applications	2	898.615,00 €	673.961,25 €
3	2	9	902.131,31 €	2		7	560.013,00 €	420.009,75 €
3	3	35	8.204.008,00 €	6		27	7.328.675,00 €	5.496.506,25 €
3	4	5	1.861.695,11 €	1		4	319.210,00 €	239.407,50 €
3	6	10	4.817.982,38 €	3		7	2.150.932,00 €	1.613.199,00 €
Total on 21.05.2021		61	16.763.738,51 €	12		47	11.257.445,00 €	8.443.083,75 €

Public call 01/2020 (all the prices are in Euros)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount	No. of rejected applications	Main reason for rejection of applications	No. of contracted projects (decision for allocation of funds is issued)	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure -IPARD II contribution of the contracted projects
1	1	728	14.130.491,00 €	233	Incomplete applications	276	2.087.166,00 €	1.565.374,50 €
1	2	16	5.560.360,00 €	9		1	140.309,00 €	105.231,75 €
1	3	3	1.319.200,00 €	1		1	29.378,00 €	22.033,50 €
1	4	1	2.162,00 €	1		0	€	- €
Total on 21.05.2021		748	21.012.213,00 €	244		278	2.256.853,00 €	1.692.639,75 €

For this public call 01/2020, because the requested amount for financial support is higher than the available budget of the public call 9.216.693,00 € , ranking of the application is applied.

In period from December 2020 till May 2021, 63 new payment requests have been received for the measure 1 - Investments in tangible assets for agricultural holdings, with requested amount: 1.726.015,00 €. During this period are paid 265 requests for payment with total amount: 2.196.660,00 €
So far, 1482 payment requests have been received, for the measure 1. Total amount requested is 12.991.240,00 €.
So far AFSARD has approved 1378 request for payments with total amount of approximately 10.947.872,00 €.,

In period from December 2020 till May 2021, 17 new payment requests have been received for the measure 3 - Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, with requested amount: 1.789.857,00 €. During this period are paid 6 requests for payment with total amount: 913.546,00 € .
So far, 72 payment requests have been received, for the measure 3. Total amount requested is 10.544.542,00 €.
So far AFSARD has approved 61 request for payments with total amount of approximately 8.774.046,00 €.

In period from December 2020 till May 2021, 21 new payment requests have been received for the measure 7 - Farm diversification and business development, with requested amount: 1.952.436,00 €. During this period are paid 5 requests for payment with total amount: 32.346,00 € .
So far, 35 payment requests have been received, for the measure 7. Total amount requested is 2.911.818,00 €.
So far AFSARD has approved 15 request for payments with total amount of approximately 836.688,00 €.

On-the-spot controls (Since December 2020 - ongoing)

On-the-spot Controls prior approval

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since December 2020 has carried out total of 224 on-the-spot controls prior approval at investments under the Call for Applications 19/01, 19-02 and 20/01 from IPARD 2 2014-2020. In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by call for applications.

In order to reduce the risk of COVID – 19 AFSARD made changes regarding the procedures for performing OTSC prior approval for applications involving only purchase of agricultural equipment and mechanization. For those investments OTSC prior approval was replaced by administrative verification of the declared data using the available data bases and registries (Farm registry, LPIS, VIS, direct payments data base etc.). This procedure was approved by NAO on 30.06.2020 an it is only applicable for a certain type of investments and only for applications received in call for applications 20/01

<i>Call for applications 19/01 (Measure 7)</i>
3 OTSC
<i>Call for applications 19/02 (Measure 3)</i>
1 OTSC
<i>Call for applications 20/01 (performed regular OTSC) – Measure 1</i>
43 OTSC

<i>Call for applications 20/01 (performed OTSC according to the changed procedure) – Measure 1</i>	
177 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	224 OTSC

On-the-spot Controls before payment

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since December 2020 has carried out total of 204 on-the-spot controls before payment at investments under the Call for Applications 17/01, 18/01 and 18/02, 19/01, 19/02 и 20/01 from IPARD 2 2014-2020. In addition there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by measures

<i>Call for applications 17/01</i>
3 OTSC – Measure 1
<i>Call for applications 18/01 (Measure 3)</i>
7 OTSC
<i>Call for applications 18/02 (Measure 1)</i>
155 OTSC

<i>Call for applications 19/01 (Measure 1)</i>	
14 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 19/02 (Measure 3)</i>	
5 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 20/01 (Measure 1)</i>	
20 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	204 OTSC

Ex-post

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since December 2020 has carried out total of 45 ex-post on-the-spot controls at investments under IPARD 1 2007-2013 and IPARD 2 2014-2020. In addition there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by measures

<i>Ex-post OTSC (IPARD 1 2007-2013)</i>	
<u>Measure</u>	<u>Number of carried out OTSC before payment per measure</u>
101	42 OTSC
<i>Ex-post OTSC (IPARD 2 2014-2020)</i>	
1	2 OTSC
3	1 OTSC
Total No of OTSC	45 OTSC

Hidden works

Sector for on-the-spot control has carried also 2 OTSC for establishing hidden works out of which 2 OTSC at Investments under Measure 3 and 1 OTSC at investments under Measure 7, Call for Applications 17/01 and 19/02

Difficulties with the COVID-19

At the moment we are still encountering with issues connected to COVID-19 (infected employees, preventive self-isolation etc.), but for now it's a small number of projects.