



Republic of North Macedonia

Agency for Financial Support of the Agriculture and Rural Development

Human Resources

Staff situation in AFSARD

- 285 systematized work posts
- 232 employees in total + Director and Deputy director
 - 192 permanently employed (of these, 113 are working on IPARD and 4 working in the Sector for IT)
 - 28 employed on temporary basis (of these, 13 are working on IPARD, 3 in the Sector for IT and 12 on the National programs)
 - 12 employed on contractual basis (for the implementation of the National programs)
- 126 employees working on the IPARD Program 2014-2020
 - 113 permanently employed
 - 13 employed on temporary basis

On-going procedure for employment

- The procedure for employment of 27 new administrative civil servants is expected to be completed by mid-December 2021 at the latest. Through this procedure, 9 new administrative civil servants should be employed (planned to work on IPARD Program 2014-2020), and 18 employees currently employed on temporary basis in the Agency should be employed on permanent basis (9 of them work on the IPARD Program 2014-2020 and 1 in the Sector for IT).

Promotions

- In July this year, 14 administrative civil servants were promoted (11 of them work on the IPARD Program 2014-2020). By the end of 2021, a procedure should be implemented for the promotion of 2 more administrative civil servants working on the IPARD Program 2014-2020.

Staff situation per organizational unit (IPARD structure):

- Sector for Project Approval – 35 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Authorization of Payments – 22 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for on-the-spot Control – 20 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Financial Affairs – 11 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Internal Audit – 5 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for General and Legal Affairs – 15 administrative civil servants,

- Sector for Registers – 11 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Analstics – 4 administrative civil servants and
- Unit for Human Resources Manager – 3 administrative civil servants.

Motivation of the employees

- Starting from August, 2021, the employees working on the IPARD Program 2014-2020 are paid a supplement of 15% of the basic salary.

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 49.220.423,97 € (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 have signed all remaining contracts for applications submitted under the public call 01/2019 and public call 02/2019. Regarding

measure 1 of the public call 01/2020, AFSARD is currently signing additional number of contracts.

From the above-mentioned public calls, Agency for financial support in agriculture and rural development has issued in total 78 decisions for allocation of funds for measure 7, 48 for measure 3 and 402 for measure 1 the process is still ongoing.

Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects for measure 7 is 8.177.434,89 (EU contribution 6.133.076,17 €). For measure 3, total amount of the public expenditure of the contracted projects is 11.438.656,00 € (EU contribution 8.578.992.00 €) and for measure 1 total amount of the public expenditure of the contracted projects is 6.206.603,29 € (EU contribution 4.654.952.46€) .

In the evaluation process, Agency has also issued 183 decisions for rejection of the application for measure 7, 13 decisions for rejection of applications submitted under measure 3 and 274 decisions for rejection of applications submitted under measure 1 .

Additionally, in July 2021, AFSARD published new public call for measure 7. In total 250 applications were received under this call. During the administrative check, 103 applications were rejected as incomplete or not eligible for co-financing. Process of administrative check for the remaining application is still on-going.

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 response of the Bureau for Court Expertise in the process of determining the reasonableness of the costs. Also, due to the pandemic of the virus Covid-19, the response 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 measures 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	522.240,58	391.680,44 €
7	2	23	3.050.807,57 €	14		7 ¹	728.081,02	546.060,77 €
7	3	75	26.009.749,89 €	54		20	4.426.326,49	3.319.744,87 €
7	4	1	31.863,36 €	1		0		€
7	5	8	64.583,08 €	6		2	25.087,27	18.815,45 €
7	6	10	2.887.858,04 €	9		1	549.400,00 €	412.050,00 €
7	7	40	10.492.062,69 €	30		8	1.926.299,53 €	1.444.724,65 €
7	8	1	455.042,91 €	1		0		€
Total on 16.11.2021		261	43.884.371,81 €	172			78	8.177.434,89 €

One contract is cancelled by request from the applicant

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		28	7.509.885,44	5.632.414,08
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 16.11.2021		61	16.763.738,51 €	12		48²	11.438.656,00 €	8.578.992,00 €

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 €	246	Incomplete applications	399	6.015.884,46 €	4.511.913,35 €
1	2	16	5.560.360,00 €	9		2	162.088,26 €	121.566,19 €

² Вкупно потпишани договори 49. Еден од барателите се откажа од договорот по неговото потпишување

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 16.11.2021		748	21.012.213,00 €	257		402	6.207.350,72 €	4.655.513,04 €

In the previous period, certain number of applicants cancelled their applications or did not signed contracts , which allowed AFSARD to sign additional number od contracts with applicants who were not previously listed on the ranking list prepared according to the available budget for measure 1.

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	114	1.098.764,00 €	45	Incomplete applications	/	/	/
7	2	22	3.205.504,00 €	11		/	/	/
7	3	50	15.954.066,98 €	12		/	/	/
7	4	3	25.860,00 €	3		/	/	/
7	5	12	1.050.517,00 €	5		/	/	/
7	6	6	1.038.200,00 €	3		/	/	/
7	7	43	10.117.909,00 €	24		/	/	/
7	8	/		/		/	/	/
Total on 16.11.2021		250	32.490.820,97 €	103				

In period from June 2021 till November 2021, 165 new payment requests have been received for the measure 1 - Investments in tangible assets for agricultural holdings, with requested amount: 1.570.250,00 €. During this period are paid 165 requests for payment with total amount: (2.713.046,00 €
 So far, 1702 payment requests have been received, for the measure 1. Total amount requested is 16.391.962,00€.
 So far AFSARD has approved 1562 request for payments with total amount of approximately 13.059.958,16 €.,

In period June 2021 till November 2021, 8 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: 602.095,00 €. During this period are paid 20 requests for payment with total amount: 1.543.301,00 €.
 So far, 86 payment requests have been received, for the measure 3. Total amount requested is 12.202.725,00 €.
 So far AFSARD has approved 82 request for payments with total amount of approximately 10.530.398,13 €.

In period from June 2021 till November 2021, 14 new payment requests have been received for the measure 7 - Farm diversification and business development, with requested amount: 1.164.878,00 €. During this period are paid 35 requests for payment with total amount: 2.101361,00 € .
 So far, 61 payment requests have been received, for the measure 7. Total amount requested is 4.139.278,00 €.
 So far AFSARD has approved 48 request for payments with total amount of approximately 2.804.443,75 €.

Table: Implementation of IPARD 2 Program

Measure	Total number of applications	Total requested amount	No. of rejected applications	No. of contract ed 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	No. of submitted claim for payments	Claimed amount for co-financing (TPE)	Claimed amount for co-financing, IPARD II contribution	No. of authorized claims for payments	Authorized amount for co-financing, IPARD II contribution	IPARD II amount paid to the recipients
M1	3251	56.845.115,19 €	1174	1922	25.675.211,97 €	19.256.408,98 €	1702	16.391.962,00 €	12.293.971,50 €	1562	10.447.966,53 €	10.341.406,00 €
M3	183	45.066.700,53 €	64	118	26.552.513,53 €	19.914.385,15 €	86	12.202.725,00 €	9.152.043,75 €	82	8.424.318,51 €	8.171.360,00 €
M7	698	118.933.776,95 €	437	101	12.470.742,55 €	9.353.056,91 €	61	4.139.278,00 €	3.104.458,50 €	48	2.243.555,00 €	2.240.315,00 €

M9	28	- €	14	14	247.483,00 €	210.360,5 5 €	13	189.740,00 €	151.792,00 €	12	143.629,90 €	140.280,00 €
Total on 22.11.2021		220.845.592,67 €	1689	2155	64.945.951,05 €	48.734.21 1,59 €	1862	32.923.705,00 €	24.702.265,75 €	1704	21.259.469,94 €	20.893.361,00 €
											26.559.974,43 €	26.102.673,25 €

On-the-spot controls (Since June 2021 - ongoing)

On-the-spot Controls prior approval

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2021 has carried out total of 136 on-the-spot controls prior approval at investments under the Call for Applications 20/01 and 21/01 from IPARD 2 2014-2020. In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by call for applications.

<i>Call for applications 20/01 (Measure 1)</i>	
69 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 21/01 (Measure 7)</i>	
67 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	136 OTSC

On-the-spot Controls before payment

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2021 has carried out total of 222 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>	
1 OTSC – Measure 1	
4 OTSC – Measure 7	
<i>Call for applications 18/01 (Measure 3)</i>	
2 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 18/02 (Measure 1)</i>	
8 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 19/01 (Measure 7)</i>	
10 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 19/02 (Measure 3)</i>	
13 OTSC	
<i>Call for applications 20/01 (Measure 1)</i>	
184 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	222 OTSC

Ex-post

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2021 has carried out total of 131 ex-post on-the-spot controls at investments under IPARD 1 2007-2013. 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	130 OTSC

302	1 OTSC
Total No of OTSC	131 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, call for applications 18/01

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.