



**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
IPARD AGENCY**

**REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CALLS 01/2023, 01/2024,
02/2024 AND 01/2025 OF THE IPARD PROGRAMME 2021-2027**

**FORECAST OF ACTIVITIES AND CALLS IN 2026 (INCLUDING THE
ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF USAGE)**

**INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF ACCREDITATION OF MEASURES
FROM THE IPARD III PROGRAMME**

(for the period until December 2025)

December 2025



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Human Resources report

Staff situation in AFSARD

- 285 systematized work posts
- 235 employees in total + Director and Deputy director
 - 209 permanently employed (of these, 144 are working on IPARD) currently the employment status of three employees within the IPARD structure is temporarily inactive. Furthermore, the administrative capacities have been reinforced by recruitment of 10 employees in the Sector for on the spot control, 4 employees in the sector for analytics and director support, and 1 employee in the unit for human resources management, this increasing the total number of employees to over 163.
 - 27 employed on temporary basis (of these, 19 are working on IPARD, 5 working in the sector for general and legal affairs, 1 working in the sector for registers, 3 working in the sector for project approval and 10 working in sector for on-the-spot control and 8 working on the National programs)
 - 7 employed on contractual basis (for the implementation of the National programs)
- 163 employees working on the IPARD Program 2021-2027
 - 144 permanently employed
 - 19 employed on temporary basis

On-going procedure for employment

Procedure for employment /

Procedures for promotion /

Staff situation per organizational unit (IPARD structure):

- Sector for Project Approval – 33 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Authorization of Payments – 20 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for on-the-spot Control – 52 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Financial Affairs – 10 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Internal Audit – 6 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for General and Legal Affairs – 13 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Registers – 11 administrative civil servants,
- Sector for Analytics – 8 administrative civil servants
- Sector for IT- 6 administrative civil servants
- Unit for Human Resources Manager – 4 administrative civil servants

Employee motivation

Starting from January 2023, all employees who working in AFSARD are paid a raising of 15% of the basic salary.



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Financial data regarding implementation of the IPARD III Programme

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 end of 2025,
- Implementation of basic trainings for this measure (PRAG, fraud/irregularities etc.) during 2025 (depending on available experts and funds through the TAIEX instrument), one workshop has been approved for the implementation of the rural public infrastructure measure.
- During 2024 two trainings were implemented: Introductory training on PRAG contact procedures and Advanced training in PRAG service contracts, where a total of 16 civil servants attended on both trainings.
- On 01.04.2025, with letter No. 02-1003/2, the Agency submitted the accreditation package for the measure Investments in Public Rural Infrastructure to the National Authorization Coordinator and it was harmonized in accordance with the draft audit opinion for the assessment of the compliance of the indirect management system with the measure Investments in Public Rural Infrastructure from IPARD 2021-2027.

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

AFPZRR announced the first public call of the IPARD 2021-2027 programming period for measures 1 and 7 on 01.09.2023 and was open until 30.10.2023.

The total budget of this public call for measure 1 is 18,893,333.33 euros, while for measure 7 it is 11,400,000 euros. The budgets of the financial years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 were also considered in the budget calculation.

The Agency immediately proceeded to the administrative check of the applications as they were received. The main reason for rejection of applications is incompleteness and/or non-eligibility of the applications. More specifically, in this call, during the completeness check, it was noted that a large number of applications were rejected because they don't submit "Proof that against the recipient is not initiated criminal procedure from the register for criminal evidence from primary criminal court. Regarding the eligibility of the applications, most of them were rejected due to unavailable budget. The large number of applications received and the insufficient number of employees still represent a major obstacle in the process of timely processing of applications.

Due to the large number of applications and the higher requested amount of financial support from the public call budget, ranking of applications will be applied in accordance with the selection criteria of the IPARD 3 program. For Measure 7, under



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public call 01/2023, 75 applications were rejected because they were not within the range of the available budget, with a total amount of 23,272,688.55 EUR, or total requested financial support of 13,981,714.24 EUR. For Measure 1, under Public Call 01/2023, 126 applications were rejected for the same reason, with a total amount of 11,262,459.99 EUR, or total requested financial support of 7,027,534.26 EUR.

The large number of applications received and the insufficient number of employees still represent a major obstacle in the process of timely processing of applications.

Due to the large number of applications and the higher requested amount of financial support from the public call budget, ranking of applications will be applied in accordance with the selection criteria of the IPARD 3 program.

The total number of applications received, as well as total requested amount of financial support, the number of rejected, cancelled and applications with a Contract are presented in the tables below.

Public call 01/2023 (Euros)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount (EU+NKF)	No. of rejected applications	No. of Canceled applications	Total amount of Canceled applications	No. of contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects (EU+NKF)
M1	01	831	39.624.656	464	33	1.425.518	334	12.061.741
M1	02	50	8.880.090	27	6	2.076.782	17	3.802.353
M1	03	3	62.741	3	0	0	0	0
M1	04	17	3.109.014	11	0	0	6	1.032.808
M1	05	1	46.741	1	0	0	0	0
Total	20.11.2025	902	51.723.242	506	39	3.502.300	357	16.896.902

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount (EU+NKF)	No. of rejected applications	No. of Canceled applications	Total amount of Canceled applications	No. of contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects (EU+NKF)
M7	01	37	2.445.215	34	0	0	3	532.926
M7	02	4	951.314	3	0	0	1	279.641
M7	03	11	1.415.910	10	1	536.816	0	0
M7	04	94	20.881.659	74	0	0	20	3.893.079
M7	05	3	247.009	3	0	0	0	0
M7	06	23	2.792.191	18	0	0	5	1.639.756
M7	07	26	3.633.400	21	0	0	5	646.981
M7	08	57	13.743.406	39	4	864.364	14	3.488.564
M7	09	2	169.590	2	0	0,00	0	0
Total	20.11.2025	257	46.279.697	204	5	1.401.180	48	10.480.948



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AFPZRR announced the second public call from the IPARD 2021-2027 programming period for measure 3 on 13.04.2024 and was open until 12.06.2024. The total budget of this public call for measure 3 is 14,013,333 euros.

The number of submitted applications that are not within the range of the available budget is 22 applications with a total financial support of 8,466,335.74 Euros.

The agency immediately proceeded to the administrative check of the applications as they were received. Regarding the approval process of the applications from 01/2024, some of them are in the eligibility phase and their completion depends on data received from relevant Sectors in the Agency.

The main reason for rejection of applications is incompleteness and/or non-eligibility of the applications.

The most common reason for rejection of incomplete applications is the failure to submit an appropriate document to meet environmental standards. This deficiency (problem) cannot be located in a specific municipality. Regarding the inadequacy of the beneficiaries, the most common criterion for rejection cannot be defined

In relation to the field controls performed before approval, it was determined that two applications had started an investment before signing a Financial Support Agreement and they were rejected.

The large number of applications received and the insufficient number of employees still represent a major obstacle in the process of timely processing of applications.

The administrative check completeness and eligibility checks of all applications have been completed, and all assessed eligible applications have been subject to on-the-spot control checks prior approval. So far, the reference price by the Reference Price Database Management Unit has been completed on 40 applications and they have been submitted to the Project Approval Sector through the internal electronic system.

Due to the large number of applications and the higher requested amount for financial support from the public call budget, ranking of applications will be applied in accordance with the selection criteria of the IPARD 3 program.

The total number of applications received, as well as the total requested amount for financial support, the number of rejected, cancelled and applications with a Contract are presented in the table below.

Public call 01/2024 (all the prices are in Euros)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount (EU+NKF)	No. of rejected applications	No. of Canceled applications	Total amount of Canceled applications	No. of contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects (EU+NKF)
M3	01	4	299.368	1	0	0	2	111.665
M3	02	11	1.931.375	5	0	0	4	254.046



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M3	03	31	17.429.843	7	0	0	9	3.909.754
M3	04	14	2.534.645	4	0	0	4	1.535.630
M3	05	2	872.082	0	0	0	1	45.246
M3	06	15	4.597.913	2	1	1.698.629	7	830.962
M3	07	2	145.249	1	0	0	1	78.999
M3	08	2	343.502	0	0	0	0	0
M3	09	35	4.176.478	13	0	0	8	620.579
Total	20.11.2025	116	32.330.455	33	1	1.698.629	36	7.386.881

AFPZRR announced the third public call of the IPARD 2021-2027 programming period for measure 7 on 05.11.2024 and was open until 20.12.2024. The total budget of this public call for measure 7 is 14,000,000 euros.

The agency immediately proceeded to the administrative check of the applications as they were received. The main reason for rejection of applications is incompleteness and/or non-eligibility of the applications. The large number of applications received and the insufficient number of employees still represent a major obstacle in the process of timely processing of applications.

The administrative processing, completeness check of all applications has been completed. For all complete and eligible applications, requests for reference price check have been sent through the internal electronic system to the reference price database management department, and have been subject to on-the-spot control checks prior approval.

The total number of applications received, as well as the total amount requested for financial support and the number of rejected applications are presented in the table below.

Public Call 02/2024 (Euro)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount (EU+NKF)	No. of rejected applications	No. of Canceled applications	Total amount of Canceled applications	No. of contracted projects	Total Public Expenditure of the contracted projects (EU+NKF)
M7	01	29	640.306	21	0	0	2	18.313
M7	02	2	766.074	1	0	0	0	0
M7	03	1	722.085	1	0	0	0	0
M7	05	20	2.583.949	18	0	0	0	0
M7	06	1	268.808	1	0	0	0	0
M7	07	5	86.713	3	0	0	2	52.369
M7	08	70	19.052.228	46	1	525.343	8	1.644.243
Total	20.11.2025	128	24.120.163	92	1	525.343	12	1.714.925



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AFPZRR announced the fourth public call of the IPARD 2021-2027 programming period for measure 1 on 12.02.2025 and was open until 29.03.2025. The total budget of this public call for measure 1 is 7,415,335 euros.

The Agency immediately proceeds with the administrative check of applications as they are received. The main reason for rejection of applications is incompleteness and/or non-eligibility of the applications. The large number of applications received and the insufficient number of employees still represent a major obstacle in the process of timely processing of applications.

The total number of applications received, as well as the total amount requested for financial support and the number of rejected applications, are presented in the table below.

Public Call 01/2025 (Euro)

Measure	Sector	Total number of applications	Total requested amount (EU+NKF)	No. of rejected applications
M1	01	674	29.471.316	95
M1	02	29	7.071.502	9
M1	03	3	332.185	2
M1	04	8	1.150.277	2
Total on	20.11.2025	714	38.025.280	108

Authorization of payments

In the period of May 2025 -November 2025 from IPARD III Programme 114 new claims for payment have been received for measure 1 (Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings) with total requested amount of 321.447.951,00 MKD (5.226.795,95,00 €).

3 new claims for payment have been received for measure 3 (Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products) with total requested amount of 14.073.774,00 MKD (228.841,85 €).

9 new claims for payment have been received from measure 7 (Farm diversification and business development) with total amount of 96.300.974,00 MKD (1.565.869,50€).

12 claims for payment for advanced payment have been received in the amount of 101.904.767,00 MKD (1.429.103€). In this period 9 claims for advanced payment have been paid in the amount of 69.675.428,00 MKD(1.132.934,00 €).

4 claims for payment have been received from measure 9 (Technical assistance) with total amount of 531.051,00 MKD (8.635,00 €).

In the table below there is data for implementation for the IPARD 3 Program (Euro)



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Measure	No. of submitted advance claims for payments	Claimed amount for advance payment, EU contribution	No. of submitted claim for payments	Claimed amount for co-financing (TPE)	Claimed amount for co-financing,	No. of authorized claims for payments	Authorized amount for co-financing,	Amount paid to the recipients
M1	4	1.424.124	314	10.878.806	8.159.105	251	6.107.054	5.685.323
M3	9	778.184	3	226.996	170.247	8	750.259	750.311
M7	8	1.260.895	17	2.909.174	2.181.880	24	1.828.018	1.824.583
M9	0	0	10	21.009	15.757	6	9.723	6.194
Total	21	3.463.203	344	14.035.985	10.526.989	289	8.695.055	8.266.411



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On-the-spot controls (Since June 2025 - ongoing)

On-the-spot Controls prior approval

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2025 has carried out total of 151 on-the-spot controls prior approval at investments under the Call for applications 25/01 from IPARD 3 2021-2027 (Measure 1); Call for applications 24/01 from IPARD 3 2021-2027 (Measure 3) and Call for applications 24/02 from IPARD 3 2021-2027 (Measure 7). In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by calls for applications.

Call for Applications 01/2025 (IPARD 3) (Measure 1)	
29 OTSC	
Call for applications 01/2024 (IPARD 3) (Measure 3)	
21 OTSC	
Call for applications 02/2024 (IPARD 3) (Measure 7)	
32 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	82 OTSC

On-the-spot Controls before payment

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2025 has carried out total of 151 on-the-spot controls before payment at investments under the Call for applications 23/01, (Measure 1 and 7) from IPARD 3 2021-2027; Call for applications 19/02 (Measure 3) from IPARD 2 2014-2020 and Call for applications 17/01 (Measure 7) from IPARD 2 2014-2020. In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by calls for applications.

Call for applications 01/2023 IPARD 3 (Measure 1)	
139 OTSC	
Call for applications 01/2023 IPARD 3 (Measure 7)	
10 OTSC	
Call for applications 02/2019 IPARD 2 (Measure 3)	
1 OTSC	
Call for applications 01/2017 IPARD 2 (Measure 7)	
1 OTSC	
Total No of OTSC	151 OTSC

Ex-post

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2025 has carried out total of 95 ex-post on-the-spot controls at investments under IPARD 2 2014-2020.

Sector for on-the-spot control has carried out additional ex-post OTSC following on audit recommendations.

In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by measures.



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Ex-post OTSC (IPARD 2 2014-2020)	
Measure	Number of carried out ex-post OTSC per measure
1	85 ex-post OTSC 85 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 18/02 IPARD 2 2014-2020
3	8 ex-post OTSC 3 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 18/01 IPARD 2 2014-2020 1 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 19/02 IPARD 2 2014-2020 1 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 22/01 IPARD 2 2014-2020 3 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 22/01 IPARD 2 2014-2020
7	2 ex-post OTSC 2 ex-post OTSC Call for applications 21/01 IPARD 2 2014-2020
Total No of OTSC	95 OTSC

Sector for on-the-spot control within AFSARD since June 2025 has carried out total of 9 on-the-spot controls for hidden works at investments under the call for Applications 23/01 from IPARD 3 2021-2027 (Measure 1 and Measure 7). In addition, there is a table with carried out OTSC divided by Calls for Applications

On-the-spot Controls for hidden works

Call for applications 23/01 (IPARD 3) (Measure 1 and 7)	
9 OTSC for hidden works 1 OTSC – Measure 1 8 OTSC – Measure 7	
Total No of OTSC	9 OTSC

Most common remarks i.e. findings and differences established during OTSC since June 2024 and ongoing are the following:

Prior approval:



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- At one investment from Measure 7, Call for applications 24/02, during the OTSC it was established that the investment had started before the contract with AFSARD was signed.

Before payment (general remarks):

- differences in the technical characteristics of the purchased equipment between the contract, invoice and OTSC mostly due to technical errors, made when issuing the necessary documentation for the equipment by the supplier/manufacturer;
- absence of certain data to be clearly marked on the equipment itself (year of manufacture, country of origin, serial number, model). The data is confirmed through the documentation enclosed to the claim for payment such as (warranty, invoice/receipt, customs declaration, etc.)

Ex-post OTSC:

- During the execution of these controls, no major discrepancies were determined. All beneficiaries keep the equipment/mechanization, it is used according to the intended purpose and it is marked according to the contract.
- As a result of audit findings by Audit Authority, ex-post OTSC As a result of audit findings by Audit Authority, ex-post OTSC was carried out at investment under Measure 3 in order to determine the functionality of the investment or a part of it, that was not in use at the time of the audit. Usually, in such situations, the users are contacted, a certain remedy period is given to put the investment into function, and after OTSC is performed. In addition to determining the functionality of the investment, a regular ex-post OTSC is carried for the whole investment.



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