

**TAIEX Seminar: Preparations of Western Balkan countries for
IPARD**

**Experience with drafting of
IPARD Programme in Macedonia**

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[Presentation content]

- Initiation and pre-programming process (legal base and strategic documents)
- Institutional set-up and programming organisation structure
- Preparation of the Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
- The role of the EC in the programming process

Initiation and pre-programming
process

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...



[How it all began...]

External events

- Establishing IPA Assistance(Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006) to be launched 1st of January, 2007
- Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF) 2007-2009 (allocation of funds for the three forthcoming years)
- Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007-2009 (cover the main intervention areas)

[How it all began...]

Internal response

- MAFWE is appointed as responsible institution for managing rural development (Nov. 2005)
- Annual Pilot RD Programme for 2006 prepared with focus on single measure Investment in agriculture holdings
- Preparation of National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2007-2013 (March, 2006)

[How it all began...]

- Task force for programming established (May, 2006)
- Government has adopted the Priority Axis, measures and priority sectors for IPARD support (June, 2006)
- Independent analysis of the priority sectors conducted during 2006 beginning 2007

Institutional set-up and programming
organisation structure

WHO DID IT...



[Who did it...]

- NIPAC is appointed to bear the competence of overall IPA programming responsibility
- MAFWE is responsible for preparation of the IPARD Programme 2007-2013
- The work on preparation of this document started in February 2007, within:
 - Broad IPARD structure – other ministries
 - Internal MAFWE Task force to coordinate the process supported by CARDS 2005 Project for Structural and Legal Reforms of MAFWE
 - Horizontal (strategic) working group – introductory chapter and SWOT
 - 3 Technical working groups per measure
 - 4 narrow working groups per priority sub-sector

[Who did it...]

1st programming level: Baseline programming setting

2nd level: MAFWE
officials and decision
makers - heads of
departments,
directors

2nd level:
Other line Ministries
and Agencies

3rd level: Stakeholders organised in a Agri-food
Council

Preparation of the Programme for
Agriculture and Rural Development

...AND THE HARD WORK



[Legal base for programming]

- IPA IR (Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006) and MIFF/MIPD 2007-2009
- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2007-2013 adopted by the Gov. June 2007
- Other national strategic documents (NDP, NSEUI, NPAA)

[Programming]

- Assessment of availability of information and collection of background data on situation analysis
- Preparation of SWOT
- Defining the objectives and needs of the stakeholders
- Strategic approach (Cause and effect relationships regarding the assessment of impacts and efficiency of interventions)
- Measures to be implemented (group of investments, eligibility criteria, beneficiaries...)

Programme development

- Compiling of the Programme lied fully within the MAFWE Task force of 7 people supported by the experts within the TWGs
 - Four-eyes principle applied at all stages of compiling the document to achieve consistency of the Programme context and data used from various sources
 - 2 people were engaged in quality check of the Programme and “writing language” and terminology used and
 - 2 people were verifying the sources and references used throughout the document
- Tip: The members of the Task Force must be highly qualified for writing strategic documents and must have excellent analytical skills for quality assurance

[Programme development]

more Tips...

- “EU RD policy language” must be achieved in order to succeed common ground for negotiating the Programme with the responsible Commission services
- Consistency of the Programme context with the relevant strategic documents and with the results of the independent analysis is of high importance for having a good Programme context

Verification of the Programme context

Three filters to verify the Programme “reality”:

First level: Stakeholders representatives

Second level: more stakeholders and direct beneficiaries

Third level: wider stakeholders consultations (forums)



[Final verification of the Programme context]

- Ex-ante evaluation is conducted as part of the approval process of the Programme by the EC
- Ex-ante evaluation is conducted by independent evaluators on the behalf of the Commission

The role of the EC in the programming process

FINAL “YES”...



The role of the EC in the programming process

Major programming rule to be adopted: “EC is not the opponent”. The EC:

- Provides Guidelines and consultations throughout the whole programming process
- Approves the Programme context

Quality programming largely relies on the good relations between the Programming Team and the EC relevant representatives

Day to day consultations eases the “negotiations” of the Programme