



Albanian IPARD AGENCY

**PREPARATIONS FOR IPARD, DEVELOPMENTS,
IPARD-LIKE PROGRAMME**

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Legal Framework



■ National Legislation:

- a. Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, No 9817, from 22.10.2007.
- b. Decision of Council of Ministers “For Establishment of ARDA as a Paying Agency”, no. 1443 from 31.10.2008.
- c. Order of Prime Minister No. 38, from 23.03.2011 “On the Establishment of the Organizational Structure of Agricultural and Rural Development Agency.”
- d. Official Nomination of the Head of PA no.49 from 26.02.2010

■ EU legislation:

- a. EC Regulation No. 1085/2006 on the establishment of an Instrument for Pre - accession (IPA)
- b. EC Regulation No. 718/2007 on implementing regulation no. 1085/2006.
- c. Law No. 9840, from 10.12.2007 for the ratification of Framework Agreement
- d. Draft Sectoral Agreement



ARDA is responsible for implementing the agricultural and rural development policy measures as well as the administration of agricultural and rural development program funds as follows:

- State budget funds for agriculture production direct support.
- State budget funds for the development of agricultural market infrastructure.
- Counter-party funds of 2 KR
- Preparation and implementation activities for IPARD.

Preparations for Accreditation Processes



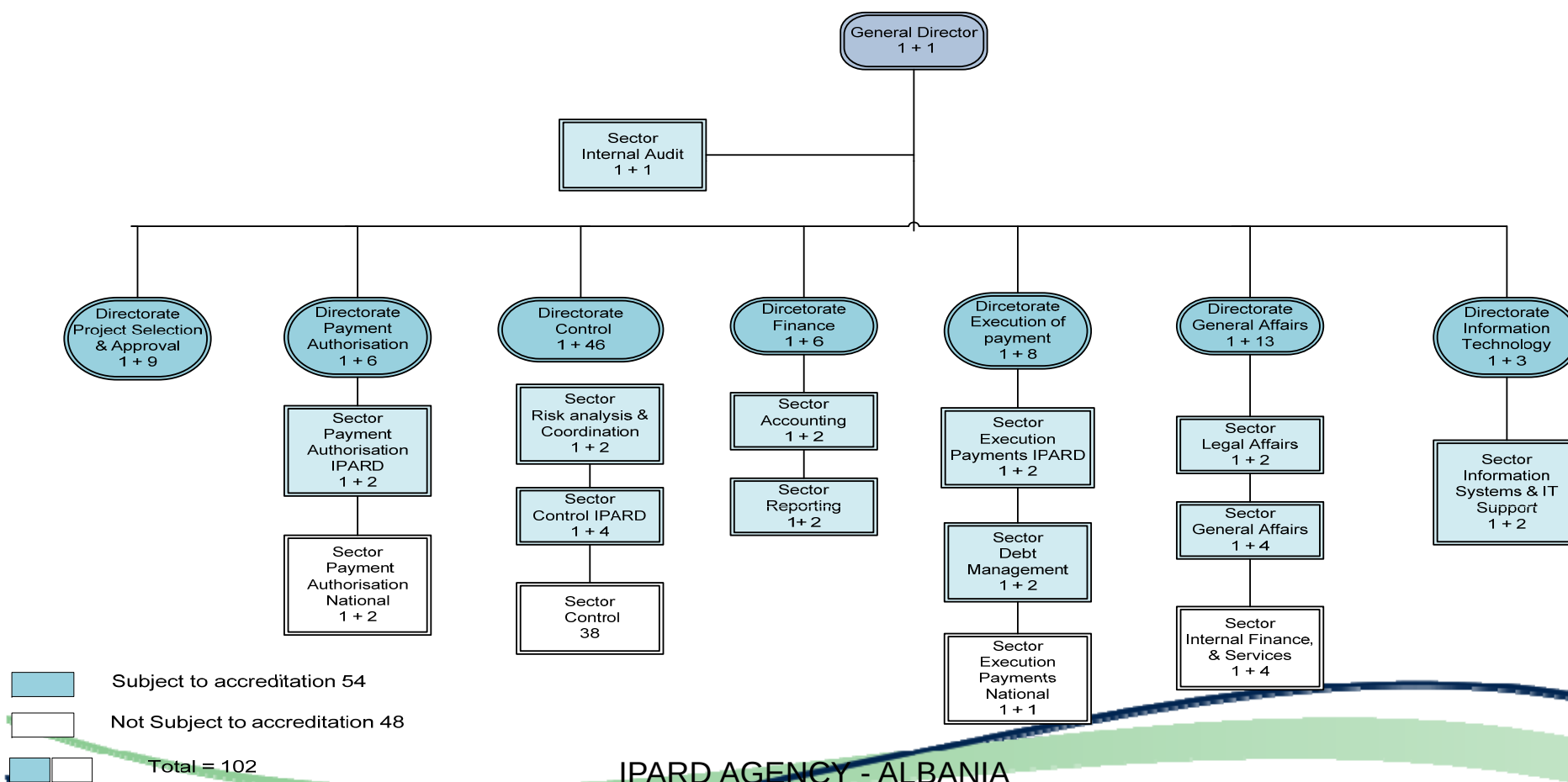
★ IPARD Agency has been working on:

- **establishing an organizational structure that meets EU accreditation criteria;**
- **capacity building of the staff;**
- **setting up an internal control system through the design of written procedures;**
- **being technically qualified and have a safe information system;**
- **meeting additional requirements for accreditation.**

IPARD Agency Organizational structure (1)



Structure of IPARD Agency & ARDA 2011



IPARD Agency Organizational structure (2)



Staff	Facts
Total Number of Employees	102
Employees dedicated to IPARD tasks	54
Directorates (showing clear separation of 5 main functions)	7
Internal Audit Sector	1

IPARD Agency Organizational structure (3)



- **Segregation of duties**
 - Projects Approval
 - Payment Authorization
 - Payment Execution
 - Control
 - Accounting

- **4 eyes principle**

- **Independent Internal Audit**

- **Traceability of the procedures**

- **Transparency of the procedures**

Capacity Building of the Staff



★ *Formal trainings*

- EU CAP Policy and IPARD
- Programming; Coordination; Publicity Visibility
- Documents and Procedures for Accreditation
- Internal Control and Internal Audit

★ *On the job support*

- Programming – analysis and assessment of Sector Studies Analysis
- Monitoring and Evaluation; Reporting; Coordination
- On-the-spot Control;
- Paying functions; accounting
- Authorization and approval of payments;
- Authorization and approval of projects;
- Recruitment Procedures; Archiving; Legal Affairs & Public Procur.
- Internal Audit;
- IT

Setting up an internal control system through the design of written procedures



Prepared written procedures:

- Manuals
- Job descriptions
- Internal Regulation
- Horizontal issues
- Flowcharts
- MoU's with Technical Bodies

Additional Realised Requirements of Accreditation



- ★ Working meetings with the concerned technical bodies
- ★ MoU's with Technical Bodies
- ★ Simulation of the Procedures
- ★ Self assessment completed
- ★ Accreditation package drafted (1st draft) and submitted for comments to the DG-AGRI auditors.
- ★ Hardware equipments provided by the support of Technical Assistance

IPARD – Like Programme 2012



★ Overall Objective

Improve the quality of life in rural areas by increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural and agro-food sector through the application of agricultural and rural development policies.

Total budget of **8.6 million Euro**:

- o EU Financing → 6.2 million Euro
 - o National Co-financing → 2.4 million Euro
-
- 2 year Project, commencing in 2012, supporting the implementation of following investments:
 - o **Measure 101 - Investments in agricultural holdings**
 - o **Measure 102 - Investments in processing and distribution/marketing of agricultural products.**

IPARD – Like Measures and Objectives



★ **Measure 101: Investments in Agriculture holdings to Restructure and Upgrade them to Community Standards**

- To upgrade Albanian agricultural production in selected priority sectors to Community standards in the fields of environmental protection, food safety and quality, animal and plant health, animal welfare and occupational safety;
- To improve overall performance and competitiveness of the production of primary agricultural products.

★ **Measure 103: Investments in the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural and Fishery Products to Restructure those Activities and to Upgrade them to Community Standards**

- To upgrade Albanian agricultural production in selected priority sectors to Community standards in the fields of environmental protection, food safety and quality, animal and plant health, animal welfare and occupational safety;
- To improve overall performance and competitiveness of the production of primary agricultural products.

IPARD Like Programme - Financing



IPARD Like Programme is implemented through co-financing:

★ 50 % of legal costs per each investment is financed by the programme (public funds) and 50% by the beneficiary (private funds).

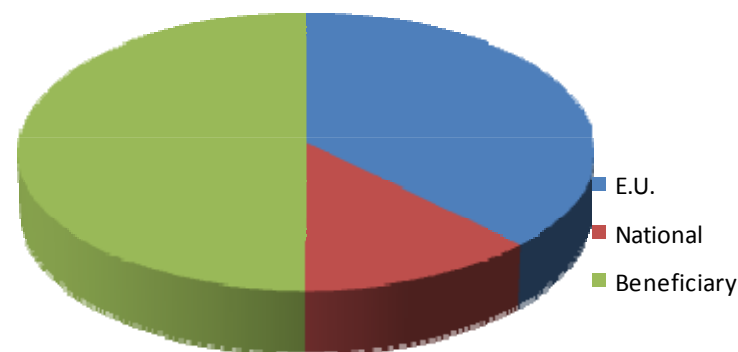
★ 50 % of the programme is covered by:

75 % = EU Funds

25 % = National budget

★ Size of investment will range through 10.000 € -1.000.000 €

Financing





Component 1	Building capacity to disseminate information and raise awareness on good agricultural practices and IPARD	Component 2	Grants for agro-food sector	Component 3	IPARD-related capacity building and administration of the grants
Result 1	Increased capacity of and economic benefits to farmers and agro-businesses	Result 3	Grant scheme implemented in line with IPARD-like procedures	Result 4	Consolidation and preparedness of Operating Structure to manage IPARD programme
Result 2	Capacity of advisory and consultancy services to deliver adequate information and advice on agriculture and rural development enhanced				

Challenges and difficulties



IPARD Agency has undertaken all preparatory activities for achieving accreditation but the following are considered as blocking factors:

- Albania has not received the status of candidate country.
- Sectoral Agreement not signed and ratified.
- IPARD programme not approved.



Thank you for your attention!

IPARD AGENCY - ALBANIA