



Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy

Report
2nd Working Meeting of
Representatives of Managing
Authorities from SEE
February 28-29, 2012

Msc. Margarita Deleva



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Representatives:

- *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia – Mrs. Margarita Deleva;*
- *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Croatia – Mr. Luka Culjak and Mr. Tugomir Majdak;*
- *Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mr. Ljubisa Lalovic;*
- *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mr. Marko Srdic; Mr. Ostoja Sinik;*
- *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo – Mr. Bajram Imeri;*
- *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro – Mr. Igor Golubovic.*
- *Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia – Mr. Aleksandar Bogunovic; Mr. Dragan Mirkovic;*
- *Other representatives present at the meeting:*
- *European Commission, DG Agri, Brussels, Belgium – Mrs. Kerstin Rosenow;*
- *SWG Head Office/Secretariat, Macedonia – Mr. Boban Ilic, Ms. Julija Brzovska.*

Content:

- Main functions of the Managing Authorities;
- Steps for accreditation of Managing Authorities - individual country experiences
- Cooperation between Managing Authorities and IPARD Paying Agencies
- IPARD post-2013:
- The future of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD post-2013)
- IPARD post-2013 – proposals on introduction of new measures and re-design of the existing ones
- Importance of implementation of the Technical Assistance

The aim of the meeting:

- The aim of the meeting was to discuss about extending the pre-accession assistance of the European Union in the next programming period in order to properly prepare the administrative capacity of institutions and other participants in the agricultural sector and rural development. Aid to agricultural development and rural-IPARD program should be available for all countries in the region who seek integration into the European Union, no matter their accession status and degree of readiness.

Conclusion:

- Specific assistance to agriculture and rural development (IPARD) should be available to all countries in the region aspiring for EU integration despite of their accession status and considering their level of preparedness.
- The process of MA accreditation remains key aspect of efficient and effective management of the IPARD funds. The accreditation procedures for Managing Authority should be reassessed and clear common guidelines for accreditation process are to be provided.

- The current organizational set-up separating management and implementation of IPARD Programme should be kept under any successor instrument. In case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, differences related to administrative, institutional and organizational concept of the country should be considered and further discussed between the relevant parties.
- Conferral of management process should be organized to facilitate better and timely implementation of the IPARD Programme, thus enabling the beneficiary countries to use the opportunities provided in accordance to their national priorities and sector needs.

- Transition rules determining that IPA I conferrals of management must remain valid under the new regulation.
- The cooperation platform between the MA and PA should encompass the opinion of MA with views on appropriate reflection of the Programme eligibility requirements

- The role of Technical Assistance measure is to support the functions of the MA focusing on the successful implementation of the Programme. Therefore, the TA measure shall be subject to conferral of management at the beginning of Programme implementation.
- Financing the IPARD TA activities under IPA Component 1 as intermediate solution shall be considered as possibility during accreditation/conferral process.

- Expressed concerns about the very long and complicated accreditation and conferral process experienced by the countries in preparation for TA implementation raised the need for clear Common Guidelines to be prepared.
- Introduction of new measures to take into account the existing measures applied for the member states and in accordance to the national context situation

- Measures to be considered under IPARD II policy area:
 - i. Support for restructuring of semi-subsistence farms
 - ii. Improvement of social and technical rural services (ICT, youth clubs, elderly homes, etc.);
 - iii. Investments in infrastructure to improve the use of agriculture and forest land (support to land consolidation, agriculture roads, irrigation/drainage infrastructure etc.);
 - iv. Investments in production and use of renewable energy and renewable resources;
 - v. Support to forestry (forest prevention and protection, afforestation of land;
 - reproduction centers for forest seedlings etc.)
 - vi. Access to rural credit (Financial engineering);
 - vii. Setting-up/Improvement of advisory services for providing support to IPARD beneficiaries and promoting use of advisory services;

- Accreditation and implementation of other available measures (agri-environment, producer groups, vocational training, rural infrastructure) should be brought in attention for prior preparations at early stage bearing in mind that the pre-requisites for implementation of the measures requires preparedness and appropriate capacities of the IPARD institutions, beneficiaries and the national system related to implementation (legal, institutional)
- Introduction of Simplified Business Plan for small investments (up to 50,000 EUR) is proposed to be introduced
- In the assessment of the Business Plan, the non-income generating investments related to alignment towards the environmental standards should be considered as cost burden which affects negatively the IRR

- Investments related to non-income generating should be co-financed at higher rate (up to 80%)
- Taxes, including value added taxes, to be considered as eligible if they are not recoverable by any means and it is established that they are borne by the final beneficiary (physical persons)
- Beneficiary Countries should have a freedom to propose increase of the share of national public co-financing, should they consider it to be necessary.

Thank you for attention