



MONTENEGRO
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development

DIRECTION FOR COORDINATION AND PR RELATIONS

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MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF IPARD II MONITORING COMMITTEE

Meeting number 5

Minutes from the fifth meeting of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee
22nd November 2019/ **Hotel Verde Complex, Donja Gorica bb, 81 000 Podgorica**

I. List of participants (attached to Minutes):

Meeting was attended by the IPARD II monitoring committee members, as well as the representatives of the European Commission and EU Delegation in Montenegro. Meeting was not attended by the representatives of the: Economic Chamber, Centre for Agro development Bijelo Polje, NGO Environmental movement „OZON“, Faculty for food technology, food safety and ecology/University of Donja Gorica, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and the representative of the Association of olive and olive oil producers Bar.

Result:

Quorum was fulfilled, so the meeting could be held and decisions can be taken (19 members or their substitutes with voting rights were present from 25 members with voting rights).

Attachment: Apart from the short list of the participants explained in Minutes, attached is the list of participants divided as:

1. Voting members (concluding with number 25)
2. Non-voting members (from number 26 to and including 30.)
3. Representatives of the European Commission with advisory role (from number 32 to and including 34.)
4. Observers (number 31 and 32.)

II. Agenda



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No. items	Provisional time	Content	Informative /Need agreement /Need approval /Need opinion of the IMC members	Responsibility
1.	10:00-10:10	Opening of the meeting; Approval of the Agenda and check of list of members/representatives (attached to the agenda)	Need approval	Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chairperson
2.	10:10-10:15	Short introduction by European Commission (DG AGRI)	Informative	Liam Breslin, Head of Unit - Pre-accession assistance DG AGRI.E5.
3.	10:15-10:20	Adoption of the minutes of the previous IPARD monitoring committee (MC) meeting (attached to the agenda) and information on the implementation of decisions taken at the previous IPARD II monitoring committee meeting	Need approval	Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chairperson
4.	10:20-10:30	State of play of the implementation of the IPARD II programme	Informative	Darko Konjević, General director of Directorate for Rural Development
5.	10:30-10:45	Presentation of the state of play for the FIRST IPARD call for Measure 1 (General information about programme/measure implementation on the basis of monitoring tables & results of	Informative	Blagota Radulović, General director of Directorate for Payments



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		calls; Report of approved/rejected projects)		
	No. items	Provisional time	Content	Informative /Need agreement /Need approval /Need opinion of the IMC members
6.	10:45-11:00	Presentation of the state of play for the FIRST and SECOND IPARD call for Measure 3 (General information about programme/measure implementation on the basis of monitoring tables & results of calls; Report of approved/rejected projects)	Informative	Blagota Radulović, General director of Directorate for Payments
7.	11:00–11:30	Coffee break		
8.	11:30-11:45	Information about the communication activities linked to the 'plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD II programme' for the period from previous	Need approval	Ana Čabarkapa, Advisor for coordination and public relations of rural development



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IMC meeting (6th February 2019.)
Approval of the 'Plan of visibility and
communication activities - Annual List of
Actions – 2020'

9.

11:45-12:00

Presentation of the Annual
implementation report 2018

Informative

Enis Gjokaj/Head of M&E Managing
Authority

10.

12:00-12:15

Presentation of some of the members of
the IPARD II monitoring committee

Informative

- Monteorganica
- Association of producers of plants in
greenhouses

**No.
items**

**Provisional
time**

Content

**Informative /Need agreement
/Need approval /Need opinion of
the IMC members**

Responsibility

11.

12:15-12:30

AOB

Informative



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12.

12:30-12:45

Proposals for a date and the agenda of the
next meeting

Informative



III. Result of the IPARD II meeting

In accordance with the point 1 of the Agenda: Opening of the meeting, Adoption of the Agenda

- Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry and Chairperson of the IPARD II MC opened the meeting and presented the Agenda.

Decision number 1

- Agenda was adopted.
- All 19 members with voting rights voted YES for the adoption.

In accordance with the point 2 of the Agenda: Short introduction by European Commission (DG AGRI), Liam Breslin, Head of Unit - Pre-accession assistance DG AGRI.E5

The overview of the main conclusion of the discussion:

- Liam Breslin, Head of Unit - Pre-accession assistance DG AGRI.E5 praised the progress made by Montenegro in the implementation of the IPARD program and emphasized that, in addition to the great work involved in accrediting two measures for investments in primary production and processing, the focus of attention should be on a new support measure - diversification, through which producers will be able to support farm processing, rural tourism and craft development. He said the common goal is to realize as many investments as possible and use the available funds. Also, the experience so far in implementing the Program is significant, that the results are visible to the farmers themselves, but that we are already entering a phase when we have to plan the next IPARD programme.

In accordance with the point 3 of the Agenda: Adoption of the minutes of the previous

IPARD monitoring committee (MC) meeting (attached to the agenda) and information on the implementation of decisions taken at the previous IPARD II monitoring committee meeting

Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry and Chairperson of the IPARD II MC

The minutes were sent to all members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee within the stipulated deadline. All comments were included in the minutes.

Decision number 2

- Minutes from the previous meeting of IPARD II MC were approved.
- All 19 members with voting rights voted YES for adoption.



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- **Darko Konjević, acting Director General of Directorate for Rural Development**, told the attendees that no changes to the IPARD II program for Measure 1 and Measure 3 had occurred, as the plan is to introduce the changes by the next meeting, after the experience of conducting the Public Calls, which may also reflect changes for Measure 7, whose accreditation is in progress.
- **Dick Van Dijk, „desk officer“ for Montenegro in Pre-Accession Unit of DG AGRI/European Commission** *Comment:* An update was asked about the 'decision number 4' of the minutes of the IPARD II monitoring committee meeting of 6 February 2019. Did the working group meet and what was the outcome?
A similar update was asked about the meeting between farmer associations from the north of Montenegro and the Investment Development Fund (IDF). Was the meeting organised and what was the outcome?
- **Darko Konjević, acting Director General of Directorate for Rural Development**, *Answer:* confirmed that the working group will meet, once the IPARD II programme will be amended and asked others to answer the second question.
- **Milko Živković, President, Union of livestock producers of north of Montenegro**, *Comment:* he informed the attendees that the meeting which was an initiative of the Union of livestock producers of north of Montenegro at the last meeting was held in Bijelo Polje with the representatives of the IDF, but that he could not boast of productivity, since he did not cause a concrete agreement. He expressed his wish for new solutions to be made in the future to make the funds more easily accessible to farmers. He emphasized that he expects the Government of Montenegro, specifically the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, to find a solution or possibly form a Guarantee Fund modelled on countries in the Region, which would be intended exclusively for agricultural producers.
- **Spasoje Vujošević, coordinator of the loan and guarantee service, Investment Development Fund (IDF)**, *Answer:* The meeting was held with three farmers, where some points were exchanged, and Union representatives were asked to submit a request, which was not done. The IDF has lines of credit that are intended to support agricultural producers exclusively and so far have 82 support requests through Measure 1, of which 72 have been approved and the remaining 10 are in the process of completing the documentation.
- **Nemanja Katnić, NAO**, *Comment:* He pointed out that Government of Montenegro has recognized the needs of agricultural producers and that certain reforms and a number of activities have been introduced in order to create special credit lines and to better inform the producers themselves. The plan is to allocate more funds at the budget level this year in order to remedy this problem and make it more easily accessible to farmers, especially those who are going to have IPARD support for the first time.



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Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry and Chairperson of the IPARD II MC, *Comment:* stressed that there was constant communication and constantly is striving to find new models that would enable farmers to collect the necessary documentation more easily. In particular, at one of the sessions of the Government was decided that responsibility of all institutions involved in implementing the IPARD Program is to give priority to issuing and processing documentation to potential applicants for IPARD.

In accordance with the point 4 of the Agenda: State of play of the implementation of the IPARD II programme

The overview of the main conclusion of the discussion:

- **Darko Konjević, acting Director General of Directorate for Rural Development,** We have accredited two measures, Measure 1 and Measure 3. More information on the implementation of calls for Measures 1 and 3, which are accredited, will be discussed in the next point. Number of contracted projects for both measures is 245. We have sent an accreditation package for Measure 7. We look forward to the first information for the readiness of this package by the end of the year, while in 2020 we expect to announce a Public Call for this measure. We are preparing changes to the IPARD Program for Measure 1 and 3, and for Measure 7 it depends on the auditor's report. We do not expect major changes just to eliminate some bottlenecks. We had e.g. ambiguity with tractors, that is, with the type-approval certificate. So far, over 50 certificates have been approved. And we already know that in this respect, the next Public Call will be stricter as the EURO 5 standard in the exhaust gauges section will apply. We are now awaiting new Public Calls for Measures 1 and 3, work on the IPARD Program, modification of the existing one, as well as work on the new IPARD Program, the new Strategy for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas.
- **Milko Živković, President, Union of livestock producers of north of Montenegro,** *Question:* Is it necessary at this point to require this certificate, which has a significant impact on increasing the costs of agricultural producers??
- **Dick Van Dijk, „desk officer“ for Montenegro in Pre-Accession Unit of DG AGRI/European Commission,** *Answer:* I understand your requirements, but you must be aware that these are EU standards and that at the end of each investment you must meet the prescribed standards.
- **Darko Konjević, acting Director General of Directorate for Rural Development,** *Comment:* Of the total amount of EU funding allocated to Measure 1, a maximum of 20% can be spent on tractors, but EU environmental legislation must be complied with, especially with regard to the limitation of emissions. Therefore, it is necessary for all tractors to be equipped with engines with III A and III B exhaust emission standards for an ongoing public call while for a new call it is V standard.
- **Vukota Stanišić, Head of the Department of Advisory Services in the Field of Plant Production,** *Comment:* Measure 1 I need to be improved. I don't see the problem that we introduced this



certificate, the problem is that we didn't know what it was exactly and we lost a lot of time and slowed down the whole procedure, since this process is otherwise slow. I think that the investment criteria should be relaxed and that beginners should be able to apply, which would result in more applications, and then have more new perennial plantings and greenhouses, increase the total acreage, which would result in satisfied farmers.

- **Liam Breslin, Head of Unit - Pre-accession assistance DG AGRI.E5**, *Comment:* We need to look at what is the main concept of the European Union, which is environmental protection. We know that exhaust emissions are reduced by adhering to this certificate and this is one of the main principles we must abide by, and you will be very ready for the next public call.
- **Željko Macanović, president of Association "Zdravo zrno"**, *Comment:* He expressed satisfaction with the introduction of this standard, but stressed that this was a major problem for the finances of most farmers. Tractors that meet these standards are much more expensive and cost almost € 50,000. Tractors purchased by farmers in Montenegro cost less than at the Novi Sad fair.

In accordance with the points 5 and 6 of the Agenda: Presentation of the state of play for the FIRST IPARD public call for Measure 1 and Measure 3 (General information about programme/measure implementation on the basis of monitoring tables & results of calls; Report of approved/rejected projects)

The overview of the main conclusion of the discussion:

- **Blagota Radulović, acting Director General of Directorate for payments**, reminded attendees that so far three public calls have been announced, one is ongoing and applications can be submitted by December 20th. A total of 389 applications were received for Measure 1 - Investments in primary production, 245 were contracted, while 6 applicants were submitted for payment, 4 of which were paid. For Measure 3 - Investment in processing, a total of 45 applications were received, 20 of which were contracted, while 4 applicants applied for payment. The procedures are quite demanding, and for this reason more time is needed for the implementation of individual activities.
- **Milko Živković, President, Union of livestock producers of north of Montenegro**, *Comment:* emphasized the importance of today's farmer and his role in society as a whole. He believes that procedures need to be simplified or at least affected by the length of time it takes to collect documentation. If possible, greater involvement of advisory and / or municipal services would be required to reach every producer located in the villages in and in the outermost northern municipalities. I propose that a new model or committee be formed, which will be the initial filter, or the first stage that will initially select potential applicants and only then obtain other documentation.
- **Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry and Chairperson of the IPARD II MC**, *Answer:* The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is making great efforts to inform all farmers in a



timely manner, in addition to the existing 6 Agribusiness Centers, plans to open the seventh Agribusiness Center as well as the House of Agriculture in Bijelo Polje, where the Directorate for Payments and Advisory Services will be employed in one place, so the farmers from the north will be able to access all the information they need in a faster and easier way.

In accordance with the point 8 of the Agenda: Information about the communication activities linked to the 'plan of visibility and communication activities for IPARD II programme' for the period from previous IMC meeting (6th February 2019.); Approval of the 'Plan of visibility and communication activities - Annual List of Actions – 2020'

The overview of the main conclusion of the discussion:

- **Ana Čabarkapa, Advisor for coordination and public relations of rural development**, presented the Annual list of actions for 2020, noting that the activities remained almost the same as in the Annual list of actions for 2019, with activities included in Measure 7, for which the public call is expected to be published in 2020. She pointed to the promotion of IPARD in 2019, which was largely focused on promoting the results of the public calls announced. She emphasized the novelties introduced on the IPARD website: a separate email address ipard.info@mpr.gov.me was opened and set up, an IPARD Public Invitation Plan was set up, as well as a separate section on which the IPARD Success Stories were posted.

Decision number 3

- „Annual list of actions for 2020. – Plan of visibility and communication activities“ is adopted.
- All 19 members with voting rights voted YES for adoption.

In accordance with the point 9 of the Agenda: Presentation of the Annual implementation report 2018

- **Enis Gjokaj, Head for monitoring, evaluation and reporting**, emphasized that the Report had already been adopted by the Committee, and in the context of the presentation highlighted the most important things in the Report.

In accordance with the point 10 of the Agenda: Presentation of some of the members of the IPARD II monitoring committee

- **Jovan Nikolić, „Monteorganica“**, Monteorganica is an accredited certification body for performing control and certification in organic agriculture in accordance with the requirements of standard MEST EN 45011.2004 - ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE ATCG - 0021, issued by the ACCREDITATION BODY OF MONTENEGRO.



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- **Liam Breslin, Head of Unit - Pre-accession assistance DG AGRI.E5**, *Question:* What are the most developed organic production sectors in Montenegro? Can you give us examples of some of the products covered by the quality mark?
- **Jovan Nikolić, „Monteorganica“**, *Answer:* In particular, plant production is more developed, most notably the production of organic apples, plums, pears and organic honey production. Montenegro has so far protected the geographical indication and designation of origin: “Kolašinski lisnati sir”, „Njeguški pršut“, „Pljevaljski sir“, „Crnogorski goveđi pršut“, „Crnogorska stelja“, „Crnogorski pršut“ and „Durmitorski skorup“. There is still place to be recognized for the production of honey, olive oil and more.
- **Dejan Jovović, Association of Manufacturers of plants in greenhouses**, We based agricultural production on 17 thousand square meters of greenhouses and 18 ha of open plantations, with the help of the family, we produce over one million kilograms of vegetables annually. The association was first established in 1997, Agrocooperative as a new association in accordance with EU standards was established in 2018 and has 120 members. I note that there was a significant use of funds provided through various forms of support by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as study visits outside the country that were organized.

Decision number 4

- The Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro and the Biotechnical Faculty will present at the next meeting.
- All 19 members with voting rights voted YES for adoption.

In accordance with the point 12 of the Agenda: Suggestions date and Agenda for next meeting

An overview of the main conclusions of the discussion:

- **Đuro Žugić, State Secretary of the Ministry and Chairperson of the IPARD II MC**
It is proposed that the next meeting be organized at the end of April, and the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee will be informed in due time.



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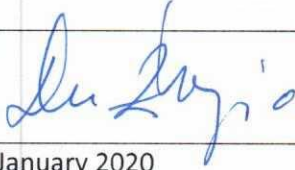

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Signatures:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE IPARD II MC:	FOR THE SECRETARIAT:
Mr ĐURO ŽUGIĆ	Mr DARKO KONJEVIĆ
<i>Position: Secretary State of the MARD</i>	<i>Position: Acting Director General of the Directorate for Rural Development, Head of the MA</i>
Signature: 	Signature: 
Date: 15 th January 2020	Date: 15 th January 2020

Attachment: List of participants