

AGENCY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PRIOR NOTIFICATION

for announcing Public Call 02/2024 for submission of applications for allocation of funds under the European Union Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance in the Rural Development (IPARD Program 2021-2027)

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Agency for Financial Support of the Agriculture and Rural Development hereby notify all interested legal and natural persons that in the fourth quarter of 2024 shall be published Public Call for submission of applications for allocation of funds under the European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in the Rural Development (IPARD Program 2021-2027).

The objective of the IPARD Program 2021-2027 is through adequate measures for supporting the agriculture and the rural development to improve the competitiveness of the agriculture production and the agro-food sector via their harmonization with the European Union standards and achieve sustainable environmental and socio-economic development in the rural areas via increasing the economic activity and the employment opportunities.

The funds under the IPARD Program 2021-2027 in reference to the implementation of this Public Call in 2024 shall support the following measures:

- Measure 7 -Farm Diversification and Business Development in the following priority sectors:
 - alternative agriculture production (not supported under measure 1 and 3);
 - processing of alternative agriculture products (not supported under measure 1 and 3);
 - · production of food and beverages;
 - · craft activities;
 - services for the rural population, for the following sub-sectors
 - o residential nursing care services (homes for the elderly, convalescent homes, etc.);
 - o child day-care services
 - · services for the agriculture, for the following sub-sectors
 - o establishment and upgrading of veterinary services
 - rural tourism;

The upcoming Public Call of the IPARD Program 2021-2027 shall provide increased opportunities in terms of the type of investments, larger volume of potential Beneficiaries or generally support the investments under the Farm Diversification and Business Development located in rural areas in terms of improving the total performance, economic productivity and the company competitiveness.

The rules for allocation of funds under the IPARD Program 2021-2027 stipulate prior signing of Contract between the potential Beneficiaries and the Agency for Financial Support of the Agriculture and Rural Development and implementation of the approved investment according the previously agreed terms. On-the-spot control and the supervision of the Contract implementation shall be performed by authorized persons from the Agency for Financial Support of the Agriculture and Rural Development as well as relevant Institutions from the Republic of North Macedonia for managing, implementation and control of IPARD funds and the European Union.

The method and the procedure for allocation of funds under the IPARD Program 2021-2027 are stipulated in the Decree on the manner and the procedure for allocation of financial support for rural development measures funded under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development of the European Union.

The announcement shall be valid 45 days from the date of publishing the Public Call in the daily newspapers.

NOTICE: The necessary documentation for preparing and submitting applications, including the Guideline for Beneficiaries of funds measure 7 "Farm Diversification and Business Development" under the IPARD Programme 2021-2027 will be updated and announced on the Agency's web page before publishing of the Public Call 02/2024.

The interested parties can obtain more detail information on the type of investments, the criteria for obtaining financial assistance and the aid intensity per measures at the Agency for Financial Support for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Managing Authority Telephone: 02 3134-477, ext.113, 114, 115

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The Agency for Development of the Agriculture Telephone: 047 228-330 Fax: 047 228-370

www.agencija.gov.mk, Every working day from 08:30h to 16:30h

The interested agricultural producers can obtain information on preparing and submitting the applications, as well as practical advice on applying free of charge at the regional centers of the Agency for Development of the Agriculture. (A contact list of regional centers and competent persons is published on the websites of the competent institutions).