

PRIOR NOTIFICATION

for announcing Public Call 01/2022

for submission of applications for allocation of funds from Measure 3 "Investments in physical assets for processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products" in the area of agriculture and rural development policies under the European Union Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPARD Program 2014-2020)

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 persons that in the second half of July 2022 shall be published Public Call for submission of applications for allocation of funds from **Measure 3 "Investments in physical assets for processing and marketing of fishery and agriculture products"** in the area of the agriculture and rural development policies under the European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPARD Program 2014-2020).

The objective of the IPARD Program 2014-2020 is through adequate measures for support of the agriculture and 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 2014 -2020 in reference to this Public Call in July 2022 shall support all sectors under **Measure 3 "Investments in physical assets for processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products"**.

Eligible for co-financing will be the costs for purchase of equipment and services with the exception of the construction costs. Regarding the investments in "Procurement of equipment for energy production from renewable sources", the installation of photovoltaic panels will be an acceptable cost. Considering the specifics of the Public Call due to the time frame for implementation of the activities from the IPARD Program 2014-2020, the applicants will have to submit the "Decision for installation of photo-voltage panels for electricity production with maximum installed capacity up to 1MW" along with the application.

The rules for allocation of funds under the IPARD Program 2014—2020 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.

Considering the specifics of the Public Call due to the time frame for implementation of the activities from the IPARD Program 2014-2020, we hereby inform all interested potential beneficiaries that the deadline for implementation of the investments that will be co-financed with this Public Call is 30.05.2023, and the deadline for submitting payment claims is 30.06.2023.

The method and the procedure for allocation of funds under the IPARD Program 2014-2020 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 under Measure 3 **"Investments in physical assets for processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products"** under the IPARD Programme will be updated and announced on the Agency's web page before publishing of the Public Call.

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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Every working day from 08:30h to 16:30h