



**European Union
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
For Rural Development - IPARD II**

**FORECAST NOTICE
FORTH CALL FOR APPLICATION
No. 04/2022**

Under the IPARD II Programme

Agriculture and Rural Development Agency of Albania and Managing Authority within the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development are announcing the Forth Call for Application under the IPARD II Programme from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for Rural Development (IPARD) with the aim of approving Grants to develop Agro Food Sector.

The Forth Call is opened for all citizens (natural and legal persons) who work and operate within the territory of the Republic of Albania in the area of agriculture and agro processing on the following Measures:

Measure 7: “Farm diversification and Business Development” with special focus on the following sectors:

- Nature and rural tourism;
- Handcrafts and manufacturing industry;

The objectives of the selected IPARD II Program measure is in line with the objectives of National Strategic Document (DSK) and contribute to:

- Supporting investments in the agri-food sector in order to improve competitiveness, compliance with EU standards and conservation of nature and environment;
- Supporting investments in rural areas in order to diversify the rural economy and create business, leading to improved employment opportunities and social inclusion.

The beneficiary of the grant is a natural or legal person receiving financial support from IPARD II. Investment activities (project): consists of a series of activities for investment in movable and immovable assets, aiming at the objectives of the supported sectors, specified in measure 7.

General costs include cost's for engineers and other consulting fees, feasibility studies, acquisition of patents or licenses.

Under this call, the indicative overall available budget is consisted of 4.1 million EUR public contribution out of which 3.075 million EUR, as EU contribution representing 75% of the overall public contribution and 1.025 million EUR as National contribution representing 25% of the overall public contribution.

**This budget may be increased from 4.1 million to 5.2 million Euros depending on the decision-making of the European Commission and the availability of funds dedicated to Measure 7.*

Measure 7: With total, budget of 5.2 million EUR.

Under measure 7 total eligible investment with maximal and minimal limits will be:

- Minimal total eligible investment of 10,000 EURO and
- Maximum total eligible investment of 400,000 EUR.

One applicant may be granted more than one project, but the total eligible cost of investments per recipient under this measure may not exceed EUR 600,000 for the completely programming period.

- Aid intensity is up to 65% of the total eligible cost of the investment.

Common eligibility criteria applicable to all measures:

- I. the construction or improvement of immovable property, up to the market value of the asset;
- II. the purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset;
- III. the general costs linked to the investment related expenditure (i) and (ii), such as architects', engineers' and other consultation fees, feasibility studies, business plan preparation, shall be eligible up to a ceiling of 12 % of the costs referred to in points (i) and (ii). The expenditures for preparation of a business plan should be maximum 4% of the costs referred to in points (i) and (ii) not exceeding equivalent of EUR 5,000.
- IV. General costs can only be considered eligible if the project to which they relate is actually selected and contracted by the IPARD Agency. The applicant must prove that he/she is the owner of the land/building/s relating to the investment or they have the right to use it for a minimum of 10 years counting from the date when the application is submitted.
- V. Eligible expenses are those done after the signing of the grant contract between the recipient of support and ARDA (excluding general costs for the respective investment costs).
- VI. Investment Projects remain Eligible to be financed by EU in the future, with the condition that no substantial change has been made within 5 years from the last payment of ARDA.

ATTENTION: In call IV under measure 7 of IPARD programme II, will be eligible only the sectors of:

- Nature and rural tourism;
- Handcrafts and manufacturing industry;

Other sectors under measure 7 will not be eligible under this call.

All interested parties can receive the necessary information concerning types of eligible investments, eligibility of the applicants, criteria for selection and instructions for submitting an application, in the Guideline for Applicants, which can be requested as a free sample hardcopy in the main offices of Managing Authority within the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development (MARD) and Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA), during working hours 08:00-16:30h.

In addition, the Guideline for Applicants and the official forms of the documents (Application Form, Business Plan forms) of Call III, can be downloaded from the following web sites: www.azhbr.gov.al ; www.ipard.gov.al and <http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>

This call will be opened, and applications can be submitted from 10 January 2022 until 25th of February 2022.

Deadline for submission of the application is 25th of February 2022, hour 16:30

The applications must be submitted in sealed envelope and must bear the title of the Call for Proposals, together with the title of the measure, the full name and address of the applicant and the words "Not to be opened before delivery".

Applications must be submitted either:

- by recorded delivery by post; or
- hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the Contracting Authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:

<Agriculture and Rural Development Agency
Street Muhamet Gjollësja No.56
1001 Tirana, Albania>

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Any application submitted or received after the date 25 February 2022 will be rejected.

The above deadline will be calculated in accordance with the Administrative Code of Procedure.

The Contracting Authority retains ownership of all applications received. Consequently, applicants have no right to have their applications returned to them.

Notes for potential applicants:

Using other formats from the ones published in call 4, in the webpage www.azhbr.gov.al, will lead to rejecting the application.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

Applications missing the standard format of Application Form will be rejected.

Applications missing the standard formats of the Business Plan will be rejected.