

## Questions for the ex-post evaluation of the SAPARD programme

**Group of respondents: staff members of the regional branches of the Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) involved in the implementation of the SAPARD programme.**

### *The relevance of the programme*

1. In your experience, to what extent did the content of the planned and implemented measures/interventions and the proportion of funds intended for the particular measures/interventions correspond to the actual development needs of rural regions and agriculture?
2. Are you aware of, and if so, can you list any external (economic, environmental, social etc.) effects which influenced the success of the programme during its implementation? If there were any, were the amendments to the programme able to handle them?

### *Internal coherence*

3. In your opinion, were the programme objectives attainable/realistic in terms of the utilization of the available sources for funding?
4. In your opinion, were the programme objectives attainable/realistic in terms of the implementation of the interventions planned?

### *Implementation*

5. How do you assess the efficiency of implementation (including project management, the signing of contracts, payments and audit)? Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest, 5 the highest rating). How did this change in the course of programme implementation?

	1	2	3	4	5	Change (improved, no change, deteriorated)
Competence						
Speed, flexibility						
Accuracy						
Sensitivity for time and season						
Transparency						
Applicant-friendly measures						
Cost-efficiency						
Fair and honest (impartial) procedure						

What could have been done to improve the various stages?

6. Were there any support systems aiding the implementation, and if so, did they operate efficiently?
  
7. Please list any factors regarding the application conditions and the rules of procedure which, in your opinion, may have
  - a. deterred potential applicants;
  - b. caused unnecessary delay in the judging of applications and in granting payments;
  - c. incurred unnecessary expenses for the applicants;
  
8. What specific information/training activities did the employees of the former SAPARD Office participate in?
  
9. Please assess the efficiency and timing (straightforward, target -group oriented etc.) of the advertising and marketing campaign of the SAPARD programme, which was conducted to raise awareness of the programme among potential applicants (1 is the lowest, 5 the highest grade)?
  
10. What activities could have been used to further promote the programme? Why do you think they did not occur?
  
11. Are you aware of any campaigns/tools funded from SAPARD TS, which specifically aimed at spreading knowledge about EU regulations? How do you assess their efficiency? Which activity proved to be the most effective to disseminate information? Why were they not realised?
  
12. Please give an estimate of the number of potential beneficiaries taking part in the information days, seminars and campaigns where members of your organisation also gave presentations? ..... (no. of participants)
  
13. Do you think the programme was successful in attaining the predefined objectives? How do you assess the programme results?
  
14. What do you perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the SAPARD programme and the application procedure?

Strengths

Weaknesses

15. Regarding the implementation of the programme, please specify
  - a. concrete successful examples;

- b. any failures experienced and their causes ;
- c. best practices to be followed ;

16. Are there any issues or problems that have not been dealt with in connection with programme implementation and that you think should be mentioned in the evaluation?

17. In your opinion, what have been the results of the implementation of the programme in the rural areas and agriculture with respect to the following factors?

	Significant impact	Medium impact	Low impact	No impact expected	Please comment
Acquiring the necessary know-how to apply to EU rural development programmes					
Getting familiar with EU requirements					
Establishing the system of institutions					
Change of attitude for applicants and institutions					
Agricultural employment					
Income drawn from agriculture					
More efficient utilization of production factors					
Product quality					
Improving working conditions					
Compliance with animal health and welfare regulations					
Enforcing food safety standards					
Improving the condition of the environment					
Upgrading the machine stock					
The quality of agricultural infrastructure					
The quality of rural infrastructure					
Changes in producer prices					
Competitiveness					
Change of added value					
The proportion of quality products					
The proportion of locally produced and marketed goods					
Increasing income from non-agricultural activities					
Quality of life of the rural population					
Preserving the cultural and natural heritage in rural areas					
Population retention in rural areas					