



TOP STORY

15 Bulgarian municipalities received contracts for over BGN 43 million under the RDP 2014-2020

At a ceremony in the Council of Ministers the Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Rumen Porozhanov and the Executive Director of State Fund Agriculture Zhivko Zhivkov handed the first contracts concluded under sub-measure 7.2 Investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure from the Rural Development Program (RDP) 2014-2020. The mayors of 15 municipalities received contracts signed to the total amount of the approved subsidy of over BGN 43 million.

Minister Porozhanov reminded that the first call for applications under the sub-measure 7.2 was with a budget of EUR 341 million. It is expected that the signing will be finalized within 2-3 months. Then, with the active communication with the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria, a second call for applications will be opened for the entire remaining budget under the sub-measure. Under the measure 7.2 to the moment 63 projects have been approved for the amount of nearly BGN 80 million.



RDP

State Fund Agriculture increases the publicity on the implementation of the RDP 2014-2020

State Fund Agriculture increases the publicity on the implementation of the RDP 2014-2020. A new platform is being developed for this purpose on the website where the data will be announced. The system will provide greater transparency on the absorption of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) funds. The initiative is a part of the publicity and transparency approach in the work of the institution and it is also a part of the priorities in the Programme of the Executive Director Zhivko Zhivkov. Until the Platform starts its operation, the Fund will publish monthly data about the RDP 2014-2020.

SF Agriculture provided funds for all projects with 37 points under sub-measure 4.1 Investments in Agricultural Holdings. The total amount of the approved grant for the projects received 37 points under the selection criteria amounts to BGN 9 801 003 (EUR 5 011 250). State Fund Agriculture concluded conditional contracts with the candidates, whose applications for support were estimated at 33 to 37 points. The documents state that the project proposals will be funded in the presence of an unutilized budget under the sub-measure. In accordance with the specificity of contracting during the current programming period, funds should be available for all projects received an equal number of points in order to be subject to the withdrawal of the conditional contract clause.

In connection with the expected calls for applications under the RDP 2014-2020 sub-measures, State Fund Agriculture prepared analyzes of the most common mistakes in the project proposals from the first calls. Their main purpose is to support the preparation of project proposals and the provision of additional information when submitting applications for subsidies.

In October State Fund Agriculture hosted a meeting between representatives of the Fraud Prevention Directorate of the State Fund Agriculture and officials of the Protection of the Financial Interests of the European Union Directorate (AFCOS Directorate) - Ministry of Interior on behalf of Bulgaria and officials of the Fight against Fraud Department (DLAF) -the Council of Ministers of Romania /AFCOS Romania/. The meeting was part of the European law enforcement authorities exchange program in 2017 (CEPOL / CEP 2017).

IN NUMBERS

The State Fund Agriculture approved a total of 365 applicants under the School Schemes for the supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products for the school year 2017/2018. A total of 395 applications for approval were accepted between 15 May and 15 June 2017.

Under the scheme School Fruit, 215 applicants were approved, covering 3 259 educational establishments and 447 672 children. Under the scheme School Milk, 150 suppliers of milk and dairy products have been approved to serve 3 018 educational establishments and 466 434 children.

After a Managing Board meeting State Fund Agriculture decided to provide BGN 7 519 119 for the immunoprophylaxis of the animals during the first half of 2017.

Under the State Aid Scheme for the Establishment and Maintenance of a Herd Book and for the Determination of the Productivity and Genetic Qualities of the Livestock in 2017 SFA paid BGN 5 496 570 to 48 breeding organizations.

BGN 3 430 354 are allocated under the State Aid Compensation Scheme for Agricultural Crop Damage, caused by adverse climatic conditions in 2017.

The SFA has transferred over BGN 21 million under the Decoupled Transitional National Aid Scheme for Cattle for Campaign 2017.

Under the scheme for State aid for compensation of losses of farmers for totally lost areas as a result of natural disasters or adverse weather conditions occurred in 2016, over BGN 1.8 million have been paid to 203 farmers who declared a total of 5 253.14 ha.

State Fund Agriculture transferred nearly BGN 800 000 to 71 farmers with approved applications under the heading Organic Livestock Farming from measure 11 Organic farming from the RDP 2014-2020. Together with the already paid headings Organic Plant Growing and Organic Beekeeping, the total amount of the financial support under measure 11 Organic farming for Campaign 2016 reached over BGN 58.6 million.

Over BGN 43.5 million have been transferred for the restructuring and conversion of vineyards. Subsidies paid cover 75% of the costs incurred under 221 projects of vine growers committed to expand their holdings during the financial year 2017. 86 projects for restructuring and conversion have been approved for the financial year 2018.

State Fund Agriculture paid BGN 3 250 301 to 1628 candidates who have fulfilled their commitments under the National Beekeeping Program (2017-2019). The total budget of the Program for the three-year period is nearly BGN 14.28 million, of which 50% are provided by the EU and 50% are from the national budget.

The SFA paid BGN 996 645 for 299 contracts concluded under the scheme State aid for co-financing of insurance premiums for insuring the agricultural products. A total of 371 applications for a total amount of BGN 1 822 427 were submitted during the admission period. The deadline for signing the contracts with the Fund and paying the funds is 15 December 2017. The total area declared for support under the scheme is 9 345,78 ha. Of these hectares 3,402.03 ha are fruit gardens and 1,671.81 ha are vegetable ones. 2 756.54 ha are insured, sown with essential oil crops. Also 1 515.40 ha of tobacco are declared for support.