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COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between

the Rural Investments Financing Agency of Romania

and

**the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Agricultural
Markets and Rural Development**

the Rural Investments Financing Agency of Romania (hereafter referred to as AFIR), 43rd, Stirbei Voda Street, sector 1, Bucharest,

and

The Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development (hereafter referred to as AAMRD), Dunajska street 160, 1000 Ljubljana,

hereinafter referred to jointly as “Participants”, have agreed on the following:

I. Subject of Cooperation Agreement

AFIR and AAMRD, both act as paying agencies and implementing bodies of the agricultural policies of the EU and carry out activities related to rural development issues of the Common Agricultural Policy, for both the 2014-2020 and the new programming period. The object of this Cooperation Agreement is to develop strong cooperation activities between AFIR and AAMRD by mutual exchange of experience in areas of common interest.

II. Scope of the cooperation

1. The Participants ensure the opportunity for their experts to raise questions through the contact persons in connection with professional issues arising in their scope of work. Contact persons are responsible for forwarding queries and proposals about the exchange of information and experiences, as well as the methods in process of implementation of EU funds for agriculture and rural development, in addition to forwarding responses to the contact person of the other Participant.
2. The Participants seek to establish and to maintain balanced and mutual cooperation, and to raise questions that have a significant impact on professional activities with the aim to improve processes of the partner institution. The Participants hereby agree, depending on the urgency of the issue and the workload of experts, to exchange ideas and best practices, information and knowledge on CAP between the two agencies providing a framework for regular meetings of experts of both sides.
3. The Participants will exchange theoretical and practical knowledge related to:
 - Organisational model for implementation EU funds Rural Development

III. Forms of cooperation

Forms of cooperation include communication in writing (e-mail) related to subjects of interest and meetings. Meetings will be held between AFIR and AAMRD experts upon request of any of the Participants. Meetings will be organized on-line (conference call meetings) or as technical meetings at AFIR/AAMRD premises depending on topics concerned. Technical meetings are related to the issues of a high priority and require mutual understanding and information exchange in any of the main professional areas in order to improve the efficiency of the Paying Agencies. In addition, other forms of cooperation may include, but are not limited to, the exchange of publications and work materials (on demand) taking into consideration the data protection, exchange and transfer of knowledge through Webinars and online conferences.

1. The Participants have hereby designated the following organisational units as contact units and their heads as contact persons for implementation of the Cooperation Agreement:

AFIR: Victoria Oprea
Coordination and Institutional Relations Unit - Programme Coordination Directorate
E-mail: victoria.oprea@afir.info; RelatiiInstitutionale@afir.info
Phone: + 4031 860 26 46

and

ARSKTRP: Sanja Ajanović Hovnik
Služba za splošne zadeve
E-naslov: sanja.ajanovic-hovnik@gov.si; aktrp@gov.si
Telefon: +386 1 580 7738

2. The Participants agree that all forms of cooperation will take place maximum two (2) times per year and meetings will not exceed duration of three (3) working days. Contact persons organise and participate at the meetings. The venues for each of the meetings will be settled by separate communication.
3. The Participants agree to use English as working language in the course of cooperation. All correspondence, responses and consultation will be performed in English. The Participants agree that if interpretation is required, the Participant requesting it will ensure the interpreter.
4. The Participants agree that in all mutual activities and in the activities concerning the exchange of know-how, experience and experts, each Participant will cover the

expenses (transportation costs, daily allowance and accommodation costs) for its own staff concerned.

5. The Participants declare that all information and data received in the course of cooperation will be handled confidentially and forwarding this information to third parties may only be allowed by mutual consent of both Participants. In addition, the Participants are consent to sign Non-disclosure Agreement in case of exchanging documents with sensitive information.
6. All the information and knowledge delivered by the Participants to each other through Cooperation Agreement are only informative, each Participant may use them on its own responsibility. The information and views provided by the Participants do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

IV. Final provisions

1. This Cooperation Agreement will come into effect on the date of its signing by the Participants and will remain in effect for a period of three years, with possible renewal afterwards.
2. Each Participant may propose amendments to this Cooperation Agreement, which require acceptance by the other Participant. Amendments to this Cooperation Agreement will be made in written.
3. Each Participant may propose termination of this Cooperation Agreement prior of its expiration, which needs to be notified to the other Participant. Termination will enter into effect when one Participant informs the other in written.
4. This Cooperation Agreement is prepared in two original copies in English (one copy for each Participant).

**Rural Investments Financing
Agency of Romania**

Mihai-Liviu MORARU

Director General



Bucharest, 20.08.2021

**Agency of the Republic of
Slovenia for Agricultural
Markets and Rural
Development**

Miran MIHELIC

Director General

Ljubljana, 11.8.2021

