Coordination meeting for Western Balkan countries under the mechanism of GF-TADs for Europe

Sofia, Bulgaria
11 May 2010
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List of acronyms, abbreviations and/or special terms

BIP: Border Inspection Post
CARDS: Community assistance for reconstruction, development and stabilisation in South-Eastern Europe (EC)
CSF: Classical Swine Fever
CVO: Chief Veterinary Officer
DG SANCO: Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (EC)
EC: European Commission
EU: European Union
EuFMD: European Commission for the control of Foot-and-Mouth disease
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IPA: Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (replacing CARDS since 2007) (EC)
OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health
PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE)
SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TADs: Transboundary Animal Diseases
TCP: Technical Cooperation Project (FAO)
USDA: United States Department for Agriculture
VS: Veterinary Services
WB: World Bank
WBC: Western Balkan Countries
WHO: World Health Organization

Note: all maps used in this report originate from DG Enlargement website:
Background

The Western Balkan region is strategic for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Those countries are surrounded by the European Union, which has been implementing animal health and veterinary public health policies for decades in order to ensure high sanitary levels, for the benefit of rural economy and consumers at large. There is a clear interest for the EU to support Western Balkan countries (WBC) in improving their animal health situation, in particular with regard to transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that are in the process of being eradicated in the EU, in order to prevent further reintroduction of those diseases in free territories. Furthermore, WBC are either candidate (Croatia started accession negotiations in October 2005 and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – FYROM- was granted the status of a candidate country in December 2005) or potential candidate countries for accession to the EU (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99) ; they are therefore eligible to community policy instruments such as the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) to support the achievement of those goals. Various projects related to animal health aiming at controlling priority diseases while aligning rules and policies with EU standards are being implemented in this framework, using a regional approach as far as possible. In addition, other donors have developed animal health related projects which target individual countries of the Western Balkans.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population (2006)</th>
<th>Size</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>3 843 000</td>
<td>51 209 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Macedonia (FYROM)</td>
<td>2 039 000</td>
<td>25 713 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>624 000</td>
<td>13 812 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>7 425 000</td>
<td>77 474 km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*under UNSCR 1244
During the 3d Regional Steering Committee meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe held on 24-25 February 2010, the need for coordination of activities in the area of animal health where numerous actors and partners were involved was stressed, namely for the Balkan region. It was decided that under the regional GF-TADs for Europe umbrella, a meeting would be organised by the OIE Regional Representation using the GF-TADs mechanism, involving all donors and partners involved, in order to clarify activities and funding in place and to allow efficient coordination of future activities. This was reflected in the recommendation N°2 entitled ‘Enhancing prevention and control of priority diseases in Europe’ which stipulates in particular that:

-‘There is thus a need for continuous cooperation and concerted actions between the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe and neighbouring regions for preventing and controlling diseases with major social, economical and public health impact posing a threat to European countries’ and

-‘Actions already engaged to control classical swine fever in Europe, in particular by the EU in the Western Balkans and the Black Sea sub-regions and also through Europe concerning wild boars, be continued and actors involved should share information and experience. The meeting organised by the EU and seven Balkan countries on 16-17 March be used to collect information on donor’s involvement in animal health programmes in these countries. Then a specific high level meeting be organised in spring 2010 by OIE/FAO/EU under the GF-TADS for Europe mechanism, gathering the CVOs, relevant policy makers, donors and any other key players in order to better coordinate current and future actions.’

Actually the EU meeting referred to in this recommendation was organised on 27-28 April 2010 in Serbia and was about IPA project on the eradication, monitoring and control of Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and rabies in Western Balkan.

**Preparation and conduct of the meeting**

In order to prepare the meeting, a questionnaire was sent in advance to the countries. It aimed at collecting information on activities carried out and funding provided through partners and donors in the field of animal health in WBC. This questionnaire is attached in Appendix 1. All countries replied and provided a list of recently ended, ongoing and planned projects, their duration, donors and amount, their objectives and main related activities. Donors involved plus potential donors were invited.

The meeting was organised in Sofia on 11 May 2010 and attended by CVOs and representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, EC (DG SANCO), FAO, Italy, Switzerland and France. Three partners concerned by projects in WBC, namely USDA, the World Bank and Sweden, apologised for not being able to participate. The list of participants and agenda are attached in Appendix 2 and 3.

An opening address was given by the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria, Dr. Miroslav Naydenov who outlined the need for joint efforts to achieve the control of TADs. He also expressed his hopes for the support of the current initiative by all countries in the region.

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe chaired the meeting. As an introduction, he recalled the context and objectives of the meeting which were not only to get a clear overview of activities in place in each country but also to determine where and how regional approach and coordination mechanisms could be improved. He mentioned that particular emphasis should be put on CSF and rabies, two TADs considered as top priority diseases in the region by the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe.
Animal health related projects in Western Balkan countries

A summary of projects and activities based on the answers to the questionnaire was presented as a preamble to the country presentations. All those presentations are included in Appendix 5.

Albania

The CVO of Albania reported in the questionnaire two main IPA projects financed by the European Commission.

- The first one is on the improvement of consumer protection against zoonotic diseases, targeting Anthrax, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and rabies. It recently started (December 2009) and shall last 3 years.
- The second project (initially mixed in the presentation with the first), concerns rabies and CSF. It hasn't started yet.

As regards rabies, he recalled that after a long period without any case of rabies detected (1976-2000), new cases were detected yearly since 2001 in both domestic animals and wildlife, mainly close to the Northern border. As regards CSF in wild boars, the epidemiological situation isn’t known so far. CSF in domestic animals is controlled by vaccination.

He also mentioned some small local projects financed by the UNDP, the Dutch and Danish governments on Brucellosis, as well as projects on food safety and laboratory capacities improvement involving WHO and Italy. He replied to a question on Brucellosis, mentioning that this project was limited to a part of the territory –South and Central- for lack of financial resources. Still, he mentioned that through the IPA project on zoonoses, special focus should be on Brucellosis.

The EC commented that the reoccurrence of rabies was a good example which justified he need for a regional cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The representative of B&H reported on six projects related to:

- Fight against Brucellosis, financed by SIDA. The quality of this one-year project ending in June 2010 was underlined by the speaker. It aimed at implementing a mass vaccination campaign in small ruminants.
- Avian Influenza preparedness, financed by the World Bank (WB). This 2 years project will end in December 2010.
- Rural development, financed by the WB. This 4-year project shall end in December 2011. It mostly focuses on the improvement of animal identification and movement control. It concerns in particular the registration and identification for small ruminants and pigs, aligning the legislation with EU standards, and the implementation of surveillance programme.
- **Rabies and CSF control and eradication**: this first phase of the IPA 2008 programme for Western Balkans shall be launched in the country in the second semester 2010 until winter 2011. It will include data collection and analysis, development of training, public awareness campaign, implementation strategy, procurement and distribution of rabies baits, procurement and use of CSF vaccines for domestic pigs. The speaker gave more details on the situation with regards to the diseases, and expected control measures.

Recently ended projects were also presented:

- **Strengthening of the border veterinary inspection**: this 3.5-year project financed by USDA ended in May 2009. It permitted to upgrade one BIP in conformity with EU standards, to improve the legal framework and to provide training on veterinary inspection procedures.

- **EU CARDS twinning project**, financed by the EU 2007 to 2008 (1 year), aimed at strengthening capacities of the VS of the country, focussing on the harmonisation of the legislation with EU standards.

- **Aquaculture health management**: this 1.5 year project ended in May 2008 was financed by the FAO and covered a number of aspects (laboratory capacities, aquatic animal health surveillance, food safety of products of aquaculture origin, national strategy and legislation in line with the EU standards). It permitted to enhance capacities to export to the EU.

The EC commented that from the beginning of the CSF project, wildlife was included as this population knows no borders. Therefore, the first task in most countries was to establish a clear situation as regards the number of animals and the epidemiological situation.

The speaker replied to a question on border posts, informing that there were currently 10 BIPs and that the one that was fully upgraded through the project was bordering Serbia. Some concerns were raised on the relevance of such choice as in a relatively near future with EU accession, all internal borders shall be removed. More useful would have been the upgrading of the main airport BIP.

As regards the programme on Brucellosis, he clarified that activities initiated through the SIDA project, namely the vaccination programme for small ruminants, would be pursued by the Government.

**Croatia**

The CVO of Croatia mentioned two phases of the IPA project on:

- **Rabies control and eradication**: the first phase under IPA 2008 shall be from September 2010 to June 2013. It aims at implementing a long term and large scale oral vaccination campaigns against rabies with an overall objective to eliminate rabies in wildlife. Same activities shall be continued under IPA 2010 until June 2015.

She gave figures on the current control programme and details on the state of play of its implementation as well as information on the strategy up to 2016.

She also mentioned that almost all EU veterinary legislation had been transposed in Croatia and that the few last pieces would be transposed this year. The monitoring of diseases situation thus follows the EU requirements such as for Salmonella, bluetongue, CSF in domestic and wild animals and Avian Influenza. All animal holdings have been registered in a GIS based system.
She stressed the main critical aspect of Croatian VS which is the lack of logistical capacities; vehicles and technical equipment in particular to perform monitoring and control programmes. Her presentation also mentioned a pre-accession project in progress covering the implementation of laying hens welfare.

**Macedonia (FYROM)**

The CVO of Macedonia also presented the IPA project on:
- **Rabies and CSF control and eradication:** the implementation of the 2008 IPA phase will take place from June 2010 until March 2012. It aims at implementing intensified vaccination campaigns in wild animals, as well as improving surveillance and diagnostic capacities. The second phase under IPA 2010 shall allow continuing these activities from September 2012 till 2014.

He also briefly mentioned two other programmes; the first being financed by the WB, and relating to ‘Agriculture strengthening and EU accession programme’; the second by SIDA on food safety.

He stressed another top animal health priority in the country, namely the control of Brucellosis in small ruminants. A programme will be set up for a 5 years period, 100% financed by the government of Macedonia.

**Montenegro**

The representative of Montenegro reported on two ongoing IPA projects:
- **Development and implementation of the system of domestic animal identification and registration/Phase II:** this EU project funded under IPA 2007 started in August 2009 and should end in February 2011. It aims at strengthening the bovine I&R system and expanding it to the ovine and caprine species as well as designing a veterinary information system (VIS).
- **Rabies and CSF control and eradication:** this IPA 2008 programme shall run from 2010 till 2012. It will include in particular the implementation of CSF and rabies vaccination campaigns and the strengthening of diagnosis, monitoring and control capacities at all levels.

She stressed that rabies control in particular would be a big challenge in the country.

**Serbia**

The representative of Serbia informed about various projects.
- **Rabies and CSF control and eradication:** the IPA 2008, 2009 and 2011 programmes aim at monitoring, controlling and eradicating rabies in foxes in Serbia and CSF in feral pig population. A GIS based surveillance system is also part of the project. Surveillance and vaccination of wild boars are now being implemented.

Vaccination against rabies in foxes is expected to start in autumn 2010. The last case of CSF in domestic animals was detected in 2007. A short term objective will be to stop CSF vaccination in domestic pigs.
- Identification and registration in Serbia (under EU CARDS programme): this 2-year project recently ended in April 2010; it targeted bovine animals in priority with extension to other species in accordance to EU legislation.

- Capacity building in the area of Food Safety, animal by-products and animal welfare: this IPA 2011 project is under preparation and should support Serbia in implementing the Food Safety Law, the Animal by-Products Action Plan and the Animal Welfare Law. It should help assess the situation, develop standards and regulations, foster institutional development and provide trainings to relevant professionals.

He also briefly mentioned 2 other projects:

- One under preparation on the monitoring of zoonoses to be carried out jointly with WHO. On request of the EC, more information was provided on this project: Salmonella would be addressed in priority, then Campylobacter; the aim would be to assess the prevalent situation and to implement monitoring programme and registration in poultry and pigs farms.

- Improvement of official controls of the veterinary inspection service: this project is being implemented in collaboration with the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety.

Partners and donors perspectives

The European Commission representative recalled the horizontal approach with regard to the control of CSF and rabies in the EU Member States and the neighbouring countries. As regard the EU, non free Member States have to submit to the EC their eradication programmes for eligible animal diseases such as CSF and rabies and receive subsequent financial support.

Some support is also provided to neighbouring countries in order to sustain programmes aiming at eradicating those diseases in EU bordering areas thereby preventing their reintroduction into the EU.

The IPA 2008/020-319 project on “eradication, monitoring and control of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in Western Balkan” is a clear example of such support. This project is financed by DG Enlargement funds and started in 2008 for a 5 year-term, with activities’ implementation being sub-delegated to DG SANCO. A CVO meeting on this IPA Project was recently held on 27-28 April 2010 in Serbia. It was decided that regional working groups shall be put in place in order to better synchronize the activities on CSF and rabies in the bordering areas concerned.

This project includes the 2 following components:

- Component I: 7 national projects; 94.8 M€ (million Euros); 5 years. It consists in: evaluation of the situation; purchase of vaccine baits; storage and distribution of vaccines; costs for examination of samples and follow up costs;

- Component II: Regional project; 2 M€; 5 years. It relates to the co-ordination of the 7 national projects including follow up of the performance; assistance with expertise; organisation of regional meetings and conferences and simulation exercises at the borders.
The total IPA budget break down is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Surface in thousand km²</th>
<th>Rabies total per year M€</th>
<th>CSF total per year M€</th>
<th>TOTAL Rabies/CSF M€ for 5 years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2,18</td>
<td>1,6</td>
<td>18,88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,14</td>
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<td>BIH</td>
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<td>1,5</td>
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<td>FYROM</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>0,76</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3,59</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>Kosovo*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0,44</td>
<td>0,32</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>275</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,88</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,08</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,8</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The importance to complete designed programmes was stressed in order to ensure full success in the eradication. The experience of CSF and rabies eradication programmes should in addition serve as model to address other priority diseases in the future.

The **FAO** representative highlighted important aspects related to animal disease control in which this Organisation was contributing such as:

- (i) the regional approach for certain diseases as harmonisation is an important factor of success in disease control,
- (ii) the need for countries to develop national strategies as projects should fit and provide inputs in already well defined strategies.

The different kind of supports provided by FAO were recalled, namely the TCPs -directly financed on the FAO budget, and based on countries' request-, or projects financed through extra-budgetary funds -e.g. in case of emergencies-.

The representative of **Italy** recalled the commitment of their country to help Eastern European countries in reaching a high sanitary level and improving governance. He mentioned that since 2000, Italy gave voluntary contribution to OIE in order to organise meetings and trainings to improve cooperation between countries in Europe, including the Balkans. He reaffirmed the willingness of his country to maintain this support. He also referred to technical support provided by the Italian Institutes of Teramo and Padova on CSF and rabies, as well as on surveillance of vector borne diseases such as bluetongue. He recalled a twinning with Croatia few years ago and with WHO in Albania. As further steps, he proposed to gather all actions carried out in this area, referring to the GF-TADs that could be the proper tool to use.

The representative from **Switzerland** remarked that this was a good platform to discuss WBC animal health issues. She expressed full support to OIE and FAO mandates and underlined the need for coordinated strategies. This will allow getting a whole regional picture and ensuring success of programmes in the future. As regard specific support provided by her country, she also mentioned Avian Influenza support in Montenegro.

The representative of **France** stated that his country was an important donor in the sphere of animal health, mentioning in particular their contribution to EuFMD. As regards possibilities to provide particular expertise in animal health, including on laboratories, he informed about the
existence of the FVI platform (France Vétérinaire International) aiming at centralising demands and tailoring technical support to requesting parties.

**Conclusion**

It was commonly recognised that harmonisation and coordination were critical in any disease eradication programme in the WBC. The European Commission is undoubtedly the most important partner in the region and actions undertaken to combat rabies and classical swine fever in EU neighbouring countries, ensuring at the same time an improvement of the animal health and public health situation in those countries as well as the protection of the already achieved free status in most of the EU countries, are highly relevant.

A long term commitment of national governments to support Veterinary Services in the region is crucial to ensure full success of animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare programmes. They should aim at reaching compliance with OIE standards on the quality and evaluation of VS published in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Countries not having yet entered the PVS Pathway were therefore encouraged to do so in order to help identify strengths and weaknesses of the systems in place and facilitate the definition of country Veterinary Services' objectives in terms of compliance with OIE quality standards suitably adapted to national constraints and priorities.

Although the absence of important donors in the region such as USDA and the World Bank was regretted at this meeting, the participants considered that this kind of forum gathering Western Balkan countries and donors was useful and should therefore continue. A frequency of one meeting/year would be suitable according to countries and partners' representatives. It was acknowledged that for the purpose of better coordinating activities related to control of priority diseases in the whole region, Kosovo* should also take part in future coordination meetings. The OIE Regional Representation in its position of Secretariat of the GF-TADs for Europe would be in charge of organising these regular meetings.

In order to facilitate access for donors and partners to documents related to animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare programmes in place in WBC, the GF-TADs secretariat for Europe proposed to post on the OIE Regional Website for Europe as a sub-section of the GF-TADs1 all reports of the coordination meetings. Projects documents and any other documents such as the country PVS Reports and the country PVS Gap Analysis reports would be posted only upon agreement of the country.

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* under UNSCR 1244

1 [http://www.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Projects/en_gftads.htm](http://www.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Projects/en_gftads.htm)
APPENDICES

Appendix 1: questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECTS IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

Please complete this questionnaire and send it back by 2 April 2010 to the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe at rr.easteurope@oie.int, with copy to r.kostova@oie.int and c.plante@oie.int.

### NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OFFICER FILLING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>COUNTRY:</th>
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**PROJECT 1: name:**

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Status of the project** (recently ended - ongoing - in preparation - approved):

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Duration:**

From (month/year)..............to (month/year)……………………………………………………………………

**Funding:**

*(Please specify if the amounts in this table are given in USD or EUR)*

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<td>Amount of the contribution (loan or grant)</td>
<td>……………..</td>
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**Responsible national authority:**
Main objectives (describe):

Brief description of activities / deliverables (Laboratory, Epidemiosurveillance, Control programme design/implementation, Capacity building for VS, etc.)

PROJECT 2: name:

Status of the project (recently ended - ongoing - in preparation - approved):

Duration:
From (month/year)........ to (month/year)........................................

Funding:
(Please specify if the amounts in this table are given in USD or EUR)

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Responsible national authority:

Main objectives (describe):

Brief description of activities / deliverables (Laboratory, Epidemiosurveillance, Control programme design/implementation, Capacity building for VS, etc.)
## Appendix 2: list of participants

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>SANIN</td>
<td>TANKOVIC</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>ZORAN</td>
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<td>CVO</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>00381 11 2602 320</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>BUDIMIR</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>00385 1 610 62 67</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>TATJANA</td>
<td>BABOVIC</td>
<td>Senior Adviser</td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>00382 20 201 945</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tatjana.babovic@vu.gov.me">tatjana.babovic@vu.gov.me</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>DEJAN</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Prof.</td>
<td>NIKOLA</td>
<td>BELEV</td>
<td>Regional Representative</td>
<td>OIE RR-EE</td>
<td>00359 2 385 11 311</td>
<td><a href="mailto:r.eastereurope@oie.int">r.eastereurope@oie.int</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>CAROLINE</td>
<td>PLANTE</td>
<td>Sub-Regional Representative</td>
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<td>0032 2 235 86 13</td>
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<td>Damyan</td>
<td>ILIEV</td>
<td>Deputy CVO</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:damyan.ileev@nvms.government.bg">damyan.ileev@nvms.government.bg</a></td>
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<td>Nikolay</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>00359 2 915 98 71</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nikolai.lilov@nvms.government.bg">nikolai.lilov@nvms.government.bg</a></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Prof.</td>
<td>Ivan</td>
<td>BOJKOV</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:vetzakon@abv.bg">vetzakon@abv.bg</a></td>
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<td>Ivan</td>
<td>MANGA</td>
<td>Editor in Chief</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ovmnews@abv.bg">ovmnews@abv.bg</a></td>
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Appendix 3: agenda

Meeting for Western Balkan Countries
Sofia, Bulgaria, 11 May 2010
Organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe,
Secretariat of the GF-TADs for Europe

Final agenda

Morning Session: 9.00 – 12.00

9.00 - 9.05 Opening address by the Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria Dr M. Naydenov
9.05 - 9.15 Presentation of the context and objectives of the meeting (OIE) Dr N. Belev
9.15 – 9.45 Short review of activities conducted in the WBC in the animal health sector
Dr Caroline Planté
Answers to the questionnaires (OIE)

9.45 – 10.15 Coffee break

10.15 - 12.00 Countries’ viewpoint (round table) 6 countries X 15 min
  o Priority diseases
  o Gaps in addressing needs to prevent and control major TADs
  o Coordination between WBC

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

Afternoon session: 13.00 – 16.00

• Donors’ viewpoint (round table) EC, FAO, IT, CH, FR
  o Policies and programmes in the region: current and future perspectives
  o Addressing WBC needs
  o Coordination between donors

• Way forward
  o Proposals for further actions and coordination mechanisms

16.00 Coffee break
Short review of activities conducted in the WB countries in the Animal Health sector

Based on the answers to the questionnaire sent to Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia

Meeting for Western Balkan Countries
Sofia, Bulgaria, 11 May 2010

Presentation of the questionnaire

Aim:
To get an overview of animal health projects implemented in WB countries
- activities carried out
  - Objectives
  - Time frame
  - Responsible national authority
- funds allocated (donors / country)
To identify possible overlaps or gaps in order to better coordinate further activities, in particular with regard to CSF and rabies, 2 priority diseases as stated during the 3d GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe

Questionnaire results

Albania
- “Improvement of consumer protection against zoonotic diseases”
  - 3 years : Dec 2009- Dec 2012
  - Donor: EU ; total amount 5,7 M€ (20% country)
  - Implementation : Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection
  - Objectives :
    - Organisation of VS and enhancing capacities
    - Health status for zoonoses (anthrax, brucellosis, rabies, tuberculosis)
    - Central laboratory capacities
  - Activities
    - Veterinary legislation
    - Structure and organisation of VS
    - Veterinary inspectors capacities ; procedures
    - Diagnostic capacities ; supply of laboratory equipments
    - Vaccination program design + supply of vaccines for small ruminants against brucellosis & anthrax ; rabies control and eradication program

Bosnia & Herzegovina (1/4)
- “Fighting Brucellosis in Bosnia & Herzegovina”
  - 1 year : Mar 2009- Jun 2010
  - Donor: Sweden (SIDA) ; total amount 2,681 M€
  - Implementation : Veterinary Office of B&H
  - Objectives :
    - Assistance in combating brucellosis in small ruminants through mass vaccination program
  - Activities:
    - Vaccination program design and implementation

- “Avian Influenza Preparedness Project”
  - 2 years : Nov 2008- Dec 2010
  - Donor: WB ; total amount 2,980 M USD (17% country)
  - Implementation : Veterinary Office of B&H
  - Objectives :
    - Strengthening preparedness of B&H for early detection and suppression of AI
  - Activities:
    - Capacity building for VS and laboratory
FYROM

- **“EU-IPA 2008”**
  - Approved: 2 years : Sep 2012 – 2014
  - Donor: EU ; total amount 4,498 M€ (15% country)
  - Implementation : Veterinary Directorate
  - Objectives:
    - Formulation of policies, design and preparation of implementation plan (staffing, finance, legislation)
    - Expansion of identification and regulation system to farm and captive animals
    - Control and eradication of rabies and CSF in Montenegro
  - Activities:
    - Legal and regulatory frame condiations
    - Diagnostic, control and monitoring capacities
    - Implementation of CSF and rabies vaccination campaign
    - Awareness and education campaign
    - GLP and verification

Montenegro

- **“EU-IPA 2008 – Support to control and eradication of rabies and CSF in Montenegro”**
  - Approved: 3 years : Oct 2010 – 2013
  - Donor: EU ; total amount 1,7 M€ (12% country)
  - Implementation : Veterinary Administration
  - Objectives:
    - Support the control and eradication of rabies and CSF
  - Activities:
    - Legal and regulatory frame condiations
    - Diagnostic, control and monitoring capacities
    - Implementation of CSF and rabies vaccination campaign

Bosnia & Herzegovina (3/4)

- **“Strengthening of the Border Veterinary Office of B&H”**
  - Donor: EU ; total amount 1,907 M€
  - Implementation : Veterinary Office of B&H
  - Objectives:
    - Harmonisation of B&H Veterinary Service with the EU standards
  - Activities:
    - Evaluation ; drafting legislation ; training
    - Introduction to GLP implementation and relevant ISO standards

Croatia

- **“EU-IPA 2008 - Support to animal disease control/eradication in Croatia”**
  - In preparation : 2,7 years : Sept 2010 – June 2013
  - Donor: EU ; total amount 4,115 M€ (24% country)
  - Implementation : Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development
  - Objectives:
    - Control and eradication of rabies in wildlife
  - Activities:
    - Long term and large scale oral vaccination of foxes against rabies
Serbia

- EU-IPA 2008 – Support for the control and eradication of CSF and rabies in Serbia
  - 2.5 years: Jan 2010 – June 2012
  - Donor: EU; total amount 8.3 M€ (24% country)
  - Implementation: Veterinary Directorate
  - Objectives:
    - Support the control and eradication of rabies in foxes and CSF in feral pig population
    - Activities:
      - Improvement of the institutional framework for CSF and rabies eradication/control/monitoring
      - Strategic operational multi-annual action plan for rabies and CSF
      - GIS based Surveillance (surveillance/travel awareness campaign)
      - Vaccination campaigns

- EU-IPA 2009 – Support for the control and eradication of rabies and CSF in Serbia
  - Approved: continuation of the previous project
  - Donor: EU; total amount 6 M€
  - Implementation: Veterinary Directorate
  - Objectives:
    - Support to control and eradication of rabies in the fox population and CSF in domestic pigs and wild boars
    - Transpose EU legislation on CSF and rabies
  - Activities:
    - Legislation (EU transposition): non vaccination policy; Strategy; Procedures
    - Information Management System; Registration; Control of stray dogs; Census of wild boars and foxes
    - Surveillance: eradication of wild boars for CSF and foxes for rabies
    - Surveillance exercises for CSF
    - Public awareness on rabies

- EU-IPA 2010– Support for the control and eradication of CSF in Serbia
  - In preparation: continuation of the previous project
  - Donor: EU

- EU-IPA 2011– Building capacity in the area of food safety, animal by-products and animal welfare
  - In preparation
  - Donor: EU
  - Implementation: Veterinary Directorate
  - Objectives:
    - Support implementation of the Food Safety Law, Animal by-Products Action Plan and Animal Welfare Law
  - Activities:
    - Analysis and assessment
    - Standards and regulation
    - Institutional development
    - Capacity building

Thank you for your attention

12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France – www.oie.int – oie@oie.int

Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal
Rabies situation in Albania

History of Rabies in Albania

Sporadic cases encountered from 1928 (VS establishment) mainly in wildlife.

Last reported case involving death in humans in 1976 – 14 persons bitten, 10 deaths.

History of Rabies in Albania

Period 1976 – 2000 no reported cases of rabies, neither in wildlife, nor in domestic animals.

Albania classified as a rabies-free country for this period.

History of Rabies in Albania

Starting from 2001, yearly confirmed cases of rabies.

Active surveillance started since 1997, with a peak in 2003, ranging 26 – 74.

In 2006, 7 confirmed cases, 4 red foxes, 2 cattle, 1 dog.

Rabies cases in Albania

Mostly confined to N - NE part of Albania, near borders with neighboring countries.

Eliminated 52 dogs, 4 cows, 2 heifers, 1 donkey (year 2006)

History of Rabies in Albania

Recent case of rabies in late 2009 in region close to border with Macedonia.
Cows with signs of disease - confirmed lab diagnosis at the IFSV, Tirana.

Last human lives lost due to rabies in 1976.
In 2001 - 3 persons bitten by rabid dog and received appropriate treatment.
In 2004 - 2 persons bitten by rabid wolf and received appropriate treatment.
Vaccination of exposed humans to rabies.

Conclusions of Rabies in Albania

Few cases each year show that infection is circulating in wildlife.
Cases reported in N - NE part of Albania, close to neighboring countries.
Strengthening of collaboration with VS of neighboring countries and exchange of information on rabies confirmed cases.

Classical Swine Fever in Albania

Last reported outbreak at a large scale was in 1996.
Controlling of CSF infection by vaccination.
Situation under control in pig farms - probable circulation of infection in wild boars.
### ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

#### PROJECT 1: SIDA Project: “Fighting Brucellosis in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

**Status of the project:** Ongoing  
**Duration:** From (month/year) March 2009 to (month/year) June 2010  
**Funding:**  

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**Responsible national authority:** Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Main objectives:** Assistance in combating Brucellosis in small ruminants through implementation of mass vaccination program  
**Brief description of activities / deliverables:** Control program design and implementation

#### PROJECT 2: Avian Influenza Preparedness Project

**Status of the project:** Ongoing  
**Duration:** From (month/year) November 2008 to (month/year) December 2010  
**Funding:**  

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**Responsible national authority:** Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Main objectives:** Strengthening preparedness of BiH for early detection and suppression of AI  
**Brief description of activities / deliverables:** Strengthening laboratory capacities, Capacity building for VS including trainings

#### PROJECT 3: Assistance to Rural Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Status of the project:** Ongoing  
**Duration:** From (month/year) October 2007 to (month/year) December 2011  
**Funding:**  

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**Responsible national authority:** Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Main objectives:** Improvement of animal identification and movement control  
**Brief description of activities / deliverables:** Capacity building for VS (drafting legislation, harmonization with EU standards, trainings); Surveillance program implementation

#### PROJECT 4: Strengthening of the Border Veterinary Inspection

**Status of the project:** Recently ended  
**Duration:** From (month/year) December 2004 to (month/year) May 2009  
**Funding:**  

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**Responsible national authority:** Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Main objectives:** Construction of the BIP in accordance with the EU requirements; Improvement of Border Veterinary Inspection  
**Brief description of activities / deliverables:** Capacity building for VS (drafting legislation, harmonization with the EU standards, trainings); Control implementation, Reconstruction

#### PROJECT 5: EU CARDS Twinning project “Strengthening capacities of the Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina”

**Status of the project:** Recently ended  
**Duration:** From (month/year) July 2007 to (month/year) August 2008  
**Funding:**  

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**Responsible national authority:** Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Main objectives:** Harmonization of the BiH Veterinary Service with the EU standards  
**Brief description of activities / deliverables:** Capacity building for the Veterinary Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina (evaluation of the existing situation, drafting legislation in accordance with the EU standards, trainings, introduction to implementation of GLP and relevant ISO standards...)}
**PROJECT 6: FAO/TCP/3101 “Strengthening Capacity on Aquaculture Health Management”**

**Status of the project:**
Recently ended

**Duration:**
From (month/year) October 2006 to (month/year) May 2008

**Funding:**

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**Responsible national authority:**
Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Main objectives:**
Strengthening Aquaculture Capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Brief description of activities / deliverables:**
Strengthening Laboratory, Animal Health / Surveillance and Food Safety Capacities in Aquaculture, Drafting of the National Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, Drafting legislation in accordance with the EU standards

**Amount of the contribution (loan or grant):**
255,645.94 EUR

**Total amount:**
255,645.94 EUR

**Country (national co-financing):**

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**Donor 1:**
IPA

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**PROJECT 8: IPA Western Balkans programme on control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever**

**Status of the project:**
In preparation

**Duration:**
From second semester 2010 to winter 2011

**Funding:**

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**Responsible national authority:**
Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Main objectives:**
Control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever

**Brief description of activities / deliverables:**
Data collection and analysis, development of the training and public awareness campaign, development of the implementation strategy, procurement and distribution of rabies baits, procurement of CSF vaccine for domestic pigs.

**Amount of the contribution (loan or grant):**

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**Donor 1:**
IPA

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**IPA Rabies and Classical Swine Fever State of Play**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Introduction**

- Rabies and CSF are notifiable disease in BiH
- Disease control, suppression and eradication are regulated by several legal documents including:
  - Veterinary Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Order concerning measures of control of infectious and parasite diseases of animals and their implementation and financing
  - Decision concerning measures for detection, suppression and eradication of classical swine fever
  - Decision on measures for suppression of Rabies in animals ("OJ SFRJ," No: 39/88)
  - Decision on measures for suppression and eradication of Rabies in animals ("OJ RS," No: 25/95)

**Control measures**

- Rabies control envisages mandatory vaccination of dogs (including vaccination of stray dogs in shelters) and other susceptible animal species if necessary, based on the epidemiological data upon reporting of the rabies case
- CSF control envisages vaccination of all pigs with C strain vaccines, and diagnostic investigation of all hunted or dead susceptible wild animals

**Newly adopted CSF measures**

- New Decision concerning CSF control measures was adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH and is compliant with the Directive 2001/89/EC
- Abovementioned Decision envisages CSF control both in domestic and in wild animals
In order to reduce the public health risks and enhance the economic and trade potential, BiH has joined the Western Balkans programme on control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever to be implemented over the next five years under IPA envelope.

Lanching of IPA 2008 activities is expected in second semester of 2010.

IPA 2008 program

- Program has 3 parts consisting of:
  - Preparatory phase
  - Implementation of OVC
  - Follow-up activities

Preparatory phase

- Represents overall project coordination and is considered as crucial. It consists of:
  - Data collection and analysis including implementation arrangements,
  - Development of the training and public awareness campaign,
  - Development of the implementation strategy

Implementation of OVC

- Procurement and distribution of rabies baits
- Procurement of CSF vaccine for domestic pigs

Note: At the moment data that should serve as the basis for vaccination campaign in wild boar is not sufficient. In order to implement the vaccination effectively, upon IPA 2008, Technical Assistance will carry out a study and collect all relevant data, which will be used as a basis for development of the vaccination program. The vaccination of wild boars may be initiated upon IPA 2011 envelope.

Disease monitoring and control of the impact of the OVC in wild and domestic animals

- Activities to be carried out within this activity include:
  - Assessment of the impact of initial vaccination campaign,
  - Status of the infection in wild animals
  - Update of the multi-annual disease monitoring programs

via sample collection and investigation of shut/dead wild animals, and domestic animals.

Undertaken activities

- Conducted TAIEX mission concerning facilitation of the forthcoming project activities
- Drafted ToR for consultants concerning preparatory phase of the project
- Drafted tender for purchase and distribution of rabies baits and purchase of CSF vaccines for domestic pigs
- All relevant institutions/stakeholders introduced with the envisaged project activities
**Future activities**

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<td>Conduction of trainings</td>
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<td>Conduction of PAC</td>
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<td>Purchase of rabies baits</td>
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<td>Distribution of rabies baits</td>
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<td>Distribution of CSF vaccines</td>
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<td>Evaluation of vaccine impact</td>
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**Number of CSF cases and outbreaks in BiH**

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**Number of cases in CSF cases and outbreaks in BiH**

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<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Domestic animals</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
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**Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wild animal species</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Density</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Wild boar (Sus scrofa)</td>
<td>6,780</td>
<td>4,26/1000 ha LSP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Fox (Vulpes vulpes)</td>
<td>11,064</td>
<td>4,98/1000 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wolf (Canis lupus)</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>0,26/1000 ha</td>
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**Republika Srpska**

<table>
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<th>Wild animal species</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Density</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Wild boar (Sus scrofa)</td>
<td>5,780</td>
<td>8,24/1000 ha LSP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Fox (Vulpes vulpes)</td>
<td>10,062</td>
<td>4,24/1000 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wolf (Canis lupus)</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>0,48/1000 ha</td>
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</table>

Thank you for your attention!
Co-ordination activities as part of a regional project

Dr Olga Zorko DG SANCO
Unit 04 Veterinary programmes

Rabies/CSF Regional approach outside EU

Western Balkans:
- Project to combat Rabies and CSF
- EU Enlargement Funds (IPA)

Western Balkan project for eradication of rabies and CSF

- IPA 2008/020-319
  1. Component I - national with 7 country projects for 5 years
  2. Component II - regional - overall co-ordination

Component I
- National projects (7)
  - evaluation of the situation
  - purchase of vaccine baits
  - storage and distribution of vaccines
  - costs for examination of samples
  - follow up costs

Component II
- Regional project
  Co-ordination of 7 national projects
  - To follow up the performance
  - Assist with expertise
  - Organisation of regional meetings and conferences
  - Simulation exercises

Budget for 5 years
- Component I: € 94.8 m
- Component II: € 2 m
### Budget/WB countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Surface (000 km²)</th>
<th>Rabies total per year (m€)</th>
<th>CSF total per year (m€)</th>
<th>TOTAL Rabies/CSF 5 years (m€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.14</td>
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<td>BiH</td>
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<td>2.01</td>
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<td>FYROM</td>
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<td>1.03</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>4.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kosovo*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>3.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>10.88</td>
<td>8.08</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Purpose of the project - component II
- To improve the epidemiological situation as regards animal diseases in the WB countries,
- To limit the risk to animal and human health (in the case of rabies),
- To limit the economic consequences of these diseases.

### Objective of the Component II
- To help the WB countries in their efforts to control and eradicate the diseases,
- To enhance the regional and cross-border cooperation in the WB,
- To ensure that the control and eradication of important animal diseases is harmonised and coordinated at a regional level, with Commission support.

### Expected results
- An improved epidemiological situation as regards the animal disease situation in the WB countries
- Improved regional and international cooperation between veterinary services in the Western Balkan countries
- Improved performance of veterinary services

### Measurable Indicators
- Set up of harmonised and shared information channels
- Regular coordination meetings held in the region
- Recommendations for an enhanced regional cooperation prepared and implemented

### Planned activities
- Enhancement of the regional cooperation between the WB countries, the neighbouring Member States and international organisations
- Stimulate the exchange of information on the disease situation and its evolution between WB countries
- Support to the WB countries for a coordinated implementation of the national eradication programmes
WHERE WE ARE? Procurement procedure

- Cross-Subdelegation Agreement between DG ELARG and DG SANCO signed.
- Individual Service contract forecast published.
- Procurement notice (contract notice) for restricted procedure prepared to be published in OJ.
- Waiting for submission of requests deadline minimum 37 days after publishing the notice in OJ.
- Selection of candidates on the basis of exclusion and selection criteria.
- Dispatch of tender documents to the qualified candidates.
- Receipt of tenders and selection procedure.

Thank you for your attention.
Animal Health Programmes financed from EU funds

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Republic of Croatia
Veterinary Directorate

Coordination meeting for Western Balkan Countries
Sofia, Bulgaria, 11 May 2010

Programmes in progress

1. IPA 2008 “Support to animal disease control/eradication in the Republic of Croatia

2. IPA 2010 “Continued Support to animal diseases control/eradication in the Republic of Croatia”

Programmes In progress(1)

IPA 2008 “Support to animal disease control/eradication in the Republic of Croatia
- (Rabies control in wildlife - Oral vaccination of foxes)
- FINANCES - TOTAL PROJECT - 4.115.000 €
  - EU funds - 3.135.375 € (76%)
  - National budget - 979.625 € (24%)
  - Beneficiary: MAFRD, Veterinary Directorate

Overall Objective and Project Purpose

Overall Objective:
- To improve the animal health situation in Republic of Croatia as regards certain animal diseases that have serious animal and public health impact.

Project purpose:
- To support to control/eradication of rabies in foxes and reduce the risk of new rabies cases.

Activities(5)

(1) Capacity building of laboratory by supply of equipment (IPA 2008 only)
(2) Vaccine purchase
(3) Distribution of vaccine
(4) Surveillance testing of dead or hunted animals evaluation of surveillance results
(5) Awareness campaign

Numbers and figures

- Territory of Croatia: 56,542 km²
- Estimated area covered by baits: 35,000 km²
- Baiting density: 25 baits per km²
- Vaccination campaign: 2 per year (spring and autumn)
- Number of vaccine baits per campaign: 875,000
- Bait drop by airplane manually
IPA 2008 - Current Project status

- Project Fiche IPA 2008
  - New request for PF modification sent for adoption to EU
  - Component IV issue
- First oral vaccination campaign to be implemented in Autumn 2010

Current Project status

- New request for PF modification sent for adoption to EU
- Component IV issue
- First oral vaccination campaign to be implemented in Autumn 2010

Current Component status (1)

- Component I
  - Supply of lab. equipment (Justification and Market Analysis finished)
- Component II
  - Vaccine purchase and storage (Justification and Market Analysis finished, Derogation approved by EC)
- Component III
  - Distribution of vaccine (tender in process)
  - Operational plan developed (TAIEX assistance)

Current Component status (2)

- Component IV
  - Surveillance: testing of dead or hunted animals to assess the vaccination coverage
    - New PF modification requested
    - Documents for Service contract under development
- Component V
  - Planning and implementation of awareness campaign
    - ToR developed and amended according to the EU requirements and new IPA procedure

Programmes in progress (2)

- IPA 2010 “Continued Support to animal disease control/eradication in the Republic of Croatia”
  - Finances - total project - 4,082,394 €
    - EU funds - 3,107,075 € (76.1%)
    - National budget - 970,319 € (23.8%)

Overall Objective and Project Purpose

Overall Objective:
- To improve the animal health situation in Republic of Croatia as regards certain animal diseases that have serious animal and public health impact.

Project purpose:
- To continue the support to control/eradication of rabies in foxes and reduce the risk of new rabies cases.

Strategy 2010-2016

- Oral vaccination of foxes to be carried out on the territory of the whole country for at least 5 consecutive years (IPA 2010)
- Enforcement of prescribed measures for control and eradication of rabies
  - Marking of all dogs with microchips
  - Building of new shelters for abandoned animals
- To increase general public awareness on rabies as well as on their contribution/obligations in measures for prevention and eradication of diseases
- Financial resources
  - Continuously providing (national funds, EU funds, WB funds, other…)
  - Especially needs D: Strengthening logistic capacities
Rabies situation Croatia

- 1967 last case of urban rabies;
- 1977 first case of sylvatic rabies;
- 1985 spread of rabies through whole territory of Croatia, with the exception of the Adriatic islands;
- 2010 endemic disease.

Wild animals
- Since 1981-2009 the majority of the disease occurrences
  - Red foxes (Vulpes vulpes)
  - 91% of all infected animals
  - The most important reservoirs of rabies

Domestic animals
- Sporadic cases
  - Contact with infected wild animals
  - 4% of infected animals

Epi status
- Almost unchanged
  - 450 – 550 cases per year
  - Number increasing since 2007 till 2009
  - 650-850 cases per year
- The whole country, except the islands
  - NW/NE part of Croatia

No TESTED SAMPLES/ No POSITIVE CASES
(time period 1991-2009)

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES WILD/ DOMESTIC ANIMALS;
(time period 2003 - 2009)

POSITIVE CASES; domestic animals/ dogs and cats
(time period 1999 - 2009)
Wild Animals / Rabies Control

- 1991-1996 ORV Croatia
  - 11 vaccination campaigns
  - 533,900 vaccine baits were used
    - Istarska, Primorsko-goranska, Zagrebačka, Karlovačka, Krapinsko-zagorska, Varaždinska, Međimurska and City of Zagreb
  - Insufficient financial funds stopped ORV program

Thank you very much for your attention!

Programmes in progress – welfare


Programmes in progress (3)

- Matra Pre-accession Projects Programme (MPAP) and G2G.nl (incl. Environmental Facility):
  - Finances - total project - 200,000 €

Main activities – welfare project

Overall Objective:
- To improve the animal welfare in the Republic of Croatia as regards laying hen protection in different production environments and systems and their respective requirements.

Project purpose:
- Raising the producers’ consciousness regarding the need to protect the animals by introducing the alternative production systems.
- A higher level of veterinary inspector’s and official veterinaries skills in controlling and inspecting the laying hen farms.
- Establishing the systems of reporting the inspection controls at the laying hens’ protection.
IPA 2008 project
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
May 2010
Veterinary Directorate

Project fiche
- Capacity building of the veterinary service for implementation of EU Acquis
- PF approved by EC in June 2008
- Beneficiary institution: Veterinary Directorate
  Overall costs: EUR 3,900,000
  EU contribution: EUR 3,300,000
  Duration of the project: 24 months

Project purpose
- To provide technical and material assistance to the Veterinary Directorate to improve its overall ability and capacity for implementation of the EU Acquis, to transpose and implement EU acquis into national law, implementation by the inspection services, control animal disease, organize animal waste disposal and expand the Animal Identification and Registration system to include pigs.

Time schedule
Contract 1 - TA Contract (financed by EU contribution)
  - Start of tendering: Q4 2009
  - Signature of the contract: Q2 2010
  - Project completion: Q2 2013
Contract 2 - Supplies Vaccines
  - Start of tendering: Q4 2010
  - Signature of the contract: Q2 2011
  - Project completion: Q1 2013
Contracts (financed by National Contribution)
Contract 3 - Supplies Software
Contract 4 - Supplies Laboratory
Contract 5 - Supplies ear tags

Terms of reference (TA)
- First draft prepared by VD in June 2009
- Submitted to DEU in Skopje in August 2009
- Correspondence between DEU and Veterinary Directorate (several versions)
- DEU internal communication: December 2009

Tendering procedure
- January 2010, short listing process
  - 4 consulting companies selected
- Evaluation process scheduled, 18 May 2010
- Signature of the contract, July 2010
- Commence of the project, August 2010
Component 1: Transposition of the EU Acquis;
Component 2: Strengthening of inspection services;
Component 3: Animal Disease Control;
Component 4: Establishing a system for animal waste disposal;
Component 5: Animal Identification and Registration system in pigs;

Animal Disease Control
Support the Veterinary Directorate in the implementation of an effective program for the control and eradication of CSF and rabies in wild animals and preventing the spread of CSF from wild boar population to domestic pigs. Laboratory capacities for performing rabies and CSF diagnostic tests will be increased.

Specific activities 1
Animal Disease Control
- Develop detailed plans and procedures for vaccination of wild animals (including type and quantity of vaccines, and application modalities)
- Supervise the vaccination campaigns, as well as delivery and application of vaccines
- Develop basis of a passive surveillance system of wild life
- Draft procedure manuals or protocols for monitoring and surveillance of the number and spatial distribution of foxes and wild boar population

Specific activities 2
- Training sessions for all relevant stakeholders i.e. hunters, concession holders, etc.
- Develop a sound coordination and cooperation system with all relevant stakeholders i.e. hunters, concession holders, etc
- Implement the public awareness campaign for control and eradication of rabies and CSF as well as improvement of bio-safety conditions, in particular, of small pig farms (so as to minimise the risk of contact between feral pig population and domestic pigs).
- Develop a detailed concept, system design and implementation plan to introduce electronic identification of dogs and cats;

Specific activities 3
- Provide support for the institutional strengthening of the National Reference Laboratory;
- Assess and evaluate the diagnostic capacities with regard to Rabies and CSF diagnosis;
- Identify requirements in term of additional equipment and training needs;
- Establish a final list of equipment with regard to Rabies and CSF diagnosis.
- Prepare tender procurement for the agreed items;
- Implement the agreed laboratory training programme and provide also on-the-job support.

Framework contract
Required outputs
- Preliminary fox population survey to be carried out;
- Appropriate Rabies vaccine baits and their aerial or manual distribution to be identified;
- The corresponding tender dossier for Rabies vaccines including distribution and application services to be prepared and approved by the Contracting Authority
Framework contract 2

- Evaluation procedure, 23 April 2010
- The company was selected
- Signature of the contract, expected in May 2010
- Execution period, 4 months
Overview on activities in the field of animal health with the technical and financial support of donors

Ivan Popović, Tatjana Babović
Coordination meeting for Western Balkan Countries
Sofia, Bulgaria, 11 May 2010

IPA 2007 Development and implementation of the system of animal identification and registration/Phase II

- The overall objective of the project is to improve food safety standards of animal origin.
- The specific objectives: strengthening and expanding the concept for integrated I&R system and the Veterinary Information System in accordance with the EU standards for cattle, ovine and caprine animals, with the possibility of its expansion to other animal species

• The project is divided into five main components according to the results:
  1. Strengthen the bovine I&R system, expand the system to the ovine and caprine species, design a veterinary information system (VIS) including detailed implementation, staffing and financial plans and obtain approval for this system
  2. Procurement of IT equipment, supplies and services and securing its delivery installation and operation
  3. Create awareness with stakeholders and the general public of the expanded I&R and VIS, make all participants fully aware of their obligations and provide training on their duties in the system. Create visibility of EU assistance.
  4. Make the I&R system for bovine, ovine and caprine species fully operational and accessible for other agricultural databases
  5. Make the planned VIS operational with respect to I&R of the bovine, ovine and caprine species and veterinary disease surveillance

IPA 2008 Support to control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever in Montenegro

- The project of support to control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever in Montenegro should make possible putting in place the EU standards in control and eradication of rabies and classical swine fever.
- Status: Technical part of evaluation finished, we are waiting for evaluation report approval
- Project duration: 2010-2012.
- Total funds: € 1.7 million; EU contribution: € 1.5 million

Activities

1. Approximation of the legal and regulatory frame conditions
2. Strengthening of diagnostic, control and monitoring capacities at all levels
3. Implementation of CSF and rabies vaccination campaigns
4. Comprehensive information and awareness campaign
5. Classical swine fever and rabies prevention
Classical Swine fever- positive cases (domestic pigs)

CSF monitoring in wild boar population

- The number of wild boars: 3848 (Statistical Yearbook).
- Legal basis- Operational programme on animal health protection - CSF surveillance in wild boar population
- Hunters brings the samples of spleen to veterinary ambulances which forward the samples to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Veterinary Administration pays for trichinoscopy examination of every shouted wild boar when hunters sent the above mentioned samples for the CSF monitoring.

- The results for year 2008:
  Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory tested 42 samples of wild boars on CSF and all were negative.

- The results for year 2009:
  Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory tested 59 samples of wild boars on CSF and all were negative.

Rabies surveillance in wild animals

- Legal basis - Operational programme on animal health protection
  Hunters brings the samples to the veterinary ambulances which forward the samples to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

- Diagnostic test
  - direct immunofluorescence

- There is no rabies surveillance in the population of stray dogs

Wild animals
- The number of foxes 11705, wolves 1829 (Statistical Yearbook)
- Red fox – the most important reservoir of rabies
- Domestic animals- sporadic cases (contact with sick wild animals)
- Human - never
Rabies vaccination

• Compulsory vaccination of cats and dogs every year with inactivated vaccine. The vaccine itself is paid from the budget, but the costs of application has been paid by owners.

• The vaccination of the dogs in the shelters has been performed too.

• The vaccination of wild animals has never been performed
**Republic of Serbia**
**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management**
**VETERINARY DIRECTORATE**

**Meeting for Western Balkan Countries**

Dr. Zoran Micovic, CVO, Director of VD
Dr. Budimir Plavsic, National project coordinator

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**Animal Health Projects in Serbia / EU funded**

**Few project in different stage of implementation:**
- Strengthening of animal identification and registration in Serbia [finished in April 2010, CARDS]
- Improvement of official controls of the veterinary inspection service in Serbia (G2G project with The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety)
- Capacity building in the areas of Food Safety, Animal by-Products, and Animal Welfare [IPA 2011 – in preparation]
- Support of RS (and other countries in WB region) in monitoring of zoonoses (VD and WHO) (project proposal in preparation and identification of potential donor)

---

**1. Strengthening of animal identification and registration in Serbia**

- Two years project (April 2008/April 2010)
- Results achieved:
  1. Bovine animal Identification and Registration being implemented in Serbia in compliance with all the provisions of Title I of Regulation 1760/2000
  2. Extension of animal identification and registration to other species in compliance with the relevant provisions of the acquis communitaire
  3. Strategy for the exchange of data from the animal identification and registration IT system of MAFWM, other Ministries or other bodies involved of the public administration approved by the MAFWM and implemented.

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**2. Support for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia**

- The project is funded by the European Union and is managed by the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia.
- It is a part of a general programme initiated by DG SANCO: “Western Balkan programme for eradication of rabies/classical swine fever” managed by DG ENLARG with implementation sub-delegated to DG SANCO.
- The overall objective, to which this project will contribute, is to improve the animal health in Serbia and surrounding countries in line with EU standards, thus improving the prospects for trade of agricultural products.
- Project purpose:
  - To eradicate, control and monitor rabies in foxes in the Republic of Serbia;
  - To eradicate, control and monitor CSF in feral pig population as well as to prevent the spread of CSF from feral pig population to domestic pigs.

---

**2. Support for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia (3)**

- Contracting Authority: Delegation of EU in RS (Centralized system)
- Beneficiary: MaA, Veterinary Directorate
- Financing:
  - IPA 2008 (8,3MEUR),
  - IPA 2009 (6 MEUR),
  - Continuation is planned
- TA implemented by the Consultant:
  - OPERA Scarl in association with
    - Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise
    - National Veterinary Research Institute
    - Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie
    - Agriconsulting Europe SA
- Contract with Consultant in December 2009
- Official start January 13th 2010

---

**2. Support for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia (4)**

**PLANNED RESULTS:**
1. Action Plan for improvement of the current institutional framework for eradication, control and monitoring of the CSF and Rabies;
2. Strategic operational multi-annual action plan for eradication, control and monitoring of Rabies;
3. Strategic operational multi-annual action plan for eradication, control and monitoring of CSF including a plan for non-vaccination eradication of CSF;
4. Contingency plan and operational manual for CSF;
5. ...
2. Support for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia (5)

PLANNED RESULTS (2)

1. Regulation for national surveillance and control program
2. Approved strategy, operative procedures and document
3. Training programs are prepared and approved, appropriate number of local experts, official veterinarians are trained and equipped, there is operative training module in central database administered
4. Assessment of capacities for non-vaccination policy for CSF on commercial farms and backyard holdings
5. Relevant regulation for sustainable control of CSF in domestic pig population based on non-vaccination policy is harmonized
6. Appropriate surveillance program and/or sustainable vaccination programs (in some animals) of wild boar, foxes, raccoons, wolves and other carnivores are established in the case of outbreaks of CSF is available, professionals trained to manage outbreaks of CSF expected when vaccination against CSF is banned.
7. Equipment, vaccines and diagnostics for epidemiological surveillance and rapid response in the case of outbreaks of CSF is administrated
8. GIS based surveillance system for rabies and CSF customised with the Veterinary Information Management System (VIMS);
9. Terms of Reference for the public awareness campaign for control and eradication of rabies and CSF;

5. Training programme (vets, hunters, farmers other stkh),
6. Procurement Plans for procurement and application of vaccines and installation and operation of equipment to be funded from IPA 2008 and subsequent IPA programmes;
7. Procedure manuals or protocols for monitoring and surveillance of the number and spatial distribution of foxes and feral pig population;
8. GIS based surveillance system for rabies and CSF customised with the Veterinary Information Management System (VIMS);
9. Terms of Reference for the public awareness campaign for control and eradication of rabies and CSF;

2. Support for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia (6)

PLANNED RESULTS (2)

1. Regulation for national surveillance and control program
2. Approved strategy, operative procedures and document
3. Training programs are prepared and approved, appropriate number of local experts, official veterinarians are trained and equipped, there is operative training module in central database administered
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8. GIS based surveillance system for rabies and CSF customised with the Veterinary Information Management System (VIMS);
9. Terms of Reference for the public awareness campaign for control and eradication of rabies and CSF;

1. IPA 2009 / Results related to component 1 – CSF
2. Anti-rabies vaccination plan (wild carnivores)

IPA 2009 / Results related to component 1 – CSF

1. Regulation for national surveillance and control program
2. Approved strategy, operative procedures and document
3. Training programs are prepared and approved, appropriate number of local experts, official veterinarians are trained and equipped, there is operative training module in central database administered
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9. Terms of Reference for the public awareness campaign for control and eradication of rabies and CSF;

Capacity building in the areas of Food Safety, Animal by-Products, and Animal Welfare

Activities – Component 1: Analysis and Assessment

- Animal by-products: Assessment of the current situation
- Conduct an audit of current establishments for processing and disposal of animal by-products, and for transport of materials using EU assessment criteria
- Identify sources of animal by-products, quantities and types of materials, processes currently used, products marketed, and disposal of materials.
- Conduct a business audit to assess the capacity of the private sector to invest and operate animal by-product transport, processing and waste facilities

Capacity building in the areas of Food Safety, Animal by-Products, and Animal Welfare

Activities – Component 2: Standards and regulations

- Food safety: Developing regulations on food hygiene for feed and food of animal origin.
- Develop standards for transport of animal waste and for construction and operation of animal by-product plants, and for waste disposal in line with EU requirements.
- Using best practice from EU member states develop standards that meet EU requirements.
- Using best practice from EU member states develop standards for transport of animal waste, and operating procedures.
- Animal welfare: Develop system of animal welfare standards across the entire supply chain.
- Develop standards and procedures for the following individuals and organisations: animal keepers, veterinary inspectors (farm, transport and slaughterhouse official vets), live animal transporters.
- Determination of required level of expertise and certification for inspectors.
Capacity building in the areas of Food Safety, Animal by-Products, and Animal Welfare

• Activities – Component 3: Institutional development
  - Food safety: Create a food and feed management documentation system.
    - Develop a Crisis Management plan.
    - Using best practice and technical assistance from EU member states design a
      Crisis Management plan using best practice and technical assistance from
      EU member states.
    - Identify key staff at all levels.
    - Create communications links between key sectors.
    - Create inspection teams.
    - Assess the number of inspection teams required, type and level of expertise,
      and develop standard operating procedures.
    - Provide manuals of procedures to all inspectors.
  - Animal by-products: Develop a national strategy for the control and
    management of animal by-products.
    - Using the information from Components 1 and 2 develop a strategy which
      includes: Identification of number of facilities required and approximate location;
      Standards for operation of facilities; Standards for transport of animal by-
      products; System for tracking and monitoring the movement of byproducts
      and wastes; A system for managing and regulating these activities (e.g. licensing,
      permitting, and inspection requirements).
    - Identify divisions of responsibility between government departments
      - Make recommendations for the management of animal by-products
      - Development of procedure and guidelines for inspection teams
      - Work closely with the Ministry of Environment and local authorities to develop
        and agree on a national strategy.

Capacity building in the areas of Food Safety, Animal by-Products, and Animal Welfare

• Activities – Component 4: Capacity Building
  - Food safety: Training programmes for inspectors, food and feed establishment
    managers, and other key stakeholders.
    - Deliver training to identified staff and other relevant stakeholders.
  - Food safety crisis management plan - Deliver training to identified staff and
    other stakeholders as required.
    - Design workshops and training materials.
    - Develop operating procedures, monitoring and reporting system for expert
      teams.
    - Provide manuals of procedures to all inspectors.
  - Animal welfare: Train professionals, MAF and other stakeholders in
    keeping, transporting, or slaughtering animals, in particular:
    - Those involved in keeping animals
    - Veterinary inspectors (farm, transport and slaughterhouse inspectors)
    - Those involved in transporting live animals
    - Those involved in slaughtering animals
    - Those involved in transporting live animals
    - Food safety awareness raising programme for all stakeholders
    - Animal by-products: Training for local authority personnel, veterinarians,
      collectors and processors of ABPs.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.