

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

Project number 33: Support for the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia

1 BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** [2008/020-406](#)
- 1.2 Title:** **Support for the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia**
- 1.3 ELARG statistical code:** 03.12
- 1.4 Location:** Republic of Serbia

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority:** EC Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** EC Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
- 1.7 Beneficiary** (including details of project manager):

The beneficiary is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) – Veterinary Directorate (VD), Department for Animal Health and Animal Welfare (DAHAW), Nemanjina 22-26, Belgrade.

The Project Manager is Director of Veterinary Directorate Miroslav Marinković, dr. med. – spec.

The Steering Committee will be chaired by the Beneficiary Project Manager and additionally consist of representatives of the EC Delegation, the Veterinary Directorate, Veterinary Institute in Novi Sad, Director of Scientific Veterinary Institute “Serbia” in Belgrade and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade.

The Steering Committee meet each quarter to discuss the scope and progress of implementation.

Financing:

- 1.8 Overall cost:** **8,300,000 EUR**
- 1.9 EU contribution:** **6,300,000 EUR**
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 3 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 5 years after signature of the Financing Agreement
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 6 years after signature of the Financing Agreement

2 OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND PROJECT PURPOSE

2.1 Overall Objective:

To contribute to overall animal health in Serbia and surrounding countries in line with EU standards.

2.2 Project purpose:

- 1 To eradicate sylvatic rabies from the fox population in the whole territory of Serbia.
- 2 To eradicate CSF from the swine population in the whole territory of Serbia.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

AP and NPAA are not applicable.

The European Partnership (Council Decision of 14 June 2004) listed under short-term priorities, Agriculture (page 26): *“adopt legislation on veterinary matters and strengthen the administrative capacity needed to formulate and implement agricultural and rural development policy. Update legislation and strengthen implementation and controls in the areas of food safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues. Expand animal identification and registration to all relevant species. Continue to upgrade veterinary, phytosanitary, wine and sanitary laboratories, inspectorates and controls at external”*. Under medium-term priorities (page 30): *“Continue efforts to strengthen administrative structures and capacity needed to formulate and implement agricultural and rural development policies. Continue strengthening veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety legislation and controls. Improve waste management and reduce agricultural pollution. Continue to upgrade food-processing establishments to meet EU requirements.”*

The Council Decision of November 2007 identifies short-term priorities (page 12) as:

“ Update legislation and strengthen implementation and controls in the areas of food safety and veterinary and phyto-sanitary issues. Expand animal identification and registration to all relevant species. Continue to upgrade veterinary, phyto-sanitary, wine and sanitary laboratories, inspectorates and controls at external borders.”

Medium-term priorities (page 17) include *“ continue strengthening veterinary, sanitary; phyto-sanitary and food safety legislation and controls”*.

Under Article 97 (Agriculture, and the agro-industrial sector) of the initialled Stability and Association Agreement (SAA) cooperation between EU and Serbia related to the Community *acquis* in the field agriculture as well as veterinary and phytosanitary domains with aim at modernisation and restructuring in particular reach community sanitary requirements and at supporting the gradual approximation of Serbian legislation and practice to the Community rules and standards.

The Progress report of Nov 2007 remarks (4.2.2 p.33) that: *“Serbia is building a veterinary information management system and has established a high-impact animal diseases management centre responsible for notifiable animal diseases. Serbia has joined the animal disease notification system of the EU on a voluntary basis. Serbia has strengthened the filed veterinary service through decentralisation measures and continuous training”*.

This project aims to build upon these measures and ensure that these systems have a direct impact on animal health.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document for the Republic of Serbia 2007-2009 of 26 January 2007 includes under main priorities and objectives, European Standards 2.2.3.1 (page 22), Agriculture and Rural Development: *“Support in development of capacities to implement Agricultural and Rural Development policies to EU standards and to complete the transition to a market economy, develop capacities to implement EU veterinary, phytosanitary, food safety and quality standards, and to lead the development of the agri-food industry through vertical and horizontal linking of primary production (farmers), processing industry and market organizations”*

Section 2.2.3.2, Expected results and time-frame lays out *“Capacities of the veterinary and phytosanitary administrations to efficiently and effectively protect, animal, plant and human health and animal welfare strengthened in line with international standards and requirements.”*

Section 2.2.3.3, Programmes to be implemented in pursuit of these objectives, includes: “Support regulatory and institutional framework for veterinary, phytosanitary, food safety, border controls, sanitary standards”.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

n/a

2.6 Link with national / sectoral plans

1. One of the main aims of Serbian agriculture, in line with the Serbian Government’s National Strategy for Serbia and Montenegro’s Accession to the European Union (June 2005), is achievement of the second Copenhagen criterion – to develop the ability to be competitive within the EU Single Market – followed by progressive integration into this market and adoption of the full *acquis communautaire* for agriculture. In order to get maximum benefit from the EU integration, Serbia needs to provide the necessary legal framework for each stage of the process, so that administration and the agrarian industry are ready to take the challenges that the EU brings.
2. The aim is full harmonisation with the veterinary, phyto-sanitary and sanitary standards of the EU. Realisation of this goal will require a staged approach in order to leave time for the adjustments and structural controls.
3. The Serbian Government Action Plan for Meeting European Partnership Priorities states that adoption of new legislation concerning food safety and veterinary issues, improvement of food chain laboratories and enhancement of official controls as short term priorities in the agriculture sector.
4. The Government’s “Agricultural Strategy” identifies seven objectives of agricultural policy and the following are particular addressed by this project:
 - To increase the wealth of the nation through an efficient agricultural sector, producing products that are internationally competitive in terms of quality and price.
 - To ensure that the food provided to Serbian consumers meets acceptable standards of quality and safety.
 - To prepare Serbia's agricultural sector for accession to the EU.
 - To prepare Serbia's agricultural trade & support policies for accession to the WTO.

In relation to economic development, the Country Strategy Paper includes priorities for reinforcing the relevant laws and policies, capacity building the relevant institutions, supporting integration into the international trading system allowing internal market reforms and alleviation of poverty in seriously affected areas.

In line with Serbia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (from 2003) that bases on the fact that, agriculture contributes to Serbian GDP with around 25 %, this project will contribute to the development of a dynamic and sustainable private agriculture sector which is one of strategic goals, that would lead to the creation of competitive, open market economy. Improvement of processing and marketing of agriculture products is also one of the sector’s strategic goals.

3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

3.1 Background and justification

The Western Balkan area is a reservoir for classical swine fever (CSF) and rabies which can have a serious economic and trade impact, and can hinder the growth of the agricultural industry in Serbia. They affect in particular the rural community, but also neighbouring EU Member States.

Serbia has started to implement European standards in the field of veterinary and phyto-sanitary policies and has adopted some measures to control animal diseases in 2006. But rabies eradication in Serbia is still based on prevention of viral transmission from wild animals to pets, dogs and cats, and fox hunting. First step is to clarify fox hunting. Compared

to the experience of other countries, this method is not as effective as permanent herd and pet vaccination.

Classical Swine Fever (CSF)

In 2007 the Republic of Serbia had 4,090,011 identified pigs, 4,095,292 vaccinated pigs and 801,933 revaccinated pigs. The larger number of vaccinated pigs toward the registrated pigs are because the some veterinarians used the wrong document for vaccination. They should used document for revaccination. Because of that some disparities were made - the larger number of vaccinated - registrated pigs are made.

Because of this it was made last year the validator of Vet – up application (the program for identification of animals) which prohibit these situation.

401 outbreaks of CSF were reported in 2006, and 21 in 2007.

The control of CSF in wild boar is an important prerequisite for the eradication of the disease. Following a surveillance programme that will mark the extent of the problem per region, the control/eradication of the disease in wild boar can be achieved by immunisation through vaccination of the susceptible population.

Controls are carried out on a regular basis, according to the Programme designed by the Department for Veterinary Inspection/Inspection Unit for Animal Health Protection and Welfare. The evaluation of these controls is carried out by the Head of the Department for Veterinary Inspection (DVI) and the Chief of the Inspection Unit for Animal Health and Welfare. The regional inspectors supervise the local veterinary inspectors while the local veterinary inspectors carry out the control of the veterinary stations (state (in process of privatisation) or authorized private veterinary station), on a monthly basis.

In Republic of Serbia are 2 Scientific Veterinary Institutes which work on testing to CSF:

- Scientific Veterinary Institute Serbia, in Belgrade
- Scientific Veterinary Institutes Novi Sad, in Novi Sad.

And, in Republic of Serbia are 2 institutions which work on testing the rabies:

- Scientific Veterinary Institute Serbia in Belgrade
- Paster Institute in Novi Sad - rabies testing authorised Laboratory in EU

A database has been developed to record the vaccination and revaccination of pigs. However the database does not allow the correct implementation of revaccination to be checked.

Since the introduction of controls on antibodies in pigs after vaccination, a significant decrease in the number of outbreaks of CSF has taken place. The presence of antibodies is always interpreted as a result of vaccination although it could be due to circulation of live virus. Follow-up actions are not carried out in the holdings when antibodies are detected.

A vaccination programme is in place to control CSF. However, the type of vaccine used, the failure to respect the vaccine producer's instructions, the absence of sufficient guarantees by one vaccine producer on length of immunisation, the absence of control on swill feeding and incomplete control on backyard holdings raise concerns on the effectiveness of the programme.

National rules now prohibit the feeding to pigs of swill from restaurants, health institutes and international means of transport, but still allow swill feeding from households. There is still no evidence of control on swill feeding.

Comparative inter-laboratory tests were organised through the national laboratory network for certain diseases e.g. brucellosis, leucosis, blue tongue, Maedi Visna and Classical Swine Fever (CSF). The aim is to re-organise the network with the construction of a single national reference laboratory for all former OIE list A diseases and separate reference laboratories for other diseases of cattle, pigs and small ruminants.

The VD has made further efforts to bring their veterinary measures into line with EU legislation. However, the adoption of new legislation has been delayed due to political changes, which resulted in a delay in the implementation of proposed actions in response to a number of recommendations of the previous report.

The number of outbreaks of CSF has significantly decreased since last year. However, the assumption that the presence of antibodies implies the absence of CSF virus is incorrect and cannot exclude that the number of CSF outbreaks is underreported.

Measures taken in the protection and surveillance zone in case of outbreaks of CSF do not provide guarantees equivalent to the provisions of Council Directive 2001/89/EC. In one case, measures taken to establish a protection and surveillance zone around a CSF outbreak were established nearly one week after confirmation of the disease. In addition the measures in the protection zone were not correctly followed.

Progress has been made in the accreditation of laboratories, although it is not yet complete. Laboratories have participated in internationally recognised proficiency testing for certain former OIE list A diseases, and comparative inter-laboratory tests have been organised. However, for some of these comparative tests final reports were missing. Improvements have been seen regarding the reporting and traceability of samples, but some deficiencies still exist.

The current situation regarding CSF does not allow the Serbian Authorities to certify export of fresh pork meat and meat products to the EU, or for transit through the EU, as no guarantees can be provided to meet the animal health statements of corresponding model certificates laid down in Council Decision 79/542/EEC and Commission Decision 2005/432/EC respectively, except for the meat products that have undergone at least specific treatment code-D, as required in part 4, Annex II of Commission Decision 2005/432/EC.

The eradication programmes have been designed for classical swine fever (CSF) with the aim of achieving the "free from the disease" status.

The undertaking of measures for the containment and eradication of the infectious diseases is specified in the relevant regulations on animal diseases depending on the type of infectious disease. The enforcement activities relating to the undertaking of control and surveillance measures is carried out by the veterinary inspectors from the Veterinary Directorate and the regional/local veterinary inspectors in accordance with the undertaking of the measures envisaged by the law and enforcement of the relevant regulations and orders.

All transported animals must be accompanied by the animal health certificate and transport certificate. The animal health certificate is issued by the authorised veterinary station and/or veterinary practice, responsible for the area in which the holding is located. The keepers receive a copy of the information completed by the veterinarian, which they must enter in their holding/farm register. As far as cattle are concerned, the information is also sent to the central database to be registered. The transport certificate is issued following the inspection of animals and vehicles to ensure that they have been correctly identified and fit to travel.

The Veterinary Directorate has put in place a standard procedure for the approval and registration of the Food Business Operators (FBOs) (production, processing and distribution) for both home and foreign markets. The approval for the FBO processing and producing products of animal origin is issued following the specific provisions of the Veterinary Law and the general pre-requisites and specific food hygiene requirements and the requirements defined in the related national regulations. The approval procedure for export includes the specific requirements for the respective importing country.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the VD, issues the veterinary sanitary license (approval) for the establishments upon the fulfilment of the requirements.

The VD keeps records of approved and registered establishments in the Register of Establishments. The exporting establishments must obtain a separate approval – the veterinary sanitary license, if they fulfil the requirements equivalent to those of the respective importing country. According to the Law on Veterinary Matters, all the establishments processing food of animal origin must be approved, but this process is still ongoing.

According to the 2007 animal health control programme, vaccination of all pigs is mandatory in holdings where pigs are kept and bred throughout the year. Vaccination is with attenuated K- strain vaccine – no marker vaccine is used. The VD has approved 3 commercial vaccines. Piglets younger than 45 days can only be moved from holdings free of CSF and where all pigs have been vaccinated. Wild boars are not vaccinated, except for those confined in fenced areas.

A programme has been established to check for the presence of antibodies in pigs. Sampling of pigs is done in the presence of the veterinary inspector and vaccinating veterinarian with the aim of the checking the implementation of the vaccination campaign.

Meat of animals slaughtered within the framework of eradication programmes can only be placed on the domestic market. For this purpose, special movement documents have to be issued and the meat of those animals must undergo a specified heat treatment.

A vaccination programme is in place to control CSF, and the number of outbreaks of CSF has significantly decreased since last year.

Rabies:

Rabies is a viral disease that affects predominantly carnivores (mainly wild foxes) but can occur sporadically also in all animal species and humans. Fox populations infected with rabies act as a reservoir of the disease as they present a permanent risk for transmission to humans either directly or via domestic carnivores. Humans contract rabies through animal bites and if not treated before it becomes symptomatic the disease is invariably lethal. 170 cases of wild animals were reported in Republic of Serbia during 2006, and 138 cases in 2007.

Following a surveillance programme that will mark the extent of the problem per region, the control/eradication of the disease in wild foxes can be achieved by the immunisation though vaccination of the susceptible population.

During 2006 195 cases of rabies were reported in Serbia. In 2007 527 suspected cases were examined and 160 were positive. The number of human injures from rabies-susceptible species were 195, and 16 of these cases was rabies positive. All humans injured from positive animals were post exposure treated, and there were no human cases of rabies.

The reservoirs and vectors of the rabies virus in Serbia are foxes. Sporadically, rabies occurs in badger, marten and jackal. Table 1 shows the epizootic situation in Serbia for the last two years.

Epizootic region		TOTAL	FOX	DOG	CAT	OTHERS
Belgrade	2006	23	23	0	0	0
	2007	17	15	1	1	0
Novi Sad	2006	80	73	5	1	1
	2007	30	26	1	3	0
Pancevo	2006	14	14	0	0	0
	2007	25	22	3	0	0

Pozarevac	2006	19	18	1	0	0
	2007	28	27	1	0	0
Kraljevo	2006	11	9	1	0	1
	2007	20	17	0	2	1
Sabac	2006	10	9	1	0	0
	2007	9	6	0	3	0
Jagodina	2006	10	9	0	1	0
	2007	11	10	0	0	1
Zajecar	2006	13	12	0	1	0
	2007	13	13	0	0	0
Nis	2006	12	11	0	0	1
	2007	7	7	0	0	0
TOTAL	2006	192				
	2007	160				

Table 1

Based on these results, we conclude that oral vaccination is necessary on the whole territory of Serbia.

Rabies virus isolates from Serbia have a very conserved nucleoprotein sequence. Precise genetic determination will be done comparing nucleoprotein and glycoprotein sequences, individually. Distributed evenly over the territory and from different host animals, viruses will be sequenced and genotyped. Forming the National gene bank, virus control and spreading as well as discrimination between field and vaccine virus will be easy. Standard PCR and sequencing protocols will be used in this project. Phylogenic analysis and genotyping will be done in MEGA 4.0 software.

Justification

For 80` years of the last century the system worked, but now some parts of the system are missing completely or partially. The main reasons for this are:

1. Political situation in last 10-15 years: Serbia has had frequent changes in government structure, responsibilities are moved from one to another Governmental body and results are a discontinuity in strategy and decision making and ineffective connection between national bodies which are responsible for CSF and rabies
2. Serbian legal system, which is not ready for change
3. Lack of money
4. Lack of expertise.

The main challenges in the area of CSF and rabies are:

1. To ensure that future legislation includes relevant EU requirements for export of certain live animals (pigs) and products of animal origin
2. To strengthen the controls on veterinarians of veterinary stations and certain veterinary practitioners involved in the execution of the annual animal health control programme and those involved in issuing animal health certificates in order to achieve proper implementation of the health control programme
3. To review the eradication programmes and their implementation for CSF and rabies, and the vaccination programme for CSF and rabies to ensure its effectiveness.

In the context of this project and according to recommendations of TAIEX and FVO missions in Serbia it is absolutely necessary:

- to designate an authority that will be responsible to coordinate activities for the authorization and control of virus at national level but also to represent the country abroad
- to simplify and reorganize the procedure for eradication
- to provide assistance to Serbian experts to examine structures and organizations in selected EU Member States in order to transfer that experience to Serbia
- to reduce the number of Institutions which are involved in the process to the minimum required for a proper risk assessment
- to provide assistance in staff training on the evaluation
- to provide training in sampling procedures
- to provide assistance for laboratories to be recognized as reference.

Systematic reform of the CSF and rabies control systems in Serbia will largely have to be established because of lack of staff capacity, lack of money within the official institutions and leftovers from the old system.

Harmonization of national legislation with the EU in matters of CSF and rabies needs to be continued through the preparation, adoption and implementation of the CSF and rabies regulations and by-laws dealing with more specific issues of CSF and rabies. To initiate and provide the basis for further adjustment with the *acquis* framework legislation, CSF regulations have been drafted and for rabies this will be continued by the Twinning Programme "Institutional Capacity Building for the Veterinary Directorate" begun in January 2006 in partnership with Germany and Austria.

According to Serbia 2007 Progress Report of the EU Commission: "Legislation on veterinary matters, identification of animals, TSE/by-products, and notification of diseases, was adopted in October 2005. Serbia has established an animal identification and registration system. Serbia has already achieved good results in terms of administrative capacity building for policy formulation by establishing a policy unit within the Ministry of Agriculture. Responsibilities for feed and food controls are distributed between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. Although management and organisation of official controls are in place, overlapping and unclear repartition of competences hampers the effectiveness of the system. Food Safety Law is finished and now is doing final steps before the adoption.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the assistance will be:

- primary producers of animals and animal product like end users (farmers), which will use only by the competent authority (authorised for the specific purpose with respect to the principles of good agricultural practice) and improve their trade opportunities in food business and
- the general population which will be sure that agricultural products after harvesting do not contain virus of CSF and rabies represented through consumer protection organisations.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

Control/eradication of classical swine fever in pigs and rabies in the wild boar population will reduce the incidence and facilitate the complete control/eradication in the pig farming industry of the country, with clear economic benefits both in terms of reduction of losses and by enabling external trade of pigs and pig meat.

Following this project, in cooperation with the Regional project and individual national projects by neighbouring countries in the region, an effective control of these diseases will be made possible, as the effect of cross border spread will be minimised and therefore reduce the risk of introduction of these very important diseases to the European Union.

This project has major cross sector impact, including agriculture, environment, health and the market. Improved infrastructure in the area of CSF and rabies will improve the competitiveness of agricultural products on domestic and internal markets. Sustainability is ensured through the adoption of a legal framework and establishment of the institutional and organizational mechanisms for the implementation of the reform.

Cross border impact

Examples of cross-border re-infections are numerous. They are the result of the immediate juxtaposition of vaccinated areas (where fox populations are increasing) and areas where rabies is endemic. These re-infections can be prevented by synchronizing control measures on both sides of political or administrative borders and when this is not possible, by the maintenance of an immune belt at the border.

International cooperation in border areas is essential at all levels to achieve effective control programmes. Neighbouring countries should carefully coordinate their activities along common borders. If field trials reach a country border, local administrative staff from both countries should coordinate their efforts.

Oral rabies vaccination generates new epidemiological and ecological concerns within and beyond national borders. For this reason, planning, implementation and evaluation of campaigns should be coordinated at both country and international levels. Preliminary contacts should be made with neighbouring countries when oral vaccination policy is decided; these contacts should be maintained through regular regional meetings until the disease is eliminated.

Undoubtedly, the first vaccination in Serbia will be done in harmony with similar campaigns in the neighbourhood, above all Hungary, Croatia and Bulgaria which have been implementing vaccination campaigns.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Results related to component 1 – CSF

1. professionals trained

1. Numbers, habitats and properties of wild boars per region of Serbia Established
2. Equipment of epizootiology service for CSF surveillance installed
3. Procedure for epizootiology surveillance for CSF in RS Made and implemented
4. CSF in a wild boar population controlled within 3 years.

Measurable indicators of progress include:

- Number of trained staff in Veterinary Directorate
- state of preparation of report on wild boars
- Stage of installation of equipment
- Stage of development of procedures
- No. of cases of CSF in wild boar.

Results related to component 2 – rabies

5. Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with EU recommendations on the whole territory of Serbia carried out.
6. Public properly informed.

Measurable indicators of progress include:

- Number of vaccines distributed annually
 - Number of human infections
7. Raised public awareness regarding CSF and rabies .
 8. **Vaccination and revaccination of pigs against CSF** done

3.4 Activities

COMPONENT 1 – CSF

Year 1

Activities related to result 1 - Professionals trained

- 1.2 Training of 15 professionals from RS in epizootology area who are involved in epizootology surveillance in an appropriate service in EU for CSF

Activities related to result 2 - Numbers etc of wild boars per region established

- 2.1 Creating the team composed of epizootologist, representative from VD, from hunt and forestry holdings
- 2.2 Determination of habitation and characteristics of wild boar, by region
- 2.3 Determination of number of wild boar, by region

Year 2

Activities related to result 3 - Equipment for CSF surveillance installed

- 3.1 Determine the required equipment for surveillance of CSF (equipment, hard- and software etc)
- 3.2 Tender for acquisition of equipment
- 3.3 Install equipment
- 3.4 Train staff for input and electronic data processing
- 3.5 Set up Web site for surveillance and eradication of CSF.

Activities related to result 4 - Procedure for epizootology surveillance made and implemented

- 4.1 Make the protocol of epizootology surveillance for CSF in population of wild boar
- 4.2 Make the protocol of epizootology surveillance for CSF in population of domestic pigs
- 4.3 Make the clinical and pathomorphology protocol for inspection
- 4.4 Make the sampling protocol and transport protocol of the material for the laboratory inspection
- 4.5 Make the inquiry protocol
- 4.6 Evaluation of protocol by international experts
- 4.7 Implementation of protocol

Year 3

Activities related to result 5 - CSF in the wild boar population controlled within 3 years

- 5.1 Make the plan and protocol for active and passive surveillance for presence of CSF in population of wild boar by region
- 5.2 Training of veterinary inspectors, veterinarians and hunters for leading of active and passive surveillance on CSF in population of wild boar by region
- 5.3 Make active and passive surveillance on CSF in population of wild boar by region
- 5.4 Risk analysis for CSF and determination of population of wild boar for vaccination for CSF, by region

- 5.5 Make the plan and protocol for vaccination of wild boar, by region
- 5.6 Tender and acquisition of vaccine for per/oral vaccination of wild boar
- 5.7 Training of veterinary inspectors, veterinarians and hunters about the way of vaccination in wild boar, by region
- 5.8 Vaccination of wild boar, by region
- 5.9 Risk analysis for CSF in population of wild boar, by region

COMPONENT 2 – RABIES

Activities related to result 6 - Vaccination programme carried out

- 6.1 Establishing coordination structure for oral vaccination program in Serbia, consisting of:
 - Coordinators of project of oral vaccination of foxes in Serbia (Ministry of agriculture – Veterinary Directorate, Veterinary inspection)
 - Experts for special subjects (representatives of : Ministry of Agriculture – Veterinary Directorate; Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Serbia (NIVS)-Belgrade, “Lui Pasteur” Institute Novi Sad; Faculty of veterinary medicine-Belgrade, Hunting union of Serbia, Red fox expert-Faculty of Biology, Belgrade; Vaccine manufacturer
 - Coordinator for each epidemiologic districts in Serbia (12 coordinators)
 - Technical experts (vaccine tendering, transport, storage and distribution)
- 6.2 Training of active participants in oral vaccination and collecting samples.

Each seminar shall include theoretical and practical training on the process of vaccine baits storage, vaccine baits distribution, collection and sampling preparing of live and shot foxes.

2 seminars:

 - 1 day for teams from all Veterinary Specialist Institutes in Serbia – approximately 48 participants;
 - 1 day for veterinary inspectors – approximately 50 participants;

2 workshops:

 - 2 days workshop for veterinary inspectors and hunting engineers – approximately 60 participants;
 - 1 day for hunting engineers and hunters– approximately 120 participants

Participants in seminars and workshops include approximately in total 280 persons.
- 6.3 Purchase of vaccine baits, 3,651 million vaccine baits per year for 3 years.
- 6.4 The required number of samples continuously taken. Collection of samples by persons with hunting license, transport of samples to laboratories for the vaccine intake control.

Activities related to result 7 - Public properly informed

- 7.1 Design and conduct a public awareness campaign.

Activities related to result 8

- 8.1 **Vaccination and revaccination of pigs against CSF (co-financed by Republic of Serbia)**

- procurement of vaccines for vaccination against classical swine fever (including re-vaccination) of approximately 4,902,737 head of swine per year.

Contracting Arrangement:

1. Service contract for Technical Assistance
2. Supply tender for purchase of vaccine for per/oral vaccination of wild boar and supply tender for the purchase of the vaccines for foxes
3. Supply contract for required equipment for surveillance of CSF

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

- Ministry of Agriculture are obliged to facilitate commitment prior to the launch of this project
- Sufficient number of trained and skilled staff in VD
- Vaccines as well as methods and reagents used in laboratory testing should comply with EU standards and diagnostic manual of the concerned disease where applicable.

3.6 Linked activities

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, with assistance from EAR and TAIEX have been working on several priorities, including food chain safety through an assessment of veterinary and phyto-sanitary legislation, upgrading Serbia's food laboratories and establishing a national animal identification system - all to EU standards. Reform of the veterinary sector is ongoing and a number of laws and regulations have been adopted.

Since 2001 the EU and other donors have supported various activities of the MAFWM regarding: the need for institutional reform; strengthening the laboratory system through the supply of equipment and the technical assistance to improve the quality of management; supporting reform and strengthening of the veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary inspectorates; improving inspection facilities at external borders; strengthening the organisational and managerial capacities (objective-setting, budgeting, planning, etc.); upgrading analytical and strategic planning and evaluation capacity; strengthening the protection of plant, animal and public health and strengthening the capacity of the MAFWM in aligning regulations with *acquis communautaire*.

All implemented projects financed by the EU in the previous period (CARDS 2001-2006) dealt with reform, capacity building and equipping the MAFWM but not directly with CSF and rabies.

Within CARDS 2005, a Twinning Programme "Institutional Capacity Building for the Veterinary Directorate" began in January 2006 in partnership with Germany and Austria. This programme encompasses 5 components (Enhancement of the capability of the Veterinary Directorate, Legal approximation, strengthening of the capacity of the Veterinary Inspectorate, Control and disposal of animal waste and Animal welfare). Apart from having harmonisation of national legislation with the veterinary *acquis* as one of the objectives, this programme also helps decentralise responsibilities of the central veterinary office to District Veterinary Officers, with preservation of the centralised chain of command.

Institutional Capacity Building of the Food-Chain Laboratories Administration (SR2005/IB/AG/02). This Twinning will include the development and implementation of an action plan for the strengthening management of the food-safety laboratory system and strengthen the quality management systems implemented in these laboratories. This Twinning was started in October 2007.

In the food safety field the United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) is providing training opportunities including fellowships and educational seminars for official veterinarians and other stakeholders.

3.7 Lessons learned

This is the first time that a project in the area of CSF will have been implemented in Serbia. The project design takes into account lessons learnt in Member States and in particular those which most recently joined the European Union.

The classical pattern of two “single” vaccination campaigns per year, carried out in spring and autumn, has been found to be successful whatever the fox population density. This biannual distribution frequency has been used in all European programmes of oral vaccination that resulted in the elimination of rabies. Spring distributions are preferably carried out in May or June in order to increase the efficient access of fox cubs to bait. However, early spring campaigns carried out in March-April (targeting exclusively the adult fox population at its annual lowest density) were also shown to be beneficial in Belgium, Luxembourg, and several German Bundesländer. Where snow is abundant, melting may degrade the vaccine baits, and in such areas vaccination is preferably performed before the snow starts to melt. Autumn distribution is generally organized in September or October.

4 INDICATIVE BUDGET (AMOUNTS IN €)

			TOTAL EXP.RE	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
contract 1.1	X		2,100,000	2,100,000	100							-
contract 1.2		X	3,400,000	3,400,000	100							
contract 1.3		X	800,000	800,000	100							-
contract 1.4		X	2,000,000			2,000,000	100	2,000,000				
.....												
TOTAL IB			2,100,000	2,100,000	100							
TOTAL INV			6,200,000	4,200,000	68	2,000,000	32	2,000,000				
TOTAL PROJECT			8,300,000	6,300,000	76	2,000,000	24	2,000,000				

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

5 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1	T + 1Q	T + 4Q	T+16Q
Contract 1.2	T + 3 Q	T + 7 Q	T+16Q
Contract 1.3	T + 3 Q	T + 7 Q	T+16Q

6 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

6.1 Equal Opportunity

The Project does not target women specifically, but general improvement in CSF and rabies regulations and standards will be beneficial to all citizens, including women. Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the Project will be guaranteed.

6.2 Environment

This project directly relates to environmental issues and protection of the environment, and strengthening environmental aspects of the Serbian legal framework by approving animal health with minimum environmental impact after proper risk assessment according to EU requirements.

6.3 Minority and vulnerable groups

Considering this project will deal with alignment of CSF legislation, its outcomes will be beneficial to all citizens.

ANNEX I: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format		Support for the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia	
		Contracting period expires 3 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period expires 6 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement
		Total budget: 8,3 M EUR	IPA budget: 6,3 M EUR
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To contribute to overall animal health in Serbia and surrounding countries in line with EU standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animal health statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official reports 	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To eradicate sylvatic rabies from the fox population in the whole territory of Serbia. 2 To eradicate CSF from the swine population in the whole territory of Serbia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ number of rabies positive samples ▪ number of CSF positive samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports ▪ Annual inspection reports of the Animal Health Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighbouring countries implement similar actions so that no cross-border re-invasion of rabies occurs
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Results related to component 1			
1. Numbers, habitats and properties of wild boars per region of Serbia Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State of preparation of report on wild boars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued ministerial support ▪ Sufficient qualified staff in the appropriate organisations involved
2. Equipment of epizootiology service for CSF surveillance installed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stage of installation of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	
3. Procedure for epizootiology surveillance for CSF in RS Made and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stage of development of procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	
4. CSF in a wild boar population controlled within 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. of cases of CSF in wild boar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veterinary reports ▪ Project reports 	
Results related to component 2			
5. Numbers, habitats and properties of foxes per region of Serbia Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State of preparation of report on foxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	
6. Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of vaccines distributed annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports ▪ Veterinary reports 	

recommendations on the whole territory of Serbia carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of domestic animal and human infections reported 		
7. Public properly informed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness of public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	
8. Vaccination and revaccination of pigs against CSF done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 4,902,737 head of swine per year vaccinated and/or revaccinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	
Activities	Means	Costs	
1.1 Training of 15 professionals from RS in epizootology area who are involved in epizootology surveillance in an appropriate service in EU for CSF			Assumptions
2.1 Creating the team composed of epizootologist, representative from VD, from hunt and forestry holdings			
2.2 Determination of habitation and number of wild boar, by region			
3.1 Determine the required equipment for surveillance of CSF (equipment, hard- and software etc)			
3.2 Tender for acquisition of equipment			
3.3 Install equipment			
3.4 Train staff for input and electronic data processing			
3.5 Set up Web site for surveillance and eradication of CSF			
4.3 Make the clinical and pathomorphology protocol for inspection			
4.4 Make the sampling protocol and			

	transport protocol of the material for the laboratory inspection			
4.5	Make the inquiry protocol			
4.6	Evaluation of protocol by international experts			
4.7	Implementation of protocol			
5.1	Make the plan and protocol for active and passive surveillance for presence of CSF in population of wild boar by region			
5.2	Training of veterinary inspectors, veterinarians and hunters for leading of active and passive surveillance on CSF in population of wild boar by region			
5.3	Make active and passive surveillance on CSF in population of wild boar by region			
5.4	Risk analysis for CSF and determination of population of wild boar for vaccination for CSF, by region			
5.5	Make the plan and protocol for vaccination of wild boar, by region			
5.6	Tender and acquisition of vaccine for per/oral vaccination of wild boar			
5.7	Training of veterinary inspectors, veterinarians and hunters about the way of vaccination in wild boar, by region			
5.8	Vaccination of wild boar, by region			

5.9 Risk analysis for CSF in population of wild boar, by region			
6.1 Establishing coordination structure for oral vaccination program in Serbia			
6.3 The required number of samples continuously taken. Collection of samples by persons with hunting license, transport of samples to laboratories for the vaccine intake control			
7.1 Design and conduct a public awareness campaign			
	Total cost	IPA contribution 6 300 000 Euro 100% EU contribution	
8.1. Vaccination and revaccination of pigs against CSF (co-financed by Republic of Serbia)		Budget of the Republic of Serbia for three (3) years is 2 000 000 EUR - Cost of procurement of vaccines for vaccination and revaccination against classical swine fever (approximately 4,902,737 head of swine per year)	

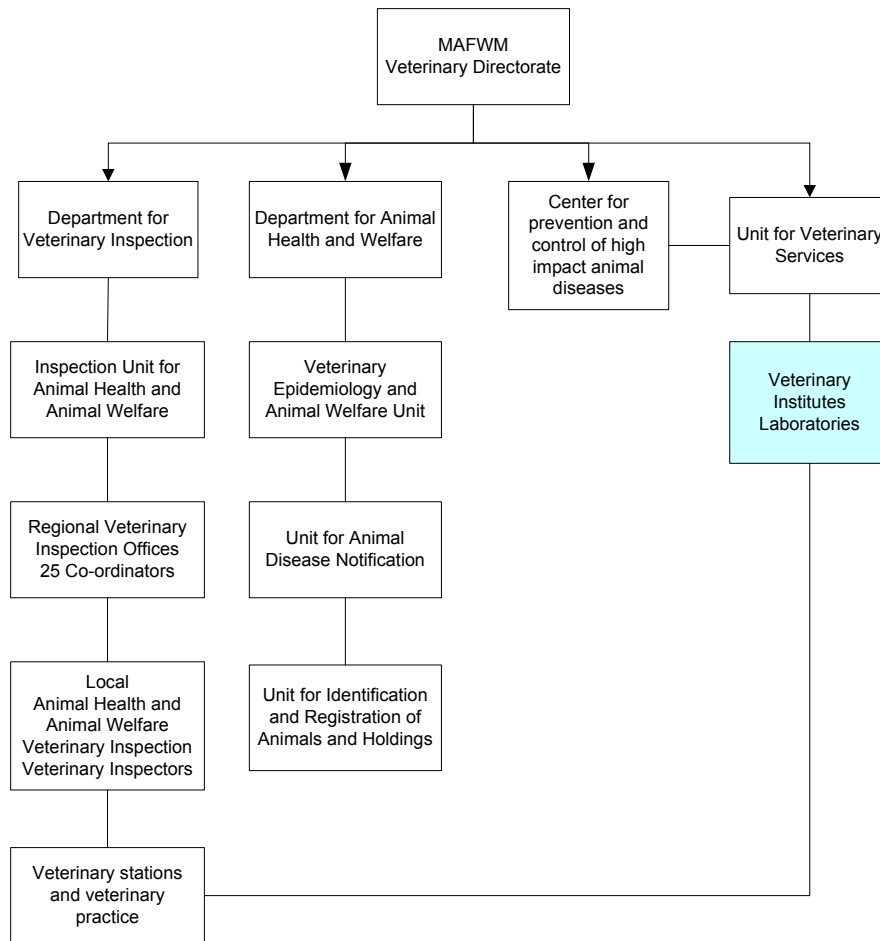
ANNEX II: AMOUNTS (IN ₪) CONTRACTED AND DISBURSED BY QUARTER FOR THE PROJECT

(IPA contribution only)

Contracted	QR4	QR6	QR7	QR8	QR9	QR10	QR11	QR12	QR13	QR 14	QR15	QR16	TOTAL
Contract 1.1	2,100,000												2,100,000
Contract 1.2			3,400,000										3,400,000
Contract 1.3			800,000										800,000
Cumulated	2,100,000		6,300,000										6,300,000
Disbursed													
Contract 1.1	210,000					320,000		320,000		320,000		930,000	2,100,000
Contract 1.2			1,500,000				850,000			850,000		200,000	3,400,000
Contract 1.3			340,000				340,000					120,000	800,000
Cumulated	210,000		2,050,000			2,370,000	3,560,000	3,880,000		5,050,000		6,300,000	6,300,000

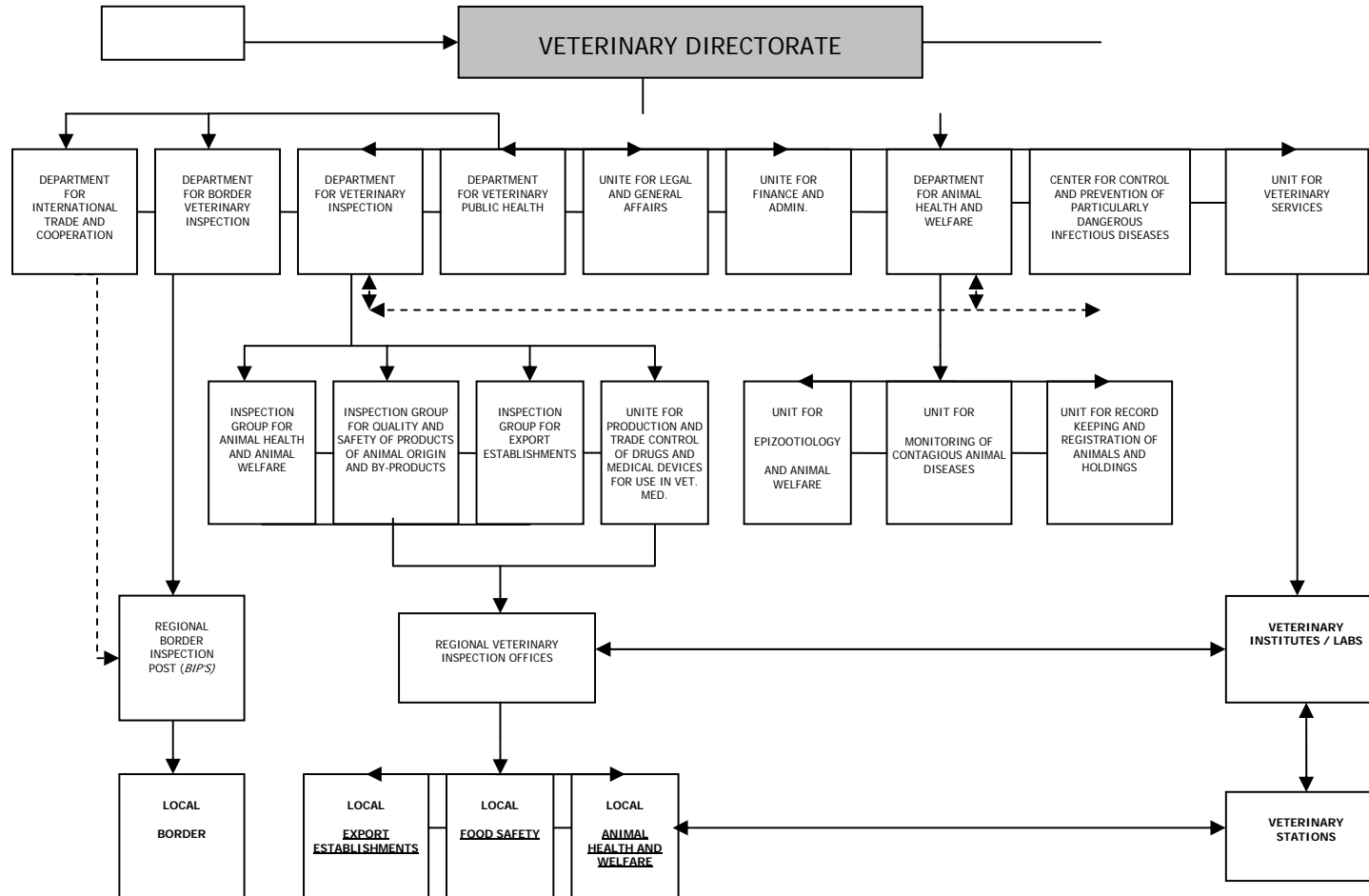
ANNEX III: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK – LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND STATUTES

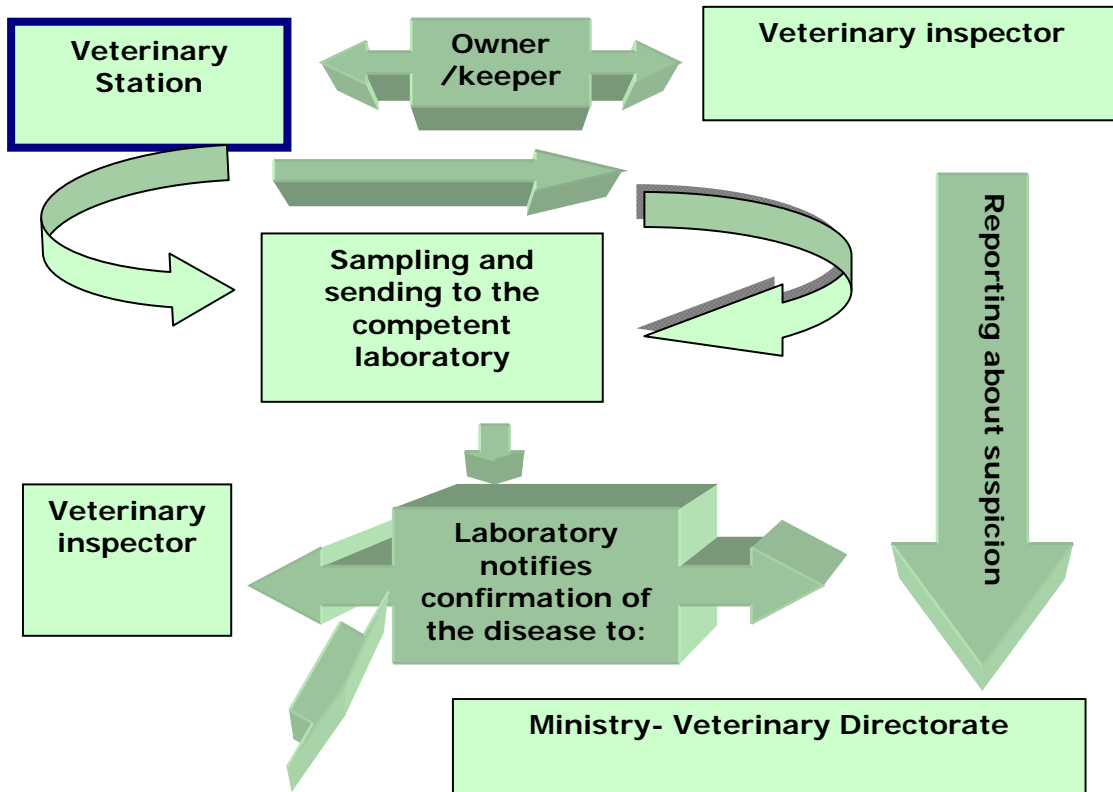
Animal Health Control System



The VD consists of the following departments (see following page):

Organigramme of State Veterinary Services





According to Art.25 of the Law of Ministries, ministries within framework of their responsibilities are conducting the international cooperation and are to take care of its improvement and secure the harmonization of the regulation with the EU *aquis*.

of the Ministerial institutions with the requirements of the EU and Serbian legislation.

ANNEX IV: REFERENCE TO LAWS, REGULATIONS AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS:

Following this project, in cooperation with the Regional project, as well as individual national projects by neighbouring countries in the region, an effective control of these diseases will be made possible, as the effect of cross border spread will be minimised and therefore reduce the risk of introduction of these very important diseases to the European Union.

The protection/eradication of CSF and rabies is based on the following acts:

Primary legislation: Law on veterinary matters («Official Journal of RS», No. No 91/05)

Secondary legislation is based on the Law on veterinary matters:

- Regulation on Program on Animal Health Protection Measures for 2006 (OG RS No. 38/05)
- Regulation on list of dangerous disease and list of contagious notifiable disease as well as the notification and withdrawal of notification (OG RS No. 49/06)
- Regulation on the mode of conducting veterinary-sanitary examination and control of animals before slaughter and control of products of animal origin (OG SFRY No 68/89)
- Regulation on measures for control and eradication of classical swine fever (OG SFRY No. 6/88)
- Regulation on measures for control and eradication of rabies (OG SFRY No. 39/88)
- Regulation on Program on Animal Health Protection Measures for 2006 (OG RS No. 38/06)
- Regulations on Loading, Reloading and Unloading of Animals, Products, Raw Materials and Animal Waste, Transportation Vehicle Requirements, Sanitary and Technical Condition of the Consignment and Form of the Consignment Health Condition Certificate (OG SFRY No 69/90)
- Regulation on identification and registration of swine and ovine and caprine (OG RS No 11/2006)

Reference to EP / SAA

The European Partnership with Serbia including Kosovo of 6th November 2007 (Council Decision COM (2007) 660 final) identifies short-term priorities as:

- strengthening of the Serbian administrative capacity to formulate and implement agricultural policies as an on-going priority,
- Update legislation and strengthen implementation and controls in the areas of food safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues,
- Expand animal identification and registration to all relevant species,

- Continue to upgrade veterinary, phytosanitary, wine and sanitary laboratories, inspectorates and controls at external borders.

Medium-term priorities include continue strengthening veterinary, sanitary; phytosanitary and food safety legislation and controls.

Under Article 97 (Agriculture, and the agro-industrial sector) of the initialed Stability and Association Agreement (SAA) cooperation between EU and Serbia related to the Community *acquis* in the field agriculture as well as veterinary and phytosanitary domains with aim at modernization and restructuring in particular reach community sanitary requirements and at supporting the gradual approximation of Serbian legislation and practice to the Community rules and standards.

Reference to MIPD

The Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document for the Republic of Serbia 2007-2009 of 26 January 2007 provides the main priorities and objectives under sub-component European Standards of Component I, identifying the main areas of intervention as (among others):

- Supporting the development and implementation of sectoral strategies and policies compatible with EC internal market legislation and best practices in areas as veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary standards, data protection etc. and
- Supporting the development and implementation of strategies and policies in order to establish policies and a regulatory framework compatible with EU standards as follows (among Agriculture and Rural Development): develop capacities to implement EU veterinary, phytosanitary, food safety and quality standards.

The assistance under Component I may be provided in the form of twinning/twinning light support.

Reference to National Development Plan

Integration and EU membership is the ultimate goal The National Strategy of Serbia for the Accession of Serbia and Montenegro to the European Union (NSA). Reinforcing the relevant laws and policies and capacity building the relevant institutions closer to those of the EU in food safety area is presumptive which needs particular attention (interest) and investment.

This project fiche is directed towards meeting these priorities, as well as those set in the National Strategy paper.

One of the main goals of The National Agricultural Development Strategy (NADS), which are stated in The Budget, Economy and Fiscal Politic Memorandum too, is to ensure food which satisfies needs of consumer with regard to quality and safety, and protect the environment from influences of agricultural production (reducing agricultural pollution) through: creating veterinary and phytosanitary services which are corresponding to international standards and legal expectations of Serbian consumers; protecting human health from illnesses transmitted by food and/or animals, adverse effects of pesticides, veterinary drugs and food additives; protecting environment from adverse effects of plant protection products (PPP`s), fertilisers and veterinary drugs.

In the Governmental Action Plan for Implementation of Priorities from the European Partnership state that in the sector of Agriculture and Fisheries short-term priorities are to adopt and to implement legislation in veterinary area. The VD of the MAFWM is in charge for those issues. In that document are mentioned obstacles for above mentioned activities (lack of staff, need for permanent training).

In the Budget, Economy and Fiscal Politic Memorandum for 2008 with projection in 2009 and 2010 stated that the Republic of Serbia, in following medium-term period, will continue agriculture reform on the NADS basis. The main goals agricultural development will be supported through the new laws, new institutions, land reform and privatization in agriculture.

ANNEX V: DETAILS PER EU-FUNDED CONTRACT (*) WHERE APPLICABLE:

1. Trough Service contract required Technical Assistance will be provided.
2. Trough first Supply contract vaccines for per/oral vaccination of wild boar and the vaccines for foxes will be purchased.
3. Trough second Supply contract required equipment for surveillance of CSF will be provided.