

**Short-term Mission on  
“Assessment, Follow-Up and Analysis of Key Factors for Functional  
Organisation and Training”  
- Animal Health -  
within the CARDS Twinning Project BA05 IB AG 01  
Sarajevo, 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2006**

**1. Name and Function of the Experts**

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**2. Objective and Tasks of the Mission**

The objective of the mission was an analysis of the veterinary sector in BiH concerning animal health and the evaluation of the present organisation in animal health control implementation.

An assessment of the structure of the SVO and of the CAs concerning the reporting systems, outbreak management, compensation scheme and rendering is carried out.

This analysis is mainly based on the presentations given by representatives of the CAs and the SVO and on discussions with participants. No field investigations were made.

The report provides a survey about the organisation of the animal health system in BiH in general.

**3. List of Acronyms**

AI	= Avian Influenza
BiH	= Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAs	= Competent Authorities
CSF	= Classical Swine Fever
DB	= District of Brčko
EVS	= Entity Veterinary Services
FBiH	= Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
KM	= Convertible Marks
MoAFWM	= Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of RS
MoAWMF	= Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of FBiH
MoFTEA	= Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Affairs
RS	= Republic of Srpska
SVO	= State Veterinary Office

**4. Acknowledgements**

The twinning expert team would like to thank all parties concerned.

Special thanks to Dr. Nihad Fejzić, Dr. Drago Nedić, DVM Nada Rajković, DVM Zorana Mehmedbasić and Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer. We would like to thank DVM Edin Lendo for assistance and translation.

### 5. Time Schedule of Mission:

Date	Meetings/ Activity	Participants
04/12/2006	<b>State Veterinary Office of BiH</b> Introduction to the Veterinary Services of BiH Introduction to the Animal Health Control Program	<b>DVM Zorana Mehmedbasić</b> Associate SVO <b>Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer</b> Resident Twinning Adviser <b>DVM Edin Lendo</b> Assistant to Resident Twinning Adviser <b>Dr. Michael Köstler</b> <b>Dr. Annette Oloffs</b>
05/12/2006 Bijeljina	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of RS</b> Introduction to the implementation of an animal health control program, reporting system, outbreak management and compensation scheme	<b>Mr. Drago Nedić</b> Assistant Minister/ Chief Veterinary Officer MoAFWM <b>From Brčko District:</b> <b>DVM Ljiljan Lučić</b> Veterinary Inspector <b>DVM Perica Burgić</b> Head of Veterinary Station <b>DVM Nikola Ristić</b> Chief of Subdepartment for Veterinary Services <b>DVM Mehmedbasić</b> <b>Dr. Schollmeyer</b> <b>DVM Lendo</b> <b>Dr. Köstler</b> <b>Dr. Oloffs</b>
06/12/2006 Sarajevo	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of FBiH</b> Introduction to the implementation of an animal health control program, reporting system, outbreak management and compensation scheme	<b>DVM Nada Rajković</b> Assistant Minister/ Chief Veterinary Officer MoAWMF <b>DVM Ekrem Imširević</b> Associate to MoAWMF <b>DVM Indira Mulalić</b> Assistant to Minister in Una-Sana Canton <b>DVM Mehmedbasić</b> <b>Dr. Schollmeyer</b> <b>DVM Lendo</b> <b>Dr. Köstler</b> <b>Dr. Oloffs</b>
06/12/2006 Sarajevo	<b>State Veterinary Office of BiH</b> Meeting with Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer	<b>Dr. Nihad Fejzić</b> Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer <b>Dr. Schollmeyer</b> <b>DVM Lendo</b> <b>Dr. Köstler</b> <b>Dr. Oloffs</b>

07/12/2006 Sarajevo	<p><b>Workshop</b> Presentation of the results and discussion</p> <p><b>Zorana Mehmedbasić, SVO</b>  <b>Ekrem Imširović, Federal Inspection BiH</b>  <b>Nada Rajković, Federal Inspection BiH</b>  <b>Indira Mulalić, Cantonal Ministry of Agriculture, Una-sana Canton</b>  <b>Nidžara Karadža, Ministry of Trade</b>  <b>Nermin Smajilagić, Zenica-Doboj, Canton Inspection</b>  <b>Sivro Fahra, Zenica-Doboj, Canton Inspection</b>  <b>Besima Terzić, Central Bosnia Canton</b>  <b>Edina Gorančić, Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo</b>  <b>Kazimir Jurić, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Agriculture</b>  <b>Ljiljana Lučić, Veterinary Inspector, Brčko District</b>  <b>Perica Burgić, Government of Brčko District, Subdepartment for Veterinary Services</b></p>
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## 6. Summary of the Results of the Mission

### 6.1. Competent Authorities

The veterinary administration in BiH is represented by the SVO, the veterinary services of the Federation of BiH, the Republic of Srpska and the District of Brčko.

According to Article 1 of “The Veterinary Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (Official Journal B&H No 34/02 of November 22), the above mentioned authorities are responsible for the implementation of veterinary norms and rules.

The SVO is a part of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTEA) of BiH and should be the link between the ministries of BiH, the EVS and the veterinary services of DB. The SVO is also the contact person for international institutions. The SVO’s main role should be the coordination of the CAs and harmonising the veterinary legislation within BiH as well as the improvement of the veterinary system according to EU-standards.

Institution	Function	Structure
<b>A) The State Veterinary Office: MoFTEA</b>	Coordination of the CAs Harmonising the veterinary legislation Implementation of EU standards	
<b>B) Independent CAs</b>		subordinated to the SVO
<b>1) Federation of BiH</b> Veterinary Department of MoAWMF	Fulfilment of veterinary activities	10 cantons and municipalities
<b>2) Republic of Srpska</b> Veterinary Department of MoAFWM	Fulfilment of veterinary activities	centralised administration two regions: west and east
<b>3) District of Brcko</b> Department of Agriculture	Fulfilment of veterinary activities	small district between RS veterinary administration linked with the SVO

The competent veterinary authorities of the Federation of BiH, the Republic of Srpska and the District of Brčko are established for political and historical reasons; a centralisation is for political reasons not acceptable. Apparently, geographical unities and epidemiological sectors are not taken into consideration. The CAs itself are dependent

on the unsteady political situation within the entity. Long term veterinary investigations or programs are encumbered by political decisions e.g. ever changing ministers.

The above mentioned authorities are subordinated to the SVO, but responsibilities between entities and SVO are not clearly defined. An effective veterinary administrative system in BiH, coordinated by the SVO and CAs, is not transparent.

All representatives of the entities confirmed that besides the Annual Order, which is a decision of the Council of Ministers, they mainly follow their own sub laws and rule books, though they are responsible for the implementation of norms and rules according to the state Veterinary Law. Sub laws and administrative structures of the three CAs are not harmonised. The Annual Order appears to have a more binding character; no funds are available through the order.

#### Recommendations

- CAs have to be clear structured and enforced by law to enable them to act politically independent.
- Establishment of geographical and epidemiological units/regions
- Veterinary Law, Annual Order, sub laws and specific laws have to have more mandatory character.
- Harmonisation of veterinary legislation and administration in BiH

## **6.2. Animal Health Control Program**

### **6.2.1. Registration, Identification and Movement Control**

Registration and identification of all animals and holdings are essential for the implementation of an animal health program. BiH successfully started the identification of cattle and holdings (see mission report of Ms. A. Dethlefsen and Dr. R. Carmanns). In 2006, approximately 120.000 holdings with 700.000 cattle were present in BiH. Although, registration of all cattle in BiH will be completed in 3 years, no mandatory regulations for the registration of cattle are given. It was stated that only dairy cattle needs recording and, apparently, dead cattle can not be eliminated out of the database.

Some data of holdings and animals are collected voluntary within the entities, but no uniform data collection and registration systems have yet been established.

Partly registration is restricted to the number of cattle held within a village. Some data is collected for special diseases (CSF, Rabies, Brucellosis, Trichinellosis, AI etc.). Outbreaks, vaccinations, sampling, testing and costs are documented.

Registration and identification of swine, horses, sheep, goats, poultry, bees and fish, is not laid down. Support and funding for registration of animal holders is not taken into consideration.

The equipment of the administrative unities is insufficient, especially due to inadequate soft and hardware. Dead cattle cannot be eliminated out of the data base and the database is unable to cover all species.

Conclusive identification and movement of animals is not monitored and traceability not possible.

#### Recommendations

- Complete registration of all animal holders
- Registration should be mandatory

- Supply of veterinary units with sufficient soft- and hardware
- Temporary registration with files and Excel lists, if sufficient soft- and hardware is not available

### **6.2.2. Implementation of the Animal Health Control Program**

Animal health control programs are laid down in the Veterinary Law, the Annual Order, the rule books and contingency plans for AI and Bluetongue.

The state Veterinary Law is very comprehensive, most of the veterinary issues are mentioned, but principally without mandatory character. Detailed measures for an animal health control program are not fixed in the Veterinary Law and the law is not being enforced.

The Annual Order covers only a few infectious diseases and detailed measures are missing. Penalties are not described.

According to the participants, not all veterinarians in the field are trained to fulfil sufficient animal disease control. The representatives stated the importance of prophylaxis measures (food, habitat, care, proper use of animals, curing of animals etc.) to be undertaken by veterinarians.

Most of the veterinarians will become private practitioners by end of 2007. The influence of veterinary privatisation is unforeseeable.

Not all veterinary units are covered by official veterinarians.

#### Recommendations:

- Implementation of more detailed sub laws
- Establishment of contingency plans, sub laws for special diseases and control programs
- Training of veterinarians (officials as well practitioners)
- Mandatory regulations for private practitioners concerning animal diseases
- Establishment of unique local veterinary units

### **6.3. Financing of Animal Health Protection**

The legal basis for the financing of animal health measures is based on Article 48 of the Veterinary Law in combination with Chapter III of the Decision on Measures of Control of Infectious and Parasite Diseases of Animals and their Implementation and Financing, known as the Annual Order. According to the legal basis, the CAs of the entities and DB shall, through operative plans, determine the measures of finance from their budget as well as the owners of the animals. The financing of tasks is provided for from the budget funds supplied for a current year.

We have been informed that these operative plans have never been established through the CAs.

RS has certain funds for financing animal health control measures for all dairy cattle whose milk is used for human consumption, and for implementation of control measures to combat special dangerous infectious diseases. However, the funds are very limited. Due to this shortage of funding, implementation of diagnostics is insufficient. It was constituted that control measures are determined for all important animal diseases.

It was established that there is no funding in F BiH for measures laid down in the Annual Order. The implementation of the prescribed measures is evidently financed by the owners of the animals.

The CAs in general criticised limited funding. Due to this lack of funding, systematic disease control is not possible. Surveillance is mainly passive, with limited active monitoring.

Systematic disease control also depends on reliable numbers of livestock and animal holdings. Due to the lack of reliable data, calculation and financing of disease control measures are insufficient.

#### Recommendations:

- Registration of all animal holdings and identification (see findings mentioned in number 6.2.1) of all livestock to enable calculation of the funding needed for implementation of systematic disease control.
- The CAs have to secure sufficient funding for systematic disease control measures. This will implicate guaranteed financing for several years.
- It has to be determined which measures are financed through the budget and which are financed by the animal owners themselves.

#### **6.4. Reporting**

Notification of infectious animal diseases is laid down in Articles 12 and 14 of the Veterinary Law in combination with the Decision on Infectious Diseases. Details relating to reporting on the execution of measures of control of infectious diseases are described in the Annual Order.

Monthly reports on undertaken measures on entity level exist, however there was no standardised documentation and reporting.

Although it was constituted that the monthly reports are regularly sent to the SVO, the SVO did not receive any of them. Reporting of undertaken measures seems to function sufficiently on entity level, but the vertical reporting chain to the SVO appears to be interrupted.

Since there is no complete registration of animal holdings and identification of the animals, reporting does not cover all holdings and all livestock.

There is a lack of reporting facilities. Databases are in place on different levels, but there is no horizontal and vertical networking.

It was constituted that due to the poor economical situation, farmers try to avoid restriction measures. This leads to insufficient notification of suspected outbreaks or outbreaks of notifiable diseases. Besides, there are no obvious sanctions for livestock owners or even veterinarians, who do not report a suspect case or a disease.

#### Recommendations:

- Relating to clear structures and responsibilities, notifiable diseases and notification procedures should be laid down in a specific sub law.
- Networking between CAs databases is to be established.
- Reporting of suspect cases and outbreaks of notifiable diseases through livestock owners and veterinarians has to be improved.
- In order to assess efficacy of the control of animal diseases, it has to be ensured that gathered reports on all measures carried out are submitted to the SVO regularly. The form of the reports should be harmonised.

## **6.5. Outbreak Management**

According to Article 10 of the Veterinary Law, the control and prevention of notifiable diseases shall be based on disease contingency plans for BiH. Currently there exist contingency plans for AI and Bluetongue only. It was stated that all measures of combating diseases of major importance are laid down in a rule book on entity level.

There is only limited secondary legislation for disease suppression and eradication on state level. Legislation is partially out of date and mainly does not comply between the entities.

It was criticized that professional training, relating to outbreak management, is insufficient. In the past five years, specific training courses have been set up only for Bluetongue and fish diseases.

Relating to the complex structure of the CAs, responsibilities in case of an outbreak of a notifiable animal disease seems to be unclear.

### Recommendations:

- Contingency plans for the main infectious animal diseases have to be set up on national level.
- Secondary legislation should be issued for suppression and eradication of the main infectious animal diseases on state level.
- Professional training of the public veterinarians on the main infectious animal diseases shall be regularly organised.
- Responsibilities in case of an outbreak of a notifiable animal disease have to be clearly defined either in the Veterinary Law or in a specific sub law.

## **6.6. Compensation**

The legal basis for compensation for loss of livestock due to infectious diseases is based on Articles 46 and 47 of the Veterinary Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Journal of BiH, No. 34/02). In accordance with these articles, the CAs shall provide compensation for loss of animals as well as for the objects and raw materials that have been destroyed. The determination of the amount of compensation and the decision on disbursement shall be implemented by the EVS or the veterinary services of DB.

It is not clearly regulated who is liable for compensation payments. It was established that the compensation procedures are different in each entity depending on the structure of the CAs.

In case of FBiH, compensation payments are shared by the MoAWMF and the relevant canton. Since there are no specific compensation funds, funding is taken out of the budget.

In RS, compensation is financed by MoAFWM only. It was constituted that there is certain funding for compensation, but very limited.

The amount of compensation shall be determined according to the animal or object market value, but there is no fixed limit. In this context it was reported that in case of the last outbreak of CSF, the owner of the 1100 pigs culled was paid about 240000 KM, which seems not to be in accordance with market value.

Recommendations:

- The responsibilities according to compensation and disbursement procedures have to be clearly defined in the Veterinary Law.
- The compensation procedures (costs and criteria for compensation) in FBiH, RS and DB need to be harmonised.
- It is essential to establish a sufficient and separate fund for compensation based on risk analysis and the numbers of livestock.
- The amount of compensation per animal should be limited according to market values of the different species and breeds.

**6.7. Rendering**

According to Article 43 of the Veterinary Law, animal carcasses and waste shall be destroyed in licensed establishments. In exceptional cases, animal remains may be buried or incinerated in a burial-ground that meets prescribed conditions (Article 43 of the Veterinary Law).

It was constituted that there is no functioning rendering plant in BiH. Allegedly, there was one in DB, but insufficient budgets prevented a restart of the plant. The next running rendering plant is located in Croatia. Currently animal carcasses, animal by-products and specific risk materials are mostly buried in a field under control of the veterinary inspectorates.

It was found that the country does not have a national rendering plan. There is no budget for handling animal carcasses or waste and budget responsibilities are not regulated.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended, that a sub law be introduced to regulate the handling of animal carcasses and animal by-products (national rendering plan) to ensure the secure removal of risk material.
- Budget responsibilities for the removal of risk material have to be clearly regulated. A cost-sharing system or budgeting allocations have to be established.

**7. General Remarks:**

(without direct relevance for the mission)

The working atmosphere at the meetings was friendly and open. Participants were cooperative and answered questions extensively and honestly. Within the framework of the workshop, there was an active and constructive discussion of the main findings of the expert group. Representatives of BiH seemed to be aware of the main problems and weaknesses relating to animal health. Since the mother language of the experts is German, it is recommended to use German and Bosnian language in meetings. Unfortunately, a local point of contact to ensure ongoing cooperation could not be found.

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