

Short-Term Mission on

Assessment and support on/ of the identification and information system for animals. (Component 3, Activity 3.4)

Mission Report

1. Name and function of the Expert:

Ms. Anna Dethlefsen, Regional Office Bavaria (LKV), Assessment of the duties in the Regional Office.

Dr. Richard Carmanns, Bavarian State Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Assessment of the central database.

2. Objective and tasks of the mission:

Assessment of the identification and registration (I&R) system according to regulation 1760/2000/EC for animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina and assistance in development of a practicable database for identification and information.

3. Time schedule of mission:

Date	Activities / Meetings	Remarks
23/10/2006	Meeting with the staff from the Animal Identification Agency	
	Meeting with Drago Nedić, Head of Veterinary Inspection in Republika Srpska	
	Meeting with official Veterinarian in charge for the slaughterhouse in Laktaši	
	Meeting with the Director of the Veterinary Station in Banja Luka	
	Meeting with the staff from the Regional Office in Banja Luka	
24/10/2006	Assessment of the central database	
	Assessment of duties of the Regional Office	
25/10/2006	Presentation of the German central database	
	Presentation of the duties of the Regional Office in Bavaria	
26/10/2006	Presentation of the recommendation to Mr. Jozo Bagarić, CVO of SVO	

4. Summary of the Results of the Mission :

4.1 Current Situation

The mission assessment of the animal identification and information system for animals was scheduled in the time from the 23rd to the 26th of October 2006.

The first station of the mission was a visit of the Animal Identification Agency (AIA) in Banja Luka. The agency is, as a part of the State Veterinary Office (SVO) in accordance with

Decision of the internal structure of SVO, settled on state level. The tasks of the Animal Identification Agency were explained by the Director Dr. Slaven Grbić.

The tasks are:

- Running the central Database
- Printing of ear tags
- Printing of passports
- Distribution of Registration, Movement and Slaughter forms
- Registration of holdings

The estimated number of Holdings and Cattle in BiH are app.120.000 Holdings and app. 700.000 Cattle. To start the identification and registration (I&R) system in BiH 544 Veterinary inspectors were trained by the AIA.

In a first step the registration of holdings started, at present about 65 % of the holdings are registered. The target for the registration of cattle is 1/3 of the national herd each year. After 3 years all cattle should be tagged and registered.

The work of the Agency as well as the set up of the I&R system was hampered by problems with the delivery of ear tags and paper for passports. The AIA had requested a few times new supplies, but the purchasing of ear tags via tender is organised on a central level.

Due to the lack in ear tags the registration of cattle could not take place as planned. The delivery of passports to farmers was also interrupted due to a shortage in the supplies of forms, therefore passport could not be printed and supplied for registered cattle.

Then Mr. Drago Nedić, Head of Veterinary Service of Republika Srpska, gave a brief overview over the situation of animal identification and registration in the Republika Srpska. Supply of „blank tags“ was insufficient and not in time, the whole process of registration was therefore blocked since November 2005.

During a brief visit to a slaughter house the slaughter register as well as the passports of cattle slaughtered from 1st of October 2006 onwards were presented to us. As not all cattle in BiH are registered so far the reporting is not comprehensive. Only the smaller number of registered cattle can be recorded.

The Director of the Veterinary Station in Banja Luka explained the duties in the registration process. The local veterinarians are responsible for registration of holdings, the tagging and registration of cattle and the notification of the movements of cattle. The delivery of a passport for registered cattle to the holder will also be done by the Veterinary inspector.

Next door to the Animal Identification Agency the Regional Office for Banja Luka is located. The notification of registered cattle and movement reports to the Database are the duties of the nine Regional Offices (**Data Entry Offices**). They receive hand written forms regarding registration and movement of cattle from the local Veterinary Stations. On the basis of this forms the relevant information is entered into the central database. The registration forms are filed in the DEO's. Corresponding to the data input of registered cattle the Animal Identification Agency will issue passports, which will be stored in the DEO's until they are collected by the veterinary stations. The DEOs are also depot for printed ear tags, which were ordered by the Veterinary Station.

The central database (CDB) system is "eurovet" a product from the Irish company e-blana. The plan is that beside the DEOs also the border control posts, customs, milk recording and the paying agency for premiums should have access to the CDB. At the moment only the DEOs are linked up with the CDB. The access to the CDB is via direct lines and not via internet.

There is no support contract for the database with e-blana.

Proposals for a quality management system in the CDB were made by the Agency, but not yet approved by the higher level.

During the assessment of the database it was not possible to receive summarised information or lists from the database like a the number or list of registered cattle or holdings in a defined area. The explanation was that the tools for the queries are not programmed yet. The database looked more like a one way system or a black box. The staff was not able to conduct queries to show the content in the database.

4.2 Assessment concerning the main elements of the I&R system in BiH:

4.2.1 Ear Tags

- Due to the problems in the supply of ear tags the identification and registration of cattle in BiH has come to an halt, as ear tags are the basis for the I&R system.
- The production capacity of the laser printer for the ear tags seem sufficient, but there is no automatic logfiling which tag was when printed
- Tagging through qualified staff from the Veterinary Stations ensures a good quality

4.2.2 Cattle passport

- The chain for delivery is very long, from the Agency to the DEO, from there to the Veterinary Stations and from there to the cattle holder
- The shortage of paper to print passports let to the situation that registered cattle were without passport

4.2.3 Farm Register

- The farm register is a printed booklet, it seems to comply with EC rules

4.2.4 Registration of cattle in the database

- Registration of tagged animals through qualified staff of the Veterinary Stations ensures a high quality
- Use of uniform forms secures an unique standard
- The registration is focused on new tagged animals and movements of tagged animals
- Fallen animals are not reported, there is also no rendering plant in BiH so far.
- Manual entry of registered animals and of movements into the database by trained staff in 9 DEO reduces mistakes
- Imported cattle should be registered by border control posts, at the moment the border posts are not linked up with the database

4.2.5 Registration of Holdings

- Registration of cattle holdings only through the Agency ensures a good quality
- It was not possible to receive a list of holdings in an area from the database

4.2.6 Central Database

- Data input is only by the 9 DEOs (cattle) and the Agency (holdings) possible, border control posts are presently not linked up to the CDB to insert imports
- No system to ensure a high quality of the inserted data, DEO can not even retrieve a list of inserted data for cross check purposes.
- No access for Veterinary Stations, border control posts, agricultural administration for subsidy control purposes and the Ministry.
- No tools for queries established, e.g. list of holdings, number of animals registered in a certain area in a given time

4.3 Recommendations to improve the current situation

4.3.1 Ear Tags

- The supply of „blanc tags“ as the first element in the I&R System has to be immediately improved and secured
- The printing of tags should automatically be recorded in a log file to avoid misuse
- Durability and not only the price must be considered in the tender process
- To forecast the demand better, the delivered tags must be checked against the registered animals
- Surveillance of ear tag supply should be checked automatically by a programme
- Direct purchasing of printed ear tags from tag producers should be considered in case the printer goes out of production.

4.3.2 Cattle Passport

- As the current supply chain for passport is too long, passports should be directly sent to the veterinary stations or to the farmers if possible to speed up delivery
- Sufficient stock of passport forms at the agency must be secured to avoid delays in printing

4.3.3 Registration of Holdings

- Farm Register should include all animal species for disease control

4.3.4 Farm Register

- Farmers should be informed to use the Farm Register correctly

4.3.5 Registration of Cattle

- Data input by the veterinary stations should be considered to speed up the registration process
- Electronic filing system at agency level for registration forms and passports should be considered

4.3.6 Central Database (CDB)

- Data input by veterinary stations should be considered to speed up the registration of cattle
- A system of cross checks to avoid input mistakes must be established
- Direct access for veterinary stations, entities, border posts, agricultural administration for subsidy controls and the Ministry must be established
- Tools for online queries must be established
- Functionality and flexibility of the system must be improved
- System must be open for future needs, change in system must be considered if the present system can not be adapted to the local requirements

4.3.7 Information campaign

- All groups concerned must be informed and included in the process (e.g. farmers union, slaughter houses etc).

5. General Remarks Concerning the Project:

(without direct relevance for the mission)

The working atmosphere was friendly, open and cooperative. The persons in charge of the I&R system, especially at the AIA were aware of weak points in the I&R system in BiH. There was an open and active discussion between all responsible parties after the two presentations at 25th of October. It looks that all concerned parties in BiH have identified the weak points in setting up the I&R system and are willing to find solutions to resolve the problems.

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