

Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Activity 3.6 “Support for requirement of importing countries“ within CARDS Twinning Project BA05 IB AG 01 Sarajevo, 23rd – 27th of June 2008</p>

1. Name and function of the experts

Dr. Annette Oloffs, local veterinary unit: Hansestadt Lübeck

Dr. Valerie Eberlein; federal state authority: Bavaria/Oberschleißheim

2. Objective and tasks of the mission

The purpose of this workshop was to train the Veterinary Inspectors at the Border Inspection Posts (BIP) to implement a standardized control of imports from EU and Third Countries.

The development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for veterinary checks of live animals as well as animal products will guarantee more transparency of performed inspections.

The application of the EU Trade Control And Expert System (TRACES) was demonstrated.

3. List of acronyms

BiH = Bosnia and Herzegovina
BIP = Border Inspection Post
CVED = Common Veterinary Entry Document
EC/EU = European Commission / European Union
SOP = Standard Operation Procedures
TRACES: = TRAdE Control and Expert System

4. Acknowledgements

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

Special thanks to Elvis Kondzic for translation and Dr. Schollmeyer for assistance.

5. Time schedule of mission:

Date	Meetings / activity	Speaker
23rd of July Sarajevo	Workshop 1, participants see attached list	Dr. Oloffs
24th of July Sarajevo		Dr. Eberlein Dr. Oloffs
25th of July Sarajevo	Workshop 2, participants see attached list	Dr. Eberlein Dr. Oloffs
26th of July Sarajevo		Dr. Oloffs
27th of July Sarajevo	Discussion of the results Summary and outcome of the workshop	Dr. Oloffs Dr. Schollmeyer

6. Summary of the workshop

I. Contents

The workshop was performed in two groups and included presentations, case studies and discussions.

Inspectors of all BIPs in BiH participated in the workshop.

Key aspects were:

- Notification of arrival and manifest checks
- Products to be checked
- Documentary check: lists of third country/ establishments / signatures/ certificates
- Identity check
- Physical check
- CVED products and animals
- Import of live animals
- Returned consignments and rejections
- Transit / unloading / channeling
- Traveller's luggage
- Cost recovery – fees
- Record keeping
- Training
- TRACES

The most important EU legislations were touched:

Reg. (EC) NO 998/2003; Reg. (EC) NO 1774/2002; Reg. (EC) NO 136/2004; Reg. (EC) NO 282/2004; Reg. (EC) NO 275/2007; Dir. (EC) NO 2002/99; Reg. (EC) NO 178/2002; Reg. (EC) NO 1/2005; Reg. (EC) NO 745/2004; Dec. 2004/292/EC; Dec. 2001/812/EC; Dec 97/794; Dir. 97/78/EC; Dir. 91/496 etc.

Checklists for the documentation of checks were presented and handed out.

Case studies of physical and identity checks were discussed.

A theoretical and practical introduction into "TRACES" was given and the database for veterinary legislation and certificates "VetLex" was presented

II Results

Training

All participants declared that they already participated in different trainings. The most important legislations for BIPs were extensively presented during a training in Slovenia in 2007. Yet participants asked for an overview of the relevant and latest legislations as well as for English language courses. In meantime a translated version of the presentations held during the workshop should be provided to the participants. Some inspectors would like conduct practical training in member states.

Legislation

A working group is established for the implementation of EU-legislation.

Participants asserted that most of the EU legislations are already transformed into national law and two BIP-Manuals will be developed (one for products and one for animals). This could not be proofed during the workshop. Process instructions, standard guidelines and checklists are not yet established. Legalization for punishments is not clear.

Checks

The performance of manifest, documentary, identical and physicals checks were presented and discussed. Examples of documentary checklists were distributed.

At present physical checks appear not to be sufficiently performed at the BIPs in BiH.

According to the participants the BIPs have not enough equipment for physical checks (Laboratory equipment, loading platform and capacities etc.).

National advices are not yet given but the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for veterinary checks of live animals as well as animal products will be integrated in the BIP manuals.

According to the participants the BIPs are not integrated into the national monitoring plan.

Prevention of hazards

According to the participants a national legislation for prevention of hazards (animal disease, risks for human health; dangerous dogs etc.) is not yet established.

The inspectors at the BIPs should be authorized to insist on more / more extensive checks.

Imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption

The control of traveller's luggage was discussed. The participating inspectors did not consider the control of travellers and the disposal of illegal products for personal consumption as their task.

Measures according to Reg. EC No 1774/2002 (collection, transportation and disposal of waste by incineration in an approved incineration plant) were pointed out.

Measures according to Reg. (EC) NO 745/2004 with regard to imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption like information (poster) and regular controls of travellers are shown.

Access to internet / FAX / Telephone

Some participants stated to have no or only partly free access to internet, telephone and fax.

TRACES

During the mission a theoretical and practical introduction into TRACES was given. The participants were provided with an access to the TRACES training version for BIPs.

To most of the participants, the principle of certification as well as the CVED as document was known. The system itself was not known from the point of view of a user.

The possibility for third countries to use an import module to TRACES was not known.

At present, not every BIP appears to have internet access and an email-address.

VetLex

The database for veterinary legislation and certificates VetLex was presented.

Free access to VetLex was not given. Therefore an access for the BIPs to VetLex was provided by the RTA. Since the workshop all participants should have free access to Vetlex.

Documentation

Documentation according to EC regulations was presented.

It is recommended that checks at the BIP are documented. Checklists are advisable especially with regard to reg. (EC) No 882/2004 requiring the implementation of a Quality Management System.

Working-group

A working group for the implementation of the EC-regulation over a five year period is established.

III Recommendations

Training

Apparently it is necessary to continue similar workshops for the development of Standard Operation Procedures.

Veterinarians at BIPs should regularly use the TRACES training and VetLex access to get familiar to the system and EC-regulations.

The entire veterinary legislation (food hygiene; animal welfare, disease control, animal by-products etc.) is applied at the BIP. Therefore representatives of the BIPs should participate in all trainings which will be offered.

An English language course for staff is recommended.

A practical training in member states should be offered.

Legislation

A working group is established for the implementation of EC legislation. Apparently not all EC regulations are transferred into national regulations. The implementation of more detailed implementation laws, process instructions, standard guidelines and checklists are necessary. Punishments and prevention of hazards have to be fixed in national legislations.

Checks

For sensory, physical or chemical examinations no specific EC regulations are given.

Therefore national legislation, a national monitoring plan, process instructions and evaluation schemes have to be created. The application of detailed checklists is recommended.

BIPs have to be provided with sufficient equipment for physical checks (Laboratory equipment, loading platform and capacities etc.).

Prevention of hazards

The prevention of hazards should be laid down in national legislation.

Imports of products of animal origin for personal consumption

Specific legislation has to be installed and responsibilities have to be defined.

The cooperation with the customs as well as the disposal of illegal products of animal origin should be arranged. Posters at the BIP should inform travellers about the import of products for personal consumption. Legislation for punishments would be helpful.

Access to internet / FAX / Telephone

All BIPs should be provided with IT equipment as computer, printer, powerful internet access and email addresses. The staff at the BIPs should be trained in using this equipment.

The access to internet, fax and telephone should be free of costs for the inspectors.

TRACES

It is strongly recommended to consider if Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to apply to the EU Commission as user for the import module. This would be a possibility to use the system even before the accession to the EU. A Bosnian version of TRACES could be installed as already implemented for other third countries. Therefore a list of technical terms should be translated as soon as possible from English or German to Bosnian. The translation should be done by BIP staff – possibly with the support of a translator - as the terms exceed mostly the general vocabulary of a usual translator. This list can be provided by the RTA.

Veterinarians at BIPs should regularly use the TRACES training access to get familiar to the system and to use functionalities as third country establishment lists or the access to EU veterinary legislation.

VetLex

The participants should use VetLex with the new access. It can provide the inspectors with latest EC regulations.

Documentation

Documentation should be done according to EC-regulations. Checklists are necessary especially with regard to reg. (EC) No 882/2004 requiring the implementation of a Quality Management System
In case of irregularities checks should be attested by witnesses.

Working group

For the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for veterinary checks of live animals as well as animal products, working groups should be established. A working group for the translation of the list of terms for TRACES should be put in place as well.

6. General remarks concerning the project:
(without direct relevance for the mission)

The working atmosphere at the meetings was friendly and open. Participants were very 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 the BIPs seemed to be aware of the main problems and weaknesses relating to border inspection controls.

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