

## TWINNING PROJECT BA 05 IB AG 01

### Exit Report

#### ACTIVITY

3.6 “Support for requirement of importing countries” - Principles of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

#### STE´S

Stefanie Roth, Michael Jud (BVL, Germany)

#### SCHEDULE

DATE	ITEM	LOCATION
20.10.08	Arrival to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo
21.10.08	Briefing with RTA RASFF, workshop 1 <sup>st</sup> day	State Veterinary Office (SVO), Sarajevo
22.10.08	RASFF, workshop 2 <sup>nd</sup> day	Sarajevo (SVO)
23.10.08	RASFF, workshop 3 <sup>rd</sup> day, Final discussions and Closure of the workshop , Debriefing with RTA and departure to Germany	Sarajevo (SVO)

#### OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

A workshop for about 20 senior veterinarian officers was achieved within a 2,5 day mission. Mr. Drago Nedić from State Veterinary Office welcomed the participants and introduced into the workshop. The mission was realised as planned with exception of practical training lessons due to the insufficient IT infrastructure. Presentations covering legal aspects and the RASFF workflow in Germany were achieved by Ms Roth and Mr Jud. Special examples for food-safety issues and their notification to the RASFF were presented to the participants and thoroughly discussed. As the participants expressed special interest in the discussion of microbiological cases, Ms. Roth gave an overview about the food safety criteria and process hygiene criteria laid down in Reg. (EC) No. 2073/2005. Mr. Jud explained the notification of border rejections to the RASFF. Therefore as an example, he presented the implementation of border controls in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. An online demonstration of the new “RASFF-Window” web database was performed. Recent RASFF notifications concerning (i. a.) products delivered to Bosnia and Herzegovina were discussed and analysed. Requirements and constraints for setting up a similar RASFF system in Bosnia and Herzegovina were identified.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The participants from SVO were highly interested in contents of the RASFF workshop. Officials from the Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (risk assessment authority and designated BiH contact point for RASFF) were also invited to join the workshop, but nobody participated. The main conclusion of the workshop was the inefficient information exchange between federal level and entity level regarding RASFF notifications sent by the EC Commission. Responsibilities for imposing measures like withdrawal or destruction of hazardous food should be assigned more clearly to ensure efficient workflow. The role of the Food Safety Agency as national contact point (NCP) for RASFF was not clear to the representatives of the SVO and the officials from Border Inspection Posts. Therefore alternatives for the assignment of the contact point for RASFF and other related information exchange tools like TRACES and RAPEX system for non-food products have been proposed to the participants.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Bosnia and Herzegovina should thoroughly revise its food safety information exchange network taking into account the present administrative structures. Administrative procedures should be defined between federal and entity level on the one side as well as between Food Safety Agency and State Veterinary office on the other side. Official agreements could be laid down by law and/or mutual agreements. Also IT infrastructure needs to be improved in order to facilitate fast information exchange via Internet and E-Mail.

signed

Michael Jud

Stefanie Roth

Berlin, 27.10.2008