

Short-Term Mission on
Activity 1.5: Multi-annual training programme (train the trainers) focussed on
implementation and transposition of EU legislation, reorganisation,
and technical and practical capacities
Banja Luka, 24th until the 26th of October 2007

Mission Report

1. Name and function of the Expert:

Dr. Eberhard Haunhorst

Lower Saxony Federal State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Germany

Dr. Matthias Kramer

Federal research institute for animal health and epidemiology, Germany

Dr. Norbert Rehm

Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer protection,
Department for Animal Health, Germany

Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer

RTA Twinning Project CARDS Twinning Project
Support to State Veterinary Office (SVO) BA05-IB-AG-01

2. Objective and tasks of the mission:

The objective of the mission were to carry out the seminar 1/1: "Presentation of Member State experience on training programmes related to the implementation of laws, regulation and reorganisation, implementation of EU standards and best practice within national authorities, and transposition of the *Aquis* into national law." The seminar was held within the frame of the 2nd Veterinary Congress of the Republica Srpska.

Furthermore it was decided by the members of the Steering Committee, to perform an intermediate workshop, in order to evaluate the impact of the project on the Veterinary Services. During the workshop a questionnaire, contents was approved by the members of the Steering Committee, was given out. The result will provide further information about the impact of the project.

3. Time schedule of mission:

Date	Activities / Meetings	Remarks
25/10/2007	Dr. Norbert Rehm: Speaker at the 2 nd Veterinary Congress of the Reublika Srpska Dr. Matthias Kramer: Speaker at the 2 nd Veterinary Congress of the Reublika Srpska Dr. Eberhard Haunhorst: Speaker at the 2 nd Veterinary Congress of the Reublika Srpska	
26/10/2007	Dr. Norbert Rehm: Speaker at the intermediate Twinning workshop Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer: Moderator and	

Date	Activities / Meetings	Remarks
	speaker at the intermediate Twinning workshop	

3. Summary of the Results of the Mission :

3.1 Participation at the Veterinary Congress of Rebulika Srpska:

Main topics to be discussed on the 2nd Veterinary Congress of the Rebulika Srpska were:

1. **Challenges that veterinary professionals of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina are facing**
 - Obligations of the veterinary profession in terms of the European integration (regulations, education of personnel, harmonization and implementation)
 - Organization and responsibilities for implementation of veterinary measures
 - Regional cooperation
2. **Veterinary-epidemiological situation**
 - Animal welfare in the Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Animal diseases control and eradication Strategy
 - Competency and reliability of veterinary diagnostics
 - Identification and control of animal movement
3. **Food safety**
 - European standards in food safety
 - Food production, quality and sales control
 - Feed production, quality and sales control
 - Introduction of HACCP and Good Manufacturing Practices
 - Monitoring of food residues
4. **Organization and management in veterinary practice**
 - Models of veterinary service organization
 - Territorial competencies for veterinary measures' implementation
 - Veterinary practice management
5. **Current trends in the various fields of veterinary medicine, technology, cattle breeding, animal welfare and rural development**

The contribution of the German experts to the Veterinary Congress were to present the implementation of laws, regulation and reorganisation, implementation of EU standards and best practice within national authorities, and transposition of the *Aquis* into national law. Especially in the field of animal disease control and eradication the participants could benefit from the long experience of the animal disease control and eradication programmes in Germany.

1. **Challenges that veterinary professionals of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina are facing**

How do institutions and other bodies of EU work? (legislation and implementation)

The European Union (EU) is not a federation like the United States. Nor is it simply an organisation for co-operation between governments, like the United Nations. It is, in fact, unique. The countries that make up the EU (its 'member states') remain independent sovereign nations but they pool their sovereignty in order to gain a strength and world influence none of them could have on their own.

Pooling sovereignty means, in practice, that the member states delegate some of their decision-making powers to shared institutions they have created, so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level.

The EU's decision-making process in general involve three main institutions: the European Parliament (EP), which represents the EU's citizens and is directly elected by them; the Council of the European Union, which represents the individual member states; the European Commission, which seeks to uphold the interests of the Union as a whole.

This 'institutional triangle' produces the policies and laws that apply throughout the EU. In principle, it is the Commission that proposes new laws, but it is the Parliament and Council that adopt them.

Two other institutions have a vital part to play: the Court of Justice upholds the rule of European law, and the Court of Auditors checks the financing of the Union's activities.

The powers and responsibilities of these institutions are laid down in the Treaties, which are the foundation of everything the EU does. They also lay down the rules and procedures that the EU institutions must follow. The Treaties are agreed by the presidents and/or prime ministers of all the EU countries, and ratified by their parliaments.

In addition to its institutions, the EU has a number of other bodies (i.e. European Central Bank) that play specialised roles and also specialised agencies (i.e. European Food Safety Authority-EFSA) that have been set up to handle certain technical, scientific or management tasks.

The legal sources of Community Law are the Founding Treaties and General principles of law (Primary legislation), the Implementing regulations/directives, general and individual decisions (Secondary legislation) and the international agreements with Third countries and International Organisations (WHO, FAO, OIE).

The legal forms are the Directive (one goal, different ways to achieve it for the member states), the Regulation (obligatory in all parts for all member states) and the Decision (immediately applicable to handle a certain situation in one or more member states or Third countries).

(Norbert Rehm; Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer protection, Department for Animal Health)

2. Veterinary-epidemiological situation

The Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013 to improve the prevention and control of animal disease in the EU

At the beginning of 2005 the EU-Commission pronounced a new Community Animal Health Strategy (CAHP) to improve the prevention and control of animal disease by setting out actions for 2007-2013.

This was caused by the devastating social and economic consequences of diseases like bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or avian influenza (AI) which demonstrate the importance of a strong and effective animal health policy at EU level.

Therefore the Commission intended to develop a new and improved animal health strategy for the EU going beyond what has already been achieved with the existing animal health policy.

Animal disease outbreaks are costly and there are also ethical issues related to the mass killing of animals when controlling an outbreak. In addition there is growing concern about the potential impact of certain animal diseases on human health.

The new CAHP aims to develop the policy of prevention, make emergency vaccination a more viable option, simplify the legislation and make better use of financial resources.

In 2005/2006 the existing CAHP has been presented to an external evaluation: The first objective of the evaluation was to analyse, in an independent way, the results of the existing CAHP as compared to the acknowledged objectives. The second objective of the existing CAHP evaluation was to establish if changes to the new CAHP strategy are needed, including possible improvements to its structure and working practices. Finally and in the policy area related to the EU financial aspects, the evaluation team was requested to assess the option of an EU-wide harmonised "insurance scheme" covering the risks of livestock epidemics and the costs resulting from them.

The results of the evaluation has been discussed in December 2006 with key recommendations for a stronger culture of bio-security, more risk management/disease prevention, simplification of the regulatory burden / better regulation and the provision of an adequate budget/financial instrument

At the end of 2007 a proposal is planned for a Commission Communication on the Community Animal Health Policy - CAHP - Strategy (2007-2013) to the European parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions based on the fact that animal health policy at the EU level plays a key role in facilitating the trade in animal and animal products, ensuring food safety, preventing the transmission of animal diseases to humans and providing financial support for the control and eradication of many serious diseases.

(Norbert Rehm; Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer protection, Department for Animal Health)

Epidemiological situation regarding certain notifiable animal diseases in the EU and Germany

The European Union (EU) experienced several animal disease outbreaks to various extent during the last decades. Some of them were more, others less important. From the European consumer and taxpayer point of view, animal disease belonging to the former list A diseases of the OIE are of biggest concern because the serious consequences for the consumers and all stakeholders.

Classical Swine Fever (CSF): Since 2000, outbreaks of CSF in domestic pigs and CSF cases in wild boar were officially confirmed in some member states. The main affected member states with respect to CSF in domestic pigs during the last seven years were Germany (27), Spain (49), United Kingdom (15), Italy (9), Luxembourg (12), Slovakia (12), Bulgaria (10) and Romania (340). CSF in wild boar was confirmed in Germany (83), Hungary (25), France (8), Romania (9), Slovakia (13) and Belgium (1). In many member states with incursions of CSF in the domestic wild boar population, CSF outbreaks occurred subsequently via direct or indirect transmission of the CSF virus.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): The EU was affected by outbreaks of two subtypes of the avian influenza virus, subtype H7N7 and H5N1 since 2003. The H7N7 epidemic was one of the biggest poultry disease outbreaks in middle Europe since many decades. It affected wide areas in the Netherlands with altogether 241 infected premises. Additionally, the disease spread also into Belgium (8) and Germany (1). During the course of the epidemic, the virus was limited to domestic poultry. More than 30 million animals had to be culled mainly due to trade restrictions and animal welfare reasons.

However, because of the zoonotic importance and the pandemic risk, the H5N1 cases in wild birds and outbreaks in domestic poultry attracted much more attention in the public awareness. HPAI cases in wild birds were reported from following member states since 21 November 2005 until 5 October 2007: Austria (46), Bulgaria (4), Czech Republic (15), Germany (448), Denmark (26), Spain (1), France (24), United Kingdom (1), Greece (25), Hungary (13), Italy (19), Poland (29), Romania (10), Sweden (13), Slovenia (28) and Slovakia (2). Indirect or direct contacts to HPAI infected but not clinically affected wild birds caused occasionally single HPAI outbreaks in some member states in poultry farms since 2005:

Germany (4), Denmark (1), France (1), United Kingdom (1), Czech Republic (4) and Sweden (1). Hungary (31) and Romania (197) reported about a series of HPAI outbreaks in domestic birds but limited the spread.

Bluetongue (BT): Despite the fact, that different strains of BT viruses are present in many Mediterranean member states, an emerging virus strain (serotype 8) was observed in middle Europe since summer 2006. This arthropod-borne disease transmitted by some *Culicoides* vectors was first confirmed in The Netherlands and Belgium and later in Germany, France and Luxembourg. BT appeared the first time in middle Europe and spread very fast, especially in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany at the end of 2006. Meanwhile, more than 11.000 cattle, sheep and goat farms were registered as BTV-8 infected in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom (1 case) and Germany.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): After the big FMD epidemic in 2001, which affected mainly the United Kingdom (2030) but also Ireland, France and The Netherlands (26), no further outbreaks occurred until summer 2007. Some farms (7) in the United Kingdom situated close to a laboratory were affected by a FMD virus. All measures required were taken by the competent British authorities and it seems that the disease is contained in the area.

(Matthias Kramer; Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Department of Epidemiology Wusterhausen)

3. Food safety

Food and Feed Safety in the European Union and in Third Countries

In recent years consumers confidence in the safety of food products has been shaken by several food-related health-crises and epizootic diseases, as BSE, avian influenza and meat scandals. Combat of these animal diseases with possible impact on human beings and prevention of illegal procedures related to foodstuff, still remains an big challenge for each country, the European community and the other countries.

Responding to the food-related crises, the EU has reviewed food hygiene legislation since 2002. Basic principles of the EU-legislation are integration of primary production into the concept of food safety ("from farm to fork"), setting up of self-control systems on all production levels (also inter branch), provision of a general traceability of food stuff components and integration of feed law. The main regulations include regulation (EC) No 178/2002 about general principles and requirements of food law ("basic-regulation") and the regulations (EC) No 852-854/2004, the so-called "hygiene package" with rules about hygiene of foodstuffs, specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin. Rules of performing official controls are laid down in regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Within the EU there is a common market of goods and services since 1993. At the out-frontiers of the EU there are 280 Border inspection points where veterinary services control the import of animals, animal products and foodstuffs from third countries. Only these countries which are numerated in a "Third Country Establishments' List" and which fulfil the strict conditions of the EU concerning feed and food legislation, are allowed to import the specific products into the EU.

The presentation of Dr. Haunhorst shows the organisation of feed and food control in the EU, considering Germany and its Federal State Lower Saxony. The official controls show that a real dangerous health risk for consumers by foods is very unlikely.

The EU-Rapid Alert System of Food and Feed (RASFF) shall ensure a rapid and close communication between the commission and the member states in case of products and foods, which could be a health risk for consumers.

(Eberhard Haunhorst, Lower Saxony Federal State Office of Consumer Protection and Food safety (LAVES), Germany)

3.2 Intermediate workshop

In order to evaluate the impact of the Twinning Project, a two hours intermediate workshop was performed at the 26th of October 2007. Mr. Norbert Rehm presented shortly the purpose of the Twinning Project. Main objectives are to strengthen the capacities of the state veterinary administration and veterinary services in BiH, to increase the competencies and administrative capacities and to perform functions related to development of specific policies and laws, coordination of veterinary actions, export of animals and animal products and EU integration. Furthermore he briefly introduced the participants with the formal background of the Twinning Project.

The presentation of the project implementation, the mandatory results and benchmarks, as well as the output of the project was held by Ms. Karoline Schollmeyer. Within the first year of the project all scheduled assessment visits within the components were carried out. In the second year the main emphasis of the project will be the implementation of the finding and recommendations of the Member State experts. The workshop will be towards the end of the project intensified and mainly be organised for a smaller group of participants, in order to develop checklists, guideline compendiums, etc. Important for the organisation of future events is to get the opinion of the participants about best training method. Therefore and in order to estimate the success of the project, the participants filled out a questionnaire. The evaluation of the answers given and the comments of the Twinning Project are as follows:

Evaluation of the questionnaire

To evaluate the progress and impact of the Twinning Project "Support to State Veterinary Office in BiH" so far, the Project developed commonly with the Project Partners a questionnaire.

Within the 2nd Veterinary Congress of Republika Srpska, the Project had the opportunity to carry out an intermediate workshop, not only to present the project and its mandatory results, but amongst others to discuss further activities and internships, etc.. At the end of the workshop the participants were kindly asked to take a few moments and to fill out the questionnaire in order to give their opinion of the progress of the twinning project.

Eighteen colleagues participated at the intermediate workshop, sixteen came from Republika Srpska, one from the Federation in BiH and one colleague from Brčko Distrikt.

The first question if the veterinary services in BiH are well organized should be taken as a general indicator of the organization of the Veterinary services in BiH. One participant agreed that the services are well organized and seven could neither agree nor disagree. Ten participants do disagree and one even strongly disagrees with the organization of the veterinary services. In order to improve the Veterinary Services of BiH eleven colleagues agreed, that the Veterinary Services would strongly improve by more trainings and seminars. Thirteen participants are positive that changes of the law and secondary legislation would be a step in the right direction. A strong leadership of key people within the Veterinary Services was recommended thirteen times as a the requirement for improvements. None of the interviewees would leave the Services as they are at present.

Within the second part of the questionnaire the impact of the Twinning Project so far should be evaluated.

Three participants assumed, that they are excellent informed about the project, four very good and three good. For three interviewees providing of project related information should be improved and four colleagues did not receive efficient information.

As their source of information thirteen participants referred to the State Veterinary Office and three participants were advised by colleagues. Further information were found by three interviewees on the Project website. None of the participants received information through CD reports.

Furthermore the colleagues were asked to rate the Project. Five participants evaluate the Project as excellent, four as very good and five as good. One interviewee pointed out that the Project should be improved.

The Twinning Project publishes project related topics on the State Veterinary Office website. Sixteen participants already visited the Project website, two did not. The quality of the online project presentation were rate as excellent by four colleagues, six assumed the quality as very good and four as good. Three participants suggested that the project presentations should be improved. Beside of publishing project related topics online, mission reports are available on CD or in hardcopy. Four participants confirmed to have received mission reports; thirteen did receive neither a CD nor hardcopies.

During the first year of the Project, several recommendations presentations, seminars and workshops were commonly organized by the project partners. Thirteen colleagues participated at these events; three could not attend, because they were never invited.

Three participants rated the above mentioned events as excellent, six as very good and four as good. One interviewee suggested the recommendation presentations, seminars and workshops should be improved and one evaluated them as bad.

Twelve colleagues agreed on, that the above mentioned events are well organized whereas three found them not well organized. According to the opinion of twelve interviewees, the invited experts are really professional and have knowledge on the topic they are covering. Four participants could not make an evaluation.

The Twinning Projects recommendations presentations, seminars, workshops are useful for thirteen colleagues and they could improve their knowledge on certain topics by visiting these events. For three interviewees this event did not increase their knowledge.

Nine participants agreed on, that further Twinning activities should be focused animal health and animal welfare. Align national legislation with EU legislation was important for fourteen colleagues. Food safety related topics should be more focused for nine and accreditation of laboratories for eleven participants. In order to implement the activities of the project the colleagues were asked to suggest the best way to impart new knowledge is for thirteen colleagues through practical exercise and simulation. Ten participants found seminars and workshops also good for gaining new knowledge. Publications and manuals are supportive for four and presentations and lectures for one interviewee.

Finally the participants were asked to write down how their engagement with the project is and improvement recommendations for the Twinning Project.

Following recommendations were made:

- 1.) Wider circle of veterinarians should be introduced to the project.
- 2.) Project should organize HACCP control training.
- 3.) Project should focus on lower number of activities, which would guarantee efficiency.
- 4.) Recommendations should be followed by people in charge of implementation.
- 5.) Organization of German Veterinary Service could be so well applied here.
- 6.) Project has top experts.
- 7.) Workshops and training are excellent and should be more intensive towards the end.
- 8.) Bad side, that it is limited to two years.

We would like to thank all participants for the feedback!

Comments from the Twinning Project:

First we would like to thank the colleagues for participating at the intermediate workshop and for taking their time to answer the questionnaire.

Following remarks should be examined more closely:

1. General and distribution of information
2. Twinning website
3. Presentations, seminars and workshops
4. Further training
5. Recommendations from the interviewees

1. General and distribution of information:

Even if most of the participants are generally good informed about the project, mainly through the SVO, efforts to improve the distribution of information should be made. Computer and internet are not available in every Veterinary Office, therefore the Twinning Project prepare, on a quarterly basis, a CD with all mission reports, workshop and seminar documentation. The CD's are distributed to the Entities and Brčko Distrikt during the meetings of the Steering committee and are supposed to be forwarded either as copied CD or in hardcopy to the secondary veterinary administrations. Taking under consideration, that only four out of seventeen colleagues received the provided material, change for better are recommendable.

2. Twinning website:

As soon as project started it was clear that there is need for making all the materials and reports widely available. At begging it was agreed between SVO and the project that this would be done under SVO's web page since project is part of the office. As project progressed more and more material was produced and Twinning part of the project developed. At the moment update of the web page is job of a RTA assistant but it proved to be quite a large amount of work and more work on it is needed in order to keep it up to date and well structured. Generally web site is very important, this is only place where project can present its products, activates and any thing else that is related to project and veterinary field. Updating solutions, availability of materials and options of veterinarians in field to check this web site should be more discussed

3. Presentations, seminars and workshops:

Fortunately 80% of the interviewees participated at presentations of expert recommendations, seminars and workshops. Unfortunately 20% never received any invitation to such events. The invitations for the events are issued by the SVO and the project has no further influence on the selection procedure. Anyhow the planned events are published on the Twinning website under submenu "News".

4. Further training:

Most effective way of training for the interviewees are practical and simulation exercise, followed by seminars and workshops. In July 2007 the Twinning Project organised the first simulation exercise for CSF, and already during the exercise it was observable, that the participants did appreciate the training days. Hopefully, there will be enough time to finish the project with another simulation exercise.

Seminars and workshops will be the training method for the second year of the project. Smaller groups will be able to work closely together with the German experts and develop guidelines to support not only their daily working live, but enhance their understanding of the EU Veterinary legislation.

5. Recommendations from the interviewees:

1.) Wider circle of veterinarians should be introduced to the project.

According to the Twinning contract, the SVO is in charge for issuing of invitations. The invitations for the planned activities will be forwarded to the Entities and Brčko Distrikt.

The Entities and Brčko Distrikt are forwarding the invitations in there own responsibility.

2.) Project should organize HACCP control training.

In total three workshops regarding control of HACCP programmes in food processing establishments will be organised.

3.) Project should focus on lower number of activities, which would guarantee efficiency.

Unfortunately already in the Project Fiche the number of components were determined.

After the approval of the project, changes cannot be made.

4.) Recommendations should be followed by people in charge of implementation.

Yes!

5.) Organization of German Veterinary Service could be so well applied here.

For sure both systems seems to be quite alike, but anyhow every country will have to apply there own Veterinary Service according to the predetermined conditions. Without

a question is, that the German experts will be happy to support BiH as much as possible on their way to a working veterinary system.

6.) Project has top experts.

Thanks!

7.) Workshops and training are excellent and should be more intensive towards the end.

Again thanks and yes they will.

8.) Bad side, that it is limited to two years.

Yes.

4. General Remarks Concerning the Project:

(without direct relevance for the mission)

The atmosphere at the Veterinary Congress was friendly, open and cooperative. The German experts would like to thank the organisation of the Veterinary Congress for the opportunity to participate at the event.

Name:

Dr. Eberhard Haunhorst

Signature

Name:

Dr. Matthias Kramer

Signature

Name:

Dr. Norbert Rehm

Signature

Name:

Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer

Signature

5. Annex

Annex 1:

Veterinary Congress

Presentation: How do institutions and other bodies of the EU work?
Legislation and Implementation

Presentation: A new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union
(2007-2013) where "Prevention is better than cure"

Presentation: Food and Feed safety in the European Union and
in Third Countries

Annex 2:

Intermediate Workshop

Presentation: Presentation of the Project Plan

Presentation: Analysis of the project progress

Evealuation/Questionnaire