

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
ABP	Animal By-product Management
BC	Beneficiary Country
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization
CA	Competent Authority (hereinafter Veterinary Directorate/VD)
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CFCU	Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EEC	European Economic Community
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
EUD	The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
FBO	Food business operators
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPARD	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development
ISP	Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia (2014-2020)
IT	Information Technology
MAEP	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MS	Member State
NAD	National priorities for international assistance (2014-2017 with projections until 2020)
NPAA	National Plan for the Adoption of the <i>Acquis</i>
OG	Official Gazette
PL	Project Leader
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RS	Republic of Serbia
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SEIO	Serbian European Integration Office
SPO	Senior Program Officer
STEs	Short Term Experts
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
ToT	Training of Trainers
VD	Veterinary Directorate
VTEC	Verocytotoxin Producing Escherichia Coly
WTO	World Trade Organization

STANDARD TWINNING PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

1.1 **Publication reference notice:** EuropeAid/ 137-557/IH/ACT/RS

1.2 **Program:** National program for Serbia under the IPA – Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013

1.3 **Twinning Number:** SR 13 IB AG 01

1.3 **Title:** Enhancing the capacities of the Serbian authorities in zoonoses and food borne disease control

1.4 **Sector:** Agriculture and Rural Development

1.5 **Beneficiary country:** Republic of Serbia

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

Modernisation of agriculture and development of a vibrant rural sector, as well as achieving progress in transposition of the EU acquis and alignment with the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) principles and objectives.

2.2 Project purpose:

To enhance food safety and disease control systems in the Republic of Serbia, by improving management of zoonotic animal diseases, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance and further alignment with EU requirements, through harmonization of legal framework and strengthening of institutional and professional capacities.

2.3 Contribution to National Development Plan / Cooperation agreement / Association Agreement/Action Plan

The attainment of results proposed under this project will contribute to the fulfillment of multiple priorities defined in the strategic documents.

European Partnership with Serbia of 18 February 2008 (2008/213/EC)

The development of documents (Strategy, Action Plan, draft legislation, Guidelines, Rulebooks, Protocols etc.) proposed in the activities through which Result 1 is to be achieved as well as conducting of trainings related to the Result 2 of the project proposal, will have a significant impact on fulfillment of both short-term and medium-term objectives as defined in

the European Partnership with Serbia. Namely the administrative capacity of the Competent Authority/Veterinary Directorate will be strengthened and legislative base will be enhanced in terms of alignment with the *acquis* as well as enforcement and control, which will in mid-term produce a positive impact on the continuous process of improving the relevant legislation and strengthening the Veterinary Directorate's capacity.

EPS project relevant priorities:

- 1. Short term priorities** (defined for the period of one to two years) - **European standards, Section Sectoral policies – Agriculture:**
 - Strengthen the administrative capacity needed to formulate and implement agricultural and rural development policy
 - Update legislation and strengthen implementation and controls in the areas of food safety and veterinary and phytosanitary issues
 - Expand animal identification and registration to all relevant species
 - Continue to upgrade veterinary, phytosanitary, wine and sanitary laboratories, inspectorates and controls at external borders

- 2. Medium-term priorities** (defined for the period of three to four years) - **European standards, Section Sectoral policies – Agriculture:**
 - Continue efforts to strengthen administrative structures and capacity needed to formulate and implement agricultural and rural development policies
 - Continue strengthening veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety legislation and controls
 - Improve waste management and reduce agricultural pollution
 - Continue to upgrade food-processing establishments to meet EU requirements

Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)

When it comes to Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) this project will contribute to the cooperation of the signatories in the veterinary domain, with the particular aim at Serbia's attainment of community sanitary requirements and gradual approximation of Serbian legislation and practices to the Community rules and standards. The accomplishment of these objectives, which directly stem from the provisions of SAA, is closely linked to the alignment of the strategic and legal framework in the relevant area as well as improvement of professional capacity of competent authorities. This project aims at supporting efforts of Serbia to reach best EU practices and standards by supporting the relevant competent authorities and stakeholders in strengthening the strategic and legal framework (development of Strategy, Action Plans, pieces of legislation, Guidelines, Rulebooks, Protocols etc. in line with EU requirements), providing trainings to the experts in order to capacitate them to implement and enforce relevant standards and regulation, and raising awareness amongst FBOs on the relevant subjects.

The Article 97 of the Stabilization and Association Agreement stipulates that cooperation between the parties shall be developed in all priority areas related to the EU *acquis* in the field of agriculture, as well as veterinary and phytosanitary domains. Cooperation shall notably aim at modernizing and restructuring the agriculture and agro-industrial sector, in particular to reach community sanitary requirements, to improve water management and rural

development as well as to develop the forestry sector in Serbia and at supporting the gradual approximation of Serbian legislation and practices to the Community rules and standards.

EC Progress report Serbia 2014 section 4.12, Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy states:

As for **food safety rules and specific rules for feed**, the Law on Animal Medicine and Medical Devices is not fully in line with the *acquis*. Further efforts are needed in the area of specific food safety rules. A Rulebook on the Quality of Feed was adopted in March 2014. It sets, further to the crisis last year, the maximum level of allowed aflatoxin in feed and milk to 0.25 micrograms per kilogram, which is not in line with the *acquis*. Amendments to the Food Safety Law are still pending, notably to address the lack of a well-established national reference laboratory.

In the field of **veterinary policy**, the downward trend in cases of rabies continued, with only one case notified this year until August. No cases of classical swine fever were detected. The annual animal health control program was published in February 2014. The implementation of animal welfare legislation needs to be improved. A new instruction on the method and procedures regarding the bovine movement control system has been adopted. New rulebooks on the identification and registration of bovine, sheep and goats, swine and equidae have yet to be adopted.

Conclusion:

There has been limited progress in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy. The administrative capacity of the national reference laboratories needs to be significantly strengthened. A program for upgrading agri-food establishments remains to be adopted and the GMO legislation to be aligned. Overall, in the areas of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, Serbia remains moderately advanced.”

By developing the Strategy and Action Plan for the transposition of relevant EU legislative, drafting the defined national legislative, developing and signing cooperation Protocol etc. (envisaged by the activities proposed under the Result 1) and providing the other Competent Authorities¹ professionals with the necessary trainings related to the implementation and enforcement of standards and regulations (activities under the Result 2) in the area of zoonoses, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance, a push towards the improvement of situation in certain areas, in which the current state of play is identified as unsatisfactory, will be made.

National priorities for international assistance (NAD) 2014-2017 with projections until 2020

The project will assist in the achievement of Agriculture and Rural development Sector **Priority 4: Improving standards and systems for food safety, plant health, animal health and welfare (with ref. to alignment with the acquis)**.

This project will directly support the attainment of the Agriculture and Rural development Sector **Priority 4, Measure 4.1 Building standards and capacity for veterinary services, animal health and welfare:** „This measure will focus on the completion of alignment with EU *acquis* in the area of veterinary and animal health. It will provide support to the Veterinary Directorate in determining potential gaps in procedures for official controls in food

¹ Other competent authorities: Ministry of Health, Public Health Institutes, Veterinary Institutes

and feed and strengthening system for animal feed controls. Taking into account the priorities foreseen under the NPAA the focus on alignment will be with regards to improvement of animal welfare standards. Awareness raising and educational campaigns will be conducted for farmers. Financed will be the programs for eradication and control of animal diseases and Veterinary Medical Products control”.

This project will thoroughly contribute to the achievement of the above mentioned NAD priorities by introducing improved standards and good practices already in use in the EU, raising the professional capacity of the Veterinary Directorate as well as improving overall awareness of food business operators in relation to the management of zoonotic and food borne disease control and antimicrobial resistance.

Link with national / sectoral plans

The Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia 2014-2024 identifies objectives of agricultural policy and the following are particularly addressed by this project:

- To increase the wealth of the nation through an efficient agricultural sector, producing products that are internationally competitive in terms of quality and price.
- **To ensure that the food provided to Serbian consumers meets acceptable standards of quality and safety.**
- To prepare Serbia's agricultural sector for accession to the EU.

Project will directly contribute to the fulfillment of these strategic goals by attaining the results defined by the project proposal. Improved capacity of the other Competent Authorities to apply standards and enforce regulations as well to perform controls of zoonotic and food borne diseases will improve the situation relating to quality and safety of food products thus making them more competitive in terms of quality and price which will by large contribute to preparation of Serbia’s agricultural sector for accession to the EU.

The National Plan for the Adoption of the *Acquis* (NPAA) from July 2014

One of the measures planned for the period 2014 - 2018 is to strengthen the institutional and administrative capacities in terms of qualification for full implementation of all EU regulations governing animal welfare.

It is also stated that it is necessary to intensify the dialogue with industry and other stakeholders for further information about their obligations regarding the implementation of EU legislation in the field of animal welfare.

NPAA, page 338, envisages the following:

The Veterinary Directorate is supposed to prepare a multi-annual plan and annual plans for official controls and to implement comprehensive, routine official control activities, but also to carry out monitoring of food and feed safety, antimicrobial resistance, borders control program and monitoring of zoonotic diseases and food-borne diseases.

The following measures are envisaged for the implementation of priorities defined in the NPAA: strengthening human resource capacity, upgrading the information system and training inspectors to work on software applications; adopting a strategy for the improvement of facilities for production of food of animal origin for producers to comply with the EU requirements; adoption of a strategy for the management of by-products of animal origin, in

order to align the national system for their collection, processing, use, and/or destruction with the EU requirements; organization of training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare.

NPAA also foresees further harmonization with the EU *acquis* in the food safety area, which is also in accordance with the priorities of the European Partnership, for the Agriculture sector. The legislation covering veterinary matters in preparation is listed in Chapter 3.12 of the NPAA which contains a schedule for the adoption of these acts.

Based on the **Food Safety Law**, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP), together with the Ministry of Health (MoH), is responsible for drafting legislation and supporting rules to be adopted in order to align domestic legal framework with the latest EU regulations in the zoonoses, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In the following few years, Serbia has to establish system for the monitoring and collection of information on zoonoses based Directive 2003/99/EC, which obliges the Member States of the European Union (EU) to collect data on the occurrence of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance, animal populations and food-borne outbreaks. National authorities should enhance capacities in order to regularly prepare and publish zoonoses country reports to be used as a basis for the EFSA and ECDC European Union Summary Reports on Trends and Sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks. The national report should include information regarding animals, food, feeding stuffs and food-borne outbreaks and should cover both zoonoses that are important for the public health as well as zoonoses, which are relevant on the basis of the national epidemiological situation.

Some of the activities of this project stand in direct connection with the priorities defined in the NPAA, and their completion will to a large extent contribute to the fulfillment of NPAA goals. The Gap analyses which will be conducted in the cooperation with the chosen twinning partner will identify the inconsistencies between Serbian legal framework and the EU *acquis* in the relevant area. When conducting the Gap analyses the NPAA and relevant priorities defined in the document will be taken into account.

Consequently, and after the performance of the Gap analyses, parts of the EU legislation that are envisaged by the NPAA as a priority when it comes to harmonization will be drafted with the support of this project.

Last but not least, the development of Guidelines titled “Investigation of food borne diseases and its suspicion”, and provision of adequate trainings (activities under Result 2) to the relevant staff of the competent authorities corresponds directly to the objectives defined in the NPAA.

In conclusion it should be stated that all the other activities proposed by this project have larger or smaller relevance for the said objectives, as they will all to an extent contribute to the overall alignment with the EU *Acquis* in the Veterinary sector.

Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia 2014-2020 (ISP) Section 8. Agriculture and rural development

ISP, Section 8.1. Needs and capacities in the sector states that improved implementation and further alignment of legislation and control standards is required in the areas of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy and animal health.

In the Section 8.2. Objectives, results, actions and indicators it is stated that the objective of EU assistance is to support gradual alignment of the Serbian agricultural policy with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to contribute to a competitive, sustainable and efficient agriculture sector while maintaining vibrant rural communities, and to improve food safety, resilience to climate change impacts, and implementation of EU compliant veterinary and

phytosanitary standards. Among the expected **results** are the following, relevant for the project:

- Food safety is improved in line with the EU standards
- Veterinary and phytosanitary services and controls are implemented in line with the EU requirements

Furthermore it is stated that further legal harmonization and capacity building will be supported in the areas of agriculture and rural development policy, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary services and controls as well as plant and animal health.

The achievements of project results will produce a substantial impact in the veterinary sector and represent a big step towards the fulfillment of ISP results relevant for the project (see above). By developing the necessary legal acts, rulebooks, guidelines, plans and protocols (Result 1), providing trainings regarding animal disease control standards and best practices (Result 2) and conducting awareness raising campaign (Result 3), food safety as well as control procedures implemented by the Veterinary services will be improved in line with EU requirements.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

The Republic of Serbia has started to transpose and implement the provisions of the EU *acquis* relevant to Animal Disease Control, Animal Welfare and Food Safety. Relevant secondary legislation is currently being prepared for adoption by the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. However, it is necessary to ensure that further harmonization goes according to the plan, as well as to ensure appropriate training, awareness raising and proper enforcement of the regulations and control of their implementation by the Veterinary Directorate and other Competent Authorities.

Although a big part of EU legislation and many procedures have been transposed into rules and guidelines for all participants in the Serbian agri-food chain, legislative and administrative changes alone does not guarantee proper implementation of the EU veterinary and phytosanitary *acquis*. The implementation of regulations with the rigour and expertise needed for them to function requires appropriate institutional set-up, effective organization, and sufficient time to build up necessary expertise.

Support in the field of Animal health remains a priority for Serbia and should be addressed through continuation of support to the Veterinary Directorate in policy and strategy development, and strengthening the capacity within the veterinary services, including both human and technical resources to implement effective and efficient disease control and eradication measures for zoonoses.

Zoonoses are transmissible between animals and humans in a variety of ways, but depending on the way an infectious disease can be transmitted, there are two groups of zoonoses, regulated in EU:

- 1) Food-borne zoonotic diseases (Campylobacter, Salmonella, E. coli, Parasites in food, BSE)
- 2) Non-food borne zoonotic diseases (Vector-borne diseases, Avian Influenza, Q fever, and MRSA, Rabies)

Through provision of support in this area, substantial improvements of animal health in Serbia and surrounding countries will be obtained, thus creating improved prospects for trade of agricultural products. The long-term objective to be accomplished is to prevent, control or eradicate zoonoses in Serbia and to acquire and maintain the disease free status.

In order to provide a high level of public health/consumer protection with regard to food safety, the European Community has introduced a system for integrated monitoring of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and related antimicrobial resistance to ensure that food-borne outbreaks receive proper epidemiological investigation. All Member States (MS) are required to collect evaluate and report data to the European Commission each year. The essential goal regarding implementation of this system is based on harmonization of procedures between MS, but Serbia is still not able to exchange information with EU Commission and Member States. National surveillance and monitoring programmes for certain zoonotic and food-borne pathogens and the system of official controls are in place. Also, food business operators are obliged to implement a hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) system. However, the proposed programme of official controls is still not fully harmonized with EU legislation and there is no structured database on the occurrence/prevalence of some pathogens (e.g. Salmonella, Campylobacter, Yersinia and VTEC).

The basic law in Serbia on food safety is the Food Safety Law (OG RS, No 41/2009), which lays down a general overview and requirements on food and feed safety. The fundamental law on Veterinary issues is the Law on Veterinary Matters (OG RS, No 91/2005) as amended in 2010 (OG 30/2010).

Legislation in the field of zoonotic diseases is in line with EU requirements only partially, but there are several key regulations to be transposed and adopted: Directive 2003/99/EC and additional legislation, which is indirectly connected with zoonotic tasks: Regulation (EC) No 200/2010, Regulation (EC) No 2009/213/EC, Decision 2006/668/EC, Commission Decision 2008/55/EC etc. The definite needs when it comes to alignment of legal framework will be determined after the development of Gap analyses in the cooperation with the MS twinning partner. Also, there are specific EU demands when it comes to sampling, collecting data, monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and submitting relevant information to EU, which will be prepared during the course of this project.

In the area of Food safety, the basic legal framework in the EU is provided by Regulation 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down the general principles and requirements for food, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. Following Regulation 178/2002, the EU legal framework on food safety has been enhanced with the adoption of the “Food Hygiene Package” (Regulation 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, Regulation 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, Regulation 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin, Regulation 882/2004 on official controls and further Regulations on transitional and implementing measures).

The purpose of the project proposed under this twinning fiche is to strengthen institutional and professional capacities of the relevant Serbian authorities (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Public Health Institutes, Veterinary Institutes), coordinated by Veterinary directorate of the MAEP to make a step further when it comes to alignment with the EU legislation through harmonization of legal framework, and to enforce and oversee implementation of the Serbian Food Safety Law and the Law on Veterinary Matters, particularly in regards to zoonosis and food borne disease control, and antimicrobial resistance.

The above mentioned will be achieved by means of development of Gap analyses aimed at identifying inconsistencies between the Serbian legal framework and the EU *acquis* in the relevant area. In the aftermath the Strategy and Action Plan for harmonization of national legal framework in the area of zoonoses and food borne diseases and AMR will be developed. One of the cornerstones of this Project is the development of legislation that has been previously identified in the Gap analyses and included in the said Strategy and Action Plan. Namely the drafted pieces of new legislation will represent one of the most significant outputs of this project, strongly contributing to the harmonization process. In addition monitoring and control plans, guidelines and protocols will be developed which will transpose clearly defined standards and procedures when it comes to control of zoonoses and food borne diseases and AMR as well as establish legal basis for cooperation and coordination between various competent authorities.

In each area of prevention and control of zoonoses: review and upgrade of legislation, official control planning, coordination of other Competent Authorities and stakeholders, annual monitoring, collection of data, analysis of risk factors, recommendations and advice on reduction measures, reporting and networking assistance and expertise is required in order to undertake a range of activities including:

- Needs assessment (including for risk assessment and agent identification)
- Development of standards and regulations
- Training of professionals, and other stakeholders
- Assistance in designing publicity campaigns.

In order to align Serbian legal framework with the EU *acquis* in the area of zoonoses, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) it is required for the substantial amount of, constantly developing and updating, EU legislation to be transposed, including but not limited to the legislation listed in Annex II.

Secondly, by providing trainings to the staff of competent authorities, their capacity to implement the relevant laws (Law on Veterinary Matters, Food Safety Law and pertaining by-laws) and the abovementioned documents (strategic and legal framework which is to be developed by this project) will be increased and that will result in the enhanced implementation of control, monitoring, sampling and other relevant procedures in the area of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR in accordance with the EU requirements.

Capacity building of the other competent authorities will be designed in a coherent and complementary manner so to achieve synergistic effects and a coordinated approach to the development of policy, regulations, operating procedures, and guidelines.

Last but not the least, by conducting an awareness raising campaign and training program on the importance of control program of zoonoses amongst the FBOs and by disseminating informational materials (operation manuals, booklets and guidelines explaining the standards and manner of meeting standards) to general public and relevant stakeholders respectively, the project will provide information necessary to improve the precautionary measures and overall bio-security situation on the farms thus significantly reducing the risk of animal and other food born diseases outbreaks.

The institutional framework will be improved by preparing for adoption the Protocol on cooperation between veterinary and public health authorities (Veterinary Directorate from MAEP, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia and Public health institutes in the Republic of Serbia...), that will institutionalize the cooperation between the said authorities in

the areas of mutual interest and competency. So far the cooperation was not institutionalized and defined by a formal document.

All these components will produce important positive effects on the overall food safety in Serbia which will bring about betterment of the situation when it comes to competitiveness of Serbian agri-food products and export performances.

The Veterinary Directorate and other authorities need support to build the necessary capacity to prepare and adopt a National Program for improvement of the management of zoonotic diseases control.

Apart from Veterinary Directorate, the other institutions taking part in the project will be the Ministry of Health and Public Health Institutes. Their representatives will actively participate in working group that will be engaged in drafting legislation identified by the Gap analyses. Apart from that, the staff from the said institutions will receive trainings provided by this project.

Veterinary Stations and Veterinary Laboratories will also participate in the working groups for the alignment of necessary legislation and the training programme.

FBOs and other stakeholders will be involved in the project, primarily as a target group of the Awareness raising campaign.

As defined in Regulation (EC No. 178/2002) food business operators (FBO) are natural or legal persons responsible for ensuring that the requirements of Food Law are met within the food business under their control. The said Regulation (EC No. 178/2002) has been transposed to national legislation so the same definition of FBOs can be found in the Serbian Food Safety Law (*Official Gazette* RS No. 41/2009).

The project will result in improvement of the systems for control of zoonoses and food borne diseases and enable the alignment with the EU acquis. Furthermore it will contribute to capacity building of the authorities responsible for the monitoring of zoonoses, and of the laboratories at central level (Food Microbiological National Reference Laboratory). It will also improve animal and human health through eradication of diseases and/or better control of zoonoses and food borne diseases (Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria, Verocytotoxigenic Escherichia coli, Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Trichinosis, Q fever, West Nile, parasitic and viral diseases, and Antimicrobial resistance).

The project partly represents continuation of activities referenced to previous IPA 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012 projects. It will continuously improve the animal health status in Serbia and consequently in the region with regards to the Classical Swine Fever and Rabies.

3.2 Linked activities (other international and national initiatives):

The Ministry in charge of agriculture with assistance provided through the EU funded projects (twinning and technical assistance) and general training programs (TAIEX, BTSF), has been working on several priorities, including: improvement of the food safety through gradual alignment of the veterinary and phytosanitary legislation with the EU requirements; upgrading of Serbia's food laboratories and establishing a national animal identification system. Reform of the veterinary sector is ongoing and a number of laws and regulations have already been adopted.

Since 2001 the EU has supported various activities of the Ministry in charge of agriculture with respect to institutional reform; strengthening the laboratory system through supply of equipment and technical assistance; supporting reform and strengthening of the veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary inspectorates; improving inspection facilities at external borders;

strengthening organizational and managerial capacities (objective-setting, budgeting, planning, etc); upgrading analytical and strategic planning and evaluation capacities; strengthening the protection of plant, animal and public health and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry in charge of agriculture in aligning regulations with the EU acquis. Activities of the previously implemented EU funded projects focused on capacity building issues, drafting of primary and secondary legislative acts, and providing equipment for the Ministry in charge of agriculture, thus creating favorable conditions for further improvement and implementation of food safety and animal welfare legislation.

IPA 2008 “Support for the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia” project was implemented from 2010 to 2012 with two main objectives: 1) to eradicate sylvatic rabies from the fox population on the entire territory of Serbia and 2) to eradicate classical swine fever from the swine population on the entire territory of Republic of Serbia. This project had a very important impact on the animal health status in Serbia, namely for rabies which was significantly reduced from more than 200 cases before project implementation to just a few after 5 years.

IPA 2011 project “Support to food safety, animal welfare and control/eradication of classical swine fever and rabies“ consisted of a twinning project “The capacity building in the areas of food safety and animal welfare” and procurement of laboratory equipment and reagents for the control, supervision and monitoring of contagious diseases of animals. The implementation of the project began in 2012 and ended in 2014. Mandatory results of the project included alignment of national requirements on food and feed safety and animal welfare in line with EU legislation. The Food Safety component was focused on analysis and assessment of needs of the food and feed supply systems and regulatory framework for the implementation of food safety legislation, updating of standards and regulations, as well as the development of guidelines and procedures using the best practices of the EU Member States. Necessary assistance was provided for the development of inspection and audit capacities, including initial practical exercises on the assessment of the structure and prerequisite programs of food and feed establishments.

The project foresaw a wide range of trainings for the improvement of the professional capacities of the inspectors.

The Twinning project IPA 2012 “Capacity Building for Upgrading of Food establishments and Animal By-Product Management“ consists of four components: development of a National Strategy for upgrading food processing establishments and animal by-products Management (ABP); improvement of facilities for milk and meat production; enhancement of ABP management and awareness raising. The project started in 2014 and is currently being implemented. The finalization of the project is planned for 2016. Indirectly, project is linked with prevention and control of zoonoses, namely because of better implementation of hygiene rule in higher categorized establishments and better management of ABP, which impose risk of animal and zoonotic disease spreading.

IPA 2012 project “Continuation of support to control/eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia” project comprises 3 supply tenders and one service contract which represents a continuing effort to reduce incidence of Rabies and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) with consequent potential for the improvement in the quality of livestock and processing establishments. The following supply tenders have been conducted: supply tender for purchase of vaccines for oral vaccination of wild carnivores, supply tender for purchase of vaccines against CSF for vaccination in the case of outbreaks of CSF and

supply tender for purchase of diagnostics and laboratory investigation supplies, surveillance and IT equipment and equipment/other items for improvement of biosecurity measures on pig farms/holdings. The important measure of the project is “Capacity building for development of the National Animal Disease Compensation Fund and other services”. The idea is to develop the Compensation Fund for CSF and other exotic or trans-boundary animal diseases. The project is currently in the implementation phase. The deadline for implementation is year 2016.

3.3 Results

Result 1: The strategic, institutional and legal framework for detection, surveillance, prevention, control and reporting on zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR defined and developed in compliance with EU requirements

Indicators for result 1:

- Gap analyses of the relevant legislation performed
- Strategy and Action Plan for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR developed (in accordance with the Gap analyses) and approved by the MAEP
- Relevant legislation transposing the EU acquis, as defined in the Strategy and Action Plan, drafted and prepared for the adoption
- Monitoring plans for zoonotic agents and monitoring program on antimicrobial resistance developed
- Guidelines “Investigation of food borne diseases and its suspicion” prepared
- Protocol for designing of National zoonoses country reports developed
- Guidelines for the implementation of data collection system according to the EU system for the monitoring and collection of information on zoonoses developed
- Protocol on cooperation between Veterinary Directorate and public health authorities in the field of zoonoses prepared for adoption

Result 2: Improved professional capacity of the competent authorities to implement and enforce standards and regulations on zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR control

Indicators for result 2:

- Training needs assessment, corresponding training program and training material for the field of zoonosis prevention and control (Chapter 12, Title 2 – Veterinary, Chapter 4, segment X: zoonoses) developed with minimum 10 full day trainings envisaged in the program
- At least 100 staff of the competent authorities (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes) and veterinary and public health laboratories engaged for testing of zoonotic agents trained to implement and enforce standards and regulations
- At least 50 experts, from relevant institutions (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes, Veterinary and Public Health laboratories), trained for further delivery of expertise (ToT) on zoonosis, food borne diseases and AMR, data collection and report preparation
- At least 50 official veterinarians (from the Veterinary directorate), 50 stakeholders (FBOs, farmers etc.) and 50 experts of public health authorities trained on the monitoring of zoonoses

- At least 50 professionals from Veterinary and Public Health laboratories trained on the antimicrobiological resistance (AMR) and sampling program

Result 3: Awareness amongst the stakeholders and general public on the problem of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR (control activities, prevention, EU standards and requirements etc.) increased

Indicators for result 3:

- Awareness raising plan on the zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR developed
- At least one awareness raising campaign on control of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR carried out according to previously developed plan
- Promotion material, leaflets, manuals, booklets and guidelines developed, printed and appropriately distributed to relevant institutions and stakeholders

3.4 Activities:

The below activities are the minimum indicative requirements to achieve the above results. The MS twinning partner candidates will take this into account when developing their implementation methodology, based on their own and other relevant MS best practice in order to sustainably achieve the above results. In their proposals, candidates are encouraged to propose additional or modify given indicative activities.

Activities related to result 1:

- Conduct Gap analyses of the relevant legislation
- Develop the Strategy for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR in accordance with the Gap analyses
- Develop an Action plan for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR in accordance with the Gap analyses and Strategy
- Draft relevant legislation transposing the EU acquis as defined in the Strategy and Action plan
- Develop Monitoring plans for zoonotic agents and monitoring program on AMR
- Prepare Guidelines "Investigation of food borne diseases and their suspicion"
- Develop Protocol for designing of National zoonoses country reports
- Develop Guidelines for the implementation of data collection system according to EU system for the monitoring and collection of information on zoonoses
- Prepare the Protocol on cooperation between Veterinary Directorate and Public Health Authorities in the field of zoonoses

Activities related to result 2:

- Conduct Training needs assessment for the field of zoonosis prevention and control
- Develop a Training program in accordance with the developed TNA
- Train staff of the competent authorities (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes) and veterinary and public health laboratories engaged in testing of zoonotic agents to implement and enforce standards and regulations

- Train experts from relevant institutions (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes, Veterinary and Public Health laboratories) for further delivery of expertise (ToT) on zoonosis, food borne diseases and AMR, data collection and report preparation
- Train official veterinarians from the Veterinary directorate, stakeholders (FBOs, farmers etc.) and experts of public health authorities on the monitoring of zoonoses
- Train professionals from Veterinary and Public Health laboratories on the AMR and sampling program

Activities related to result 3:

- Develop an Awareness raising plan on the zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR
- Implement the awareness raising campaign on control of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR
- Develop, print and distribute promotion material, leaflets, manuals, booklets and guidelines to relevant institutions and stakeholders

At least two major visibility events with not less than 30 participants will be organized in the course of the implementation of the project: Kick-off meeting at the start of the implementation process and the Final conference at the end of project implementation activities. The MS will propose additional visibility activities as stand-alone events or associated with training, workshops or similar.

3.5 Means/ Input from the MS Partner Administration

The Project Leader (PL) and the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) shall provide support to the responsible Serbian authorities in strengthening their capacities as well as in the implementation of this project.

During the implementation of this project, the RTA will be positioned in the Veterinary directorate of MAEP.

3.5.1 Profile and tasks of the Project Leader

MS Project Leader:

The MS PL will manage the project team of selected member state(s) experts and supervise and co-ordinate the implementation of project activities.

PL tasks:

- Overall management and coordination of the project with MS, MAEP, VD, key institutions, other partners and stakeholders
- Project reporting
- Ensuring backstopping and financial management of the project in the MS
- Ensuring timely, effective and efficient implementation of the project and achievement of results, through proposed activities
- Coordination of deployment of short-term experts
- Coordination (with the MS RTA) of the Project Steering Committee

- meetings
- Participation at the Steering Committee meetings (every three months)
- Assuring compatibility with EU requirements

PL profile:

Requirements:

- University degree
- High-ranking official/senior civil servant
- Experience in management of at least 2 projects in the field relevant for this project
- At least 10 years of professional experience in an EU MS administration in the veterinary field
- Fluency in English
- Computer literacy

Assets:

- Experience with twinning rules and procedures
- Experience with the relevant EU regulations regarding zoonosis and food borne diseases

3.5.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA

The Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) works on a daily basis with the BC staff to implement project, support and coordinate activities in the beneficiary country.

The RTA should have adequate experience and knowledge in the field of management of zoonotic disease controls which will enable him/her to organize interdisciplinary team for successful implementation of the project. He/she should be an employee of the governmental competent authority for food safety (Ministry or Agency) in an EU Member State.

RTA tasks:

- Responsible for monitoring project implementation and proposing corrective management actions if required
- Support and coordination of all project activities in BC in line with the agreed work program to enable timely completion of project results and delivery of the outputs
- Advise on related EU policies and best practices, legislation and regulations
- Establish and maintain cooperation with all beneficiaries involved in the implementation of the project and other related projects (ensuring the avoidance of overlapping), in close co-ordination with the Project Leader
- Nomination, mobilization and supervision of the short-term experts, together with the Project Leader
- Facilitation of the contacts with peer institutions in EU member states in order to stimulate a proper exchange of information and data
- Organization of visibility events (kick-off and final event)
- Responsible for organization of the Project Steering Committee meetings and reporting on the project progress in close cooperation with the Project leader

- Identifying and reporting to the Contracting authority, at early stage, all difficulties that may jeopardize the implementation of the project and the achievement of its results

RTA profile:

Requirements:

- University degree in veterinary medicine/food science
- Senior civil servant with at least 3 years working experience in governmental competent authority (Ministry or Agency) in EU Member State responsible for veterinary issues/food safety;
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under twinning manual 5.4.5
- Experience in the preparation and/or implementation of the EU *acquis* in some of the following fields: food safety, animal health, animal welfare, veterinary public health
- Fluency in English
- Computer literacy

Assets:

- Experience with twinning rules and procedures
- Experience in at least one project of similar technical and legal assistance assignments in the fields relevant to this project

3.5.3 Profile and tasks of the short-term experts

The twinning partners will decide on the profile, number and involvement of STEs during the drafting of the project work plan. There should be a pool of STEs to ensure smooth implementation of the project during the overall implementation period. STEs should be identified by the Project Leader/RTA and have to be agreed with the beneficiary administration in the course of designing and delivery of the project. Team of short-term experts should be mobilized according to agreed work plan. Detailed profiles and tasks of short-term experts will be provided in the Twinning Work Plan.

STEs tasks:

STEs will provide specialized know-how for the individual tasks in this project. Therefore, the raft of experts should have a relevant professional experience in MS administration and minimum qualifications required, as well as specific skills needed for individual task. As a general approach, the STEs will take the responsibility for the implementation of the project and the achievement of the results, each for his/her individual mission tasks and prepare the required reports. They shall provide long-standing experience in all fields relevant for the project. Detailed profiles and tasks of short term experts, including the duration of their assignments will be provided in the Twinning Work Plan.

Minimum indicative requirements for STEs are:

- University degree, preferably in veterinary medicine/food science or other fields relevant to this project
- At least 3 years of professional working experience in Member state public administration or mandated body covering, at least one of the following areas of expertise: Zoonosis control program; Food borne disease control program; Animal health; Veterinary legislation, zoonoses and AMR control programs, Veterinary public health, data collection and reporting in the field of zoonoses; Public awareness raising issues
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under twinning manual 5.4.5
- Fluency in English
- Computer literacy

Assets:

- Experience in development of major strategic documents and/or legal frameworks, legislation harmonization with relevant EU *Aquis*
- Experience in organization and performance of trainings and/or mentoring in the fields relevant to this project
- MSc, PhD preferred in veterinary medicine/food science
- Work experience on international projects in the fields relevant to this project

4. Institutional Framework

The project beneficiary institution is the **Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP)** and final beneficiary is **Veterinary Directorate/Division for Animal Health and Welfare**

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection performs state administration tasks related to: agriculture and food industry strategy and development policy; analysis of production and agricultural product markets; balances for agri-food products and commodity reserve system of basic agri-food products; measures of market and price policies, structural policy and land policy in agriculture; investment measures for improving agricultural production; proposal of systemic solutions and protective measures in respect of imports of agricultural products and foodstuffs; protection and use of agricultural land; production of agricultural inputs for agriculture and food industry, production and trade of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, ethanol, tobacco and tobacco products as well as foodstuffs; quality control of agricultural products and foodstuffs, wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, fruit juices and concentrated fruit juices, mineral water, ethanol, tobacco and tobacco products in domestic and international trade; rural development; agricultural cooperatives; extension services; market information system in agriculture; production, certification and quality and transport control of seed and planting material; acceptance and protection of plant varieties and domestic animal breeds; determination of eligibility, risk assessment and implementation of control measures related to biosafety in respect of limited use; introduction into production, marketing and import of genetically modified organisms;

conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture; creating conditions for access and implementation of projects within the competence of the Ministry funded by the EU IPA funds, donations and other forms of development assistance; inspection in the field of agriculture, as well as other tasks prescribed by law.

Detailed organizational structure of MAEP is provided in separate **Annex No. 3**.

Veterinary Directorate of the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

The Veterinary Directorate of the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection is responsible for: animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, ensuring the system for risk management in food production and animal trade and products of animal origin and feed, veterinary-sanitary control in production and trade of animals, products, by-products of animal origin, reproduction material and other organisms and items that can transfer an infectious disease, feed and components for producing feed, registration, approving and control of the work of facilities for feed production and safe disposal of carcasses and animal waste, as well as facilities for their processing; control of the production of and trade of veterinary medicines and medical devices for veterinary use; veterinary environmental protection; integration of the system of databases, registers and veterinary information systems; monitoring and harmonization of national veterinary regulations; performs other tasks in this field.

The Veterinary Directorate consists of the following internal units:

1. Division for animal health, welfare and traceability
2. Section for registering veterinary organisations and veterinary services
3. Division for veterinary public health
4. Division for international trade and certification
5. Section for legal and general affairs
6. Section for financial-material affairs
7. Division for veterinary inspection
8. Division for border veterinary inspection

Division for Animal Health and Welfare deals with animal health issues and performs tasks related to: participation in preparation of the long term animal health protection strategy, programs of measures for animal health protection, special programs for animal health protection when it comes to infectious diseases, program of certification of infectious disease free agricultural holdings; monitoring of implementation of abovementioned animal health protection programs; monitoring of the epizootiological situation in the Republic of Serbia and around the world; monitoring the implementation of measures for prevention of the occurrence, spreading and eradication of infectious diseases; monitoring the protection and welfare of animals and preparation of guidelines in the area of animal welfare and proper treatment of animals; prescribing veterinary sanitary conditions in quarantined areas in the facilities where animals are kept, bred and placed on the market; preparation of a program for and monitoring of the realization of marking, registration, tracking the movement of animals; management of central database of registered animals, registry for the management of the facilities in which animals are kept and bred, and management of the animal health protection information system; the establishment of a system for the certification of agricultural holdings which are free of animal infectious diseases and monitoring the implementation of the program for obtaining a Republic free of animal infectious diseases status; participation in the preparation and realization of projects in the area of animal health and welfare, evaluating the

efficiency of the system for veterinary sanitary control and proposing necessary corrective measures as well as developing procedures for introducing a quality management system in the area of animal health and welfare; performs other tasks from the named area.

Division for Animal Health and Welfare (with total of 10 employees) consists of the following internal units:

- Section for epizootiology
- Group for animal welfare
- Group for identification and traceability of animals

The Group for Identification and Traceability will provide the necessary data on the number of animals, holdings, etc. so in a way they could also be considered indirect participants in the project.

Veterinary stations

Veterinary stations and veterinary practices which were privatized during the course of the past few years are authorized to carry out specific official duties on behalf of the Veterinary Directorate, such as animal health monitoring, issuing of animal health certificates, identification of animals and support for the registration of holdings. Local Veterinary Inspectors are obliged to conduct regular checks of those veterinary stations and veterinary practices and report the findings to the Veterinary Directorate.

Other project stakeholders are, but not limited to: Ministry of health, Veterinary institutes (12), Public health institutes (25), Institute of Meat Hygiene and Technology, farmers associations, slaughterhouses, pharmaceutical industry, consumer protection organizations etc.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for the direct control and supervision of the project implementation. The PSC will be responsible for the overall quality of project implementation, provide strategic direction and ensure that the project outputs and goals are met in time, approve work plans and reports, offer guidance and advise on project activities.

The exact composition of the Steering Committee will be defined in the Twinning Contract. However, the PSC will encompass following members: BC Project Leader, MS Project Leader, RTA, RTA BC counterpart, SPO, representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programs (CFCU), representatives of the MAEP/IPA Unit, representatives of the Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) and the representatives of other key institutions involved in the project. Representatives of the EUD will be invited as observer(s). Whenever necessary, representatives of other institutions or key experts should be invited to join the Steering Committee Meetings as observers.

The role and main functions of the Project Steering Committee will be:

- to assess progress in achievement of objectives and results planned in the project
- to ensure exchange of information on implementation of contracts
- to ensure synchronization of activities within contracts
- to ensure cooperation of relevant stakeholders
- to discuss any critical points, risks or bottlenecks in contract implementation
- to propose and discuss remedies in case of problems
- to review and make recommendations on reports, submitted by the contractor

- to closely coordinate with other EU contracts related to this field and with other relevant donors' contracts to promote synergies and integration

Project will ensure the secretariat function of the Project Steering Committee, including organization of meetings, preparing and circulating the agenda, writing and distributing PSC minutes to all members. Project Steering Committee meetings should be announced at least two weeks before the actual date and any materials should be distributed one week before the meetings to the PSC members. The PSC will meet on quarterly basis and ad hoc as required and will be chaired by the BC Project Leader.

5. Budget:

The total budget for this Twinning project is EUR 1.000.000

Enhancing the capacities of the Serbian authorities in zoonoses and food borne disease control	IPA Community Contribution	National co - financing	TOTAL
Twinning contract	EUR 950.000	EUR 50.000	EUR 1.000.000

The co-financing requirement foreseen under IPA will be considered fulfilled in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Financing Agreement. The Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will provide the twinning partner with adequate office space for RTA and experts, meeting rooms and equipment necessary for relevant everyday activities and trainings foreseen within this twinning fiche.

Interpretation and translation costs are estimated up to maximum of the 7 % of the budget which will be calculated in the twinning working plan budget.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting, including contact persons and contact details

Ministry of Finance
 Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded programmes (CFCU)
 Sremska St, No. 3-5
 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Ms. Natasa Šimšić, Programme Authorising Officer (PAO)/Head of CFCU
 Phone: +381 11 20 21 -115
 E-mail: natasa.simsic@mfin.gov.rs

Mr. Darko Vasić, Quality Control Officer
 Phone: +381 11 2021 412
 E-mail: twinning@mfin.gov.rs

6.2 Main counterpart in the BC

Senior Programme Officer (SPO)

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Nemanjina St 22-26, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Ms. Milanka Davidović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation

Tel/fax: +381 (0) 11 362 0863

E-mail: m.davidovic@minpolj.gov.rs

BC Project Leader:

The BC Project Leader will manage a project team at the Serbian side and will assure that the decision makers at the national level will be informed properly on the implementation of the project. He will ensure close co-operation and overall steering and coordination of the project. He will also be responsible for drafting reports and other documents, related to project management at the Serbian side and will chair PSC meetings.

Mr. Dejan Bugarski, Director of the Veterinary Directorate

Omladinskih brigada St 1, 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Tel/fax: +381 11 2602320

E-mail: dejan.bugarski@minpolj.gov.rs

RTA Counterpart:

Mr. Budimir Plavšić, Head of the Department for Animal Health Protection Omladinskih brigada St 1, 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Tel/fax: +381 11 3131971

E-mail: budimir.plavsic@minpolj.gov.rs

6.3 Contracts

The project will be implemented through **one twinning contract**.

7. Implementation Schedule (indicative)

7.1 Launching of the call for proposals (Date): September 2015

7.2 Start of project activities (Date): May 2016

7.3 Project completion (Date): May 2018

7.4 Duration of the execution period: 24 + 3 months

8. Sustainability

The achievements of twinning project (mandatory results) shall be maintained as a permanent asset to the Beneficiary even after the completion of the project implementation.

This project will have major cross-sector significance through substantial positive impact in the area of public health, animal health, environment protection and food safety. Sustainability will be ensured through the adoption of legal framework and the establishment of the

institutional and organizational mechanisms for the implementation of the reforms in the aftermath of the project.

The mandatory results of all projects previously funded by EU and other international and national initiatives have been successfully achieved and have brought permanent and concrete benefits to MAEP and relevant institutions.

This project will build on the results achieved by previous projects and will result in drafted strategic and legal framework as well as an enhanced capacity within Veterinary Directorate to fulfill a wide range of duties. It will also provide substantial knowledge regarding the control, the sampling, analysis and reporting zoonotic diseases and adoption of relevant standards within the VD which will be valuable as Serbia seeks to improve animal and veterinary public health, consumer protection and food safety in other sectors, as well as improvement of collaboration between competent authorities and cooperation with interested parties and agriculture development.

The focus on raising capacity and awareness among stakeholders and responsible persons will have a lasting impact on control of Salmonella, Q fever and other zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance.

9. Crosscutting issues

Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the project and information will be provided in the regular reports of the Twinning Partner regarding gender participation rates in the different trainings, workshops and seminars.

Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access, regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Environment

The project directly relates to environmental issues and protection of environment, and strengthening environmental aspects of the Serbian legal framework by improving food safety, animal health and animal welfare with minimum environmental impact after proper risk assessment according to EU requirements. Those measures will strengthen awareness in respect of veterinary, health and environmental protection standards.

Minorities and vulnerable groups

There are no specific actions which are designed for minority and vulnerable groups. However, development of the awareness raising plan, improved animal health, food safety and protection of consumer health will therefore be beneficial to all citizens.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

According to the relevant Sector Fiche – IPA National Program/Component 1 for Agriculture and Rural Development in section 3.7 Assumptions and Preconditions, among else, it is stated that sufficient technical and professional capacity has to be ensured in order to carry out the defined activities. There is a sufficient number of employees for the implementation of this

project within the Veterinary Directorate and other institutions involved. There are significant human resources responsible for animal health and welfare in the Veterinary Directorate. The senior management at BC institutions will be fully involved in the development and implementation of the policies and institutional change required to deliver the project results.

Improvements in the legal and institutional framework as well as enhancement of professional capacities proposed by this project will be complementary with the results achieved by previously conducted activities in the field. This project will build on the achievements of the multi-year program of vaccination that has been implemented throughout the IPA 2008 for eradication of classical swine fever and rabies, IPA 2009 and 2011 for eradication of rabies and by IPA 2012 for eradication of classical swine fever and rabies. By capitalizing on the results of previously implemented actions a comprehensive and synergetic effect will be achieved bringing about sustainable positive effects in the subject area.

When it comes to sequencing issues, at the first instance the Gap analyses will be developed and presented to the PSC. After the approval of the proposed Gap analyses the development of harmonization Strategy and Action plan in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR would ensue. These documents represent basis for the development of drafts of necessary documents and the work on preparing draft legislation.

As regards training activities, an obligatory precondition is the development of Training Needs Assessments, which will allow the production of comprehensive, and tailor made training program for the involved stakeholders.

After the Awareness raising plan proposed under activities related to Result 3 is developed and elaborated in the cooperation with the MS twinning partner, all other activities under Result 3 will be implemented as defined by the abovementioned plan.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. ANNEX II: List of relevant national and EU laws and regulations
3. ANNEX III: Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Organigramme

ANNEX I: Logframe in Standard Format			
LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Programme name and number: IPA 2013	
Enhancing the capacities of the Serbian authorities in zoonoses and food borne disease control		Contracting period expires 3 years after the signing of the Financial Agreement	Disbursement period expires 6 years after the signing of the Financial Agreement
		Total budget: EUR 1 million	IPA budget: EUR 950,000 National budget: 50,000
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators		Sources of Verification
Modernisation of agriculture and development of a vibrant rural sector, as well as achieving progress in transposition of the EU acquis and alignment with the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) principles and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The standards and regulations, for management of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR control are in accordance with EU requirements • Improving trend in compliance with new standards and regulations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC Progress Report • Official Report of the MAEP and VD
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To enhance food safety and disease control systems in the Republic of Serbia, by improving management of zoonotic animal diseases, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance and further alignment with EU requirements, through harmonization of legal framework and strengthening of institutional and professional capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligned legislation related to management of zoonotic animal diseases, food borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance prepared for adoption by the end of project • Cooperation of Competent Authorities in the relevant field formalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinions from relevant institutions obtained by the MAEP • Official MAEP letter confirming submission of completed documentation for the Government adoption • Annual Report of the VD and MAEP • EC Progress Report • Final Project report • Protocols on cooperation between Competent Authorities signed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support by Parliament for the successful adoption of new regulations. • Sufficient commitment of Competent Authorities to strengthen cooperation.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Result 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap analyses of the relevant legislation performed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Strategy and Action Plan published on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient staff available with required level of knowledge and skills

<p>The strategic, institutional and legal framework for detection, surveillance, prevention, control and reporting on zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR defined and developed in compliance with EU requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and Action Plan for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR developed (in accordance with the Gap analyses) and approved by the MAEP • Relevant legislation transposing the EU acquis, as defined in the Strategy and Action Plan, drafted and prepared for adoption • Monitoring plans for zoonotic agents and monitoring program on antimicrobial resistance developed • Guidelines “Investigation of food borne diseases and its suspicion” prepared • Protocol for designing of National zoonoses country reports developed • Guidelines for the implementation of data collection system according to the EU system for the monitoring and collection of information on zoonoses developed • Protocol on cooperation between Veterinary Directorate, and public health authorities in the field of zoonoses prepared for adoption 	<p>www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official MAEP letter confirming submission of completed documentation for the Government adoption • Quarterly and Final Project Reports • PSC meeting minutes • Monitoring plans and monitoring program • Summary Records from meetings held between veterinary and public health authorities • Developed guidelines available on website www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs • Protocol for National country reports published on website www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs 	
<p>Result 2</p> <p>Improved professional capacity of the competent authorities to implement and enforce standards and regulations on zoonotic, food borne diseases and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs assessment and corresponding training program for the field of zoonosis prevention and control (Chapter 12, Title 2 – Veterinary, Chapter 4, segment X: Zoonoses) developed with minimum 10 trainings envisaged in the plan • At least 100 staff of the competent authorities (Veterinary Directorate, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training evaluation reports • Training attendance sheet • Quarterly and Final Project Reports • Certificates on trainings participation issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient staff available with required level of knowledge and skills • Stakeholder’s institutions interest to actively participate

AMR control	<p>Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes) and veterinary and public health laboratories engaged in testing of zoonotic agents trained to implement and enforce standards and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50 experts, from relevant institutions (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes, Veterinary and Public Health laboratories), trained for further delivery of expertise (ToT) on zoonosis, food borne diseases and AMR, data collection and report preparation • At least 50 official veterinarians (from the Veterinary directorate), 50 stakeholders (FBOs, farmers etc.) and 50 experts of public health authorities trained on the monitoring of zoonoses • At least 50 professionals from Veterinary and Public Health laboratories trained on the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and sampling program 		
<p>Result 3</p> <p>Awareness amongst the stakeholders and general public on the problem of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR (control activities, prevention, EU standards and requirements etc.) increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising plan on the problem of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR developed • At least one awareness raising campaign on control of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR carried out • Promotion material, leaflets, manuals, booklets and guidelines developed, printed and appropriately distributed to relevant institutions and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly and Final Project Reports • Awareness raising campaign report • Website www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs containing updated information on regulations (following publication in Official Gazette), frequently asked questions, guidelines, statements, leaflets, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient level of commitment of competent authorities and all key stakeholders

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media outlet 	
Activities	Means and costs	Assumptions	
Activities related to result 1			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Gap analyses of the relevant legislation Develop the Strategy for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR in accordance with the Gap analyses Develop an Action plan for the alignment of Serbian legislation in the field of zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR in accordance with the Gap analyses and Strategy Draft relevant legislation transposing the EU acquis as defined in the Strategy and Action plan Develop Monitoring plans for zoonotic agents and monitoring program on AMR Prepare Guidelines "Investigation of food borne diseases and their suspicion" Develop Protocol for designing of National zoonoses country reports Develop Guidelines for the implementation of data collection system according to EU system for the monitoring and collection of information on zoonoses Prepare the Protocol on cooperation between Veterinary Directorate and Public Health Authorities in the field of zoonoses 	Twinning contract EUR 1.000.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision by the national authorities of sufficient staff and financial resources in the national budget Sufficient commitment of BC administration Good inter-sector communication and cooperation between different stakeholders and experts 	
Activities related to result 2			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Training needs assessment for the field of zoonosis prevention and control Develop a Training program in accordance with the developed TNA Train staff of the competent authorities (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes) and veterinary and public health laboratories engaged in testing of 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision by the national authorities of sufficient staff Commitment of BC administration Good inter-sectoral communication and cooperation between different stakeholders and experts 	

<p>zoonotic agents to implement and enforce standards and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train experts from relevant institutions (Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Health, Veterinary and Public Health Institutes, Veterinary and Public Health laboratories) for further delivery of expertise (ToT) on zoonosis, food borne diseases and AMR, data collection and report preparation • Train official veterinarians from the Veterinary directorate, stakeholders (FBOs, farmers etc.) and experts of public health authorities on the monitoring of zoonoses • Train professionals from Veterinary and Public Health laboratories on the AMR and sampling program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All training arrangements performed on time
<p>Activities related to result 3</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Awareness raising plan on the zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR • Implement the awareness raising campaign on control of zoonotic, food borne diseases and AMR • Develop, print and distribute promotion material, leaflets, manuals, booklets and guidelines to relevant institutions and stakeholders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment of BC administration • Good inter-sector communication and cooperation between different stakeholders and experts

Annex II - List of relevant national and EU laws and regulations

List of relevant national legislation:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rulebook on establishing of measures for early detection, diagnostics, prevention of spreading, suppression and eradication of poultry infections caused by specific salmonella serotypes („Official Journal of Republic of Serbia”, number 7/10 and 76/2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rulebook about the way of implementation of the measures for the eradication of brucellosis in cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and dogs (OG RS No. 36/2005)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules on determining measures for early detection, diagnosis, prevention of, suppression and eradication of infectious diseases brucellosis, the method of implementation, and method of determining the status of farm brucellosis-free (OG RS No. 55/2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rulebook on laying down measures for early detection, diagnostics, prevention of spread, control and eradication of infective disease avian influenza and the methods of enforcement (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, number 7/10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rulebook on establishing the measures for early detection, diagnostics, spreading prevention, suppression, and eradication of the rabies infectious disease, and the manner of their implementation (OG RS No. 78/2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules laying down establishing measures for early detection, diagnostics, prevention of spread, control and eradication of infective disease bovine tuberculosis, methods of their enforcement, including method for establishing status of holding free of bovine tuberculosis (OG RS No 51/2009)
Rulebook on measures for the control and eradication of anthrax in animals (“Official Journal of SFRY”, no. 39/88 of 24.6.1988.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rulebook on Measures for the Prevention of Trichinella disease in animals (“Official Gazette of the FRY“no. 20/95).

List of relevant EU laws and regulations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC (Zoonoses Directive)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down the general principles and requirements of Food Law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Regulation No 1190/2012 of 12 December 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain Salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 of 10 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella serotypes in adult breeding flocks of Gallus gallus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Implementing Decision No 2013/652/EU of 12 November 2013 on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Regulation No. 1177/2006 of 1 August 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programs for the control of salmonella in poultry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Decision 2013/652/EU on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Decision 2013/653/EU as regards a Union financial aid towards a coordinated control plan for antimicrobial resistance monitoring in zoonotic agents in 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EC) No 882/04, General rules for Official Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EC) No 2075/05 Trichinella
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EC) No 2074/05 other impl. Rules.

ANNEX III / MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ORGANIGRAMME

