

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary Country
CFCU	Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programs
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office
Ctifl	Technical Center for Fruit and Vegetables (French: Centre Technique interprofessionnel des fruits et légumes)
DUS	Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability test
EC	European Commission
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
EUD	European Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GEVES	Group for the Study and Control of Varieties and Seeds (French: Groupe d'Etude et de contrôle des Variétés et des Semences)
INRA	French National Institute for Agricultural Research
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
ISP	Indicative Strategy Paper
MAAF DGAL	Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood, and Forestry (French: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt)
MAEP	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
NPAA	National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis
MS	Member State
PL	Project Leader
PPD	Plant Protection Directorate
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSSS	Agricultural Advisory Services
RS	Republic of Serbia
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SEIO	Serbian European Integration Office
STE	Short Term Expert
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
VCU	Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests

STANDARD TWINNING PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 **Publication reference number:** EuropeAid/ 138-418/IH/ACT/RS
- 1.2 **Programme:** Annual Action Programme for Serbia (2014)
- 1.3 **Twinning Number:** SR 14 IPA AG 01 16
- 1.4 **Title:** Strengthening capacities of phytosanitary sector in the field of plant varieties registration, including improvement of variety testing authorities
- 1.5 **Sector:** Agriculture and Fisheries (European Integration Facility)
- 1.6 **Beneficiary country:** Republic of Serbia

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective (s):

Serbian administration effectively conducts accession negotiations and successfully manages overall EU integration and pre-accession assistance geared towards EU membership.

2.2 Project purpose:

To improve capacity of the staff of Serbian Department for Plant Variety Registration within PPD and related institutions entrusted with the task of plant variety testing to apply best practices in the area of plant variety testing and registration pursuant to EU regulations governing this area.

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 fulfilment of multiple priorities defined in the strategic documents.

Council Decision (2008/213/EC) of 18 February 2008 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Serbia, Annex II, Section **Sectoral Policies/Agriculture** provides an overview of both key short term and medium term priorities to be accomplished by the Republic of Serbia.

Key short term priorities listed in the annex are as follows:

- 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.

Medium term priorities foreseen by the same annex are:

- 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.

In accordance with above mentioned priorities, the Project will help the staff perform its work activities related to the DUS and VCU testing more accurately and effectively and these activities will also result updated, improved, extended and based on national legislation in line with relevant EU requirements. The Project will also, contribute to further strengthening of controls for the introduction of new varieties through improved performance of official tests (VCU; DUS).

In 2013, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between the EU and the Republic of Serbia entered into force. **Article 1, Section 2 (d)** of the SAA states that the aim of the Association established is *"to support the efforts of Serbia to develop its economic and international cooperation, including through the approximation of its legislation to that of the Community"*. Working with MS partner will assist the Republic of Serbia in further development of international cooperation. The international project experts will assist the Serbian Department for Plant Variety Registration, in assessing the existing regulatory framework and implementing procedures in accordance with EU requirements in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties which will contribute to improved control of varietal identity of planting material present in the market and increased foreign trade of planting material. Furthermore, **Title VI - Approximation of law, law enforcement and competition rules, Article 72, Section 1** of the SAA states *"the Parties recognize the importance of the approximation of the existing legislation in Serbia to that of the Community and of its effective implementation. Serbia shall endeavour to ensure that its existing laws and future legislation will be gradually made compatible with the Community acquis. Serbia shall ensure that existing and future legislation will be properly implemented and enforced"*. The Project will develop procedures in accordance with recommendations given by the CPVO and EU regulations in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties. Their proper implementation by the staff from Department for Plant Variety Registration and institutions entrusted with the task of DUS and VCU testing will bring to the proper implementation of rulebooks adopted in accordance with the Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties. Procedures are the elaboration of rulebooks, and must comply with them. Rulebooks are bylaws and they refer to the said Law. **Article 97** of the SAA states *"Cooperation between the Parties shall be developed in all priority areas related to the Community acquis in the field of agriculture, as well as veterinary and phytosanitary domains. Cooperation shall notably aim at modernising 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."* The staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and institutions entrusted with the task of DUS and VCU testing will be trained to implement practices and standards related to the testing and registration of agricultural plant varieties properly and in line with Community rules.

The conclusion of the **Progress Report 2014** of the EC under **Section 4.12. Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy** states *"there has been limited progress in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy"* and *"overall, in the areas of food safety,*

veterinary and phytosanitary policy, Serbia remains moderately advanced." The report mentions as well that *"in the area phytosanitary policy, plant variety rights were granted to 34 new plant varieties."* In the Republic of Serbia, tasks and procedures related to the plant variety rights are performed and supervised by the Group for Plant Variety Protection and Biosafety within the PPD/MAEP.

The **Progress Report 2015** (Commission Staff Working Document) from November 2015, under **Section 5.12. Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy** states that "Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy" and that in the following year it should review and strengthen the capacities of the veterinary, phytosanitary and national reference laboratories directorates. Through this Project, capacities of the institutions involved in the plant variety testing and registration in the Republic of Serbia will be upgraded with the aim of reaching improved quality of control in the area of phytosanitary issues, which is the quality of plant varieties present on the market.

The National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) 2014 - 2018 in the **Section 3.12.3. Seeds and Propagating Material** gives an overview of results achieved in the field of registration of agricultural plant varieties in 2010-2014 time period: a legal framework for the system of registration of agricultural plant varieties in the Republic of Serbia was established. It is represented by Law on the Registration of agricultural plant varieties ("Official Gazette" of the RS No 30/10) and a set of bylaws/rulebooks which were adopted as well. According to the NPAA, following measures are planned for the next three year period: *"Further harmonization of the process of recognition of varieties of agricultural plant species with methods, guidelines and registration procedures in the UPOV member states."* The project will assist the staff of institution responsible for plant variety registration and institutions performing DUS and VCU testing, in development of procedures necessary for the proper implementation of rulebooks adopted in accordance with the Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties. It will also provide them with trainings on how to keep national procedures up-to-date according to changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines.

The **Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for Serbia (2014-2020)** adopted on 19/08/2014, in **Part I: Introduction**, states that one of four specific objectives of the financial assistance under IPA II will be *"strengthening the ability of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to fulfill the obligations stemming from Union membership by supporting progressive alignment with, implementation and adoption of the Union acquis"* and that one of the five policy areas that will be addressed by the financial assistance will be agriculture and rural development. In **Part IV: EU assistance during the period 2014-2020**, under **Section 8.2 Objectives, results, actions and indicators** of the ISP says *"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 result relevant for this project and listed in the aforementioned Section is: *"Veterinary and phytosanitary services and controls are implemented in line with the EU requirements."* Successful achievement of all Project results will bring to improved control of varietal identity of planting material present in the market, thus, in a broader sense, to improved control in the area of phytosanitary policy, mentioned in the ISP for Serbia (2014-2020).

The national **Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2024** was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in 2014 and in **Section 3.3.3. Activities on the implementation of strategic objectives**, this document reports *"the first steps towards establishing and improving existing institutions, organizations and other entities have been taken. A large number of laws and regulations have been adopted, but their effective implementation is still in most areas, at early stages. Further harmonization will be based on EU legislation (acquis communautaire), along with the continued training of administration, entrepreneurs, farmers and all other stakeholders in the implementation of this very demanding legislation."* The project will train the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration of the Ministry and institutions entrusted with the task of DUS and VCU testing to improve their capability to further develop the process of testing and registration of varieties of agricultural plant species in line with CPVO recommendations and EU regulations.

Excerpts from these documents, both national and international, clearly show that there is a need for further alignment with EU acquis in phytosanitary policy, as well as a need for further upgrading and adjustment of relevant institutional capacities necessary to reduce resulting gaps and fulfil needs and obligations originating from these documents.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Department for Plant Variety Registration within the Serbian PPD has overall responsibility for the registration of agricultural plant varieties in the Republic of Serbia. In this process, carried out in Serbia since 1964, the department relies or cooperates closely with national institutions entrusted with the task of agricultural plant variety testing on trial fields and in laboratories. Four of them will be encompassed by this project: (i) PSSS Sombor - trial station "Sombor", (ii) Fruit Research Institute Cacak, (iii) Institute for Viticulture in Sremski Karlovci - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad (viticulture trial station in Sremski Karlovci) and (iv) Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade (trial station "Radmilovac").

These institutions will participate in the project due to the fact that they are the only institutions in the Republic of Serbia that have established variety reference collections necessary for DUS testing of varieties of agricultural species. Reference collection is the collection of varieties of a plant species having specific morphological characteristics defined by UPOV and used for the assessment of new varieties regarding their distinctness, uniformity and stability - DUS test - the examination that determines if the plant variety will be registered in the National List of Varieties. Reference collection contains a large number of varieties. When registering a new variety, it has to be checked if the variety which has been reported as new, already exists, or if it has been already registered under different name.

Before a new variety can be registered and placed on the market, it also needs to pass value for cultivation and use test (VCU test). A new variety has a value for cultivation and use if the examination shows that it presents an advantage with respect to already registered varieties in its main cultivation characteristics. As already mentioned above, variety testing is performed in trial field or in laboratory. Examining the identity of the variety is important because it is a guarantee for the farmers that they will make right investment.

In every EU member state there is a National Register/List of varieties, and all of those national lists are included in the EU Common Catalogue of varieties. According to the EU legislation, only plant varieties previously tested (DUS; VCU) and listed in National Register/List can be further marketed in the EU. The National Register/List of agricultural plant varieties serves different roles (it ensures: a) transparency and controls of planting material on the market; b) quality and resistant varieties for producers; c) protection of consumers and guarantees: d) registered variety that benefit the environment, and consequently e) human and animal health). It contains names and details of all registered plant varieties with the names and addresses of their respective breeders, particulars of the denomination of each registered variety and specification of their prominent features. New plant varieties with improved characteristics and registered in the National Register/List increase the productivity in agriculture. Once they are marketed in EU, they contribute to development of international markets, economic development and higher income for farmers.

In the Republic of Serbia, the registration of agricultural plant varieties procedure is governed by the Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties adopted by the Serbian Government in 2010 (“Official Gazette RS” 30/10). On the basis of this law, in 2014, several rulebooks for the implementation of relevant EU directives were adopted, thus the legal framework for the agricultural plant variety recognition area was provided and it is in line with relevant EU regulations, UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols. In the EU, variety testing is performed according to these guidelines and protocols.¹ The rulebooks passed by the Minister in 2014 are listed in Annex II of the present fiche.

Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties (“Official Gazette RS” 30/10) prescribes that in the Republic of Serbia, there is a National Register/List of Agricultural Plant Varieties which is maintained by the Serbian Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD/MAEP. For the time being, this register lacks the information on maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape which is necessary for the full implementation of Directive 2008/90/EC and Commission Implementing Directive 2014/97/EU. According to these Directives, all varieties must be provided with official descriptions, maintainers and physical sample, before they are registered and further marketed. In the Republic of Serbia a list of maintainers for all agricultural plant varieties exists, except for old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape, therefore these varieties at present, are not described in accordance with EU standards. Consequently, the relevant reproductive material cannot be marketed in the EU, but also performing controls of reproductive material of mentioned varieties in the domestic market is difficult. This project will assist in removing these barriers and will further improve the work of institutions in the Republic of Serbia in the area of variety testing and registration, whose results will be acceptable in the EU and other countries. List of Maintainers will become the part of the National Register/List of varieties and it will enable the full implementation of Council Directive 2008/90/EC and Commission Implementing Directive 2014/97/EU.

Furthermore, this project will contribute to development of international markets, economic development and higher income for farmers. According to the Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014 – 2024, in the Republic of Serbia there are favourable soil and climate conditions for the production of various fruit and grape varieties. After being registered in the National Register/List with official descriptions and maintainers and allowed to market in the EU, benefits could appear for different categories of farmers. For example, production of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape is very popular in organic farming with reduced use of plant protection products. After being registered in the National Register/List of

¹ List of Rulebooks in force is part of Annex II: List of Relevant Laws and Regulations

varieties Serbian producers of relevant seeds and planting material will be able to sell their products in the EU. Same positive change could come to producers of old varieties of fruit and grape in the Rasina District, which has long tradition in this kind of production and employs large number of people.

All the above mentioned will be achieved through preparation of Gap analyses, aimed at identifying inconsistencies between the Serbian legal framework and the EU *acquis*. In the aftermath, Report on follow-up activities and Needs Assessment for amendment of existing Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties and relevant by-laws will be developed. One of important activities of this project is replacing example varieties from UPOV protocols and CPVO guidelines with corresponding old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties in national procedures. It is estimated that the replacement of 5 example varieties would be enough to facilitate the testing. For implementation of above mentioned Rulebooks new trial procedures should be developed in line with the EU directives in force. Ultimately, the Serbian agricultural plant variety registration sector study and report on recommendations for necessary improvement should be completed.

Furthermore the development of training needs assessment document which will help the staff from Department for Plant Variety Registration and other institutions involved in DUS and VCU testing perform their work properly and in line with EU requirements will be conducted. Based on TNA, the training program and manuals that staff will use during and after the completion of contract will be designed. The TNA document should concern the area of variety testing procedure, including variety description. Institutional framework of the Department for Plant Variety Registration envisages experts dealing with the registration of different types of agricultural plant varieties, therefore at least 5 types of training manuals are needed (each will cover different types of agricultural plant varieties: corn and other millet-like grain varieties fodder crop and small grains, registration of vegetable plants, potato, sugar beet and tobacco varieties, oilseed crops and Soybeans, foreign and registered domestic varieties of fruit-tree and grapevine varieties).² Trainings will be divided in theoretical and practical, since practical trainings will help staff apply and improve techniques presented to them during theoretical trainings, which are important for their overall knowledge. In addition, internships will be carried out within the EU MS institution authorized for plant varieties registration and relevant trial stations. They will be integral part of professional skills development in the area of plant variety testing and registration and they will enable gaining direct experience within the real working environment in the EU MS. The Follow-up documents which will provide questions and answers to specific situations and problems not covered by training manuals (but related to particular situations and asked by the participants during or after the trainings), will be developed. They are envisaged as lists of frequently asked questions, should be uploaded to the website of Department for Plant Variety Registration, updated regularly and public. The number of these documents should be at least 2, since one would cover the area of fruit and grape varieties and second the area of other agricultural plant varieties.

Gap analyses, training program and training sessions which will focus on the area of UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols are also foreseen. Gap analyses should summarize the differences between national procedures and UPOV protocols and CPVO guidelines to provide an answer on what should be done to improve and keep up-to-date national procedures according to changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines. The development of Follow-up documents within this area and with the similar purpose and form of the Follow up document mentioned above is envisaged as well.

² Institutional framework of Department for Plant Variety Registration is available in Annex III of this Twining Fiche.

The Register of Maintainers for old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape with official database will be established and incorporated into the existing National Register/List of agricultural plant varieties. For this purpose, at least one workshop will be organized for producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruits (potential maintainers) with the aim of presenting to them relevant legal requirements and advantages of establishment of Register of Maintainers. In addition, at least one workshop with the same aim, but targeted to producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of grape (potential maintainers) will be performed. In the course of the project, the National List of agricultural plant varieties containing the list of maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape will be printed and disseminated to the stakeholders of the project. Minimum number of pieces of the register to be printed is 500. After the Register of Maintainers is established, farmers will have all necessary information on the variety they opt to market and it will be possible to market it in the EU which will contribute to economic development and higher income. To raise awareness of stakeholders, leaflets containing general information on project activities and focusing on establishment of Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties and its benefits will be prepared and disseminated

3.2 Linked activities (*other international and national initiatives*):

Up to this time, several **TAIEX events** supported the administration of Department for Plant Variety Registration and other organizational units within PPD/MAEP in enforcement of relevant EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices in the area of testing and registration of agricultural plant varieties. The short description of few of them is provided below:

Expert mission on classification of vine grape varieties and wine products was held in Subotica, Serbia from 24 to 26 November 2014. The mission provided PPD officials with practical knowledge on vine grape classification and grape varieties and enabled them to understand the EU requirements related to protected designation of origin and geographical indication. Experts explained in detail the administrative structure necessary to implement these EU requirements.

Workshop on Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testing grape varieties was organized in Palic, Serbia from 15 to 16 October 2013. The purpose of the workshop was the review of level of harmonization of national legislation in the area of recognition of agricultural plant varieties, clones and grapevine rootstock. Legislation and best practices were presented to participants by Mr. Rudolf Becher from the testing station Haßloch within the Bundessortenamt, an independent authority under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Federal Republic of Germany. This authority is responsible for granting Plant Breeders' Rights, the registration of varieties in the National List and variety and seed affairs. During the workshop, the implementation model of the Council Directive 68/193/EEC of 9 April 1968 on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine in EU MS was presented to participants.

Workshop on Plant Variety Registration was organized in Belgrade, Serbia from 11 to 12 June 2015, together with the Plant Variety Registration Department within the PPD/MAEP. During this two-day workshop, the representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office presented and discussed

with participants - representatives of the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, facts and experience of those countries in the area of organization of variety testing procedure in their respective countries, National Lists and the EU Common Catalogue, as well as applicable legislation (Council Directive 2002/53/EC of 13 June 2002 on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species; Commission Regulation (EC) No 637/2009 of 22 July 2009 establishing implementing rules as to the suitability of the denominations of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species etc.)

Study visit on the list of fruit varieties was organized in 2013, from 5 to 10 August in both Paris and Avignon, the capital of Vaucluse department, south-eastern France. This study visit was organized for three participants from the Serbian PPD/MAEP and it was supported by French GEVES, MAAF DGAL, Ctifl and INRA. It enabled the further professional development of PPD employees, experience sharing with their French colleagues and broadening of their knowledge to be implemented during their daily professional activities back home, in the area of: organization and institutions involved in registration, protection and certification of fruit varieties in France, UPOV guidelines, connection between UPOV and CPVO protocols for examination of the varieties, on the field trainings regarding evaluation characteristics for DUS examination, DUS for Malus and Cherry, Apricot, peach and rootstocks DUS testing and many other topics. Directive 2008/90/EC of 29 September 2008 on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production was presented to participants.

Besides aforementioned TAIEX assistance, from the budget of the Republic of Serbia activities related to description of domesticated vegetable varieties were financed. Domesticated varieties of vegetables were described and maintainers of these varieties were nominated.

Although significant progress in the field of registration of agricultural plant varieties has been made as a result of aforementioned tools and activities, we can also say that these activities only scratched the topics covered by this fiche which are now to be deepened. Thus, there is a need for an everyday and long-term model of EU assistance that will further provide the Serbian Department for Plant Variety Registration with relevant expertise and know-how required for achieving concrete objectives and sustainable development within Department and testing institutions. The twinning project will bring together civil servants from both BC and MS country who will, in accordance with established work plan, strive to jointly achieve mandatory results of the project, thus develop BC country administration to be fully capable of implementing relevant EU requirements.

3.3 Results:

Following results will be achieved by this project:

Result 1: Current legal and institutional framework assessed and procedures developed in accordance with the EU regulations and CPVO recommendations, in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties.

Indicators for Result 1:

- Gap analysis between national legislation and EU *acquis* in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties prepared;
- Based on gap analysis, report on follow-up activities prepared;
- Needs assessment for amendment of existing Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties and relevant by-laws prepared;

- At least 5 example varieties of fruit and grape from CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines replaced with example varieties of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape in national procedures;
- At least 5 new trial procedures for implementing existing rulebooks in line with applicable EU acquis and recommendations given by the CPVO developed and adopted by the Department for Plant Variety Registration;
- Serbian agricultural plant variety registration sector study and report on recommendations for necessary improvement completed.

Result 2: Professional skills of staff from institutions involved in plant variety testing improved, through training sessions on execution of DUS and VCU trials.

Indicators for Result 2:

- TNA document developed;
- Training programme developed;
- At least 5 training manuals developed;
- At least 2 theoretical training session for at least 18 persons (6 employees of Department for Plant Variety Registration and at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions involved in project on DUS and VCU trials);
- At least 3 practical trainings on the execution of DUS and VCU trials and on description of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape, on 3 trial fields and for at least 14 persons (at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions and 2 employees from the Department for Plant Variety Registration) conducted;
- At least 3 practical trainings on the execution of DUS and VCU trials on 1 trial field for at least 18 persons (at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions and 6 employees from the Department for Plant Variety Registration) conducted;
- At least 2 Follow-up document on plant variety testing and registration which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals developed;
- 2 week internship within the EU MS institution authorized for plant varieties registration for 2 persons from Department for Plant Variety Registration, BC PL and 1 person from three institutions competent for fruit and grape variety testing (Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade - trial station "Radmilovac", Institute for Viticulture in Sremski Karlovci - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad (viticulture trial station within the Institute) and Fruit Research Institute Cacak organised;
- 2 week internship within the EU MS institution authorized for plant varieties registration for 5 persons from Department for Plant Variety Registration and 1 person from institution competent for other agricultural plant varieties testing - PSSS Sombor/trial station "Sombor" organised.

Result 3: Staff from Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities trained to keep national procedures up-to-date according to changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines.

Indicators for Result 3:

- Gap analysis related to differences between national procedures and CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines prepared;
- Training programme developed;
- At least 2 trainings on applying general principles and rules of changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines for at least 18 persons (6 employees from Department for Plant Variety Registration and at least 3 representatives from each of four testing authority institutions involved in project) conducted;
- At least 2 Follow-up document on UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals developed.

Result 4: Register of Maintainers for old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape with official database established and incorporated into the existing National register of agricultural plant varieties.

Indicators for Result 4:

- At least one workshop for at least 25 producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting requirements of legislation and necessity and advantages of establishment of Register of Maintainers, carried out;
- At least one workshop for at least 25 producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of grape (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting requirements of legislation and necessity and advantages of establishment of Register of Maintainers, carried out;
- Register of Maintainers with relevant database of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties with pertaining official descriptions established and published on Department's website: <http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/>;
- At least 500 pieces of National List of agricultural plant varieties, containing list of maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape prepressed, printed and disseminated to stakeholders;
- At least 1 conference held for at least 25 people representing stakeholders (breeders, producers, producers' associations, institutions and faculties holding samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape, as well as selection houses which, through the crossing techniques, gain new plant varieties more resistant to diseases and suitable for organic production), aimed at presenting established List of Maintainers with official descriptions of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape in order to inform and motivate them to produce these varieties;
- At least 300 leaflets for stakeholders containing general information on project activities and focusing on establishment of Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties and its benefits prepared and disseminated.

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:

- 1.1. Prepare the gap analysis between national legislation and EU *acquis* in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties;
- 1.2. Prepare report on follow-up activities, based on gap analysis;
- 1.3. Prepare Needs assessment for amendment of existing Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties and relevant bylaws;
- 1.4. Replace example varieties of fruit and grape from CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines with example of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties in national procedures;
- 1.5. Develop and adopt at least 5 new trial procedures in line with applicable EU *acquis* and recommendations given by the CPVO, for implementing existing rulebooks;
- 1.6. Complete the study of the Serbian agricultural plant variety registration sector and report on recommendations for necessary improvement.

Activities related to result 2:

- 2.1. Develop TNA document;
- 2.2. Develop training programme based on TNA;
- 2.3. Develop training manuals to be used during the trainings and after, during the regular job activities;
- 2.4. Organize and deliver theoretical trainings on DUS and VCU trials for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme;
- 2.5. Organize and deliver practical trainings on DUS and VCU trials, including description of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme;
- 2.6. Organize and deliver practical trainings on DUS and VCU trials for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme;
- 2.7. Develop Follow-up document on plant variety testing and registration which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals ;
- 2.8. Organize 2 internships of 2 weeks duration for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, in the EU MS institution authorized for the plant variety registration for the purpose of enhancing professional skills and gaining direct relevant experience.

Activities related to result 3:

- 3.1. Prepare Gap analysis related to differences between national procedures and CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines;
- 3.2. Develop training programme;
- 3.3. Organize and deliver trainings on applying general principles and rules of changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on training programme;

3.4. Develop Follow-up documents on UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals.

Activities related to result 4:

- 4.1. Organize and carry out workshop with producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting legislation requirements and necessity and advantages of establishment of the Register of Maintainers;
- 4.2. Organize and carry out workshop with producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of grape (potential maintainer), with the aim of presenting legislation requirements and necessity and advantages of establishment of the Register of Maintainers;
- 4.3. Establish the Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties with pertaining official descriptions and database and publish it on Department's website: <http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/>;
- 4.4. Prepress and print the National List of agricultural plant varieties containing the list of maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape and disseminate it to the stakeholders of the project;
- 4.5. Organize conference for the stakeholders of the project aimed at presenting established List of Maintainers with official descriptions of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape in order to inform and motivate them to produce these varieties;
- 4.6. Prepare and disseminate at least 300 leaflets for stakeholders containing general information on project activities and focusing on establishment of Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties and its benefits.

The Twinning Work Plan will provide further details and give final shape to activities, results and roles proposed by this twinning fiche.

At least two major visibility events with at least 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 meeting 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 premises of the Plant Protection Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

3.5.1 Profile and tasks of the 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.

Tasks of MS PL:

- Accountable for the overall guidance and implementation of the project in cooperation with the BC PL;

- Supervises the RTA;
- Ensures that all team members are aware of their tasks and responsibilities;
- Ensures, together with the RTA that the project remains within allocated budget;
- 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);

The PL profile

Requirements:

- University degree;
- High-ranking official/senior civil servant;
- At least 7 years of professional experience in public administration in the area of plant production;
- Experience in project management; in at least 2 projects related to the subject of this project;
- Working knowledge of English language;
- Computer literacy;
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under twinning manual 5.4.5.

Asset:

- Proven experience in the implementation of at least 1 EU Twinning Project;
- Proven experience with EU regulations in the area of plant variety registration.

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 plant production which will enable him/her to organize interdisciplinary team for successful implementation of the project. She/he should be an employee of the governmental competent authority for plant production (Ministry or Agency) in an EU Member State.

He will liaise with the BC Project Leader and will report to the MS Project Leader. The RTA will also be responsible for ensuring that experts' input and distribution of their working days will be used in the most efficient and effective way and in line with the agreed work plan to enable timely completion of project results.

Tasks of RTA:

- 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.

The RTA:

Requirements:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 5 years in Plant Sciences, Crop Sciences, Biotechnology, Agronomy or related area;
- At least 3 years of working experience in the field of plant production in the public administration of the selected Member State or Mandated body;
- Proven experience in at least 1 project related to the preparation/implementation of relevant EU legislation, preferably in the field of plant production or/and fruit production or/and viticulture, with same or similar assignments;
- Working knowledge of English language;
- Computer literacy;
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under twinning manual 5.4.5.

Asset:

- Experience in implementation of twinning project/s, preferably in the field of plant production, with same or similar assignments.

The aforementioned roles and tasks of the PL and RTA will be detailed and refined by the agreed twinning work plan.

3.5.3 Profile and tasks of the short-term experts

The twinning partner will decide on the profile, number and involvement of the short term experts during the drafting of the project work plan. STEs should be identified by the Project Leader/RTA and have to be agreed with the beneficiary institutions in the course of designing and delivery of the expected project outputs. Selection procedures shall be transparent and based on pre-defined criteria, including detail professional

qualifications, and work experience. Each expert will have individual Terms of Reference, including the expert profile requirements and outputs to be produced which will be endorsed by the beneficiary institutions. Following the endorsement by the beneficiary institutions, the terms of reference and selected experts are subject to final approval.

Main areas of expertise required by the team of short-term experts should cover the following fields (the list of fields is non exhaustive):

- Plant Varieties Testing and Registration;
- Law;
- Data management;
- Training material development;
- Organization and delivery of trainings.

Tasks of the short- term experts:

STEs will provide specialized know-how for the individual tasks in this project. Therefore, the experts should have a relevant professional experience in 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, as defined by individual ToR. They will also prepare the required reports and the output described.

Detailed profiles and tasks of short - term experts, including the duration of their assignments, will be provided in the Twinning Work Plan. The minimum indicative requirements are the following:

Profile of the short- term experts:

Requirements:

- University degree in the fields relevant to this project;
- At least 3 years of professional working experience in the field for which the expert is mobilized;
- Working knowledge of English language;
- Computer literacy: Knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under twinning manual 5.4.5;

Assets:

- Previous experience in assessing EU membership candidate country's legislation for determining compliance with EU requirements;
- Previous experience in implementation of projects, with same or similar assignments.

4. Institutional Framework

The main beneficiary of the project will be the administrative body within the **Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection - Plant Protection Directorate/Department for Plant Variety Registration**. There will also be **4 (four)** other beneficiaries involved in project implementation:

- **Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade** (trial station "Radmilovac");
- **Institute for Viticulture in Sremski Karlovci - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad** (viticulture trial station within the Institute);
- **Fruit Research Institute Cacak**;
- **Agricultural Advisory Service (PSSS) Sombor** (trial station "Sombor").

Main beneficiary:

1) Department for Plant Variety Registration within the Plant Protection Directorate of MAEP is the main beneficiary of the project and it performs tasks related to: registration of new domestic varieties of agricultural plants; approval of introduction and production of foreign agricultural plant varieties and registration of foreign fruit and grapevine varieties in the Register of agricultural plant varieties; monitoring and preparation of expert basis during the preparation of draft legislation and other general acts in the area of recognition of agricultural plant varieties and their harmonization with European legislation regulations; development of methodology for testing varieties of certain crops or group of crops in experimental field and in laboratory as well as their harmonization with international protocols and guidelines (CPVO, UPOV); monitoring of development of procedures for variety recognition in Europe and worldwide; participating in analysis and proposal of activities and measures for improving cooperation with EU within the accession process; keeping necessary registers in the area of recognition of agricultural plant varieties; international data exchange in the area of variety registration; establishing, keeping and maintaining IT system in the area of variety registration; performs other tasks within this area.

2) Plant Protection Directorate was established in 2004 and performs state administration tasks related to: protection of plants against diseases and pests; control of plant protection products and plant nutrition products, as well as soil fertilizers in respect of production, domestic and international trade; control of application of plant protection products; production and registration of plant production products and plant nutrition products; phytosanitary inspection and in respect of domestic and international trade of plant, seed and planting material; food and feed of plant and mixed origin safety control and other tasks in this field.

3) Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection was established in 2014 when, in accordance with the Law on Ministries of 26 April, 2014, it succeeded the former Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. The Ministry 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.

Other beneficiaries:

1) Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade was founded in 1919 as one of the six faculties constituting the University of Belgrade. It has been located in Zemun (Belgrade municipality) since 1932. Since its foundation in 1919, about 15.600 students have gained BS degree, 866 MS degree and 699 PhD degrees. Today it has over 500 employees and permanent number of about 4500 students, and is one of the leading higher education institutions in this part of Europe. It covers educational and scientific/research activities in the area of farming, fruit growing and viticulture, livestock, soil management, crop protection and food products, agricultural techniques, food technology and biochemistry and agroeconomics. Independently or in collaboration with other organizations, the faculty performs scientific research and professional activities through basic, applied and developmental research, studies and projects, engineering, expertise, consulting, certificates, licenses and control in all areas of agricultural production and food technology. **The trial station "Radmilovac"** located near Belgrade is one of the organizational units within the faculty. It has around 86 ha of agricultural land and its purpose is above all educational. Part of the classes, as well as practical and science work are carried out here. There are three specialized centers within the trial site "Radmilovac": Center for fruit growing, Center for beekeeping and Center for Fisheries and Applied Hydrobiology, and one working unit - Wine cellar. Fruits, grapes, grains, industrial plants, seed and planting material, fish and fish fry, bees and bee products, wine, spirit drinks and other food products are being produced in "Radmilovac" as well.

2) Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad was founded in 1954 and it educates future experts in the field of agriculture, develops research activities and contributes to intensifying and increasing agricultural production. It is one of the biggest and most important educational and scientific institutions in the field of agriculture in our country, and results of scientific research activities carried out at the faculty significantly contributed to the development of technological processes in the agricultural production – field crops, animal science, fruit growing and viticulture, plant protection and other branches of agriculture. The total number of the faculty staff is 387 of which 171 are teaching staff, 44 are associates, 37 are research staff and 135 are non academic staff. **Institute of Viticulture in Sremski Karlovci** within the **Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad** in Sremski Karlovci was founded in 1947 under the name of the Institute of Viticulture and Enology. Shortly after its foundation, it has extended its activities to orchardry and changed its name to the Institute of Viticulture, Enology and Orchardry. In 1971 the Institute merged with the Institute of Orchardry and Viticulture of the Faculty of Agriculture in Novi Sad, under which supervision is today. During its history, the Institute has achieved significant scientific and professional results. There are three trial fields within the Institute: Rimski Šančevi, Gladnoš and Sremski Karlovci. Viticulture trial site in Sremski Karlovci has 30 ha of land of which 11 ha are vineyards. Vineyards are located close to

the administrative building and cellar, and near the administrative building, there is also a small weather station that collects weather data. The entire scientific research in the field of viticulture performed on this trial site in past sixty years can be grouped in four areas: ampelographic assessment, processing grapes, vine physiology, vine agrotecnics.

3) Fruit Research Institute Cacak is situated in well known fruit growing region of Serbia, where in 1898 the first Serbian fruit and grapevine nursery was established. The text below gives an overview of the company's most important historical moments since its foundation. Fruit Growing and Processing Research Station was founded on July 17, 1946 by the Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of Serbia. By the Decision of March 23, 1961 the Executive Council of the People's Republic of Serbia declared it republic scientific institution under the name of Fruit Research Institute of the People's Republic of Serbia. The Institute worked as the republic research organization till 1974 when, with amendment to the Constitution, it became an independent research institution for Serbia. In 1986, Grape and Wine Research Station in Niš was merged with the Institute which continued its work under the name of Fruit and Grapevine Research Institute Cacak. The organisation of the Institute was changed with the law regulation from 1990 and after merging of several biotechnical institutes on December 24, 1991, the Institute continued to work as one of eight centres of Agricultural Research Institute Serbia. By the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia from September 14, 2006, the Institute operates as independent legal entity with the name Fruit Research Institute. Today, the Institute consists of following organisational units: 7 departments (Department for Pomology and Breeding, Fruit Protection Department, Fruit Physiology Department, Department for Technology of Fruit Growing, Department for Fruit Processing Technology, Department for Production and Maintaining of Fruit Planting Material, Department for Experimental Fields) and General and Accountant Service. The Institute focus on scientific research in the field of fruit culture, i.e. research and experimental development in biotechnology. Other activities performed by the Institute are listed below:

- Biological and ecological research of fruit trees;
- Genetic research and development of new fruit varieties;
- Selection and introduction of fruit varieties;
- Physiological and agrotechnique research of fruit trees;
- Research on the fruit pests and diseases and methods of their suppression;
- Technological research of fruits;
- Production and maintaining of prebasic and basic certified fruit planting material;
- VCU tests for analysis of productive properties and properties of fruit rootstocks and varieties and DUS tests for analysis of distinctness, uniformity and stability of fruit rootstocks and varieties;
- Collection and research of domestic and introduced fruit varieties for the purpose of gene bank;
- Transfer and implementation of scientific and technology solutions;
- Expert and health control of the production of fruit planting material.

4) PSSS Sombor (trial station "Sombor") is one of 34 agricultural advisory services in the Republic of Serbia. It was founded in 1956 under the name of "Agroinstitut", and the name was changed to Agricultural Extension Service Sombor in July, 2009. The founder of this advisory service is the Government of the Republic of Serbia and it is 100% state-owned. It serves the municipalities of Sombor, Apatin and Odžaci in Vojvodina and its trial site comprises the area of 98 ha, in three locations: Sombor-Toplana, Sombor-Bilić and Gakovo where following trials are performed: variety trials, agrotechnical trials, plant protection trials with fungicides,

insecticides and herbicides, macro trials, demonstration trials and collections of field and vegetable crops. The Agricultural Advisory Service "Sombor" has demonstration greenhouse and glasshouse for trials in protected areas and for training of farmers. The work of aforementioned 34 agricultural advisory services is coordinated by the **Group for advisory services coordination** within the Department for Rural Development of the MAEP. The Group for advisory services coordination performs tasks related to: programming, monitoring and coordination of agricultural advisory services in order to improve the competitiveness and profitability of agricultural production of safe food, conservation of natural resources and environmental protection; implementing measures and programs aimed at improving the work of advisers through planning educational programs; preparing and proposing areas for applied research in agriculture; programming and implementation of measures to support the interest groups in order to improve the production and marketing of agricultural and food products in domestic and foreign markets; preparation of expert basis for drafting regulations in the field of advising and areas of interest groups; monitoring the situation and proposing measures for the revitalization and promotion of the development of agricultural cooperatives; also performs other tasks in this field. In accordance with Article 2 of the Law on Performing Advisory Services in the Area of Agriculture, advisory services are provided to agricultural producers regarding advice and information relevant for life and work in rural areas which advisors perform. Legal persons can perform advisory services in agriculture if they are established by the Republic of Serbia and registered in the Serbian Business Register Agency for performing other services in agriculture, technical testing and analysis or consulting and management and which employ an agricultural advisor. There are 270 advisors employed in 34 agricultural advisory services.

The aforementioned institutions are selected and authorized for variety testing pursuant to the Rulebook on conditions for agricultural plant varieties (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 56/13). The Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection passed the Rulebook prescribing conditions in respect with land, technical and technological equipment and staff qualifications to be met by a legal entity, entrepreneur or natural person for variety testing with whom the Ministry annually concludes agreements. These institutions will participate in the project due to the fact that they are the only institutions in the Republic of Serbia that have established variety reference collections necessary for DUS testing of varieties of agricultural species.

Other stakeholders of the project are breeders, producers, producers' associations, institutions and faculties holding samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape, as well as selection houses which, through the crossing techniques, gain new plant varieties more resistant to diseases and suitable for organic production.

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 composition of the PSC will be defined by the Twinning Contract. Nevertheless, the PSC will be composed of following members: MS Project Leader, BC Project Leader, RTA, RTA BC counterpart, Assistant Minister in charge for International Cooperation, 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). If deemed necessary,

representatives of other institutions with relevant expertise or key experts who can enhance the quality of the project should be invited to join the Steering Committee Meetings as observers.

The role, responsibility and main tasks of the PSC will be as follows:

- 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 PSC, including organization of meetings, preparing and circulating the agenda, as well as writing and distributing PSC minutes to all members. The PSC meetings should be announced at least two weeks before the actual date and all relevant papers (agenda, minutes of the last meeting, progress report and other documents to be discussed at the PSC meeting) should be circulated one week before the meetings to the PSC members. The PSC will meet on quarterly basis and ad hoc when required. It will be chaired by the BC Project Leader and in accordance with the previously circulated agenda to the PSC members.

5. Budget:

The total budget for this Twinning is EUR 800.000.

Title:	IPA Community Contribution	National Co-financing	TOTAL
Twinning	100%	0%	800.000
Contract (EUR)	800.000		

The PPD 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 for trainings/training materials, documentation/reports/legal acts and other project activities are estimated up to 6 % 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 person and full contact details.

The Implementing Agency of the project is the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU). The CFCU will be the Contracting Authority and it will be responsible for publishing tenders, concluding contracts and authorizing the Treasury to make contract related payments.

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

Ms Jelena Stojović, Head of CFCU
Phone: +381 11 20 21 - 115
E-mail: jelena.stojovic@mfin.gov.rs

Mr Darko Vasić, Quality Control Officer/National Contact Point
Tel: +381 11 20 21 412
E-mail: twinning@mfin.gov.rs

6.2 Main counterpart in the BC

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Ms Milanka Davidović, Acting Assistant Minister in charge for International Cooperation
Nemanjina St, No. 22-26, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel/fax: +381 11 362 0863
E-mail: m.davidovic@minpolj.gov.rs

BC Project Leader

The BC Project Leader will manage and lead a project team from the Serbian side and will ensure that the decision makers at the national level will be informed accordingly on the implementation and evolution of the project. He will ensure close cooperation and supervision of the project and he will also be responsible for drafting and signing reports and other documents related to project management from the Serbian side and will chair PSC meetings.

Mr Nebojša Milosavljević, Director of the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD)
Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP)
Omladinskih brigada St, No. 1, 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

RTA Counterpart

Mr Aleksandar Tabaković
Adviser for registration of fruit and grapevine varieties
Department for Plant Variety Registration
Omladinskih brigada St, No. 1, 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

6.3 Contracts

The project will be implemented through one twinning contract.

7. Implementation Schedule (indicative)
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- 7.1 Launching of the call for proposals (Date): 29th September 2016
- 7.2 Start of project activities (Date): June 2017
- 7.3 Project completion (Date): December 2018
- 7.4 Duration of the execution period (number of months) 18+3 months

8. Sustainability

The basis for the sustainability of the project will be created through active and dedicated participation of MAEP and testing authorities' staff involved in implementation of project activities. After the completion of the project, the newly gained knowledge and skills will be disseminated by the staff that was trained during the project. Following the project, on the job training model could be implemented as well and it envisages conveying gained knowledge from experienced colleagues to less experienced ones. The performance of daily job activities related to plant variety testing and registration will be adjusted to skills acquired during the project implementation by the beneficiaries of the project. Moreover, after successful completion of the project which will describe domesticated and train and help beneficiaries' staff describe old, domestic varieties of fruit and grape, further variety describing in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures will be ensured. In addition to technical know-how transfer, this project will create an opportunity to establish long-lasting professional relationships between beneficiary administration and its EU MS partner, even after the completion of the project implementation which can enable further cooperation and exchange of ideas in the area of plant variety registration (e-mails, calls, meetings etc.). The project will provide necessary information regarding the database and train the MAEP staff to maintain it, so the database updated by the project will remain operational after the end of the project.

9. Crosscutting issues

Equal opportunity

The project activities will support equal participation of both men and women, regardless of their racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation.

Environment

It will have positive effects as far as plant health is concerned. Also, taking into consideration that resistance to diseases and pests, as well as tolerance to abiotic stress are among the most important criteria of VCU tests, it is self-evident that in broad sense, further trained staff in the area of VCU tests will contribute to reducing the use of pesticides, thus benefit the environment. Improving the efficiency of VCU tests will consequently bring to improvement and better tolerance of varieties (to abiotic stress for example), thus, in the long run, it will as well and, with regard to abiotic stress, contribute to country's food security.

Innovation and knowledge

Bearing in mind that one of the purpose of DUS tests is, amongst other things, to determine if the new variety is distinct from existing one, it is clear that it is their inherent characteristic to contribute to constant innovation. Updated database resulting from the project will enable the

producers to broaden their knowledge on specific variety before they opt for the variety meeting their needs.

Minorities and vulnerable groups

Further improvement of testing standards and practice for plant varieties registration through trainings will be of benefit as well to both all producers and consumers (minorities and vulnerable groups included) who count upon best varieties that meet various production and consumer requirements.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

The Work Plan will further detail and give final shape to activities, results and roles proposed by the twinning fiche. All the activities, except for variety describing (Activities 2.5 and 2.6) can start anytime during the year. The most suitable period for the beginning of the implementation of activities covering description of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties which means description of characteristics, such as leaf shape, flower, bud, fruit etc. is the beginning of the vegetation/spring. Beginning of their implementation in winter would not be useful because experts would not be able to advise in the field because the characteristics of varieties during the winter cannot be seen nor described.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. ANNEX II: List of relevant Laws and Regulations
3. ANNEX III: Administrative bodies of the Ministry and PPD organization
4. ANNEX IV: Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Organogram

ANNEX I: Logframe in Standard Format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche			
Strengthening capacities of phytosanitary sector in the field of plant varieties registration, including improvement of variety testing authorities		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 800.000	IPA budget: EUR 800.000 National contribution: EUR 0
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Serbian administration effectively conducts accession negotiations and successfully manages overall EU integration and pre-accession assistance geared towards EU membership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress related to EU accession process made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National List of varieties including List of Maintainers on the official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD: http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/; EC Progress Report. 	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To improve capacity of the staff of Serbian Department for Plant Registration within PPD and related institutions entrusted with the task of plant variety testing to apply best practices in the area of plant variety testing and registration pursuant to EU regulations governing this area, improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing institutions in the Republic of Serbia further capacitated to implement trial and registration procedures pursuant to applicable EU regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC Progress Report; NPAA; Official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD: http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/; Certificates of attendance; Final Twinning report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC institutions staff actively participate in project activities. Timeline of activities respected. Dedication of high-ranking officials to support the project implementation.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Result 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current legal and institutional framework assessed and procedures developed in accordance with the EU regulations and CPVO recommendations, in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis between national legislation and EU acquis in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties prepared; Based on gap analysis, report on follow-up activities prepared; Needs assessment for amendment of existing Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties and relevant by-laws prepared; At least 5 example varieties of fruit and grape from CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines replaced with example varieties of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape in national procedures; At least 5 new trial procedures for implementing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twinning Project Reports; EC Progress Report; Official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/ 	

	<p>existing rulebooks in line with applicable EU acquis and recommendations given by the CPVO developed and adopted by the Department for Plant Variety Registration;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serbian agricultural plant variety registration sector study and report on recommendations for necessary improvement completed. 		
<p>Result 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional skills of staff from institutions involved in plant variety testing improved, through training sessions on execution of DUS and VCU trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNA document developed; • Training programme developed; • At least 5 training manuals developed; • At least 2 theoretical training session for at least 18 persons (6 employees of Department for Plant Variety Registration and at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions involved in project on DUS and VCU trials); • At least 3 practical trainings on the execution of DUS and VCU trials and on description of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape, on 3 trial fields and for at least 14 persons (at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions and 2 employees from the Department for Plant Variety Registration) conducted; • At least 3 practical trainings on the execution of DUS and VCU trials on 1 trial field for at least 18 persons (at least 3 employees from each of four testing authority institutions and 6 employees from the Department for Plant Variety Registration) conducted; • At least 2 Follow-up documents on plant variety testing and registration which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals developed; • 2 week internship within the EU MS institution authorized for plant varieties registration for 2 persons from Department for Plant Variety Registration, BC PL and 1 person from three institutions competent for fruit and grape variety testing (Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade - trial station "Radmilovac", Institute for Viticulture in Sremski Karlovci - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad (viticulture trial station within the Institute) and Fruit Research Institute Cacak organised; • 2 week internship within the EU MS institution authorized for plant varieties registration for 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS STE`s reports; • Quarterly and Final Project Reports; • Certificates of attendance. • Official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/ 	

	persons from Department for Plant Variety Registration and 1 person from institution competent for other agricultural plant varieties testing - PSSS Sombor/trial station "Sombor organised".		
Result 3. Staff from Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities trained to keep national procedures up-to-date according to changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis related to differences between national procedures and CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines prepared; Training programme developed; At least 2 trainings on applying general principles and rules of changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines for at least 18 persons (6 employees from Department for Plant Variety Registration and at least 3 representatives from each of four testing authority institutions involved in project) conducted; At least 2 Follow-up documents on UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS STE's reports; Quarterly and Final Project Reports; Certificates of attendance; Written declaration of the Head of the Institution where internship will be carried out; Official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/ 	
Result 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of Maintainers for old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape with official database established and incorporated into the existing National register of agricultural plant varieties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one workshop for at least 25 producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting requirements of legislation and necessity and advantages of establishment of Register of Maintainers, carried out; At least one workshop for at least 25 producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of grape (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting requirements of legislation and necessity and advantages of establishment of Register of Maintainers, carried out; Register of Maintainers with relevant database of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties with pertaining official descriptions established and published on Department's website: http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/; At least 500 pieces of National List of agricultural plant varieties, containing list of maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape prepressed, printed and disseminated to stakeholders; At least 1 conference held for at least 25 people representing stakeholders (breeders, producers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting minutes; Official website of the Department for Plant Variety Registration/PPD: http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/ Invoices for prepress and printing; List of attendance. 	

	<p>producers' associations, institutions and faculties holding samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape, as well as selection houses which, through the crossing techniques, gain new plant varieties more resistant to diseases and suitable for organic production), aimed at presenting established List of Maintainers with official descriptions of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape in order to inform and motivate them to produce these varieties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 300 leaflets for stakeholders containing general information on project activities and focusing on establishment of Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties and its benefits. 		
Activities		Means and Costs	Assumptions
Activities related to result 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1. Prepare the gap analysis between national legislation and EU acquis in the area of registration of agricultural plant varieties; • 1.2. Prepare report on follow-up activities, based on gap analysis; • 1.3. Prepare Needs assessment for amendment of existing Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties and relevant bylaws; • 1.4. Replace example varieties of fruit and grape from CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines with example of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties in national procedures; • 1.5. Develop and adopt at least 5 new trial procedures in line with applicable EU acquis and recommendations given by the CPVO, for implementing existing rulebooks ; • 1.6. Complete the study of the Serbian agricultural plant variety registration sector and report on recommendations for necessary improvement. Activities related to result 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1. Develop TNA document; • 2.2. Develop training programme based on TNA; • 2.3. Develop training manuals to be used during the trainings and after, during the regular job activities; • 2.4. Organize and deliver theoretical trainings on DUS and VCU trials for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme; • 2.5. Organize and deliver practical trainings on DUS and VCU trials, including description of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme; • 2.6. Organize and deliver practical trainings on DUS and VCU trials for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on developed training programme; • 2.7. Develop Follow-up documents on plant variety testing and registration which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals; • 2.8. Organize 2 internships of 2 weeks duration for the staff of Department for Plant Variety 		Twinning contract EUR 800.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good cooperation between all project participants and stakeholders. • Timeline of activities respected.

<p>Registration and testing authorities, in the EU MS institution authorized for the plant variety registration for the purpose of enhancing professional skills and gaining direct relevant experience..</p> <p>Activities related to result 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1. Prepare Gap analysis related to differences between national procedures and CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines; • 3.2. Develop training programme; • 3.3. Organize and deliver trainings on applying general principles and rules of changes in CPVO protocols and UPOV guidelines for the staff of Department for Plant Variety Registration and testing authorities, based on training programme; • 3.4. Develop Follow-up documents on UPOV guidelines and CPVO protocols which will provide questions and answers to specific situations not covered by training manuals . <p>Activities related to result 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1. Organize and carry out workshop with producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit (potential maintainers), with the aim of presenting legislation requirements and necessity and advantages of establishment of the Register of Maintainers; • 4.2. Organize and carry out workshop with producers and representatives of institutes or faculties who hold samples of old domestic and domesticated varieties of grape (potential maintainer), with the aim of presenting legislation requirements and necessity and advantages of establishment of the Register of Maintainers; • 4.3. Establish the Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties with pertaining official descriptions and database and publish it on Department's website: http://www.sorte.minpolj.gov.rs/; • 4.4. Prepress and print the National List of agricultural plant varieties containing the list of maintainers of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape and disseminate it to the stakeholders of the project; • 4.5. Organize conference for the stakeholders of the project aimed at presenting established List of Maintainers with official descriptions of old domestic and domesticated varieties of fruit and grape in order to inform and motivate them to produce these varieties. • 4.6. Prepare and disseminate at least 300 leaflets for stakeholders containing general information on project activities and focusing on establishment of Register of Maintainers of old domestic and domesticated fruit and grape varieties and its benefits. 		
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ANNEX II: List of relevant Laws and Regulations

EU Regulations:

- Council Directive 2002/53/EC of 13 June 2002 on the Common Catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species;
- Council Directive 2002/55/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of vegetable seed;
- Commission Directive 2003/90/EC of 6 October 2003 setting out implementing measures for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/53/EC as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species;
- Commission Directive 2003/91/EC setting out implementing measures for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species;
- Commission Regulation (EC) 637/2009 of 22 July 2009 establishing implementing rules as to the suitability of the denominations of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species;
- Council Directive 92/34/EEC on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production;
- Commission Directive 2009/74/EC of 26 June 2009 amending Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC as regards the botanical names of plants, the scientific names of other organisms and certain Annexes to Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC and 2002/57/EC in the light of developments of scientific and technical knowledge;
- Commission Implementing Directive 2014/105/EU of 4 December 2014 amending Directives 2003/90/EC and 2003/91/EC setting out implementing measures for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/53/EC and Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/55/EC respectively, as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species;
- Directive 2008/90/EC of 29 September 2008 on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production;
- Commission Implementing Directive 2014/97/EU of 15 October 2014 implementing Council Directive 2008/90/EC as regards the registration of suppliers and of varieties and the common list of varieties.

National Regulations:

- Law on the registration of agricultural plant varieties (“Official Gazette” of the Republic of Serbia, No. 30);
- Law on Seed (“Official Gazette” of the Republic of Serbia, No 45\05);
- Law on Fruit-tree, Grapevine and Hop Planting Material (“Official Gazette” of the Republic of Serbia, No 18\05);
- Rulebook on the methods of testing variety of millet for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing variety of turnip rape for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing variety of field pea and vetch for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of berry fruits for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of nuts for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of oats for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of rye and triticale for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of beans for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of pumpkin for variety release;

- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of castor for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of hops for variety release;
- Rulebook on the methods of testing varieties of legumes for variety release.

ANNEX III: Administrative bodies of the Ministry and PPD organization

Administrative bodies under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection are:

- 1) Plant Protection Directorate;
- 2) Directorate of Forestry;
- 3) Veterinary Directorate;
- 4) Directorate for Agrarian Payments;
- 5) Water Directorate;
- 6) Directorate for Agricultural Land;
- 7) Directorate for National Reference Laboratories;
- 8) Environmental Protection Agency.

According to the Rulebook on internal organization and systematization of job positions of the MEAP, the PPD consists of following organizational units:

- 1) Department for Plant Health and Quarantine;
- 2) Department for Plant Protection and Plant Nutrition Products;
- 3) Department for Plant Variety Registration;
- 4) Group for Seed and Plant Propagating Material;
- 5) Group for Plant Variety Protection and Biosafety;
- 6) Border Phytosanitary Inspection Division;
- 7) Internal Phytosanitary Inspection Division;
- 8) Section for Legal, General and Financial Affairs.

At present, Department for Plant Variety Registration has 8 positions, 7 of which are filled. All of them will be engaged in project implementation:

- 1) Head of Department/Senior Adviser;
- 2) Job position for registration of corn and other millet-like grain varieties/Independent Adviser;
- 3) Job position for registration of fodder crop and small grains varieties/Independent Adviser;
- 4) Job position for registration of vegetable plants, potato, sugar beet and tobacco varieties/Independent Adviser;
- 5) Job position for monitoring of conditions in the area of registration of oilseed crops and Soybeans/Adviser;
- 6) Job position for keeping Register of foreign and registered domestic varieties of fruit-tree and grapevine varieties/Adviser;
- 7) Job position for administrative and record keeping tasks/Officer.

ANNEX IV:Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Organogram

