

# TWINNING PROJECT FICHE

## 1. Basic information

- 1.1 **Programme:** ENPI-Annual Action Programme 2012 for the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 1.2 **Twinning number:** AZ/15/ENP/AG/37
- 1.3 **Title:** Support to the State Veterinary Control Service (SVCS) in Strengthening of the Epidemiological Surveillance System in Azerbaijan
- 1.4 **Sector:** Agriculture and Fishery/Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures
- 1.5 **Beneficiary country:** Republic of Azerbaijan

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Overall objective:

To strengthen the veterinary control services in Azerbaijan in order to protect animal and human health and contribute to the economic growth of the agricultural sector and improvement of the food safety situation in Azerbaijan

### 2.2 Project purpose:

To strengthen the capacity of the SVCS in respect of epidemiology, disease surveillance, prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses in line with the OIE<sup>1</sup> principles

### 2.3 Contribution to National Development Plan/Co-operation agreement/Association agreement/Action plan

#### 2.3.1. EU-Azerbaijan agenda

After its enlargement in May 2004, the EU faced a new geopolitical situation and adopted the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**<sup>2</sup>, which is a new framework for the relations with its neighbours. The ENP aims to go beyond the existing Partnership and Co-operation Agreements to offer neighbouring countries the prospect of an increasingly closer relationship with the EU with the overall goal of fostering the political and economic reform processes, promoting closer economic integration as well as legal and technical approximation and sustainable development.

The central element of the ENP is a bilateral **Action Plan (AP)**<sup>3</sup> which clearly sets out policy targets and benchmarks through which progress with an individual neighbouring country can be assessed over several years. The AP defines a considerable number of priority areas.

With regard to reforms in the SPS (Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary) and veterinary issues and also to increase food safety for consumers and facilitate trade, the EU-Azerbaijan ENP AP – in section 4.5.1-sets out the following priorities to be pursued:

Increase food safety for consumers and facilitate trade through reforms and modernisation of the sanitary and phyto-sanitary sectors:

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<sup>1</sup> OIE : World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties), <http://oie.int/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <http://pao.az/en/newsfeeds/list-all-news-feed-categories/digital-library/other-related-eu-documents/74-euazerbaijan-action-plan/file>

- Ensure implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures upon Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO, including by nominating a central enquiry point and creating a rapid information system;
- Exchange information on and explore possible areas of convergence with EU practice in the field of sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues (e.g. policy, legislation, strengthening of institutions, implementing practices);
- Adhere to the Codex Alimentarius;
- In the medium term, draw up a first list of measures for gradual convergence towards EU general food safety principles and requirements (e.g. Regulation 78/2002/EC; animal and plant or plant products identification and traceability systems; hygiene in food processing). Start approximation of legislation in this area;
- Fulfilment of EU requirements on animal health and for the processing of animal products (c.f.: "General Guidance for third country authorities on the procedures to be followed when importing live animals and animal products into the European Union", DG SANCO/FVO October 2003);
- Work towards interconnection with the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

The ENP-AP also includes co-operation tools, like **Twinning**<sup>4</sup> and **TAIEX**<sup>5</sup> and **SIGMA**<sup>6</sup>, which play an essential role in the achievement of the Action Plan priorities. In particular, the Twinning instrument, which provides for direct co-operation between EU and Azerbaijani public bodies to support institution building activities, has proved to be particularly efficient in policy areas where the expertise required by the beneficiary country exists mainly in the public sector.

The reforms in the field of the proposed project are also stated in the article 3.5.2 of the Institutional Reforms Plan 1 (IRP1) developed under the Comprehensive Institution Building (CIB) Programme. Details on the concerned state programmes are given below in section 2.3.2.2.

### **2.3.2. Governmental policy and strategy**

#### **2.3.2.1 Legislation related to the project**

##### **2.3.2.1.1 Existing legislation and strategic documents**

The primary legislation of the sector is the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan is "On Veterinary" was adopted in 2005. The sector is also regulating by the number of secondary level legislation in the form of regulations adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers.

These are to be found in instruction manuals ("təlimat") for individual diseases, which, while comprehensive, are essentially those of the former Soviet Union, referencing tests and standards from that era as well. Furthermore its legal status, particularly in regard to enforcement and penalties, shall be upgraded.

Since the beginning of 2014, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed three orders/decrees to improve governance and accelerate institutional reforms in the field of agriculture as well as to ensure proper functioning of the agricultural and food product markets:

<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/twinning/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sigmaweb.org/>

- The measures to be taken to improve sanitary-epidemiology situation in the agricultural product and food markets is foreseen in the Presidential Order “On additional measures for improving the functioning of the agricultural and food products market” issued on 16 January 2014.
- The Presidential Decree “On measures on improving governance and acceleration institutional reforms in the agricultural sector” dated on 16 April 2014, indicates importance of establishment of the e-agriculture information system based on the international experience. According to the decree the stepwise establishment of the system should be done during next three year period.
- By Presidential Order (To ensure functioning of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on the amendments of the Presidential Order “On the approval of structures a number of central executive bodies” issued on 14 July 2010) issued on 3 October 2014, a number of new state services were set up within the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Among the changes, the State Veterinary Service was renamed as the State Veterinary Control Service with a staffing level for administration limited to 36 employees, similar to current numbers. The implications of these changes on the SVCS mandate are currently uncertain as the President has allowed a period of 3 months for the Cabinet to adopt existing regulations of the state services. However the project purpose is consistent with aims of the proposed institutional reforms in relation to food security and food safety.

#### **2.3.2.1.2 Legislation and strategic documents under drafting**

As a result of the previous twinning project (AZ10/ENP-PCA/HE/14), legislation related to animal Identification and Registration (I&R) has been drafted and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers. Changes in the Law on Veterinary are also under consideration which will allow state mandated veterinary interventions to be carried out by the private veterinary sector.

A detailed list of relevant laws and regulations is attached in Annex 2.

#### **2.3.2.2 State Programmes and strategic documents**

##### **2.3.2.2.1 State programmes**

According to the Article 3. 5.2 of the IRP1, reforms related to the SPS measures are stipulated in several State Programmes and Action Plans including:

- State Programme On Reliable Food Supply of Population in the Azerbaijan Republic approved by the Decree of the President in 2008 that envisages actions towards improving veterinarian service aligning the legislation on veterinarian and sanitary sphere with international requirements to ensure compliance of veterinarian certificates with the recommendations of the International Veterinarian Code and strengthening of the epidemiological control
- State Programme on Social-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the years of 2009-2013 approved by the Decree of the President in 2009 that stipulates state support inter alia to veterinary-sanitary control
- State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Azerbaijan Republic between 2008-2015 that foresees improving veterinary services as an integral part of development of agriculture in the country
- Action Plan on Bringing the National Legislation into Conformity with the Requirements of the WTO in Connection with the Accession Process of the Republic of Azerbaijan to

the WTO approved by Decree of President in 2006 that foresees legal reforms in Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures, including measures taken with respect to imports

- Action Plan on Legal Approximation of the Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the EU acquis 2010-2012 that considers multiple actions devoted to gradual convergence of Azerbaijan legislation in the area of safety of food and feed products, veterinary and phytosanitary control to the EU Directives

The new State Programme on Social-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the years of 2014-2018 approved by the Decree of the President in 28 February 2014 outlines the following activities related to the envisaged Twinning project:

- To ensure state support to veterinary-sanitary, technical surveillance, sorting-trial, phytosanitary, seeding, seedling and pedigree breeding;
- Strengthen material-technical base of infrastructure serving development of agricultural production, including:
  - ✓ construction of the Beylegan District State Seed Inspection and Agrochemical Laboratory and major repair of existing administrative building of the zone veterinary laboratory of the Beylegan District Veterinary Office;
  - ✓ construction of the administrative building of the diagnostics cabinets with Oghuz District Veterinary Office and the Gedebey District Veterinary Office;
  - ✓ construction of Shaki City State Seed Inspection and Agro-chemical Laboratory and major repair of the administrative building of the diagnostics cabinet with Shaki District Veterinary Office;

#### **2.3.2.2.2 Draft Veterinary Policy and Strategy Plan**

The OIE undertook in 2008 an evaluation of the veterinary services. It was followed in 2011 a PVS gap analysis<sup>7</sup>. These studies gave the basis for a five year action plan for strengthening the capacity of the state veterinary services and then for the **Strategic Plan for the Veterinary Services in Azerbaijan**. The draft strategy was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for future discussion in June 2014.

Among the strategic objectives is to develop the market economy by reducing the role played by the state. This will include the privatization of some 800 village based Field Veterinary Service Units (FVSUs) and the redeployment of 1,600 veterinarians and para-veterinarians to the private sector with the remaining SVCS staff at rayon<sup>8</sup> level responsible for administrative functions. In addition to providing commercial fee-based veterinary services to livestock owners, the newly established Private Veterinary Units (PVUs) will be contracted to carry out state mandated activities such as vaccinations, sero-surveillance. They will also be responsible for passive surveillance of priority diseases, animal identification and registration of livestock holdings and will support the implementation of contingency plans for epizootic diseases. When legislation to control the use of veterinary medicines is introduced, PVUs will regulate access through issuing prescriptions, sales to livestock owners or supervising the treatment of animals under their care.

#### **2.3.2.2.3 Draft Development Strategy of Agriculture**

The Draft Development Strategy of Agriculture in the Republic of Azerbaijan (second draft, 3 November 2014) acknowledges the status of this process, stating that the structures of the

<sup>7</sup> PVS Gap Analysis report – Azerbaijan – September 2011

<sup>8</sup> Rayon is the administrative region

Ministry of Agriculture will be reformed in order to fully implement the SPS strategy to address the food safety, animal and plant health issues in a comprehensive and complex way (Strategic action 6 – initiating the SPS strategy. With reference to the reform in the veterinary sector, the strategy underlines improvement of the animal health surveillance and control system in line with the OIE terrestrial animal health code.

### 3. Description of the project

#### 3.1 Background and justification

##### 3.1.1. Current situation in the sector

##### 3.1.1.1 Livestock and breeders

Azerbaijan is a country of about 87,000 sq km, with a total population in April 2014 of 9,494,600. In different parts of the country, the climate varies from arid to humid “subtropical”. More than one third of the population reside in rural areas. Agriculture is the third largest economic sector after oil and construction, accounting for some 40% of total employment. As a result of agrarian reforms agricultural production has been fully privatized with the private sector producing 97% of agricultural goods.

According to the Livestock census (carried out in 2010), there are approximately 817,700 farm families with an average farm size of 2.8 hectares. As of 2010, there were estimated to be 2.6 million cattle, 8.4 million sheep and goats, 0.12 million equines and 22.0 million poultry (Table 1), with a significant increase in all classes of livestock over the last 10 years. The main exports of animal origin are hides and skins with 1.5 million small ruminant skins and 850,000 cattle hides exported in 2010.

**Table 1. Livestock data, 2013**

Administrative level	Number of animals				
	Bovines	Small Ruminants	Porcines	Equines, Asines, Camelids	Poultry
<b>Baku</b>	5,963	16,480	438	335	294612
<b>Absheron</b>	32,508	205,700	108	715	1,668,963
<b>Ganja Gazah</b>	330,994	1,745,925	643	28,014	494,821
<b>Sheki Zahatala</b>	288,672	853,085	4,085	16,119	2,751
<b>Lenkaran</b>	337,859	468,552		19,465	223,247
<b>Guba Khachmaz</b>	200,605	552,566	554	10,114	1,872,713
<b>Aran</b>	1,064,883	2,559,694	261	23,525	3,582,503
<b>Yukhari Garabagh</b>	115,184	479,111		3,557	80,000
<b>Kelbayar Lachin</b>	61,455	401,603		3,104	
<b>Kelbayar Lachin</b>	158,924	712,359	657	6,736	6,178
<b>Daghligh Sirvan</b>	106,215	635,464		6,517	78,625
<b>Nakhchivan</b>	2,703,262	8,630,539	6,746	118,201	8,304,413
<b>Total</b>	5,406,524	17,042,603	13,492	236,402	16,528,906

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Historically, animal husbandry has been an important part of the rural economy with most families keeping at least one or two cows for subsistence dairy products. Farmers have a strong interest to increase milk production through genetic improvement and sell dairy products. Small ruminant flocks, predominantly sheep, average 15-20 animals and are taken for grazing by family members. Owners of larger flocks of 200-500 animals may employ a

shepherd. In some villages, especially in the mountains, small ruminants are herded in joint village flocks. Cattle and small ruminants are usually taken to mountain pastures and hills to graze in summer but many such areas are now under occupation. Unregulated transhumance is known to occur between south-east Georgia and northern Azerbaijan with similar traditional trans-boundary seasonal grazing routes to other neighbouring countries.

### 3.1.1.2 Epidemiology Network for Animal and Public Health in Azerbaijan

There are two ministries responsible for the control of animal and human diseases those spread from animals to people: the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health.

The main competent authority responsible for animal health in the Republic of Azerbaijan is the SVCS of the MoA, which currently operates at three levels - headquarters; district (rayon) and city and field staff levels.

Detailed information on SVCS and its role in the project is given in Section 4.1 (Institutional Framework) and structure is in Annexe 3.a and 3.b.

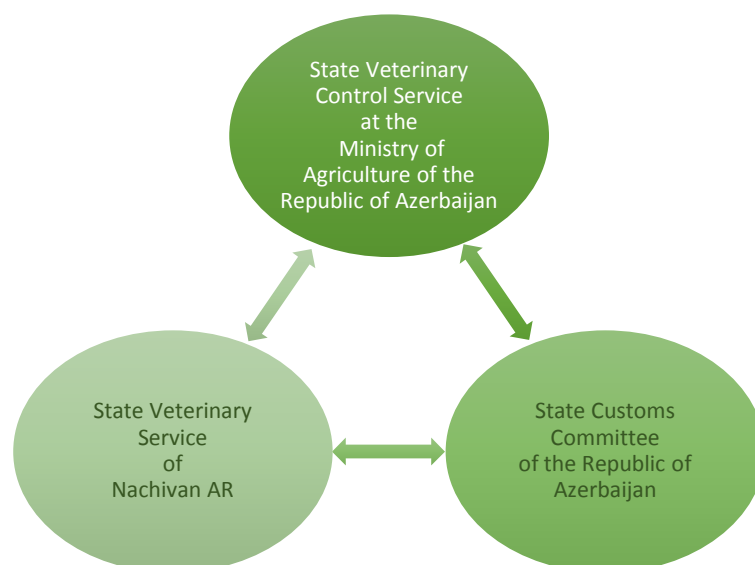
As it is underlined in above mentioned annexes, SVCS is staffed by epidemiologists in central and rayon levels (more than 2,000 epidemiologists).

However the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (AR) is not under the authority of the SVS and it has its own veterinary service, which collaborates with the SVCS. Detailed structure of the SVS of Nakhchivan AR is given in Annex 3.c

In spite of that, SVCS remains in charge of defining and controlling animal health conditions for import of animals and products of animal origin, it has no power to control consignments at the borders, as this authority lies with the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCC) which has its own staff of veterinary inspectors: 14 veterinarians responsible for 73 border inspection check points.

All public stakeholders dealing with animal health is shown below.

#### State Veterinary Control Services of the Republic of Azerbaijan



In relation to zoonotic diseases, both veterinary services, SVCS and SVS Nakhchivan AR, are working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health at central, rayon and village levels.

In addition, the SVCS as well as the SVS of Nakhchivan AR are co-operating with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and Ministry of Emergency Situations in respect of epidemiology, control and prevention of zoonosis as it is shown in diagram above.

### 3.1.1.3 Animal Disease Situation in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is the member of OIE since 1994. The SVCS under the MoA submits periodic reports to World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID). A summary of the nine OIE listed diseases, recorded as being present in Azerbaijan in 2013 is shown in Table 2 together with those which have been reported in previous years. The identification of three listed diseases of honey bees in recent years indicates a heightened priority for disease surveillance in this important sector of agricultural production in Azerbaijan.

**Table 2. Animal disease situation in Azerbaijan, 2013 (OIE WAHID database)**

<i>Diseases present in the country <sup>1</sup></i>		<i>Diseases occurred in previous years</i>	
Disease	Status	Disease	Last occurrence
<b>Anthrax</b>	Clinical disease	African swine fever	<b>2008</b>
<b>Brucellosis (B. abortus)</b>	Confirmed infection (no clinical disease)	American foulbrood of bees	<b>2010</b>
<b>Brucellosis (B. melitensis)</b>	Confirmed infection (no clinical disease)	Avian chlamydiosis	<b>2011</b>
<b>Echinococcosis/hydatosis</b>	Infestation in one or more zones	Bovine anaplasmosis	<b>2012</b>
<b>Haemorrhagic septicaemia</b>	Clinical disease	Bovine babesiosis	<b>2011</b>
<b>Ovine epididymitis (B. ovis)</b>	Confirmed infection (no clinical disease)	Bovine tuberculosis	<b>2010</b>
<b>Rabies</b>	Clinical disease	Contagious agalactia	<b>2003</b>
<b>Theileriosis</b>	Clinical disease	European foulbrood of bees	<b>2012</b>
<b>Varroosis of honey bees</b>	Clinical disease	FMD	<b>2001</b>
		Fowl cholera	<b>1998</b>
		Fowl typhoid	<b>1993</b>
		HPAI	<b>2006</b>
		IBD (Gumboro)	<b>2002</b>
		Leptospirosis	<b>2000</b>
		Marek's disease	<b>1994</b>
		Mycoplasmosis (M. gallisepticum)	<b>2011</b>
		Newcastle disease	<b>2009</b>
		Pullorum disease	<b>2012</b>
		<b>Sheep pox and goat pox</b>	<b>2009</b>

<sup>1</sup> OIE was notified of a clinical outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease in Azerbaijan in July 2014.

It is noteworthy that five of the nine listed animal diseases are zoonotic with rabies, anthrax and small ruminant brucellosis (refer to Table 2, B. melitensis) being of particular public health significance. The same diseases are also prominent in the annual summary of human

cases of major zoonotic diseases reported to OIE between 2005 and 2013 (Table 3). While the number of reported cases of human brucellosis shows no clear trend over time, the incidence of both anthrax and rabies has risen in recent years.

In July 2014, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) notified OIE of an outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in the districts Bilasuvar and Jalilabad near the border with Iran. A follow-up notification to OIE in November 2014 confirmed the spread of the disease to Aghdash and Ujar districts in central Azerbaijan with a further 14 reported outbreaks affecting 2,822 cattle. This is the first time that this economically important disease has been recorded in Europe.

**Table 3. Zoonoses in humans in Azerbaijan, 2005 - 2013 (WAHID database)**

Year	Number of cases (deaths)			
	Brucellosis	Anthrax	Rabies	HPAI
2005	425	-	4 (4)	-
2006	434	-	2 (2)	<b>8 (5)</b>
2007	462	-	-	-
2008	401	12	2 (2)	-
2009	367	-	6 (6)	-
2010	366	1	11 (11)	-
2011	426	2	8 (8)	-
2012	275	15	5 (5)	-
2013	<b>225</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4 (4)</b>	-

In Azerbaijan, official animal health activities currently focus on the eleven diseases (in bold below) control and eradication programmes financed from the state budget and implemented by the public sector through the Field Veterinary Service Units of the SVCS as in the below listed vaccination and eradication programmes for 2013.

- Vaccination programmes planned for 2013 included:
  - ✓ **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**: bi-annual campaigns (spring and autumn) for all 2,6 million bovines and 8,4 million sheep and goats;
  - ✓ **Anthrax**: vaccination of 2,6 million bovines; 8,4 million sheep and goats, 7,200 pigs and 102,000 horses;
  - ✓ **Brucellosis** (1,5 million **sheep**), **African Swine Fever (ASF)** (7,300 porcine), **Rabies** (250,000 dogs), **Newcastle Disease** (13,3 million poultry), **Sheep and goat pox** (1,2 million sheep and goat), **Leptospirosis** (640,000 bovines and 375,000 sheep and goat).
- Eradication programmes for:
  - ✓ **Bovine Tuberculosis**: testing of all cattle and slaughtering of positive animals;
  - ✓ **Brucellosis**: testing of all cattle and a part of the sheep population in high prevalence area.

The SVCS conducts active surveillance of **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** (10,000 samples), **Glanders** (61,000 horses tested), ASF and FMD (3,500 samples).

Data provided by SVCS indicate that the planned vaccination campaigns for 2013 were substantially implemented apart from FMD vaccinations for sheep and goats where only 20 percent of the proposed vaccinations were carried out. Sero-conversion rates in sheep following REV1 vaccination were reported to be in the region of 95 percent.



In the eradication programmes for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis, 1,134,732 cattle were tested for brucellosis of which 1,163 (0.1 %) were reported to have been positive. A total of 163,593 small ruminants were tested for brucellosis of which 310 (0.2%) were positive. For *Brucella ovis*, 121 (0.14%) of 86,512 rams tested positive. All positive animals were reported to have been slaughtered. There were no animals reported positive from 540,522 cattle which were tested for bovine tuberculosis.

### **3.1.2. Problems (direct and indirect) to be addressed**

While the capacity of the State Veterinary Service of Azerbaijan has increased in recent years as a consequence of projects funded by EU and other donors, the current strategies to control and eradicate animal diseases of economic and public health significance have failed to produce a sustained improvement in human or animal health or to prevent the spread of epizootic diseases.

While the SVCS carry out active surveillance for a number of epizootic diseases such as FMD, HPAI and ASF, no such programmes or contingency plans are in place for other EU and OIE “listed”<sup>9</sup> diseases including Lumpy Skin Disease and Bluetongue. The current programme of active surveillance for the equine disease Glanders was characterized by EC Food and Veterinary Office mission as “limited”.

Such deficiencies are of concern both to those in charge of the bio-security of livestock in neighbouring countries and to those responsible for assessing and managing the risks of trans-boundary animal diseases within the European Community.

One reason for the detection of zoonotic diseases in Azerbaijan is a low level of risk awareness in the population and lack of knowledge of the appropriate measures to reduce or avoid them. In relation to animal diseases, a poor understanding on the part of livestock owners of the mechanisms that cause disease and the role of veterinarians in their treatment and prevention are considered to be major constraints in establishing a viable fee-based private veterinary sector (as planned in the strategic documents – see above 2.3.2.2)

The main involvement of veterinarians in regard to food safety is to ensure that:

- Meat, milk and other food commodities of animal origin are derived from disease free animals
- Activities such as processing, storage and transportation are carried out hygienically
- Veterinary control and supervision of the use of antibiotics and other animal health remedies helps ensure the absence of drug residues

Meat inspection is recognized as a critical component of a national food safety capacity is currently hampered due to the absence of proper slaughter facilities to carry out ante and post mortem inspection. Despite a network of small market-based SVCS veterinary laboratories equipped with modern facilities, food inspection regulations and standards are poorly enforced.

Under EU legislation, veterinary medicinal products which are authorised for use in food producing animals may only be dispensed to the public under a veterinary prescription. A record of the veterinary medicines used by a stockowner must be kept and food chain information must accompany animals submitted for slaughter for human consumption. The competent authority must carry out independent and transparent inspections of premises

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<sup>9</sup> “listed” means “to be addressed in priority”

and audits of control activities. Currently there is no comparable Azerbaijani legislation on the supply and use of veterinary medicines.

### **3.1.3. Related Gaps and Needs**

It is therefore necessary for the SVCS to reassess existing surveillance and control programmes and develop more cost effective, risk-based alternatives.

#### **3.1.3.1 Legal Needs (Primary and secondary legislation)**

The OIE-PVS evaluation process identified a number of weaknesses in the legislative framework underpinning the activities of the veterinary services including:

- Failure to incorporate all EU and OIE scheduled diseases in the national list of priority animal diseases
- Lack of clear and precise procedures and contingency plans in relation to the control and eradication of specific priority diseases, including defined areas of responsibility for different sectors and penalties for non-compliance
- The absence of a fair and transparent system for compensation payments to livestock owners whose animals are compulsorily slaughtered to control or eradicate priority diseases

The project intervention in this area will be to bring legal and regulatory framework of the veterinary legislation in respect to animal health in line with OIE requirements.

#### **3.1.3.2 Institutional Needs**

The implementation of the institutional reform planned in the Development Strategy of Agriculture will require a much more rigorous system of documentation, reporting and supervision between village based PVUs, rayons and headquarters than heretofore. This in turn will require robust communication channels and enhanced capacity for data management and analysis.

Responsibility for the design, implementation and supervision of disease surveillance and control programmes rests with the DECTPEDD of the SVCS supported by a network of field epidemiologists at rayon level. However the DECTPEDD is not sufficiently staffed or resourced to ensure that field activities are carried out and reported correctly. As a result, there is no proper quality assurance to independently review programme performance and identify critical weaknesses in the system.

A major component of the twinning project will be to assist the DECTPEDD in carrying out an assessment of existing state funded disease control programmes and designing of the cost effective programmes.

#### **3.1.3.3 Management and Co-ordination Needs**

Investigating the relationship between human health, animal disease and food safety will require to strengthen co-ordination with the MoH and food safety authorities to improve and/or enforce protocols for the centralised reporting and analysis of zoonoses linking SVCS, Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Department (SESD) of MoH, rayon veterinary and public health staff and diagnostic laboratories, private sector veterinarians, primary health care facilities and other related institutions.

Among the above mentioned organisations, both SESD and the Republican Central Veterinary Laboratory (RCVL) currently utilise the Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) programme developed by the USA Department of Defence's Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to record zoonotic disease data. While other divisions of

the SVCS, including the DECTPEDD, have access to this resource, they do not currently utilize it. The system has a degree of flexibility and could be expanded to have a specific zoonotic disease module as has been proposed by the head of SESD. Strong commitment of the SVCS to the EIDSS system is a key factor for efficient co-ordination.

The Twinning project will assist in improving functional co-operation between all these actors.

Any project targeting a reduction in disease levels must include a risk communication component. In relation to zoonotic diseases, this should be a joint initiative between veterinary and public health services at rayon and village level together with other relevant stakeholders such as food processors, retailers, schools etc. For priority animal diseases collaboration is required between state and private sector veterinarians, farmers' organizations and extension services.

By assisting the DECTPEDD to provide accurate statistics on the incidence and distribution of priority diseases and zoonoses and by designing studies to identify risk factors associated with their spread, the Twinning project can inform and support an evidence-based risk communication strategy.

#### **3.1.3.4 Capacity Building Needs**

The current staff of the DECTPEDD has little or no formal training in several disciplines essential for their role in national disease surveillance and control programmes. These include competence in risk analysis, project management, information technology, statistics and quantitative epidemiology. As a result, such programmes are frequently poorly designed, exacerbating the difficulties in implementation and monitoring arising from lack of funding and limited institutional capacity.

Field epidemiologists based at rayon level similarly lack skills necessary to fulfil their role in administering and supervising related field activities. A programme of regional seminars and workshops could be used to provide the necessary skills to which their public health counterparts could also be invited.

Once Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for improved disease surveillance and control programmes and contingency plans are elaborated and protocols for data management are defined, the field staff must be trained in the implementation of the new systems. Separate customised training programmes will need to be developed for several public and private sector veterinarians and para-veterinarians according to their particular role.

The range of responsibilities of the newly established PVUs, as outlined above, will require competence in a number of disciplines critical to running a small business including office administration, financial management, data recording and record keeping. Deficiencies in any of these areas will undermine the commercial viability of the PVUs and consequently their ability to implement the sanitary mandate. While most training needs for private sector veterinarians fall within the remit of the World Bank funded Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP), the Twinning project should be prepared to address any shortcomings in PVU capacity that adversely impact Twinning project results.

#### **3.1.4. Introduction to the Project**

The project will identify the main gaps and weaknesses in the current strategies of the SVCS for animal disease surveillance and control particularly in relation to compliance with EU and OIE regulations and standards. It will support and mentor the Epidemiological Department of the SVCS in the development and implementation of more effective national programmes,

ensuring that surveillance, vaccination and eradication activities are effectively planned and implemented and are targeted where they will have greatest impact. To exploit this potential, the competent authority will require technical support and guidance at the central level in the principles of risk analysis and project management in order to design improved animal health programmes and contingency plans based on standard operating procedures (SOPs). Staff of the DECTPEDD will need technical support and training in data analysis including the use of modern epidemiological tools such as statistical software programmes and GIS. At the local level, government staff will require instruction in the proper implementation of SOPs and data reporting protocols to ensure that field activities of private operators are carried out and supervised correctly.

As part of the privatization process, contractual relationships will need to be established for PVUs to implement the sanitary mandate. The current levels of supervision and recording of field activities and financial controls are insufficient to prevent fraudulent claims being made by unscrupulous operators. In order to protect the investment of the state and ensure the confidence of international donors wishing to finance future programmes, it will be necessary to design a new code of practice for private operators carrying out state work which should include written contracts, protocols for monitoring field activities and mechanisms for improved financial oversight. The capacity of the DECTPEDD to validate claims by PVUs for mandated field activities against a livestock holding register can be used to identify anomalies which may be indicative of fraud.

In order to reduce human cases of priority zoonotic diseases, joint risk awareness campaigns to farmers, consumers and other target groups should be planned and delivered in association with the public health authorities. Previous studies have indicated that monitoring cases of human disease is among the most cost effective methods of detecting the presence of zoonotic diseases in livestock. Given the limited capacity of the veterinary sector for active disease surveillance, this is particularly important in Azerbaijan. The project will therefore develop standards for disease reporting to ensure that human and animal surveillance systems are harmonised and are compliant with international standards (OIE, WHO). Protocols will be established to ensure cross-notification and that appropriate measures of disease control or enhanced surveillance are automatically triggered following the detection of a new outbreak of a zoonotic disease in either humans or livestock.

## **3.2 Linked activities**

### ***3.2.1. Other related EU activities***

**A: EU Twinning Project AZ10/ENP-PCA/HE/14 “Support the State Veterinary Service Prepare for a National System for the Identification of Animals and Registration of Holdings”** (from April 2011 to March 2013)

Aiming to strengthen the veterinary service in general through particular assistance to prepare a system for the Identification and Traceability of animals, this project elaborated the concept of a comprehensive I&R system for livestock in Azerbaijan and prepared the SVS staff to implement it.

In addition:

- A legal package including Azerbaijan Veterinary Law was completely rewritten and forwarded to the Government of Azerbaijan for approval

- Organisational structure for the introduction of and I&R system was defined, new sector responsible for the I&R was established within the SVCS
- Technical specifications of instruments and integrated services for animal identification and registration of holdings was set up
- The pilot program was designed and implemented for the horses implemented.

**B: Strengthening the Legislative Base and Institutional Capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan on the Food Safety Control and Certification System for Food Products with a Particular Focus on Hazelnuts** (from November 2013 to February 2015)

The technical assistance team included a Food Safety Specialist, a SPS Plant Origin/Laboratory Expert and a Legal Expert.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen and improve the legislative and institutional framework of Azerbaijani food safety control and certification system for products of plant origin, with a focus on hazelnuts, in line with EU best practices.

The specific objective was to (i) provide policy and legal advice with reference to the institutional and regulatory reforms in the area of food safety and SPS controls; and (ii) to support the GoA in the implementation of the recommendations of the EU Food and Veterinary (FVO) Audit of November 2012, concerning the official controls on the export of hazelnuts to the EU.

**C: Support to e-Agriculture in Azerbaijan** (from January 2014 to May 2014)

The project was aiming at assisting the GoA in the development of the necessary institutional setup, as well as the co-ordination and co-operation mechanisms to ensure the establishment of an efficient and effective agricultural data collection and management system for subsidies that is in line with EU standards and incurs the lowest possible transaction costs. The proposed e-agriculture system would include an animal identification and registration system.

The team included three experts: a Policy Development Specialist, a GIS Project Manager and an architect expert for Systems Design, GIS Database and Enterprise Systems. They delivered the following requested outputs:

1. Review and analysis of the legal base for agricultural data collection and management;
2. Recommendations regarding the setup of an electronic geospatial data collection and management system in Azerbaijan that eliminates the existing overlaps between the different institutions involved in data collection and management;
3. Establishment of a strategy and work programme, including a costed action plan, to follow up on recommendations on the agricultural data collection and management system;
4. Recommendations on possible future donor-financed projects in the field, including the preparation of terms of reference, TAIEX and Twinning project requests for the relevant stakeholders.

In addition, several trainings were delivered to improve the capacity of the staff of the delegated services: the former State Committee for Land and Cartography (SCLC), the State Committee for Property Issues (SCPI) and the MoA staff at headquarters and regional office levels.

**D: Technical Assistance to support the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of the e-Agriculture components and procedures** (under tendering, 2 years from autumn 2015)

The global objective of the assignment is to provide technical assistance (TA) during the implementation of the main pillar of the e-Agriculture initiative of the Government of Azerbaijan: the installation of an information system for the administration and control of direct support to the agricultural sector. The ToRs are currently being developed.

**E: TAIEX assistance:**

The SVCS is one of the most active users of the EU TAIEX instrument. The following TAIEX activities related to the project were implemented in 2010-14:

- Workshop on Familiarising Animal Welfare Stakeholders in Azerbaijan with the EU Animal Welfare legislation and thereby enabling them to align their legislation with the Acquis communautaires implemented on 10-11 March 2014
- Expert Mission on Preparation National Strategy Plan implemented on 17-18 February 2014
- Expert Mission on Analysis of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in food implemented in 27-30 January 2014
- Workshop on Equine Identification & Prophylaxis implemented on 13-14 December 2010
- Expert Mission on Equine Identification, implemented on 27 September – 1 October 2010
- Regional Workshop on Surveillance and Control of Rabies implemented on 10 March 2010 (Tbilisi, Georgia)

***TAIEX event to be implemented in 2015:***

- Study Visit on Diagnosis of brucellosis serotypes over different types of farm animals (Paris, France)

***3.2.2. Related international initiatives***

**A: Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)**

***Programme to upgrade veterinary laboratory capacity (2005 - 2017)***

The Threat Agent Detection and Response (TADR) Network supports the US Government's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons control programme. Specifically, it is currently strengthening Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) compliance through focus on disease surveillance and investigations of suspicious outbreaks of disease in the Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. TADR is a comprehensive approach to achieving overall BWC compliance.

Under this programme, the state veterinary laboratory network has been reorganized into one RCVL with Bio-security level 2 (BSL-2), five Regional and seven Zonal laboratories. In keeping with DTRA programme priorities, support in terms of equipment and training has been limited to the virology and bacteriology departments. Even then, DTRA can only work on a defined list of extremely dangerous pathogens (EDPs) and within the context of the TADR programme. It cannot therefore support the host government in its routine surveillance

or control activities for FMD, ASF, rabies or brucellosis nor improve laboratory capacity to carry out food safety analyses. It is possible that these limitations may be amended in the future to encourage the beneficiary to take a more active role in the network.

### ***Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) (2005 -2017)***

The Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) has been deployed in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan under the Biological Threat Reduction Programme (BTRP) as part of the TADR Network. The Ministry of Health starts work in 2005 and Ministry of Agriculture joined the programme in 2009.

EIDSS was developed as an integral part of the human and animal disease surveillance systems to strengthen and support monitoring and prevention of dangerous diseases by providing computerized capabilities to collect, store, analyse and rapidly disseminate disease surveillance data, both human and veterinary, throughout the surveillance system and to participating ministries and agencies.

EIDSS is an electronic integrated surveillance system for human and veterinary disease that integrates the case data collection, demographic information, geographical information, laboratory analysis, sample tracking, epidemiological analysis, clinical information (including disease specific clinical signs) and response measures into a cohesive information set that is continuously synchronized amongst all EIDSS sites within a country providing near real time information flow that can then be disseminated to the appropriate organizations in a timely manner. The information is securely stored and is available for historical data analysis. As of April 2014, EIDSS was stated to have fully replaced paper disease reporting with electronic reporting in Azerbaijan and Georgia with the rest of the countries on the way for complete acceptance.

## **B: World Bank**

### ***Small Ruminant Brucellosis Vaccination Project (2006-2012)***

A pilot programme for the control of brucellosis was implemented in four selected rayons under the second phase of the World Bank Agricultural Development and Credit Project ADCP-II (2006-2012). The programme was implemented as a demonstration of the practical application of the operational aspects of the national disease surveillance and control programs. Through the program, a total of 490,000 sheep and goats were vaccinated with REV-1 vaccine against *Brucella melitensis*. The abortion rate, used as a proxy indicator for the evaluating the results of the vaccination program, decreased by 60-70%. Based on these results, it was assumed that vaccination would lead to a reduction in the incidence of human brucellosis, although no objective evaluation of the effect of vaccination on human disease incidence in the pilot area was undertaken. The program has now been adopted by the GoA and will be scaled up country-wide to include vaccination of about 6.5 million sheep and 2.37 million cattle. As all bovine brucellosis isolates have been found to be *B. melitensis* with no evidence of *B. abortus*, the justification for cattle vaccination is unclear.

### ***Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project (2013-2018)***

The Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP) is a continuation the ADCP-I and ADCP-II projects through which the World Bank has been supporting the development

of the agriculture sector in Azerbaijan since 1999. The project objective is to facilitate the access of agricultural producers to markets by strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary services, enhancing selected value chains and providing financial services to agribusiness enterprises.

The Strategic Plan for the Veterinary Services provides the guidelines and specific activities to be achieved as a sub-component of ACIP over the next five years. Measures will include restructuring and strengthening of the State Veterinary Service and the establishment of a commercial veterinary sector to be achieved by supporting the privatization of village level Field Veterinary Service Unit (FVSUs) of the SVCS. The main justification in terms of ACIP objectives for establishing a network of Private Veterinary Units (PVUs) is to provide a fee-based clinical veterinary service to farmers as a critical component in the development of livestock value chains. However, it is also envisaged that the new PVUs will play a major role in improving animal health, veterinary public health and food safety by implementing state mandated veterinary activities. ACIP support for brucellosis control will include a national vaccination campaign, serological surveys, training, and simulation of national action plan on brucellosis.

The Twinning project and similar initiatives in the sector should be co-ordinated with the WB project and take their activities into consideration in order to avoid unnecessary duplication. While the ACIP project will support further development of the National Animal Disease Information System (AZVET) as a basis for improved disease surveillance and reporting, there is no conflict between the two projects in their proposed activities. The DECTPEDD will have a role in supporting the ACIP national brucellosis vaccination programme.

### **C: Other related activities funded by the international donors**

The SVCS is regularly organising trainings in the field of animal health with the contribution of foreign and international organisations and agencies. The latest training sessions included:

- Initial measures to be taken in case of disease outbreaks (3-day training sessions, organised between 2008 and 2009 for 560 veterinary staff, by The United States Defence Threat Reduction Agency).
- Epidemiological surveillance training and simulation exercises were organised in 2009, with the contribution of the World Bank and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations.
- Specific training on avian influenza was organised in September 2009 by the United States Agency for International Development.

*The activities to be done in the framework of project should be co-ordinated with all above mentioned recently completed and on-going projects in order to avoid any further overlapping and/or duplication.*

### **3.2.3. Related national initiatives**

The MoA is currently in a process of institutional modernisation. The main issues related to this project are:

- Restructuring of the SVCS, including privatisation of the Field Veterinary Service Units is in the agenda of the Government of Azerbaijan.



- The MoA is preparing a new structure, which should be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministries in early 2015. It is expected that the new structure is in place before the start of the project.
- The MoA announced a tender for the development of e-agriculture information system in Azerbaijan. The National Veterinary System will be an integral part of the system.

### 3.3 Results

#### **Result 1: The legal and regulatory framework is reviewed and concrete recommendations to enable improved epidemiological surveillance, prevention and control of priority animal diseases and zoonoses are developed**

This result aims at reinforcing the legal and regulatory framework of the SVCS. The Twinning project team will undertake a comparative review of the current national veterinary and sanitary-epidemiology legislation with the EU requirements. Improvements shall concentrate on the identified shortcomings.

To get a general comparative picture, gaps and inconsistencies, their relative importance and consequences should be identified in the light of EU directives and OIE principles in close co-operation between MS and BA experts. Relevant changes and amendments to the current legal and regulatory framework and/or development of new legislation should be based on the recommendations stated in an assessment report.

A special focus should be given to epidemiology, disease surveillance, prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses.

This will allow to reform the legal and regulatory framework of the SVCS.

#### ***Output indicators:***

- Report on gaps and recommendations containing the list of needed revisions to the legal and regulatory framework
- Recommended texts of revised primary law(s) endorsed by the MoA
- Recommended amendments to upgrade by-laws endorsed by the MoA, including at least:
  - ✓ EU/OIE compliant contingency plans against priority diseases for the control of epidemic animal diseases of major economic importance
  - ✓ List of priority animal diseases that includes all EU (92/119/EEC, Annex 1) and OIE listed diseases
  - ✓ Legislation enabling a fair and transparent compensation system based on the EU model
  - ✓ Secondary legislation for priority diseases
- Recommended new legal by-laws (if any) endorsed by the MoA
- Recommended changes to other related legal acts proposed to the MoA
- Legal basis for restructuring of the epidemiology network within the MoA (in central and regional levels) endorsed by the MoA
- New statute of the DECTPEDD and its regional offices, which includes its mandate and functions endorsed by the MoA

## **Result 2: Organisational and institutional framework of the SVCS to monitor and control priority animal diseases is improved**

The result aims at strengthening the epidemiology network within the SVCS focusing on organisational and institutional reforms.

Based on the functional analysis carried out by the project (MS and BA experts), a new structure and a restructuring plan for the epidemiology network within the SVCS should be developed.

The primary focus of the Twinning project in terms of institutional reform should be the reinforcement of the headquarters, supported by a network of field epidemiologists.

It is proposed that the DECTPEDD activities are initially confined to one or more pilot areas. The DECTPEDD activities could focus on those regions where the pilot project for REV1 vaccination of small ruminants was carried out by the World Bank project, in order to objectively evaluate the impact of that updated animal health surveillance and control programmes in pilot regions. Such synergy would increase the profile of the DECTPEDD, thereby helping to ensure its sustainability.

### ***Output indicators:***

In case of structural changes

- New organisational structure and restructuring plan to modernise departments and units responsible for animal health, control and prevent of animal diseases endorsed by the MoA (this shall enable it to prevent and respond effectively to outbreaks)
- Revised job descriptions for the DECTPEDD staff at central and regional levels endorsed by the MoA
- New cost effective risk based animal health strategies for priority diseases endorsed by the MoA
- Revised service and operational procedures (including SOPs) for state and private sector veterinarians to work with the DECTPEDD endorsed by the MoA
- Revised animal health surveillance and control programmes in line with the OIE terrestrial animal health code, endorsed by the MoA and tested in the pilot regions
- New Early Detection and Rapid Response System (EDRRS) for major epizootic and zoonotic diseases endorsed by the MoA
- Quality assurance reporting system on sero-conversion rates for vaccinations by individual private veterinary practitioners endorsed by the MoA
- New system to independently monitor field activities endorsed by the MoA
- Updated disease reporting system for detailed and accurate reporting of priority diseases to DECTPEDD of the central apparatus, endorsed by the MoA

## **Result 3: Better management and co-ordination between various stakeholders are enabled to improve animal health, veterinary public health and food safety**

This result will serve better protection of animal and human health as well as food safety through improving management and co-ordination between different stakeholders.

A senior level working group with participation of all stakeholders should be created for better achievement of this result.

### **Output indicators:**

- Communication strategy among various stakeholders approved by the relevant stakeholders endorsed by the MoA
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ensuring better co-ordination between the various stakeholders involved in Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance at central and regional levels as well as internally and externally endorsed by the MoA
- Additional sources of epidemiological data related to priority animal diseases, food safety and human zoonoses identified
- Protocols developed and implemented for improving the standard of meat inspection and disease reporting at routine post-mortem inspection
- Draft protocols for the centralised reporting and analysis of zoonoses linking the relevant stakeholders [the SVCS, the Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Department (SESD) of the MoH, the rayon veterinary and public health staff and the diagnostic laboratories, the private sector veterinarians and the primary health care facilities] endorsed by the MoA
- Guidelines for the functional co-operation of the DECTPEDD with public health and food safety authorities and other groups at national, rayon and village levels accepted by the MoA
- Standardised Reporting Systems (SRS) for priority animal diseases and veterinary interventions for their surveillance and control accepted by the MoA and tested in the pilot regions

### **Result 4: Capacity of the SVCS in relation with epidemiological surveillance, programme management and data analysis is increased**

This result will allow the SVCS to increase capacity of the staff in relation with epidemiological surveillance, programme management and data analysis by sharing information, experiences and best practices of the Twinning partner(s). This will be accomplished through delivery of workshops and customised training (including training of trainers).

Awareness raising workshops on EU directives as well as a new EU Animal Health Law (which has a provisional implementation date of 2016) will be delivered.

#### ***EU animal health law***

*The current EU animal health legislative framework involves almost 50 basic directives and regulations and some 400 pieces of secondary legislation. A number of problems have been identified in respect of the existing EU legislation including:*

- *Their highly complex nature;*
- *The lack of an overall strategy;*
- *An insufficient focus on disease prevention.*

*As a result, the European Commission has proposed a new simplified Animal Health Law with a provisional implementation date of 2016. The proposal is part of a package of four reviews relating to animal health, health of plants, quality of plant reproductive material and official controls of plants, animals, food and feed.*

*A copy of the proposed Regulation (2013/0136/COD) can be downloaded from the prelex website [http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/detail\\_dossier\\_real.cfm?CL=en&DoslD=202630](http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DoslD=202630)*

At least **6 trainers** will be prepared to deliver trainings to several public and private sector veterinarians and para-veterinarians according on their particular role for provision of specialised trainings under the topics of:

- epidemiology & risk analysis
- food safety, veterinary drugs & residues
- laboratory diagnostic & quality assurance

**Output indicators:**

- Awareness raising workshops on EU Acquis (including a new EU Animal Health Law) and OIE principles delivered
- Training Needs Analysis report delivered
- Training Programmes for SVCS central and regional staff as well as private veterinarians endorsed by the MoA
- Training toolkit approved by the head of the administration
- Training packages for training of trainers delivered
- Internships carried out
- Study visits carried out

### **3.4 Activities**

***In order to meet the specific mandatory results of this project, the partners may agree on alternative or complementary activities and outputs to those identified in this section.***

***Project kick-off event***

A meeting aiming at presenting the Twinning project to the main involved stakeholders shall take place at the beginning of the project implementation.

***Project closing event***

A conference shall present the main results achieved during the project implementation and shall be organised before the conclusion of the project.

**Activities related to Result 1:**

- Establishment of a senior level working group on legal issues chaired by a Deputy Head of the SVCS or another appropriate senior manager such as head of DECTPEDD with the RTA as one of its members and definition of rules of operations

*A senior level Working Group, consisting of the representatives of key departments of the SVCS and relevant stakeholders as well as the RTA, is formed by experts in the veterinary legislation.*

*The mission of the Working Group is to assess the situation and to analyse Azerbaijan's veterinary legislation in respect of epidemiology, disease surveillance, prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses.*

*The main task of this Working Group will be to approve and/or to prepare the final draft relevant legal and regulatory framework.*

- Reviewing, assessing and proposing of the primary legal framework
- Identifying, translating and reviewing related secondary legislation and normative acts (laws, by-laws, rules, decrees, list of priority animal diseases under national legislation, contingency plans against priority diseases, etc., )
- Elaborating recommended changes and amendments for the legal and regulatory documents to be endorsed by the MoA
- Identifying and drafting additional secondary legislation

#### **Activities related to Result 2:**

- Preparing and carrying out of a functional review (vision, mission, roles, functions) of the state administrations involved in central, regional and field levels
- Preparing of a plan for the restructuring of the Epidemiology Service within the SVCS in central, regional and field levels based on the outcomes of activities mentioned under results 1 and 2 (first activity), and defining the roles, responsibilities, functions and tasks of each of the related department/divisions/points
- Revising service and operational procedures
- Developing a cost effective risk based animal health strategy
- Revising and updating animal surveillance and control programmes
- Developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Reorganising a field epidemiology monitoring system
- Reorganising current reporting system
- Testing above mentioned outputs, in particular updated animal health surveillance and control programmes in pilot regions

#### **Activities related to Result 3:**

- Establishing a working group

*A senior level Working Group, consisting of the representatives of key departments of the SVCS and relevant stakeholders as well as the RTA, is formed by experts in management and co-ordination activities.*

*The mission of the Working Group is to know the current management and co-ordination mechanism between the relevant stakeholders in Azerbaijan.*

*The main task of this Working Group will be to approve and/or to prepare the final document for improved management and co-ordination mechanisms.*

- Establishing/improving co-operation and agreements/protocols with the different stakeholders involved (producing guidelines, protocols, etc.)
- Assessing and evaluating current animal diseases information, data processing, storage and reporting systems in the SVCS
- Elaborating proposals for extending and upgrading reporting system between the PVUs, veterinary laboratories, rayon and DECTPEDD staff
- Testing above mentioned outputs, in particular updated SRS in pilot regions
- Developing a joint public awareness, communication and visibility strategies and action plans for zoonoses in co-operation with the MoH and other stakeholders

#### **Activities related to Result 4:**

- Carrying out a training needs analysis
- Developing training programmes and toolkits
- Delivering awareness rising workshops
- Delivering trainings, including training for trainers (to enable them to carry out trainings for the private sector as well)
- Developing and carrying out internships for at least two epidemiologists (to be proposed by the MS)
- Developing and delivering study visits for BA senior levels and junior level staff (subjects should be proposed by the MS)

#### **3.5 Means/ Input from the MS Partner Administration**

The MS partner administration is expected to provide the Project Leader (MS PL) and Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) as well as a team of short term experts to support them in implementation of the project activities.

The MS PL is the key link between the partners, acting at an overall operational and strategic level. The RTA resides in the BC and co-operates day-to-day with the BC partners and the MS short-term experts (STEs). STEs will work in Azerbaijan on the basis of specific Terms of Reference (ToR) which will be designed by the RTA for each mission and approved by the Beneficiary.

It has proved to be an advantage for the project implementation in previous Twinning projects when the MS has designated a senior STE to be responsible for each mandatory result/component of the project (i.e. a component leader) and to liaise with the respective component leader to be nominated by the BA. The BA will nominate counterparts to these key roles (see section 6.3).

The required MS experts must either be civil/public servants of the relevant MS administration or be permanent staff of authorised mandated bodies. All experts must comply with the requirements set in the Twinning Manual.

The nature of work for technical assistance abroad requests strong initiative, good analytical, interpersonal and language skills. All experts shall possess these qualities.

To arrange logistics for the RTA and fix local arrangements such as hotel booking, administrative support etc. for the short-term experts, the RTA will be supported by a permanent RTA Assistant. In collaboration with the BA, the RTA assistant will handle administrative arrangements for conferences, training, seminars, etc. including provision of interpreters and the ensuring the translations. One assistant will be selected during the Twinning contract preparation period.

A full-time interpreter/translator may also be recruited in Azerbaijan and funded by the project. (S)he will perform most of the required interpretation/translation services. Whenever required and needed on a clear justified request, e.g. for simultaneous interpretation during seminars and workshops, additional interpretation may be procured and funded by the project. (S)he will provide day-to-day interpretation/translation to the RTA and project experts during meetings.

### **3.5.1. Profile and tasks of the Project Leader (PL)**

The Project Leader (PL) from the MS should be a high-ranking civil servant or an equivalent senior manager in a MS institution with proven track-record in the field of veterinary, food science or related discipline.

The PL will supervise and co-ordinate the overall thrust of the project. (S)he will direct the project and will ensure that all the required strategic support and operational input from management and staff of the MS side are available. Together with the Beneficiary PL, he will organise the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. **The MS PL would continue to work in her/his MS administration but should devote a minimum of three working days per month to the project in Azerbaijan with an on-site visit to Azerbaijan at least every three months to participate in the project SC meetings.**

#### **Profile:**

##### Qualification and skills

- A university degree in veterinary medicine, food sciences or related field or another relevant discipline and proven track-record in the national implementation of international programs
- Good command of written and spoken English, on a level to 1-5 etc etc.....
- Working knowledge of Azerbaijani, Turkish or Russian would be an asset

##### General professional experience

- Preferably at least 10 years of professional experience at a senior management level in her/his MS public service in the veterinary control or food safety sector
- Experience in project management

##### Specific professional experience

- Experience in implementing current EU-policies and methods in the veterinary control or food safety sector
- Experience in implementing EU veterinary legislation
- Specific experience in the management of the implementation of international programs (including EU-funded projects) would be an asset

#### **Tasks:**

- Liaising with the BC Administration at the operational and strategic level
- Overall co-ordination, guidance and monitoring, ensuring the direction of the project execution  
Ensuring the timely achievement of the project results to be reached
- Ensuring the availability on time of MS-Short Term Experts and other MS resources
- Organising and chairing the Project Steering Committee (PSC), together with the PL BC,
- Managing the team of RTA, RTA Assistant and Experts

### **3.5.2. Profile and tasks of the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA)**

The Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) seconded from the EU MS should have at **least five years' work experience as a staff member in a MS public veterinary control service.** A network of functional contacts with related EU and Member State institutions will also be an asset. The RTA will be in charge of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in Azerbaijan. (S)he should co-ordinate the implementation of activities according to a predetermined work plan and liaise with the RTA counterpart in Azerbaijan. **(S)he will**

**reside for the entire implementation period of 24 consecutive months in Azerbaijan and work full-time for the project.** The RTA is expected to be actively involved in the implementation of all activities. (S)he should co-ordinate the project and have a certain level of understanding of all components.

### **Profile:**

#### **Qualification and skills**

- A University degree in veterinary medicine with preferably post-graduate degree in epidemiology or another relevant discipline
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Working knowledge of Azerbaijani, Turkish or Russian would be an asset

#### **General Professional Experience**

- Experience in animal diseases eradication programmes in an EU member state (planning, design, execution and/or management of animal disease control programmes)
- Experience in managing teams of experts
- Experience in developing, co-coordinating and conducting training programmes

#### **Specific Professional experience:**

- Experience in implementing current EU-policies and methods in the veterinary control or food safety sector
- At least one project or assignment of capacity building in animal health or veterinary matters in an EU candidate country or in one of the EU member state
- Experience in at least one assignment in the planning, design and execution of animal disease control programmes, including outbreak management
- Experience in implementation and enforcement of relevant EU legislation

Following experiences would be an asset:

- Having conducted reviews of legal regulations (drafting and/or implementation)
- Being able to prove former experience in various cultural environments
- Having worked in countries, that have accessed or are in a stage of accessing the European neighbourhood
- Having worked on similar projects

### **Tasks:**

- Day-to-day coordination of the various project activities in Azerbaijan, guaranteeing their smooth implementation
- Preparation of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Short-Term Experts' (STEs') missions and managing their recruitment
- Managing of the team of STEs and ensuring the results to be obtained, incorporating his/her own experience
- Ensuring the coherence and the continuity of the inputs and the on-going progress
- Assessing continuously the Twinning-project at all stages and comparing actual progress with the specified benchmarks and time-frame
- Arranging study visits to MS-countries for the staff of the SVCS and other involved administrations
- Liaising with the BC Project Leader and RTA Counterpart on regular basis
- Liaising with the EU Delegation and the PAO of Azerbaijan
- Preparing interim, quarterly and final reports



- Timely preparation of the agenda of the PSC-meetings, the documents to be discussed as well as the minutes of the meetings
- Reporting to the MS-Project Leader

### **3.5.3. Profile and tasks of the short term experts (STEs)**

All required EU institutional and technical expertise will be covered by the short-term experts. The short-term experts should have good experience in the relevant subject matter. The STEs should be civil servants or staff members of the selected MS institution(s). They should have worked in the required fields for not less than 5 years and have appropriate qualifications and necessary skills to implement the above mentioned activities.

The Terms of Reference for the short-term experts will be elaborated by the RTA. The exact number of STEs per activity should be agreed upon during the contract negotiations. There should be a pool of short-term experts to ensure smooth implementation of the project. The STEs should be identified by the Project Leader and RTA and will be agreed with the Beneficiary Administration in the course of design and implementation of the project.

#### **Indicative fields of experience for the short-term experts:**

- Veterinary laws and regulations veterinary epidemiology
- Veterinary policies and strategies
- Institutional building expert
- Animal diseases control and eradication programs (livestock or farm animals)
- Epidemiological studies
- Trainers at least in the fields of epidemiology & risk analysis, food safety, veterinary drugs and residues, laboratory diagnostic and quality assurance
- Quality Management Expert
- Statistical quality control
- Communications specialist
- Others (to be defined in the proposal and/or during the contracting phase)

#### **Indicative profile of the short-term experts:**

##### Qualification and skills

- Relevant university degree
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Working knowledge of Azerbaijani, Turkish or Russian would be an asset

##### General Professional Experience

- At least 5 years' proven experience in the relevant field
- Working experience in foreign countries would be an asset

##### Specific professional experience

- Practical experience in the respective field of project activity
- Project and training experience would be an asset

In addition to their missions in Azerbaijan, the STEs are expected to contribute actively in developing programmes for the study visits proposed in the project.

### **STEs' main tasks:**

- Provision of their specific expertise
- Know-how transfer according to the ToR prepared by the RTA and BA
- Reporting on their missions

### **3.6 Reporting and monitoring**

The MS Project Leader must draw up Interim Quarterly Reports and a Final Report. (S)he will be responsible for submitting them to the relevant authority.

For templates and requirements to reporting and monitoring, see the Twinning Manual.

### ***Project Steering Committee (PSC)***

The PSC will be convened at least every three months. The PSC will be chaired jointly by the MS PL and the BC PL. The PSC composition will be defined in the Working Plan according to requirements set in the Common Twinning Manual. Representatives from the PAO of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the EU Delegation, the RTA counterpart and BC PL as well as the RTA, MS PL and BC component leaders will participate in the PSC meetings. Observers from other institutions may be involved from time to time in cross-cutting issues. Representatives from other administrations or short term experts, may also be invited if necessary. The PSC will follow the achievement of the project results and the timely implementation of the project activities in order to identify and rectify any problems that may arise in the course of the implementation of the project. The PSC will discuss the draft of the quarterly report submitted to it on beforehand and recommend corrections.

The administrative and secretarial support of the PSC will be provided by the RTA and RTA Assistant, who will prepare the agenda of the meetings, the documents to be discussed as well as the minutes of the meetings.

The working language of the Project implementation will be English. Translation and interpretation will be provided where necessary and where permitted in the provisions of the Twinning Manual.

## **4. Institutional framework**

The body responsible for the implementation of the project is the State Veterinary Control Service (SVCS) at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoA).

The project RTA will be based at the SVCS which will provide the necessary office space and facilities

### **4.1 Mission and functions of the SVCS**

The **mission** of the SVCS is to protect all kinds of animals (cattle, poultry, fur-bearing animals, fish, bees, wild animals) from various diseases, ensure their treatments, protect the population from diseases that are common to humans and animals, carry out quality control over the animal origin products, in another word, to ensure the stability of the epizootic situation along the territory of Azerbaijan and also at the borders of the country.

According to its statute, the main **functions** of the SVCS are:

- preventing penetration and spreading into the territory of the country of especially dangerous animal diseases, liquidation of their hotbeds,
- implementing the state veterinary control at the premises subject to the veterinary control and carrying out of veterinary (veterinary and sanitary) expertise,

- issuing of veterinary certificates during import-export,
- sending back the consignments subject to the veterinary control in case of their discrepancy to the international veterinary and sanitary requirements, neutralization and liquidation
- and performing control functions to the import, production, storage, transportation, sale of veterinary preparations and to the residue of heavy metal salts, hormonal preparations, residue of antibiotics in the animal products, feed and feed additives.

#### **4.2 Organisational structure**

The current organisational structure of the SVCS is shown below in Annex 3. However, as mentioned above, the GoA is implementing a major reform of the sector which will significantly alter the structure and role of the SVS, including privatization of village level Veterinary Points and redeployment of staff to the private sector. As part of the reform process, a Presidential Decree was issued in October 2014 announcing a change of title for the State Veterinary Service to the State Veterinary Control Service, signalling intent to redefine SVCS as a regulatory agency and reallocate field activities to the private sector.

The new structure is expected to be in place early next year.

Total staff numbers in the SVCS are estimated to be 3,295 of whom 36 are located in headquarters and 434 in laboratories. Of the remainder roughly two thirds work in the area of animal health and one third in veterinary public health. There is currently a small private veterinary sector, comprising 300 veterinarians and 200 zoo-technicians. Total number of SVS staff will decrease to 2,940 after approval of privatization of the veterinary service points

The SVCS staff will be involved to the project implementation at three levels:

- Headquarters staff in Baku comprising administration, Republican Central Veterinary Laboratory (RCVL) and two veterinary institutes, Veterinary Scientific Research Institute (VSRI) and Veterinary Research Institute for Biologicals (VRIB)
- District (rayon) and city level staff operating from 72 veterinary offices and 12 zonal veterinary laboratories
- Field staff working out of 780 Field Veterinary Service Units, 47 rayon diagnostic cabinets and 105 veterinary sanitary laboratories at market places

The Department on Epidemiology Control, Treatment and Prevention of Especially Dangerous Diseases (DECTPEDD) and epidemiologists of the regional offices together with the staff of the newly privatized veterinary units are the main beneficiaries of the twinning project.

Relevant staff of the Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Department (SESD) of the Ministry of Health will also be involved to the implementation of the project.

See Annexe 3.a and 3.b for more detailed information.

#### **5. Budget**

The maximum budget allocated to this Twinning project is € 1,020,000

The Azerbaijani beneficiary administration will provide the RTA and other MS experts with office space in its main building in Baku, equipment and other provisions as stated in the Common Twinning Manual.

## 6. Implementing arrangements

### 6.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting

The Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting is the European Commission represented by **the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

The persons in charge of this project at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan are:

**Mr Jeroen WILLEMS**, Head of Co-operation

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan

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AZ 1010 Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

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**Mr Olaf Heidelberg**

Programme Manager

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan

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Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan>

### 6.2 Main counterparts in the Beneficiary country

#### ***Programme Administration Office in Azerbaijan (PAO)***

The person in charge of this project at the PAO is:

**Mr Ruslan Rustamli**, Director of PAO

Head of the Department on Cooperation with International Organizations,

Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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Website: <http://pao.az>

### **Beneficiary Administration – State Veterinary Control Service at the Ministry of Agriculture**

The Beneficiary Administration has nominated its main counterparts to the MS PL and RTA:

#### **Project Leader – Mrs Ayten Hajiyeva**

Head of division in Republican Veterinary Laboratory  
Address: Block 3123, 8<sup>th</sup> Micro-district, AZ1115, Baku  
Tel.: (+994 12) 441 6002 (+994 12) 372 7100 (mobile)  
Fax: (+994 12) 441 60 02  
E-mail: [ayten-hajiyeva@mail.ru](mailto:ayten-hajiyeva@mail.ru)

#### **RTA counterpart – Mr Rahib Abdullayev**

Head of Republican Expedition on Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis  
Address: Block 3123, 8<sup>th</sup> Micro-district, AZ1115, Baku  
Tel.: (+994 12) 562 64 09, (+99 450) 388 9348 (mobile)  
Fax: (+994 12) 562 64 09  
E-mail: [ali305@mail.ru](mailto:ali305@mail.ru)

During the contracting phase of the project, the beneficiary administration will nominate leaders for each of the four results

### **6.3 Contracts**

Only one Twinning contract is foreseen for this project.

A new Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union entered into force on 1st January 2013<sup>10</sup>. This implies several changes to the Twinning contract templates. An updated version of the Twinning Manual and of its Annexes, incorporating these changes, is in preparation and shall be published soon on EuropeAid website<sup>11</sup>. The Twinning contract, which shall be signed as a result of the present procedure shall follow the templates of the updated Twinning Manual and Annexes.

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<sup>10</sup> Financial Regulation: Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:298:0001:0096:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:EN:PDF>

<sup>11</sup> Rules of Application: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/twinning\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/twinning_en.htm)

## **7. Implementation schedule (indicative)**

<b>7.1 Launching of the call for proposals:</b>	June 2015
<b>7.2 Start of project activities:</b>	March 2016
<b>7.3 Workplan duration:</b>	24 months

## **8. Sustainability**

The Twinning project will have to seek sustainable solutions and approaches based on the adoption of best practices and thus prepare the grounds for Azerbaijani enhanced compliance with the selected EU Acquis and specifically best European practices in the field of veterinary control and epidemiological surveillance.

Sustainability issues will be further elaborated in the course of the preparation of the project contract as a joint responsibility of the MS partner and the Beneficiary Administration. Besides, in the final report, twinning partners will include specific recommendations and strategies for consolidating and safeguarding the achievement of mandatory results in the beneficiary administration.

To ensure sustainability, Beneficiary Administrations should be provided with the training materials (all handovers) in both languages, English and Azerbaijani. That means that a budget for the translation of Guidelines, Handbooks, Glossaries, Methodology Manuals, etc. developed within the project should be foreseen.

## **9. Cross-cutting issues**

### **9.1 Equal opportunity**

The proposed project will comply with EU equal opportunity policies. Equal treatment of women and men in project implementation at all levels will be one of the most important principles in the project management and implementation. The beneficiaries are already equal opportunity employers. In particular, great attention will be given to the equality principle in the training of personnel and the recruitment of the STEs. Of course, appropriate professional qualifications and experience will be the main decisive factors in personnel recruitment and evaluation but, subject to that, both women and men will have identical prospects.

### **9.2 Environment**

The principle of implementation of this Twinning project is based on a paperless work environment. This means, in particular, minimising paper use during project implementation by the maximum feasible use of e-mails and, if available, project web-site and/or project electronic data base for co-operation between partners. Documents are automatically saved in electronic format.

## **10. Conditionality and sequencing**

There are no other requirements on sequencing, except for those mentioned in the relevant activities.

### **List of the abbreviations**

ACIP	Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project
AFSA	Azerbaijani Food Safety Authority
Animal I&R	Animal Identification and Registration
AR	Autonomous Republic
ASF	African Swine Fever
BC	Beneficiary Country
BWC	Biological Weapons Convention
CIB	Comprehensive Institution Building Programme
CoM	Cabinet of Ministers
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DECTPEDD	Division for Epidemiological Control, Treatment and Prophylaxis of Especially Dangerous Diseases
DG SANCO	Directorate-General for Health and Consumers
DTRA	USA Department of Defence Threat Reduction Agency
ECD	European Commission Delegation
EDP	Extremely Dangerous Pathogen
EDRRS	Early Detection and Rapid Response System
EIDSS	Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENP AP	European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EU	European Union
FVO	EU Food and Veterinary Office
FVSU	Field Veterinary Service Unit
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GIS	Geographical Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GoA	Government of Azerbaijan
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IRP	Institutional Reforms Plan
LSD	Lumpy Skin Disease
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture of the republic of Azerbaijan
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
MS PL	Member State Project Leader
Nakhchivan AR	Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic
NIP	National Indicative Programme
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties)
OIV-PVS	OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
PAO	Programme Administration Office
PCA	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PVU	Private Veterinary Unit
RCVL	Republican Central Veterinary Laboratory

RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SCC	State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
SCLC	State Committee for Land and Cartography
SCPI	State Committee for Property Issues
SESD	Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Department
SIGMA	Support for Improvement in Governance and Management
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRS	Standardised Reporting System
SSC	Short Term Expert
STE	Short Term Expert
SVCS	State Veterinary Control Service
SVS	State Veterinary Service
TA	Technical Assistance
TADR	Threat Agent Detection and Response
TAIEX	Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office
ToR	Terms of Reference
VRIB	Veterinary Research Institute for Biologicals
VSRI	Veterinary Scientific Research Institute
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



## **ANNEXES**

1. Logical framework matrix
2. List of Relevant Laws and Regulations
3. Organigramme of the State Veterinary Services of the Republic of Azerbaijan

## Annex 1: Logical Framework Matrix\*

<b>Support to the State Veterinary Control Service (SVCS) in Strengthening of the Epidemiological Surveillance System in Azerbaijan</b>		Programme name and number: <b>ENPI AAP 2012</b>	<b>AZ/15/ENP/AG/37</b>
<b>State Veterinary Control Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan</b>		Contracting period expires:	Disbursement period expires:
		<b>Total budget: 1.1 million EUR</b>	
	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Overall objective:</b>			
To strengthen the veterinary control services in Azerbaijan in order to protect animal and human health and contribute to the economic growth of the agricultural sector and improvement of the food safety situation in Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prevalence rates for designated diseases in human and animal populations (measures reduction of prevalence)</li> <li>▪ Productivity increase in the livestock sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MoA and MoH annual statistical reports</li> <li>▪ OIE statistical reports</li> <li>▪ National Animal Disease Information System (AZVET)</li> <li>▪ Periodic reports of the SSC of Azerbaijan</li> </ul>	
<b>Project purpose:</b>			
To strengthen the capacity of the SVCS in respect of epidemiology, disease surveillance, prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses in line with the OIE principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of livestock owners who are reporting animal disease outbreaks</li> <li>▪ More detailed and accurate (quality) reports for priority diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic and annual reports of DECTPEDD</li> <li>▪ Notification through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political willingness and continuous commitment of national authorities</li> <li>▪ Full commitment of the government to ensure that the project results are reached</li> <li>▪ Effective co-ordination between the various project components and effective cooperation with SVS and other project partners</li> <li>▪ Government allocates the necessary funding to sustain any</li> </ul>

			increased budgetary support to staffing and operating costs of the veterinary service
<b>Mandatory Results:</b>			
1. The legal and regulatory framework is reviewed and concrete recommendations to enable improved epidemiological surveillance, prevention and control of priority animal diseases and zoonoses are developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gaps and recommendations which contains the list of needed revisions to the legal and regulatory framework</li> <li>▪ Recommended texts of revised primary law(s) endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Recommended amendments to upgrade by-laws endorsed by the MoA, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EU/OIE compliant contingency plans against priority diseases for the control of epidemic animal diseases of major economic importance</li> <li>✓ List of priority animal diseases that includes all EU (92/119/EEC, Annex 1) and OIE listed diseases</li> <li>✓ Legislation enabling a fair and transparent compensation system based on the EU model</li> <li>✓ Secondary legislation for priority diseases</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Recommended new legal by-laws (if any) endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Recommended changes to other related legal acts proposed to the MoA</li> <li>▪ Legal basis for restructuring of the epidemiology network within the MoA (in central and regional levels) endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ New statute of the DECTPEDD and its regional offices, which includes its mandate and functions endorsed by the MoA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copies of draft secondary legislation endorsed by the MoA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access to facilities and documentation</li> </ul>
2. Organisational and institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New organisational structure and restructuring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government support the qualified</li> </ul>

<p>framework of the SVCS to monitor and control priority animal diseases is improved</p>	<p>plan to modernise departments and units responsible for animal health, control and prevent of animal diseases endorsed by the MoA (this shall enable it to prevent and respond effectively to outbreaks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revised job descriptions for the DECTPEDD staff at central and regional levels endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ New cost effective risk based animal health strategies for priority diseases endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Revised service and operational procedures (including SOPs) for state and private sector veterinarians to work with the DECTPEDD endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Revised animal health surveillance and control programmes in line with the OIE terrestrial animal health code, endorsed by the MoA and tested in the pilot regions</li> <li>▪ New Early Detection and Rapid Response System (EDRRS) for major epizootic and zoonotic diseases endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Quality assurance reporting system on sero-conversion rates for vaccinations by individual private veterinary practitioners endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ New system to independently monitor field activities endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Updated disease reporting system for detailed and accurate reporting of priority diseases to DECTPEDD of the central apparatus, endorsed by the MoA</li> </ul>	<p>control programmes by EU FVO and OIE-PVS during next missions to Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Reports</li> <li>▪ Report on results of sero-monitoring activities</li> </ul>	<p>staff in the epidemiological service and avoid frequent turnovers of the qualified staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government allocates the necessary funding to sustain the normal functioning of the epidemiological service including transport, communication and IT</li> <li>▪ Structures to carry out the supervision of field activities are effective</li> </ul>
<p>3. Better management and co-ordination between various stakeholders are enabled to improve animal health, veterinary public health and food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication strategy among various stakeholders approved by the relevant stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reports of SVCS</li> <li>▪ Copies of the MoU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ External stakeholders are willing to co-operate</li> <li>▪ Community acceptance and</li> </ul>

<p>safety</p>	<p>ensuring better co-ordination between the various stakeholders involved in Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance at central and regional levels as well as internally and externally signed by the relevant stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional sources of epidemiological data related to priority animal diseases and human zoonoses identified</li> <li>▪ Draft protocols for the centralised reporting and analysis of zoonoses linking the relevant stakeholders [the SVCS, the Sanitary Epidemiology Surveillance Department (SESD) of the MoH, the rayon veterinary and public health staff and the diagnostic laboratories, the private sector veterinarians and the primary health care facilities] endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Guidelines for the functional co-operation of the DECTPEDD with public health and food safety authorities and other groups at national, rayon and village levels accepted by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Standardised Reporting Systems (SRS) for priority animal diseases and veterinary interventions for their surveillance and control accepted by the MoA and tested in the pilot regions</li> </ul>	<p>documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring reports</li> </ul>	<p>adoption of health messages</p>
<p>4. Capacity of the SVCS in relation with epidemiological surveillance, programme management and data analysis is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness raising workshops (including a new EU Animal Health Law) on EU Acquis and OIE principles delivered</li> <li>▪ Training Needs Analysis report delivered</li> <li>▪ Training Programmes for SVCS central and regional staff as well as private veterinarians endorsed by the MoA</li> <li>▪ Training toolkit approved by the head of the administration</li> <li>▪ Training packages for training of trainers delivered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Report on training needs for all target groups</li> <li>▪ Reports of SCVS</li> <li>▪ Reports on the delivered trainings and workshops with involvement of relevant SMA staff and other institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adequate logistics</li> <li>▪ Willingness of trained staff to apply EU best practices and OIE principles</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internships carried out</li> <li>▪ Study visits carried out</li> </ul>		
Activities	Means	Cost	
<b>Project management and visibility activities:</b>			
0.1. Kick-off meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adequate logistics provided by the BA</li> <li>▪ MS PL, RTA, 2 project assistants and STEs</li> <li>▪ BA PL, RTA Counterpart, BA staff involved to the project</li> </ul>		
0.2. Quarterly meetings of the Steering Committee			
0.3. Final conference			
<i>Activities to achieve result 1:</i>			
1.1. Reviewing, assessing and proposing of the primary legal framework 1.2. Identifying, translating and reviewing related secondary legislation and normative acts (laws, by-laws, rules, decrees, list of priority animal diseases under national legislation, contingency plans against priority diseases, etc., ) 1.3. Elaborating recommended changes and amendments for the legal and regulatory documents to be endorsed by the MoA 1.4. Identifying and drafting additional secondary legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTA, 2 project assistants and STEs</li> <li>▪ RTA Counterpart, BA staff involved to the project as well as working group members</li> </ul>		
<i>Activities to achieve result 2:</i>			
2.1. Preparing and carrying out of a functional review (vision, mission, roles, functions) of the state administrations involved in central, regional and field levels 2.2. Preparing of a plan for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTA, 2 project assistants and STEs</li> <li>▪ RTA Counterpart, BA staff involved to the project</li> </ul>		

<p>restructuring of the Epidemiology Service within the SVCS in central, regional and field levels based on the outcomes of activities mentioned under results 1 and 2 (first activity), and defining the roles, responsibilities, functions and tasks of each of the related department/divisions/points</p> <p>2.3. Revising service and operational procedures</p> <p>2.4. Developing a cost effective risk based animal health strategy</p> <p>2.5. Revising and updating animal surveillance and control programmes</p> <p>2.6. Developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</p> <p>2.7. Reorganising a field epidemiology monitoring system</p> <p>2.8. Reorganising current reporting system</p> <p>2.9. Testing above mentioned outputs, in particular updated animal health surveillance and control programmes in pilot regions</p>			
<p><i>Activities to achieve result 3:</i></p>			
<p>3.1. Establishing/improving co-operation and agreements/protocols with the different stakeholders involved (producing guidelines, protocols, etc.)</p> <p>3.2. Assessing and evaluating current animal diseases information, data processing, storage and reporting systems in the SVCS</p> <p>3.3. Elaborating proposals for extending and upgrading reporting system between the PVPs, veterinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTA, 2 project assistants and STEs</li> <li>▪ RTA Counterpart, BA staff involved to the project as well as working group members</li> </ul>		

<p>laboratories, rayon and DECTPEDD staff</p> <p>3.4. Testing above mentioned outputs, in particular updated SRS in pilot regions</p> <p>3.5. Developing a joint public awareness, communication and visibility strategies and action plans for zoonoses in co-operation with the MoH and other stakeholders</p>			
<i>Activities to achieve result 4:</i>			
<p>4.1. Carrying out a training needs analysis</p> <p>4.2. Developing training programmes and toolkits</p> <p>4.3. Delivering awareness rising workshops</p> <p>4.4. Delivering trainings, including training for trainers (to enable them to carry out trainings for the private sector as well)</p> <p>4.5. Developing and carrying out internships for at least two epidemiologists</p> <p>4.6. Developing and delivering study visits for BA senior levels and junior level staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adequate logistics provided by the BA</li> <li>▪ MS PL, RTA, 2 project assistants and STEs</li> <li>▪ RTA Counterpart, BA staff, civil servants of other state bodies as well as private veterinarians involved to the project</li> </ul>		

*\* - This Logical Framework Matrix is tentative. The Twinning partners shall revise the content of the Logical Framework Matrix, mainly measurable indicators / benchmarks basis of commonly agreed activities and outputs during the drafting of the work plan for this project*



## Annex 2: List of Relevant Laws and Regulations

### A. Veterinary legislation in force

#### **Primary Legislation:**

- **Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Veterinary”, No 922-IIQ, dated 31 May 2005 (last amendment was made in September 2014 regarding with amendments to provisions on inspection)**

*The Veterinary Law determines legal and organizational basis of the veterinary activity in the country, regulates the relations between entities ensuring veterinary and veterinary-sanitary health of the country, safety of consignments subject of the state veterinary control, protection of the population against diseases common to animals and humans*

#### **Presidential decrees and orders to improve governance and accelerate institutional reforms in the field of agriculture:**

- **Presidential Order “On additional measures for improving the functioning of the agricultural and food products market”, dated 16 January 2014**
- **Presidential Decree “Measures on improving governance and acceleration institutional reforms in the agricultural sector”, dated 16 April 2014**
- **Presidential Order “Ensure the functioning of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and amended to Presidential Order No 1015 dated July 14, 2010 "On approval of a variety of structures of the central executive bodies", dated 3 October 2014**

#### **Decrees of the Cabinet Ministries regulating epidemiology:**

- “List of the veterinary prevention, diagnosis, and liquidation of state-funded especially dangerous animal diseases”; “Regulations on epizootic monitoring”; “Regulations on creation, maintenance and use of the veterinary preparations reserve” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, Regulation No 65 dated 7 March 2006
- “List of the animals and the dangerous diseases that pose a threat to public health” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, Regulation No 167, dated 7 July 2006
- “List of infectious animal diseases, regarding which quarantine and limitation measures are applied” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, Regulation No 228, dated 19 October 2006
- “Regulations on routine preventive or mandatory vaccination of animals, to prevent the spread of animal diseases from occurring, sources of epizootic diseases and unhealthy settlements to cancel, their territory of animals, vehicles and other disinfection, disinsection and deracination works”; “Regulations on isolated from other countries to determine their health maintenance of animals and duration”; “Regulations on organization of veterinary measures” adopted adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, Regulation No 11, dated 23 January 2007.
- “Approbation, expert examination, testing, state registry and keeping state registry, production, import, storage, transportation, sale and use of veterinary preparations as well as approval of normative-technical papers on production and application of new veterinary preparations, equipment and new additives, quality control thereof and

expression of opinion thereon in the Republic of Azerbaijan”; “At the occurrence of several quarantine and particularly dangerous infectious diseases compensation of material loss incurred by legal and physical entities while liquidating those diseases” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 66, dated 16 April 16 2007

- “Compensation scheme to farmers for slaughtering diseased animals” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, Regulation No 104, 6 dated 6 July 2002

#### **B. Other related Laws and Regulations in force**

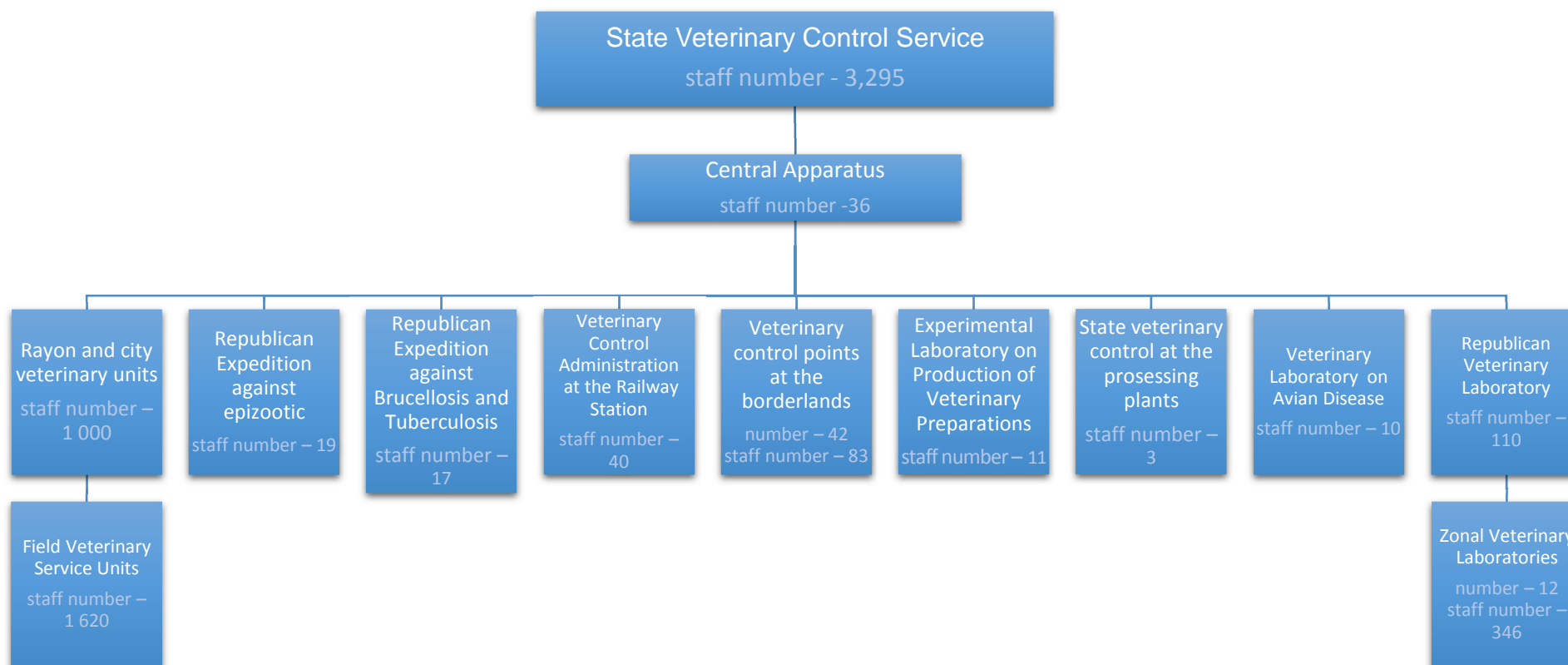
- Law of the Azerbaijan Republic “On Food Stuffs”, dated 18 November 1999
- Law of Azerbaijan Republic « On the Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-being», dated 10 November 1992

#### **C. Draft legislation**

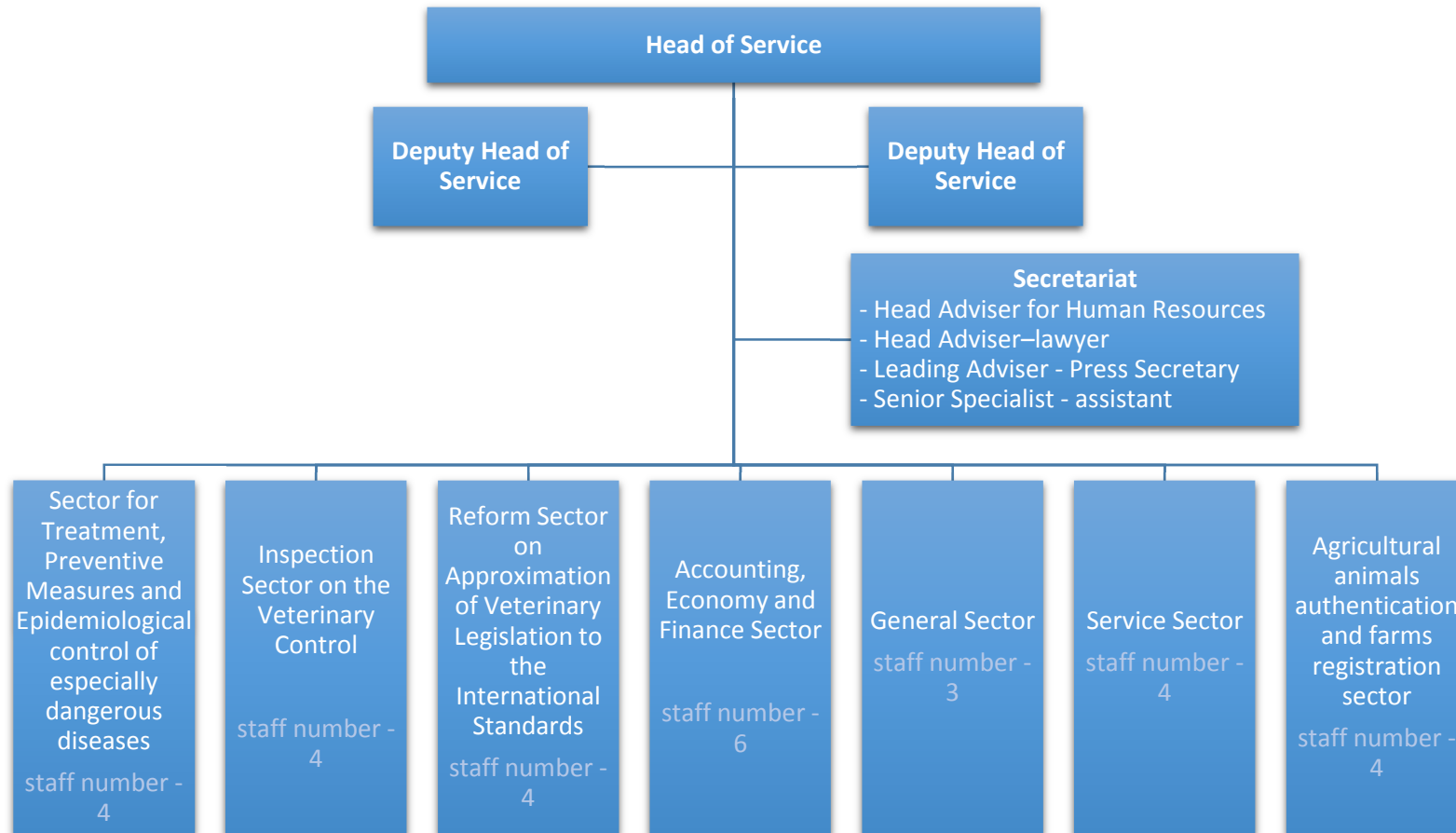
- Draft Amendments to the Law “On Veterinary” regarding compliance with WTO requirements and animal identification provisions

## Annex 3: Organigramme of the State Veterinary Services

### STRUCTURE of the State Veterinary Control Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan



**STRUCTURE  
of Central Apparatus of the State Veterinary Control Service**



**Total staff number – 36**

## STRUCTURE of the State Veterinary Service of Nakhchivan AR

