

Project Fiche – IPA National programmes / Component I

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	<i>Improve Consumer Protection Against Zoonotic Diseases – II Phase</i>
CRIS Decision number	<i>2012/023-036</i>
Project no.	<i>13</i>
MIPD Sector Code	<i>8. Agriculture and rural development</i>
ELARG Statistical code	<i>03.12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy</i>
DAC Sector code	<i>12250 - Infectious disease control</i>
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	<i>EUR 4.90 mil</i>
EU contribution	<i>EUR 4.50 mil</i>
Management mode	<i>Centralised</i>
EU Delegation in charge	<i>EU Delegation to Albania</i>
Implementation management	<i>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection: Ariana Misha SPO/ Director Directorate of European Integration Blvd."Deshmoret e Kombit" 1002-Tirana, Albania Tel.: +355 42 227920 Cel.: +355 672084014 Email: anamisha@yahoo.com web: www.mbumk.gov.al</i>
Implementing modality	<i>Stand-alone project: one service contract and two supply contracts</i>
Project implementation type	<i>C01 - Project-type interventions</i>
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	<i>Albania</i>

¹ The total project cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

Animal diseases have a great influence in reducing livestock productivity and adversely affect the rural livelihoods and commercial livestock enterprises. Zoonotic diseases also threaten public health.

The IPA 2008 “Improving consumer protection against zoonotic diseases – Albania” (PAZA) project, which began in December 2009, has strengthened the state veterinary service following the reorganization of the Ministry Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and establishment of the National Food Authority. The implementation of the PAZA Project will end in March 2013 but it will be necessary to continue a range of activities, particularly to establish effective disease surveillance, in order to meet the EU standards in this field.

This new project has an integrated approach aiming at the continued improvement of public and animal health, through the establishment of adequate monitoring, to promote animal and human health, and access to markets. The acquis lays down hygiene rules for food production and veterinary rules, which are essential to safeguard animal health, animal welfare and the safety of food of animal origin. This project will ensure appropriate and effective disease surveillance, diagnosis and reporting through the provision of facilities, equipment and materials, standard operating procedures, capacities building and performance monitoring systems for the operations of the state veterinary service related to disease control, including appropriate laboratory capacity.

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND NATIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIES

The project will contribute in achieving the “expected results” foreseen under section 3.6.3 of the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document for Albania for the period 2011–2013, which are:

“For the coming three years the main specific objective is to improve the level of knowledge about food quality and safety standards. A higher productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural and agro processing sectors within the country and abroad by lowering the costs, increasing the quality, and ensuring high food safety standards.”

In addition in the **National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement 2009-2014** has been foreseen short term and mid term activities with regard to tracing, vaccination and ear-tagging of animals with the aim to reduce and eliminate dangerous animal diseases.

Under the framework of the Government’s Integrated Planning System (IPS), the Albanian government has committed funds to support the food safety and veterinary through construction or rehabilitation of laboratories, provision of laboratory equipment and construction of small slaughterhouses. More specifically **in the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2007-2013** is stressed that: “The public programmes that support **agricultural and rural development** will be consolidated in accordance with EU practices, with the aim to support sustainable development in this area, and the Payments

Agency will be established in the long term. Modern systems of food safety will be introduced gradually and the institutions that guarantee its standards will be consolidated.”²

According to the **Agriculture and Food Sectoral Strategy 2007-2013**, the main policy objectives of the Government of Albania in the field of agriculture are: increase of economic efficiency of the agricultural and agro-processing sector, expressed through increased productivity and product quality; guaranteed higher standard of food safety for the entire population; improvement of agricultural marketing.

2.3 LINK WITH ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP (AP) / EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (EP) / STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA) / ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

European Partnership

In line with the medium term priorities of the European Partnership 2007³, the project will assist the achievement of priorities related to food safety, phyto-sanitary and veterinary legislation and registration of animals in compliance with EC requirements.

EC Progress Report 2011

The progress Report 2011 (chapter 12) states that: ”Capacity to manage the implementation of disease eradication programmes, and to ensure timely communication of information, remains limited. Regarding animal registration, efforts continue towards compliance with EU standards: a harmonized system to identify and register bovines and small ruminants has been developed, which provides the essential basis for disease surveillance and control”

Albania’s new Veterinary Law addresses the control of animal diseases (*e.g.* anthrax, tuberculosis, brucellosis, rabies and Newcastle disease) but efforts need to continue to ensure alignment with the *acquis* and proper implementation, including disease surveillance and reporting. It is necessary to establish a compliant, effective and operational system to support trade in live animals and products of animal origin.

There is no Albanian legislation specifically on non-commercial movements of pet animals transposing the relevant EU legislation. Basic principles of animal welfare have been introduced in the national legislation, but will need to be further developed.

The project is in line with the provisions of the **Stabilization and Association Agreement** (namely Articles 70, and 76); according to which Parties should cooperate in order to align the standards of consumer protection in Albania to those of the Community. Effective consumer protection is necessary in order to ensure that the market economy functions properly, and this protection will depend on the development of an administrative infrastructure in order to ensure market surveillance and law enforcement in this field. On the other hand, the approximation of legislation in this field is considered as priority in the Article 70 of the SAA.

² National Strategy for Development and Integration, 2007-2013, pg 19

³ Council Decision 2008/210/EC of 18 February 2008 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Albania and repealing Decision 2006/54/EC

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The EU funded projects through PHARE and CARDS programmes established in the Veterinary Service the capacity for the identification and registration systems for bovines and small ruminants. Support was given to the National Veterinary Epidemiological Unit (NVEU).

The IPA 2008 project "Improving consumer protection against zoonotic diseases" (PAZA) made reference to the existing experience and tools to formulate disease eradication strategies. Although the primary objective of PAZA regards the eradication of the main zoonotic diseases in Albania, the achievement of this objective cannot be reached without an efficient animal disease surveillance and monitoring system to enable optimal planning of disease control strategies and effective monitoring of the outcomes of these strategies. Under such context various important inputs have been provided to the State Veterinary Service (SVS) including the (i) creation of farm register, (ii) harmonization of existing animal databases to a more modern tool (RUDA) with the purpose of not only unifying and updating the animal register but using the system also for disease reporting, (iii) definition of job descriptions for data managers and regional surveillance veterinarians, (iv) preparation of various surveillance manuals regarding disease recognition, reporting and outbreak investigation.

There is a need to further improve the capacity of the veterinary service for monitoring, surveying and implementing appropriate measures against animal diseases. While it has been a progress in the definition of structures and functions regarding the animal disease surveillance system, it has to be implemented practically in the field with performance indicators developed and applied.

The implementation of a modern and reliable animal surveillance system requires an improved disease investigation, sampling and laboratory diagnostics. Lack of adequate funding for field surveillance activities remains a main bottleneck to establish a sound and consolidated system that should be accompanied by a continuous education and training of the veterinary system including around 1,000 private veterinary practitioners, 157 official veterinarians of the state veterinary service (SVS) and the analytical staff of veterinary laboratories. Without increasing the skilfulness of the whole veterinary service to provide reliable data on the occurrence of animal diseases, it will be unlikely to design, plan and adopt cost-efficient strategies for animal disease control.

The veterinary service is in the process of being restructured in the light of the reform involving the whole food chain system. The new veterinary law was approved only in November 2011. The process of consolidating animal disease surveillance systems (at national and regional level) requires a longer time and additional resources than foreseen under the current PAZA project.

The project will consolidate the results achieved through IPA 2008 project with reference to the measures for the eradication of brucellosis planning to implement and monitor the vaccination on replacements, assist the SVS to take effective measures against bovine brucellosis and anthrax and also implement the vaccination against rabies in the context of the Commission programme for the Western Balkans.

2.5 LINKED ACTIVITIES AND DONOR COORDINATION

Activities under this project will complement the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, in synergy with EU and other donors projects, to achieve

compliance with requirements of the acquis, with special regard to the safety principle “*Stable to Table*”, as follows:

- CARDS 2005 “ Establishment of the National Food Authority”;
- The small ruminant project funded jointly by the Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands, implemented in Kukes region named “Promali”;
- The “Livestock Project” implemented by UNDP, jointly funded by the EU (through IPA 2008) and Italian Cooperation;
- The IPA 2008 “Improving consumer protection against zoonotic diseases – Albania” – PAZA Project;
- The IPA 2009 “Strengthening the Food Safety System in Albania”;
- IPA Multibeneficiary Project - Western Balkans (EuropeAid/129988/C/SER/MULTI). The aim of this project is to improve regional and crossborder cooperation in the Western Balkans and, thereby ensuring that the control and eradication of important animal diseases is harmonized and coordinated at a regional level with Commission support.

2.6 LESSONS LEARNED

- The timely allocation by Government of an adequate operational budget is a prerequisite for the mobility of field staff responsible for disease surveillance. The recruitment of younger members of the veterinary profession would be enhanced by the provision of continuing education to ensure that skills and knowledge are upgraded to the level necessary to achieve compliance with EU regulations;
- A clear policy, strategy and work plan for development of the national veterinary diagnostic laboratory network is needed to ensure that an effective surveillance system is established;
- Effective livestock movement control depends on the mobility of field veterinary staff and adequate facilities at livestock markets, as well as effective enforcement of the legislation;
- Institutional changes and the protracted process of the development of new legislation adversely affected the PAZA Project. The new Law Nr 10465 dated 29/09/2011 “On veterinary services in the Republic of Albania” effective from November 7th, 2011 redefined the competence, roles and responsibilities of the state veterinary service; this is a precondition for the development of a needs-based training programme.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

To contribute to increased livestock health and productivity and improved protection of public health in Albania in line with the EU regulations for the control and monitoring of zoonotic agents.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT

The specific objective is to develop and establish reliable and effective disease surveillance systems for efficient animal disease control.

3.3 RESULTS

The results are as follows:

Activity 1

Result 1: National animal disease reporting and surveillance system is fully operational

- Result 1.1 - Operational plans to control main animal diseases (including the target zoonotic diseases) are effectively implemented.
- Result 1.2 - Analytic and diagnostic skills of the Veterinary laboratory network improved,
- Result 1.3 - Relevant legislation on animal disease reporting and surveillance revised and improved,
- Result 1.4 - National field-based animal disease surveillance system strengthened and fully effective.
- Result 1.5 - Vaccination against rabies monitored in line with the best recommended practices
- Result 1.6 - Awareness of all stakeholder groups on the need to report livestock diseases increased.

Activity 2

Result 2: Potential incidence in the country and trans-boundary transmission of rabies reduced due to vaccination

- Result 2.1 - Vaccination against rabies completed successfully t over the boundary area of Albania

Activity 3

Result 3: Laboratory supplies provided

- Result 3.1 Vaccines and diagnostics kits and reagents supplied.

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and its agencies involved in animal and consumer health protection.

Contract 1.1: Service contract: Technical Assistance financed by EU contribution.

- Sub-activity 1.1 Implement operational plans for disease surveillance and control
- Sub-activity 1.2 Design and launch needs-based training programme for private veterinarians, official veterinarians, laboratory staff in line with roles and

responsibilities foreseen in the revised legislation with regard to national disease reporting and surveillance systems

- Sub-activity 1.3 Continue the application of disease eradication measures and carry out systematic monitoring through established key performance indicators
- Sub-activity 1.4 Undertake the monitoring of vaccination against rabies in the frame of WB programme
- Sub-activity 1.5 Producer and public awareness campaigns and information events with regard to animal diseases and transmission to humans.

Activity 2: Vaccination against rabies

Contract 2.1: Supply Contract financed by EU contribution.

- Sub activity 2.1 Following the experience in the WB countries with rabies vaccination, a supply contract that includes the vaccines and vaccination will be used to cover the treatment of the boundary areas of Albania

Activity 3: Supply of the vaccines and diagnostic reagents.

Contract 3.1: Supply of vaccines and diagnostic kits and reagents financed by EU contribution

- Sub-activity 3.1 Vaccines for the control of brucellosis in ovine (only replacements for 2 years) and bovine (following assessments from PAZA during 2012)
- Sub activity 3.2 Provision of diagnostic kits and reagents necessary to measure the prevalence of diseases and laboratory diagnostics

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT, CATALYTIC EFFECT AND CROSS BORDER IMPACT (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Fully operational Disease surveillance system will improve monitoring, control and eradication of certain disease in animal population. Financial resources will be used more efficiently, distributed on risk based evidence for each specific disease especially in case of zoonosis. Efficiency in using the current financial resources will contribute to allocate some of the funds to deal with other relevant diseases in domestic livestock.

This overall effort will contribute to reduce animal and production losses due to better national and regional control of diseases. Also this will reduce the risk of transmission of zoonosis in humans and secure and safe food for the population. Securing safe food is an important aspect not only for the population but also for the growing tourist industry in Albania as well as for exporters of food products.

The vaccination against rabies guided under the IPA Multi-beneficiary Project for Western Balkans is assumed to ensure the complementarity of the actions in the whole region and avoid the transmission of the disease between border areas.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

The continued operation of the institutional system, the employment of the experts trained as well as the financial means to ensure the continued training of veterinary specialists active in the area are ensured through the medium term budget planning, within the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection.

ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS

In order to start the project the following pre-conditions will be ensured:

- Government allocates the necessary funding to satisfy the requirements of disease surveillance system with regard to field mobility, reporting and laboratory analysis;
- National policy and strategy for diagnostic laboratories finalized.

The assumptions are:

- Veterinary careers attract sufficient motivated staff and limited staff turnover;
- Sufficient Albanian speaking trainers available;
- Natural disasters (e.g., flooding) do not lead to budget reductions;
- Full commitment of the Albania government with regard to the allocation of financial and human resources during and after the termination of the project;
- Effective cooperation of the project with the ministry staff at central and local level;
- Good communication and exchange of strategies with countries in the regional in terms of animal disease eradication

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

- Contracts financed by IPA contribution will be centralised and managed by EU Delegation to Albania.

4.1 Indicative Project budget (amounts in EUR) (for centralised management)

PROJECT TITLE			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	% (2)	Total EUR ©=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1												
Contract 1.1	X		2.5	2.1	84.0%	0.4	16.0%	0.4				–
Technical assistance												
Activity 2												
Contract 2.1		X	2.0	2.0	100%							–
Supply contract												
Activity 3												
Contact 3.1		X	0.40	0.40	100%							
Supply contract												
TOTAL IB			2.5	2.1	84.0%	0.4	16.0%					
TOTAL INV			2.4	2.4	100%							
TOTAL PROJECT			4.9	4.5	91.9%	0.4	8.1%					

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROWA mounts net of VAT (1) In the Activity row, use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Dates indicated in the schedule cannot go beyond the contracting and execution deadlines in the financing proposal Is

Contracts	Start of Tendering/ Call for proposals	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1 Services	First quarter of 2013	Third quarter of 2013	Fourth quarter of 2018
Contract 2.1 Supply	First quarter of 2013	Third quarter of 2013	Fourth quarter of 2018
Contract 3.1 Supply	Second quarter of 2013	Fourth quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2015

The ToR for TA to be provided under contract 1.1 will be prepared in close cooperation between the EUD and the Technical Directorate in the Ministry and to be completed and approved by November 2012.

In order to establish the bridge between the current IPA 2008 project and IPA 2011 project with relation to rabies vaccination, the technical documentation and tendering procedures will be prepared under IPA 2008 project.

The technical specifications for the supplies to be provided through contract 3.1 will be prepared with the assistance of PAZA project before March 2013.

4.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 *Equal Opportunities and non discrimination*

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

4.3.2 *Environment and climate change*

There is no specific concern

4.3.3 *Minorities and vulnerable groups*

Minorities will equally benefit from the protection of consumer health against Zoonotic Diseases.

4.3.4 *Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement*

Relevant stakeholders consulted during the formulation of the project fiche are:

- Directorate of Animal Health within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection;
- Civil society, farmers and agribusinesses.

Stakeholders were consulted during various meetings and workshops organized by the Directorate of Animal Health with the support of IPA 2008 Project (PAZA).

During and after the implementation of the project, the monthly consultations with the Regional Branches of the Ministry will continue to exchange information regarding activities, problems and state of affairs regarding zoonotic diseases at local level. In addition, specific meetings with stakeholders can be arranged for when needs arise.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Project title and number Improve Consumer Protection Against Zoonotic Diseases – II Phase		
		Contracting period expires Contracting period expires three years from the date of conclusion of Financial Agreement		Execution period expires The contracts must be executed within a maximum of five years from the end date of contracting.
	Total budget	EUR 4.90 million		
	IPA budget:	EUR 4.50 million		
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		
To contribute to increased livestock health and productivity and improved protection of public health in Albania in line with the EU regulations for the control and monitoring of zoonotic agents.	Reported losses of livestock due to diseases Number of cases of outbreaks Human cases of Zoonotic diseases	INSTAT Veterinary office Institute of Public Health Progress report of EU		
Specific objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		Assumptions
The specific objective is to develop and establish reliable and effective disease surveillance systems for efficient animal disease control	Occurrence of diseases Costs for controlling disease outbreaks Number of people (private veterinarians, public veterinarians, laboratory staff) trained on the new surveillance methodologies	Reports from the SVS Reports from the project Accreditation certificates for laboratories Reports on proficiency tests		Sufficient staffing of the SVS along with clear definition of the tasks and responsibilities has been ensured well in advance Sufficient amount of funding has been provided to ensure the mobility of the field

	<p>Number of laboratory test accredited and validated.</p> <p>Veterinary field personnel meet key performance indicators throughout the country</p>		staff and the work of laboratories.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<p>Result 1: National animal disease reporting and surveillance system is fully operational.</p> <p>Result 1.1 - Operational plans to control target zoonotic diseases are implemented.</p> <p>Result 1.2 - Analytic and diagnostic skills of the Veterinary laboratory network improved.</p> <p>Result 1.3 -Relevant legislation on animal disease reporting and surveillance revised and improved</p> <p>Result 1.4 - National field-based animal disease surveillance system strengthened and fully effective.</p>	<p>Rate of occurrence of diseases</p> <p>Training programmes, tests and monitoring of laboratory results</p> <p>Regularity, content and reliability of data entered into the system</p> <p>Cases and complaints addressed by livestock farmers</p> <p>Approval of relevant legislation</p> <p>Regularity and quality of reports</p>	<p>Annual reports CVO and other structures</p> <p>Training reports</p> <p>Reports of external expert evaluation</p> <p>Laboratory reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Survey reports</p>	<p>Full commitment of the Albania government with regard to the allocation of financial and human resources to ensure full staff mobility in the field and sustain the running costs of laboratories involved in animal surveillance system</p> <p>The necessary laboratory equipment, furniture and reagents provided in time.</p> <p>Stakeholder groups cooperate with disease reporting</p> <p>National policy and strategy for diagnostic laboratories finalized</p> <p>Veterinary careers attract sufficient motivated staff and limited staff turnover.</p> <p>Effective cooperation of the project with the ministry staff at central and local level,</p> <p>Good communication and exchange of strategies with countries in the regional in terms of animal disease eradication</p>

<p>Result 1.5 - Vaccination against rabies monitored in line with the best recommended practices</p> <p>Result 1.6 - Awareness of all stakeholder groups on the need to report livestock disease increased.</p> <p>Result 2: Potential incidence in the country and trans-boundary transmission of rabies reduced due to vaccination</p> <p>Result 2.1 - Vaccination against rabies completed successfully over the boundary area of Albania</p> <p>.Result 3: Laboratory supplies provided</p> <p>Result 3.1 Vaccines and diagnostics kits and reagents supplied</p>	<p>Samples received and analyzed in accordance with the monitoring plan</p> <p>Reporting from stakeholder groups</p> <p>On site verification of the process, number of wild animals receiving the vaccine, uniformity of territory coverage by vaccination</p> <p>On site verification of delivery</p> <p>Acceptance certificates</p>		
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Activities to achieve results	Means / contracts	Costs	Assumptions
<p>Activity 1: Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and its agencies involved in animal and consumer health protection.</p> <p>1.1. Implement operational plans for disease surveillance and control,</p> <p>1.2 Design and launch needs-based training programme for private veterinarians, official veterinarians, laboratory staff in line with roles and responsibilities foreseen in the revised legislation with regard to national disease reporting and surveillance systems</p> <p>1.3 Continue the application of disease eradication measures and carry out systematic monitoring through established key performance indicators</p> <p>1.4 Undertake the monitoring of vaccination against rabies in the frame of WB programme</p> <p>1.5 Producer and public awareness campaigns and information events with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 TA contract • 2 supply contracts <p>Contract 1.1 Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and its agencies involved in animal and consumer health protection.</p> <p>Contract 2.1 supply contract financed by EU contribution for the vaccination against rabies</p> <p>Contract 3.1 Supply contract financed by EU contribution</p>	<p>EUR 4.0 million</p>	<p>EU Funds released in time</p> <p>Government co-financing available on time</p> <p>Inputs available on time</p> <p>Tender process completed in time</p> <p>Effective cooperation of the project with the ministry staff at central and local level</p>

<p>regard to animal diseases and transmission to humans</p> <p>Activity 2: Vaccination against rabies</p> <p>2.1 Vaccination to be carried on the boundary areas of Albania</p> <p>Activity 3: Supply of the vaccines and diagnostic reagents.</p> <p>3.1 Provision of vaccines for the control of brucellosis in ovine (only replacements for 2 years) and bovine (following assessments from PAZA during 2012)</p> <p>3.2 Provision of diagnostic kits and reagents necessary to measure the prevalence of diseases and laboratory diagnostics</p>			
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Annex 2: Description of Institutional Framework

The public veterinary service is a unique system and covers the entire territory of Albanian Republic. It is organized and acts under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection on Central and Regional level, Municipality and Commune.

The Directorate of Animal Health in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is the Central Competent Authority that covers the veterinary activity all over the territory of the country, and its main responsibilities are:

1. Elaboration of veterinary policies, prevention, control and eradication of contagious diseases programs in animals;
2. Elaboration of short-term, middle-term and long-term strategies of veterinary activities;
3. Improvement and approximation of veterinary legislation according to EU standard;
4. Monitoring of epizootic situation of contagious diseases in animals together with Veterinary Research Institute and NVEU in compliance with the obligations determined by OIE as well as informing the veterinary service and animal breeding centers;
5. Adaptation of programs, coordination and determination of measures related to control and prevention of contagious diseases in animals;
6. Elaboration of monthly reports for the animal contagious diseases and informing all Veterinarians and OIE for the situation of contagious diseases;
7. Supervision and implementation of the veterinary law and sub laws;
8. Supervision of the implementation of all rules and decisions coming from the veterinary law;
9. Administration of the financial means for animal health protection, public health and veterinarians training;
10. Retention of an annual reserve of financial means for vaccines and bio-products in case of emergencies for controlling the infective diseases of animals and zoonosis.

The Food Safety and Veterinary Institute (FSVI) is the unique national reference laboratory; it is part of the national network of the veterinary service. The activity of the Veterinary Research Institute is expanded in the whole national territory. Within FSVI is organized the National Veterinary Epidemiology and I&R Unit (NVEU), the unit serves as a research and statutory body in the monitoring and prescribing control measures for infectious diseases.

The responsibilities of the FSVI and NVEU are:

1. The monitoring of the epizootic situation at national level on diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, moulds, parasites, toxic substances, as well as monitoring of zoonotic diseases;
2. The disease diagnosis and elaboration of most efficient disease eradication scheme;
3. The production of veterinarian bio-products, like vaccines, antigens, allergens, diagnostic preparations for disease diagnosis and eradication like antigens, hyper-immune sera, etc;
4. The micro-biological, chemical, toxic, and radio-biological control of fresh and processed products of animal origin, and of food for animal use locally produced, imported or for export destination;
5. The control of residues from anabolic and not authorized substances, bio-preparations and veterinary drugs, in the live animals and poultry, and in their products;
6. Engagement as a national center to train the staff of the regional veterinary laboratories, to train and certify the veterinary pharmacist.

Regional Veterinary service is part of 12 Regional Agricultural Directorates that cover the regional veterinary activities, and is headed by the Regional Chief Vet, and cover a total of 157 Official Veterinarians.

Their responsibilities comprise:

1. Control the implementation of the veterinary law and other regulations in the veterinary field;
2. Controls the epizootic situation in animals and the outspreading of zoonotic diseases with the help of public health protection;
3. Controls and takes measures to protect animals from rough treatment;
4. Suspends production, trade and the use of products for animals in case of the presence of pathogens and harmful substances that endanger animal and public health;
5. Prohibits the trade of animal skins, that have been slaughtered without veterinary examination, or that originate from animals that have died and for which there is no veterinary attestation on the non-contamination of the area, or when they have not been stored separately from the examined skins;
6. Suspends animal slaughtering, collection and processing of unprocessed materials and production of the products of animal origin if the prescribed requirements are not fulfilled;

7. Prohibits the issue of veterinary certificate in case of contagious diseases outbreaks or suspicion for contagious diseases;
8. Suspends establishments and other facilities used for breeding, production and animal markets, when they fail to meet the prescribed requirements according to this law and regulations;
9. Takes samples of products of animal origin, raw materials, additives, wastes, water, and other samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis and send them to regional laboratories and to the Food Safety and Veterinary Institute, in order to be analyzed for pathogens and residues with harmful effects on animal and public health;
10. Orders the prohibition of the veterinary activity that is not licensed and has shortages in documentation.

ANNEX 3: Reference list of relevant laws and regulations only where relevant

- Law no. 10.465, dated 29.09.2011 "On the veterinary service in the republic of Albania";
- Regulation No. 2759/1, dated 12.8.1999, "On the control of TB in livestock";
- Directives no. 77/391/EEC, dated May 17, 1977; 78/52/EEC;
- Regulation "On the control of TB in livestock". This regulation aims at the protection of livestock health from Brucellosis, as well at taking permanent measures for the control of this infection in animals;
- Regulation "On the control Brucellosis in small livestock". This regulation aims at the protection of livestock health from Brucellosis, as well at taking permanent measures for the control of this infection in animals;
- Regulation "On the specific measures of controlling the blue tongue disease". This regulation aims at the protection of livestock health from the blue tongue disease, as well at taking permanent measures for the control of this infection in animals;
- Directive no. 93/119/EEC, dated December 22, 1993. Regulation "On the protection of animals while slaughtered, as well as the applied requirements for butchery shops". This regulation aims at the implementation of the veterinary and sanitary measures in the process of animal slaughtering;
- Regulation no. 466/2001/EEC, dated March 8, 2001. Regulation "On the establishment of maximal levels of pollution food substances". This regulation aims at taking measures in order to increase the level of food safety for the animal originating products;
- Regulation no. 854/2004/EC, dated April 29, 2004. Instruction "On the organization of official inspections to alive bivalve mollusks and fishing products". This regulation aims at taking proper sanitary and veterinary measures in order to comply with the requirements for their export to the EU countries;
- Directive Nr. 80/217/EEC January 22, 1980. Regulation "On the control of classic plague in pigs"; This regulation aims at protecting pigs' health from the disease of pseudo pest and at taking proper permanent measures in order to control;

- Instruction no. 3, dated 28.12.2002, “On cases of banning imported food products and information exchange with the exporting countries”;
- The basic law that determines the institutional structure regarding the animal farming in Albania is Law No. 9426, dated 6.10.2005, “On the Animal Husbandry/Livestock Farming”, dated 06.10.2005, which adopts partially Directives 91/174/EEC, 88/661/EEC, 98/58/EC, 90/427 EEC, 94/28/EC, 77/504/EEC;
- Law No. 8702, dated 1.12.2000, “On the identification and registration of animals and animal farms”, which adopts partially Directive 92/102, and Regulation 820/97 EC. It has completed the necessary normative framework, at the function of races programs and development of husbandry. For the implementation of this law, the DCM no. 143, dated 11.3.2004, “On the membership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection in the International Commission for animal registration (ICAR)”;
- Law no. 9863, dated 28.01.2008 “On Food”.

ANNEX 4: Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:

For TA contracts: outputs expected from the contractor and indicative budget breakdown.

Activity 1: Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer protection and subordinate institutions dealing with zoonotic diseases.

Contract 1.1: Service contract:

The precise type and number of tasks will be developed during the design period of the project, and confirmed during the inception phase of the TA contract. However necessary human resources will be allocated to cover specific tasks addressed to the Ministry, laboratories and institutions dealing with zoonotic diseases.

Technical Assistance financed by EU contribution with the total value 2.1 million Euro to cover the assistance regarding the strengthening of the animal disease reporting and surveillance system and the monitoring of the vaccination against rabies. Due to this last task, the assistance should be extended over a period of 5 years. Co-financing: 0.4 million eur are to be allocated to deploy local veterinarians for data collection and sampling necessary for the improving of reporting and surveillance system.

Activity 2; Vaccination against rabies

Contract 2.1: Supply contract

The contract fully funded by EU contribution will regard the vaccination process against rabies to be carried out in 10 campaigns along 5 years. Purchasing of vaccines and vaccination will be carried out through one contract

Preparation of the technical specifications will take place during 2012 through the assistance of IPA 2008 project in view of the recent experience the WB countries have had with the vaccination against rabies.

Activity 3: Supply of vaccines and diagnostic reagents

Contract 3.1 supply contract

The contract will be fully covered through EU contribution. It will include the purchasing of vaccines against ovine brucellosis to be used on replacement animals. Also other vaccines regarding the control of other identified zoonotic diseases such as bovine brucellosis maybe regarded. In addition, reagents and diagnostic kits will be provided.

Preliminary technical specification will be prepared by the running IPA 2008 project in light of the experience and knowledge with the situation in Albania. Final revision of the technical specifications will be made by the new project before launching of the procurement procedures.

Annex 5: Project visibility activities

The EC rules for the visibility will be implemented during the whole life of the project and displayed during seminars, workshops, training and other events.