

Short-Term Mission on

Assessment and support on/ of the identification and information system for animals. (Component 3, Activity 3.4)

Mission Report

1. Name and function of the Expert:

Dr. Richard Carmanns, Bavarian State Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Assessment of the central database.

Ms. Anna Dethlefsen, Regional Office Bavaria (LKV), Assessment of the duties in the Regional Office.

2. Objective and tasks of the mission:

Assisting with the development of a practicable database for identification and information according to regulation 1760/2000/EC for animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Time schedule of mission:

Date	Activities / Meetings	Remarks
12/11/2007	Round table discussion about the obstacles and future strategy for the Animal Identification Database Brief explanation of the identification and registration system in Germany	
13/11/2007	1. Presentation of the legislation in force in BiH, 2. Tasks and responsibilities for animal identification in Germany 3. Elaboration of a proposal for suitable organisation of the registration of holdings and animal identification 4. Development of a guideline compendium including workflow diagrams, forms, for registration of holdings, farm register, etc. 5. Elaboration of: - necessary amendments of the legislation in force - registration of holdings with livestock - functionality of CDB - supply, registration of printing orders, delivery etc. - issuing and filling of passports public awareness campaign	
14/11/2007	Continue: 1. Presentation of the legislation in force in BiH, 2. Tasks and responsibilities for animal identification in Germany 3. Elaboration of a proposal for suitable organisation of the registration of holdings and	

Date	Activities / Meetings	Remarks
	animal identification 4. Development of a guideline compendium including workflow diagrams, forms, for registration of holdings, farm register, etc. 5. Elaboration of: - necessary amendments of the legislation in force - registration of holdings with livestock - functionality of CDB - supply, registration of printing orders, delivery etc. - issuing and filling of passports public awareness campaign	
15/11/2007	Continue discussion of previous days - Presentation of conclusions and recommendations of the working meeting - Presentation of the guideline compendium and the results of the working meeting	

4. Summary of the Results of the Mission :

4.1 Obstacles and future strategy for the Animal Identification Database

The results of the discussion are as follows. The Veterinary Service can not fulfil his tasks as the present system does not provide information concerning registered cattle, movement of cattle and registered holders. The reasons are:

- The veterinary stations are not linked to the Central Database (CDB) and are not even equipped with computers.
- The CDB has no query possibilities to retrieve information. The stored information can not be utilized for verification, statistics and control purposes. Till now not even printouts can be provided by the CDB.
- The reporting procedures for movements are very complicated. They are based on Form C which is issued by the veterinary services. The off movement is already reported before the animal is moved. The reporting is channelled through the veterinary services to the DEO. The owner/holder is in no direct contact with the DEO.
- Movements within a municipality do not require a health certificate. In this case the movement is not reported, because the veterinary unit must not be informed.
- At the moment there is no possibility to enter corrections concerning cattle.

The data quality in the CDB is poor and does not reflect the reality on the farms because not all cattle is registered, movement and slaughter is poorly reported. The main deficit in our view is that the present system is just based on data collection. There is no data quality control mechanism in place to check the stored data against the reality in the field and to enter corrections.

A further problem is the handling of untagged (unregistered) cattle of unknown origin. At the moment it is not possible to tag and register them. The explanation for this strategy is to avoid to register cattle with unknown disease status.

The general impression is that animal identification and registration and disease control measures which are two different subjects are mixed up.

4.2 Explanation of the identification and registration system (I&R System) in Germany

In Germany the 16 federal states instead of the federal Government are responsible for the implementation of regulation 820/97 (1760/2000). In 1998 the federal states asked the

Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to set up and run the central database for cattle in Germany on their behalf. The central database was operational in 1999 and is an internet based system.

The central database is the key element in ensuring traceability on all levels of production. The other 3 pillars of the I&R system are a unique ear tag number for each animal, a unique registration number for each holding and the obligation to report all changes in a holding within 7 days.

4.2.1 Registration of holders

One authority per federal state is responsible for the registration of all cattle holders in this state. A unique 12 digit numeric code is used for registration. The registration number is based on a statistical key. The statistical key allows an area localisation on federal state, county, town/village level. The registration number is linked to the name and address of the owner as well as the operation type of this holding or institution (farmer, trader, slaughterhouse, veterinary administration e.g.). This information is stored in a local database of the federal state.

From this database the information is automatically transferred to the CDB in Munich.

4.2.2 Registration of animals (birth, import)

One authority or mandated agency (Regional Office) per federal state is responsible for the issuing of ear tags and cattle passports. The size of the plastic ear tags as well as the content is according to EU regulation. The ear tag number starts with DE for Germany and is followed by a unique 12 digit numeric code. One ear tag also has a bar code.

Ear tags are only issued to a registered holding on request. The issued ear tag numbers are immediately allocated to the holding number in the CDB. The allocated ear tags can only be used by this holding for the registration of birth.

Each birth has to be registered within 7 days. The passport is only printed after the registration of the birth in the CDB. The passport contains all necessary information about the animal including bar codes which allow scanning.

Imported animals can only be registered by the Regional Offices. The registration is based on the foreign passport and further documents.

4.2.2.1 Registration of movements

All cattle holders which also include traders, animal markets, collecting points and slaughterhouses have to report all movements within 7 days. The seller has to report the off movement, the buyer the on movement.

Each mortality (fallen stock) also has to be reported within 7 days as well as slaughter on the farm.

In case of export the country of destination has to be declared.

Registration of an animal in the CDB is a prerequisite to store a movement.

4.2.2.2 Registration of slaughter

A slaughterhouse has to report each slaughter, which includes information on carcass weight and category.

4.2.3 On the Spot Controls

According EU regulation No. 2630/97 a minimum of 10 % of all holdings must be controlled on the spot every year. Aim of the control is to verify the correctness of the information in the database. Basis for the on the spot control is a register with information to all cattle on that holding, which the inspector retrieves via internet from the CDB before he starts controlling the holding.

The results of the on the spot control are again stored in the CDB. In case of non compliance with regulations farm subsidy payments are reduced.

4.2.4 Registration of pigs

Pigs in contrast to cattle are not tagged individually. Instead of individual tag numbers holding numbers are used. This means all pigs born on a holding have the same ear tag number.

Ear tags are supplied by the Regional Office on request. The maximum number supplied shall not exceed the need of one year. The issued amount of ear tags is allocated to the holding number in the CDB.

4.2.4.1 Cut-off date report

Each holder must report once a year the number of pigs differentiated according to the following groups at a certain cut-off date (i.e. 01.01 of a year):

- piglet up to 30 kg
- breeding pigs above 30 kg
- pigs for fattening above 30 kg

4.2.4.2 Movement reports

The pig database does not include birth reports, slaughter reports, home slaughter reports or reports on fallen stock. Only movements are reported.

In contrast to cattle only the holder who receives pigs has to report the movement.

The details of the report are:

- Registration number of holding of arrival
- Registration number of holding of departure or country of departure
- Number of pigs moved
- Date of movement

4.2.5 Registration of small ruminants

Sheep and goats up to an age of one year are not tagged individually. Instead of individual tag numbers holding numbers are used. This means all sheep and goats born on a holding have the same ear tag number.

Sheep and goats older than one year must be tagged with an individual number.

Ear tags are supplied by the Regional Office on request. The maximum number supplied shall not exceed the need of one year. The issued amount of ear tags is allocated to the holding number in the CDB.

4.2.5.1 Cut-off date report

Each holder must report once a year the number of sheep and goats differentiated according to three different age groups

- sheep and goats up to an age of 9 months
- sheep and goats of an age in between 10 and up to 19 months
- sheep and goats older than 19 months

4.2.5.2 Movement reports

The sheep and goat database does not include birth reports, slaughter reports, home slaughter reports or reports on fallen stock. Only movements are reported.

In contrast to cattle only the holder who receives sheep and/or goats has to report the movement.

The details of the report are:

- Registration number of holding of arrival

- Registration number of holding of departure or country of departure
- Number of sheep and/or goats moved
- Date of off movement
- Date of on movement

4.3 Legislation in force concerning the I&R System in BiH

4.3.1 Registration of holdings

According to the legislation the registration of a holding has to be done by the local veterinary office. But there is no clear definition what "veterinary office" means (veterinary station or veterinary inspector).

4.3.2 Registration of cattle

The registration of cattle is with the owner.

In respect to registration and movement report the local legislation is not in compliance with the EC regulation where the holder and not the owner is obliged to report.

4.3.3 Registration of movements

According to the legislation an owner or holder who wants to move an animal from his holding to another holding (place) has to request before hand the issuing of form C at the local veterinary office. Form C includes the movement date and the registration number of the new owner.

The local veterinary office issues form C and an animal health certificate to the owner/holder. Form C consist of a original and 3 carbon copies.

In case the animal changes the holding the original and one carbon copy of form C accompanies the animal.

One copy remains with the owner/holder and one carbon copy is sent by the veterinary office to the Data Entry Office (DEO) of departure.

The new owner/holder of the animal has to sent the carbon copy of form C to his local veterinary office. The veterinary office sends form C to the DEO of arrival. The DEO enters the arrival into the CDB.

In case an animal is sent to a market, a new form C is issued by the veterinarian, responsible for the market. In this case one copy remains with the market, one is sent to the DEO responsible for the market and the original and one cc accompanies the animal. The owner of the market must also keep a market register.

In case an animal arrives at a slaughterhouse the employee of the local veterinary office (usually the veterinarian in the field does not know who this is) sends the movement notification document (form C) to the nearest DEO. The DEO enters the slaughter in the CDB. The owner of the slaughterhouse is requested by law to keep a slaughter register.

In case an owner/holder is not selling his animal, the off movement nevertheless will be entered into the database.

4.4 Proposals

4.4.1 Legislation

The legislation must be changed in respect to

- the duties and task of
 - a veterinary unit,
 - a veterinary station,
 - a veterinary inspector and
 - a employee of the local veterinary office
- animal identification and registration.

The present system of reporting movements has to be reconsidered with respect to the following points:

- The holder and not the owner of an animal has to report any change in his herd according to EC regulation 1760/2000.
- Movements have to be reported after they happened and not before they might happen.
- The reporting should be done directly from the holder to the DEO. As a service to the farmers the veterinary office might collect the movement reports.
- Machine readable cards should be used for reporting movement and slaughter instead of the hand written form C.
- Reporting of animal movements and disease control measures should be dealt separately by the veterinary office.
- The reporting of slaughter to the database has to be done by the operator of the slaughterhouse as he becomes holder of an animals before slaughter.

In respect to cost efficiency, clearness of the system, data quality and EC requirements the set up of separate animal databases on Entity level must be avoided. Besides extra costs for running a separate system it will create confusion in the reporting process as proper cross checks can only be done on nation wide level and not on Entity level.

4.4.2 Information campaign

For the success of the I&R system all participants in the process must be properly informed before the system starts. According to EC legislation the holder has to report. Therefore special emphasis must be laid on the information of all animal holders like farmers, traders, animal markets and slaughterhouses.

A public awareness campaign should include the following elements:

- Information material (flyer, brochure, information video)
- Internet based information (websites)
- Presence on Agricultural events (e. g. fares , meetings)

Task list: see attachment A - Public awareness campaign

4.4.3 Access to Database

For the success of the I&R system in BiH it is of paramount importance that the veterinary service and also the holders have direct access to the CDB. The possibility of correcting incorrect data must be established in the CDB. Rules for correction have to be defined.

4.4.4 Data Control

The data in the currant CDB must be controlled for correctness in respect to the reality in the holdings. The control can be done via printouts sent from the CDB to the veterinary offices to check the correctness of the data.

The control includes the

- registration of holdings,
- cattle registration and cattle movements as well as slaughter

Special reporting contents must be established in the CDB to deal with animals whose whereabouts is not known.

The data collection into the old CDB must continue till a new CDB system is in place. Correct data must be transferred from the old to the new system.

In respect to regulation (EC) No. 2630/97 the selection of the holdings for on the spot controls should be based on information in the database. Also the results of the on the spot controls should be stored in the database. Differing findings must lead to a data correction in the database.

4.4.5 Registration of cattle of unknown origin

At present the registration of cattle of unknown origin (unknown health status) is not allowed. The result of this strategy is that the number of unregistered cattle will increase with time.

This approach is in our view wrong. The identification of an animal through an ear tag is prerequisite for disease control and not vice versa. Without an ear tag a test result can not be linked to an animal and to the holding where it is kept.

5. General Remarks Concerning the Project:

(without direct relevance for the mission)

The working atmosphere was friendly, open and cooperative. It looks that all concerned parties in BiH have identified the weak points in the present I&R system and are willing to change for a better system. However the I&R system will be put on risk, if a central system on state level and databases on Entity level will operate parallel.

Name: _____

Signature

Name: _____

Signature

Attachment A

Public awareness campaign

- 1 Information material (flyer, brochure, video):
 - 1.1 Preparation of a flyer by SVO, AIA inclusive workshop participants
Deadline: February
First meeting: January
Responsible for invitation: Ms. Sefija Cavka
Draft for the brochure:
Translation of "Rinderkennzeichnung schafft Vertrauen" (see attachment C)
 - 1.2 Information video
View the old movie and decide about a new video
coordinate by Mr. Nihad Fejzic
 - 1.3 Cost of the campaign
Deadline: January
checked by: Mr. Darko Čobanov /WB
- 2 Preparation of a AIA website
Link from the SVO website
Deadline: 21st of December 2007
Contents:
 - DEO overview with address, telephone, fax, email, way directions, etc.
 - Hot line (normal working hours)
 - FAQ for the staff in the DEO
- 3 Presence on Agricultural events (Agricultural fares, meetings, etc)
Deadline: mid of January
 - 3.1 Preparation of a general letter by
Ms. Anna Dethlefsen & Dr. Karoline Schollmeyer
(see attachment B)
 - 3.2 Addresses of the agricultural organizations: Mr. Nevres Paprikić
Deadline: mid of January

Attachment B Presence on Agricultural events – general letter

Dear Sir and Madam,

With the adoption of the central database for registration of cattle holdings and identification of cattle in 2004 a public awareness campaign was planned, in order to inform farmers about improvements and modifications.

Beside articles in newspapers and reports in the local television we would like to make contact to the farmers directly. This way information about improvements and modifications with regard to registration and identification of livestock can be forwarded firsthand to the animal keeper. The animal keeper will have the opportunity to address occurring problems straightforward.

In case of that your organization is planning an event (Assembly, exhibition, faire etc.) we would be delighted if you give us the opportunity to present our organization and tasks within a short speech with subsequent roundtable discussion.

We would like to ask you to consider our participation at your next event.
Thank you very much in appreciation of your cooperation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of further questions.

Attachment C

Translation of "Rinderkennzeichnung schafft Vertrauen I" and
"Rinderkennzeichnung schafft Vertrauen II"

Filename:

Oznacavanje goveda I.doc

Oznacavanje goveda II.doc