Planning experiences of animal I&R and livestock development projects in Central and Eastern European countries

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TA projects on Animal I&R 1
- Albania, Rehabilitation of Veterinary Services, 2001 to 2002, 0.2 Mio. EUR
- Albania, Monitoring the health of small ruminants, 2005 to 2007, 1.6 Mio. EUR
- Bosnia Herzegovina, Animal Identification Scheme for Bosnia Herzegovina, 2001 to 2002, 2.0 Mio. EUR
- Bulgaria, Design and delivery of a computer application for bovine identification registration and movement control, 1999 to 2000, 0.55 Mio. EUR
- Bulgaria, Upgrade and extension of the identification registration and movement control system, 2004 to 2005, 0.2 Mio. EUR
- Strengthening of Public Veterinary Services in Kosovo, 2002 to 2005, 1.4 Mio. EUR
- Strengthening of Public Veterinary Services in Kosovo (Phase 2), 2005 to 2007, 1.2 Mio. EUR

Selected TA projects on Animal I&R 2
- Macedonia, National Animal Identification Programme, 2002 to 2004, 0.6 Mio. EUR
- Macedonia, National Animal Identification Programme II, 2005 to 2006, 0.8 Mio. EUR
- Montenegro, Development and implementation of an Animal Identification System in Montenegro, 2006 to 2007, 0.8 Mio. EUR
- Lithuania, Technical assistance in Development of Animal Tracing and Epidemiological Surveillance System, 2003 to 2004, 0.6 Mio. EUR
- Romania, Technical Assistance for the nationwide Identification and Registration System, 2003 to 2005, 0.53 Mio. EUR

Importance of Animal I&R
- basic function for animal disease monitoring and eradication programme
- fundament for veterinary information system
- tracing of an individual animal from birth to slaughter
- basis for the traceability and food safety for products of animal origin

Project Phases
- Attention:
  - Careful planning and preparation beforehand is needed
  - There is only little possibility for modification and adaptation in a later stage of implementation
- Phases:
  - Phase 1: Planning phase of around 6 to 9 months
  - Phase 2: Preparation phase of at least 12 months
  - Phase 3: Implementation phase for at least another year
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**Planning Phase**
- Strategic plan
- Legal base
- Institutional development and management
- Financing
- Operational procedures
- Technical design

**Preparation Phase**
- Tender hardware and software
- Procurement of Animal I&R items
- Hardware and software installation
- Going live of IT system
- Communications and public relation
- Set-up unit and training

**Implementation Phase**
- Holding registration, ear tagging and initial animal registration
- Establishing sustainable ongoing operations animal and movement registration
  - Nationwide extension
  - I&R control

**Conclusion**
- Straight forward extension of domestic I&R systems is not recommended and may fail
- Development of a tailor made approach for each country taking into account different socio-economic conditions in beneficiary countries
  - farm structures
  - processing and marketing channels
  - organisation of livestock and veterinary services
  - professional skills of the keepers
  - communication facilities or
  - Financial means

**Tagging?**
- The farmer himself or by veterinarians / personnel of other support services

Considerations:
- Responsibility of the keeper
- Relevant aspects:
  - farm structure
  - skills of the keepers
- Competent authorities commission I&R services to 3rd parties
- Coverage and access to keepers
- Execution of I&R service providers with other routine tasks

**Data Capture?**
- Paper-based data capture system or automated data capture with PDA devices

Considerations:
- error rate with handwritten forms
- Automated scanning of barcodes allows for almost error free data capture
- Delays between data capture and data entry by paper-based procedures
- Costs of data capture devices
Transitional arrangements for tagging and registration procedures?

- **Conditions:**
  - Small farm structures
  - Low skills of livestock farmers
  - Share of home slaughtering of bovines of more than 80 %
  - Home slaughtering of young calves of more than 40 %
  - I&R service has to be commissioned to the veterinarians and veterinary technicians

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Transitional arrangements

- **Impact:**
  - Overall system costs may be reduced by more than 30 %
  - Combination of the visits of the veterinary technician for ear tagging with other tasks
  - Compensation for significantly higher total efforts

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Software?

- **Software Development versus Software procurement**
- **Considerations:**
  - Software development is a highly sophisticated approach and requires many man years for successful completion
  - In the first instance the beneficiary countries mostly opt for an own software development
  - Difficulties of national attempts
  - Procurement of software packages may also result in difficulties

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Planning of Livestock Development Projects

- **Why?**
  - Support to the private actors to comply with the new legal framework and the safety and quality requirements
- **Objective**
  - Export market opportunities
  - Future competitiveness of the local production in the domestic market
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**TA Livestock Development Projects - Subjects**

- Livestock breeding and recording systems including private breeders associations
- Agricultural and livestock advisory services
- Structural funds programmes for investments in agricultural holdings and the primary food processing industry

**Synergy of TA on animal I&R and livestock development**

- Livestock development projects look very promising as they can be built up technically on the Animal I&R system by using the data of the holding register and the individual animal information.
- At the same time, those projects return also a benefit for the operation of the Animal I&R system as they support its stability and sustainability.

- Producer groups for animal products and dissemination of relevant production and product standards
- Product labels for PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) and PGI (Protected Geographical Indication)
- Marketing concepts for export