



Twinning Fiche

Project title: Strengthening the National phytosanitary system

Final Beneficiary administration: Phytosanitary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, the Republic of North Macedonia

Twinning Reference: MK 24 IPA AG 01 24

Publication notice reference: EuropeAid/182201/DD/ACT/MK

EU funded project

TWINNING INSTRUMENT

List of abbreviations

AP	Accession Partnership
BC	Beneficiary Country
BCPL	Beneficiary Country Project Leader
DEU	Delegation of European Union
EC	European Community
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
PD	Phytosanitary Directorate
PIS	Phytosanitary Information System
PL	Project Leader
PPP	Phytopharmacy products
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SAI	State Agriculture Inspectorate
SPL	State Phytosanitary Laboratory
SOP	Standard Operative Procedure
STE	Short term Expert
TAIB	Transition Assistance and Institution Building

1. Basic Information

- 1.1. Program: IPA III/2024/JAD.1354913/AAP NorthMacedonia2024; CRIS: 2024/045-609; Action: EU for Economic Cohesion; OPSYS ACT-62404 (direct management)

SUSPENSION CLAUSE

The present call for proposals is launched with a “suspension clause” (reference Section 2.6.12 of the practical guide).

The conclusion of contract with applicants resulting from this call for proposals is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

The Signature of the corresponding Finance Agreement between the European Commission and the Republic of North Macedonia

- 1.2. Twinning Sector: Phytosanitary policy

- 1.3. EU funded budget: 1 500 000.00 EUR

- 1.4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which is key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations. Currently, global consumption exceeds the capacity of ecosystems to provide resources. To develop sustainably, society has to revolutionize the production and consumption of goods. The objective is to adopt a virtuous regarding chemicals and waste.

SDG 15 Conserving life on land

It is to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and stop biodiversity loss.

SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies oriented towards sustainable development, to ensure access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels. Strengthen national institutions, including through cooperation internationally, to build greater capacity at all levels.

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s)

The overall objective is to protect the human, animal, plant and the environment through improvement of the National plant protection system.

2.2. Specific objective

The specific objective of this project is further improvement of the National capacities of the plant protection system for proper implementation of the policy and legislation in line with the *acquis*.

2.3. The elements targeted in strategic documents

The implementation of the project will contribute to the realization of the priorities and objectives defined in the following documents:

Accession partnership:

- Further alignment of the phytosanitary legislation in line with the *acquis*;
- Capacity-building activities to increase the efficient implementation of legislation in the plant protection area, including the official control and other official activities, phytosanitary laboratory activities, as well as further upgrading the Phytosanitary Information System.

Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA)

The project will contribute towards the implementation of the SAA Article 100 on gradual harmonisation of phytosanitary legislation with Community standards.

National Programme for Adoption of the *acquis* (NPAA) revision 2022-2024

In Chapter 12 Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy, it is stated that further improvement of the phytosanitary sector, further development of operational and functional system is envisaged. Competent authorities will continuously transpose the new *acquis* in the area of the plant protection policy, in particular, phytosanitary measures and ISPMs.

Commission implementing Decision adopting the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) - Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027, under the Thematic Priority 3: Agriculture and rural development regarding the Phytosanitary area stated “The specific objective of IPA III in this area is gradually building an agricultural sector capable of competing with market forces, while progressively aligning with the EU legal framework in the field of agriculture and rural development and the relevant veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary standards (SPS standards). Major efforts are still necessary for food safety, animal welfare and the transition towards sustainable food systems, being increasingly important in view of the necessary alignment with the EU food safety *acquis* and the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, which is at the heart of the EU Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. Moreover, further assistance will be needed to strengthen administrations at all level in order to meet the EU accession requirements. This entails continuing the support for the alignment with and the implementation of the EU legal framework in the field of agriculture and rural development and the relevant veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary standards (SPS standards), including overall well-functioning control systems and accredited laboratories.”

In **IPA III Strategic Response of North Macedonia window 4**, it is stated as follows:

“North Macedonia progressed in legal harmonisation with the EU *acquis* of food safety and veterinary policy and is committed to improving the alignments with the EU phytosanitary standards.”

In IPA III Strategic Response of North Macedonia window 4: “the Objective 3.4: To eliminate the risks to plant, animal health and human health and to decrease the negative impact of agricultural activities on the environment”

Planned areas of intervention:

- Alignment with and the implementation of the EU legal framework in the field of plant health, plant protection products and official control;
- Improving the monitoring system of pests and primary production;
- Establishing of risk-based official control system and risk assessment system;
- Improving the system for prevention of introduction and spread, and for eradication of quarantine pests;
- Increasing capacities for pest prevention, surveillance, and crisis preparedness;
- Establishing plant health service;
- Improving and fully implementing plant health programmes in line with EU provisions;
- Free status about certain listed pests at the level of registered operators, areas or at country level;
- Improving communication, coordination, and chain of command between central and local level;
- Improving laboratory capacity for Plant Health diagnosis;
- Effective Phytosanitary Information System;
- Implementation of the National Action Plan for integrated plant protection and sustainable use of pesticides (system for certification of equipment for application of phyto-pharmacy products, improvement of the technical knowledge of phyto-pharmacy products users of by training, guidelines) and awareness-raising in phytomedicine;
- Establish systematic monitoring of the impacts of phytopharmacy products (PPP) on environment and on users' health;
- Improve the official control of the use of PPP;
- Promote integrated plant protection, including non-chemical methods for plant protection.”

According to the conclusions of EC Progress Report 2023 published 8 November 2023: *“Some progress was made on phytosanitary policy. The Phytosanitary Directorate regularly updated the list of harmful organisms in line with the new EU acquis and the country's pest status. The phytosanitary monitoring programme for plant health was implemented, and the phytosanitary information system further developed. The Law on phyto-pharmacy is aligned with the EU acquis. However, measures on the sustainable use of pesticides have not been implemented. Substantial work is still necessary to collect reliable data on national pesticides use and its impact on human health. The phytosanitary inspection body continued to implement measures to eradicate pests identified through monitoring and control programmes.”*

Link with national/ sectoral investment plans

- National Program of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia 2024¹
- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2027²
- National Program for Agricultural and Rural Development 2023 -2027³
- Draft Plant health activities policy/strategy paper, aiming to minimize the threat posed to plant capital of the country (agriculture, forests, ecosystems, etc.) by the potential introduction and establishment of plant pests and diseases.
- Draft National Action Plan for sustainable use of pesticides
- Annual Phytosanitary Policy Program, including interception and detection of relevant pests in strategic crops in the country and quality of plant protection products and residues from plant protection products in the primary agricultural products;
- Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP);
- Draft General Contingency Plan and Drafts Specific Contingency Plans for Priority Pests.

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) is the overall authority responsible for creation policy and legislation, among the other areas, also in the area of plant protection.

The Phytosanitary System includes:

- Phytosanitary Directorate (PD) - National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) creates national policies and drafts legislation in the area of plant health, sustainable use of plant protection products, fertilizers, bio stimulators and soil improvers,
- Directorate for Seed and Seedling Materials (DSSM) creates a national policy and preparation of legislation in the area of seed and seedling materials, in particular marketing and quality of the seed and seedling materials,
- State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL) provides diagnostic services and laboratory analysis in the plant protection (PPPs residue analysis), plant health and seed sector,
- State Agriculture Inspectorate (SAI) – Department for phytosanitary inspection responsible for inland and border phytosanitary controls, as well as control of marketing and use of PPPs,
- Holders of public authorisation (Faculty of Agricultural Science and Food, Agricultural Institute and Faculty of Forestry Sciences, landscape architecture and eco-engineering "Hans Em" and others) responsible for the activities in the area of plant protection (phytosanitary surveys, integrated pest management (IPM), control of production of standard and certified seed and seedling materials, introducing new varieties in the National variety list etc.).

¹ https://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/dokumenti/strategii/programa_za_rabota_na_vrsm_za_2024_godina.pdf

² <https://www.mzsv.gov.mk/CMS/Upload/strateski%20dokumenti/%D0%9D%D0%A1%D0%97%D0%A0%D0%A0%202021-2027.pdf>

³ <https://www.mzsv.gov.mk/CMS/Upload/programa%20pethodisna/%D0%9D%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0%20%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B0%202023-2027.pdf>

Relevant primary legislation in the field of phytosanitary policy is as follows:

- Plant Health Law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 29/05, 81/08, 20/09, 57/10, 17/11, 148/11, 69/13, 43/14, 158/14, 149/15, 39/16 83/18 and Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No.150/21),
- Law on Phytopharmacy (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No. 302/20, 274/22 and 129/23),
- Law on seeds and seedling materials for agricultural plants (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No 39/06, 89/08,171/10, 53/11, 69/13, 187/13, 43/14, 129/15, 39/16, 71/16 and 83/18 and Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No 122/21 and 199/23),
- Law on breeders rights (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No 52/09 and Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No122/21),

At the moment a new draft text of the Law on Plant Health is under preparation based on Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

3.2 Ongoing reforms

Phytosanitary Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy has prepared the draft text of the Plant Health Law transposing main provisions from both regulations, Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The draft text is under the process of consultations between different stakeholders.

The Law is focusing on the protection of plants against pests that pose plant health risks, and the reduction of those risks to an appropriate level, with strict connections on the production and marketing of propagating materials and plants. It is planned to be submitted for the government procedures in 2024. Important provisions in the draft of the new Plant Health Law is that related to the survey as an official procedure conducted over defined period to determine the presence or absence of pests, or the boundaries or characteristics of pest population, in an area, place of production or production site.

Import, export, re-exports and transits official controls on plants and plant products and other objects are regulated within the draft Law.

Additionally, under the plant health law, people travelling from third countries, as a personal luggage are not allowed to be introduced any plant or plant materials into the country, unless it is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. It also requires all plants for planting sold between professionals to have a plant passport for internal movement.

Annual Surveys Program are prepared by the Phytosanitary Directorate aiming to check the presence of quarantine pests and other pests of national relevance on a risk-based approach. It is implemented by the phytosanitary inspectors and holders of public authorized institutions, and laboratory tests carried out by State Phytosanitary Laboratory.

The Annual pest specific surveys include:

- the specific objective of survey,
- the scope of each survey as regards the area concerned and the time scale covered, as well as the pests, plants and commodities targeted;

- the survey methodology and quality management including a description of the procedures for visual examination, sampling and testing and their technical justification;
- the timing, frequency and numbers of scheduled visual examinations, samples and tests; and
- the methods of recording and reporting the information collected.

According to the new Plant Health Law, a Multiannual survey program for a period of seven years for the quarantine pests have to be drafted with technical support of this project describing the survey methodologies, the criteria for establishing which pests are surveyed per year and the incorporation of new technologies for surveying pests. This Multiannual programme will be base for annual survey programming.

However, an important part of the activities in the phytosanitary area is also the agricultural prognosis and advisory system which includes observation, diagnosis, prognosis and reporting of economic important pests aiming to proper apply of different agro-technical measures for control the pest populations. This includes also providing technical advice and guidance to farmers with the measures on reducing the use of pesticides to a level that is ecologically and technically justified. Technical assistance is needed to support and further development and straightening of the network with institutions that will provide independent technical advisory services in the area of plant protection to farmers. The network will include Scientist Research Institute as technical coordinator, Hydrometeorology Directorate, the National Extension Agency, and other public and private advisory service providers and other relevant institutions.

Recently, the Law on Advisory system has been adopted (Official Journal of the Republic of North Macedonia 263/2023) regulating the establishment, organization and management of the Advisory System for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Technical assistance is needed to support and further develop institutional network that will provide independent technical advisory services to farmers in the area of plant protection.

After adoption of the new Plant Health Law, an important number of implementing legislation related to specific topics in plant health will be drafted and adopted.

With the new plant health legislation, the National phytosanitary authorities are under the process of restructuring their plant health system.

Sectors of marketing of seeds and seedlings of agricultural plants and forestry reproductive materials have to align their procedures for certification of plant reproductive materials, registration of producers and suppliers to the market with the new plant health requirements on regulated non-quarantine pests.

According to the new Plant Health Law, State Phytosanitary Laboratory will become the national reference laboratory to carry out the laboratory analyses, tests and diagnoses on samples taken during official controls and other official activities in phytosanitary sectors. Therefore, support is needed in proficiency testing and maintaining accredited methods; training laboratory staff, to deliver in a timely manner the results of the analysis, tests or diagnosis carried out on the samples taken during official controls and other official activities.

Phytosanitary Information System (PIS) has been developed. However, the Twinning will provide technical guidance in the further development and adjustment of new and existing PIS modules to the *acquis*. The PIS will be connected and integrated with the IT systems of

the State Agriculture Inspectorate, National Extension Agency, the Hydrometeorology Directorate and other.

This system would enable an easier transfer of knowledge, information and notifications and recommendation for undertaking proper phytosanitary measures. The development of the new PIS modules and integration with the other relevant IT system will be financed within the National Annual Phytosanitary Policy Programme.

Furthermore, the adoption of e-phyto solution will facilitate the export procedures of agricultural commodities to the rest of the EU countries since it will provide the relevant documents (Phytosanitary Certificates) directly to the TRACES-NT system.

The Twinning project will strengthen the capacities of competent authorities i.e. Phytosanitary Directorate (PD), Directorate for Seed and Seedling Materials (DSSM), State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL), and State Agriculture Inspectorate (SAI), Hydro-meteorological Directorate, National Extension Agency, and delegated bodies for proper implementation of the legislation in phytosanitary area.

This project should provide technical support aiming to overcome the existing weaknesses and critical points in terms of administrative and operative procedures in the phytosanitary sector.

The Twinning project will also support the beneficiaries in processing the results of official controls, obtained from national monitoring programs and control programs, and undertaking appropriate responses.

Transposition of the EU *acquis*

Transposition of the EU legislation into a national legislation is an on-going process aiming to a full transposition of *acquis* into national one. Transposition of the national legislation with the EU legislation is carried out according to the time frame set up in the National Programme for the Approximation of the *acquis* (NPAA) approved by the Government.

3.3 Linked activities

The below listed projects are complementing, and not overlapping the activities programmed under this Twinning Fiche:⁴

Reference No:04MAC01/06/001

Project title: MAFWE Structural and Legal Reform

Source of funding:CARDS

Duration: 2005-2006

Description: Legal approximation and preparation of primary legislation in the fields of Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health, Animal Welfare and Veterinary Border Inspection.

Reference No:02MAC01/07/001

Project title: National Integrated Phytosanitary System

Source of funding:CARDS

Duration: 2004-2006

Description:

The Project covered technical assistance in the three following areas:

- approximation of the National phytosanitary legislation with *acquis communautaire*,

⁴ The reference numbers are listed as registered in the Central Donor Assistance Database available at <http://cdad.sep.gov.mk/EN/search.aspx>.

- strengthening of the institutional capacities, and
- establishment of the National State Phytosanitary Laboratory.

Reference No: EuropeAid/132281/C/SER/MK

Project title: *Capacity building of the competent authorities for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy*

Source of funding: EU (IPA-TAIB)

Duration: December 2013- December 2015

Budget: 1.750.000 EUR

Description: The purpose of the contract is to improve the institutional framework for food safety in the country, by strengthening the existing system of competent bodies and institutions in order to ensure an integrated multidisciplinary approach, covering all food chain stages.

In particular, the contract incorporated:

- Administrative and institutional strengthening of the Food and Veterinary Agency, Phytosanitary Directorate and State Phytosanitary Laboratory,
- Preparation and implementation of phytosanitary monitoring programmes,
- Preparation for accreditation of inspection services.

Reference No.: MK10/IB/AG/01

Project title: *Institutional strengthening of the capacities of Competent Authority for implementation of the acquis for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy*

Source of funding: EU (IPA-TAIB)

Duration: November 2014- November 2016

Budget: 1.348.000 EUR

Description: The purpose of the contract is to improve the capacity of the competent authorities for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy for implementation of EU Acquis. The overall objective of the project is to obtain functional market economy and the capacity to cope with competitiveness in the EU market while maintaining the consumer protection and achieving high food safety standards.

In particular, the contract components were:

- Further improvement of the Phytosanitary system in the country;
- Improvement of sustainable capacities: training and dissemination of information.

Reference EuropeAid/ MK 12 IB AG 01 16

Project title: *Further development of Competent Authorities' control systems to protect the human, animal and plant health*

Source of funding: EU (IPA-TAIB)

Date: 11 January 2017 – 10 July 2018

Budget: 700.000 EUR

Description The overall objective of the project is to further develop the systems in the country to protect the human, animal and plant health, to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of domestic products of animal and non-animal origin and to promote their placing on the market into EU and other international markets, as well.

Reference No EuropeAid/139253/DH/SER/MK

Project Title: *Improved implementation of animal health, food safety and phytosanitary legislation and corresponding information system*

Source of funding: EU (IPA-TAIB)

Duration 2019- 2021

Budget: 1.591770 EUR

Description: The overall objective of this project is to protect human, animal and plant health as well as to improve the competitiveness of Macedonian agro-food products on the European and world markets. The purpose of this contract is to strengthen the existing systems of competent institutions and increase the public awareness, in order to improve the animal health, public health and plant health status in the country.

Project intervention had six main results to be achieved, out of which two were related to the phytosanitary area, which are:

- Design, development and implementation of the Phytosanitary Information System;
- Further development and strengthening of capacities of the CAs in the phytosanitary sector.

Reference No. MK 19 IPA AG 01 21

Project Title Twinning Project *Improvement of the administrative and operational capacities of the plant protection authorities*;

Source of funding: EU (IPA-TAIB)

Duration February 2022- February 2024

Budget: 900.000 EUR

Description: The overall objective of the project is to contribute to protection of human, animal and plant health, and the environment, as well as to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of domestic production of plants and plant products.

This Twinning Project takes into account the outputs/outcomes of the Twinning project MK 19 IPA AG 01 21 *Improvement of the administrative and operational capacities of the plant protection authorities*, in order to be complementary and to avoid duplication of interventions and overlaps of activities. In particular, it will be aimed to pursue constant alignment with the *acquis*, with further implementation of the legal base, with special regards to the secondary legislation and technical activities, starting from what has already been delivered and achieved in the past.

The main objective of the twinning project is to improve the administrative and operative capacities of the plant protection authorities in North Macedonia.

To reach the overall project objective in order to ensure high level of public and plant protection in North Macedonia and the high level of harmonization with the *acquis*, the activities are focused on three main Components:

- Component 1: Policy and legal framework development,
- Component 2: Management, Phytosanitary policy and its communication,
- Component 3: Risk-based official controls and other official activities.

The areas covered by the project are plant health, plant protection products, quality of seeds and propagating materials and plant variety rights.

Additionally, on the regional level there are ongoing projects, as follows:

- *Capacity building of veterinary and plant health Services in the Western Balkan – Lot 2 – Plant Health, DG SANTE.*

- Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo *Decision for Facilitating Trade of Fruit and Vegetables* within Open Regional Fund for Foreign Trade, GIZ project *Regional Economic integration*.

3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms

The phytosanitary sector has a large number of adopted and harmonized regulations with the repealed EU legislation. However, the EU plant health regime has been improved since 2016, and new plant health and official laws adopted together with implementing and delegated acts. Therefore, this Twinning project will be focused on the further revision and updating, as well as on proper implementation of package of legislation.

There are basic texts of the following EU acts:

- 32016R2031, Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests and plants,
- 32017R0625, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

3.5 Components and results per component

The project is structured in 4 (four) components due to the complex regulatory framework and institutional structure of phytosanitary system in the country.

The following mandatory results and sub-results are expected to be realized aiming to harmonize the legislation and to strengthen institutional capacities for proper implementation of the legal acts.

Component 1: Policy and legal framework in the areas of plant health, and seeds and other plant reproductive materials

Mandatory Result 1: Further alignment of the National legislation with relevant *acquis* in the areas of plant health, and seeds and other plant reproductive materials

Sub-result 1.1: Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant health

Expected sub-results:

- The Law on Plant Health is revised and updated according to the new corresponding *acquis* in the area of plant health;
- The implementing legislation is revised and amended in line with *acquis* derived from the new Plant Health Law;
- Selected implementing acts derived from the new Plant Health Law prepared.

Sub-result 1.2: Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant protection product

Expected sub-results:

- The Law on Phytopharmacy is revised and updated according to the new relevant *acquis* in the area of plant protection products;
- The implementing legislation is revised and amended in line with *acquis* derived from the the Law on Phytopharmacy;
- Selected implementing acts derived from the Law on Phytopharmacy, prepared.

Sub-result 1.3: Legal framework harmonized in the area of seeds and other plant reproductive materials

Expected sub-results:

- The Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials aligned with the corresponding *acquis*;
- The Law on plant breeders rights, and relevant implementing legislation aligned with the corresponding *acquis*;
- The selected implementing legislation derived from the Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials revised and prepared.

Sub-result 1.4: Enhancement of the competent authorities, delegated bodies and other stakeholders

Expected sub-results:

- New modules of existing PIS in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive material, etc., designed;
- Pest specific contingency plans and Action plans for specific selected pests, drafted;
- Communication plan and public awareness for specific selected pests developed;
- Simulation exercises for management of outbreaks of selected quarantine pests, organized;
- The Phyto-register revised and updated;
- E-phyto PIS module for export of agricultural products from Republic of North Macedonia designed
- Public awareness meetings for professional operators regarding obligations derived from the new plant health legislation, organized;
- Relevant stakeholders trained on selected plant health issues.

Component 2: Implementation of legal framework in the phytosanitary area

Mandatory Result 2: Further implementation of the national legislation in the phytosanitary area

Sub-result 2.1: Legal framework implemented in the phytosanitary area

Expected sub-results:

- Support provided for establishment a system for sustainable use of pesticides
- Monitoring of the sustainable use of pesticides established
- The relevant international acts regarding the use of Biological Control Agents implemented.

- Training provided for the National Expert Commission for approval of plant protection products.
- Legislation, manual and institutional set up on verification procedures and audit in the areas of plant health and plant protection products, drafted.
- Training provided for different stakeholders involved in phytosanitary sector.

Sub-result 2.2: Monitoring and management of economic pest population

Expected sub-results

- An implementing act accompanied with an action plan for institutional set up and implementation activities related to observation, prognosis and reporting of pest economic population, developed
- A new PIS module designed in the area of plant protection, including the regular updating of the lists of authorized pesticides and active substances, and all relevant data concerning the management and control of pests.
- Technical support provided for preparation, issuing and distribution of agrometeorological and phytosanitary bulletins to farmers and other stakeholders.
- Communication plan for spreading relevant data and information through web and social media to all relevant stakeholders, developed.
- Training provided to all involved stakeholders.

Component 3: Official controls and other official activities in the phytosanitary area

Mandatory Result 3.1: Official controls strengthened

Sub-Result 3.1: Official controls and other official activities strengthened

Expected sub-results

- Revised of SOPs, manuals and guidelines related to inspection procedures including the sampling methods in area of plant health;
- Drafted inspection methods for establishment of pest free areas, pest free places of production and pest free production sites for quarantine pests;
- Prepared Manual for inspections of authorized professional entities for production and marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive materials;
- Prepared Manual for official controls in import of passenger personal luggage, online trading of high-risk plants, and other regulated goods which need special import requirements developed for phytosanitary inspectors and Custom officers use;
- Revised protocol for the reduced frequency controls in import on specific commodities, in line with *acquis* and risk based approach;
- Prepared guidelines and organised training of officials and holder of public authorized institutions for official control of plant reproductive materials, to be in line with the certification system with relevant *acquis*;
- Developed SOPs, manuals and guidelines related to inspection procedures in the area of plant protection products;
- Designed new PIS modules related to phytosanitary inspection,
- Training provided on inspection procedures including sampling methods in area of plant protection organized.

Mandatory Result 3.2: Survey

Expected sub-results

- Developed 7-years Multiannual Survey Program
- Support provided in implementation of Survey programs for quarantine pests and RNQPs;
- Revised Annual Monitoring programs for PPPs
- Support provided in implementation of the Annual Monitoring programs for PPPs;
- Preparation a concept and application of sentinel woody plants for monitoring specific pests;
- Developed criteria and requirements for quarantine stations and confinement facilities;
- Developed pest specific survey manuals in line with the pest survey cards of EFSA.
- Use of statistical tools for the designing of pest specific surveys.
- Support provided in introduction of new technologies for the survey of quarantine pests.
- Annual monitoring plan for Wood Packaging Material, prepared.
- Guidelines for monitoring specific pests (priority pests) in cases of establishing demarcated areas, prepared.

Component 4: Analytical and diagnosis capacities in the area of plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials

Mandatory Result 4: Analytical and diagnosis capacities in the area of plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials improved

Sub-results 4.1: Laboratory techniques improved

Expected sub-results

- Improved quality and reliability of analytical and diagnostic methods, with proficiency testing;
- Revised and updated laboratory protocols;
- Support provided in reference materials exchanges and inter laboratory test or any confirmatory analysis;
- Updated laboratory methods in phytosanitary area in order to ensure the quality, uniformity and reliability of testing and diagnostic methods;
- Support in reorganization of the laboratories in terms of spaces and positioning of different equipment in order to carry out the different steps of the diagnostic process quickly and comfortably;
- Renewing techniques of some accredited methods established;
- Designed New PIS – LIMS modules designed for the SPL in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive materials, as well as plant protection products and pesticides residues;
- Quality assurance program developed for methods following the internationally agreed ISTA accreditation;

Sub-result 4.2: Capacity of the laboratory staff strengthened

Expected sub-results

- Enhanced laboratory capacities for analytical and diagnosis tasks;
- Training provided for SPL laboratory staff on different plant health issues, in particular in molecular diagnostic methods and techniques;
- Training provided for the SPL laboratory staff for risk – assessment in the area of PPPs and plant health;
- Training provided for the SPL laboratory staff on different plant protection product issues and continues learning and updating for the pesticides residues analysis;
- Training provided for the SPL laboratory staff on different issues related to seeds and other plant reproductive materials realized, in particular participation in proficiency tests such as the ones provided by ISTA.

3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)

The project will be implemented between the final beneficiary country and EU Member State(s). The implementation of the project requires one Project Leader (PL) with responsibility for the overall coordination of project activities and Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) to manage implementation of project activities, short-term experts (STEs) in different phytosanitary areas, to assure the RTA an efficient implementation of the technical parts of the project and within the limits of the budget. It is essential that the team has sufficiently broad expertise to cover all areas included in the project description.

Proposals submitted by Member States shall be concise and focused on the strategy and methodology and an indicative timetable underpinning this, the administrative model suggested, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entity/-ies. Proposals shall be detailed enough to respond adequately to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully elaborated project. They shall contain enough detail about the strategy and methodology and indicate the sequencing and mention key activities during the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory results/outputs.

The interested EU Member State(s) shall include in their proposal the CVs of the designated Project Leader (PL) and the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA), as well as the CVs of the potentially designated Component Leaders-(CLs).

The Twinning project will be implemented by close co-operation among the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in sustainable manner.

The set of proposed activities will be further developed with the Twinning partners when drafting the initial work plan and successive rolling work plan every three months, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning partner. The components are closely inter-linked and need to be sequenced accordingly.

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL

Qualifications and skills:

- At least a University degree in agronomy, forestry, biology or another field/ discipline relevant to the project or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;

- At least 3 years of relevant experience in the field of plant protection (plant health and/or plant protection products);
- Fluent written and spoken English.

Tasks:

- To conceive, supervise and coordinate the overall preparation of the project;
- Coordinate and monitor the overall implementation of the project including coordination and direction of the MSs TW partner;
- Co-ordination of MS experts' work and availability;
- Communication with the beneficiary and EUD;
- Ensuring the backstopping functions and financial management;
- Guaranteeing from the MS administration side, the successful implementation of the Project's work plan;
- Co-chair the Project Steering Committee Meetings with the BC PL;
- Preparation and signing of rolling work plans, interim, quarterly and final report.

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the Resident Twinning Adviser

Qualifications and skills:

- At least university degree in relevant disciplines such as agronomy, biology, horticulture or forestry with expertise on plant health and/or plant protection or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- Have at least of 3 years of experience in plant health and/or plant protection in the Member State Competent Authority.
- Experience in the implementation of EU-funded projects in fields related to agriculture and/or plant health in pre-accession countries as an asset.
- Proficiency in English, including effective spoken presentation and written reporting abilities
- Computer literacy at the user's level of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and the Internet communication and information processing

Tasks:

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) tasks will include:

- Provision of technical advice and assistance to the administration in the BC in the context of a predetermined work-plan.
- Coordination of all project activities and experts' inputs in the country;
- Ensuring day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the BC;
- Ensuring smooth correlation between the activities, deadlines and the envisaged results in the Work Plans;

- To coordinate and organize training activities;
- To provide advice and assistance in drafting legal, application acts, guidelines, manuals etc. for implementation of the new legislation and supporting documents;
- Preparation of the materials and documentation for regular monitoring and reporting;
- Preparation of side letters;
- Taking corrective actions, if necessary, inside the terms of the signed contract.

RTA Assistant:

The RTA will be provided with a full-time RTA assistant acting as an assistant for technical and organizational support. The assistant will be contracted according to Twinning rules and paid from the Twinning budget. The assistant will be selected through an open call. The role of RTA Assistant is to support the RTA in the project management. In addition, the assistant will be responsible for organization of meetings, seminars etc. and their logistics, as well as interpretation and translation.

Full time translator/interpreter:

A full-time translator / interpreter will be selected through an open call and will be contracted according to the Twinning rules and paid from the Twinning budget. The full-time translator / interpreter will be involved in all necessary project activities (training sessions, translation of project documents/reports and materials, organizational activities, etc.). The role of the translator/ interpreter will be to provide translation and editing as well as interpretation services to the Twinning project in general.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders (CLs):

Qualifications and skills of Component Leader 1

- University degree in the field of agronomy or forestry with expertise on plant health, seed and propagating material and/or plant protection or in its absence equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of specific relevant experience in the field of policy and legislation related to plant health and/or plant protection, including official control and other official activities respectively;
- Prior experience in implementation of international and/or EU funded projects in the relevant area will be considered as an asset;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Tasks of the Component Leader 1:

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, he/she will be responsible for:

- Overall preparation and coordination of the activities under the component 1 in close cooperation with the RTA ;
- Ensure consistency among activities within the component 1 and other components of the project;
- Close cooperation and work with the RTA and other CLs.

Qualifications and skills of Component Leader 2

- University degree in the field of agronomy or forestry with expertise on sustainable use of pesticides or in its absence equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of specific experience in the implementation of legislation and policy related to sustainable use of plant protection, including monitoring of economic pest population;
- Prior experience in implementation of international and/or EU funded projects in the relevant area will be considered as an asset;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Tasks of the Component Leader 2:

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, he/she will be responsible for:

- Overall preparation and coordination of the activities under the component 2 in close cooperation with the RTA;
- Ensure consistency among activities within the component 2 and other components of the project;
- Close cooperation and work with the RTA and other CLs.

Qualifications and skills of Component Leader 3

- University degree in the field of agronomy or forestry with expertise on phytosanitary issues or in its absence equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of specific experience in the implementation of legislation related to pests survey and official controls and other official activities in the phytosanitary area;
- Prior experience in implementation of international and/or EU funded projects in the relevant area will be considered as an asset;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Tasks of the Component Leader 3:

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, he/she will:

- Overall preparation and coordination of the activities under the component 3 close cooperation with the RTA;
- Ensure consistency among activities within the component 3 and other components of the project;
- Close cooperation and work with the RTA and other CLs.

Qualifications and skills of Component Leader 4

- University degree in the field of agronomy, forestry, biology or another field/discipline relevant to the project or in its absence equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of specific experience in the analytical and diagnosis EU reference and or official laboratory tasks related to plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials

- Prior experience in implementation of international and/or EU funded projects in the relevant area will be considered as an asset;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Tasks of the Component Leader 4:

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, he/she will:

- Overall preparation and coordination of the activities under the component 4 close cooperation with the RTA;
- Ensure consistency among activities within the component 4 and other components of the project;
- Close cooperation and work with the RTA and other CLs.

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

Other experts will be made available by the Twinning Partner to support the implementation of the project activities. Specific and technical matters not directly covered by the RTA can be taken over by a pool of short-term experts. The detailed expert input shall be established when drawing up the twinning work-plan.

Profile of the short-term experts

Short Term Experts shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

- University degree in the area relevant for the project or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of working experience in the field of plant health, seed and propagating material and/or plant protection;
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Good skills in reporting and communication.

Tasks

- Delivering expertise under the overall responsibility of the Member State PL and the coordination and supervision of the RTA;
- Delivering support to the BC through specific activities in, including day to day work, workshops, seminars, training sessions, meetings with BC staff etc.;
- Preparation and reporting work, before and after missions to the BC;
- Address cross-cutting issues.

4. Budget

Twinning Contract	Total (EUR)	IPA Community contribution		National Public contribution	
		EUR	%	EUR	%

	1 500 000.00	1 500 000.00	100	/	/
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5. Implementation Arrangements

- 5.1 The Delegation of European Union will act as a Contracting Authority for the project, which will be responsible for all aspects for the project's tendering, contracting and payments.

Mr. Steffen HUDOLIN
Head of Cooperation
Delegation of European Union
Sv. Kiril I Metodij 52b, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

The contact person on behalf of the EU Delegation is:

Dimitar Malinovski
Programme Manager
Delegation of European Union
Sv. Kiril I Metodij 52b, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

5.2 Institutional framework

The beneficiary institution of this project is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia.

MAFWE- PD will be directly responsible for co-ordination and management of the project and will support the project team in organizational and technical matters.

Phytosanitary Directorate (PD) - National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) creates national policies and drafts legislation in the area of plant health and plant protection.

Other CAs are as follows:

- Directorate for Seed and Seedling Materials (DSSM) creates a national policy and preparation of legislation in the area of seeds and other plant reproductive materials;
- Forestry Department creates national policies and drafts legislation in the area of forestry and hunting;
- State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL) provides diagnostic services and laboratory analysis in the plant protection and seed sector;
- State Agriculture Inspectorate (SAI) – Department for phytosanitary inspection responsible for inland and border phytosanitary controls, as well as marketing and use of PPPs;
- Holders of public authorisation (Faculty of Agricultural Science and Food, Agricultural Institute and Faculty of Forestry Sciences, landscape architecture and eco-engineering "Hans Em" and others) responsible for the activities in the area of plant protection

(phytosanitary surveys, integrated pest management, control of production of standard and certified seed and seedling materials, introducing new varieties in the National variety list, etc.).

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration

The PL and RTA counterpart will be staff of the Beneficiary administration and will be actively involved in the management and coordination of the project.

5.3.1 Contact person:

Ms. Nadica Dzerkovska
Head of Plant Health Department
Phytosanitary Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
2, Aminta III, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

5.3.2 PL counterpart

The BC Project Leader is:
Mr. Mentor Zekjiri
Director
Phytosanitary Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
2, Aminta III, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

5.3.3 RTA counterpart

Ms. Nadica Dzerkovska
Head of Department
Phytosanitary Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
2, Aminta III, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

Mr. Ljutvi Akiki
Director
Seed and Seedling Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
2, Aminta III, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

Ms. Sedat Shazimanovski
Director
State Phytosanitary Laboratory
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
2, Aminta III, 1000 Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia

Ms. Biljana Taleska
Head of Unit
State Agriculture Inspection
18, boulevard Goce Delcev, zgrada na MTV XIII kat
1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

6. Duration of the project

The overall execution period of the Twinning contract is 33 months.

The implementation period of the Action will last 30 months. The execution period of the contract shall enter into force upon the date of notification by the Contracting Authority of the contract signed by all parties, whereas it shall end 3 months after the implementation period of the Action.

7. Management and reporting

7.1 Language

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

7.2 Project Steering Committee

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalizing the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

7.3 Reporting

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

8. Sustainability

The sustainable perspective and benefits of the project will be reflected through strengthening of institutional capacities of MAFWE and other CAs by the envisaged trainings and enhancing the processes related to the capacity for successful implementation of the phytosanitary policy in the country.

9. Crosscutting issues

Equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming:

The country has put in place the legal framework to ensure gender equality through the adoption of the Law on equal opportunities for women and men and the Law on prevention of and protection from discrimination.

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equal gender participation in the Project will be guaranteed. The competent institutions involved in the project execution will observe equal opportunity of women and men in the human resources development and capacity building activities. The beneficiary will ensure equal access of men and women to the project activities and results and all other forms of discrimination will be eliminated.

Another important opportunity to enhance the equal opportunities between men and women is provided through Gender Responsible Budget concept. In 2012, the country adopted a Strategy for Gender Responsible Budgeting. Accordingly, the Ministry of Finance amended the budget instructions in view of introducing gender budget analysis and is continuously implementing different gender budget initiatives. The Project is expected to further support this process.

Minorities and vulnerable groups

All sector activities will support the Ohrid Framework Agreement and “Race directive” 2000 (2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000), in particular local governance and local economic development, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and participatory development, as well as social cohesion and good inter-community relations, based on the principles of mutual tolerance. The implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement has an important impact on employment (incl. vocational training, working conditions, social protection etc.) and is also a crucial aspect of the acquis.

Simultaneously, equal representation of minorities and vulnerable groups will be the guaranteed principle. The institutions involved in the execution of the activities will observe equal opportunity for all citizens regardless of their ethnic, religious background or other type of social risk they face, in the sphere of human resources development.

Engagement with civil society

This Twinning project will involve civil society, academia, think tanks and other stakeholders when needed.

Environment and climate change

The activities under this Twinning project do not have a direct global impact on the protection of the environment. For all the activities, however, recycling of paper and the reduction of paper-based activities is recommended.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

The implementation of this project requires the full commitment and participation of the senior management of the final beneficiary institution. In addition to providing the twinning partner with adequate staff and other resources to operate effectively, the senior management must be actively involved in the development and implementation of the policies and institutional change required to deliver the project results.

Conditionality

- Appointment of counterpart personnel by the beneficiary before the launch of the call of proposal and guaranteeing the continuity of the appointed and trained staff;
- Allocation of working space and facilities by the final beneficiary within the premises of the final beneficiaries before contract signature;
- Participation by the beneficiary in the selection process as per EU regulations;
- Organisation, selection and appointment of members of working groups, steering and coordination committees, seminars by the beneficiaries;
- Use and application of project outputs.

Sequencing

Key milestones will be:

- 1) Approval of the Twinning project fiche;
- 2) Circulation of the Twinning Project Fiche to Member State National Contact Points;
- 3) Completion of the selection of the twinning partner;
- 4) Signature of the Twinning contract;
- 5) Commencement of the implementation of the twinning (inter alia, the arrival in the country of the Resident Twinning Adviser);
- 6) End of the implementation period;
- 7) Submission of the final report;
- 8) Twinning review mission (6 to 12 months after end of the project).

11. Indicators for performance measurement

Component 1: Policy and legal framework in the areas of plant health and seeds and other plant reproductive materials

Sub-result 1.1: Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant health

Indicators of achievement:

- new Law on Plant Health with relevant *acquis* in the area of plant health revised and updated;
- current implementing legislation to be in line with *acquis* derived from the new Plant Health Law revised, analyzed and amended;
- at least 10 (ten) selected implementing acts derived from the new Plant Health Law (for instance, measures for specific pests, high risk plants, plant passport, protected zones, quarantine stations and confinement facilities, import for scientific purposes, fees and sanctions legislation further aligned with law on official controls, legislation on verification procedures and audit of official controls and other official activities, emergency measures legislation and long term measures legislation on specific pests, and other issues) prepared.

Sub-result 1.2: Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant protection product

Indicators of achievement:

- Law on Phytopharmacy with relevant *acquis* in the area of plant protection products revised
- current implementing legislation to be in line with *acquis* derived from the Law on Phytopharmacy revised, analyzed and amended;
- 4 (four) selected implementing acts derived from the Law on Phytopharmacy prepared.

Sub-result 1.3: Legal framework harmonized in the area of seeds and other plant reproductive materials

Indicators of achievement:

- Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials to be in line with *acquis* aligned;
- Law on plant breeders rights to be in line with *acquis* and three (3) relevant implementing acts to be in line with *acquis* aligned;
- Five (5) of the selected implementing acts derived from the Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials (for instance, registration of conservation varieties and to registration of conservation varieties for vegetable species etc.) revised and prepared.

Sub-result 1.4: Enhancement of the Competent authorities, delegated bodies and other stakeholders

Indicators of achievement:

- new module of existing PIS in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive material designed;
- at least five (5) Pest Specific contingency plans and Action plans for specific selected pests drafted;
- Communication plan and public awareness for specific selected pests developed;
- Three (3) simulation exercises for management of outbreaks of selected quarantine pests organized;
- Phyto Register revised and updated;
- E-phyto for export of agricultural products from Republic of North Macedonia implemented.
- Ten (10) public awareness meetings for professional operators regarding obligations derived from the new plant health legislation organized;
- Fifty (50) relevant stakeholders on selected plant health issues trained.

Component 2: Implementation of legal framework in the phytosanitary area

Sub-result 2.1: Legal framework implemented in the phytosanitary area

Indicators of achievement:

- Sustainable use of pesticides further implemented
- Monitoring of the sustainable use of pesticides developed

- relevant International acts regarding the use of Biological Control Agents (BCA legislation – procedures and formalities for using them in agricultural applications) implemented
- Number of trainings of the experts (phytopathology, entomology, herbology, plant physiology, phytoparmaceutical products, chemistry, technology, toxicology, ecotoxicology, and for equipment for application of PPPs and other) members, from the National Expert Commission for approval of plant protection products organized
- Legislation, manual and institutional set up on verification procedures and audit in the areas of plant health and plant protection products drafted.
- Number of training of different stakeholders involved in the phytosanitary sector organized.

Sub-result 2.2: Monitoring and management of economic pest population

Indicators of achievement:

- Implementing act accompanied with an action plan for institutional set up and implementation activities, including needed budget, human resources and finances, as well as technical specification of necessary tools and equipment to be properly installed in the country related to observation, prognosis and reporting of economic pest population managed by Phytosanitary Directorate, Scientific Research Institute as a technical coordinator, including National Extension Agency and other public and private advisory service providers, Hydrometeorological Directorate and other institutions developed
- Designed new module of existing PIS in the area of plant protection, including regular up-dating the lists of authorized pesticides and active substances to be used in the country, and all relevant data concerning the management of economic pests and connected with Electronic Publicly Available Registry of Advisory Service Providers, Hydrometeorological Directorate and other relevant institutions;
- Technical support for preparation, issuing and distribution of agrometeorological and phytosanitary bulletins to farmers and other stakeholders, provided.
- Developed communication plan for spreading relevant data and information through web sides and different social media to all relevant stakeholders.
- Agrometeorological and phytosanitary bulletins to farmers and other stakeholders prepared, issued and distributed
- Number of training of all involved stakeholders in the network organized

Component 3: Official controls and other official activities in the phytosanitary area

Sub-Result 3.1: Official controls and other official activities strengthened

Indicators of achievement:

- Ten (10) SOPs / manual /guidelines related to inspection procedures including sampling methods in the area of plant health revised and updated
- Three (3) inspection methods for establishment of pest free areas, pest free places of production and pest free production sites for quarantine pests drafted;
- One (1) manual for inspections of authorized professional entities for production and marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive materials prepared;

- Two (2) manuals for official controls in import of passenger personal luggage, online trading of high-risk plants, and other regulated goods which need special import requirements for phytosanitary inspectors and custom officers, prepared;
- Reduced frequency controls in import on specific commodities, in line with *acquis* and risk based approach revised and updated;
- Number of guidelines and trainings for officials and holder of public authorized institutions for control of plant reproductive materials, to be in line with the certification system with relevant *acquis* prepared and organized;
- SOPs / manual /guidelines related to inspection procedures in the area of plant protection products developed
- PIS module related to the phytosanitary inspection further developed
- Number of trainings on inspection procedures including sampling methods in area of plant protection organized.

Sub -Result 3.2: Survey

Indicators of achievement:

- 7-years Multiannual Survey Program developed
- Survey programs for twenty (20) quarantine pests and twenty (20) RNQPs implemented;
- Annual monitoring programs for PPPs revised and implemented;
- Concept and application of sentinel woody plants for monitoring specific pests prepared;
- Criteria and requirements for quarantine stations and confinement facilities developed;
- Ten (10) pest specific survey manuals in line with pest survey cards of EFSA developed.
- Statistical tools for the designing of pest specific surveys used.
- new technologies for the survey of quarantine pests used.
- Annual monitoring plant for Wood Packaging Material prepared.
- Guidelines for monitoring specific pests (priority pests) in cases of establishing demarcated areas prepared.

Component 4: Analytical and diagnosis capacities in the area of plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials

Sub-results 4.1: Laboratory techniques improved

Indicators of achievement:

- Quality and reliability of the methods of analysis and diagnosis with proficiency testing further improved;
- At least ten (10) laboratory protocols further revised and updated;
- Reference materials exchanged and ten (10) inter-laboratory tests or any confirmatory analysis carried out;

- Five (5) laboratory methods in phytosanitary area in order to ensure the quality, uniformity and reliability of testing and diagnostic methods updated;
- Laboratories reorganized in terms of spaces and positioning of different equipment in order to carry out the different steps of the diagnostic and analytical testing process quickly and comfortably;
- Techniques of some accredited methods renewed;
- Three (3) new modules of existing PIS – LIMS for the SPL in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive materials, as well as plant protection products and pesticide residues designed;

Sub-result 4.2: Capacity of the laboratory staff strengthened

Indicators of achievement:

- Further training of ten (10) laboratory staff on different plant health issues, in particular in molecular diagnostic methods and techniques performed;
- Further training of six (6) laboratory staff on different plant protection product issues and continues learning and updating for the pesticides residues analysis realized;
- Training for laboratory staff (10+6) for risk assessment in area of plant protection products and plant health;
- Further training of three (3) laboratory staff on different issues related to seeds and other plant reproductive materials realized, in particular participation in proficiency tests such as the ones provided by ISTA.

12. Facilities available

MAFWE will dedicate all necessary human and institutional resources in order to guarantee an effective implementation of the respective project. In particular, the Beneficiary institution will ensure the availability of the following provisions:

- Adequately equipped office space for the RTA and assistants, and short-term experts for the entire duration of their secondment with a level of equipment at least comparable to that in use in the final beneficiary administration;
- Adequate conditions for the STEs to perform their work while on mission to the BC;
- Training and conference venues as well as presentation and interpretation equipment.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Simplified Logical Framework
2. Organigram of the BC institution

ANNEX I - Simplified Logical Framework

	Description	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data)	Sources of verification	Risks	Assumptions (external to project)
Overall objective	to protect the human, animal, plant health and the environment through improvement of the National plant protection system	Increased the quality and safety of domestic production and consumption of plant and plant products	Project Final Report, EC Progress Report, Adopted legislation, State Statistical Office	Lack of commitment from the managers/high level decision-making of the beneficiary institutions and other relevant personnel to participate in the project activities; Lack of cooperation and coordination between the different CAs in the phytosanitary system	Government maintains its efforts to adopt the <i>acquis</i> and to pave the way for final EU accession;
Specific objective of the project	further improvement of the National capacities of the plant protection system for properly implementation of the policy and legislation in line with the <i>acquis</i> .	Relevant phytosanitary legislation drafted Increased export of plant and plant products	Project Final Report, EC Progress Report and other relevant documents and reports State Statistical Office	Lack of commitment from the managers /high level decision-making of the beneficiary institutions and other relevant personnel to participate in the activities of the project; Lack of cooperation and coordination between the different CAs in the phytosanitary system	- Permanent cooperation between BC and Project by continuously support the RTA and STEs in the implementation of project activities - Commitment from national authority in progress
Component 1: Policy and legal framework in the areas of plant health, and seeds and other plant reproductive materials					
Mandatory Result 1: Further alignment of the National legislation with relevant <i>acquis</i> in the areas of plant health, and seeds and other plant reproductive materials					

Sub-result 1.1:	<i>Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant health</i>	- new Law on Plant Health with relevant <i>acquis</i> in the area of plant health revised and updated; - current implementing legislation to be in line with <i>acquis</i> derived from the new Plant Health Law revised, analyzed and amended; - at least 10 (ten) selected implementing acts derived from the new Plant Health Law (for instance, measures for specific pests, high risk plants, plant passport, protected zones, quarantine stations and confinement facilities, import for scientific purposes, fees and sanctions legislation further aligned with law on official controls, legislation on verification procedures and audit of official controls and other official activities, emergency measures legislation and long term measures legislation on specific pests, and other issues) prepared. Baseline Q4 2024 Target date Q4 2027	- Draft Amended Law on Plant Health - Draft Implementing legislation - Project documents and reports, ToC, - Official Journal - MAFWE and SAI webpages	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources and absorption capacity of BC for daily work with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment - Permanent political commitment for adoption of the legislation
Sub-result 1.2:	<i>Legal framework harmonized in the area of plant protection product</i>	- Law on Phytopharmacy with relevant <i>acquis</i> in the area of plant protection products revised - current implementing legislation to be in line with <i>acquis</i> derived from the Law on Phytopharmacy revised, analyzed and amended; - 4 (four) selected implementing acts derived from the Law on Phytopharmacy prepared. Baseline Q2 2025 Target date Q4 2027	- Draft Amended Law on Phytopharmacy - Draft Implementing legislation - Project documents and reports, ToC, - Official Journal - MAFWE and SAI webpages	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Strong support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment - Permanent political commitment for

					adoption of the legislation
Sub-result 1.3:	<i>Legal framework harmonized in the area of seeds and other plant reproductive materials</i>	- Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials to be in line with <i>acquis</i> aligned; - Law on plant breeders rights to be in line with <i>aquis</i> and three (3) relevant implementing acts to be in line with <i>acquis</i> aligned; - Five (5) of the selected implementing acts derived from the Law on seeds and other plant reproductive materials revised and prepared Baseline Q2 2025 Target data Q4 2027	- Draft Law seeds and other plant reproductive materials - Draft Law on plant breeders rights - Draft Implementing legislation - Project documents and reports, ToC - Official Journal - MAFWE and SAI webpages	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Strong support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment - Permanent political commitment for adoption of the legislation
Sub-result 1.4:	<i>Enhancement of the Competent authorities, delegated bodies and other stakeholders</i>	- new module of existing PIS in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive material designed; - at least five (5) Pest Specific contingency plans and Action plans for specific selected pests drafted; - Communication plan and public awareness for specific selected pests developed; - Three (3) simulation exercises for management of outbreaks of selected quarantine pests organized; - Phyto Register revised and updated; - E-phyto for export of agricultural products from Republic of North Macedonia implemented. - Ten (10) public awareness meetings for professional operators regarding obligations	- developed new model in PIS - Draft Pest Specific contingency plans and Action plans for specific selected pest and simulation exercises - Reports, TOC procedures, plans, programmes, - Project documents and reports - List of participants	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work and training with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Strong support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment

		derived from the new plant health legislation organized; - Fifty (50) relevant stakeholders on selected plant health issues trained. Baseline Q4 2024 Target data Q4 2027			
Component 2: Implementation of legal framework in the phytosanitary area					
Mandatory Result 2: Further implementation of the national legislation in the phytosanitary area					
Sub-result 2.1:	<i>Legal framework implemented in the phytosanitary area</i>	- . Sustainable use of pesticides further implemented - Monitoring of the sustainable use of pesticides developed - relevant International acts regarding the use of Biological Control Agents (BCA legislation – procedures and formalities for using them in agricultural applications) implemented - Number of trainings of the experts (phytopathology, entomology, herbology, plant physiology, phytoparmaceutical products, chemistry, technology, toxicology, ecotoxicology, and for equipment for application of PPPs and other) members, from the National Expert Commission for approval of plant protection products organized - Legislation, manual and institutional set up on verification procedures and audit in the areas of plant health and plant protection products drafted. Baseline Q4 2024 Target data Q4 2027	- Draft legislation - Reports, TOC procedures, plans, programmes, - Project documents and reports - List of participants -	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Strong support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment -

Sub-result 2.2:	<i>Monitoring and management of economic pest population</i>	- Implementing act accompanied with an action plan for institutional set up and implementation activities, including needed budget, human resources and finances, as well as technical specification of necessary tools and equipment to be properly installed in the country related to observation, prognosis and reporting of economic pest population managed by Phytosanitary Directorate, Scientific Research Institute as a technical coordinator, including National Extension Agency and other public and private advisory service providers, Hydrometeorological Directorate and other institutions developed - Designed new module of existing PIS in the area of plant protection, including regular up-dating the lists of authorized pesticides and active substances to be used in the country, and all relevant data concerning the management of economic pests and connected with Electronic Publicly Available Registry of Advisory Service Providers, Hydrometeorological Directorate and other relevant institutions; - Technical support for preparation, issuing and distribution of agrometeorological and phytosanitary bulletins to farmers and other stakeholders, provided. - Developed communication plan for spreading relevant data and	- Draft legislation - Upgraded PIS - Draft manuals, guidelines bulletins etc. - Reports, procedures, plans, programmes, - Project documents and reports - List of participants	- Lack of commitment of CAs staff - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning MS partner(s)	- Strong support and commitment from national authorities in implementation of the projects and openness to adopt new working procedures and methods - Available local resources, CAs staff - Good cooperation between BC and MS(s) - MS partner (s) commitment - All relevant documentation available
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		information through web sides and different social media to all relevant stakeholders. - Agrometeorological and phytosanitary bulletins to farmers and other stakeholders prepared, issued and distributed - Number of training of all involved stakeholders in the network organized Baseline Q1 2025 Target data Q4 2027			
Component 3: Official controls and other official activities in the phytosanitary area					
Mandatory Result 3.1: Official controls and survey strengthened					

Sub-Result 3.1:	<i>Official controls and other official activities strengthened</i>	- Ten (10) SOPs / manual /guidelines related to inspection procedures revised and updated - Three (3) inspection methods for establishment of pest free areas, pest free places of production and pest free production sites for quarantine pests drafted; - manual for inspections of authorized professional entities for production and marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive materials prepared; - Two (2) manuals for official controls in import prepared; - Reduced frequency controls in import on specific commodities, in line with <i>acquis</i> and risk based approach revised and updated; - Number of guidelines and trainings for officials and holder of public authorized institutions for control of plant reproductive materials, to be in line with the certification system with relevant <i>acquis</i> prepared and organized; - SOPs/manual /guidelines related to inspection procedures in the area of plant protection products developed - PIS module related to the phytosanitary inspection further developed - Number of trainings on inspection procedures including sampling methods in area of plant protection organized.	- Draft Manuals, guidelines, inspection procedures, SOPs, - Upgraded PIS - Project Reports and all relevant documents, SOPs, guidelines, manual etc.	- Lack of commitment of CAs - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning partner	- Commitment from national CAs to work with Twinning partner - Commitment of the high management staff to the project activities and reforms - Sustainability of the staff trained within the project
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Sub-Result 3.2:	<i>Survey strengthened</i>	– 7-years Multiannual Survey Program developed – Survey programs for twenty (20) quarantine pests and twenty (20) RNQPs implemented; – Annual monitoring programs for PPPs revised and implemented; – Concept and application of sentinel woody plants for monitoring specific pests prepared; – Criteria and requirements for quarantine stations and confinement facilities developed; – Ten (10) pest specific survey manuals in line with pest survey cards of EFSA developed. – Statistical tools for the designing of pest specific surveys used. – new technologies for the survey of quarantine pests used. – Annual monitoring plant for Wood Packaging Material prepared. – Guidelines for monitoring specific pests (priority pests) in cases of establishing demarcated areas prepared. Baseline Q1 2024 Target data Q4 2027	Draft Multiannual survey plan, Annual Monitoring Program and Survey, and new technologies for survey Project Reports and all relevant documents, guidelines, manual etc.	- Lack of commitment of CAs - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning partner	- Commitment from national CAs to work with Twinning partner - Commitment of the high management staff to the project activities and reforms - Sustainability of the staff trained within the project
Component 4: Analytical and diagnosis capacities in the area of plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials					
Mandatory Result 4: Analytical and diagnosis capacities in the area of plant health, pesticides, seed quality and other reproductive materials improved					

Sub-results 4.1:	<i>Laboratory techniques improved</i>	- Quality and reliability of the methods of analysis and diagnosis with proficiency testing further improved; - At least ten (10) laboratory protocols further revised and updated; - Reference materials exchanged and ten (10) inter-laboratory tests or any confirmatory analysis carried out; - Five (5) laboratory methods in phytosanitary area in order to ensure the quality, uniformity and reliability of testing and diagnostic methods updated; - Laboratories reorganized in terms of spaces and positioning of different equipment in order to carry out the different steps of the diagnostic and analytical testing process quickly and comfortably; - Techniques of some accredited methods renewed; - Three (3) new modules of existing PIS – LIMS for the SPL in the area of plant health, seeds and other plant reproductive materials, as well as plant protection products and pesticide residues designed; Baseline Q4 2024 Target data Q4 2027	Drafted SOP, manuals, Project reports Upgraded PIS All available documents	- Lack of commitment of CAs - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning partner	- Commitment from national SPL to work with Twinning partner - Commitment of the high management staff to the project activities and reforms - Sustainability of the staff trained within the project
Sub-result 4.2:	<i>Capacity of the laboratory staff strengthened</i>	- Further training of ten (10) laboratory staff on different plant health issues, in particular in molecular diagnostic methods and techniques performed; - Further training of six (6) laboratory staff on different plant protection product issues and continues learning and updating for the pesticides residues	Project reports List of participants	- Lack of commitment of CAs - Insufficient human and technical resources for daily work with Twinning partner	- Commitment from national SPL staff to work with Twinning partner - Commitment of the high management staff to the project activities and reforms - Sustainability of the staff trained within the project

		analysis realized; - Training for laboratory staff (10+6) for risk assessment in area of plant protection products and plant health; - Further training of three (3) laboratory staff on different issues related to seeds and other plant reproductive materials realized, in particular participation in proficiency tests such as the ones provided by ISTA. Baseline Q1 2025 Target data Q4 2027			
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ANNEX II – Organigram of the BC institution

