



ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche¹

Project title: Supporting further alignment with the EU acquis for food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary policies

Beneficiary administration: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia

Twining Reference: SR 22 IPA AG 01 25

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EU funded project

TWINNING TOOL

(It is recommended that the complete Twinning Fiche should not exceed 10 pages, excluding annexes)

¹ In case of different language versions of the Twinning Fiche it must be clearly indicated which language version prevails.

List of Abbreviations

AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BC	Beneficiary Country
BCP	Border Control Post
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Association
CH	Chapter
CHED	Common Health Entry Document
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
DNRL	Directorate for National Reference Laboratories
EC	European Commission
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESSA	European Sprouted Seed Association
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HQ	Headquarters
IBFM	Intermediate Body for Financial Management
IMSOC	Information management system for official controls
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IT	Information Technologies
MAFWM	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
MANCP	Multiannual National Control Plan
MH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State

OB	Opening Benchmark
OCR	Official Controls Regulation
PL	Project Leader
PLAC	Policy and Legal Advice Centre
PPD	Plant Protection Directorate
PPP	Plant Protection Products
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STE	Short Term Expert
TA	Technical Assistance
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
UN	United Nations
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
VD	Veterinary Directorate
WPM	Wood Packaging Material
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 Programme: European Integration Facility - Annual Action Plan in favour of the Republic of Serbia for year 2022 (indirect management with ex-ante control)
- 1.2 Twinning Sector: Agriculture and Fisheries
- 1.3 EU funded budget: EUR 1.800.000
- 1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The project is going to contribute to healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, while protecting the environment. It will also contribute to achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (UN SDGs 3 and 2).

2. Objectives

- 2.1 Overall Objective(s):

To ensure the full transposition of the *acquis communautaire* and its progressive implementation by well-structured and trained administration aiming to secure a high level of public health, animal health, animal welfare and plant health at the national and EU level.
- 2.2 Specific objective:

To support negotiation process, further development of legislative and strategic framework and strengthening of the administrative structures responsible for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy within relevant competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia for Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Health etc.).
- 2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans:

In 2013, the **Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)** between the EU and the Republic of Serbia entered into force. Article 1, Section 2 (d) of the SAA states that the aim of the Association established is "to support the efforts of Serbia to develop its economic and international cooperation, including through the approximation of its legislation to that of the Community". Working with MS partner/s will assist the Republic of Serbia in further development of legislative and strategic framework and strengthening of the administrative structures responsible for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy and in enhancing economic integration with the European Union's single market. The international project experts will assist the administrative structures in the Republic of Serbia in charge of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy in meeting opening and closing benchmarks and in meeting conditions within Chapter 12. Furthermore, Title VI-Approximation of law, law enforcement and competition rules, Article 72, Section 1 of the SAA states "the Parties recognize the importance of the approximation of the existing legislation in Serbia to that of the Community and of its effective implementation. Serbia shall endeavour to ensure that its existing laws and future legislation will be gradually made compatible with the Community *acquis*. Serbia shall ensure that existing and future legislation will be properly implemented and enforced". With respect to aforementioned, one of the mandatory results of the project will be implementation of Law on Official Controls supported through trainings, legislation guidelines, etc. intended for inspection services (Agricultural, Veterinary and

Phytosanitary Inspection (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management) and Sanitary Inspection (Ministry of Health)).

The national **Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2024** was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in 2014 and in **Section 3.3.3. Activities on the implementation of strategic objectives**, this document reports "the first steps towards establishing and improving existing institutions, organizations and other entities have been taken. A large number of laws and regulations have been adopted, but their effective implementation is still in most areas, at early stages. Further harmonization will be based on EU legislation (*acquis communautaire*), along with the continued training of administration, entrepreneurs, farmers and all other stakeholders in the implementation of this very demanding legislation". For instance, the implementation of the Animal Health Law will be accomplished through trainings, legislation, guidelines, etc. envisaged within the project and intended for inspection services, veterinary service and laboratories. The same document states improving the quality and safety of products as one of the priority areas (page 76). It says "Improving the system and capacity in the area of food safety and quality entails creating an environment in which all relevant stakeholders in the production chain (public authorities and organisations, food industry, academia and consumers) adhere to the standards of the *Codex alimentarius*, taking responsibility and ensuring the safety and quality of food."

The **Progress Report 2024** (Commission Staff Working Document) from October 2024, under Section 5. Ability to assume the obligations of membership, Cluster 5: Resources, Agriculture and Cohesion, Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy states that: Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy. No progress was made during the reporting period. The Commission's recommendations from last year were not implemented and remain valid. In the coming year, Serbia should in particular: adopt framework legislation on food safety, official controls, animal welfare and genetically modified organisms, aligned with the EU *acquis*; strengthen administrative capacity to ensure correct implementation; adopt and start implementation of the national plan to align legislation with EU quality standards for raw milk; prioritise the process of upgrading food establishments to be in line with the EU *acquis*.

The above listed documents apparently show that there is a necessity for further alignment with EU *acquis* in food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, as well as a need for further adjustment of relevant institutional capacities necessary to reduce resulting gaps and fulfil needs and obligations originating from these documents and from negotiation process.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

In **2009**, Serbia officially applied for European Union (EU) membership. In **2012**, the European Council granted Serbia candidate country status. In September **2013**, a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force between Serbia and the EU, and formal accession negotiations with Serbia started in **2014**. Explanatory screening for Chapter 12 – food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy - was held in February 2014. After bilateral screening for the same Chapter finished (October 2014),

Serbia had received benchmarks pertaining to Chapter 12 in 2017 and has been working since to implement them.

This Chapter covers detailed rules in the area of food safety. The general foodstuffs policy sets hygiene rules for foodstuff production. Furthermore, the *acquis* provides detailed rules in the veterinary field, which are essential for safeguarding animal health, animal welfare and safety of food of animal origin in the internal market. In the phytosanitary field, EU rules cover issues such as quality of seed, plant protection material, harmful organisms and animal nutrition.

Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies are rather widely regulated policies areas. In the EC, they are within the remit of DG SANTE, while in Member States as well as the candidate countries responsibilities for the areas covered by this chapter are generally divided among different national authorities.

In the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Health are the competent authorities for food and feed safety. Within the MAFWM, Veterinary Directorate, Plant Protection Directorate and Sector for Agricultural Inspection have responsibility for food and feed safety and quality. The Ministry of Health is in charge of regulations in the areas of novel foods, infant formulas, dietary products and supplements, salt for human consumption, additives, flavourings, enzyme preparations of non-animal origin, drinking water, and food contact materials. Law on Food Safety sets out the division of responsibility for inspections between MAFWM's agricultural inspection, veterinary and phytosanitary inspection (including border inspection) and the Sector for Inspection Affairs in the Ministry of Health.

The main legal framework consists of the Law on Food Safety, Law on Veterinary Matters, Law on Products of General Use, Law on Animal Husbandry, Law on Animal Welfare, Law on Plant Health, Law on Plant Protection Products, the Law on Seeds, Law on Propagation Material of Fruit Plants, Grape Vine and Hops, Law on Seed and Propagation Material, Law on Acceptance of Agricultural Plant Varieties, Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees, Law on the Protection of Plants Breeders' Rights and Law on Genetically Modified Organisms.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is also the authority responsible for policy making in the phytosanitary field. The Plant Protection Directorate within the Ministry is responsible for the coordination and exchange of information between official bodies. The main legal framework consists of the Law on Food Safety, Law on Plant Health, the Law on Plant Protection Products, the Law on Seeds, the Law on planting material of fruit trees, vines and hops, the Law on acceptance of varieties of agricultural plant species, the Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees, the Law on Seeds and Planting Material, the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms and the Law on the protection of Plant Breeders' Rights.

Veterinary Directorate in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is the competent administration for implementing veterinary legislation. Its Department for veterinary inspection supervises inspection at central, regional and local level. The main legal framework consists of the Law on Food Safety, Law on Veterinary Matters, Law on Animal Husbandry and Law on Animal Welfare.

In the previous period, the technical assistance project "Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy", financed from IPA 2015 funds was implemented. The Component 2 of the project "Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy" - EuropeAid/138038/DH/SER/RS, which is finalised in March 2023, was focused on the following activities:

- preparation of the draft National Strategy with an Action Plan for transposition, implementation and enforcement of the acquis communautaire in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, which includes a contingency plan for classical swine fever (Opening Benchmark 2);
- preparation of the draft Strategy for achieving the quality of raw milk in accordance with EU standards;
- preparation of the draft Strategy with Action Plan for Border Inspection Points (BIPs);
- review of the level of harmonization of national legislation with the acquis communautaire in Chapter 12, definition and establishment of the legislative framework (Opening Benchmark 1) and preparation of draft laws (Law on Food Safety, Law on Official Controls, Law on Veterinary Matters, Law on Plant Health, Law on Seeds and Planting Material);
- preparation of various analyses related to the organizational structure of the MAFWM required for the implementation of the acquis communautaire in the area of Chapter 12, official and reference laboratories, etc;
- preparation of training programs needed to improve the administrative capacities to implement the acquis in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

Considering that food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies (Chapter 12) are rather widely regulated policies areas with frequent changes of legislation at the EU level in line with new EU strategic approach (Green Deal , Farm to Fork Strategy etc), further harmonization of Serbian legislation and its implementation and enforcement (raising public awareness, capacity building activities etc included) should be addressed by this twinning project as per components and results in Section 3.5 further down.

3.2 Ongoing reforms:

As previously stated, Serbia received three opening benchmarks pertaining to Chapter 12 in 2017 and has been working since to implement them.

In regard to Opening benchmark 1 (OB1), the Republic of Serbia has defined the list of laws that will constitute the legislative framework for Chapter 12. The list includes 16 laws. The Republic of Serbia has started with the EC the process of consultations on laws from the defined list that will form the legal framework for Chapter 12.

In order to speed up the fulfilment of OB1, a decision was made to regulate the matter of plant protection products and the sustainable use of plant protection products with one law.

Also, after an overview of the EU acquis that regulates animal health, it is concluded that it is better to regulate this matter through the Law on Animal Health. The Law on Veterinary Matters will regulate issues that are not relevant to the process of European

integration. In this way, the Law on Animal Health becomes part of the legislative framework for OB1 instead of the Law on Veterinary Matters.

In the Table 1 the short overview of legislative framework and its status regarding the process of consultations with the EC is given.

Table 1. Legislative framework and its state of play in process of consultations with the EC

LIST OF LAWS FOR WHICH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC HAVE NOT BEEN STARTED	LIST OF LAWS FOR WHICH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC HAVE BEEN FINISHED
1. Law on Animal By-Products 2. Law on Animal Health 3. Law on Food Safety 4. Law on Official Controls 5. Law on Feed 6. Law on Genetically Modified Organisms 7. Law on Plant Health	1. Law on Protection of Plant Breeders Rights 2. Law on Seed and Propagation Material of Agricultural and Ornamental Plants 3. Law on Animal Welfare 4. Law on Plant Protection Products 5. Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees 6. Law on Acceptance of Agricultural Plant Varieties 7. Law on Animal Husbandry (part referring to zootechnic) 8. Law on the Articles of General Use (part pertaining to materials and articles coming into contact with food), – Ministry of Health 9. Law on Water for Human Consumption – Ministry of Health

As shown in the table above, out of 16 (sixteen) laws from which legislative framework for CH12 OB1 consists of, 9 (nine) have been subject of consultations with the EC. The

Republic of Serbia is analysing received comments and works on the preparation of the new versions of the remaining draft laws in line with the received comments. Also, work on the preparation of the remaining six laws in order to be submitted to the EC for the purpose of receiving comments is underway.

Law on Protection of Plant Breeders Rights is conformed with the provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention (International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) and as such it fulfils conditions from the OB1.

The EC informed the Republic of Serbia in November 2023, that Draft Law on Seed and Propagation Material of Agricultural and Ornamental Plants fulfils the conditions from OB1, with the obligation of its alignment with new regulations that will come into force in 2028 in the EU.

Draft Law on Plant Protection Products was prepared with the support of PLAC III project in October 2023.

Draft Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees and Draft Law on Seed and Propagation Material of Agricultural and Ornamental Plants were prepared in accordance with received EC comments and were adopted by the Government on October 10, 2024.

With the support of PLAC III project, some activities for the fine tuning of Law on Official Controls and Law on Animal Health, were implemented.

At the proposal of the EC, the legislative framework has become, part of the Reform Agenda that is being prepared on the basis of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans published by the EC on 8 November 2023. The proposed deadline for the fulfilment of this indicator from the Reform Agenda is the end of June 2027.

As for the Opening benchmark 2 (OB2), the first draft of the Strategy with Action plan including Contingency Plan for Classical Swine Fever, has been prepared and submitted to the European Commission on 14th of September 2021 for commenting.

On November 30, 2021, the EC submitted an Opinion on the draft Strategy and Action Plan (without the crisis plan). The draft was very positively evaluated. The Opinion on the Classical Swine Fever Contingency Plan was submitted by the EC on December 15, 2021.

The second draft of the Strategy with the Action Plan and the Contingency Plan was submitted on March 14, 2022. On March 29, 2022 the EC declared that the text of the second draft of the Strategy with the Action Plan and the Contingency Plan was satisfactory and left the possibility of submitting additional comments.

Considering the changes of EU legislation as well as the fact that the plans defined by the draft Strategy and the Action Plan (approved by the EC) have been overcome, the update of the draft Strategy with the Action Plan for Chapter 12 was finished in January 2024, with the support of the PLAC III project.

Bearing in mind that OB1 has become part of the Reform Agenda that is being prepared on the basis of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and that a new deadline for the fulfilment of OB 1 has been proposed, it will be necessary to update the draft Strategy with Action Plan.

After the fulfilment of OB1, the adoption of the Strategy with the Action Plan (OB2) by the Government of the Republic of Serbia will be initiated.

In short, two benchmarks (OB1 and OB2) are closely linked considering that the adoption of the legislative framework within OB1 contains the legal basis for the transposition of the relevant acquis through implementing bylaws linked with the Strategy with the Action Plan for CH12 plans and deadlines for their adoption.

In respect of the Opening benchmark 3 (OB3), the process of categorization of around 500 establishments for food of animal origin and around 170 establishments handling animal by-products was finalized. After the completion of the classification process of all food establishments and all establishments for the handling animal by-products (establishments under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water

Management), competent services will perform regular monitoring and control in order to maintain the achieved level of compliance. The MAFWM carries out activities related to establishments which do not comply with EU standards.

3.3 Linked activities:

IPA 2021 supply contract Supply of vaccines for eradication of rabies in the wildlife population and against classical swine fever started in 2024, it consists four campaigns (two spring and two autumn), and it will finish in 2026.

IPA 2016 technical assistance project "Reinforcement of animal health and welfare" supported Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in the process of harmonization with EU and international standards in the area of animal health, biosecurity, and animal welfare. The project finished in 2022.

Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC III) project was providing legal assistance to the Government of the Republic of Serbia in the process of harmonisation of the national Legislation with EU acquis through amending the existing and drafting new legislation and assisting in the process of accession negotiations with the European Union. The project was covering 11 negotiation chapters, Chapter 12 included. PLAC III, funded by the European Union started in January 2019 and finished in 2024.

IPA 2015 technical assistance project "Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy" was financed from IPA 2015 funds. The project was assisting the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in the process of harmonization of national legal framework with the EU legislation in Chapter 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development and Chapter 12 – Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, as well as in the process of its implementation. The project finished in 2023.

IPA 2013 twinning contract "Enhancing the Capacities of the Serbian Authorities in Zoonoses and Food Borne Disease Control" was financed from IPA 2013 funds. The main objective of the project was to provide assistance to the relevant Serbian authorities to strengthen their capacities in the area of zoonoses, food borne disease and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) control. The project finished in 2018.

IPA 2013 twinning contract "Further Capacity Building in the Area of Plant Protection Products and Pesticide Residues" finished in 2018 and the main goal of this twinning project was the alignment of Serbian management of plant protection products and pesticide residues with EU requirements and strengthening of the controls on plant protection products (PPP) and pesticide residues.

IPA 2013 supply contract "Further Support of the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies" included the procurement of rabies vaccines and their distribution as well as the procurement of classical swine fever vaccines. Four vaccination campaigns against rabies were conducted from autumn 2015 to spring 2017. Vaccines against classical swine fever were also purchased within this contract.

Twinning contract "Harmonisation of national legislation with EU legislation for placing on the market and control of Plant Protection Products and implementation of new legal

provisions" was financed from IPA 2008. The project improved the protection of human health and the environment in the Republic of Serbia through effective regulation of Plant Protection Products (PPP's).

Twinning contract "Institutional capacity building within the Phytosanitary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management" was financed from EU CARDS programme. The project supported the Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management to align the National legislation in Plant Protection sector with the EU one in order to allow to Serbian agricultural market to face the new challenges proposed by the international trade.

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

The key legislations concerning Chapter 12 are listed below:

- Regulation (EC) 178/2002 known as General Food Law;
- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 known as Animal Health Law;
- Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 known as Plant Health Law;
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls;
- Regulation (EU) 1069/2009 on animal by products;
- Regulation (EU) 183/2005 known as Feed Law;
- Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed;
- Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 on concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms;
- Directive (EU) 2015/412 amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory.

3.5 Components and results per component

Component 1:

Strategic and legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia supported in meeting conditions within Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy

Result 1.1. Strategic and negotiation framework within Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy further developed

Result 1.2. Competent authorities supported in the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of legislation in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy (through development of legal acts from defined legal framework for Chapter 12 including relevant bylaws)

Result 1.3. Competent authorities assisted in fulfilment of recommendations and/or requirements needed for opening/closing negotiations in Chapter 12 and completion of the process of alignment in Chapter 12.

Component 2:

Administrative structures of competent authorities improved in order to meet conditions within Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy

Result 2.1. Institutional capacities of competent authorities strengthened and upgraded in order for them to be fully capable to apply EU acquis on specific topics in the field food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy

Component 3:

Developed strategic, legislative and institutional framework for Border Control Posts/BCPs

Result 3.1. Strategic framework related to BCPs further developed

Result 3.2. Competent authorities supported in the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation related to the BCP system

Result 3.3. Improvement of existing institutional IT system and networking.

Component 4:

Raising awareness of the impact of harmonization of EU Acquis in Chapter 12

Result 4.1. Development and implementation of a campaign addressed towards representatives of state administration, universities, industry and general public.

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

Proposals submitted by the EU Member State shall be concise and focused on the strategy and methodology, relevant and indicative timetable, the administrative model suggested, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and they shall clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entity/ies. Proposals shall respond adequately to the requirements of the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a completely 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 Twinning Partners shall ensure that EU funded Twinning project has high and regular level of visibility. Minimum two visibility events will be organized during the implementation of the project, namely a Kick-off meeting at project commencement and a Final event at the end of the implementation period, to wrap-up work done. Compliance will be ensured with the provisions of the document Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions concerning acknowledgement of EU financing of the project. (please see https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility-guidance-for-external-actions-july-2022_en_0.pdf).

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:

The Project Leader (PL) responsible for the overall coordination of project activities, and the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) responsible for management and implementation of the foreseen project activities shall provide support to the responsible Serbian authorities in the implementation of this project, thus in strengthening of their capacities. It is crucial that the team, short-term experts included, has broad expertise which will

cover all the areas included in the description of the project. The MS PL will manage the project team of selected member state(s) experts and supervise and co-ordinate the implementation of project activities.

The Project Leader will be appointed by the Member State Lead Partner institution. The Member State Project Leader (PL) is expected to be an official or assimilated agent with a sufficient rank to ensure an operational dialogue at political level. The Member State PL will lead and supervise the implementation of the project and manage the project team of selected member state(s) experts and formally signs all work plan(s) and/or any updates of these, reports and supporting documentation regarding the implementation phase.

Tasks of MS PL

- Responsible for the overall guidance and implementation of the project in cooperation with the BC PL;
- Supervises the RTA;
- Ensures that all team members are aware of their tasks and responsibilities;
- Ensures, together with the RTA that the project remains within allocated budget;
- Prepares project reports;
- Ensuring backstopping and financial management of the project in the MS;
- Ensuring timely, effective and efficient implementation achievement of results, through proposed activities of the project;
- Coordination of deployment of short-term experts;
- Coordination (with the MS RTA) of the Project Steering Committee meetings;
- Participation at the Steering Committee meetings (every three months);
- Participation in some communication and visibility activities (is expected);
- Development of the work plan, updates and the communication and visibility plan.

The PL profile

Requirements:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and/or legal studies and/or political sciences or in the field relevant for this Twinning Project;
- At least 3 years of specific experience in the area of EU integration/accession process;
- Proven experience with EU regulations in the area of food safety/ veterinary/ phytosanitary policy;
- Excellent management and communication skills;
- Fluency in English language, both written and spoken;
- Computer literacy.

Asset:

- Proven experience in the implementation of at least 1 similar project/s.

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:

The Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) works on a daily basis with the BC staff to implement, support and coordinate project activities in the beneficiary country. She/he should be an employee of the governmental competent authority for food safety, veterinary and

phytosanitary policy (Ministry or Agency) in an EU Member State. RTA will liaise with the BC Project Leader and will report to the MS Project Leader. The working days will be used in the most efficient and effective way and in line with the agreed work plan to enable timely completion of project results. During the implementation of this project, the RTA will be positioned in the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management/Directorates of the Ministry.

Tasks of RTA

- Responsible for monitoring project implementation and proposing management actions as required;
- Support and coordination of all project activities in BC in line with the agreed work program to enable timely completion of project results and delivery of the outputs;
- Advise on related EU policies and best practices, legislation and regulations;
- Establishes and maintains cooperation with all beneficiaries involved in the implementation of the project and other related projects (ensures the avoidance of overlapping) in close co-ordination with the Project Leader;
- Nomination, mobilization and supervision of short-term experts, together with the Project Leader;
- Facilitation of the contacts with peer institutions in EU member states in order to stimulate a proper exchange of information and data;
- Organization of visibility events (kick-off and final event);
- Responsible for organization of the Project Steering Committee meetings and reporting on the project progress in close cooperation with the Project leader;
- Prepares Initial work plan, prepares and updates the rolling work plan to be transmitted to the Project Steering Committee under the authority of the Member State PL;
- Organizes and participates at the Project Steering Committee meetings and reports on the progress achieved by the project in close cooperation with the Project leader;
- Identifies and reports the Contracting Authority, at early stage, all difficulties that may jeopardize the implementation of the project and the achievement of its results.

The RTA profile

Requirements:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and/or legal studies or in other field relevant for the scope of this Twinning Project;
- At least 3 years of working experience in the field of harmonization, implementation and enforcement of EU aquis in the field relevant for the scope of this Twinning Project gained in the public administration of a Member State or Mandated body or Candidate Country;
- Experience in project management (implementation of national or international project related to food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy);
- Fluency in English language, both written and spoken;
- Excellent communication, coordination and reporting skills;
- Computer literacy.

Asset:

- Experience in at least 1 project related to the preparation/implementation of relevant EU legislation, preferably in the field of food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy, with same or similar assignments;
- Good knowledge of the EU acquis;
- Experience in capacity building of professionals working in public institutions.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:

The Member State shall designate for components a short-term expert who, besides contributing directly to individual activities, acts as Component Leader and coordinates the intervention of all other Member State experts mobilised for the same component, in close cooperation with the RTA.

Component Leaders will be responsible for the execution of following tasks in compliance with the requirements and scope of each individual component, under the RTA supervision:

Tasks of Component Leaders:

- Coordination of the implementation of all activities implemented in the framework of the concerned component;
- Briefing and supervision of the work of other short-term experts, in collaboration with the RTA;
- Arranging training activities in compliance with the requirements designated under activity purposes;
- Planning the activities to be delivered.

Profile of Component Leaders:

Component Leader 1:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and or legal studies or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning Contract;
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of Component 1;
- Proven experience in development of legislation related to food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy;
- Excellent communication, coordination and reporting skills;
- Excellent English skills (oral and written);
- Computer literacy.

Component Leader 2:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and or legal studies or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning Contract;
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of Component 2;

- Proven experience in development of training plans, training organization and training delivery;
- Excellent communication, coordination and reporting skills;
- Excellent English skills (oral and written);
- Computer literacy.

Component Leader 3:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and or legal studies or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning Contract;
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of Component 3;
- Excellent communication, coordination and reporting skills;
- Excellent English skills (oral and written);
- Computer literacy.

Component Leader 4:

- University degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the field of food safety and/or veterinary and/or phytosanitary policy and or legal studies or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning Contract;
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of Component 4;
- Proven experience in development and implementation of communication/awareness raising strategies/campaigns;
- Excellent communication, coordination and reporting skills;
- Excellent English skills (oral and written);
- Computer literacy.

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

The twinning partner will decide on the profile, number and involvement of the short term experts during the drafting of the project work plan. STEs should be identified by the Project Leader/RTA and have to be agreed with the beneficiary institutions in the course of designing and delivery of the expected project outputs. Selection procedures shall be transparent and based on pre-defined criteria, including detail professional qualifications, and work experience. Each expert will have individual Terms of Reference, including the expert profile requirements and outputs to be produced which will be endorsed by the beneficiary institutions. Following the endorsement by the beneficiary institutions, the terms of reference and selected experts are subject to final approval. Main areas of expertise required by the team of short-term experts should cover the following fields (the list of fields is non-exhaustive):

Food Safety;
 Veterinary policy;
 Phytosanitary policy;
 Drafting of legal documents (laws, bylaws);
 IT;
 Organization and delivery of trainings.

Tasks of the short-term experts

STEs will provide specialized know-how for the individual tasks in this project. Therefore, the experts should have a relevant professional experience in administration and project implementation and minimum qualifications required, as well as specific skills needed for individual task. As a general approach, the STEs will take the responsibility for the implementation of the Project and the achievement of the results, each for his/her individual mission tasks, as defined by individual ToR. They will also prepare the required reports and the output described. Detailed profiles and tasks of short - term experts, including the duration of their assignments, will be provided in the Twinning Work Plan.

Under the RTA coordination, the STEs will:

- Closely work with partners in implementing all Twinning Project activities;
- Provide specialized assistance and support to BC staff in the areas identified, and in the modalities envisaged, by this Twinning Fiche;
- Prepare the mission according to instructions from the RTA, familiarizing themselves with relevant documentation, and drafting supporting materials, if the mission requires (e.g. if delivering training);
- Diligently perform the mission, according to the RTA instructions and considering the requests by BC partners;
- At the end of the mission, draft a brief mission report and handle all deliverables prepared.

The minimum indicative requirements for STEa are the following:

Profile of the short- term experts:

Requirements:

- University Degree or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- At least 3 years of professional working experience in the field for which the expert is mobilized;
- Fluency in English language, both written and spoken;
- Computer literacy.

Assets:

- Previous experience in assessing EU membership candidate country's legislation for determining compliance with EU requirements;
- Previous experience in implementation of projects, with same or similar assignments.

4. Budget

EUR 1.800.000 (no national co-financing)

5. Implementation Arrangements

5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting (AO/CFCU/PAO/European Union Delegation/Office):

The Implementing Agency of the project is the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU/IBFM in IPA III). The IBFM will be the Contracting Authority and it will be responsible for publishing tenders, concluding contracts and authorizing the Treasury to make contract related payments.

Ministry of Finance
Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU/IBFM)
Balkanska St, No. 53
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Ms. Maja Lazić, Acting Assistant Minister/Head of Contracting Authority
Phone: +381117652623

E-mail: maja.lazic@mfin.gov.rs

Mr. Darko Vasic, National Contact Point
Phone: +381117652577
E-mail: twinning@mfin.gov.rs

5.2 Institutional framework

This twinning project will be implemented within the **Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration - Department for European Integration and Multilateral Cooperation, Veterinary Directorate, Plant Protection Directorate, Directorate for national reference laboratories and Sector for Agricultural Inspection** of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management** which is the **main beneficiary institution**. As internal unit of the MAFWM in charge for coordination of the entire process of European integration and EU negotiation accession process, Department for European Integration will be responsible for overall coordination of the project implementation. All relevant institutions in charge for Chapter 12 – Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy (for example Ministry of Health and its relevant internal units) will be involved in the process of implementation of the project and considered other beneficiaries.

Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration performs tasks related to: monitoring, analyzing and directing the implementation of obligations arising from the process of accession to the EU, WTO and other international organizations, ie membership in the EU, WTO, international organizations, as well as obligations assumed by concluding international agreements, protocols and initiatives in the field of agriculture; participation in the drafting and harmonization of laws and other regulations with EU regulations, WTO rules, principles and agreements and standards of international organizations and international agreements; monitoring, analyzing and proposing measures to improve the foreign trade of agricultural and food products with the EU, other countries and regions; preparation of information and platforms for negotiations and cooperation with the EU, WTO, international organizations, as well as with other countries and regions; coordination of cooperation with other countries within CEFTA, EFTA and similar agreements; coordination of activities related to visits of senior officials of foreign governments, foreign delegations and official trips of the Minister; coordination

of activities on identifying needs for international assistance, presenting needs and providing international assistance; programming and coordination of projects financed from donations and development aid, EU funds, as well as bilateral and multilateral sources of earmarked funds; performs other tasks in this area.

Veterinary Directorate was founded in 2004 and performs tasks related to: animal health and welfare and veterinary public health; provision of a risk management system in the production and trade of food and products of animal origin and animal feed; veterinary and sanitary control in the production and trade in animals, products animal by-products, reproductive material and other organisms and objects by which a disease can be transmitted, animal feed and components for animal feed production; registration, approval, and control of operations of facilities for production of food of animal origin; control of facilities for animal feed and harmless removal of carcasses and waste of animal origin, as well facilities for their processing; control of production and trade of veterinary medicines and devices for use in veterinary medicine; veterinary environmental protection; unification of database systems, registers and veterinary information systems; monitoring and harmonization of national regulations in the area of veterinary; performs other related tasks.

Plant Protection Directorate was established in 2004 and performs state administration tasks related to: protection of plants against diseases and pests; control of plant protection products and plant nutrition products, as well as soil fertilizers in respect of production, domestic and international trade; control of application of plant protection products; production and registration of plant production products and plant nutrition products; phytosanitary inspection and in respect of domestic and international trade of plant, seed and planting material; food and feed of plant and mixed origin safety control and other tasks in this field.

Sector for Agricultural Inspection performs inspection supervision over the application of laws and other regulations related to: control of agricultural land use for agricultural production; control of the regular cultivation of agricultural land; control of agricultural land use changes; control over works on protection and development of agricultural land; control of fertility of arable agricultural land, control of sublease of leased state-owned agricultural land; control over pasture use; control of premium and other subsidies and incentives intended for the improvement of agricultural production and livestock and funds for stimulating the export of agricultural and food products; control over inclusion of the agricultural land in organic plant protection; performs other related tasks.

Directorate for national reference laboratories was established by Article 18 of the Law on Food Safety ("Službeni glasnik RS" No. 41/09). As an administrative body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate performs tasks within the field of food safety, animal health, plant health, agricultural and decorative plants, residues, milk and plant gene bank, and carries out other activities in this area.

Other stakeholders: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Finance/Customs Administration, scientific and relevant institutions etc.

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration:

The PL and RTA counterparts 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

Ana Stefanovic, Project Manager

Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Phone number: Tel. +381 11 361-0329

5.3.2 PL counterpart

The BC Project Leader will manage and lead a project team from the Serbian side and will ensure that the decision makers at the national level will be informed accordingly on the implementation and evolution of the project. He/she will ensure close cooperation and supervision of the project and he/she will also be responsible for drafting and signing reports and other documents related to project management from the Serbian side and will chair PSC meetings.

The Beneficiary PL is appointed by the Beneficiary administration and expected to operate at the appropriate political level to administer the project, and entrusted with the power and responsibility to guarantee ideal conditions for the implementation of the activities and full ownership of the results achieved. The Beneficiary PL acts as the main interlocutor of the Member State PL. The Beneficiary and Member State PLs work in close cooperation and ensure the overall steering and coordination of the project. The Beneficiary PL must devote part of his/her working time to supervise the project.

Stana Božovic, State Secretary/Head of Intermediate Body for Policy Management
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Phone number: +381 11 3620282

5.3.3 RTA counterpart

To facilitate communication and exchange of information between the implementing partners, for each Twinning project the Beneficiary should designate a member of its staff as the counterpart of RTA. The RTA counterpart should be fluent in the language used under the Twinning project and support the RTA whenever necessary for all contacts with the Beneficiary administration. He/she should therefore be familiar with the structure and competences of the Beneficiary administration and be able to act as a facilitator in view of the organisation and implementation of activities. The RTA counterpart shall also support the Beneficiary PL for the daily coordination of activities.

Milanka Davidovic, Head of Department for European Integration
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Phone number: +381 11 3620190

6. **Duration of the project**

24 months of implementation+3 months of execution period.

7. **Management and reporting²**

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.

² Sections 7.1-7.3 are to be kept without changes in all Twinning fiches.

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, finalising 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. Narrative and financial section of the report have to be harmonized. 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

In the short run, the project will produce sustainable results since it is designed to support the already existing beneficiary institutions and structures, but which require additional assistance in the complex process of the harmonisation with the EU Acquis. This process is a key political priority to the Serbian Government, and the resources and attention of the national authorities are strongly geared toward achieving the steps needed for the opening and closing of the negotiation chapters, and for the achievement of all benchmarks in the process of EU accession negotiations. All of the capacities developed through this twinning project, as well as the results achieved will be used in the future period for the further alignment as part of the accession, and they will be a crucial resource for the EU integration process. In general, all necessary actions necessary for the maintenance of sustainability of the results of this twinning project will be undertaken.

9. Crosscutting issues (*equal opportunity, environment, climate etc...*)

The action will support equal participation of both men and women, regardless of their racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation. Equal opportunities will be also secured through appropriate information and publicity material, in the design of activities and accessibility to the opportunities they offer. The different project implementation structures will ensure the observance of the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

The application of the national policy and strategic documents and the best EU standards and practices in the promotion and protection of the rights of the minority and vulnerable groups will be ensured in all aspects of the preparation and implementation of this action. Long term positive consequences of achieved project results will be of benefit to everyone (minorities and vulnerable groups included).

Activities envisaged under this project will be of the high importance for public health, footsafety, animal health and welfare, plant health and ecosystem protection, in line with environmental protection and climate changes.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

In general, it is envisaged that this twinning project builds on the results of the IPA 2015 TA project "Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy" EuropeAid/138038/DH/SER/RS and to be based on results/activities leading to meeting conditions within Chapter 12.

11. Indicators for performance measurement

Component 1:

Indicators for the Result 1.1

- 1.1.1. The existing draft of the National Strategy including action plan(s) for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation for Chapter 12 updated;
- 1.1.2. The existing draft of the Negotiation position for Chapter 12 and supporting documents updated;
- 1.1.3. Strategy and Action plan on antimicrobial resistance drafted;
- 1.1.4. Monitoring system of the implementation of Action plans for food establishments upgrading process updated including development of Monitoring plan for upgrading of agri food establishments in line with EU requirements;
- 1.1.5. Existing National programmes for upgrading of establishments updated.

Indicators for the Result 1.2

- 1.2.1. At least 2 laws from framework legislation of Chapter 12 revised (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.2. Law on GMO drafted;
- 1.2.3. At least 3 bylaws per field (food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary) drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.4. Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) and implementing regulations drafted;
- 1.2.5. New or existing legal and institutional GAP analysis of the national legislation in the area of food fraud drafted/updated;
- 1.2.6. Guidelines for all inspections (veterinary, agricultural, phytosanitary) in the area of food fraud (border and internal inspections) drafted;
- 1.2.7. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to food donation system developed;
- 1.2.8. At least one bylaw in the area of registration of intermediaries in food donation in the Central Register of facilities in food business drafted;
- 1.2.9. Plan for the prevention and reduction of food waste with guides developed;
- 1.2.10. At least 4 guides in the area of food waste drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.11. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to division of competences and organisation of the system of official controls related to ionizing radiation in food preservation developed;

- 1.2.12. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to organising of the system of official controls in the area of sprouts and seeds for sprouting developed;
- 1.2.13. Guideline with checklists according ESSA hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting developed;
- 1.2.14. At least 3 mandatory and 3 optional programs related to the prevention and control of animal diseases developed (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.15. A guide on the conditions for moving animals and reproductive material, prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.16. A guide for disease prevention and control depending on the disease categories from the list prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.17. A guide for assessing the ability of livestock to transport prepared;
- 1.2.18. At least 4 crisis plans in relation to disease prevention and control updated or created (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.19. Plans including recommendations and instructions for the establishment of functional Internal Audit System in accordance of the OCR drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.20. Instructions for the establishment of Internal Audit Teams including job descriptions in line with OCR prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.21. Internal audit procedures drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.22. Annual Audit programs drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.2.23. Analyses and recommendations for establishment of Quality Management System and ISO 17020 standard in respective services (MAFWM VD, PPD, Sector for agricultural inspection) carried out (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan).

Indicators for the Result 1.3

- 1.3.1. At least 3 documents resulting from recommendations and required for negotiating process developed (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 1.3.2. At least 3 documents on the monitoring system of the implementation of the action plans for food establishment upgrading process developed (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan).

Component 2:

Indicators for the Result 2.1

- 2.1.1. TNA documents in food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary area updated (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 2.1.2. Training procedure(s) (including process of TNA on regular basis, selecting staff and lecturers and/or organizers for training, the method of disseminating knowledge etc.) to be established and implemented in the Veterinary Directorate, Plant Protection Directorate, Sector for Agricultural inspection, DNRL of the MAFWM and in the Sector for Sanitary inspection within the Ministry of Health drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.3. Annual and multiannual training plans including for BCPs staff and internal auditors (for MAFWM, VD, PPD, DNRL, MoH) drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

Food safety policy

2.1.4. At least 4 trainings for 25 inspectors and other staff of MAFWM and MoH in charge for food safety on official control carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.5. At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from MAFWM, Sector for Agricultural inspection and other relevant units and MoH on Internal Audit System (and Quality Management System) carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

Veterinary policy

2.1.6. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of the Law on Animal Health carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.7. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinarians and relevant stakeholders from the MAFWM and scientific veterinary institutions on implementation of the Law on Animal Health carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.8. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of the Law on Official Controls carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.9. At least 6 workshops for 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of procedures related to official controls in the field of animal health and animal welfare carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.10. At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from Veterinary Directorate on Internal Audit and Quality Management System in Veterinary Directorate carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

Phytosanitary policy

2.1.11. At least 2 trainings for at least 15 persons from the MAFWM and relevant institutions on implementation of the Law on Official Controls in the area of Plant Health related to uniform frequency of official controls, increase and reduction of official control on the basis of risk related criteria, procedures for transit, procedures for identity and physical checks on consignments of plants, plant products and other objects performed at a control point other than the BCP carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.12. At least 2 trainings for at least 15 persons from the MAFWM and relevant institutions on Organization of survey in plant health and financial regulations carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.13. At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from PPD inspection related to Internal Audit System (and Quality Management System) in PPD carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

Directorate for National Reference Laboratories (DNRL)

2.1.14. At least 2 trainings for a minimum of 5 employees from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories on implementation of the Law on Official Controls, focusing on the reporting and interpretation of laboratory results, as well as issuing declarations of conformity for residues and contaminants (such as pesticides, mycotoxins, veterinary drugs, heavy metals, etc.) in food and feed carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.15. At least 1 training for a minimum of 5 employees from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories on implementation of the Law on Official Controls, focusing on EU legislation related to the food safety of organic products carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.16. At least 1 training for a minimum of 5 laboratory staff members from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories (specifically Laboratory for phytosanitary testing and seed quality testing) carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.17. At least 1 workshop for at least 30 people from MAFWM, VD, PPD, DNRL, MoH, laboratories and other relevant institutions with aim to present a new structure for reference laboratories according to the Official Control Regulation carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

2.1.18. One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the field of Food Safety in accordance with EU system and best practices carried out;

2.1.19. One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the Veterinary field in accordance with EU system and related to best practices carried out;

2.1.20. One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the Phytosanitary policy in accordance with EU system and related to best practices carried out;

2.1.21. Three workshops for at least 30 participants from MAFWM and other relevant stakeholders related to residues of pesticides, for mycotoxins and plant toxins, for residues of veterinary medicines and for metals and elements in food and animal feed carried out.

Component 3:

Indicators for the Result 3.1

3.1.1. The existing Draft Border Control Strategy for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary border control checks, with Action Plan and supporting documents updated;

3.1.2. The Plan for the termination of the existing agreements with neighbouring and other countries in food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary area before the day of accession to the EU prepared.

Indicators for the Result 3.2

3.2.1. At least 2 MoUs/Protocols of cooperation between customs and other BCP authorities (MAFW - VD, PPD, MoH) related to exchange of data, information and documents drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);

- 3.2.2. At least 2 manuals for customs for import controls of: pets for non-commercial movement, WPM, personal luggage, research and diagnostic samples drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.3. At least 2 manuals on the supervision of BCP performance by HQ drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.4. At least 2 checklists for BCP supervision with reference to the legal requirements drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.5. At least 2 annual plans for BCP supervision drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.6. At least 2 training plans for BCP staff under the competences of VD and PPD as a part of the wider annual and multiannual training plans drafted/ revised (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.7. Job descriptions updated to reflect OCR requirements (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.8. At least 4 documents for the BCP staff on the operations to be carried out during and after documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks on animals and goods subject to official controls at border control post (ref. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130) drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan);
- 3.2.9. At least 2 documents for application of the risk-based approach for official controls for imports per field of food safety/veterinary/ phytosanitary control updated (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan).

Indicators for the Result 3.3

- 3.3.1. Analyses of existing IT system for checking compatibility with IMSOC and introducing stable and secure governmental network at BCP and HQ carried out;
- 3.3.2. Technical Specification for IT tool for implementation of the specific checks and introducing CHED issued from TRACES developed;
- 3.3.3. Requirements for establishment of fully operational IMSOC system in line with OCR regulation updated;
- 3.3.4. Requirements of IT system in order to support risk based controls at the BCP 5 updated.

Component 4:

Indicators for the Result 4.1 ³

- 4.1.1. Awareness raising campaign strategy related to food safety/veterinary/ phytosanitary policy (AMR, GMO and laying hens included) developed;
- 4.1.2. At least 1 visibility event for general public and at least 1 for universities, industry, and relevant stakeholders for at least 20 participants for each event in the field of food safety/veterinary/ phytosanitary policy carried out;
- 4.1.3. At least 1 video material on food safety/ veterinary/ phytosanitary policy (AMR, GMO and laying hens included and food waste) developed;
- 4.1.4. At least 2 brochures for topics related to the negotiating process in Chapter 12 prepared;
- 4.1.5. At least 1 brochure on the advantages of keeping chickens in alternative housing systems developed;

³ Indicators listed in the fiche (under all Components) are to be considered the minimum requested and flexible bearing in mind that most of them will depend on the working plan and analyses to be performed within the project.

4.1.6. National Food Waste-Free Week carried out;

4.1.7. 3 events on possibilities to use IPARD funds for the process of upgrading of food establishments carried out.

12. Facilities available

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management/Directorates will provide the twinning partner with adequate office space for RTA and experts, meeting rooms and equipment necessary for relevant everyday activities and trainings foreseen within this twinning fiche. It will also provide all necessary human and institutional resources in order to achieve an effective project implementation.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. The Simplified Logical framework matrix as per Annex C1a (compulsory)

Annex C1a: Simplified Logical Framework

	Description	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data)	Sources of verification	Risks	Assumptions (external to project)
Overall Objective	To ensure the full transposition of the <i>acquis communautaire</i> and its progressive implementation by well-structured and trained administration aiming to secure a high level of public health, animal health, animal welfare and plant health at the national and EU level.	Progress in the transposition of the EU <i>acquis</i> related to agriculture (BL: some progress; TD closed Chapter).	Progress Report of the EC for Serbia;	EU accession process stagnates; Lack of commitment towards sustainability and further development of the project results.	Accession process moving forward; Commitment towards sustainability and further development of the project results.

		on their physical upgrade and equipping included) and division of competencies between different inspection services assessed and updated; (BL: 0; TD 1). • Awareness raising campaign strategy related to food safety/veterinary / phytosanitary policy (AMR, GMO and laying hens included) developed. (BL: 0; TD 1).			
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Mandatory results/outputs by components	<u>Component 1:</u> Strategic and legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia supported in meeting conditions within Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy Result 1.1 Strategic and negotiation framework within Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy further developed. Result 1.2 Competent authorities supported in the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of legislation in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy (through development of legal acts from defined	<u>Indicators for the Result 1.1</u> 1.1.1. The existing draft of the National Strategy including action plan(s) for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation for Chapter 12 updated; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.1.2. The existing draft of the Negotiation position for Chapter 12 and supporting documents updated; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.1.3. Strategy and Action plan on antimicrobial resistance drafted; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.1.4. Monitoring system of the implementation of Action plans for food establishments upgrading process updated including development of Monitoring plan for upgrading of agri food establishments in line with EU requirements; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.1.5. Existing National programmes for upgrading of establishments updated. (BL:0; TD 1). <u>Indicators for the Result 1.2</u> 1.2.1. At least 2 laws from framework legislation of Chapter 12	Interim Quarterly Reports; Final Report; OTSC reports.	The necessary documents not accessible for review and not compatible with project requirements; Facilities and workspace to accommodate project activities and team members not appropriate.	The necessary documents will be accessible for review and compatible with project requirements; Appropriate facilities and workspace will be provided to accommodate project activities and team members.

	legal framework for Chapter 12 including relevant bylaws). Result 1.3 Competent authorities assisted in fulfilment of recommendations and/or requirements needed for opening/closing negotiations in Chapter 12 and completion of the process of alignment in Chapter 12.	revised (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 1.2.2. Law on GMO drafted; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.3. At least 3 bylaws per field (food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary) drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 3). 1.2.4. Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) and implementing regulations drafted; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.5. New or existing legal and institutional GAP analysis of the national legislation in the area of food fraud drafted/updated; (BL:0; TD 1). 1.2.6. Guidelines for all inspections (veterinary, agricultural, phytosanitary) in the area of food fraud (border and internal inspections) drafted; (BL: 0; TD 3). 1.2.7. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to food donation system developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.8. At least one bylaw in the area of registration of intermediaries in food donation in the Central			
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		Register of facilities in food business drafted; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.9. Plan for the prevention and reduction of food waste with guides developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.10. At least 4 guides in the area of food waste drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 1.2.11. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to division of competences and organisation of the system of official controls related to ionizing radiation in food preservation developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.12. Draft provisions of the Law on food safety relating to organising of the system of official controls in the area of sprouts and seeds for sprouting developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.13. Guideline with checklists according ESSA hygiene guideline for the production of sprouts and seeds for sprouting developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.14. At least 3 mandatory and 3 optional programs related to the prevention and control of animal diseases developed (final number	Interim Quarterly Reports; Final Report; OTSC reports; Training participants' list.		
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		of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 6). 1.2.15. A guide on the conditions for moving animals and reproductive material, prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.16. A guide for disease prevention and control depending on the disease categories from the list prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.17. A guide for assessing the ability of livestock to transport prepared; (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.18. At least 4 crisis plans in relation to disease prevention and control updated or created; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan) (BL: 0; TD 4). 1.2.19. Plans including recommendations and instructions for the establishment of functional Internal Audit System in accordance of the OCR drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1).		Adequate human resources to fulfill project roles and responsibilities available. Adequate human resources to fulfill project roles and responsibilities not available.	
	<u>Component 2:</u> Administrative structures of competent authorities improved in order to meet conditions within Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy Result 2.1 Institutional capacities of competent authorities strengthened and upgraded				

	in order for them to be fully capable to apply EU acquis on specific topics in the field food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.	1.2.20. Instructions for the establishment of Internal Audit Teams including job descriptions in line with OCR prepared (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.21. Internal audit procedures drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.22. Annual Audit programs drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 1.2.23. Analyses and recommendations for establishment of Quality Management System and ISO 17020 standard in respective services (MAFWM VD, PPD, Sector for agricultural inspection) carried out (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). <u>Indicators for the Result 1.3</u> 1.3.1. At least 3 documents resulting from recommendations and required for negotiating process developed (final number of documents will be defined during the			
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		preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 3). 1.3.2. At least 3 documents on the monitoring system of the implementation of the action plans for food establishment upgrading process developed (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan) (BL: 0; TD 3). <u>Indicators for the Result 2.1</u> 2.1.1. TNA documents in food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary area updated (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 3). 2.1.2. Training procedure(s) (including process of TNA on regular basis, selecting staff and lecturers and/or organizers for training, the method of disseminating knowledge etc.) to be established and implemented in the Veterinary Directorate, Plant Protection Directorate, Sector for Agricultural inspection, DNRL of the MAFWM and in the Sector for Sanitary inspection within the Ministry of Health drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0 ; TD 3).	Interim Quarterly Reports; Final Report; OTSC reports.		
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		2.1.3. Annual and multiannual training plans including for BCPs staff and internal auditors (for MAFWM, VD, PPD, DNRL, MoH) drafted (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). Food safety policy 2.1.4. At least 4 trainings for 25 inspectors and other staff of MAFWM and MoH in charge for food safety on official control carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 2.1.5 At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from MAFWM, Sector for Agricultural inspection and other relevant units and MoH on Internal Audit System (and Quality Management System) carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). Veterinary policy 2.1.6. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of the Law on Animal Health carried out; (final number of trainings and		The necessary IT infrastructure not accessible.	The necessary IT infrastructure accessible.
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	participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 2.1.7. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinarians and relevant stakeholders from the MAFWM and scientific veterinary institutions on implementation of the Law on Animal Health carried out; (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 2.1.8. At least 4 trainings for at least 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of the Law on Official Controls carried out; (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 2.1.9. At least 6 workshops for 20 veterinary inspectors on implementation of procedures related to official controls in the field of animal health and animal welfare carried out; (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 6). 2.1.10. At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from Veterinary Directorate on Internal			
	Component 3 Developed strategic, legislative and institutional framework for Border Control Posts/BCPs Result 3.1 Strategic framework related to BCPs further developed. Result 3.2 Competent authorities supported in the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation related to the BCP system.		Interim Quarterly Report; Final report; OTSC reports; Event participation list.	

		Audit and Quality Management System in Veterinary Directorate carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). Phytosanitary policy 2.1.11. At least 2 trainings for at least 15 persons from the MAFWM and relevant institutions on implementation of the Law on Official Controls in the area of Plant Health related to uniform frequency of official controls, increase and reduction of official control on the basis of risk related criteria, procedures for transit, procedures for identity and physical checks on consignments of plants, plant products and other objects performed at a control point other than the BCP carried out; (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 2.1.12. At least 2 trainings for at least 15 persons from the MAFWM and relevant institutions on Organization of survey in plant health and financial regulations carried out; (final number of trainings and participants will be		Lack of stakeholders ' interest to participate in visibility events; Lack of communication with media in order to promote the project results.	High stakeholders ' interest to participate in visibility events; Excellent communication with media in order to promote project results.
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		defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2).			
	<u>Component 4:</u> Raising awareness of the impact of harmonization of EU Acquis in Chapter 12 Result 4.1 Development and implementation of a campaign addressed towards representative s of state administration , universities, industry and general public.	2.1.13. At least 1 training for at least 15 persons from PPD inspection related to Internal Audit System (and Quality Management System) in PPD carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). Directorate for National Reference Laboratories (DNRL) 2.1.14. At least 2 trainings for a minimum of 5 employees from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories on implementation of the Law on Official Controls, focusing on the reporting and interpretation of laboratory results, as well as issuing declarations of conformity for residues and contaminants (such as pesticides, mycotoxins, veterinary drugs, heavy metals, etc.) in food and feed carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0 ; TD 2). 2.1.15. At least 1 training for a minimum of 5 employees from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories			

		on implementation of the Law on Official Controls, focusing on EU legislation related to the food safety of organic products carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.16. At least 1 training for a minimum of 5 laboratory staff members from the Directorate for National Reference Laboratories (specifically Laboratory for phytosanitary testing and seed quality testing) carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.17. At least 1 workshop for at least 30 people from MAFWM, VD, PPD, DNRL, MoH, laboratories and other relevant institutions with aim to present a new structure for reference laboratories according to the Official Control Regulation carried out (final number of trainings and participants will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.18 One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the field of			
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		Food Safety in accordance with EU system and best practices carried out; (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.19. One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the Veterinary field in accordance with EU system and related to best practices carried out; (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.20. One study visit for at least 10 people related to the implementation of the Official control system in the Phytosanitary policy in accordance with EU system and related to best practices carried out (BL: 0; TD 1). 2.1.21. Three workshops for at least 30 participants from MAFWM and other relevant stakeholders related to residues of pesticides, for mycotoxins and plant toxins, for residues of veterinary medicines and for metals and elements in food and animal feed carried out (BL: 0; TD 3). <u>Indicators for the Result 3.1</u> 3.1.1. The existing Draft Border Control Strategy for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary border control checks in line with EU acquis, with Action Plan and			
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		supporting documents updated (BL: 0; TD 1). 3.1.2. The Plan for the termination of the existing agreements with neighbouring and other countries in food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary area before the day of accession to the EU prepared. (BL: 0; TD 3). <u>Indicators for the Result 3.2</u> 3.2.1. At least 2 MoUs/Protocols of cooperation between customs and other BCP authorities (MAFW - VD, PPD, MoH) related to exchange of data, information and documents drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.2. At least 2 manuals for customs for import controls of: pets for non-commercial movement, WPM, personal luggage, research and diagnostic samples drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.3. At least 2 manuals on the supervision of BCP performance by HQ drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan)			
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		; (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.4. At least 2 checklists for BCP supervision with reference to the legal requirements drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.5. At least 2 annual plans for BCP supervision drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan) (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.6. At least 2 training plans for BCP staff under the competences of VD and PPD as a part of the wider annual and multiannual training plans drafted/ revised; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 2). 3.2.7. Job descriptions updated to reflect OCR requirements; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 3). 3.2.8. At least 4 documents for the BCP staff on the operations to be carried out during and after documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks on animals and goods			
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		subject to official controls at border control post (ref. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130) drafted; (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan); (BL: 0; TD 4). 3.2.9. At least 2 documents for application of the risk-based approach for official controls for imports per field of food safety/veterinary/ phytosanitary control updated (final number of documents will be defined during the preparation of work plan) (BL: 0; TD 2). <u>Indicators for the Result 3.3</u> 3.3.1. Analyses of existing IT system for checking compatibility with IMSOC and introducing stable and secure governmental network at BCP and HQ carried out; (BL: 0; TD 1). 3.3.2. Technical Specification for IT tool for implementation of the specific checks and introducing CHED issued from TRACES developed; (BL: 0; TD 1). 3.3.3. Requirements for establishment of fully operational IMSOC system in line with OCR			
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		regulation updated; (BL:0; TD 1): 3.3.4. Requirements of IT system in order to support risk based controls at the BCP 5 updated. (BL:0; TD 1). <u>Indicators for the Result 4</u> 4.1.1. Awareness raising campaign strategy related to food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy (AMR, GMO and laying hens included) developed; (BL:0; TD 1). 4.1.2. At least 1 visibility event for general public and at least 1 for universities, industry, and relevant stakeholders for at least 20 participants for each event in the field of food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy carried out; (BL:0; TD 1). 4.1.3. At least 1 video material on food safety/veterinary/phytosanitary policy (AMR, GMO and laying hens included and food waste) developed; (BL:0; TD 1). 4.1.4. At least 2 brochures for topics related to the negotiating process in Chapter 12 prepared; (BL:0; TD 2). 4.1. 5. At least 1 brochure on the advantages of keeping chickens in alternative housing			
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		systems developed; (BL:0; TD 1). 4.1.6. National Food Waste-Free Week, carried out (BL:0; TD 1); 4.1.7. 3 events on possibilities to use IPARD funds for the process of upgrading of food establishments carried out. (BL:0; TD 3);			
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