



Health and food safety

Meeting EU Standards in Food Safety and Veterinary Services

Kosovo*

It was impressive, the way the project introduced a completely new approach in the area of official food control.

Valdet Gjinovci, CEO, Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency



Project Partners

Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

Ministry of Health, Sanitary Inspectorate

State Agency for Consumer Protection and Food Safety of Lower Saxony

State Food and Veterinary Service, Lithuania

Facts and Figures

- Duration: January 2009 - March 2011
- Total budget: € 2,0 million
- Contribution of the beneficiary country: € 0,2 million

Context

Kosovo inherited a complex food control system, performed by inspectors from various Ministries and Institutions, working in an outdated legal framework. This system created administrative burdens for the public administration and food businesses. In the event of a food borne disease, the division of responsibilities and the chain of command were unclear. Both the institutional arrangements and the legal framework had to be reformed.

Objectives

- Have a single institution responsible for the whole food chain "from farm to fork";
- Help food control bodies to perform an audit role towards the food industry, rather than an inspection role.

Impact

- Veterinary surveillance and monitoring programmes for animal diseases are compliant with the EU rules and those of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
- New standards for veterinary medicinal products.
- Better quality and more competition for the domestic products on the market.
- Trainings for the Phytosanitary Border Inspectors, Veterinary Border Inspectors, Sanitary Inspectors, and Veterinary Inspectors – prepared to apply the relevant compliance guidelines.
- Increased confidence of the wider public in the food safety systems.

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