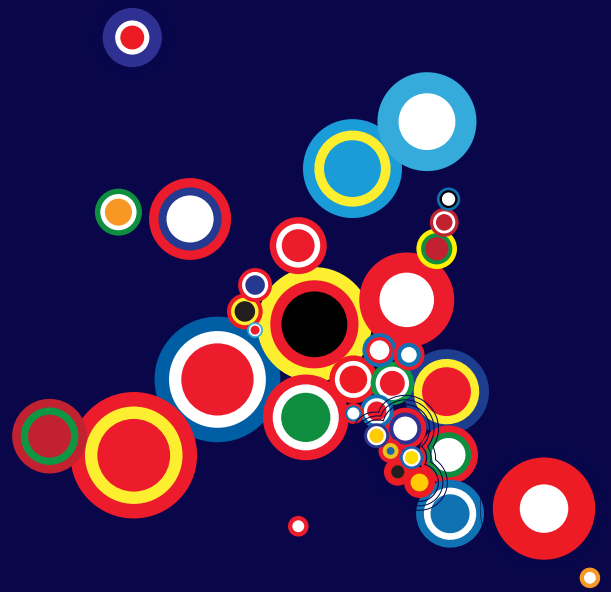




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

Kosovo*

Food Safety and Sanitary
and Phytosanitary Controls



Action Summary

The proposed action will address implementation of the EU compliant food safety and health control system at all stages, including import, export, production of food, transport, processing, and retail.

Furthermore the proposed action aims at regulating livestock breeding sector, reviving livestock breeding centre as well as expand milk recording system in Kosovo.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Action Identification	
Programme Title	<i>2014 Annual Programme for Kosovo</i>
Action Title	<i>Food safety and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Controls</i>
Action Reference	<i>IPA 2014 / 032355/Kosovo/ Food Safety and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Controls</i>
Sector Information	
IPA Sector	<i>Agriculture and Rural Development</i>
DAC Sector	<i>31120</i>
Budget	
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	<i>EUR 4.0 million</i>
EU contribution	<i>EUR 3.5 Million</i>
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	<i>Direct Management</i>
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation in charge	<i>European Union Office in Kosovo</i>
Implementation responsibilities	<i>N/A</i>
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	<i>Kosovo</i>
Specific implementation area(s)	<i>Kosovo</i>
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	<i>31 December 2015</i>
Contracting deadline	<i>3 years following the date of conclusion of Financing Agreement</i>
End of operational implementation period	<i>6 years following the date of conclusion of Financing Agreement</i>

1. RATIONALE

Kosovo institutions have developed mechanisms and a comprehensive legal basis to allow implementation of legislation and policies on food safety, livestock breeding, animals and plant health. As noted in a number of reports on Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency (KVFA), the legislation is generally aligned with EU *acquis* and the mechanisms established are following EU best practices.

¹ The total action cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

However the mechanisms established are not sufficiently prepared in terms of capacities and knowledge as well insufficiently funded to properly implement the above policies and legislation.

For the food safety sector, Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency is an executive agency under the Prime Ministers office responsible for implementation of integrated Food Control system better known in the EU as "farm to fork".

Since 2002 KVFA has received continuous support from the EU in its development from the classical veterinary services to the agency as it is now. The main objective of the Agency is to ensure that food produced or imported in Kosovo is safe for consumption and of the appropriate quality. As stated in the Food Law, KVFA is responsible to perform checks and controls of food/feed, animal health and plant health at all stages of production, import-export, processing, transport, storage and retail.

Furthermore, Food Law places the main responsibility for food safety on food business operators (FBOs) whereas the KVFA should confirm that safety and quality provisions of the law are properly implemented and respected. This change has entirely shifted traditional role of the Inspector from the classical role of inspection to more of the Auditor who ensures that Food Businesses are complying with the requirements. Major reorganization also took place in terms of institutional set-up whereby as per food law veterinary/sanitary and phytosanitary inspectors placed in the municipalities should be transferred to the Food and Veterinary Agency and they should perform their tasks and duties from the 6 KVFA regional offices. Another important aspect of reorganization is the adoption risk based systems of checks and controls as well as application of the system 1 establishment -1 inspector.

As part of preconditions for access to EU markets, KVFA with the support of the EU funded projects has implemented Animal Identification and Registration System and also implements annual drug and residue monitoring programme.

Significant investments are done both by the donors and Kosovo budget in building and equipping the Food and Veterinary Laboratory. Currently the infrastructure is in place and most of the equipment installed and operational. ISO system 17025 is implemented and national accreditation is obtained.

With regards to Border Veterinary and Phytosanitary Controls, KVFA has its permanent presence in 5 border crossing points (Merdare - Serbia, Jarinje - Serbia, Dheu i Bardhe - Serbia, Vermice - Albania, Kulla – Montengero) and two temporary crossing points which are only attended when the consignments are priory notified and those are Pristina International Airport and Railway Station in Fushe Kosovo.

In relation to the Livestock Breeding, responsibilities are shared between MAFRD (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development) and KVFA, while MAFRD is responsible for policy and legislation covering almost all the areas covered by livestock law, the KVFA is tasked to ensure safety and quality of feed including medicated feed. It is general conclusion that considering the importance of livestock breeding, there are very little investments and that key associated activities such as functioning of the livestock breeding centre as well as development of the milk recording scheme are not addressed. Other functions such as protection of national breeds, herd-books, herd performance measurement etc. are not being implemented.

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

KVFA and MAFRD have undergone major reforms in the past years both in terms of organizational structure and functional set up. MAFRD focus was mostly concentrated in the reorganization of divisions and departments and in the establishment of the paying agency. Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency on the other hand, following the approval of food law, had to transfer all the food control bodies (the Ministry of Health's Sanitary Inspectorate, municipal inspectorates) into one executive agency, named the Food and Veterinary Agency. This not only it centralised responsibilities and streamlined inspection services, but it also introduced a completely new concept of the role of

government in ensuring safety and quality of food. While, previously, responsibility for ensuring the safety food products lay with the government inspectorate, from now on it is the sole responsibility of the 'food business operator'. The food inspector's role will become that of an auditor and advisor to food business operators. The methodology and planning of the government's food control programme are done entirely different, no longer being based on the number of inspections carried out, but using risk assessment as the key planning tool for FVA activities.

This process to a great extent was supported by two consecutive twinning projects financed by the European Union who assisted KVFA in completing the legal framework and in establishing working procedures. The full impact of the second phase of the project was limited to delayed transfer of inspectors from municipalities to the KVFA and therefore also to suboptimal achievements in implementation of legislation.

In summary it can be concluded that currently KVFA operates under rather complete basic legal framework and is well equipped with infrastructure both in terms of office space, laboratory facilities and number of staff to perform functions. However, as indicated in the annual progress report and stabilization association agreement, there are a number of areas where there is a need for improvement.

First and foremost, in the area of food safety, KVFA needs to make massive improvements, particularly in the primary production, processing and retails sector. This is applicable both for feed, food of animal origin and plant origin. With the new legislation in place, the food business operators are required to implement most up to date quality and safety systems for food and feed and also implement EU compliant traceability system as foreseen in the national legislation.

In the primary production, where most of the provisions for Good Hygiene Practice (GHP), Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and traceability apply, the situation is quite difficult. This because of two factors; 1- Farms are very small and therefore very little incentive to implement the safety and quality requirements and 2-There is very little knowledge on what preconditions are necessary and on how to implement systems such as good farming practice, good agriculture practice, good hygiene practice etc. Traceability systems such as Animal Identification and Registration (I&R) is being followed but only for the incoming animals and very little for those slaughtered, sold etc. This is very much conditioned by the fact that KVFA has still no control over the livestock markets due to the fact that their transfer is not completed yet. Proper licensing of livestock market and coordinated checks would not only improve the I&R system but would also facilitate identification of smuggled animals which present massive animal health risk. Records on veterinary drugs used and withdrawal periods, use of pesticides and fertilizers, supply of feed and their composition are almost inexistent. Similar difficulties are encountered in the area of plant health, where there is no information on the diseases present and their distribution. There are no surveillance programmes in place neither there is work plan for preventive or/and corrective measures for diseases present in the country or those that might be introduced from neighbouring countries.

KVFA is implementing an annual residue monitoring programme which is also sent to DG SANCO for comments prior to start with the implementation. However the FVO (Food and Veterinary office) mission to Kosovo has identified a number of shortcomings in its implementation. Among other, it is clearly stated in the assessment mission that although the legislation in force in Kosovo pertaining to the residue monitoring plan is generally in line with EU rules, the effectiveness of planning is compromised by not including laboratories in the process and by the use of theoretical production data. Effective implementation of the plan has been a challenge with evidence of inadequate training of sampling staff, deficiencies including inter alia the clustering of sampling (both in time and in establishments), poor/incomplete sample documentation, inadequate sealing of samples and long turnaround times for analyses which cumulatively compromise the legal and analytical validity of samples. The significant under-implementation of the 2010 plan is the most obvious manifestation of the many problems seen in this area.

Similar situation is the part of the chain related to storage and transport of food products, live animals and plants. Very few transporters of food are equipped with the necessary cold chambers and temperature measurement devices which would prove that temperature requirements are respected. Due to the fact that municipal inspectors are not transferred yet there are almost no checks on the transport.

These requirements present a burden for the FBO (food business operators) not only in financial terms but also related to human capacities to implement these conditions. On the other hand control bodies in the KVFA are not sufficiently prepared to perform auditing and checks on the implementation of such systems.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II INDICATIVE STRATEGY PAPER (OR MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER) AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Proposed action document is in line with the Agriculture Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, furthermore the proposed action also addresses a number of priorities and recommendations indicated in the SAA agreement and progress report.

It must be stressed that proposed action document is building on the previous EU assistance and national strategy on the development of Agriculture with particular focus on import substitution and fulfilment of requirements for export in the EU market.

The main objective is directly linked with the development and implementation of EU policies, legislation and best practices with regards to Food Safety, including implementation of effective food and feed control system as well as implementation of EU compliant policy on livestock breeding and farming practices.

Following key priorities of the ARDP, SAA and Progress Report will be addressed by the action document:

- Adoption and implementation of *acquis* in the area of food and feed safety;
- Strengthening of laboratory capacities;
- Implementation of livestock breeding policies and legislation, hence supporting sustainable development of livestock sector as one of the priority sectors identified in the ARD 2014-2020;
- Improve of the border veterinary and phytosanitary inspection system through supply of inspection and testing equipment;
- Support to the agri-food industry and farming sector to improve efficiency while complying with the requirements of the new hygiene package and other relevant EU legal acts adopted by the KVFA and MAFRD and therefore fulfilling CSP priorities in promotion of the businesses in local and regional market facilitating with education and trainings in good production practices and fulfilling the criteria's which will enable the export of the products.

Overall the proposed action is strongly based on EU policies as regards the implementation of *acquis communautaire*, supporting the country pre-accession programmes.

SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

Agriculture and Food Safety are one of the priority sectors identified in the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo (CSP) and also clearly one of the priorities sectors of the country strategy for economic development. Those two documents are supported by an already finalized Agriculture and Rural

Development plan 2014-2020, KVFA multiannual control plan and draft strategy for upgrading of agri-food establishments.

The study on mapping sector strategies concludes that Agriculture and Rural Development shall be considered category 1: ready for sector approach with some improvements. Furthermore, linked with the proposed action, the study recommends as key short term priority to fill the vacancies in both central and regional institutions with skilled staff.

From the institutional arrangement point of view, KVFA will be lead institution for this action document whereas the main beneficiaries will be KVFA and MAFRD. According to food law and other legislation in place, KVFA is an executive agency within prime-minister's office responsible for food safety from primary production up to and including retail. In order to implement sound management practices, the MAFRD and MoH (Ministry of Health) are responsible for preparing policies and legislation covering areas under the executive power of KVFA. Functioning of the KVFA is supported by scientific council whereas the actual work and performance is monitored by the KVFA management board comprised of representatives among other from MoH and MAFRD.

Key stakeholders concerned by this action document are primary producers, food business operators, retail sector, livestock breeding associations etc.

Coordination with the above stakeholders will be done through already established dialogue and consultation mechanisms. MAFRD is doing it through their inclusion in the working group meetings when preparing support measures whereas KVFA as implementing agency has established with the support of EU twinning project a communication programme which enables timely information on the new requirements in place, transition periods and availability of advice in implementation of legislation. From the institutional point of view, programming process for IPA is done through regular consultations between line ministries/agency, ministry of EU integration and the EU office. Proposed actions are linked with the strategies and work plans mentioned above.

Another positive aspect is that national support schemes and EU funded assistance project for the agriculture and food safety are following the provisions of common agriculture policy and national legislation which is to a great extent aligned with the *acquis*. Furthermore, the proposed action document will contribute to a large extent introduction and implementation of cross compliance measures which will be part of the requirements for the subsidy system and coupled payments from 2015 and onwards.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Key lessons learned during the previous assistance are that first and foremost the beneficiary institutions should have all the structures in place in order to have maximum benefit from the assistance projects. E.g. delays in transfer of municipal inspectors to the KVFA did not allow optimal implementation of the previous assistance project.

Budgetary planning is also crucial in enabling appropriate conditions for implementation of the action. Early confirmation of the co-financing, timely allocation of national budget in order to make the necessary preparations, provision of necessary logistics and telecommunication equipment are also crucial elements for successful implementation of the project.

For the laboratory component is necessary that budget is available for procurement of necessary tests and reagents. Maintenance of equipment and provision of calibration services should also be in place before the commencement of the action.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION
<p>The overall objective of the action is to increase the protection of public health by introduction of food safety control measures and educational programs for national control bodies and food business operators as well as to create preconditions for export of the products by enabling the introduction of food safety standards and fully implementation of legislation.</p> <p>Increase farm generated income through establishing of the EU compliant and sound livestock breeding policy and mechanisms which will enable development of livestock sector.</p>	<p>Increased consumption of domestic products;</p> <p>Decrease in the number of food borne illnesses;</p> <p>Functional system of milk recording;</p> <p>Assessment of the quality of the methods for food testing, drug and residue testing.</p>	<p>MAFRD and KVFA through statistics department and tax administration will collect information on the current market shares of specific products, in particular dairy, meat and specific plant products at the beginning of the project and those data will be compared with the data collected at the end of the action.</p> <p>FVO assessment report on drug and residue monitoring,</p> <p>Number of reported food borne illnesses before and after the action including number of consumer complaints.</p> <p>Number of farms with implemented milk recording system. Completed and maintained herd-book. Functional livestock breeding centre.</p>

		Number of new validated tests and analysis performed by the food and veterinary laboratory. Testing for drug and residue monitoring plan is performed entirely by FVL and not outsourced.	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>1- Ensure uniform implementation of legal framework on Food Safety in accordance with EU rules and regulations as well as EU best practices;</p> <p>2-Improve/establish traceability system, including animal identification and registration, traceability of Food, Feed, Animal Health, Plant Health;</p> <p>3-Update drug and residue control plan and assist in the implementation of drug and residue monitoring plan, in line with the recommendations from the last assessment mission of the Food and Veterinary Office.</p> <p>4- Support Kosovo Food and Veterinary Laboratory in increasing the range of services provided, including development and validation of existing and new tests as well as preparation for international accreditation.</p> <p>5-Assist Livestock Breeding Department in the MAFRD to complete and implement the legal framework for the purpose of enabling livestock producers with the legal basis for performance of breeding work to improve the productivity, protection of the local breeds; together with KVFA ensure safety and quality of feed and feed additives</p> <p>6- Ensure that feed materials and compound feed put into circulation in the territory of Kosovo, whether or not containing additives, only are of sound, genuine and of merchantable quality. When put into circulation or used, feed materials and compound feed, whether or not containing additives; Apply adequate zootechnical standards to the livestock sector, setting minimum standards for the facilities where animals are kept, to</p>	<p>Uniform implementation of food safety controls and legislation in all municipalities by KVFA;</p> <p>Establishments introduce and certify self-control systems on safety and quality of food and food products through the entire chain from production to processing and retail.</p> <p>Reduced number of food borne diseases and decrease in the percentage of number of cases reported with acute diarrhea.</p>	<p>Compliance with the regulation using check lists, implementation of national control and sampling plan, audits carried out for performance and number of reporting cases</p> <p>I&R annual report on checks related to holding registration and I&R; Slaughterhouse reports; Livestock markets reports on incoming and outgoing animals.</p> <p>FVO mission report.</p> <p>Number of new tests introduced and methods validated.</p> <p>Applications for international accreditation for specified tests and methods.</p>	<p>Transfer of competences from municipalities to the KVFA is crucial in ensuring proper and uniform implementation of food control system.</p>

<p>ensure the welfare of the animals and to minimize the negative impacts on the environment.</p>	<p>Milk recording scheme implemented in the commercial farms.</p>	<p>Number of legal acts and policy papers prepared and adopted; Annual activity report of the livestock breeding centre; Number of farms which have implemented milk recording scheme and are included in the database.</p>	
<p>RESULTS</p>	<p>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)</p>	<p>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</p>	<p>ASSUMPTIONS</p>
<p>Result 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal and border Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspectors trained and equipped to perform EU compliant checks and controls on the primary production, processing and retail; • Training food business operators(abattoirs and processors) carried out; • Specific secondary legal acts related to meat hygiene in place. • Manuals for finding during controls developed; • Slaughtering procedures defined; • Rules for handling of processed products defined; • Plant health control measures developed and implemented; • Plant disease surveillance system in place, quarantine diseases identified; disease free zones established. • Measures to control import, export and use of pesticides are in place and implemented; • Border veterinary and phytosanitary inspection points are provided with appropriate logistics and equipment to perform inspections, rapid testing of samples , storage and transport from the border inspections to central laboratories. 	<p>Increased consumer confidence in domestically produced food.</p> <p>Improved performance of the commercial dairy farms.</p> <p>Reduced number of outbreaks of plant diseases and Quicker and co-ordinated response to pest outbreaks</p>	<p>Annual report on food safety;</p> <p>Annual report on the laboratory activities;</p> <p>FVO assessment reports;</p> <p>Annual plant health surveillance programme</p> <p>Number of farms under milk recording scheme</p>	<p>Staff is available and sufficient budget is allocated to perform duties and tasks as envisaged in the food law and law on livestock</p>

Result 2:

- Traceability and record keeping system is implemented the farm level as well as on the processing sector;
- Reporting system developed and implemented;
- Control bodies, farmers, food business operators trained on reporting requirements

Result 3

- Drug and residue monitoring programme revised and updated;
- Implementation arrangements for implementation of the plan defined and roles and responsibilities are put in place;
- Inspectors including border inspectors and other control bodies as outsourced trained on the sample collection, recording packaging and transport.
- Reporting requirements for the drug and residue unit established and corrective measures are defined.

Result 4

- Tests required for the national residue control programme are introduced and validated;
- Preparation for international accreditation are in place;
- New tests related to microbiological criteria and other pathogens are introduced and validated.

Result 5

- Legal framework governing zoo-technical and other livestock breeding matters completed and in place;
- Role and responsibilities of livestock breeding centre are in place and livestock performance data are collected;
- Milk recording system in introduced to commercial farms;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate feed control and traceability system is established and maintained. 			
ACTIVITIES	MEANS	OVERALL COST	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Activities to achieve Result 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform training need assessment for the transferred municipal inspectors and based on TNA design intensive training programme; • Develop and implement specific training modules for food business operators depending on the type of food and processing which they perform in the establishments; • Prepare specific secondary legal acts and operation manuals related to meat hygiene; • Define rules for handling of processed products and introduction of corrective measures; • Develop plant health control measures and design implementation plan; • Measures to control import, export and use of pesticides are prepared and arrangements for the implementation are proposed; • Border Inspection Points are visited and list of missing equipment and other telecommunication needs are prepared; • Technical specification for the requested equipment and logistics are prepared; • Procurement, installation and testing of equipment at the Border Inspection Points <p>Activities to achieve Result 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Review the existing systems of traceability in place and identify 	<p>There are three types of contracts envisaged under current actions document;</p> <p>Food Safety, drug and residue and livestock breeding component shall be implemented as TA project.</p> <p>The Laboratory component shall be implemented using twinning instrument.</p> <p>Equipment for Border veterinary and phytosanitary control points shall be completed using supply contract</p>	<p>EUR 4 Million of which EUR 3.5 million EU contribution</p>	<p>If Activities are completed, what assumptions must hold true to deliver the Results</p>

<p>gaps and needs for improvement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose introduction of traceability system in the part of the food chain where is non-existent; • Prepare implementation plan including training component for farmers, processors, retailers etc.; • Define record keeping requirements and prepare necessary forms of reporting; • Support in the implementation of the traceability schemes; <p>Activities to achieve the Result 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the current residue monitoring plan taking into account comments deriving from 2011 FVO recommendations; • Define budgetary and human resource requirements for implementation of the plan; • Perform training of stakeholders in sample collection, packaging and transport; • Design record keeping system as required by the relevant EU commission rules and regulations. <p>Activities to achieve the Result 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the current capacities of the FVL including human resources and equipment; • Prepare list of tests carried out at present and those missing for the food safety part; • Define training needs for the missing tests; • Perform training FVL staff in the execution of those tests with the validated methods; • Present criteria for the international accreditation of the FVL and define work plan for achieving it; • Prepare application for international accreditation. <p>Activities to achieve the Result 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current legal framework in place with regards to 			
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<p>livestock breeding and identify missing provisions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review livestock breeding policy in place and propose the necessary adjustments as per EU recommendations• Drafting of the necessary laws and administrative instructions to enable implementation of the policies and legislation;• Assist livestock breeding centre in implementation of policies and legislation in place, including training of staff working at livestock breeding centre.			
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ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

As mentioned above the specific objectives of this action are:

- 1- Ensure uniform implementation of legal framework on Food Safety in accordance with EU rules and regulations as well as EU best practices;
- 2- Improve/establish traceability system, including animal identification and registration, traceability of Food, Feed, Animal Health, Plant Health;
- 3- Update drug and residue control plan and assist in the implementation of drug and residue monitoring plan, in line with the recommendations from the last assessment mission of the Food and Veterinary Office.
- 4- Support Kosovo Food and Veterinary Laboratory in increasing the range of services provided, including development and validation of existing and new tests as well as preparation for international accreditation.
- 5- Assist Livestock Breeding Department in the MAFRD to complete and implement the legal framework for the purpose of enabling livestock producers with the legal basis for performance of breeding work to improve the productivity, Protect of the local breeds; together with KVFA ensure safety and quality of feed and feed additives
- 6- Ensure that feed materials and compound feed put into circulation in the territory of Kosovo, whether or not containing additives, only are of sound, genuine and of merchantable quality. When put into circulation or used, feed materials and compound feed, whether or not containing additives; Apply adequate zootechnical standards to the livestock sector, setting minimum standards for the facilities where animals are kept, to ensure the welfare of the animals and to minimize the negative impacts on the environment.

Primary beneficiaries of the proposed action will be consumers who will have access to safe food and of the appropriate quality; secondly Kosovo farmers will benefit from the introduction of good farming practices (traceability, hygiene, milk recording) through improvement of productivity in their farms, safeguarding of animal health; cross compliance with requirements under different subsidy scheme and guaranteed premiums for the quality of their products; thirdly processing industry will benefit through supply of raw materials which safe and of the appropriate quality as well as appropriate traceability system which will enable prompt recalls in case food risk is detected and finally KVFA and MAFRD as government institutions will benefit from the assistance in the implementation of policies and legislation, hence providing assurance not only for domestic consumers but also facilitate export of Kosovo products to the regional and potentially EU market.

On the other hand the impact of EU's assistance will be tangible not only in terms of improved economic performance of farmers and food processing industry in Kosovo but also in terms of protection of public health and prevention of spread of animal and plant diseases in the region and EU. Significant importance in this is also improved border veterinary and phytosanitary controls and checks on goods imported and exported from Kosovo.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- Proposed action document will be managed by the EU office in Kosovo, having as lead beneficiary Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency and MAFRD for the Livestock Breeding Component.
- Implementation duration of the action shall be 24 months.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

KVFA as the lead beneficiary undertakes the responsibility to co finance the project and provide necessary office space for the projects team. Close coordination will be ensured with the livestock

department of the MAFRD who will be primary beneficiary in the livestock breeding component of the action document.

The laboratory component of the project will be placed in the KVFA laboratory which is a building detached from the KVFA administration and thus it will ensure that project experts work on daily basis with the laboratory staff.

Other stakeholders that will be consulted and who will contribute in implementation of the action are the agri Food producers and processors, Meat Producer Associations; Ministry of Local Government Administration(MLGA) and Ministry of Finance (MF). Steering committee will be assembled from members of all institutions stated above.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

As described in the Log frame, the implementation methods will be following;

- For the food safety component which will include drug and residue, livestock breeding and traceability system, it is proposed the of use technical assistance project;
- For the laboratory component, twinning with national reference laboratories of EU countries is considered as most appropriate method;
- For the border veterinary and phytosanitary control part of the action document, supply contract is the only possible option.
- With regards to co-financing, the beneficiary will co-finance 0.5 million Euro which will be mostly used to cover the cost of the supply contract.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Key performance indicators for this action document are:

- Training of the national control bodies completed;
- Number of Agri-food producers and processors that implemented food safety and quality requirements as per legislation;
- Manuals and rules for handling of processed products and findings during meat controls in place;
- Traceability system established in the slaughterhouses and commercial farms;
- Number of legal acts covering livestock breeding, food safety and plant health prepared and adopted;
- Number of new validated tests performed by the Food and Veterinary Laboratory. Application for International Accreditation prepared;
- Equipment for the border inspection purchased, installed and operational in all border veterinary and phytosanitary control points.

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

Other than regular methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of the EU funded projects through SCM meetings, regular progress reports and ROM monitoring, it is proposed to establish a system which would enable quantitative as well as qualitative assessment of the project. KVFA will set up a system before the commencements of the project to collect baseline data relevant to the project activities and results. Among other following data shall be collected;

1-Number of commercial farms which have implemented system of traceability, GHP and GMP;

2-Number of Agri-Food Processing Establishments with implemented preconditions for HACCP and the HACCP;

3-Number of slaughterhouses who comply with the legislative requirements with regards to ante and post mortem inspection, handling of by-products and traceability/record keeping;

4-Range of laboratory tests performed by the KFVL;

5-Number of farms which are applying milk recording scheme;

6-Current livestock performance data.

The above data will be compared to those at the end of the project and this will enable EU office and KVFA to measure the performance of the project as well as the potential impact. The action may be evaluated at the interim or ex-post stages.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (year)	Last available (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
Uniform implementation of food safety controls and legislation in all municipalities by KVFA;	Total number of inspectors applying uniform control mechanism	2014	0 (2014)	70%	100%	KVFA
Number of agro-food establishments upgraded and compliant with EU food safety standards;	Total number of supported farms / enterprises which, as direct result of the support, which shall improve their standards towards compliance with national and EU standards on food safety / animal welfare / environment	2013	2014	6	15	MAFRD KVFA
Reduce number of food borne diseases;	There is an average of 52000 to 62000 cases per annum reported in primary health care with acute diarrhea, or presented in %, over 53% of people requesting primary health care service. Source of infections are mostly poor hygiene conditions, contaminated water, high bacterial load in food etc. Over 4.6 % of samples taken from local producers were found non-fit for human consumption	2014	2013	Decrease in cases with acute diarrhea by 30%. Decrease the % of domestically produced food which do not meet the requirements by 2%	Decrease in cases with acute diarrhea by 20%. Decrease the % of domestically produced food which do not meet the requirements by 3%	KVFA National Institute of Public Health
Milk recording scheme implemented in the commercial farms.	There is no system of milk recording functioning in Kosovo. This has significant importance not only on the economic performance of the commercial farms but also on the quality and safety of products	2014	0 (2014)	100 Livestock commercial farms in Kosovo implemented milk recording scheme	150 Livestock commercial farms in Kosovo implemented milk recording scheme	KVFA Kosovo Animal Breeding Association

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The project is of a very technical nature and as such does not have a major impact on environment. However, there are a few issues which will be addressed by the project and which have indirect impact on the environment. Those are mostly related to handling of animal by-products from the agri- food processing industry; implementation of good agriculture practice which among other include controlled use of pesticides and other chemicals; advice in managing of organic fertilizers, use of environmentally sound farming techniques etc.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

Environmental considerations will be duly reflected in all IPA-financed activities and disaster resilience and risk prevention and management should be integrated in the planning, preparation and implementation of projects.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

Kosovo Chamber of Veterinarians, Agri Food producer associations, Livestock Breeding associations will have important role on implementation of the action. Their participation in the project working groups is indispensable. It is foreseen as much as possible to have them not only as trainees but also use them as trainers during the project implementation. Representatives from those associations will be part of steering committee.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination against women, minority and vulnerable groups (including children, disabled and elderly people) will be taken into consideration in all aspects of EU-funded activities, particularly in relation to public services, legislative matters and socio-economic support programmes.

The proposed action will also provide an opportunity for qualified women to get involved in the activities which are traditionally done by men e.g. inspection services, auditing of the food processing plants etc.

In this regards women will be particularly encouraged to attend training programmes and will also have an advantage under training of trainer's scheme and leadership role in the functioning of regional office of the Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Project will be implemented in the entire Kosovo and specific implementation arrangements shall be put in place for the minority's areas.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Proposed action document is already part of a number of strategic documents prepared by the government and donors. The potential for development of livestock sector and agri-food industry is recognized by all parties and major investments in this field are already taking place.

Proposed measures to be implemented through this project have two fold importance, 1-ensure protection of public health through provision of safe food and of the appropriate quality and 2-set up preconditions for the access of Kosovo's agri-food producers and processors to the markets in the region and EU which directly influences income generation and employment.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

The EU Office in Kosovo has developed clear visibility guidelines and ensures that all projects which are implemented in Kosovo are fully in line with these guidelines. Project visibility is also clearly stipulated in all contractual documents whereby the contractors/implementers are obliged to adhere to all EU visibility requirements, as stipulated in the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions.

Communication and visibility will be ensured through already established mechanisms such as public information campaigns and access to online data prepared by the MAFRD and KVFA. It is foreseen through the action that the beneficiary, supported by the technical assistance envisaged under the proposed action, to organise public debates with FBO, farmers and other stakeholders relevant to this action document, possibly with the presence of media.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions. Visibility actions should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

The beneficiary shall report on its visibility and communication actions in the report submitted to the IPA monitoring committee and the sectoral monitoring committees.