SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.1 Desiree Number:

1.2 Title: Upgrading of the state laboratories

1.3 Sector: Internal Market, Environment, Agriculture

1.4 Location: Ministry of Health/State General Laboratory and Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment/Veterinary Laboratories, Nicosia - Cyprus

2. **OBJECTIVES**

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The full implementation of the relevant EU legislation, with the view to protect the consumers’ health and the environment, and to ensure Cyprus free access to the EU markets.

2.2 Project purpose:

This project aims to support the Cyprus’ state laboratories to fully implement EU legislation regarding the official controls and to comply with the requirements concerning the accreditation of laboratories (EN 45001).

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

Upgrading and strengthening of the laboratories and further training of the personnel on quality assurance issues and application of new methods of analysis thus paving the way towards accreditation and implementation of the EU legislation.

Accession Partnership Agreement

**Short-term priorities**

*Internal Market*

- Transpose sectoral legislation in the field of cosmetics and hygiene requirements in foodstuffs;
- Strengthen administrative structures in particular on standards, certification and accreditation.

*Agriculture*

- Continue alignment of veterinary and phytosanitary legislation.

*Environment*

- Accelerate transposition, particularly in the fields of water quality, waste management and air quality.

**NPAA**

**Short term priorities:**

*Free Movement of Goods – Foodstuffs*

- Upgrading of existing equipment, as well as purchase of new equipment for the state laboratories;
- Evaluation of the state laboratories and their systems;
- Training of the personnel on the implementation of the EU directives, new methods of analysis and the use of new instruments;
- Application for accreditation of state laboratories.

**Medium term priorities**

*Free Movement of Goods-Foodstuffs*

- Upgrading of existing equipment, as well as purchase of new equipment for the state laboratories;
- Accreditation of state laboratories;
- Training of personnel on quality assurance issues, training of audit officers and training of personnel, which will be engaged in the implementation of the harmonised legislation on foodstuffs.

*Free Movement of Goods-Cosmetics*

- Training of personnel to be engaged in the implementation of harmonised legislation.

*Environment*

- Further strengthening of monitoring mechanisms.
Agriculture-Veterinary

- The upgrading of laboratories and the accreditation of laboratory methods for control of food of animal origin and for animal diseases diagnosis are planned to start in 2001. The harmonisation plan includes establishment of new buildings, purchase of the necessary equipment and consumable items, securing of expert services and personnel training.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

N/A

2.5 Cross Border Impact

N/A

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 Background and justification

The State General Laboratory (SGL) and the Veterinary Laboratories are the state laboratories involved in this project.

The SGL is a Department of the Ministry of Health, with competence for chemical and microbiological analysis of foodstuffs, water, pharmaceuticals, environmental samples and other consumer products. It is an implementing, controlling and applied research institution, with the main objectives to protect the public health and the environment.

The Veterinary Laboratories is a division of the Department of Veterinary Services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, which is responsible for controlling all products of animal origin from the farm to the retailer. The Laboratory of the Control of Foods of Animal Origin certifies foods of animal origin for both exportation and local consumption.

The acquis on chapters Free Movement of Goods, Environment and Agriculture (Veterinary and Phytosanitary Legislation), amongst others, specifies the need for accreditation of state laboratories.

It is the intention of this project to support the state laboratories to improve their performances and to obtain their accreditation, with the view to meet the priority needs identified through screening process and, therefore, to achieve effective implementation of the EU legislation.

More specifically, the project component relating to the SGL aims at satisfying the requirements of the acquis reference to:

- Materials and articles intended to come into contact with Foodstuffs: Directives 84/500/EEC, 82/711/EEC, 90/128/EEC and all the relevant Directives.
- Cosmetics: Directive 76/768/EEC and all the relevant methods of analysis.
- Safety of Toys: Directive 88/378/EEC.
- Veterinary Drug Residues: Regulation 2377/90/EEC and Directives 93/23/EC and 93/22/EC.
- Environment-Water: Directives 80/778/EEC, 98/83/EC and all the relevant Directives; Waste/Air: Directives 75/442/EEC and 96/62/EC; Radioactive Contamination: Regulation 3954/87/EEC.

The project component relating to the laboratories of the Department of Veterinary Services aims at satisfying the requirements of the relevant acquis in the areas of Trade with Third Countries, Internal Market Control, Animal Health and Public Health.

3.2 Linked activities:

The SGL participates in European or other Inter-laboratory Quality Control programs (FAPAS, GEMS, AUACHECK etc) and in European and international research programs (LIFE, AVICENNE, UNHCR). The laboratories of the Department of Veterinary Services participate in programmes funded by UNOPS on the monitoring of zoonoses, and, together with SGL, in a project funded by IAEA on the monitoring of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin. The laboratories also participate in joint research programmes with the European and other international institutions.

3.3 Results:

Upgrading the State General Laboratory

- Risk-assessment Studies;
• SGL fully implementing the EU legislation regarding the official controls;
• SGL personnel trained on new methods of analysis, operation of high-technology equipment and risk-assessment;
• Laboratory equipment supporting SGL to carry out its functions.

Upgrading the Veterinary Laboratories
• Veterinary Laboratories accredited;
• Laboratory personnel trained on calibration, ISO methods of analysis, procedures and documentation, including proficiency testing with other laboratories, and operation of high-technology equipment;
• Laboratory equipment supporting the Veterinary Laboratories to carry out its functions.

3.4 Activities:

3.4.1 Upgrading of the State General Laboratory
In Cyprus, the concept of implementation of the official control of foodstuffs, water etc. is based on the cooperation between Ministries or Departments concerned, through planning and implementation of effective monitoring programs. The State General Laboratory (SGL) has included a great part of its work in carefully prepared coordinating control programs, pilot projects and applied research, which ensure representativeness, effectiveness and high-productivity and, when applicable, allow for multiple use of produced analytical data. The applied research undertaken by the SGL is prevention oriented and leads to the identification of problems and trends, their sources and etiology. It also produces reliable information to support decision making and public policies. In order to produce correct and reliable results and to apply, therefore, an effective control, SGL implements a Quality Assurance program since 1991 and every year it designs training programs for the personnel on subjects related to its field of responsibilities.
Currently, SGL is not an accredited laboratory. However, during the accession negotiations it was stated that SGL would complete the accreditation procedure until the end of the year 2001. This will address the quality assurance system, the training of personnel and the upgrading of the equipment.
Complementary to this process, in order to prepare the SGL for full implementation of the EU legislation related to Free Movement of Goods (foodstuffs, veterinary drug residues, radioactive contamination of foodstuffs, cosmetics, safety of toys), Environment (water, air pollution, wastes; risk-assessment) and Agriculture (plant health - pesticide residues; plant hygiene - contaminants in foodstuffs) SGL needs to train its personnel on implementation of new methods of analysis, on the operation of new high-technology equipment and on risk-assessment, and to purchase equipment, with the view to fulfil the EU requirements regarding the official controls (frequency of sampling, number of samples, number of parameters, quantitative determinations), transaction of risk-assessment studies.
This component will therefore provide the following:
− technical assistance to carry out a Microbiological Risk-assessment Study and an Ecotoxicological Risk-assessment Study, and to develop the specific indicators, in accordance with Risk-assessment of Chemicals directives and regulations and with Directive 76/464 on the pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment;
− technical assistance for the development and implementation of a program for the official control according to the requirements of EU legislation regarding the number of samples analysed, number of parameters, frequency of sampling, quantitative determinations etc.;
− technical assistance and training courses on the implementation of new methods of analysis specific to the above mentioned areas, on the operation of new high-technology equipment and on risk-assessment;
− purchase of the necessary equipment and the associated training. This equipment is necessary for the control of Foodstuffs, Veterinary drug residues, Radioactive contamination of foodstuffs, Safety of toys, Cosmetics, Environment-water/air pollution/wastes, Risk assessment, Plant health-pesticide residues and Plant hygiene-contaminants in foodstuffs (gas chromatographs, HPLC’s, accessories for GC-MS, GC-autosamplers, computer control processors for HPLC’s, autosampler for HPLC, data processors for GC, a-counter, b-counter and electron disposition system, autosampler for Nmr, software for SNIF/Nmr, etc).

3.4.2 Upgrading the Veterinary Laboratories
The Veterinary Services is responsible for controlling all products of animal origin and for surveying, diagnosing and controlling animal diseases. The results of the Veterinary Laboratories, to be accepted both internally and internationally, must be derived from laboratories that are accredited. Therefore, the accreditation of the Veterinary Laboratories is vital for the protection of the consumers and for the export of animals and animal products.
The Cyprus Government allocates significant resources for the improvement of the infrastructure of the Veterinary Laboratories, with the view to upgrade them to the level required for their accreditation, which is planned for the end of the year 2002.

Complementary to this, the Veterinary Laboratories should make all the necessary preparations in order to fulfil the required accreditation standards regarding the quality system, the training of the personnel and the equipment.

These include:

- assessment of the existing system and identification of needs for improvement;
- training of the personnel on quality assurance issues, methods validation etc.
- training of audit officers
- upgrading of existing equipment and purchase of new equipment
- application for accreditation to accreditation body; and accreditation.

This component will provide the following:

- technical assistance and training courses on calibration, implementation of ISO methods of analysis, procedures to be applied and documentation to be used, operation of high-technology equipment etc;
- purchase of the necessary equipment and the associated training, substances and technical documentation. This equipment is necessary for the control of Foods of animal origin, Public health, Animal deceases, Zoonoses and Environment-water (incubators, waterbaths, safety cabinets, deep freezers, ELIZA automatic microplate processor, PH meters, electronic balances, etc).

4. **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The **State General Laboratory** (SGL) is a department of the Ministry of Health. The SGL is the competent laboratory for chemical and microbiological analysis of foodstuffs, water, pharmaceuticals, environmental samples and other consumer products. It is an implementing, controlling and applied research institution, its main objectives being the protection of public health, of the environment, of the trade and, generally, of the national economy.

It comprises six sections with 18 Laboratories (13 chemical, 3 microbiological, 1 virology, 1 ecotoxicology) all equipped and staffed with well-qualified and trained personnel, an IT unit and a Quality Assurance Unit. The department has 56 qualified staff.

The **Veterinary Laboratories** is a division of the Department of Veterinary Services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. The Department of Veterinary Services is responsible for:

- the prevention, control and treatment of animal diseases;
- the protection of public health from zoonoses and foodbome diseases;
- the genetic upgrading of animals using artificial breeding and
- the promotion of animal welfare.

The Department of Veterinary Services consists of 3 divisions (Public Health, Veterinary Laboratories and Prevention & Control of Animal diseases), 5 district veterinary stations, 7 rural veterinary stations. Over 180 staff are employed by the Department.

The Veterinary Laboratories comprise diagnostic laboratories for animal diseases (Animal Health) and laboratories for the control of food of animal origin (Public Health) - meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, fish, and laboratories for residues analysis. The Veterinary Laboratories have 56 staff (qualified and technicians).

The state laboratories will support the implementation of the proposed project by assuring the necessary organisational environment, making available the necessary personnel and covering the cost of national experts, necessary infrastructure and related running and administrative costs.
5. DETAILED BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Investment (1)</th>
<th>Institution Building (2)</th>
<th>Total EU financing (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National co-financing</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Upgrading of the State General Laboratory</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>0.60 (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upgrading of the Veterinary Laboratories</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.50 (4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) - In relation to equipment, software, documentation and related services (installation, testing, training etc.);
(2) - In relation to training, changes in organisation, procedures, legislation, etc.
(3) - Including current investments of the SGL in equipment (320.000 Euro).
(4) - Including current investments of the Department of Veterinary Services for the upgrading of buildings dedicated to the laboratories (150.000 Euro) and the acquisition of equipment (90.000 Euro).

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Implementing agency

The State General Laboratory (SGL) within the Ministry of Health will be the Implementing Authority for the first project component, Upgrading of the State General Laboratory. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up, comprising senior representatives of the SGL and the Planning Bureau. The PSC will supervise and co-ordinate the overall progress and implementation of this project component, will define priorities, will provide guidance and will approve the results. PSC will be chaired by the Director of the SGL.

The Veterinary Laboratories section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment will be the Implementing Authority for the second component of the project, Upgrading of the Veterinary Laboratories. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up, comprising senior representatives of the Veterinary Laboratories and the Planning Bureau. The PSC will supervise and co-ordinate the overall progress and implementation of this component, will define priorities, will provide guidance and will approve the results. PSC will be chaired by the Head of the Veterinary Laboratories.

The project will be implemented within the same structures already developed for the smooth implementation of the acquis and the harmonisation with EU norms and practices.

6.2 Twinning

N/A

6.3 Non-standard aspects

N/A

6.4 Contracts

The project will be implemented through a limited number of contracts (maximum 3) awarded through open tender procedures. Such approach will maximise the effectiveness and the coherence of the project activities, will facilitate the co-ordination, will produce economies of scale and will reduce the administrative burden.

An important element is that an expert contracted through the TA component will have to review the technical specifications produced for the equipment components.

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Terms of Reference for the above mentioned project components, as well as the Tender Dossiers will be prepared in advance by the State General Laboratory and the Veterinary Laboratories, in accordance with the DIS requirements.

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals: September 2001

7.2 Start of project activity: January 2002

7.3 Project Completion: December 2002

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Article 28 of the constitution safeguards the right of all persons to equality before the law, the administration and justice and of equal protection thereof and treatment thereby. Any direct or indirect discrimination against any person on the ground, i.a., of his sex, is prohibited.
Furthermore, the prevailing legislation with respect to equality of treatment for men and women is partly in conformity with the Acquis Communautaire. The following laws currently in force in Cyprus cover equality issues: the equal Pay between men and women for Work of Equal Value Law (Law 158/89), the Protectica of Maternity Law of 1997 (Law 100(1)/97), the Termination of Employment Law 1967 (Law 24/67) as amended, and the Commissioner for Administration Law 1991 (Law 3/91) as amended. Cyprus has ratified by Law 39/62 the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Various International Conventions, which guarantee equal rights between men and women, have also been ratified.

The State General Laboratory (SGL) and the Veterinary Laboratories are equal opportunity employers. The human resources of the SGL in terms of personnel comprise 9 men and 69 women, and of the Veterinary laboratories 19 men and 14 women. The director of the SGL is a woman.

9. ENVIRONMENT N/A

10. RATES OF RETURN N/A

11. INVESTMENT CRITERIA N/A

12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

The components of the project are inter-related and adopt a logical approach to design and implementation beginning with the preparation of the laboratory for accreditation. Conditionality and sequencing are built-in as a matter of course.

The approval of the project is conditional to the complete transposition and implementation of the legal framework (Acquis) in the sectors covered by the two types of laboratories, as foreseen in the NPAA.

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ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme
# LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR

**PROJECT: UPGRADING OF THE STATE LABORATORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall objective</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The full implementation of the relevant EU legislation, with the view to protect the consumers’ health and the environment, and to ensure Cyprus free access to the EU markets. | • Full preparation of Cyprus at the time of accession;  
• Exports of products to the EU ensured. | European Commission’s Opinion on the Status of Preparation of Cyprus for Accession.  
Screening reports. | Commitment to EU continued.  
National legislation fully harmonised and implemented.  
Employment of new staff. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project purpose</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| To support the Cyprus’ state laboratories to fully implement EU legislation regarding the official controls and to comply with the requirements concerning the accreditation of laboratories. | • Harmonised and effective official controls;  
• Accreditation of the laboratories | Regular reports to the Commission.  
Certificate of Accreditation. | Technical and tendering documentation used for the financing of investment projects at the national level;  
Adequate provision from the state budget |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Upgrading the State General Laboratory | • Risk-assessment studies;  
• SGL fully implementing the EU legislation regarding the official controls;  
• SGL personnel trained on new methods of analysis, on the operation of high-technology equipment and on risk-assessment;  
• Laboratory equipment supporting SGL to carry out its functions. | Microbiological and Ecotoxicological Risk-assessment Studies produced in time and at the required quality level;  
Program for the official control developed and implemented  
Trained personnel in place  
Laboratory equipment delivered and in current use | The Microbiological and the Ecotoxicological Risk-assessment Studies.  
Regular reviews by representatives of the European Commission.  
Regular departmental reports. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting period expires:</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2003</td>
<td>September 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total budget: 2.93 MEURO  
EU budget: 1.83 MEURO
### Upgrading the Veterinary Laboratories

- Veterinary Laboratories accredited;
- Laboratory personnel trained on calibration, ISO methods of analysis, procedures & documentation, operation of high-technology equipment;
- Laboratory equipment supporting the Veterinary Laboratory to carry out its functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation body</td>
<td>Accreditation certificate</td>
<td>Technical and tendering documentation used for the financing of investment projects at the national level; Adequate provision from the state budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained personnel in place</td>
<td>Regular reviews by representatives of the European Commission.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory equipment delivered and in current use</td>
<td>Regular departmental reports.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technical and tendering documentation used for the financing of investment projects at the national level; Adequate provision from the state budget</td>
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</table>

### Upgrading the State General Laboratory

- Elaboration of Microbiological Risk-assessment Study and of Ecotoxicological Risk-assessment Study, and development of specific indicators, in accordance with Risk-assessment of Chemicals directives regulations and with 76/464 on the disposal of dangerous substances;
- Development and implementation of a program for the official control according to the requirements of EU legislation regarding the number of samples analysed, number of parameters, frequency of sampling, quantitative determinations etc.
- Technical assistance on specific risk-assessment
- Training of the personnel on implementation of new methods of analysis and on the operation of new high-technology equipment
- Purchase of necessary equipment.

Technical assistance contract or service procurement contract awarded as result of opening tender procedures.

Full commitment of the involved authorities;
Effective monitoring of project implementation;
Timely availability of adequate resources.
### Upgrading the Veterinary Laboratories

- Technical assistance for assessment of the existing system and identification of needs for improvement;
- Training of the personnel on quality assurance issues, methods validation etc.
- Training of audit officers
- Training of the personnel on calibration, implementation of ISO methods of analysis, procedures and documentation, and operation of high-technology equipment
- Purchase of the necessary equipment.

### Technical assistance contract or service procurement contract awarded as result of opening tender procedures.

### Preconditions

- Political commitment for EU accession.
- Budgets approved and available.

### ANNEX 1

- Full commitment of the involved authorities;
- Effective monitoring of project implementation;
- Timely availability of adequate resources.
**DETAILED TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR THE PROJECT**

**Title: UPGRAADING OF THE STATE LABORATORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Upgrading of State General Laboratory</td>
<td>C C C C</td>
<td>I I I I I I I I I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upgrading of Veterinary Laboratories</td>
<td>C C C C</td>
<td>I I I I I I I I I</td>
<td>I I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D = Design  
C = Contracting  
R = Review  
I = Implementation  
X = Closure
### CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

Title: **UPGRADING OF THE STATE LABORATORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTED</strong></td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISBURSEMENT</strong></td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>1.83</td>
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