STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

1.1 Project Number: SI0201.04
Twinning Number: SI02/IB/AG/06/TL
1.2 Title: Eradication of rabies
1.3 Sector: AGRICULTURE
1.4 Location: SLOVENIA

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):
Control and eradication of rabies in wildlife population in Slovenia established.

2.2 Project purpose:
Alignment of the disease control measures in Slovenia with respect to the rabies. Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with the EU recommendations established.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority
AP:
Continue alignment in the veterinary and phytosanitary sector notably: complete the veterinary and phytosanitary inspection system in particularly at future external borders; continue to implement the quality control system; complete animal identification; continue aligning animal welfare standards; animal waste treatment; modernization of meat and diary plants residue and zoonosis control programmes.

NPAA:
(NPAA – electronic version May 2001)
Agriculture - Veterinary medicine and zootechnics (4.1.7; b)

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:
Republic of Slovenia is aligning the system of the control of animal contagious diseases with the systems valid at present in the EU member states. At the same time Slovenia is in the process of aligning of the national legislation on the zoonoses with the provisions of the EU Veterinary Acquis.

Control of dangerous zoonotic disease as rabies is, have to be maintained since this disease is a problem through the years in Slovenia.
In Slovenia rabies is a compulsory notifiable disease, which is controlled by the Veterinary Practice Act (Ur. l. RS¹ – no. 33/01).

Dog-mediated rabies was eradicated soon after World War II, when compulsory vaccination of dogs against rabies came into force (1947). The last case of human rabies was in 1950.

Wildlife-mediated rabies has been present since 1973, when the first rabid animal (red fox) was detected in north-western part of our country. Progressively it was spread through the territory of municipalities Murska Sobota and Lendava, but it has never crossed the natural barrier of the river Mura. The second wave of sylvatic rabies reached our country in 1979 from Austria. From there it has been spread throughout the country and has remained until nowadays.

Due to the inconvenient epizootiological situation regarding rabies in the 1980ies, Veterinary Administration decided to implement oral vaccination of foxes against rabies. In 1988, when the pilot project of manual distribution of baits (so-called Tuebingen model with the SAD type) started, vaccination was conducted only on a small part of our country. From there after, two vaccination campaigns (spring and autumn) were performed as a strategy of pushing rabies from west to east. At that time 40,000 - 60,000 baits were distributed on each campaign in a rate of 16 to 20 baits per km². In a few years that followed the whole territory of Slovenia was covered three times. It was found that if only a certain region was covered at one time the success rate was poor.

In 1995, we started with a new aircraft distribution strategy, by laying baits in the country all in one campaign. That was repeated twice a year. The GPS (Global Positioning System) was used to support bait distribution and is still used today as a prevailing strategy. Each year there were 640,000 baits laid (320,000 per campaign, 20 baits/km²). The follow up investigations such as anti-body and marker investigations, have been carried out. For analysing data received from computer (connected to the GPS) a special software program was used. The results of new strategy were very encouraging. The number of rabies cases decreased from 1089 (996 foxes) in 1995 to only 6 cases (5 foxes) in 1999. All cases were near the border with Croatia.

The number of cases increased again in 2000 for which the cause could be found in the deteriorating situation in our south-eastern neighbourhood.

That was the reason that the density of baits near the eastern and southern border was enlarged and the territory near the western and northern border was excluded from the vaccination. In this way we managed to protect the spread of the disease out from the vaccination area. But the fear of rabies to skip over the vaccination area and to spread to other rabies free (EU) countries is still present.

In that relation an additional 15% of baits (app. 100,000 baits) would be of great significance to achieve our goal. This would at least stop the spread of the disease

¹ Ur.l. RS – Uradni list Republike Slovenije – Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia
throughout the territory of Slovenia and to other rabies free countries if not completely eradicate it.

3.2 Linked activities:

None.

3.3 Results:

Strengthened control of rabies and possible eradication of the disease in fox population in Slovenia in order to avoid spreading the disease into the urban areas and reintroducing the disease to the neighbouring free zones and countries in Europe.

3.4 Activities:

- Evaluation of existing eradication programme and if necessary improvement of the existing eradication programme for rabies in Slovenia in order to comply with the EU requirements
- Purchase of additional quantity of rabies vaccine baits for oral vaccination of foxes due to the present insufficient number of baits.

3.5 Lessons learned

Not applicable.

Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with the EU recommendations will be established.

4. Institutional Framework

The competency over the implementation of the veterinary legislation in Slovenia lies with the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (VARS), which is the body inside the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

For the implementation of the project both experts from VARS and National Veterinary Institute will be involved.

Laboratories of NVI have all the required equipment to carry out laboratory testing for Rabies.

Beneficiary of the project is VARS.
5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Co-financing</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>Institution Building</td>
<td>150,000 (29%)</td>
<td>364,000 (71%)</td>
<td>514,000 (100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project will be co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia in an amount of 364,000 Euro in the year 2002. These funds are earmarked in the budget of the veterinary services. The funds will be used for purchase of the majority of vaccine baits, laboratory testing, equipment and diagnostic material.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

Ministry of Finance – CFCU
Beethovenova 11,
1000 Ljubljana
Responsible person: Mr. Peter Škofic, PAO
tel.: +386 1 478 63 05
fax.: +386 1 478 62 04
E-mail: peter.skofic@mf-rs.si

Contracting authority:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Unit for International Relations
Mr. Marko Verbic, IA-PIU, SPO
Dunajska 56-58
1000 LJUBLJANA
tel.: +386 1 478 91 16
fax. +386 1 478 91 55
E-mail: marko.verbic@gov.si

6.2 Beneficiary:

Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
Project Manager will be:
Mr. Zoran Kovac
Parmova 53
1000 LJUBLJANA
tel. +386 1 300 13 00
fax. +386 1 436 32 14
E-mail: zoran.kovac@gov.si
Deputy Project Manager will be:
Mr. Aleš Brecelj
Parmova 53
1000 Ljubljana
tel. +386 1 300 13 00
fax. +386 1 436 32 14
E-mail: ales.brecelj@gov.si

6.3 Twinning Light
The project is designed to be implemented as Twinning Light Package, consisting of short-term experts, study tours, specialist training and workshop.

6.4 Non-standard aspects
This project will follow the PRAG manual.

6.5 Contracts
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food will be the contracting authority for this project. There will be one twinning light contract with a selected Member State and another contract for purchase of vaccine baits. Tendering for the supply of the vaccine baits shall follow PRAG rules under the supervision of the CFCU.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
3rd Quarter 2002

7.2 Start of project activity
November, December 2002

7.3 Project Completion
June 2003

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity will be assured.

9. Environment

Oral immunisation of red foxes is, as mentioned above, a preventive action which is being performed in Slovenia since 1988 with the aim to prevent the spread of the disease to the urban areas and free zones or countries. This method is well known, recognised and performed in some countries in Europe and also in the world. Therefore there is no need for environmental impact study.
10. **Rates of return**

Not relevant.

11. **Investment criteria**

11.1 Catalytic effect:
Project will enable the Republic of Slovenia to assure animal health status in compliance with the EU requirements. This project would enable Slovenia to fulfil this request until accession.

11.2 Co-financing:
Co-financing from the Republic of Slovenia is assured.

11.3 Additionality:
Phare grants do not displace any other financing possibilities.

11.4 Project readiness and size:
Project complies with the minimum project size requirements.

11.5 Sustainability:

The project has a long-term sustainability since the proper animal health status in the country with respect to the Rabies will enable proper level of human and animal health protection after the accession of Slovenia to the EU.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

Project complies with the state aid provisions.

12. **Conditionality and sequencing**

The control program and eradication of certain animal diseases is one of the priority tasks for Republic of Slovenia. The legal obligation is prescribed in the Veterinary Practice Act.
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 (including disbursement period)
4. Terms of reference
5. Map of the areas covered by the campaign
## Annex 1 - Phare log frame

### LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT

**Disease eradication program - Rabies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Investment into the Acquis; SI0201.04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracting period expires</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement period expires</td>
<td>30.06.2005</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.514 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phare budget</td>
<td>0.15 MEUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall objective

- Control and eradication of rabies in wildlife population in Slovenia established.

### Objectively Verifiable Indicators

- EU legislation on Internal Market conditions adopted (health status and zoonoses control) by the date of accession
- Disease is eradicated and not spread to other member states by the date of accession

### Sources of Verification

- Commission opinion for 2004 will confirm the alignment with the Acquis
- FVO mission reports (2003 and 2004)
- Health status of the country report

### Project purpose

- Alignment of the disease control measures in Slovenia with respect to the rabies.
- Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with the EU recommendations established.

### Objectively Verifiable Indicators

- Legislation on the control of the diseases harmonized by the end of 2002
- Foxes effectively immunised against the Lyssa virus in 2002/2003

### Sources of Verification

- Reports to the Commission
- Official Journal
- Laboratory tests results

### Assumptions

- Legislation adopted and comply with the EU
- Level of veterinary preventive measures in the country remains at the same level

### Results

- Strengthened control of rabies.
- Efficient implementation of the new vaccination campaign.
- Prevention of spreading the disease into the urban areas and reintroducing the disease to the neighbouring free zones and countries in Europe.

### Objectively Verifiable Indicators

- Incidence of rabies in wildlife population in Slovenia decreases in 2003
- Incidence of rabies cases decreases generally
- Rabies is not spread from the territory of Slovenia to other member states

### Sources of Verification

- Animal health reports
- Commission reports and FVO missions reports for 2003 and 2004

### Assumptions

- Adequate provision from state budget
- Standards, requirements and the legislation do not change during the project duration period
### Activities

- Evaluation of existing eradication programme and if necessary improvement of the existing eradication programme for rabies in Slovenia in order to comply with the EU requirements
- Purchase of additional quantity of rabies vaccine baits for oral vaccination of foxes due to the present insufficient number of baits.

### Means

- field work – distribution of vaccine baits
- Working group of experts for the eradication programme
- Sampling with the help of private practitioners
- Laboratory testing by NVI

### Assumptions

- financial resources available
- availability of expert staff
- Co-operation of private practitioners

### Preconditions

- National budget proposal for the 2002 and 2003 confirmed
- Existing eradication program still in function
- Availability of resources
Annex 2: Implementation time chart

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
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</table>
Annex 3: Contracting schedule (sheet 1)

NB See also sheet 2 for disbursement schedule

Institutional building and investment in
the Acquis SI0201.04

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>12/31/02</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

NB: all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of FM
Annex 3: Disbursement schedule (sheet 2)

Institutional building SI0201.04

CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE  (EUR million)

<table>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

NB all disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM
Annex 3: Disbursement schedule (sheet 3)

Institutional building SI0201.04

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING and DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (EUR million)

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<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: 1. all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of FM
2. all disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM
Annex 4

TERMS OF REFERENCE - TWINNING LIGHT

Programme Title: Disease eradication programme - Rabies
Project Number: SI0201.04
Twinning Number: SI02/IB/AG/06/TL

1. Background

1.1. Relevant Country Background

Prior to the accession of the Republic of Slovenia into the EU, Slovenia has to make a large number of changes in its’ legal system, in the infrastructure and institution building for the implementation of legislation in the veterinary field.

Slovenia has adopted new Veterinary Practice Act (Ur. l. RS 33/01), with which important progress in adapting the veterinary sector to the acquis has been accomplished. By publishing the Act, inconsistencies in transposition of the acquis have been abolished and a legal basis provided for the further adaptation and implementation of the provisions of the Act.

As laid down by the Veterinary Practice Act, the competent authority carrying out purposes in veterinary sector is the VARS, a body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. At present, the VARS includes approximately 300 staff, thereof 260 doctors of veterinary medicine. The VARS includes the Main Office divided into the administrative and inspection sections, 13 regional offices comprising the internal veterinary inspection services, and 8 border veterinary points including 21 border inspection posts in total.

The network of veterinary laboratories in the country is to be restructured by establishing the National Veterinary Institute (hereinafter referred to as: NVI) as a specific organisational unit within the Veterinary Faculty of Ljubljana. The NVI will include the veterinary laboratories at the national and regional level. The NVI laboratories at the national level will act as national reference laboratories in the EU laboratory network, within their respective lines of work.

As regards secondary legislation Slovenia for the control of contagious animal diseases, Slovenia prepared contingency plans for foot-and-mouth disease and classical swine fever and, has adopted the measures for the control and eradication of certain animal diseases and zoonoses, which endanger the territory of Slovenia.

1.2. Current State of Affairs Sector

Control of dangerous zoonotic disease as rabies is, have to be maintained since this disease is a problem through the years in Slovenia.

In Slovenia rabies is a compulsory noticeable disease, which is controlled by the Veterinary Practice Act (Ur. l. RS1 – no. 33/01).

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1 Ur.l. RS – Uradni list Republike Slovenije – Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia
Dog-mediated rabies was eradicated soon after World War II, when compulsory vaccination of dogs against rabies came into force (1947).

The last case of human rabies was in 1950.

Wildlife-mediated rabies has been present since 1973, when the first rabid animal (red fox) was detected in north-western part of our country. Progressively it was spread through the territory of municipalities Murska Sobota and Lendava, but it has never crossed the natural barrier of the river Mura.

The second wave of sylvatic rabies reached our country in 1979 from Austria. From there it has been spread throughout the country and has remained until nowadays.

Due to the inconvenient epizootiological situation regarding rabies in the 1980-ies, Veterinary Administration decided to implement oral vaccination of foxes against rabies. In 1988, when the pilot project of manual distribution of baits (so called Tuebingen model with the SAD type) started, vaccination was conducted only on a small part of our country. From there after, two vaccination campaigns (spring and autumn) were performed as a strategy of pushing rabies from west to east. At that time 40,000 - 60,000 baits were distributed on each campaign in a rate of 16 to 20 baits per km$^2$. In a few years that followed the whole territory of Slovenia was covered three times. It was found that if only a certain region was covered at one time the success rate was poor.

In 1995, we started with a new aircraft distribution strategy, by laying baits in the country all in one campaign. That was repeated twice a year. The GPS (Global Positioning System) was used to support bait distribution and is still used today as a prevailing strategy. Each year there were 640,000 baits laid (320,000 per campaign, 20 baits/km$^2$). The follow up investigations such as anti-body and marker investigations, have been carried out. For analysing data received from computer (connected to the GPS) a special software program was used. The results of new strategy were very encouraging. The number of rabies cases decreased from 1089 (996 foxes) in 1995 to only 6 cases (5 foxes) in 1999. All cases were near the border with Croatia.

The number of cases increased again in 2000 for which the cause could be found in the deteriorating situation in our south-eastern neighbour.

That was the reason that the density of baits near the eastern and southern border was enlarged and the territory near the western and northern border was excluded from the vaccination. In this way we managed to protect the spread of the disease out from the vaccination area. But the fear of rabies to skip over the vaccination area and to spread to other rabies free (EU) countries is still present.

In that relation an additional 15% of baits (app. 100,000 baits) would be of great significance to achieve our goal. This would at least stop the spread of the disease throughout the territory of Slovenia and to other rabies free countries if not completely eradicate it.

Project will cover:
- Evaluation of existing eradication programme and if necessary improvement of the existing eradication programme for rabies in Slovenia in order to comply with the EU requirements
- Purchase of additional quantity of rabies vaccine baits for oral vaccination of foxes due to the present insufficient number of baits.

1.3. Related projects

None.

2. Description of the Assignment

Beneficiary is Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (VARS)
Project manager will be:
Mr. Zoran Kovac
Parmova 53
1000 LJUBLJANA
tel. +386 1 300 13 00
fax. +386 1 436 32 14
E-mail: zoran.kovac@gov.si

Deputy Project Manager will be:
Mr. Aleš Brecelj
Parmova 53
1000 LJUBLJANA
tel. +386 1 300 13 00
fax. +386 1 436 32 14
E-mail: ales.brecelj@gov.si

Implementing Agency:
Ministry of Finance – CFCU
Beethovnova 11,
1001 LJUBLJANA
Responsible person: Mr. Peter Škofic, PAO
tel.: +386 1 478 63 05
fax.: +386 1 478 62 04
E-mail: peter.skofic@mf-rs.si

Implementing Authority:
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Unit for International Relations
Mr. Marko Verbic, IA-PIU, SPO
Dunajska 56-58
1000 LJUBLJANA
tel.: +386 1 478 91 16
fax. +386 1 478 91 55
E-mail: marko.verbic@gov.si

Global and specific objectives

This TL project for a total value of 150.000 EUR has a following General and Specific Objectives:
General Objective:
Control and eradication of rabies in wildlife population in Slovenia established

Specific Objective:
Alignment of the disease control measures in Slovenia with respect to the rabies. Effective vaccination programme for wildlife population (foxes) in compliance with the EU recommendations established.

Requested Services

The Contractor will be requested to submit the following services:

- Assessment of the situation
- Evaluation of existing eradication programme
- Proposal for improvements, if necessary
- Purchase of additional quantity of rabies vaccine baits for oral vaccination of foxes due to the present insufficient number of baits.

Beneficiary will provide:

- Administrative and financial management
- Technical support
- Support for local and international technical assistance
- Logistical and organisational support for the training activities as specified below

Expected results:

- Strengthened control of rabies and possible eradication of the disease in fox population in Slovenia in order to avoid spreading the disease into the urban areas and reintroducing the disease to the neighbouring free zones and countries in Europe.

Verifiable indicators for above mentioned outputs:

- Disease is eradicated and not spread to other member states.
- Foxes effectively immunised against the Lyssa virus
- Incidence of rabies in wildlife population in Slovenia decreases
- Incidence of rabies cases decreases generally
- Rabies is not spread from the territory of Slovenia to other member states

Means for their measurement:

- TA report
- FVO reports
- VARS report
- Commission Opinion
3. **Expert Profile:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Expertise</th>
<th>Time provision</th>
<th>Experts Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expert for Rabies control</td>
<td>- 40 working day in RS</td>
<td>• University degree in the veterinary sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 20 days for preparing the Report in RS</td>
<td>• 5 years experience with the eradication of contagious diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Practical experience with the eradication of rabies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Excellent knowledge of English language</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Requirement for all experts:
- University degree
- Good communication skills
- Excellent knowledge of English language
- Computer literacy

**Working languages:**
Good working knowledge of English language: written and oral.

4. **Location and Duration:**

- Start of project activity
  November, December 2002

- Project Completion
  June 2003

4.1 **Schedule and Number of Days for the Assignment**

4.1.1. Time provision for Short-term experts

Experts for rabies eradication
- Assessment of the situation (10 MD)
- Evaluation of existing eradication programme and improvements (50 MD)

5. **Reporting:**

Every three months.

5.1 **Content, language, format and number of reports**

The contractor shall submit the following reports to the Implementing Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Dunajska 56, 1000 Ljubljana (contact person: Mrs. Marko Verbic, tel. 4789116; fax 4789155), CFCU (Head of Unit, Mr. Peter Škofic, tel. 478 62 03;
fax 478 62 04) and EC Delegation (Head of Phare/ISPA section, Mrs Bettina Kotzinger, tel. 4251 303; fax 4252 085):

- An Inception Report after two months of the signing of the contract. This report will cover the capacities and the methodology of work of all counterparts with recommendations for improvements; prepared separately by each expert (3 Inception reports).
- Final Report shall be submitted no later that two weeks after the end of the project and prepared in co-ordination with all experts (only 1 report).

All the Reports must include the description of all activities that have been performed as well as the problems encountered and solutions proposed. The Final Report should include the Executive Summary. Reports will be endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, who may make additional comments.

The reports shall be written in English language and follow the template included as Annex C in the twinning manual.

The Contractor shall produce 3 copies for each report.

5.2 Date of submission
- An Inception Report two months after the start of the project;
- Final Report shall be submitted no later than two weeks after the end of the project.
Annex 5: Map indicating the areas covered by the campaign*

* Attached map presents existing area of vaccination. In case that Phare funds will be obtained the area will be expanded towards north-west part of the country.