Standard Summary Project Fiche for the Transition Facility

1. Basic Information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2005/017-462.01.01
1.2 Twinning: SI05-IB-AG-01
1.3 Title: Strengthening food safety in primary production
1.4 Sector: Agriculture
1.5 Location: Slovenia

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

Implementing of food safety policy throughout the food chain.

2.2 Project purpose:

The purpose of the project is strengthening of the food safety in primary and feedings stuff production according to the food law in EU. The project will strengthen the capacity of the Section for Safety and Quality of Food (within Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) in order to assess the guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and report it to EU as well as to assess the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition. The Advisory Service is capable to elaborate National guidelines along the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (operations listed in Annex I and its Part B), replaced by new Regulation for Hygiene of Foodstuffs 852/2004.

2.3 Justification

Comprehensive Monitoring Report: Concerning food safety, considerable progress has been achieved to strengthen Slovenia’s administrative capacity by adopting the governmental decree on co-ordination between ministries and bodies, and by finalizing procedures for handling alerts, enforcing Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) at all stages and accrediting laboratories in this area.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

In the pre-accession phase Slovenia was supported by the EU Member state experts primarily in upgrading the national legislation and checking their compliance with the relevant EU legislation. The following programmes were successfully implemented: PHARE, SAPARD, bilateral projects with the Netherlands and twinning lights.
a) Primary production

At the end of year 2003 the Slovenian government adopted a Decree on the coordination between the ministries and bodies that are in charge of the food and foodstuffs safety for the incorporation of the risk analysis process (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, number 56/03). According to this Decree the Section for Safety and Quality of Food is responsible to regulate the food safety policy in primary production. As the reorganization has been recent, the SSQF has insufficient trained staff in this domain. At this moment only the head of the mentioned section is performing the necessary tasks.

There is a need for strengthening of capacity of the SSQF in assessing guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and report them to EU. There is also a need to encourage the preparation of national guidelines of good hygiene practice by the Advisory service, a public service within the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry in Slovenia, which shall include guidance on compliance with the general rules of hygiene and HACCP principles.


The Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety and Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 give primary production a huge responsibility in the field of concepts, principles and procedures of food and feed safety. Primary production is defined as the production rearing or growing of primary products up to and including harvesting, hunting, fishing, milking and all stages of animal production prior to slaughter. It is necessary to ensure food safety from the place of primary production up to and including placing on the market or export. Farmers should ensure that food safety is not compromised.

In Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on hygiene on foodstuffs (Annex I-General hygiene provision for primary production) there are rules for developing and disseminating of nationals guides for primary production. Records keeping apply to primary production too. The farmers are encouraged to keep and retain records relating to measures put in place to control hazards in an appropriate manner and for an appropriate period.

The project is aimed to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of the civil servants, agricultural advisors and inspectors on Food hygiene practice in primary production. The training programmes are intended to train trainers from MAFF, the Slovene advisory service within the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, the Inspectorate for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries and the Veterinary Administration-Inspection service. The trained trainers will spread the knowledge gained among all the counterparts included in one of the Food Quality Scheme.
b) Feed additives

The basis for the legislation in the field of animal nutrition is the Animal Feed Act (OJ RS, No 13/02) and a number of sub-law regulations that are in compliance with the EU regulations. Based on Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 new procedures for authorization and categorization of feed additives are required. Therefore there is also a need for strengthening the capacity of assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition. The assessment will be done by the European Food Safety Authority, therefore the Member States are not anymore reporters, but they can help the companies to deliver the application.

3.2 Linked activities:

a) Primary production

- Phare 2002 Twining light project SI0201.06 “Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development – Jable”
- Phare 2002 Classical Twinning SI0201.05 “Health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption”
- Phare 2002 SI0201.01-A “Upgrading of inspection system for food quality control”

Workshops at mentioned projects led to common conclusion, that farmers are the weakest part in the Slovenian food chain and that it will be very difficult to implement food safety law on the primary production level. The project SI0201.05 also introduced the advantages of Guidelines for good hygiene practice for farmers and guidelines of good hygiene practice for farmers, including small holders, which were highly recommended to the Slovenian side.

Twining light project SI0201.06 concluded that there is a need by farmers and rural communities for improving their livelihoods and the process in production of agricultural products, including the acceptance of the relevance of the work, the institutional and individual acceptance of individual responsibility in production chain.

b) Feed additives

- Phare 1999 twinning SL 9905.01.02 "Strengthening of food quality control"
- Phare 2001 Twinning Light SI0201.01-A “Upgrading of inspection system for food quality control”
- Phare 2001 Twinning Light SI0201.01-B “Upgrading of registration system at the Office for recognition of agricultural products and foodstuffs designations”
- Phare 2001 Twinning Light SI0201.05 “Health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption”
- Phare 2002 Twinning Light SI0206.03 “Upgrading of reference test laboratories for milk and milk product”

The Phare project SL 9905.01.02 contributed to upgrading the national institutions as well as developing EU comparable control in the feed sector. During this project the legislation on control of feeding stuffs was review. The weaknesses of the system was identified as well assessed the testing laboratories.

The above-mentioned MAFF projects were intended for institutional building from the point of view of dividing of responsibilities between ministries, inspection bodies and producers and did not involve any purchase of equipment. The Veterinary faculty and the Agricultural institute of the Republic of Slovenia that were accredited
for some parameters for feed control did not received financing for the same methods in the present project, so no overlap is present.

**Bilateral cooperation:**

The Netherlands bilateral project with MAFF in Slovenia PSO Pre-Accession Expert Programme 99/SL/9/1 – Accreditation and Certification of institutions responsible for the authorization and/or verification of foodstuffs: Dairy demonstration project, Slovenia and PSO Pre-Accession Expert Programme 0/SL/0/1 - The control of meat and meat products from stable to table was successfully completed in year 2002. Both projects had the aim to upgrade national institutions (Safety and Quality of Food and Feed Section and Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia) and branch organization (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Food Industries Association of Slovenia (Association of Economic Interest (GiZ) for meat and meat production and for milk and milk products) and Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry) as well as develop EU comparable control in the milk and meat sector. One of the most important results was the accreditation of the Veterinarian faculty for some chemical and microbiological parameters in the field of meat and milk products. Action plans for HACCP in dairies in Slovenia were made by the cooperation of Veterinary inspectors and Dairies.

**3.3 Results:**

a) **Primary production**

- Existing system analysed and proposal for strengthening prepared
- Written manuals and guidelines (to enable the SSQF in assessing guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and to report it to EU);
- Written manuals and guidelines (to enable Advisory service to implement National guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production);
- Trained trainers (civil servants about 10 persons) for the implementation of Food safety law for primary production and cross-compliance under the CAP reform and prepared training material;
- Trained civil servants (about 10 persons) in the SSQF in assessing and developing the national guidelines of good hygiene practice and prepared training material;
- Trained trainers (civil servants; about 10 persons) on traceability in the primary production as well as along the food chain and prepared training material;

The SSQF will carry out assessing the national guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production with no problems and the Advisory Service will be capable to elaborating National guidelines along the requirements of the Regulative (EC) No 183/2005 (operations listed in Annex I and its Part B).

b) **Feed additives**

- Existing system analysed and proposal for strengthening prepared
- Written manuals and guidelines (to enable the SSQF in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition) and prepared training material;
- Trained trainers (civil servants and scientific experts) in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition and prepared training material;
3.4 Activities:

a) Primary production

- Cross-check and evaluation of the existing situation in Slovenia
- Elaboration of training programmes, that will include theoretical and practical part (workshops, presentation of case studies of good hygiene practice in primary production);
- Preparation of the written manuals and guidelines that will enable the SSQF to assess the guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and to report it to EU;
- Preparation of written manuals and guidelines that will enable the Advisory service to develop National guidelines for good hygiene practice in primary production;
- Training the trainers (the SSQF, Advisory Service, Inspectors) and preparation of training material;
- For the implementation of Food safety law for primary production and cross-compliance;
- On record keeping for the implementation of trace ability in the primary production as well as along the food chain;
- Training the trainers (the SSQF and civil servants) in assessing and developing the national guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production (about 30 persons);
- Study Tour of key staff (7-10 persons) to the Member State partner.

b) Feed additives

- Cross-check and evaluation of the existing situation in Slovenia;
- Preparation of training programmes, that will include theoretical and practical part (workshop and presentations of case studies for good hygiene practice on primary production for about 15 persons);
- Preparation of the written manuals and guidelines that will enable the SSQF to assess the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition
- The trainers (the SSQF, Scientific experts, Inspectors) trained in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition (about 15 persons) and preparation of training material;
- Study Tour of key staff (7-10 persons) to the Member State partner.

3.5 The profile of the Twinning partner

The Twinning partner should be governmental competent authority (Ministry, Agency) in Member State responsible for food safety in primary sector.

A highly experienced expert with through and broad knowledge of analytical chemistry and microbiology should coordinate the project.
Education: degree in Chemistry, veterinary or Microbiology
Experience: at least 10 years of experience on similar positions
Language: excellent in English since the working language will be English
Skills: good communication and coordination skills

He should be able to have subcontractors of different specialisations (4 to 5 people for about 5 working days each). The subcontractors should be specialists in different domains of food and feed safety analyses: genetically modified food and feed,
contaminants and pesticides, additives, chemical and microbiological methods. Those experts should be Chemist, Veterinary, Biotechnologist, Agronomy, Zootechnologist and Biologist and should fulfil the other requirements (stated above) as the coordinating expert.

3.6 Lessons learned:

Workshops at above-mentioned Phare projects lead to common conclusion, that farmers are the weakest part in the Slovenian food chain and that it will be very difficult to implement food safety law on the primary production level. The project SI0201.05 introduced the advantages of Guidelines for good hygiene practice for farmers and guidelines of good hygiene practice for farmers were highly recommended to the Slovenian side.

Project SI 0201.01-B concluded, that further investments in sector will provide tools to be correctly applied in Slovenia’s agricultural policy:
- reinforcement of the restructuring of agro-food chains around quality products;
- to accompany the modernization process of agro-food chains;
- help in creating and sharing value added (with both aims at protecting and developing the market share of Slovene agro-food products).

In close co-operation with direct and regional actors of agro-food sectors:
- Define the priority products taking into account their economic interest through appropriate strategic analysis;
- Co-ordinate the development of quality signs policies with the other elements of the agricultural and rural development policies: subsidies to farms, incentives for quality associations building (“positive discrimination”);
- Mobilize supporting elements of the agro-food chains (universities, schools, consular chambers and regional bodies…) to maintain and develop the necessary skills.

Workshops prepared by this project will link together knowledge from different above-mentioned Phare projects and acquired knowledge from this project in the way of the implementation of food safety policy throughout the food chain in Slovenia, which is foreseen result of this project.

4 Institutional Framework

The Section for Safety and Quality of Food (SSQF) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) have the responsibility for food safety law in primary production and will have overall coordination of the project.

Inspection Service for Quality Control of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs (IQAPF) supervises the implementation of acts, regulations and general acts on agriculture, the quality of mineral fertilizers, plant protection products, seeds, propagating material, plant health, animal feed, wine, the safety, organization and exploitation of agricultural land, financing and other matters relating to arable farming.
The Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (PARS) performs administrative, professional and development functions in the fields of the protection of plants, plant products, processing and marketing of the agricultural seeds, placing on the market and use of plant protection products and it exercises control and implements measures defined in the relevant regulations.

Veterinary Administration (VARS) has responsibility for health protection of animals; protection of animals against contagious or infectious diseases, health of raw materials, foodstuffs, animal waste and fodder; veterinary measures in livestock breeding; animal welfare, inspection control in production, domestic trade and trans-border trade.

Advisory service is a nongovernmental organization, which represents the interest of all Slovenian farmers (Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia). All Slovenian farmers are members of this organization. Advisory service develops and disseminates national guidelines for good hygiene practice in primary production.

In the frame of this project the representatives from other ministries will also be invited to participate workshops and trainings (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment).

5 Detailed Budget

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(*) contributions form National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises
(**) private funds, FIs loans to private entities
6 Implementation Arrangements

6.6 Implementing Agency

Implementing Agency

Ministry of Finance - CFCU
Mr. Peter Škofič, PAO
Beethovnova 11
SI - 1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: +386 1 369 6520, fax: +386 1 369 6539
E-mail: peter.skofic@mf-rs.si

The Contracting Authority:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of RS
Dunajska 56
SI - 1000 Ljubljana

Contact person:
Mr. Marko Verbič,
Phone: + 386 1 478 9116, fax: + 386 1 478 9155
E-mail: marko.verbic@gov.si

6.7 Twinning

Project Manager:
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E-mail: mira.skubic@gov.si

Deputy to Project Manager:
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E-mail: alenka.zupancic1@gov.si

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of RS
Section for Safety and Quality of Food
Dunajska cesta 56
SI - 1000 Ljubljana

Inspectorate for Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Parmova ulica 33
Responsible person: Mr. Matjaž Kočar, Director
SI - 1000 Ljubljana
Phone: + 386 1 434 5702, Fax: + 386 1 434 5717
E-mail: matjaz.kocar@gov.si
6.8 Non-standard aspects

Not applicable.

6.9 Contracts

There will be one contract – Twinning contract with the selected Member State for 400,000 €.

7 Implementation Schedule

7.6 Start of tendering/call for proposals
3rd quarter 2005

7.7 Start of project activity
1st quarter 2006

7.3 Project Completion
1st quarter 2007

8 Sustainability

For Institution Building component of project the beneficiary guarantees that adequate staff and financial resources to maintain administrative function will be provided by the time of start of project.

9 Conditionality and sequencing

Availability of national co-funding.
**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)
Annex 1: TF log frame

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<td>Strengthening food safety in primary production</td>
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<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
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| Implementing of food safety policy throughout the food chain. | The Food safety in the primary production and feeding stuff production throughout the food chain assured by the end of the project | - Reports of regular official checks  
- Implementation Status Report  
- Twinning Light Contract |

<table>
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<th>Project purpose</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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| Strengthening the capacity of the SSQF to assess the guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and report it to EU as well as to assess the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition. | - New legal provisions prepared by the middle of the project  
- Protection of consumers from exposure to health risk food products will be implemented by the end of the project  
- Food safety strategy prepared by the end of the project  
- MAFF staff trained to help the companies to deliver the application in place by the end of the project | - Reports of Short Term experts  
- Project Interim, Quarterly and Final Report(s)  
- Written manuals and guidelines  
- Mission reports  
- Monitoring Report - Agriculture (debriefed at SMSC)  
- Interim Evaluation Report  
- Implementation Status Report for the JMC | The EU policy regarding Food Safety remains more or less the same; |
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<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
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<td>a) Primary production</td>
<td>• Assessment the guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and to reporting to EU in place during the project</td>
<td>• Written manuals and guidelines</td>
<td>Appropriate twinning partner is available and contract is concluded on time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Written national guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production developed by the end of the project;</td>
<td>• Training programs</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Trained staff (30-40) and training material during the project</td>
<td>• New procedures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Feed additives</td>
<td>• Written manuals and guidelines to enable the SSQF in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition and prepared training material</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Trained staff (civil servants and scientific experts) in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition and prepared training materials</td>
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### Activities

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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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| a) Primary production | • Cross-check and evaluation of the existing situation in Slovenia  
• Elaboration of training programmes, that will include theoretical and practical part (workshops, presentation of case studies of good hygiene practice in primary production);  
• Preparation of the written manuals and guidelines that will enable the SSQF to assess the guidelines of good hygiene practice in primary production and to report it to EU;  
• Preparation of written manuals and guidelines that will enable the Advisory service to develop National guidelines for good hygiene practice in primary production;  
• Training the trainers (the SSQF, Advisory Service, Inspectors) and preparation of training material;  
• For the implementation of Food safety law for primary production and cross-compliance;  
• On record keeping for the implementation of trace ability in the primary production as well as along the food chain;  
• Training the trainers (the SSQF) in assessing and developing the national guidelines of good hygiene practice (about 30 persons) and preparation of training material; | • Short-Term Experts Missions  
• Trainings  
• Study Visits  
• Field evaluation  
• Organizing seminars | • Good co-operation with short term experts |
| b) Feed additives | • Cross-check and evaluation of the existing situation in Slovenia;  
• Preparation of training programmes, that will include theoretical and practical part (workshop and presentations of case studies for good hygiene practice on primary production for about 15 persons);  
• Preparation of the written manuals and guidelines that will enable the SSQF to assess the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition  
• The trainers (the SSQF, Scientific experts, Inspectors) trained in assessing the dossiers for additives in animal nutrition (about 15 persons) and preparation of training material;  
• Study Tour of key staff (7-10 persons) to the Member State partner. | | |

### Preconditions

- Availability of national co-funding
Annex 2: Detailed Implementation chart

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Annex 3a – Contracting schedule

**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING SCHEDULE (EUR million)**

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Annex 3b – Disbursement schedule

**CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (EUR million)**

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Annex 3c – Contracting and Disbursement schedule

**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (EUR million)**

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