

# State of the art on contingency planning for the management of animal welfare issues during floods

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*Veterinary Directorate of SERBIA*



World Organisation for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal  
Fundada como OIE





# Legal basis

## Legislation implemented

- ***Law on Veterinary Matters*** (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 91/2005, 30/2010, 93/2012)
- ***Law on animal welfare*** (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 41/09);
- ***Law on food safety*** (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 41/09);
- ***Law on emergency situations*** (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 41/09, 92/11 i 93/12,);
- ***Law on disaster risk reduction and emergency management*** (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 87/18)
  
- Rulebooks on determining measures for early detection, diagnosis, prevention of the spread, control and eradication of infectious diseases, as well as the method of their implementation (Rulebook for certain contagious disease)
- Regulations for the List of Especially Dangerous Contagious Animal Diseases and the List of animal diseases which must be reported, as well as the manner of reporting of their outbreak and cessation (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 49/06);
- Program of animal health protection measures (annual regulation in the form of the Ordinance for the current year)
- ***Contingency plan and manuals***



# The Law on emergency situations

## The basic tasks

- 1) programming and planning of protection and rescue measures and activities;
- 2) protection, as a set of preventive measures aimed at strengthening community resilience, eliminating possible causes of endangerment, reduction of the impact of natural disasters, prevention of other disasters and, in case they occur, reduction of their consequence;
- **3) coordination during the establishment, development and implementation of the National Strategy for Protection and Rescue;**
- **4) rescue and assistance, which means operational activities undertaken for the purpose of rescue people, material goods and the environment;**
- **5) mitigating and removing the immediate consequences of natural disasters and other accidents, which are measures and activities undertaken in order to establish the necessary conditions for the life of citizens in the affected area;**
- **6) organizing, equipping and training the protection and rescue forces;**
- 7) organizing, equipping and training state bodies, business companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs for protection and rescue;
- 8) organizing and training citizens for personal, mutual and collective protection;



# **THE LAW ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**-subjects of the protection and rescue system-**

- **1) bodies of state administration, provinces and bodies of local self-government units;**
- **2) business companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs (hereinafter: business companies and other legal entities);**
- **3) citizens, groups of citizens, associations, professional and other organizations**
- Subjects are obliged to ensure the construction of a unique protection and rescue system on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with this law and other regulations, as well as programs, plans and other documents that govern organization, development, preparation and use of forces and means of protection and rescue.
- Subjects are obliged to ensure implementing preventive protection and rescue measures.



# Legislation and regulatory authority

**The Government of the Republic of Serbia is responsible for all aspects of disaster management. On behalf of the Government, the responsibility for planning and implementing preventive measures, preparedness, response to emergencies and recovery thereof, is transferred to the joint activities of the public administration bodies, the specialized agencies, and local self-governments.**

**The Sector for Emergency Situations, established in 2006 within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is in charge of the coordination of the activities of all relevant government institutions with regard to emergency and disaster management. The Sector for Emergency Situations (SES) functions as the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

**SES is mandated by law to coordinate and manage protection and rescue activities in emergencies and to mainstream disaster risk reduction policies.**

**The Sector for Emergency Management with the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the competent authority for providing national disaster management plan**

**The Veterinary Service have the jurisdiction over the matter pursuant to the Law on Emergency Situations.**

**The Law on veterinary matters prescribes that in case of natural disasters the competent Ministry may order the relevant veterinary service to implement extraordinary veterinary and sanitary measures**

**Veterinary Directorate performs all activities in the field of veterinary medicine in the flooded areas in coordination with other services, especially with the Ministry of Health, whereas the veterinary inspection is involved in the activities of regional and municipal disaster response headquarters.**





# Legislation and regulatory authority

Concerning the coordination and management of activities related to protection and rescue in emergency situations, emergency management headquarters as operational and expert bodies shall be established, as follows:

- 1) For the territory of the Republic of Serbia – Republic Emergency Management Headquarters, established by the Government;
- 2) For the territory of province – Provincial Headquarters established by the executive body of the autonomous province;
- 3) For the territory of an administrative district – District Emergency Management Headquarters, established by the Republic Emergency Management Headquarters;
- 4) For the territory of a city – Metropolitan Emergency Management Headquarters, established by the city assembly;
- 5) For the territory of a municipality – Municipal Emergency Management Headquarters, established by the municipal assembly.

*According to the Law on Emergency Situation (LES):*

“Protection and rescue of animals shall be conducted preventively through timely preparation of companies and other organizations engaged in cattle breeding and production of foodstuffs of animal origin, as well as through building capacities of farmers to take preventive and consecutive measures and activities related to protection and rescue of animals.

.Evacuation and care for cattle fund in the event of threat to the cattle fund on the territory affected by a natural and other disaster shall be organized by emergency management headquarters.”

Within the framework of the SES, a sub-sector of civil protection was established and organized with the aim of including the population and volunteers in the evacuation and rescue system.



# Responsibilities and activities

The system of rescuing, evacuating and caring for animals in the event of natural disasters was established in the mutual communication of the emergency situation sector and the Veterinary Directorate at the central and local level.

In the organization and logistics of activities, regional and local crisis centers as part of the Contingency plans of the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management are put into operation to become part of the regional and local headquarters of the Emergency Situations Sector of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

On the contrary, in cases of epidemics of infectious diseases of animals during the disasters, the Veterinary Administration adopts a special decision prescribing measures for the implementation with the responsibility of regional and local crisis centers of the Veterinary Directorate, which include members of the SES involved, within their jurisdiction.

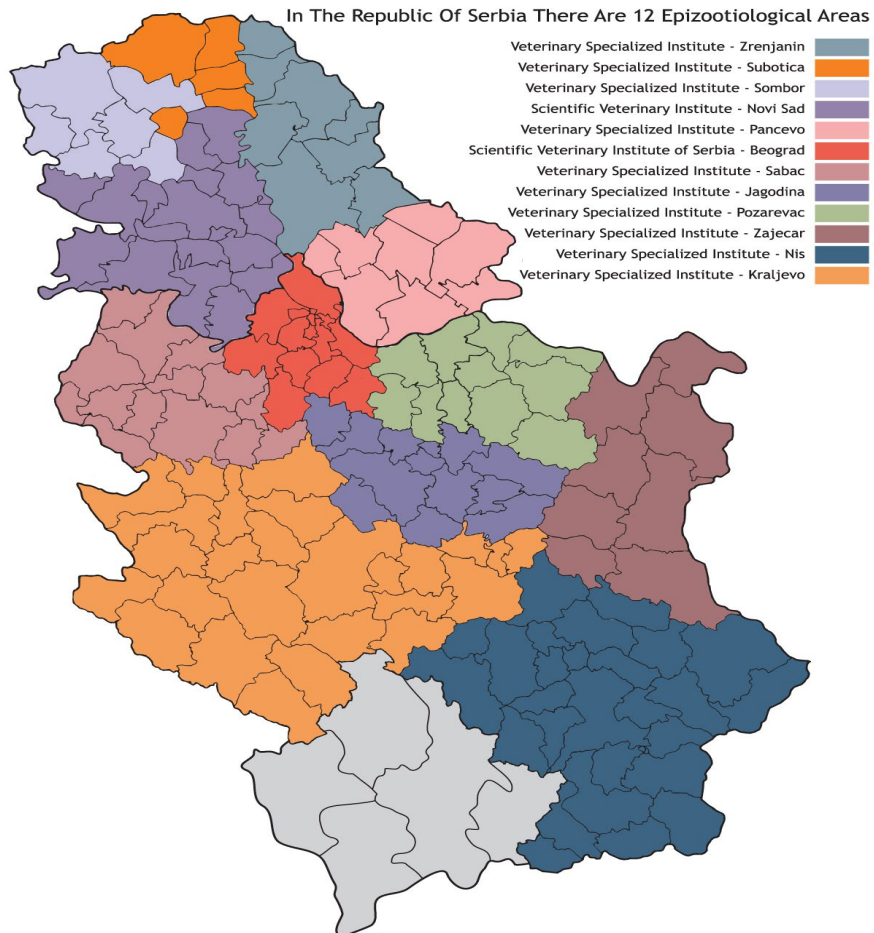


- I. Veterinary Law ("Official Gazette of the RS" no. 91/2005, 30/2010, 93/2012)
- when there is a direct or indirect risk to human or animal health, the measures established by the contingency plan for the control of certain activities are implemented
- the Minister enacts the emergency national plan which regulates crisis management (**contingency plan**)
- the contingency plan envisages the organization and implementation of all measures, in the phase of pre-crisis and in the state of crisis, aimed at protecting the health of animals and people, reducing the risk of spread of diseases and measures to control infectious animal diseases

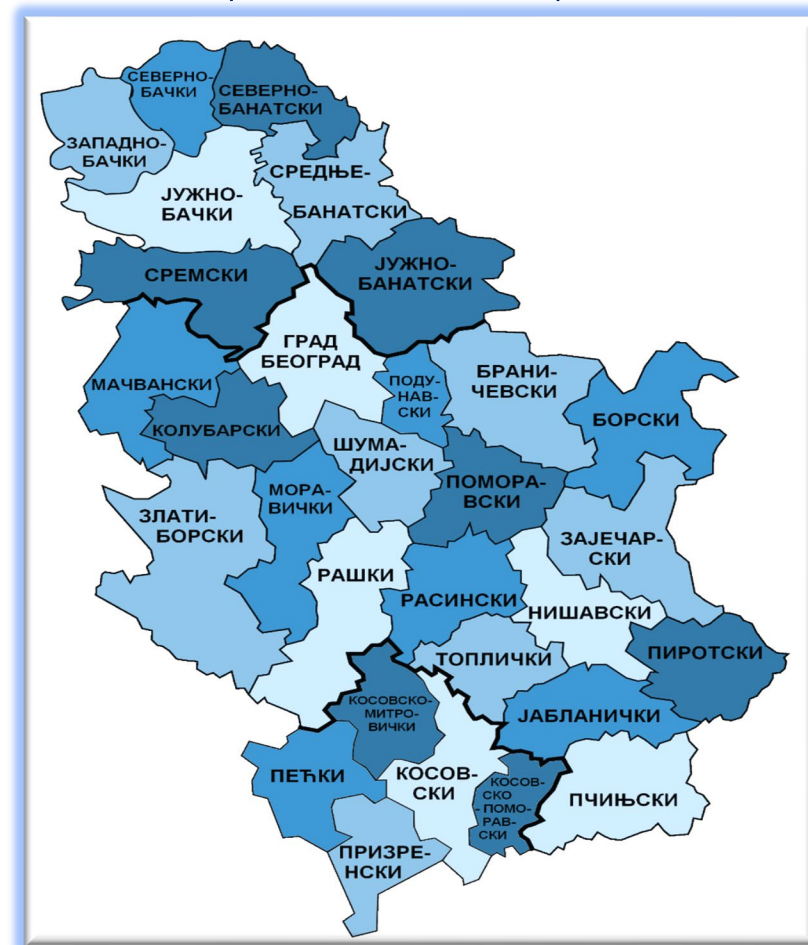




## 12 Regional Animal Disease Control Centers (epidemiological areas)



## ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS IN SERBIA (25 Local crisis centres)





# Emergency support functions (ESF)/ expert teams

*The following ESF are currently available:*

- *Farms /animals databases (VS)*
- *GIS (geographic information systems) (VS, SES)*
- *Communication (VS, SES)*
- *Assessment of the value of animals (Expert comission)*
- *Animal sheltering (VS, SES)*
- *Animal feed and water (VS, SES)*
- *Animal search and rescue (SES)*
- *Animal control/capture (VS, SES)*
- *Transportation of animals and of animal support equipment (SES)*
- *Veterinary medical care, decontamination and disease management (incl. zoonosis) (VS, Human medicine service)*
- *Animal mortality management, incl. culling and disposal of carcasses (VS, SES, local self- government stuff)*
- *Animal/owner reunion (VS, SES, local self goverment stuff)*
- *Special animals / productions, e.g. zoo animals (VS, SES, external experts)*



# Budgeting and resourcing

- Funds for the procurement, storage and replenishment of the minimum supplies of necessary equipment including funds for risk–reduction activities are generally provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia
- However, funds for extraordinary activities of the veterinary service, as unforeseen expences are not planned in the regular budget, but approved by the Government of the RS under an urgent procedure for budget reserves provided.



# National/Regional Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

- **Coordinates the activities of regional and local centres** through operational manuals and procedures and provides organizational and technical support;
- **Provides and distributes funds** needed for crisis management, procurement, storage of necessary equipment and resources;
- **Determines priorities and defines and elaborates procedures** in case of rapid response;
- **Manages risks and harmonizes decision-making** in certain situations;
- **Monitors the implementation** of prescribed measures;
- In cooperation with the expert group, **monitors the development of the crisis situation** in the country and the region and prepares plans, instructions, orders and by-laws;
- **Notifies the citizens in the timely manner** about information and instructions regarding the crisis situation in the country and the measures that are being implemented;
- **Exchanges information** with competent international institutions and organizations and public media;
- **Ensures cooperation and coordination** with the SES, police, army, local self-governments, hunting organizations and other state bodies and institutions.



# Local Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and mobile units

- **identifies needed and available human resources** for the operative functioning of the centers, with professional qualifications for certain activities which include organizing mobile units if necessary
- **participates in determining the borders of the endangered area** in case of zoning and the outbreak of infectious diseases
- **provides organizational and technical instructions and procedures** at the regional and local level, in accordance with the instructions of the Regional and National EOC.
- **collects and analyzes data in studies**, ensures the availability of information to the Regional and National EOC
- **controls and organizes movement and transport of animals**, animal by products and animal feed in affected area
- **review the implementation of imposed measures** and the application of biosecurity measures on farms
- **organizes and carries out safe disposal of carcasses** and infected material in places and facilities designated for that purpose



# Internal and external communications

**Given that measures are prescribed before the flood occurs, concerned phases of communication, there are certain networks and responsibilities prescribed during and after the emergency situation within different level of official Internal and external communications, such as named:**

- *Tools and technologies, procedures and templates to communicate with other governmental partners (civil protection, meteorological, hydrological services etc)*
- *Internal communication and reporting network*
- *Communication between key points of contact at different levels of the VS and across government ministries/agencies, and services providers*
- *Communication channels with public target audience (templates for public awareness, information, alerts, warnings) and main stakeholders*
- *Cross-border communication and collaboration (i.e. rendering plants)*
- *Communication with international organizations (support, funds, donations)*





# Integration and coordination with other agencies, organizations and stakeholders

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*Mapping and recognizing the significance of the agencies and stakeholders involved in the VS-CP with understanding their respective roles and responsibilities are crucial points in the effectiveness of implementation of Disaster management plan in the scope and activities they perform (such as given below).*

- *Other national authorities and agencies, incl. environmental agency and Meteorological institutions*
- *Other data/analysis providers*
- *Official and private veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary practice managers*
- *Animal welfare NGOs, animal shelters, animal rescue units*
- *Farmers organisations and breeders organizations*
- *Fire brigades*
- *Police*
- *Army*
- *Point of Contact (PoC) in the neighbouring countries*



# Instructions, training and education

**SES and VS have prepared the particular instructions and procedures for response in the areas affected or endangered by the floods in order to enable the implementation of certain measures**

**In terms of professional manner, there are instructions given to prevent appearing infectious diseases in both animals and humans, in order to resolve the outbreaks and to mitigate the consequences of emergency situation.**

**The Sector for Emergency Management, as the competent authority for natural disasters, organises the trainings/simulation exercises for dealing with natural disasters**

**These exercises and trainings include veterinary services, veterinary inspection and private veterinary service, as well as competent regional institutes**

**Veterinary Directorate have published on their website a series of instructions and procedures for response in the areas affected or endangered by floods, in order to enable the implementation of veterinary sanitary measures in a more professional manner**

# Information technology and knowledge management

*Given that the risk assessment and analysis involved the engagement of experts and external collaborators, including cross-analysis and mapping of high-risk areas based on relevant inputs, data on the causes and consequences of natural disasters were obtained and processed (example below).*

According to the INFORM Risk Index of 2019, Serbia is exposed and vulnerable to natural hazards. The major natural hazards to which the country is exposed to include, among others, (flash and river) floods, storms, drought, landslides and earthquakes. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, Serbia is among the highest exposed and vulnerable among the Western Balkan countries. It ranks at 99 on the INFORM Risk Index, which is among the highest scores in the region with regard natural hazards.

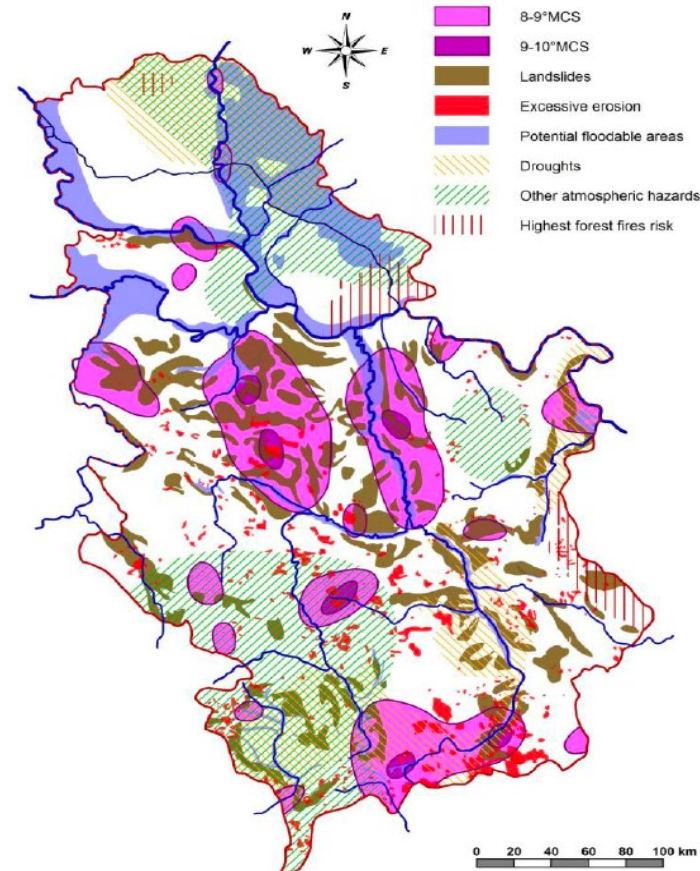
- *Figure 1: INFORM Risk Index in the Western Balkan countries*



	Value	Rank	Trend (3 years)
<b>INFORM Risk</b>	3.5	99	↓
<b>Hazard &amp; Exposure</b>	4.4	66	→
<b>Vulnerability</b>	2.5	117	↓
<b>Lack of Coping Capacity</b>	3.9	119	→

# Information technology and knowledge management

- Natural hazards in Serbia





# Evaluation, monitoring and lessons learnt crucial aspects

Title of presentation

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Date

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- *In the response phase: systematic recording with key indicators for monitoring of the response must be recorded (e.g. number of evacuated/relocated animals, mortality/culling)*
- *After the emergency situation: after-action reports, evaluation and impact assessment for the VS-CP review and modification, review and update of legal framework*
- *During the build-back-better process: gap analysis of VS needs (resources and process gaps, in consultation with stakeholders) Review and update of training*
- Actions of veterinary organizations in the field plays an significant role in early and appropriate implementation of measures in a crisis situation
- Application of measures must be based on a proper assessment of risk analysis that is based on the available parameters
- The provision of necessary equipment, funds and human resources must be associated with The engagement of **realistically available professional staff and funds in accordance with the economic assessment;**
- WHEN defining the activities and tasks of crisis centers, **goals and procedures must be clearly defined, as well as the chain of command and the system of management in certain phases of an emergency situation.**
- Between national, regional, local animal control centers, local self-government bodies and other institutions, and organizations, coordination and a **continuous flow of essential information must be ensured.**
- The success of the implementation of the crisis plan in an emergency situation depends on strict and complete implementation of the imposed measures
- **public must be informed in a timely and appropriate manner in order to avoid panic and ensure cooperation**
- **Financial organization and support**
- **Regional cooperation and exchange of information**

# Thank you

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