6<sup>th</sup> Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan countries (DPMB6)

Country Report on national situation – Republic of Croatia

Martina Gutowski Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries **Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate** 

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World

Health



Organisation mondiale Organisation for Animal de la santé animale

Organización de Sanidad Animal



## I. Understanding country

- situation
- Main problem  $\rightarrow$  abandoned and lost dogs
- No record of free roaming dogs
- No problems with diseases (e.g. rabies)
- Good legislative base in animal welfare and health related to pets (dog population)



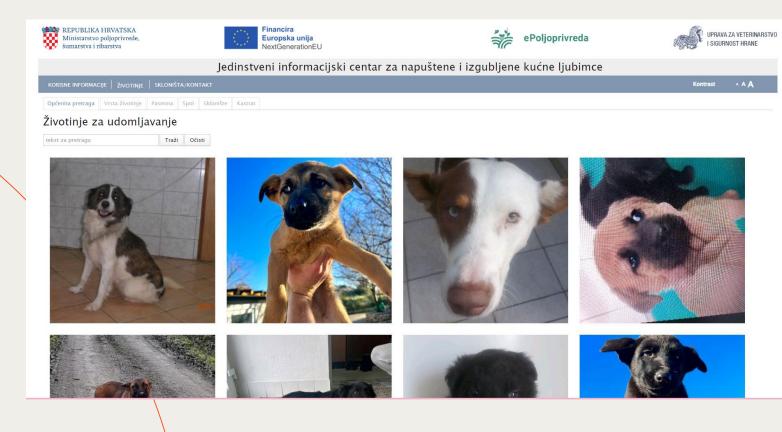
#### II. Control

- Since 2004. obligatory identification of 3 months old dogs with a microchip  $\rightarrow$  authorized veterinarians  $\rightarrow$  Lysacan database
- From 2021. marking before movement or changing ownership, at the latest 90 days of age with rabies vaccinaton (Animal Health Act, NN, no. 152/22, 154/22)
- Pet breeding control (Article 52., Animal Protection Act, NN no. 102/17, 32/19, 78/24)
- The manner of handling abandoned or lost animals is prescribed by general acts of the representative bodies of the local self-government unit.
- The body of the regional self-government unit adopts the Population control programme for abandoned dogs, taking into consideration the proposals of the coordination work group and delivering them to the competent authority for assessment (for 5 year period)



#### **III. Monitoring and evaluation**

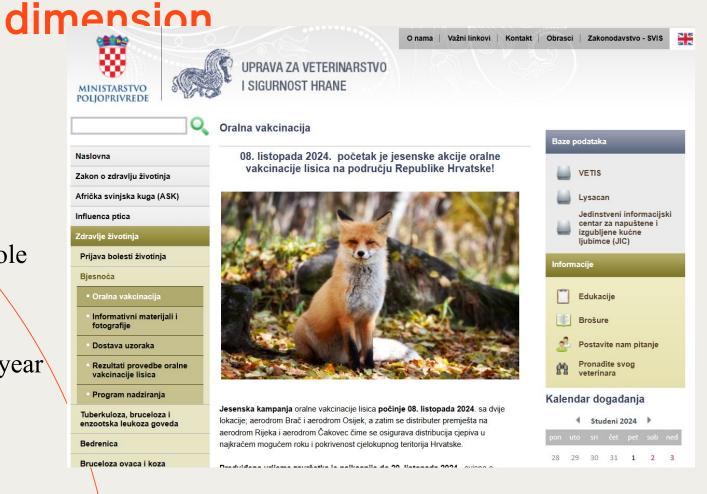
- Lysacan database
- JIC unique information center of abandoned and lost pets = all shelters of CRO
- Data from shelters and other stakeholders





### IV. Rabies

- Last rabies case confirmed in red fox in 2014
- 2021 Croatia Rabies free country
- EU Reg (EU) 2021/620 15 April 2021
- Oral vaccination of foxes implemented in whole Croatia (island excepted)
- Active and passive rabies surveillance whole year at whole territory of Croatia





# V. Conclusions and future needs

Conclusions:

- Strong legislative framework
- Effective rabies control
- Comprehensive tracking systems
- <u>Future needs:</u>
  - Strengthened collaboration: Increased coordination between local authorities, regional bodies and stakeholders for efficient implementation of population control programs and handling of lost/abandoned animals.
  - Awareness campaigns: Educating the public on responsible pet ownership, importance of microchipping and proper pet care to reduce abandonment rates.



## Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France	<u>Fa</u>
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49	<u>Tv</u>
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87	<u>In:</u>
	<u>Liı</u>
woah@woah.int	<u>Yc</u>
www.woah.org	<u>Fli</u>

<u>Facebook</u> <u>Twitter</u> <u>Instagram</u> <u>LinkedIn</u> <u>YouTube</u> <u>Flickr</u>