

# 5<sup>th</sup> WOAAH regional workshop on Dog Population Management

## for Balkans

### Country Report on national situation

# GREECE

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Animals*

*Directorate of Organizing and Functioning of  
Local Government*

*Secretariat for the protection of Companion  
Animals*



**Ministry of the Interior**

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

5-7 November 2024

Sutomore, Montenegro



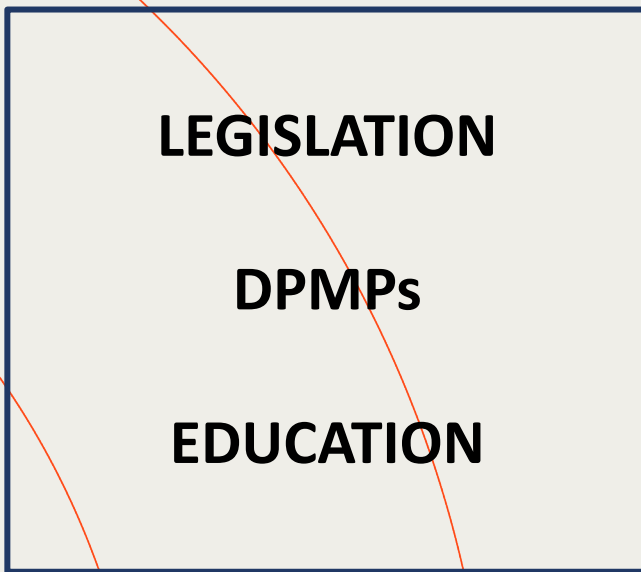


# I. Understanding country situation

Free-roaming DPM consists a problem



**WHY ???**





# I. Understanding country situation

Main issues (problem description): *according to complaints reported/submitted*

Public health (One Health) issues:

- Bite injuries (agressive dogs)
- Zoonoses
- Faecal pollution
- *Issues arising from shelters*

Safety issues:

- Attacks to humans and other animals
- Traffic accidents
- Attacks to livestock (state compensation)





# I. Understanding country situation

## DATA AVAILABLE

- annual number of free roaming dog bites to humans ★
- annual number of traffic accidents provoked by free roaming dogs ★
- annual number of complaints provoked by free roaming dogs ★
- annual total amount of compensation costs paid for injured humans
- annual total amount of compensation costs relating to dog-related damages ★

*credible research sources / official data*



# I. Understanding country situation

## *Law enforcement officers*

Hellenic Police

Municipal Police

Municipalities

Ministry of Interior

National Transparency Authority

Interagency Market Control Unit

Forestry Service

Customs authorities

Hellenic Coast Guard

Wardens of the hunting organizations recognized by the Ministry of Environment and Energy

Customs authorities of the Independent Public Revenue Authority



# I. Understanding country situation

Main issues (problem description): *according to complaints reported/submitted*

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Safety issues:

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- Traffic accidents
- Attacks to livestock (state compensation)

**HUMAN CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE**

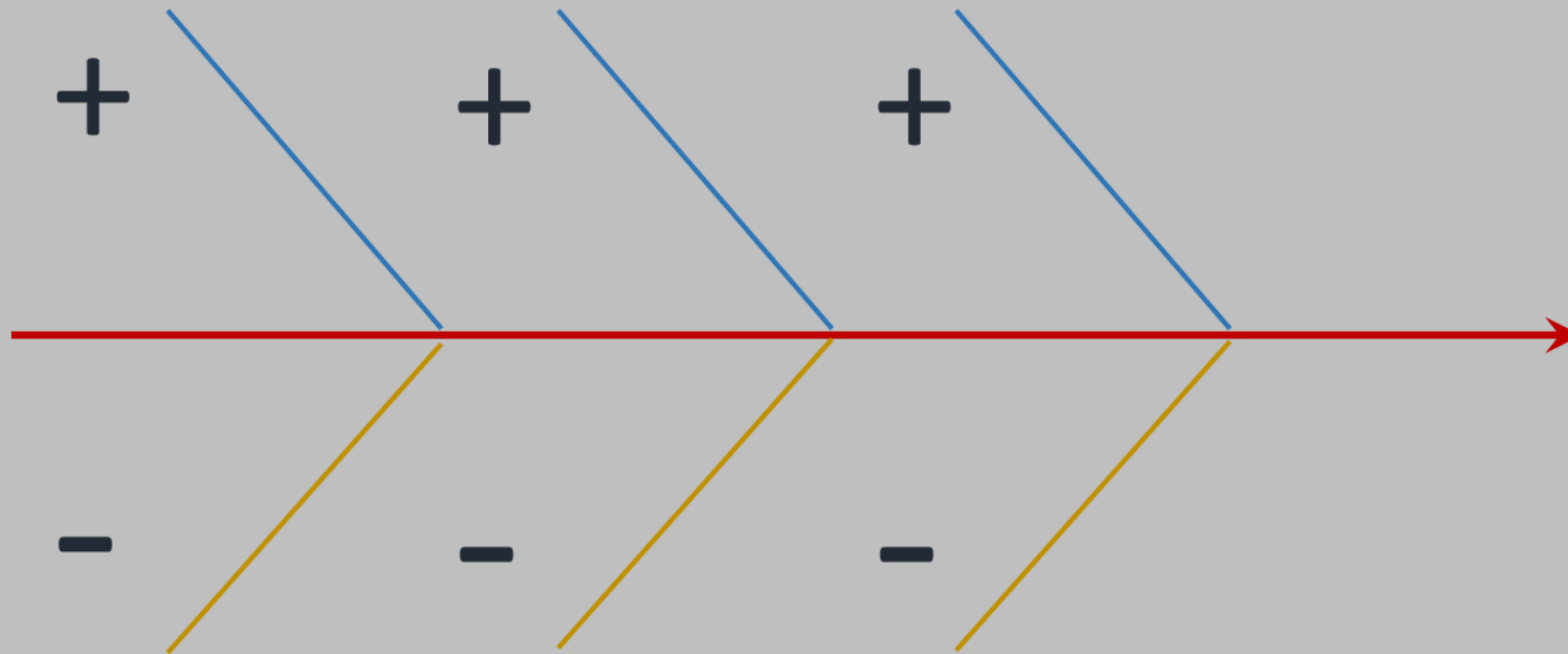




# I. Understanding country situation

## DOGS

HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED WITH US ???





# I. Understanding country situation



VS

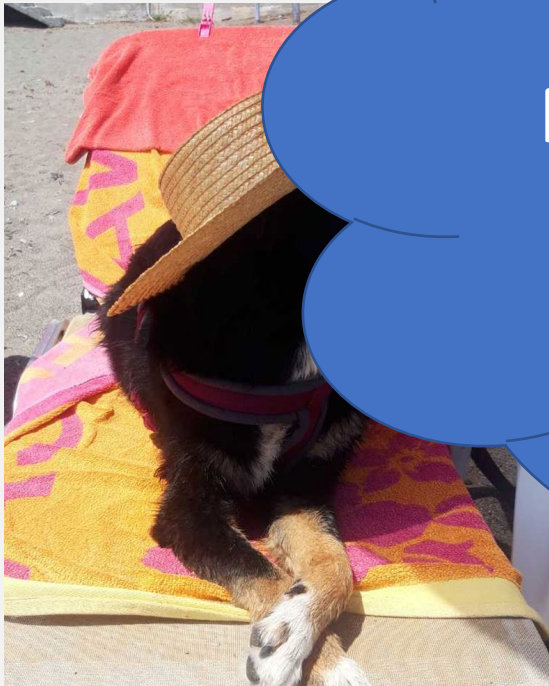


**NEW LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK SETS  
ANIMAL CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE**



# I. Understanding country situation

## ANIMAL CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE



PET ANIMALS WELFARE ASSURANCE



# I. Understanding country situation

Estimation of the number of owned and stray dogs



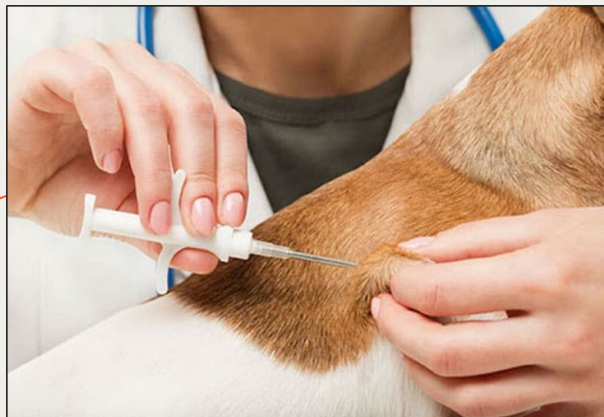
*essential for DPMPs monitoring + evaluation (indicators)*

***There is currently no available data for the safe estimation of the number of owned and stray dogs on a national level.***

Estimation is based on dog registration in a centralised database.



**INFORMATION UPDATE**



**Mark-resight: dog collar**





# I. Understanding country situation

## Identified sources of free-roaming dogs

(compliance with 7.7.11):

### **Lost + Abandoned + Born Stray**

intentional abandonment of a dog by its owner

+

unwanted pregnancies of owned female dog

**Unneutered dogs (*abandoned or not*)  
(breeders + hunters + livestock guardian dogs)**

### **Illegal breeding + illegal trade**

### **URBAN AND RURAL AREAS**

*Specification of the circumstances that drive the owners to abandon their dogs*

***Organizing counting activities***





# I. Understanding country situation

## Centralized digital extended information system *(compliance with 7.7.11)*

### “National companion animal registry”

- ✓ **Identification + registration + monitoring data + Electronic health booklet**

(vaccinations, sterilization, serological test for Leishmania, antiparasitic treatments, surgeries etc.) *(veterinarians)*

- ✓ **Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations record (non-profit and active in Greece or other EU countries)**

- ✓ **Shelter record**

(municipal or inter-municipal, of Animal Welfare Associations or Animal Protection Organizations, of individuals)

- ✓ **Breeder record**

- ✓ **E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions**

*(municipal officials, Animal Welfare Associations, Animal Protection Organizations, shelters)*

**data entry**

- ✓ **Blood Donation record *(veterinarians)***

- ✓ **Passport depository *(distribution from Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association)***

- + **Sub-system for the submission of DPMPs *(municipal officials)***

- + **Several digital applications**

*(delivery request, death announcement, finding statement - loss statement service, application for reproduction...)*

- + **Offenders Record** (observed by Athens Prosecutor's Office)

***Interoperability between sub-systems***



# I. Understanding country situation

## National companion animal registry in numbers

Identification and Registration Database				
OWNED/STRAY	NEUTERED	GENDER	NUMBER	
O	NO	MALE	335,041	<b>817,924</b>
O	NO	FEMALE	326,569	
O	YES	MALE	59,957	
O	YES	FEMALE	96,357	
S	NO	MALE	37,140	<b>165,910</b>
S	NO	FEMALE	61,429	
S	YES	MALE	19,304	
S	YES	FEMALE	48,037	



# I. Understanding country situation

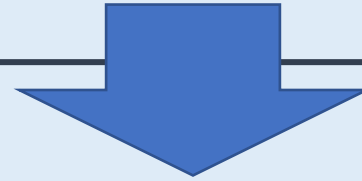
## National companion animal registry in numbers

RECORD	NUMBER
Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations	328 submitted 222 approved
Shelters	48 submitted 7 under examination 33 approved
Non commercial Breeders	140 submitted 75 under examination 52 approved 13 non approved



# I. Understanding country situation

**DPMPs implementation**



**Municipalities + Inter-municipal corporations**

**Animal Welfare Associations or Animal Protection Organizations**

**Individual shelters owners**



# I. Understanding country situation

## Ministry of Interior:

**Secretariat for the Protection of Companion Animals, Department of the Protection of Companion Animals  
National committee**

**specification of legislation requirements, monitoring of DPMP's**

## Ministry of Rural Development and Food:

**Directorate General of Veterinary Services  
monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

## Ministry of Digital Governance:

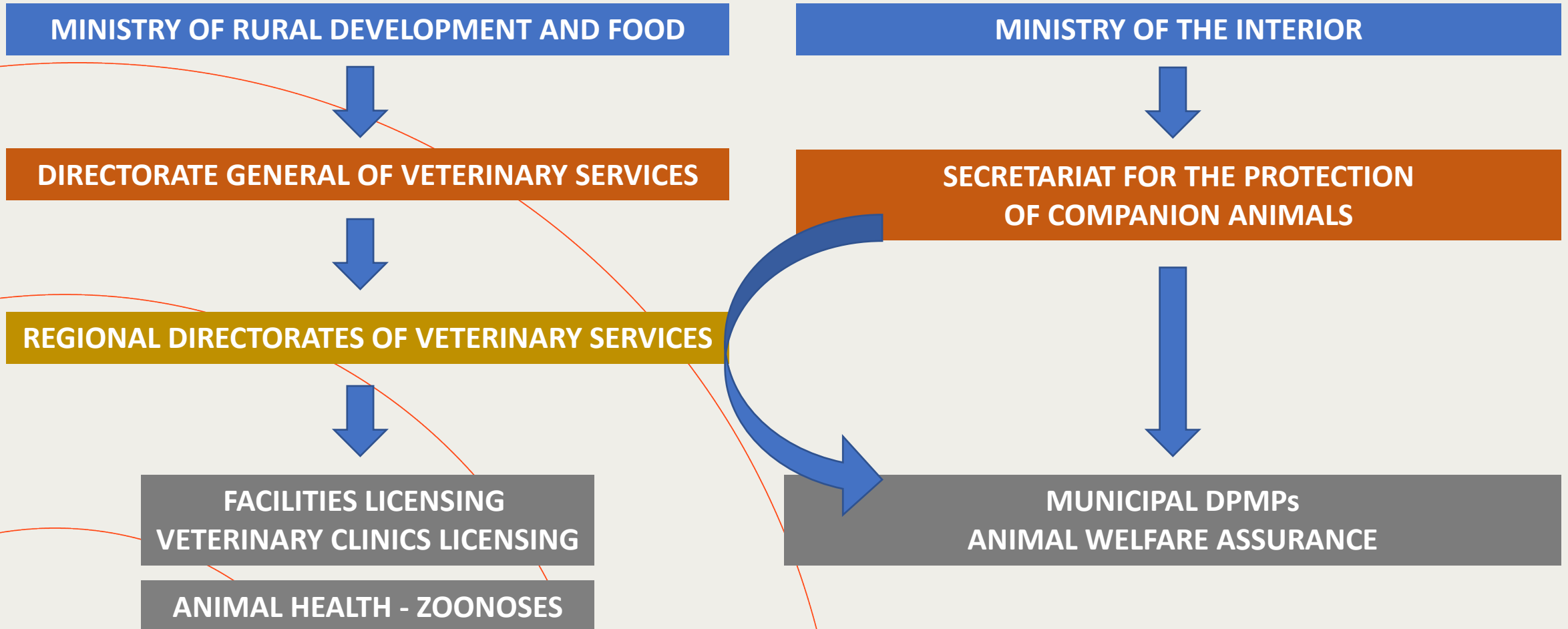
**General Secretariat of Information Systems  
management of the new centralized database / tool (National Companion Animals Registry)**





## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING





# I. Understanding country situation

**Necessary regulatory framework**

**+**

**Necessary/sufficient resources**

***GOVERNEMENT PROVIDED INCREASED FUNDING  
NEW FINANCIAL TOOL "ARGOS"***

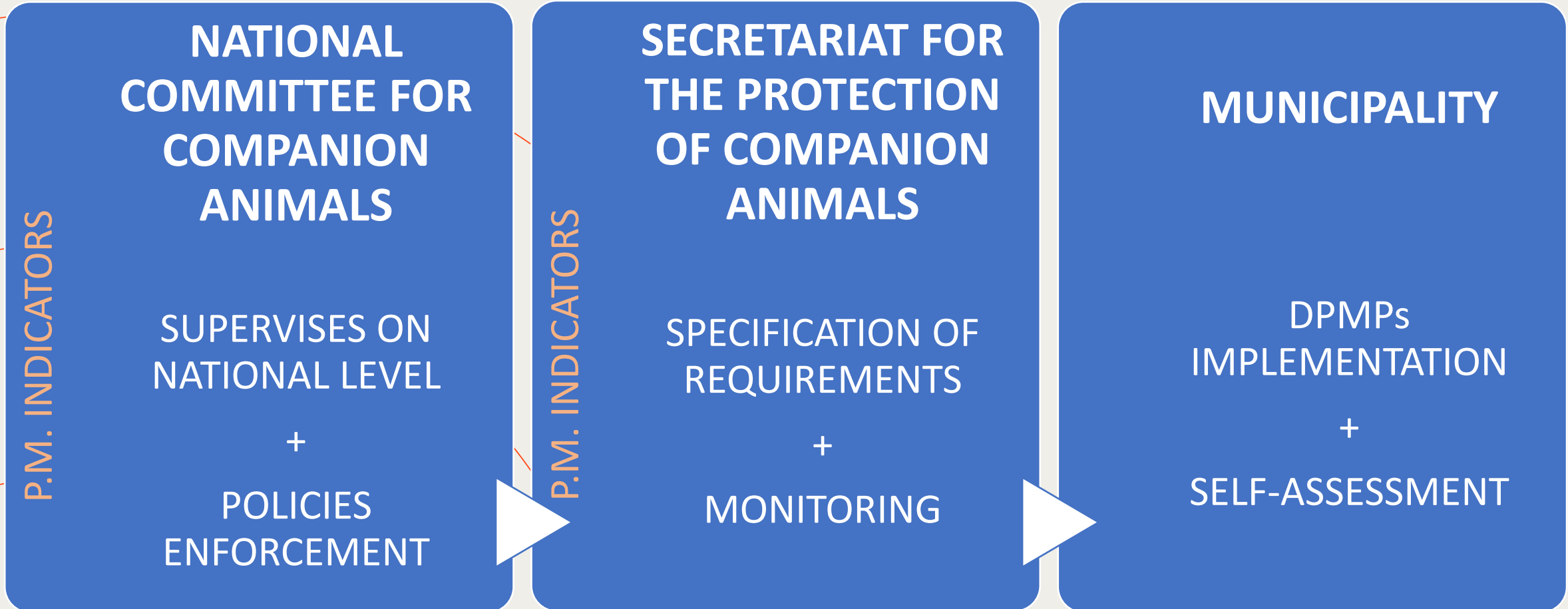
***law's 4830/21 explanatory statement: need for Human and Financial resources***



## II. Control measures



### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING





## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

**MUNICIPALITIES**

**MUNICIPAL DPMPs**  
*tailored actions*

**INTER - MUNICIPAL  
CORPORATIONS**  
*shelters + pet crematoriums*

**FOSTER PROGRAMS**  
*reduce repositioning*

**TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMS**

**ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS  
AND  
ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

**DPMPs**  
*subventions can be  
provided after  
municipal council  
decision*



## II. Control measures

Centralized digital extended information system (*compliance with 7.7.11*)

National companion animal registry

*Interoperability between sub-systems*

**Identification + registration** database + Electronic health booklet

**Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations record**

**Shelters record** (municipal or inter-municipal, of Animal Welfare Associations or Animal Protection Organizations, of individuals)

**Breeders record**

**E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions**

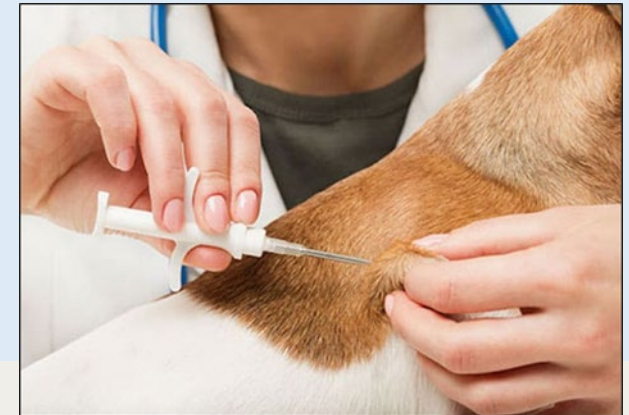
**Blood Donation record**

**Passport depository**

+ Sub-system for the submission of DPMPs

+ Several digital applications

(delivery request, death announcement, finding statement - loss statement service, application for reproduction...)



**Offenders Record**

**(observed by Athens Prosecutor's Office)**



## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Centralized digital extended information system  
(National companion animal registry)



Sub-system for the submission of DPMPs



### MAIN STRUCTURE

**Administrative acts and decisions record**

*System of map location marker for repositioning areas*

Strategic Planning  
Understanding the situation  
**ANNUAL PLANNING + Action Planning**  
**Annual Report**



## Legislation framework

Animal  
Welfare

### Strategic targets

**five freedoms**

1. Protect companion animals + Ensure their well-being
2. Encourage responsible ownership
3. Population management
4. Adoption programs → reduce of stray pet animal population



# II. Control measures

## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

### Understanding the situation


#### General

- population density
- geographical features
- natural disasters

#### Municipal services description

- Personnel data
- description of provided services

#### Specific data e.g.

- dog population data
- welfare data (responsible ownership, animal abuse) 
- data for infrastructure and equipment
- data for damage caused by free roaming dogs ★
- data for law violations ★ .....

**Essential for setting annual targets**





# II. Control measures

## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

### 1. Strategic Planning

### 2. Understanding the situation

*(automated data entry)*

### 3. Annual Planning *(a list is provided to the user)*

**tailored**

### Action Planning

#### Tools used

Animal Welfare

#### Law provision:

- Catch
- Identification and registration
- Veterinary care  
*(vaccination and serological screening for Leishmania included)*
- Neuter
- Providing shelter  
**(1.fostering programs 2.housing facilities)**
- Adoption

#### Law provision:

- Inter-municipal corporations
- Organizing actions with Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations
- Contracts
- Volunteering

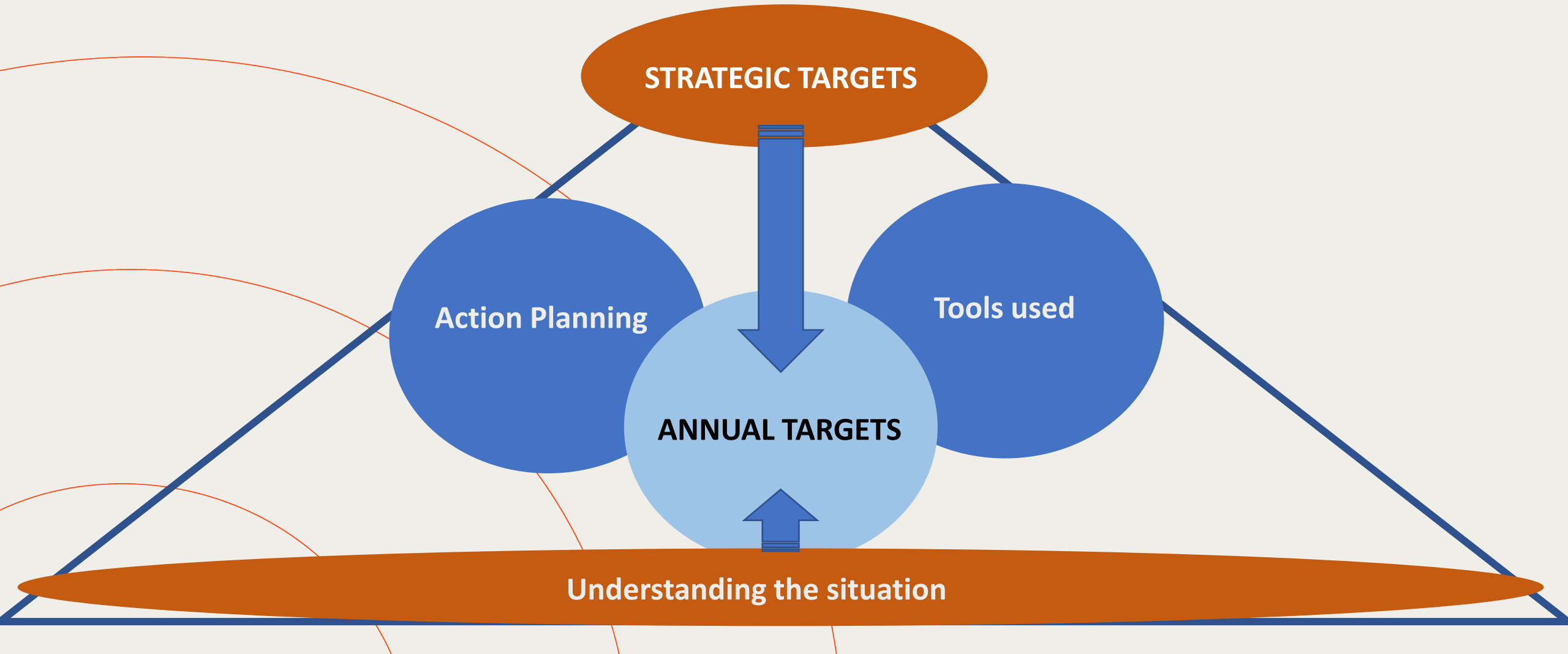
### Annual Report

*(automated data entry)*

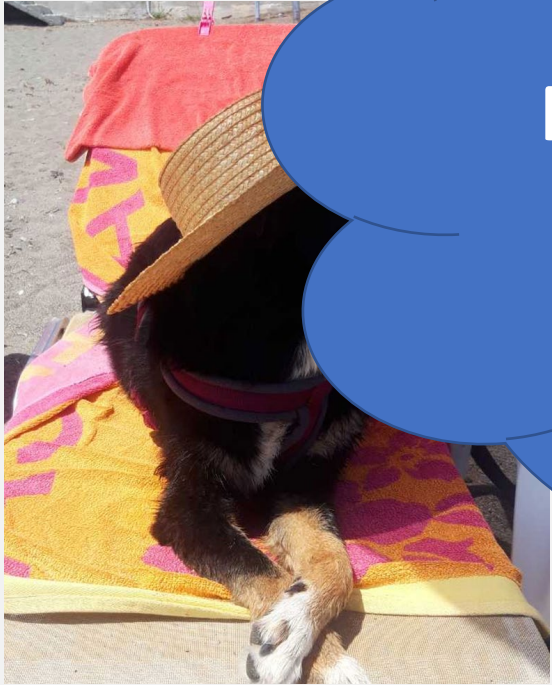


## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING



**ANIMAL CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE**



**EDUCATION**  
**PET ANIMALS WELFARE ASSURANCE**  
**RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP**





## II. Control measures

### Are education and legislation for responsible dog ownership implemented in your country?

Provide appropriate care to ensure the welfare of the dog and any offspring according to the dog's five welfare needs

Encourage appropriate behaviours, reducing unwanted behaviours (including dog bites) and supporting the dog's ability to cope with its environment through attention to socialisation and reward-based training and recognition of dog behavioural signs

Ensure the registration and identification of dogs

Ensure access to preventive and therapeutic veterinary care

Prevent negative impacts of dogs on the community, via pollution (e.g. faeces and noise), risks to human health through bites or traffic accidents and risks to other dogs, wildlife, livestock and other companion animal species

Control dog reproduction

Arrange for dogs to be cared for when the owner is unable to do so

Prevent diseases, in particular zoonotic diseases

**Yes, both education and legislation**



# ANIMAL CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE



VS



## COHERENT TRAINING PROGRAMS

Training Institute of National Center of Public  
Administration and Local Government



## LAW PROVISIONS FOR SHELTERS (*minimum standards*)

### Animal welfare (five freedoms)

Access to drinking water + Appropriate feeding equipment + Suitable animal feed storing

Proper hygiene and cleanliness + Waste removal and deposit +  
*Disinfection process + Insects, ectoparasites and rodents extermination: at least once every two months*

Protection of weather conditions

At least one veterinarian supervisor who is responsible for:  
veterinary examinations, vaccinations, providing information to competent veterinary authorities (notifiable diseases)

At least 4m<sup>2</sup>/dog + Appropriate dog exercise areas **or** walk with a leash (at least thirty 30 minutes, twice a day)

### Reproduction control

Shelter website: number of hosted animals (weekly updated)

Updated inspection record and disinfection record

If shelters carry out adoptions abroad: compliance with Law 2017/1992 and Regulation (EU) 2019/2035



### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Animal  
Welfare

**X** Euthanasia *(compliance with 7.7.27)*

*If stray companion animals are found to:  
be dangerous  
or  
suffering from incurable disease  
or  
are completely unable to self-sustain life due to old age or physical disability  
and  
preserving them in life is obviously contrary to animal welfare rules*

*Decision-making for danger DM → Two municipal committees*



## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

#### DEFINED REPOSITIONING AREAS

*management of dog population density + access to food and water*

***Repositioning is forbidden close to:***

- ***hospitals,***
- ***schools,***
- ***athletic facilities,***
- ***national roads and expressways,***
- ***airports,***
- ***railway stations,***
- ***ship boarding and ship disembarkation areas,***
- ***archaeological places,***
- ***slaughterhouses,***
- ***waste collection facilities,***
- ***the facilities of the Central Market and Fishery Organizations***
- ***facilities of the Hellenic Arm Forces***





## II. Control measures

### DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

NEW FINANCIAL TOOL "ARGOS"

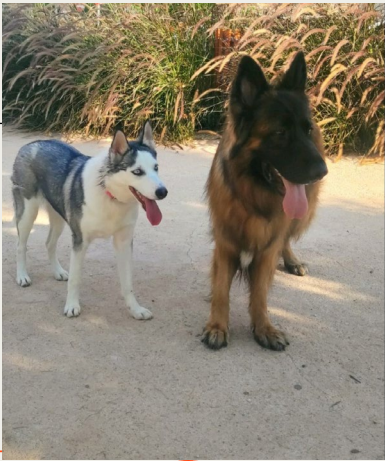


IMPLEMENTATION OF DPMPs

ESTABLISHMENT OF SHELTER FACILITIES

SHELTER AND VETERINARY CLINIC EQUIPMENT

VETERINARY CARE EXPENCES .....



## II. Control measures

### OWNED DP CONTROL

Reproduction control

Exhibitions control

Hunters' control

Breeders control

Trade control

Livestock guardian dogs control

Advertisements control





## II. Control measures

### OWNED DP CONTROL

#### ✓ **Reproduction control**

- **Neutering** (in 6 months from animal's adoption when dog is more than 1 year old)
- **If not neutering => DNA sample** (Laboratory of DNA analysis and DNA digital data storage - Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens)
- **Dog owners have the right to reproduce their dog only once in animal's lifetime**

*Female dogs is forbidden to be reproduced before the second estrus and nine months before the last parturition*

*Reproduction after the ninth year is forbidden*

*Reproduction of companion animals with anatomical and physiological characteristics or behavioral characteristics that may have a bad impact, depending on the species and the race of the companion animal, in the health and welfare of the female ancestor or in the health and welfare of the newborns (e.g. high mortality rates of congenital abnormalities or acquired disorders) is not permitted*



#### ✓ **Dog separation cost**

1. **300 Euros fine (when dog management passes to the municipality)**
  2. **Deprivation of the right of pet animal adoption for 3 years**
  3. **Exceptions:** in case of exceptional health reasons for the owner or in case of his death → DM from Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations or individuals who own shelter
- ✓ **Low-income households and persons with disabilities: free veterinary care (vaccination + surgical sterilization included)**



## II. Control measures

### OWNED DP CONTROL

#### ➤ Commercial Breeding

(Regulation (EU) 2019/2035)

*Reproduction of breeding dogs more than 6 times in a lifetime is forbidden*

*Reproduction after the 9<sup>th</sup> year of life is forbidden*

*Reproduction of bitches before the second estrus or before nine months from last birth is forbidden*

#### ➤ Non-commercial Breeding

*Breeding for non-profit purposes is permitted for the maintenance of dog races.*

*Reproduction permission is demanded.*

*Reproduction of more than 2 female dogs is forbidden*

*Reproduction of a female dog more than once per year is forbidden*

Animal  
Welfare

Animal  
Welfare

**Hunters' control:** - Hunting license removal for 2 years for use of unregistered dogs and for use of unneutered dogs or dogs that are not registered in the DNA-storage database

- Permanent hunting license removal for abandoning dog or puppies

**Livestock guardian dogs control:** free veterinary care (vaccination + surgical sterilization included)



## II. Control measures

### OWNED DP CONTROL

Identification and Registration Database	
DNA storage	64 dogs
Livestock guardian dogs	1,392
Hunting dogs	5,545



## II. Control measures

### OWNED DP CONTROL

#### Trade control → Regulations: (EU) 2016/429, (EK) 1/2005

- Puppies trade before the 12<sup>th</sup> week of life is forbidden.
- **Online cats and dogs trade is permitted only by e-shops that belong to legally operating breeding businesses**

#### Exhibitions control

- Exhibitions for commercial purposes in outdoor markets are forbidden
- Exhibitions of mutilated animals are forbidden
- **Exhibition of cats and dogs in pet shops is forbidden**

#### Advertisements control

- Advertisements for cats and dogs trade are permitted only by legally operating breeding businesses
- **Ads for mating is forbidden**
- Adoption advertisements are permitted only when the hyperlink of the E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions is added
- Every advertisement must be followed by the text:

***“An animal is not a toy. You must consider that the adoption of an animal is a decision that will change your life. As a pet owner you have legal obligation to assure that you provide and promote your pet’s health and welfare. Otherwise, you contact crime punished by the law”***

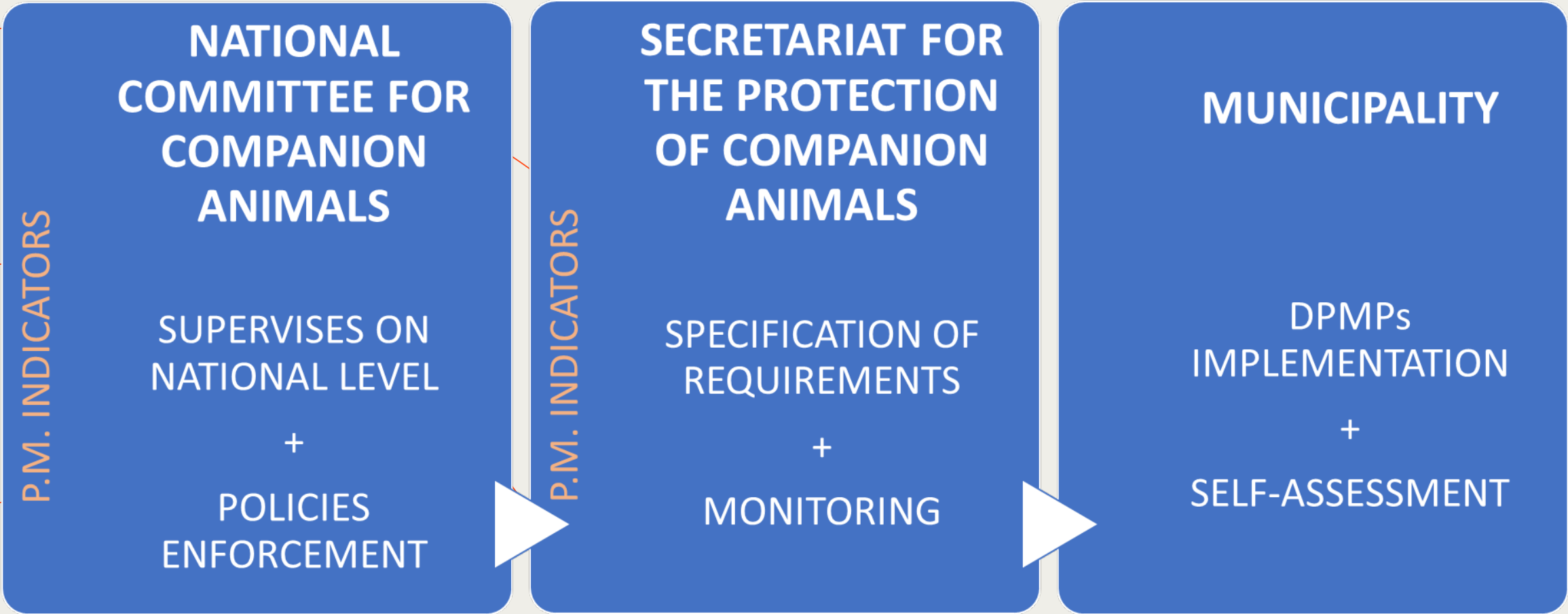


Animal  
Welfare



# III. Monitoring and evaluation

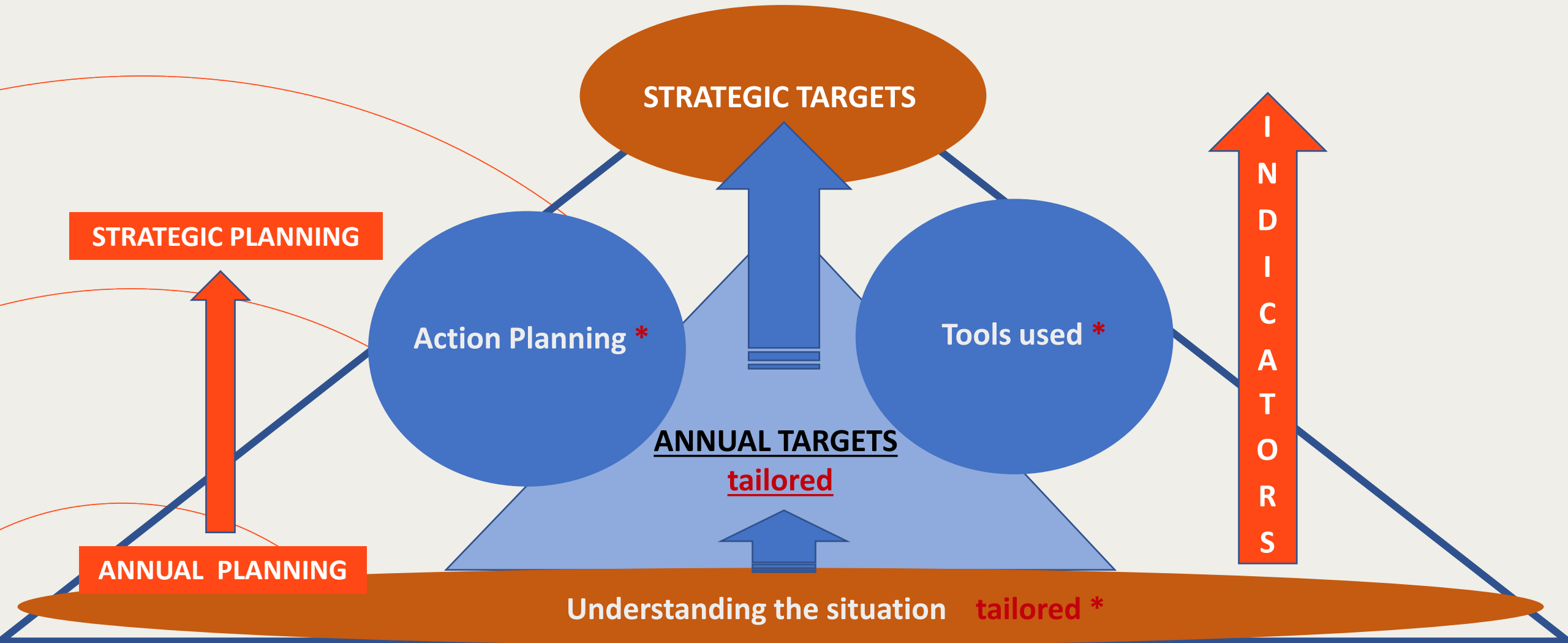
## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING





# III. Monitoring and evaluation

## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING







## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

### INDICATORS

#### ANNUAL DPMPs INDICATORS (COMPARING)

*Developing Annual Indicators.....*

*There is currently no available data for the safe estimation of the number of owned and stray dogs on a national level.*



**STRATEGIC TARGETS**



## DPMPs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

### INDICATORS



➤ ANNUAL DPMPs EVALUATION

➤ STRATEGIC PLANNING EVALUATION



## IV. Rabies dimension

***The competent authority for the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents is the Directorate General of Veterinary Services - Ministry of Rural Development and Food***

- **Greece is free of rabies.**
- **Rabies is a notifiable disease in domestic animals, wildlife and humans.**  
***Wildlife species playing role in the epidemiology: red foxes***



***There is a strategy for the prevention of rabies and a national surveillance program.***

**Vaccination of companion animals is mandatory according to national law.**  
**(vaccination campaigns → yes, but no on a regular basis)**



## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

### STRENGTHS

### WEAKNESSES

### OPPORTUNITIES

### THREATS

**Specification of law requirements completed**

**Heavy workload for Local Government officers (multi tasks)**

**Implementation of circular training programs for competent authorities' officials**

**Veterinarians of the private sector refuse to collect DNA sample**

**Centralized digital information system**

**Several municipalities still haven't establish new committees for monitoring and self-evaluation of DPMP**

**Educational programs in schools (Ministry of education)**

**No compliance of dog owners to law provisions regarding reproduction control**

**Administrative circular for DPMPs (12/2023) - Analysis of DPMPs Structure**



## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	Priority level	How	Why	Who	When
Specification of law requirements completed	1	Administrative circulars + Guideline Setting Target Setting	Reaching Strategic targets + Knowledge transfer + Good practice + <b>Indicators</b>	Ministry of the Interior	Deadlines set for each administrative circular
Centralized digital information system	1	Automated data entry (interoperability) + Quick information extraction	DPMPs implementation + monitoring	Ministry of Digital Governance	By the end of 2024
Administrative circular for DPMPs (12/2023) - Analysis of DPMPs Structure	1	In depth-specification of law requirements concerning strategic and action planning	DPMPs monitoring + Minimize time for municipal officials for DPMPs submission	Ministry of the Interior	Relative circular update by the end of 2024 + Full compliance of municipalities by the end of 2025



# V. Conclusions and future needs

## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Heavy workload for Local Government officers (multi tasks)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Centralized digital information system</b>	<b>DPMPs implementation + monitoring</b>	<b>Municipalities + Ministry of Digital Governance</b>	<b>By the end of 2025</b>
<b>Several municipalities still haven't establish new committees for monitoring and self-evaluation of DPMP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Decentralized governance</b>	<b>DPMPs implementation + monitoring</b>	<b>Municipalities + Decentralized administrations</b>	<b>Urgent need</b>



# V. Conclusions and future needs

## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Implementation of circular training programs for competent authorities' officials</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2024-2025 National Center of Public Administration and Local Government programming</b>	<b>Acceleration of knowledge transfer and feed back</b>	<b>Training Institute of National Center of Public Administration and Local Government</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
<b>Educational programs in schools</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Joint Ministerial Decision</b>	<b>Promotion of animal welfare perspective + Responsible ownership</b>	<b>Ministry of Education + Ministry of the Interior</b>	<b>End of 2024</b>



# V. Conclusions and future needs

## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

THREATS	Priority level	How	Why	Who	When
Veterinarians of the private sector refuse to collect DNA sample	2	Information concerning the relative law provision	Need for owned dogs reproduction control	veterinarians of the private sector + Ministry of the Interior + Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens	Continuously
No compliance of dog owners to law provisions regarding reproduction control	2	Promotion of responsible ownership + Information concerning the relative law provision	Need for owned dogs reproduction control	Ministry of Education + Ministry of the Interior + veterinarians of the private sector + Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens	Continuously





## S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS



## KEY ACTIONS



- 1. Centralized digital information system completed by the end of the year**
- 2. Indicators development and approval**
- 3. Extension of training programs targeting to municipal officials**
- 4. Update of administrative circular for DPMPs implementation and monitoring**
- 5. Joint Ministerial Decision for the implementation of educational programs in schools**



# Thank you very much for your attention

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