

Preliminary outcomes of the One-to-One semi-structured tailored interviews with the Balkan countries' representatives

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WOAH HQ, Paris

5-7 November, 2024 - Sutomore (Montenegro)



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Quick general Overview: Identifying and discussing the key achievements and weaknesses the country has recognised according to the SAM4DMP questionnaire.

Focused Action Points: Establish actionable points for improvement by selecting and focusing on two or three key areas or points that can be realistically targeted based on your available resources, including personnel, time, and potential/existing funding.



Key achievements.....

- Increased capacity and visibility of Veterinary Services
- Sound understanding of DPM principles and (i.e., baseline situation; M&E; traceability)
- Development, revision and upgrade of national, regional and local legislative frameworks based on Chap. 7.7 (i.e., identification and registration + key roles and responsibilities)
- Progressive increased level of information/public awareness (“*be his hero*” initiative)
- Support of National Strategies development in the context of other programs (EU IPA - Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro)
- Contribution to the TAHC Chap. 7.7. Standards revision
- **OTHERS.....**



- Lack of comprehensive legislation
- Low level of public awareness
- Few skilled and experienced DPM operators/veterinary inspectors
- Limited/lack of financial resources
- Weak multi-sectoral cooperation
- Ineffective or absent sanctionatory system
- Lack-of care/commitment and awareness of certain Municipalities (I.e., scarce adoption of DPM Programmes);
- Unclear of absent allocation of responsibilities to Municipalities in certain DPM programs
- Scarce collaboration between central Authorities, Municipalities and NGOs
- Uncontrolled/illegal breeding and trade (I.e., family business; unauthorized online trade)
- Lack of economical incentives for owners (I.e., identification and sterilization)
- Long process of regulatory amendments, lack of political support
- **OTHERS.....**



Actionable points for improvement

- Educational programs in schools (with Ministry of Education) and public awareness campaigns (i.e., dog breeding and reproduction control)
- Circular training programs for Competent Authorities' officials (not only Official Vets, other Officials enforcement agents, police)
- Technical assistance (training for Local Authorities; study visits to other countries; exchange of regional best practices; modules on the management of dangerous dogs; dog population estimation in rural areas) provided by the WOAHCs on animal welfare, RAWC, International NGOs
- Best experiences/successful initiatives and draft guidelines/instructions/template for the development of DPM Programmes at Local Level
- National strategies to be developed in consultation with Local Authorities and Municipalities (including comprehensive M&E programs)
- Promote and train Local Authorities on how to use the SAM4DPM (lack of certain data does not allow to complete the self-assessment rounds)
- Surveillance programs for dog-mediated zoonotic diseases (i.e., Rabies, Leishmaniosis)
- “Train-of-Teacher” programs and include the topic in curricula at primary schools level
- **OTHERS.....**

Thank you

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