

Country report on national action plans for animal welfare

Republic of Moldova

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WOAH workshop on developing national action plans for animal welfare

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World Organisation
for Animal Health





For the protection and welfare of farm animals, the competent authorities have approved a series of normative acts that are harmonized or partially transpose European Union regulations.

Animal welfare legislation sets out requirements for both animals kept on farms for breeding and fattening purposes, and their protection and welfare during transport.



What are the main Animal Welfare issues you work on?

Animal welfare is one of the factors that directly affects the health status of animals, so for the purpose of protecting farm animals, the legislation of the Republic of Moldova requires animal breeders to comply with certain requirements, which are verified by the competent authority during official inspections.



In the field of poultry farming, especially in the breeding and maintenance of laying hens, one of the welfare issues is that some poultry farmers have not abandoned the use of unimproved cages and continue to use them, while others already practice raising laying hens in alternative systems as well as free-range farming.





Resources – what resources (financial and human) are available to work on Animal Welfare?

At central level of the competent authority within the Animal Health and Welfare Department, a section is formed, the Animal Protection, Welfare and Registration Section, in which 5 inspectors work, dealing with the development of welfare plans and requirements in accordance with the new legal provisions. At the territorial level, verification of compliance with the requirements is ensured by 90 inspectors in the sanitary-veterinary field, who report on the detected non-conformities to the central authority.



Regarding laying hens and broilers, the competent authority has developed some practice guides, which breeders can follow.

Currently submitted for approval, we have a guide on aligning farms with EU requirements regarding animal welfare and the environment, which represents requirements and a series of recommendations for their implementation on cattle farms.



Stakeholders – Which are involved (government agencies, NGOs, farmers, veterinary professionals) and their role?

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is concerned with developing policies in the field of animal welfare.

The National Food Safety Agency ensures the implementation and monitoring of the approved requirements.

The ONGs and professional associations participate in the development of best practice guides and submit proposals regarding some requirements.

Farmers participate in the development of guidelines and ensure the implementation of the requirements established by the competent authorities.

Veterinarians provide professional support and advice to farmers, as well as participate in meetings organized by the College of Veterinary Doctors.



Regulatory framework – What are the legal acts/regulations that you have on Animal Welfare? Do you use WOAH standards and other guidelines and best practices in your work?

Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 is partially transposed into Government Decision no. 793/2012 approving the sanitary-veterinary rule on the protection and welfare of animals during transport;

Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 on the protection of farm animals is harmonized with the provisions of Government Decision no. 1275/2008 approving the sanitary-veterinary norm on the protection of farm animals;

Council Directive No. 1999/74 of 19 July 1999 is harmonized with the provisions of Government Decision No. 677/2008 approving the sanitary-veterinary norm on the protection of laying hens.



Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the field of animal health is transposed into Law no. 196/2024 on animal health, which will enter into force in 2026, respectively, a series of normative acts including those in the field of animal welfare will be subject to amendments.



Implementation and enforcement – what are the main actions taken to implement and enforce your regulatory framework?

Ensuring the implementation of the requirements of the legal framework takes place through the approval by the competent authority of certain orders and procedures with specific requirements, checklists, which require animal breeders to operate in accordance with welfare requirements, and their compliance with the requirements is verified during official inspections.



Data – what data you collect and how?

To ensure the implementation of the most correct strategy, the competent authority collects certain data such as:

- animal census twice a year.

-within authorized farms: food and water consumption, records of mortality and treatments applied, quantity of production obtained.

If the mentioned data vary from the limits of the admissible norms, it indicate that the animal breeder does not comply with welfare requirements as well as other requirements imposed by the authority.



Public awareness or educational programs – What programs are currently in place in your country?

In order to raise public awareness, the competent authority organizes meetings with livestock breeders both, at the central and at the territorial level.





National Food Safety Agency actively publishes press releases on the official website as well as develops and distributes posters and information brochures.



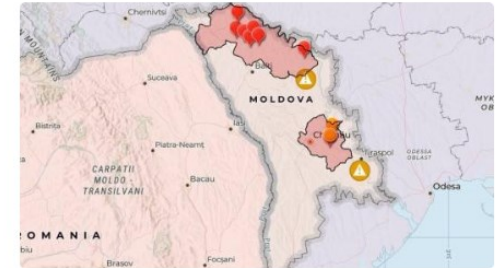
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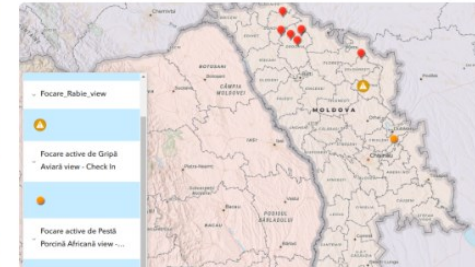
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The authority has a fruitful collaboration with press services and mobile operators who periodically send short messages to everyone with some requirements or imposed measures.





Barriers and challenges – What barriers and challenges do you face to implement Animal Welfare regulation (cultural, economical, political, ...) ?

From an economic point of view, the fact is that up to now, due to the lack of financial resources, some of economic agents that practice raising laying hens use unimproved cages and the legislative provisions in force do not oblige them to abandon their use.

Starting with January 1, 2012, the export of production of enterprises that do not have improved cages is prohibited.

From a cultural point of view, it is difficult to monitor compliance with welfare requirements within households that traditionally keep animals for their own consumption.

Thank you



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