



The role of the Regional Animal Welfare Centre as a regional stakeholder

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Background

- ❖ Western Balkan Veterinary Network (wbvn.net) – was established in 2008 as a unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare in the Western Balkan region;
- ❖ WBVN relied on partners working together, and was set up by the RSPCA and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, Macedonia.
- ❖ The network combined the research capabilities of seven major universities in the Western Balkans and Turkey with leading animal welfare research centres in western Europe.
- ❖ One of the network's core was to initiate and develop research in the field of animal welfare.



WBVN

The WBVN was established primarily to encourage and develop best practice in animal welfare amongst veterinary professionals.

Promote collaboration a wide range of stakeholder organizations to achieve this goal.



**Western Balkans
Veterinary Network**
for Animal Welfare

Regional animal welfare centre



Regional Animal Welfare Centre was established in 2012 and was hosted by the Croatian Veterinary Institute– www.RAWC.eu



The main reason was to ensure long term sustainability for RAWC under a more formal umbrella.



In 2022 RAWC officially registered as an association with the main purpose of providing scientific and technical support to the stakeholders in the region.

Specific tasks



To build structures and processes to actively share knowledge and expertise related to the implementation of EU legislation and international standards such as WOH.

To conduct a screening and elaborate a clear map of the current situation and the priorities in the region.

To facilitate consistent implementation and enforcement of EU legislation and international standards through the provision of technical and scientific support.

To develop knowledge strategies to overcome knowledge gaps and bottlenecks and to assist with implementation of legislation.

To increase stakeholders' awareness, engagement and co-operation in addressing animal welfare issues at the regional level

To develop collaboration with the key institutions working in animal welfare at the regional, European and global level.

Developing
systems for
welfare outcome
assessment



Introduce welfare outcome assessment and develop 'on farm' intervention tools to raise standards.

Recognise good animal welfare practices within traditional farming methods .



2010 – Workshop in Croatia (pigs and poultry) for the veterinary professionals, industry operators and state inspectors

2011 – Workshop held in Macedonia (Pigs, poultry and cattle) for the veterinarians, Inspectors and industry.





Welfare outcome assessment

Outcomes:

200+ trained professionals

Series of workshops in collaboration with the competent authorities run in Macedonia and Croatia

Development of guidelines and standards for producers and industry operators

Inclusion of WOA principles in official monitoring and inspections

Recognition by the EU Commission and links established for inclusion of WBVN members into European research projects

Regional events:



Several large regional workshops:

Strategic development of Animal Welfare in the Western Balkan Region (2014)

Vision for the future of Animal welfare in the Balkans (2015)

Regional approach to the implementation and enforcement of animal Regulation 1099/2009 (2017)

2022 RAWC Regional annual meeting

WOAH

DG SANTE

EFSA

FAO

IZSAM Teramo

40 participants from 9 countries



Be His Hero campaign



Lunched in 8 Countries of the region (Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro)

RAWC collaborated with OIE (nowdays WOAAH) on translation, printing and distribution of the materials.





1st Training DPM Trainers in Skopje - 2018

- Trainees (5) represented different institutions from the region with different, but complementary backgrounds, all with the plan for further development of the regional DPM program which we hope to start implementing during 2018.



2nd Training of DPM managers (TALEA) –Skopje 2022



12 New trainees from 4 countries.





3rd Training of DPM managers (TALEA) – Prizren 2024

20 TRAINEES FROM 3 COUNTRIES.

Our DPM trainers network thus far..

Total 37 experts from 7 Countries thus far. Countries involved in these training events were – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, N. Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania. Our plan is to further build on this network of experts in next years.





Colaboration with WOAHA

- since 2018 we regularly give support to WOAHA's activities in the Western Balkan region on the topics of Dog Population Management and Animal welfare at Slaughter.
- active support on the topic of the Dog Population Management meetings held in Tbilisi, Georgia (2023) and Doha, Qatar (2024).

Animal welfare at slaughter - RAWC

2008 - 2011 'Welfare of food animals' train-a-trainer programme, Poultry welfare officer, Welfare outcome assessment

- 8 modules delivered over 3 years leading to the development of a national training resource

- Outcomes:

40 trained national experts

7 national training programmes

Integration of AW into veterinary curriculum

Development of national training course for veterinary professionals and industry operators

Compliant with the EU Slaughter Regulation requirements / 2013

Recognition by the EU Commission resulting in TAIEX funding for parts of the TT programme

Animal welfare at slaughter - RAWC

Regional approach to the implementation and enforcement of animal Regulation 1099/2009 (Bled, Slovenia 2017)

- 40+ participants from 10 countries from the region
- lecturers from Academia, European institutions, WOAH and RSPCA

Time	Topic	Presenter
9.00 - 9.30	Registration	
9.30 - 9.50	Opening of the meeting and welcome address	Mag. Tanja Strniša, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia
9.50 - 10.00	Welcome – Overview of RAWC activities	Petya Petkova, RAWC Chair Aleksandra Hammond Seaman, RAWC
10.00 - 10.30	OIE AW platform	Nadege Leboucq, OIE
10.30 - 10.45	ISO standard 34700 - introduction	Rebeca Garcia, APHA, UK
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break	
11.15 - 12.00	One welfare – introduction	Rebeca Garcia, APHA, UK
12.00 - 12.30	General principles of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009	Desmond Maguire, European Commission, DG SANTE F
12.30 - 12.45	Discussion	
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch break	
13.45 - 14.00	Network of animal welfare centres - update	Desmond Maguire, European Commission, DG SANTE F
14.00 - 14.45	Welfare at slaughter (red meat species)	Rebeca Garcia, APHA, UK
14.45 - 15.30	Welfare at slaughter (poultry)	Mohan Raj, University of Bristol
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 16.30	Ritual slaughter	Haluk Anil, Independent consultant, Diplomate at European College of Veterinary Public Health
16.30 - 17.00	Slaughter for domestic consumption outside slaughterhouse	Haluk Anil, Independent consultant, Diplomate at European College of Veterinary Public Health
17.00 - 17.30	Discussion	

9.00 – 9.30	Dg Sante F experience on enforcement of Regulation 1099/2009	Desmond Maguire, European Commission, DG SANTE F
9.30 – 10.00	Official controls on AW in slaughterhouse – Audit vs. Inspection	Aleš Breclj, UVHVVR, Slovenia
10.00 – 10.15	Implementation of Regulation 1099/2009 – Slovenian example	Urška Kos, Tea Dronjič UVHVVR, Slovenia
10.15 – 10.30	Implementation of Regulation 1099/2009 – Bulgarian example	Representative from Bulgarian Competent Authority
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 11.20	Development of SOPs	Desmond Maguire, European Commission, DG SANTE F
11.20 – 12.00	Development of SOPs – lessons learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slovenian example – poultry - Croatian example – red meat 	Damir Kakovič – Pivka perutninarstvo d.d. Mirela Jurkas – Veterinarska stanica Vrbovec
12.00 – 12.15	Discussion	
12.15 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 14.00	Training of SH staff	Tomislav Mikuš, HVI, Croatia
14.00 – 14.30	Animal welfare officer – tasks and responsibilities	Rebeca Garcia, APHA, UK
14.30 – 15.00	Guides to good practice	Haluk Anil, Independent consultant, Diplomate at European College of Veterinary Public Health
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 16.00	Panel discussion	All lecturers reply to questions sent by the participants in advance of the workshop – coordinator A. Breclj
16.00	End of workshop	

1st RAWC Scientific Conference – 2019

Better Science for Better Animal Welfare

Preparation started in November 2019

Delayed twice due to COVID, held as online event in June 2021.

Book of abstracts available at:

<https://rawc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/RAWC-Conference-Proceedings.pdf>



animals

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What we are good at:



- ☞ Collaboration
- ☞ Organisation
- ☞ Knowledge transfer
- ☞ Best practice “from region to the region”
- ☞ Enthusiasm and commitment



And now, let's see what the future
will bring us! 😊



Thank you!