

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

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Background

- Western Balkan Veterinary Network (wbvn.net) was establishes 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.



Regional animal welfare centre







Regional Animal Welfare Centre was established in 2012 and was hosted by 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 WOAH.

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 cooperation 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

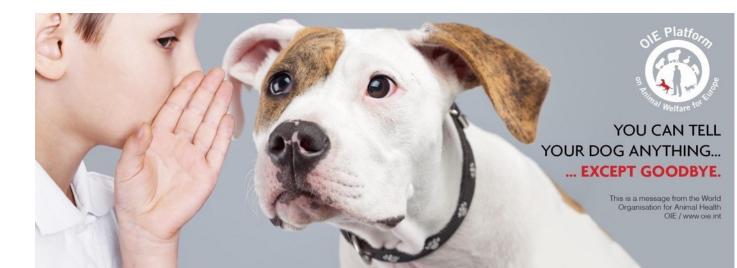


Be His Hero campaign

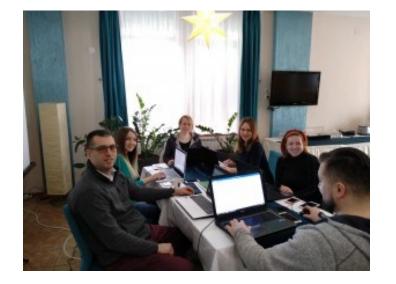


Lounched in 8Coutries of the region (Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro)

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







<u>1st Training DPM Trainers in Skopje</u> -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 WOAH

- since 2018 we regularly give support to WOAH'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, Quatar (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 coutries from the region
- lecturers from Academia, European institutions, WOAH and RSPCA

Time	Торіс	Presenter
9.00 - 9.30	Registration	
9.30 – 9.50	Opening of the meeting and welcome	Mag. Tanja Strniša, State
	address	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
40.00 40.45		
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	Desmond Maguire, European
	1099/2009	Commission, DG SANTE F
12.30 - 12.45	Discussion	
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch break	
13.45 - 14.00	Network of animal welfare centres -	Desmond Maguire, European
	update	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, Independant
		consultant, Diplomate at
		European College of Veterinary
		Public Health
16.30 - 17.00	Slaughter for domestic consumption	
	outside slaughterhouse	Haluk Anil, Independant
		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	Desmond Maguire, European Commission, DG SANTE F	
	1099/2009		
9.30 - 10.00	Official controls on AW in	Aleš Brecelj, UVHVVR, Slovenia	
	slaughterhouse –		
	Audit vs. Inspection		
10.00 - 10.15	Implementation of Regulation	Urška Kos, Tea Dronjič	
	1099/2009 – Slovenian	UVHVVR, Slovenia	
	example		
10.15 - 10.30	Implementation of Regulation	Representative from Bulgarian	
	1099/2009 – Bulgarian	Competent Authority	
	example		
10.30 - 10.45			
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		
	 Slovenian example – 	Damir Kakovič – Pivka	
	poultry	perutninarstvo d.d.	
	 Croatian example – 	Mirela Jurkas – Veterinarska	
	red meat	stanica Vrbovec	
12.00 - 12.15	Discussion		
12.15 - 13.30	Lunch break		
13.30 - 14.00	Training od SH staff	Tomislav Mikuš, HVI, Croatia	
14.00 - 14.30	Animal welfare officer – tasks	Rebeca Garcia, APHA, UK	
	and responsibilities		
14.30 - 15.00	Guides to goodpractice	Haluk Anil, Independant	
		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. Brecelj	
16.00	End of v	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: <u>https://rawc.eu/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2021/06/RAWC-Conference</u> <u>Proceedings.pdf</u>









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! ③



Thank you!