

Country report on animal welfare during slaughter

Republic of Albania

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WOAH Regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter

11 - 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania

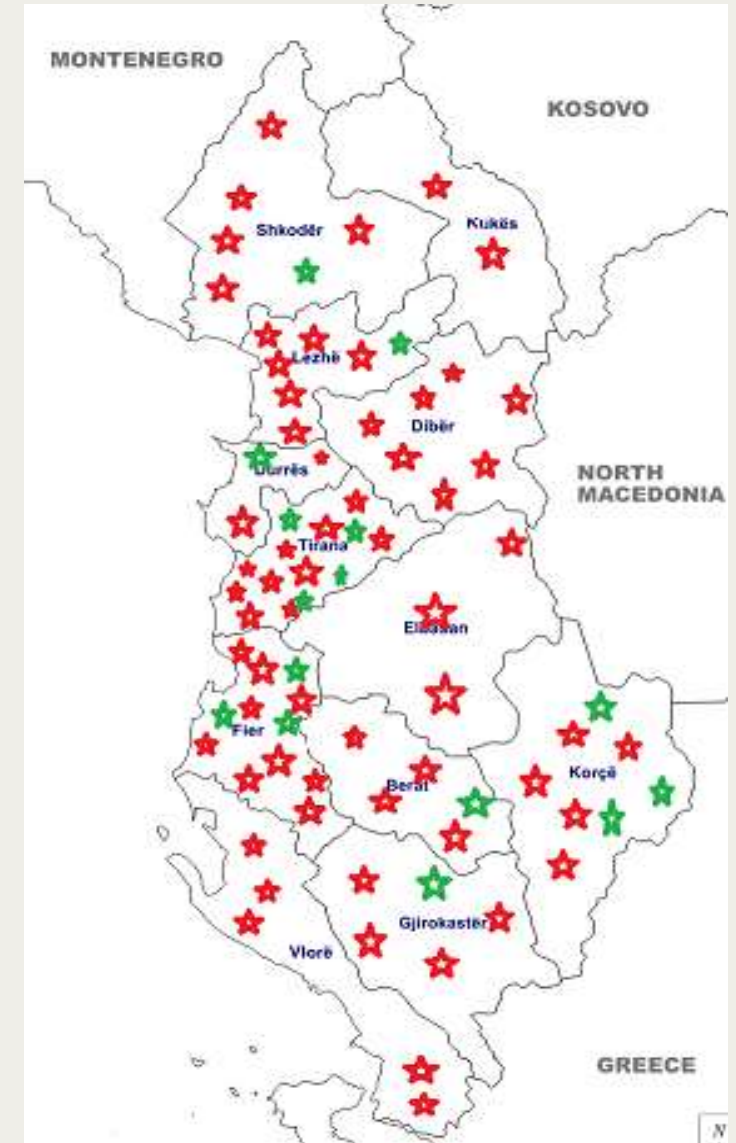


World Organisation
for Animal Health



Overview of the country's situation

- There are in total **79 slaughterhouses**.
- The main types of animals slaughtered are **bovines, small ruminants, pigs and poultry**.
- The slaughter methods used in slaughterhouses are **electric shock stunning for pigs and poultry, stunning with pistols called stun guns for bovines and small ruminants**.



Overview of the country's situation

Total Number of slaughtered animals

Year	Cattle	Small Ruminans	Pigs	Poultry
2022	57,421	125,827	131,702	37,663,63
2023	49,658	131,898	123,296	45,033,58
2024	56,708	116,757	125,673	58,499,02



The average throughput per establishment varies based on the species slaughtered and the establishment capacity.

For example X establishment in Lezha City has a slaughtering capacity of approximately 36 pigs per hour, 60 to 70 ruminants, and 20 cattle.

Average Throughputs / year

	Bovine	Small Ruminants	Pigs
Average Throughputs /year	11,703.88	37,310.22	27,710.68

Regulatory framework and Competent Authority(ies)

Law No. 10465, dated on 29.9.2011 “On Veterinary Service”, as amended

Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 7, dated 17.07.2013 “On the protection of animals during the time of killing” has partially approximated Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

Instruction No. 17, dated 24.9.2021 On specific hygiene requirements for meat and meat products, including meat products, minced meat and mechanically separated meat.



Regulatory framework and Competent Authority(ies)

Competent Authorities:

General Directorate of National Authority of Veterinary and Plant Protection

- Sector of Markets and Slaughterhouses (1+4) - Monitors the activities done by Official veterinarians which are part of Regional Directorates of Veterinary and Plant Protection.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Sector of Animal Health and Welfare (1+2) which is responsible for the legislation and policy for animal welfare during slaughter.

National Food Authority

Inspection Bodies which are responsible for the control of slaughterhouses.

National animal welfare standards

Established minimum requirements on animal welfare during slaughter in our country are:

- development and implementation of an operating plan by slaughterhouses;
- training and competency of personnel by slaughterhouses, EU projects, Professional Order of Veterinarians etc;
- design of premises and choice of equipment;
- standard operating procedure;
- recording, reporting adverse incidents, and taking corrective actions slaughterhouses and Official Veterinarian;
- throughput (number of animals slaughtered per hour or per year);
- maintenance and cleaning procedures of equipment and premises;
- emergency plans by slaughterhouses.

Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel

- In Republic of Albania, the **competencies** of animal handlers and slaughterhouse personnel, including those performing restraint, stunning, and bleeding operations, are determined by national legislation and regulations aligned with European Union standards.

Key standards includes:

- **Law No. 10465/2011 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania"**: This law establishes the framework for veterinary services, including animal welfare during transport and slaughter. *It mandates that personnel involved in animal handling and slaughter must be trained and certified to ensure humane treatment and compliance with health standards.*
- **Ordinance No. 7 of 2013 "On the Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing" (1099/2009)**: *This instruction outlines the procedures and requirements for humane slaughter, specifying that personnel must be trained in animal welfare and slaughter techniques to minimize stress and suffering of animals.*
- **Training and Certification of Animal handlers, Drivers and Managers of Facilities.**
- **Compliance and monitoring by NAVPP.**



Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel

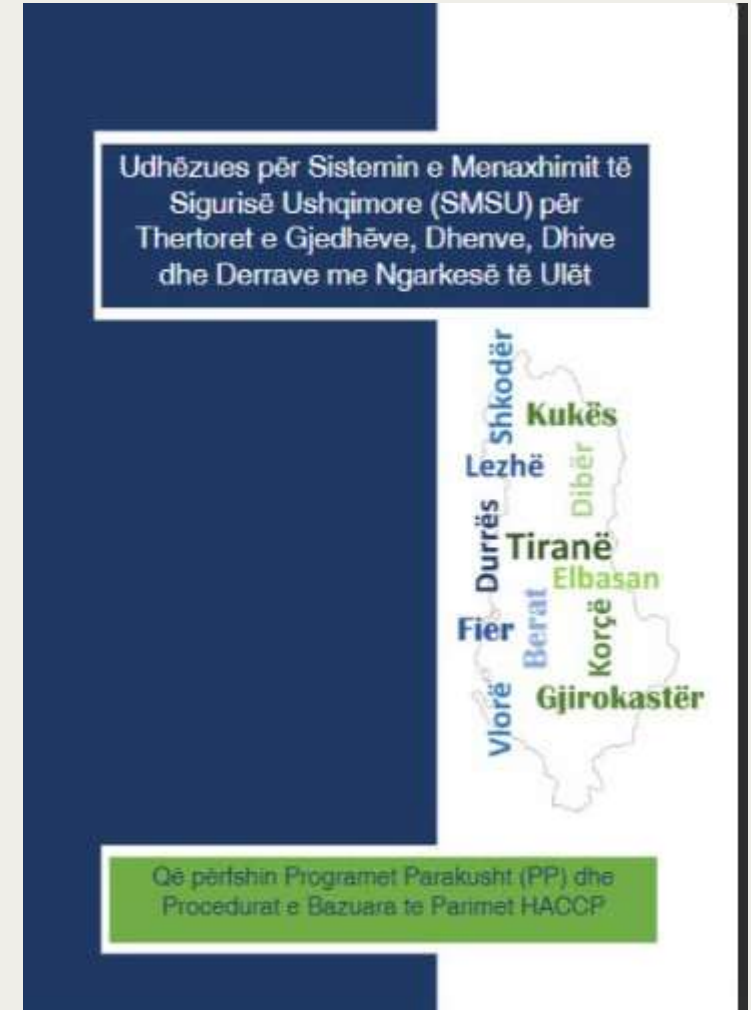
**Awareness are
done by:**

- Controls done by Official veterinarian of NAVPP in slaughterhouses;
- Controls done by National Food Authority in slaughterhouses;
- Official websites of NAVPP, NFA and Ministry;
- Trainings of staff from Professional Order of Veterinarians.



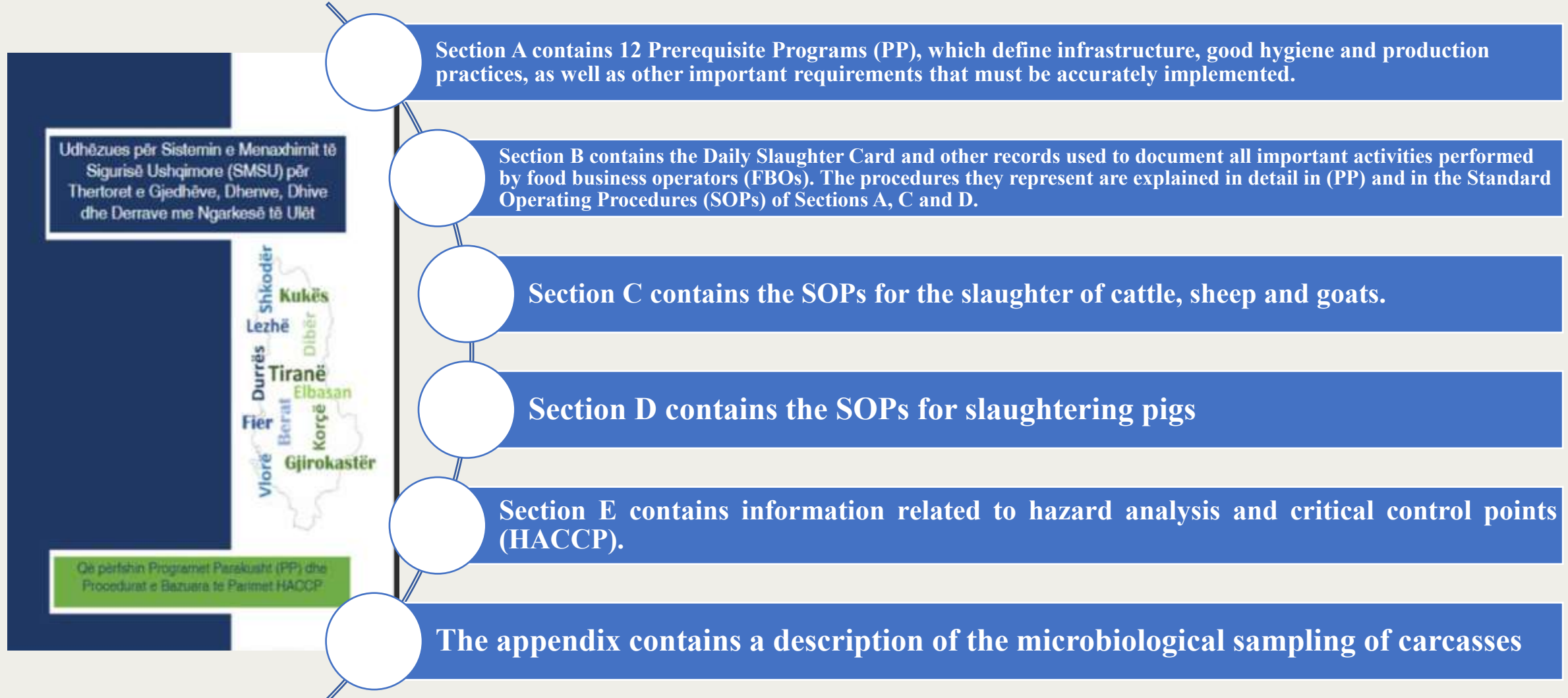
Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel

- NAVPP in collaboration with “Food Safety” EU funded project has prepared “Guidelines for the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) for Cattle, Sheep, Goat and Pig Slaughterhouses” <https://kvmb.gov.al/publikim-projektesh/>
- Guideline has been designed to help slaughterhouses to comply the legal requirements of food safety legislation.
- Guideline helps slaughterhouses to develop food safety management system and ensure to meet legal requirements, **including animal welfare during slaughter and provisions of regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009 of 24.9.2009 On protection of animals at the time of killing.**





Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel



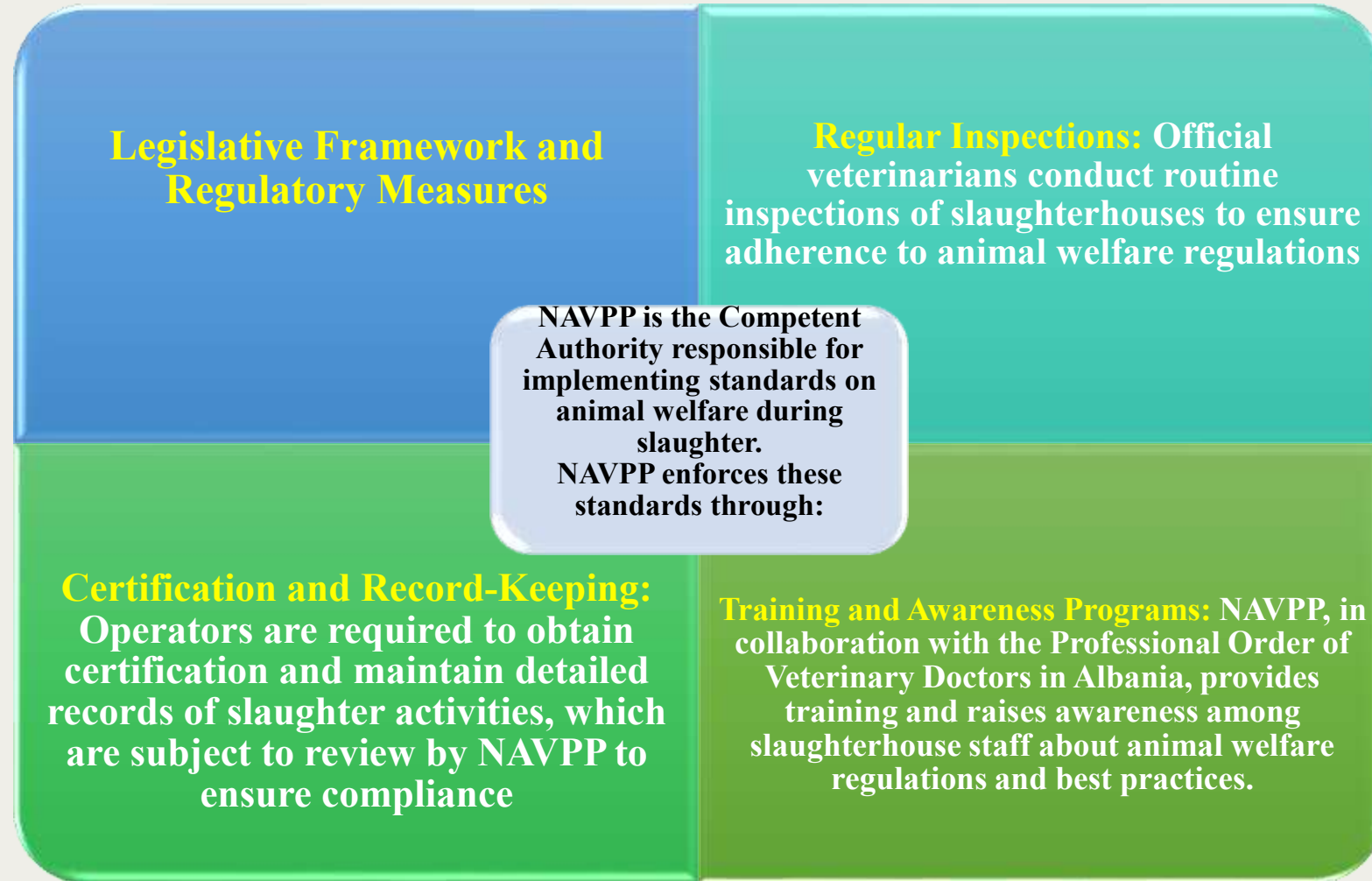
Training and competency Veterinary Services

- In collaboration with “The Food Safety” project funded by EU has been organized trainings for control official veterinarian, who carry out controls in slaughterhouses, in relation with inspection of slaughter (including animal welfare during slaughter) and post mortem inspection of carcasses. (<https://akvmb.gov.al/projekti-per-sigurine-ushqimore-trajnon-veterineret-e-thertoreve/>)
- On 2023 in collaboration with “The Food Safety” project has been organized study visit in Dublin, Ireland in slaughterhouses with the scope to know how is organized slaughter, animal welfare during slaughter and inspection of carcasses. (<https://akvmb.gov.al/perfaqesues-se-akvmb-dhe-mbzhr-vizite-zyrtare-ne-irlande/>)





Implementation of the standards



Through these measures, NAVPP aims to ensure that animal welfare standards during slaughter are effectively implemented and maintained in Albania.

Monitoring and evaluation

National Authority of Veterinary and Plant Protection (NAVPP), operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of animal welfare standards during slaughter through:

1. Regulatory Framework;

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:

- **Official Inspections:** NAVPP conducts regular inspections of slaughterhouses to ensure adherence to animal welfare regulations. These inspections assess compliance with established standards and identify areas for improvement. Official veterinarians carry out ante and post-mortem checks of animals in slaughterhouses, carry out certification of meat and its by-products and certification of products of animal origin not for human consumption.
- **Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspections:** Veterinary officials perform ante-mortem (before slaughter) and post-mortem (after slaughter) inspections to monitor animal health and welfare.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** NAVPP collects data from inspections and surveillance activities, analyzing trends and patterns to evaluate the effectiveness of animal welfare standards. This data helps in identifying areas where standards are being met and where improvements are needed.



Conclusions - gaps/weaknesses or challenges

Albania has been making efforts to align its regulations with international standards, including those established by WOAH. The country's veterinary service laws and regulations, aim to ensure that animals are treated humanely during transport, handling, and slaughter. Albania's Competent Authority, the **National Authority of Veterinary and Plant Protection (NAVPP)**, is responsible for ensuring compliance through inspections, training, and enforcement.

However, **challenges remain, such as the need for continuous improvements in training, infrastructure, human resources and monitoring processes.** While the regulatory framework is in place, compliance with **WOAH standards can vary in practice**, and continuous oversight is essential to ensure full adherence.

In summary, **Albania is in the process of improving its animal welfare standards to align with international expectations, but ongoing efforts are needed to ensure full compliance with WOAH standards across all slaughterhouses.**



Conclusions - support requirements and next steps

Support requirements and priorities:



Involvement of all actors such as stakeholders government agencies, NGOs, farmers, veterinary professionals, education establishments in a training program

Thank you

The background of the slide features a low-angle, upward-looking shot of a brick clock tower. The tower has two visible clock faces and is illuminated with a warm, golden-orange light, creating a soft glow. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

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