



**Western Balkan Regional Meeting of Animal Welfare Experts
27-28 February, 2014, Terme Tuhelj, Croatia**

Oie Collaborating Centre
for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology,
Food Safety and Animal Welfare



Formalising collaboration with the Western Balkans

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Istituto “G. Caporale” of TERAMO (IZSAM)



- IZSAM is a **public health Institution**, belonging to the Italian Public Health Service
- Main activities: **microbiological and chemical laboratory tests**, research, **epidemiological surveillance**, **training**, management of data processing and monitoring systems
- Around 400 people currently working in the Institute
- **OIE Collaborating Centre** for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and **Animal Welfare**
- **OIE Reference Laboratory** for Bluetongue, Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia, Brucellosis, West Nile Disease





IZSAM and OIE



- OIE has been **stimulating international cooperation and coordination** amongst countries to prevent and control the spread of animal diseases and to enhance the welfare of animals at the global level
- Through the use of the **Twinning projects** the OIE has been enormously facilitating capacity-building and networking in order to bring countries, regions and communities together





IZSAM OIE Collaborating Centre



- In-depth knowledge of human-animal relationship, animal behaviour, cognition, health and welfare
- Long experience in the development of methods of stray dogs and cats population management and welfare assessment tools during the transportation and slaughter of livestock





IZSAM OIE Collaborating Centre



**EU
projects**

- Quality Control Post projects: animal welfare certification system for transport
- CALLISTO: increasing scientific knowledge on the ways of reducing the risk of zoonotic diseases transferred via companion animals
- CAROdog and CAROcat: development of knowledge management tool promoting dogs and cats responsible ownership





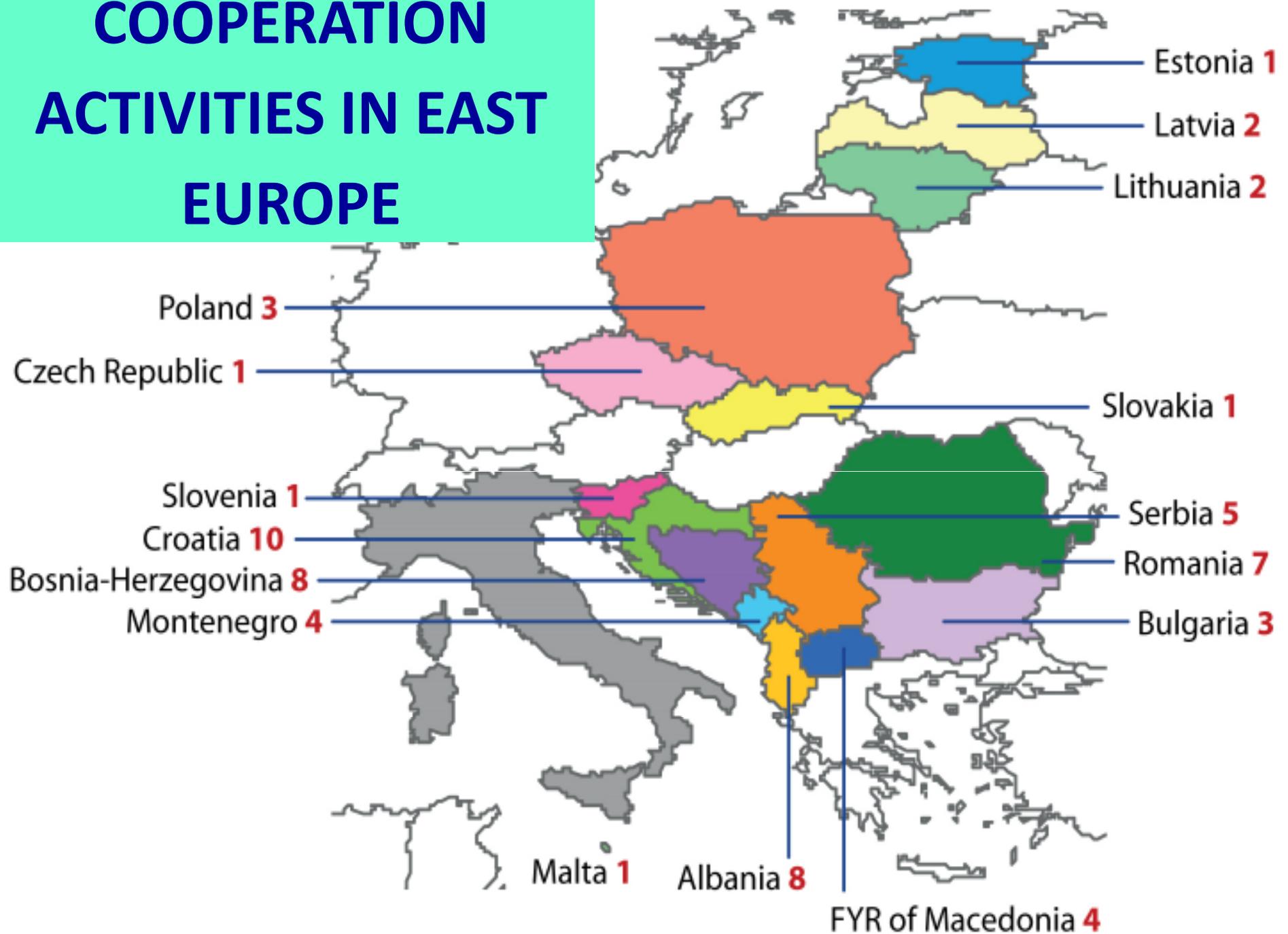
IZSAM OIE Collaborating Centre

- Specific competencies in the development of web-based traceability tools for livestock and companion animals
- Organisation and implementation of training activities on animal welfare (at farm, transport and slaughter) for official veterinarians of EU Member States, Candidate States and Third Countries, under the BTSF
- In 2012 the Institute was awarded of two projects on the development of e-learning courses on animal welfare at slaughter and depopulation

IZSA&M is National Reference Centre for Veterinary Urban Hygiene and Non-Epidemic Emergencies



COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN EAST EUROPE





CROATIA AND ITALY

Long lasting collaboration between CVI and IZSAM

- Twinning "Capacity building in the area of agriculture, live animals and food products"; 2005 - 2007
- Twinning "Further capacity building in the area of live animals and food products"; 2007 - 2009
- Twinning light - "Support to sanitary inspection in the preparation, implementation and maintenance of HACCP system"; 2007





CROATIA AND ITALY

Long lasting collaboration between CVI and IZSAM

- SARA': “Interregional center for risk analysis; 2006 - 2007
- CAPS: Implementation of a Center for aquaculture production safety at CVI Split
- CAPS-II: “Strengthening of Centres for Aquaculture Production and Safety in Adriatic area”; 2012 – 2015, Multicountry





CROATIA AND ITALY: THE FUTURE

Concept Note proposing a
OIE Twinning project on
Animal Welfare





BACKGROUND



- Western Balkans Veterinary Network for Animal Welfare (WBVN) workshop (April 2012, Teramo) on "Animal Welfare in the Western Balkans and Turkey"
- Experts from the whole area: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey





BACKGROUND



Big support for establishing a Regional Animal Welfare Centre for the Balkan region

**Proposed the establishment of an
Animal Welfare Centre within
Croatian Veterinary Institute**

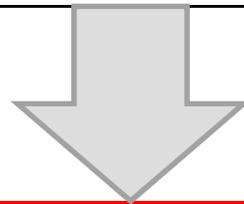




Request from Croatia to establish collaboration
between the Animal Welfare Centre within CVI

IZSAM

(OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training,
Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare)



**Development of a Concept Note proposing a
Twinning project on Animal Welfare**





OBJECTIVE OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

To propose an OIE twinning between IZSA&M (Parent Centre) and CVI (Candidate Centre) on animal welfare *“Capacity building and implementation of OIE animal welfare recommendations (on livestock transport and slaughter, and stray dog population control) in the Balkan area”* also by involving other Balkan countries





CONCEPT NOTE: THE CONTEXT

- OIE acknowledged the risk that stray and feral dogs represent toward human health as well as animal health and welfare
- Recommendations on stray dog population control are included in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Training of all people involved in the control actions and education of the citizens are the basis of an effective control plan



CONCEPT NOTE: THE CONTEXT

- During the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, stray dog population control was listed among the three priority animal welfare topics in the European region
- In 2014 the OIE will launch the “Animal welfare platform”, to facilitate OIE recommendations implementation and collaboration across the European region, with stray dog population control being one of the main focuses of this platform

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED TWINNING

- To allow the Centre of CVI to join the IZSAM in the framework of multi-national OIE Collaborating Centre
- To establish networking on animal welfare between countries within the region
- To increase involvement of scientific community and understanding of regional issues
- To facilitate the implementation of OIE animal welfare recommendations in the Balkan area, for harmonisation throughout the OIE European region
- To establish a long-lasting relationship between the organisations involved in this twinning



MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Improve the capacity of the Candidate Centre for being in compliance with OIE Recommendations on Animal Welfare
- Improve expertise in the Candidate Centre on AW
- Facilitate networking in the Balkan and Eastern Europe between the Candidate Centre and other organisations to provide the necessary expertise in the area
- possibility of enhancing AW on the European Region
- capacity for the Candidate Centre to apply for joining the IZSA&M OIE Collaborating Centre in the framework of multi-national OIE Collaborating Centre



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To provide services to the OIE, in particular within the region, in support of the implementation of OIE policies
- To propose or develop methods and procedures that facilitates harmonization of international standards
- Candidate Centre will promote OIE policies regarding live animal transport, welfare at the time of slaughter and responsible dog ownership in the Western Balkans
- Main goal: to raise the level of awareness towards stray dog problems connected with animal welfare in general and specially on the specific regional problems such as stray dog population management in the Balkans



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres
- To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate data and information
- To identify the sources of major Animal Welfare problems in the region and their impact on the ecology, economy, and awareness of the consumers and citizens
- To carry out and coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with Parental Centre on the field of animal welfare (rabies control, parasitical zoonoses, transport of live animals, welfare in abattoirs, stunning quality, education of workers)



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To provide scientific and technical training to personnel from OIE Member Countries: education on different level of stakeholders
- To organize training activities for young researchers from the wider region to raise awareness of this problem also on the academic level
- To organise and participate in scientific meetings and other activities on behalf of the OIE
- To identify and maintain existing expertise, in particular within its region





EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To take lead role in the region on the field of ensuring animal welfare, development of animal welfare programs, and plans for preventing zoonotic diseases carried by stray animals
- To coordinate activities with other competent public institutions and/or agencies in the region on the matter of embracing OIE recommendations for animal welfare
- To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE





CONCLUSIONS

- The establishment of an Animal Welfare Centre within Croatian Veterinary Institute is supported by Western Balkans' Countries
- Agreement on the opportunity to create an international cooperation with IZSAM OIE CC
- Development of a concept paper for the future implementation of an OIE Twinning





OUR VISION

- 
- To transform bilateral collaboration into multilateral cooperation: flexible networks of organisations, institutions, people
 - To enlarge the Twinning concept, as an innovative tool for peer-to-peer collaboration to achieve common goals





Thank you!

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