



IC PROJECT REPORTING TEMPLATE AS PART OF THE STRATEGY AND PROCESS ON HOW THE IC REVIEWS AND ANALYSES ICD PROJECTS

Project Title: Europe and Central Asia Trade and
 Transport Facilitation Support Program

Reporter (name, position): Shane Sela, Senior
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Project Code (if applicable): NA

Project Profile	
Recipient Region(s)/ Countries	North Macedonia
Donor/ Resource Partner	World Bank Group
Collaboration / Participating Organizations	
Project Budget (detailed funds and/or in-kind)	
Project Timing	2019 - 2022
Summary of Project (Scope, Relevance to the IPPC, Main outputs, Success and challenges)	
<p>The State Agricultural Inspectorate (SAI) is North Macedonia's competent authority for phytosanitary measures. Like many sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agencies, SAI is faced with managing the risks of increasing international trade, while its resources and funding are not equal to demands. North Macedonia is seeking accession to the European Union (EU) and SAI is seeking to align its regulatory processes with those of the EU. Finally, COVID-19 has also brought new pressures to the agency. Reductions in direct contact between staff and its clients requires that SAI rethink how it does business.</p> <p>A small group of dedicated SAI staff with support from the World Bank Group (WBG) developed a more risk-based approach to management of plant commodities moving into North Macedonia. The approach is based upon a prioritized ranking across the suite of commodities regulated by SAI. The group also proposed improvements to SAI's data collection system, so that further enhancements in aligning procedures with risk could be undertaken as improved information gathering is achieved. The key output was a documented manual that is available to all border inspectors which provides consistent service delivery and focuses border and inland procedures on the highest risks. The manual builds upon national legislation, international standards and best practices used by other countries which result in enhancement of North Macedonia's use of World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement. The manual also aligns SAI's procedures with those of the European Union. The manual covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on legislation, administrative processes including reporting, organizational structure, minimum standards for operations, etc. • Phytosanitary import inspection including defining risk prioritization of plant commodity classes – general procedures at import, specific procedures for specific commodity classes, etc. • Procedures related to the inspection of documents, identity of the commodity, and verification of compliance • Sampling for laboratory testing • Phytosanitary export inspection and certification including specific procedures for dealing with corrections and replacements, violations, etc. • Technical guidance on selection of the inspection units • Specific inspection methodology for commodity classes 	

- Other specific technical information

Training of SAI staff in the use of the manual was undertaken in November and December of 2021. The manual comes into full force in March 2022.

Some of the challenges in advancing the project were:

- COVID-19 required that development be done virtually. Finding time to collaborate and collaborating efficiently became difficult over remote means. Progress in developing identifying the risk prioritization of commodities and developing the manual would have progressed much faster with in-person engagements.
- Establishing risk-based prioritization across the suite of commodity classes is complex and required that the agency carefully consider potential risks in the process to find an appropriate approach for each class. The process was reliant on expertise at the organization as opposed to detailed data analysis.

Project Supporting Materials [e.g. *hyperlinks*]

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/trade-facilitation-support-program>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/10/27/facilitating-trade-in-eastern-europe-and-central-asia>

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/getting-balance-right-minimizing-food-safety-risks-and-facilitating-trade-north-macedonia>

List project technical resources (i.e. guides, training materials, tools) that could be useful and used by other stakeholders

<https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/186841605045083824/WBG-Risk-Prioritization-in-Phytosanitary-Management-FINAL-web.pdf>

Provide a list of project experts that could be recommended to other stakeholders and describe why

[Biljana Taleska](#), Head of Phytosanitary Inspection, State Agriculture Inspectorate, Republic of North Macedonia.

[Shane Sela](#), Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, Trade and Regional Integration, World Bank

[Violane Konar-Leacy](#), Operations Officer, Europe and Central Asia, International Finance Cooperation

List targeted beneficiaries [i.e. regions, countries, RPPOs, NPPOs and other institutions]

State Agriculture Inspectorate, operators (importers, exporters, forwarder agents , etc.)