Upgrading and consolidation of the veterinary and food laboratory system in Lithuania

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STRUCTURE OF THE SFVS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

STATE FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE
(Headquarters)

National Veterinary Laboratory

Food and Veterinary Audit Service

State Inspection of Veterinary Preparations

City State Food and Veterinary Services - 5

County State Food and Veterinary Services - 10

Border veterinary posts - 12

District State Food and Veterinary Services - 34
The structure of the National Veterinary laboratory
General information I

NVL is under direct management of State Food and Veterinary service

NVL reports to SFVS about implementation of different state control and monitoring programs

SFVS allocate financial recourses for implementation of state control and monitoring programs

Under direct management of NVL are 3 regional laboratories

NVL coordinates activities of other laboratories of SFVS (training, testing procedures, control of the work)
General information II

NVL is reference laboratory for diagnosis of animal diseases and for testing of food safety (veterinary drugs residues, contaminants) according EU legislation

Laboratory was established in 1949

In the central laboratory are working 146 employees, in branches - 74

Since 2000 Laboratory is accredited according EN 45001 by German accreditation agency

In year 2003 the laboratory was reaccredited according EN ISO/IEC 17025

Laboratory accredited in Russian Federation in GOST-R and Hygiene systems (trade issue)
The network of the laboratories of SFVS in 2007

- National veterinary laboratory
- Branches of NVL
- Laboratories of counties SFVS
DEVELOPMENT OF THE LABORATORIES OF SFVS IN LITHUANIA

1980
- National veterinary laboratory: -1
- Laboratories of epizootic expeditions: -5
- Region veterinary laboratories: -44

2000
- National veterinary laboratory: -1
- County veterinary laboratories: -10

2007
- National veterinary laboratory: -1 with 3 br.
- County food and veterinary laboratories: -6

2011
- Number of the laboratories and accreditation (year) of regional labs:
  - National veterinary laboratory: 1
  - Regional laboratories under NVL: 6 or 7 till 2011
The reasons for restructuring and upgrading of the laboratories

- Changing situation (Accession to EU, trade)
- Reorganization official food control system
- The changing situation in the different sectors of agriculture (reducing/increasing number of livestock, food business operators)
- Necessity to increase efficiency of official control
- Overlapping activities
- Not sufficient workload
- Not effective use of the resources
- Necessity for the upgrade of the laboratories
- Necessity for implementation of quality system, accreditation of the laboratories (Legislative requirement)
Reorganization of official food control authorities in 2000
Plan/strategy of reorganization

Concentration of the tests which need sophisticated testing techniques, highly qualified personnel and financial recourses to NVL:
- testing of veterinary drugs residues
- testing of pesticides residues in products of plant origin
- testing of contaminants
- conducting of functions of the national reference laboratory for food (confirmatory testing, quality control, trainings, implementation of new procedures)
- other (coordination of monitoring, control programs, testing of official samples, routine samples limited)
- confirmatory diagnostic activities in domain of AH
- conducting of functions of the national reference laboratory for diagnosis of animal diseases

Allocation of the tests, which do not need specific condition, to regional laboratories:
- hygienic tests of the food products
- simple testing of food products
- application of screening tests for diseases diagnosis (mass screening)
- specialization of the regional labs according the specificity of the region (beer producing region, mushrooms industry, natural mineral water and etc.)
Priorities

• Central laboratory – National Veterinary Laboratory:
  – Food control laboratories (chemistry, toxicology, food hygiene, radiology) - Started in 1998
  – Veterinary diagnostic laboratories

• Regional laboratories
Upgrade food control laboratories of NVL (1)

Three stages:
• Renovation
• Purchase of the equipment
• Training of the staff

Financial sources:
➢ Renovation of laboratories from the state budget (condition from EU)
➢ Equipment from EU funds (Phare program)
Upgrade food control laboratories of NVL (2)

Training of staff of NVL:
• Introduction of new test methods
• Implementation of quality system (changes the work of personnel)

Result: Accreditation according EN 45001 in 2000
Further upgrade of NVL

State program on development of testing capabilities according EU legal acts 2001–2003

Aim:
• To create possibilities to conduct testing of food products or to be able to diagnose animal contagious diseases not only for governmental institutions but also for the private sector

Additional EU funded projects (7) related to strengthening of specific field of activities

The model of the projects was following:
  – Twinning Component
  – Supply Component
Upgrade of veterinary diagnostic laboratories 2002-2005

• Renovation of the laboratories from the state budget
• Equipment purchased from the EU funds (departments of serology, diagnostic bacteriology, virology, molecular biology, pathological anatomy)
• Expansion of quality system to veterinary diagnostic fields
• Reaccredidation of the food and veterinary diagnostic laboratories according EN ISO/IEC 17025
Reorganization of county (regional) SFVS laboratories

Three county SFVS laboratories were connected to NVL:

• Renovation of the laboratories
• Purchase of the equipment
• Implementation of quality system

• Quick process
• Big change in the efficiency and the quality of the work of regional laboratories
Further development of testing capabilities of the laboratories

• Continuous training of personnel on implementation of new testing procedures (vet. drug residues, contaminants, pesticide residues, application of molecular testing procedures and etc.)

• Realization via bilateral (twining) projects with EU member countries
Results

• Ability to apply high sophisticated techniques in daily work (LC-MS/MS, PCR methods)
• To able to response to quick changing needs of official control authorities (quick implementation of the methods, “Flexible” scope of accreditation, confirmatory diagnosis of animal diseases)
• Sharing experience to other countries
Sources for the upgrade of the laboratories

• EU funds (Phare, Transitional period funds)
• State budget
• Bilateral projects
• Other
Thank you for your attention!

National Veterinary Laboratory

Laboratory of Klaipeda county SFVS