

NEWS

Activity A2
15-
16/05/2025

WORKSHOP

**Organisation of Competent Authorities in compliance with
Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625**

15-16 May 2025, Pristina, Kosovo*¹

Activity
A2

Activity A2 – Basic structure of the organisation of the competent authorities



"Capacity building of veterinary and plant health services in the Western Balkans
Lot 1 - Animal Health" - ADEWB II - SANTE/2022/EA-OP/0001

WORKSHOP

**Organization of Competent Authorities in compliance with
Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR)**

Ane Surkole



Pristina, 15-16 May 2025



**Workshop
objective**

To strengthen the capacity of veterinary competent authorities in **implementing EU Official Controls Regulation (OCR) 2017/625**, focusing on audit systems, conflict management, staffing models, and interagency collaboration for effective disease outbreak response.

Participants

Nominated national experts from Albania, Kosovo¹ Montenegro and North Macedonia

Chair

Toni Kirandjiski, KE1 TL, ADEWB II Project

Speaker

Senior Non-Key Expert, Ane Surkole, ADEWB II Project team

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to the position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the IJC Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

***Introduction
and opening
remarks***

Dr Toni Kirandjiski, Team Leader of the ADEWB II Project welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation that all beneficiary countries acknowledged the importance of the topic and ensured their representation at the training.

Dr T. Kirandjiski then proceeded to outline the key objectives of the training:

1. Audit systems

- Train participants on risk-based audit planning and monitoring under Article 6 of OCR.
- Prepare authorities to design and evaluate internal audit programs for veterinary controls.

2. Development of staff competency

- Establish methods for training needs assessment and addressing competence gaps in veterinary services.
- Develop templates for staff training programs aligned with OCR requirements.

3. Conflict of interest management

- Standardize procedures for identifying, disclosing, and mitigating conflicts of interest within authorities.

4. Planning of the human resources

- Introduce a mathematical model to calculate optimal staff numbers based on workload.
- Conduct a workshop to adapt the model to national contexts.

5. Interagency coordination

- Draft frameworks for communication and collaboration between veterinary authorities and stakeholders.
- Develop roles/responsibilities matrices and MoU templates for cooperation in outbreak response.

6. Performance supervision

- Train participants on monitoring staff performance (criteria, documentation, corrective actions).
- Practical training in designing supervision protocols for field inspections.

***Summary of
the program***

The workshop started with an introduction to the scope and structure of the audit guidelines developed by the SNKE Ane Surkole, providing a detailed explanation of the main goals. The presentation aimed to describe the key steps and principles designed to assist competent authorities in establishing, implementing, maintaining, and improving an audit system and procedures for the audit process. The conditions for internal audits were explained in line with Article 6 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR) — including audit principles, resources, risk-based planning, performing audits, monitoring, reviewing, and improving the audit program, as well as the competence and evaluation of auditors.

Participants were introduced to the methodology for assessing risks in audit areas and the risk register. To apply the risk assessment methodology for selecting and justifying priority audit topics based on current risks and the strategic needs of each country's competent authority, group work was carried out. Participants were

divided by country, and each group acted as a team from their national competent authority. Each group presented a summary of their decisions and rationale, and provided feedback on the practical use of the methodology.

The presentation continued with a discussion of the developed guidelines on competence management and the training system. The SNKE explained the conditions for determining competence needs, assessing current competencies, planning development and training programs, evaluating training program outcomes, and identifying future competence and development needs.

Practical examples and templates for an annual training program, as well as for newly hired staff, were introduced.

In the practical session, participants worked in groups to identify training needs and develop a training program in accordance with the developed guidelines. The results of the practical session were then presented and discussed.

The first day concluded with a presentation on the developed guidelines for verifying staff performance. Key steps and principles were explained for developing a verification system to confirm or validate that staff are fulfilling their duties in compliance with the required standards.

Practical examples and a template for verifying inspectors' practical performance were presented. In the practical session, groups worked on designing a staff performance verification procedure based on the provided template and structure. During their presentations, participants described the current systems in place and potential systems that could be implemented.

On the second day, the guidelines on conflict of interest were presented and discussed, with a particular focus on the context of OCR requirements. The discussion emphasized the disclosure, mitigation, and resolution of conflict of interest situations. Example templates for conflict of interest declarations were also presented.

During the practical session, participants worked in groups and reviewed case examples involving inspectors and private veterinarians facing potential conflicts of interest. Participants analysed whether a conflict of interest existed and determined its nature (e.g., financial, relational). They then proposed appropriate mitigation or resolution measures and decided whether any restrictions should be recommended.

The second day continued with a presentation on the developed model for calculating the number of staff needed. The workload analysis method was briefly explained. Most participants were already familiar with the model and were in the process of implementing it.

The second day concluded with a presentation on the proposal for communication and collaboration with competent authorities and stakeholders. A roles and responsibilities matrix template and an example of a Memorandum of Understanding were presented.

During the workshop, groups used the roles and responsibilities matrix template in the context of developing a plan for the prevention, control, and eradication of African Swine Fever. The results of the exercise were presented and discussed.

Summary of outcomes Throughout the training, participants were highly engaged and actively participated in the practical sessions.

During the wrap-up session, participants expressed their expectation that the project team would assist them in adapting the guidelines and developing SOPs tailored to their specific needs. There was particular interest in the risk-based audit methodology and staff performance verification.

As a result of the ensuing discussions, participants agreed on the following next steps:

1. The ADEWB II Project team will communicate with the competent authorities to agree on specific procedures to be implemented based on the needs of each institution.
2. Online meetings will be organized to prepare for the development of these procedures.
3. The project team will conduct country visits to work on the agreed procedures



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Disclaimer

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