



## ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

**Project title:** EU's support to capacity building and gradual *Union acquis* alignment in the phytosanitary sector in BiH

**Beneficiary administration:** Administration of BiH for Plant Health Protection in cooperation with competent authorities of the entities and Brcko District of BiH

**Twining Reference:** BA 18 IPA AG 03 19

**Publication notice reference:** EuropeAid/166816/DD/ACT/BA

**EU funded project**

***TWINNING INSTRUMENT***

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS**

BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

BDBiH –Brčko District of BiH

EPPO - European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

FBIH – Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPPC – International Plant Protection Convention

IPM - Integrated Pest Management

ISTA - International Seed Testing Association

MOFTER – Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (concerning this project OECD scheme for seeds)

PHPA – Administration BiH for Plant Health Protection

PL – Project leader

RS – Republika Srpska

RTA - Resident Twinning Adviser

UPOV - International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

- 1.1 Programme: Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) to Bosnia and Herzegovina: Commission Decision number: 2018/041-502, Annual Action Programme IPA 2018 (direct management)

*Suspension clause:* please note that the awarding of the contract is a subject to the condition of the prior conclusion of a financing agreement which does not modify the elements of the call for proposals (this will be the case, for instance, if the budget initially foreseen is different or if the timeframe, the nature or the condition of the implementation are altered). If the precedent condition is not met, the contracting authority will either abandon the call for proposals or cancel the award procedure without the applicants being entitled to claim any compensation.

*"For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article 12.2 of the General Conditions to the grant agreement."*

- 1.2 Twinning Sector: AG

- 1.3 EU funded budget: 1 500 000 EUR

## **2. Objectives**

- 2.1 Overall Objective(s): **to modernise agri-food sector and foster rural economy in BiH**

At the level of the overall objective, the annual programme for IPA 2018 expects modernising and restructuring agro-industrial sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including economic empowerment of life in rural areas. For such objective, reaching food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary requirements of the EU and progressing in approximation of the legislation and practices of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU rules and standards is of crucial relevance for the country, representing its obligation to implement that stems from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (Article 95).

- 2.2 Specific objective: **to support the Union acquis alignment and implementation of policy measures in the areas of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary standards**

Specific objective, as adopted by the annual programme for IPA 2018, is to support the Union acquis alignment and implementation of policy measures in the areas of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary standards. Phytosanitary sector (plant health, seed and seedling material, breeding right's and plant protection product) is one of three integrated pillars of agri-food sector responsible among other issues for better competitiveness of agri – food producers, increase of export potential and creating jobs, through effective and quality plant health and protection control. Accordingly, aiming to reach the abovementioned overall objective, phytosanitary sector of BiH expects that this intervention will specifically result in progressive, yet gradual level of approximation to the Union acquis via upgraded legislation and a number of policy measures improved and implemented by harmonised operational procedures and standards with enhanced knowledgeability and skilfulness of staffing, particularly in the areas of plant health, seed and seedling material, breeding right's and plant protection product.

- 2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans.

BiH is a potential candidate country for the EU accession following the Thessaloniki European Council of June 2003. Since then, a number of agreements between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina have entered into force - visa facilitation and readmission agreements (2008), Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-related issues (2008). The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) has been ratified and entered into force on 1 June 2015. The SAA replaced the Interim Agreement on trade and trade related matters, which had been in force since 1 July 2008. Amongst other provisions, the SAA clearly calls for that "Cooperation between the Parties shall focus on priority areas related to the Community *acquis* in the field of agriculture and veterinary and phytosanitary domains".

BiH submitted its application for the EU membership in February 2016 and received the European Commission's (EC's) Questionnaire in December 2016. After BiH submitted its replies to the EC in February 2018, the additional questions were delivered to BiH in June 2018 and replied in February 2019<sup>1</sup>.

European Commission's Strategy for the Western Balkans<sup>2</sup> published in February 2018 points at the Western Balkans region's significant economic potential with higher growth rates than that of the EU and its increasingly interesting market for EU goods and services that is gradually becoming part of European value chains. The level of economic integration with the Union is already very high, due to the Stabilisation and Association Agreements. However, further efforts are needed to increase the competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies, address high unemployment, especially among the young and create business opportunities not least for local players. In spite of all progress on reforms, many structural issues remain, including much to be done to align with the Union *acquis*, establish or build up the related institutions, and ensure implementation capacity as well as apply EU rules and standards across all policy areas.

Analytical Report 2019<sup>3</sup> accompanying the European Commission's Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union specifies that Bosnia and Herzegovina has some level of preparation in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

As for phytosanitary, the Report indicates that the legal framework regulating this policy consists of the ratified International Plant Protection Convention (2003) and International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (2017), and the Laws on plant health protection (2003), phyto-pharmaceutical products (2004), seeds and seedlings of agricultural plants (2005) and protection of new varieties of plants (2010).

The registration of relevant producers, importers, exporters and distributors in a single phyto-registry functions properly, but the issuing of plant passports needs to start. A programme of special surveillance of harmful organisms on potatoes is in place and the registration of new varieties in the country's variety list is functional, but the country has not adopted the OECD seed scheme. The work of official diagnostic laboratories and official controls of imports needs to be aligned with the *acquis*. The number of phytosanitary inspectors should be increased and their administrative capacities strengthened. The principles of integrated pest management have to be implemented in a harmonised manner across the country. Agricultural producers need training on EU requirements and standards for using plant protection products and applying maximum residue limits.

in the medium term, the country should further harmonise its official veterinary and phytosanitary control systems with EU rules, improve its institutional arrangements in order

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<sup>1</sup> More details on relevant Union *acquis* Chapters in the context of this project at: [http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor\\_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?langTag=en-US&template\\_id=120&pageIndex=2](http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?langTag=en-US&template_id=120&pageIndex=2)

<sup>2</sup> A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/euwestern-balkans-strategy-credible-enlargement-perspective\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/euwestern-balkans-strategy-credible-enlargement-perspective_en)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor\\_strategija/Upitnik/misljenje/default.aspx?id=21769&langTag=en-US](http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor_strategija/Upitnik/misljenje/default.aspx?id=21769&langTag=en-US)

to avoid overlapping competences and strengthen its control and coordination chain., Amongst other recommendations, in the coming year, Bosnia and Herzegovina should in particular: introduce inter-laboratory comparative tests, to increase their administrative capacity, in particular inspection services and laboratories; speed up preparations for national reference laboratories, notably by increasing the accreditation of laboratory methods used in hygiene, veterinary and phytosanitary controls, food and feedstuff analysis; adopt the OECD seed schemes, notably for agricultural seeds and forestry material.

The Indicative Strategy Paper for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2020 (ISP)<sup>4</sup> foresees IPA II support to create an efficient, sustainable and innovative agro-food sector which is competitive in the EU market and offers employment, social inclusion and better living standards for farmers and the rural population. In line with the ISP, IPA II shall support modernisation and restructuring of the agriculture and agro-industrial sector in BiH, in particular to with a view to complying with the EU veterinary and phytosanitary requirements and to support the progressive approximation of BiH legislation and practices to the Union *acquis*.

Therefore, IPA II assistance will support BiH in developing an efficient, sustainable and innovative agro-food sector which is competitive on the EU market and offers employment, economic inclusion and quality of life for the rural population. Application of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary standards in the agro-food chain will increase production in competitive sectors of BiH like meat and dairy, fruits and vegetables, crops and cereals, fisheries and improve the quality products base. It will also enhance BiH's approximation to further EU accession stages and financial assistance programmes after 2020.

### **3. Description**

#### **3.1 Background and justification:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) agriculture and rural development sector, including food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary, is one of the key strategic sectors for competitiveness of the country's economy. It has a high potential for generating growth, job creation and export. It is also crucial for local economic development, as most of the country is rural with huge – agrarian land - over 50% of the country's surface. This is also pointed in the Strategic plan of Rural Development of BiH (2018-2021) – Framework document<sup>5</sup>, adopted in February 2018, which sets out strategic priorities in the above mentioned sectors.

Phytosanitary sector in BiH is comprised of competent institutions at the state, two entities and Brčko District of BiH levels. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations includes the Administration BiH for Plant Health Protection (PHP). PHPA is responsible for aspects of plant health, pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, seedlings and protection of new varieties in collaboration with the competent authorities of the two entities and Brčko District BiH. These competent authorities include the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska (RS), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (FBiH), and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Brčko District of BiH (BDBiH), having responsibilities to implement legal provisions related to the subjects mentioned above. Furthermore, each entity and BDBiH has an Administration for inspection affairs, in charge of inspection and controls in the phytosanitary sector. Institutions that are also involved in the official control system are phytosanitary laboratories, namely Institute for Agriculture of FBiH, located in Sarajevo, Agro-Mediterranean Institute, set in Mostar, Agriculture Institute of RS, located in Banja Luka and the Agricultural faculty of University of Banja Luka.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180817-revised-indicative-strategy-paper-2014-2020-for-bosnia-and-herzegovina.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.mvte.gov.ba/data/Home/Dokumenti/Poljoprivreda/Strategic\\_Plan\\_for\\_Rural\\_Development\\_of\\_BiH\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.mvte.gov.ba/data/Home/Dokumenti/Poljoprivreda/Strategic_Plan_for_Rural_Development_of_BiH_Eng.pdf)

These institutions are in the process of gradual *acquis* alignment in phytosanitary sector in BiH. A number of legal acts have already been partly harmonised with the *acquis*, but this process has to be continued, for which direct transfer of knowledge and practical work experience, both in a form of a desk and in the field work, in 'learning by doing' together with twin Member States administrations is of crucial relevance for the phytosanitary sector in BiH. This will allow for improved legislation across the sector in line with the Union *acquis*, its harmonisation and more efficient implementation of policies in this area in BiH.<sup>6</sup>

In the previous period, the phytosanitary sector in BiH has achieved a lot, like: export potato in EU (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1199 of 17 July 2015 recognising Bosnia and Herzegovina as being free from *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* (Spieckerman and Kotthoff) Davis *et al.*), established phyto-register and made it functional etc. Nevertheless, the sector needs to continue with its capacities' enhancement, upgrades and efficiently practising of implementing legislation across the sector as well as with gradually introducing international standards.

Therefore, in order to have clear structure and organisation of all managing and implementing aspects of this Twinning project, it is expected that the intervention of this Twinning project will be focused on, as organised across four following components: Component 1 – Plant Health regime; Component 2 – Seed and seedling material Component; 3 – Strengthening capacities in the area of Plant Breeders' Rights; Component 4 – Plant Protection Products (PPPs).

Under each of these components, the Twinning project is expected to provide support in gradual Union *acquis* alignment and capacity building (knowledge base and skills improvements). Also, the activities under this Twinning project should involve all services of the phytosanitary sector in BiH: PHPA and competent ministries, including relevant department in BDBIH, two entities' and BDBIH's inspectorates as well as phytosanitary laboratories, as indicated under Section 3.1. This Twinning project should provide for a holistic approach i.e. implementing and managing all four components in an integrated manner so that their specific results contribute to reaching the overall result, as specified in Section 3.4 below.

Legal improvements to result in a level of gradual Union *acquis* alignments may comprise reviews of existing regulatory framework of the sector, both primary legislation and its implementing acts, including standard operating procedures, revisions and upgrades, renewals etc.

Capacity building for all four components should provide for interactive modes of knowledge base and skills improvements, based on the assessment of realistic needs of Phytosanitary sector in BiH. It is also expected that expert missions will be evaluating current status of implementation and/or operability etc. in each of components and their targeted fields and verifying progress of project activities on regular basis, including the reporting along the intervention logic requirements (performance measurement, indicators of achievements), proposing mitigating or remedial or other appropriate measures in order to reach the sector result targets.

For such comprehensive methodology of intervention under this Twinning project to be efficient, the project may consider, where appropriate, to use technical groups made of representatives of relevant institutions and services that may work together with the Twinning partner(s) project team and provide for relevant inputs, guidance, support etc. of nature such as consultative, advisory, monitoring etc.

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<sup>6</sup> Full overview of the sector legislation and institutions set up is presented in BiH reply to the Commission Questionnaire:  
[http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor\\_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?pageIndex=1&langTag=en-US](http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?pageIndex=1&langTag=en-US) )

Also, for the purpose of better understanding and obtaining specific experience "on site" with "learning by doing" approach, direct transfer of knowledge and practical demonstrations, where appropriate, like study visits, should be organised in such manner to cover relevant topics identified as priorities during the writing of the first work plan. It should take into consideration a multi-layered structure of the phytosanitary sector in BiH, comprising all competent stakeholders and relevant needs, like translation etc.

In the area of Plant Health, one of the most important components of this Twinning project in the previous period has been done quite a lot, but given that the Union *acquis* is changing and there are its updates and novelties, like the part on the official controls that is going to be enforced in the EU in 2019, there is still a lot to work in this area, both in terms of improving the legislation and its effective implementation as well as in terms of due application of international standards (IPPC and EPPO). For such priorities, the sector structures and capacities need to be reinforced and further development. In addition, for the system effectiveness in this field, the monitoring system (systemic control) over quarantine harmful organisms and surveillance across the country is of crucial importance to be properly developed and applied in practice. It is as it will guarantee early detection of harmful organisms that are not present in BiH, resulting in rapid, prepared and traceable response/actions of relevant system structures and services that can lead to their increased capacities for controls, determination of measures and their eradication.

This area is important for Phytosanitary sector in BiH as there is significant production of planting material and seed in BiH. The country is not yet in the OECD scheme, which is of great importance for the sector potential and growth. Establishing the production of certified planting material will raise the production of planting material to a higher level. There have been technical preparations undertaken in this particular field OECD guidelines (certification scheme for cereals - both autogamous and allogamous according to the OECD rules, guidelines with procedures and requirements for the field control (both pre- and post-) as well as for sampling. However, a lot of work is to be carried out by the sector and what is expected to be accomplished under this Twinning project regarding this field is specified below.

BiH has ratified the UPOV Convention and, as a member of the UPOV organisation, has undertaken relevant obligations to duly implement it. In that respect, it is necessary that this Twinning project assists the Phytosanitary sector in BiH in the implementation of the Convention in the best EU practice way and in providing for legal regulations that are relevant and necessary for the Convention implementation.

The legislation in this field in the country does not comply with Regulation (EU) 1107/2009. Some of the bylaws adopted have been harmonised with this Regulation and with the 2009/128 directive. However, further improvements of regulatory actors in this field are necessary as it is necessary to harmonise the registration system across the sector in the country and thereby enable a sustainable use of plant protection products.

### 3.2 Ongoing reforms:

In 2018, "Strategic Plan of Rural Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 – 2021 – Framework document"<sup>7</sup> was adopted. Strategic Plan will create more synergies between sectors of food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and rural development needed for the overall sustainable economic growth of BiH, and it directly correlates with the overall objective of this project.

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<sup>7</sup>[http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/data/Home/Dokumenti/Poljoprivreda/Strategic\\_Plan\\_for\\_Rural\\_Development\\_of\\_BiH\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/data/Home/Dokumenti/Poljoprivreda/Strategic_Plan_for_Rural_Development_of_BiH_Eng.pdf)

This Strategic Plan is designed "through a *middle-up*, entity-led approach that seeks to fully respect entity, BD BiH and state competencies, whilst promoting practical solutions that will ensure that real and measurable progress can be made in the interests of all main agriculture and rural stakeholders in the sector who need practical support and assistance to be able to develop their businesses and rural communities over the next four years and beyond" (page 3 of the English version). Strategic documents of the entities, already in force, are taken into consideration in preparation of the Strategic plan.



In the past years, with support of IPA 2008 technical assistance project, Twinning light and supplies to referenced laboratories/institutes implemented under IPA 2009, Twinning project IPA 2012 and continuous TAIEX support, Phytosanitary sector in BiH implements its plant health regime, seed and propagating material policy, plant breeders' rights and plant protection products management in line with the *Union acquis* harmonised legislation and international obligations and standards in this area. The approximation of legislation in this area has been pursued in those past years, but its implementation requires further efforts. Moreover, as the *Union acquis* is subject to developments and updates and Phytosanitary sector in BiH needs to follow its approximation path to it in consistent and regular manner. Furthermore, the legislation in this area in BiH is not fully aligned with the *Union acquis* with regard to the plant health regime, Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 as well as with the Union acquis related to the official controls - Regulation (EU) 2017/625. In addition, special challenge for the Phytosanitary sector in BiH in coming years will be the regulation and implementation of plant breeders' rights, as BiH has joined the UPOV Convention in 2017 and it is necessary to further regulate this system of breeders' rights and enable its due application and monitoring across the sector in the country. As regards to plant protection products, the legislation in this field is partly in line with the *Union acquis*, but the harmonisation with Regulation (EU) 1107/2011 still remains.

### 3.3 Linked activities:

#### Past EU Assistance:

- IPA 2008 „Support to Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection“. This technical assistance project helped the authorities in the phytosanitary sector in BiH to make a list of the priorities of the missing by-laws, supported their drafting and implemented trainings to facilitate the start of implementation of legislation.
- IPA 2009 assistance to “Capacity building of the veterinary and phytosanitary services in BiH and control of consumers, animal and plant health in BiH” with a total value of EUR 700 000. It comprised supplies of diagnostics equipment (seed and seedling material) to the three plant health laboratories of value of EUR 450 000 and a Twinning light project of value of EUR 250 000 that provided for trainings of the laboratories' personnel in the field of plant health, seeds and planting materials and PPPs.
- IPA 2012 Twinning project “Further strengthening of capacities of phytosanitary sector in the fields of plant protection products, plant health and seeds and seedlings, including phytosanitary laboratories and phytosanitary inspections”<sup>8</sup> in total value of EUR 1 500 000. BiH provided for 130 000 EUR from their budget outside the project, but covering important aspects for the maximised impact of the project activities that Twinning does not cover, for instance, travel and accommodation refreshment etc. for trainings, workshops etc., for numerous personnel coming from relevant institutions at all relevant sector levels in the country that was involved in those activities. The progress of the project has been quite linear and at high pace, with total of 52 EUMS experts mobilised during the project implementation, involving practically all technical staff of all nine beneficiary institutions and of other interested administrations (e.g. nematology laboratory of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Banja Luka) in the project activities (about 120 persons).

#### Ongoing EU assistance:

- The project with the Czech Development agency “Institutional support of certification and control of plant material” started in November 2013 and it is still ongoing – to be completed in end of 2019. The main purpose of this project is to establish a system of the official control and certification including the procedures in the targeted field of

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<sup>8</sup> More details at the project website: <http://www.eufitobih.eu/project/>



seed and seedling which will be in accordance with EU legislation and will allow producing the certificated material in BiH. This project will also allow the producers from BiH to gain healthy plant material including new varieties.

- The project with the Czech Development Agency “Increasing Food Safety System in Bosnia and Herzegovina” component 1. “Support for functional pesticide and fertilizer control system, integrated pest management (IPM)” will support carrying out an audit of the inspection authorities and laboratories for pesticide analysis, validation of the appropriate laboratory methods; the creation of a functional system for the inspections of plant protection products and fertilizers; the creation of software for the registration of plant protection products and fertilizers; the creation of an integrated production system at entity level, including the training of inspectors for inspections; training agri-operators on IPM procedures. The project started in December 2017 and will last for three years.
- Project "Strengthening phytosanitary sector in BiH in accordance with European standards" – Phase I Donor: Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo. The project started in 2017. (The project lasted 1 year) and completed.. The objective of the project is to provide support to the phytosanitary sector in BiH for harmonisation with the European standards. It is implemented in cooperation with the Agricultural Institute of RS located in Banja Luka, the Agromediterranean Institute of FBIH based in Mostar and the Institute of Agriculture of FBIH located in Sarajevo. The project is in the range of 80.000 € in total.

Planned assistance:

- Project "Strengthening phytosanitary sector in BiH in accordance with European standards" – Phase II Donor: Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo. They will support phytosanitary inspectors and phytosanitary laboratory. Expect to start in 2019.

Other donors:

- The project FARMA (funded by USAID and SIDA) was implemented between 2009 to 2015 and provided phytosanitary sector support in the program for implementation of special surveillance of quarantine pest on potatoes in BIH through technical assistance, as well as the assistance in the implementation of other special surveillance of harmful organisms.
- FARMA II project (funded by USAID and SIDA), started in 2016 and it is a five year agricultural and agribusiness development program that builds on the achievements of the previous activities supported by USAID and the Government of Sweden. FARMA II will build on this foundation to elevate USAID and the Government of Sweden’s impact through a facilitative approach that will increase the competitiveness of commercially-orientated producer organizations (POs) and upgrade the capability of public services to meet and sustain EU compliance - Phytosanitary sector is slightly involved in the activities of this project.

### 3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms:

This sector has a large number of adopted and harmonised regulations with EU legislation. Still, there are needs for further improvements. Therefore, this Twinning project will be focused on the following legislation:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant

health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)

- Commission implementing directive (EU) 2017/1279 amending Annexes I to V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community

- Commission implementing directive (EU) 2019/523 amending Annexes I to V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community

- Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community plant variety rights is harmonise with UPOV Convention

- The implementing directives of EU falling within the scope of Council Directive 2008/90/EC, No: 2014/96/EU of 15 October 2014 on the requirements for the labelling, sealing and packaging of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production,

- Implementing Directive 2014/97/EU of 15 October 2014 regards the registration of suppliers and of varieties and the common list of varieties, and Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU of 15 October 2014 regards specific requirements for the genus and species of fruit plants referred to in Annex I thereto, specific requirements to be met by suppliers and detailed rules concerning official inspections

- Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC

- Commission implementing regulation (EU) 540/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of approved active substances

- Directive 2009/128/ establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Full sector institutional and legal overview in the country can be found in the country's replies to the Commission's Questionnaire<sup>9</sup>

### 3.5 Components and results per component

Phytosanitary sector in BiH expects that this Twinning project will provide for an efficient assistance in order to **result at the overall sector level in healthy and protected plants and quality seeds that are improved by an advanced level of policies implemented and the Union acquis aligned legislation**<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Result 1 - Component 1 Plant Health Regime strengthened**

Sub-result 1.1 Plant Health Regime legislative framework aligned with the Union acquis

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<sup>9</sup>[http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor\\_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?pageIndex=1&langTag=en-US](http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/direkcija/sektor_strategija/Upitnik/odgovoriupitnik/Archive.aspx?pageIndex=1&langTag=en-US)

<sup>10</sup> The intervention logic and the performance measurement applicable to this Twinning intervention is defined in IPA 2018 Action Document available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/instruments/funding-by-country/bosnia-herzegovina\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/instruments/funding-by-country/bosnia-herzegovina_en)

- Legislation in regard to Plant Health Regime in force is reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation is drafted according to requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, intended for in force and application.
- Legislation drafted and adopted in accordance to Commission Implementing Directive (EU)2017/1279 and Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/523.

#### Sub-result 1.2 Phytosanitary control system further strengthened

- Monitoring and surveillance control program of harmful organisms across the country according to EU standards is set-up and in function.
- Relevant staffing is educated and skilled for implementation of the risk assessment.
- TRACES system and database (Trade, Control and Expert System) are designed, developed, and fully operational with proper contents, functions and accessibility rules.
- Competent authorities in BiH and traders are educated to use TRACES system.
- Phytosanitary control system is upgraded through introduction of ISO 17020 standards. Manual, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), check-list etc. designed and intended for in force and in use.
- Official controls in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/625 are introduced and enforced.

#### Sub-result 1.3 Competences and professional skills in area of phytosanitary control and inspection are upgraded:

- Inspectors educated and with improved skills for monitoring, detection and identification of quarantine and non-quarantine harmful organisms in the fields of, but not limited to: control procedure, sampling, risk-analysis, detection and identification of the pests etc.;
- Competences and capacities of BiH laboratories upgraded, with the personnel educated for, but not limited to:
  - o Sampling and testing of quarantine organisms of ornamental plants in imports and soil-based harmful organisms; diagnostics in accordance to EPPO protocols;
  - o Diagnostic methods for detection and identification of quarantine and non-quarantine organisms (real-time PCR, LAMP, etc.), the taxonomy of nematodes; Usage of Next-Generation sequencing (NGS) and other modern techniques in the diagnostics of quarantine and non-quarantine harmful organisms.
  - o Staff acquainted with ISO 17025 standards requirements (where needed) etc.

*Indicators for component 1:* Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area of Plant health; at least 40% of staff educated (administrative staff, inspectors, laboratory staff); at least 3 laboratory methods introduced per laboratory.

### **Result 2 -Component 2 - Seeds and Planting Material legislative framework and capacities control further enhanced**

Sub-result 2.1 In-force legislation on seed and seedlings reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation to improve the regulatory framework in this field is designed.

Sub-result 2.2 capacities of control bodies for introduction and implementation of certification schemes in area of seed and propagation material are set up, developed and improved, including OECD and ISTA schemes, testing and identification (molecular) of cultivars, as well as requirements for accreditation as per ISO 17065 standard.

*Indicator for component 2:*

Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area of seed and seedling material; at least 3 methods and procedures for testing seed and seedling material introduced per laboratory; at least 40 % staff educated to manage OECD and ISTA schemes (administrative staff, inspectors, and laboratory staff).

### **Result 3 - Component 3 Capacities in area of Plant Breeders' Rights strengthened**

Sub-results 3.1 Administrative and operational capacities in area of Plant Breeders' Rights are strengthened via knowledge base transfer and skills improvements

- The relevant personnel are trained and capable to properly carry out tasked functions and duties under this system operability.

Sub-result 3.2 Primary legislation in place (law) harmonized with Law according the Union acquis and UPOV Convention in area of plant breeders' rights.

- 5 registers of the plant breeders' rights according Law on Protection of New Variety of Plants in Bosnia and Herzegovina and UPOV Convention set up and in function.

*Indicator for component 3:* at least 40 % staff educated to manage of breeding right; status of 5 registers' setup and functionality.

### **Result 4 - Component 4 Plant Protection Products legislation aligned with EU standards**

Sub-result 4.1 In-force legislation in regard to plant protection products reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation drafted according to requirements of the Regulation (EU) 1107/2009

- Sub-result 4.2 Administrative and operational capacities in the area of Plant Protection Product (PPP) are strengthened via provided interactive modes of practice, knowledge transfer and skills improvements. Capacities for the risk assessment enhanced,
- Procedures and capacities for handling PPP quality control, PPP trade and use of modern laboratory techniques and methods for pesticide monitoring are improved
- Advisory/extension services for establishing main conditions for pesticide sustainable use and integrated pest management are upgraded.

*Indicators for component 4:* Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area Plant Protection Products; at least 30% users/operators PPPs educated of sustainable use and integrated pest management; at least 4 methods and procedures for testing residues of PPPs introduced per laboratory

3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)\*:

Proposals submitted by Member State shall be concise and focused on the strategy and methodology and an indicative timetable underpinning this, the administrative model suggested, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entities. Proposals shall be detailed enough to respond adequately to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully elaborated project. They shall contain enough detail about the strategy and methodology and indicate the sequencing and mention key activities during the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory results/outputs.

The interested Member State(s) shall include in their proposal the CVs of the designated Project Leader (PL) and the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA), as well as the CVs of the designated Component Leaders-(CLs).

The Twinning project will be implemented by close co-operation between the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in sustainable manner.

The set of proposed activities and indicators will be further developed with the Twinning partners when drafting the initial work plan and successive rolling work plan every three months, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning partner. The components are closely inter-linked and need to be sequenced accordingly.

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning Contract between the EU Delegation and EU Member State(s).

The implementation of the project requires an MS Twinning Project Leader (MS PL), Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA), Component Leaders (CLs) and short-term experts (STEs).

The PL and RTA must meet the minimum criteria as specified in the Twinning Fiche.

### 3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:

In line with the Twinning Manual (Section 4.1.3), the Member State Project Leader (PL) is expected to be an official or assimilated agent with a sufficient rank to ensure an operational dialogue at political level. This should guarantee the capacity to lead the implementation of the project and the ability to mobilise the necessary expertise in support of its efficient implementation.

Involvement of the Member State PL(s) is expected during the preparation of the Member State proposal and attendance of the PL to the selection meeting is obligatory as well as the participation in quarterly meetings of the Project Steering Committee. Participation in some communication and visibility activities is expected (Twinning Manual Section 5.7).

The Member State PL is supported by the RTA, who works on-site with the Beneficiary administration.

The MS Project Leader should fulfil the following criteria:

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience in at least one international or EU funded project with similar nature will be considered as asset;
- Fluent written and spoken English (spoken, written),
- Computer literate.

#### Tasks:

- Conceive, supervise and coordinate the overall preparation of the project;
- Coordinate and monitor the overall implementation of the project;
- Ensure coordination of the work of the RTA;
- Liaise with the Project Leader from the Beneficiary Institution;
- Co-chair, with the Beneficiary Country Project Leader (with the EU Delegation involved) the regular project implementation Steering Committee meetings;
- Execute administrative issues (i.e. signing reports, side letters, etc.);
- Ensure a close political steering.

### 3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:

In line with the Twinning Manual (Section 4.1.6), The RTA is the backbone of a Twinning project throughout its entire duration and the RTA is in charge of the day-to-day implementation.

The RTA is expected to provide advice and technical assistance to the representatives of the Beneficiary administration. The RTA keeps the Beneficiary PL informed about the implementation and reports regularly to the Member State PL. During the project implementation, the RTA regularly updates the work plan to be transmitted to the Project Steering Committee under the authority of the Member State PL. The RTA will have a critical role in coordination of inputs in project. The RTA will be supported by short-term experts.

The RTA will be located in the premises of the Administration of BiH for Plant Health Protection based in Sarajevo.

The RTA will be seconded for 36 consecutive months within the country and is expected to work on a permanent day-to-day basis in the beneficiary country for the duration of the project. Where duly justified, as necessary and relevant for the project effectiveness or supporting particular issues of high (expertise based, strategic etc.) importance, there may be some short term missions of RTA within the country (in line with provisions of the Twinning Manual).

RTA should fulfil the following criteria:

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the phytosanitary sector. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience of work on EU phytosanitary related legislation.
- Experience in a management capacity on at least one international or EU project related to phytosanitary sector will be considered as asset;
- Proficiency in report writing,
- Organisational and planning skills,
- Fluency in written and spoken English language;
- Computer literate.

Tasks:

- Carry out day-to-day implementation of the Twinning Project in the Beneficiary Country;
- Provide technical advice and support to the Twinning Project beneficiaries;
- Guarantee smooth implementation of different activities delivered;
- Assess continuously the twinning project in all stages and provide link to compare it with the specified benchmarks/results and time-frame;
- Prepare quarterly reports and monthly reports;
- Make recommendations for maximising project outputs.



### 3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:

#### Component leader 1

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience of work on EU plant health related legislation.
- Proficiency in report writing,
- Organisational and planning skills,
- Fluency in written and spoken English language;

#### Component leader 2

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience of work on EU seed and seedling related legislation.
- Proficiency in report writing,
- Organisational and planning skills,
- Fluency in written and spoken English language;

#### Component leader 3

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience of work on EU Plant Breeders' Rights related legislation.
- Proficiency in report writing,
- Organisational and planning skills,
- Fluency in written and spoken English language;

#### Component leader 4

- University degree in agricultural sciences or in other field relevant to the scope of this Twinning project or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. The University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Experience of work on EU plant protection product related legislation.
- Proficiency in report writing,
- Organisational and planning skills,
- Fluency in written and spoken English language;

### 3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

Short-term experts are officials or assimilated agents of a Member State public administration, or mandated body. They deliver their expertise under the overall responsibility of the Member State PL and the coordination and supervision of the RTA.

Short-term experts deliver the bulk of support to the Beneficiary administration through specific activities in the Beneficiary country, including workshops, seminars, training sessions, meetings with officials of the Beneficiary administration, joint drafting sessions, etc. Before and after their missions to the Beneficiary country they are expected to dedicate the necessary time to preparation and reporting work (Twinning Manual, Section 4.1.7).

The experts should cover the following indicative range of issues: phytosanitary issues - plant health, seed and seedling material, plant protection products and mineral fertilizers, also having the experience in working with phytosanitary inspections.

Minimum qualifications:

- University degree relevant to the scope of the assignment or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years. University degree will be considered as asset.
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in the field relevant to the scope of the assignment. 5 years will be considered as asset.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills;
- Fluency in written and spoken English and computer literacy.

Tasks, amongst others:

- Prepare and implement specific tasks based mainly on practical cases and experience in accordance with the project activities;
- Provide practical expertise/advice to relevant staff for execution of different tasks related to the project.

## **4. Budget**

### **Maximum Budget available for the Grant**

The total budget for this project is EUR 1 500 000.

Relevant provisions of eligible costs and those necessary for the project implementation to be included into Twinning budget are in Section 6.2 of the Twinning Manual.

Translation and interpretation services: in line with Annex A1 of the Twinning Manual, The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the IPA instrument (English). All formal communication regarding the project, including interim and final reports shall be produced in the language of the contract.

Nevertheless, to facilitate a wide range of beneficiaries and smooth communication, translations of reports and relevant outputs (material) are to be translated. In that respect and operationally project-wide, it is expected that there will be considerable volume of translation and interpretation necessary for the implementation of activities. Therefore, these services should be foreseen under the relevant budget heading and sub-heading (see Twinning Manual Section 6.2.8).

A full-time language assistant is to be envisaged to recruit (in addition to the full-time RTA Assistant). The provisions for the recruitment of the RTA assistant (Section 6.2.13) also apply for the recruitment of the Language assistant.

Visibility costs: it is envisaged that the project should provide for a widely spread range of activities on visibility and communication of EU support throughout the project implementation. Therefore, the twinning budget must include these costs in line with relevant provisions specified in the Twinning Manual. The initial work plan (in line with the template C19 of the Twinning Manual) should also include a detailed communication and visibility plan (see section 5.7 of the Twinning Manual) to be agreed with the EU Delegation and the

Beneficiary. The maximum cost for such plan corresponds to 3% of the overall Twinning budget.

As per Section 6.2.12 of the Twinning Manual, the expenditure verification report (see also Section 5.5.4 of the Twinning Manual) shall be submitted together with the Twinning project final report. It can be provided by a national institution for independent external auditing, for instance the Court of Auditors, or by an audit firm contracted to perform this task. The cost invoiced by the auditing institution to the Member State is eligible for reimbursement by the budget of the Twinning project.

## **5. Implementation Arrangements**

### **5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting:**

Delegation of European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Contact person: Maja Dosenovic, Programme Manager

Address: Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: [delegation-bosnia-and-herzegovina-twinning@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-bosnia-and-herzegovina-twinning@eeas.europa.eu)

[delegation-bosnia-and-herzegovina-procurement@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-bosnia-and-herzegovina-procurement@eeas.europa.eu)

### **5.2 Institutional framework**

Based on the Law on plant health protection and the International Convention on plant health protection ratified by BiH in June 2003, upon proposal of MOFTER, the Council of Ministers of BiH made the Decision on establishment of Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection (PHPA) in 2004.

The PHPA has been established as a separate administrative organisation within MoFTER to determine policy in the area of plant health protection, develop draft regulations and ensure the protection of plant health on the entire BiH territory. It is also responsible for the controls over plant protection products, their residues, and registered suppliers/users. Technical assistance has been sought to support the establishment of national integrated phytosanitary services. The PHPA is the authority responsible for plant health protection across the sector in BiH and information exchange/cooperation with international organisations dealing with phytosanitary matters such as: IPPC/FAO, EPPO, WTO/SPS, UPOV, OECD, ISTA etc. The PHPA performs administrative and related technical tasks in line with the Law on Plant Health Protection.

Besides the PHPA, there are competent authorities that are also the project beneficiaries as follows:

- Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of RS
- Ministry of agriculture, water management and forestry of FBiH
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of BDBiH

These Ministries have the primary responsibility for the development and promotion of plant and animal production, fisheries and hunting, agricultural land and forestry, the food industry and animal feed production, water protection, veterinary and phytosanitary matters.

In the phytosanitary field, together with the PHPA, the Inspectorates of the two entities and BDBiH actively participate in drafting laws for the implementation of the phytosanitary field at the state level but also preparing and implementing regulations at the entity and BDBiH levels that they were prescribed.

*Administrations for inspection affairs (the "inspectorates")*: in 2006, the task of carrying out inspection activities in the public and private sectors was transferred to independent administrative organisations (the inspectorates of the two entities and BDBiH). One of the

reasons for establishing the inspection services was to avoid multiple inspections and make better use of technically qualified official inspectors.

- Administration for Inspection Affairs of RS
- Administration for Inspection Affairs of FBIH
- Inspectorate of BDBIH.

*Phytosanitary laboratories:*

- Agriculture Institute of RS, Banja Luka
- Agricultural faculty of University of Banja Luka
- FBIH Institute for Agriculture, Sarajevo
- FBIH Agro-Mediterranean Institute, Mostar

### 5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration:

#### 5.3.1 Contact person:

Akulović Snežana  
Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection  
Maršala Tita 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### 5.3.2 PL counterpart

In Line with Twinning Manual Section 4.2.3, the Beneficiary PL is appointed by the Beneficiary administration and expected to operate at the appropriate political level to administer the project, and entrusted with the power and responsibility to guarantee ideal conditions for the implementation of the activities and full ownership of the results achieved. The Beneficiary PL acts as the main interlocutor of the Member State PL. The Beneficiary and Member State PLs work in close cooperation and ensure the overall steering and coordination of the project. The Beneficiary PL must devote part of his/her working time to supervise the project.

Akulović Snežana  
Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection  
Maršala Tita 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### 5.3.3 RTA counterpart

As per Section 4.2.4 of Twinning Manual, to facilitate communication and exchange of information between the implementing partners, for each Twinning project the Beneficiary should designate a member of its staff as the counterpart of RTA. The RTA counterpart should be fluent in the language used under the Twinning project and support the RTA whenever necessary for all contacts with the Beneficiary administration. He/she should therefore be familiar with the structure and competences of the Beneficiary administration and be able to act as a facilitator in view of the organisation and implementation of activities. The RTA counterpart shall also support the Beneficiary PL for the daily coordination of activities.

Ajla Dautbašić  
Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection  
Maršala Tita 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

### **5.3.4. Component Leaders counterparts:**

Component 1

Nenad Čolaković

Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection

Maršala Tita 9a

71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Component 2

Sladjana Kreštalica

Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection

Maršala Tita 9a

71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Component 3

Mirjana Brzica

Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection

Maršala Tita 9a

71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Component 4

Smiljana Knežević

Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection

Maršala Tita 9a

71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

## **6. Duration of the project**

Duration of the execution period is: 36 months (implementation period) + 3 months.

Provisional schedule of implementation:

Launching of the call for proposals (Date): Q3 2019

Start of project implementation (Date): Q1 2020

Project completion (Date): e.g. Q1 2023

Duration of the execution period (number of months): 36 months (implementation period) + 3 months.

## **7. Management and reporting**

### **7.1 Language**

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the IPA instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract<sup>11</sup>.

### **7.2 Project Steering Committee**

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project, whose members are: the Contracting Authority (EU Delegation), the Member State PL, the junior Member State PL(s) (in case of consortium), the Beneficiary PL as well as the RTA and the

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<sup>11</sup> For reference to translations, please see under Section 4.

RTA counterpart and nominated representatives of relevant sector institutions i.e. all beneficiary institutions in point 5.2. The nominations will be formally asked from these institutions by the Contracting Authority (EU Delegation) at the start of the project.

The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements via-à-vis the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. The Project Steering Committee convened by the RTA meets at quarterly intervals and is jointly chaired by the Member State PL and the Beneficiary PL. The draft update of the work plan is prepared by the RTA, who circulates it to all members of the Project Steering Committee at least two weeks in advance of a meeting. In case of exceptional needs, extraordinary meetings of the Project Steering Committee can be convoked. Given the important duties of the Project Steering Committee, members must make sure to attend meetings for the whole duration of the meetings. Venues of those meetings may be rotated between main administrative centres in the country i.e. Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Brčko District of BiH, Mostar.

Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

*Important note: IPA 2018 annual country programme foresees Twinning projects for Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary sectors in BiH, one per sector. Therefore, there will be three Twinning projects in total. It is expected that those three projects will closely cooperate and ensure relevant information share for better effectiveness within the policy area. In that respect, it is expected that those three Twinning projects will host joint PSC meetings of all three projects during the year, so as to provide for a good cooperation and share of experience and best practice together with their partners from the EUMS. The frequency of meetings and other details are to be defined when the project starts/at the time of writing the first work plan.*

### **7.3 Reporting**

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements via-à-vis the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

## **8. Sustainability**

Development of new legislation/amendment of existing legislation shall be carried out respecting all national procedures, especially those related to (fiscal/ regulatory) impact assessments, public consultations, inter-ministerial coordination. As a rule, projects should start by providing support to the beneficiaries with 'options analysis', regulatory impact assessments, concept papers, etc. prior to supporting them with drafting of legislation/amendments.

The sustainability will be ensured through capacity building of relevant stakeholders in information, advisory support and monitoring systems for better policymaking and gradual approximation to the EU policies. It will enhance the ownership and support of the governments in BiH to the sector policies. The Action performance measurement will be ensured which will enable proper trends and impact dynamics analyses, with relevant follow up mechanisms.



## **9. Crosscutting issues** (*equal opportunity, environment, climate etc.*)

The Twinning fiche also foresees development of gender indicators and coherent usage, monitoring and analyses of sex-disaggregated and gender data. The Twinning fiche will analyse gender specific obstacles that women face in agri-food sector to mainstream and measure interventions in view of effective diversification and value chain upscaling. Particular attention will be paid to producers, specifically at small farm level given the small farm and fragmented plot structure that dominates in BiH, with a focus on informal workers in agriculture where women are in majority. Capacities of involved institutions will be developed also to reflect the essential role of women in farming and in rural economy of BiH.

Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy measures and controls will contribute to practices complied with relevant quality standards, general and specific sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, animal and plant health and protection regulations etc.

## **10. Conditionality and sequencing**

Risks:

- Sector complexity and wide number of stakeholders at various levels of administration
- Insufficient communication between administration and agri-food operators
- Insufficient absorption capacities of stakeholders, both institutional and final beneficiaries
- Low level of efficiency of implementation, monitoring and evaluation system
- Consent and support of all relevant competent authorities and stakeholders

Mitigation measures to be undertaken will include:

- Measures will include facilitation of cooperation between all relevant stakeholders. It will be ensured that all agreed measures are deemed relevant by all stakeholders involved
- Regular communication and information exchange between all stakeholders will be ensured
- Dynamics of action implementation will take into account capacities of final beneficiaries. Action will support further development of beneficiaries' capacities
- Where lacking, basic conditions for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy measures are expected to be established prior to implementation of the action.

The sector complexity implies many stakeholders across the sector in the country. They should be all efficiently gathered under a coherent project implementation framework. The lead and coordinating beneficiary administration will support that, ensuring close cooperation between all competent stakeholders and that all agreed actions are deemed relevant by all involved stakeholders. Regular communication and information share will be ensured via project bodies, like Steering Committee and gatherings like technical groups, of relevant representatives of the sector administrations in BiH, where deemed appropriate, to serve as advisory, consultative etc. in their joint work with the EUMS implementing partner.

Gathering all competent stakeholders in such sector approach will also contribute to improved communication between the sector administrations and operators (non-state actors, like veterinary organisations, hunting associations, animal holdings at the farm level etc.).

The project dynamics will take into account the capacities of counterparts and beneficiaries, supporting the Public Administration Principles in work with staff of the sector administrations (merit based policy etc.). It will ensure avoidance of undermining transparency, accountability and legal certainty in decision making, as for the benefit of the sector effectiveness within the policy area as a whole.

Close cooperation with other projects and support instruments (like TAIEX) in the sector will be ensured.

## **11. Indicators for performance measurement**

Please see section 3.5 and Annex I.

## **12. Facilities available**

In line with Sections 4.26 and 6.2.10 of the Twinning Manual, the Beneficiary is solely and entirely responsible for providing all necessary office equipment to ensure effective working conditions for the project. Beneficiary shall also make available the necessary infrastructure for Member States to carry out their tasks. In particular, office space adequately equipped shall be available to the RTA and RTA assistant(s) as from the day of arrival. The Beneficiary is expected to make available, free of charge, meeting rooms and space for training for the implementation of project activities and conference facilities.

In respect of the aforementioned, the beneficiary institution will provide:

- Office space for MS experts,
- Telephone,
- Fax,
- Necessary staff input,
- Internet connection.

*n.b. According to the Twinning Manual, Article 6.2.6: “No cost related to the participation of Beneficiary staff in activities (or their follow-up) organised in the Beneficiary country can be covered by the Twinning project. It is an obligation of the Beneficiary administration to ensure that its officials can profitably attend those activities.” In that respect, the Beneficiary administration has to make certain funds available from their budget to cover the costs that are not covered by the Twinning, such as accommodation and travel, for staff of beneficiary institutions involved in the project, which can be important for implementation of some activities taking place out of the staff's bases.*

## **ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)
2. Sector assessment reports of any kind including publically available reports<sup>12</sup>
3. Project/sector relevant publically available Conclusions/agreements between EU and the Beneficiary resulting from the political dialogue<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> More information at <http://uzzb.gov.ba/sr/jezici/>

<sup>13</sup> More information at: [www.europa.ba](http://www.europa.ba) [www.dei.gov.ba](http://www.dei.gov.ba)

## Logical framework matrix

	Description	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data)	Sources of verification	Risks	Description
<b>Overall Objective</b>	To protect plant health and improve quality of seeds**  <i>**As linked and contributing to what is indicated in the IPA 2018 Action document</i>	Agricultural products export rate*  <i>* As specified in the IPA 2018 Action Document</i>	EC Country reports; DG AGRI statistics; DG SANTE Country profiles; WB, ERP, OIE, FAO, SWG RRD reports; Competent Authorities' reports in BiH; Statistics reports in BiH	Sector complexity and a wide number of stakeholders at various levels of the administration	Governments in BiH are committed to reforms in sectors
<b>Specific (Project) Objective(s)</b>	To support acquis alignment and implementation of policy measures**	Status of acquis alignment in the phytosanitary sector  Plant health status*	EC Country reports; DG AGRI statistics; DG SANTE Country profiles; WB, ERP, OIE, FAO, SWG RRD reports; Competent Authorities' reports in BiH; Statistics reports in BiH	Insufficient sector coordination and cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders	Governments in BiH are committed to reforms in sectors
<b>Mandatory results/outputs by components</b>	Overall: healthy and protected plants and quality seeds are improved by an advanced level of policies implemented and acquis aligned legislation  Result 1 - Component 1 Plant Health Regime strengthened  Result 2 - Component 2 - Seeds and Planting Material legislative framework and capacities control further enhanced ;  Result 3 - Component 3 Capacities in area of Plant Breeders' Rights strengthened  Result 4 - Component 4 Plant Protection Products legislation aligned with EU standards	Level of acquis alignment in the phytosanitary sector* (number of legislative acts aligned with the acquis supported by IPA 2018 assistance)  Plant health status*	EU sector reports Competent Authorities' reports in BiH; Statistics reports in BiH. Project reports	Insufficient absorption capacities of the stakeholders, both institutional and final beneficiaries  Low level of efficiency of implementation, monitoring and evaluation system	Adequate number of staff is assigned in accordance with policy objectives  Agri-food operators cooperate and transpose EU aligned standards and practices into their farming and businesses
	1.1 Plant Health Regime legislative framework aligned with the Union acquis -Legislation in regard to Plant Health Regime in	-Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area of Plant health  At least 40% staff educated (administrative	EU sector reports Competent Authorities' reports in BiH; Statistics reports in BiH. Project reports		

<p><b>Sub-results per component (optional and indicative)</b></p>	<p>force is reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation is drafted according to requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, intended for in force and application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Legislation drafted and adopted in accordance to Commission Implementing Dir. (EU)2017/1279 and Commission Implementing Dir. (EU) 2019/523</li> </ul> <p>1.2 Phytosanitary control system further strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring and surveillance control program of harmful organisms across the country according to EU standards is set-up and in function.</li> <li>- Relevant staffing is educated and skilled for implementation of the risk assessment.</li> <li>- TRACES system and database (Trade, Control and Expert System) are designed, developed, and fully operational and fully operational with proper contents, functions and accessibility rules.</li> <li>- Competent authorities in BiH and traders educated to use TRACES system</li> <li>- Phytosanitary control system is upgraded through introduction of ISO 17020 standards. Manual, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), check-list etc. designed and intended for in force and in use.</li> <li>- Official controls in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/625 are introduced and enforced;</li> </ul> <p>1.3 Competences and professional</p>	<p>staff, inspectors, laboratory staff)</p> <p>At least 3 laboratory methods introduced per laboratory</p>			
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	<p>skills in area of phytosanitary control and inspection are upgraded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspectors educated and with improved skills for monitoring, detection and identification of quarantine and non-quarantine harmful organisms in the field of but not limited to: control procedure, sampling, risk-analysis, detection and identification of the pests, etc.;</li> <li>- Competences and capacities of BiH laboratories upgraded, with the personnel educated for, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sampling and testing of quarantine organisms of ornamental plants in imports and soil-based harmful organisms, diagnostic sin accordance to EPPO protocols;</li> <li>- Diagnostic methods for detection and identification of quarantine and non-quarantine organisms (real-time PCR, LAMP, etc.), the taxonomy of nematodes; Usage of Next-Generation sequencing (NGS) and other modern techniques in the diagnostics of quarantine and non-quarantine harmful organisms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Staff acquainted with ISO 17025 standards requirements (where needed) etc.</li> </ul> <p>2.1 In-force legislation on seed and seedlings reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation to improve the regulatory framework in this designed.</p> <p>2.2 Capacities of control bodies for</p>	<p>Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area of seed and seedling material</p> <p>At least 3 methods and procedures for testing seed and seedling material introduced per laboratory</p>			
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	<p>introduction and implementation of certification schemes in area of seed and propagation material are set up, developed and improved , including OECD and ISTA schemes, testing and identification (molecular) of cultivars, as well as requirements for accreditation as per ISO 17065 standard.</p> <p>3.1 Administrative and operational capacities in area of Plant Breeders' Rights are strengthened via knowledge base transfer and skills improvements - The relevant personnel are trained and capable to properly carry out tasked functions and duties under this system operability.</p> <p>3.2 Primary legislation in place (law) harmonized with Law according the Union acquis and UPOV Convention in area of plant breeders' rights. - 5 registers of the plant breeders' rights according Law on Protection of New Variety of Plants in Bosnia and Herzegovina and UPOV Convention set up and in function.</p> <p>4.1 In-force legislation in regard to plant protection products reviewed, gaps identified and relevant legislation drafted according to requirements of the Regulation (EU) 1107/2009</p> <p>4.2 Administrative and operational capacities in the area of Plant Protection product are strengthened via provided interactive modes of practice, knowledge base and skills improve</p>	<p>At least 40 % staff educated to manage of breeding right; status of 5 registers' setup and functionality.</p> <p>Status of the Union acquis alignment in the area Plant Protection Products</p> <p>At least 30% users/operators PPPs educated of sustainable use and integrated pest management</p> <p>At least 4 methods and procedures for testing residues of PPPs introduced per laboratory</p>			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacities for the risk assessment enhanced,</li> <li>- Procedures and capacities for handling PPP quality control, PPP trade and use of, modern laboratory techniques and methods for pesticide monitoring are improved</li> <li>-Advisory/extension services for establishing main conditions for pesticide sustainable use and integrated pest management are upgraded..</li> </ul>				
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