



PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS STANDARDS IN THE CEFTA AGRO- BUSINESS SECTOR

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Transposition and implementation of EU and international SPS standards in CEFTA region, on the basis of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework (MMF)

Groups of products

Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavored, and other non-alcoholic beverages, not including fruit or vegetable juices

Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers wares, whether or not containing cocoa; communion wafers

Fruit and vegetable juices

Processed meat



Methodology

- 2 questionnaires were developed:
 - for companies (22 questions reflecting the topics important for domestic and import/export trade of selected products)
 - for regulatory agencies to assess capacities and practices in control of selected products (12 questions)
 - 22 companies from B&H, Montenegro, Serbia, FYROM responded



Regulatory framework – 4 products

Country	Mineral waters	Bread	Juices	Meat products
Albania	3 partially	3 partially	2 partially	5 partially
B&H	4 harmonized and 2 partially	All 5 Rulebooks not harmonized	2 fully and 2 not harmonized	14 harmonized
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 harmonized 1 not harmonized	1 non harmonized	All harmonized	2 harmonized 1 not harmonized
Moldova	1 non harmonized	2 harmonized 1 not harmonized	All harmonized	3 harmonized and 3 partially harmonized
Montenegro				
Serbia	1 harmonized and 3 partially	3 harmonized, 3 partially, 1 non harmonized	2 partially harmonized	Partially (all veterinary regulations are harmonized)
Kosovo*				



Regulatory basis

- From 2012-2014 numerous regulatory documents (framework laws and by-laws) were drafted/amended in CEFTA region.
- They are harmonized with EU regulatory documents up to a certain point – percentage of harmonization of regulations dealing with the same topics differs among CEFTA Parties

Country	2012	2014
Albania	Some missing	Microbiological criteria updated
B&H	Some missing	Hygiene of food from animal origin updated
FYROM	All in place , some need to be updated	Food safety law updated
Moldova	Some missing	Veterinary sanitary norms - updated Plant quarantine - new
Montenegro	All in place , some need to be updated	Law on organic production - new
Serbia	All in place , some need to be updated	Labeling Packaging Dietetic products End 2014
Kosovo*	Some missing	



Companies – on risk management

Exporting Party	Products accompanied with lab certificates	Importing CEFTA Party requires re-testing			
		Water	Bread	Juices	Meat
Albania		-			
B&H	Yes	Serbia		Serbia	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Yes	Serbia	Serbia	Serbia	B&H
Moldova		-			
Montenegro	Yes	Serbia			B&H
Serbia	Yes	B&H	Macedonia		B&H
Kosovo*	No info	-	Serbia		



Risk assessment and management

- Frequency of sampling and re-testing is not always aligned with risk of products.
- Methodology of work of border inspection is not transparent.
- This causes additional costs to companies or importers and delay in time of shipment.

Results of border testing may show whether they are justified.



Companies – participation in revision of legislation, bilateral negotiations

Companies have not used enough existing channels to voice their problems , they either have no capacities to participate or were not informed on time or have not recognized the importance of participation, or.....

Securing participation of the private sector may help identification of bottlenecks in risk management and elimination of some NTBs.



Companies– *Information and notification on SPS standards and import requirements (frequency of use)*

- **Buyers**
- **Directly form websites of international organizations**
- **National agencies in CEFTA export Parties**
- **Chambers of commerce**
- **CEFTA Committee on Agriculture**
- **Agencies in CEFTA import Parties**

This indicator had the lowest score in the previous assessment.



Conclusions

- **Priorities are:**

- Harmonization of regulation starting with priority sectors
- Introduction and full **implementation** of risk based inspection
- Securing transparency of inspectors' methodology in border control
- Securing implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements

Expected results:

- **better control of food safety**
- cease of duplication of control performed by different inspections in import/export
- decrease of laboratory re-testing
- lower costs, shortening import time.