PVS Pathway

PVS Evaluation mission report

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Human, Physical and Financial Resources | Technical Authority and Capability | Interaction with Interested Parties | Access to Markets




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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

OIE PVS EVALUATION REPORT OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES OF REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

2-13 November 2015

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List of acronyms, abbreviations and/or special terms

AAHC	Aquatic Animal Health Code
AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
ASF	African swine fever
AH	Animal Health
AW	Animal Welfare
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BSCA	Belarusian State Veterinary Centre
BSVC	Belarus State Veterinary Centre
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food (EC multi-country training programme)
CA	Competent Authority for Veterinary Matters
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission International Food Standards
CIS	The Commonwealth of Independent States
CSF	Classical swine fever
CVL	Central Veterinary Laboratory
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DVA	District Veterinary Administration
DVS	Director of Veterinary Services – Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EAEU (EEU)	Eurasian Economic Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FVO	EU Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis (ex-Food and Veterinary Office)
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
GDP	Good Distribution Practice
GF-TAD	General Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza
IT	Information Technologies
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRL	Maximal Residue Limit
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIE PVS	OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Evaluation Tool

RMP	Residue Monitoring Programme
RVA	Regional Veterinary Administration
TAHC	Terrestrial Animal Health Code
TBC	Bovine Tuberculosis
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement (adopted by the WTO in 2014)
VD	Veterinary Department (Veterinary Competent Authority in Belarus)
VMPs	Veterinary Medical Products
VS	Veterinary Service(s)
VPH	Veterinary Public Health
VSB	Veterinary Statutory Body (see OIE Code definition)
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database
WCO	World Customs Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WCO	World Custom Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (‘Soviet Union’)

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PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 Introduction

Following a request to the OIE from the Government of Belarus, an evaluation of the Veterinary Services based on the *OIE PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services)* Tool and related methodology was conducted from 2 to 13 November 2015 by a team of three independent OIE certified PVS assessors.

The evaluation began with an official meeting with the two Deputy Director Generals, Dr Ivan Smilhin and Dr Aleksandr Kutsko and senior staff in the headquarters of the Veterinary Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Republic of Belarus. A meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer and OIE Delegate of Belarus, Dr Vassily Pivovar was also held later during the mission.

The OIE PVS Team visited representative sites and institutions in the cities and rural areas of Belarus and discussed relevant matters with government officials, public and private sector veterinarians, livestock producers, traders, consumers and other stakeholders.

The mission concluded in Minsk with a closing meeting involving the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr Leonid Zayats and the CVO, Dr Vassily Pivovar at which the overall findings of the evaluation were discussed. A separate detailed closing meeting with the senior staff of the Veterinary Services was held later that day.

I.2 Key findings of the evaluation

I.2.A Human, physical and financial resources

Overall, the human, physical and financial resources of the Veterinary Department (VD) and relevant Veterinary Services are adequate and regular. The veterinarians are all well trained and dedicated. However, it was noted that some positions in the Veterinary Department (VD) are vacant and further strengthening of human resource in central veterinary office is strongly advised.

Belarus has 7,588 registered veterinarians of these 3,347 are currently employed in public veterinary services, and only 502 in private veterinary organisations. The rate of under-employment for veterinarians in the private sector is a concern but is difficult to entirely characterize. Many are employed by large farms (2,756) and food producing establishments (591).

There are two veterinary education establishments (VEE) in Belarus, actively working to harmonise their curricula. The veterinary curriculum at the Vitebsk includes almost all of the specific competencies of the “OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians to assure National Veterinary Services of quality”. This VEE has numerous agreements with universities in other countries, and is working toward evaluation by the European Association of Establishment of Veterinary Educations (EAEVE). A second veterinary faculty, with the same education curriculum, is situated in Grodno State Agrarian University. In total, around 400 veterinarians graduate per year (300 in Vitebsk, and 100 in Grodno faculty) which seems to be appropriate for current needs in the country.

Veterinary para-professionals are not registered or regulated in Belarus and are not employed in the VD and the Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVA), although there are 8 schools throughout the country with a harmonised curriculum for training veterinary para-professionals. There are 3,506 veterinary para-professionals in

Belarus, and annually approximately 500 new graduates enter the labour market. No association represent these veterinary para-professionals in the country.

A continuing education system for private veterinarians and the public veterinary sector is well established, with proper coordination between competent authorities, the VEE and veterinary organisations. Much of this training is focussed on the implementation of new regulations intended to harmonise with requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the European Union (EU).

Technical independence is challenged by the limited resources available to harmonise national systems and requirements with the EAEU legal framework and with import requirements of other partners (e.g. EU legislation). This requires that additional resources be assigned to independent science-based hazard identification, risk assessment and risk management. The CVO position is generally a more political appointment rather than a fully independent technical one, and it has recently had several incumbents. This frequent change could compromise stability of the structure and the sustainability of veterinary strategies. Some animal disease control programmes, although well established and supported by the state budget, are not aligned with OIE standards.

Although the internal chain of command is strong for official functions implemented through the regions and districts, and the organisation and management appears be appropriate, the overall efficiency and effectiveness of supervision should be carefully reviewed. Overlap between some departments and field services should be avoided and coordination ensured by better planning and standardisation of activities. The external coordination of activities should be improved and better coordinated. Procedures regarding communication or coordination within the VS and with external parties, including industry, farmers, and consumers, veterinary associations, other groups and private veterinarians, should be better designed and implemented. Agreements with other relevant authorities, responsible for animal health, food safety and security, consumer protection and trade facilitation, should be signed and implemented.

Physical resources at central and regional offices, veterinary stations in cities, and the national and regional laboratories and faculties visited, are good and they generally appear sufficiently staffed and appropriately maintained. There is suitable and consistent funding of operational tasks, epidemiological activities and regular animal disease control measures.

Some budgeted funds are available for emergency response activities, but the system is not properly designed, and some critical elements should be re-established (e.g. compensation schemes). It is based on limited funds from a base budget with possibilities to apply for exceptional funds from budgetary reserves in the case of an outbreak of an emerging disease (e.g. ASF in 2012). Although the budget of the VS is based on a direct government allocation, and the overall budgeting process is stable and constant, further investments in the VS and advanced animal and veterinary public health programmes (e.g. rabies control, Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR)) should be promoted. Human and physical resources are adequate to deal with low scale emergencies in an effective and timely manner. The consultation process with interested parties should be enhanced.

Despite the availability of resources for maintenance of the current infrastructure of the VD, investment in an appropriate diagnostic laboratory meeting biosafety level 3 to serve as a national reference centre for animal disease would significantly improve the overall veterinary system.

Although Belarus started to develop a reliable animal identification and traceability system in 2015, further investment in veterinary databases and integrated information systems would reduce amount of paperwork and redundant data, and improve the

management and overall governance of veterinary services in the country. The lack of centralised data and proper assessment of inspections performed in the field also limits the capacity of the VD to manage and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of field activities. There is also need to develop the capacity for effective auditing and quality management system.

I.2.B Technical authority and capability

The extensive laboratory system of state facilities provides a wide range of resources for the diagnosis of diseases of importance with supporting expertise for epidemiologic investigation and emergency management. Apart from the State laboratory in Minsk, the Belarus State Veterinary Centre (BSVC), which serves as a national reference laboratory for infectious diseases of livestock, there is an extensive network of diagnostic laboratories at regional (six) and district levels (10). The capacity, access to and quality of laboratory diagnostics are very good. These laboratories are accredited according to ISO:17025 standards by the national body responsible for accreditation. Quality Assurance in the veterinary state laboratories is of a very high standard nationally. This is not the case for district laboratories where major weaknesses identified with respect to the diagnosis of key diseases cast doubts on the accuracy, reliability and overall competencies for proper interpretation of test results. The role, capacities and further development of District laboratories should be reconsidered.

Development of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), and its integration with animal health, food safety and certification databases, could reduce paper records while increasing efficiency, transparency and management of laboratory activities, and also supporting certification of animal health status of farms and commodities.

There is no dedicated structure for risk assessment in the VS, nor appropriate resources for risk analysis as the foundation for most technical decisions. The Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) are part of an effective system with proper management of border security, and good coordination with customs officials. Import and export functions are well documented and regulated by a system of permits supported by a central database; all requirements are posted on the VD website.

Epidemiological surveillance, both passive and active, is supported by the annual animal health programmes for the most important animal diseases. Animal disease prevention and control programmes are clearly outlined and executed on large farms by the state veterinary services, without involvement of the private veterinary sector. However, surveillance of backyard holdings is not adequate and the sanitary status of this animal population remains unclear. A great deal of diagnostic information is gathered through the diagnostic and surveillance systems. However, the data is not used to full advantage, with little to no regular analysis and very few reports created and shared. The level of professional competency within the VS is solid, but the cooperation with the private sector, passive surveillance, transparency and disease notifications, should be improved.

Generally, national emergency response systems are established and supported. The VD plays an important, but not a lead role relative to the major security and economic agencies. Further support is needed for contingency planning, training, increased resources and preparedness and crisis management. Farmers are not compensated properly when animals are culled for disease control purposes.

There is well-developed system of inspection and regulation for foods of animal origin. HACCP principles and the ISO 22000 standard is widely implemented in large establishments on voluntary basis. The regulations, authorisation and inspections are

generally done in conformity with international standards and all needed resources are available at the central and regional levels. Controls are predominantly the responsibility of the VD, with some activities implemented by public health and standardisation authorities. However ante- and post-mortem inspections are performed by staff employed by the establishments under inspection. Export certification is subject to additional oversight to achieve the necessary level of compliance for trade. Currently, no statistics or reports are generated and reviewed to ensure the most effective use of resources or to identify areas that would benefit from additional control or review of procedures. Also, there is no system of regular review and improvement of legislation, vis-à-vis adoption of international standards by the OIE, WHO or the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

There is a solid system in place for food safety and inspection of processed animal products and raw products other than meat (e.g. milk, honey etc.), especially in high-capacity establishments which implement high standards for collection of raw materials, cooling, storage, and processing.

Official controls are performed by the local inspectors from District Veterinary Administrations (DVA), based on some procedures and checklists. However, there is little evidence of additional oversight carried out by regional (RVA) or central inspection officials; the result is that there is little independent oversight of the individual inspectors and their procedures. In addition, there are no periodic or overall reports or statistical evaluations of inspection outcomes at the central level that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of inspections. This observation is relevant for the handling of animal by-products. There are four rendering plants in Belarus, but they do not render fallen stock from backyard holdings, thereby allowing the possibility of unregulated dumping of animal by-products.

The VD in collaboration with other divisions, assigns well defined resources and procedures to the regulation of veterinary medicines and biological agents. The Veterinary Directorate has resources for proper inspections and controls of pharmaceutical establishments, veterinary pharmacies and distributors, although no database of inspection results is available. Pharmacovigilance and reports on antimicrobial use and resistance patterns are not in place. Prudent use of antibiotics is significantly compromised by uncontrolled sale of these products to farmers and others, without veterinary prescriptions.

A residue testing programme based on sound scientific principles is in place for all animal products for export and some for domestic consumption. Very good collaboration of all involved parties was noted, with quality assurance of results, and proper management of actions taken in the case of a non-compliant result.

Animal feed safety is clearly within the mandate of Veterinary Services, while further development of legislation in line with the OIE standards should take place. Large export orientated feed mills fully implement HACCP principles although is not required by the law. Animal feed and feed manufacturing establishments are subject to regular veterinary inspection.

Animal identification and traceability is not properly established in Belarus. This is the main overall weakness of the veterinary service, with significant impacts on many critical competencies. A new identification system was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Agriculture for cattle on large farms. This was adopted as a new law, aligned with the OIE standards and requirements of some importing countries or unions (EU, EAEU). For implementation of legal provisions, the Ministry has established a new entity and allocated significant resources for proper governance in collaboration with VD and other stakeholders. However, animal traceability based on individual animal identification and electronic certification is currently only functioning for the subpopulation of cattle on large farms. Its development for other populations

and species is postponed for subsequent years. Traceability of products of animal origin is in place but lacks comprehensive documentation and audit procedures. There is no animal welfare system in place.

I.2.C Interaction with interested parties

Although there is an OIE National Focal Point, the VD has no dedicated communication unit with human and other resources, and must rely on resources at the Ministerial level. Nevertheless, each VD's Department develops some communication tools and participates in education and outreach. Communication with the livestock holders on large farms is facilitated by the required annual visits that occur with the implementation of animal disease control programmes. However, this is not fully implemented on backyard holdings, which makes it difficult to effectively communicate animal health strategies or animal health status. The VD maintains official web pages, and conducts, when needed, solid crisis communication between Ministries and the public.

The consultation activities with national authorities are regularly practiced and the VD regularly collaborates with other ministries through both formal and informal mechanisms. However, there is a lack of regular formal consultations with stakeholders at all levels, mostly due to the lack of a VSB, veterinary associations (private or state-owned) and farmers' organisations, especially those representing small holders.

The Republic of Belarus is officially represented internationally at OIE and in several regional organisations. However, a lack of human and financial resources has presented challenges to wider participation. The country is in the process of acceding to the WTO.

There is no system in place for accreditation, authorisation and delegation of activities to the private sector in Belarus. A Veterinary Statutory Body has not been established.

Currently there are no joint programmes supported by the VS with producers or other interested parties other than national animal disease monitoring and control programmes.

I.2.D Access to markets

In general, there is a comprehensive body of legislation in place that regulates the activities of the VD in relation to animal health and food safety controls. The Law on Veterinary Activity and the Law on Quality and Safety of Food, and subsidiary regulations on control of infectious diseases, in general, and on zoonotic, food borne and exotic ones, in particular, allow the VD to act upon and enforce the provisions contained therein. Specific regulations are in place with regard to controls on FMD, brucellosis, tuberculosis and other diseases. However, some gaps were identified in these bylaws in regards to international standards set out in the Terrestrial or Aquatic codes (e.g. animal identification, national standards for bovine tuberculosis, limited control measures for FMD). However, the level of implementation is adequate.

The VD has the ability to certify animals and products of animal origin for many regional and international markets, most notably the EAEU market. However, there is no capacity to ensure full harmonisation with relevant standards, nor resources to participate in the OIE regional standard setting process.

The VD uses its website to post all legislation for public access, but changes in sanitary status are not posted on the website in a timely and transparent manner. Interaction with small holders who constitute the majority of livestock owners is

difficult because they are not well organised and do not have groups representing their interests on a national level.

The VD does not carry out comprehensive audits of all functions of VS to verify full compliance.

Belarus does not comply with international animal disease reporting requirements.

Zoning and compartmentalisation are not being used as strategies for control of animal diseases. Both approaches could be applicable in Belarus, considering administrative capacities and business opportunities for relevant national industries.

Table 1: Summary of OIE PVS evaluation results

PVS summary results of Republic of Belarus	Result
I. HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES	
I.1.A. Staffing: Veterinarians and other professionals	3
I.1.B. Staffing: Veterinary paraprofessionals and other	3
I.2.A. Professional competencies of veterinarians	4
I.2.B. Competencies of veterinary paraprofessionals	3
I-3. Continuing education	4
I-4. Technical independence	2
I-5. Stability of structures and sustainability of policies	3
I-6.A. Internal coordination (chain of command)	3
I-6.B. External coordination	2
I-7. Physical resources	3
I-8. Operational funding	4
I-9. Emergency funding	3
I-10. Capital investment	3
I-11. Management of resources and operations	3
II. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY	
II-1.A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis	3
II-1.B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructures	4
II-2. Laboratory quality assurance	2
II-3. Risk analysis	2
II-4. Quarantine and border security	4
II-5.A. Passive epidemiological surveillance	2
II-5.B. Active epidemiological surveillance	2
II-6. Emergency response	3
II-7. Disease prevention, control and eradication	3
II-8.A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments	3
II-8.B. Ante and post mortem inspection	2
II-8.C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution	3
II-9. Veterinary medicines and biological	2
II-10. Residue testing	3
II-11. Animal feed safety	3
II-12.A. Animal identification and movement control	3
II-12.B. Identification and traceability of animal products	3
II-13. Animal welfare	1
III. INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES	
III-1. Communications	3
III-2. Consultation with interested parties	3
III-3. Official representation	2
III-4. Accreditation/authorisation/delegation	1
III-5.A. Veterinary Statutory Body Authority	1
III-5.B. Veterinary Statutory Body Capacity	n/a
III-6. Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes	2
IV. ACCESS TO MARKETS	
IV-1. Preparation of legislation and regulations	3
IV-2. Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof	4
IV-3. International harmonisation	3
IV-4. International certification	4
IV-5. Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	4
IV-6. Transparency	2
IV-7. Zoning	3
IV-8. Compartmentalisation	3

I.3 Key recommendations

I.3.A Human, physical and financial resources

Generally, there is a need to develop a strategic plan to improve human veterinary resources in the VD and other elements of the veterinary services, in order to ensure effective and efficient use of the overall resources. Part of the process should include consultations amongst the relevant elements of the VS, Ministries and all interested parties to ensure the approach will address all relevant national needs and provide a clear plan of activities to be implemented.

The overall strategy for the future of the veterinary profession should ensure continuous development of appropriate skills and expertise of veterinarians, including official inspectors. The VD should also identify the activities that could be handled by appropriately trained veterinary para-professionals without negative impact on animal and public health but allowing veterinarians to focus on specific activities that require their professional training. The potential role of veterinary para-professionals in Belarus should also be reconsidered. It remains important to support continuing education in both the private and public sectors to maintain the competence of the veterinary profession in the national context and for regional and international cooperation and trade facilitation.

The organisational structure and functions of the VD should be reviewed to assign clear responsibilities to each level to ensure the best use of human resources and coordination between the CVO, VD's departments, regional and district administration, special veterinary divisions and other elements of the VS. The review should also seek to develop and implement a risk-based approach in all relevant fields, and analytical procedures to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of all Veterinary Services and to ensure full implementation of critical principles such as transparency, independence, impartiality, integrity, and quality. An in-depth review of the work-load of field veterinary inspectors should be conducted to ensure that activities are conducted in a consistent manner and in the most effective way.

More formal risk assessment practices with supporting documentation should be developed to ensure that risk assessments are current, transparent and available for decision making. A supporting database or other mechanism should be developed to ensure that risk assessments are available and well-coordinated within the VS. Risk assessment procedures should be developed for VPH programmes and be integral to the implementation strategy for the new food safety regulations.

The possibility of delegating some activities to private veterinary organisations, namely those responsible for backyard holdings, should be considered. It is of utmost importance to ensure adequate external coordination with other authorities, including the public health division, institutions, industries, academic organisations and the NGO sector.

Development of standard operating procedures, comprehensive databases and capacity to audit the work of inspectors and official veterinarians in the field are necessary to ensure full compliance with legal requirements. In parallel, the VD should develop management procedures to ensure effective audit, ideally managed by a dedicated organisational unit responsible for developing and integrating the audit function into the activities of the VD at all levels. The transition to a programme based budget process offers the opportunity to analyse programmes for cost efficiency and effectiveness of operations at all levels. The VD should, in coordination with interested parties, influence relevant authorities to allocate budgetary resources to improve physical resources at national, regional and local levels for regular activities, capital investment and maintenance as well as for emergency funding.

Adequate funding will be required for some new activities such is the establishment of an appropriate animal welfare system and a veterinary statutory body as well as the delegation of some official activities (e.g. animal health, surveillance, animal identification and movement control) to private veterinary services.

I.3.B Technical authority and capability

Although there is a suitable, well-resourced and capable laboratory system with comprehensive quality assurance procedures in place, both in central and regional veterinary laboratories, there is a need to improve sample management, establish a comprehensive laboratory information system and introduce capacities for testing of all relevant diseases (e.g. BSE). The VD in collaboration with other partners should review all district level laboratories in terms of their current capacities and roles, compliance with international standards and efficiency, and should assess the need for capacity building and/or consolidation of activities.

Allocation of resources needed to complete the BSL-3 laboratory should be included in the strategic plan for veterinary laboratory diagnostics.

There are significant resources, appropriate governance and well-developed procedures in place at the borders. In the context of Belarus's bordering countries with heterogenic bilateral agreements (EAEU, EU, Ukraine), it would be beneficial to conduct a comprehensive review of strategies to ensure that the measures in place are appropriate and consistently applied. It would also be prudent to organise a quality assurance system harmonised across all BIPs. National commitment to the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) accepted by 180 countries in 2014 (including Belarus), and active participation of the VD in the national TFA Committee as suggested by the OIE and WCO, will be well accepted by other national and regional services, and industries.

Passive surveillance and early warning systems should be established with the highest priority in all veterinary domains. Appropriate control programmes should be fully implemented in all susceptible species including subpopulations such as backyard holdings. Also full compliance with OIE standards for notification of animal diseases, including zoonosis, should be ensured without delay. Reports integrating diagnostic results and field findings should be created and shared more broadly. The results should be used to consider the status of specific diseases and used to adapt current disease control and eradication programmes by working toward disease free status for specific populations. Current bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis programmes could progress to herd-free status or country-free status under provisions of existing national legislation, thereby allowing the VD to reallocate resources to other diseases programmes.

Emergency response is well coordinated and resourced, however, contingency plans and operating manuals are not finalised. The VD should develop such plans for the most relevant diseases, including ASF, CSF and FMD. Additionally, the systematic review of emergency responses, especially in regard to capacity for coordination and communication in needed, both internal to VS and externally. A review of the case of ASF in 2013 could identify appropriate steps and procedures to be put in place for current situation and for future emerging events. A broad risk assessment and strategic plan should be developed in consultation with relevant experts and interested parties.

In the areas of food safety and veterinary public health, upgrading of legislation and its full implementation would provide an opportunity to close the gap in the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection in abattoirs. This should include a review of the supervision of inspection and rigorous analysis of the data currently collected.

Coordination with the public health authorities on strategic and operating levels, including in establishments, should be further encouraged to ensure the most comprehensive but practicable outcome is achieved. Joint work on control of zoonosis, including food borne diseases, and antimicrobial resistance should be promoted and fully supported.

A comprehensive risk-based strategy for improved collection, processing and destruction of animal by-products should be developed in cooperation with other ministries, local authorities and industry.

The VD should develop an effective system of pharmacovigilance, and a system to record and analyse the results of inspection of veterinary pharmacies and wholesalers as a basis for assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of oversight. Investments should be made to assess antimicrobial use and to develop an antimicrobial resistance programme in conjunction with an awareness programme. A priority should be establishment of an appropriate system of responsible use of antibiotics, based on mandatory veterinary prescriptions.

Periodic evaluation of the residue testing programme should be established, ideally on the basis of an assessment of the quality assurance programme. Additional changes in the programme should be made, in terms of coverage of all livestock animals and products, and testing of chemical substances, including those not currently included.

Although animal feed is clearly under the VS mandate, the inspection procedures and communication mechanisms should be reviewed and improved, to align with OIE and CAC codes of practices. The legislative framework should be updated to establish a legal basis for mandatory implementation of HACCP principles in all establishments. Regular testing of feed produced in all facilities, should be comprehensive, and cover relevant pathogens (e.g. Salmonella spp.)

An animal identification and traceability system should be designed for all livestock as well as equids and companion animals (in the latter case adequate to support rabies control and the management of large dog populations). Development of a supportive database that enables data exchanges with other information systems would improve overall veterinary services, animal health and veterinary public heath, with benefits to livestock and industry development. The full implementation of the animal traceability system, strongly supported by a robust database, must include farms, animal holding facilities, slaughterhouses, livestock markets and pastures that are critical points for recording movement and updating of the database. The VD should also develop appropriate documentation and audit capacity to ensure the traceability of products of animal origin, with desktop exercises carried out periodically to support the traceability of products.

Development of a comprehensive strategy and a legal basis for an animal welfare programme should be a priority. Twinning partnerships and other available mechanisms could be used to develop the necessary expertise to implement the new standards. Regular training and awareness activities managed by the VD should be carried out to facilitate the proper implementation of this new legal framework for animal welfare.

I.3.C Interaction with interested parties

Communication by the VD should be reinforced by: (i) establishing a communication unit within the VD, under coordination of the National Focal Point, to inform interested parties on relevant activities in a transparent, effective and timely manner; (ii) staffing this unit with personal fully conversant with communication science and techniques; (iii) including communication in the veterinary curriculum, as recommended by the

OIE; and (iv) preparing a robust communication strategy for the overall VS in line with OIE recommendations.

Develop a formal consultation process with all interested parties - including other competent authorities and ministries - at the national, regional and district levels, to ensure good communication and cooperation. Seeking feedback and formal involvement in joint programmes may need to be explored as a second step. Communication and coordination with small animal holders should be strengthened in areas of animal health and veterinary public health,.

It is important that representatives of the Belarus VS actively participate in OIE events (and other international and regional organisations) to better understand evolving animal health and food safety standards, sanitary requirements as well as the international framework governing safe trade in animals and animal products and to enhance their capacity for compliance.

The importance of the private veterinary sector should be recognized, and consideration given to the possibility of delegating some official activities to these organisations under appropriate funding arrangements, for example to serve the backyard and family farm animal sector where implementation of animal disease control measures is weak.

The legal framework should be reviewed to include provisions for the establishment of a Veterinary Statutory Body to of license and register veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, establish minimum standards of education (initial and continuing), and set standards of professional conduct for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

I.3.D Access to markets

Strong veterinary legislation consistent with OIE recommendations is the cornerstone of good governance of VS. The VD is involved in the process of harmonising legislation, mainly to meet requirements of the EAEU. It is thus necessary to allocate considerable resources to this work which should include training, out-reach and communication tools targeting farmers, small holders and all impacted parties. To manage this process, an appropriate structure should be established in the VD and staffed with qualified personnel. Formal procedures for regular evaluation and updating of veterinary legislation should be developed. Requesting support from the OIE on veterinary legislation could help identify gaps in the current veterinary legal framework that should be modernized in line with OIE standards.

The VD should actively participate in regional and international events to actively review and comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations and maintain a formal record of participation and comments presented at the international level. All of the focal points should participate in the relevant OIE events and activities to keep themselves, colleagues and interested parties informed of the international veterinary context. The veterinary curriculum should be reviewed to include, among other matters, content on the animal welfare, in line with standards and recommendations of the OIE.

As part of its obligations as an OIE member Belarus should regularly notify OIE of its animal disease situation according to OIE standards and procedures. This will require strengthening of the national surveillance and reporting system and reinforcement of legal provisions.

The capacity to audit the functions of international certification should be included in the broader effort to fully establish audit and data management functions within the VS. The legal framework should also be updated to bring veterinary certification in

line with principles and requirements prescribed by the OIE and Codex Alimentarius. The supervision of veterinary certification within the country should be strengthened to prevent any possible fraud associated with the circulation of forged or false veterinary certificates.

The VD should support the development of a forum to interact with producers and livestock owners, especially the small animal backyard holders. This may entail developing representative regional associations. Such entities could be very helpful with implementation of the harmonised veterinary legislation. This will be further supported by the development of good communication tools to ensure that all interested parties are reached and enhance compliance.

Zoning and compartmentalisation consistent with OIE standards should be explored to define possible animal sub-populations or geographical areas with a distinct health status. All requirements for export of live animals should be consistent with OIE requirements, including proper identification and traceability, formulation and implementation of robust annual surveillance and control programmes for the OIE listed diseases, and the use of vaccines of appropriate quality if vaccination is to be implemented.

PART II: CONDUCT OF THE EVALUATION

At the request of the Government of Republic of Belarus, the Director General of the OIE appointed an independent OIE PVS Evaluation team consisting of Dr Budimir Plavšić (Team Leader), Dr Kazimiears Lukauskas (Technical expert) and Dr Stanislav Ralchev (Technical expert) to undertake an evaluation of the veterinary services of Belarus. The evaluation was carried out on 2-13 November 2015.

The evaluation was carried out with close reference to the OIE standards contained in Chapters 3.1., 3.2., 3.3. and 3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the Terrestrial Code), using the OIE *PVS Tool* (6th edition, 2013) to guide the procedures. Relevant Terrestrial Code references are quoted for each critical competency in appendix 1.

This report identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the Veterinary Services of Belarus as compared to the OIE standards. The report also makes some general recommendations for actions to improve performance.

II.1 OIE PVS Tool: method, objectives and scope of the evaluation

To assist countries to establish their current level of performance, form a shared vision, establish priorities and carry out strategic initiatives, the OIE has developed an evaluation tool called the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool[1]) which comprises four fundamental components:

- Human, physical and financial resources
- Technical authority and capability
- Interaction with interested parties
- Access to markets.

These four fundamental components encompass 47 critical competencies, for each of which five qualitative levels of advancement are described. For each critical competency, a list of suggested indicators was used by the OIE PVS Team to help determine the level of advancement.

A glossary of terms is provided in Appendix 2.

The report follows the structure of the OIE PVS Tool and the reader is encouraged to consult that document to obtain a good understanding of the context in which the evaluation was conducted.

The objective and scope of the OIE PVS Evaluation includes all aspects relevant to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the quality of Veterinary Services.

II.2 Country information (geography, administration, agriculture and livestock)

Geography

Belarus is a landlocked, relatively flat country bordering five countries: Russia to the northeast, Latvia and Lithuania to the northwest, Poland to the west and Ukraine to the south. Its territory covers 207 600 km2 of which around 40% are forests and 1,4% water, including 3 main rivers, many marshlands and around 11 000 lakes. The longest distance from north to south is 560 km and from west to east is 650 km. The current population of

[1] Available at http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_vet_eval_tool.htm?e1d2

Belarus according to the last census in 2015 is 9,485,300 people. The population density is about 50 people per square kilometre, with 70% of the total population concentrated in urban areas.

Figure 1. Map of Belarus

The Government

The Belarusian Government (Council of Ministers) is made up of the Prime Minister of Belarus, his deputies and ministers. The Government is accountable to the President of the Republic of Belarus and its powers are determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus. Under the Constitution, judicial power in the country belongs to the court system. The Parliament of Belarus is known as the National Assembly. It acts as the representative and legislative body of the Republic of Belarus.

The President of the Republic of Belarus

The President of Belarus is the country's head of state. His authority is established and defined by the Belarus Constitution and by the Presidential Act of the Republic of Belarus. The current president of Belarus is Alexander Lukashenko. He was elected to the post in 1994 and is now serving his fifth term.

Administration

Belarus is divided into six regions: Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, Minsk and Vitebsk. Each region (also called 'oblast') is composed of districts (also called rayons). Each region has a provincial legislative authority, called a regional council, which is elected by its residents, and a provincial executive authority called a region administration (Regional Executive Committee at oblast level), whose chairman is appointed by the president of the country. The sixth regions are divided into 118 rayons. The city of Minsk is composed of nine districts and has special status as capital of the country.

Figure 2. Administrative map of Belarus

Agriculture

The Republic of Belarus is a country with long agricultural traditions and experience. Agriculture continues to be an important sector in the Belarusian economy and trade, with crucial contributions to rural livelihoods, food security, and rural and economic growth. About 83-85% of food consumption is covered by domestic production. Belarus is considered as one the leading former USSR states for agricultural products like potatoes, cereals, vegetables, fruits, meat and dairy products. Significant amounts of them are exported to neighbouring countries, predominantly Russia and in particular the Custom Union market.

Agriculture is very important for Belarus and together with hunting and forestry accounted for 9.38 per cent of GDP in 2015. Large-scale production has always been a priority in the development of the agriculture and food industry. Agricultural organizations including farms account for 78 per cent of the total agricultural output while households produce 22 percent. Agricultural organizations occupy about 87 per cent of agricultural lands, farms occupy 1.7 percent, households occupy about 10 per cent while other land users occupy 1.3 percent.

Belarusian agriculture is characterized by a strongly dualistic farm structure that is typical of the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS) countries. Most of the large commercial farms in Belarus have remained under state control without much deep restructuring, and many farms do not seem to evolve towards their optimum size. Crop production that can strongly benefit from efficiencies of scale (i.e. grains, flax, sugar beet) and animal production that requires considerable investments in infrastructure and machinery (dairy and pigs, also poultry) are mainly undertaken on large commercial farms, whereas labour intensive products, such as potatoes, vegetables and sheep (wool) are produced on household plots. Private farms have negligible shares but tend to follow the pattern of household plots.

The large farms are specialized in product groups that benefit from efficiencies of scale and where high investment are needed, while the large household farming sector manages small plots cultivated with labour intensive crops. Small private farms make negligible and declining contributions to gross agricultural output. Budgetary expenditures for agriculture account for nine per cent of the total state budget, and have grown faster than gross agricultural output and agricultural value-added.

Milk, meat, poultry, grains, potatoes, vegetable, sugar beet and flax are Belarus' major agricultural products grown by agricultural organizations, farms and households. The majority of farms and food processing establishments in Belarus are state-run collectives, but many of them have started to be privatised. Many of visited farms and processing establishments are in the process of increasing their capacity and productivity, some of them significantly.

Belarusian per capita agricultural products output in 2014 was 113 kilos of meat (dressed weight), 707 kilos of milk, 417 chicken eggs, and 662 kilos of potatoes. With 83–85 per cent of food consumption covered by domestic production, the country ensures its food security. Belarus imports just 8 per cent of domestically consumed food with vitally important products having quite a low share of 5 to 10 per cent in the imports mix. Belarus produces enough food to provide physical access to and undisrupted supply of it in the amount and array that match effective demand.

Large public and collective farms specialize mainly in cattle, pig and poultry production. They dispose with 88 per cent of all agricultural land in Belarus and keep 85 per cent of all cattle, 62 per cent of pigs, 7 per cent of sheep, but do not keep goats (FAOSTAT data). However, the rural population also keeps considerable amounts of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and equidae.

More than 330,000 employees, or 8 per cent of the total number of working people, are engaged in the agrarian sector. Twenty-three per cent of the country's population live in the countryside.

Agricultural specialists are trained at 10 specialized universities and 28 colleges. More than 8.7 thousand students graduate from high educational establishments and another 7 thousand finish technical schools annually.

Five research institutes of the National Academy of Sciences conduct research for the agricultural sector of Belarus. These include the institutes for land management, animal husbandry, potato and vegetable growing, foodstuffs and agricultural engineering. Research institutes are organized into dozens of research and design bureaus, experimental and production enterprises.

Table 2: Data summary for geography, agriculture and livestock

Geographic features

Climatic and/or agro-ecological zones	Rainfall (mm/year)
Brest	619
Gomel	634
Grodno	602
Mogilev	679
Minsk	969
Vitebsk	657

Topography	Km2	%
Total area	207 600	
Agricultural area		43
Forest		39
Wetlands/deserts		1.4
Highlands/Plateaux		10

Demographic data

Human population		Livestock households/farms	
Total number	9.5 million	Total number	8.234
Average density / km2	50/km^2	% intensive	N/A
% of urban	70%	% agro-pastoral (mixed)	N/A
% of rural	30%	% extensive	N/A

Current livestock census data

Animals species	Total Number (2015)	Intensive production system (% or no.)	Mixed production system (% or no.)	Extensive production system (% or no.)
Cattle	4.356.000	97%	3 %	
Pigs	2.924.100	84 %	16 %	
Poultry	48.246.100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sheep and goats	140.500	13%	87 %	
Equidae	73.200	39%	61 %	
Rabbits	260.000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bees	217.200	N/A	N/A	N/A

Structure of livestock population by type of farm

(beginning of year; per cent of livestock population in farms of all types)

	2006	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agricultural organizations (big state farms)						
Cattle – total	88.7	94.7	95.5	96.0	96.5	96.9
of which cows	76.3	88.3	89.9	91.1	92.5	93.4
Pigs	71.0	76.0	77.0	78.2	84.8	84.3
Sheep	9.8	10.8	12.7	13.1	13.5	12.5
Goats	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Horses	42.4	39.8	39.3	39.0	38.8	38.7
Private farms						
Cattle – total	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
of which cows	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Pigs	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9
Sheep	4.0	7.9	7.7	10.3	13.2	15.8
Goats	0.3	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1
Horses	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.3
Household plots						
Cattle – total	10.7	5.1	4.2	3.8	3.2	2.8
of which cows	23.2	11.4	9.8	8.6	7.3	6.3
Pigs	28.4	23.1	22.1	20.8	14.4	14.8
Sheep	86.2	81.3	79.6	76.7	73.3	71.7
Goats	99.7	98.8	98.4	98.3	98.1	97.9
Horses	57.1	59.7	60.1	60.2	60.1	60.1

** Source: National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus*

Animal and animal product trade data

Animals and animal products	Average annual import		Average annual export	
	Quantity	Value (1000 USD)	Quantity (t.)	Value (1000 USD)
Pig meat	N/A	113.965	N/A	N/A
Cheese of whole cow milk	N/A	N/A	122.140	557.310
Cattle meat	N/A	N/A	96.586	476.970
Butter cow milk	N/A	N/A	61.878	289.184
Milk skimmed dry	N/A	N/A	55.181	214.779
Chicken meat	N/A	N/A	73.605	154.558
TOTAL			409.390	1.692.801

Production of basic animal husbandry products

Farms of all types	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1. Livestock and poultry for slaughter						
1.1. live weight (000 tons)	1.400	1.464	1.557	1.669	1.548	1.662
1.2. slaughter weight (000 tons)	971	1.020	1.092	1.172	1.073	1.150
2. Milk (000 tons)	6.624	6.500	6.766	6.633	6.703	7.047
3. Eggs (1.000.000 pieces)	3.536	3.656	3.778	3.850	3.858	3.816

** Source: National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus*

Economic data

National GDP	76,14 billion USD (0,12 % of the world economy)
GDP from agriculture	16,065 BYR billion (9,3%)
GDI per capita	4,998.28 USD
GNI per capita	7,340 USD
National budget	159.700 million USD
Livestock production index (1999-2001 = 100)	136,48 % (2013)
Agriculture; value added (% of GDP)	8,87 % (2014)
Agriculture, labour force	9,3% (2014)
Annual budget of the Veterinary Services	29,5 million USD
Main agricultural products	grain, potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, flax; beef, milk
Belarusian rubles (BYB/BYR) per US dollar	15,712.8 (2015 est.)

Sources: World bank, FAO stat, multiple reports

II.3 Context of the evaluation

II.3.A Availability of data relevant to the evaluation

A list of documents received by the OIE PVS Team before and during the PVS Evaluation mission is provided in appendix 6. All documents and pictures listed in appendix 6 are referenced to relevant critical competencies to demonstrate the levels of advancement and related findings.

The following table provides an overview of the availability of the main categories of documents or data needed for the evaluation, taking into account the information requirements set out in the OIE Terrestrial Code.

Table 3: Summary of data available for evaluation

Main document categories	Data available in the public domain	Data accessible only on site or on request	Data not available
→ **Animal census:**			
○ at 1st administrative level	x		
○ at 2nd administrative level		x	
○ at 3rd administrative level		x	
○ per animal species	x		
○ per production systems			x
→ **Organisations charts**			
○ Central level of the VS	x		
○ 2nd level of the VS		x	
○ 3rd level of the VS		x	
→ **Job descriptions in the VS**			
○ Central levels of the VS		x	
○ 2nd level of the VS		x	
○ 3rd level of the VS		x	
→ **Legislations, regulations, decrees …**			
○ Animal health and public health		x	
○ Veterinary practice		x	
○ Veterinary statutory body		x	x
○ Veterinary medicines and biologicals	x		
○ Official delegation			x
→ **Veterinary census**			
○ Global (public, private, veterinary, para-professional)	x		
○ Per level	x		
○ Per function	x		
→ **Census of logistics and infrastructures**		x	
→ **Activity reports**		x	
→ **Financial reports**		x	
→ **Animal health status reports**		x	
→ **Evaluation reports**		x	
→ **Procedures, registers, records, letters …**		x	

II.3.B General organisation of the Veterinary Services

For the purposes of this evaluation, the Veterinary Services of Belarus (described in part in Figure 1 includes:

1) The Central Veterinary and Food Control Department (*hereinafter referred to as* Veterinary Department - VD), within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food which is central veterinary authority in Belarus;
2) Six Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVA) within regional Committees on Agriculture and Food (CAF) at the Regional Agricultural Committees (RAC);
3) District Veterinary Administration (DVA) in 118 districts, and one additional veterinary station is responsible for the city of Minsk with specific status in comparison to other cities;
4) Several state organizations with their own management and financial structures are subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, in that they fall under the authority and responsibility of the CVO and Veterinary Department (VD) in carrying out veterinary activities. These are:
    i. Belarus State Veterinary Centre (National Reference Laboratory for infectious animal diseases),
    ii. State Administration for Veterinary inspection on State Border and Transport,
    iii. State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance,
    iv. Corporation for procurement and distribution of Veterinary Medical Products (VMPs) - Belzoovetsnabprom,
5) Six regional and 10 inter-regional veterinary laboratories;
6) Veterinary stations in regions (oblast), districts (rayon) and cities, subordinated to regional and district administration and;
7) Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and State Border Committee.
8) Private sector veterinary organisations
9) Academia:
    a. Research institute S.N. Viselsk,
    b. Vitebsk Veterinary Academy (VEE),
    c. Veterinary Department at Agricultural University in Grodno (VEE);

The current structure of the Veterinary Services of Belarus was established by the "Law on Veterinary Activity", № 161-3 from 02.02.2010 (*hereinafter referred to as the Veterinary Law*)

The VD is the central veterinary competent authority responsible for planning and implementation of the national animal health and food safety control programmes and for reporting of all activities to Minister and other authorities as required (e.g. police, national security, parliament). In each of the six regions there is a veterinary department – the Regional Veterinary Administration (RVA). These departments are established by regional (municipal) authorities, as part of the Regional Agricultural Committees (RAC) with permanently employed official veterinarians designated for planning and coordinating the implementation of the inspection plans and monitoring programmes in that region. They are paid by regional administration, which also provides office, consumables and equipment, and a budget for operational activities.

However, the RVA are under the professional direction of the VD. The Director of the VD and his/her team issue instructions and provide action plans, specific requests and requirements. In addition they supervise and audit of the work and verifiy their official inspection controls.

Each region (oblast) has several districts (rayons) with veterinary administration (District Veterinary Administration), which are responsible for implementation of the official inspection activities, monitoring programmes, and veterinary policies in these administrative units. The mission team was informed that regional and district official veterinarians from VS are employed and paid by municipalities, who also provide them with a workplace.

The first level of official veterinary controls is performed by the official veterinarians, employed by the local veterinary stations covering one district (DVA). These veterinary stations provide:

- inspection activities (e.g. slaughterhouses…),
- implementation of animal health programmes and monitoring of residues
- vaccinations, treatments… as service to owners, and
- control of food in green markets in “laboratories for veterinary-sanitary examination”.

They are not involved in the certification of the products for export. However, these official veterinarians have no legal powers to impose any measures against the food establishments in the case of non-compliance. Instead they must inform the competent state inspector of the VD. After the notification the state inspectors have the right and duty to visit the establishment at any time and without warning, to take samples, to stop the production, out-loading, transport and placing on the market of a product which may present a potential risk for consumers, to impose administrative sanctions and to bring a case to court.

In addition to their role in inspection activities as official veterinarians, officers of district veterinary stations (DVA), are involved in laboratory activities, epidemiological surveillance and implementation of animal disease control programme, but also in delivery of basic veterinary activities (e.g. therapies, surgery). In cities and districts, there are also specific establishments as subunits of local veterinary stations called Laboratories for veterinary-sanitary examination on markets. These are responsible for documentary checks and quality control of food which is offered to consumers on “green markets” where producers can sell their products directly to consumers.

District and Regional Veterinary Officers employed in the Regional and District Veterinary Administrations are responsible for the audit and official control of establishments intending to export, and for issuing of the international veterinary certificates according to the model required by the importing country.

During the meetings with RVA and DVA veterinary officers, details on official controls and their organisation and frequency were shared with the mission team. It appears that availability of official veterinarians should suffice to keep all large farms under frequent official controls. However, it is more difficult to keep the same level of control on animals kept on backyard farms, in particular as regards a very 'mobile' population of sheep and goats. These holding are covered by official controls carried out by local Official Veterinarian reporting to DVA.

The Belarusian State Veterinary Centre (BSVC) is responsible for the implementation of the respective laboratory analysis and coordination with regional laboratories. In each region there is a regional laboratory (6 in total) with relevant units responsible to carry out laboratory-related work. There is network of 10 inter-district laboratories, each with territorial responsibility for a few districts. Also, there are 143 laboratories

for veterinary-sanitary expertize, established by local food market establishments ("green markets"), usually in towns where they sell fresh meat, dairy products, vegetables, fruits and other foodstuff for human consumption.

According to the Veterinary Law the Director of the Veterinary Department is the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) who is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, as Director of VD and Assistant of Minister. The decision as regards appointment or dismissal of officials from the Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVA) is taken by the Regional Agricultural Committees (RAC) but after consultation with the central VD office (CVO). Heads of regional and inter-regional laboratories together with regional, district and city veterinary stations are appointed by relevant the Regional Agricultural Committees, with some coordination or communication with VD.

Considering the specificity of the agricultural sector of the country where the vast majority of industrial farms and food processing establishments belong predominantly to state owned companies, the Veterinary Services is composed mainly of state employed veterinarians and do not delegate any activity to private veterinarians in the country. The private veterinary sector is mainly involved to provide a service to small farms and backyard animal holdings, companion animals and sale of veterinary drugs and pet products. There is no association of private veterinarians at national or regional levels. A Veterinary Statutory Body does not exist.

Official veterinarians in Belarus are responsible for:

a. the control and surveillance of the quality of food raw materials and food products in the Republic of Belarus in their production and (or) storage, export and import (except trading activity in these products);

b. overseeing the implementation of the manufacturers with the technical regulations, manufacturing processes, and (or) storage, export of food raw materials and food products;

c. issuing permits for importation into the customs territory of the Customs Union and the transit through its territory of goods under control;

d. monitoring the quality and safety of food raw materials and food products

e. overseeing the provision of veterinary and sanitary quality of animal products, animal feed and feed additives, diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic tools, as well as the implementation of the animal health rules;

f. implementation of veterinary inspection at the State Border of the Republic of Belarus and the transport;

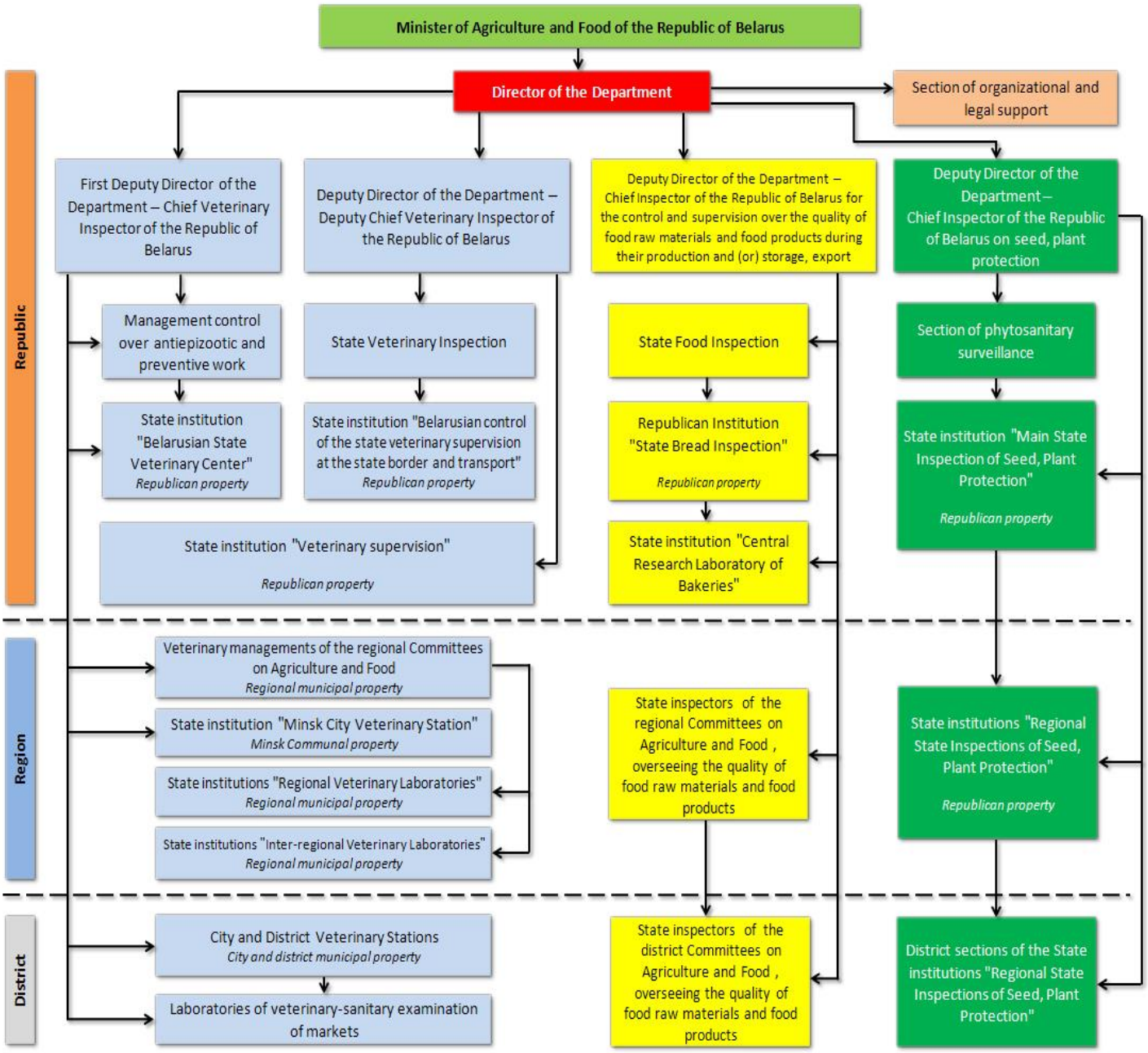
g. control of animal health status of objects under the control of the Veterinary Service of the Republic of Belarus, as well as to monitor the use of veterinary drugs in veterinary medicine and animal husbandry;

h. veterinary supervision of traffic (transhumance) in the Republic of Belarus, export and import of animals, animal products and animal feed and other goods, controlled by the Veterinary Service of the Republic of Belarus;

The organisation of the VS of Belarus is described in Figure 3 "Organisational Chart - Veterinary Services of Belarus".

Internal self-assessments and regular planned and unplanned audits of veterinary services performance and compliance with the national legislative framework have been undertaken by the State Veterinary Inspection Unit and the State institution "Veterinary supervision".

Figure 3. Organisational Chart - Veterinary Services of Belarus (source: VD)



II.3.C Animal disease occurrence

Information on animal disease occurrence from the OIE website (see table 4)

Tables 4a-c: Disease status of the country (data taken from OIE WAHID).

Table 4a: Diseases present in the Country (by 2013)

	Domestic		Wild		
Disease	Notifiable	Status	Notifiable	Status	Note
African swine fever	✓	Disease present	✗	Absent (since Unknown)	
Bovine anaplasmosis	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Bovine babesiosis	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Bovine viral diarrhoea	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Equine piroplasmosis	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
European foulbrood of honey bees	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones			
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Inf.bov.rhinotracheit. (IBR/IPV)	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Porcine reproductive/respiratory syndr.	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Rabies	✓	Disease present	✗	Disease present	
Transmissible gastroenteritis	✓	Infection/infestation limited to one or more zones	✗	No information	
Trichinellosis	✓	Infection/infestation	✗	Infection/infestation	
Varroosis of honey bees	✓	Disease limited to one or more zones			

Table 4b: Diseases never reported (by 2013)

Disease	Notifiable	Type of surveillance	Note
Acarapisosis of honey bees	✓	General Surveillance	
African horse sickness	✓	General Surveillance	
Avian chlamydiosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Avian mycoplasmosis (M.synoviae)	✗		
Bluetongue	✓	General Surveillance	
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	✓	General Surveillance	
Brucellosis (Brucella suis)	✓	General Surveillance	
Camelpox	✓	General Surveillance	
Caprine arthritis/encephalitis	✓	General Surveillance	
Contagious bov. pleuropneumonia	✓	General Surveillance	
Contagious cap. pleuropneumonia	✓	General Surveillance	
Contagious equine metritis	✓	General Surveillance	
Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever	✗		
Enzootic abortion (chlamydiosis)	✓	General Surveillance	

Epizoot. haematopoietic necrosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Equine influenza	✓	General Surveillance	
Equine rhinopneumonitis	✓	General Surveillance	
Equine viral arteritis	✓	General Surveillance	
Heartwater	✓	General Surveillance	
Highly path. avian influenza	✓	General and targeted surveillance	
Infect. haematopoietic necrosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis	✗		
Infection with Gyrodactylus salaris	✓	General Surveillance	
Infection with ranavirus	✗		
Japanese encephalitis	✗		
Leishmaniosis	✗		
Lumpy skin disease	✓	General Surveillance	
N. w. screwworm (C. hominivorax)	✗		
Nairobi sheep disease	✓	General Surveillance	
O. w. screwworm (C. bezziana)	✗		
Paratuberculosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Peste des petits ruminants	✓	General Surveillance	
Q fever	✓	General Surveillance	
Rift Valley fever	✓	General Surveillance	
Rinderpest	✓	General Surveillance	
Salmonellosis (S. abortusovis)	✓	General Surveillance	
Sheep pox and goat pox	✓	General Surveillance	
Surra (Trypanosoma evansi)	✗		
Swine vesicular disease	✓	General Surveillance	
Taura syndrome	✓	General Surveillance	
Theileriosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Trypanosomosis	✓	General Surveillance	
Tularemia	✗		
Turkey rhinotracheitis	✗		
Venezuelan equ.encephalomyelitis	✓	General Surveillance	
Vesicular stomatitis	✓	General Surveillance	
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia	✓	General Surveillance	
West Nile Fever	✗		
White spot disease	✓	General Surveillance	
Yellow head disease	✓	General Surveillance	

Table 4c: Diseases not reported in 2013

	Domestic				Wild			
Disease	Notifiable	Last occurrence	Surveillance	Note	Notifiable	Last occurrence	Surveillance	Note
American foulbrood of honey bees	✓	06/2012	General Surveillance					
Anthrax	✓	1999	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Aujeszky's disease	✓	2009	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Avian infect. laryngotracheitis	✓	02/2005	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Avian infectious bronchitis	✓	1996	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Bov. genital campylobacteriosis	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Bovine tuberculosis	✓	Unknown	General and targeted surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Brucellosis (Brucella abortus)	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Brucellosis (Brucella melitensis)	✓	Unknown	General and targeted surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Classical swine fever	✓	08/1995	General and targeted surveillance		✗	Unknown	General and targeted surveillance	
Contagious agalactia	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Crayfish plague (Aphanomyces astaci)	✗	Unknown			✗	Unknown		
Duck virus hepatitis	✓	1996	General Surveillance					
Echinococcosis/hydatidosis	✓	2011	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown	General Surveillance	
Encephalomyelitis (West.)	✓	1946	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Enzootic bovine leukosis	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Epizootic ulcerative syndrome	✗	Unknown			✗	Unknown		
Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern)	✗	1946			✗	Unknown		
Equine infectious anaemia	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Foot and mouth disease	✓	1982	General and targeted surveillance		✗	Unknown	General and targeted surveillance	
Fowl typhoid	✓	1996	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Glanders	✓	1999	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infec bursal disease (Gumboro)	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infection with Bonamia exitiosa	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infection with Bonamia ostreae	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infection with Marteilia refringens	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infection with Perkinsus marinus	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infection with Perkinsus olseni	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		

Infection with Xenohaliotis californiensis	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infectious salmon anaemia	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Myxomatosis	✓	1985	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Newcastle disease	✓	05/2003	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Ovine epididymitis (B. ovis)	✓	1992	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Porcine cysticercosis	✓	2001	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown	General Surveillance	
Pullorum disease	✓	2009	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Rabbit haemorrhagic disease	✓	1988	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Red sea bream iridoviral disease	✗	Unknown			✗	Unknown		
Scrapie	✓	1994	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Spring viraemia of carp	✓	1996	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Trichomonosis	✓	1960	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Tropilaelaps infestation of honey bees	✓	Unknown	General Surveillance					

Reports on animal health situation for 2014 and 2015 not provided up to April 2016.

II.4 Organisation of the evaluation

II.4.A Timetable of the mission

The evaluation of the Veterinary Services of Belarus was conducted on 2-13 November 2015. The evaluation mission commenced with an inaugural meeting with Deputy Directors, Dr Alexandr Kutsko (first deputy director and chief veterinary inspector) and Dr Ivan Smilhin (second deputy director and deputy chief veterinary inspector) and senior staff in the headquarters of the Veterinary Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and food. Meetings with the Director of Veterinary Department, Chief Veterinary Officer and OIE Delegate, Dr Vassily Pivovar were held a few times during the mission.

A programme for the evaluation designed in the pre-mission period was finalized during the inaugural meeting, and endorsed by Minister. The OIE PVS Team visited sites and institutions from the public and private sector in the cities and rural areas of Belarus such as government veterinary posts, laboratories and research institutions, universities, abattoirs, farms, food processing plants, veterinary drugs producers and wholesalers.

The OIE PVS Team met with government officials, public veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, academics and researchers, farmers and producers, dairy, pig and poultry company employees, traders, consumers and other stakeholders, according to evaluation programme and as described in the report.

In order to visit a representative number of establishments and to conduct as broad an evaluation as possible in the time available, the OIE PVS Team split into 2 sub-

teams from time to time and thus was able to visit all planned sites and administrative provinces.

In order to assess epidemiological surveillance, provincial and district veterinary offices and livestock holdings were visited, according to the plan approved by Minister.

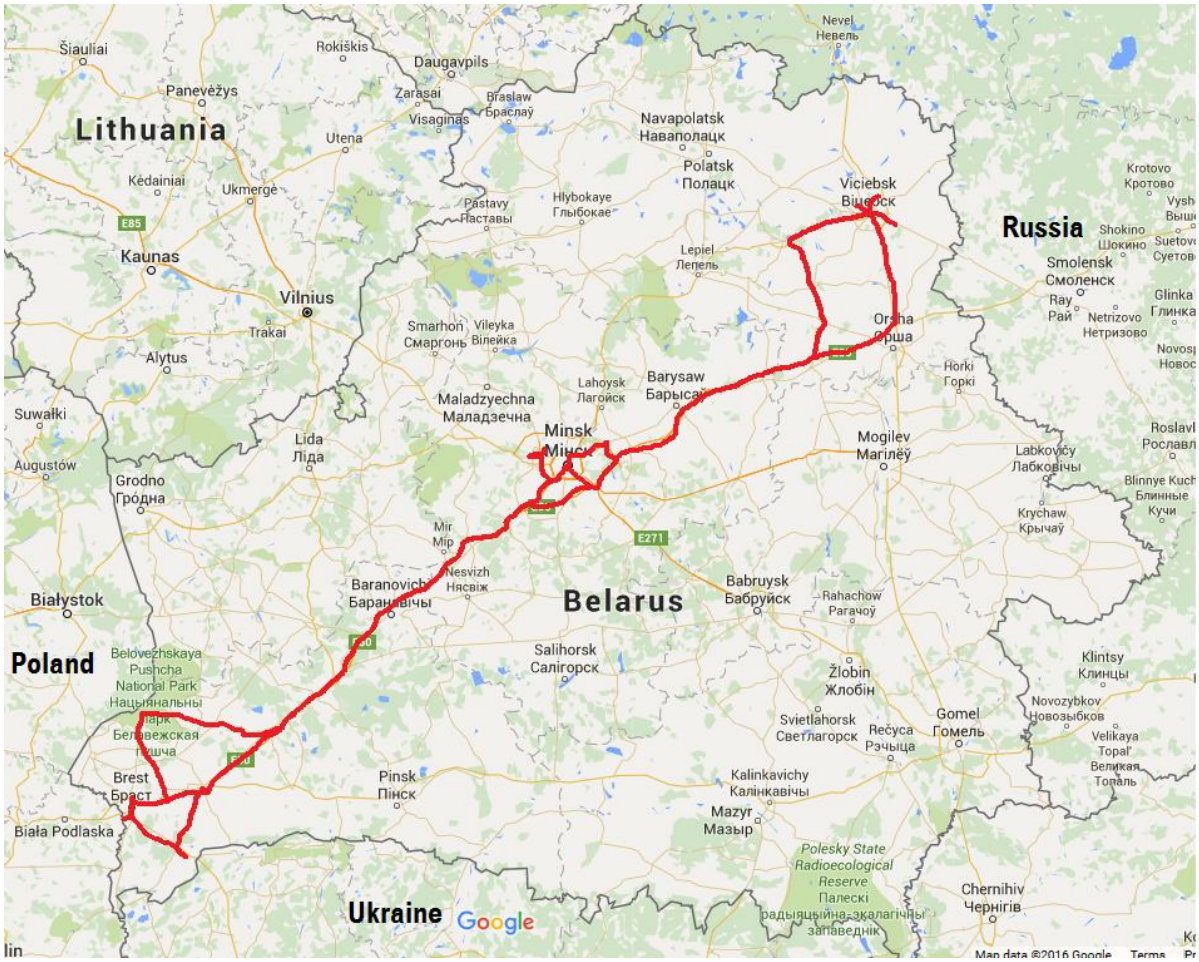
A closing meeting to discuss the main conclusions and key recommendations of the evaluation was held with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Leonid Zayats and the CVO, Dr Vassily Pivovar at the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food at the end of the mission.

The mission concluded with a detailed closing meeting with the CVO, his Deputy, Dr Ivan Smilgin, the Rector of the Veterinary Academy, Prof. Dr. Anton Yatusevich and the senior staff of the Veterinary Department in the CVO office. At the closing meeting, the OIE PVS Team explained the process and timetable for finalisation of the report, its peer review and circulation of the report to the OIE Delegate for Belarus.

Appendix 3 provides a list of persons met; Appendix 4 provides the timetable of the mission and details of the facilities and locations visited by the OIE PVS Team and Appendix 5 provides the international air travel itinerary of team members.

The following map shows the travel plan of the assessors and the visited sites.

The map below shows the itinerary of the OIE PVS Team during the mission. A distance of about 2000 km was passed, 17 places were visited and more than 70 people were interviewed.



II.4.B Categories of sites and sampling for the evaluation

Table 5 lists the categories of site relevant to the evaluation and the number of each category of site in the country. It indicates how many of the sites were visited, in comparison with the suggested sampling framework ("ideal" sampling) recommended in OIE PVS Manual.

Appendix 4 provides a detailed list of sites visited and meetings conducted.

Table 5: Site sampling	**Terminology or names used in the country**	Number of sites	"Ideal" sampling	Actual sampling
GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES OF THE COUNTRY				
Climatic zone		6		1
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION OF THE COUNTRY				
1st administrative level	*Republic / National*	1	1	1
2nd administrative level	*Regional*	6	2	3
3rd administrative level	*District / Rayon*	118	12	13
4th administrative level	*Villages*			
Urban entities	*Towns*	1	1	1
VETERINARY SERVICES ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE				
Central (Federal/National) VS	Veterinary Department	1	1	1
Internal division of the central VS	Units	5	5	5
1st level of the VS		1	1	1
2nd level of the VS		6	3	3
3rd level of the VS		118	12	13
Veterinary organisations (VSB, unions…)		n/a		
FIELD ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK				
Field level of the VS (animal health)		1453	5	5
Private veterinary sector		79	3	1
Other sites (dip tanks, crush pens….)				
VETERINARY MEDICINES & BIOLOGICALS				
Production sector		53	3	3
Import and wholesale sector		84	3	2
Retail sector		84	3	1
Other partners involved				
VETERINARY LABORATORIES				
National labs		1	1	1
Regional and local labs		16	2	2
District labs		118	3	1
Laboratories for veterinary-sanitary expertise		143	3	1
ANIMAL AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS MOVEMENT CONTROL				
Bordering countries		5	1	1
Airports and ports border posts		1	1	1
Main terrestrial border posts		13	2	1
Minor terrestrial border posts		-		
Quarantine stations for import		-		
Internal check points		-		
Live animal markets		193	2	0
Zones, compartments, export quarantines		0		

Table 5: Site sampling	Terminology or names used in the country	Number of sites	"Ideal" sampling	Actual sampling
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS				
Export slaughterhouse		21	2	2
National market slaughterhouses		21	2	1
Local market slaughterhouse		272	1	1
Slaughter areas/slabs/points				
On farm or butcher's slaughtering sites				
Processing sites (milk, meat, eggs, etc)		393	3	2
Retail outlets (butchers, shops, restaurants)				
TRAINING AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS				
Veterinary university		2	1	1
Veterinary paraprofessional schools		8	1	1
Veterinary research organisations		2	1	0
STAKEHOLDERS' ORGANISATIONS				
Agricultural Chamber / organisation				
National livestock farmers organisations				
Regional livestock farmers organisations		6	1	0
Agricultural establishments		1453		2
Private farms		2149		0
Consumer organisations		1	1	0

PART III: RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION & GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This evaluation identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the veterinary services, and makes general recommendations.

FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS

1.	**HUMAN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**
2.	**TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY**
3	**INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES**
4.	**ACCESS TO MARKETS**

The activities of the Veterinary services are recognised by the international community and by OIE Members as a '**global public good**'. Accordingly, it is essential that each country acknowledges the importance of the role and responsibilities of its Veterinary Services and gives them the human and financial resources needed to fulfil their responsibilities.

This OIE PVS Evaluation examined each critical competency under the 4 fundamental components, listed strengths and weaknesses where applicable, and established a current level of advancement for each critical competency. Evidences supporting this level are listed in appendix 6. General recommendations were provided where relevant.

The current level of advancement for each critical competency is shown in cells shadowed in grey (15%) in the table.

III.1. Fundamental component I: human, physical and financial resources

This component of the evaluation concerns the institutional and financial sustainability of the VS as evidenced by the level of professional/technical and financial resources available and the capacity to mobilize these resources. It comprises fourteen critical competencies:

Critical competencies:

Section I-1	**Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services**
	A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualification)
	B. Veterinary para-professionals and other technical personnel
Section I-2	**Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals**
	A. Professional competencies of veterinarians
	B. Competencies of veterinary para-professionals
Section I-3	**Continuing education**
Section I-4	**Technical independence**
Section I-5	**Stability of structures and sustainability of policies**
Section I-6	**Coordination capability of the VS**
	A. Internal coordination (chain of command)
	B. External coordination
Section I-7	**Physical resources**
Section I-8	**Operational funding**
Section I-9	**Emergency funding**
Section I-10	**Capital investment**
Section I-11	**Management of resources and operations**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 1-7, 9 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity / Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Human and financial resources.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: "Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation… than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services".

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial / Administrative / Technical.

Points 3 and Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance / In-Service training and development programme for staff.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-5 and 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Financial management information / Administration details / Laboratory services / Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-1 Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services *The appropriate staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.* A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualification)	Levels of advancement
	1. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are not occupied by appropriately qualified personnel.
	2. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at central and state / provincial levels.
	3. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at local (field) levels.
	4. There is a systematic approach to defining job descriptions and formal appointment procedures for veterinarians and other professionals.
	5. There are effective management procedures for performance assessment of veterinarians and other professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1 - E3, E29, E51, E52, E56 - E58, E60 - E69, E98, D25, D38 - D40, D44, D55, D64 -, D66, D91, D110 - D112, D115, D141, D152, D160.

Findings:

Total number of veterinarians registered in the Veterinary Authority and employed in different veterinary organisations and services is 7,588, but total number of vacant posts, according to data provided by the VD, is 9,296.

Public Sector Veterinary Services

There are currently 3,347 veterinarians, employed by public Veterinary Services in veterinary administration, state-owned commercial farms, processing plants and other entities, filling 72% of total number of position (28% vacant positions in the whole country). Generally, veterinarians are competent to make sound professional judgement, since they have the relevant qualifications, expertise and experience. Each year, approximately 200 veterinarians graduate in two Belarus veterinary faculties (Vitebsk Veterinary Academy and Grodnensk Agricultural University).

Generally, the VS is composed of well qualified veterinarians, with proper primarily veterinary education and regular postgraduate education, implemented by two Veterinary Education Establishment, in coordination with the VD. As national veterinary competent authority, the VD, headquartered in Minsk and managed by the CVO, has 15 veterinarians permanently employed. Their human resources do not include part-time and private sector veterinarians. Each veterinarian employed in the Veterinary Authority has a written job description that details technical requirements. Evaluations of staff are usually carried out once per year. All personnel, including the CVO, are subject to possible legal disciplinary provisions.

Within regional veterinary administration (RVA) in 6 oblasts, there are in total 24 permanently employed veterinarians (4-6 per oblast), while Minsk Veterinary Station employs 157 veterinarians. In 6 regional laboratories, there are 166 veterinarians engaged (only 3 vacant positions), while in 11 inter-rayon labs, there are 101 veterinarians (6 vacant posts).

Table 6: Number of personnel working for competent authority in Belarus

Field of work	Filled posts	Total posts
Veterinary Department (Central Competent Authority)	15	21
Veterinary Inspection, central level	3 + 121	137
Regional Veterinary Administration (RVA)	24	25
District Veterinary Administration (DVA)	1.198	1.442
Minsk Veterinary Station	157	160
Border control	301	301

Veterinary stations employ 105 veterinarians in 19 cities, and there are 278 veterinarians working in 143 Laboratories for veterinary-sanitary expertise (usually placed in green markets). In 118 rayon veterinary stations and their 314 branches (veterinary ambulances), there are in total 1,669 full-time veterinarians. Large, commercial, state-owned farms engage 2,756 veterinarians, which is sufficient since major production of cattle and pigs is organized on these farms (namely 97% of bovines and 85% of porcine). Abattoirs, meat processing and other establishments employ 591 veterinarians.

In other public veterinary institutions, established by the government and supervised by VD, there are the following veterinary resources: Belarus State Veterinary Centre (144), State Administration for Veterinary Inspection on State Border and Transport (301), Corporation for Procurement and Distribution of VMPs - Belzoovetsnabprom (89), Research institute S.N. Viselsk (13), State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance (121), Ministry of defence (54), Ministry of emergencies (15), Vitebsk Veterinary Academy (16), Grodnensk Agricultural University (4), Agricultural colleges (70).

Private Veterinary Services

The total number of veterinarians employed in private clinics is 502 (6.6 % of total number of veterinarians in Belarus). Since there is huge number of animal holdings in the country, it is uncertain that disease monitoring is being conducted properly by field veterinarians involved in small and backyard farm visits.

Other employers of veterinarians are the National Cynology Committee (21), consumer association (124), pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors (123), wholesalers and pharmacies (84), breeding associations (36), and laboratories in bread factories – where a meat and cheese filling may be used in some products (15).

** Source of data is Veterinary Department, 1.1.2015.*

Strengths:

- All positions in VD and other VS are occupied by qualified experts with university degrees
- All official veterinarians and practitioners are regularly trained
- National and international training programmes (FAO, BTSF, OIE) are in place for official veterinarians and laboratories
- Network of veterinary laboratories appropriately staffed by persons with adequate competences for the required activities.

Weaknesses:

- Low salaries for official veterinarian inspectors (in particular at regional and rayon levels) relative to other veterinary entities,
- Several vacant positions in all levels of the state VS, probably because of low and uncompetitive salaries and compensation in comparison to other relevant sectors,

- A significant number of positions in the VD remain vacant (almost 30%).
- General organization of the Veterinary Administration is not clear, while roles and responsibilities of different entities could be confusing. In particularly, the local veterinary inspection service is not properly defined.

Recommendations

- Investigate options to increase veterinary human resources in the VD headquarters, provide adequate resources, and motivate high skilled experts to be hired by the Ministry (VD).
- Each position within the Veterinary Services should be described. These job descriptions should specify the requirements for education, training, technical knowledge and experience.
- Define roles and responsibilities of the local veterinary inspection service and strengthen their capacity to carry out official control of all entities under the mandate of the Veterinary Authority.
- Develop appropriate procedures for evaluation of personnel, based on evidence of performance.
- Carefully evaluate the current potential of the Veterinary Services, and its real needs in terms of human and other resources, to provide an optimal level of animal disease control programmes in all sectors, and to all animal populations.
- Evaluate current capacities for an effective system for animal diseases surveillance and notification of animal diseases, with adequate coverage of all animal populations. To this end an OIE Gap Analysis may be helpful.

I-1. Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services *The appropriate staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.* B. Veterinary para-professionals and other technical personnel	Levels of advancement
	1. The majority of technical positions are not occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	2. The majority of technical positions at central and state / provincial levels are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	3. The majority of technical positions at local (field) levels are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	4. The majority of technical positions are effectively supervised on a regular basis.
	5. There are effective management procedures for formal appointment and performance assessment of veterinary para-professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1 - E3, E29, E51, E52, E59, E63, E64, E98, D45 - D47, D64 - D66, D91, D108.

Findings:

Total number of veterinary para-professionals (VPP) in Belarus is 3,506, but some vacant posts are not filled (737). No VPP are employed in the Veterinary Department or in some of its sub-organizational structures (Regional Veterinary Administration, State Administration for Veterinary Inspection on State Border and Transport, State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance, Military Veterinary Service, Ministry for Emergencies, VMP production and distribution establishments and pharmacies, Veterinary Academy in Vitebsk and veterinary colleges). A significant number of VPP are employed in public veterinary stations (1,327), laboratories (273), animal products processing establishments (106), and the Belzoovetsnabprom company (47), but the majority is engaged by large agricultural farms (2,332). No VPP are employed in private veterinary clinics.

Although there is an appropriate number of VPP in the country properly trained, they have limited opportunities to find jobs in field veterinary practices or laboratories, but much more in different types of food producing establishments (large farms, slaughterhouses, dairy plants).

By law their work is supervised by veterinarians. They are not authorised to perform diagnostic and therapeutic work (including administration of antimicrobials and other parenteral VMPs). For animal health activities, they support veterinarians in their daily work, by ensuring animal restraint, supporting surgery activities, disinfection of equipment, artificial insemination and so on.

There is no organisation responsible for licencing of VPPs, nor is there a national or regional association.

Strengths:

- Activities to be carried out by veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals are precisely described by the Veterinary Law.
- VPPs are not engaged in animal health activities, administration of veterinary medicines or vaccines, without direct supervision by veterinarians.

Weaknesses:

- Some additional technical activities could be performed by VPPs beyond work in the field (disease monitoring). This could include many administrative tasks (including in the VD and the RVA).
- Responsibilities of VPP are not always well defined by precise job descriptions.
- There is no secondary legislation specifying activities to be carried out by VPPs.

Recommendations:

- An analysis should be conducted of activities that could be carried out by VPPs, namely in prevention and control of animal diseases, and implementation of national veterinary and food safety policies, should take place.
- Some possible roles of VPPs in the field services should be revised and strengthened (e.g. compulsory notification of animal diseases) to use these para-professionals for overall improvement of the veterinary services, including early detection and transparency.

I-2 Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals *The capability of the VS to efficiently carry out their veterinary and technical functions; measured by the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and technical positions.* A. Professional competencies of veterinarians including the OIE Day 1 competencies	Levels of advancement
	1. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a variable standard that usually allow for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	2. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a uniform standard that usually allow for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	3. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. epidemiological surveillance, early warning, public health, etc.).
	4. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking specialised activities as may be needed by the VS.
	5. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are subject to regular updating, or international harmonisation, or evaluation.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E61 - E69, D44, D53, D110 - D112.

Findings:

Two Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) in the country use similar teaching systems to provide good university level veterinary education, reliable knowledge of graduating veterinarians with equal employment opportunities in the country. Vitebsk Veterinary Academy has five years education programme, one year master and three years PhD studies. Annualy, approximately 300 students finish this faculty. Another VEE is Grodno State Agrarian University where about 100 veterinarians graduate annually. Both faculties cover in the veterinary curriculum most subjects relevant to achieving all the minimum competences recommended by the OIE, ensuring adequate competences of local veterinarians to support an optimal level of animal disease control programme in the country. However, further improvement of veterinary education is needed to ensure a high level of basic and advanced competences for graduated veterinarians ("Day 1 veterinary graduate") in the public and private sector (e.g. animal welfare, risk analysis).

These faculties are properly equipped: classrooms and premises have modern teaching and presentation tools, and practical training is provided for all relevant subjects (e.g. ultrasound and other diagnostic and laboratory equipment available for demonstrations). Postgraduate continuing education and on-the-job training is well organized, and coordinated with the VD and other Veterinary Services and other parties (e.g. industry).

There is also good student mobility and an exchange programme with some VEE in other countries. A significant number of collaboration agreements exist with veterinary faculties in many European countries, as demonstrated during the mission, including the Bologna agreement. Teachers are encouraged to attend a variety of training abroad (organized by international organizations, donors and agencies). There are students from other countries in Belarus VEE (16 in Vitebsk Veterinary Academy in 2015). Plans are in place to seek accreditation in the near future in accordance with rules of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

Strengths:

- Strong and formalized collaboration between the VEE and the VD, but also with a number of other parties and partners.
- Robust continuous education system in place at all levels.
- Awareness of the importance of "Day-1 competences" in the VEE and the VD with plans for full implementation.
- Understanding of concept, and willingness to apply in the near future for the Twining programmes of VEE.

- There is commitment to seek international accreditation of at least one veterinary faculty (EAEVE)

Weaknesses:

- Curriculum is not yet fully aligned with OIE recommendations (Day-1 competences).
- Advanced skills and competencies as defined by the OIE are not included in the curriculum for undergraduate students.
- No formalised collaboration with field veterinarians.

Recommendations:

- Both the VEE, in collaboration with the VD and other parties responsible for policies of veterinary education should improve the veterinary curricula to provide graduated veterinarians with a level of education and training that ensures sound overall competences, required knowledge, skills, attitudes and aptitudes to understand and be able to carry out all tasks, and to promote animal health, welfare and public health.
- Define, document and implement a quality policy.
- Develop and document appropriate procedures and standards for all providers of relevant activities and associated facilities.
- Assess the need for improvement of human resources (namely teachers), modernization and availability of literature, textbooks and knowledge databases for students and teachers.

B. Competencies of veterinary para-professionals	Levels of advancement
	1. The majority of veterinary para-professionals have no formal entry-level training.
	2. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a variable standard and allows the development of only basic competencies.
	3. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard that allows the development of only basic specific competencies.
	4. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard that allows the development of some advanced competencies (e.g. meat inspection).
	5. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard and is subject to regular evaluation and/or updating.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E63, E64, D45 - D48, D108.

Findings:

There is network of eight veterinary colleges – high school teaching establishments for veterinary para-professionals, with appropriate education programmes, based on 4 years of study (Pinsk and Vitebsk Agrarian College, Rechitsa, Volkovissk, Ilianskiy, Smilovichi, Klimovichi and Lyahovichi college), and annual number of graduated studens arround 500. Their education programme is the same. The curricula include both general and specialised topics (e.g. anatomy, microbiology, animal husbandry, pharmacology). Teaching facilities for theoretical and practical exercises are adequate, including the availability of live animals. Some farms are associated with these schools to allow practical training with animals. Additionally, the VEE provide some resources for key subjects including theoretical and practical support.

Graduates may continue their education in the VEE, or apply for employment in laboratories, farms or food producing establishments. Although reliable data is not available, it appears that a large number of graduate VPPs are never employed in their field of expertise.

Strengths:

- A strong food producing industry (dairy and meat processing establishments) and large farms provide a solid labour market for graduate VPPs.
- An adequate number of colleges with appropriate teaching resources and capacities.
- Collaboration with, and recognition by the VEE, provides opportunities for students during and after graduation.

Weaknesses:

- The curriculum is not comprehensive as some important topics are not available. The VD has no influence on the curricula for VPP.

Limited opportunities exist for VPP after graduation, since many technical activities in the field of animal health, are mainly carried out by veterinarians.

Recommendations:

- Establish collaboration amongst the VD, the VEE and the management of establishments for education of VPPs to design future policies and plans.
- Improve curriculum and education programmes for VPPs to include more advanced competences (e.g. meat inspection, traceability, basic veterinary epidemiology and notification of animal diseases).

I-3 Continuing education (CE)[2]	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel in terms of relevant information and understanding; measured in terms of the implementation of a relevant training programme.	1. The VS have no access to veterinary, professional or technical CE.
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external programmes) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.
	3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, but it is implemented only for some categories of the relevant personnel.
	4. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and it is implemented for all categories of the relevant personnel.
	5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented for all relevant personnel and is subject to regular evaluation of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1 - E3, E29, E51, E52, E60 - E69, E76 - E85, D13, D40, D44 - D52, D65, D91, D109, D141, V3.

Findings:

A robust system of continuing education is in place to serve almost all aspects of Veterinary Services across a range of subjects for relevant staff. An appropriate programme of continuing education corresponds to needs of Veterinary Authority, regional VS, veterinary practices as well as primary production and processing establishments. National capacities for continuing education are used for training of veterinarians from some neighbouring countries.

An extensive list of training and education programmes, organized by the national VS, international organizations or partners (e.g. TAIEX, BTSF, FAO) is available with all necessary details for evaluation.

Strengths:

- Strong commitment and proper communication mechanisms between different levels of the VS for proper needs assessment and planning of education sessions.
- There is an extensive list of training opportunities organized and available for specialised fields (e.g. epidemiology, food safety, border control, traceability, laboratory diagnostics, official controls).
- A computerized system is available (Vitebsk Veterinary Academy) for evaluation of the knowledge of veterinarians, including official veterinarians and inspectors,
- There is written request for continuing education for some fields of expertise (e.g. every three years for all veterinary inspectors).
- There is a system in place for annual appraisal of civil servants that is useful for identification of needs for further training or education.

Weaknesses:

- Some field of expertise required to comply with OIE standards are still missing (e.g. targeted disease surveillance, communication, animal welfare, risk assessment).
- There is no proper evaluation of relevance of training programmes for specific duties and responsibilities, nor monitoring of the effectiveness of continuing education programs on improvement of services, competences and performances of official veterinarians.
- There is no evidence of request-driven training programmes needed by field veterinarians (e.g. responsible use of antibiotics, targeted surveillance of major transboundary animal diseases).

[2] Continuing education includes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for veterinary, professional and technical personnel.

- Evaluation of effectiveness and appropriateness of training programmes and trainers is not properly implemented.

Recommendations:

- Develop continuing education opportunities for field veterinarians tailored to specific needs, with appropriate mechanisms for evaluation of training programmes and the effectiveness of particular education sessions for strengthening of the VS.
- Establish a dedicated unit or nominate personnel to take charge of continuing education and to be responsible for proper planning, management, evaluation and reporting of training programmes.

I-4 Technical independence *The capability of the VS to carry out their duties with autonomy and free from commercial, financial, hierarchical and political influences that may affect technical decisions in a manner contrary to the provisions of the OIE (and of the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The technical decisions made by the VS are generally not based on scientific considerations.
	2. The technical decisions take into account the scientific evidence, but are routinely modified to conform to non-scientific considerations.
	3. The technical decisions are based on scientific evidence but are subject to review and possible modification based on non-scientific considerations.
	4. The technical decisions are made and implemented in general accordance with the country's OIE obligations (and with the country's WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).
	5. The technical decisions are based only on scientific evidence and are not changed to meet non-scientific considerations

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E7 - E10, E12, E13, D38 - D40, D43.

Findings:

There is no separate risk assessment unit, nor a trained expert with a detailed job description within the VD who is responsible for a process of science-based risk analysis for relevant issues. Also, there is no clear separation between officials responsible for assessing risk, and those in charge for risk management or risk communication. Epidemiological risk assessment could be routinely carried out in BSVC, having in mind their human and other resources.

The VD and RVA have legal power and authority to take decisions related to control measures and trade restrictions if needed (e.g. culling of animals, disposal of confiscated material or destruction of risky commodities). Import controls at borders, official inspection in approved establishments and controlled implementation of animal disease monitoring programmes support solid technical independence free of commercial or financial pressure. However, hierarchical and political impacts are possible, which might affect the judgement or decisions of veterinary inspectors or other VS personnel. A high turnover in top management positions of the VD in recent years (changes of CVOs and their assistants occurred twice during 2015) could influence the overall image of independence of the Veterinary Services.

Political commitment to intensive trade with other EAEU countries and a priority assigned to export orientated collaboration with EU and other partners has resulted in the implementation of measures based on specific regulations in these unions of countries, rather than independent, scientific-based hazard identification, risk analysis and management principles. In this context it appears that the CVO position is more a political appointment than a fully independent technical position.

There is evidence that some robust animal disease control programmes are not in compliance with OIE recommendations, although the self-declared status of the country is based on such programmes. Similarly, targeted surveillance on some diseases, is not based on scientific principles, and related to specific epidemiological goals, such as detection of emerging disease, evaluation of prevalence/incidence rate, or identification of characteristic of some diseases. A clear example is a decision of Veterinary Authorities to totally depopulate the wild boar population in areas at risk of ASF – a decision with a questionable science-base. Under the same programme a large number of samples collected in slaughterhouses from obviously healthy animals originating from relatively low risk large, commercial farms are tested for anti-ASFV antibodies, while only a limited number of samples from a higher risk subpopulation of domestic pigs and wild boars is checked for the presence of ASF virus.

It is noted that wages of veterinarians in the Veterinary Authority are lower than in other entities of the Veterinary Services. The current low level of salaries may have negative

consequence on technical independence in the long term (as discussed under CC I-1A). This is visible in particular at regional and district levels where it is difficult to attract and recruit young veterinary specialists and to retain them working for the State Veterinary Service long enough to build the professional skills and experience required to ensure an appropriate level of technical independence.

Strengths:

- Some training on risk analysis is provided by recognized international agencies (FAO, TAIEX)
- There are potential and basic capacities within some organisations (e.g. BVSC) within the VS to carry out proper risk assessments if appropriate decisions and training programmes were to be provided.
- A national anti-corruption system is in place as an additional support for consistency and integrity of the Veterinary Authority.

Weaknesses:

- Selection criteria and procedures for appointment of the CVO are not clearly prescribed in the Veterinary Law or transparently implemented. There is a real possibility (and frequent turnover creates an appearance that it may be recent practice) to dismiss the CVO for political reasons.
- Risk assessment and its importance seem to be not very well understood.
- Non-compliance is evident with OIE animal diseases notification requirements (immediate notification, six-months and annual reports).
- Low incomes of official veterinarians create a possibility and risk of potential pressure (e.g. financial, political, and hierarchical).
- Possible conflict of interest may exist in slaughterhouses with industrial capacity (where only one official veterinary inspector is working in high-capacity establishment and some official activities are carried out by veterinarians employed by the establishment).

Recommendations:

- Establish a risk assessment unit within the VD, with clear job descriptions, appropriate training and resources for full implementation of science-based risk analysis procedures.
- Establish and implement a code of practice to define critical values and principles for the Veterinary Services, namely: transparency, independence, impartiality, integrity, and quality policies and practices consistent with OIE recommendations.
- Reconsider the policy related to inspection controls in abattoirs, and ensure that all procedures are aligned with international standards to prevent real or apparent conflicts of interest.

I-5 Stability of structures and sustainability of policies *The capability of the VS structure and/or leadership to implement and sustain policies over time.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in lack of sustainability of policies.
	2. Sustainability of policies is affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS
	3. Sustainability of policies is not affected or is slightly affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS.
	4. Policies are sustained over time through national strategic plans and frameworks and are not affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS
	5. Policies are sustained over time and the structure and leadership of the VS are stable. Modifications are based on an evaluation process, with positive effects on the sustainability of policies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E7 - E10, E12, E13, E38, E51, E52, E99, E100, D12, D38 - D40, D55, D80, D83, D84, D87, D98, D141, D144, D154, D160.

Findings:

The Veterinary Department was created in 2011 from the former State Veterinary Administration, within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, with a stabile structure and sustainable veterinary policies. The political situation has been stabile over the last two decades. The position of the CVO was also relatively stable in the period before this PVS mission (the previous CVO was on position for 5 years), but changes of CVOs and their assistants occurred twice during 2015. Other managerial positions in the VD remain the same, and are stable with skill-based promotions by the Minister, after consultation with CVO.

The Eurasian Customs Union (EACU) followed by Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU, EEU) is a driving force in the overall organization of the VD, to facilitate free movement of goods (including agricultural products), capital, services and people. This is a powerful mechanism to facilitate improvement of VS, with the goal to fully harmonize national procedures carried out by VS, with rules established jointly with other member countries of the EAEU, while also addressing requirements from other importing countries and trading partners.

Strengths:

- Progress of the VS is in the national interest in part because of political commitments to the EAEU, and the commercial interests of the national agriculture and processing industries.
- A significant number of laws and regulations were adopted in last 5 years to enable the VD to carry out activities for animal disease control and food safety, but also for international veterinary certification.

Weaknesses:

- The overall structure of the VS is not fully effective. There is need to review the relationship of the VD with, and responsibilities of, regional and local official veterinary services (at oblast and rayon levels) to ensure sustainable and appropriate structures with an efficient and operational chain of command and well defined hierarchies from the central to local levels.
- The structure of VS does not reflect responsibilities of the VS across the full veterinary domain (e.g. food and feed safety, animal welfare)
- The VD does not evaluate implementation of all activities based on the current veterinary legislation.

Recommendations:

- Further progress in development of VS to be based on the adoption of OIE standards into national legislation, standards and operative procedures.
- Review the overall organisation of veterinary service, and integrate the main principles recommended by the OIE to ensure the quality of activities implemented by Veterinary Services throughout the whole veterinary domain.
- To fully implement evaluation of all veterinary activities, including implementation of animal disease monitoring programmes.

I-6 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services A. Internal coordination (chain of command) *The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer), to the field level of the VS in order to implement all national activities relevant for the Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programmes).*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no formal internal coordination and the chain of command is not clear.
	2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.
	3. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for some activities.
	4. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command at the national level for most activities.
	5. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for all activities and these are periodically reviewed/audited and updated.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E7 - E10, E12, E13, E36 - E38, E42, E45 - E48, E51 - E53, E86, E99, E100, D10, D15, D38 - D40, D80 - D84, D87, D95, D98, D104, D134, D141, D144, D150, D154, D159, D160, V3.

Findings:

The Veterinary Directorate has a centralized system, with a vertical chain of command, under direct responsibility of the Minister of agriculture, and his deputy for veterinary matters, the Director of the VD and CVO of Belarus. There are some departments within the VD, but also separate organisations with specific roles and responsibilities that are nevertheless directly supervised by and accountable to the CVO, according to laws.

Some activities of the national veterinary administration, including coordination of activities at field level but also the control of enforcement of legislation, and inspections of establishments, are delegated to regional and local veterinary administration, while remaining under control of the VD. Current legislative precisely define that these local veterinary authorities, although established by municipality administration, should act as part of hierarchical structure and management supervision of VD. Also, they report directly to the CVO and his team, while conflict of interest with management of local administration should be avoided. However, it cannot be excluded that local veterinary inspectors could receive orders or request by city authorities, without coordination with VD and consultation with CVO. It is noted that the local inspection force should be strengthened.

Organisational charts, lines of command, roles and responsibilities of the CVO, details of functional responsibilities of personnel and all organisational components were available during the evaluation, as well as some procedures and evidence of regular meetings within the central office, with regional and local authorities, but also with other national services.

Collaboration between the VD and other Veterinary Service is solid, but there is need to establish formal cooperation (e.g. memorandums of understanding, agreements, contacts) with precise definition of responsibilities.

The legal foundation modernized in 2014 provides for coordination with other governmental and national services, including the President's office and relevant ministries, security offices and other institutions. It allocates some financial and other resources to combat animal diseases.

Strengths:

- An appropriate chain of command is in place along almost the whole veterinary domain
- A centralized structure is in place with clear subordination set out in the organogram of the VD,

- There is a solid legal base for coordination of VS,
- Solid knowledge of staff in the central office of the VD about the situation in the field, due to regular visits and flows of information (reporting of activities)
- There is enough equipment (according to VD) for all offices and field inspectors (cell phones, computers, internet access, faxes).

Weaknesses:

- Regional and district CVOs (heads of veterinary administration in oblast and rayon level) are appointed by the local, municipality administrations, with some consultation but most probably only limited influence and control by the central veterinary authority and the CVO (see CC I 5 Stability of structures and sustainability of policies)
- There is some overlap between some departments and other units within the VD (e.g. responsibilities of Veterinary Inspection unit and State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance are not precisely defined)
- In the case of an emergency (e.g. outbreak of AFS in 2013), the VD and the VS were subordinated to other authorities, where the CVO was just member of the committee, with many participants, without a clear role in the decision making process.
- There are no contingency plans and operating manuals for major transboundary diseases (e.g. FMD, ASF, CSF, ND); these should provide precise descriptions of activities and control measures to be taken in the case of a disease outbreak, and a list of responsible persons to be engaged.
- Adequate guidance is not in place regarding communications, upstream and downstream within the Veterinary Services, but also communication of animal disease programmes (e.g. miscommunication on oral rabies vaccination programme).
- Annual reports, reports of any periodic or ad hoc government reviews of the VS or a specific function, are not available. There are no appropriate statistics or summary reports on the inspections undertaken in the whole country, by all inspection services (e.g. VD, regional/local inspection offices, national security office) or for all establishments (farms, backyard holdings, food/feed producers).

Recommendations:

- Review the functionality and effectiveness of the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services, including the appropriateness of interface relationships with governmental Ministries, and conduct regular exercises to test the suitability of the established chain of command, particularly during animal health or food safety crisis.
- Formalise communication procedures, improve organisation of meetings and establish a quality management system within the VD and with subordinate organisations.
- Organise a comprehensive study of activities performed by veterinary inspectors, including assessments of their workloads, performance checks and an evaluation of the effectiveness of official controls on animal and veterinary public health, as well as the possibility of delegating some inspection roles to other entities.
- Improve the administration of all Veterinary Services in the country, and publish reports on their organisation and structures, budgets, activities and the recent performance of the VS.

B. External coordination	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) at all levels with other relevant authorities as appropriate, in order to implement all national activities relevant for OIE Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programmes). Relevant authorities include other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions.	1. There is no external coordination.
	2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.
	3. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements for some activities and/or sectors.
	4. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements at the national level for most activities, and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country.
	5. There are national external coordination mechanisms for all activities and these are periodically reviewed and updated.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E36 - E38, E42, E45 - E48, E99, E100, D10, D80, D82, D95, D104, D150, D159, D160, V3.

Findings:

The legislative framework clearly sets out a relationship of the Veterinary Department with other sectors within the same Ministry, and with other authorities, and defines the mandate of each governmental service. Also, there is an appropriate national structure and coordination between different Ministries and authorities.

The Veterinary law prescribes role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Department as the national competent authority responsible for animal health, food and feed safety, and international veterinary certification. According to available legislation and interpretations provided by higher officials during the mission, there is no overlap of responsibilities with the Ministry of Health.

The Veterinary Department is well supported by higher authorities in the case of exceptional animal health emergencies of national importance, as was demonstrated during the outbreak of ASF when the highest national authorities took part in crisis management and immediately allocated necessary resources (e.g. Ministry of interior affairs, Security Department, Prosecutors). Police and security services support veterinary activities not only during official controls when requested, but also to implement prevention measures (e.g. the police service provided regular controls on large pig farms in the zone at risk from ASF).

Cooperation of the veterinary border control service with the customs service at the border was clearly demonstrated during the mission, with some evidence of official communication. However, there is no formal agreement between these services. Additionally, it was noticed that there is no arrangement with other relevant authorities and interested parties (governmental and non-governmental), nor precise instructions and procedures for coordination.

Although there is some joint work with public health authorities, official agreements and formal procedures for exchange of information, knowledge and mutual implementation of some measures between the VD and the Ministry of Health for relevant fields was not evident (e.g. zoonosis and food borne diseases, AMR, standards setting process). No information was provided on adoption and implementation of the International Health Regulations.

Formal relationships with industry organisations and associations are not in place, nor is there notification of any changes in structures or policies to trading partners. Overall coordination between the VD and the food sector is not adequate, although some positive

examples of collaboration were noted. However, many industrial farms and export orientated establishments have capacities and commitments for joint programmes and collaboration with the VD.

Strengths:

- There is solid legal basis, and competent personnel in the VD for proper institutional collaboration with relevant national authorities and services.
- Strengths of the VS for internal coordination and capacities of the food industry could be used as opportunities to promote external coordination and management.

Weaknesses:

- Reports and evidence of coordination with other relevant authorities were not available.
- Formal inter-ministerial agreements, or establishments of joint committees, task forces and expert groups for veterinary domain are not available (except for ASF control, driven by single outbreak in 2013).
- Although wildlife is not managed by the VD, there is no formal agreement with the national authority for hunting or wildlife management to coordinate animal disease control programmes.
- There is no cooperation agreement between the VS and the customs services, including preparatory work or implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- There is no formal coordination with municipalities and NGOs for stray dog population management and control.
- There is no evidence that VD staff develop and publish any scientific articles alone or in collaboration with human health experts in refereed veterinary or public health journals.

Recommendations:

- Use example of the ASF crisis to highlight opportunities and joint interests to improving coordination mechanisms amongst Ministerial services and with other authorities, institutions, industry, academic organisations and the NGO sector.
- Increase commitment of the VD to relevant initiatives of the OIE (e.g. communication training, standards setting process, regional task force for Europe) to strengthen coordination capacities of the VS.
- Establish joint projects between the VD and public health authorities to improve animal and human health and welfare. Use these initiatives as a means to improve collaboration of the two services for the global interest and as a basis for signing of formal agreements, and establishment of task forces or working groups for some relevant fields (e.g. zoonosis, AMR, IHR).

I-7 Physical resources *The access of the VS to relevant physical resources including buildings, transport, telecommunications, cold chain, and other relevant equipment (e.g. computers).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level and at some regional levels, and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, regional and some local levels and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained.
	5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, sub-national and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced and sophisticated items become available.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E36, E37, E45 - E47, E51 - E53, E60, E99, E100, D10, D38 - D40, D104, D113, D141, D144, D150,

Findings:

The VD have access to offices, facilities and premises with suitable furniture, working conditions, and equipment (office computers, faxes, consumables), including communication equipment. They also keep records of physical resources for the VS. Appropriate funds are budgeted annually for the maintenance of non-human resources. The VD is also equipped with adequate vehicles. Administrative procedures are in place to manage inventory and to maintain of physical resources.

Physical resources at regional and local levels of the veterinary administration, veterinary stations in cities, various veterinary laboratories and faculties visited, appear sufficient and appropriately maintained in most cases, although some premises are not appropriately sized. For example, in the Veterinary Centre in Minsk, which has diversified activities including laboratory diagnosis and NRL, the mission team noted limited space and inadequate availability of some tools in some departments (e.g. hardware components and laboratory information system), and many hard copies that must be physically archived for quality control. In other cases local laboratories and veterinary stations lacked equipment, vehicles, computers or internet connections and access to national or international academic databases.

Some laboratories at rayon levels operate without adequate resources, trained experts, equipment, biosafety cabinets and accreditation. An example of the impact of these deficiencies on the reliability of the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis is provided in CC II-1.B.

Strengths:

- VS accommodated in suitable premises at central level and in the regions, and equipped properly for efficient internal communication and function.
- Almost all physical resources generally available to all Veterinary Services, with appropriate maintenance.
- New surveillance equipment provided after outbreak of ASF.

Weaknesses:

- There is no programme to replace capital assets such as transport and communication equipment at the end of their lifespan.
- There is no detailed inventory of assets, nor is a needs assessment process to evaluate capital needs of all Veterinary Services.
- A BS level 3 laboratory is not available in the country, with appropriate facility construction, safety equipment and laboratory practices.

- Although basic transport facilities are provided, some field inspectors do not have vehicles available to carry out official controls.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a proper need assessment for physical resources and maintenance for the whole VS, with allocation of funds and procurement of missing elements in the near future.
- IT support should be developed for proper management of all physical resources.
- Establish and maintain an inventory of all physical assets in the field and establish clear guidelines for equipping facilities at all levels within the VS.
- Consider reviewing the organisation of all local (rayon) laboratories, the use of current physical resources and a survey of possibilities for further equipping and proper maintenance of these laboratories. In the same context, the VD should consider possible enlargement of the capacities of its national reference laboratory and the establishment of a biosafety level 3 laboratory for high contagious animal diseases and zoonosis.

I-8 Operational funding *The ability of the VS to access financial resources adequate for their continued operations, independent of political pressure.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined but depends on resources allocated irregularly.
	2. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, but is inadequate for their required base operations (i.e. disease surveillance, early detection and rapid response and veterinary public health).
	3. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, and is adequate for their base operations, but there is no provision for new or expanded operations.
	4. Funding for new or expanded operations is on a case-by-case basis, not always based on risk analysis and/or cost benefit analysis.
	5. Funding for all aspects of VS activities is adequate; all funding is provided under full transparency and allows for full technical independence, based on risk analysis and/or cost benefit analysis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E38, E53, E99, E100, D3, D100, D113, D144, D150, D156, D159.

Findings:

Adequate and consistent financial resources and authority to perform official tasks, and to finance monitoring programmes, are available to the Veterinary Services in Belarus, according to the evidence and statements of VD management. Each animal disease outbreak seems to have been appropriately managed, thanks to managerial capacities and the availability of funds to carry out investigations, culling of animals, carcass disposal, cleaning and disinfection as well as measures in protection and surveillance zones.

The budget is based on direct government allocations, supplemented by fees (e.g. import and border control fees). Some activities are funded by animal owners. Access to additional funds is possible, if needed (e.g. budget reserve for vaccine bank and diagnostics).

Some operations are sponsored by international donations, such as Oral Rabies Vaccination 50-70 km from border with Latvia and Lithuania, funded by the EU. Another example is an FAO ongoing project on strengthening diagnostic capacities on ASF under which a state of the art laboratory equipment and diagnostics were bought and provided for free to the Belarussian State Veterinary Centre. Relevant training of the staff of the BSVC in the OIE Reference Lab for ASF in Spain was also organised under this and other projects. A significant number of diagnostic tests and consumables are available in central and oblast laboratories, but not in local ones.

Strengths:

- A sustainable system for self-funding, based on collection of fees for services provided (e.g. issuing of licences, border controls, laboratory services).
- The budget has been relatively stable for several years.
- Improvement of laboratory capacity at all levels, particularly in oblast laboratories and BSVC, has taken place in recent years.
- The VD takes advantages of support provided by FAO (control of ASF) and EU (ORV in border zones with EU).

Weaknesses:

- Insufficient funding for advanced programmes (e.g. ORV is carried out only in one part of the country, partially sponsored by EU and partially funded from national budget)
- Inadequate resources for proper diagnosis of animal diseases in local laboratories (rayon level).

Recommendations:

- Explore possibilities for sustainable implementation of a rabies elimination programme (with oral vaccination on the whole territory), and some other eradication programmes of national or regular interest, based on risk and cost-benefit analyses.
- Review the efficiency of the laboratory network, including conduct cost-effectiveness analysis of local veterinary laboratories which need significant investments to improve facilities, equipment and the implementation of proper laboratory methods, as well as regular funds for maintenance and systematic procurement of reliable diagnostics and consumables.
- Consider expanding the use of fee for service arrangements to provide for government employed inspectors for ante- and post-mortem inspection at slaughter facilities (see CC II.8.B)

I-9 Emergency funding	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or emerging issues; measured by the ease of which contingency and compensatory funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made available when required.	1. No funding arrangements exist and there is no provision for emergency financial resources.
	2. Funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for expected emergency situations (including emerging issues).
	3. Funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources for emergencies may be approved but approval is through a political process.
	4. Funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established, but in an emergency situation, their operation must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.
	5. Funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E7 – E13, E36, E37, E45 - E48, D10, D104, D138, D139, D144, D150, D156.

Findings:

Annual budget information is available.

Limited resources are allocated for emergency response activities, however it is possibility to re-allocate funds within the budget to support additional operations if needed. Exceptional funding could be provided by the Government as was demonstrated by the outbreak of ASF in 2013, when 118 terrain cars, disinfection equipment, PCR and other equipment for 6 oblast laboratories, were supplied to the VS. The purpose of this procurement was to strengthen Veterinary Services, improve response, and fully implement control measures (carcass disposal, disinfection). However, there was no follow up analysis of the appropriate use and assessment of long-term needs.

In the national budget, there are reserve fund available in general budgetary lines, to be used for exceptional situations, including animal health emergencies.

A certain degree of compensation is provided for culled animals by the local administration. Although no negotiation with interested parties is organized, interviews during the mission indicate that compensation is usually done by providing live animals to farmers rather than money.

Strengths:

- Some budgeted funds (e.g. reserve funds) are available for emergency responses, but mainly on exceptional basis.
- A strong industry sector could be a partner to support proper management of animal diseases, including appropriate emergency funding.

Weaknesses:

- Animal disease compensation policies are not properly designed.
- There is no long term animal health strategy to underline the importance of preventive measures, and to supported proper budgetary planning for animal health crises.
- There is no consultation with interested parties on the amount and terms governing compensation payments..
- Access to emergency funds and compensation is available only in exceptional situations (e.g. ASF in 2013).
- There is no budget available to the VD for compensation of costs to farmers for culled animals. Local authorities provide some incentives, usually not on the basis of market

price of destroyed animals, but by delivery of new animals (young, breeding animals) to re-establish production.

Recommendations:

- Establish an animal disease control centre to manage operations during an animal disease emergency, and to regularly conduct contingency planning, and to promote proper budget planning for emerging situations.
- Design, develop and maintain appropriate policies and procedures for an animal disease compensation fund to support fair compensation schemes, provide incentives for notification of diseases and to facilitate rapid responses.
- Involve relevant governmental structures and other interested parties in the consultation process on compensation.

I-10 Capital investment *The capability of the VS to access funding for basic and additional investments (material and non material) that lead to a sustained improvement in the VS operational infrastructure.*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no capability to establish, maintain or improve the operational infrastructure of the VS.
	2. The VS occasionally develops proposals and secures funding for the establishment, maintenance or improvement of operational infrastructure but this is normally through extraordinary allocations.
	3. The VS regularly secures funding for maintenance and improvements of operational infrastructure, through allocations from the national budget or from other sources, but there are constraints on the use of these allocations.
	4. The VS routinely secures adequate funding for the necessary maintenance and improvement in operational infrastructure.
	5. The VS systematically secures adequate funding for the necessary improvements in operational infrastructure, including with participation from interested parties as required.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1 - E3, E29, E36, E37, E45, E99, D156.

Findings:

There is regular investment in the current infrastructure of the VD. Resources for maintenance are allocated in the national veterinary budget and the VD does not face major difficulties to run relevant activities. However, a proper needs assessment along the whole veterinary domain would provide ideas for designing plans for further development of, and investment in the operational infrastructure of the Veterinary Services.

The VD presented to the mission team the concept for construction of a new Laboratory Diagnostic Centre with a Biosafety level 3 laboratory and research facilities. However, the project plan has not yet been designed and resources remain to be allocated.

There is a sustainable system in place for regular improvement of regional laboratories and veterinary offices. All visited establishment were recently renovated, equipped with adequate instruments, hardware and basic office software and adequately maintained.

Strengths:

- The VS do not face major difficulties in securing appropriate resources to run all activities, and operate regular quality management systems. Budget funds were earmarked for maintenance of these physical resources.
- The VD demonstrated awareness and commitment for further development of operational infrastructure (e.g. the BS3 laboratory).
- Regional activities to strengthen veterinary services and their capacity to prevent and control ASF could facilitate better collaboration of interested countries and donations from international parties.

Weaknesses:

- The VD does not have a detailed needs assessment spanning all VSs for current maintenance, nor plans for improvement, with functional and financial analysis.
- The VS not highly involved in regional activities and initiatives.

Recommendations:

- The VD should develop a detailed needs assessment in collaboration with other veterinary partners to document capital investment requirements, and use it to promote proper long term capital investment and adequate maintenance.
- The VD should take an active part in all activities of international organisations and other partners (e.g. FAO, OIE, GF-TAD's, EU) to improve the epidemiological situation related to ASF in the region, and in particular participate actively in OIE's initiatives for regional cooperation (standard setting process, Task Force of the

Regional Commission for Europe). Such collaboration could facilitate many opportunities for designing of infrastructure projects.

I-11. Management of resources and operations *The capability of the VS to document and manage their resources and operations in order to analyse, plan and improve both efficiency and effectiveness.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not have adequate records or documented procedures to allow appropriate management of resources and operations
	2. The VS have adequate records and/or documented procedures but do not use these for management, analysis, control or planning.
	3. The VS have adequate records, documentation and management systems and use these to a limited extent for the control of efficiency and effectiveness
	4. The VS regularly analyse records and documented procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness
	5. The VS have fully effective management systems, which are regularly audited and permit a proactive continuous improvement of efficiency and effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E7 - E10, E12, E13, E29, E36, E37, E45 - E48, E53, E98 - E100, D10, D38, D39, D80 - D83, D87, D92, D94, D95, D98, D100 - D102, D104, D113, D133, D144, D145, D150, D154, D156, D159.

Findings:

The stable structure of VS in Belarus, supplemented with precise descriptions of responsibilities, proper management and firm inter-sectorial coordination supports solid and effective management of resources. Official veterinary inspectors carry out field activities according to written rules, mainly prescribed by the relevant authority (VD). However, these instructions are not detailed or regularly updated, with a proper document management process or IT support, thereby reducing the quality of inspection controls.

There is no computerized data base available in the VD to support management and analysis of resources and official controls, and to improve data collection (including data from monitoring programmes and inspection control), to reduce paper work and to avoid duplication of activities.

The lack of valid centralised data or proper analysis of inspections carried out in the field, limits capacities of the VD to manage local inspectors engaged in official controls and to ensure standardized quality of inspections to avoid significant discrepancies between inspectors or regions. Such a database would allow analysis of the work performed in each region, and in each establishment, and to make proper comparisons between regions and even inspectors. If significant discrepancies occur, the situation should be further investigated and control measures imposed.

Strengths:

- A legal basis, rulebooks and procedures are in place for all operations of the VS.
- The recent launch of an animal identification system supported by a sophisticated IT system, and plans for further development, could facilitate wider use of information technologies in the veterinary services.

Weaknesses:

- Detailed standard operating procedures are not in place, nor is there a computerized data base to support management and analysis of resources and official controls
- Data collection (including data from monitoring programmes and inspection control), is not properly organized, there is a significant amount of paper work and possible duplication of activities, with limited capacities for proper analysis.
- There is no evidence of performance assessment and overall audit system of the VD, with details of compliance and relevant reports.
- Official operations and controls are not effective in rural areas, namely on small family farms and backyard animal holdings with low biosecurity. Although such holdings

pose a higher risk of animal disease outbreaks, animal disease surveillance and monitoring is not in place.

Recommendations:

- Standard operating procedures should be developed for all activities of the veterinary services, especially for official veterinary inspections.
- A sophisticated hardware and software IT system should be envisaged to improve data collection, management, analysis and proper use, with significant benefits for the decision making process.
- Consider development of an audit programme with appropriate human resources and capacities to improve quality management systems.

III.2 Fundamental component II: Technical authority and capability

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to develop and apply sanitary measures and science-based procedures supporting those measures. It comprises eighteen critical competencies.

For all sections of this chapter, the critical competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas.

Critical competencies:

Section II-1	**Veterinary laboratory diagnosis**
	A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis
	B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructures
Section II-2	**Laboratory quality assurance**
Section II-3	**Risk analysis**
Section II-4	**Quarantine and border security**
Section II-5	**Epidemiological surveillance and early detection**
	A. Passive Epidemiological surveillance
	B. Active Epidemiological surveillance
Section II-6	**Emergency response**
Section II-7	**Disease prevention, control and eradication**
Section II-8	**Food safety**
	A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments for production, processing and distribution of food of animal origin
	B. Ante and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises
	C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution of products of animal origin
Section II-9	**Veterinary medicines and biologicals**
Section II-10	**Residue testing**
Section II-11	**Animal feed safety**
Section II-12	**Identification and traceability**
	A. Animal identification and movement control
	B. Identification and traceability of products of animal origin
Section II-13	**Animal welfare**

Terrestrial Code References:

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.
Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General Organisation / Procedures and standards.
Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.
Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.
Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.
Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.
Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.
Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.
Points 2 and 5-7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Laboratory services / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.
Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.
Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.
Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.
Chapter 6.3. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.
Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.
Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea.
Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land.
Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air.
Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals.
Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis **A Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis** *The authority and capability of the VS to have access to laboratory diagnosis in order to identify and record pathogenic agents, including those relevant for public health, that can adversely affect animals and animal products.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with no access to and use of a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	2. For major zoonoses and diseases of national economic importance, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	3. For other zoonoses and diseases present in the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	4. For diseases of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but known to exist in the region and/ or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	5. In the case of new and emerging diseases in the region or world, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference laboratories (e.g. an OIE Reference Laboratory) to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E7 -9, E12, E15, E45 - E48, E56 - 58, E71-75, E86, E88-92, E98, D3, D5, D6, D10, D37, D43, D70 - 72, D104, D138,139, D144.

Findings:

There is appropriate access to veterinary diagnostic laboratories with a network of the following state laboratories: Belarus State Veterinary Centre – National Reference Laboratory (1), Regional veterinary laboratories in all Oblasts (6), and inter-district (rayon) veterinary laboratories (10). Additionally, official inspector could request additional investigations to be carried out at the Vitebsk Veterinary Academy (e.g. bovine tuberculosis). These labs are responsible to carry out almost all relevant analyses for animal diseases and food/feed safety, as well as the quality of animal products (bacteriological, serological, virological, mycological, parasitological, and radiological). Their authority and scope of activity is determined by the administrative area, defined by the VD, which is usually the oblast or rayon.

All regions have access to this advanced state laboratory system with adequate resources for all routine testing, designed by the VD, and offering access to other national (e.g. BSVC) or international laboratories, if needed for further diagnostic investigations. Similarly, district veterinary services have access to inter-rayon laboratories that collaborate with superior - oblast laboratories, BVC or other centres (e.g. university facilities and experts).

The regional and district laboratories are responsible for the diagnosis of animal diseases and perform all relevant analyses for particular areas. They also support regional offices of the VD. BSVC, as the national reference laboratory, ensures good coordination and proficiency testing for some fields (animal disease, food control). This laboratory is well equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation. Laboratory staff are knowledgeable, received training in EU and Russian laboratories, and maintain professional contacts with recognized international laboratories.

If necessary, the VD engages other national laboratories, for specific purposes. One example is the Laboratory of Scientific-Practical Centre for Foodstuffs of the National Academy of Science of Belarus, a scientific organisation focused on the development of new technologies of food processing. This laboratory is involved in the national residue testing programmes.

The Government allocates financial resources and capacities via Belzoovetsnabprom, a specialized state-owned corporation responsible for supplying laboratories with a sufficient quantity of diagnostic tests, equipment and biologicals. The mission team witnessed a significant number of recognized commercial tests in the BVC and oblast laboratories.

Other state laboratories include those in markets for specific assessments to control the quality of animal products according to national rules ("veterinary-sanitary expertise"). However, these facilities are not properly equipped nor managed to carry out laboratory investigations on the basis of the OIE standards.

In additionally, high-capacity establishments (slaughterhouses, dairy plants, processing plants, pharmaceutical companies, and even some farms) have internal laboratories for quality control, with appropriate conditions, equipment and quality assurance system.

There is collaboration with some international and OIE reference laboratories, and agreements for confirmatory testing or further laboratory investigations as needed. This collaboration should be formalized and strengthened.

For Trichinosis, an important zoonosis, there is a good testing system in place using accredited methods, not only in official laboratories but also in the internal labs of large slaughter and meat processing establishments.

Although there is firm network of veterinary laboratories, the rapid alert and animal disease reporting system is weak. This has negative impacts on the system for control of animal and food borne diseases, and the early detection of animal diseases or zoonoses in order to fulfil reporting (transparency) obligations to the OIE and other partners. During the mission, the evaluation team discovered evidence of positive result at BSVC for CSF in 2015, which was never reported to the VD, and consequently to other countries and the OIE.

Laboratories in districts have inappropriate equipment and methods for diagnostic investigations. Governance and management of these veterinary laboratories is not effective in delivery of a diagnostic service according to relevant international standards. Moreover, they carry out some investigations (e.g. bovine tuberculosis) for which there is strong need to ensure higher standards, an appropriate biosafety environment, and properly trained personnel. Interpretation of confirmatory results issued by rayon laboratories, (negative in 100% cases for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis) cannot be accepted as fully reliable. In two cases, laboratory personnel were unable to demonstrate understanding of sensitivity and specificity of used tests, positive and negative predictive value, and explain interpretation of results based on quality of tests prescribed by manufacturers.

Strengths:

- There is very solid network of 6 regional veterinary laboratories, coordinated by the National Reference Laboratory (BSVC), with appropriate instruments, equipment and methodologies, able to carry out reliable diagnostic activities. Laboratory staff are highly competent and receive proper continuous education and training. Regular participation in proficiency testing is established.
- There is proper system in place for supply of adequate quantities of veterinary diagnostics and consumables.
- Some laboratories use a laboratory information management system (LIMS), and demonstrated support for further development of LIMS.

Weaknesses:

- A sample tracing and management system is not in place in most laboratories (except in BVC for animal products). This could compromise reliable diagnostic investigations and the quality of animal disease surveillance programmes.
- There is no systematic use of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in the veterinary laboratories.
- No laboratory carries out validation of diagnostic tests. There is no awareness in laboratories or the epidemiology service of the possibility of adjusting the cut-off value of some commercial tests to suit the local epidemiological situation, that is in order to change the sensitivity or specificity of testing and monitoring programmes (e.g. for ELISA method used to test samples coming from areas in close proximity to the

border with neighbouring countries infected with ASFV one might wish to use a test of high sensitivity to avoid missing an infected animal).

- Laboratories were not able to present a list of compulsory notifiable diseases to the evaluation team.
- There is no laboratory available to test samples on some important animal diseases (e.g. TSE, BSE).

Recommendations:

- Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the network of veterinary laboratories to consider in particular the role, capacity, supervision and real needs of rayon labs. Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness studies would be useful for designing proper plans and improving the governance and management of veterinary laboratories.
- Develop a proper sample management and tracing system from the field to issuing of results. Promote wider use of LIMS, preferably with exchanges of relevant data with the system of on farm registration and animal identification.
- Strengthen and consider consolidating capacities of veterinary laboratories to support animal disease control programmes, sanitary status determinations and international certification procedures. Some important diseases should be included, such as BSE.
- Improve the selection and procurement of diagnostic tests with the assistance of laboratory experts and epidemiologists. Validation of tests should be routinely implemented. As an inherent part of animal disease control programmes an understanding of the selection of the cut-off value of some diagnostic tests, and its justification on the basis of the epidemiological situation in a given region would improve the overall quality of these programmes.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis **B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructures** *The sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of the national (public and private) laboratory infrastructures to service the needs of the VS*	Levels of advancement
	1. The national laboratory infrastructure does not meet the need of the VS.
	2. The national laboratory infrastructure meets partially the needs of the VS, but is not entirely sustainable, as organisational deficiencies with regard to the effective and efficient management of resources and infrastructure (including maintenance) are apparent
	3. The national laboratory infrastructure generally meets the needs of the VS. Resources and organisation appear to be managed effectively and efficiently, but their regular funding is inadequate to support a sustainable and regularly maintained infrastructure
	4. The national laboratory infrastructure generally meets the needs of the VS and is subject to timely maintenance programmes but needs new investments in certain aspects (e.g. accessibility to laboratories, number or type of analyses).
	5. The national laboratory infrastructure meets the needs of the VS, and is sustainable and regularly audited.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E7 -E9, E12, E56-58, E86, E88-92, E98, D7, D13, D37, D70 - 72, D138, D139, D144.

Findings:

All epidemiological areas have access to a state laboratory system, and wide range of relevant analyses (bacteriological, serological, virological, mycological, parasitological, radiological, molecular), with additional support from the central laboratory and possible access to relevant international laboratories.

The Belarus State Veterinary Centre (BSVC) as the NRL for animal diseases and residue monitoring, has significant resources for laboratory investigation, quality assurance, residue testing, and a certain level epidemiology and risk assessment to support the VD. BSVC delivers reliable laboratory services using specialised facilities which are appropriately constructed and managed. Qualified staff, appropriate infrastructure and scientific methods are well managed. They presented a vision and general idea for constructing a new building with modern facilities, up-to-date equipment and advanced labs and services, including a BS3 level laboratory and research. BSVC uses a computerized system for sample registration, traceability and management, but only for some types of samples (milk, meat and other products of animal origin), not for animal diseases testing.

Also, regional (oblast) veterinary laboratories have competent, motivated and trained staff, modern equipment and they use appropriate methodologies for proper diagnostic investigations. Their management is very solid, and collaboration with the regional veterinary administration is on a high level, particularly when it comes to implementation of monitoring programmes, or when there is need to resolve some epidemiological event.

However, laboratories in districts have solid facilities but inappropriate equipment and methods for diagnostic investigations as discussed under CC II-1.A.

Strengths:

- Access to veterinary laboratories is good throughout the country.
- The capacity of national laboratory infrastructure is very high, with suitable human and non-human resources.
- Overall the quality of central and regional laboratories is very high, with solid implementation of national and international requirements.

Weaknesses:

- There is no IT-support system to facilitate exchange of relevant data about farms, establishments and animals to guarantee reliability of information (e.g. unique animal

ID, farm's profile, information on owners or keepers, samples IDs, results of laboratory examinations) to support official control programmes (monitoring of animal diseases or residues of veterinary medicines), certification of animals and/or herds.

- Significant resources are needed to improve medium-level labs (10 inter-rayon laboratories) including their maintenance and management of resources, quality assurance and sample management. This could be the critical element for proper governance of the national laboratory infrastructure.
- There is no BSL-3 laboratory with adequate level of the biocontainment precautions required to isolate dangerous biological agents

Recommendations:

- The efficiency of the existing laboratory network needs to be carefully assessed, analysed and optimised in terms of resources spent and the quality of results obtained by laboratories at different levels. In particular, the need to maintain a laboratory network at rayon level and its capacity have to be carefully reviewed and reconsidered.
- Additional resources are needed for further strengthening of central and regional laboratories.
- The VD should review the current system of document management and establish a national IT system, which should include LIMS. This would offer multiple benefits for all veterinary services, including increasing of the reliability of data and capacities for its analysis, reduction of the amount of paper work, and improvement of overall decision making.
- Budgetary funds should be allocated for further development of the laboratory network, including establishment of additional methods, and construction of a BSL-3 laboratory.

II-2 Laboratory quality assurance *The quality of laboratories (that conduct diagnostic testing or analysis for chemical residues, antimicrobial residues, toxins, or tests for, biological efficacy, etc.) as measured by the use of formal QA systems including, but not limited to, participation in relevant proficiency testing programmes.*	Levels of advancement
	1. No laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	2. Some laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	3. All laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	4. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA systems.
	5. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA programmes that meet OIE, ISO 17025, or equivalent QA standard guidelines.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E7 - E9, E12, E56-58, E86, E88-92, E98, D7, D13, D37, D70 - D72, D138, 139, D144, D147, D148, D171- D173, D174.

Findings:

The Belarussian State Veterinary Centre and all 6 regional veterinary laboratories situated in each region meet accreditation requirements, have adequate quality assurance system in place. All these laboratories are accredited to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 17025 with the national accreditation body, the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA), and have a number of methods used for animal disease and food safety testing, in their respective scopes of accreditation. The BSCA is an associate member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. However, 10 district laboratories, do not implement consistent quality assurance system.

Additionally, private laboratories in industrial establishments are accredited by national authority against ISO 17025 and GOST[3] standards.

The scope of accreditation covers a significant number of methods, according to ISO, GOST or other technical standards. Many laboratories regularly participate in national and international proficiency testing and ring trials, for diagnosis of the most important animal diseases (including ASF or avian influenza), residues, and some aspects of food safety.

Although the BSVC is widely recognised as the NRL, there is no system in place for a competent authority to authorise one or more laboratories to act as the national reference laboratory for any particular topic, with defined roles and responsibilities. The mission team noticed a few examples of a lack of confirmatory (positive or susceptible) testing. Also, there are no systematic checks of negative results from district or regional laboratories (e.g. bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis).

Testing of meat for Trichinella is also subject of accreditation not only in the state, but also in private laboratories.

A routine practice in place before and during the mission was an effort to culture and identify Mycobacterium bovis in non-accredited, district laboratories. This was being done to confirm or dismiss positive intradermal tuberculin skin test results. Unfortunately this approach has a negative impact on the overall evaluation of the current national quality assurance system in laboratories and the whole certification processes and sanitary status regarding TB. According to official evidence, although there is a significant number of positive allergic tests in cattle, no case has been confirmed in such laboratories, and all suspicious results were thus interpreted as negative without a sound justification in the absence of proper lab quality controls..

[3] **GOST** (Russian: *ГОСТ*) refers to a set of technical standards maintained by the *Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC)*, a regional standards organization operating under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). (source: Wikipedia)

Strengths:

- All state laboratories, and some private labs in large food processing establishments are formally accredited against few standards, including ISO 17025, GOST but also some other, bilaterally recognized (e.g. Venezuela)
- There is systematic implementation of a quality assurance system at the national and regional levels.

Weaknesses:

- Quality assurance is not properly implemented in district laboratories.
- A reliable sample tracing and management system is not in place.
- Testing of wild boar was not carried out since a depopulation policy has been in place for the last two years. Still, it was not confirmed that testing of these samples was performed in accredited labs.

Recommendations:

- The system of quality assurance in all laboratories should be regularly verified by the VD and veterinary inspection teams. Proper training and continuous education of inspectors should be implemented.
- The VD should develop a comprehensive, IT hardware and software system, with integrated modules for sample management and tracing, and a laboratory information system, to support accreditation and certification processes as well as overall governance of VS.

II-3 Risk analysis	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management measures on risk assessment.	1. Risk management measures are not usually supported by risk assessment.
	2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to carry out risk analysis. Some risk management measures are based on risk assessment.
	3. The VS compile and maintain data and have the capability to carry out risk analysis. The majority of risk management measures are based on risk assessment.
	4. The VS conduct risk analysis in compliance with relevant OIE standards, and base their risk management measures on the outcomes of risk assessment.
	5. The VS are consistent in basing sanitary measures on risk assessment, and in communicating their procedures and outcomes internationally, meeting all their OIE obligations (including WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E10, E31, E42, E43, E55-58, E86, E98-100, D3, D5, D6, D12, D43, D70-72, D80, D83-86, D138, D144.

Findings:

The VD has no dedicated group responsible for risk analysis in the veterinary competent authority. Although some professionals are trained, and there is awareness of the need to carry out proper risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, procedures or guidelines have not been developed.

Additionally, it was noticed that risk managers undertake some qualitative risk analysis, usually on an ad-hoc basis, but not according to the OIE recommendations.

However, importation of animals, animal products, feedstuff and biological products, involves some degree of risk assessment carried out by the VS, during the process of import licensing. For such analyses authorities widely use data from WAHIS on the epidemiological situation and sanitary status of the exporting country.

There is potential to use expertise in BSVC and the Veterinary Academy for science-based risk assessments for both animal health and food/feed safety.

There is huge amount of data compiled within the VS, but these documents are not systematically used for risk assessment, and may not be fully accessible for this purposes

Strengths:

- Decision making is generally comprehensive and based on an assessment of the relevant situation and available evidence.
- Trained experts for risk assessment are available within the VS.

Weaknesses:

- There is no formal unit in the VD responsible for either risk assessment or the development of procedures for risk analysis.
- Risk analysis is not systematic or science-based and there is no evidence for the use of OIE guidance on risk analysis.
- Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication are not conducted as independent activities and their importance seems to be not very well understood by the VD staff.
- Limited use of existing data for risk assessment.

Recommendations:

- Establishment of a Risk Analysis Unit, with competent and motivated experts, responsible for systematic application of risk analysis for animal health, veterinary public health and import controls. Support from other VS (e.g. BSVC), and their permanent strengthening and continuous education, should be considered.
- The VD and relevant partners (e.g. State Administration for Veterinary Inspection on State Border and Transport) should develop and document appropriate procedures and standards for all providers of risk analysis activities.
- Improve data management and develop an IT database system for risk analysis and to support transparent and consistent decision making.

II-4 Quarantine and border security *The authority and capability of the VS to prevent the entry and spread of diseases and other hazards of animals and animal products.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for animals or animal products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.
	2. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures; however, these are generally based neither on international standards nor on a risk analysis.
	3. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures based on international standards, but the procedures do not systematically address illegal activities [4] relating to the import of animals and animal products.
	4. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address legal pathways and illegal activities.
	5. The VS work with their neighbouring countries and trading partners to establish, apply and audit quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address all risks identified.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E43, E86, E98, D3, D5, D6, D12, D37, D43, D70-72, D80, D83-87, D138, D141, D144, V3.

Findings:

There is an appropriate legal basis for proper veterinary border control. The structure of border control is well established (separate legal entity, established in 1992, under direct responsibility of the CVO: Belarusian State Administration for Veterinary Inspection at State Border and Transport), with adequate physical and financial resources, proper management and a direct chain of command.

There is a network of 18 veterinary Border and Transport Inspection Points (13 Border Inspection Points and 5 inland Transport Inspection Points, for Veterinary-Sanitary controls). Total number of employees is 365, predominantly veterinarians (305 veterinary inspectors), working at 21 posts for the control of vehicles, 8 for railway transportation and 1 airport.

The overall system is based on issuing import permits by headquarters of VD for relevant goods (live animals or animal products, food, feed, genetic material, VMPs). The importing company is obliged to notify authorities of all imports well in advance, and to submit relevant documentation to the competent authority. As a result, all BIPs are properly informed via a web-based IT system of the consignment number, type and quantities of commodities. They also do a mandatory check on the epidemiological situation in the exporting country using OIE databases and disease alerts.

There are written procedures, detailed job description for all personnel, sustained continuing education, regular supervision and quality checks. Different procedures are in place on the border with Russia on one side (free trade based on Eurasian Economic Union rules) and the border with EU countries and Ukraine on the other side. In any case, official veterinarians are fully aware of requirements, and national priorities.

BIPs visited by the evaluation team demonstrated a well-functioning system, trained staff, proper control of imports and document management, adequate offices and equipment, including sampling equipment, computers and communication equipment and access to computerised databases for import and certification of commodities. There is rendering equipment and adequate conditions at BIPs to properly destroy some goods if there is need (low capacity incinerators for disposal of catering and other products, or poultry).

[4] Illegal activities include attempts to gain entry for animals or animal products other than through legal entry points and/or using certification and/or other procedures not meeting the country's requirements.

All consignments go through documentary (including a check in the IT system) and identity checks at the border, with physical checks performed on some imported goods based on risk analysis or predefined rules (e.g. import of aquaculture from some European countries or previous inspections of a particular establishment). When needed or requested, samples could be taken and sent to an accredited regional laboratory. They also use an IT system to issue import approvals.

There is a system for recording evidence of all activities, allowing appropriate traceability of imported products, and solid communication with other veterinary inspection points within the country.

Solid collaboration with the customs service in charge of the clearance of consignments was demonstrated. However, there is neither a written agreement nor formal procedures for communication. Also, the Veterinary Authority collaborates with the police service and prosecutors over illegal trade of animals and animal products. However, there are no written agreements or operating procedure to facilitate this collaboration.

Although there are no quarantine premises available for imported animals (except for birds and companion animals), this is not needed according to the VD - because of strict import rules on the importation of live animals with an appropriate management system based on quarantine of animals in premises at the final destination. There is specific veterinary legislation for quarantine measures.

Strengths:

- A robust border control system is in place with appropriate legislation, administrative structure and management, human, material and financial resources.
- Staff is well educated, motivated, equipped for proper official controls. They also have special uniforms on BIPs.
- Veterinary inspectors are able to apply border security measures in cooperation with Customs officials.
- Participation in activities related to prevention and control of illegal trade of animal and food consignments, with other authorities.
- the Veterinary Authority collaborates with the police service and prosecutors over illegal trade of animals and animal products
- Audits of border controls are carried out by the VD.

Weaknesses:

- Detailed procedures and a quality management system for border inspection were not observed at border points.
- Collaboration with police and customs is not formalised.
- The TFA has not been implemented.

Recommendations:

- Sign protocols and develop written procedures and a quality management system for coordination with police and other authorities to coordinate control of illegal trade of animals or products of animal origin, and to ensure that violations of relevant veterinary legislation which have a cross-border dimension, are effectively pursued.
- Coordination with the Customs service should be formalised to ensure and facilitate appropriate international trade, while controlling emerging and re-emerging risks. The two authorities should, as promoted by the OIE and WCO, actively work to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, with involvement of the VS in the national TFA Committee.

II-5 Epidemiological surveillance and early detection *The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations, including wildlife, under their mandate.* **A. Passive epidemiological surveillance**	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no passive surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct passive surveillance for some relevant diseases and have the capacity to produce national reports on some diseases.
	3. The VS conduct passive surveillance in compliance with OIE standards for some relevant diseases at the national level through appropriate networks in the field, whereby samples from suspect cases are collected and sent for laboratory diagnosis with evidence of correct results obtained. The VS have a basic national disease reporting system.
	4. The VS conduct passive surveillance and report at the national level in compliance with OIE standards for most relevant diseases. Producers and other interested parties are aware of and comply with their obligation to report the suspicion and occurrence of notifiable diseases to the VS.
	5. The VS regularly report to producers and other interested parties and the international community (where applicable) on the findings of passive surveillance programmes.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E7-9, E12, E15, E36-38, E42, E44-50, E71-75, E86, E88-92, E98-99, D3, D4-6, D10, D16-18, D22, D37-40, D55, D61-63, D90, D94, D104, D136-139, D147-150, D156, D161, V1

Findings:

The Veterinary Law, that sets out measures for control of animal diseases and epidemiological surveillance in Belarus, clearly outlines obligations of animal owners or keepers to notify the VS of clinical suspicion of animal disease. There are some bylaws to precisely describe specific measures for relevant animal diseases and zoonoses. However, a list of compulsory notifiable animal diseases in accordance with OIE recommendations, is not properly addressed in national legislation.

There are limited human resources in the VD for proper governance of the epidemiological system. This sector could be supported by the Epizootiological Unit, of the BSVC, if properly trained and guided. This Unit has significant human and other resources, to prepare adequate procedures, protocols and training, even awareness campaigns, to strengthen animal health and epidemiological surveillance. Also, they have capacity to collect and analyse information from the field services, and to develop reports and proposals for the CVO and his team. Some reports on epidemiological situations are developed by this team and delivered to the VD (e.g. semi-annual reports on the animal diseases situation).

High capacity farms and establishments are aware of the importance of animal diseases and have significant capacities, including internal veterinary services to regularly check animal health and observe clinical signs. They also to carry out preventive veterinary measures and ensure good animal health services.

On the other end of the spectrum, small animal holdings (involving a huge number animal holders), are not properly checked by official veterinarians and inspectors. According to evidence on passive surveillance on these holding, which is hardly available, the sanitary situation of livestock in this sector is not determined, and probably out of proper control. Small farmers and backyard holdings are not covered by animal disease control programmes, not regularly visited by veterinarians, inspectors, or other services (e.g. identification and traceability service), and not aware of the importance of animal diseases vigilance and notification obligations.

There is a substantial number of veterinary organizations and solid veterinary networks. However, they are focused on large farms, and their epidemiological activities related to backyard holdings, are symbolic. These organisations, with appropriate governance, have significant potential to strengthen passive surveillance, early detection of animal diseases

and rapid responses. A weak farm registration and animal traceability system further compromises the ability of he VS to properly manage epidemiological investigations.

No proper training or awareness programmes were implemented to support passive animal disease surveillance and control programmes. Only a limited number of leaflets related to ASF were published and these were presented to the mission team while visiting headquarters, but not found in the field.

Inspection of animals in slaughterhouses, with ante and post mortem examination, is not effectively implemented in all establishments according to the OIE standards and is unable to contribute to surveillance for certain diseases of animal and public health importance. Additionally, it is not in place for slaughter of animals for personal consumption.

There is no evidence of reporting of animal disease on animal holdings, including reports on abortions, increased mortality or morbidity. Also, reports of biological hazards identified by ante and post mortem inspections are not available. It was not clearly demonstrated to the evaluation team that there is a legal obligation arising from a suspicion of some animal diseases, nor was there data to demonstrate any systematic review by the VD of the number of suspects or diagnostic samples tested.

Compensation to farmers is not properly established and the value of culled animals is not 100% of the market price. This could be one of reasons for weak passive surveillance.

Private veterinary services are not involved in passive surveillance, although they have regular activities on a daily basis. These veterinary organizations could play a key role in the backyard livestock sector which is not covered by other VS.

Strengths:

- The knowledge of zoonosis, endemic and transboundary animal diseases within the VS is generally good and widely supplemented through continuous education.
- Commencement of animal identification in some husbandry areas (e.g. large cattle farms) could be used to improve epidemiological surveillance.

Weaknesses:

- The presence of a functional animal disease reporting system was not demonstrated.
- A list of compulsory notifiable animal diseases which includes OIE listed diseases was not available in the headquarters of the VD nor in other entities of the VS.
- No evidence of passive surveillance for major or endemic animal diseases, including zoonoses.
- Backyard holdings are not appropriately covered by epidemiological surveillance programmes, are not aware of mandatory notifications, and have no knowledge about passive surveillance.
- For some diseases confirmed in a laboratory (noted by PVS evaluation team) there is no evidence of immediate notification and reporting, nor enforcement of control measures.
- Capacities of private veterinarians are not properly used to strengthen passive surveillance of backyard holdings.
- A compensation system is not properly established.

Recommendations:

- Adopt relevant provisions on disease notification from the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code in national veterinary legislation, which needs to list all OIE notifiable animal diseases.
- Strengthen surveillance programmes and support an appropriate disease reporting system by 1) extending the animal identification programme to all animal subpopulations, while 2) involving the whole veterinary field network in traceability activities, 3) integrating these activities with surveillance programmes, and 4) delegating official veterinary activities to field and private veterinarians.

- Improve passive surveillance in slaughterhouses by proper implementation of ante and post mortem inspection, and reporting obligations.
- The VD should establish sustainable training and awareness programmes to support epidemiological surveillance and disease control programmes.
- Design an animal disease notification and reporting database, ideally with exchanges of data with the animal register and LIMS. Assess the possibility of including notification of suspect cases. Routinely collect and review the reports on positive cases from the regions and to design an appropriate system for regular reporting of animal diseases.

II-5 Epidemiological surveillance and early detection *The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations, including wildlife, under their mandate.* **B. Active epidemiological surveillance**	**Levels of advancement**
	1. The VS have no active surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct active surveillance for some relevant diseases (of economic and zoonotic importance) but apply it only in a part of susceptible populations and/or do not update it regularly.
	3. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations but do not update it regularly.
	4. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases, apply it to all susceptible populations, update it regularly and report the results systematically.
	5. The VS conduct active surveillance for most or all relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations. The surveillance programmes are evaluated and meet the country's OIE obligations.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E7-9, E32, E44-50, E54-58, E71-75, E86, E88-92, E98-99, D5, D16-18, D22, D37-40, D55, D59, D61-63, D68, D70-76, D88, D90, D94, D104, D119-D132, D147-150, D156, D161, V1.

Findings:

He VD conducts animal disease monitoring programmes on an annual basis for some relevant diseases (ASF, CSF, FMD, AI, ND, Bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, enzootic bovine leucosis). This work is fully funded by the state budget. These programmes precisely define the number of animals to be tested or vaccinated in all administrative units (oblasts, rayons). However, these programmes do not cover all animal species or subpopulations (e.g. cattle in backyard holdings are not tested for bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis or leucosis, nor are pigs vaccinated against CSF).

Active surveillance is partially conducted in wild animal populations. However, it is not comprehensive or risk-based, but limited in terms of number of diseases to be investigated, and number of samples to be tested.

Current surveillance programmes are not based on OIE standards, and not structured properly to clearly demonstrate the aim of programmes, such as: monitoring of disease trends, absence of animal diseases, or distribution of disease/infection in susceptible populations, or early detection of emerging diseases or infections.

Active surveillance programmes do not cover sufficiently, if at all, animals in backyard holdings, which are a significant element of the coverage required for full effectiveness of programmes.

Although there is solid legislation for surveillance of some diseases, programmes are not supported by detailed instructions and protocols needed for uniform implementation by veterinarians, proper enforcement and control by inspectors, and uniform reporting on implementation actvities.

There is enormous activity carried out in one livestock sub-sector and insufficient activity in another, without proper justification or scientific rationale. For example a huge number of samples are collected for ASF testing from large slaughterhouses (4% of slaughtered pigs), while a limited or obscure number of samples is collected from the wild boar population in hunting grounds, and small abattoirs, or even no samples from backyard pig holdings.

Existing monitoring and surveillance programmes are not based on key risk analysis principles, namely to target and collect more samples from categories of animals considered to be at highest risk from an epidemiological point of view – for example backyards, small farms with low biosecurity measures and wildlife.

There is a little analysis 1) of the implementation of current programmes, 2) to review and adapt active surveillance programmes to the current animal health status, and 3) of the limited data available on the decisions made based on results of previous surveillance programmes.

The VD was not able to present supplementary documentation for surveillance programmes, including research data, scientific publications, field observation or surveys.

Transparency in planning, validation and quality control of the execution of surveillance activities, and the availability of data generated was not demonstrated to the evaluation team.

Strengths:

- Active epidemiological surveillance is more advanced than passive surveillance, with a focus on identified diseases of national importance.
- There are significant human resources in the official VS and farm veterinary organizations to properly carry out planned activities.
- There is a robust legal basis and procedures have been developed by the VD to establish official disease free status for bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and leucosis.

Weaknesses:

- Principles of active epidemiological surveillance are not aligned with the relevant OIE standards.
- Procedures for implementation and reporting, and the official inspection plan for implementation are not appropriate.
- Surveillance is not carried out on all susceptible animal species or applicable subpopulations.
- Case definitions for some diseases/infections are not appropriately established according to the relevant chapters of OIE TAHC. It was noted by the mission team, that an inappropriate case definition of bovine tuberculosis compromises robust surveillance for this disease.
- No surveillance is implemented for BSE and food related zoonoses.
- Analytical capacity for surveillance activities is not properly established.

Recommendations:

- While planning animal health surveillance programmes the VD should precisely define the purpose, entities responsible for implementation, all animal species and subpopulations, appropriate types of surveillance, epidemiological units, principles of quality assurance, and reporting requirements. Whenever appropriate the VD should precisely define a case of each disease, preferably as defined by the OIE.
- Adequate coverage of animal populations should be demonstrated.
- All programmes have to be followed by inspection controls, to validate and verify the quality and to ensure proper level of performance. Sample size, procedures and check lists for official controls should be properly designed.
- Surveillance data should be analysed by a competent organisational entity using appropriate methodologies to demonstrate animal health status, plan interventions and to facilitate effective decision making. Whenever possible, data collection, analysis and management should be computerised.
- Review, identify possible gaps, and update the current legal frameworks for bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and enzootic leucosis to fully align with the OIE standards. Evaluate the results of all active surveillance programmes in order to establish official disease free status for these diseases. Achievement of this goal could allow the VS to reallocate resources to other programmes.

II-6 Emergency response *The authority and capability of the VS to respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency (such as a significant disease outbreak or food safety emergency).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
	2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether or not a sanitary emergency exists, but lack the necessary legal and financial support to respond appropriately.
	3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies, but the response is not coordinated through a chain of command. They may have national contingency plans for some exotic diseases but they are not updated/tested.
	4. The VS have an established procedure to make timely decisions on whether or not a sanitary emergency exists. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through a chain of command. They have national contingency plans for some exotic diseases that are regularly updated/tested.
	5. The VS have national contingency plans for all diseases of concern, including coordinated actions with relevant Competent Authorities, all producers and other interested parties through a chain of command. These are regularly updated, tested and audited

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E7-9,12, E15, E32, E36-38, E39-40, E42, E44-50, E99, D10, D22, D44, D55, D61-63, D70-76, D88, D90, D94, D104, D149-150, D159, D161.

Findings:

A regulation adopted in 2007 (Resolution on implementation of veterinary-sanitary rules) provides a legal basis for implementation of rapid response measures in the case of an outbreak of animal diseases. It also provides for mandatory notification.

After an outbreak of ASF the government and President of Belarus adopted a set of regulations, and established a system for emergency response with participation of more than 20 Ministries, institutions and services and allocated funds for procurement of rapid response equipment. Government decisions identified concrete activities to be implemented during 2014 and 2015, with proper planning and strict control of implementation. The CVO and his team were involved in preparation of these strategic documents and for enforcement, where needed.

A dedicated structure was established on a national basis for implementation of the above mentioned activities, called the Republican Emergency Office (“Stab”). This structure is very useful for the VD and other Veterinary Services, particularly in the case of massive outbreaks where the need for support by other national services could be expected (e.g. police, prosecutor).

The VD is aware of the importance of capacity building and preparedness for outbreaks of animal diseases including regional collaboration, contingency planning and continued strengthening of the veterinary services for rapid responses. There is evidence of participation of relevant staff on international events and training for emergency responses (with OIE, BTSF, and FAO).

There is no organization responsible for the preparation of contingency plans, operating manuals and instructions for the management of major animal diseases, continuing education, or regular testing of national capacities (desktop or field exercise, drillings) to increase preparedness of the VS to combat highly contagious animal diseases. Also, there is no appropriate structure within the VD for rapid response (e.g. a Veterinary Crisis Management Centre).

There is no stock of rapid response, surveillance and protective equipment and consumables appropriate to be used in the case of outbreaks of major transboundary diseases in animal populations.

Carcass disposal management in the case of animal emergencies is not properly planned. Generally, rendering capacities in the country are solid, with 4 rendering plants available.

Strengths:

- There is a solid general legal framework for animal disease emergency response. Operational legislation was developed in 2013, after an outbreak of ASF. It is still valid because of the epidemiological situation in the region.
- There is a high-level national emergency response office, with participation of a VD representative (CVO).
- Financial resources are available, both regularly and as reserve funds for emergencies.
- Some experts from the VS participated international training on emergency response, contingency planning and similar topics.

Weaknesses:

- Contingency plans, procedures and coordination agreements with other interested parties are not developed and regularly practiced for animal health, veterinary public health and food borne diseases.
- There is no comprehensive training on emergency planning and response, nor is there an awareness programmes for all VS and other stakeholders.
- There is no database of animal holdings and populations of susceptible animals, nor are there supportive IT platform to be used for demarcation of surveillance and protective zones, to provide lists of farms/holdings and population sizes for proper planning and more effective implementation of control measures.

Recommendations:

- Develop contingency plans and operating manuals for the most important animal diseases (e.g. ASF, CSF, FMD). It is important to systematically review the overall emergency response system in light of the regional epidemiological situation and to properly assess needs in terms of facilities, equipment, human resources, consumables, for efficient animal disease emergency management.
- Establish a national veterinary crisis management team reporting to the CVO and other national emergency structures to be responsible for implementation of control measures.
- As needs arise, consider requesting an emergency assistance mission from partner entities (e.g. OIE, FAO, EEU, EU).

II-7 Disease prevention, control and eradication *The authority and capability of the VS to actively perform actions to prevent, control or eradicate OIE listed diseases and/or to demonstrate that the country or a zone are free of relevant diseases.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no authority or capability to prevent, control or eradicate animal diseases.
	2. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with little or no scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	3. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	4. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for all relevant diseases but with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency of some programmes.
	5. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for all relevant diseases with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency consistent with relevant OIE international standards.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E7-9, E15, E36-38, E45-50, E55-58, E71-76, E89-92, E98-100, D3, D5-6, D10, D12, D16-18, D22, D37-40, D42-43, D55, D59, D61-63, D68, D70-73, D88, D94-95, D104, D113, D119-D132, D138-139, D144, D147-150, D157, D159, D161.

Findings:

The VD understands well the concept of animal health and sanitary status, for which a general commitment could be widely recognized. The Republic of Belarus is recognized by the OIE as an FMD free country where vaccination is not practiced. Belarus also has status as a Rinderpest free country.

The VS undertake a variety of compulsory testing and vaccinations according to monitoring programmes, adopted by the VD (CVO), usually on the basis of proposals made by BSVC in collaboration with the RVA. The field VS prepare proposals for their respective territories, based on activities during the previous year and assumptions on the animal population. Implementation of programmes is delegated to state owned Veterinary Services in rayon and cities, as well as to the VS established on large farms. There is no fully operational system with adequate resources, standard operating procedures and relationships with industry for disposal of dead animals.

A control function is performed by regional or district inspectorates, but also by central inspectors from the VD, headquartered in Minsk. Additional controls on implementation of programmes, are jointly carried out by a few state security services with participation of veterinary inspection.

Vaccination programmes

The following *mandatory vaccinations* are carried out in Belarus: CSF (on large farms only, while backyard holdings are not covered), Newcastle disease (only large farms), anthrax (multiple species), and rabies (preventive vaccination of companion animals and in some zones wild carnivores). In the case of rabies, some livestock species could be vaccinated. The rabies vaccination programme is based on vaccination of dogs and cats funded by the government. For vaccination of wild carnivores there is joint programme with Latvia and Lithuania, funded by European Commission, for aerial distribution of vaccine baits in wide zones 50 or 70 km from the state border. The VD expanded this zone to a certain extent and provided vaccination funded by the national budget.

Voluntary vaccinations: Large farms vaccinate animals against other diseases, endemic or of economic importance (e.g. one poultry farm visited by PVS team vaccinate against Gumboro, IB, coccidiosis, ILT, Marek disease). Similarly, one high capacity, high biosecurity level pig farm implements an advanced vaccination programme against disease, with

appropriate assessment of costs and benefits by the farm VS and management (PRRS, APP, Mycoplasma, and Aujeszky).

The following *diagnostic investigation* programmes are in place:

- Bovines: tuberculosis, brucellosis, enzootic leucosis, Schmalenberg infection.
- Multiple species: FMD, Bluetongue,
- Pigs: CSF, ASF, Trichinellosis.
- Poultry: salmonellosis

According to official data and interpretations of the national VS, programmes are very successful: there is no single case of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and leucosis for many years, even decades. However, it cannot be confirmed that programmes are designed and carried out on the basis of the OIE standards. Similarly, interpretation of results is questionable, and not always scientifically justified.

Oral rabies vaccination (ORV) is not carried out on the whole territory of Belarus, and there is no proper coordination with other neighbouring countries. Also, the current design of the ORV programme is not fully scientifically justified and monitored. The VD demonstrated knowledge and readiness for some minor changes in the vaccination programme to meet all requirements for such vaccination campaigns (e.g. flight routes to be 500 m apart instead of 1 km, monitoring of vaccination following international standards).

Although there is a sustainable monitoring programme for bovine tuberculosis and other diseases, there is a serious gap in the interpretation of positive results and the case definition as well as misinterpretation of confirmatory investigations. For instance, he evaluation team explored a significant number of positive results on intradermal tuberculin tests in one sub region (in total 4,500 cases, incidence rate of 0.4%). However, according to the national plan for confirmatory testing (based on classical microbiology, isolation and identification of Mycobacterium supplemented by a biological in-vivo test) which could be carried out in a non-accredited lab, all cases were interpreted as negative, and the farms/region/country retain the self-declared status as free of bovine tuberculosis. It was noted that the VS use a protocol for confirmation of bovine tuberculosis which is not fully compliant with OIE standards. A similar example was noticed by the team in another region, on a large commercial dairy farm, where one positive skin test for tuberculosis discovered by the team was not notified to the VD nor followed by implementation of specific control measures. For a final diagnosis, similar bacteriological and in-vivo inoculation confirmatory testing was carried out in a non-accredited rayon laboratory, with negative result. There was no evidence of the proper management of the experimental animals used for the biological tests for tuberculosis.

Similar interpretations could be in place for other diseases, which could similarly compromise the current self-declared favourable animal health status.

A Salmonella national control programme was published by the VS and implemented since 2010, with constant improvement since then. According to this programme, a Salmonella test should be done two weeks before poultry are slaughtered, but also neck skin samples are taken by an official veterinarian from district VS in the abattoirs along with feed samples collected on the farms.

For some surveillance programmes (FMD, Bluetongue, Schmalenberg, ASF), although a huge number of samples are tested by ELISA or other serological tests (more than 1,5 million samples per disease), there is not even one positive or inconclusive result despite the fact that the tests used were not certified with 100% sensitivity or 100% specificity. Interviewed laboratory personnel were unable to answer questions on the criteria for procurement or use of serological tests, to demonstrate knowledge of sensitivity/specificity of tests, to explain positive/negative predictive values, or to demonstrate understanding of false

positive or false negative results, all of which should be routine knowledge for laboratory experts or veterinary epidemiologists.

Additionally, no national expert was aware of the possibility of changing the cut-off value of an ELISA test to suit the epidemiological situation in the region (e.g. border zones with neighbouring countries faced with ASF outbreaks) in order to enhance he sensitivity of an early warning system and the overall sensitivity/specificity of animal diseases surveillance programmes.

Strengths:

- Significant financial and human resources are allocated to national disease prevention and control programmes.
- The number of animal disease control programmes and preventive measures is appropriate and relevant to national priorities and the regional epidemiological situation while also being aligned with priorities of the OIE and other parties (e.g. GF-TADs).
- Benefits of the current control programmes for animal and public health and for livestock development are obvious.

Weaknesses:

- There is no evidence of efforts by the VD to gain disease free status for CBPP, PPR, BSE and African horse sickness.
- National vaccination programmes are not fully implemented in all animal populations and subpopulations (e.g. CSF).
- Vaccination programmes are not followed by proper evaluation of coverage, effectiveness, and monitoring of vaccination as recommended by the OIE and other agencies (e.g. by the WHO for Rabies).
- Definition of appropriate populations for animal disease programmes are not based on specific recommendations of the diseases chapter of the TAHC.
- Interpretation of diagnostic investigations is not always aligned with the OIE standards, with negative impacts on the overall assessment of some programmes.
- Although there is a solid system in place to supply the Veterinary Services with diagnostic tests, fully funded by state budget, selection criteria for the procurement of tests are not clearly explained and demonstrated. For instance, the quality parameters of the tuberculin PPD test used for intradermal testing are not aligned with OIE standards, nor with the requirements of some trading partners (e.g. EU).
- There is no system in place for validation and quality assurance of a variety of diagnostic tests (in vitro and in vivo), carried out by the designated veterinary organizations (e.g. NRL, BVC).

Recommendations:

- Continue the process to seek official recognition of disease free status, and prepare documentation for an additional four animal diseases (CBPP, PPR, AHS, and BSE) which are considered as priorities. This is a key element for international trade and in the global control strategies for these diseases (six at the moment).
- The VD and regional veterinary authorities should ensure implementation of control programmes in all susceptible species and populations, with appropriate coverage and control of effectiveness.
- All prevention and control programmes should be critically reviewed and checked for compliance with the OIE standards. All vaccines and diagnostics, should be developed and used according to recognized standards (e.g. the OIE Manuals, GMP, European Pharmacopoeia). Methodologies identified by programs, and used by the VS, and interpretation of results are critical for proper decision making, and assessment of effectiveness of these programmes.

- Capacities of diagnostic laboratories, their expertise and scope of accreditation and their understanding of the international standards could be used to further strengthen animal disease programmes, and to demonstrate freedom from relevant diseases.
- An appropriate and sustainable system for disposal of dead animals associated with animal disease outbreaks should be developed along with rendering capacities,

II-8 Food safety **A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments for production, processing and distribution of food of animal origin** *The authority and capability of the VS to establish and enforce sanitary standards for establishments that produce, process and distribute food of animal origin*	Levels of advancement
	1. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are undertaken in conformity with international standards in some of the major or selected premises (e.g. only at export premises).
	3. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are undertaken in conformity with international standards in all premises supplying throughout the national market.
	4. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for premises supplying the national and local markets.
	5. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including on-farm establishments).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E10, E11, E13,14, E31,32, E34,35, E49, E54, E86, E98-100, D3, D8,9, D12, D21, D24,25, D37-40, D42,43, D54, D57, D70-72, D96, D97, D118, D138-139, D144, D149-151, V1,2.

Findings:

The Law on Food Safety, adopted in 2003, precisely defines roles and responsibilities of different entities responsible for quality and safety of food and food products, including the President, Council of Ministers, Ministry of Agriculture, VD and local authorities - executive committees in oblasts, cities, rayon and local administrations. (*The Law of the Republic of Belarus № 217-3 of June 29, 2003 "On quality and safety of food raw materials and foodstuffs for human life and health").*

The law recognizes international standards and offers a legal base for their local implementation on the basis of international agreements or treaties, ratified by national institutions. Authorisation of establishment, and control of production, processing and wholesale distribution of food of animal origin is under overall responsibility of the Veterinary Services.

However, there are two more services involved in implementation of this legislation, The State Sanitary Epidemiological Inspectorate (the Public Health Service) of the Ministry of Health Protection is responsible for sanitary conditions in slaughterhouses (including checking of safety parameters, control of water and final products), and health control of employees. They have regional and district divisions. The State Committee for Standardisation (Gosstandart) which is under the Council of Ministers, is involved in official control of food producing establishments. Firstly, they assist establishments to develop and implement HACCP principles, and secondly, they carry out audits and issue HACCP certificates. The responsibilities, competencies and powers of the competent authorities are clearly set out in the Belarus legislation, with solid coordination. Gosstandart has only regional centres, but not district ones.

Although the food safety law was developed to align with OIE standards, it is not regularly updated, or revised. Implementation of HACCP and other international standards is not mandatory. Detailed bylaws, rulebooks and sanitary standard operative procedures are not available.

There is no department in the VD devoted to food safety and veterinary public health, responsible for development of regulations in line with international standards, and approval of establishments for food, feed and animal by-products. Food safety objectives are not

formulated to objectively express the level of hazard control needed to meet public health goals.

Many of the large, high-capacity establishments have very good facilities, with proper design, construction and maintenance, modern equipment, proper management, quality assurance and meat hygiene rules. On a voluntary basis, they implement the highest food hygiene principles and standards (HACCP, ISO 22000) and have in-house laboratories for quality control, accredited according to ISO 17025 and GOST standards. Nevertheless, these standards are not recognized by the law as compulsory requirements in Belarus.

A solid system of official control of approved establishments is carried out by veterinary inspection. Planning is the mutual work of the veterinary inspection department and the department for surveillance, while implementation is the responsibility of the department for surveillance.

Regular supervision of establishment is the responsibility of local and regional inspection services in oblast and rayon veterinary offices. These controls are usually performed by the same inspectors responsible for ante and post mortem controls, creating a possibility for failure in identification of problems and potential conflicts of interest.

Planning of official control is properly developed, and detailed control plans were available for the evaluation team. However, the principles of food safety risk management are not properly incorporated in the design and implementation of meat hygiene programmes. There are no standard operating procedures available for verification of activities and official controls of establishments, supplemented by specific check lists, and supported by an information system.

In the central office of the VD, reports on inspections and proper statistics were not available. This may could mean that appropriate and meaningful supervision by the VD is not in place.

Awareness of hygiene standards and self-control systems is low in small capacity establishments. These establishments are not properly and regularly controlled by the competent veterinary authority.

There is no regular supervision, verification of process controls or official control by the VD of all establishments, including small capacity operators and those supplying local markets. It could therefore be concluded that there is no efficient overall process control system in place, supported by national monitoring programmes in abattoirs to guarantee that production of meat is safe and suitable for human consumption.

Strengths:

- There is a comprehensive legal framework for authorisation and inspection of business establishments for production, processing and distribution of food of animal origin.
- Regular control of approved establishment is in place with three competent authorities.
- Big establishments fully implement the highest international standards, which is mainly driven by business goals.

Weaknesses:

- There is no administrative unit in the VD, responsible for registration of food, feed and animal by product establishments, veterinary public health and food safety.
- Although the law generally recognizes international standards for food safety, there are no provisions defined by the OIE and CAC. HACCP principles and ISO 22000 standards, are not mandatory requirements.
- The VD has not developed and approved relevant procedures, precisely defined for all activities related to this competency, including official controls for establishments.
- Since a reporting system is not fully the central VD office has no appropriate overview of the controls carried out in the field, namely by local and regional inspectors.

Recommendations:

- Continue development of relevant legislation, fully aligned with international standards (OIE, CAC). Modernisation of the Food Safety Law is necessary, ideally to mandate implementation of hygiene rules and HACCP principles.
- In partnership with other authorities and industry, the VD should request and design capacity building projects in food safety with components on training and awareness raising not only for official veterinarians, but also for food/feed establishments.
- The VD, RVA and other VSs, should design and implement risk-based official control plans for all establishments, incorporating written procedures and check lists. Ideally, an IT support tool would be developed to facilitate appropriate analysis and reporting needed for proper decision making by the competent authorities.
- Ensure clear definitions of roles and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services, the Public Health Service and the State Committee for Standardisation in the whole food safety system. This should include precise instructions for collaboration and agreements for coordination to increase efficiency and avoid overlap or conflict of responsibilities.

B. Ante and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises (e.g. meat boning/cutting establishments and rendering plants). *The authority and capability of the VS to implement and manage the inspection of animals destined for slaughter at abattoirs and associated premises, including for assuring meat hygiene and for the collection of information relevant to livestock diseases and zoonoses.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards only at export premises.
	3. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for major abattoirs producing meat for distribution throughout the national market.
	4. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for all abattoirs producing meat for distribution in the national and local markets.
	5. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including family and on farm slaughtering) and are subject to periodic audit of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E10, E11, E13,14, E31, D8,9, D24,25, D54, D57, D64-66, D118, D150, V1.

Findings:

The VD has jurisdiction at slaughterhouses and responsibility for ante- and post-mortem inspection. There is an established system for animal health surveillance in slaughterhouses, especially in high-capacity operations.

Large establishments implement Good Hygiene Practice and HACCP principles in order to ensure safety and suitability of processing and production. They employ a significant number of technical experts, including veterinarians, for continuous review of process control systems and meat hygiene on behalf of the operator.

On the other hand, the competent veterinary authorities have limited human resources in abattoirs to control all conditions and measures during the production process or to set and enforce regulatory meat hygiene requirements. During an on site evaluation in a large establishment the mission team noticed not more than one veterinary inspector employed by the competent veterinary authority, who had no resources, capacities or written sanitary procedures to control and verify compliance with regulatory requirements. These public service inspectors have significantly lower salaries than colleagues employed in the same establishments.

Ante mortem inspection is done at the farm of provenance. These inspections could also be carried out by veterinarians employed by the slaughterhouses. The results of clinical investigations and animal disease tests (e.g. bovine tuberculosis, avian salmonellosis) as well as information about antibiotics used and withdrawal periods, and vaccinations, are recorded on the animal health certificate, which accompanies every batch (consignment) of animals.

In the slaughterhouses, the ante mortem inspection was performed by a veterinarian employed by the factory. It includes the identity checks, screening of animals and their identification, checks on the means of transport and evaluation of documents, including a declaration on the use of veterinary drugs or official control programmes (e.g. testing for

bovine tuberculosis). Only healthy and clean animals with appropriate veterinary documentation are eligible for slaughter.

Nevertheless, official veterinarians were not able to demonstrate evidence of special controls, or procedures, including denial of entry to the abattoir for possible circumstances, such as: animals not sufficiently clean, animals died in transport or giving birth during transport or in lairages, or having recently aborted, suspicion of animal disease, or declaration from primary producer absent or inadequate.

Results of ante-mortem control are made available to the responsible person undertaking post-mortem inspection, to supplement a final judgement. Post mortem inspection is also carried out by veterinary staff employed by the establishment, but procedures are developed by the veterinary service of the establishment, as “internal rules”. In fact, there is no proper evidence that these persons are competent, properly trained and have an appropriate level of knowledge. Prescribed process control activities, including ante and post mortem inspections are not developed nor approved.

There is no specific monitoring programme for slaughtered animals to establish systematic information on the prevalence of some hazards for public health (e.g. specific meat-borne pathogens, chemical residues)

Training, knowledge, skills and ability requirements of all personnel involved in process, and the roles of veterinarian employed by operators, official veterinarians or veterinary inspectors, not accurately established.

Abattoirs are required to properly manage animal by-products in rendering plants, a requirement which is met by large ones. Small slaughterhouses and farms, including backyard holdings do not have appropriate systems for rendering by-products and dead animals. There is no strategy for improvement of the collection, processing and destruction of animal by-products in the country.

Strengths:

- Ante- and post-mortem inspection is in place, as well as a system of supervision, audit and official controls.
- Routine screening for Trichinella spp. is in place, based on testing of samples in accredited laboratories according to the OIE recommendations.
- High capacity abattoirs visited by the evaluation team demonstrated proper management, with classification and separation of different categories of animal by-products. There were rendering systems in place, but further capacity building will be needed.

Weaknesses:

- There is no animal traceability system at the primary production level in Belarus, so that the origin of meat cannot be traced back from abattoir to the place of production of animals.
- The system of ante- and post mortem inspection is not carried out by official veterinarians or veterinary inspectors, and there is no evidence of identification and reporting of animal diseases, including zoonoses, nor coordination with public health authorities.
- There are no proper overall statistics or reports on ante- and post mortem inspection in the VD, nor evidence of analysis of relevant information from these inspection, and any follow up activity related to primary producers or official veterinarians responsible for that farm or region.
- Written judgement criteria and procedures for verification of post-mortem inspections are missing, and should be developed.
- Some diseases of national or international importance are not systematically monitored in slaughterhouses (e.g. TSEs). Compliance with microbiological testing requirements should be verified in all establishments.

Recommendations:

- Development of comprehensive animal and food traceability system, with a supporting IT hardware and software system, to help ensure proper certification of animals and foods of animal origin, and to protect human health.
- The VD, in collaboration with the RVA and other stakeholders, should review the current system of ante and post mortem inspections and official control plans in order to develop an appropriate policy, legislation and procedures that amongst other goals would prevent conflicts of interest.
- It is recommended that ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections should be carried out by official veterinary inspectors paid by the government, not the establishment. Such arrangements are often funded through a fee for service arrangement. Establishment staff may participate in these activities only in a support role to the official veterinarian.
- Develop a strategic plan to improve the effectiveness of supervision and to ensure that inspection is comprehensive, efficient and consistent in all establishments.
- Develop a strategy to improve collection, processing and destruction of animal by-products in collaboration with other authorities and partners.

C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution of products of animal origin *The authority and capability of the VS to implement, manage and coordinate food safety measures on collection, processing and distribution of products of animals, including programmes for the prevention of specific food-borne zoonoses and general food safety programmes.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes.
	3. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national market.
	4. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national and local markets.
	5. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are undertaken in full conformity with international standards for products at all levels of distribution (including on-farm establishments).

[Note: This critical competency primarily refers to inspection of processed animal products and raw products other than meat (e.g. milk, honey etc.). It may in some countries be undertaken by an agency other than the VS.]

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E10, E11, E13,14, E31, D8,9, D24,25, D38-42, D54, D55, D57,58, D60, D62-68, D96,97, D118, D149, D150,151, V1,2.

Findings:

Relevant legislative frameworks (veterinary and food safety law, different regulations and bylaws), are in place along with adequate infrastructure, and proper official control in Belarus. The VD is the competent authority for approval of establishments, and official controls of products of animal origin (fresh and processed meat, raw milk, dairy products, eggs, honey etc.) along the whole food production and trade chain.

Raw milk and dairy products are subject to a combination of control measures for which the goal is to achieve an appropriate level of public health protection. Raw milk has to be obtained, collected, cooled, stored and transported in accordance with the specific hygiene conditions and has to meet the criteria for total plate count and somatic cell count. Raw milk must not contain antibiotic or pesticide residues exceeding the defined limits and must not contain contaminants exceeding the maximum tolerances defined in national standards.

Coordination between veterinary authorities and high-capacity establishments is very good in terms of hazard reduction, driven by export of products and international sanitary requirements. These establishments require their suppliers to respect appropriate husbandry practices and proper care for health of milking animals, feeding and veterinary practice, with goal to increase safety of milk products, and minimize potential microbiological contamination from all sources.

While large establishments implement higher standards than required in legislation, control of small capacity establishments is at a lower level. Small producers and backyard holding are usually not controlled. AS there is no appropriate traceability system in place, this could jeopardize the animal production food safety system.

The health status of milking animals is managed properly, and dairy plants implement control of all supplying farms. These farms are obliged to implement good hygiene practice, proper feeding, pest control, responsible usage of VMP, adequate milking with appropriate equipment. Handling, storage and transport of milk is properly managed.

Local veterinary inspectors are responsible for control of dairy products, eggs, honey and other products of animal origin. However, they are focused mainly on large establishments

and green markets. For official controls and verification, additional work is needed to develop certification systems, and to focus on auditing of relevant documentations of all participants along the chain, to ensure they met their individual responsibilities.

An establishment visited in one region operated a modern facility with very good management of operations, trained and competent personnel, up-to-date equipment and demonstrated implementation of a proper hygiene control system and the highest food safety standards during production of dairy products.

Although local ("green") markets are under oversight of the VS, it is possible to sell home-made products such as cheese, honey or sausages. Document checks are regularly performed by the official local inspector, but vendors are allowed to sell products manufactured from animals without proper identification, as explained in the animal traceability critical competency (II-12.A)

Strengths:

- Large dairy farms and other industrialized primary production facilities fully implement prescribed animal disease control programmes and good agricultural, hygienic and animal husbandry practices.
- Dairy plants have appropriate cooperation with the inspection service, fully implement prevention and control measures, and procedures based on HACCP principles and have in-house laboratories, taking and analysing large numbers of samples. They work with suppliers and producers, to jointly minimize or prevent hazards associated with the milk collection, storage and transportation.
- There are relevant Custom union regulations, which define technical norms and standards for safety of milk and dairy products.
- There is system in place of regular testing of raw milk for antibiotics, total plate count and somatic cell count, on animal holdings and within establishments.

Weaknesses:

- There are no written guidelines and instructions.
- Small establishment are not properly controlled.
- Since animal traceability is not effective, resulting in incomplete implementation of animal disease control programmes on some holdings (e.g. small range backyard holdings for local sale), there is a possibility that some uncontrolled product could be in circulation and trade.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a review and gap analysis of the current legislation to guide further development according to OIE recommendations, and full enforcement on all establishments.
- Further strengthen implementation of hygiene practice at primary production and processing plants.
- Improve inspections, data analysis and follow up activities.

II-9 Veterinary medicines and biologicals *The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals, in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use, i.e. the marketing authorisation, registration, import, manufacture, quality control, export, labelling, advertising, distribution, sale (includes dispensing) and use (includes prescribing) of these products.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use.
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of the regulation related to the control over veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals, including prudent use of antimicrobial agents in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	5 The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E10, E31, E34,35, E42, E59, E86, E98, D11,12, D37-40, D56, D70-72, D116,117, D138,139, D144, D149, D153.

Findings:

There is a solid legal basis for production, authorisation and marketing of Veterinary medicines and biologicals (VMP).

The VD is the national authority responsible for approval of manufacturing establishments, wholesalers and veterinary pharmacies, but also for marketing authorisation and licencing of veterinary medical products, and medicated premixes. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the state register of veterinary medicinal products and import approvals. However, the VD has no policy unit devoted to strategic planning, development of legislation and management of production, usage and supervision of VMPs and related issues, including anti-microbial resistance. Registration, quality control, evaluation of registration dossiers of VMP, food additives and medicated feed is delegated to the BSVC.

There is a state owned enterprise (Belzoovetsnabd) headquartered in Minsk with 17 branches and 107 pharmacies throughout the country. That company is responsible for production, procurement and distribution of veterinary medicines and diagnostics to state owned farms, laboratories, veterinary organisations and other parties. Management of this enterprise, demonstrated good capacities, and resources to exercise their duties and responsibilities, but also readiness to collaborate with the VS

An establishment for production of veterinary pharmaceuticals was observed to have modern facilities and equipment, the highest manufacturing standards (GMP) and a quality assurance system in place, with an accredited laboratory (e.g. valid ISO1705 certificate), appropriate equipment and trained personnel.

Prudent use of antimicrobials is part of labelling of VMPs. Each package of a veterinary medicinal product bears a registration number, lot identification, expiry date and contains an information leaflet where the target species, withdrawal times for different animal species and precautions for use are clearly indicated.

There is legislation that prohibits the use in food-producing animals of veterinary medicinal products containing of a range of pharmacologically active substances, and providing the list of MRLs for pharmacologically active substances. In addition, a number of EAEU legislative acts apply, which also specify MRLs and which have to be complied with in Belarus.

However, training of veterinarians and farmers for responsible use of antibiotics, and awareness raising of AMR is generally low. Since there is no requirement for veterinary

prescriptions in Belarus, it is not forbidden to freely sell antibiotics on the market. Animal owners could buy these VMPs without veterinary prescription and appropriate oversight and control of usage. However, according to legislative, the responsibility for their correct administration to food-producing animals stays with the veterinary practitioner.

Also, pharmacovigilance is not in place, nor monitoring of antimicrobial resistance. No awareness raising plan is developed, nor coordination with other parties.

There is no evidence of regular control of veterinary pharmacies, or penalties in the case of non-compliance. The same is true for medicated animal feed usage. Inefficient control along the distribution chain of veterinary medicinal products, combined with the unrestricted sale of antimicrobials, and the lack of rules for manufacturing and distribution of medicated feed, have the potential to weaken the overall inspection system of VMP controls, and food safety.

Strengths:

- Some legal framework is in place, and general awareness within competent authority on international standards related to VMPs.
- Sound conditions in production facilities, with full implementation of GMP, GDP and quality assurance.
- Treatment records are required for all food-producing animals and have to be kept on all farms along with log books documenting the procurement of VMPs, the quantities used and products in stock. The withdrawal periods are recorded in treatment log books on the visited dairy farm.

Weaknesses:

- Legislation for VMPs is not aligned with OIE standards, and there is a lack of clarity and enforcement of legislation, which prohibits the use of banned substances.
- The unrestricted sale of veterinary medicinal products, increases the risk of misuse of banned VMP in livestock in Belarus and consequently raises the risk of residues being present in foods of animal origin.
- Pharmacovigilance, monitoring of quantities used on in animals and antibiotic resistance surveillance, inspection of quality of VMPs on the market, is not in place.
- There is no adequate plan for inspection with a defined frequency of controls over the distribution chain of VMPs.
- There are no programmes for promotion of prudent use of antimicrobials, training of veterinarians and farmers, cooperation with public health authorities.

Recommendations:

- Veterinary legislation should be carefully revised and updated in regard to VMPs, in compliance with OIE standards for terrestrial and aquatic animals.
- The organisational structure of the VD should be strengthened to reinforce capacities for strategic planning, training, awareness raising and proper inspection control of the production, distribution and use of antimicrobials and other VMPs.
- Sale and distribution of antibiotics should be legally supervised and the distribution of counterfeit products severely suppressed. Veterinary pharmacies should only sell or distribute oral and topical VM to animal owners, and only with a veterinary prescription. Antibiotics for livestock animals should be used only after diagnosis, susceptibility testing (antibiogramme), and be administered by a veterinarian (exceptionally they could delegate it for oral, intramammary and topical medicines, and under some circumstances on large, closed farms after consultations and with directions for use).
- Develop a national AMR strategy and standards in collaboration with public health authorities and other parties, according to relevant OIE standards.

II-10 Residue testing	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to undertake residue testing programmes for veterinary medicines (e.g. antimicrobials and hormones), chemicals, pesticides, radionuclides, metals, etc.	1. No residue testing programme for animal products exists in the country.
	2. Some residue testing programme is performed but only for selected animal products for export.
	3. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and some for domestic consumption.
	4. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and domestic consumption.
	5. The residue testing programme is subject to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E10,11, E13,14, E31,32, E34,35, E54, E86, E98, D3, D8,9, D12, D21, D24,25, D37-40, D43, D54, D56,57, D70-72, D96,97, D113, D138-140, D144, D147.

Findings:

There is a legal basis for monitoring of residues (Resolution of the Council of Ministers № 1628 of December 15, 2003 «On improving the system of control over the content of harmful substances in live animals and animal products»). There is also a Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food No 16 of 17 March 2011 which prohibits the use of some pharmaceutical substances and defines procedures for taking samples and managing non-compliance.

The VD is the national competent authority for development and implementation of the Residue Monitoring Programme (RMP), with around 10,000 samples collected across all commodities. There is no dedicated administrative structure or team in the VD devoted to design the residues monitoring plan, coordinate sampling activities, evaluate implementation, check application of corrective measures and prepare reports and follow up actions (e.g. re-sampling, investigations, disposal of positive products).

The RVA in six regions, and the veterinary administration in districts are responsible for planning and coordinating the implementation of residue testing, as well for all follow-up activities. Basic resources for testing are available, and satisfactory technical knowledge exists among personnel. Each year the VD organises compulsory training for samplers, who afterwards are allowed to collect RMP samples. With regard to live animals, since there is no efficient system of animal identification, proper residue testing cannot be managed.

Responsibility for testing of chemical residues in live animals and products of animal origin, and coordination of the respective RMP laboratory analysis is delegated to BSVC. Regional veterinary laboratories are in charge of laboratory investigations, according to RMP, and reporting of analysis. All national laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025 with the national accreditation body, and have a number of methods used for the RMP included in their respective scopes of accreditation. There is another establishment involved in testing of some residues in muscles - Laboratory of Scientific-Practical Centre for Foodstuffs of the National Academy of Science of Belarus, described in other parts of this report.

Because of a strong desire of the industry to export some products to the EU (e.g. milk and dairy products), there is a permanent improvement of overall capacities for monitoring of residues. Commission Decision 2011/163/EU indicates that the Belarus RMP is approved in accordance with Directive 96/23/EC for aquaculture products, eggs and live horses (exported to the EU for slaughter). However, the FVO audit reports concluded that the RMP for these products fulfilled the minimum requirements, but was not fully implemented as planned. Some shortcomings were identified, for which the VD developed a clear action plan to be implemented by VS.

Strengths:

- Solid infrastructure, legislative and overall system of testing of residues is in place for some products. There is a clear legal framework in place governing the actions to be taken in the event of a non-compliant result and actions have been implemented
- The EU recognized Belarus' capacities, and approved its national RMP for aquaculture products, eggs and live horses (exported to the EU for slaughter) by Commission Decision 2011/163/EU.
- Good coordination between the VD, BSVC, regional and local administrations. The planning process is managed properly, while the number of samples is based on major risk factors, national production figures, findings of the previous years' non-compliances and analytical laboratory capability.
- Training on sampling is regularly carried out (usually once per year).
- Dairy plants and egg and poultry meat producers operate self-check programmes for antimicrobials in their products.
- There is a clear legal framework in place governing the actions to be taken in the case of a non-compliant result.
- Requirements of the EEU and EU, and a strong desire of industry to export to these markets, has had a positive impact on improvement of residue testing and the overall chemical safety of food products.

Weaknesses:

- Testing for residues is not in place for all livestock animals and animal products.
- Several substance groups could not be analysed either due to a shortage of funding or for other reasons.
- Absence of an effective animal and food traceability system limits the ability of the competent authorities to implement residue testing equivalent to the OIE standards.
- Although there is sound legal base, a detailed rulebook and standard operating procedures are not available.
- Validation of some laboratory tests is not in place.
- The overall residue control system is hampered by limited control of VMPs and the unrestricted sale of antimicrobials and medicated feed.

Recommendations:

- Improve the legal base, and develop procedures for residue controls for all food-producing animals and all products of animal origin, including those for domestic consumption.
- Ensure that controls on the distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products are carried out throughout the distribution chain (wholesalers, veterinary pharmacies, farms, feedmills). Unrestricted sale of antibiotics should be forbidden without delay.
- Ensure capacities to test all relevant chemical substances, and conduct validation of all laboratory tests.

II-11 Animal feed safety	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to regulate animal feed safety e.g. processing, handling, storage, distribution and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients.	1. The VS cannot regulate animal feed safety.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over animal feed safety
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of animal feed safety
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of animal feed safety.
	5. The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E10,12, E13,14, E31,32, E34,35, E54, E59, E86, E98, D3, D12, D37, D39, D43, D70-72.

Findings:

Feed safety is regulated by the Food Safety and Veterinary laws that establish general feed hygiene requirements and define the responsibilities of producers, feed business operators, and competent authorities responsible for oversight activities. However, the legislation is not fully aligned with OIE standards, and some provisions are not precisely defined, including rapid alert in the case of contamination, quality assurance, and emergency response.

Feed producing establishments are registered by the VD as the national competent authority, responsible to regularly update their status. These establishments implement high production standards based on HACCP principles and a solid traceability system.

Still, detailed guidelines are not available for hygiene requirements during primary production, processing, transportation and storage, according to international standards (e.g. OIE, CAC)..

Capacity is available for regular testing for quality, control of hygiene indicators, microbiological, chemical and radiological contamination and hazard identification.

The VD, regional and local inspectors carry out regular control of relevant establishments and feed during production, trade, storage and usage. Not yet developed is a precise risk-based, annual or multiannual official control plan supported with precise instructions, check-lists and reporting requirements.

There is no adequate evidence of control of the use of meat and bone meal for feeding of ruminants.

Strengths:

- Large feed meal establishment implement hygiene standards, HACCP and internal quality assurance systems.
- There are regular inspection controls of all feed producing establishments.

Weaknesses:

- Inspection controls are not risk based.
- Feed samples are not regularly tested for meat and bone meal.
- Medicated feed is not properly controlled.
- No evidence of control of the use of meat and bone meal for ruminant feed.

Recommendations:

- Systematically evaluate results of inspections and laboratory controls; target establishments and practices with higher risks to enhance the effectiveness of the control system.

- Review the current legal framework and harmonize it with the OIE and CAC standards to minimize risk of inadequate feed on animal and public health and food safety.
- Develop national procedures for animal feeding, in compliance with the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, and other related Codex texts.

II-12. Identification and traceability A Animal identification and movement control *The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with producers and other interested parties, to identify animals under their mandate and trace their history, location and distribution for the purpose of animal disease control, food safety, or trade or any other legal requirements under the VS/OIE mandate.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify animals or control their movements.
	2. The VS can identify some animals and control some movements, using traditional methods and/or actions designed and implemented to deal with a specific problem (e.g. to prevent robbery).
	3. The VS implement procedures for animal identification and movement control for specific animal subpopulations as required for disease control, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS implement all relevant animal identification and movement control procedures, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS carry out periodic audits of the effectiveness of their identification and movement control systems.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E7-12, E32, E33, E55-58, D38-40, D78, D165-170.

Findings:

Animal identification is prescribed in legislation as a tool to support control of animal diseases and food safety. The legal framework for animal identification, registration and traceability, its enforcement and current practices for all relevant animal species (cattle, small ruminants, pigs, horses, dogs) are not fully aligned with the OIE standards.

On the basis of an earlier audit of the national VS by trading partners (e.g. FVO), a strategic plan for bovine identification was developed with appropriate scope and performance criteria. Systematic identification of other species has not started yet, with no action plan yet in place.

In 2015 work began on a system of livestock identification and registration, supported by robust primary legislation developed in 2015 (Law of the Republic of Belarus № 287-3 of July 15, 2015 *«On the identification, registration, traceability of animals (livestock), identification and traceability of animal products»*), a modern IT system and written rules. A pilot project was launched for cattle in large, commercial farms in some areas during 2015. Full implementation and further development is expected in the coming years.

The new identification system is complex, well designed, able to support animal health programmes (already operational for brucellosis, tuberculosis and enzootic leucosis), emergency management, international veterinary certification of consignments, but also inspection controls. Some very modern IT tools are implemented (bar-codes, specific set of data and attributes, web based modules and software applications) which could facilitate decision making process and official inspection controls in the future.

Awareness of farmers, veterinarians and industry about identification and movement control is very solid.

It was noted that registration of holdings is not in place, namely for small family farms and the huge number backyard holdings. However, registration for large farms, both private and state owned, is available and regularly updated.

Animal control programmes and the animal identification system are not integrated. Animal identification is not incorporated properly in documents accompanying samples collected for analysis.

Laboratories, abattoirs, rendering plants, dead stock collection points and livestock markets are not actively involved in the animal traceability system.

Strengths:

- Progress on cattle identification on large farms, aligned with OIE (and EU) requirements, provides a solid base for extension to other populations and species.
- High level of understanding of the importance of an adequate animal identification and traceability system by all Veterinary Services and industry, and commitment of the VD to further development of the system.

Weaknesses:

- There is no comprehensive, fully operational, animal identification and traceability system in place in Belarus, developed in compliance with relevant OIE standards and other recommendations (e.g. ICAR standards).
- Inefficient systems for animal identification jeopardize animal health control programmes, transparent notification of animal diseases, food safety, control of usage of VMPs, prevention of AMR, and trade of animals and product of animal origin.

Recommendations:

- Implement the comprehensive animal identification system through an action plan specifying the timetable and including the milestones and performance indicators, the human and financial resources, and checking, enforcement and verification arrangements.
- Animal identification, as a support tool for epidemiological surveillance, should be implemented in all subpopulations of livestock including animals in backyard holding.
- The animal traceability system should be integrated with animal health, animal welfare, and food safety systems, if possible, on an appropriate IT platform.

B. Identification and traceability of products of animal origin *The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with producers and other interested parties, to identify and trace products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify or trace products of animal origin.
	2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin to deal with a specific problem (e.g. products originating from farms affected by a disease outbreak).
	3. The VS have implemented procedures to identify and trace some products of animal origin for food safety, animal health and trade purposes, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS have implemented national programmes enabling them the identification and tracing of all products of animal origin, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS periodically audit the effectiveness of their identification and traceability procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E7-12, E32, E33, E55-58, D21, D38-40, D78, D96,97, D151, D165-170, V2.

Findings:

Modern legislation with provisions for identification and traceability of animals and animal products, was developed only recently (2015), with incomplete enforcement for products of animal origin. However, implementation in large food establishments on the basis of previous legislation and industrial standards is solid, at all stages of production, processing and circulation.

Traceability of meat and meat-products is feasible, at least back to the slaughterhouse and the batch number, if not always to farms of origin.

Traceability of milk and dairy products is also possible to the level of the processing plant, and farms, but only for large establishments. However, it cannot be excluded that some quantity of milk from small, backyard holdings could enter the market.

Traceability of honey is possible in large establishments, at least for exporting establishments. Further development of registration for bee-keepers was recommended.

Components of the animal identification system in abattoirs are not complemented and compatible with arrangements for tracking animal products throughout the food chain.

There is no evidence of audit of enforcement of animal products traceability.

Inadequate evidence is available for the maintenance of animal identification and animal traceability in abattoirs, rendering plants, dead stock collection points, and livestock markets in compliance with the legal framework.

Strengths:

- Traceability of animal products has been in place for years based on previous legislation and paper documentation.
- A new animal identification and traceability system launched in 2015 promises better control of the food chain from primary production, animal health and disease control, to slaughter, cutting and processing of meat, in order to protect consumers and public health.

Weaknesses:

- The overall system of traceability of animal derived products is not strong, mainly because there is no reliable identification of animals.
- There is a possibility that animal products from small or back yard holdings could enter the market.

Recommendations:

- At an abattoir, animal identification should be maintained during the processing of the animal's carcass until the carcass is deemed fit for human consumption.
- Abattoirs, rendering plants and dead stock collection points should ensure that identifiers are collected and disposed of in accordance with the procedures established and regulated within the legal framework. These procedures should minimize the risk of unauthorized reuse and, if appropriate, should establish arrangements and rules for the reuse of identifiers.
- Reporting of movement by abattoirs, rendering plants and dead stock collection points should be prepared regularly and used properly to update the animal identification system.

II-13 Animal welfare *The authority and capability of the VS to implement the animal welfare standards of the OIE as published in the Terrestrial Code.*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no national legislation on animal welfare
	2. There is national animal welfare legislation for some sectors
	3. In conformity with OIE standards animal welfare is implemented for some sectors (e.g. for the export sector)
	4. Animal welfare is implemented in conformity with all relevant OIE standards.
	5. Animal welfare is implemented in conformity with all relevant OIE standards and programmes are subjected to regular audits.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): None.

Findings:

Animal welfare is not covered in veterinary or other legislation. The VD does not carry out any control of animal welfare, nor training or awareness campaigns.

Strengths:

- A well-developed veterinary service, a network of large livestock farms and a strong food industry could be used to strengthen animal welfare.
- There is a high level of awareness of the importance of animal welfare in high capacity farms. Internal codes of practice for animal welfare are implemented in these establishments. Farmers report increased productivity and quality of animal products on these farms.

Weaknesses:

- There is no legal basis for animal welfare in Belarus.
- Veterinary Education Establishments do not have education programmes on animal welfare for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Recommendations:

- Study relevant OIE standards and develop an action plan and appropriate legislation on animal welfare in collaboration with other authorities, industry, NGOs and relevant partners.
- Actively participate in OIE events on animal welfare and follow other relevant activities (e.g. workshop on animal welfare, Steering group on animal welfare for Europe).
- Motivate VEE to include animal welfare in their curriculum.
- Investigate the possibility for a joint awareness project on animal welfare with interested parties.

III.3 Fundamental component III: Interaction with interested parties

This component of the evaluation concerns the capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve stakeholders in the implementation of programmes and activities. It comprises seven critical competencies

Critical competencies:

Section III-1	**Communication**
Section III-2	**Consultation with interested parties**
Section III-3	**Official representation**
Section III-4	**Accreditation / Authorisation / Delegation**
Section III-5	**Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)**
	A. VSB authority
	B. VSB capacity
Section III-6	**Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7, 9 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Communication.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 4, 7 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details / Animal health and veterinary public health controls / Sources of independent scientific expertise.

Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

III-1 Communication	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to keep interested parties informed, in a transparent, effective and timely manner, of VS activities and programmes, and of developments in animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas	1. The VS have no mechanism in place to inform interested parties of VS activities and programmes.
	2. The VS have informal communication mechanisms.
	3. The VS maintain an official contact point for communication but it is not always up-to-date in providing information.
	4. The VS contact point for communication provides up-to-date information, accessible via the Internet and other appropriate channels, on activities and programmes.
	5. The VS have a well-developed communication plan, and actively and regularly circulate information to interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E29, E38, E52, E55-58, E99,100, D42, D44, D54,55, D57, D62, D76, D88, D90, D98, D140, D162, D165-174, V1, V3.

Findings:

The VD as the veterinary competent authority, has no strategic or operational plans to communicate with stakeholders and the general public on matters within their mandate.

The Veterinary Department has appointed an OIE National Focal Point on Communications. However, the VD has no supporting administrative structure, such as a unit or officer dedicated to communication, integrated into its organization with appropriate resources.

Some awareness materials and brochures dedicated on ASF were developed and distributed to regions to inform farmers and other parties of the risks from this disease and control measures that need to be taken by competent authorities. A Veterinary Journal of modern design, dedicated to veterinary professionals and informing them of the latest best practices, is issued and distributed across the country on a regular basis.

The VD maintains a public website in Russian. A segment is published in the English but not regularly updated and has limited information. The main regulatory documents, procedures and registers are available on the website with a secure intranet link to more information for staff of the Veterinary Department. This is a good source of information and access to national legislation in the veterinary field and regulatory documents of the EAEU and EU. .

The section of the website dedicated to news from the Veterinary Service seems to be infrequently updated and in particular the part dedicated to past, ongoing and future activities of the Veterinary Department has limited information and could be enriched to improve communication with journalists and the public at large about the important work of the VD to improve animal health, welfare, food safety and consequently to the public health.

There are some communication procedures for outbreaks of zoonosis, developed together with the other responsible institutions (e.g. Ministry of health and the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus - Gosstandart).

Some activities of significant importance (preventive, control measures, improvement of biosecurity on farms) are not supported by awareness campaigns, continuing education, and communication activities.

Strengths:

- Officially appointed OIE National Focal Point on Communication.
- Existence of a bilingual (Russian/English) website with some modern features (legislation database, secured access for VD staff, links to other governmental authorities, weather forecast, latest news, etc.)
- Some awareness materials and brochures were developed (for example on ASF).

- Modern Veterinary Journals and magazines.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of a plan and strategy for improving communication with stakeholders.
- The VD does not communicate adequately with stakeholders and the general public on the epizootic situation in Belarus, with a lack of information on the website about the situation and measures taken and implemented by VD.
- Information on activities of the VD and other relevant information published on the website is not regularly updated and needs to be enriched.

Recommendations:

- Assess opportunities for establishing of a Communications Unit that could address weaknesses, establish clear procedures and identify points of interest to be communicated to mass media representatives and different stakeholders.
- Information on animal diseases outbreaks, the epidemiological situation in the country and region, or results of state preventive and control programmes could be published on the website or in written reports, brochures or similar means of communication.
- The VD should design a communication strategy, dedicate adequate resources and carry out proper communication as a continuous process, based on the fundamental criteria of transparency, consistency, timeliness, balance, accuracy, honesty and empathy and with respect to the fundamental principles of quality of Veterinary Services.
- Continue to enrich content of the website in both languages and include more news related to:
    - activities and responsibilities of the Veterinary Department on animal health, welfare and food safety;
    - the current epizootic situation in the country and respective control measures taken by the Veterinary Department;
    - results from inspections and checks performed by relevant units;
    - activities of international organisations like the OIE (with relevant links to existing websites for Europe and the OIE Platform on AW for Europe which are available in Russian and English);
    - new legislation, regulations, guidelines and awareness materials;
    - electronic journals and newsletters.

III-2 Consultation with interested parties *The capability of the VS to consult effectively with interested parties on VS activities and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with interested parties.
	2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with interested parties.
	3. The VS maintain a formal consultation mechanism with interested parties.
	4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with interested parties.
	5. The VS actively consult with and solicit feedback from interested parties regarding proposed and current activities and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, interventions at the OIE (Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable), and ways to improve their activities.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E3, E52, E55 - E58, E98, D11, D15, D21, D23, D56,57, D96-98, D141-142, D151, D161, V1-3.

Findings:

There is an effective system of internal communication, covering administrative entities and technical staff within the VD. Communication external to the VD is good but not comprehensive. The organizational structure provides a solid interface and relationship for governmental authorities with the VD and Veterinary Services.

Formal consultation procedures exist on questions related to both human and animal health, for example in the case of zoonoses, and development of relevant legislation, guidelines or other procedures. For development of new regulatory measures there is a consultation procedure with some interested parties from the public sector and state institutions. Formal relationships with statutory authorities, industry organizations and associations are not prescribed.

Good evidence of a National Crisis Centre established on ASF comprising representatives of different Ministries and other relevant administrative structures. The annual plan for official controls and inspection checks to be carried out by multiple authorities was approved by several administrative bodies, and eventually endorsed by the Administration of the President of Belarus.

The website of the Veterinary Department is a good source of information where can be found several draft legislative acts included in a special section named ‘Discussion of draft regulations’ (available only in Russian).

Lack of consultation and advisory mechanisms with relevant stakeholders involved in the husbandry, livestock development, animal health and veterinary public health fields outside the state administration or industry.

Strengths:

- Establishment of a National Crisis Centre on ASF comprising representatives of many different Ministries, Competent Authorities and Agencies.
- Good evidence of consultation and advisory mechanisms with national universities, scientific institutions and veterinary organisations.
- Regulatory acts developed by the Veterinary Department are the subject of consultations with other relevant state administrative structures before they are officially endorsed and implemented.
- Good level of consultation and cooperation with other Competent Authorities when preparing joint documents or legislation.

- The VD has a good website in both Russian and English that serves as a communications tool.

Weaknesses:

- Consultation procedures with the private sector and its main representatives are not in place, since the main focus is on state owned organizations and establishments.
- There is no relevant legislative base establishing clear rules, mechanisms and procedures for consultation on new regulatory acts with relevant stakeholders and/or the private sector involved in agriculture and in particular in the veterinary and livestock fields.
- No evidence of notification to trading partners and the OIE of major periodic changes in the structure of the Veterinary Services.

Recommendations:

- Consider development of more transparent consultation procedures and mechanisms allowing more effective involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the development and delivery of VS activities and programmes on animal health and food safety.
- Design crisis communication procedures and protocols, including appropriate mechanisms to ensure effective communication between the VD and other authorities and stakeholders.
- Develop communication tools within the VD to effectively communicate with animal holders, including owners of backyard operations, to increase their understanding of animal health, welfare and veterinary public health, and their specific roles and responsibilities.
- Develop a strategic plan for communication with other Veterinary Services.

III-3 Official representation *The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate in, coordinate and provide follow up on relevant meetings of regional and international organisations including the OIE (and Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings of regional or international organisations.
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings and/or make a limited contribution.
	3. The VS actively participate[5] in the majority of relevant meetings.
	4. The VS consult with interested parties and take into consideration their opinions in providing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings.
	5. The VS consult with interested parties to ensure that strategic issues are identified, to provide leadership and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E99, E100, D44, D133, V3.

Findings:

The OIE Delegate of Belarus or his representatives take part on a regular basis in the main events of the OIE programme, such as the General Session, Regional Conferences for Europe, GF-TAD events and other meetings.

Belarus has a good but not complete network of officially nominated National Focal Points for the main activities related to the OIE and its international Standards. The OIE National Focal Points of Belarus and representatives of the VD participate on a regular basis in many of the OIE organised events and initiatives of other regional and international organisations.

Experts of the Veterinary Department often attend international meetings on different topics, organised by other organisations like FAO, Custom Union, European Union and other.

However, there is no evidence of specific follow up actions taken after participation in these international meetings (for example after the OIE Regional Workshops on WAHIS or on Animal Welfare) or of representatives from Belarus expressing more active positions on important questions or difficulties faced in the implementation of OIE Standards. As an example, of shortcomings with respect to follow-up actions, gaps were found in the timely notification of animal diseases using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and a significant delay in providing six-monthly and annual reports for 2014 and 2015. Another implementation gap is the lack of national legislation on animal welfare in compliance with the relevant OIE international standards, laid down in Chapter 7 of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Code.

There are no existing mechanisms and/or records for active consultation amongst different units of the Veterinary Department and/or with stakeholders which led to providing papers or making interventions to express specific opinion or position during relevant international meetings.

Strengths:

- Officially nominated National Focal Points for the main activities related to the OIE and its international Standards.
- OIE National Focal Points of Belarus and other representatives of the VD participate on a regular basis in many of the OIE and other international organisations events and programmes.
- The OIE Delegate of Belarus often attends international meetings and is fully aware of the regional and international situation.

[5] *Active participation* refers to preparation in advance of, and contributing during the meetings in question, including exploring common solutions and generating proposals and compromises for possible adoption.

Weaknesses:

- No specific follow-up actions taken after participation in relevant international meetings and no evidence of expressing more active positions on important questions or difficulties faced in the implementation of OIE international standards.
- No consultation with stakeholders after significant international events in order to prepare papers and or making interventions in relevant meetings.
- Lack of communication and exchange of information with other national stakeholders regarding participation in standard setting processes and implementation of OIE standards and recommendations from international events (e.g. OIE, GF-TADs).
- Belarus is not member of the WTO.

Recommendations:

- Identify and list strategic issues and topics that warrant consultation with other national delegations and with relevant national stakeholders to develop effective strategies to improve international standards and their implementation.
- Develop mechanisms for consultation processes with relevant stakeholders at national and district levels, to ensure appropriate communication and cooperation.

III-4 Accreditation / authorisation / delegation *The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories), to carry out official tasks on its behalf.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector to carry out official tasks.
	2. The public sector of the VS has the authority and capability to accredit / authorise / delegate to the private sector, but there are no current accreditation / authorisation / delegation activities.
	3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes for certain tasks, but these are not routinely reviewed.
	4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, and these are routinely reviewed.
	5. The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E32,33, E41, E52, E55-58, E86, D42, D55, D141, D146, D153, V3.

Findings:

There is no relevant national legislation or procedures to put into effect for accreditation, authorisation and delegation of activities to the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories) to carry out official tasks on behalf of Veterinary Services. These approaches are for the most part not applicable in the current context of Belarus.

Strengths:

- Some activities are delegated to local state veterinary organisations, to carry out surveillance, sampling, vaccination, testing, animal health certification, mainly on large commercial farms and establishments. Delegation of some tasks by the competent authority to the private sector could be feasible for veterinary services responsible for family, non-commercial farms and backyard holdings, animal identification, certification and movement control.
- The VD has some capacity to accredit/delegate some activities to the private sector, but under policies of the country the majority of large and industrial farms and food producing and processing establishments are mainly owned by the state and veterinarians employed there are paid by the state.

Weaknesses:

- There is no veterinary legislation to provide the possibility to delegate specific tasks related to official activities to private veterinarians,
- No current accreditation or delegation of any activities to the private sector.
- Lack of vision and strategy regarding which veterinary activities could be delegated to the private sector in the future. This concept may not be a priority for the country at this stage.
- Reports and statistics on results of controls of authorised veterinarians are not available.

Recommendations:

- Explore the possibility of future delegation of some of the official activities and tasks of the Veterinary Services to the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians).

III-5 Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) A. VSB authority *The VSB is an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no legislation establishing a VSB.
	2. The VSB regulates veterinarians only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or does not systematically apply disciplinary measures.
	3. The VSB regulates veterinarians in all relevant sectors of the veterinary profession and applies disciplinary measures.
	4. The VSB regulates functions and competencies of veterinarians in all relevant sectors and veterinary para-professionals according to needs.
	5. The VSB regulates and applies disciplinary measures to veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals in all sectors throughout the country.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): None.

Findings:

There is no national legislation establishing a VSB nor is there an understanding of the role and importance of a VSB for the quality of the national Veterinary Services. The majority of veterinarians are employed by the state sector.

This critical competency has to be considered as not applicable in the current context of Belarus.

Recommendations:

- Explore options for developing relevant legislation in line with the OIE standards and create a VSB.
- Request that the OIE support the VS with twinning project with an appropriate country to support the establishment of the VSB.

B. VSB capacity *The capacity of the VSB to implement its functions and objectives in conformity with OIE standards.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.
	2. The VSB has the functional capacity to implement its main objectives.
	3. The VSB is an independent representative organisation with the functional capacity to implement all of its objectives.
	4. The VSB has a transparent process of decision making and conforms to OIE standards.
	5. The financial and institutional management of the VSB is submitted to external auditing.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): NA

Findings:

Not assessed as there is no VSB.

III-6 Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes *The capability of the VS and producers and interested parties to formulate and implement joint programmes in regard to animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas*	Levels of advancement
	1. Producers and other interested parties only comply and do not actively participate in programmes.
	2. Producers and other interested parties are informed of programmes and assist the VS to deliver the programme in the field.
	3. Producers and other interested parties are trained to participate in programmes and advise of needed improvements, and participate in early detection of diseases.
	4. Representatives of producers and other interested parties negotiate with the VS on the organisation and delivery of programmes.
	5. Producers and other interested parties are formally organised to participate in developing programmes in close collaboration with the VS.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1, E52, E86, E98, D8,9, D20,21, D25, D54, D56,57, D62, D76, D88, D96,97, D140-142, D151, V1,2,

Findings:

Considering the situation of Belarus with the majority of industrial farms and food producers owned by state companies and consortiums, it could be concluded in general that they are well aware and informed of programmes developed by the Veterinary Services and actively assist in the process of their proper implementation and delivery in the field.

Producer input for the preparation of animal health and food safety programmes is not so obvious and it seems that they are more obliged to be in line with state regulations and implementation of official programmes, instead of commenting and/or contributing in the preparation phase. Producers and establishments have a high level of understanding of international standards and trading partners' requests (e.g. EU, EEU), and implement some programmes (e.g. diseases control, welfare, training, certification) on a voluntary basis. There are many opportunities for joint programmes.

Nevertheless, the collaboration with relevant Ministries and Competent Authorities at central and regional levels seems to be operational. An annual programme of checks and inspections is developed by the VD in cooperation and coordinated with with some other Ministries and administrations.

No clear evidence was found of participation of producers in negotiation and consultation processes with the VD regarding the assessment of current state programmes, drafting of new or revised legislation or full implementation of current, or development of future joint programmes with mutual benefits.

Strengths:

- Producers and other interested parties are well aware and informed of the importance of the proper implementation of all state programmes on animal health and food safety.
- The annual state plan for checks and inspections is developed in cooperation with other Competent Authorities and national agencies.

Weaknesses:

- No existing mechanisms for better involvement of producers and stakeholders in the development of state programmes on animal health and food safety. Producers and other interested parties are not in general involved in the development, organisation or delivery of state programmes.

- Lack of training or awareness campaigns for producers and other stakeholders with regard to their roles and duties in the implementation of the programmes developed by the Veterinary Services.

Recommendations:

- Consider development of mechanisms for better and effective involvement of producers and other interested parties in the preparation of state programmes on animal health and food safety (see CC III-2 Consultation with interested parties).
- A special section of the Veterinary Department website could provide more information to producers and other stakeholders on proposals for development of new state programmes or guidelines for better implementation of existing ones.
- More actively seek the opinion and advice of producers when developing new or implementing existing programmes which concern them.

III.4 Fundamental component IV: Access to markets

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to provide support in order to access, expand and retain regional and international markets for animals and animal products. It comprises eight critical competencies.

Critical competencies:

Section IV-1	**Preparation of legislation and regulations**
Section IV-2	**Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof**
Section IV-3	**International harmonisation**
Section IV-4	**International certification**
Section IV-5	**Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements**
Section IV-6	**Transparency**
Section IV-7	**Zoning**
Section IV-8	**Compartmentalisation**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities.

Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.

Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.

IV-1 Preparation of legislation and regulations *The authority and capability of the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations in domains that are under their mandate, in order to guarantee its quality with respect to principles of legal drafting and legal issues (internal quality) and its accessibility, acceptability, and technical, social and economical applicability (external quality). This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, which result in legislation that is lacking or is out-dated or of poor quality in most fields of VS activity.
	2. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations and can largely ensure their internal quality, but the legislation and regulations are often lacking in external quality.
	3. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with adequate internal and external quality in some fields of activity, but lack formal methodology to develop adequate national legislation and regulations regularly in all domains.
	4. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with a relevant formal methodology to ensure adequate internal and external quality, involving participation of interested parties in most fields of activity.
	5. The VS regularly evaluate and update their legislation and regulations to maintain relevance to evolving national and international contexts.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E28, E31-37, E42, E86, E99,100, D11, D36, D44, D56, D74, V3.

Findings:

There is complex set of legislation and regulations to be implemented and/or supervised by the VD and VS, in an appropriate hierarchy, providing a legal foundation to fulfil their general obligations as defined by the OIE and CAC.

The quality of veterinary legislation is appropriate to achieve legal certainty, and is in line with other national regulations. It ensures legal authority for the VD to intervene in accordance with the legislation, and to enforce appropriate measures and penalties when required. Relevant powers of the competent authority are ensured through primary legislation (e.g. access to premises and documents, taking samples, retention of animals or goods, suspension of activities, temporary and partial or complete closure of inspected establishment)

The VD has the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations with competent technical staff. The methodology for developing adequate national legislation and regulations in all domains exists and functions properly and in particular in collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and administrations that share authority or have mutual interests in relevant areas.

Consultation during the process of drafting regulatory and legislative acts is operational and engages relevant Ministries and state authorities in almost every case involving the adoption of a new act.

Other stakeholders than the state administration seem to be neither involved, nor consulted. Moreover, there are no relevant mechanisms in place for this purpose (see CC III-2 *Consultation* with interested parties and CC III-6 *Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes*).

There is no dedicated administrative unit or competent staff within the structure of the VD assigned to review current and develop new veterinary legislation, and to check compliance with relevant international standards and adequacy to address national priorities.

For this purpose, the VD uses legal services of the relevant unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. No dedicated resources (like budget, staff qualifications and trainings) are allocated to perform this key work.

It is not clear how often the existing legislation is updated, whether it is evaluated (e.g. analysis of impacts etc.) and what principles and mechanisms apply...

No specific veterinary legislation exists for some fields of veterinary domain to comply with the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes in (e.g. animal welfare, VSB, zoning and compartmentalisation, delegation).

The role and requirements of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals to perform activities of veterinary medicine and science, including their minimum initial and continuing education, licencing, control and delegation of powers with specific mandates, are not defined in the veterinary legislation in accordance with OIE recommendations. There is a serious gap in legislation governing the use of veterinary medicines and biologicals, namely the inability to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials given their “free” availability without a veterinary prescription.

Strengths:

- Comprehensive national legislation and regulations allow Veterinary Services to perform properly their duties and daily activities.
- Authority and capability for the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation under their mandate.
- There is a good level of collaboration with other Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas.

Weaknesses:

- No dedicated legal staff or unit under the authority of the Veterinary Department with deep knowledge and experience in drafting veterinary legislation.
- No clear procedure for updating and evaluating existing legislation.
- Lack of specific national legislation on animal welfare, a Veterinary Statutory Body, zoning and compartmentalization in compliance with the OIE international standards.
- No specific resources are allocated for developing legislation and assessing its impact.

Recommendations:

- Establish a legal unit in the Veterinary Department and build specific experience so that the VD could be better engage in the development and application of veterinary legislation.
- Assess and allocate the necessary resources for proper development, harmonisation, updating and evaluation of the national veterinary legislation in line with the OIE international standards.
- Ensure transparency and participation of interested parties during the development of veterinary legislation (producers, associations, field veterinarians and other stakeholders).

IV-2 Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof *The authority and capability of the VS to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations under the VS mandate.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no or very limited programmes or activities to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
	2. The VS implement a programme or activities comprising inspection and verification of compliance with legislation and regulations and recording instances of non-compliance, but generally cannot or do not take further action in most relevant fields of activity.
	3. Veterinary legislation is generally implemented. As required, the VS have a power to take legal action / initiate prosecution in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.
	4. Veterinary legislation is implemented in all domains of veterinary competence and the VS work to minimise instances of non-compliance.
	5. The compliance programme is regularly subjected to audit by the VS or external agencies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence *(listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E7-14, E38, E42, E52,53, E55-58, E86, E99,100, D8,9, D15, D20,21, D24,25, D38-40, D55-58, D60, D66, D71, D74, D80, D83-88, D90, D93, D96,97, D142, D150,151, D159, V1,2.*

Findings:

Appropriate human, physical and financial resources are allocated for inspection and control of enforcement of legislation. Two units in the VD which are responsible for development and implementation of official control plans and field inspections, namely the State Veterinary Inspection Unit and the State Institution “Veterinary Supervision”. Both units are involved in the control of implementation of the veterinary legislation at different levels and visible efforts to address signs of non-compliance were noted by the OIE PVS Team.

An annual plan for regular checks and inspections is developed by the State Veterinary Inspection Unit in coordination with other authorities, agencies and Ministries, like the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and others. However, the programme itself is implemented by inspectors working at the State Institution “Veterinary Supervision”. Unplanned inspections are also organised and deployed at different levels. There is good evidence of control of the implementation of the relevant veterinary legislation in the different domains of competence, and visible efforts by the VD to address any non-compliance in a timely manner. An annual report on the implementation of the programme is developed and provided to the Administration of the President of the country.

Checks and inspections are well documented and include recommendations and prescriptions for improvement with imposed deadlines in the case of partial or non-compliance; documents setting out these requirements are issued and signed by all of the involved parties.

Strengths:

- A good level of implementation of the existing national veterinary legislation was observed by the OIE PVS Team.
- An annual plan for checks and inspections is developed every year and implemented in coordination with other Competent Authorities like the Ministry of justice, Ministry of the Interior and others.
- In cases of non-compliance actions are taken in a timely manner and prosecution procedures are immediately launched.

Weaknesses:

- Some overlap of activities may exist between the two units in the structure of the Veterinary Department which seem to have similar duties in terms of inspections.
- The plan of official control is not detailed, and contains only general information on establishment(s) to be controlled. No clear evidence of the application of risk based principles, during planning. Sample size is not clearly defined.
- Some important sectors, such as small primary producers and backyard holdings, are excluded from official controls including controls on the trade of animals or animal products amongst such holdings.
- Procedures and standards are not developed for inspectors on their inspection techniques, with a list of measures to be imposed for every possible non-compliance, and prescribing reports to be produced.
- There is a need to ensure better awareness by all stakeholders involved in the process of implementation of the veterinary legislation and other relevant regulations and to allow them to express opinions and comments on draft proposals.
- No evidence on control of notification of animal diseases in all types of holdings and establishments, including slaughterhouses, pastures, hunting grounds, livestock markets.
- Copies of reports of inspection controls not available.

Recommendations:

- Establish a working group responsible for the development of the annual plan for checks and inspections. This group should include representatives of each different unit of the Veterinary Department, instead of requesting only the State Veterinary Inspection Unit to develop the plan. This will enable better coverage and more consistency when planning inspections for specific activities in different veterinary fields (like animal health, animal welfare, identification and registration, border veterinary control, laboratory control, food safety and other).
- Ensure appropriate coverage of all relevant sectors, animal species and subpopulations and establishment based on risk assessments.
- Develop detailed procedures for controls and reporting, with IT support modules, to improve overall quality of controls and follow up activities in the case of non-compliance.

	Levels of advancement
IV-3 International harmonisation *The authority and capability of the VS to be active in the international harmonisation of regulations and sanitary measures and to ensure that the national legislation and regulations under their mandate take account of relevant international standards, as appropriate.*	1. National legislation, regulations and sanitary measures under the mandate of the VS do not take account of international standards.
	2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.
	3. The VS monitor the establishment of new and revised international standards, and periodically review national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures with the aim of harmonising them, as appropriate, with international standards, but do not actively comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
	4. The VS are active in reviewing and commenting on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
	5. The VS actively and regularly participate at the international level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards[6], and use the standards to harmonise national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E31-33, E99, E100, D11, D36, D44, D56, D80, D83-85, D87, D133, D142, D150, D161.

Findings:

The VD staff are generally aware of the importance of a country's adherence to its obligations to notify the OIE of the occurrence of animal diseases as well as its obligations under other OIE standards. They recognize the existence of some gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national legislation and have the capacity and willingness to rectify them in due time. Some existing shortcomings in the process of preparation of legislation and regulations which are relevant to international harmonisation were identified during the mission and staff of the Veterinary Department confirmed that they are fully aware of them by promising to address them in the near future (see CC IV-1 Preparation of legislation and regulations).

As a member country of the EEU, Belarus follows and strictly implements all regulations on veterinary control and participates on a regular basis in all relevant working groups and other coordination meetings.

There is evidence of effective implementation of adequate activities for harmonization of standards related to the health of bovines, and food safety of bovine products (meat, dairy products) as a follow up to several audits of the VS carried out by FVO.

The OIE Delegate and the appointed National Focal Points are well aware of the work of the OIE and other international organisations. While experts and appointed National Focal Points seem to be well aware of the existing international standards and familiar with the processes for their development or amendment, they were not active in the process of reviewing and commenting on draft standards and in particular those of the OIE.

Strengths:

- The OIE Delegate and National Focal Points are well aware of the work of the OIE and other intergovernmental organisations and have good knowledge of international standards in the veterinary field. They attend the majority of conferences, workshops, trainings and events included in the programme of the OIE for Europe and other international and intergovernmental organisations.

[6] A country could be active in international standard setting without actively pursuing national changes. The importance of this element is to promote national change.

- Experts of the Veterinary Department are aware of gaps and inconsistencies in the existing national legislation and regulations and have the capacity and willingness to address them in a timely manner.

Weaknesses:

- There are no staff formally appointed to deal with international harmonisation matters. There is also no structure responsible for coordination of OIE activities, including standard setting processes.
- There have been repeated failures by Belarus to fulfil its animal disease reporting obligations to the OIE.
- While National Focal Points have been appointed for the main topics they seem to be not very active on some international harmonisation matters (animal welfare and notification of animal diseases – WAHIS). However, they are well informed and aware of gaps that need to be addressed and promised improved performance in due course.
- No comments on OIE draft standards have so far been received from the VD of Belarus.

Recommendations:

- Appoint and train specific staff to deal with international harmonisation matters and allocate the resources required (e.g. budget, staff qualifications, training).
- To encourage National Focal Points to be more active in their support to the OIE Delegate in the process of harmonization of legislation and commenting on new draft standards (see also CC III-2 Consultation with interested parties and CC III-3 Official representation).

IV-4 International certification[7] *The authority and capability of the VS to certify animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate, in accordance with the national legislation and regulations, and international standards.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify animals, animal products, services or processes.
	2. The VS have the authority to certify certain animals, animal products, services and processes, but are not always in compliance with the national legislation and regulations and international standards.
	3. The VS develop and carry out certification programmes for certain animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	4. The VS develop and carry out all relevant certification programmes for any animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	5. The VS carry out audits of their certification programmes, in order to maintain national and international confidence in their system.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E29, E32, E38, E42, E55-58, E99,100, D8,9, D11, D21, D24,25, D42, D44, D54-57, D80, D83-85, D87, D96,97, D133, D141,142, D150,151, V1,2.

Findings:

Certifying veterinarians, permanently employed by the Veterinary Authority, are properly trained, authorised and equipped to sign international veterinary certificate.

Belarus has a strong capacity for producing food of animal origin and a significant per cent of products are exported mainly to the EEU market. The country has several milk and fish processing establishments that satisfy and comply with the EU requirements and are approved to export to the EU market

The VD have appropriate legislation and adequate capabilities to perform systematic control of the import and export processes for animals and animal products.

Electronic certification systems and databases of the Custom Union like 'ARGUS' are used in all Border Inspection Posts of the country. This database contains electronic templates of approved veterinary certificates, licenses issued by the VS of Custom Union member countries and relevant quotas, approved transporters, trading companies and producers' information. The system has several similarities to the EU system for electronic certification 'TRACES'. Modern development of the system and appropriate maintenance enable the VD to ensure security of the export certification process, including electronic certification transfers.

The VD of Belarus has undergone several audits by Russia, the EEU and th EU (FVO) to inspect and approve establishments for export.

Experts from the VD of Belarus regularly participate in joint audit missions with colleagues from Russia and other member states of the EEU, deployed in several EU and some third countries to verify official veterinary control systems and approve establishments for export to the EEU.

Strengths:

- The country has strong capacity to produce and export products of animal origin, applying relevant certification procedures in line with international standards.
- Electronic certification systems and databases are in place and are used in all Border Inspection Posts of the country.
- The certification programmes and official veterinary controls of Belarus are subject to regular external inspections coming from Russia, the EU (FVO) and some other

[7] Certification procedures should be based on relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.

countries and in the case of non-compliance shortcomings are addressed in a timely manner.

Weaknesses:

- There is no specific staff or unit responsible for international certification, negotiation and approval of certificates.
- Detailed instructions for certifying veterinary inspectors are not available.
- There is a need for better information on approved templates of veterinary certificates and to make them available to all trade partners and stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- Appoint specific staff responsible for international certification and negotiations (see also CC IV-3 International harmonisation).
- Develop an internal programme for audit of certification programmes.
- Develop detailed instructions for certifying inspectors to ensure full and consistent implementation of all national legal provisions, but also enforcement of importing country requirements during the pre-export period.
- publish on the website of the VD and regularly updated approved templates of veterinary certificates to make them available to all trade partners and stakeholders

IV-5 Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements *The authority and capability of the VS to negotiate implement and maintain equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to negotiate or approve equivalence or other types of sanitary agreements with other countries.
	2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.
	3. The VS have implemented equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on selected animals, animal products and processes.
	4. The VS actively pursue the development, implementation and maintenance of equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on all matters relevant to animals, animal products and processes under their mandate.
	5. The VS actively work with interested parties and take account of developments in international standards, in pursuing equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E29, E38, E42, E52, D36, D44, D55, D80, D83-85, D87, D141,142, D161.

Findings:

The VD has several bilateral equivalency agreements, and actively supports additional agreements of this kind.

Belarus as member country of the EEU is pursuing with priority the equivalence of veterinary sanitary requirements with the EEU (Custom Union). In addition, bordering with the EU (Poland), the VS of Belarus also complies with the main EU regulations allowing currently the export of some milk and fish products to EU countries.

Efforts to align and comply with international standards of the OIE and in particular with the Custom Union's specific regulations were obvious at all levels.

The VD has taken several measures to improve performance in some fields, e.g. on the basis of FVO recommendations.

Being often the subject of external inspections, the VD has taken measures to improve the level of compliance with international standards and sanitary agreements with trading partners (see CC IV-4International certification).

Strengths:

- Evident efforts to comply with the legislative requirements of the Custom Union were noted at all levels.
- Efforts to comply with the EU regulations and requirements for export were also noted.

Weaknesses:

- No staff with specific qualifications or a unit dedicated to dealing with these matters.
- No allocation of resources for this activity (e.g. budget, staff qualifications, training).
- Belarus is not member of WTO, and does not have capacity to implement the OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Recommendations:

- Assess the options to allocate more appropriate resources for this activity, including appointment of dedicated staff.

IV-6 Transparency	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to notify the OIE of its sanitary status and other relevant matters (and to notify the WTO SPS Committee where applicable), in accordance with established procedures.	1. The VS do not notify.
	2. The VS occasionally notify.
	3. The VS notify in compliance with the procedures established by these organisations.
	4. The VS regularly inform interested parties of changes in their regulations and decisions on the control of relevant diseases and of the country's sanitary status, and of changes in the regulations and sanitary status of other countries.
	5. The VS, in cooperation with their interested parties, carries out audits of their transparency procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E1-3, E29, D24, D25, D54, D57, D140, V1.

Findings:

The VD posts all veterinary legislation on its website for public access (in Russian). Other government institutions publish all national legislation in Russian, while some laws are also available in English.

The OIE National Focal Point on animal disease notification was changed in 2013. A new one was subsequently appointed and then trained by the OIE in October 2014. Nevertheless, since the end of 2013 no notification of animal disease has been submitted to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). This worrisome observation was underlined by the team during the mission because transparency is a very important cross-cutting issue that reflects directly on several other critical competencies assessed during the OIE PVS Mission. Transparency is considered to be a key element in building confidence amongst international trading partners and also to maintain sustainable and trusting relations with neighbouring countries.

No list of OIE listed diseases for which notification is obligatory has been officially approved by the CVO. Procedures and relevant legislation that provide the basis for notification to the OIE seem to be incomplete, often unclear and in many respects confusing with other legislation.

Only one person (the OIE National Focal Point on animal disease notification) works at the central level to summarize all disease information, prepare reports on the epizootic situation in the country and prepare notifications to the OIE via WAHIS in a timely manner. This seems inadequate and has proven to be inefficient.

No significant reason was provided for the lack of animal disease notifications to the OIE and the mission team was ensure that this problem will be fixed in a reasonable time.

Significant delays were observed in submission of the six-monthly and annual reports of the country via WAHIS.

Strengths:

- Official appointment of an OIE National Focal Point on WAHIS who who then received recent training by the OIE.
- Understanding and awareness of the OIE notification procedures and willingness to improve transparency. After the importance of improving the existing level of transparency was underlined by the mission team, both the missing six-monthly reports for 2014 for terrestrial and aquatic animals were submitted to the OIE.
- A draft list of OIE listed diseases for obligatory notification was quickly developed with the support of the mission team and submitted for official approval and implementation.

Weaknesses:

- Information on sanitary and zoosanitary status is not published or available to public and interested parties.
- Multi-annual failure of the VD to fulfil animal disease reporting obligations to the OIE, and inability to provide extensive information regarding sanitary and zoosanitary status was noted. Somes cases of transboundary diseases diagnosed in the national laboratory were never reported by the VD to the OIE or other countries.
- The OIE Delegate of Belarus and the National Focal Point on animal disease notification and WAHIS have been changed a few times in recent years.
- A list of mandatory notifiable diseases is not available in the VD or to the field VS.
- The current level of transparency is very weak and needs to be improved quickly by allocating relevant resources and efforts to this activity.

Recommendations:

- Allocate more physical and financial recourses (e.g. budget, staff qualifications, trainings) to this activity to improve significantly the current level of transparency and build trust of Belarus amongst international partners and with neighbouring countries.
- Amend the existing legislation and regulations to fully harmonise these with provisions of the Terrestrial and Aquatic animal health code, Chapter 1.1 'Notification of diseases'.
- Review annually the national list of OIE-listed diseases that are obligatory to be notified and take the necessary measures to build awareness of staff at all levels of the VS and stakeholders on their responsibilities and duties in that regard. It should be published on visible place of the website of the VD (see CC III-1 Communication).
- Develop clear and transparent procedures for notification to ensure the timely transfer of information on suspicion and laboratory confirmation of animal diseases from the lower to the top level of the VS.
- Make sure that OIE notification procedures and relevant national legislation are respected by conducting regular audits at different levels of the system in cooperation with other interested parties.
- In case of difficulties with the submission of data via WAHIS always contact the relevant OIE Department in Paris or WAHIS contact persons at the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for support.
- Publish on the website of the VD the lasted news related to the epizootic situation in country and relevant prophylaxis and control measures taken being considered as a way to improve the existing low level of transparency.

IV-7 Zoning	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free zones, as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).	1. The VS cannot establish disease free zones.[8]
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with distinct health status suitable for zoning.
	3. The VS have implemented biosecurity measures that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	4. The VS collaborate with producers and other interested parties to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free zones and can gain recognition by trading partners that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): E3, E32, D16-18, D21, D31, D90, D175.

Findings:

There is no specific national legislation or other regulatory and documented procedures in compliance with the OIE international standards for establishing of zones.

An animal identification and registration system and an electronic database are under development but still not fully operational. However, the identification and registration started with large ruminants and is operational on several industrial farms and in some rayons of the country. The deadline set by the government to finish with this process for all domestic species is May 2018.

The zoning concept and its main principles seem to be not very well understood and promoted by the VD to farmers and producers with export interests despite the fact that the main elements for establishing zones are in place.

However, it was observed during the team field visits that many of the necessary components to establish zones in near future for some particular diseases exist. They just need to be better summarized, harmonized, documented and properly implemented.

The level of biosecurity of visited farms (industrial cattle, pig and poultry farms) was at a satisfactory level with all relevant plans, updated procedures and documents of frequent inspections.

A visited Rayon Veterinary Station of Malaryta demonstrated good records of having been awarded the status of being free from Bovine Tuberculosis and a suspension of the status in the case of positive results having been found. However, there are still some shortcomings to be addressed in particular with the control and diagnosis of the Bovine Tuberculosis (see CC II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis and CC II-7 Disease prevention, control and eradication)

Establishing a zone and/or compartments seems not to be a priority for the VD of Belarus at this stage.

Strengths:

- Generally zoning could be applicable in the context of Belarus administrative and agricultural policy.
- In the case of a future need the DV has the capacity to establish and identify animal sub-populations with distinct health status suitable for zoning.

[8] If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement zoning, this CC should be recorded as "not applicable at this stage"

- All components necessary to establish zones for some particular diseases in the near future exist, but they need to be better summarized, harmonized and properly implemented.
- A satisfactory level of biosecurity measures was observed in the visited farms.
- Good progress was achieved by launching of a very modern traceability system for animal identification and registration.
- Good records at rayon level for awarding status free from TBC.

Weaknesses:

- There is no existing legislation in compliance with the OIE standards for establishing of zones.
- The VS doesn't collaborate enough with producers and other interested parties to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products.
- Zoning is not considered as a priority for the country at this stage and no relevant human, physical and financial resources are allocated for this activity.
- An animal identification and registration system is not fully implemented.
- The zoning concept and its main principles seem to be not very well understood and promoted by the VD to farmers and producers with export interests, despite the fact that the main elements for establishing zones are in place.

Recommendations:

- Develop relevant national legislation for establishing zones.
- Ensure proper collaboration with producers and other interested parties to define actions for establishing and maintain some priority disease free zones for selected animals and animal products.

IV-8 Compartmentalisation	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free compartments as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).	1. The VS cannot establish disease free compartments.[9]
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with a distinct health status suitable for compartmentalisation.
	3. The VS ensure that biosecurity measures to be implemented enable it to establish and maintain disease free compartments for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	4. The VS collaborate with producers and other interested parties to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free compartments for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free compartments and can gain recognition by other countries that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Evidence (listed in Appendix 5): None.

Findings:

There is no legislative framework to enable Belarus to comply with the OIE Standards for establishing compartments.

The VD has the capacity to address the main requirements and has relevant data to identify animal sub-populations with a distinct health status suitable for compartmentalisation.

Generally, compartmentalisation could be applicable in the context of Belarus' agricultural policy, considering the strengths of some livestock and industrial sectors (e.g. dairy products).

For example, an industrial pig farm visited has a modern and regularly updated biosecurity plan and detailed registers for the health status of animals. After outbreaks of ASF in 2013 biosecurity measures of industrial pig farms become a priority for both farmers and highest level of the state administration. All industrial pig farms are subject to frequent inspections by commissions composed of experts from the VD (central and rayon level), prosecutors, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and others. In the event of serious non-compliance, infringements or failure to execute recommendations of previous inspections, a prosecution procedure is launched immediately.

Some signs and main components for the application of similar concepts had been initiated by some of the large milk processing plants visited. They collect raw milk only from farms that apply and respect the highest possible standards of hygiene and animal health.

A Veterinary Station at rayon level (Malorito rayon, Brest region) visited during the mission kept and maintained an up to date register of the free status of TBC for cattle herds. In cases of positive results found the status was suspended. However, there are still some shortcomings to be addressed in particular with the control and diagnosis of the Bovine Tuberculosis (see CC II 1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis and CC II 7 Disease prevention, control and eradication)

The compartmentalization concept and its main principles seems to be not amongst the priorities of the VD.

Strengths, Weaknesses and Recommendations

- These are the same as for zoning (see CC IV-7 Zoning).

[9] If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement compartmentalization, this CC should be recorded as "not applicable at this stage"

PART IV: CONCLUSIONS

The OIE PVS evaluation of the Republic of Belarus took place from 2 to 13 November 2015 and was implemented by a team of 3 OIE accredited experts. The team found an admirable level of cooperation with transparency at all levels.

The results of the OIE PVS evaluation demonstrate a high level of technical competence and resourcing. The VS has competent, stable and well educated staff supported by clear legislation and regulations. Veterinarians from the state sector are used to good effect for official activities through delegated activities. Private veterinarians have limited roles and responsibilities.

It is recommended that the VD, in collaboration with other parties, develop a clear strategic plan for the next five years. A review of the VD organisation should be supported and would benefit from analysis of efficacy, efficiency and risk analysis.

Among the challenges facing the VD is the need to urgently improve the disease notification and rapid alert system, and the efficiency of their procedures and record keeping. There is a need to review the legislation and some diagnostic procedures along with the role of District laboratories, and to align these with OIE standards and recommendations. Additionally, implementation of epidemiological surveillance and animal disease control programmes should be in place not only on large farms, but on all domestic animal holdings, including small and “back yard” operations, and in wild animal populations, with appropriate coverage. As a priority, strengthening of the animal identification and traceability system, with development of a fully integrated and comprehensive database and enforcement in all livestock species and subpopulations. The data gathered should be used to perform systematic analyses and develop useable reports of activities to support planning and review.

The ongoing implementation of the food safety law is an opportunity to review and assess the interaction of the VD with other authorities to ensure full implementation of the regulation and to warrant identified gaps are addressed. Application of ante- and post-mortem inspection, according to international standards, and by official veterinary inspectors, should be ensured in all establishments.

In the above context, the VD still has some way ahead to fully align its services to international standards, as underscored by the findings and conclusions of the PVS Evaluation mission. Following priorities could be added to previous recommendations: (i) improvement of the overall management of resources; (ii) extend formal quality assurance throughout the laboratory system to include any District laboratories that will continue to operate; (iii) establish a risk analysis approach for all programmes of the VD; (iii) develop a modern programme on animal welfare; (iv) establish a Veterinary Statutory Body; (vi) strengthen collaboration with all stakeholders to develop and apply the One Health concept which will be critical to tackling all major zoonoses in a comprehensive way.

PART V: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terrestrial Code references for critical competencies

Critical Competences	Terrestrial Code references
I.1.A **I.1.B** **I.2.A** **I.2.B**	➢ Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity. ➢ Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources. ➢ Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. ➢ Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. ➢ Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.
I.3	➢ Points 1, 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / General organisation / Human and financial resources. ➢ Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. ➢ Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: In-service training and development programme for staff. ➢ Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I.4	➢ Point 2 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Independence.
I.5	➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I.6.A **I.6.B**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Article 3.2.2. on Scope. ➢ Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Veterinary Services administration.
I.7	➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: “Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation… than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services”. ➢ Points 2 and 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Administrative / Technical. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
I.8 **I.9** **I.10**	➢ Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Human and financial resources. ➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.
I.11	➢ Points 7, 11 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Documentation / Human and financial resources. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations. ➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope. ➢ Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources. ➢ Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
II.1A **II.1B** **II.2**	➢ Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical. ➢ Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.
II.3	➢ Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis

Critical Competences	Terrestrial Code references
II.4	➢ Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.
II.5.A **II.5.B**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services / Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to Veterinary Services / Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:… or eradication programmes for specific diseases. ➢ Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance. ➢ Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.
II.6	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.
II.7	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health. ➢ Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.
II.8.A **II.8.B** **II.8.C**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain. ➢ Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health. ➢ Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls. ➢ Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards: ➢ Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005). ➢ Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004). ➢ General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).
II.9	➢ Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines. ➢ Sub-point a) ii) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health: Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation. ➢ Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.
II.10	➢ Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines. ➢ Sub-points b) iii) and iv) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.
II.11	➢ Chapter 6.3. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Critical Competences	Terrestrial Code references
II.12.A **II.12.B**	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals. ➢ Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.
II.13	➢ Section7 on Animal Welfare
III.1	➢ Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. ➢ Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details. ➢ Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III.2	➢ Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 4 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details and on Sources of independent scientific expertise. ➢ Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III.3	➢ Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
III.4	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.
III.5.A **III.5.B**	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations. ➢ Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. ➢ Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
III.6	➢ Points 6 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Communication. ➢ Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on General principles: Consultation.
IV.1	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection. ➢ Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities. ➢ Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.
IV.2	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection. ➢ Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.
IV.3	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities. ➢ Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.
IV.4	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Sub-point b) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures. ➢ Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.
IV.5	➢ Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation. ➢ Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Critical Competences	Terrestrial Code references
	➢ Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.
IV.6	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.
IV.7 **IV.8**	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation. ➢ Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Appendix 2: Glossary of terms

Terms defined in the Terrestrial Code that are used in this publication are reprinted here for ease of reference.

Animal

means a mammal, bird or bee.

Animal identification

means the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal identification system

means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments/owners, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with animal identification.

Animal welfare

means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

Border post

means any airport, or any port, railway station or road check-point open to international trade of commodities, where import veterinary inspections can be performed.

Compartment

means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purposes of international trade.

Competent Authority

means the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory.

Disease

means the clinical and/or pathological manifestation of infection.

Emerging disease

means a new infection or infestation resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection or infestation spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or

disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.

Equivalence of sanitary measures

means the state wherein the sanitary measure(s) proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing country, achieve(s) the same level of protection.

International veterinary certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2., describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Laboratory

means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The Veterinary Authority approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to the diagnostic tests required for international trade.

Meat

means all edible parts of an animal.

Notifiable disease

means a disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of this Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

Official control programme

means a programme which is approved, and managed or supervised by the Veterinary Authority of a country for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or disease by specific measures applied throughout that country, or within a zone or compartment of that country.

Official Veterinarian

means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the Terrestrial Code.

Official veterinary control

means the operations whereby the Veterinary Services, knowing the location of the animals and after taking appropriate actions to identify their owner or responsible keeper, are able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required. This does not exclude other responsibilities of the Veterinary Services e.g. food safety.

Risk analysis

means the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk assessment

means the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment and spread of a hazard within the territory of an importing country.

Risk management

means the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various Chapters of the Terrestrial Code, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a hazard.

Surveillance

means the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken.

Terrestrial Code

means the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Veterinarian

means a person with appropriate education, registered or licensed by the relevant veterinary statutory body of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

(Veterinary) legislation

means the collection of specific legal instruments (primary and secondary legislation) required for the governance of the veterinary domain.

Veterinary para-professional

means a person who, for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code, is authorised by the veterinary statutory body to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of veterinary para-professional) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian. The tasks for each category of veterinary para-professional should be defined by the veterinary statutory body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

Veterinary Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the territory. The Veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Wildlife

means feral animals, captive wild animals and wild animals.

Zoonosis

means any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to humans.

Appendix 3: Timetable of the mission; sites/ facilities visited and list of resource/contact persons met or interviewed

Asses-sor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Date: 02/11/2015		**Opening meeting**			
BP, KL, SR *	Minsk, VD headquarters, CVO office	Veterinary Department (VD), Ministry of Agriculture MoA)	Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	Opening meeting Organisation of the mission Adoption of the mission plan Presentation of the PVS Presentation of the Belarus Veterinary Services Organisation of national authorities and VS Mandate and organisation of veterinary CA Veterinary laboratories, NRL Regional offices of VS Border control Surveillance Official controls Emergency response and disease crisis management Education of vets Traceability Financial support
			Aleksandr Ivanovic KUCKO	First Deputy CVO	
			Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	
			Piotr ANTANOVICH	Head of Veterinary Surveillance Dpt.	
			Igor Aladko	Inspector at State Veterinary Inspection on State Border and Transport	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
* BP (Budimir Plavsic), KL (Kazimieras Lukauskas), SR (Stanislav Ralchev)					

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Field visits, meetings and interviews					
Date: 02//11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, VD headquarters, MoA	VD, Division for antiepidemic (emerg.) activities	Aleksander LYAKOVSKIY	Head of Antiepizootic division	Emergency response Disease control end eradication Emergency funding Participation of stakeholders in joint programes Legislative Management of resources and operations
			Sergei DOMBROVSKIY	Senior veterinary inspector	
			Boorodk TATSIANA	Senior veterinary inspector	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
Date: 03/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk	Belarus State Veterinary Center	Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis Network of authorised and accredited veterinary labs National laboratory infrastructure Laboraotry quality assurance (ISO, GOST, other) Laboratory IT system Scope of accreditation, available methodologies and types of testing National accreditation body Laboratory equipment Human, physical and financial resources Sample management, Procedures and protocols Reporting Management of resources
			Valery BOBOLOV	Deputy director	
			Tatsiana POZNYAK	Head of testing laboratory	
			Natalya SAI	Head of virology and cel culture Dpt.	
			Elena KASITSA	Head of bacteriology	
			Svetlana SIIZH	Head of standardisation and regulatory Dpt.	
			Evgeniy PANKOVETS	Senior vet. in Epizootiology Dpt.	
			Elena RASSTRYZHENKOVA	Head of Dpt. for organisat. of testing	
			Tatyana KALAYANI	Head of biochemistry and mycology testing	
			Vitaliy HRABLUK	Senior vet, parasitologist	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	Proficiency testing progr. Training and continuous education Collaboration with other labs Concept of National reference laboratory
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
Date: 03//11/2015					
KL	Minsk	Corporation for procurement and distribution of VMPs - Belzoovetsnabprom	Vadim SHURMUHIN	Director	Regulations for VMP and biologicals Mandate and scope of activities Collaboration with VD, VSs and other stkeholders Distribution of VMP, cold chain, Prescription of antimicrobials Prudent use and AMR
			Irina MIKCHLUKOVA	Deputy director	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Consultant	
Date: 03/04/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk	Vitebsk Academy on Veterinary Medicine (VEE)	Anton Ivanovic IATUSEVIC	Rector (university chancellor)	Organisation of education of veterinarians in Belarus Comeptences of veterinarians Curriculum of vet. faculty Education and training programmes Interview with professors and students Postgraduate studies Library and access to international academic databases Visit of departments, clinics and facilities for professors and students
			Rostislav Grigorevic Kuzmic	First deputy-rector	
			Elena Leonidovna BRATUSKINA	Deputy-rector	
			ZHURBA V.A.	Dean of Veteriniary Faculty	
			Aleksander BELKO	Deputy-rector	
			Mihail Mihailavic KARPENYA	Dean of Zooengineering Faculty	
			Few professors and students		
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Date: 04/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk	Agrarian college / school for veterinary paraprofessionals	Vladimir A. KHOVAJLO Vladimir G. RUSAKOV Natalya Karamalak PETROVNA Tatyana Semenova OLEGOVNA	Director of school Deputy director Deputy for veterinary matters Professor	Organisation of education of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPP) Comeptences of VPP Curriculum and training programmes Interview with professors Library and collaboration with other schools and faculties Visit of departments, clinics and facilities
Date: 05/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk	Slaughterhouse and processing plant (Vitebskiy mjasokombinat)	Natalia MAKAVCOVA	Head Of production laboratory	Authorisation of establish. System of inspection, official control, verifications, number of state veterinary inspectors Human resources, number of employed veterinarians HACCP, Quality assurance, procedures, protocols, inhouse laboratory Volume of slaughtered animals, data on production, processing, trade, export List of farms for supply of animals, quality control, requirements, movement control, document mngmt Recognition of international standards Procedures for ante
			Mikhail MAHNETSOV	Head ov veterinary service in establish.	
			Boris SOBOLEV	Veterinarian in meat processing unit	
			Aleksey POPOVICH	Veterinarian in meat processing unit	
			Aleksey AKSIONOV	State veterinary inspector in establ.	
			Aleksander KOZAK	Head of Regional Vet. Administration	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Aleksandar MIHAYLOVICH	Veterinarian in establishment	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	and post mortemt inspections Control of animal diseases, zoonoses and food borne diseases Residue controls, Animal welfare, Continuous education
Date: 05/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk region	Regional Veterinary Administration (RVA)	Aleksander KOZAK	Head of Regional Vet. Administration	Organisation of VS in region and distric, management of resources, Accreditation. Animal population Number of farms and backyard holdings, establishments, import, export Epidemiological situation, disease notification, surveillance (active and passive), animal disease control programmes Collaboration Official controls, verifications, inspections Emergency response, crisis management
			Sergey BOBOEV	Deputy head	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
Date: 05/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk region	VMP production establishment, "VIC"	Oleg Fedorovich CEKUNKOV	Gen. director	Authoristion of establishment, licencing of VMP Production, marketing, trade, export. Internal quality control, laboratory, standardisation GMP, GLP Official control, import
			-	Chief veterinarian	
			-	Head of laboratory	
			Aleksander KOZAK	Head of Regional Vet. Administration	
			Sergey BOBOEV	Deputy head	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	of ingredients and active substances
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	Free sale, prescription
Date: 06/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Vitebsk region	Poultry slaughterhouse and processing plant (GANNA)	Victor MIROSH	Director	Authorisation of establishment
			Aleksey KIRNOZ	Deputy director	System of inspection, official control, verifications, number of state veterinary inspectors
			Natalia PARKOVSKAYA	Deputy director	Human resources, number of employed veterinarians
			Aleksander KOZAK	Veterinarian in establishment	HACCP, Quality assurance, procedures, protocols, inhouse laboratory
			Alesja FRAINKO	Veterinary inspector	Volume of slaughtered poultry, data on production, processing, trade, export
			Olga POPOVA	Head of production	List of farms for supply of animals, health controls, specific requirements, feed control, animal welfare, vaccinations, transport
			Aleksander KOZAK	Head of Regional Vet. Administration	Procedures for ante and post mortemt inspections
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	Control of animal diseases, zoonoses and food borne diseases
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	Residue controls, Continuous education
Date: 09/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, VD, MoA	Veterinary Department (CVO office)	Vasiliy Petrovich PIVOVAR	CVO, OIE Delegate	Agenda of the mission
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	Presentation of the PVS
			Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	Organisation of national authorities

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
			I. SARYK	Deputy head of department	and VS, technical independence, stability of structure International representation, internal and external coordin. Surveillance, transparency Official controls, inspections Emergency response and disease crisis management, compensations Financial support, management of resources Animal welfare, VSB, VMP, Accreditation, deleg. of activit.
Date: 09/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region	Brest's Veterinary Laboratory	Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	Responsibilities of regional veterinary laboratories, capacities for animal health, food safety diagnosis Collaboration with BSVC and district laboraotries Laboraotry quality system, scope of accreditation, available methodologies and types of testing, access to LIMS, Laboratory equipment and facilities, Human, physical and financial resources Sample management, testing procedures and protocols, participatin in proficiency testing progr. Reporting (to customers, RVA, VD,
			Irina OLEHNOVICH	Deputy director, head of diagnostic laboratory	
			Anatoly KHOMICH	Head of serology department	
			Irina TISHKEVICH	Head of virology department	
			Victor KARPOVICH	Head of RVA	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
					MoA) Management of resources Training and continuous education Number of tests performed, positive results (animal health, residues, food borne diseases)
Date: 09/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region, Brest city	Brest city Veterinary Station (BVS)	Victor TROTSUK	Director, head of district veterinary administration (DVA)	Responsibilites and activities of BVS Organisation of VS in district, management of resources, Accreditation and licencing of veterinarinas, cont. educ. Animal population, VMP, prudent use of AB Number of farms and backyard holdings, establishments, import, export Epidemiological situation, disease notification, surveillance, animal disease control programmes Inspection controls, supervisions, Emergency response,
			Aleksey RATSER	Deputy head	
			Victor KARPOVICH	Head of RVA	
			Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
Date: 10/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region, Malaryta District, Malaryta city	District veterinary station & veterinary laboratory	Nine KRUPSKAYA	Head of VS/VL and Dictrict Veterinary Administration (DVA)	Responsibilites and activities of VS/VL/DVA, field activities, inspection, Organisation of VS in district and city, management of resources, Accreditation of laboratory, quality assurance,
			Serafim VABISHEVICH	Head of RVA	
			Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy	

Assessor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
				assistant, Int. Consultant	methodologies and tests, proficiency testing
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	Animal population, implementation of animal disease programmes, distribution of VMP and prudent use of AB Number of big farms and small backyard holdings, establishments, notification of animal diseases, epidemiological situation, Inspection controls, supervisions, Emergency response,
Date: 10/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Slavgorod, dairy farm	Dairy farm "Lesnaya"	Tatiana HOVANSKAYA	Head of farm Veterinary Service	Organisation of farm, milk producton, processing and distribbution Organisation of farm's VS, human resources, management of activities, Monitoring and surveillance of animal diseases, control programme, vaccination, notification of diseases Prudnt use of antibiostics, Sample management, offical status on brucellosis, bovine TB and EBL Number of tests, positive results, number of abortuses, laboratory investigations Animal welfare, Traceability
			Robert BOBIN	Head zootechnician on farm	
			Nine KRUPSKAYA	Head DVA	
			Serafim VABISHEVICH	Head of RVA	
			Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	

Date: 10/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region, Border inspection post	BIP, (border with Poland)	Serafim VABISHEVICH	Head of RVA	Organisation of border control, numner of border inspection posts, Human resources, quality control, procedures, job description, physical resour. Number and volume of consignment, statistics per post, sampling, equipment, IT hardware and system (ARGUS), risk analysis Quarantine, rendering capacities, incineration. Illegal trade
			Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	
Date: 10/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region	Pig farm “Zapadniy”	Sergei RAZUVANOV	Chief veterinarian	Pig production in Belarus and regionalisation, Organisation of farm, producton units, biosecurity, contingency plans, GFP, Organisation of farm’s VS, human resources, management of activities, Monitoring and surveillance of animal diseases, control programmes, vaccinations (CSF, other), notification of diseases. Official ctrls. Prudnt use of antibiotics (30 days prior to slaught.), CE Sample management, testing of samples Number of tests, positive results, number of abortuses, mortality, laboratory investigations, early warning Animal welfare, Traceability
			Valentina TOMILCHIK	Farm manager	
			Lubov BALABANUK	Head of DVA	
			Serafim VABISHEVICH	Head of RVA	
			Sergey SINKEVICH	Director of BVL	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
			Anatoly YURCHIK	Interpretor	

Date: 11/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region, Kamenetsk District	Hunting ground, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, National Park	Vasiliy ARNOLBIK	Deputy Director General	Organisation of hunting in Belarus, organisation in this hunting groud, human resources, veterinary services, management of activities, collaboration with VD and inspection service. Monitoring and surveillance of animal diseases (ASF), control programmes, vaccinations, notification of diseases, sample management, testing of samples, financial incentives by VD or MoA Number of tests, positive results, mortality, laboratory investigations Hunting bag, sample size. Rendering, carcass dispos.
			Vadim MACHULSKIY	Senior specialist, control of hunting	
			Andrey STRELCHUK	Senior veterinarian	
			Aleksander VASILYUK	Head of DVA and District VS	
			Victor KARPOVICH	Head of RVA	
			Aleksandr KUCHINSKIY	Senior veterinarian, Reg.Agric. Admin.	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	
Date: 11/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Brest region, Byaroza District	Milk processing, dairy plant, Byaroza (Bereza)	Vladimir Gligorievich POPENIYA	Director	Authorisation of establishment Quality assurance, HACCP, procedures, protocols, internal laboratory Human resources, number of employed veterinarians, their roles, collabor. with offic. VS System of inspection, official control, verifications, number of state veterinary inspectors Volume of production, processing, trade, export List of farms for supply of row milk,
			Svetlana VORONETS	Deputy director, production	
			Galina TOKINOVA	Head of laboratory	
			Victor KARPOVICH	Head of RVA	
			Aleksandr KUCHINSKIY	Senior veterinarian, Reg.Agric. Admin.	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	

					health controls, specific requirements, feed control, free status Control of animal diseases, zoonoses and food borne diseases, residue controls
Date: 12/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, MoA, VD	CVO office	Lev DOLGITSER	Deputy head of State Administration for Veterinary inspection on State Border and Transport	Interviews with CVO and heads of departments Funding (operational, emerg. procurements), Epidemiological monitor. and surveillance, animal diseases programmes, zoonoses, transparency, notification to the OIE (Rabies, ASF, BT, brucellosis, EBL, salmon.) Identif. and traceability of animals and products. Contingency planning, emerg. response, compensations, ABP. Border control, Customs, TFA, quarantine, standard procedures, equipment. Legislative, tchnical regulations, resources. Continuous education Official controls, risk based ctrls, audit, supervision, verifications. Coordination with RVA and DVA, reporting, statistics. Collaboration with wild animals organisations, MoH, Transport control,
			Aleksandr LIJANOVSKIY	Head of State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance	
			Vitali FUBIKOYSKI	Head of inspection department	
			Piotr ANTAMOVICH	Director of Vetnadzor	
			Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	
			Natalia ILYNA	VD, Veterinary inspector, consultant	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	

					collaboration w. stakehold. VMPs approval, authorisat. management, residues, prudent use, AMR
Date: 12/11/2015					
KL	Minsk	Meat processing establish. "Agroservis 6"	MARPEROSAN A.S.	Chief veterinarian in establishment	Authorisation of establish. Production, trade, export, Human resources, number of employed veterinarians Inspection and official control, HACCP,procedures, protocols, inhouse laboratory List of farms for supply of animals, quality control, animal health requirements, Recognition of international standards Residue controls, Animal welfare, Continuous education
			GREK G.G.	Veterinarian in est.	
			KOROSTIL A.	Veterinary inspector	
			KARNOVICH O.I.	Official veterinarian	
			SULENKO S.S.	Head of DVA	
Date: 13/11/2015					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, MoA, VD	CVO office	Vasiliy PIVOVAR	CVO	Communication of VS, collaboration with interested parties, Participation of producers in joint programmes Preliminary results of PVS Usage of PVS for increasing of capacities of VS (active, passive) Notification of animal diseases, transparency Veterinary Services, roles, responsibilites, protection of animal health and welfare, Consumer protection, (natinal and global public good)
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Piotr ANTAMOVICH	Director of Vetnadzor	
			Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	
			Anton YATUSEVICH	Veterinary Academy	
			Sviatlana MIKHOVICH	Belta office, Minsk	
			Iryna MERMANOVICH	Selskaya, Minks	
			Marina NOSOVA	Belapan	
			Nina HURYNA	Ria Novosti	
			Lilija KRAPIVINA	Belominskoje selskoje hozjaistvo	
			Sveta DEVIATKOVA	Belaruskiy rinok	

Date: 13/11/2015, Closing meeting					
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, MoA, VD	Minister's office,	HE Leonid ZAYATS	Minister	Preliminary results of PVS Active and passive usage of PVS for improvement of VS Importance for VS and national capacities Stability of structure, sustainbability of policies Participation of VD in international OIE events Education, awareness pr. Legislative development, compliance with OIE standards Animal identification, welfare, notification and reporting, pudent use of antibiotics Rabies elimination progr. (ORV) Futher development of VS, support by OIE (Gap, VLSP)
			Vasiliy PIVOVAR	CVO	
BP, KL, SR	Minsk, MoA, VD	CVO office	Vasiliy PIVOVAR	CVO	
			Ivan Ivanovic SMILHIN	Deputy CVO	
			Piotr ANTAMOVICH	Director of Vetnadzor	
			Jury Alekseevic PIVOVARCHIK	Director of BSVC	
			Anton YATUSEVICH	Veterinary Academy	
			Dmitry MOROZOV	Academy assistant, Int. Consultant	

Appendix 4: Air travel itinerary

ASSESSOR	DATE	From	To	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
Budimir Plavsic	01 Nov 2015	Belgrade	Vienna	JU0600	07:00	08:35
	01 Nov 2015	Vienna	Minsk	OS0687	09:50	13:45
	14 Nov 2015	Minsk	Vienna	OS0690	06:00	06:00
	14 Nov 2015	Vienna	Belgrade	OS0601	09:25	10:45
Stanislav Ralchev	01 Nov 2015	Brussels	Vienna	OS8172	07:05	08:50
	01 Nov 2015	Vienna	Minsk	OS0687	09:50	13:45
	14 Nov 2015	Minsk	Vienna	OS0690	06:00	06:00
	14 Nov 2015	Vienna	Brussels	OS0351	07:00	08:55
Kazimieras Lukauskas	02 Nov 2015	Vilnius	Minsk	Train	07:00	09:00
	14 Nov 2015	Minsk	Vilnius	Train	10:00	12:00

Appendix 5: List of documents used in the PVS evaluation

E = Electronic version H = Hard copy version P= Digital picture

Ref	Title	Author / Date / ISBN / Web	Related critical competences
	PRE-MISSION DOCUMENTS		
Electronic			
E1	*Baseline information (1)*	VD	General information, different CC
E2	*Baseline information (2)*	VD	General information, different CC
E3	*Information of VS of Belarus*	VD	General information, different CC
E4	*Mission agenda and itinerary*	PVS Team/VD	Organisation of the mission
E5	*Links with information for the PVS*	Web	General
E6	*FAO leaflet on Belarus*	FAO	General informaton
E7	*FVO report (animal health bovine)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11, II-1,5, 6,7,12, IV-2
E8	*FVO report (animal health poultry)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11, II-1,5,6,7,12, IV-2
E9	*FVO report (milk)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11, II-1,5,6,7,12, IV-2
E10	*FVO report (poultry meat)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11, II-3,8,10,11, 12/B, IV-2
E11	*FVO report (residues)*	EC (Web)	II-8,10,11, IV-2
E12	*FVO report (dairy products)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11, II-1,5,6,7,12, IV-2
E13	*FVO report (poultry meat)*	EC (Web)	I-4,5,6,9,11,II-3,8,10,11, II-12/B,IV-2
E14	*FVO report (residues)*	EC (Web)	General, II-8,10,11, IV-2
E15	*ASF report*	EC (Web)	II-1, II-5, II-6, II-7
E16	*Agricultural statistics*	Web (official)	General information
E17	*Belarus exporters*	Chamber of comm.	General information
E18	*Agriculture and food production*	MoA	General information
E19	*Belarus facts*	978-985-6828-13-6	General information
E20	*Belarus economy*	Web (official)	General information
E21	*Eurasian Union*	978-92-9198-247-9	General information
E22	*Pig production in Belarus*	Web	General information
E23	*Industrial pig production*	Web	General information
E24	*Swine production in Belarus*	Web	General information
E25	*Report on regional cooperation*	Web	General information
E26	*Country report, agriculture*	IPM Res. Centre	General information
E27	*Belarus agriculture and productivity*	World bank	General information

	MISSION DOCUMENTS		
Electronic			
E28	*Opening meeting presentation*	PVS Team	Overall, organisation of mission, usage of results
E29	*Presentation of VS of Belarus*	VD	General information, different CC
E30	*Tracking document*	PVS Team	Overall
E31	*The law on quality and safety of food*	VD	General, organisation of competent authorities, I-6, II-3,8,11,12
E32	*The veterinary law*	VD	General, organisation of VS, all FC, different CC
E33	*The law on identification*	VD	II-12
E34	*Resolution on marketing of VMP*	VD	II-9
E35	*Resolution on authorisation of VMP*	VD	II-9
E36	*Resolution on control measures against ASF*	VD	I-6,7,9,10,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E37	*Resolution on control measures against contagious diseases*	VD	I-6,7,9,10,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E38	*CU Decision on veterinary and sanitary measures in the Customs Union*	VD	I-5,6,8, II-5,6,7, III-1, IV-1,2,4,5
E39	*Presidential Decree on establishment of VD*	VD	General, organisation of VS, all FC, different CC
E40	*Presidential Decree on measures related to Veterinary Services*	VD	General, organisation of VS, all FC, different CC
E41	*Presidential Decree on licencing*	VD	III-4
E42	*Regulation on veterinary control of importation from Russia*	VD	I-6, II-3,4,5,6,8,9,11, IV-1,2,4,5
E43	*Regulation on quarantine measures*	VD	II-3, II-4
E44	*Regulation on culling of animals and compensations*	VD	II-5,6,7
E45	*Regulations on ASF (2013)*	VD	I-6,7,9,10,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E46	*Veterinary-sanitary rules on ASF (2014)*	VD	I-6,7,9,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E47	*Resolution on temporary measures of wild boar for ASF purposes*	VD	I-6,7,9,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E48	*Veterinary-sanitary rules on backyard holdings (2013)*	VD	I-6,7,9,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
E49	*Veterinary-sanitary rules on burial and disposal of dead animals*	VD	II-1,2,5,6,7, II-8
E50	*Veterinary-sanitary rules on keeping of pigs*	VD	II-5,7,12
E51	*National Veterinary Services*	VD	General, organisation of VS, I-1,2,3,5,6,7, II-1/12
E52	*Regional Veterinary Administration*	RVA, Vitebsk region	General, organisation of VS, I-1,2,3,5,6,7, III-1,2,4,6, IV-2,4,5
E53	*Official control plan 2015*	VD, field visit	I-6,7,8,11, IV-2
E54	*Register of approved and accredited laboratories*	VD	I-6, II-1,2,5,8,10,11

E55	*Animal disease programme - brucellosis*	VD, field visit	II-1,2,3,5,7,12, III-1,2,4, IV-2,4
E56	*Animal disease programme – diagnostic of tuberculosis*	VD, field visit	II-1,2,3,5,7,12, III-1,2,4, IV-2,4
E57	*Animal disease program, zoonotic diseases, tuberculosis*	VD, field visit	II-1,2,3,5,7,12, III-1,2,4, IV-2,4
E58	*Animal disease programme – enzootic bovine leucosis*	VD, field visit	II-1,2,3,5,7,12, III-1,2,4, IV-2,4
E59	*Information on joint stock company Zoo Vet Supply Centre*	VD, field visit	II-9,10,11
E60	*List of trainings and continuous education events (2013-15)*	VD, Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-1,2,3,7
E61	*Info on Veterinary Faculty (Vitebsk)*	Web (official)	I-1,2,3
E62	*Presentation on Vitebsk Veterinary Academy*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-1,2,3
E63	*Presentation on Vitebsk Veterinary Academy (2)*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-1,2,3
E64	*Veterinary Education in Belarus*	VD, Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E65	*Curriculum of Vitebsk Veterinary Academy*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E66	*Education of veterinarians*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E67	*Computerised test for students (1)*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E68	*Computerised test for students (1)*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E69	*Programme for students of vet.med.*	Vitebsk Veterinary Academy	I-2,3
E70	*Animal identification*	VD, Department for animal identification	II-12
E71	*Laboratory report: bacteriology (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E72	*Laboratory report: bacteriology (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E73	*Laboratory report: parasitology (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E74	*Laboratory report: parasitology (2015)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E75	*Laboratory report: serology (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E76	*Trainings and continuous education, NRL, BSVC (1)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E77	*Trainings and continuous education (CE), regional (2)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E78	*Trainings and CE, regional (3)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E79	*Trainings and CE, regional (4)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E80	*Trainings and CE, regional (5)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E81	*Trainings and CE, regional (6)*	BSVC	I-2,3

E82	*Trainings and CE, district (7)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E83	*Trainings and CE, district (8)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E84	*Evaluation of knowledge (1)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E85	*Evaluation of knowledge (2)*	BSVC	I-2,3
E86	*Presentation on BSVC*	BSVC	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11, III-2,4,6, IV-1,2
E87	*First day competences*	Web (official)	I-2,3
E88	*Laboratory results: parasitology (2015)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E89	*Laboratory investigations, 1 (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E90	*Laboratory investigations, 2 (2014)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E91	*Laboratory investigations, 1 (2015)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E92	*Laboratory investigations, 2 (2015)*	BSVC	II-1,2,5,6,7
E93	*General Information on VS*	VD	Organisation of VS, different CC
E94	*Map of Veterinary Services*	VD	Organisation of VS, different CC
E95	*Final meeting presentation*	PVS team	Preliminary findings, recommendations, PVS Pathway
E96	*Meeting with Minister and CVO*		Preliminary findings, recommendations, PVS Pathway
E97	*The list of organizations subordinated to Veterinary Department*	VD (Web, official)	Organisation of VS
E98	*Information on BSVC*	VD (Web, official)	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11, III-2,4,6, IV-1,2
E99	*Information on State Administration for Veterinary inspection on State Border and Transport*	VD (Web, official)	Organisation of VS, I-1,2,5, 6,7,8,9,10,11, II-3,6, III-1,3, IV-1,2,3,4
E100	*Information on State Administration on Veterinary Surveillance*	VD (Web, official)	I-1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, II-3,6, III-1,3, IV-1,2,3,4
E101	*Planted three on behalf of the OIE (Vitbsk Veterinary Academy)*	VD	Not applicable
E102	*Notes from the mission*	PVS team	NA
Digital (or digitalised hard copies)			
D1	*BSVC Concept of new Diagnostic Centre*	BSVC	Organisation of VS
D2	*BSVC accreditation of BSVC*	BSVC	II-2
D3	*BSVC Sample management*	BSVC	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11
D4	*BSVCM Proficiency testing*	BSVC	II-2
D5	*BSVC, Animal health sector*	BSVC	II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7
D6	*BSVC, Virology Department*	BSVC	II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7
D7	*BSVC, Quality Management Unit*	BSVC	II-2
D8	*Slaughterhouse, transportation*	Field mission	II-8,10, III-6, IV-2,4,6
D9	*Slaughterhouse, certification*	Field mission	II-8,10, III-6, IV-2,4,6
D10	*Regional plan of ASF response activities*	Field mission	I-6,7,9,11, II-1,2,5,6,7

D11	*VMP production establishment*	Field mission	II-9,10, III-2,6, IV-1,2,3,4,5
D12	*Regional laboratory (Brest)*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11
D13	*Regional lab staff training (Brest)*	Field mission	I-1,2,3
D14	*City veterinary station licence*	Field mission	III-4
D15	*Veterinary journal*	Field mission	I-6,11, III-2, IV-2
D16	*RVA monitoring data (Malarita)*	Field mission	II-5,7, IV-7
D17	*RVA vaccination, census (Malarita)*	Field mission	II-5,7, IV-7
D18	*RVA tuberculosis (Malarita)*	Field mission	II-5,7, IV-7
D19	*BIP (Brest)*	Field mission	II-3,4
D20	*Hunting ground (BP, Brest)*	Field mission	II-5,6,7, III-6, IV-2
D21	*Dairy establishment (Brest)*	Field mission	II-8,10,12/B, III-2,6, IV-2,4,7
D22	*ASF leaflet*	Field mission	II-5,7
D23	*VD website*	Web (official)	I-6 (A/B), III-2
D24	*Meat processing plant Agroservis-6*	Web (official)	II-8,10, III-6, IV-2,4,6
D25	*Meat processing plant Agroservis-6*	Field mission	I-1,2, II-8,10, III-6, IV-2,4,6
D26	*Map of Belarus - temperatures*	VD	General information
D27	*Map of Belarus - precipitation Jan*	VD	General information
D28	*Map of Belarus - precipitation July*	VD	General information
D29	*Map of Belarus - temperatures Jan*	VD	General information
D30	*Map of Belarus - temperatures July*	VD	General information
D31	*Administrative map of Belarus*	VD	General information
D32	*Map of Belarus - climate*	VD	General information
D33	*Map of Belarus - hydro*	VD	General information
D34	*Map of Belarus - temperatures (2)*	VD	General information
D35	*Organogram of VD*	VD	Organisation of VS, I-5,6
D36	*Corporation for procurement and distribution of VMPs*	Field mission	II-9,10, 2, III-2,6, IV-1,2,3,4,5
D37	*Meeting in BSVC*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11
D38	*Visit of green market in Minks (Komarovskiy rinok)*	Field mission	I-1,2,4,5,6,7,11, II-5,8,9,10,12, IV-2
D39	*Local market for food, evidence on veterinary-sanitary control*	Field mission	I-1,2,4,5,6,7,11, II-5,8,9,10,12, IV-2
D40	*Office of local veterinary inspection*	Field mission	I-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, II-5,8,9,10,12, IV-2
D41	*Laboratory on local food market*	Field mission	II-1,2
D42	*Certificates on animal products, evidence, log books (inspection)*	Field mission	I-11, II-7,8,12, III-1,4, IV-2,4
D43	*Meeting in BSVC, epidemiology unit*	Field mission	II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11
D44	*Veterinary Academy Vitebsk*	Field mission	I-1,2,3, III-1,2,3, IV-1,3,4,5
D45	*Vitebsk Agricultural College (Veterinary College)*	Field mission	I-1(B),2(B),3
D46	*Vitebsk Veterinary College – 2*	Web (official)	I-1(B), 2(B),3
D47	*Vitebsk Veterinary College - 3*	Web (official)	I-1(B),2(B),3
D48	*Agrarian education in Belarus*	Web (official)	I-2,3

D49	*Grodno State Agrarian University*	378.4/6(476-25) (035.5)	I-2,3
D50	*Vitebsk State Academy of Veterinary Medicine*	378.4/6(476-25) (035.5)	I-2,3
D51	*The Catalogue of Higher Educational Establishments of Belarus*	378.4/6(476-25) (035.5)	I-2,3
D52	*Vitebsk Veterinary College, education programme, certificates, premises*	Field mission	I-1(B),2(B),3
D53	*Vitebsk Academy Award*	Field mission	NA
D54	*Slaughterhouse and meat processing*	Field mission	II-8,10, III-1,2,6, IV-2,4,6
D55	*DVA (Vitebsk) legislative, evidence, Task Force on ASF*	Field mission	General, organisation of VS, I-1,5, II- 5,6,7, III-1,2,4,6, IV-2,4,5
D56	*VMP production establishment (VIC)*	Field mission	II-9,10, 2, III-2,6, IV-1,2,3,4,5
D57	*Poultry slaughterhouse and processing plant*	Field mission	II-8,10, III-1,2,6, IV-2,4,6
D58	*Corrective measures in meat establishment*	Field mission	IV-2
D59	*Poultry farm, vaccination programme*	Field mission	II-5,7
D60	*Poultry meat establishment, order by veterinary inspector*	Field mission	IV-2
D61	*Poultry farm, biosecurity plan*	Field mission	II-5,7
D62	*Poultry farm, evidence of veterinary activities*	Field mission	II-5,7, III-1,6
D63	*Poultry farm, log book on sampling, request for laboratory investigations*	Field mission	II-5,7
D64	*Poultry farm, slaughterhouse and processing establishment,*	Field mission	I-1,2, II-8
D65	*Poultry farm, slaughterhouse and processing establishment, trainings*	Field mission	I-1,2,3, II-8
D66	*Poultry farm, slaughterhouse, Internal procedures*	Field mission	I-1, II-8, IV-2
D67	*Local inspector, information and request to establishment*	Field mission	I-11
D68	*Poultry farm, Salmonellosis control programme*	Field mission	II-5,7
D69	*Meeting with CVO*	Field mission	General, overall information exchange
D70	*Visit of Regional Veterinary Laboratory (Brest)*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11
D71	*Visit of City Veterinary Station (Brest)*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11, III-4,5, IV-2
D72	*Visit of District Veterinary Laboratory (Maloritskaya)*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9,10,11
D73	*Decision of inspector and epidemiologist on positive reactor*	Field mission	I-11, II-5,7
D74	*National legislative and rules on bov. tuberculosis*	Field mission	II-5,7, IV-1,2
D75	*Specification on intradermal tuberculin test*	Field mission	II-5,7,
D76	*Visit of dairy farm*	Field mission	II-5,7, III-1,6
D77	*Bovine identification system (IT database), farm evidence*	Field mission	II-12
D78	*Bovine passport, evidence of movement control*	Field mission	II-12
D79	*Field trip, Brest region*	Field mission	NA

D80	*Border inspection post, Brest region*	Field mission	I-5,6,11, II-3,4, IV-2,3,4,5
D81	*Information from CVO on outbreak of ASF in neighbouring country*	Field mission	I-6,11
D82	*Information from CVO on suspension of importation*	Field mission	I-6,11
D83	*Example of documentary check of importing consignment on BIP*	Field mission	I-5,6,11, II-3,4, IV-2,3,4,5
D84	*Decree on BIP, job description of border vet. Inspectors, procedures*	Field mission	I-5,6,11, II-3,4, IV-2,3,4,5
D85	*Electronic certification systems and databases for border vet. control*	Field mission	II-3,4, IV-2,3,4,5
D86	*Incinerators on the BIP*	Field mission	II-3,4, IV-2
D87	*BIP, inspectors and office*	Field mission	I-5,6,11, II-3,4, IV-2,3,4,5
D88	*Pig farm "Zapadniy", vaccination, treatments, reproduction*	Field mission	II-5,7, III-1,6, IV-2
D89	*The summary of product characteristics, for CSF vaccine*	Field mission	II-9
D90	*Pig farm "Zapadniy", biosecurity, prevention and control plan*	Field mission	II-5,7, III-1,6, IV-2
D91	*Pig farm, HR, veterinarians*	Field mission	I-1,2,3
D92	*Pig farm, orders and procedures*	Field mission	I-11
D93	*Pig farm, orders, requests and recommendations by vet. inspector*	Field mission	IV-2
D94	*Pig farm, internal rules, contracts*	Field mission	I-11, II-5,7
D95	*Hunting ground, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, National Park*	Field mission	I-6,9,11, II-5,6,7
D96	*Milk processing establishment*	Field mission	II-8,10,12/B, III-2,6, IV-2,4
D97	*Milk processing establishment "Berezka"*	Web (official)	II-8,10,12/B, III-2,6, IV-2,4
D98	*Veterinary Department, management, working hours, contact details*	Field mission	I-5,6,11, III-1,2
D99	*ID of official veterinary inspector*	Field mission	NA
D100	*VD, Information on procurement of VMP and vaccines*	Field mission	I-8,11, II-9
D101	*VD, register on hunting grounds with number of wild animals*	Field mission	I-11
D102	*VD, annual plan on official controls*	Field mission	I-11,
D103	*BSVC, scope of accreditation, evidence on trainings*	Field mission	II-2
D104	*VD, measures on ASF control (2013)*	Field mission	I-6,7,9,11, II-1,2,5,6,7
D105	*VD, sampling kit for monitoring*	Field mission	II-5,7
D106	*Result on national RMP*	Field mission	II-10
D107	*VD, Decision on obligatory testing in accredited laboratories*	Field mission	II-1,2
D108	*Veterinary College, brochure, education programme, capacities*	Field mission	I-1(B), 2(B)
D109	*Veterinary laboratories, certificates on trainings and continuous education*	Field mission	I-2,3, II-2
D110	*Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, ISO 9001 Quality Management System*	Field mission	I-1,2
D111	*Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, education programme*	Field mission	I-1,2
D112	*Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, international cooperation, agreements*	Field mission	I-1,2

D113	*BSVC, budget and list of diagnostic items for procurement*	Field mission	I-7,8,11, II-5,7,10
D114	*BSVC, certificates on ISO 17025 accreditation*	Field mission	II-2
D115	*BSVC, list of employees, human resources*	Field mission	I-1,2, II-1
D116	*VD, BSVC, number and list of licenced VMPs and feed additives*	Field mission	II-11, II-9
D117	*BSVC, user manual, specification of one commercial ELISA test*	Field mission	II-1,2,9
D118	*Meat processing establishment, Certificates, scope of accreditation*	Field mission	II-2,8
D119	*VD, monitoring on Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D120	*VD, monitoring on animal diseases in Vitebsk region in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D121	*Instruction on interpretation of intradermal tuberculin test, evidence*	Field mission	II-5,7
D122	*Monitoring programme on ASF in domestic and wild boar population*	Field mission	II-5,7
D123	*Monitoring programme on FMD, BT, Schmalenberg infection and CSF*	Field mission	II-5,7
D124	*Monitoring programme on FMD on cattle in commercial and family farms*	Field mission	II-5,7
D125	*Monitoring programme on Bluetongue*	Field mission	II-5,7
D126	*Monitoring programme on FMD on pig farms in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D127	*Monitoring programme on FMD and CSF on pig farms in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D128	*Monitoring programme on FMD and Bluetongue in SR in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D129	*Monitoring programme on FMD and Bluetongue on wild animals in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D130	*Monitoring programme on FMD and CSF of wild animals in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D131	*Monitoring programme on FMD, Bluetongue and CSF in Zoos in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D132	*General scope of monitoring programmes in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7
D133	*Book of veterinary-sanitary rules in Custom union*	Field mission	I-11, III-3, IV-3,4
D134	*Rules, responsibilities and procedures of veterinary inspectors*	Field mission	I-6,11,
D135	*Results of monitoring on residues*	Field mission	II-10
D136	*List of employees trained*	Field mission	1-3
D137	*Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, best student award (2015)*	Field mission	NA
D138	*BSVC, presentation, visit of establishment, evidence checks*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8,9,10,11
D139	*BSVC, visit of establishment, documentation checks*	Field mission	II-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
D140	*Visit of slaughterhouse, doc. checks*	Field mission	II-8,10, III-1,2,6, IV-2,4,6
D141	*Visit of Regional Veterinary Administration, documentary checks*	Field mission	General, organisation of VS, I-1,2,3,5,6,7, III-1,2,4,6, IV-2,4,5
D142	*Visit of VMP producing establishment, documentary checks*	Field mission	II-9,10, 2, III-2,6, IV-1,2,3,4,5

D143	*Meeting with CVO and OIE Delegate*	Field mission	General, overall information exchange
D144	*Visit of regional laboratory, accreditation, proficiency testing*	Field mission	Organisation of VS, II-1,2,3,4,6,7,8, 9,10,11
D145	*Certificates of veterinarians, personal dossiers*	Field mission	I-11, II-1,2,3,
D146	*Veterinary Licences*	Field mission	III-4
D147	*Results on implementation of monitoring programmes in 2015*	Field mission	II-5,7,10
D148	*Results on implementation of surveillance programmes (tuberculosis)*	Field mission	II-5,7
D149	*Veterinary-sanitary rules on dairy farms*	Field mission	II-5,7,8,9
D150	*Visit of hunting ground, evidence and documentation check*	Field mission	I-6,7,8,9,11, II-5,7, IV-2,3,4
D151	*Visit of milk processing establishment, documentation checks*	Field mission	II-8,10,12/B, III-2,6, IV-2,4
D152	*Veterinarians employed in all VSs and vacant positions*	Field mission	I-1,2
D153	*Licences of vets employed in Belzoovetsnabprom*	Field mission	II-9, III-4
D154	*Organisation structure of VD*	Field mission	I-5,6,11
D155	*Import volume, per BIP (2014)*	Field mission	
D156	*Procurement of vaccines, diagnostics*	Field mission	I-8,9,10,11, II-5,7,10
D157	*Biosecurity questionnaire for visitors (establishment)*	Field mission	II-7
D158	*PVS mission itinerary*	Field mission	NA
D159	*List and capacities of hunting grounds*	Field mission	I-6,8,11, II-5,6,7, III-2, IV-2
D160	*List of employees in VD*	Field mission	I-1,2,5,6
D161	*Vaccination area for ORV*	Field mission	I-11, II-5,7, III-2, IV-2,3,5
D162	*Information on VD*	Web (official)	General information, I-1,11, III-1
D163	*Attendance sheets*	PVS team	Mission meetings
D164	*Statistical review of Belarus*	Statistical office	General
D165	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D166	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D167	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D168	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D169	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D170	*Information on animal identification*	Web (official)	II-12
D171	*Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation*	Web (official)	II-2
D172	*List of accredited laboratories*	Web (official)	II-2
D173	*Scope o accreditation BSVC*	Web (official)	II-2
D174	*Scope o accreditation Vitebsk Veterinary Academy*	Web (official)	II-2
D175	*Regiones, zones*	Field mission	IV-7
D176	*Closing meeting*	CVO office	NA
Videos			
V1	*Video, poultry meat processing establishment*	Establishment	II-5,7,8,10, III-1,2,6, IV-2,4,6
V2	*Video, Dairy plant establishment*	Establishment	II-8,10,12/B, III-2,6, IV-2,4
V3	*Vitebsk Veterinary Academy*	VEE	I-1,2,3,6,11, III-1,2,3,4, IV-1,3
V4	*Movie from the mission*	PVS team	NA

Appendix 6: Organisation of the OIE PVS evaluation of the VS of Belarus

Assessors Team:

- Team leader: Dr. Budimir Plavsic
- Technical expert: Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas
- Technical expert: Dr Stanislav Ralchev

References and Guidelines:

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code (especially Chapters 3.1. and 3.2.)
- OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of VS
  - → Human, financial and physical resources,
  - → Technical capability and authority,
  - → Interaction with stakeholders,
  - → Access to markets.

Dates: *2 to 13 November 2015*

Language of the audit and reports:

Subject of the evaluation: VS as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- Inclusive / Not Inclusive of aquatic animals
- Inclusive / Not inclusive of other institutions / ministries responsible for activities of VS

Activities to be analysed: All activities related to animal and veterinary public health:

- Field activities:
  - → Animal health (epidemiological surveillance, early detection, disease control, etc)
  - → quarantine (all country borders),
  - → veterinary public health (food safety, veterinary medicines and biological, residues, etc)
  - → control and inspection,
  - → others
- Data and communication
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Research
- Initial and continuous training
- Organisation and finance
- Other to be determined…

Persons to be present: see provisional Appendix 3

Sites to be visited: see provisional Appendix 4

Procedures:

- Consultation of data and documents
- Comprehensive field trips
- Interviews and meetings with VS staff and stakeholders,
- Analyse of practical processes

Provision of assistance by the evaluated country

- Completion of missing data as possible
- Translation of relevant document if required
- Administrative authorisation to visit designated sites
- Logistical support if possible

Reports:

- a fact sheet or powerpoint will be presented at the closing session
- a report will be sent to the OIE for peer-review no later than one month after the mission
- the current levels of advancement with strengths, weaknesses and references for each critical competence will be described,
- general recommendations may be made in agreement with the VS.

Confidentiality and publishing of results

The results of the evaluation are confidential between the country and the OIE and may only be published with the written agreement of the evaluated country.