



## LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Bulgaria

### SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

#### 1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

*Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.*

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The term "farm animal genetic resources" was included in the Bulgarian Animal Breeding law (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134934528>) with an amendment in year 2010. The same law appoints the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding (EASRAB) as the responsible government body for the management and conservation of farm animal genetic resources in the country. With these legislation changes the executive director of EASRAB is official National Coordinator (NC) for management of animal genetic resources. The NC is advised by a national Council for genetic resources, consisting of members of all breeding organizations in the country. The mission of the council is to enforce the national policy and the legal framework of the European Union in the area of AnGR management.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The cooperative work of EASRAB and the Council for genetic resources shows positive results on the livestock in the country. The number of animals under selection control has increased in the last 4 years by 522,8% in horses; 52,5% in cattle; 22,8% in sheep; 21,8% in buffalo and 5,6% in pigs. The only decrease was observed in poultry - by 22,1%. The control of the strict implementation of the breeding programmes led not only to increase in the number of breeding animals, but also to increase in the performance of the controlled animals. The framework for management of farm animal genetic resources facilitates also the flow of information and the dialog both horizontally - within the breeders' organizations and between the breeders organizations and the government, and vertically - from the farmers, through the breeders' organizations and EASRAB to the respective departments of the Ministry of agriculture and food.

Future needs

#### 2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

A commission is appointed and is in process of preparing and discussing an amendment to the Biodiversity law (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135456926>) aimed at the integration of the activities in preservation of the animal genetic resources with the other genetic resources in the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The lack of integrated management of all genetic resources in the country allows for introduction of species which might put the native livestock under threat. Currently, the policies for protection of the various genetic resources species are developed in separate centers, lacking coordination. With the introduction of the law amendment, integration of the policies will be ensured and common legislation put in place.

Future needs

### 3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

According to Article 18 of the Animal Breeding Law, the Executive agency for selection and reproduction manages registers of the breeding herds and the breeding males from the national gene pool which facilitates the monitoring. These registers are updated on annual basis in cooperation with the breeders societies. In 2013, as part of a Bulgarian-Swiss cooperation project, an information system for monitoring the local livestock breeds was developed and implemented. This system collects on individual basis identification, pedigree, location, ownership, movements, etc. data about the animals from the local breeds. On top of it the Executive agency for selection and reproduction in animal breeding hosts and maintains a national node of the European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System for monitoring the livestock biodiversity - part of the global network FABISnet. The system collects domesticated animals biodiversity data for all breeds present in the country, and this data are also exchanged with other countries in the world. The national node is also an aggregator for the data from the systems described above, the information from the national gene bank, conservation projects, etc.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The availability of detailed information about the livestock populations in the country, their location, the number of breeding males and females per herd, the herd owners, etc., allows for prompt and adequate decisions in the management process on the national level. As a result of the better documentation of the national genetic resources, 7 more national breeds have become eligible for financial support and were added to the initial group of 27 financially supported national populations.

Future needs

### 4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The official recognition of livestock breeds in Bulgaria is regulated in the Law on the Protection of New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2133895169>). According to this law all autochthonous breeds and breeds developed in Bulgaria which are listed in Appendix of the Article 4(1) are property of the state. The recognition of other breeds is done following an application for certification to the Patent Office of Republic of Bulgaria. The breed application is studied by the State commission for the animal breeds, which takes a decision after analysis of the following requirements:

1. Breeding goal;
2. Short characteristics of the parent breeds;
3. Description of the methods for development of the breed;
4. Productive traits and morphological characteristics of the breed;
5. Adaptability and disease resistance;
6. Population numbers and pedigree structure;
7. Area of distribution. The statutory regulation of the State commission for the animal breeds is available at (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/mobile/ldoc/2135484869>).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

This regulatory mechanism protects all the indigenous breeds in the country and allows for objective decisions in recognizing new breeds.

Future needs

### 5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal breeding law is the main legislation act related to the organization and management of the animal breeding in the country. The terms and order for breeding of purebred animals and the trade with breeding stock is laid down in several regulations:

- Sheep and goat - Regulation 20/23.06.2010 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/25-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%B0-%E2%84%9620-%D0%BE%D1%82-23-%D1%8E%D0%BD%D0%B8-2010%D0%B3>)
- Pigs - Regulation 19/23.06.2010 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/24-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1a-%E2%84%9619-%D0%BE%D1%82-23-%D1%8E%D0%BD%D0%B8-2010%D0%B3>)
- Rabbits - Regulation 17/21.04.2004 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/21-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%B0-%E2%84%9617-ot-21-%D0%B0%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB-2004%D0%B3>)
- Equidae - Regulation 14/02.08.2007 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/19-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%B0-%E2%84%96-14-%D0%BE%D1%82-2-%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B3%D1%83%D1%81%D1%82-2007-%D0%B3>)
- Cattle and Buffalo - Regulation 13/02.08.2007 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/18-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%B0-%E2%84%9613-%D0%BE%D1%82-02-%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B3%D1%83%D1%81%D1%82-2007%D0%B3>)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

**Do these measures address:**

**5.1 Animal identification and recording**

*Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation  Yes      Policy  Yes

Details of the measure(s)

According to the Bulgarian veterinary legislations, all animals must be identified. The official body responsible for the identification of the animals is the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is also responsible for maintaining a information system for recording the data of the identified animals. The national legislation and policies are in coherence with the European regulations, including inter alia the following ones:

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1083/2003
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98
- Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004
- Council Regulation (EC) No 71/2008

Some of the breeders' associations are also using their own identification systems.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The uniform identification system allows for performing effective selection.

Future needs

**5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations**

Legislation  Yes      Policy  Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The establishment and operation rules of the breeders' associations are laid down in the Animal Breeding Law. A breeders' association can be established on initiative of individuals and legal entities for breeding animals from one species. The animals must be ownership of the association's members. The associations must be registered as legal entities of a non-commercial character established for the purpose of meeting needs of general interest. They must apply for a breeding license for each breed, supplying a number of documents including inter alia:

- a breeding programme;

- list of the herds and individual animals included in the programme, along with their location within the country;
- proof that the population size is large enough to fulfill the breeding programme;
- rules for animal identification and registration;
- rules for the herd book keeping;
- regulations for equal treatment of the members;

The application is evaluated by a commission, including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding, scientists with expert knowledge on the matter, and is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. If all the legal requirements are met, and the commission's report is positive, the Minister of Agriculture and Food issues a license for a period of 10 years. This license can be withdrawn if the breeder's association suspends its activities, threatens the existence of the breed, does not provide information to the controlling bodies, discriminates its members, or illegally spends the financial funds granted by the state. The implementation of the breeding programmes is controlled annually by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All the native breeds are under the control of at least one breeders' association, in many cases there are two or even three breeders' associations per breed each keeping a separate herdbook.

Future needs

As the separate bookkeeping of multiple herdbooks per breed is sometimes impracticable, there is a need to reorganize the operation of the breeders' associations in order to keep a single herdbook per breed. A new legislation in this regard is currently under development.

## 6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The production of semen, embryos and oocytes is regulated in Article 33 of the Animal breeding law. The production and the storage of semen and embryo transfer can be performed only in AI centers, sperm storage centers and embryo transfer centers approved and registered with the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency in compliance with the Law on Veterinary Activity. The germplasm can be used only if a zootechnical certificate of the donor is present. There are two semen production centres in Bulgaria, both of them being state property.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The presence of these centres allows for production of semen for the reproduction of the genetic resources in the country, including the autochthonous breeds and the maintenance of gene bank of cryo-conserved genetic material.

Future needs

## 7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The national legislation, the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (<http://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135501153>) is coherent with the EU regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, via the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency and the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding, controls the appearance of genetically modified animals or animal products on the market. There is also advisory board on the genetically modified organisms by the Minister of Environment and Water, which includes scientists from various areas.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Currently, a free release of genetically modified organisms is not allowed.

Future needs

## 8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The control of the imported genetic material is performed by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding. The Regulation 1/19.01.2007 (<http://www.iasrj.eu/index.php/dokumenti/2012-02-26-14-59-17/item/15-%D0%BD%>

[D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%B0-E2%84%961-D0%BE%D1%82-19-D1%8F%D0%BD%D1%83a%D1%80%D0%B8-2007%D0%B3](#)) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry states that the control of the imported genetic material has to prevent import of breeding animals and genetic material, which breeding values are not in compatibility with the selection programmes of the respective breeders' association and can lead to decline in the genetic potential and the performance of the present in the country species, breeds and populations. The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding maintains a register of the imported material.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The aim is to improve the productivity of the local commercial breeds using crossing with imported genetic material.

Future needs

## 9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Breeding Law (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134934528>) Article 18a nominates the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding for the official body responsible for the conservation of the animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

In case of endangered genetic resources, the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding applies to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for financial support of conservation programme. As a result, no breed has gone extinct in the last 5 years in Bulgaria.

Future needs

### Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

#### 9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Thirty-four endangered local breeds were included in Measure 214 "Agri-Environmental Measures" for conservation and maintenance of biodiversity by maintaining the local endangered breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Farmers from all the local endangered breeds entered in a 5 year commitment to carry out actions in benefit of the breeds and the environment. The number of purebred animals under the control of the breeders' associations has increased since the start of the programme.

Future needs

#### 9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Executive agency for selection and reproduction in animal breeding is responsible for the management of the national genebank of cryopreserved material. Since 2012 the Executive agency started in cooperation with the breeders' associations a 10 years National programme for ex situ in vitro conservation. The aim of the programme is to add to the national genebank genetic material from 13 sheep breeds (11 of them autochthonous), 4 goat breeds (2 autochthonous), 7 horse breeds (4 autochthonous) and 2 local pig breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The aim of the programme is to conserve in a short time enough genetic material from all local breeds, in order to guarantee the preservation of these breeds for the future generations.

Future needs

## 10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Agricultural Academy Law (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134696961>) specifies the Agricultural Academy inter alia as organization for scientific research in the area of animal breeding. Following the same law, the Agricultural Academy develops strategy for the development of the research in the agricultural sector.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

National genetic resources are characterized in many studies. Several projects for optimization of the selection, reproduction and conservation of the breeds are being developed.

Future needs

## 11. Patenting

Legislation

**If legislation is place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:**

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture  Living organisms in general

Details of the measure(s)

The Law for the Patents and the Registration of the Useful Models (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2133079553>), Article 7(4), excludes livestock breeds from patenting. The new breeds authorship is protected by the Law on the Protection of New Plant varieties and Animal Breeds (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2133895169>). The legal body participating in the procedure of securing legal protection of the new breeds is the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding. The person who has developed the new breed is author of this breed. The right to authorship is personal, term-less and not transferable.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All autochthonous breeds are property of the state, and are protected from authorship claims, which can be harmful for the conservation and the development of the breed.

Future needs

## 12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

*Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.*

Legislation  Policy

**If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:**

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture  Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

After Nagoya Protocol ratification it is expected the Ministry of Environment and Water to establish the following structure : National Coordinator for all kinds of Genetic Resources (animal, plant, aqua etc.) with a respective National competent body (in AnGR case - the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction) and National Coordinator for each GR sphere (animal, plant, aqua etc).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

### 1. Marketing of animal products in general

*Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.*

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The main legislation, which treats also the marketing of some animal products is the Law for Application of the Common Organization of Agricultural Markets in European Union (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135538966>). The same law treats also the production and marketing of organic products and products sold under protected designations of origins.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### 2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation 1/07.02.2013 for application of the rules of organic production of plants, animals and aquacultures, plant, animal and aquaculture products and foods, their labeling and the control of the production and labeling defines the terms for organic production of animals according to the EC Regulation 834/2007.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

There are several farms established and operational, producing organic animal products. In these farms 1173 cattle, 9175 sheep, 2831 goats, 85346 bee families are kept, some of which are from autochthonous breeds.

Future needs

### 3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The regulation 6/05.05.2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food regulates the official control of the usage of PDO (protected designation of origin), PGI (protected geographical indication) and TSG (traditional speciality guaranteed). The law for application of the the common organisation of agricultural markets in the European Union sets up the national legal framework in coherence with the European Commission Regulations in this matter.

Impact on animal genetic resources management



Future needs

#### 4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

*Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as “free range” or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 5. Safety of food products from animals

*Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The food safety is laid down in the Food Law (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/213468518>) in coherence with the Commission Regulations (EC) No852/2004 and 853/2004 26/14.10.2010. The national legislation regulating the exceptions listed in Article 1(c-e) and Article 5 (a-b) of the Commission Regulation (EC) No853/2004 is laid down in of the Regulation 26/14.10.2010 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for the specific requirements for direct deliveries of small quantities of animal products. In this regulation the maximum limits of the direct deliveries of raw milk, chicken eggs, honey, fresh poultry and rabbit meat, other animal products are listed.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The option for direct deliveries allows the producers to get better price for their products, thus supporting the sustainability of the small farms.

Future needs

The maximum limits for the direct deliveries could be increased for some of the products in order to support the small farmers.

#### 6. Traceability of animal-origin products

*Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs



### SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoonosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoonosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

#### 1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Law on Veterinary Activity (<http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>) lays down the national legislation in the animal health matters and the veterinary control. All the data about the performed veterinary activities are recorded in integrated information system managed by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Improved animal health and reduced occurrence of diseases.

Future needs

#### Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

##### 1.1 Animal identification

*Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

According to the Law on Veterinary Activity (<http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>), all animals have to be officially identified. The information for all identified animals is stored in the Integrated information system of the Food Safety Agency.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The uniform identification system allows for full traceability of the animals movement within the country.

Future needs

##### 1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoonosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The control of the import of germplasm and live breeding animals is performed by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency as stated in the Law on Veterinary Activity (<http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The strict control of the imported animals and germplasm on the border contributes to the reduction of outbreaks and the introduction of foreign zoonoses.

Future needs

### 1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The control of the export of animal genetic resources is laid down in Law on Veterinary Activity (<http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>). The legal body responsible for the border zoosanitary control of the export is Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### 1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The use of reproductive technologies is regulated by the Law on Veterinary Activity (<http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>) The regulation 42/20.04.2006 about the health requirements for the semen from family "BOVIDAE" for exchange between Republic of Bulgaria and the European Community Member States, and by import from other countries (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135525121>) and regulation 49/20.04.2006 about the health requirements for animals, semen, oocytes, embryos for exchange between Republic of Bulgaria and the European Community Member States, and by import from other countries (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135527383>) introduce the Council Directive 92/65/EEC from 13.07.1992 and Council Directive 88/407/EEC of 14 June 1988.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### 1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The control on livestock movement is performed by the Food Safety Agency.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### 1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### 1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

**If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?**

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Protection Act (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135579104>) from 31.01.2008 and regulation 16/ 2006 for protection and animal welfare by keeping and using livestock (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135517353>) lay down the minimal zootechnical requirements for animal welfare in Bulgaria.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

### 1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

*Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The main legislation in the area of soils preservation and their sustainable use is the Soils Act from 06.11.2007 (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135569762>) and the National Action Program for Sustainable Land Management and Combat against Desertification in Bulgaria (2007- 2013) (<http://www.strategy.bg/FileHandler.ashx?fileId=695>).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The preservation of the pastures and the natural habitats provides favourable conditions for breeding the animals in their native range.

Future needs

## 2. Management of biodiversity

*Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 3. Environmental protection

*Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 4. Overall development of the livestock sector

*Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

**If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:**

### Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

*Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).*

Legislation

Policy

Yes

### Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

*Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132550145>) regulates the management and the access to rangelands. Regulation 5/2010 ([http://www.mzh.government.bg/MZH/Libraries/%d0%9d%d0%be%d1%80%d0%bc\\_%d0%90%d0%ba%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b5-%d0%9d%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b1%d0%b8/Naredba\\_5\\_2010n.sflb.ashx](http://www.mzh.government.bg/MZH/Libraries/%d0%9d%d0%be%d1%80%d0%bc_%d0%90%d0%ba%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b5-%d0%9d%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b1%d0%b8/Naredba_5_2010n.sflb.ashx)) settles inter alia the requirements for eligibility for subvention of permanent pastures.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The main impact is in the intended use of the grasslands for feeding herbivorous livestock animals.

Future needs

#### 6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

*Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Regulation No.44/20.04.2006 (<http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135525777>) on the veterinary requirements concerning animal-breeding sites defines the zoosanitary requirements in terms of location of the farms, distance between the farms, plan of the buildings, etc. These rules are relaxed for small farms keeping only few animals for personal use, or for local endangered breeds kept all year on grasslands.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

*Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The breeders' associations as representative of the farmers are included in Article 3(2) of the Animal breeding Law for supporting the Minister of Agriculture and Food in his duties. Moreover, a national council is established by the National

Coordinator of farm animal genetic resources, which includes also representatives of the NGOs, mainly the breeders' associations. According to Article 3(2) item 4 of the Animal Breeding Law an Animal Breeding Council is established by the Minister of agriculture and food, including representatives of branch organizations, breeders' associations and scientific institutions.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

An effective organization of communication between all stakeholders in the livestock sector is established, which facilitates the rapid communication of the issues and their resolving.

Future needs

## 9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

Policy

**If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:**

### Animal genetic resources

*Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.*

Legislation

Policy

### Livestock in general

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Disaster Protection Act (<http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135540282>) includes also the breeding animals in the evacuation measures and the measures for supplying food and shelter. The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding ToR.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

Submit by e-mail