

**FARM ANIMAL WELFARE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND
TRADITIONAL PRACTICES: A CASE STUDY OF
WELANIMAL PARTNER COUNTRIES**

**CERINȚELE LEGALE ȘI PRACTICILE TRADIȚIONALE ÎN
DOMENIUL BUNĂSTĂRII ANIMALELOR DE FERMĂ:
STUDIUL DE CAZ AL ȚĂRILOR PARTENERE WELANIMAL**

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According to the Amsterdam Treaty, animals are sentient creatures and animal welfare requirements should be precisely met while preparing and implementing the Commission laws. Accomplishing this, cultural, religious and regional characteristics should be considered. However, more and more regulations and laws are continuously introduced in Europe and worldwide. Ongoing WELANIMAL Project was financed by EU Commission adapting of vocational training products and results of training tools of WELFOOD related to the animal welfare-environment-food quality interactions is being enriched with consideration of cultural, socio-economic and religious approaches in order to determine a common work definition for all sectorial workers having different moral and social values on the subject of animal welfare and food safety Central and South-eastern Europe region. Although there is slight differences, national legislation in partner countries of EU in Project were harmonious with legal framework in EU regarding for all farm species. It is expected that three draft regulations in compliance with legal requirements animal protection in farms and during transportation and slaughtering and killing in Turkey, as a candidate country to membership into EU, in 2009. Also, due to in participating countries to the Project have ethnicity, history, tradition and religious structure show a great diversity it has been guessed that welfare concept which is a moral issue can be effected by people's cultural, religious and social composition. In the WELANIMAL Project, the effects of socio-cultural, religious and regional historical differences of workers and consumers within animal production chain on understanding of animal welfare concepts are being analysed. Furthermore in the light of obtained data a common vocational animal welfare definition and animal welfare, food quality and environment interaction will be

evaluated. Through the Project web page (www.welanimal.aku.edu.tr) interactive training and certification will be accomplished. This paper intends to provide an overview of legal framework including Council Directives and National legislation laying down minimum welfare standards and traditional practices in Central and Sought eastern Europe in which WELANIMAL Project is ongoing.

Keywords: animal welfare, Central and South-Eastern Europe, legislation, WELANIMAL project

Introduction

Despite the continuous debate on whether animals bear conscious experience, the recent scientific studies by ethologists have demonstrated that the animal's perception of world is not simple and crude. The possibility of thinking and feeling abilities of non-humans cause to critic our responsibilities toward animals and to raise both psychologically feeling guilty for animal derived food and anxiety on food quality and safety (Dawkins, 1993).

During the last two decades, consumers have required more knowledge about animal derived food, how this food is produced and refined. One out of two European consumers are aware of the knowledge that healthy and quality food can be produced from animals bred and grown under humane ways and they also urge the related all profession groups mainly legislators to be sensitive and active (European Commission, Dg SANCO, 2005). These issues are within the scope of EU law and regulations (European Union, 2004). Recently, training projects on the animal welfare for people who have contact with animals and those are at the animal production sectors have been accelerated. European Commission pays special attention to animal welfare training projects (WELFOOD Project) and gave full support to the Animal Welfare Conference in Uruguay organised by the World Animal Health Organisation in 2007. According to Amsterdam Treaty, animals are sentient creatures and animal welfare requirements should be met while preparing and implementing the Commission laws. Accomplishing this, cultural, religious and regional characteristics should be considered (European Union, 2007).

The activity of the Council of Europe

The report of the Brambell Committee had major implications for research and ultimately legislation in the worldwide. The Brambell Report was attracted attention of society and law makers on suffering of farm animals and caused realization of the potential suffering of the animals (Brambell, 1965). Consumer demands for traceability and transparency throughout regarding in chain of food processing is increased both the scientific researches aiming to discover in animals mind and new opportunities to prevent animal suffering in confinement and improved minimum standards for animal protection.

The Council of Europe was the first supranational organisation that proposed measures to ensure animal welfare. It started to work on animal protection in the 1960s, with a belief that respect for animals was a common heritage of European countries closely linked to human dignity and that harmonisation between countries was necessary (Vessier et al, 2008). Three European Conventions were developed on farm animal protection to protect animals during farming, transport and slaughtering and killing. The European Union laws are in the form of Directives and regulations and in parallel all member states have their own national legislation (Caporale et al, 2005).

Although the sensitivity and legal force on welfare of farmed animals could be changed by North to South in Europe respect for their cultural, social, economical and religious differences and touchiness (Appleby, 2003; Boogard et al. 2006; Fraser, 2001), in global review, animal protection perception of humans and welfare standards are improved highly quick in Europe than the regions in remaining (Mench, 2008; Matheny and Leahy, 2007).

Farm Animal Welfare in Central and South-Eastern Europe

Council Directive 98/58/EC lays down the general framework for farm animal welfare and applies to all animals kept for food, skin, fur and other farming purposes in European Union Countries. Member states have to submit a report regarding the results of the inspections carried out confirm the welfare of animals in farms and the other details on information of staff, record keeping, building and equipments, and the information of animal breeding processes to the Commission every two years (Commission Decision 2006/778/EC).

All the legal requirements on farm animal protection are also involved in national legal framework in WELANIMAL partnership region since 90's except Turkey. Table 1 provides a summary and overview of national regulations in forced (Bozkurt et al, 2008).

Animal Protection Law (5199/2004) and Law on Animal Health and Surveillance (3285/1986) gives the responsibilities of hosting and fulfilling of ethological requirements of animals, sustainable animal and human health, and protection of environment to animal owners in Turkey. Contradictory activities are punished by fine penalty in Turkey which is a candidate state for full membership to EU. The proposal regulation (12.2009.2.14) in accordance 98/58/EC is also expected to enter into force in this year (Bozkurt et al, 2008).

Broiler and laying Hens

Close to five billion chickens are slaughtered in EU every year (Carlsson, 2007). Intensive farming methods in this sector have led to significant welfare problems (Fraser, 2005, Fraser et al, 2001). The European Union was forced to

limit the maximum density of broiler chickens to 33 kg/m² setting a maximum stocking density of 33kg/m², or 39kg/m² if other welfare standards are met.

Table 1

The national legislations laying down minimum standards for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes in WELANIMAL Project partner countries

Country	EU Legislation *	The protection of farm animals Animals kept for Farming Purposes	
		No	Title of the legislations
Bulgaria	implemented	№16, 03.02.2006, §2	Regulation for protection and welfare in animal-breeding and their usage
		LAW No 1444, 1994	Implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (Strasbourg, 10III1976)
		Presidential Decree 374, 2001	Protection of animals at farm level in accordance with Regulation 98/58/EC by Council Directive and for the implementation of Decision 2000/50/EC of the Committee
Greece	implemented	Presidential Decree No 214, 2003	Amendment of the regulations of Presidential Decree 315/00, "Official control in the domain of animal nutrition" (A' 358), in accordance with European Parliament and Council Directives 2000/77/EC and 2001/46/EC
		Presidential Decree 214/2003 2003	Amendment of Presidential Decree 315/00, "Principles for organizing official control in the sector of animal nutrition (A 258)" in accordance with adoption of the Directives 2000/77/EC and 2001/46/EC of the European Parliament and Council Directive
Hungary	implemented	Act XXVIII of 1998	The Protection and Humane Treatment of Animals
		Act LIII of 1995	The General Rules of Environmental Protection
		Act XC of 1995	On food
		Act XCI of 1995	On veterinary issues
		32/1999	Regulations of ministry of Agriculture and Rural developments: The rules of domestic animal welfare and its modifications
Romania	implemented	72/2004	Law regarding animal protection,
		No. 205	Law for modifying and completing the regarding animal protection
		26.05. 2004	
		No. 9 January 11, 2008	
		205/2004	
		No. 180 August 11, 2006	Regulation by Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development
		Order No. 75/August 15, 2005	Sanitary veterinary norm regarding the farm animal protection, O.M. 776/25.08.2005 (Council Directive 98/58/CEE)

Country	EU Legislation *	The protection of farm animals Animals kept for Farming Purposes	
		No	Title of the legislations
Slovak Republic	implemented	Decree of the government of SR No. 322/2003	laying down minimum standards for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes
		Decree of the government of SR No. 318/2003	laying down minimum measures for suppression of certain diseases of shelled invertebrates
Turkey	will be implemented in 2009	(5199/2004)	Animal Protection law

**European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1976 ; Council Directive 78/923/EC; Council Directive 88/58/EC; Council Directive; 98/58/EEC, Council Directive 90/67/CE*

Commission EU directive 2007/43/EC has also laid down a number of other conditions to ensure better animal welfare, such as lighting, litter, feeding, and ventilation requirements. In comparison of the six countries in poultry meat production in 2007 Turkey produced 1 billion ton broiler meat yearly followed by Hungary, Slovak Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece produced 210,000, 85,000, 83,000, 317,000 and 145,000 tons of poultry meat, respectively (Bozkurt et al, 2008; Anonymous, 2007).

As consumers are concerned about suffering of the caged hens (European Commission, DG SANCO, 2005) the big supermarkets like as Sainsbury, Morrison, The Co-op and Marks& Spencer have already removed eggs from battery hens (Thaindian News, 2008; ORGANIC-market-info, 2009). Laying hens are protected by Council Directive 99/74/EEC defines cage measures, equipments, and minimum spaces and lays down principles of non-cage systems. National legal regulations in compliance with this directive put in force the WELANIMAL partners countries in Balkans Region since 1999 and Turkey which have highest egg production potential (having 344 820 000 laying hens) in the partnership have planned to implement the minimum standards into national regulations in 2009 (Anonymous, 2007). The North European countries like Denmark, United Kingdom and Sweden have passed legislations involved in animal protection over the last half century (Appleby MC (2003), therefore public opinion and the consumer demands concerning animal welfare has showed an increase in this area as well as in the Central and South-Eastern Europe (Caporale et al, 2005; Bozkurt et al, 2008). Hen protection by law in the WELANIMAL Project partner countries is presented in Table 2. Supporting this knowledge, it will put forward in the next days of the survey results of the Project and the new approaches for the definition more global “professional animal welfare” by evaluating the effects of different social, economic, cultural and religious approaches on welfare apprehension in WELANIMAL partners.

Table 2

The national legislations laying down minimum standards of protection of pigs, hens and calves in WELANIMAL Partnership

Country	EU ¹	The protection of pigs	EU ²	The protection of hens	EU ³	The protection of calves/sheep
Bulgaria	+	Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in pig-breeding, № 21, 14.12.2005; Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in pig-breeding № 14, 03.02. 2006 Regulation for qualification of slaughtered carcasses of pig by (S) EUROP, № 21, 14.05.2004	+	Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in layer-breeding, № 13, 06.07.1999, Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in layer-breeding, № 25, 14.12.2005	+	Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in calf-breeding, № 30, 29.11.1999 Regulation for minimum requirement for protection and welfare in calf-breeding, № 14, 03.02.2006, §6, § 7, §8 Regulation for qualification of slaughtered carcasses of sheep by (S) EUROP, № 20, 14.05.2004.
Greece	+	PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 215, Official Journal: 181/2003 Standards for the protection of pigs in accordance with Regulation 91/630/E.O.K. as amended by Council Directive 2001/88/EC and 2001/93/EC of the Committee and abandonment of Presidential Decree 193/1995	+	Presidential Decree 216, Official Journal 181/2003 PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 216, Official Journal 181/2003 “Minimum standards for the protection of laying hens”, in accordance with Council Directives 1999/74/EC and 2002/4/EC of the Committee “Minimum standards for the protection of laying hens”, in accordance with Council Directives 1999/74/EC and 2002/4/EC of the Committee	+	PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 179/1998, Official Journal: 133 . Minimum standards for the protection of calves at farm level in accordance with Council Directive 91/629/EC and 97/2/EC of Council Directive and the implementation of the Decision 97/182/EC of the Committee

Country	EU ¹	The protection of pigs	EU ²	The protection of hens	EU ³	The protection of calves/sheep
Romania	+	Order No. 202 from August 23, 2006 – Sanitary veterinary norm establishing the minimal standards for pig protection, O.M. 749/01.09.2006 (Council Directive 91/630/CEE)	+	Order No. 136 from June 16, 2006 – Sanitary veterinary norm regarding the minimal standards of the laying hens protection, O.M. 617/18.07.2006 (Council Directive 99/74/CEE) Order No. 73 from August 15, 2005 – Sanitary veterinary norm regarding the laying hen farms registration, O.M. 763/22.08.2005 (Council Directive 02/4/CE)	+	Order Nor. 72 from August 15, 2005 – Sanitary veterinary norm establishing minimal standards for calves protection, O.M. 759/19.08.2005 (Council Directive 91/629/CEE)
Slovak Republic	+	Decree of the government of SR No. 735/2002 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, as amended by the Decree of the government of SR No. 325/2003	+	Decree of the government of SR No. 736/2002 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, as amended by the Decree of the government of SR No. 326/2003	+	Decree of the government of SR No. 730/2002 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves, as amended by the Decree of the government of SR No. 270/2003
Turkey	-	There are not regulations regarding pig production and protection. Law on Animal Health and Surveillance (3285/1986); Law on Animal Protection (5199(2004)); Law on Food Production, Consumption and Inspection (5179/2004); Decision on Support of Animal Breeding (2005/8503); By-law on the Operation and Inspection Procedures and Principles of Production Facilities of Red Meat and Red Meat Products (2005/25691).	-	By-law on the Health Control of Hatcheries and Breeder Holdings (23463/1998); By-law on the Operation and Health Control of Hatcheries and Breeder Holdings (25496/2004); By-law on the Operation and Inspection Procedures and Principles of Production Facilities of Poultry meat and Poultry meat Products (25902/2005); By-law on the Establishment Procedures and Principles of Agricultural Producer Organizations (.18748/2005); TS 1068 , Hen Eggs in Shell, 1987 (This Standard	-	Law on animal health and surveillance (3285/1986); Law on animal production (5199 /2004); Law on production, consumption, control of foodstuff (5179 / 2004); Law on animal breeding (4631); By-law on the identification, registration and monitoring of bovine animals (2002/2482); Regulation on procedures and principles for production, operation and inspection of red meat and meat products (2005 / 25691); Turkish classification standards for lamb and sheep meat (TS 666 – 671)

Country	EU ¹	The protection of pigs	EU ²	The protection of hens	EU ³	The protection of calves/sheep
				contains hen eggs in shell but not other avian eggs in shell, brooding eggs, liquid, frozen, powder and eggs that are processed structurally. Cited STD: TS 3737, TS 2755; Turkish Food Codex. Communiqué Laying Down Marks and Symbols Pertaining to Batch Numbers of Foodstuff (2002/6) ; Communiqué on Fresh Meat, Meat Preparations and Mixtures of Meat Preparations (2000/5).; Communiqué on Requirements for the Issue of Control Documents for Imports of Live Chicken for Slaughter, Chicken Meat and Eggs (2000/3); Communiqué of the Turkish Food Codex on Egg and Egg Products (2000 / 11)		

¹Council Directive 91/630/EEC, Council Directive 91/630/CEE, Council Directive 2001/93/EC; Council Directive 2001/88/EC

²Council Directive 88/166/EEC, Council Directive 99/74/CEE, Council Directive 02/04/CE

³Council Directive 91/629/EEC; Council Directive 91/629/CEE; Council Directive 97/2/EC; Council Directive 97/182/EC

Pigs

Council Directive 91/630/EEC, Council Directive 2001/88/EC and 2001/93/EC defines the minimum standards for the protection of pigs at farm level i.e. floor type and minimum floor area, the construction of housing, daily inspection of the pigs by farmers, examination by a veterinarian, prevention aggression between animals, daily provision of healthy feed suited to the age and weight of the pigs. Greece was the first member state to bring into force the National legislations guaranteed to these specific rules for the protection of pig and the other national legislations concerned pig welfare was followed in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovak Republic respectively in the period 2002-2006 (Bozkurt et al, 2008)(Table 2).

Rearing of pigs in Central and South Eastern Europe has been one of the most important sectors of animal production and consumption of pork and pork products has long-lasting tradition and a big proportion of meat consumed. According to the Islamic restriction pig meat consumption pig in Turkey is not a traditional food and five registered holdings exist in Antalya (72 head), Edirne (195 head), Balıkesir (1500 head), İzmir (635 head) and Kırklareli (290 head) cities. These holdings are monitored by by-law on the establishment, operation and monitoring of holdings of animal and animal products (2004/25393) and a draft regulation on welfare of farm animals is in accordance with Council Directive 91/630/EEC was prepared (Bozkurt et al, 2008).

Calves

Calves are protected by Council Directive 2008/119/EC: it is prohibited to use confined individual pens after the age of eight weeks, tethering of calves (except under very specific circumstances) and mutilations are not allowed.; it is necessary to supply minimum resting area is up to 150 kg 1.5 m², 150-220 kg 1.7 m², and over 220 kg 1.8 m², provision colostrum during the first 6 hours of life and appropriate crates, lighting and feeding. As shown in Table 2, Council Directive 91/629/EEC, Council Directive 97/2/EC, and Commission Decision 97/182/EC, laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves were translated into national legislation (e.g. decrees) in Greece and Bulgaria in 1998 and 1999 and in Slovak Republic and Romania in 2002 and 2005 (Bozkurt et al., 2008).

Protection of Animals during Transport in Central and South-Eastern Europe

The EU has adopted ten different legislative acts, including Council Directive (EC) No 1/2005, Council decision 2004/544/EC, Commission Regulation (EC) 639/2003, Council regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and European Convention for the Protection of Animals During International Transport, on the Protection of Animals During transport in period from 1991 to 2005. The important body of regulations deal with animals movements during import/export journeys, rules are regarding the vehicles, vibrations, noises and movements, specifications regarding the health status and condition of animals that have to be transported (lactating

females from the following species: bovine, sheep, goats should be milked at least at every 12 hours), rules regarding transportation ways and feeding, watering and resting as well as for loading, unloading and manipulation are settled down for animal transportation. The national legislations concerning the minimum requirements for the protection of animals during transportation in EU acts were adopted to Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece in period 2003 to 2007 and will be probably adopted the draft legislation Regulation on animal protection and welfare during transportation (in compliance with 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC) in Turkey in 2009 (Table 3) (Bozkurt et al., 2008).

Table 3

The national legislations laying down minimum standards for the protection of farm animals during transportation in WELANIMAL Project partnership

Country	EU Legislation*	The protection of farm animals at during transportation	
		No	Title of the legislations
Bulgaria	implemented	№:26, 28.02.2006.	Regulation for the condition of protection and animal welfare during transportation,
Greece	implemented	LAW No 3337, 2005	Implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during international transport
Hungary	implemented	Regulation no: 52/2003	Regulation of Ministry of economy and Transport- Regulations of ministry of Agriculture and Rural developments: Rules of animal transportations
		Regulation no:73/2003	Regulation of Ministry of economy and Transport: Rules of animal transportations
Romania	implemented	Regulation from March 7, 2007	Sanitary veterinary norm regarding the registration and sanitary veterinary authorization procedure of the units and transportation means belonging to animal health and welfare.
Slovak Republic	implemented	Regulation no: Decree of the government of SR No. 302/2003 Council	Laying down details for the protection of animals during transportation, as amended by the Decree of the government of SR No. 145/2005
		Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 of 22 December 2004	on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EHS and 93/119/ES and Regulation (EC) No. 1255/97
Turkey	will be implemented in 2009	Law no: 5199/2004 Draft regulation (64/432/EEC93/119/EC)	Animal Protection law Regulation on animal protection and welfare during transportation

*Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport. Council of Europe. Strasbourg, 1968
 Council Directive 91/628/EEC on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directives 90/425/EEC and 91/496/EEC. Official Journal of the European Communities No. L 340., 1991

Council Directive 95/29/EC on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directive 91/628/EEC. Official Journal of the European Communities, 1995
 Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432 and 93/119 and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97.
 Commission Regulation 639/2003/CE-Commission Regulation No 639/2003/CE of 9 April 2003 on establishing detailed rules according to Council Regulation No 99/1254/CE
 Council Regulation (EC) No 411/98 of 16 February 1998 On addition 1040

Protection of Animals at slaughtering or killings in Central and South-Eastern Europe

European convention for the protection of animals for slaughter, Council Decision 88/306/EEC, Council Directive 93/119/EC and Commission proposal COM 2008/553, give specific ensuring animal welfare at the time of slaughter and killing regarding the minimum requirements for movement, lairage, restrain, stunning and slaughter of animals kept for meat production, breeding for skin, fur and other products, also for killing animals for disease control purpose. Council Directive 93/119/EC states that the official veterinarian is responsible for humane treatments of animals and monitoring the religious slaughtering procedures to preventing of unnecessary suffering and pain. As listed in Table 4, after only three years Greece translated Council Directive 93/119/EC into national acts and Hungary, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria and Romania adopted the Directive in 2002 to 2006 respectively (Bozkurt et al., 2008).

Table 4

The national legislations laying down minimum standards of slaughtering and killing of the farm animals in WELANIMAL Partnership

Country	EU	The protection of farm animals at the time of slaughter or killing	
	Legislation*	No	Title of the legislations
Bulgaria	implemented	№ 12, 14.12.2005	Regulation for minimizing the animal suffering at the time of slaughter or killing,
Greece	implemented	No:327/1996	Protection of animals during slaughter and/or death, in accordance with Council Directive 93/119/EC
Hungary	implemented	9/1999 26/2002	Regulation of ministry of Agriculture and Rural developments: Rules of animal slaughtering
Romania	implemented	No. 180 from August 11, 2006	Sanitary veterinary norm regarding animal protection during slaughtering or killing, O.M. 721/23.08.2006 (Council Directive 93/113/CEE)
Slovak republic	implemented	Decree of the government of SR No. 315/2003	Laying down minimum requirements for the protection of animals at their killing or slaughtering, as amended by the Decree of the government of SR No. 497/2003 .
Turkey	will be implemented in 2009	Law no:5199/2004	Animal Protection law

*Draft regulation (93/119/EC) Regulations on protection of animal at slaughtering or killings. Animal protection during killing and slaughtering, Council Directive 74/577/EC on stunning animals before slaughter was replaced in 1993 with Council Directive 93/119/EEC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, covering a wider range of animals and slaughter circumstances

Presidency of Religious Affairs is responsible for preparation of legal regulation related to religious slaughtering and under legal protection by Decision on the Provision of Sacrifice Services by the Presidency of Religious Affairs (2001/3214), Implementing Regulation on the Provision of Sacrifice Services by the Presidency of Religious Affairs (2002/24850) and Circular on Animals for Sacrifice (2005/75) in Turkey.

In Turkey, only muslim country is in WELANIMAL partnership, congregated and notified by Presidency of Religious Affairs or one of the vice-head deployed and consisted of representatives from ministry of internal affairs, Ministry Agricultural and Rural affairs, ministry of environment and forestry and foundation of religious affairs. Presidency accomplishes the secretariat of department of religious services. Some of the conclusions of the commission:

- Commission, by the decision dated 2004 and numbered 2004/2 Guidebook for sacrifice services information (Sacrifice directory). This guidebook explains methods of sacrificial slaughtering and religious characteristics to all citizens. In the guidebook, according to the law on animal protection no 5199, it is stated that above all provision of animals' health and welfare, "during slaughtering, considering required specific religious slaughtering rules without frightening, scaring, with least pain, following hygienic conditions and with proper methods should be strictly considered and animals are instantly slaughtered by qualified efficient persons"
- With respect to "Ordinance of identification, registration and monitoring of cattle" species, sex, ear tag and passport of cattle slaughtered in festival of sacrifices are submitted to province/district commission for sacrifice services and the commission further delivers this collected information to the central data base within the general directorate of protection and control.
- Briefing activities are carried out related to traits of sacrificial animals and religious aspects of sacrificial and humane slaughtering.
- To organize the sacrificial slaughtering by butchers who have required qualifications, if not, to get benefit from skilful and voluntary people "courses on training and developing slaughtering personnel" is organized by the commission of sacrifice services and lectures are given by general directorate for education of apprenticeship and broad training. On completion of the course "Course attendance certificate" is issued (Bozkurt et al, 2008).

Commission for Sacrifice Services

To implement commission decisions and to apply other duties given by the presidency, the commission meet and consisted of under the head of governor or deployed vice-governor in province, head of district or deployed vice-head of district and representatives of office of mufti, directorate of health or head of presidency of health group, directorate of agriculture and rural affairs, municipality and Turkish foundation of religious affairs. Office of mufti is the secretariat of the commission.

Commission carries out the following duties under the employment and control of the inter-ministerial committee for sacrifice services;

Planning and inspection of places for sacrifice sale and slaughter with respect to the decisions of the council of general hygiene in residential units, religious rules and environmental conditions and for this purpose cooperate with local government and moreover MARA monitor and control the slaughtering at all stages. During slaughtering, the commission takes the necessary measures for minimum pain that animals suffer; slaughtering concordance with religious rules, the presence of enough number of veterinarians, butchers and other technical persons, cleanliness of the area and the public health. Related Institutions and Under the Legal Framework:

- Sacrificial slaughtering of animals should be carried out by the competent staff in accordance with the religious rules
- Slaughtering should be done in accurate areas, under control, according to health and hygiene rules
- During the slaughtering, provision and inspection of animals with the least pain and suffer should be carried out.

Preparations for the consistency with EU, administrative and legal structure of the centres and local institutions coordinating sacrifice slaughtering are ongoing (Bozkurt et al., 2008).

Consumer Perception in WELANIMAL Partnership

Although some partner countries of WELANIMAL Project like as Slovak Republic and Hungary are new EU Member States in Central and Eastern Europe legal requirements of protection of farm animals are guaranteed by both EU Conventions and Directives directly and the national legislations in compliance with European legal framework (Vessier et al, 2008; Blokhuis, 2004).

During the last two decades, consumers have required more knowledge about animal derived food, on their table, how they are produced and refined. Especially, 1 out of 2 European consumers are aware of the knowledge that healthy and quality food can be produced from animals bred and grown under humane ways and they also urge the related all profession groups mainly legislators to be sensitive and active (European Commission, DG SANCO, 2005). A project financed by EU Commission and entitled “Consumer concern about animal welfare and the impact on food choice” showed that although consumer are concerned about farm animal welfare, this concern is not critical in food choice. The majority of consumers claim they are willing to pay more improved animal welfare, but when purchasing food products such claims do not translate into practice and cost are the main factors influencing their choice (Caporale et al, 2005). As reported by Boogaard the emotional experiences with farm, farm animals and/or pets are important elements of animal welfare perception (Boogaard et al., 2006).

Economy of countries located in central and southeast Europe (Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia), in general, is significantly relied on agriculture and the salient part of the workforce are employed at agricultural sector. In 2001 Fraser stated that the technological changes in animal agriculture have generally been accompanied by changes in farm structure, the size of individually or family-owned farms and the sociology of rural communities in last 50 years (Fraser et al., 2001). Small scale farms and rich traditional agriculture methods included the confinement and semi confinement animal production systems in the South-eastern Europe may give opportunities for developing humane animal production systems (Fraser et al., 2001; Fraser, 2008).

Also, in participating countries to the project, ethnicity (Turkish, Greek, Roman, Romanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Russian, German and Slovakian etc.) and religious structure (Islam, Orthodox, Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Calvinist, Unaffiliated etc.) show a great diversity (Bozkurt et al, 2008). Welfare concept is a moral issue that can be effected by people's cultural, religious, economical and social composition (Harper and Henson, 2001; Boogard et al., 2006). In WELFOOD project, in general, partners are located in east, west, north and south European countries. In this project, training curriculum for animal welfare need, animal and environmentally friendly product techniques was prepared by starting point of consumers' structure (Sossidou and Szücs, 2007). However, the current project is cover and be adapted to the central and south-eastern Europe region. Therefore, the area of vocational training associated with animal welfare and food quality and safety in WELFOOD project based in Europe will be largely more extended to Eastern Europe.

Conclusions

Five partner countries of WELANIMAL Project completed the transfer of European legal requirements into national framework and the national regulations in compliance with Commission Directives in Turkey is under consultation fort o be full member will into force in 2009. Moreover, severe weaknesses exist on the implementation of EU laws as it concerns the welfare of farm animals, mainly during transport and slaughter. Most of the transport problems are related to the absence of appropriate control posts, staging posts, space allowances for animals and journey times.

It is more important to that realization of social acceptance of the minimum standards regarding to animal protection then legal enforcements to implementing of the legislation. The point of view, searching on developments concerning friendly animal production systems and qualified and healthy food production, it is thought that, Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian, Hungarian, and Slovakian societies have new because of reach and old agricultural traditions and regionally history.

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