

MEMBER STATE NARRATIVE

1. General information on any changes in trends observed since the previous reporting period.

New information on keeping GM (genetically modified) animal lines appeared in the Report from year 2015. In SK the new GM lines were not established, just were kept on the basis of approved Project.

In comparison to the previous year, 3213 less animals were used in the projects. It was caused also by the fact, that more of the approved establishments did not perform any projects in 2015. Some of the establishments informed in advance about the closure of their establishment, because they were not able to assure the compliance with the requirements for placing and treatment of the animals, appointed by the Directive.

2. Information on significant increase or decrease in use animals in any of the specific areas and analysis of the reasons thereof.

Red numbers appeared in the column "other birds" of the Report, in particular in Zebra finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*) species, with the information on consumption of used animals of 13,95 % , which compared to the previous year, is more. It concerns one approved project for one applicant, approved for performance from 15.05.2014 to 31.12.2017. Each year, the applicant consumed 36 birds on the average. It is allowed to use 80 male and 15 female animals within this approved project. By the time of duration of the project, 72 animals were already used. In comparison to the previous year, we did not record significant increase in use of the animals of this category in the project. The same number of animals were used in 2015 as in previous year 2014.

3. Information on any changes in trends in actual severities and analysis of the reasons thereof.

During year 2015, any significant changes in evaluation of cruelty did not appear in the projects, comparing to the year 2014.

4. Particular efforts to promote the principle of replacement, reduction and refinement and its impacts on statistics if any.

Observance of 3R principles is established in our legislation, it is required to observe 3R principles in performance of the projects and breeding and treating of the animals. Great attention is given to 3R principles in trainings of the assigned persons, stated in Article 23 of the Directive.

5. Further breakdown on the use of "other" categories if a significant proportion of animal use is reported under this category.

In SK any other more significant animal categories are used, just those already stated in the Report.

6. Details on cases where the 'severe' classification is exceeded, whether pre-authorized or not, covering the species, numbers, whether prior exemption was authorised, the details of the use and the reasons why 'severe' classification was exceeded.

In SK, there is an Act (No.: 71/67 Coll. on Administrative Order), establishing that the issued decisions are obligatory for the applicant. Any kind of arbitrary change against the project is illegal. This defect, according to its importance, can be considered as an administrative offence and a penalty can be imposed for it. Each project is classified according to the level of severity, due to Annex VIII of the Directive. The level of severity of the procedures is stated in the Decision for authorisation of the projects. In SK any situation of arbitrary change of the level of severity towards an increase, cannot appear. It is not possible to use in the projects a different number of animals as those approved, without permission. Within annual reports, CA would see the changes of the levels of severity and the numbers of used animals on the contrary to the Decisions for authorisation of the projects, issued by CA. There is also feedback in performance of the controls in the approved establishments.