

1. Project evaluation before Directive 2010/63/EU

Before the Directive, there was the “Ordinance of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 23/2009 Coll. on the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes” (in Slovak: Nariadenie vlády Slovenskej republiky č. 23/2009 Z. z., ktorým sa ustanovujú požiadavky na ochranu zvierat používaných na pokusné účely alebo na iné vedecké účely).

2. Implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU

The Directive is already transposed into the national legislation by the “Ordinance of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 377/2012 Coll. on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific or Educational Purposes” (available at: http://svssr.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/nv_377_2012.pdf). It was amended by the “Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 436/2012 Coll., laying down the details on the requirements for the protection of animals used for scientific or educational purposes” (available at: http://www.svps.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/v_436_2012.pdf).

3. Major changes introduced by the Directive 2010/63/EU in the project evaluation process

The major change introduced by the directive was the establishment of the Advisory body for the project evaluation.

4. Regulation and authorisation process: main actors

4.1. Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

4.2. Competent authority: State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic (SVFA SR)

4.3. Entity responsible for the project authorisation: Ethical committee (advisory board) with advice from local and institutional committees

5. Project evaluation according to Article 38 of Directive 2010/63/EU

5.1. Geographical organization of the project evaluation process

The evaluation is conducted by local or institutional committees, who advise the national competent authority, the SVFA SR, responsible for the project authorisation. Each approved user establishment has its own ethical committee which evaluates the projects of employees and gives consent for sending of the project to the SVFA SR for the authorisation.

At SVFA SR, the workers from the department of the Animal Welfare (SVFA SR) based on the statement of the institutional/local ethics committees and the Advisory Body decides about the project authorisation. These workers have as background/expertise, 8 years of practice upon the project performance, and 10 years of practice upon the project authorisation.

5.2. Evaluators

The evaluation is conducted by local (e.g. one committee shared by the faculties and departments of the Slovak Agricultural University) and institutional committees (e.g. each research institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences has its own ethical committee). The project is approved at the SVFA SR with assistance of an advisory body. The SVFA SR issues decisions on the project authorisation.

5.2.1. Committees' composition

The local/institutional committees must have minimum 5 members; the chairman must not be the employee of the establishment the projects of which are evaluated and the other members must be workers – scientists and impartial people – non-scientists.

The advisory body at SVFA SR is composed by 4 members and 1 chairman (SVFA SR) take a share in the authorisation of the project. The advisory body was appointed by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Slovak Republic. The members of the Advisory Body have a third level of education and minimum 10 years practice in the area of work with animals. The membership in the Advisory body is honourable and is on a voluntary basis.

5.3. Protocol submission

The protocols are submitted preferably by mail, but electronic form is also accepted. We have introduced a model of application which is available in the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No 436/2012 in Annex No 2.

5.4. Fees

The approval of projects is free of charge. The project evaluation has no costs for the applicants.

5.5. Guidelines for project evaluation

There are no specific guidelines for the committees conduct the project evaluation. They proceed according to the guideline elaborated by the EWG of the EU commission.

5.6. Follow-up of projects authorisation (i.e. inspections, retrospective review, etc.)

The inspectors of animal protection-veterinarians from the SVFA SR and from the District Veterinary and Food Administrations are responsible for the follow-up of projects authorisation.

6. Changes expected to occur in 2015

There are no changes expected to occur in 2015.