

### Republic of Slovenia Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment

# BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK AND PUBLIC PARTCIPATION - SLOVENIA -

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International Seminar
"Experience sharing in public education and awareness on biosafety issues"

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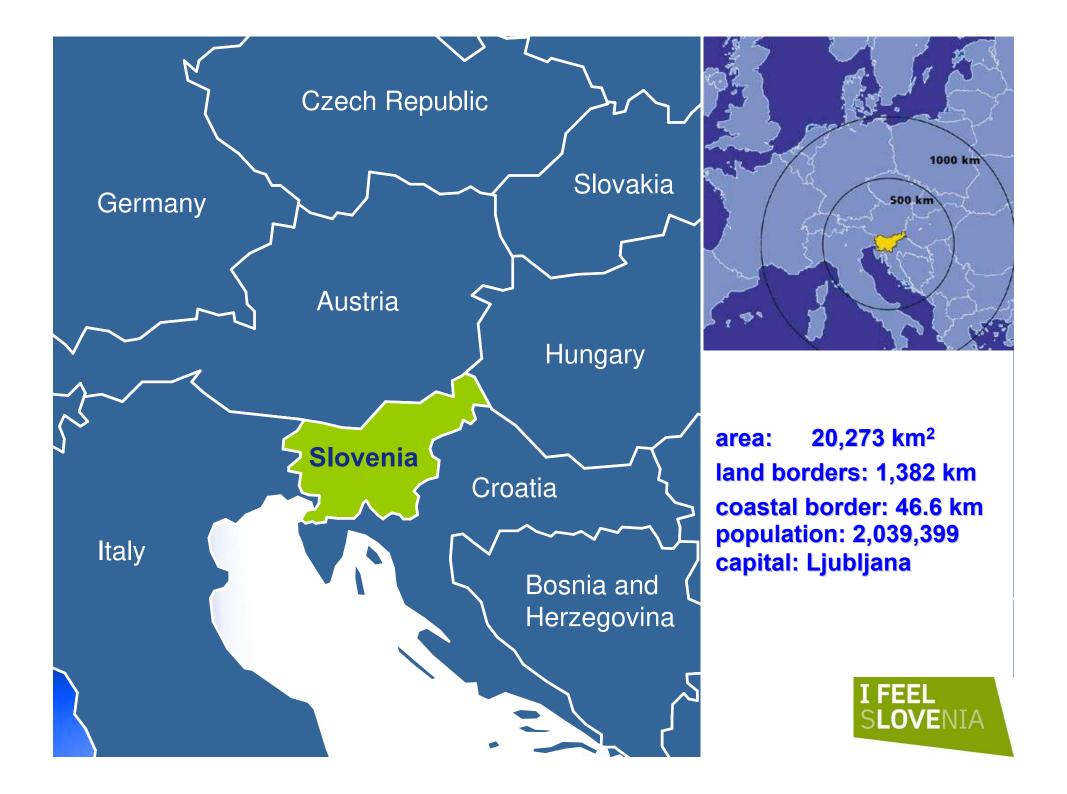
### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

# INTRODUCTION INTO SLOVENIAN BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING PROCES IN SLOVENIA

- ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOL
- PUBLIC HEARING

**CONCLUSIONS** 



#### **GMO REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**



#### **CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**







Regulation (EC) 65/2004

Regulation (EC) 1946/2003



Act on Management of GMOs (MGMOs Act)

Co-existence Act

# GMO Act "horizontal legislation"

The Management of Genetically Modified Organisms Act adopted in July 2002, amended in 2004 and 2010

- provides a horizontal type of legislation on the use of all GMOs (GMMs, GM plants and GM animals) and their products, and intermediates other existing legislation in the areas of agriculture and health care
- Act regulates:
  - Contained use (CU) of GMOs
  - Deliberate release (DR) of GMOs into the environment
  - Placing on the market
  - Export and transit of GMOs and products
- The Act includes provisions of the
  - Directive 2009/41/EC,
  - Directive 2001/18/EC and
  - some provisions from Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- provides a responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment (MAE) for the <u>Contained use systems</u> (in cases of vertebrate consultation with the Administration of RS for Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection), <u>Deliberate release</u> and <u>Placing of GMOs on the market</u> (in co-decision with MH)

#### **GMO Act**

"horizontal legislation"

## **Public principle**

Art. 3.10 - public has the right:

- to be informed about GMO management
- to be involved in the procedure of issuing permissions

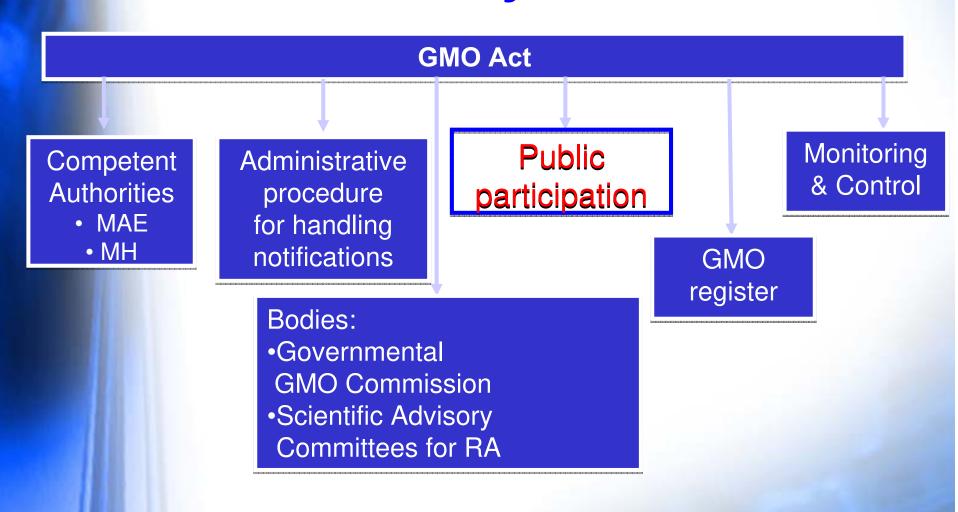
#### Art. 12.1 - information to the public:

 data on contained use, deliberate release and placing on the market, and data on procedures and activities of ministry responsible for GMO management, shall be public

#### **GMO Act**

"horizontal legislation"

## **Administrative system**



## **Commission for GMO management**

- Nominated by the Government of RS
- Consists of representatives (17) of:
  - science (social, humanist, natural, medical and veterinary);
  - scientific advisory committees (CU, DR);
  - of non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
  - Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
  - Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Shall be independent and sovereign, its work shall be public

# Scientific Advisory Committees (CU&DR)

 two scientific advisory committees nominated to provide professional assistance to ministries (CU&DR) and inspectors



- provide public with the opinion of the committee in a procedure for issuing a permit
  - for contained use class 3 and 4,
  - for deliberate release
  - for placing on the market



the committees shall issue annual reports on their work, which should be accessible to the **general public** 

# General public – contained use and deliberate release

Consultation of and information to the public on class 3 and 4 contained use and deliberate release

- In procedure for issuing a permit public has right to:
  - notification, including risk assessment,
  - opinion of the committee
  - public hearing
- Decission of the Ministry shall include a standpoint to the opinions and comments of the general public

# **GMO** Register

- components:
  - records, receipts and permits or approvals for
    - premises
    - contained use of GMOs
    - deliberate release of GMOs including field trials
    - placing on the market of GMOs and products
- register is publicly available
- confidential data are not part of the register
- The GMO register shall be kept by the CA as a public document.
- Anyone shall have the right to peruse the data from the GMO register and request and obtain an extract from the GMO register against payment of the costs, which may not exceed the material costs of communicating the data.

# **Biosafety information system**

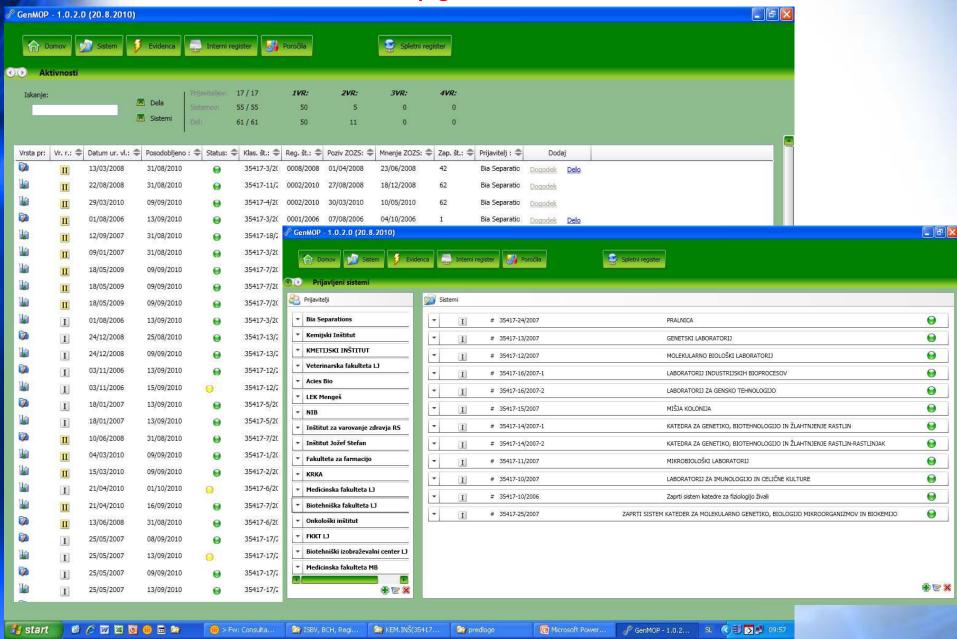
- Simplify the notification procedure and to support the subsequent administrative and decision making procedures
- Support the work of scientific advisory committees
- GMO register was built gradually (paper version, electronic version)

# **Biosafety information system**

GenMOP

- Upgrade -

**Notifiers** 



# **Biosafety information system**

#### **Electronic access to biosafety information**

Slovenian BCH (<u>www.biotechnology-gmo.gov.si</u>)

We have established Slovene biosafety portal where public may find:

- · Basic information on GMOs,
- · Biosafety system and
- GMO Registry of Slovenia.

 Homepage of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment (<a href="http://www.mko.gov.si/en/">http://www.mko.gov.si/en/</a>)

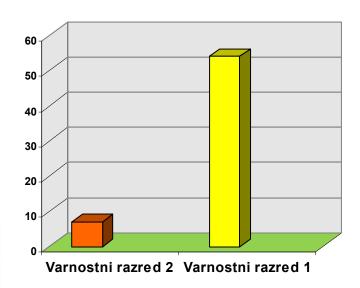


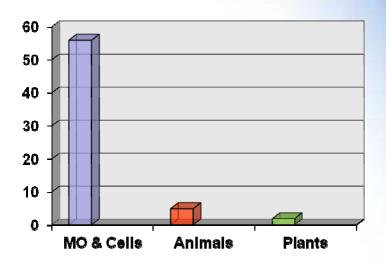


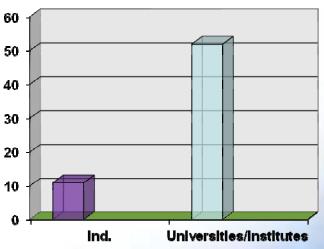
## Contained Use systems in Slovenia

64 contained use systems in Slovenia

- 8 BS class II
- 54 BS class I







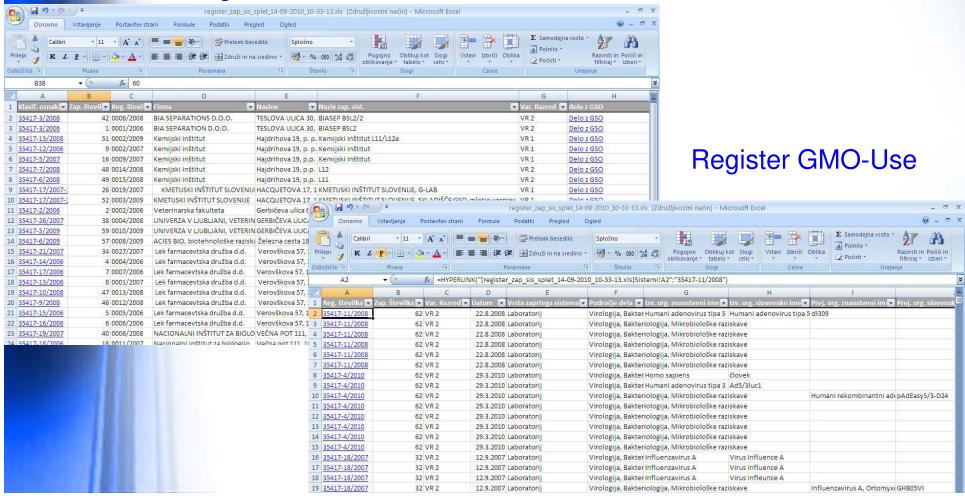
- 2 notifications of the BS class II CU system rejected
- 2 notifications of the work with GMOs in BS2 CU systems in the procedure
- 6 institutions more expected to notify BS2 CU systems

# **GMO** Register

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- public document
- anyone shall have the right to use the data from the GMO register

Register GMO - Facilities



# Deliberate release in Slovenia - PABLIC PARTICIPATION -

In 2009/10 - case of gene therapy of canine patients

#### **Public access to information:**

#### **National level**

- available in paper and electronic version included :
  - notification (technical documentation (SNIF (language SI/EN) including risk assessment),
  - scientific opinion of the Committee
- deadline to give opinions and comments was announced
- opinions and comments could be sent electronically, mailed or given verbally with written statements

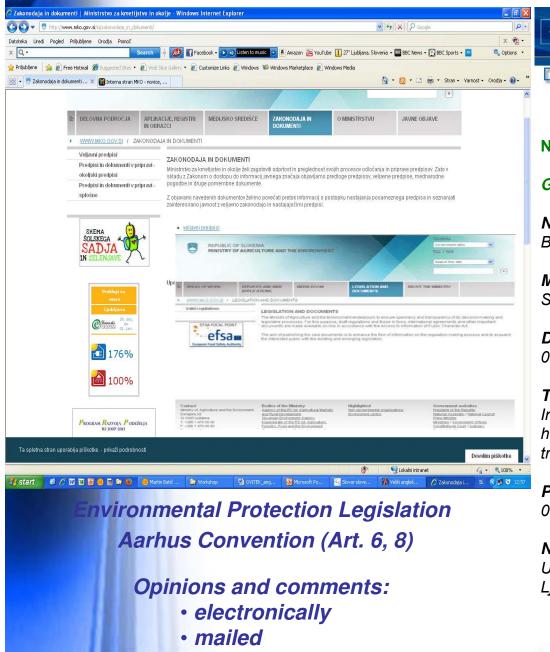
#### Public hearing:

 Information on the date, place and time of hearing was announced in the newspaper and on the CA webpage

EU level (SNIF (EN) - http://gmoinfo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/)

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Deliberate releases and placing on the EU market of Genetically Modified Organisms - GMO Register

**Notification report** 

General information

**Notification Number** B/SI/09/01

**Member State** Slovenia

**Date of Acknowledgement** 04/03/2009

#### Title of the Project

Intratumoral application of naked DNA, encoding gene for human interleukin 12, followed by electrically-assisted gene transfer into tumor cells of canine patients

#### Proposed period of release:

01/11/2009 to 01/10/2012

Name of the Institute(s) or Company(ies)

University of Ljubljana, Veterinary faculty, Gerbičeva 60, Ljubljana, Slovenia;

## Conclusions

- public participation -

- each existing administrative system is specific and different (communication practices, knowledge, available infrastructure, etc.);
- effectiveness
- building capacity (ongoing need):
  - Resources (human and financial);
  - Knowledge (education and research);
  - Infrastructure (current options, build, update and upgrade)