

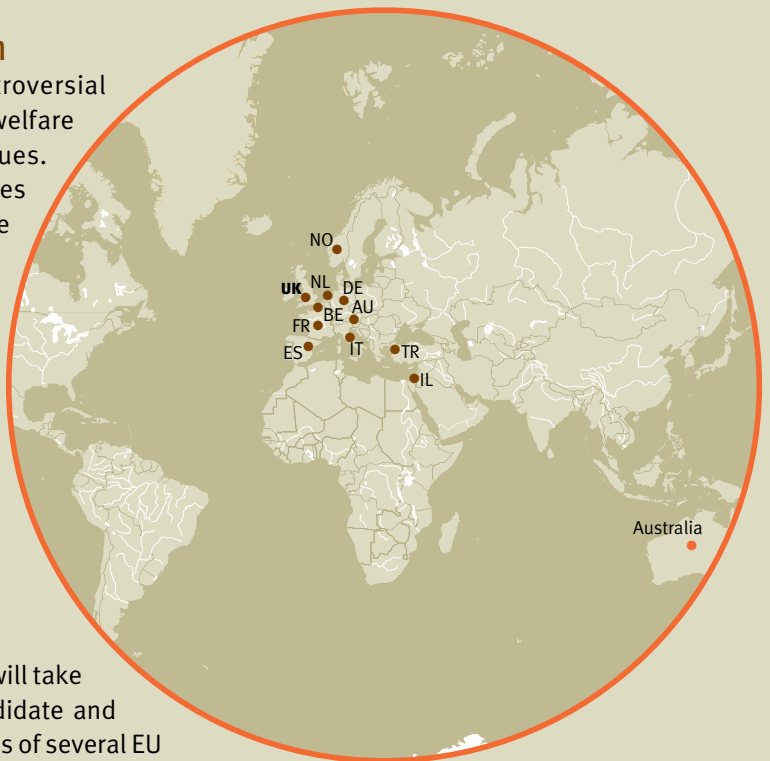
Humane religious slaughter: making best practice socially and culturally acceptable

SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION



Background/description of problem

Religious slaughter has always been a controversial and emotive subject, caught between animal welfare considerations, cultural and human rights issues. There is considerable variation in current practices and the rules regarding religious requirements are still confusing. Similarly, consumer demands and concerns also need to be addressed. Therefore, there is a need for information relating to slaughter techniques as well as product range, consumer expectations, market share and socio-economic issues. The DIALREL project aims to gather this information by encouraging a constructive dialogue between interested parties.



Project profile

DIALREL will initiate a broad social dialogue that will take place within and between Member States, Candidate and Associate Countries. It will draw on the experiences of several EU countries, as well as Turkey, Israel and Australia. DIALREL will facilitate the adoption of good practices in religious slaughter that can meet the welfare standards of the EU, and the expectations of the market and consumers.

International aspects

There are two main types of religious slaughter that need to be considered in this context: the slaughter method for the production of halal meat intended for Muslims; and Shechita for obtaining kosher meat for Jewish consumers. The DIALREL consortium has been carefully selected to include countries with diverse cultural and religious traditions, namely Turkey and Israel.

Socio-economic significance

DIALREL will have the following long-term socio-economic impacts:

- It will raise awareness and understanding of different economic, cultural and religious approaches to animal slaughter.
- It will help meet the market demand for religiously sensitive slaughter practices.
- It will address public and consumer concerns for food quality and safety as regards meat products.
- It will establish open channels of communication facilitating a continued dialogue between interested parties and stakeholders.



SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION

Basic project information

Full project title: religious slaughter: improving knowledge and expertise through dialogue and debate on issues of welfare, legislation and socio-economic aspects.

Duration: 36 months

Starting year: 2006

EU funding: € 800 580

FP6 instrument used: Specific Support Action (SSA)

Project coordinator: Mehmet Haluk Anil

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Third country partner(s) involved:

Meat and Livestock Australia (Australia)

Veterinary Association in Istanbul (Turkey)

Bar-ILAN UNIVERSITY (Israel)

Project website: <http://dialrel.eu>

EC scientific officer: Alessio Vassarotti, alessio.vassarotti@ec.europa.eu

Scientific significance

The project will contribute to the following scientific areas:

- Improved welfare of farm animals through a harmonisation of techniques and regulations within the EU.
- Development of a body of knowledge relating to slaughter techniques as well as product range, consumer expectations, market share and socio-economic issues
- A critical assessment of transparency in the current market
- A resolution of conflicting opinions and practice on an important cultural and public health issue.

Project outcomes

- Facilitate the adoption of best practices in religious slaughter that can meet EU welfare standards
- Improved understanding and increased compliance with EU regulation
- Increased animal welfare due to harmonised best practice
- Increased understanding of how modern food safety standards can be applied to traditional cultural practices.