



OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Action Plan for 2017 - 2019

(Version 6 April 2016)

The Concept Note of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe adopted during the 81st OIE General Session (Paris, France; May 2013) lays down the foundations and principles for the development and implementation of the second Platform Action Plan (similarly as for the first Action Plan).

The second 3-year Action Plan of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe – covering 2017-2019 - is a continuation of the First Action Plan adopted in December 2013 and implemented over 2014-2016. It retains the strategic objective for **Empowering Veterinary Services to take action in animal welfare**, with a view to improving animal welfare all across Europe, consistently with the objectives of the 6th OIE Strategic Plan.

Activities of the second Action Plan come from needs identified by OIE Member countries and partners during the following OIE Global and Regional events:

- OIE Seminars for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare (Kakheti/Georgia - October 2015; Chisinau/Moldova – April 2017)
- Fifth meeting of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe (SG5, Dublin/ Ireland - November 2015; SG6, Teramo/Italy – May 2016; SG7, Madrid/Spain – November 2017; SG8, Bern/Switzerland – May 2017)
- Sixth meeting of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe (SG6; Teramo; April 2016)
- Second stakeholder consultation meeting of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe (Brussels, Belgium; May 2016)
- Meetings of the OIE regional Commission for Europe (84th and 85th OIE General Sessions in Paris/France - respectively May 2016 and 2017; 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe; Lisbon/Portugal - September 2016)
- Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Guadalajara/Mexico - December 2016)

The outcomes of and lessons learnt from the first Action Plan and subsequent recommendations have been taken into account for the preparation of the second Action Plan.

The second Action Plan was presented, discussed and unanimously adopted during the Meeting of the OIE regional Commission for Europe during the 85th OIE General Session (Paris, France; May 2017)

I. Achievements of the first Action Plan for 2014-2016

100% of the activities scheduled under the first Action Plan of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe have been implemented, with some great success including a certain coordinating effect of OIE animal welfare partners in Europe.

Main achievements include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToT Workshop on transport and slaughter (2) – 12 countries trained; cascading effects (updated legislation; updated veterinary core curriculum; national workshops; awareness of private business operators) 	(Y2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToT Workshop on long distance transport (1) for Kazakhstan and Ukraine, including training modules elaboration; cascading effects (still to be assessed in 2017) 	(Y3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional stray dog Roadmap for Balkan countries (11 countries), including the elaboration of a self-assessment tool, country self-assessment and national stray dogs reports, 2 technical workshops, an Awareness Campaign 	(Y1, 2, 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional stray dog Roadmap for West Eurasia (8 countries), including one technical workshop, country self-assessment 	(Y2, 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee meetings (7) 	(Y1, 2, 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders consultation meetings (2) 	Y2, 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters (2) and Advocacy document (1) 	(Y1,3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform website 	(Y1, 2, 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation in Russian 	(Y1, 2, 3)

Activity completed

Activity on-going

Activity non-implemented

The first Action Plan was delivered for a total of approx. 330 K euros, with the support of the EU (main donor), France, Germany, Switzerland, World Animal Protection, IZSAM Teramo, RSPCA, Regional Animal Welfare Center for the Balkans (RAWC). OIE event hosting countries (Romania; Russia; Belgium; Georgia ; Serbia; Kyrgyzstan; Ireland; Italy, Albania; Spain, Kazakhstan) also contributed a great deal by providing in-kind support to all Platform events (this support is not taken into account in the 330 K euros).

The delivery of the first Action Plan has been very cost efficient as all of its activities were implemented for almost half of the provisional budget.

An evaluation of the first Action Plan is considered as a requisite in terms of transparency, accountability and monitoring of effectiveness and is currently under discussion. The evaluation Report will be annexed to this Action Plan (annex 2).

II. Objectives of the second Action plan for 2017-2019

The overall objective of the second Action for 2017-2019 is **to improve animal welfare in Europe**.

The Strategic Objective of the second Action Plan for 2017-2019 in accordance with the Concept Note of the Platform is **to empower Veterinary Services to take actions in Animal Welfare in compliance with OIE standards**.

More specifically the Action plan for 2017-2019 has the following three Specific Technical Objectives:

- To raise awareness and achieve high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Europe region.
- To progressively advance with the implementation of the OIE standards on animal welfare.
- To encourage the participation of member countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in the OIE standard setting process.

These three technical objectives will be supported by a more trans-cutting objective linked to the management and functioning of the Platform.

The OIE Platform is also envisioned to act as a coordinating and dialogue mechanism to ensure that all countries and stakeholders involved in animal welfare in Europe share a common vision and conduct activities consistently towards achieving this vision, in compliance with OIE standards. In this regard, efforts will be made to prevent duplication among existing activities / programmes on animal welfare in the region (TAIEX, BTSF, NGOs projects, etc) and better organize synergies and resources pooling. Particular attention will notably be given to the coordination and collaboration with the recently launched EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

III. Scope of the second Action plan for 2017-2019

The scope of the Action Plan is as follows:

a) Continuation of the work on the three priority topics of the first Action Plan, as proposed in the founding Concept note, Annex 1, Art. 5:

1. Transport of animals by land (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.3)
2. Slaughter of animals (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.5)
3. Stray dog population control (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.7)

b) Addition of two new topics of relevance to the region:

4. Welfare of animals in disasters (OIE Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health)
5. Welfare for Working Equids (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.12 – new chapter adopted in May 2016)

Rationale for the selection of these 5 priority topics:

- **Transport, slaughter, stray dog population control:** Member countries indicated the need to pursue the work on these three topics as many activities remain to be done before compliance with the OIE standards be achieved. More specifically:
 - The regional stray dog Roadmaps for the Balkans and West Eurasia have respectively 2025 and 2030 as deadline (set by the countries themselves) to achieve full compliance with OIE Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
 - Long distance transport activities were initiated under the first Action Plan (training module elaboration; 1 ToT Workshop for Kazakhstan and Ukraine), but remain to be implemented for some Russian-speaking countries as well as the Balkan countries (ToT Workshops; technical seminar)
 - Slaughter activities have been completed for the 12 Russian-speaking countries of Europe for red meat species (2 regional ToT workshops, with national cascading effects evaluated) but similar activities remain to be implemented for Balkans countries; activities also need to address slaughter of poultry
- **Welfare of Working Equids:** many countries of Eastern and Central Europe continue to use working equids (horse, mules, and donkeys) as a drafting power for agriculture and transportation especially in rural areas, which do have in this regard an important economic impact. The poor profile of these animals remain however an important animal welfare challenge, and raising countries awareness on the newly adopted OIE Chapter 7.12 may greatly assist in improving this situation, with an animal-human win-win effect
- **Welfare of animals in disaster situations:** several natural disasters (flooding in the Balkans in 2015 and 2016; earthquakes in Italy in 2010 and 2016) have occurred in recent years and may increase in the years to come, in particular due to climate change effects. Effective animal welfare in disasters begin with efficient planning in peace

time to speed up decision making in time of crisis, and European countries should be properly prepared using the OIE guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction (all the more as there is no EU legislation covering this topic)

OIE Member countries insisted on the need to keep a limited number of priority topics as in many European countries, the animal welfare department / unit of the central Veterinary Services is often understaffed – sometimes composed² of one single veterinarian – and overburdened; in this context, it becomes almost impossible to work efficiently on too many priorities at the same time. While transport, slaughter and stray dogs are undisputable priorities (second Action Plan Priorities), the importance of disaster management and working equids will need to be assessed before starting activities at regional and/or national level.

Animal welfare at farm level (in beef cattle, dairy cattle, broiler chicken, laying hens and pig production systems¹) is of utmost importance; however, considering the limited VS capacity in many countries and the need to remain focussed (see above), it is preferred to keep this important piece of work under the third or fourth Platform Action Plan, which could be entirely dedicated to these topics, with the OIE Chapters on the welfare in the various production systems addressed as a ‘Farm Welfare Package’.

IV. Activities of the second Action plan for 2017-2019

The second Action plan for 2017-2019 is composed of 36 activities taken from the menu of eligible activities as defined in the Platform Concept Note, Annex 1. This includes the following list of priority activities:

Proposed Activities		Rationale	
Description	Acronym	General	Guadal REC ²
1. Maintenance and upgrading of the website of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3)		The Platform website was launched in January 2016 – it is the main communication tool of the OIE Platform – it needs permanent updating but also some upgrading as current functions are basic; E-Forum will notably national Focal Points on AW to discuss and exchange best practices	7
2. Translation of documents in Russian language (continuing)		It is a permanent activity to ensure the full contribution/participation of the Russian-speaking countries in the AW activities	All
3. Organisation of regional workshops on stray dog population control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Second workshop for the West-Eurasian countries (Year 1, Q3) — Third Workshop for the Balkan countries (Year 2, Q2) — Third workshop for the West-Eurasian countries (Year 3, Q3) — First workshop for the Russian and neighbouring countries (Year 2, Q4) 	SDWE2 SDB3 SDWE3 SDEE1	These workshops are aimed at ensuring that the Regional Stray Dog Roadmaps (for the Balkans and West Eurasia countries) remain on track towards full compliance with OIE Chapter 7.7; if funding is available, it is proposed to continue having these workshops every 2 years. In the meantime, countries are expected to implement their National Stray Dog Roadmaps and measure progress using the OIE Stray Dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool. The veterinary public health/rabies dimension will be prominent in the Regional Roadmaps, taking into account the recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on the elimination of dog-mediated rabies (Geneva / 2015)	1 4 6 8

¹ This chapter is currently under development

² This column indicates the contributions of the proposed activities to the recommendations of the OIE 4th Global Conference on animal welfare (Guadalajara/Mexico; December 2016)

Proposed Activities		Rationale	
Description	Acronym	General	Guadal REC ²
<p>4. Organisation of workshops on transport and slaughter of animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — First ToT Workshop in selected Balkan countries (Year 2; Q1 / Q2) — Second ToT Workshop in selected Balkan countries (Year 3; Q1 / Q2) — Regional seminar for selected Balkans countries (red meat and poultry - Year 3, Q2) — Regional seminar for selected Russian-speaking countries (poultry – Year 2, Q3) — Development of a self-assessment and monitoring Tool on slaughter (Year 1) 	<p><i>TOTS1-B</i></p> <p><i>TOTS2-B</i></p> <p><i>RSS1-B</i></p> <p><i>RSS1-R</i></p> <p><i>SAMS-Tool</i></p>	<p>Follow up of the 2 ToT Workshops on transport and slaughter conducted for 12 Russian-speaking countries in 2015 and 2016 will be ensured, with relevant partners. Regional seminar will also be organised in those countries to address poultry slaughter. It is proposed to develop the same approach for selected countries in the Balkans with the organisation of regional or national ToT Workshops (Albania and Slovenia have indicated interest). For other Balkan countries, regional seminars will be organised, corresponding basically to Session 1 of the ToT. This will allow to refresh the knowledge acquired during previous training courses (BTSF notably)</p> <p>It is proposed to develop a SAM Tool on slaughter to better understand the current situation of European countries in terms of compliance with OIE Chapter 7.5 and measure progress overtime. This tool will also be useful for business operators implementing ISO Technical Specification 34700 as an initial gap analysis (step 1) is recommended as a basis to develop the AW Plan, as well as regular evaluations (step 4)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>11</p> <p>6</p>
<p>5. Organisation of workshops on long distance transport of animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Second ToT Workshop for selected Russian speaking countries (Belarus; Year 1; Q1 and Q2) — Third ToT Workshop for selected Russian speaking countries (Russia?; Year 1; Q3 / Q4) — Regional seminar for Russian speaking countries (Year 2; Q1) — Whole journey scenario Workshop (Europe pilot; Year 1; Q3 / Q4) — Whole journey scenario Workshop involving European and Middle-East countries (Year 2; Q2) 	<p><i>ToTT2-R</i></p> <p><i>TOTT3-R</i></p> <p><i>RST1-R</i></p> <p><i>WJS-E</i></p> <p><i>WJS-E/ME</i></p>	<p>It is proposed that all countries of Europe involved in long distance transport receive specific trainings (seminars or ToT workshops) on (long distance) transport by land, using the methodology developed under the first Action Plan (ToTT1-R in Kazakhstan, 2016).</p> <p>‘Whole journey scenario’ workshops (new concept) will involve all countries along the long distance routes, to ensure respective Competent Authorities (VS; Customs) AW responsibilities from origin to destination. A first pilot will be organised within Europe using the April 2015 case of the European Court of Justice; then it will be expanded to other inter-region route (from Europe to the Middle-East, involving transport by land and sea</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>11</p>
<p>6. Organisation of simulation exercises on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — First exercise for selected Balkan countries (flooding) (Year 2; Q3) — Second exercise for selected Eastern Europe countries (conflict?) (Year 3; Q3) 	<p><i>SE1</i></p> <p><i>SE2</i></p>	<p>Preparedness is essential to ensure adequate rapid response when a disaster occurs. Regional field simulation exercises are proposed for selected countries, involving all Competent Authorities. Experience gained during the recent earthquakes in Italy will serve as best practices. A pre-requisite will be the existence of a national contingency plan for disaster management, which will be tested in field conditions and refined as needed.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>10</p> <p>14</p>

Proposed Activities		Rationale	
Description	Acronym	General	Guadal REC ²
7. Organisation of an awareness campaign on the welfare of working equids for Central Asia countries - depending on a regional priority assessment (Year 2)	<i>AWC-H</i>	It is proposed to explore the importance of working equid welfare during the SDWE2 (see above), and based on the conclusions, an Awareness Campaign could be organised in West Eurasia to raise public awareness on the economic and welfare importance of working equids	1 4
8. Organisation of webinars — On disaster management and risk reduction (Year 2, 3 per year) — On the welfare of working equids (Year 3, 3 per year)	<i>WB-DM1,2,3</i> <i>WB-WE1,2,3</i>	Webinar is a cost effective way to provide training services to European Countries and a webinar functionality has been embedded into the OIE Platform website. It is proposed to organise regular webinars on disaster management and working equids (lower priorities). An important preparation work will be needed for these webinars	1 4 10 14
9. Stakeholders coordination activities: annual consultation meeting of the Platform stakeholders (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3)	<i>CM3,4,5</i>	Creating synergies and complementarities with all AW partners in Europe is indispensable in a context of limited budget. The format of these consultation meetings will be reviewed annually to best meet expectations	
10. Governance activities of the Platform (meetings of the Steering Group, 2 per year)	<i>SG8,9,10</i>	Two Steering Group meetings per year has proven fully effective during the first Platform Action Plan for the Platform Secretariat to report and receive relevant guidance. It is propose to extend the same methodology for the 2017-2019 period	
11. Redaction of annual Newsletters (end of each year) and Advocacy Documents (as needed)	<i>NL3,4,5</i>	A new Advocacy Document for Donor will be elaborated to promote the second Action Plan and get financial support. Newsletters will be produced to promote the work of the Platform, on an annual basis or even more often if possible (new E-format under the Platform website to be used)	
12. Evaluation of the second Action Plan	<i>EV2</i>	This is an important activity for transparency and monitory of efficiency (budget line to be included)	

Some activities such as: (i) the OIE Seminar for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare; (ii) the OIE Training for New Delegates and (iii) the OIE PVS Pathway activities (OIE PVS evaluation, OIE PVS Gap, OIE PVS veterinary legislation and OIE PVS twinning on Veterinary Statutory Bodies or Veterinary Education Establishments) are not *sensu stricto* activities of the Platform, however, they are listed amongst the Platform's eligible activities as they contribute to achieve its objectives. **They notably contribute to the implementation of Recommendations n° 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Guadalajara, December 2016).**

The details on each specific activity are provided in Annex I (under development).

V. Beneficiaries, Partners and Stakeholders

The Action Plan for 2017-2019 targets the following groups (by order of priority):

Beneficiaries:

- OIE Delegates, OIE National Focal Points on animal welfare coming from 53 Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;

- Professionals dealing with animal welfare:
 - Veterinarians coming from both public and private sectors;
 - Veterinary teaching establishments;
 - Farmers; owners; handlers
 - NGOs and
 - Industry in the field of transport and slaughter as well as companies for catching the dogs
- Public at large (including children at school)

Financial and Technical Partners:

- Other stakeholders and potential donors

The participation of Partners and Stakeholders is three-fold:

- Advisers in the Steering Group of the OIE Platform (Members; Observers – considered on *ad hoc* basis when their contribution to specific topic of the Agenda is necessary)
- Experts to participate in the delivery of some OIE Platform activities
- Provision of financial to the Action Plan

Priority will be given to Partners having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE.

During the Second OIE Platform Stakeholders Consultation meeting (Brussels, June 2016), the following **Mapping Exercise** was completed.

Stakeholders	Geographical scope				Topics					Activities		
	EU	Balkans	West Eurasia	Russian and neighbours	slaughter	Transport	Stray dogs	Disaster manager*	Welfare of working equids*	CB Workshop / seminars	Awareness campaign	Field work/project
OIE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
European Commission	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Compassion in World Farming	X			Ukraine	X	X				X	X	X
Eurogroup for animals					X	X	X			X		X
European Livestock and Meat Trade Union (UECBV)	X				X	X				X		X
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)		X			X	X	X			X	X	X
RAWC	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	
Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)	X	X	X		X		X			X	X	X
VIET PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X

* These 2 topics were not discussed during the second Consultation Meeting; they will be completed during the third Consultation Meeting scheduled in June 2017. The number of stakeholders is also expected to increase overtime.

VI. Indicative time table for the implementation of the second Action plan for 2017-2019

Activities of the Platform	2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Website of the OIE Platform	Maintenance / update				Maintenance / update				Maintenance / update			
1.2 Russian translations												
1.3 Awareness campaign on the welfare of working equids	Preparation				Deployment				Evaluation			
2.1 OIE Workshops on stray dog control			SDWE 2			SDB3		SDEE 1			SDWE3	
2.2 OIE workshops on transport and slaughter of animals					ToTS1-B		RSS-R1		ToTS2-B		RSS-B1	
2.3 OIE Slaughter Self-Assessment & Monitoring Tool	development											
2.4 OIE workshops on long distance transport of animals	ToTT2-R		ToTT3-R		RST-R1	WJS2 – E/ME						
			WJS1 - E									
2.5 Disaster management and risk reduction simulation exercises							SEB1				SER1	
2.6 Webinars	Prep	Web SD 1	Web SD 2	Web SD 3	Prep	Web DM1	Web DM 2	Web DM3	Prep	Web Eq1	WebEq 2	Web Eq3
4.1-4.6 Meetings of the Steering Group		SG8		SG9		SG10		SG11		SG12		SG13
4.7 Stakeholder coordination meetings		SC3				SC4				SC5		
4.7 Newsletters of the Platform				NL4				NL5				NL6
Other OIE activities relevant to the Platform												
2.4 OIE Seminar for New Delegates*	(Tbc)											
3.1 OIE Seminar for National Focal Points on AW for Europe*						TBC						
3.2 OIE PVS Pathway*	(upon request)											

*Not "sensu strictu" activities of the Platform (see § III)

VII. Reporting and monitoring

The Secretariat of the Platform is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the second Action Plan for 2017-2017. The Secretariat reports on activities of the Platform to the Steering Group and to the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during following events:

1. OIE General Sessions (May 2017, May 2018 and May 2019)
2. 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Tbilissi/Georgia in September 2018
3. Forthcoming meetings of the Platform's Steering Group planned in 2017 (2), 2018 (2) and 2019 (2).
4. Regional animal welfare focal point seminars (2017 and 2019)

In terms of monitoring two types of indicators will be considered:

1. Impact indicators – related to the implementation of the Strategic and Specific Objectives of the second Action Pan for 2017-2019:

Overall and Strategic Objective	Indicators of Impact
Improve animal welfare in Europe;	- Profile of AW in the countries - Number of activities conducted in AW

Empower Veterinary Services to take actions in animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of VS budget dedicated to AW activities - Number of VS human resources allocated to AW - Implementation of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe Action Plan
Specific Objectives	Indicators of Impact
1 — Awareness is raised and a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Europe region is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of regional and national events on AW in the region - Number of countries identifying AW as a national priority - Number of complaints on AW in the press / sent to the VS
2 — The implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare is progressively advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of advancement of the OIE PVS evaluation on animal welfare (CC II.14) - Results of the self-assessment questionnaires (stray dog only) - Number of inspections made on AW - Number of penalties raised for AW
3 — The participation of countries in the OIE standard setting process is encouraged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of comments on OIE Draft chapters on AW received from OIE Member Countries from countries

2. Result indicators – linked to the implementation of specific activities of the Action Plan 2017-2019 (see Annexes)

VIII. Indicative budget and fund raising

The indicative budget is currently under development. It is expected to be higher than the budget of the first Action Plan as more activities are planned under the second Action Plan.

An Advocacy Document for Donors will be developed to promote the second Action Plan and ensure a successful and effective fundraising. It will be annexed to this Action Plan (annex 3).

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List of Annexes:

- Annex 1 – Detailed description of activities of the second Action Plan
- Annex 2 – Report of the evaluation of the first Action Plan
- Annex 3 – Advocacy Document for Donors for the promotion of the second Action Plan