OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Action Plan for 2021- 2023

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 24 May 2021)

I. Introduction

The foundations and principles for developing and implementing the third Action Plan are laid down by the Concept Note of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (the OIE Platform) adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 81st OIE General Session in May 2013.

In addition, following the opinions expressed by the Regional Core Group and the OIE Platform Steering Group, the Terms of reference (ToR) of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe have been developed and adopted during the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held on 9-10 November 2020. The ToR further define the OIE Platform's governance and the development and implementation of the third Action Plan (2021-2023).

The third Action Plan has been developed by taking into account the needs identified by the OIE Member countries of the Regional Commission for Europe, the outcomes of and lessons learnt from the implementation of two previous Action Plans (2014-2016, 2017-2019), and the results of the external evaluation of the OIE Platform activities.

II. Achievements of 2nd Action Plan (2017-2019)

The evaluation of the OIE Platform conducted between January – April 2019 concluded that the OIE Platform remains an important tool in promoting animal welfare in the European region, and that the contribution of the Platform's activities towards compliance with OIE standards and awareness of animal welfare has been acknowledged by donors, partners and beneficiary countries. The evaluation also concluded that despite efforts to regionalise activities, the OIE Platform has more of a blanket-approach and the extent to which individual beneficiary countries advance will largely depend on the resources (both financial and human) put at their disposal by national governments. In principle, the funding that was made available was adequate and sufficient to implement the planned activities. As the OIE Platform does not have a monitoring and evaluation system, and the current indicators in the Action Plans refer to activities and outputs, the OIE Platform should develop its capacity to evaluate achievements and visibility of impact, which will, among others, support the Platform's funding mechanism. In addition, the evaluation put forward the following recommendations for the Platform: to keep up momentum and seek ways to reinforce its stakeholder engagement including with Member Countries, to reduce its breadth of activities while increasing its target audience and to boost the frequency of communication and information sharing on Platform activities, progress and more importantly on follow-up, especially in between Steering Group meetings. In addition, the website of the Platform should be updated regularly so that it can serve its purpose of "knowledge portal" and "best practice" sharing tool even after completion of Action Plans.

III. Objectives of the 3rd Action Plan for 2021 – 2023

Impact (Long-term objective):

The desired impact of the 3rd Action Plan is to improve animal welfare in Europe through the identified priority topics: slaughter, transport, stray dog population control, welfare of animals in disasters and working equids.

Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective)

The short/mid-term objective is to progressively improve the compliance of OIE Member Countries from the region of Europe with OIE Animal Welfare standards and OIE guidance on emergency preparedness.

The 3rd Action Plan, covering the period 2021-2023, ensures the continuity with the two previous Action Plans by building upon their achievements. The 3rd Action Plan focuses on strengthening the OIE Member Countries involvement in the development of standards and the regional collaboration towards its implementation, including through the work of National Focal Points on Animal Welfare.

The OIE Platform continues to collaborate with all countries and stakeholders involved in animal welfare in Europe who share a common vision and agreed in the implementation of activities under the Action Plan. In this regard, efforts are made to prevent duplication of existing activities/programmes on animal welfare in the region and to better organize synergies and resources pooling (EU and NGOs projects, etc).

A comprehensive Result Framework and the Theory of Change can be consulted in Annex I and Annex II.

IV. Scope of the third Action Plan for 2021- 2023

The scope of the Action Plan is as follow:

Continuity on the five priority topics of the second Action Plan:
1. Transport of animals by land (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.3), with an extension to also cover transport of animals by sea (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.2)
2. Slaughter of animals (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.5)
3. Stray dog population control (OIE TAHC Chapter 7.7)
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)

V. Activities of the third Action plan for 2021 - 2023

Proposed Activities		Rationale
Description	**Acronym**	
• **Slaughter of animals** Follow-up slaughter Seminars for Eastern Europe Follow-up slaughter Seminar for Balkans	*SA-EE1* *SA_EE2* *SA-B1*	The follow up of the ToT Workshops on slaughter conducted for 12 eastern European countries in 2015 and 2016 and in 6 Balkan countries in 2017 will be ensured with relevant partners through the organisation of 2 regional seminars. The seminars will aim to keep up to date the knowledge of the previously trained participants and AW Focal Points, encourage sharing best practices and experience on how to address challenges in OIE standard implementation.
Development of a self-assessment and monitoring (SAM) Tool on slaughter	*SAMT-S*	The OIE TAHC Chapter 7.5 is currently under revision. Once adopted, a SAM Tool on slaughter

Proposed Activities		Rationale
Description	Acronym	
		will be developed to better understand the current situation of European countries in terms of compliance with this chapter and allow for measuring progress overtime.
Revision (red meat) / development (poultry) of training materials		The OIE TAHC Chapter 7.5 is currently under revision. Once adopted, the already developed training material will be revised and updated (red meat) to reflect changes of the OIE standard. New training modules on poultry slaughter should be developed.
• **Transport** Establishing a regional network of 'Contact points'	*TCP1* *TCP2*	Following the training activities completed in Europe and the Middle-East, it is proposed to formally establish a regional network of 'Contact points' to focus on strengthening collaboration and coordination between countries and sharing information and best practises on live animal transport.
Whole journey scenario workshops: - 1st workshop for European and Middle East countries - 2nd workshop for European countries - 1st workshop for European and North - 3rd workshop for European countries - 2nd workshop for European and Middle East countries	*WJS-E/ME1* *WJS-E2* *WJS E/NA1* *WJS-E3* *WJS-E/ME2*	Whole journey scenarios involve all countries along the long-distance routes, to ensure the knowledge and commitment of the respective Competent Authorities (VS; Customs) as regards AW, from origin to destination. It is proposed to organise series WJS workshops two dedicated to a purely European route and another three focusing on an inter-region route to the Middle East or to North Africa.
Development of a self-assessment and monitoring (SAM) Tool on transport	*SAMT-T*	Development of a SAM Tool on transport to better understand the current situation of European countries in terms of compliance with OIE TAHC Chapters 7.3 and 7.2 and allow for measuring progress overtime.
• **Stray dog population control** Stray Dog Roadmaps - organisation of regional workshops on stray dog population control: - 4th workshop for the Balkan countries - 4th workshop for the West-Eurasian countries - 5th workshop for the Balkan countries	 *SDB4* *SDWE4* *SDB5*	This activity is still under discussion for further development. Revisions on this activity will focus on reviewing the methodology used for the implementation of workshops and the support provided in between workshops, by fine tuning targeted support to address specific country needs. Regional Stray Dog Roadmaps (for the Balkans and West Eurasia countries) aim at ensuring full compliance with the OIE TAHC Chapter 7.7. These workshops will still be regularly organised every 2 years in each zone (if needed). The West Eurasia roadmap will include the veterinary public health/rabies dimension of the stray dog population control, considering the OIE/WHO/FAO global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. Countries are expected to develop and implement their National Stray Dog Roadmaps and measure

Proposed Activities		Rationale
Description	Acronym	
		progress using the already developed OIE Stray Dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring (SAM) Tool.
• **Disaster management** and risk reduction, in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health - 3rd workshop for Balkan countries (flooding)	DMAWB3	The three years pilot project was launched to assist Balkan countries, to promote a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders and to ensure appropriate livestock, wildlife and companion animal's welfare assistance during and after natural disasters, using the example of a flooding scenario. The last workshop of this 3 years pilot project will take place in 2021.
- Regional need assessments	DMAW__A	A regional needs assessment exercise should then be organized to identify priorities and needs, including VS preparedness and capacity levels, geographical scope and possible disaster scenarios, to plan the next OIE Platform activities on this topic.
- 1st workshop for Caucasus/Eastern Europe/Central Asia (scenario to be defined)	DMAW	Based on the experience from the pilot project and the results of the regional needs assessment exercise, a new activity might be developed for a different group of countries.
• **Working equids** - Development of an awareness campaign material		This activity is still under discussion for further development. Based on the results of the baseline survey conducted in 2019, a decision should be taken about further activities that are the most applicable and would have the most impact (e.g. an Awareness Campaign) to be organised in selected West-Eurasian countries to raise public awareness on the economic and welfare importance of working equids.
- Preparatory workshop for countries to be prepared on how to deploy the campaign	WEAC_PREP	The preparatory workshop aims at giving the participating countries the tools to be ready to launch their own awareness campaign.
- Deployment of the campaign in the countries - Evaluation		Once trained, participating countries will deploy it
• **Governance** activities of the Platform (meetings of the Steering Group, 2 per year)	SG16 SG17 SG18 SG19 SG20 SG21	Two Steering Group meetings per year have proven being fully effective for the Platform Secretariat to report and receive relevant guidance. The same methodology will be applied for the 2021 - 2023 period
• **Communication** Website: - Maintenance and content update - Russian version - E-forum - Repository		The Platform website was re-launched in April 2017. The website remains the main communication tool of the OIE Platform. Regular updates are critical elements to ensure countries and stakeholders involvement in OIE Platform activities. Planned new activities include the development of the Russian version of the website and adding new functionalities: repository of relevant animal welfare materials and resources, (for AW Focal Points)
Translation of documents in Russian language (continuing)		The translation of documents in Russian should be a permanent activity to ensure the full contribution/participation of the "Russian-speaking" countries in the AW activities

Proposed Activities		Rationale
Description	Acronym	
Advocacy Document	*NL2021* *NL2022* *NL2023*	As needed
Newsletter		Publication of Newsletters to promote the work of the Platform, on an annual basis.
• **Stakeholders' coordination** activities: Annual consultation meeting of the Platform stakeholders	*SC6* *SC7* *SC8*	Creating synergies and complementarities with all AW partners in Europe is indispensable in a context of limited budget. The format and themes of these consultation meetings will be reviewed annually to best meet their expectations
• **Monitoring and Evaluation** Development Platform's M&E tool		Further to the development of SAM Tools / other monitoring tools for each specific topic, there is a need to set relevant horizontal indicators for the Platform. They will be developed with the support of the OIE Collaborating Centres.
External evaluation		A new external evaluation to be conducted at the end of the 3rd Action Plan, in order to monitor the progress made since the 2019 external evaluation and to build the 4th Action Plan.

VI. Indicative timetable for the implementation of the third Action Plan for 2021-2023

The following timetable is subject to the evolution of the global health crisis due to COVID19 spread. Quarterly adjustments may be considered in the future.

Activities of the Platform	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SLAUGHTER (SA)												
SA_A1 Regional seminars					SA-EE1			SS-EE2				SS_B
SA_A2 Training modules			Revision and development of new training material									
SA_A3 Slaughter Self-Assessment Tool			SAM development								Development	
TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS (TA)												
TA_A1 Whole journey scenario workshops		WJS-E/ME1	WJS-E2			WJS-E/NA1			WJS-E/ME2		WJS-E	
TA_A2 Transport contact points meeting				TCP1								TCP2
TA_A3 Transport Self-Assessment Tool			SAM development		1st self-assessment							
STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL (SD)												
SD_A1 Regional roadmap for Balkans		SDB4								SDB5		
SD_A2 Self-Assessment and Monitoring Balkans	3rd self-assessment exercise					4th self-assessment						
SD_A3 Regional roadmap for Wester Eurasia							SDWE4					
SD_A4 Self-Assessment and Monitoring West Eurasia			2nd self-assessment (1st self-assessment for BLR, MLD, RUS, UKR)								3rd self-assessment (1st self-assessment for BLR, MLD, RUS, UKR)	
DISASTER MANAGEMENT (DM)												
DM_A1 Building VS preparedness				DMAWB3								
DM_A2 Emergency preparedness needs assessment		Regional capacity and needs assessment										New initiative
WORKING EQUIDS (WE)												
WE_A1 Development of an Awareness campaign package	WEAC_PREP											
WE_A2 Preparatory workshop for the implementation of the campaign			WEAC_PREP									
WE_A3 Implementation of the campaign					Launching and deployment							
WE_A4 Evaluation of the campaign implementation									Evaluation			
GOVERNANCE		SG16		SG17		SG18		SG19		SG20		SG21
COMUNICATION												
Website of the OIE Platform	Maintenance/update				Maintenance/update				Maintenance/update			
Newsletters	NL2021				NL2022				NL2023			
Russian translations of documents												
STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION		SC6				SC7				SC8		
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Development Platform's M&E tool						External evaluation					

Activities of the Platform	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Other OIE activities relevant to the Platform (*Not "sensu stricto" activities of the Platform*)												
2.4 OIE Seminar for New Delegates	*(upon request)*											
3.1 OIE Seminar for National Focal Points on AW for Europe						TBC						
3.2 OIE PVS Pathway	*(upon request)*											

VII. Beneficiaries, Partners and Stakeholders

The Action Plan for the period 2021-2023 targets the following groups:

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:
    - Veterinary Services (public and private sectors),
    - Veterinary education establishments,
    - Farmers, owners, handlers,
    - Business operators,
    - NGOs,
    - General public.

Financial and Technical Partners:
- Other stakeholders and resource partners

The participation of Partners and Stakeholders is to be ensured at 3 different levels:
- 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 activities planned under the OIE Platform
- Financial support for the implementation of the Action Plan

VIII. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

The Secretariat of the Platform is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the 3rd Action Plan for the period 2021-2023. It will report on activities of the OIE Platform to the Steering Group and to the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during following events:
1. Meetings of the Regional Commission for Europe during the OIE General Sessions (May 2021, May 2022, May 2023)
2. Meetings of the regional Core Group (RCG), twice a year
3. Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (2021)
4. Meetings of the Platform's Steering Group meeting, twice a year
5. Regional animal welfare focal points seminar (2022)

A monitoring and evaluation system is being developed, including a list of indicators to assess progress / impact and efficiency / effectiveness of the Platform.

Results Framework

Project title: OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe

Objectives	Indicators	Indicators details	Key assumptions and risks
Impact (Long-term objective): Improved animal welfare in Europe	Animal Welfare Critical Competencies' score (OIE PVS) in Europe improved	**Baseline value**: PVS scores 2019 **Target value**: **Sources of verification:** Animal Welfare Critical Competence 2.3 (Animal Welfare) PVS reports from the Europe region	There is a political will in OIE Members in Europe to improve Animal Welfare The AW is addressed only with one Critical Competence in the PVS. Limited number of conducted PVS evaluations in the region
Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective) *Improved compliance with OIE Animal Welfare standards (7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.7) and OIE guidance (emergency preparedness)* - *Veterinary Services technical knowledge to implement OIE standard on animal welfare at slaughter is improved* **(OUTCOME_SA)** - *Transport stakeholders coordinate action to improve animal welfare* **(OUTCOME_TA)** - *European Members' capacity to manage stray dogs population is improved* **(OUTCOME_SD)** - *Veterinary Services' animal welfare emergency preparedness is improved* **(OUTCOME_DM)** - *Awareness on working equids animal welfare issues in Europe is improved* **(OUTCOME_WE)**	The Veterinary Services of the targeted country have conducted at least 1 cascading training on animal welfare at slaughter	**Baseline value**: 0 **Target value**: 50% of targeted countries **Sources of verification:** Training records, participant lists	
	Transport National Contact Points in Europe communicate with defined priority trade partners on animal welfare issues	**Baseline value**: 0 **Target value**: 3 per Contact Point **Sources of verification**: National Contact Point Survey	
	Number of implemented activities from endorsed National Action Plans for stray dog population control	**Baseline value**: 0 **Target value**: 2 activities per country **Sources of verification**: National action plan monitoring data	
	Number of targeted countries that tested Veterinary Services Contingency Plans in a simulation exercise	**Baseline value**: 0 **Target value**: 50% of targeted countries **Sources of verification:** Reports from simulation exercises	
	Number of target countries with, at least, 2 tools from the Working Equids communication toolkit employed by Veterinary Services at national level	**Baseline value**: 0 **Target value**: 50% of targeted countries **Sources of verification:** Survey	

Outputs (Platform products)	Indicator	Indicators details	Key Activities
Slaughter The Competent Authorities have animal welfare slaughter trainers among their staff *(OUTPUT_SA)*	Number of staff trained as trainers within Competent Authorities of targeted countries	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 70% of countries with two people trained as trainers **Sources of verification**: Participant list from regional seminars	*SA_A1 Regional seminars (SS_EE1, SS_EE2, SS_B1)* *SA_A2: Training modules* *SA_A3: Slaughter self-assessment tool*
Transport A network of animal transport National Contact Points is established *(OUTPUT_TA)*	Number of transport National Contact Points nominated by their respective Veterinary Services	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 30% of targeted countries **Sources of verification:** List of nominated contact points	*TA_A1 Whole journey scenario workshops (WJS-E/ME1, WJS-E2, WJS-E/NA1, WJS-E3, WJS-E/ME2, WJS-E4)* *TA_A2: Transport contact points meetings (TCP1, TCP2)* *TA_A3: Transport self-assessment tool (development, 1st self-assess)*
Stray dogs Veterinary Services in Europe have developed a stray dog management National action plan based on a self-assessment of compliance with 7.7 *(OUTPUT_SD)*	Number of endorsed National Action Plans for stray dog population control in the Balkans and West Eurasia countries	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 50% of targeted countries **Sources of verification**: Endorsed National Action Plans	*SD_A1: Roadmap meetings Balkans (SDB 4, SDB5)* *SD_A2: Self-Assessment in Balkans (3rd and 4th)* *SD_A3: Roadmap meetings West Eurasia (SDWE4)* *SD_A4: Self-Assessment West Eurasia (3rd and 4th)*
	Number conducted self-assessments on TAHC Chapter 7.7.	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 80% of target countries **Sources of verification:** Self-assessment reports	
Disaster management Balkan countries have tested their Veterinary Services Contingency Plans for flooding scenario *(OUTPUT_DM)*	Veterinary Services Contingency Plans in target countries are developed	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 50% of targeted countries **Sources of verification**: Developed Veterinary Services Contingency Plans	*DM_A1 Building VS preparedness (DMAWB3)* *DM_A2: Emergency Preparedness Needs Assessment (Regional needs assessment, DMAW)*
	Regional workshop on simulation exercise has been conducted	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 1 **Sources of verification**: Reports of simulation exercises	
Working equids Competent Authorities are trained on implementation working equids communication campaigns (OUTPUT_WE)	Developed communication tools package	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 1 **Sources of verification:** communication tools package	*WE_A1: Development of an Awareness campaign package* *WE_A2: Preparatory workshop for the implementation of the campaign* *WE_A3 Implementation of the campaign* *WE_A4: Evaluation of the campaign implementation*
	Number of Competent Authorities' staff trained for implenation of the communication campaign	Baseline value: Target value: at least one form 80% targeretd countries **Sources of verification**: Participants lists of national trainings	

Outputs (Platform products)	Indicator	Indicators details	Key Activities
Governance	Number of AW Platform Steering Group meetings	Baseline value: 2 meetings per year Target value: 2 meetings per year **Sources of verification:** Meetings held	*SG16, SG17, SG18, SG19, SG 20, SG21*
Communication	Regular update of the website of the OIE Platform with events information	Baseline value:1 month after events Target value: 2 weeks after events **Sources of verification:** Website pages	
	Number of OIE AW Platform Newsletters published	Baseline value: 1 per year Target value: 1 per year **Sources of verification:** Newsletters shared with all stakeholders	*NL2021, NL2022, NL2023*
	Russian translations of documents	Baseline value: 0 Target value: to be defined by SG accordning to the needs **Sources of verification:**	
Stakeholder coordination	Stakeholders meetings organised	Baseline value: 1 meetings per year Target value: 1 meetings per year **Sources of verification:**	SC6, SC7, SC8
Monitoring and evaluation	External evaluation	Baseline value: 0 Target value: 1 **Sources of verification:** External evaluation report	Development Platform's M&E tool, External evaluation

IMPACT

Improved animal welfare in Europe

OUTCOMES

Improved compliance with standards (7.2; 7.3; 7.5 and 7.7) and OIE guidance (emergency preparedness)

Transport stakeholders coordinate action to improve animal welfare

Awareness on working equids animal welfare issues in Europe is improved

Veterinary Services' animal welfare emergency preparedness is improved

Veterinary Services technical knowledge to implement OIE standard on animal welfare at slaughter is improved

European Members' capacity to manage stray dogs is improved

OUTPUTS

A network of animal transport National Contact Points is established

Veterinary Services have developed a stray dog management National action plan based on a self-assessment of compliance with Chapter 7.7

- National Contact Point meeting
- Whole Journey Scenario workshop

Competent authorities in Europe have animal slaughter trainers among their staff

- Regional Roadmap meetings
- Analysis of countries Self-Assessments

- ToT 3: Follow-up workshop

Balkan countries have tested their Veterinary Service Contingency Plans for flooding scenario

Platform Stakeholders are trained on working equids communication campaigns

- Workshop
- Simulation exercise

- Workshop
- Communication Consultancy
- Partner consultation

Key Activities