

OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Regional Work Plan Framework 2017-2020

Version adopted during the 85th OIE General Session (Paris, May 2017)

Chapter 1 - Regional Directions

1.1. Introduction

The slogan of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) reflects its **global vision**: “Protecting animals, preserving our future”. In order to fulfil the vision and the OIE core **mandate** “the improvement of animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare world-wide”, the OIE Member Countries adopt the OIE **strategic plan** for each five-year program of work. The strategic plan of each planning cycle sets up OIE **strategic objectives**.

The OIE Regional Commissions are bodies established with an aim to foster the objectives of the OIE in the respective region of the world. The main role of the Regional Commissions is policy development and assistance to their Members.

Each Regional Commission is represented by a **Bureau** which is elected on the proposal of the Member Countries of the Regional Commission in question. The Bureau of each Regional Commission is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General. The Bureau is engaged in discussing and deciding upon the work programmes, strategies, policies, activities and recommendations of the Commission and the Resolutions of the General Assembly of Delegates.

Each Regional Commission is supported by the OIE Regional and Sub-regional Representations for the Region.

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe **has established a Regional Core Group (RCG)** to improve cooperation within the Europe Region and regional participation in the OIE standard setting process as well as other OIE activities relevant to the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. By supporting the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan the Member Countries of the European region have made a commitment to contribute to the achievement of the OIE Strategic Objectives.

Considering the strategic objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions, the **Regional Commission for Europe agrees to establish a Regional Work Plan Framework for the 2017-2020** period to set up priorities and activities in order to meet the regional needs. The Regional Work Plan Framework will be reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary in light of new developments.

1.2. Vision and strategic objectives

The Regional Commission will promote and contribute to the OIE’s global vision, “Protecting animals, preserving our future”, leading to economic prosperity and social and environmental well-being.

The strategic objectives laid down in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan are:

- a. securing animal health and welfare, the sanitary safety of animals and animal products and foods derived from animals, and reduction in the transmission of diseases by managing risks at the human-animal-environment interface;

- b. Establishing trust between stakeholders, including trading partners, in the cross-border exchange of animals, animal products and foods derived from animals by transparency and good communication of the occurrence of diseases of epidemiological significance and in OIE processes and procedures;
- c. Enhancing the capacity and sustainability of national Veterinary Services.

1.3. Tasks

According to the **terms of reference** and internal rules the tasks of the OIE Regional Commissions are:

1. to hold Regional Conferences with the aim to:
 - a. examine within a regional framework issues relating to animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety;
 - b. produce recommendations to be submitted for approval to the General Assembly of Delegates of the OIE and implemented, after adoption, by the Director-General and/or the Regional Representations;
2. to propose adaptations of OIE decisions, programmes, strategies, policies and activities to the conditions and needs of the Regions and, where appropriate, Sub-regions;
3. to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the Veterinary Services of the Member Countries of each Region;
4. to contribute to the harmonisation of sanitary regulations relating to trade in animals and animal products between the Member Countries of each Region;
5. to increase the contribution of livestock to national economies and participate in poverty alleviation through international trade;
6. to give an advisory opinion on the headquarters of the Regional Representation and, where appropriate, that of Sub-regional Representations, and on the work programmes of the Regional Representations and their sub-regional offices;
7. to examine applications from Member Countries of the Region relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Centres and report their findings to the Director General.

1.4. Working Methods

- Organising **regional conferences** at least every two years. The conferences shall be devoted to issues relating to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health and international trade and vital to the conditions and needs of the region. Recommendations resulting from discussions during the conferences shall be elaborated and submitted for approval to the Assembly.

- Organising **meetings** of the Regional Commission. One meeting shall be convened every year during the General Session. During the meeting the Regional Commission will determine regional priorities, report on activities and agree on recommendations to be submitted to the Assembly.

- Organising meetings of the Regional Core Group (see composition in the Terms of Reference of the RCG).

If a **common approach** on OIE strategies, policies, work programs, standards and recommendations is agreed among all 53 OIE European Member Countries, a European Delegate will take the floor during the General Session to express the opinion of the region on behalf of all Member Countries.

- Reinforcing the **collaboration** with OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives by means of regular meetings and sharing of information.
- **Disseminating information** on the activities undertaken at the regional level. The information will be disseminated in co-operation with OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives using the OIE Regional Website for Europe and other channels.

Chapter 2 - Regional Objectives and Work Plan Components

2.1. Contributing to the development of scientifically-based Standards and Guidelines (objective 1)

- a. The Regional Commission encourages its members to contribute to the development of OIE policies and strategies on animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare in particular taking into account the specifics of the region;
- b. The Regional Commission encourages its members to engage in regular update and harmonisation of OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations;
- c. The Regional Commission encourages its members to deliver opinions on the work programs of OIE bodies and structures;
- d. The Regional Commission encourages its members to develop proposals for activities to be initiated and recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly of Delegates, including by suggesting topics for future Technical Items to be presented and discussed at General Sessions;
- e. The Regional Commission encourages experts in the Region to apply for membership in OIE Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and ad hoc Groups to expand the Region's input into the OIE standard-setting process.

2.2. Establishing trust through transparency and communication (objective 2)

- a. The Regional Commission highlights the importance of timely disease reporting and calls upon its members to perform their core duty in an open and accurate manner;
- b. The Regional Commission supports the renovation of WAHIS and calls upon donors to allocate funds for this task. In a first step, the project ADIS (integrating ADNS and WAHIS) should be finalised;
- c. The Regional Commission promotes the strengthening of the regional network of OIE Reference Laboratories with National Reference Laboratories in the Region, as well as the exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise of OIE Reference Centers across different regions;
- d. The Regional Commission recommends the use of different routes of communication (like social media, internet Communication, etc.) to improve its communication reach among veterinarians and services in the region.

2.3. Ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services (objective 3)

- a. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to strengthen the capacities of their Veterinary Services by benefiting from their membership in the OIE and taking an active part in capacity development activities

- b. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to engage with the OIE PVS-Pathway as appropriate, support and develop sustainable and efficient Veterinary Services and ensure the implementation of the OIE Standards, thereby improving animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health;
- c. The Regional Commission encourages Members to utilise their OIE National Focal Points and their respective network, mainly through active participation in training courses and workshops at regional and sub-regional level;
- d. The Regional Commission advocates activities facilitating the harmonisation and improvement of initial and continuous veterinary education;
- e. The Regional Commission will encourage its Members to establish or strengthen veterinary statutory bodies in their countries, as appropriate, to ensure and assure the capability and the sustainability of Veterinary Services.

2.4. Prevention, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases (objective 4)

- a. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to strengthen regional cooperation in the control of animal diseases. The activities of EuFMD or REMESA (Mediterranean Animal Health Network) can serve as a model for regional and trans-regional cooperation in different areas;
- b. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to engage in the activities of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe to ensure the prevention and control of priority TADs in the region, including their contribution to the Global Strategies/Programmes to control/eradicate FMD, Rabies and PPR;
- c. The Regional Commission supports GF-TADs for Europe to establish a better coordination and harmonisation of animal health policies in the Region. This will be contingent on the identification of sufficient financial and human resources to support these regional activities.

2.5. Antimicrobial resistance and “One Health” – Policy (objective 5)

- a. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to support the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) aligned with the WHO Global Action Plan and to develop National Action Plans thus promoting the “One Health” approach;
- b. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to strengthen collaboration between veterinary, public health, environmental health and agricultural services and with representatives of the agricultural industry and other relevant stakeholders at country level.

2.6. Promotion of Animal Welfare (objective 6)

- a. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to engage with the development of the second action plan and participate in the activities of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe;
- b. The Regional Commission encourages its Members to ensure the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards;
- c. The Regional Commission encourages its members to promote that private or commercial animal welfare standards are consistent with OIE TAHC standards.

Chapter 3 - Activities for Achievement of the Regional Objectives

- 3.1. Develop a strategy and plan to ensure sufficient financial and human resources to implement the regional activities;
- 3.2. Establish a Regional Core Group/Re-establish the Task Force to improve cooperation within the Europe Region and regional participation in the OIE standard setting process. The Task Force was re-established during the 27th conference of the Regional Commission in September 2016 and renamed 'RCG'. The composition and terms of reference of the RCG have been agreed by the OIE regional Commission for Europe during the 85th OIE General Session;
- 3.3. Ensure the translation of relevant documents into Russian language to generate a better involvement of the Russian speaking countries of the region;
- 3.4. Together with the OIE Headquarter and Regional and Sub-Regional offices, the Regional Commission will develop a concept and timetable for a relaunch of the Regional Website to share the relevant information in an attractive and user friendly way;
- 3.5. Ensure active participation in the established GF-TADs for Europe Standing Groups of Experts on **ASF and LSD**. Support regional strategies to eradicate these diseases as a regional vaccination strategy against LSD for the South East Europe region and an eradication strategy for ASF in the affected areas of Europe. A possible OIE mechanism for a regional (multi-disease) vaccine bank should be considered to ensure availability of vaccines in support of control/eradication efforts, notably LSD, PPR and rabies;
- 3.6. Strengthen the work of the GF-TADs for Europe by promoting yearly meetings;
- 3.7. Explore the possible establishment of a further GF-TADs regional initiative for coordination of the control and eradication of **Rabies**, both in wildlife and in domestic animals, in line with the recommendation of the 27th regional Conference (Lisbon, September 2016) and with the OIE-WHO Global Framework for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies (in collaboration with FAO and GARC). Outcomes and recommendations of such program would facilitate and encourage Member Countries to support the establishment of good governance frameworks, including appropriate legislation, veterinary surveillance system, community engagement and the implementation of Rabies eradication activities at the national level;
- 3.8. Contribute to the enforcement of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials by facilitating:
 - a. collection of surveillance data on AMR and antimicrobial usage to support AMR risk analysis;
 - b. participation in the development and implementation of the National Action Plans on AMR;
 - c. improvement of awareness of the veterinarians, animal owners and the general public on prudent use of antimicrobials;
 - d. Identification of "best practice" cases as well as offering necessary assistance to the Member Countries of the Europe Region on the application of The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials;
- 3.9. Support its Members to establish links to the human health sector when working on the control of zoonoses (i.e. Rabies, Brucellosis) and AMR-reduction, engaging in the PVS/IHR activities under the common leadership of OIE and WHO, as relevant;
- 3.10. Promote a high level of understanding and awareness of animal welfare in the region. Support the effective implementation of the second Action Plan (2017-2019) of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, to ensure the proper implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards and achievement of sustainable improvements in animal welfare.