



**GF-TADs**

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



**Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease  
in Europe**  
under the GF-TADs umbrella

**First meeting (LSD1)**  
**Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 July 2016**

**FAO & IAEA LSD-related initiatives (past or future) in the Balkan  
region**

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# EMPRES – Watch on LSD

- November 2013- LSD in the Middle East
- September 2015- LSD in Europe



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on or a total ban of international trade of live animals and animal products (Gari *et al.*, 2001).<sup>1</sup>

LSD is endemic in many African countries, and is rapidly spreading throughout the Middle East, including Turkey (2013) and Central Asia (Azerbaijan in 2014).

In August 2015, Greece reported two outbreaks of LSD in the Evros region along the border with Turkey. The source of the disease is likely to have originated from vectors spread from outbreaks reported in Turkey in the Edirne region in June 2015.

In September 2015, the disease was also reported in the Russian Federation in Dagestan not far from the border with Azerbaijan. Outbreaks of LSD in free regions require immediate notification under the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Figure 1 shows the distribution of LSD outbreaks between 2006 and 2015. Poorly regulated movements of high numbers of animals, often associated with festivities, represent a risk for the introduction

## How can LSD be diagnosed?

A basic diagnosis can be made when there is the presence of typical lesions on the skin and in the mouth of infected animals. However, there are other diseases that present in similar forms in cattle, which would require different methods of control and treatment from those for LSD. A definitive diagnosis can only be confirmed by submitting appropriate samples of skin lesions to a laboratory where the virus can be identified. Molecular diagnostic tests such as conventional and real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays are rapid and highly sensitive tests, and are widely used in veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

## How is the disease transmitted?

The main pathways for transmission are biting and blood-feeding arthropods, including *biting flies* and *mosquitoes* (Ali *et al.* 2012).



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Animal Health (OIE).

LSD was first reported in Africa, where it crippled the production potential of cattle and compromised vulnerable livelihoods on the continent. LSD moved beyond Africa in 1969 when Israel confirmed its first LSD outbreak. In subsequent years Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen and the West Bank also reported LSD incursion. Lebanon and Jordan joined LSD-affected countries in 2012 and 2013, and most recently Turkey reported the disease in October 2013 (see Table 1).

There is an imminent risk that LSD will (or has already) become endemic in some countries in the Middle East. Although LSD

considering the area's substantial livestock population. Turkey maintains over 11.3 million heads of cattle. Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic maintain 2.8 million heads, and the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains for approximately 8.5 million heads. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia combined maintain 4 million heads.

At-risk countries include the Russian Federation to the north and Bulgaria and Greece to the west. This is in line with the spread of other significant transboundary animal diseases (e.g. African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, sheep pox and goat pox) in the region. Moreover, capripoviruses

# FAO/IAEA Division laboratory training- Bulgaria and Serbia

- *Assessment Mission.*
- *Laboratory support.*
- Maintaining contact

# EuFMD workshop :

## practical training on vector transmissible animal diseases – from theory to practice

- Lectures on
  - animal disease surveillance methods
  - Israeli experience with LSD
  - vector surveillance methods.
- practical sessions on~:
  - vectors trapping
  - entomological investigation of the trapped vectors
  - differential diagnosis of the trapped species
  - samples preparation for the laboratory investigation.



# The coming ad-hoc expert meeting in Belgrade, July 25th

- Review current measures, and propose updated guidance, to be taken after confirmation of LSD on a holding, including the question of alternatives to burial on site;
- Review the measures to be taken after confirmation of LSD in animals recently vaccinated against LSDV;
- Review measures relating to restocking of holdings depopulated after LSDV, and movement of animals after vaccination;
- Identify the likely course of events for spread of infection within the Balkan and Central European region and impact and likely duration of control options.

