



Food and Agriculture
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Overview of the PCP-FMD Support Officer (PSO) system

Etienne Chevanne, Carsten Potzsch

EuFMD



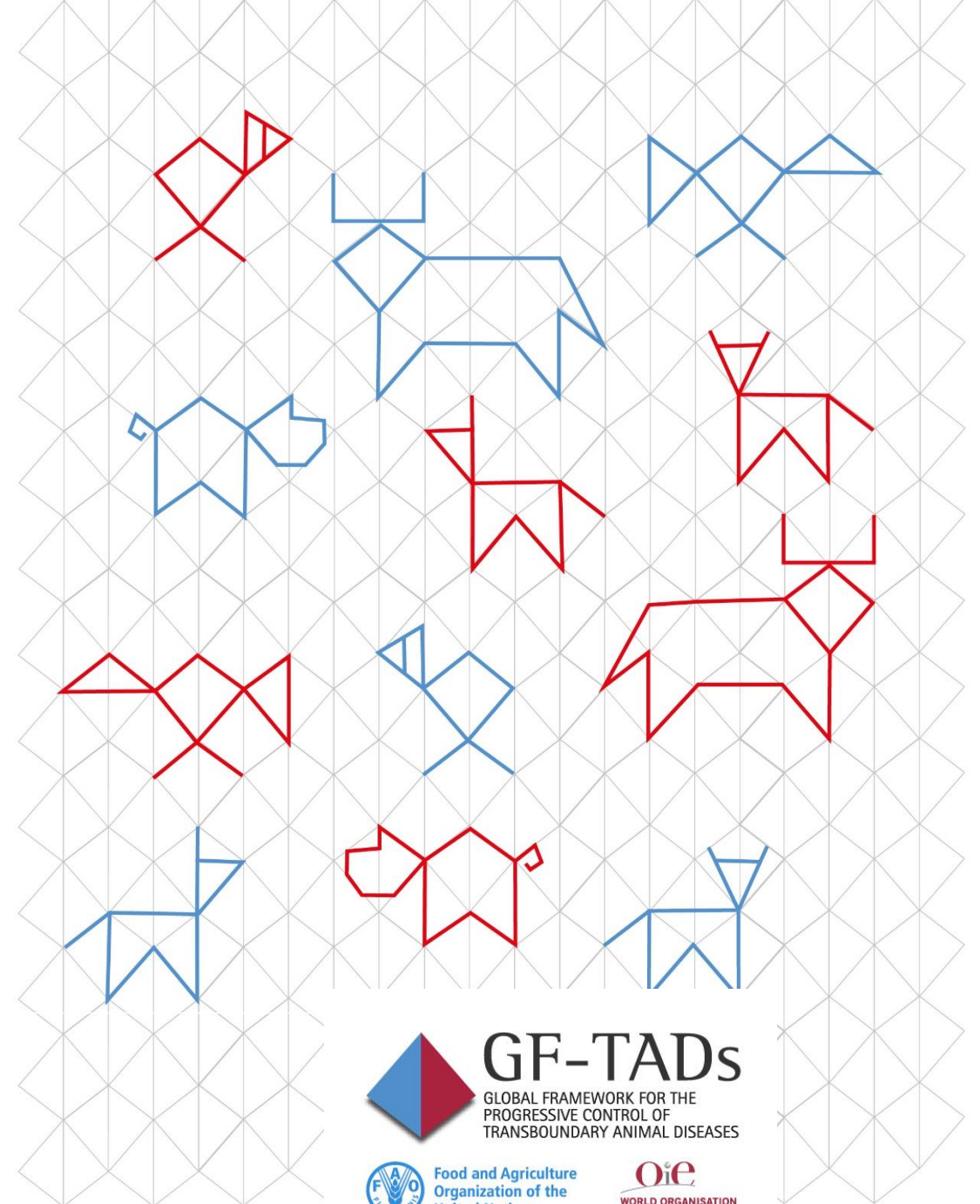
Funded by the
European Union



European Commission for the
control of foot-and-mouth disease

FAST

Foot-and-mouth And Similar
Transboundary animal diseases



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
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WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSO) – ToRs

Individual experts in the PCP-FMD who have experience to advise countries in disease control policy and applying a risk-based approach,



Assigned by the GF-TADs FMD Working Group to a:

- Country in **provisional** PCP-FMD Stage
- Country **for which PSO support has been offered**

PCP-FMD Support Officer terms of reference

Background:

The Progressive Control Pathway for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) has been developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Commission for the Control of foot-and-mouth disease (EuFMD), and finalized together with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). In using the PCP-FMD, FMD endemic countries better manage to progressively increase their level of FMD control to reduce the impact of the disease. If successful, countries can aim at applying for OIE endorsement of an FMD Official Control Programme (in an advanced phase of PCP-FMD Stage 3) or for a sustainable official freedom recognition of FMD with or without vaccination. The PCP-FMD working tool forms the backbone of Component 1 of the FAO-OIE Global FMD Control Strategy "Improving global FMD control". The PCP-FMD tool is not only useful for guiding and structuring the policy and activities of a country regarding FMD control, but also for self-assessment, i.e. to assess where countries stand in terms of FMD control and evaluate the progress achieved.

The GF-TADs FMD Working Group (WG) has established the PCP-FMD Support Officer (PSO) system, to provide tailored support countries' Veterinary Authorities in developing and monitoring the impact of FMD control strategies. Initially aimed at countries assessed in PCP-FMD provisional stages, the scope of the PSO system is expanding to support countries requesting tailored individual support or positively responding to an offer of support from the GF-TADs FMD WG. The PSOs will assist the assigned country(ies) to advance in PCP-FMD stages 1, 2 and 3.

More specifically, a PSO will:

- **Establish a regular and consistent dialogue and communication** with the Veterinary Authorities of the assigned country(ies), including the FMD designated points of contact (and organize physical regular meetings or perform country missions according to specific needs, if deemed necessary and funds are available) to:
 - o **provide tailored guidance to support and guide the Veterinary Authority to complete the PCP-FMD Stage and/or to develop and improve a Plan to progress along the PCP-FMD and during the acceptance process.**
 - o **ensure that the relevant Plan is technically and formally consistent with the latest guidelines and templates provided by the GF-TADs FMD WG and**
 - o **ensure that the feasibility of the Plan implementation is also clearly described including the resources mobilization and allocation processes**
- Assist the assigned country(ies) in **assessing its progress within the PCP-FMD** through the interpretation of the PCP-FMD Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) and FAO and OIE evaluation tools outputs;
- **Act as liaison** between the assigned country(ies), the PSO network, the EuFMD team and the GF-TADs FMD WG;
- Assist the assigned country(ies) in identifying the training needs, accessing relevant training material or liaising with relevant experts, the EuFMD team and the GF-TADs FMD WG;
- Report his/her activities and the country's progress along the PCP-FMD to the PSO network. PSO is expected to work from his/her duty station; it is the PSO responsibility to make him/herself available for regular online meetings;
- Undertake the necessary training courses within the training development framework, keep oneself updated on the latest versions of PCP-FMD strategic documents and PCP-FMD related tools, and suggest improvements if needed;
- Advocate for the regional uptake of principles of the PCP-FMD and the PSO system when participating in FMD Regional Roadmaps meetings, PCP-FMD related training course, webinars, workshop and missions upon request.

Following PSO's commitment and performance, the GF-TADs FMD WG may assign additional countries to a PSO or may involve the PSO as an independent reviewer of PCP-FMD strategic documents (as part of the PCP-FMD Review Support Team).

PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSO) – ToRs (Cont.)



Main tasks for one PSO:

- Making contact with the assigned country and **encouraging dialogue** on their FMD control policy,
- **Reviewing** RAP/RBSP/OCP,
- Participating in online meetings of the **PSO network**,
- **PCP-FMD Review Support team**

PCP-FMD Support Officer terms of reference

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PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSO) – ToRs (Cont.)

Required :

- Degree in **veterinary medicine**
- **> 3 years of hands-on experience** in TADs (ideally FMD) surveillance, control strategy planning, monitoring and evaluation either in Veterinary Services at central level, regional networks or international bodies
- Excellent communication skills and speak, read and write **English**, or **Russian**, or **French**, or **Arabic**

Desired :

- Post-graduate degree on veterinary epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, socioeconomics or health policy
- Have an already established network of contacts in the assigned country or be in the position to establish one in short period
- Be experienced in the PCP-FMD principles for FMD control and in working with national Veterinary Services
- Have good coordination and/or team management skills, strong work capacity and diplomacy skills
- Experience in TADs prevention and control at regional and international levels

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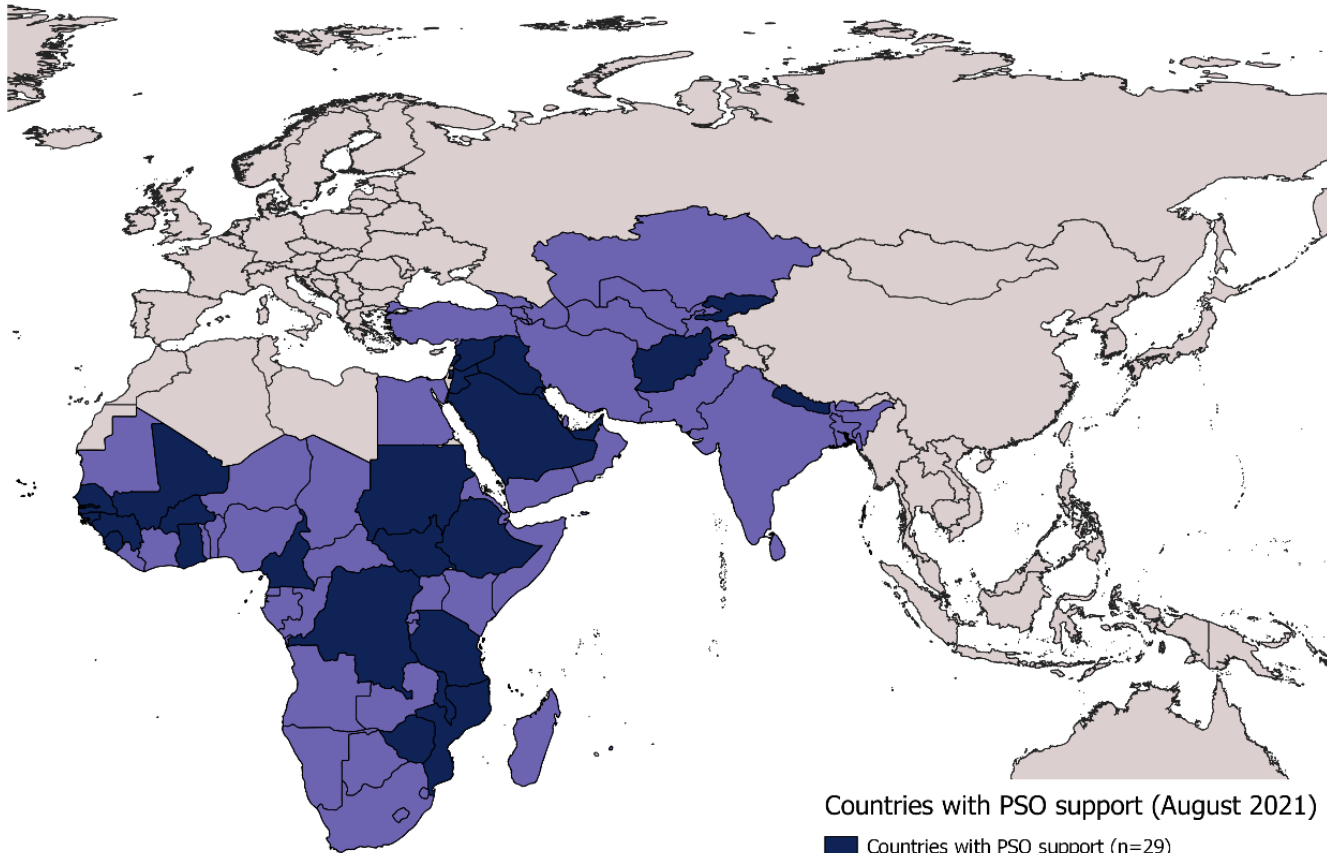
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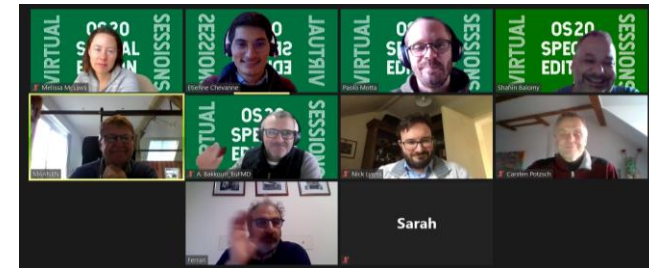
PSO global network



**Note: Countries engaged in the SEACFMD campaign are not colored on this map*

Currently, 65 countries in PCP-FMD Stage 0-3,

- 13 PSOs working with 29 countries



- 18/31 countries in provisional Stage assigned a PSO



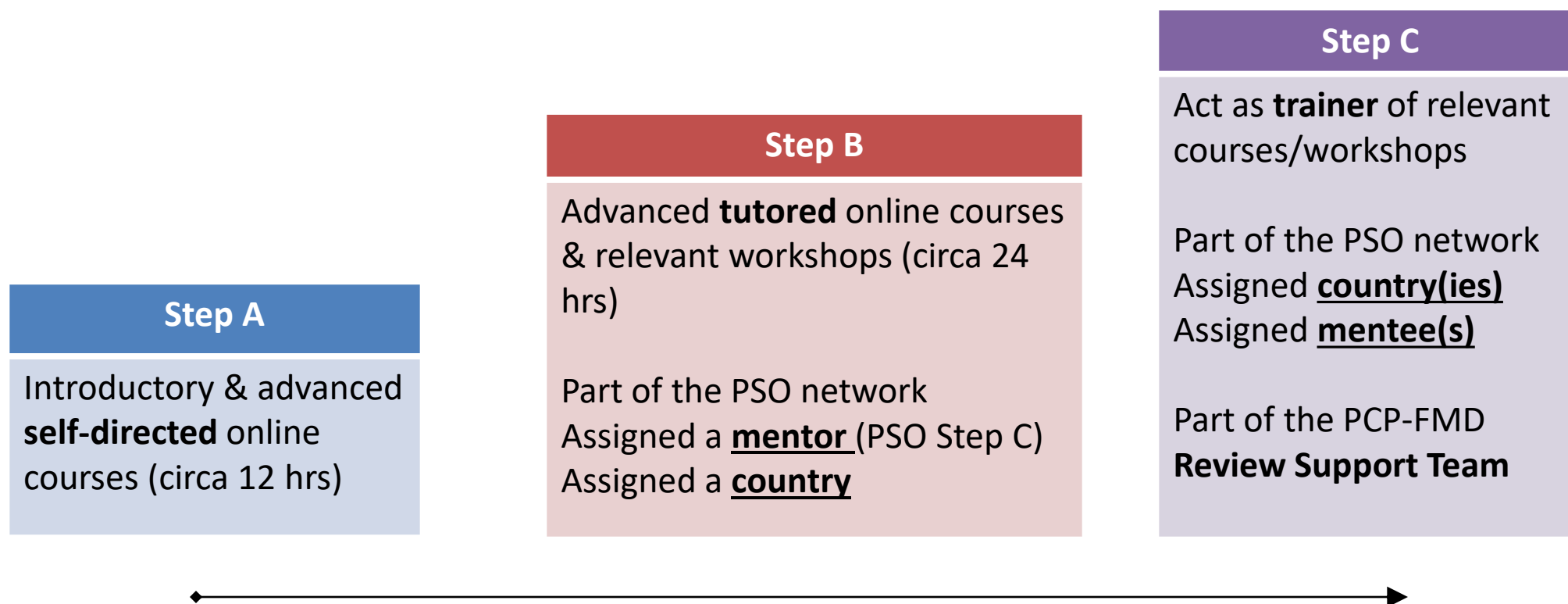
How to become a PSO

In the **recent past**, PSOs were identified:

- among the internationally recognized PCP-FMD experts, or
- through PSO workshops co-organized by FAO/OIE regional offices and the EuFMD

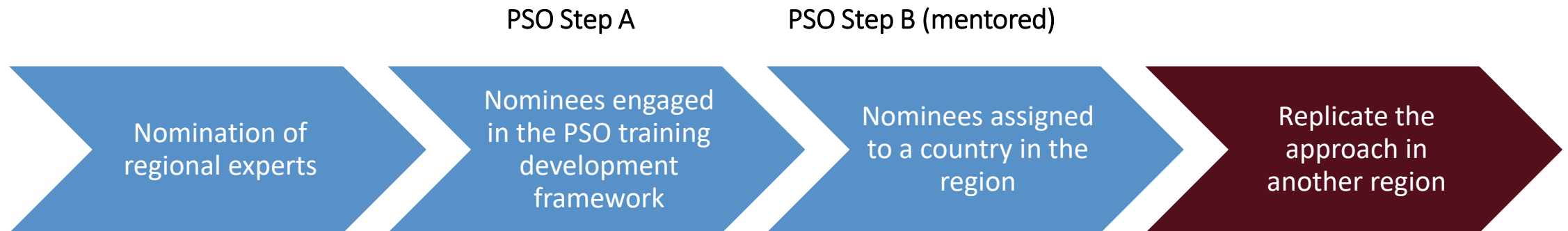
How to become a PSO (cont.)

A **PSO training development framework** describes 3 steps in which PSO candidates undertake different tasks to develop their knowledge and expertise in applying the PCP-FMD:



How to become a PSO (cont.)

FAO and OIE will invite experts from the Reference Laboratories to include in the PSO pool, piloted in SADC region



Review of the PSO system after 3 years of implementation

At the start (2017/18):

- For progression from provisional to full PCP-FMD stages (mainly Stage 2)
- PSOs were mainly European EuFMD consultants, working on PCP-FMD Plan/Programme development and/or implementation,
- System promoted by the GF-TADs FMD WG and EuFMD

Since 2019:

- National FAO ECTAD officers from West and Central Africa nominated as PSOs candidates in the region and engaged in a training framework
- FAO/OIE FMD Reference Centres and Laboratories as potential sources for PSOs (piloted in SADC region)



<http://www.gf-tads.org/fmd/progress-on-fmd-control-strategy/en/>

PSO and West Eurasia (WEA) FMD Roadmap

FMD Roadmap Meeting in Shiraz (2019)

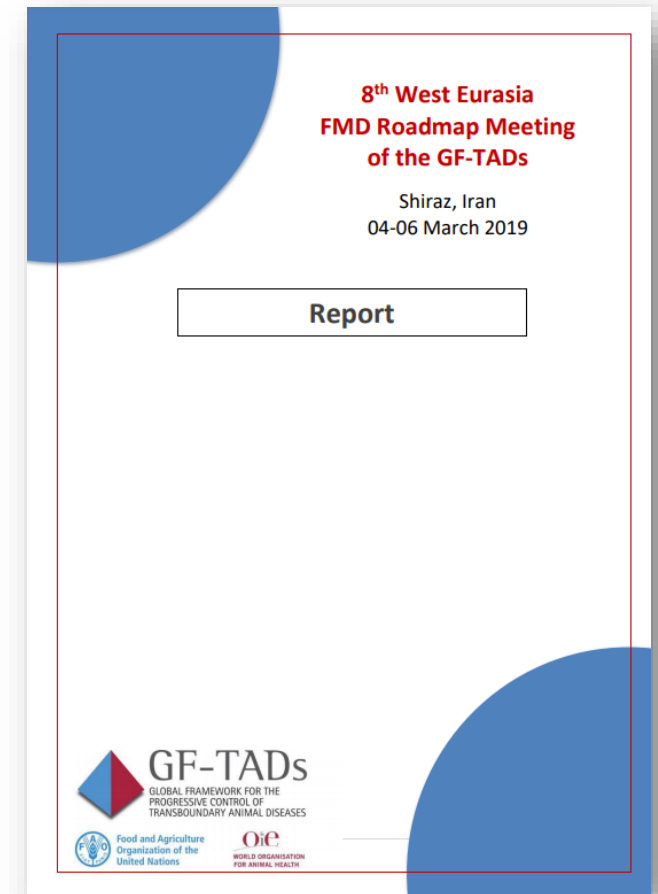
- PSO system to provide specific support for countries in PCP-FMD Stage 1 to develop their Risk Based Strategic Plan (RBSP) to reach at least Stage 2 by 2022;
- Recommendations for **Tajikistan**, **Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**: *“Work on the development of a RBSP, with the support of a PSO”*

However, only 2 PSOs have been assigned to 3 **WEA countries**:

Afghanistan - Giancarlo Ferrari

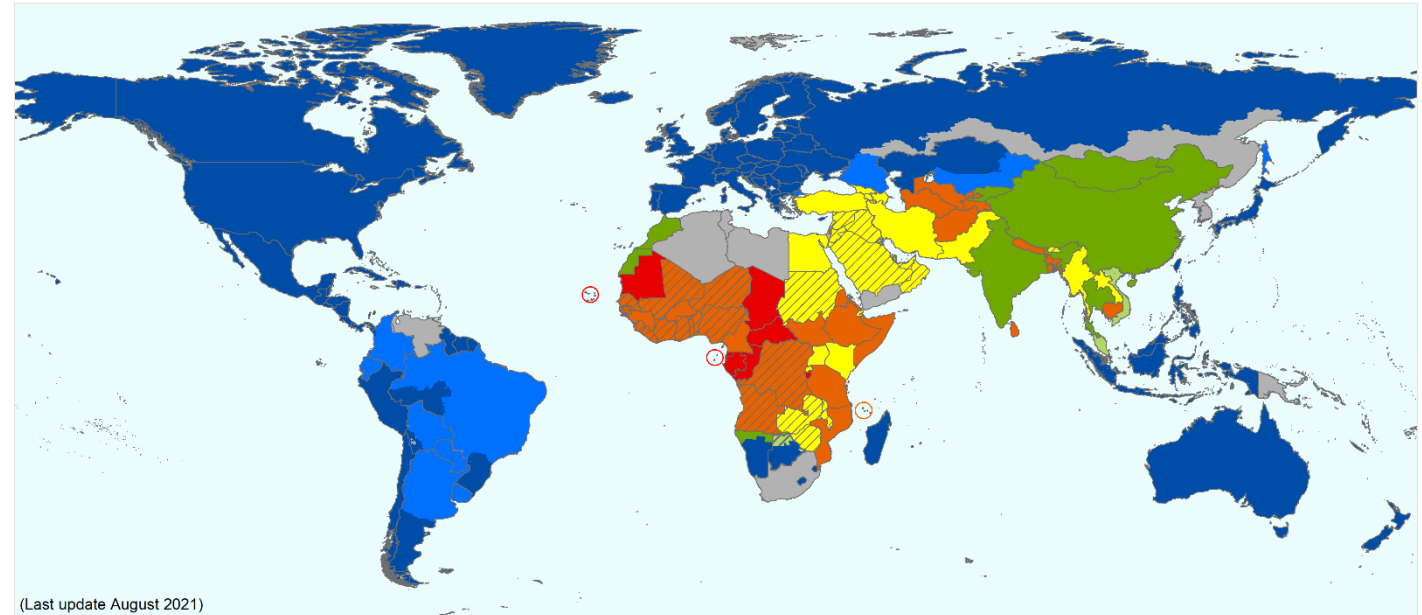
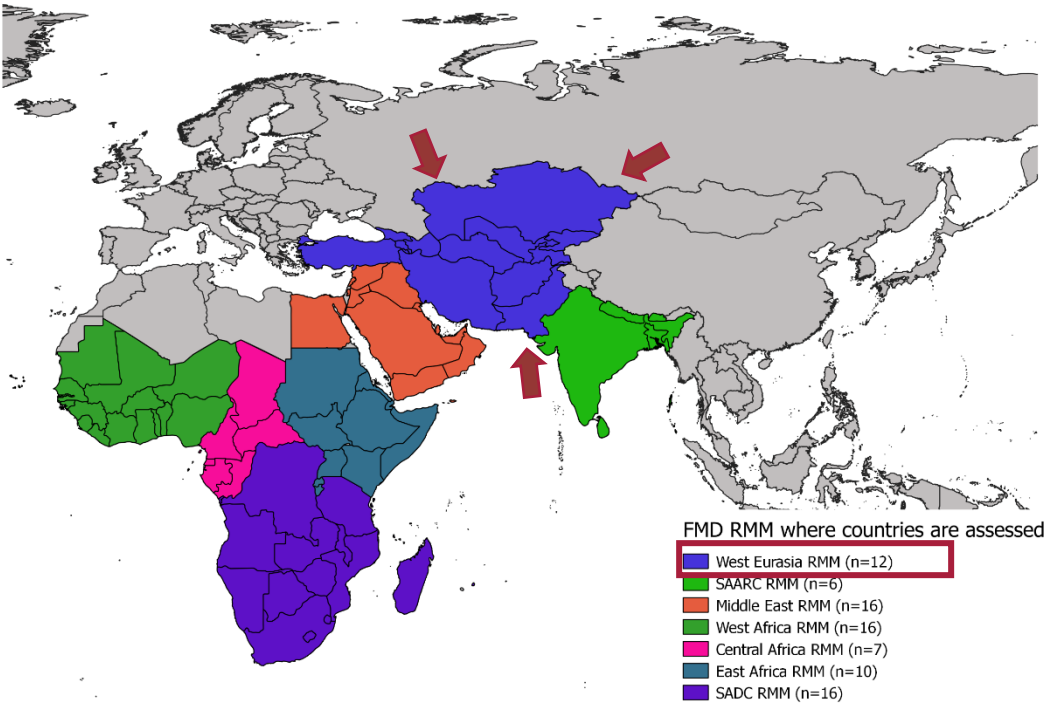
Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan – Carsten Potzsch

→ **no countries requested PSO support by their own initiative !**



<http://www.gf-tads.org/events/events-detail/en/c/1151911/>

PSO and West Eurasia (WEA) FMD Roadmap



OIE official status, FMD endorsed programmes, and PCP stages

- Countries and zones recognised as free from FMD without vaccination
- Countries and zones recognised as free from FMD with vaccination
- Countries and zones without a FMD official status or not assessed by the PCP
- Official control programme endorsed by the OIE
- PCP stage 3
- PCP provisional stage 3
- PCP stage 2
- PCP provisional stage 2
- PCP stage 1
- PCP provisional stage 1
- PCP stage 0

*Territories in circles represent their current PCP stage of the same color in the legend

<http://www.gf-tads.org/fmd/progress-on-fmd-control-strategy/en/>



PSO - Outlook

- **PSO system structure**
More involvement of national focal points (= primary PSOs), supported by senior PSOs
This way senior PSOs could support several countries
- **Interaction between PSOs working on different transboundary diseases**
Encourage development of several disease strategies and control/eradication pathways
- **Meetings between roadmaps**
Virtual and face-to-face meetings to review and plan activities



PSO – Outlook (cont.)

- **Kick start national support**
Practical guidance for national focal point on how to kick-start a national Plan/Programme development or update,
incl. setting up a multidisciplinary team of national experts, and identifying funding
- **Formal introduction of PSO to national authorities and FMD focal points**
Clarify roles, consider modes of working and set expectations



PSO – Take home message

Make use of the PSO system:

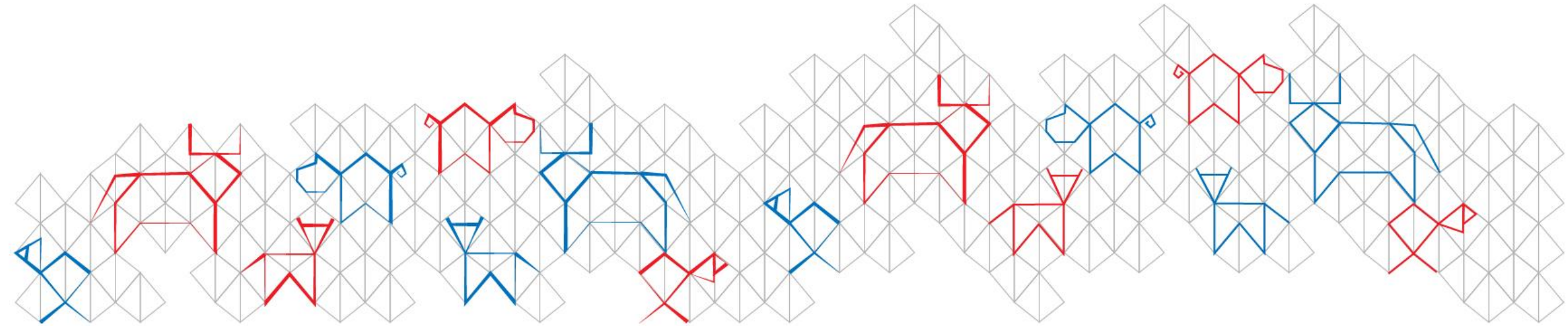
- **Countries in West Eurasia**

to develop and update FMD control plans

to nominate PSO candidates

- **EPINET and WELNET Networks**

to support Networks' work



Thank you for your attention

Any questions/comments, **any requests of PSO support**, please contact the GF-TADs FMD Working Group at fao-fmd@fao.org and oiie-fmd@oiie.int