Veterinary preparedness for natural disasters in EU Member States

OIE workshop
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Teramo, Italy

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This project was initiated after 60+ audits of animal health contingency planning ....

….and attending a conference in 2015:

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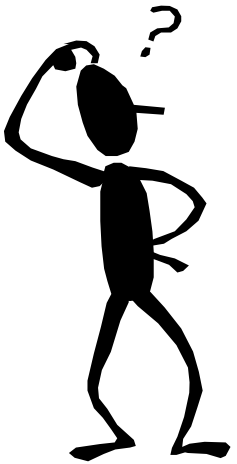
The conference asked:

Are we prepared?

The presentations showed that…

…not really,

not all of us



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We asked ourselves:

Were the Action Points from the 2015 FVE conference known and taken on board by the Veterinary Services in the EU?

Should the veterinary services in the EU be (more) involved in the preparation and management of natural disasters?

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Our project 2017-2018

- How prepared and capable are the EU veterinary services for dealing with natural disasters?
- Are there models and systems that other, less experienced, services can learn from?

- Survey results can be used to compare the system in one Member State with those of others and possibly identify learning opportunities
- Facilitate networking and exchange of lessons learned

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What we did

1. Visit to DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)
2. Kick-off meeting with experts from four Member States
3. Questionnaire to all Member States
4. Fact-finding visits to two Member States
5. Overview report
6. BTSF workshop to share experiences from recent events and discuss how veterinary services could contribute to disaster management and recovery

1) DG ECHO (examples)

rescEU, a strengthened reserve at European level of civil protection capabilities to support countries hit by disasters

forest fighting planes, special water pumps, urban search and rescue, field hospitals, and emergency medical teams

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-4731_en.htm

Coordinates the **Commission's Sendai Action Plan** under the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030 (United Nations)

Agreed to include our project in the Commission's action plan

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In the Sendai framework (extracts)

To strengthen the **protection of productive assets, including livestock**, **working animals**, tools and seeds.

To promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery **exercises** /../ **training** and the establishment of **area-based support systems**….

.. ensuring **rapid and effective response** to disasters and related displacement..

To promote the **cooperation** of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of **post-disaster reconstruction**, under the coordination of national authorities.

To promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other **guidance instruments**…

Do the Sendai objectives remind you of anything?

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Do the Sendai objectives remind you of anything?

Similar to animal health and food safety contingency planning

But…and these are big **BUTs**:

- The veterinary services are **not leading**
- Cooperation with **other services** than the "AH colleagues"
- The aim is to **save animal lives**, **relocate** urgently and **maintain production** as far as possible (not depopulate & freeze movements)
- Sometimes **without the normal infrastructure** (roads, electricity, offices…)

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2) Kick-off meeting with experts from four MS

- Listening and learning from experts with experience
- Discussing challenges and good practices

⇒ Help us ask the right questions in the questionnaire

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3) Questionnaire to all Member States

- On-line survey with 18 questions to the veterinary services in all 28 MS in July 2017
- "Tick-boxes" with opportunities to add free text or submit attachments
- Mandatory questions & sub-questions based on first response
- Difficult to phrase and to limit the number of questions!
- Responses received from 20 (71%) => good, considering that the topic was not their primary responsibility
- Contact persons in each responding country

4) Fact-finding visits to France and Italy

- Selected because they both described well-developed - *and tested* - systems. Albeit quite different

- National expert + two from the Commission's project team
- Four-day visits only – too short to fully grasp the system

- Description reviewed by the contact point for each country before inclusion in the project report

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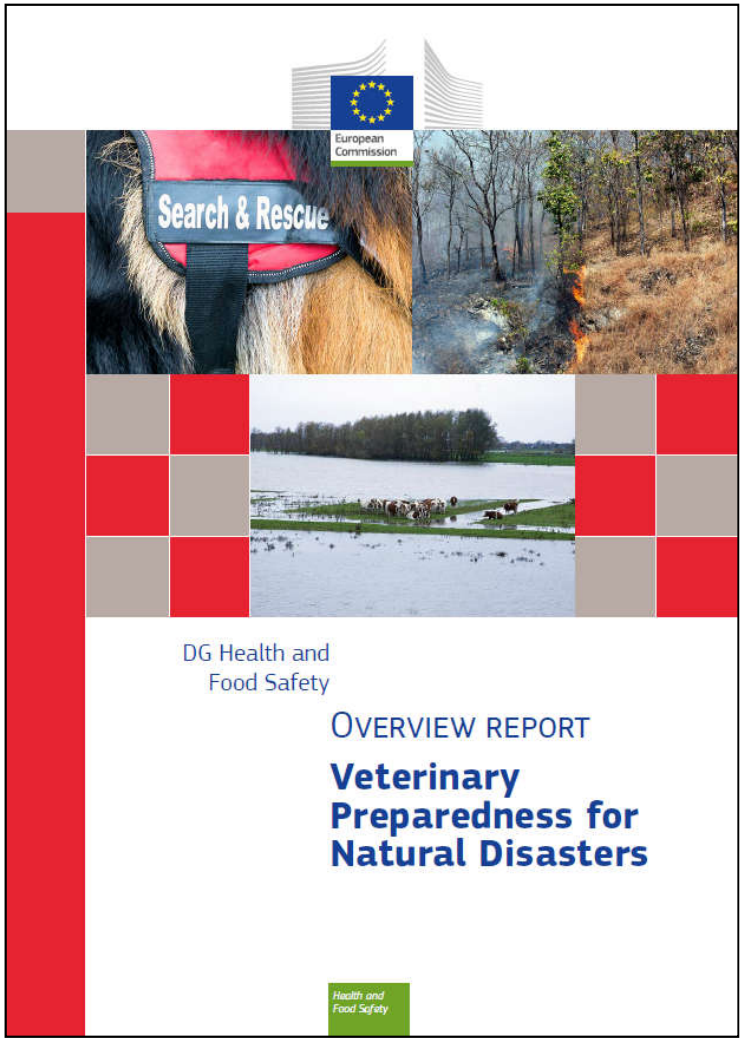
5) Overview report

Three parts:

- Short overview of the main conclusions
- Detailed reports on the systems in France and Italy
- Results from the questionnaire

Not yet published, but it will be available here soon:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview_reports/index.cfm



6) Workshop for Member State experts

11-13 December 2018 in our offices in Grange, Ireland

Overview report presented

Invited speakers
Plenary presentations and discussions
Experiences and lessons learned

A meeting report will be linked to the published overview report

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Difficult to attract participants from services other than the veterinary service

Not our normal contact routes

Instructions not clear enough from us to the contractors

Even within some veterinary services the crisis units focus on health, food and feed – not welfare

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