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## **OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe** **- *External Evaluation* -**

Regional training seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare for  
the OIE European Region  
18th –20th June 2019  
The Hague, The Netherlands



# The Platform at a glance...

## ❖ Objectives

Improve AW in Europe

### **Empower VS to take actions in AW**

- Raise awareness
- Improve implementation
- Encourage participation in the OIE standard setting process

## ❖ Governance

- OIE Regional Commission for Europe
- Steering Group: 15 Members, incl. member countries (ES/IE/RS/RU/TR - FR) and observers: CH, DE, several NGOs
- Secretariat (OIE sub-regional Representation in Brussels)

## ❖ Action Plans

### 2014 – 2016 (first)

3 priority topics:

- **Transport (long distance)**
- **Slaughter**
- **Stray dog population management**

### 2017 – 2019 (second)

5 priority topics:

- **Transport (long distance)**
- **Slaughter**
- **Stray dog population management**
- **Working equids**
- **AW in disaster management**

## ❖ Type of activities

Trainings:

- Workshops
- Seminars
- Train-the-Trainers
- Whole Journey Scenarios

Developing awareness campaigns: stray dogs, working equids

## ❖ Budget

~ 150.000 € / year on average

## ❖ Communication

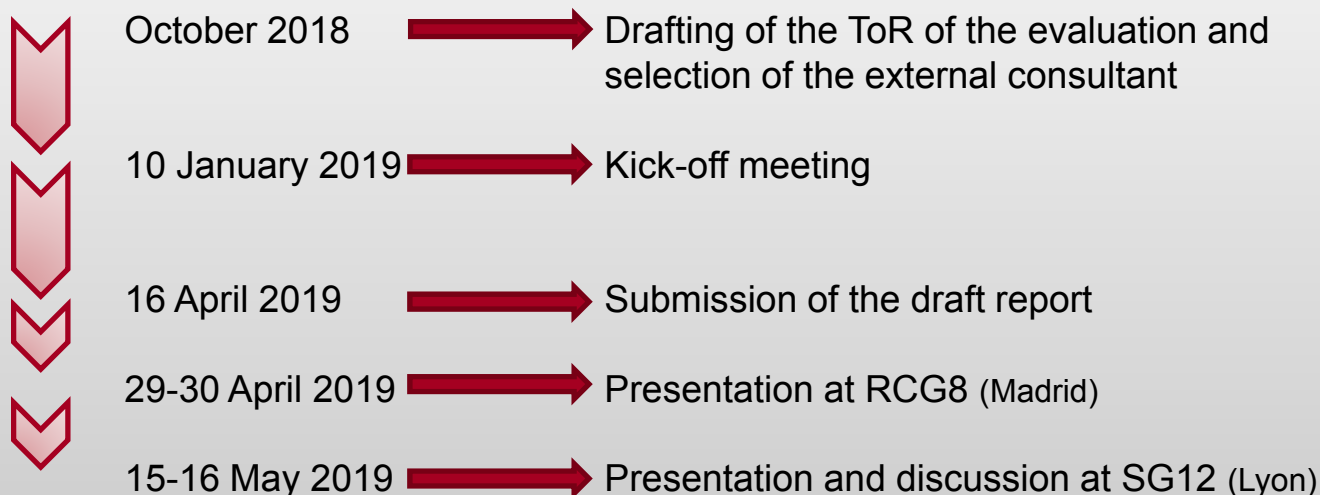
- Annual newsletter
- Website - <https://awp.oie.int>

The screenshot displays the homepage of the OIE Platform for Europe website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the OIE logo and the text 'OIE Platform of Animal Welfare for Europe' and 'WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH Protecting animals, preserving our future'. The main header features a large image of a dog with the text 'IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUROPE by empowering Veterinary Services to take actions'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, ACTION PLAN, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, and CONTACT, along with a search bar. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'What's New' with three news items, 'Upcoming Events' with three event listings, 'Platform Highlight' with a featured newsletter, 'OIE eDEPOSITORY MATERIALS' with a list of documents, and four call-to-action boxes for 'ACTIVITIES', 'NEWSLETTERS', 'MATERIALS', and 'NEXT EVENT'. At the bottom, there is a 'USER LOGIN' section with fields for member name and password, a 'DIRECT ENQUIRY' section with fields for name and email, and a 'JOIN OUR NETWORK' section with social media icons and a copyright notice for 2015.

## Background of the external evaluation

- ❑ End of 2016: 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at launching an external evaluation – 1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan (2014-2017).
- ❑ 2017, 2018: repeated calls for an evaluation, including at
  - steering group SG10 in Berlin, May 2018
  - OIE regional commission for Europe in Tbilisi, September 2018
- ❑ Autumn 2018: strong request from the European Commission in order to consider its next contribution to the Platform (2019/2020)

## Timeline of the external evaluation



# The Terms of Reference of the external evaluation

- ❑ **Scope of the evaluation =** 1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan in its current stage of implementation

- ❑ **Objectives of the evaluation**

**Overarching objective =** to provide a reasoned and analytical assessment of the Platform as a basis to guide its future development, for the use of:

- OIE authorities: General Assembly; Council; Bureau of the regional Commission
- OIE management: Director General; DDGs; Heads of Department; RR/SRR
- Current and future donors
- Platform members and stakeholders

**Specific objectives:**

- Assessing the effectiveness and the efficiency of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plans
- Providing recommendations for the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan, identifying areas of further improvements in terms of:
  - Effectiveness
  - Efficiency
  - Management
  - Scope and monitoring of activities

- ❑ **Evaluation questions** = “To what extent:
  - ...was the OIE AW Platform effective in implementing the Action Plans?
  - ...have the activities of the OIE AW Platform been performed efficiently with regards to the funds, human resources and time delivery?
  - ...is it possible to measure today whether the activities of the OIE AW Platform have been effective in delivering on its general and specific objectives
  - ...are the current activities, scope and monitoring framework relevant to the needs of the region?”

# Methodology

- **Desk Review** of the strategic documents of the Platform:
  - Concept Note
  - Action Plans
  - Newsletters, etc.
  
- **Interview** of 22 key informants:
  - OIE staff,
  - Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe,
  - Platform donors,
  - participants to the Steering Group,
  - some beneficiary countries.
  
- **Qualitative survey** across the 53 countries of the region.

# Interviews

Respondent Category	Respondent Details	Number
<b>OIE Senior Management and Headquarters Staff</b>	Director General Director of Finance Chargé de mission for Animal Welfare Project Officer (World Fund Unit) Current Platform Secretariat (x2) Former Platform Secretariat	7
<b>Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission</b>	Austria	1
<b>Members and Observers of the Platform SG</b>	Spain, Turkey, OIE, IZSAM Teramo, ICFAW	7
<b>Beneficiary Countries</b>	Georgia, Republic of North Macedonia, Greece	3
<b>Platform Donors</b>	European Commission, Ireland, France, Switzerland	4
		22



# Qualitative Survey

## *Objective*

- Gather feedback and opinions from those stakeholders who could not be interviewed

## *Topics included in the survey*

- Respondent profile and relation with the Platform
- Awareness of the Platform
- Relevance of the activities of the Platform
- Quality of the activities conducted by the Platform
- Impact of the Platform activities, including on compliance with OIE standards and awareness raising
- Lessons learnt

## Respondents - 31

Countries		Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Armenia</li><li>• Belgium</li><li>• Croatia</li><li>• Cyprus</li><li>• Denmark</li><li>• Germany</li><li>• Hungary</li><li>• Iceland</li><li>• Kyrgyzstan</li><li>• Latvia</li><li>• Liechtenstein</li><li>• Malta</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Montenegro</li><li>• North Macedonia</li><li>• Norway</li><li>• Portugal</li><li>• Romania</li><li>• Serbia</li><li>• Slovakia</li><li>• Slovenia</li><li>• Sweden</li><li>• Turkey</li><li>• United Kingdom</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AnimalhealthEurope</li><li>• Copa-Cogeca</li><li>• European Federation of Animal Health Services</li><li>• FVE</li><li>• International Fund for Animal Welfare</li><li>• World Animal Protection</li></ul>

# Platform's Best Practices

*What do you consider to be best practice of the Platform based on the activities you participated in so far?*

*What would you suggest for future Platform activities?*

BEST  
TOPICS

Stray dog population management

Long distance transport

Slaughter

Animal welfare in disaster situation

Working equids

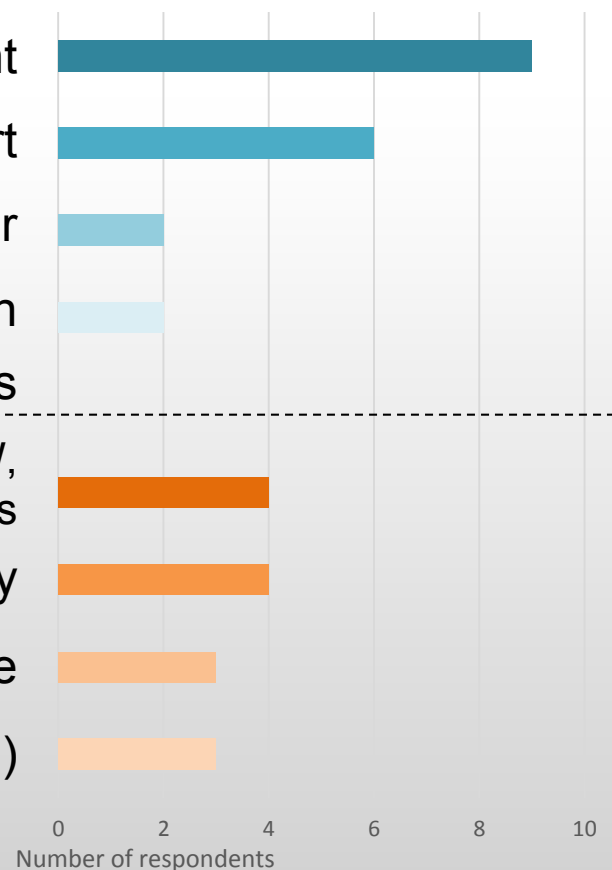
BEST  
APPROACHES

Access to information on varied topics around AW,  
increased awareness

Practical cases, training and methodology

Exchange of experience

Capacity building (ToT approach)



# Evaluation Findings

# Relevance

*To what extent are the current activities, scope and monitoring framework relevant to the needs of the region?*

- The Platform is an important tool in promoting animal welfare in the wider European region.
- The governance structure of the Platform ensures a participatory approach to defining the objectives and activities

BUT

- The Platform's objectives are formulated at the macro-level and the activities included in the APs are not specific enough to address needs at individual country levels
- The Platform does not have a strong monitoring and evaluation system

# Effectiveness

## *To what extent was the OIE Animal Welfare Platform effective in implementing the Action Plans?*

- The Platform is on track in implementing the planned activities
- Effectiveness ranks high in terms of number of tasks listed and executed under each activity in the Action Plan

BUT

- The extent to which the activities have reached their intended outputs is less straight-forward.
- Assessing ‘intangible’ outputs such as levels of awareness, or capacity, or shifts in attitudes and behaviour, is a difficult task to undertake within the current results framework.

# Efficiency

***To what extent have the activities of the OIE Animal Welfare Platform been performed efficiently with regards to the funds, human resources and time delivery?***

- There were no significant delays in implementing the activities
- The Platform is considered by the respondent donors and countries as 'good value for money'

BUT

- Spendings are far below the estimated funding needs – a more professional approach is needed
- Human resources: the Platform Secretariat is understaffed or does not rely enough on the OIE Headquarters resources (communications, logistics, and specialists)

# *Short – term / Early Impact*

*To what extent is it possible to measure today whether the activities of the OIE Animal Welfare Platform have been effective in delivering on its general and specific objectives?*

- Not really possible.
- Assessing impact [i.e. implementation of OIE standards, improvement of knowledge and awareness] requires:
  - time: implementation of the Platform is still too short
  - Indicators: current indicators are not designed to measure impact
  - A known baseline situation: not systematically available
- Capacity / financial constraints within the beneficiary countries



# Evaluation Recommendations

# Recommendations (1/2)

- 1. Platform should seek ways to reinforce its stakeholder engagement to keep up momentum**  
*→ Rotation of the Steering Group membership?*
- 2. Platform should explore ways of providing a more nuanced approach to technical assistance.**
- 3. Platform should reduce its breadth of activities while increasing its target audience.**
  - i. Reduce the overall number of activities and focus on improving quality and efficiency while keeping in mind the capacity of the beneficiary countries
  - ii. The target audience of Training of Trainers could include veterinary departments at universities / faculties in view of increasing 1/ the quality of knowledge transfer and 2/ the sustainability of the capacity built.

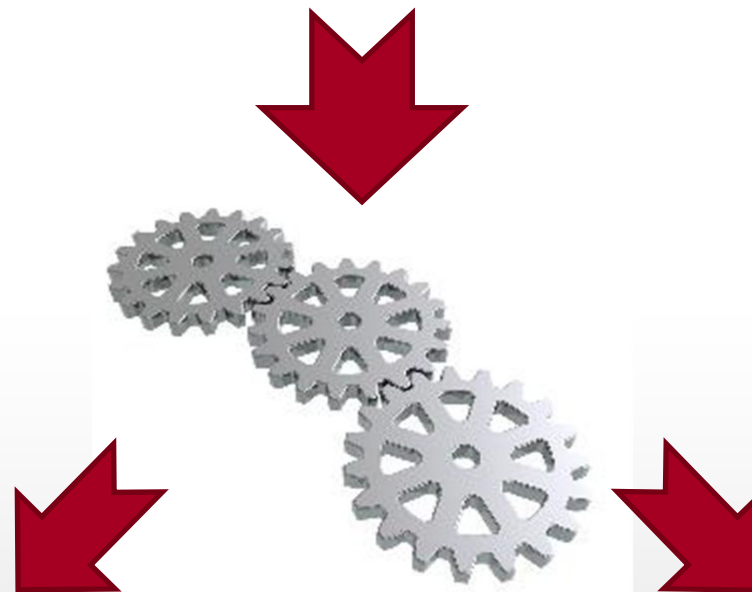
# Recommendations (2/2)

4. The Platform should constantly collect feedback and evaluate itself
5. The Platform should develop its capacity to evaluate achievements and impact
6. The Platform should track and explore outcomes in a systematic way  
→ *setting up a monitoring and evaluation system.*
7. The Secretariat should boost the frequency of communication and information sharing on Platform activities, progress and more importantly on follow-up  
→ *The Platform website should be updated very regularly*
8. The OIE Secretariat in Brussels could benefit from additional staff

# And now, what?

## *Evaluation report*

- *Final version*
- *online publication*



Revision of  
Concept Note

3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan  
2020-2022