



Credit: Andrew Prokos

OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Improving animal welfare in Europe

by empowering the Veterinary Services to take actions in compliance with OIE standards

Newsletter #1 (2014)

2014 - A year to pave the way



“Dear Readers - It is my pleasure to preface the first Newsletter of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe. We have certainly accomplished a great deal during 2014 and, now that all is in place, we are committed to deliver an even richer programme for the years to come”
(Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General)

❖ First Steering Group meeting (SG1 - Paris, December 2013)

- > Adoption of the First 3 year Action Plan
- > Agreement on the *modus operandi* of the Platform



❖ Second Steering Group meeting (SG2 - Moscow, May 2014)

- > Review and discuss launched and planned activities in 2014
- > Validation of the program for end 2014



❖ Third Steering Group meeting (SG3 - Brussels, December 2014)

- > Report and discuss activities implemented in 2014
- > Validation of the program for 2015

FOUNDATION AND GOVERNANCE

During the 81st OIE General Session (May 2013), the Concept Note specifying the founding principles of the OIE Regional Platform on animal welfare for Europe was officially endorsed and came into force. This document transcripts the willingness of OIE Member countries of Europe to embark straight into concrete operational activities. As a result, the OIE developed a detailed Action Plan for 2014-2016 adopted in December 2013.

Improving animal welfare in Europe through the empowerment of Veterinary Services to take actions in compliance with OIE international standards is the objective of this first Action Plan, composed of more than 20 activities in the fields of **transport, slaughter and management of stray dog populations.**

❖ The governing body of the Platform, the Steering Group composed of 15 members, held **three meetings** since the launching of the Platform (SG1, SG2 and SG3) and provided efficient guidance on the preparation and delivery of the Platform programmes of activities. The World Animal Protection, having a cooperation agreement with OIE, attends as an observer and represents the NGOs member of ICFAW

❖ The **European Commission, France and Germany** financially contributed to the 2014 programme of activities (France became the representative of donors in the Steering Group with a full membership). Countries hosting events (Romania and Russia) also provided significant in-kind support. Several donors and organisations indicated their interest to contribute to the Platform activities in 2015-2016.

The OIE is very thankful to all countries that brought support to the OIE Platform on AW for Europe

2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

❖ Ten Balkan countries and territories agreed on a sub-regional Vision for stray dog control

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Turkey committed 'to become fully compliant with OIE standard on stray dog population control by 2025', thereby implying that the stray dog population is reduced to an acceptable level and the risk of transmission of rabies and other zoonoses to humans through stray dogs is mitigated.

To achieve this Vision, the countries will develop national roadmaps and monitor their situation on a regular basis, using the OIE **Stray Dog Monitoring and Self-Assessment Tool** specifically developed for this purpose, based on the provisions of the Chapter 7.7. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

These are the key outputs of the **First OIE Regional Workshop on stray dog population management for Balkan countries (SDB1)** held in Bucharest, Romania on June 17-19 2014, organized by the OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe.

Follow-up workshops will take place every 2



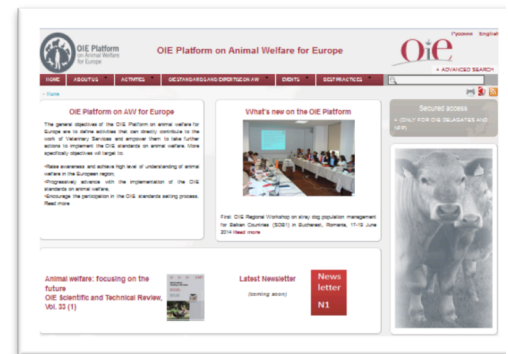
years to monitor the progress towards achieving the Vision and provide ad hoc support for the implementation of the country **National Stray Dog Roadmaps**.



Evolution in stray dog population over the past years in the Balkans: ↘ → ↗

The Platform website is operational in English and Russian <http://rpawe.oie.int/>

An interim website was created in 2014 and officially launched during the OIE Conference of the regional for Europe (Bern, September 2014). A permanent website will be developed in 2015. The Platform website mostly intends to serve as (i) a **communication tool** that inform on and promotes the Platform activities, (ii) a **depository tool** for best practices, guidelines and recommendations that support the implementation of the OIE Standards; and (iii) a **dialogue tool** among the OIE Delegates and National Focal Points on animal welfare of the region. The website is already populated with several 'guidelines' developed by the countries.



The main challenge in the process of developing the website was to avoid repetition/duplication with other existing AW websites while proposing a new interesting concept with the objective to facilitate the implementation of the OIE standards on AW in Europe.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015

❖ Trainers from 12 Russian-speaking countries will be trained to best practices during transport and slaughter (2015)

Two sub-regional Workshops will be organized in 2015 to train a set of 'Trainers' per country able to deliver trainings on transport and slaughter in their country of origin (cascading transfer of knowledge). The Workshops will be based on the OIE Integrated Animal Welfare Programme methodology successfully implemented in Asia and the Middle-East.

First Workshop (TAS1)

- **Countries:** Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- **Location:** Russia
- **Dates:** Session 1= March week1; Session 2= April week1; Session 3= May week 1

Second Workshop (TAS2)

- **Countries:** Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan
- **Location:** Georgia
- **Dates:** Session 1 = March week3; Session 2 = April week3; Session 3 = May week3

❖ Countries from Caucasus and Central Asia will be sensitized to stray dog population management, in compliance to OIE standards (2015)

Building on the success of the SDB1 Workshop carried out for Balkan countries, a similar Workshop, using the same methodology, will be replicated for Caucasian and Central Asia countries. The location and dates are under discussion.

❖ Responsible dog ownership will be promoted in non-EU Member countries (2015 / Semester 1)

The awareness campaign on stray dog will focus on **responsible dog ownership** as the abandon of dogs is considered to be one of the major sources of stray dogs in the targeted countries. The countries will be in charge of implementing the campaign based on a methodology and material (posters, videos, leaflets) developed by the Platform Secretariat. The Secretariat launched an operation to collate existing relevant material created by the countries. The material received will be studied, selected and translated in relevant languages, then assembled into a coherent 'campaign package' delivered to countries. Countries will be requested to analyse and evaluate the impact of the campaign and inform the Platform Secretariat on the results.

PLATFORM SECRETARIAT

Rsr-bruxelles@oie.int

