



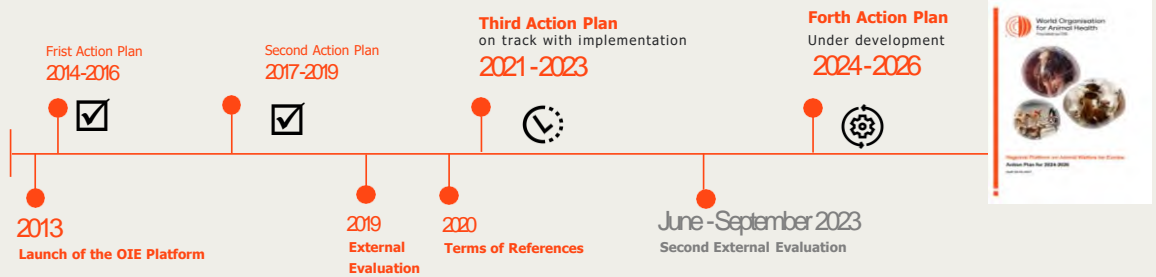
Lotta Berg
(SLU)



Daniela Morelli
(IZS-Teramo)

'It is our pleasure to have been asked to contribute to the 2023 Newsletter of the WOAHP on animal welfare. Together, we represent the European WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare, which is run by our institutes, the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale"* in Teramo (Italy) and the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala (Sweden).

We apply partly different approaches to animal welfare, the competence of our institutes complementary, and hence we achieve synergies for the WOAHP European region. Seeing the benefits of such collaboration, we are now furthermore involved in setting the scene for an upcoming global network of all WOAHP Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare. The way, we can represent a global perspective to support WOAHP's vision of a world where the welfare of animals is respected and advanced, to complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability. We hope to be able to present this initiative in more detail at future meetings and gatherings organised by WOAHP, which is in an exciting phase of strengthening its competence and influence in relation to animal welfare.'



GOVERNANCE

2nd EXTERNAL EVALUATION

The 2nd external evaluation of the Platform was launch in spring 2023 and the result will be available at the end of September 2023, ready to be presented for the 21st Steering Group meeting planned for October 2023. The external evaluation will assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and contributions towards the impact as well as sustainability of the Platform. The results of the external evaluation will enable the Organisation to have a better knowledge of the strengthen and weakness of the Platform which in return will be considered for the next Action Plan, and thus contributing to the improvement of the performance of the Platform. The results of the 2019 external evaluation see [evaluation report](#).

TOP NEWS

DEVELOPING A NEW ACTION PLAN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE PLATFORM FOR EUROPE

The WOAHP Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (the Platform) was created in 2013 to coordinate efforts to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe and to encourage Veterinary Services to act in compliance with WOAHP standards on animal welfare. Since its launch, the Platform has already successfully implemented three Action Plans for 2014-2016, 2017-2019 and 2021-2023.

The 4th Action Plan – covering 2024-2026 – is being developed by considering the needs identified by WOAHP Members of the Regional Commission for Europe, the outcomes of and lessons learnt from the implementation of the activities over the last years, the results of the 2nd external evaluation and through exchanges with the different partners and stakeholder of the Platform. It will ensure the continuity with the previous action plans by building upon their achievements, and by retaining the strategic purpose of empowering Veterinary Services to improve animal welfare across Europe, consistently with the objectives of [WOAHP 7th Strategic Plan](#) and the Organisation's [Global Animal Welfare Strategy](#), keeping the same five priority topics: disaster management, dog population management, slaughter, transport and working equids.

The different governance meetings and [the side event organised](#) at the margin of the General Session allowed us to share with the stakeholders of the Platform our ideas on the upcoming 4th Action Plan and to collect their feedback. We are now finalizing the 4th Action Plan, including the lessons learnt from the external evaluation.

We hope that the plan proposed will respond to WOAHP's Members needs for the period 2024-2026.



ACTIVITIES ACTIVITIES IN 2022/2023



Transport

[Multiregional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on transport between Europe and Middle East by land and by sea](#)

[Two meetings of the network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe](#)

[Regional online event on welfare of working equids](#)

Animal welfare of working equids



Dog population management

[5th Regional workshop on dog population management for Balkan countries](#)

Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool for dog population management (SAM4DPM)

[Online Stakeholders' Consultation - the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe](#)

Animal welfare in disasters



The network of National Contact Points (NCP) on long distance **transportation** in Europe is growing with currently 49 nominated NCPs compared to 33 represented countries at the kick-off meeting in 2021. The 3rd meeting of the network organized on 20 – 22 June 2023 in Ireland, the first in person meeting, demonstrated the importance of strengthening collaboration and communication between Competent Authorities to improve animal welfare during long distance transport.

The 5th Regional workshop on **dog population management** for Balkans countries held on 4 – 6 July 2023 in Croatia, was an opportunity to test the new self-assessment and monitoring tool (SAM4DPM) presented in early June to all the countries implicated in the dog population management roadmap in Europe. WOAHP Members remain committed to achieve the roadmap's vision of the implementation of the WOAHP standards by 2026 (*extension of the roadmap for one year*).

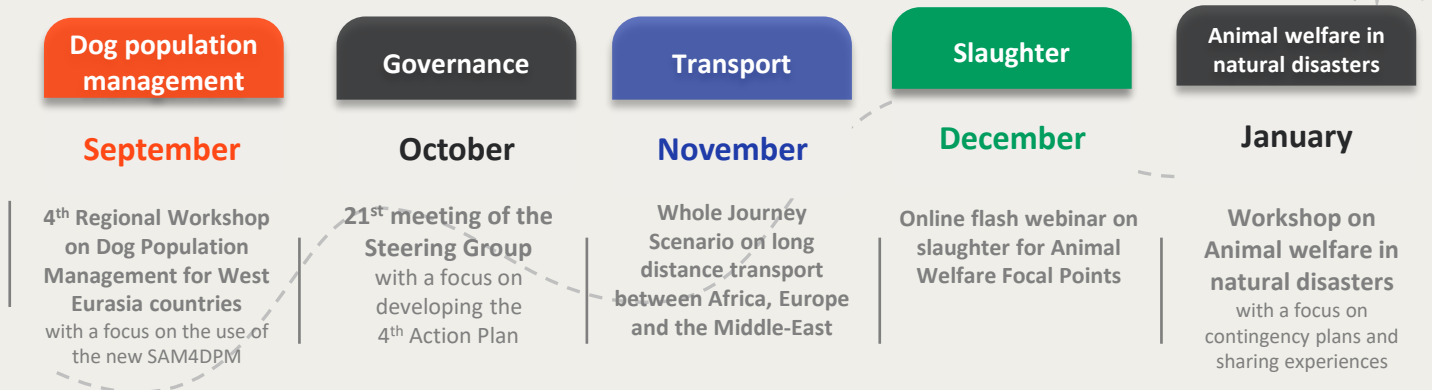
The online meeting on the welfare of **working equids**, held on 12 September 2023, provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the welfare of working equids, recall WOAHP standards, share information on existing tools and knowledge resources, and discuss future activities for this priority topic under the Platform with the initial targeted countries from Central Asia, Caucasus and Balkans regions.

The online stakeholders' consultation on the role of Veterinary Services on **animal welfare in natural disasters** in Europe was held on 14 – 17 March 2023 and was attended by representatives from the countries who participated in the pilot project along side with international and regional organisations (FAO/WHO/FVE), members of the Platform's Steering Group and international subject matter experts. The meeting emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing, coordination, competency development, communication, and resource mobilization in improving the role of Veterinary Services in safeguarding animal welfare during natural disasters in Europe. The outcomes provide valuable insight for the next activities within the Platform to continue building more effective disaster management and response efforts in the future.

WHAT'S NEXT DEVELOPMENT OF E-MODULES ON SLAUGHTER

A series of capacity-building activities to improve animal welfare during slaughter (cattle, sheep and pigs) were already conducted as part the previous Action Plans of the Platform. Ensuring animal welfare during slaughter still remains a priority topic for WOAHP Members in Europe. In response to recent developments, WOAHP is extending capacity building activities towards e-learning modules for animal welfare training. Through a public and international call for expression of interest, the Platform is working on the development of an on-line training package (e-module) on slaughter of animals and to be available on the WOAHP's Platform for the training of Veterinary Services. The e-module will be based on existing material produced by the Organisation and the selected tender will be requested to revise the didactic approach, including learning objectives, design structure and learners' assessment, also considering additional existing materials to be used in different training scenarios and settings. Upon availability, the e-learning materials will be disseminated through Training of Trainers (ToT) session, various workshops and events provided available funding.

UPCOMING EVENTS



VISIT US

The website of the WOAHP Platform is dedicated to share the information on activities of the Platform. As part of the new communication strategy and technical upgrade, the website of the Platform is integrated now to the new WOAHP Regional website for Europe. Please visit our website: <http://awp.woah.org>

