

The WOAAH Platform activities on DMRR in Europe - Latest achievements and future plans

Paolo Dalla Villa

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Founded as OIE

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal
Fundada como OIE





A focus on the historical background.....

2006 - the WOAHA provides input to the **Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) Handbook**

2010 - the WOAHA Council discuss the question of what the Organization could and should do, in relation to the issue of animals in disasters

2014 - a Technical Item on **“Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism”** is presented at the 26th Conference of the WOAHA Regional Commission for Europe

2015 - the WOAHA endorses the conference on **“Natural disasters and One-Health Are we prepared?”** organized by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe in association with the Latvian Presidency of the European Union and the support of the European Commission.

2016 - the “WOAHA develops its **“Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health”**

2018 - the WOAHA Platform develops a **stepwise triannual pilot program on natural disaster preparedness**

2020 - the WOAHA publishes its **“Guidelines for simulation exercises”**

2021 - a survey on the **"Levels of Veterinary Services' preparedness for dealing with animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters"** is conducted in collaboration with the Lincoln Memorial University.

2022 - a Technical Item on **“WOAHA, Veterinary Services and aquatic animal health services in global, regional and national emergency management systems”** presented at 89th General Session

2023 – the WOAHA Platform **Action Plans' bridging workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction**

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**GUIDELINES
ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION
TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**
(GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)



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MAYO 2016

The Platform's second action plan (2017-2019) included the welfare of animals in disasters among its priority topics.

The Platform Secretariat has been tasked **with exploring, developing and implementing possible activities in order to enhance WOAH Members' DMRR capacity in Europe, in line with the WOAH Guidelines**



GUIDELINES FOR SIMULATION EXERCISES

A consistent set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare and veterinary public health simulation exercises for Veterinary Services

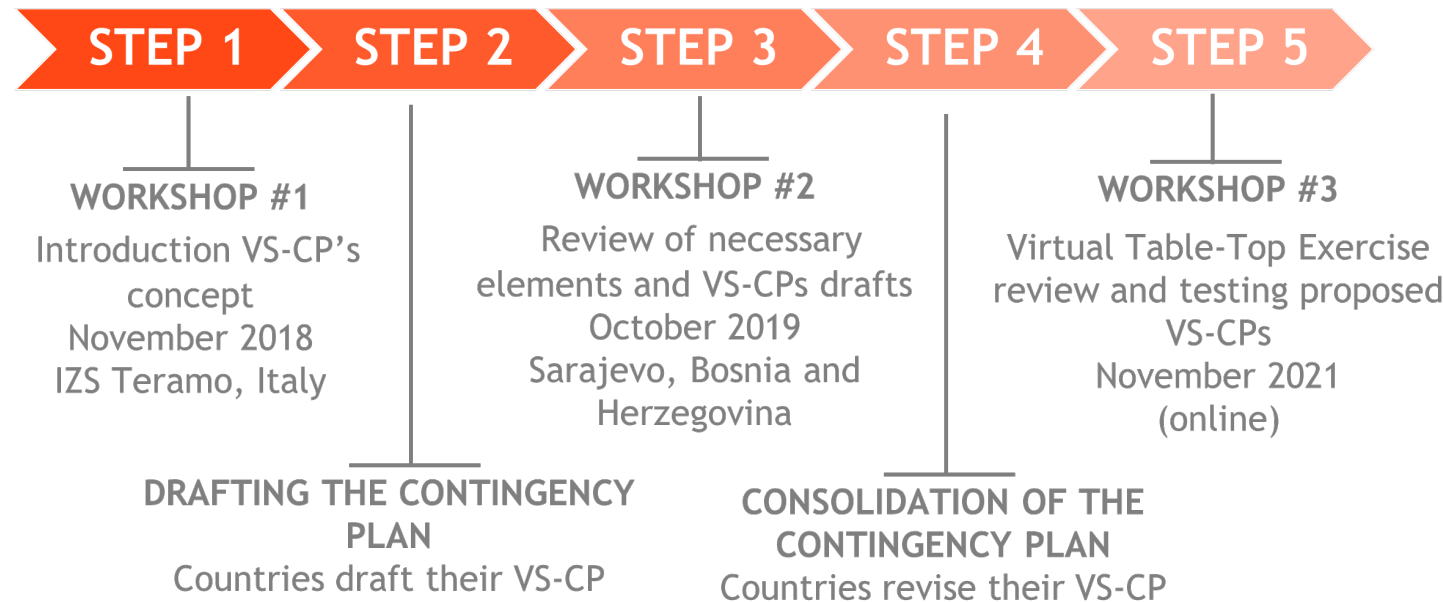
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Pilot approach on natural disaster preparedness for Balkan countries

In 2018, a multiannual pilot project was launched by the WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, with the collaboration of the IZS-Teramo aiming at *"building a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders, and to support the development of Veterinary Services Contingency Plans (VS-CPs) for animal welfare during natural disasters"*. 10 countries participated.:



WOAH Collaborating Centre



Bulgaria and Romania have already developed their VS-CPs.

All countries committed to continuing further work on building and/or improving their Contingency Plan for animal welfare during natural disasters.

Online Stakeholders' Consultation on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe

Stakeholder consultation meeting

Following the conclusion of the pilot project, WOAAH Platform started to work on regional needs assessment on Veterinary Services readiness. Hence, it was decided to organize an online "Stakeholder's Consultation meeting on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters", in collaboration with IZS-Teramo, that took place on the 14th, 15th and 17th of March 2023.

A four steps process has been followed according to the Appreciative Inquiry Summit methodology :



The most important objectives to be included in the 2023-2026 Action Plan were identified and prioritized with a poll during the event :

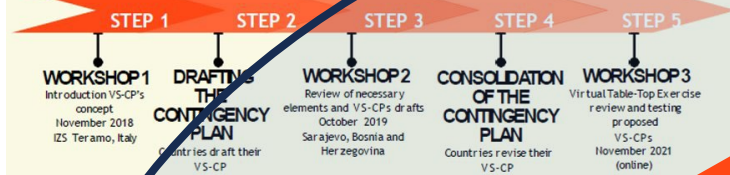
- 1 Mapping and prioritizing WOAAH Members' competencies for capacity building
- 2 Developing guidance documents and tools (CP, procedures, instructions)
- 3 Supporting workshops/simulation exercises
- 4 Knowledge and experience transfer from the Balkans to countries
- 5 Supporting WOAAH Members activities for coordination mechanisms

WOAH Platform Action Plans' bridging workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

Lisbon (Portugal), 17-18 January, 2024

The triennial pilot project

In 2018, a 3-year pilot project was launched by the WOAH Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, with the collaboration of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise (IZS-Teramo) aiming at building a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders, and to support the development of Veterinary Services Contingency Plans (VS-CPs) for animal welfare during natural disasters. 10 countries participated. A multi-step approach was used:



Three out of ten participating countries (Bulgaria, Romania and North Macedonia) developed their VS-CPs. Balkan countries are committed to further building their preparedness, strengthening competencies and skills on contingency planning for farm, companion and wild animal welfare with the support of WOAH and WOAH network of Collaborating Centres.



Feeding the regional needs assessment exercise

4th Action Plan for 2024 - 2026

2024	2025 - 2026	2026
<p>REGIONAL MULTI HAZARD WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS FOR EUROPE</p>	<p>THEMATIC MEETINGS</p>	<p>SIMULATION EXERCISE FOR THE TESTING OF SELECTED COUNTRIES CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS IN EUROPE</p>

Vreogindewey, G., Gruszynski, K., Handler, D., Grudnik, T., Balbo, R., & Dalla Villa, P. (2023). *World Organization for Animal Health Members' capacity to deal with animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters in Europe*. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, 1-26. doi:10.1017/dmp.2023.167



KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ the **importance of strengthening Veterinary Services' awareness on their crucial roles**, where they have proven to be responsive and effective
- ✓ the need for a **better integration in the Civil Protection mechanisms**, for organizing **more training events** and **simulation exercises** and developing **operational procedures/protocols**
- ✓ **multi hazard intersectoral contingency planning** approach in support of local emergency networks, to strengthen the resilience of local communities and maintain agrifood business continuity (i.e., operation of markets, slaughterhouses and transport)
- ✓ **all livestock production sectors** to be considered, including small scale farming systems and other animals (zoo)
- ✓ the need to coordinate emergency management efforts and mitigate the impact of disasters from the **One Health perspective**
- ✓ **interregional cooperation** is a key element for success, as well **NGOs and private sectors support**

Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)144 15 19 49

F. +33 (0)142 67 09 87

woah@woah.int

www.woah.org

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