



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924

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## Regional training workshop for WOAH National Focal Points on Animal Welfare in Europe

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25 - 27 June 2024, Madrid, Spain



Funded by  
the European Union



## WOAH Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan  
2014 - 2016



2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan  
2017 - 2019



3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan  
2021 - 2023



4<sup>th</sup> Action Plan  
2024 - 2026



Launch  
2013

to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe and empower Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with WOAH standards





## Priority topics





# DISASTER MANAGEMENT



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**Paolo Dalla Villa**



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



**Developing  
Veterinary Services Contingency Plan  
with focus on animal welfare issues**

**Awareness**

**Knowledge**

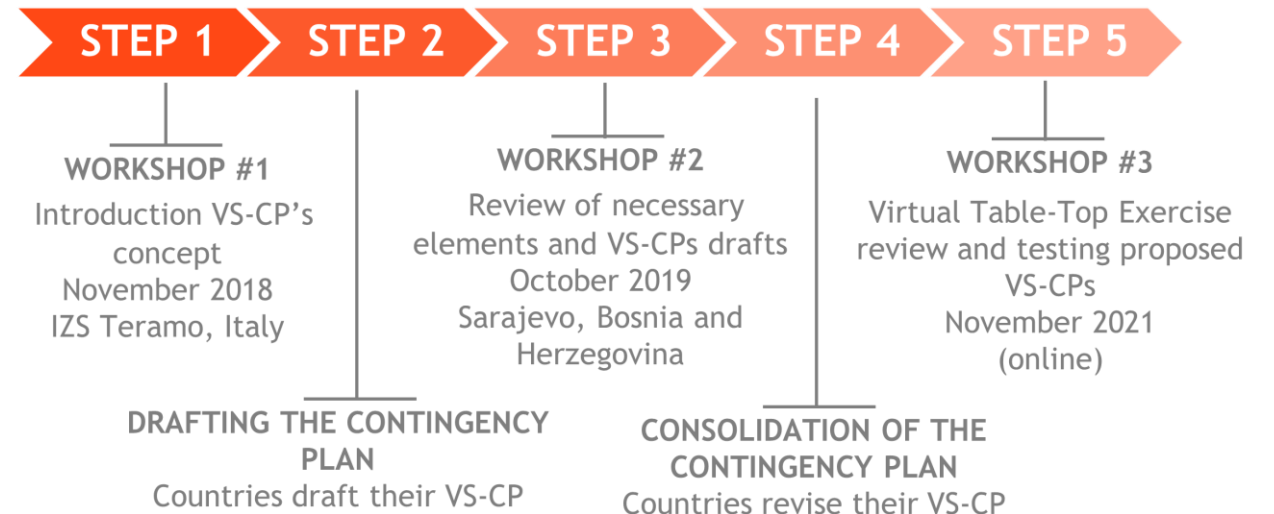
**Preparedness**

**Commitment**

**Collaboration / Coordination**

# Role of Veterinary Services on Animal Welfare in natural disasters

## Pilot approach on natural disaster preparedness for Balkan countries





## Appreciative Inquiry

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





Survey:



DOI: [10.1017/dmp.2023.167](https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2023.167)

**52%** - animal welfare in disasters incorporated in a legal framework

**62%** Competent Authorities has legal responsibility to manage animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters

# World Organisation for Animal Health Members' Capacity to Deal With Animal Welfare Emergencies During Natural Disasters in Europe

**60%** animal welfare in natural disaster incorporated National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction plan

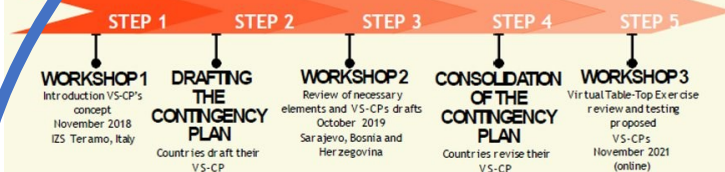
**33%** Veterinary Services have specific Contingency Plans to prepare for and respond to animal welfare issues in different natural disasters

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

Lisbon (Portugal), 16-18 January, 2024

### The triennial pilot project

In 2018, a 3-year pilot project was launched by the WOAAH 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 provided by WOAAH and WOAAH network of Collaborating Centres.

### 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

### 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>

Vroegindewey, 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 objectives

- review Members' capacity to develop **Veterinary Services Contingency Plans**
- awareness of importance **multi-hazard response frameworks** and **operational protocols** in selected scenarios
- Identify objectives and desired outcomes of the **next activities**

## WOAH Platform Action Plans' workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction January 2024, Lisbon

14  
Countries

40  
Participants



**Communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities and stakeholders to be strengthened**

**Specific protocols/procedures and harmonized templates related to technical and administrative aspects of DMRR to be developed/shared**

**Networking opportunities and training events**

**Role of NGOs and their complementarity to achieve shared objectives and goals of DMRR to be valued**

**Public-Private Partnership (PPP) contribution to the management of veterinary emergencies to be promoted**

**Digital information management applications**



## ***On-Line Regional Meeting on DMRR for Europe***

September 2024 ( Q3/4 - TBC ) - 53 WOAHA Members targeted

- To inform the participants about the ***WOAH HQ current engagement in DMRR at Regional level***
- To present the ***objectives of the EmVetNet 5 years action plan*** and take stock of the past and current initiatives taken
- To discuss the approach adopted following to ***WOAH Members' request for assistance to veterinary emergencies***



WOAH Platform  
on animal welfare  
for Europe

## 4th Action Plan for 2024 - 2026

2024



***On-Line Regional Meeting  
on DMRR for Europe***

2025 - 2026



THEMATIC MEETINGS

2026



SIMULATION EXERCISE FOR THE TESTING OF  
SELECTED COUNTRIES CONTINGENCY PLANS  
FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NATURAL DISASTERS  
IN EUROPE



# European Civil Protection Forum 2024



## Global and Platform activities

- Pilot project VS-CP
- Regional needs assessment
- Planned activities
- WOAAH members experience

## Civil Protection Village *exhibition space*

### WOAH exhibition stand:

- raise awareness within civil protection community
- exploring opportunities for collaboration
- Guidance documents
- WOAAH members experience
- Global Conference emergency management
- Agro-crime and agro-terrorism
- Network for Veterinary Emergencies

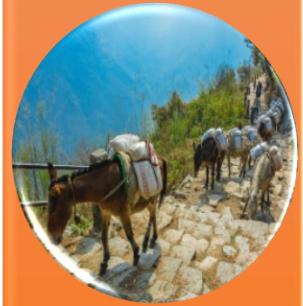
# European Civil Protection Forum 2024



## Civil Protection Village *exhibition space*

### WOAH exhibition stand:

- raise awareness within civil protection community
- exploring opportunities for collaboration
- **39 conversations**
  - National Civil protection services
  - NGO
  - Governmental agencies
  - Academia
  - Business
  - International organisation
  - EU bodies
  - Having vet in family



DEVELOPMENT  
OF ANIMAL  
WELFARE  
STANDARDS

## ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS UNDER REVIEW (TERRESTRIAL CODE)

February 2024 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) meeting Report

### Chapter for comments

- Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes, Annex 24 of the February 2024 Code Commission Report.

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/development-of-animal-welfare-standards/>