

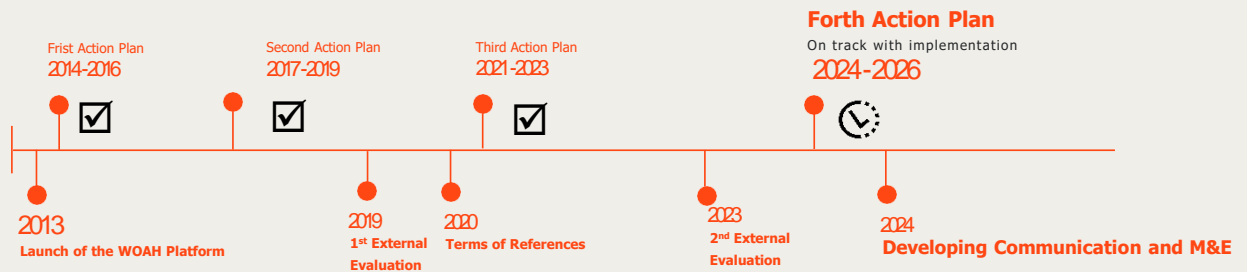


Andrea Gavinelli
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"Animal welfare is playing a key role for EU citizens for several reasons such as the way we relate with animals and the food that is produced. The WOAHP Platform for Animal Welfare for Europe has been supported by the EU Commission since its creation in 2013, being fundamental for the improvement of the issue at international level. One crucial element is still the collaboration between competent authorities, scientist and stakeholders that is playing an inspirational role in the WOAHP Region of Europe but also at global level. This has been clearly very promising and should continue and be strengthened in the light of the increased understanding of the issue globally and the clear link between the welfare of animals, people, and the sustainability of the environment. It is now the time to put in full swing the 4th Action Plan 2024-2026 that is building upon the experience of the earlier ones and so to increase the capacity of the Region to implement WOAHP standards like the ones on animal transport or for the critical issue of dog population management. Furthermore, the Action Plan will enable to re-engage activities on the welfare of animals at during slaughter where more technical and scientific knowledge is now available.

The implementation of the Action Plan 2024-2026 will benefit of stronger synergies and collaborations of the different Collaborating Centres from the EU and from WOAHP and by the engagement of stakeholders both from civil society and the industry as from the veterinarians.

We are all part of the process and looking forward to the improvements in animal welfare that could be provoked thanks to the collaborative and inspirational environment of the WOAHP Platform and the increased potential to attract more resources for animal welfare."



GOVERNANCE

New Steering Group of the Platform

The Regional Commission for Europe, during its meeting at the 91st General Session in May 2024, elected new Members of the Steering Group of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe. Ireland, Israel, and Portugal were re-elected, and we welcome two new Members, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Azerbaijan. We are pleased to rely on them to monitor the Platform's activities, provide guidance and support, and advocate for it within the region.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Members, Kazakhstan and North Macedonia, for their contributions to the Platform and support over the past three years. The new Steering Group members will be fully involved in the Monitoring and Evaluation activities outlined below, with a workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation scheduled for the next Steering Group meeting in October 2024.

TOP NEWS

Working on Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation system



Over the past year, we have been working on improving the communication of the Platform by increasing our visibility by strengthening the engagement with our partners and stakeholders through our various online platforms, participation in different events, and the production of new materials, such as an annual report and quarterly updates.

In complement to these efforts, we are also working with an external consultant. This consultancy is assisting the Platform Secretariat in improving the Platform's visibility by reviewing existing communication activities and proposing an engaging, coherent communication strategy. The consultant successfully gathered inputs from the Platform community and developed a communication strategy tailored to its needs and objectives. The report will be presented to the Steering Group of the Platform in October 2024 before being published on the website.

For the 4th Action of the Platform, we have been reviewing the Platform's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. The external evaluation conducted between June and September 2023 prompted us to go further by hiring an M&E expert to help develop a more effective system.

This expert will support the Platform Secretariat in enhancing its capability to measure the Platform's impact by revising the existing M&E system and developing a revised strategy. This work aims to create a more robust M&E system for the Platform, which will be tailored to each priority topic through specific case studies.

As part of this review process, we also plan and organize a one-day M&E workshop during the Steering Group meeting to be held in October 2024. The workshop will enable the full involvement of the Steering Group in developing the new system.

Criteria to assess and upgrade the monitoring and evaluation system

RELEVANCE	COHERENCE
EFFECTIVENESS	EFFICIENCY



Transport

[Forth meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe](#)

[Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario Workshop on long-distance transportation by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa](#)

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

Animal welfare of working equids



Dog population management

[4th Regional workshop on dog population management and rabies in West Eurasia](#)

[Self-Assessment and Monitoring System for Dog Population Management \(SAM4DPM\) guides to use the application autonomously](#)

[WOAH Platform Action Plans' bridging workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction](#)

[WOAH participation to DG Echo Forum](#)

Animal welfare in disasters



The multi-regional WSJ workshop on long-distance transportation by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa was held in November 2023 in Tunisia. The workshop highlighted the need to strengthen communication and cooperation among competent authorities and all actors involved. It also emphasized the importance of well-defined responsibilities, appropriate planning, and the establishment of emergency procedures.

The 4th meeting of the National Contact Points (NCP) network on long distance **transportation** in Europe was held online in June 2024. With 50 nominated NCPs, the network is well established, facilitating the exchange of information and addressing issues related to long-distance and cross-border transportation of animals.

The 4th Regional workshop on **dog population management** and rabies for Central Asia and Caucasus countries took place in September 2023 in Georgia. This workshop provide an opportunity to review the current situation and progress in implementing WOAHS standards for dog population management and dog mediated rabies control. WOAHS Members WOAHS standards by 2030.

The event on the **welfare of working equids** was held in June 2024 as a back-to-back session to the regional training seminar for WOAHS National Focal Points on Animal Welfare, held in Madrid. The lectures and working group exercises highlighted the importance of collaboration in advancing on the welfare of working equids.

The bridging workshop on **Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (DMRR)** took place in January 2024 in Portugal, building on the outcomes of the pilot project in the Balkans (2018-2021). The workshop analyzed improvements, challenges, and successes in Members' Contingency Plans, protocols, and procedures. It emphasized the need for multi-hazard response frameworks and protocols for managing animal welfare during natural disasters.

This focus on DMRR led to the participation of the Platform in the 2024 **European Civil Protection Forum** held in June 2024 in Brussels. During the Forum we engaged with sector representatives and highlighted the need for a more active role of the Veterinary Services within the Civil Protection mechanism.

WHAT'S NEXT Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tools Advancements

Since its inception, the Platform has recognized the importance of understanding the implementation of WOAHS animal welfare standards and identifying the barriers to their adoption. Tools like the Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool for Dog Population Management (SAM4DPM) offer WOAHS Members a practical way to evaluate their progress in implementing these standards and adjust their action plans accordingly.

We are currently developing a similar tool for transport by land and sea. Our objective is to create a web-based self-assessment and monitoring tool that will enable WOAHS Members to better assess their level of implementation of WOAHS standards on the transport of animals (Chapter 7.2 and Chapter 7.3 of the *WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code*), track their progress over time and identify gaps and areas for improvement. The tool is being built using the [thematic study](#) conducted by the WOAHS Observatory as a foundation. It will be developed with the support of the Steering Group of the Platform and in consultation with WOAHS Members and partners.

Additionally, the tool will support the Platform Secretariat to measure and evaluate the Platform's role in supporting Members, allowing continuous data-driven support adapted to the Member's needs, and consequently contributing to improved animal welfare in Europe.

Upcoming events



Please visit our website

[Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe - WOAHS – Europe](#)

SHARE WITH US

Following the link below, you can share with us, and the rest of the community your experience, best practices or challenges.

By sharing you will promote transparency, expertise and solidarity!

[Share your story!](#)