



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella

23rd meeting (SGE ASF-23)

18-19 September 2024

Cross-border cooperation – Baltic approach

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Content

- Cooperation at CVO level – Baltic countries + Poland
- Cooperation at expert level
- Cooperation in Nordic-Baltic region



Cooperation at CVO level: Baltic Council of CVOs



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Baltic Council of CVOs

- Established long ago
- Initially for three Baltic countries – LV, LT and EE
- Poland was invited to join in 2013 (due to ASF risk)
- Annual meetings (2-3 days) of the teams of CVOs
- Discussions on actual topics and hot issues
- Exchange of experiences, best practices
- Intention to reach common agreements / position
- Formal work in the informal environment

Baltic Council of CVOs



Formal part...



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Baltic Council of CVOs



Informal part...



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Baltic Council of CVOs

What have we achieved?

- Better contacts between Veterinary authorities of the countries and friendship
- Several agreements on «regional» approach / solutions for specific situations
- More «weight» at the EU level – higher chance to initiate and achieve changes in EU legislation and guidelines
- Agreements on future strategies
- Strengthening the region

Baltic Council of CVOs

What did we not achieve?

- Regional initiative on the building of the fence to prevent ASF introduction in 2013...

Now we see that fences
are the most effective tool
for ASF control in wild
boar...



Cooperation at expert level



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Baltic cooperation: expert level

- Sustainability of expertise – no frequent changes of staff
- Regular contacts – phone calls, Whats app, Viber
- Quick solutions of sudden issues
- Quick information / contacts provided
- Quick advice
- Quick coordination of position / opinion



Baltic cooperation: expert level (2)

- Cross-border simulation exercises (CSF, FMD)
- Practical expertise / help in case of outbreaks:

- Two LV culling experts went to LT to help with culling of pigs in large pig farm affected by CSF
- EE provided training to LV on mass killing of pigs using CO₂



Cooperation within Nordic-Baltic region



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Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group

Cooperation between competent veterinary authorities in the Nordic and Baltic countries –
expert level



Countries in the group:

Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland,
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland,
Greenland and the Faroe Islands

Baltic states joined this group in 2006



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Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group

The Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council

Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MR-FJLS)

Nordic Working Group for Microbiology & Animal Health and Welfare (NMDD)

The remit of the working group covers activities in the fields of microbiology, animal health and welfare, and to ensure that Nordic agencies work together effectively.



The Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group (N-B VCG) is an ongoing NMDD project since 2006



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Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group



The objectives:

- to improve cooperation, communication and exchange of information and experiences between the veterinary authorities within the Nordic-Baltic region, in the context of contingency planning and during animal diseases crises;
- to increase awareness among professionals and stakeholders within the region regarding animal health threats and emerging disease.

Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group



The activities of the group:

- 2-3 meetings per year (at least one face to face)
- One international seminar every two years
- One simulation exercise every 2-3 years
- Workshops / training of group members + few more experts from countries

Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group



Examples of group activities:

- **International seminars** on risk analysis, vector borne diseases, risk-based surveillance and contingency planning, infectious diseases of wildlife, biosecurity.
- **International simulation exercises:** FMD, Bluetongue, West Nile fever, African swine fever and viral hemorrhagic septicemia.
- **Workshops and trainings** on: Preparation of simulation exercises, animal expert groups, rapid qualitative risk assessments for use in National veterinary administrations and communication.

Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group



Memorandum of Understanding



The Nordic-Baltic Animal Health Emergency Reserve

and

Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Planning Studies

- a Nordic Animal Health Emergency Reserve, to provide support and assistance to a participant in response to an animal disease outbreak emergency; where the resources of the country affected by the outbreak are not sufficient to meet the needs of the country affected by the outbreak emergency.
- a platform for Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Planning Studies, to support study visits and training sessions facilitating enhanced animal disease preparedness in the Nordic-Baltic Region.



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Conclusions

Benefits from the Regional cooperation:

- more power to speak with international organizations / partners;
- more power to defend regional interests
- good contacts between Veterinary authorities of the region;
- quick solutions for problems and sudden issues e.g. trade;
- quick information exchange / contacts provided
- quick advice in difficult situations;
- support from neighboring country in case of emergency situation;
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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



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