



# World Organisation for Animal Health

## 4th QUARTERLY PLATFORM UPDATE 2024

### Happy new year 2025. What has the region been up to in the last months?

We share with you dear colleagues our main work and engagements in the past months:

- Twenty-third meeting of the Steering Group (SG23)
- Sixth Regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan Countries (DPMB6)
- Whole Journey Scenario on long-distance transport in Europe (WJS\_E)
- Article for the National Focal Points on Animal Welfare
- Welcome package
- Sharing experience in the Americas: WOAHA events in Mexico & Colombia
- Share With Us!
- Upcoming Activities

[Continue reading for more information!](#)

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## Events

### 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Steering Group (SG23) of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, Vienna - Austria, 21-23 October 2024

The Platform on Animal Welfare Steering Group met in Vienna, Austria, to review the activities held by the Platform, since the last meeting of the SG in April 2024 and guide the working plan for the next 6 months. Great discussions were held during the two-two day meeting guiding the secretariat of the Platform on the next steps.

An important discussion was the involvement of the National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in the development of the new Self-Assessment Tool on Transport. Furthermore, the meeting included a section on monitoring and evaluation, where participants were invited to do group exercises, focusing on the comprising the Theory of Change and Result Framework. A presentation on the results found over the Communication consultancy was also shared with our Steering Group, sharing the vision on how to keep developing our platform's engagement.

The next step of this collective approach is to reinforce the cross-regional cooperation that was initiated a couple of years ago to have an impact on AW not only in Europe but also more globally.



## Sixth WOAAH Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan Countries, Sutomore - Montenegro, 05 - 07 November 2024



The sixth WOAAH Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management brought together nine Balkan countries, and Qatar as an observing country. Once again the workshop served as a platform to foster country's exchange by providing their current situation regarding the topic, whilst supporting colleagues with plausible solutions in their endeavours to comply with WOAAH chapter 7.7. The importance of continuous training on DPM, self-assessments using the SAM4DPM tool, and commitment for a progressive implementation of the roadmaps were just some of the main outcomes of this fruitful workshop

For complete information about the event, please read our website: [DPM6](#)

## Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport in Europe, Paris - France, 16 - 18 December 2024

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop on long-distance transport in Europe was in Paris, France. The workshop focused on challenges presented by in land transport of animals from central to southern Europe, with discussions also extending to sea transport challenges.

The main objectives of the workshop were to improve animal welfare during long-distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAAH standards. It emphasised the responsibilities of Competent Authorities throughout the journey, offering an opportunity to share best practices, enhance collaboration between authorities, and address specific challenges in land transport from central to southern Europe.

The workshop underscored the need to enhance and strengthen communication and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in live animal transport, highlighting the importance of well-defined responsibilities, proper planning, and a collective, adaptable approach in unexpected situations.



To read the information about the event, please follow the link: [WJS EUROPE](#)

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## Article

### National Focal Point on Animal Welfare: *Strengthening the Transversal Nature of Animal Welfare in Europe. Outcomes of the Regional Training Seminar of the National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Europe*



It's here! Our latest article, *Strengthening the Transversal Nature of Animal Welfare in Europe: Outcomes of the Regional Training Seminar of the National Focal Points for Animal Welfare*, is now available.

This article highlights the broad spectrum of issues related to animal welfare in Europe. During the National Focal Points meeting last June 2024, key topics such as legislation, economics, or scientific advancements were discussed in depth.

The discussions underscored the interconnected nature of these topics, inspiring us to raise greater awareness about their transversality. This led to the creation of this article, tailored just for you!

Please follow the link to access the article: [ARTICLE](#)

## Welcome Package for Focal Points on animal welfare



A welcome package has been developed to support our National Focal Points on animal welfare upon their nomination!

Focal points nominated by the Delegate contribute to:

- WOAH standard-setting process by sending their proposals and comments to the Specialist Commission and in-country consultation process.
- improve communication between Members and WOAH of animal welfare experts and enhance communications between Competent Authorities at the country level

Link Focal Points welcome package webpage: [WELCOME PACKAGE](#)

## Platform Development: Sharing experience in the Americas

The 6th WOAHA Animal Welfare Global Forum was held in the last days of October in Mérida, Mexico, to explore how the WOAHA Collaborating Centres can assist member countries in enhancing animal welfare. The forum was an opportunity to present the role of science in animal welfare and the activities of various collaborating centres.

Members and partners shared their experiences collaborating with the centres, discussing the benefits, key areas for improvement, and challenges for collaboration.

During the meeting, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the future WOAHA Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres Global Network were agreed, which will be presented to the February meeting of the Biological Standards Commission for validation.

We also share our Platform's experience during the discussion and brainstorming sessions.



On the same token, during the start of November, we have participated at the Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea, which was held in Cartagena Colombia. This was a great opportunity for the Platform Secretariat to participate in overseas' event, collaborating with our colleagues from Americas, exchanging experiences and ideas on how to improve the transport of animals by land and by sea. Fruitful discussion on how to improve animal welfare in different areas during transport were led from these complex issue, bringing forward the importance of harmonization of international standards.



To read the information about the event, please follow the link: [WJS AMERICAS](#)

## Share With Us!

Do not forget to **Share With Us!** Now it is easier to share your experience with the rest of the community!

Do share your best practices or challenges.

Sharing your experiences promote transparency, expertise and solidarity!

Follow the link to and [SHARE WITH US!](#)



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## Upcoming activities

- WOAH regional workshops on animal welfare during slaughter and on animal welfare national action plans, 11 – 13 February 2025, in Tirana, Albania.
- Online meeting on working equids, March 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Point on long-distance transportation in Europe, 11 – 13 March 2025, in Thessaloniki, Greece