



# WOAH TOOLS SUPPORTING TRANSPARENCY OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION: WAHIS, OFFICIAL STATUS, SELF-DECLARATIONS, AND PVS

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**Regional Workshop for Europe:**

**“Using WOAH Standards to Ensure and Facilitate Safe International Trade”**

**Sutomore, Montenegro, 15 - 17 October 2024**

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World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

Dr Marina Sokolova,  
Regional Representation  
for Europe



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924

WOAH itself is a supreme tool ensuring transparency of veterinary information, providing legitimacy of Member states' Veterinary Services actions, and allowing all veterinarians to speak in one language defined in WOAH Codes 

Twenty-eight States obtained an **“international agreement”** on 25 January 1924. The ratification of this 1924 Agreement creating the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)** based in Paris effects a desire clearly expressed by the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

- In 1920, rinderpest occurred unexpectedly in Belgium, as a result of zebus, originating from India and destined for Brazil, transiting via the port of Antwerp.



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**World Organisation  
for Animal Health**  
Founded in 1924



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# International Agreement for the creation of an Office International des Epizooties - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

**The main objects of the Office are:**

- a. To promote and co-ordinate all experimental and other research work concerning the pathology or prophylaxis of contagious diseases of livestock for which international collaboration is deemed desirable.
- b. **To collect and bring to the attention of the Governments or their sanitary services, all facts and documents of general interest concerning the spread of epizootic diseases and the means used to control them.**
- c. To examine international draft agreements regarding animal sanitary measures and to provide signatory Governments with the means of supervising their enforcement.





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## ▶ **WOAH working Tools:**

▶ List of notifiable diseases (Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health)

▶ *(Appendix to the International Agreement of 1924: Article 5.2: At regular intervals, bulletins...., giving information on the presence and distribution of the following nine diseases: Rinderpest, Rabies, Foot and mouth disease, Glanders, Contagious pleuropneumonia, Dourine, Anthrax, Swine fever, Sheep pox) .*

▶ 2024 – 91 listed diseases (TAHC, Chapter 1.3)





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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

# WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

[WAHIS \(woah.org\)](http://woah.org)

Disease Data Collection – WAHIS is the global animal health reference database of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).



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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

WAHIS data reflects **the validated information** since 2005 reported by the Veterinary Services from Member and non-Member Countries and Territories on terrestrial and aquatic **Listed diseases** in domestic animals and wildlife, as well as on emerging diseases and zoonoses.

WAHIS includes interactive mapping tools and dashboards to support data consultation, visualization and extraction of officially validated animal health data.



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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System WAHIS (woah.org)

100 years ago, notifications happened through the fastest means of communication available: telegrams.

The first digital database, Handistatus, was made available in 1996, and the central server for WAHIS was created in 2005.





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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):



### WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System WAHIS (woah.org)

At the time, the platform already included an early warning system associating alert messages on new cases of disease worldwide to a monitoring system with follow-up and thematic reports on all topics, including Veterinary Services, vaccine production, animal population and human cases of zoonoses.

By 2016, WAHIS was providing spatial and temporal information on diseases, details on diagnostic tests and laboratories performing them, quantitative data on infected animals and qualitative data on control measures and status of diseases.

**By receiving animal health information from countries and territories and sharing it in a timely manner, WOAH supports safe trade between countries.**



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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

Animal health status Terrestrial Code Online Access -  
WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health (a-sop-  
application-woah.pdf): PROCEDURES FOR OFFICIAL  
**RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, ENDORSEMENT OF**  
**AN OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME, AND PUBLICATION OF A**  
**SELF-DECLARATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, BY WOAH**





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**WOAH working Tools (cntd):**

## A Member Country may request:

- official recognition of animal health status by WOAHA of:
  - freedom of a country or zone from African horse sickness (AHS);
  - risk status of a country or zone with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
  - freedom of a country or zone from classical swine fever (CSF);
  - freedom of a country or zone from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP);
  - freedom of a country or zone from foot and mouth disease (FMD), where vaccination is either practised or not practised;
  - freedom of a country or zone from peste des petits ruminants (PPR);
- endorsement by WOAHA of:





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## A Member Country may request:

- endorsement by WOAHA of:

an official control programme for CBPP;

an official control programme for FMD;

an official control programme for PPR;

an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies

**WOAH working Tools (cntd):**





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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

Self declaration: TAHC Article 1.6.3

Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

Self-declared Disease Status - World Organisation for Animal Health (woah.org)

A Member Country may make a self-declaration of freedom of a country, zone or compartment from a WOAH listed disease or another animal disease, infection or infestation. The Member Country may inform WOAH of the claimed status and request publication by WOAH of the self-declaration to inform WOAH Member Countries.



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## **WOAH working Tools (cntd):**

### Self declaration: TAHC Article 1.6.3

A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the relevant chapters of the Codes.

### Self-declaration SOP (woah.org)

### Self-declarations of animal health status - Executive summary - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health



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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

### PVS Pathway - PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES

WOAH PVSIS - advocacy tool for increased investment in veterinary services

Quality of Veterinary services. Article 3.2.1. Compliance with standards of quality is critical for Veterinary Services to meet their animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health objectives, and is important for the establishment and maintenance of trust in international trade.

Fundamental operating principles:



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## WOAH working Tools (cntd):

Veterinary Services should comply with the following interrelating principles to ensure the quality of their activities.

1. Professional judgement: The personnel should have the relevant qualifications, expertise and experience to give them the competence to make sound professional judgements.

2. Independence and objectivity: Care should be taken to ensure that personnel are free from any undue commercial, financial, hierarchical, political or other pressures which might adversely affect their judgement or decisions. The Veterinary Services should, at all times, act in an objective manner.

3. Impartiality: Veterinary Services should be impartial. In particular, all the parties affected by their activities have a right to expect that their services are delivered reasonably and without discrimination.





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Fundamental  
operating  
principles  
(cntd):



Integrity: Veterinary Services should maintain a consistently high level of integrity. Any fraud, corruption or falsification should be identified and addressed.



**Transparency:** Veterinary Services should be as transparent as possible in all their governance and technical activities, including but not limited to, disease reporting, policy and programme decision-making, human resources and financial issues.



Scientific basis: Veterinary Services should develop and implement their activities on a scientific basis, incorporating relevant inputs from fields such as *risk analysis*, epidemiology, economics and social science.



Intersectoral collaboration: Veterinary Services should operate collaboratively, including via a One Health approach, sharing professional knowledge and experience with all relevant sectors and actors while optimising the use of resources.



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## ▶ **WOAH working Tools (cntd):**

### ▶ Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS):

#### WOAH PVSIS



### ▶ Evaluation of Veterinary Services. *TAHC Chapter 3.3.*

#### *Article 3.3.2. Objectives of the evaluation of Veterinary Services:*



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## ▶ **WOAH working Tools (cntd):**

### ▶ Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS):

#### WOAH PVSIS

The evaluation of Veterinary Services has the following objectives:

- ▶ to provide an independent, objective perspective on the performance of Veterinary Services;
- ▶ to verify performance, provide confidence, enhance reputation and avoid complacency, and as part of a process of continuous improvement;
- ▶ to demonstrate compliance of the Veterinary Services with Chapter 3.2.;
- ▶ to better advocate for, allocate and prioritise resources;
- ▶ **to generate trust between trading partners in the quality and integrity of Veterinary Services.**



## Evaluation of Veterinary Services. Chapter 3.3. (cntd):

Member Countries may develop their own mechanisms and methods for the evaluation of their Veterinary Services. The evaluation of the quality of Veterinary Services should be in accordance with *Chapter 3.2*.

### The Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool)

The PVS Tool is aligned with the WOAHA standards, in particular, with the quality standards for Veterinary Services defined in *Chapter 3.2*.

**Based on the PVS Tool, WOAHA has developed a capacity-building platform, the PVS Pathway [WOAHA PVSIS](#)**

# THE WORLD ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (WAHIS)

<https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>



# WAHIS: What has changed?

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2022 **Optimised Early Warning module**  
**Weekly data extractions**

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**User friendly and intuitive**

Early 2024 **Dashboard optimisation**  
**NEW mapping functionalities**

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**More robust data entry process**

June 2024 **NEWLY optimised six-monthly report**  
**NEW annual report**  
**NEW animal population dashboard**

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**Enhanced user support**

Sept 2024 **Animal Disease Information System**  
**(ADIS) interconnection**



**High performance and stability**



<https://wahis.woah.org>



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## ADIS/WAHIS

In the EU, since 11 September 2024, ADIS and WAHIS have been linked for disease notifications. ADIS is a single-entry for both ADIS and WAHIS disease notifications.

- Pilot Member States can enter both EU and WOAHA notifications via ADIS: Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands and Spain.
- Non-EU countries can voluntarily use ADIS as a single-entry point for disease notification.

Advantages: reduced risks in data gaps increases transparency in animal health; optimisation of resources by avoiding double data entry.

# Newly optimised Six-Monthly Report Module

## Presence or absence of listed diseases


HOME » SIX-MONTHLY REPORTS

### Six-monthly report

<https://wahis.woah.org/#/smr-management>

Export 

#### Filters

★ Apply favorites 

Country / Territory


Report ID

Animal type



Report period











Year

Report date 

Validation date 

World region

 World Region : Europe 

<input type="checkbox"/>	Country / Territory	Report ID	Animal type	Report period	Year	Report date	Validation date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Faeroe Islands	SMR_166109	Terrestrial	First semester	2022	2024/09/13	2024/09/19	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finland	SMR_168040	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/09/12	2024/09/19	
<input type="checkbox"/>	San Marino	SMR_169193	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/09/12	2024/09/13	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Romania	SMR_168363	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/08/23	2024/09/12	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hungary	SMR_168477	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/07/31	2024/08/05	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Latvia	SMR_166108	Aquatic	Second semester	2023	2024/07/30	2024/08/07	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Italy	SMR_168294	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/07/26	2024/08/01	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Portugal	SMR_168395	Aquatic	Second semester	2023	2024/07/24	2024/08/05	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Portugal	SMR_168394	Aquatic	First semester	2023	2024/07/23	2024/08/05	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iceland	SMR_168337	Aquatic	First semester	2024	2024/07/19	2024/07/30	

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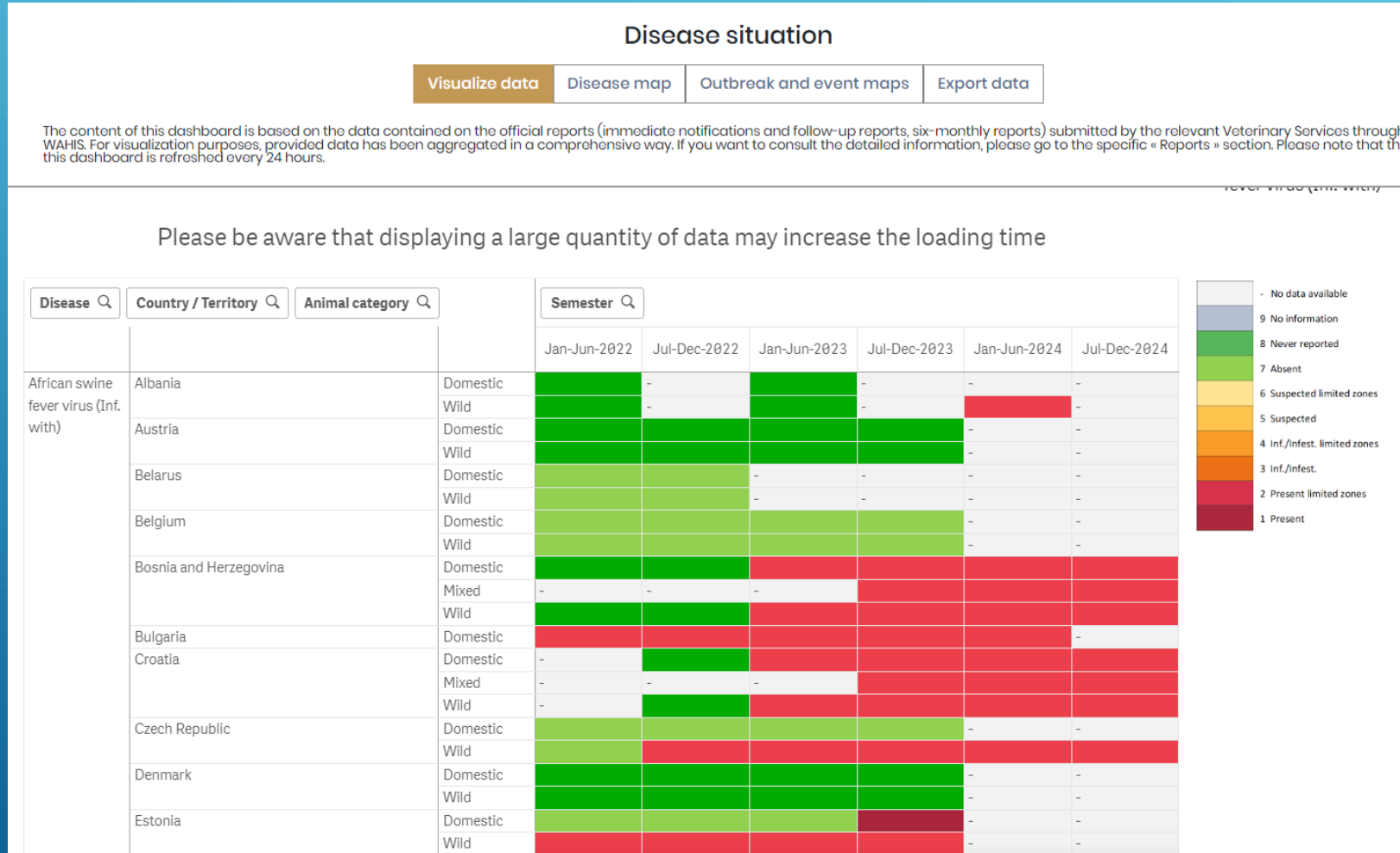




# Analytics - dashboards

## ➤ Disease situation, quantitative data and control measures

<https://wahis.woah.org/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard>



**African swine fever  
Europe (2022–2024)**



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## WOAH Standards

### *Aquatic Code and Terrestrial Code*

Standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health worldwide, including the prevention of disease spread through international trade of animals and animal products.

### *Aquatic Manual and Terrestrial Manual*

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines (*Terr. Manual* only).

## WOAH Standards

Recognised by the World Trade Organization SPS Agreement (the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement) as the International Standard Setting Organisation for animal health and zoonoses.



# WOAH Standards



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## Used by Veterinary or Competent Authorities





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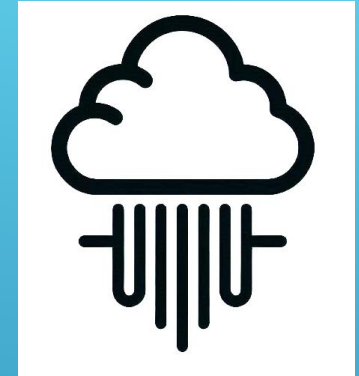
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## Standards Navigation Tool

### Changes to follow:

#### Public WOAHP Website:

- ▶ **Recommendations for Safe International Trade by Commodity:** A tool allowing users to visualize trade recommendations with a filtering system (currently for the Terrestrial Code, with potential expansion to the Aquatic Code).
- ▶ **Navigation and Search Tool:** An intuitive interface for navigating WOAHP's terrestrial and aquatic codes and manuals.



# Thank you



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