



11th Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe (RSCE-11)

1st of October 2024 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan)

Activities of GF-TADs from 2022-2024: Implementation of Action plan (2023-2027)

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, President of the Regional Steering Committee for Europe

Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe - Composition and partners

GF-TADs for Europe



Regional Steering Committee	<p>Composition of Reg. Steering Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of OIE Delegates/ CVO's - 2 EU members (Belgium and the Netherlands), and 2 non-EU members (Russia and Georgia) - The 4 Members of the Bureau of OIE Regional Commission for Europe: Latvia, Austria, Montenegro and Belarus - 1 Representative of OIE and FAO Headquarters each - 1 Representative of OIE and FAO Regional representation each - 1 Representative of WHO - Representatives of Donors: France, Italy, Switzerland - Representatives of Regional Organisations: European Commission and EuFMD <p>Full meeting every 2 years – next meeting: 18th November 2020</p>
Regional Secretariat	<p>Provided by the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow</p>

President of the Regional GF-TADs
Dr Bernard Van Goethem

Observers

Permanent Regional Secretariat
Dr Budimir Plavsic

Regional Support Units
(REMESA/REF.LABs.)

Members
voting, non-voting

GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Regional Specialised Organizations
(EC and EuFMD)

Donors
(non-voting Members)

Implementation of the regional action plan since 10th Regional Steering Committee for Europe – (Catane, October 2022)

During RSC 10th the following points were put forward in the action plan (key objectives related to animal health and disease management, with a focus on international cooperation):

- **TADs prioritization** facilitated / coordinated
 - PPR was added among the diseases important for the regions; focus on rabies in wildlife was kept to maintaining/improving coordination among countries.
- **Planning for prevention and control of TADs**
 - **LSD** strategy revisited at regional level (geographical shift of focus while maintaining surveillance in South East Europe)
 - **Rabies** scope adapted to the evolving situation in and around Ukraine
- **Activities in Europe should be in line with existing** Global and regional strategies:
 - Global Strategy on HPAI
 - Global Coordination Committee for ASF
 - PPR Global Eradication Programme
- **Coordinated planning**
 - It was decided to keep regular regional coordination meetings within the secretariat and with all regional partners
- **Capacity gaps were identified, and priorities defined**
 - LSD shift of priorities to central Asia, but interest there is limited
 - ASF SGE focus on practical recommendation and sharing of technical knowledge (awareness)

Implementation of the regional action plan since 10th Regional Steering Committee for Europe - (Catane)

During RSC 10th the following points were put forward in the action plan (ctd):

- **Harmonized mechanisms for monitoring control**
 - FMD & PPR road map / blueprint strategy, LSD success story communication, all SGEs providing regular updates on epidemiological situations
- **Strengthen engagement and coordination with stakeholders:**
 - Enhancing collaboration with key partners, likely to improve the management of animal diseases like ASF and Rabies
 - Working with the European Commission (DG SANTE) to implement activities related to EU grant to WOAAH, with coordination efforts with the WOAAH Sub-Regional-Representation based in Brussels
- **Improve advocacy by members:** Encouraging members to enhance their efforts in advocating for the necessary measures or policies related to disease control.
- **Promote sustainable funding :**
 - for initiatives like oral rabies vaccination in the Balkans;
 - participating in the advocacy study managed by WOAAH headquarters
 - ensuring that EU grants for GF-TADs projects are integrated and planned over a three-year period for sustainability.

Overview of meetings and activities under GF-TADs for the reference period 2022-2024

Meeting and activities on the six priority diseases in the European Region:

- **African swine fever (ASF)** - Standing Group of experts (SGE) meetings: 1 online , 3 face-to-face, 4 country expert missions (MK, BiH, ME, AL)

On ASF enhanced Communication projects/activities on

- **eLearning programme** for wild boar biosecurity
- **eDepository:** renewed
- FAO activities in **training**

- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD):** 2 Regional Advisory Groups (RAG) meetings and 1 Epi & Lab meeting
- **HPAI:** 1 SGE online (1 face-to-face took place yesterday here in Samarkand)
- **LSD:** 2 SGE meeting online, one lab meeting with central Asia
- **PPR:** 2 RAG meetings, one webinar
- **Rabies:** 2 SGE online, 1 face-to-face

Achievements

- **PPR**
 - Progressing slowly in Central Asia.
 - Azerbaijan got the **WOAH official free status** in 2024.
 - **ALERT!!!!!!** Georgia/Romania/Greece/Türkiye recent outbreaks (indications of effective control in Romania and Greece through drastic measures, situation in progress)
- **HPAI**
 - **Good surveillance** has been implemented.
 - **Vaccination efforts** have started in at least one country.
- **FMD (Foot-and-Mouth Disease):**
 - **Limited circulation of FMD strains** in the European Region.
 - In the neighborhood, serotypes SAT2, A and O continue to represent a risk for the European region.
- **ASF (African Swine Fever):**
 - Continue evolution in Germany, Italy and Poland and in certain **Balkan Countries**
 - **All restrictions were lifted in Sweden** in September 2024, after one year from first notification
- **Rabies**
 - The situation in the **Balkans** is being carefully assessed with **good trends**, so far.
 - **Joint actions under the ICG framework** with stakeholders have been initiated as the disease is progressing from Ukraine.
- **LSD (Lumpy Skin Disease):**
 - **Monitoring the situation in Southeastern Europe** (SEE), including Türkiye.
 - Close observation of recombinant strains in **Russia** and **Central Asia**.

**NOT A PRIORITY DISEASE, but
Sheep and Goat Pox under control
in Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, Türkiye**

Regional coordination for PPR

Webinar of PPR situation in Europe region under GF-TADs regional approach 4th September 2024 – 9h30 am – 12h30 pm CEST, Virtual meeting

Organised by: GF-TADs Regional Secretariat for Europe, with the support of **EU DG SANTE** and in collaboration with **FAO** and **EuFMD**.

It brought together more than 100 participants, including **WOAH Delegates**, representatives from **reference laboratories**, and from **WOAH, FAO, EuFMD**, and the **European Commission**.



The webinar underscored the importance of **cooperation, information sharing, and coordinated actions** across Europe to prevent the further spread of PPR and ensure preparedness. Participants emphasized that a unified approach is crucial in combating the disease and protecting the region's livestock and economy.

<https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/news/uniting-against-ppr-collaborative-solutions-discussed-in-gf-tads-webinar/>

Integrating Key Pillars of the GF-TADs Global Strategy

Sustaining Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement

- Ensuring continuous communication and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders to maintain momentum



Measuring Outcomes and Impact

- Tracking progress through measurable outputs to assess and demonstrate the effectiveness of initiatives.



Enhancing Efficiency and Maximizing Impact

- Streamlining disease coordination meetings.
- Strengthening enforcement and follow-up on recommendations to ensure tangible results.

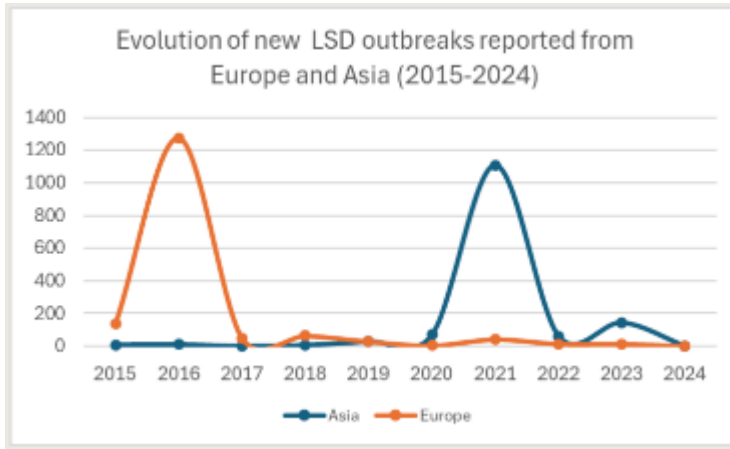
Strategic Implementation of Regional Action Plans

- Tailoring Regional plans to meet Member States' evolving needs.
- Focusing on future challenges and innovations for long-term resilience.



Integrating Key Pillars of the GF-TADs Global Strategy – achievements

(1) Keeping coordination alive means maintaining engagement of all stakeholders

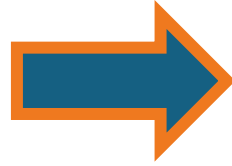


- LSD activities: the **SGE LSD 13 (February 2024)** concluded that LSD control in Southeast Europe has been successful, and the epidemiological situation remains favorable.
 - In Central Asia the situation seems to be evolving. More efforts are needed on the coordination of LSD activities at regional level (vaccination, surveillance, sharing of information etc.)
- Rabies activities: the **SGE Rabies 5 (July 2024 – in person)** noted an apparent stabilization of the situation in the Western Balkans and considerations to phase out ORV. Continued communication remains essential to safeguard and consolidate achievements on rabies control.
 - deteriorated situation in Ukraine linked to armed conflict and its impact around Ukraine to be closely monitored; while keeping the results of the Western Balkans in mind, rabies control efforts in and around Ukraine may need further support.
 - could be included in a renewed focus for SGE Rabies 6

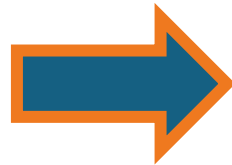
Integrating Key Pillars of the GF-TADs Global Strategy – achievements

(2) Increasing efficiency and impact – organization of disease coordination meetings and enforcement of recommendations

Regular meetings between members to **build trust** and enable **smoother processes and informal coordination** between Members and experts.



Technical recommendations on practical topics (e.g. ASF/carcass detection and disposal during SGE ASF 21 in September 23, ASF/fencing SGE ASF 22 in April 24) to make recommendations are practical and useful.



For all actors, specific attention should be paid to individuals ignoring public messaging. Whether it is due to distrust of authorities, carelessness, provocative attitudes, the diffusion of conspiracy theories on social media, ASF unfortunately has its share of misinformation circulating. While there are very few ready-made solutions against disinformation, it is important for veterinary services to keep their focus on proper communication.

Various countries in the region have responded in different ways to the needs for awareness material for the different publics mentioned above. Since the material created is very varied, WDAH believes it can be helpful for members to share the material they have produced. Despite language barriers, this sharing can help create additional material for different countries and help in reducing the burden of ASF.



- For veterinary services
- For farmers
- For hunters
- For travellers, customs and drivers

At global level, through the GF-TADs, FAO and WDAH have created a series of poster and information material (including videos) on African Swine Fever. These are designed to be understandable in a variety of cultures and settings, and offer options for the general public, travellers, farmers, hunters. [African swine fever] (WDAH & FAO) Toolkit. Insert a picture of a general public poster and the social media card.

Integrating Key Pillars of the GF-TADs Global Strategy – achievements

(3) Implementing the Regional action plan to best reply to Members needs



- We continued **engaging with Members** through dedicated Standing Group of Experts / regional advisory groups and during other events (missions, feedback from trainings)
- Continued to focus on **technical approaches corresponding to our regional paradigms** – example of the SGE ASF 22 on fencing and wild boar population control
- Continued to **provide trainings** including in languages used in the region (FAO, WOA, and EU)
- Projects to **improve the capacities** of the national veterinary systems (e.g. ADEWBII *inter alia* on ASF and rabies).

Main objectives of the 11th meeting of the RSC Europe:

- Updating the list of Members (new Delegates/Bureau members)
- Revise the TORs: the current TORs will be circulated to include input from the Members, where needed
- Election of the president: one of the Members will propose a candidate