

WOAH Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

5th meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Points

on long-distance transportation in Europe

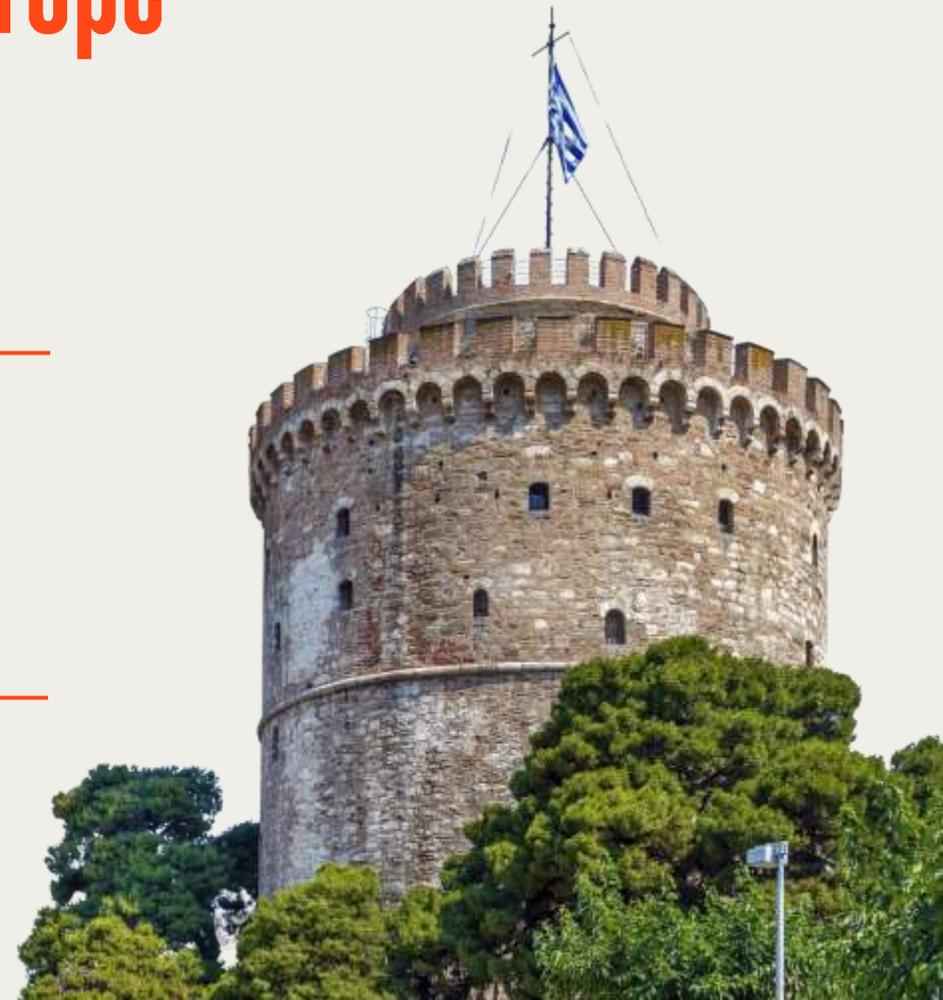
11 – 13 March 2025, Thessaloniki, Greece



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Co-funded by
the European Union



WOAH Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

1st Action Plan
2014 - 2016



2nd Action Plan
2017 - 2019



3rd Action Plan
2021 - 2023



4th Action Plan
2024 - 2026



Launch
2013

to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe and empower Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with WOAH standards





Priority topics



4th Action Plan for 2024-2026

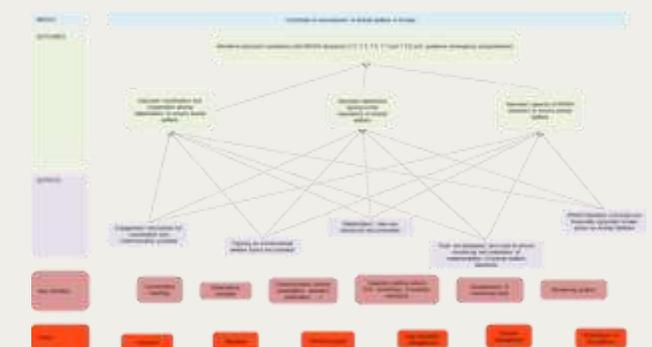
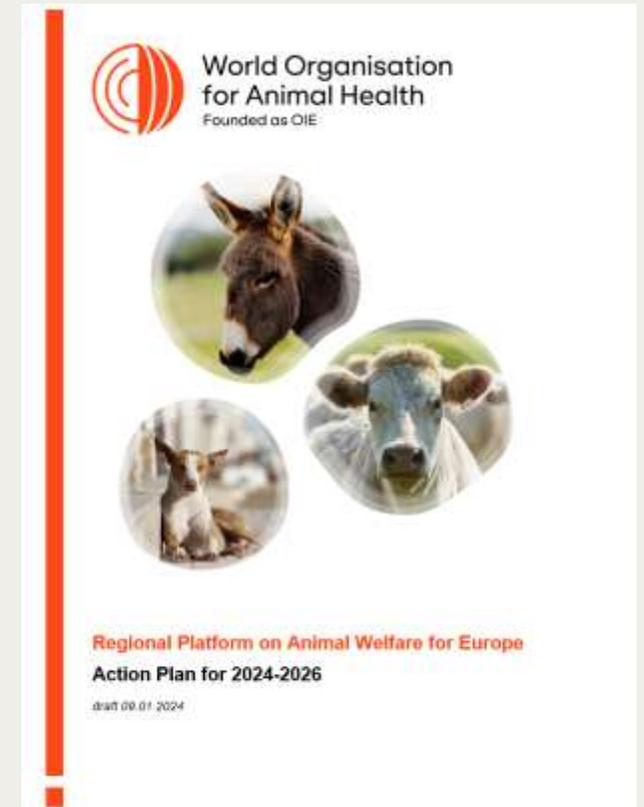
Impact (Long-term objective):

Contribute to the improvement of animal welfare in Europe through the priority topics

Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective)

Progressively improve the compliance of WOAAH Members with WOAAH standards

- **Common vision and continuity**
- **Strengthening the WOAAH Members involvement**
- **Collaboration with all WOAAH Members and stakeholders**





2024 – Key achievements

- Implementation of the 4th Action Plan

is the implementation of 85% of the activities planned for the first year of the 4th Action Plan of the Platform

- Communication strategy

advanced communication initiatives, enhancing visibility and understanding of the Platform's pivotal role and achievements.

- Monitoring and Evaluation

ongoing work on improving the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Platform with the engagement of the Steering Group



Priority topics





Slaughter of animals

- **New revised standard**

Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter
adopted during the 91st WOAHA General Assembly of Delegates- May 2024

- **Developing on-line training module**

WOAH Platform for the Training of Veterinary Services

- **Dissemination of training materials**

Train-the-trainer session, dedicated workshops, webinars

- **Development of a self-assessment and monitoring tool on slaughter**

Slaughter of animals

The regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter and the development of national animal welfare action plans

11 - 13 February 2024 Tirana, Albania.



These workshops:

- Focused on identifying capacity-building needs
- Supporting WOAHA Members in developing comprehensive national training programmes on animal welfare during slaughter.
- Guided WOAHA Members in formulating sustainable, multi-annual national action plans to improve long-term animal welfare management.



Transport of animals



Network of WOAHA National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:

- within Europe
- multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa

Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note

Dog population management

Improving Members' capacity

- Regional roadmaps on dog population management

**Balkan Roadmap
(objective 2026)**

- targeted support to address specific needs of countries

**West Eurasia Roadmap
(objective 2030)**

- continue with roadmaps workshops every 2 years
- measure progress

- **Self-Assessment and Monitoring For Dog Population Management (SAM4DPM)**



Regular support for the SAM4DPM self-assessment rounds

Periodic flash thematic meetings

Animal welfare in natural disasters

building on achievements of the pilot project on role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters



Identification of the regional needs:

- Survey on WOAHA Members' capacity to deal with animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters in Europe
- Online Stakeholders' Consultation

Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Workshop
14 WOAHA Members from Europe and North Africa - January 2024

WOAHA at the European Civil Protection Forum 2024
Awareness and collaboration with stakeholders - June 2024

Online meeting on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction
WOAHA development and sharing experience of Members – September 2024

-
- Regional workshop on contingency planning and response plans
 - Thematic online meeting
 - Simulation exercise for the testing contingency planning

Welfare of working equids

from raising awareness
on welfare of working equids



Regional Awareness Day (2017)



Baseline Survey on Working Equids (2019)



Online event September (2023)



- Thematic online meetings / seminars on working equids
- Workshop on working equids

towards a plan build with targeted Members and stakeholders adapted to Member needs

Event on welfare of working equids

*back-to-back to animal welfare focal points meeting
27 June 2024, Madrid, Spain*

- Technical lecture – WESLI technical resources
- Sharing country experience
 - Spain – addressing the welfare of equids at local festivals in Cataluña
 - World Horse Welfare project in Romania
- Working group exercise, reporting and discussion

developing project proposals - building a year plan for a grant to support improvement in the health and welfare of working equids supporting operators' livelihoods



Governance

- WOAHA Regional Commission for Europe
- Steering Group (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Ireland, Portugal)

Stakeholders and partners

- annual coordination meetings

Communication

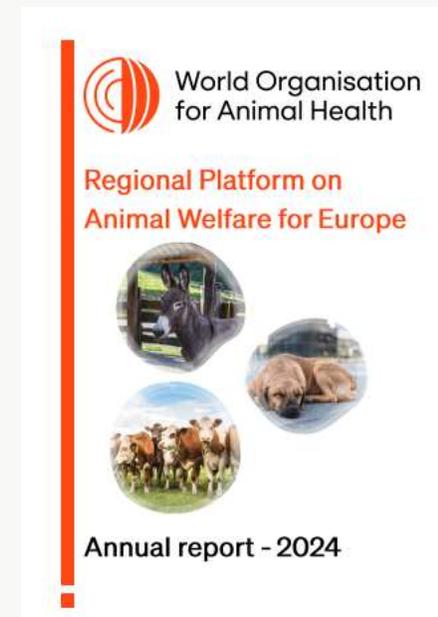
- Communication strategy
- Website updates
- Annual newsletters
- Annual report

Monitoring and evaluation

- Continuous improvements
- External consultant – review
- Tools within each priority topic
- Engagement of the Steering Group and WOAHA members



Communication



Regional training seminar for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare

25 - 27 June 2024 Madrid, Spain



42

Focal
Points

50

Participants

- ***NFP's role and ToR (revision/discussion)***
- ***Animal welfare legislation***
- ***Advancing implementation of animal welfare standards***
Economics, One Welfare, communication, public-private partnership, collaborating centers
- ***Animal welfare assessment***
Animal welfare in production systems and at slaughterhouses, animal-based indicators and PLF, fish welfare
- ***Platform on animal welfare – priority topics***
- ***Event on the welfare of working equids***

Regional training seminar for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare



- *facilitate networking, sharing and exchange of experiences*
- *create a network of contact points on two other priority topics (dog population management and natural disaster management)*
- *support in building a multi-annual AW Action Plan*
- *training and updates on transversal and technical animal welfare topics*

Transport of animals



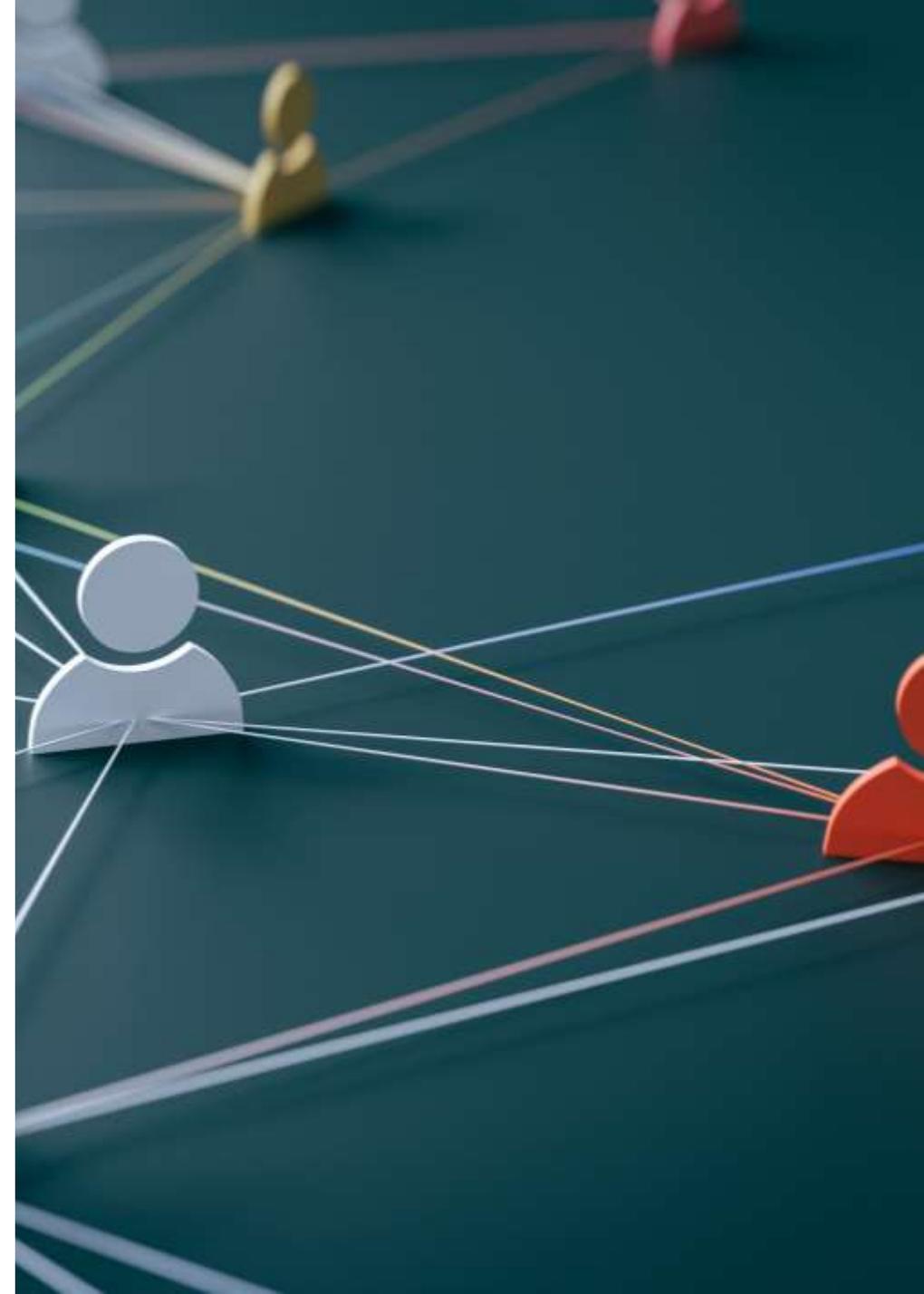
Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note

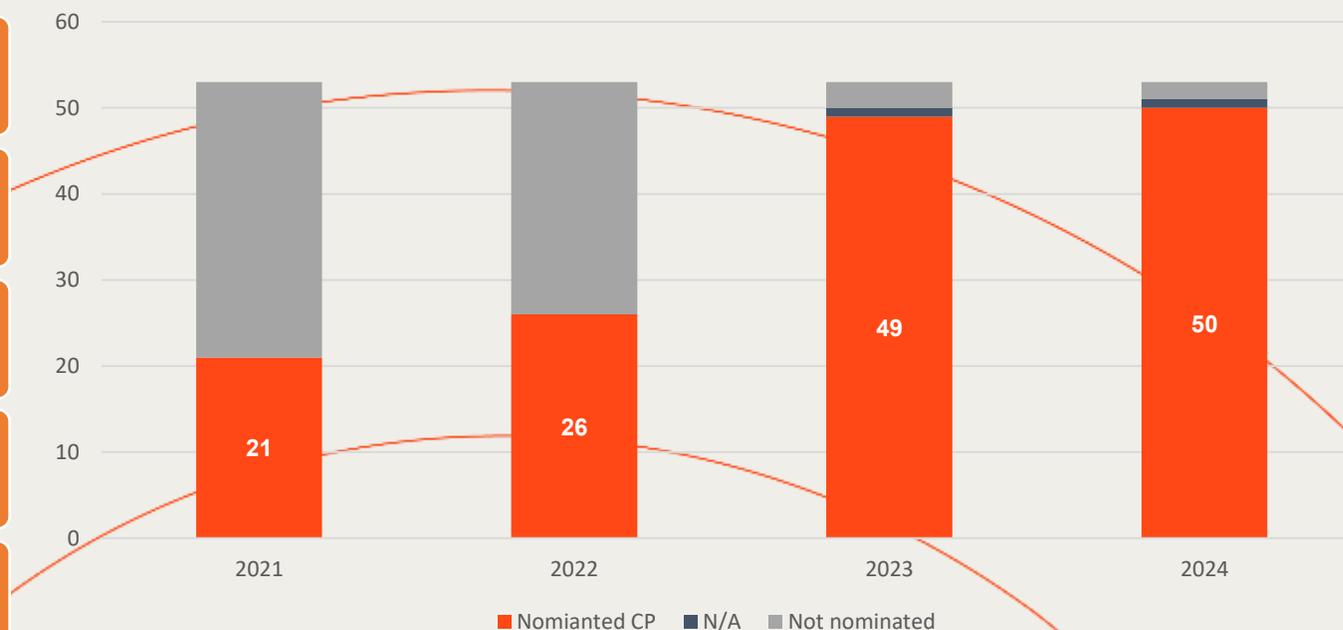
**Network of WOAH National Contact Points
on long-distance transportation in Europe**



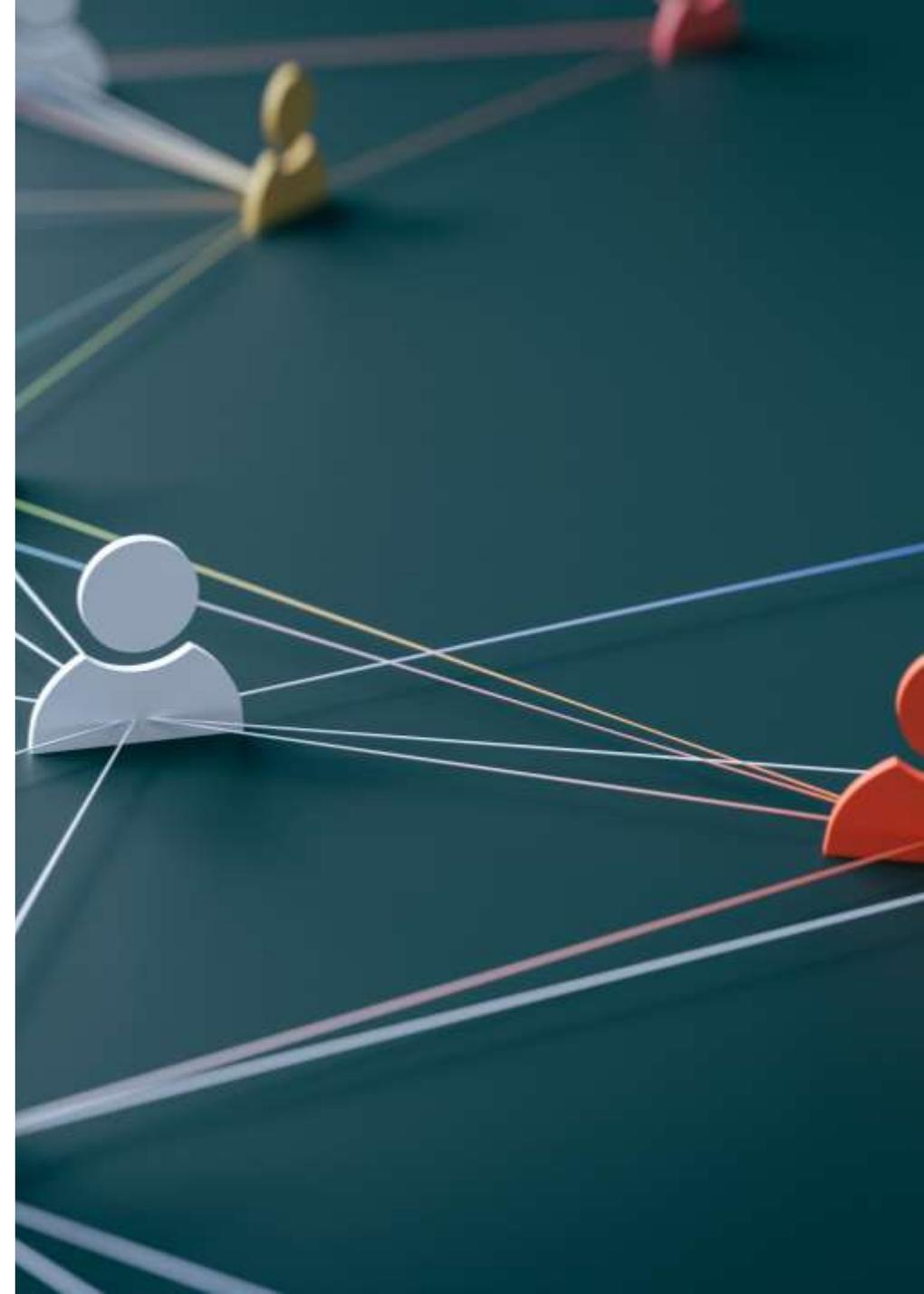


The network of WOAAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

-  1st meeting – November 2021
-  2nd meeting – December 2022
-  3rd meeting – 20-22 June 2023
-  4th meeting – July 2024
-  5th meeting – March 2025



Communication between NCPT



National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

29th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe November 2020
Terms of Reference of the National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation
adopted by Regional Commission for Europe

All Delegates

of the Regional Commission for Europe have been invited to nominate

a National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation





The National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation

- placed **under the supervision of the Delegate**
- should be **regularly, actively and directly involved** at national level in the supervision or control of long-distance transportation of live animals, including the animal welfare dimension, upon exportation, transit and/or importation.
- should be **allowed to have direct exchanges** of information, by email and other forms of communication, with the network of Contact Points on practical issues pertaining a future, ongoing or recent consignment of animals.
- should maintain a **high-level coordination with the National Focal Point on Animal Welfare** (when different)



Proposed tasks

- to establish and maintain direct operational communication links with the other Contact Points in Europe, especially with those in countries with which there is regular trade and with those in countries through which long distance journeys transit.
- to provide, upon request of another Contact Point, and within the shortest possible delay, accurate information, such as approved border posts (opening hours of Customs and Veterinary Services offices, capacity), approved/registered control posts / resting points (location, capacity species and ages of animals catered for), approved/authorized vehicles/vessels, national regulation, etc.
- to inform the Contact Points of the country of origin, possible countries of transit along the route, or any other relevant country, of any non-compliance or problem observed upon control of a specific consignment.
- to address, if possible, any assistance request from another Contact Point.
- to keep the Delegate and the Focal Point informed of his/her activities as Contact Point.



National Contact Points on Long-Distance Transportation in Europe

- The Secretariat of the WOAH Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe is responsible for establishing and keeping updated the list of National Contact Points in Europe.
- The list will not be made publicly available but shared only with the Delegates, the Focal Points and the National Contact Points in Europe.
- Any general information sent to the Network should be copied to the Delegates and the Focal Points.
- The WOAH Platform may organize meetings of the Network, allowing the Contact Points to discuss common issues and share best practices related to long-distance transportation.



4th meeting of regional network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

9th July 2024 - teleconference

The main objectives

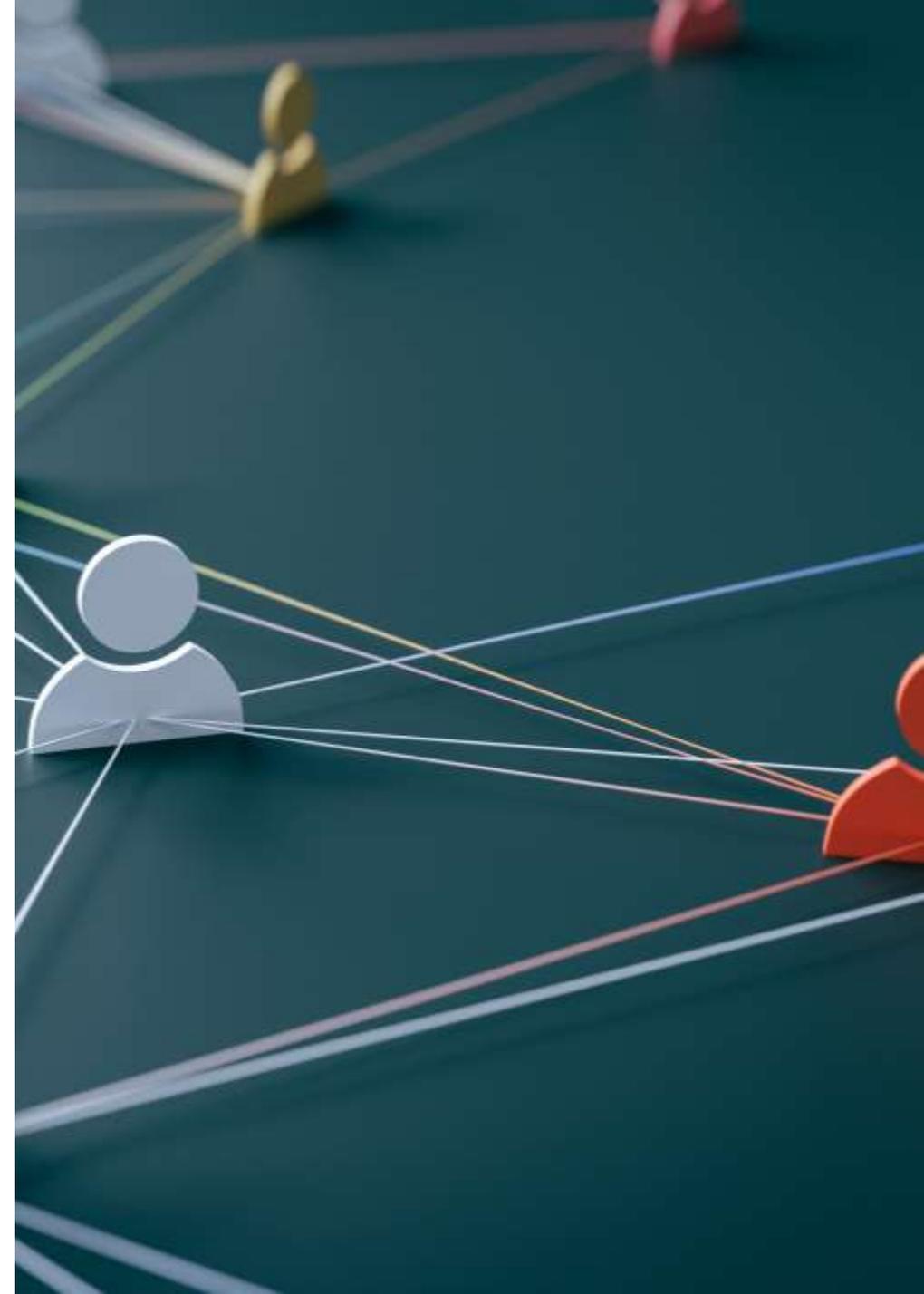
- Maintain the engagement of the contact points
- Discuss common issues
- Provide information on recent global and regional activities

42 National Contact Points

50 participants in total attended the meeting.

- WOAH global activities
- Observatory thematic study
- Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario Workshop between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa
- 4th Action Plan (2024-2026)
- EU Activities on transport
- NCPT
 - Common documents
 - Engagement plan
 - communication between NCPT
 - WJS workshop for Europe
 - next meeting of the network

Engagement



Transport of animals



Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note

Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land for Europe

Paris, France 16 - 18 December 2024



Objectives

- to help countries improve animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAH standards for the whole duration of the journey along the specific route
- focus on the responsibilities of the Competent Authorities over the entire journey
- opportunity to share best practices and strengthen collaboration between Competent Authorities and other authorities
- address specific issues related to ensuring the transport of animals by land from central Europe to southern Europe

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, North Macedonia, Italy, Romania, Spain, and Türkiye.



Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land for Europe

Session 1: Introduction

- WOAH standards and international trade
- WOAH global animal welfare strategy
- WOAH Platform and regional activities on transport

Session 2: Understanding the country's situation and identifying key challenges

- Countries presentations - overview of legislation, main trading partners, main challenges

Session 3: Addressing the challenges

- Observatory – thematic study
- Sharing country experience/ best practices
- Working Group exercises - challenges by faced by Competent Authorities (case study)

Session 4: Stakeholders perspective

- UCBV, FESASS, FVE, Animals' Angels

Session 5: Addressing the challenges and next steps

- Working Group exercise - Discussing procedures for routine and emergency scenarios between countries CA Working group exercise
- New EU legislative proposals and activities
- Implementation of standard – Member's self-assessment tool
- WOAH Platform's next activities on transport



Main conclusions

- **critical need for improved communication and collaboration and the development of effective procedures to ensure animal welfare and health within international trade**
- **collaborative, science-based approach is essential.**

Key challenges

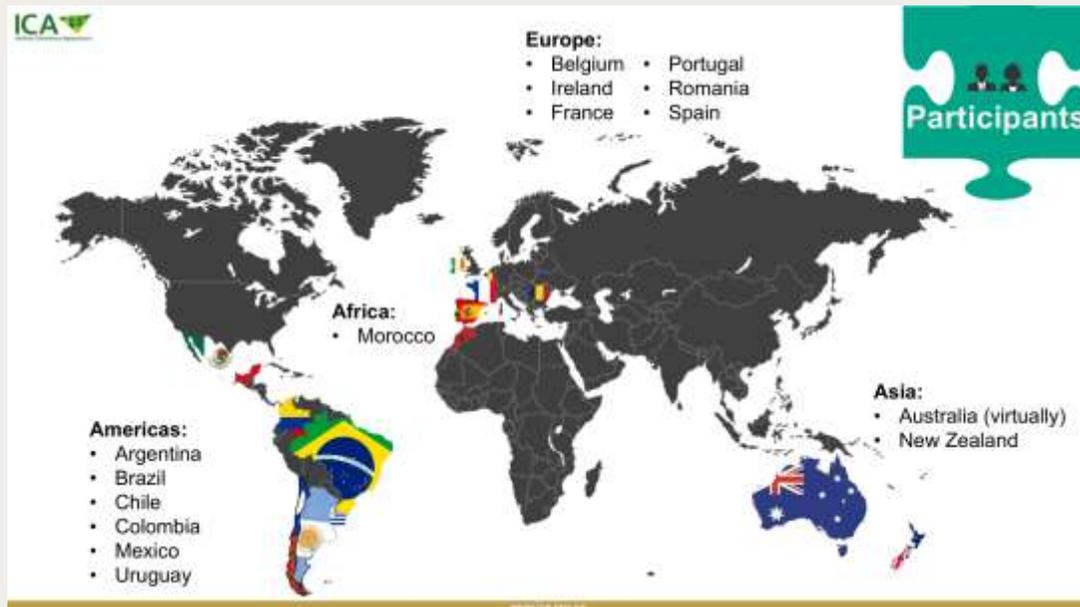
- *Regulatory framework and standards:* enforcing inconsistencies across borders and a lack of standardised procedures limits effective oversight and animal welfare. Pre-border documentation checks were identified as crucial for preventing delays and unexpected events)
- *Communication and Coordination:* inefficient communication and coordination among stakeholders (competent authorities, transporters, producers) resulted in delays, inefficiencies, and compromised animal welfare.
- *Managing Unexpected Events:* need for improved procedures to manage unexpected events - efforts should focus on establishing clear communication channels, defining roles and responsibilities, and developing a unified approach
- *Define responsibilities:* defining the operational and financial roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in the journey
- *Technological Solutions:*
- *Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:* sharing best practices and experiences for building trust and fostering a collaborative approach to continuous improvement.

Whole Journey Scenario

Multi-Regional Workshop in Colombia to Enhance Animal Welfare during Transport

6 – 8 November 2024, Cartagena, Colombia

1st WJS workshop held in the Americas





Whole Journey Scenario

Multi-Regional Workshop in Colombia to Enhance Animal Welfare during Transport

6 – 8 November 2024, Cartagena, Colombia

Future steps for the Americas

- To identify and create the network of contact points for the region.
- To connect with contact points of importing countries and strengthen communication for problem-solving.
- To establish a regional agreement that determines the aspects to be met by countries involved in this activity to ensure the welfare of the animals to be exported.

Transport of animals



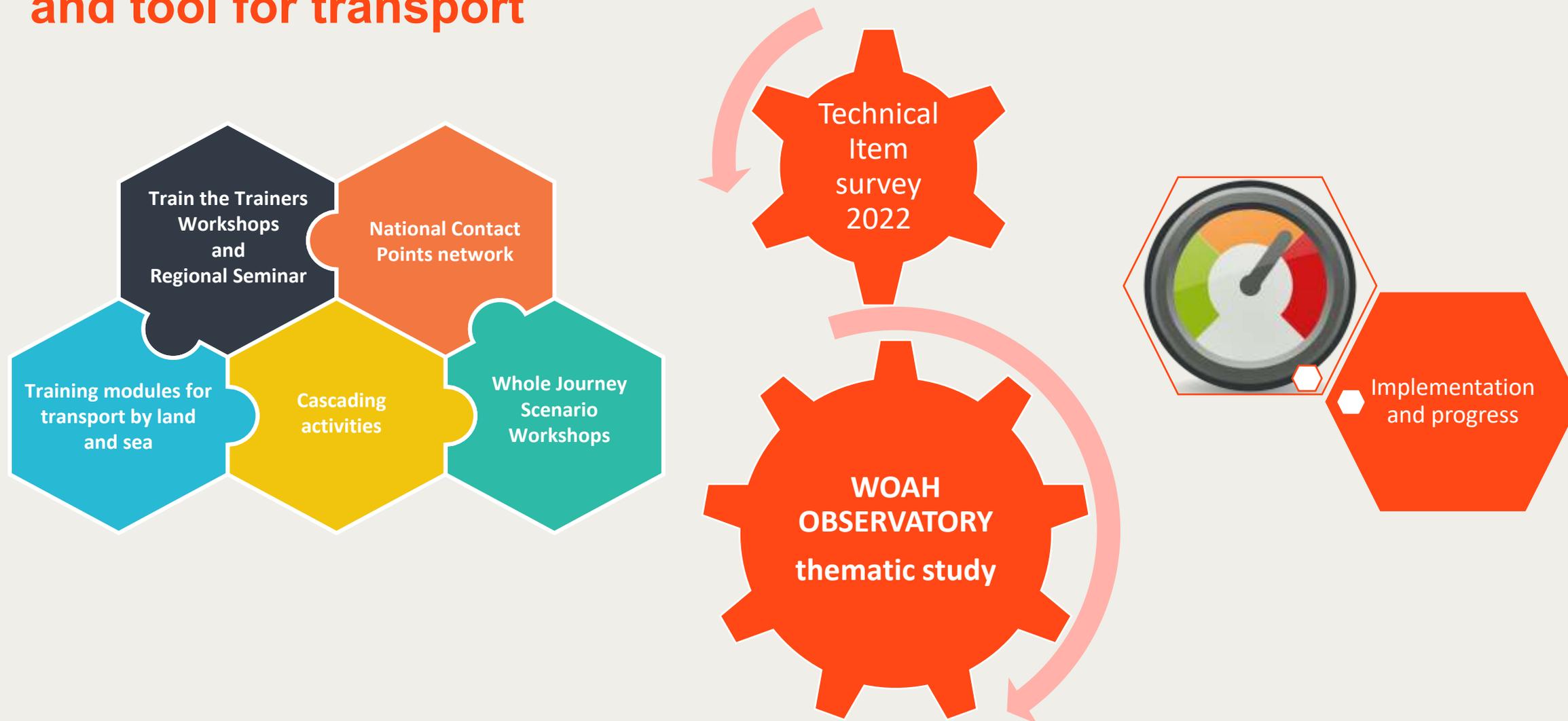
Network of WOAAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note

Development of a self-assessment and monitoring methodology and tool for transport



Thank you!

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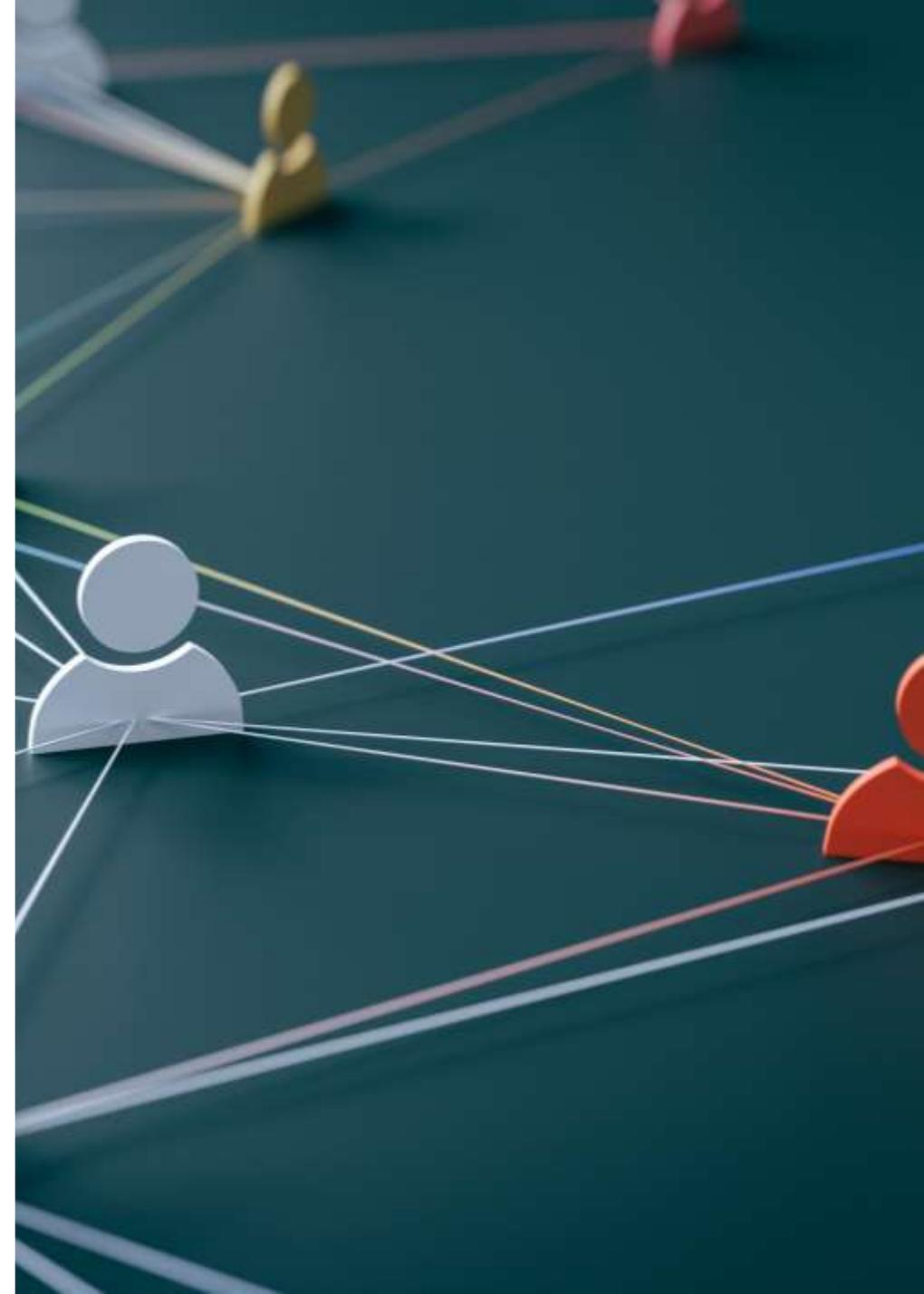


Animal welfare is a journey not a destination

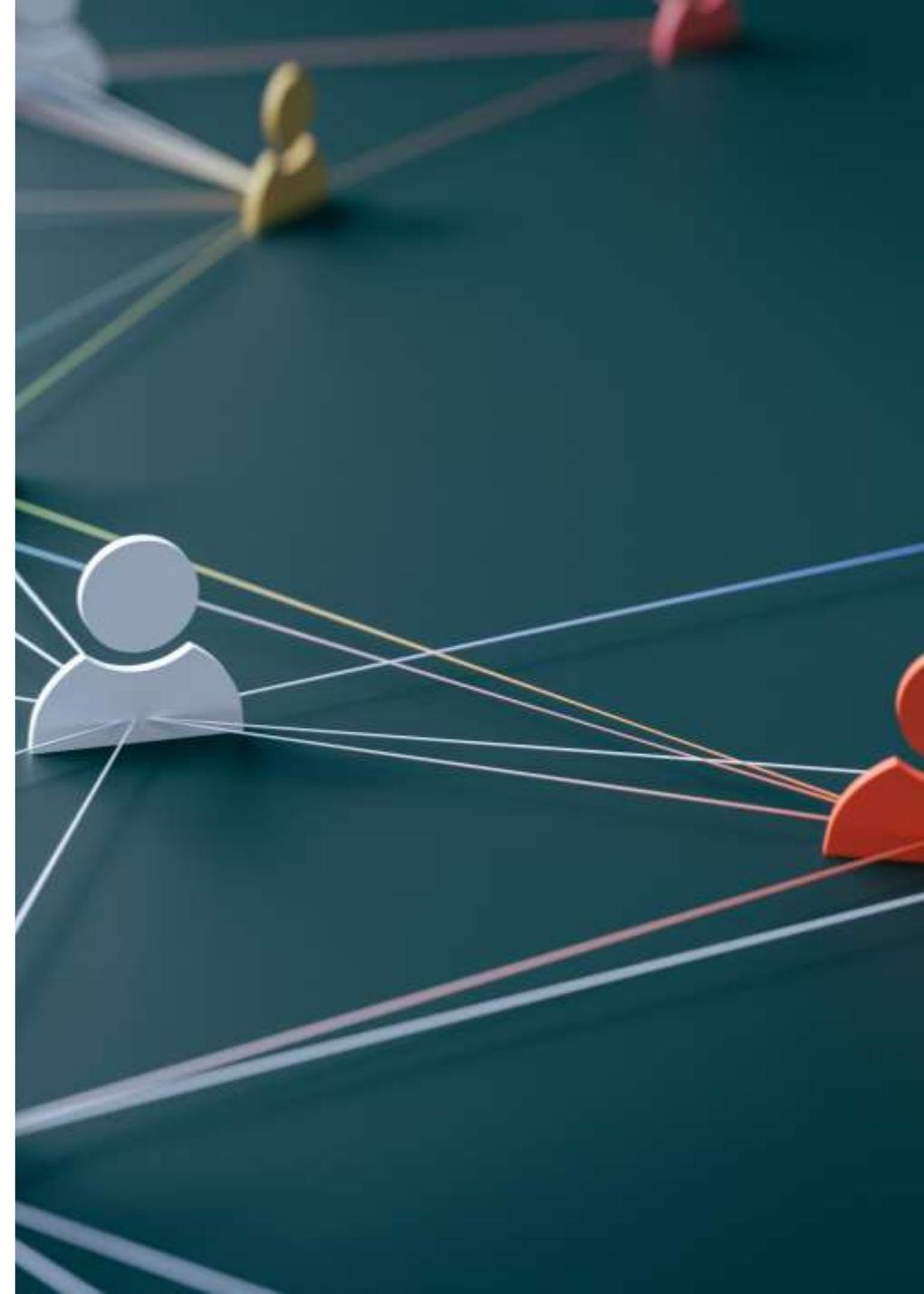


David Bayvel

communication
between NCPT



Engagement



Please share
your story



Common documents



Thank you

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