

REMESA:

the role of Animal Health Networks for the surveillance and control of VBDs

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23/06/2025, Teramo

WOAH Regional Seminar Vector-Borne Diseases in the European Region (25-27 June)



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



I N D E X

1. The Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA)
 - How everything started
 - Areas of cooperation, Objectives, Priorities
 - Structure
 - Resources
 - Future perspectives
2. What REMESA is doing/can do for the surveillance and control of VBDs
 - Information sharing, (coordination and harmonization)
 - Activities and projects
 - Recommendations

A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away....





How everything started ...

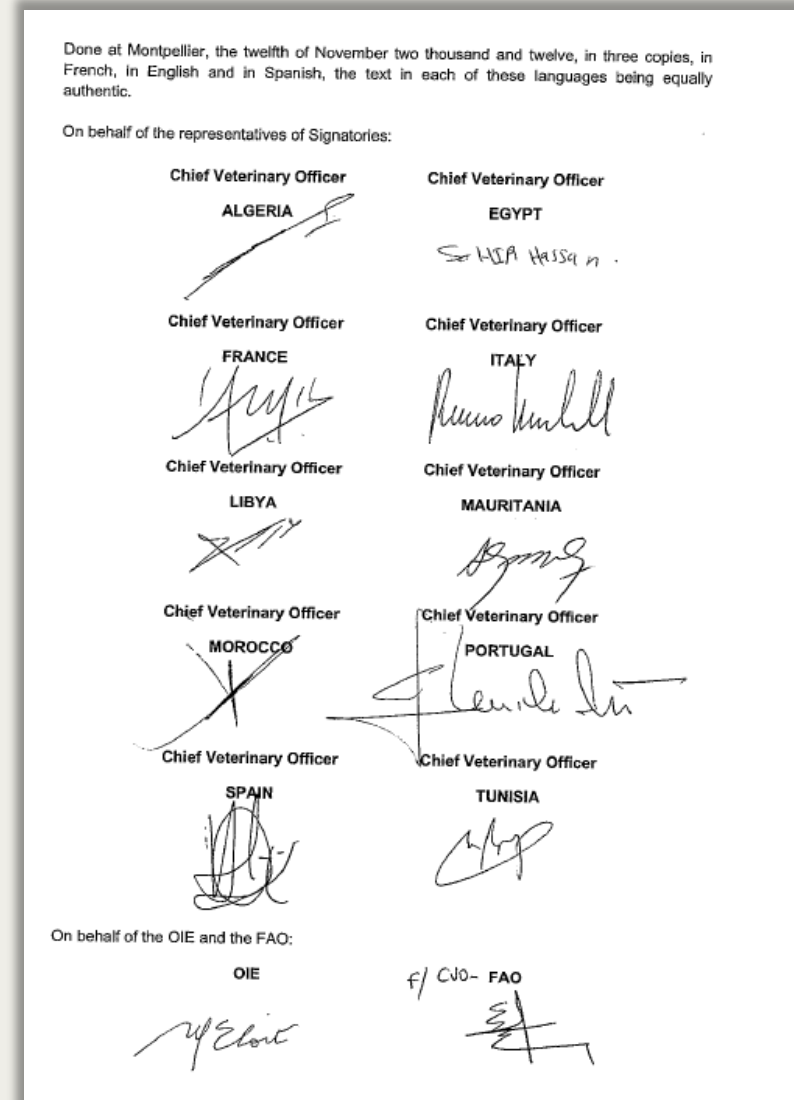
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❑ 2009, Algiers, Algeria : Creation of REMESA

“a common framework for working and cooperation, for the development and implementation of regional animal health projects and programmes”.

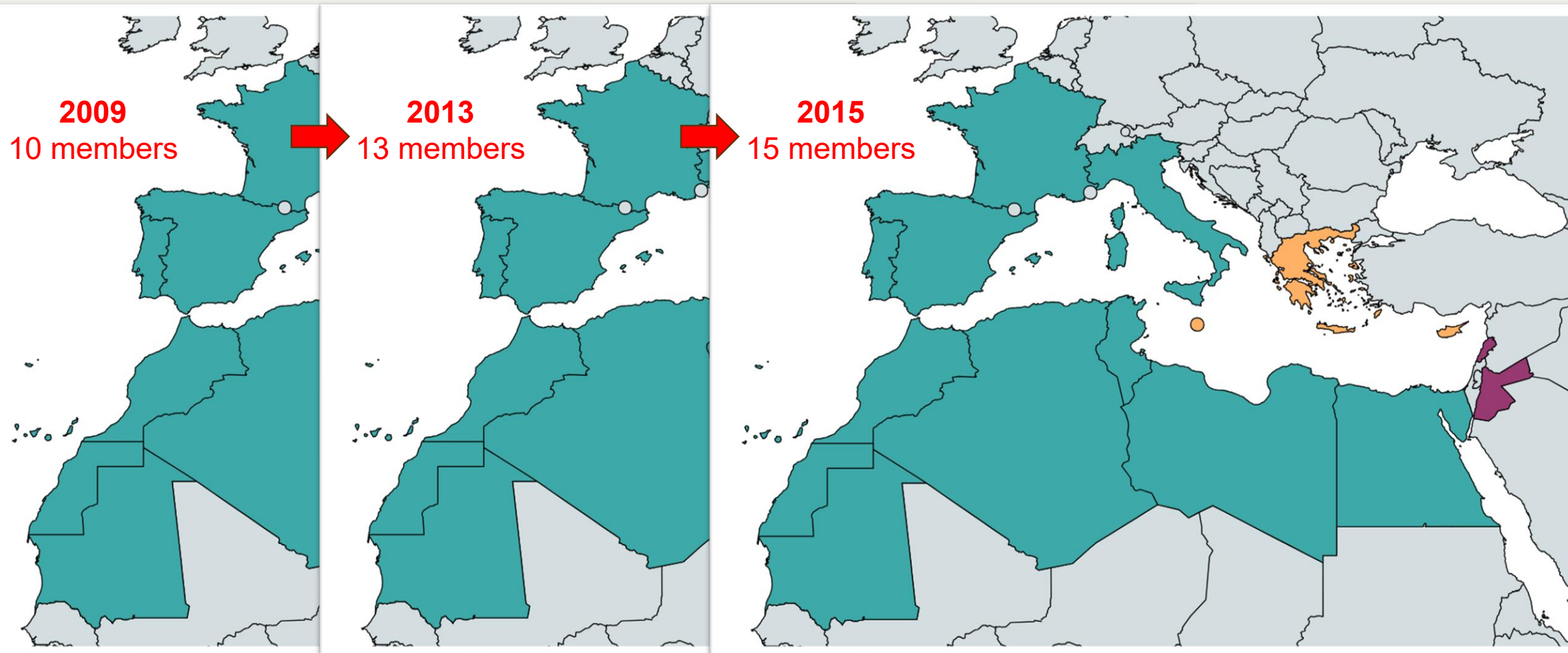
❑ 2012, Montpellier, France 6th JPC : signature of a "Cooperation Framework"

To provide REMESA with a **legal framework, continuity and visibility**, to prevent and combat transboundary animal diseases in the Mediterranean region.





**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**





Areas of Cooperation

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COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

BETWEEN THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA, THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC, LIBYA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA, THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC, THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, THE TUNISIAN REPUBLIC,

FOR THE CREATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK – RÉSEAU MÉDITERRANÉEN DE SANTÉ ANIMALE (REMESA)

WITH THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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The Chief Veterinary Officers of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, Libya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Portuguese Republic, the Kingdom of Spain and the Tunisian Republic,

Hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories",

With the technical support of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

Recalling the Barcelona Process initiatives for a Mediterranean Partnership, project whereby the Union for the Mediterranean was launched in Paris on 13 July 2008;

Further recalling that the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, Libya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Portuguese Republic, the Kingdom of Spain and the Tunisian Republic are collaborating in the prevention, control and eradication (when appropriate) of common animal health threats, in particular foot and mouth disease, Rift valley fever, peste des petits ruminants, avian influenza, rabies, bluetongue and West Nile fever;

Whereas the Signatories have expressed the relevance of a regional animal health network into the Mediterranean region and have decided to work together to create the Mediterranean Animal Health Network – Réseau Méditerranéen de Santé Animale, REMESA;

Bearing in mind that REMESA is based on the veterinary services of each country that adhered to its objectives and is considered as a structure in which regional programs and projects may find their anchorage and that it complements the work of



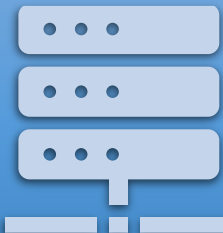
Collaboration in the **exchange of information** on animal health



Development and strengthening of **networking** between Veterinary Services and relevant structures in different areas of expertise on animal diseases.



Technical assistance through technical support, research facilities, capacity building, coordination meetings and joint activities



Establishment and development of **sub-networks** created within the REMESA framework

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SPECIFIC “ACTIONS”



Facilitate regular **access**, **exchange** and **sharing** of **information** in relation to veterinary activities.

Improve **epidemiological surveillance**.

Strengthen **prevention** and **control** measures.

Develop and harmonize **surveillance** control strategies and **emergency response** plans.

Facilitate **collaboration** between research centers, laboratories and universities.

Act as a central interface to facilitate the **mobilization** of **human**, **material** and **financial resources**, as well as **communication** among institutions.

Reinforce the **competencies** and **capacities** of national Veterinary Services

Facilitate **direct dialogue** between member countries to avoid unjustified sanitary barriers and facilitate **trade** of animals and their products in the Mediterranean region in line with WOAHA Recommendations.

Strengthen the **training capacities** (initial and continuing) of the various actors.



Priority diseases:

- ☐ Rabies
- ☐ FMD, PPR
- ☐ Brucellosis, Tuberculosis
- ☐ VBDs (RVF, BT, WNF, AHS)



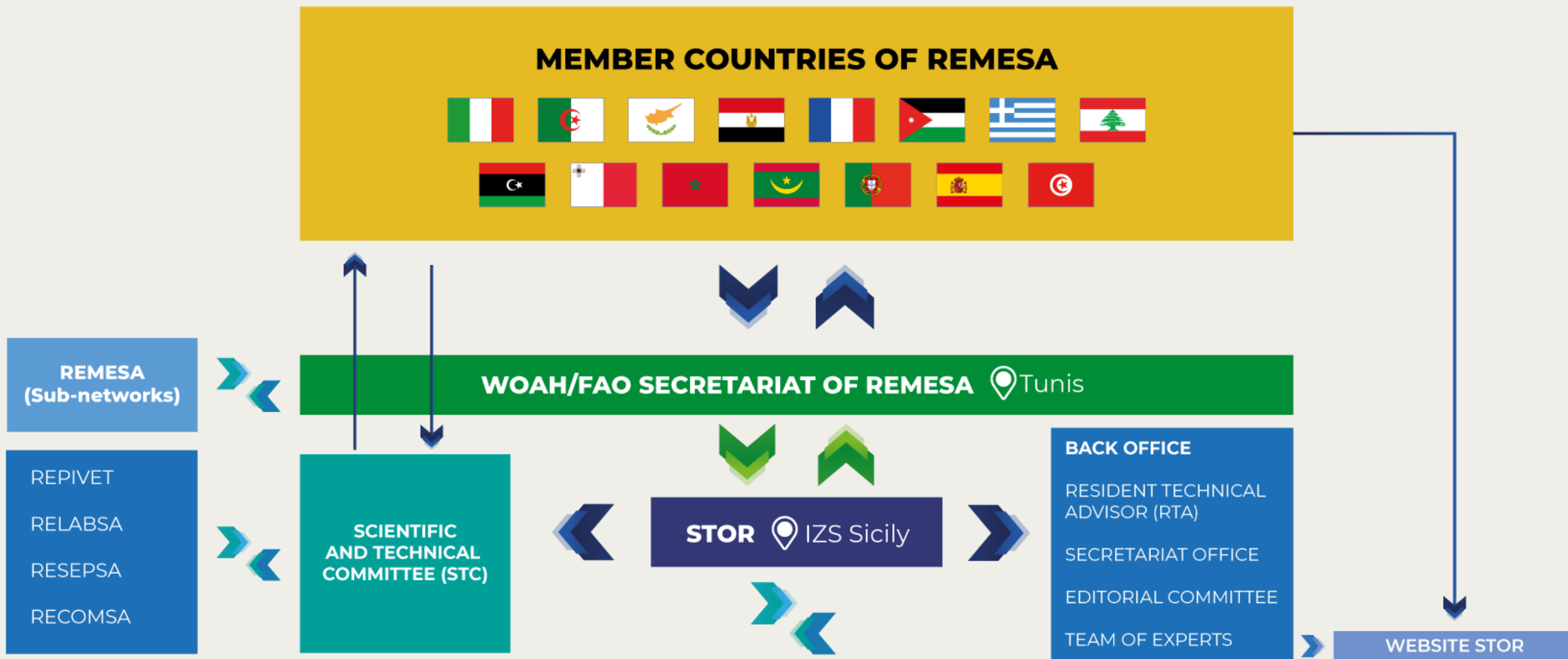
The Mediterranean Animal Health Network is based on the **veterinary services** of each country that adhered to its objectives and should be considered as a structure in which regional programs and projects may find their anchorage.

This regional context does not replace the essential baseline work that must be done in **each country** which will be always **sovereign on its decisions** in regard to epidemiological surveillance, diseases control or animal health information exchanges outside of its borders.











Structure of the network

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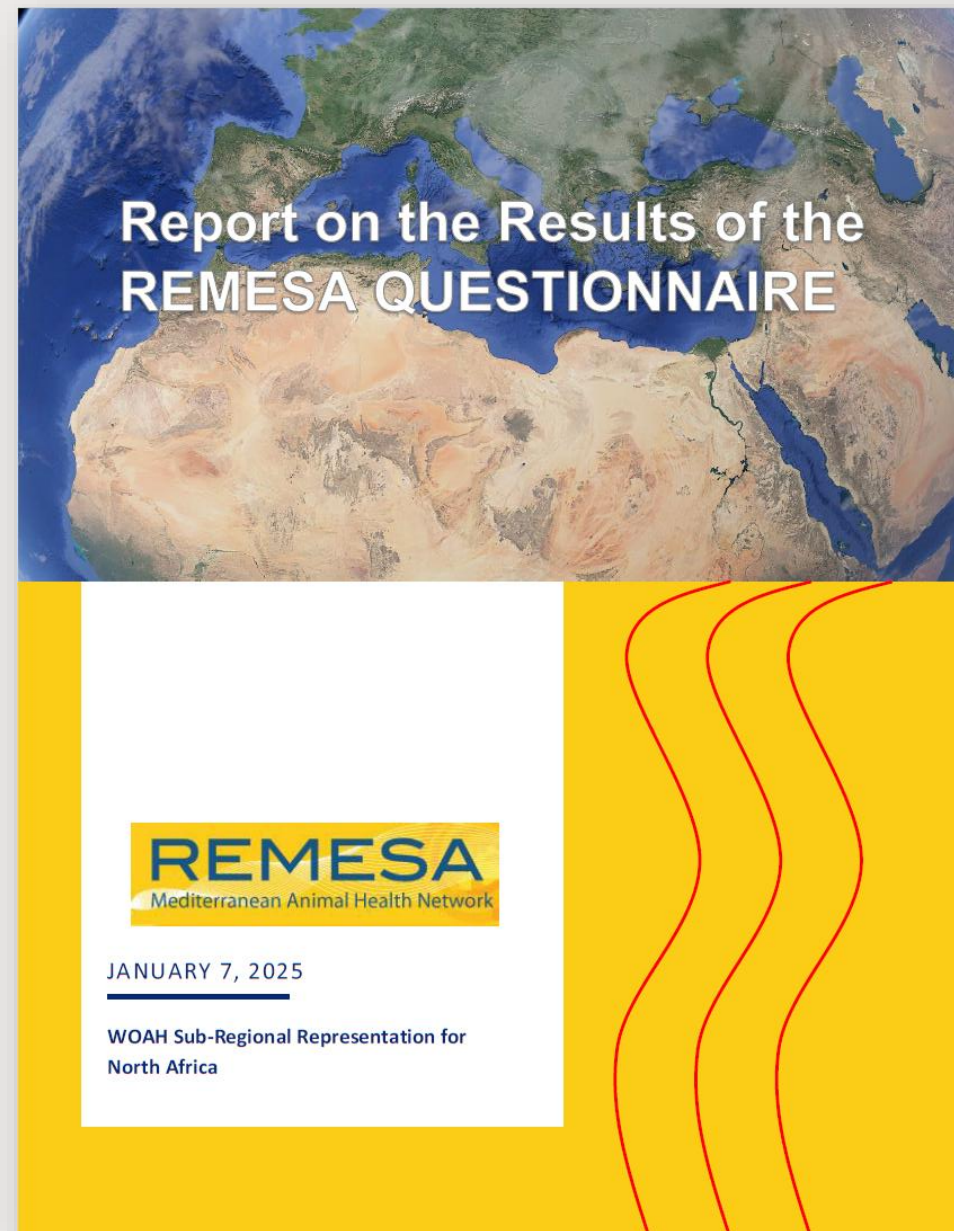


JPC meetings	STOR office management	STOR activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FAO  <p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>	<p>Sicily Region : 250K€/year</p> <p><i>agreement between WOAHA and Sicily Region (2021)</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WOAH World Fund : <p>169K€ (until June 2025)</p> <p><i>Intention letter STOR/WOAH on 8/04/2024</i></p> <p><i>Subgrant Agreement STOR/WOAH on 21/05/2024</i></p>  <p>World Organisation for Animal Health</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">WOAH World fund  <p>World Organisation for Animal Health</p> <p>(  )</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sicily Region : 13K€ for 2024 (scholarship/grant) 



RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY





Report on the Results of the REMESA QUESTIONNAIRE

REMESA
Mediterranean Animal Health Network

JANUARY 7, 2025

WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for
North Africa



Part 2

What REMESA is doing/ can do for the surveillance and control of VBDs



JPC meetings, 1.5 days

Standard structure

- Opening session
- **Session 01**: Update on major diseases events
- **Session 02**: Update on animal health activities and projects
- **Session 03**: Management of REMESA
- Closing session

Bilateral agreements, cooperation ...





Activities and projects (1)

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➤ Workshop Veterinary Entomology
10-13 June 2024

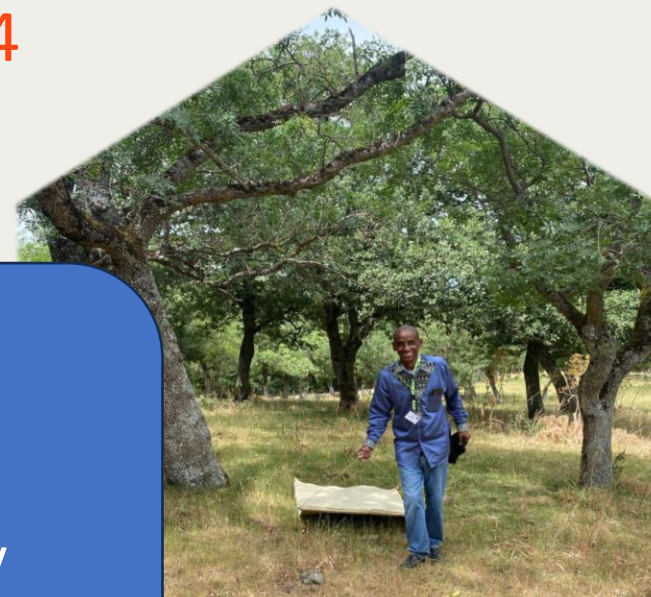
➤ Webinars

RIFT VALLEY FEVER – 02
MARCH 2023



In 2025 Activity Plan:

- Training course on Lumpy Skin Disease
- Webinar on Mediterranean Tick ecology
- Small-scale project (might focus on migratory birds as carriers of diseases and vectors)





Activities and projects (2)

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In the framework of REMESA, WOAHA entrusted the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Abruzzo and Molise (IZS Teramo), WOAHA Collaborating Center for epidemiology, modelling and surveillance, to implement the “**PROVNA**” project



Day 2, Thursday, 26 June

Country presentations:

Earth Observation Data in VBDs: Dr Annamaria Conte (IZSAM)

PROVNA 2 and PROVBAC Projects: Dr Laura Amato (IZSAM)

Georgia: Dr Tengiz Chalgava

Montenegro: Dr Rados Mikovic

N. Macedonia: Dr Angela Grujovska

Serbia: Dr Tamas Petrovic (online)

Bosnia and Herzegovina





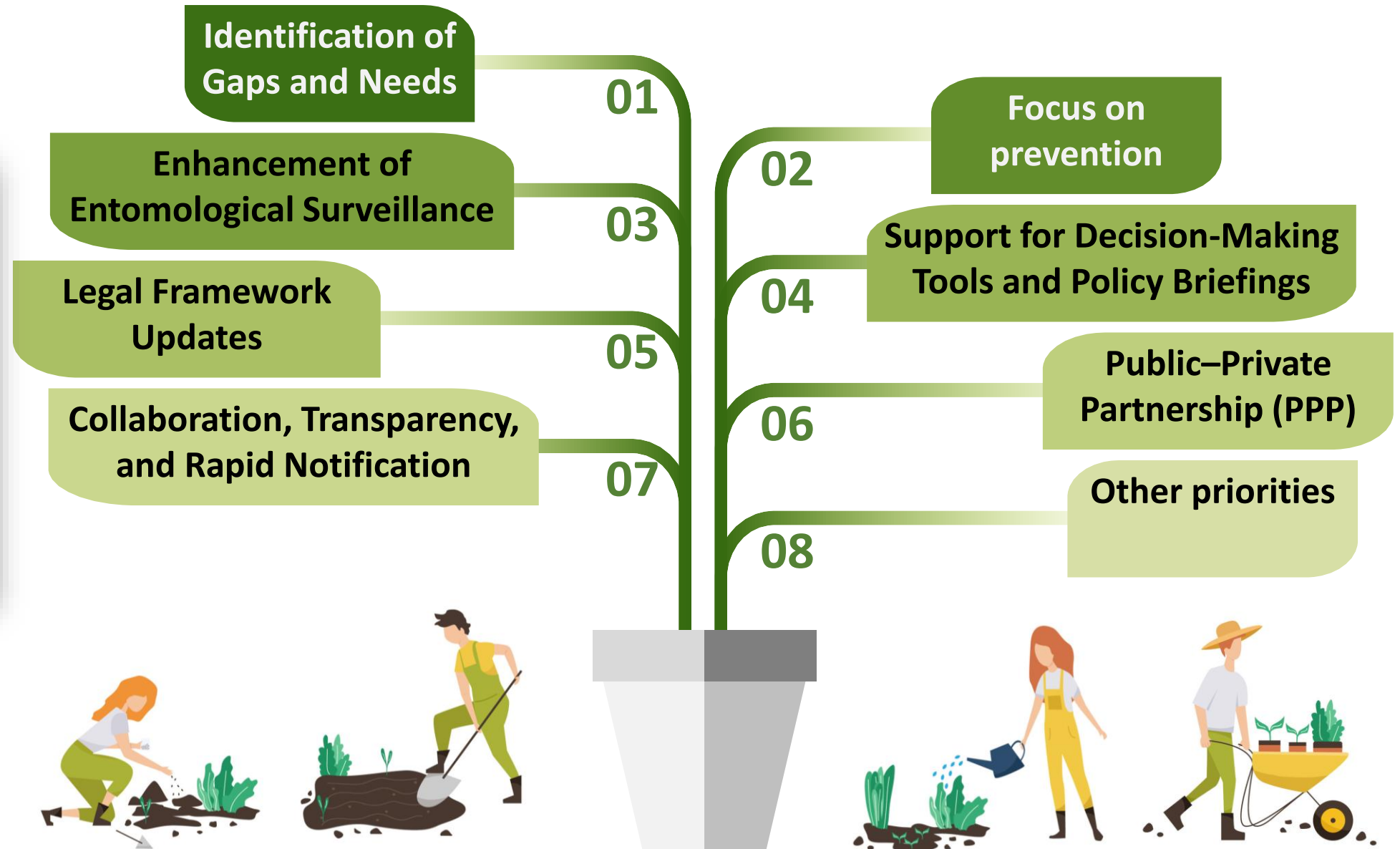
14.00-14.10	RVF Decision Support Tool (DST)	I. Seck, FAO (HQ)
14.10-15.40	<p>Session on VBDs surveillance (focus on RVF, BT, EHD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 min technical presentation n.1 - Dr Zientara• 15 min technical presentation n.2 - Dr Amato• 45 min plenary discussion• 15 min <i>recommendations</i>	IZS-Teramo and WOAHSRR-NA ANSES





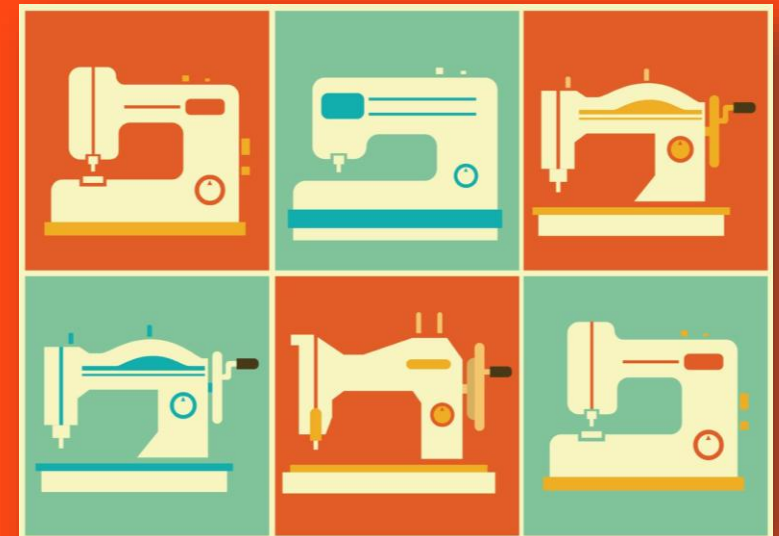
Recommendations – way forward

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Conclusions

- i. Regional AH networks are of vital importance if we want to better manage/control emerging and re-emerging VBDs
- ii. In order to develop action strategies, we must first have developed a surveillance “adapted” to the region/sub-region
 - the adoption of new/modern technologies is necessary as complement of classical surveillance tools





“If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”
ancient African proverb

Thank you

شكرا

Merci beaucoup

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