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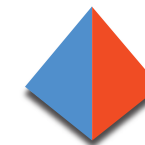
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1st GF-TADs Regional Conference on priority TADs in Europe

Report of activities under GF-TADs in Europe: 2024-2025

Dr Bernard Van Goethem

President of GF-TADs for Europe



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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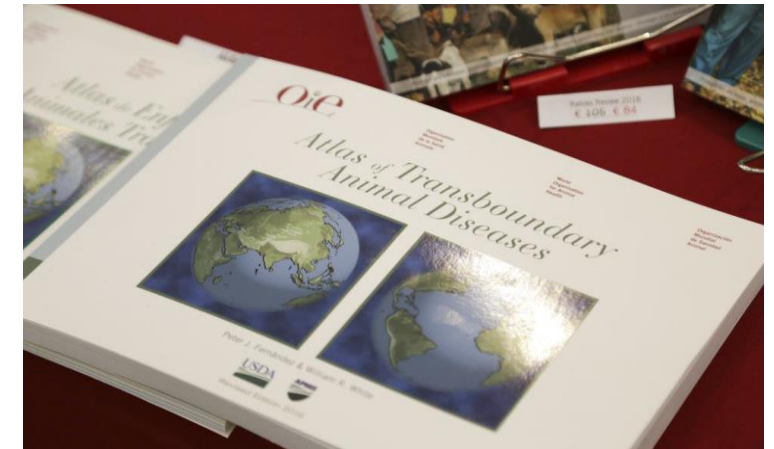
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- Joint FAO and WOAHA initiative launched in 2004 for progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).
- European regional branch established in 2005 to respond to regional crises.
- Encompasses 53 European members, including Western, Southeast, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.
- Encourages creation of regional alliances and common vision for priority TADs.



- The Second Action Plan for the region, building on previous work and aligning with the global GF-TADs Strategy 2021-2025, covers the period 2023-2027 and includes **six main priority diseases**:
 - African Swine Fever (ASF)
 - Rabies
 - Highly Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI)
 - Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
 - Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)
 - Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)



11th Regional Steering Committee

Date&location: October 1, 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Key outcomes:

1. **Re-election of the Leadership:** **Dr Van Goethem** - re-elected as President and **Drs Herzog** (Austria) and **Basiladze** (Georgia) were elected as Vice- Presidents for the next four years.
 - Permanent Regional Secretariat: **Dr Plavsic**, WOAHH RR for Europe.
2. The continuing **challenges** of TADs in Europe and Central Asia was highlighted, as well as the need for **coordinated, collaborative and innovative solutions within the GF-TADs framework.**



Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on ASF

SGE-ASF23:

- **Date & Location:** September 18–19, 2024, Ohrid, North Macedonia.
- **Focus:** **cross-border cooperation** (CBC).
- **Outcome/Recommendations:** **CBC should be improved with the** identification of strength (e.g., formal agreements, shared resources) and weak factors (e.g., lack of transparency, insufficient funding).



SGE-ASF24:

- **Date & Location:** April 3–4, 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Focus:** **biosecurity in pig establishments**, especially in **high-risk small non-commercial pig farms**.
- **Recommendations:**
 - countries should **improve biosecurity measures in all pig farms** and different sectors; **enhance laboratory biosafety**; clearly provide a **definitions for “backyard” farms**.
 - **Sweden** recent ASF eradication was acknowledged.





Contribution to the 3rd meeting of the Global Coordination Committee for ASF - 29 May 2025, Paris

Meeting objectives:

- Review progress of the Global Initiative for ASF Control (2020–2025) and discuss the strategic focus and technical priorities for the next (2026–2030).
- Capture regional strategic priorities to foster cross-regional collaboration and tailor fit-for-purpose solutions.

Conclusions:

- The Global Initiative provides a framework for FAO–WOAH collaboration, fostering data sharing, best practices, and alignment with regional needs.
- Advocacy, capacity building, and regional/national strategies remain priorities, with emphasis on practical, field-level solutions.

Position of GF-TADs Europe on the Proposal for the strategic focus of the Global Initiative:

- Global Initiative actions overlap with existing GF-TADs regional framework, therefore it has a limited added value for Europe;
- The Global Initiative should focus on concrete, field-level results.
- Europe remains committed to supporting other regions, sharing expertise and lessons learned, while strengthening national capacities through existing mechanisms.

The ASF-Working Group will revise the Global Initiative through broad consultations in 2025, aiming for publication in January 2026.

6th Standing Group of Experts on Rabies (SGE RAB6):

Date & Location: July 11, 2024, Brussels, Belgium (hybrid event).

Focus: Main pillars of rabies elimination: Oral rabies vaccination campaigns (ORV), surveillance and cross-border cooperation.

Outcome/Recommendations:

- Three new countries - **Moldova**, **Poland**, and **Ukraine** - were included as full members of the SGE RAB.
- The coordination in planning and executing **ORV campaigns** between neighboring countries, particularly improving the **timing** to enhance their effectiveness, enhancing the **information exchange** and strengthening **passive surveillance** were highlighted.



2nd Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on HPAI (SGE2):

Date & Location: September 30, 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Objectives:

- Epidemiological situation (worldwide, including mammals),
- Review risk management practices (USA, Finland, France),
- Discuss HPAI strategy, surveillance, biosecurity, vaccination, and zoning.

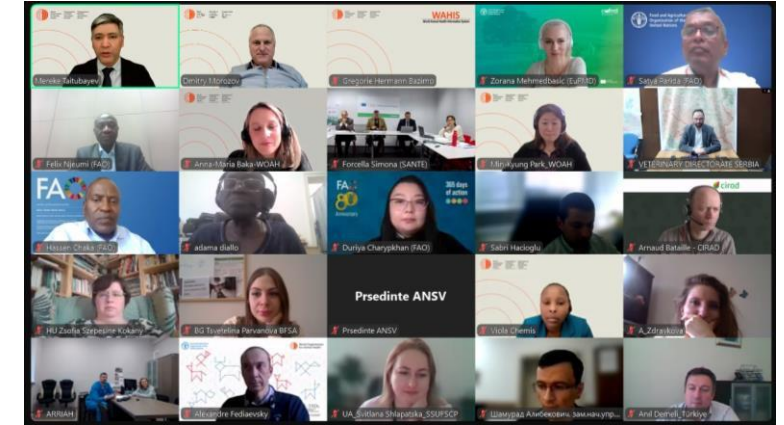
Outcome/Recommendations:

- The meeting highlighted **increasing global HPAI outbreaks** and spillover to mammals, emphasizing the need for robust surveillance, vaccination, and international collaboration.
- France vaccination campaign was a success.
- Finland's One Health response was successful.
- **Developing safe and effective HPAI vaccines.**



Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on LSD

- **SGE LSD -13 : 21st Feb 2024** (Online).
- **SGE LSD -14 : 5th Mar 2025** (Online).



Participants: WOA, FAO, EC, EuFMD, LSD reference lab experts, country representatives.

Outcomes :

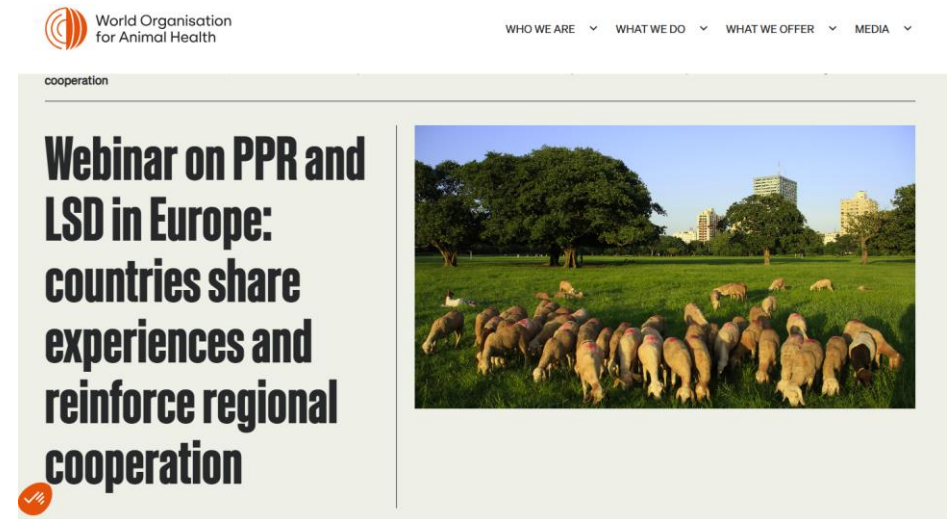
- **LSD effectively controlled in Southeast Europe since 2019** via coordinated mass vaccination.
- **LSD situation in Central Asia remains unclear.**
- SGE on **LSD meetings suspended** until concerned countries in Central Asia show clear commitment and willingness to engage.

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) – two webinars

- **4th September 2024 and 5th March 2025**, PPR situation in Europe region under GF-TADs
- **Participants:** WOA, FAO, EC, EuFMD, PPR GEP Secretariat, PPR reference lab experts, country representatives.

Outcomes: emphasis placed on :

- Enhanced surveillance
- Disease awareness
- Risk assessment
- Sample sharing with Reference Labs
- Transparency and information sharing
- Enhanced diagnostic capacity





Information Webinar on the FMD situation in certain Member States of the European Union

- Date & Location: April 7, 2025, Online.
- Key Message: **Separate FMD incursions** occurred in Germany, Hungary, and Slovakia in early 2025. **Small areas of few EU Member States were affected.**
- Outbreaks Highlights:
 - Germany (January 2025): single outbreak involving water buffaloes. Virus - **Serotype O (O/ME- SA/SA-2018 lineage)**, 100% genetic match with a Turkey 2024 strain. **WOAH official status reinstated!!**
 - Hungary & Slovakia (March 2025): several outbreaks, primarily near the Danube River. Virus - Serotype O (O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2ANT-10 lineage), showing 100% genetic identity between strains found in both countries.
 - Epidemiological finding: FMD incursions in Germany and Hungary/Slovakia were epidemiologically distinct and unrelated.

Information Webinar on the FMD situation in certain Member States of the European Union

- **Response Principles:**

- Commendable transparency.
- Immediate, well-coordinated national and EU-level actions.
- Strict application of international standards.

- **Control Measures:**

- Regionalization measures and strict standstills implemented.
- Robust passive surveillance for early detection.
- Germany: stamping-out policy.
- Hungary & Slovakia: stamping-out and emergency suppressive vaccination.



UPDATE: “FMD-free country where vaccination is not practised” status of Hungary is reinstated as of 10 September 2025.



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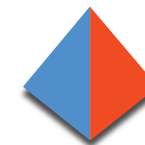
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Information Webinar on Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

- **3rd July 2025**, LSD and PPR situation in Europe region under GF-TADs
- **Participants:** WOAHA, FAO, EC, EuFMD, PPR GEP Secretariat, LSD and PPR reference lab experts, country representatives.

Outcomes:

- Updated epidemiological situation shared on PPR and LSD in Europe
- National responses presented by Albania (PPR), Italy (LSD), and France (LSD)
- Scientific insights from EU Reference Laboratories
- EU support reaffirmed: technical guidance, expert missions, vaccine bank, financial assistance
- FAO and WOAHA contributions highlighted: training, simulation exercises, webinars, virtual learning
- Regional cooperation emphasized under GF-TADs for coordinated prevention and control
- Consensus on vaccination as the cornerstone of LSD control; urgency for mass vaccination in Italy and France
- Need for continued transparency, awareness, preparedness,
- Strong participation (200+ attendees)



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1st GF-TADs Regional Conference of Standing Groups of Experts on priority transboundary animal diseases in the European region

Belgrade (Serbia) - 22-25 September 2025



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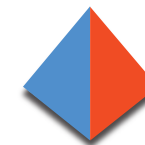
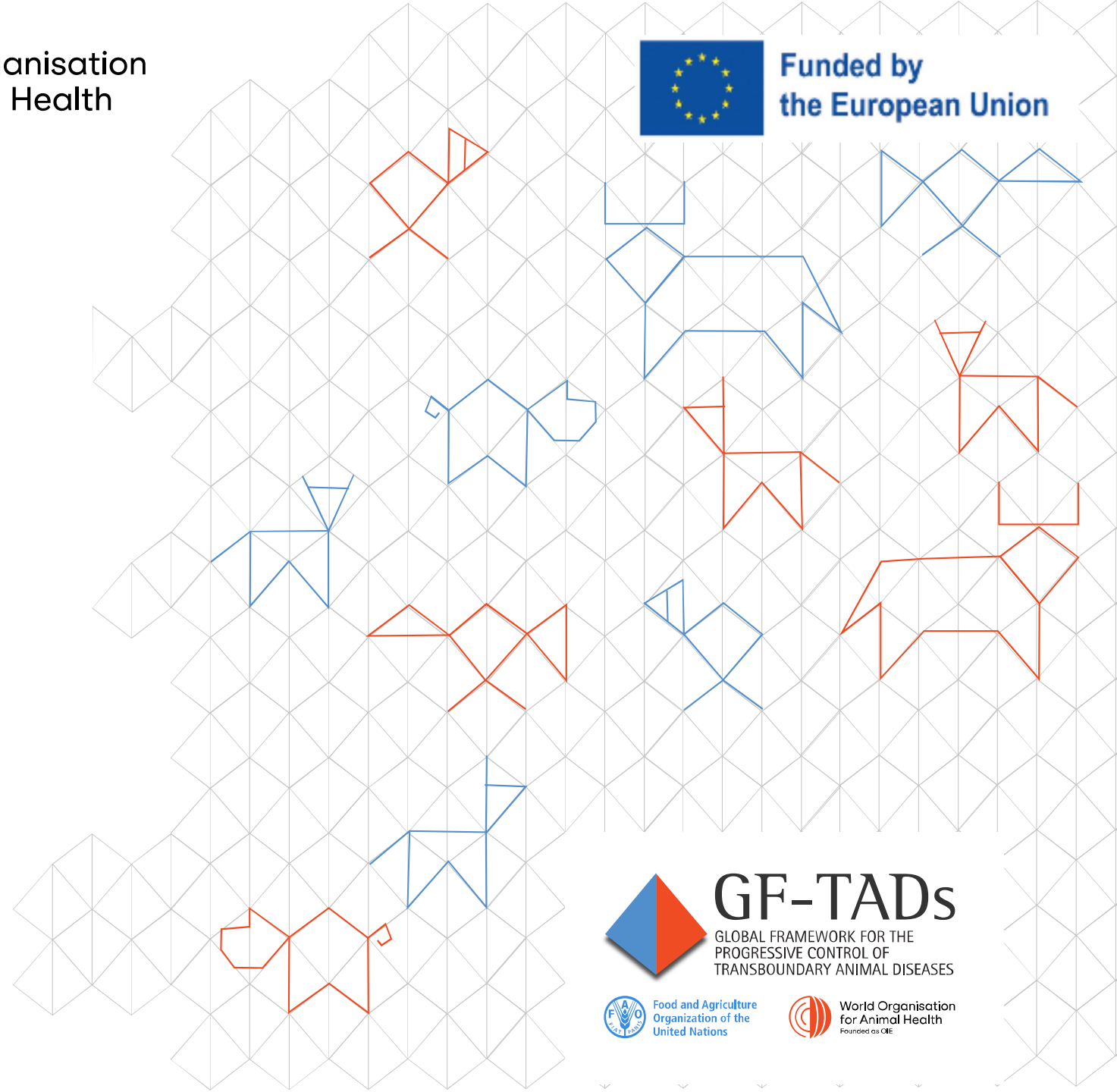


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