



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



Funded by  
the European Union

# THE VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTER (VLC)

## Activities in Europe and Central Asia

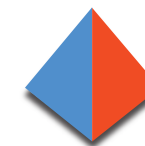
1st GF-TADs Regional Conference of Standing Groups of Experts on  
priority transboundary animal diseases in the European region

22-25 September 2025  
Belgrade, Serbia

Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo, DVM, MPVM, MSc, PhD

Technical Advisor (Animal Health),

FAO, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



## GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

## What are the FAO Virtual Learning Centers?



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

### FAO Virtual Learning Centers

[Home](#) [About](#) [Regional Centers](#) [Courses](#) [Communities of Practice](#) [Support](#) [Resources](#)

#### Bridging distances, developing capacities.

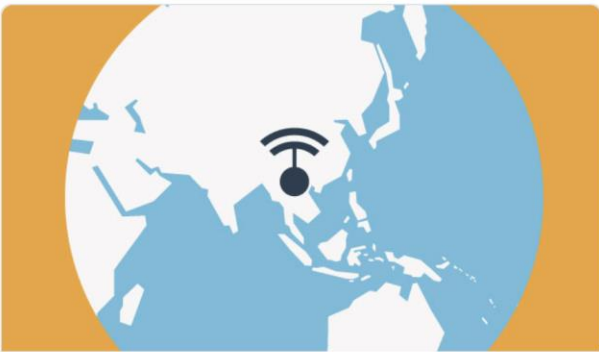
The FAO Virtual Learning Centers (VLCs) are dedicated to developing tailored learning for advancing Animal Health and One Health capacities around the world through inclusive, dynamic and high-quality training. Explore our training provision and login to access our courses.

- Brief history
- Regional hubs to provide innovative online training solutions for animal health professionals
  - But expanding to other areas (OH, FLW, Green Agriculture...)
- Online training courses
- Community of Practice (CoP)

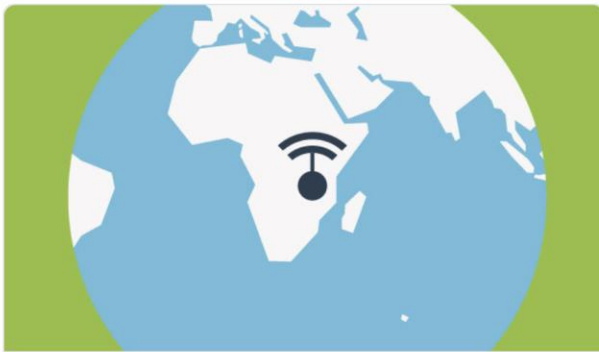
7 VLC Regional centers coordinated by HQ (GLO team)



VLC for Europe and Central Asia



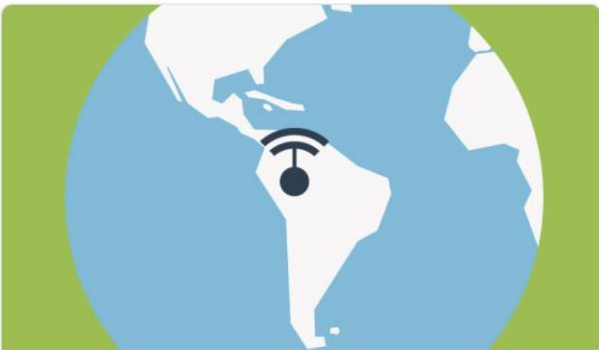
VLC for Asia and the Pacific



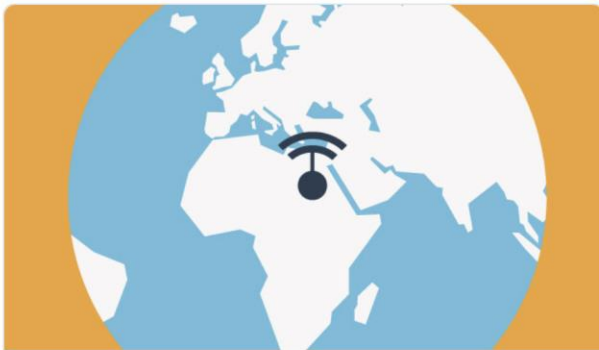
VLC for Eastern Africa



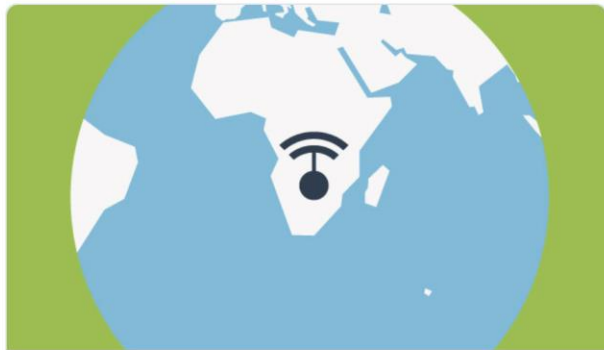
VLC for West Africa



VLC for Latin America and the Caribbean



VLC for Near East and North Africa



VLC for Southern Africa

## Advantages



- ✓ Reach out large audiences in remote areas
- ✓ Learn at their own pace
- ✓ Mobile first solutions
- ✓ Cost-effectiveness
- ✓ Reduced environmental footprint
- ✓ Strengthening regional professional networks
- ✓ Based on training needs:
  - ✓ Training need assessments
  - ✓ countries' requests
  - ✓ Informal consultations



## Main characteristics

- ✓ Key elements
  - ✓ Interactive modules
  - ✓ Resource materials
  - ✓ Webinars (2-3)
  - ✓ Discussion forum
  - ✓ Assignment (test)
  - ✓ Surveys (pre- and post-)
  - ✓ Report and metrics
- ✓ 10-15 hours over 4 weeks
- ✓ Certified and accredited
- ✓ Available in different languages:
  - ✓ Always EN and RU
  - ✓ But also RO, SR, ES, TU
- ✓ Participants, observers and experts
- ✓ Tutored vs. open access
- ✓ Embedded in a comprehensive training framework (face-to-Face, manuals and support materials)



Newsletter

Subscribe to receive updates about VLCs



One Health Knowledge Nexus

A place to share, generate and exchange knowledge



News

Read the latest updates from the VLCs



“

The interactive components, such as case studies and group discussions, enhanced understanding and retention. The clear, structured presentation of complex material and the availability of supplementary resources also significantly contributed to the overall learning experience.

- Sarah, Introduction to One Health course





## Development & delivery process

### Typical process

- 6-12 months development
- Identification of experts (Collaborations with other FAO units, EuFMD and other partners)
- Outline → External consultation
- Nomination
- Piloting - Running of the course, typically 4 weeks
- Improvements based on feedback
- Adaptation and re-run in other languages, individual countries/subregions/regions
- Adaptation to open-access
- Adaptation to face-to-face format
- Adaptation to paper format, i.e. field manual

### Nomination process:

- Calculations of places per country
- Vet services (sometimes beyond, e.g. OH course)
- Other institutions (e.g. universities, research institutes or veterinary associations)
- Self-registration

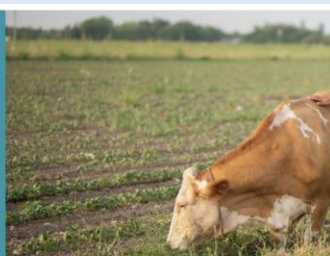
### Different people/roles involved:

- VLC REU Manager
- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
- VLC Coordinators
- Instructional designers (IDs)
- Global team

## VLC REU achievements in last 3 years

### FAO Virtual Learning Center for Europe and Central Asia

The FAO Virtual Learning Center for Europe and Central Asia (VLC REU) was established in 2021. Our courses are now systematically certified by the Veterinary Continuing Education in Europe - VetCEE, ensuring that participants who successfully complete the courses receive certificates with accredited European Credit Transfer System - ECTS credits for their continuing professional development.



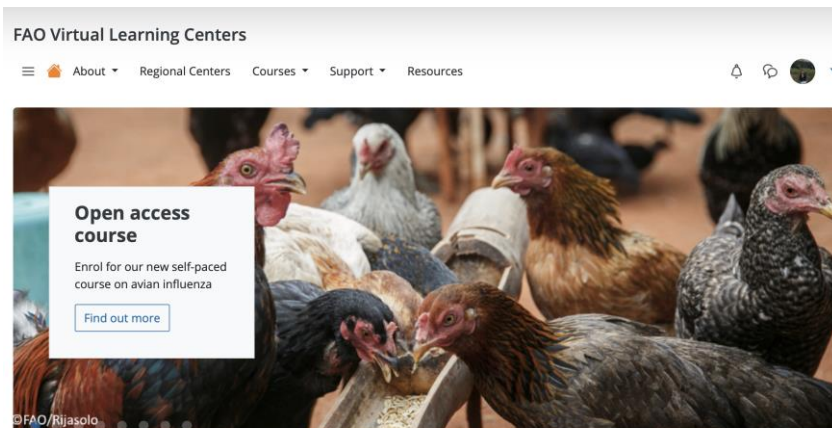
**4,166  
specialists from  
50 countries  
were trained**

The work of VLC REU is carried out in close contact with Training Focal Points (TFPs) in 53 countries, extending from Lisbon to Vladivostok and from the Arctic Circle to the Pamir Mountains of Central Asia. Specifically, the role of TFPs is to assist their country's Chief Veterinary Officer in organising training participants, ensure that nominated participants complete online training, and contribute to the training needs assessment process.

The VLC REU courses are taught mainly in English and Russian, but can be adapted to other languages upon request, such as Spanish, Ukrainian, Turkish, Romanian, Serbian, etc. Principal courses include the *Introduction to African Swine Preparedness* course, *Avian Influenza Preparedness* course, *One Health* course, the *Improving Ruminant Biosecurity* course, the *Sheep pox and Goat pox preparedness* course.



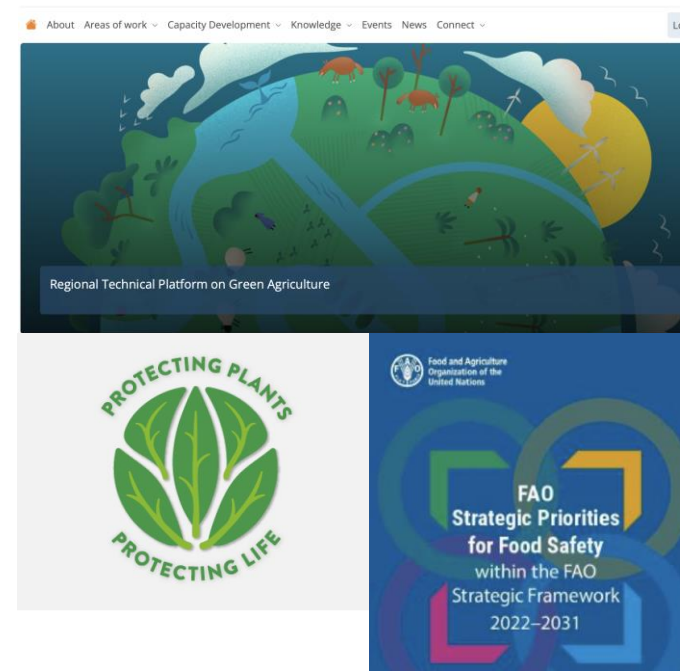
**12 VLC courses  
accredited → CPD**



### Adaptation to Open access

Already available: ASF,  
AI, OH, SGP, etc.  
Coming soon: LSD,  
Ruminant biosecurity,  
Zoonoses,  
PPR, Brucellosis

### Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture



### New developments linked to Animal Health:

- Food loss and waste
- Green Agriculture
- Food safety
- Plant Health

## Topics

### TADs Preparedness:

Title	Tutored	Open Access
ASF	EN, RU, ES, FR, SR	EN, RU, SR
LSD	EN, RU	EN, RU
HPAI	EN, RU, UK	EN, RU
SGP	EN, RU	EN, RU
PPR	EN, RU	EN, RU

### Zoonoses:

Title	Tutored	Open Access
Zoonoses	EN, RU	EN, RU
Brucellosis	EN, RU	EN, RU

### Transversal topics related to disease management:

Title	Tutored	Open Access
Ruminant biosecurity	EN, RO, RU, TU	EN, RO, RU, TU
Stamping out	EN, RU	
OutCosT	EN	
National AH Emergencies		EN
Intro to OH	EN, RU, UK	EN
Foundations Epi.	EN, RU, TU	EN, RU, TU

### Other topics:

Title	Tutored	Open Access
Food Loss and Waste	EN, RU	EN, RU
Green Agriculture	EN	EN



Delivered online tutored courses: Participation and completion metrics

Delivery dates	Course title	Language	Number of countries	Number of participants	Completion rates, I/II
Nov-Dec 2022	Stamping Out	English	21	89/76	66% 78%
May-June 2023	Stamping Out	Russian	14	106/106	46% 72%
Oct-Nov 2024	Sheep Pox and Goat Pox Preparedness	English	20	288/238	68% 81%
Feb-March 2024	Introduction to One Health	English	45 (4 sectors: PH/WL, AH, EH, FS	308	70%/83%
Feb-March 2024	Improving Ruminant Biosecurity	English	45	295/248	72% 85%
Apr-May 2024	Improving Ruminant Biosecurity	Romanian	2	184/145	60% 77%
Apr-May 2024	Improving Ruminant Biosecurity	Turkish	2	659/534	72% 88%

Delivered online tutored courses: Participation and completion metrics

Delivery dates	Course title	Language	Number of countries	Number of participants	Completion rates
May-June 2024	Improving Ruminant Biosecurity	Russian	12	434/191	37% 84%
Sep-Oct 2024	Sheep Pox and Goat Pox Preparedness	Russian	12	357/320	65% 73%
Oct-Nov 2024	Avian Influenza Preparedness	English	38	357/320	65% 73%
Nov-Dec 2024	Introduction to One Health	Russian	12 (4 sectors: PH/WL, AH, EH, FS)	188/137	50% 68%
Apr-May 2025	Zoonoses for field veterinarians	English	43	383/315	61% 74%
June-July 2025	Introduction to One Health	Ukrainian	1	485/409	67% 80%
Sep-Oct 2025	Zoonoses for field veterinarians	Russian	15	N/A	N/A

## FAO Virtual Learning Centers: Online courses delivered by REU

### 2021 - 2022

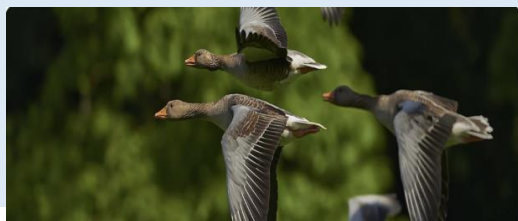
ASF for Canada (EN & FR)  
ASF (RUS)

AI Preparedness (EN, RU)

LSD in RUS

Stamping Out (EN)

OutCosT (EN)



Avian Influenza Preparedness Course  
for ...  
Global Courses

### 2023

ASF for Spain (in ES) I and II

ASF for Europe in ENG

AI Preparedness in UKR

Stamping Out in RUS

SGP in ENG



Виртуальный Обучающий Курс по  
Стемпинг Аут  
VLC Europe and Central Asia (REU)

### 2024

Introduction to One Health in ENG

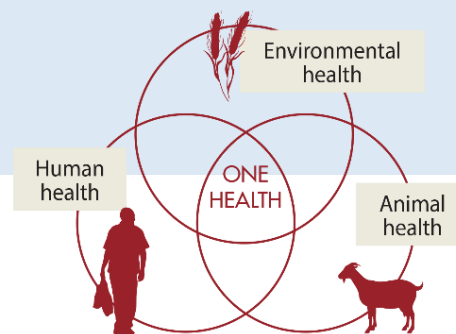
ASF in ROM

IRB (EN, TR, RO, RU)

SGP (RUS)

AI Preparedness in ENG

Introduction to One Health in RUS



### 2025

Food Loss and Waste (EN)

Zoonoses (EN, RU)

SGP open access (EN, RU)

Green Agriculture (EN –  
Session 1-2 – open access)

PPR Preparedness in EN

LSD open access EN



Zoonoses for Field Veterinarians:  
Pilot  
VLC Europe and Central Asia (REU)

## FAO Virtual Learning Centers: New developments and future plans

### 2026 tutored courses

**Brucellosis (EN, RU)**

**PPR Preparedness (RU)**

**Foundation of  
Epidemiology (EN, RU)**

### 2026 open access courses

**LSD RU**

**Improvement Ruminant  
Biosecurity (EN, RU, TR)**

**Zoonoses (EN, RU)**

**Food Loss and Waste (EN,  
RU)**

**Green Agriculture– Session  
3 and 4**

### Future developments

**AMR**

**Food safety EN**

**Plant health**

## How to visit and contact us



You can visit  
the **VLCs platform** here:

<https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/>

Please, contact us [REU-VLC@fao.org](mailto:REU-VLC@fao.org)

Thanks for your attention

