





1st GF-TADs Regional Conference in the European region

Report from SGE-LSD 2016-2025

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September 22-25, 2025. Belgrade, Serbia







Overview: purpose, establishment date, mandate

Launched: 4-5 July 2016 under GF-TADs Europe.

- LSD spread events: Israel (2012), Turkey (2013), Azerbaijan (2014), Russia (2015), Greece & Balkans (2015-2016), Kazakhstan (2015).
- Rising concern for cross-border spread, surveillance gaps, differences in response strategies among countries.
- Purpose: To build cooperation among countries affected by Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in South-East Europe, and address the disease more collaboratively, with harmonised, science-based mitigation measures.
- Unique platform for regional dialogue, transparency, and adopting science-based mitigation.

Membership of SGE-LSD

- Countries involved (as of Feb 2022): Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- Organisations involved: European Commission, WOAH, FAO, EURL, EFSA.
- Secretariat: WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Astana.

^{*}References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

SGE-LSD activity launch

SGE LSD1

- Kick-off meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease, 05/07/16 - 06/07/16, Brussels, Belgium.
- The objectives of this first meeting were to set up the Standing Group of Experts on LSD, provide a first update of the situation in each country (tour de table), provide general recommendations for the Region.
- First recommendations



Meetings Held (2016-2025)

- SGE LSD2, 21/09/16, Lisbon, Portugal
- SGE LSD3, 12/12/16 13/12/16, Istanbul, Turkey
- SGE LSD Teleconference on LSD vaccination programmes (2017)
- SGE LSD4, 24/05/17, Paris, France
- SGE LSD5, 19/10/17 20/10/17, Budva, Montenegro
- SGE LSD6, 23/05/18, Paris, France
- SGE LSD7, 18/10/18 19/10/18, Ohrid, North Macedonia
- SGE LSD Teleconference on LSD vaccination programmes (2019)
- SGE LSD8, 28/05/19, Paris, France
- SGE LSD9, 16/10/19 17/10/19, Athens, Greece
- SGE LSD Teleconference on LSD vaccination programmes (2020)
- Due to the sanitary situation of the COVID-19 SGE LSD10, 14/01/21 was held online and further meetings kept this format: SGE LSD11, 10/02/22, SGE LSD12, 02/03/23, SGE LSD14, 05/03/25
- Webinar on 3rd July 2025 organized under the umbrella of the GF-TADs for Europe.



Outcomes

- Harmonisation of strategies and sharing of best practices across member countries.
- Increased transparency in reporting and early warning.
- Strengthened technical collaboration (vaccination, diagnostics).
- Enhanced regional coordination under GF-TADs.
- Regional mechanisms like SGE-LSD are effective if member countries engage actively.
- Technical cooperation and shared scientific data are critical for timely response.
- Harmonised measures (vaccination, movement control, etc.) yield better control outcomes.

Challenges and gaps identified

- Differences in surveillance capacity and diagnostic infrastructure among member countries.
 - Variation in national capacities for surveillance, diagnostics, vaccine access, vaccination policies, resources, and readiness.
- Need for harmonised reporting standards and cross-border coordination.
- The challenge of sustaining momentum, funding, and political commitment.
- Differences in disease reporting, early warning systems.
- Maintaining consistent funding, political commitment.
- Ensuring equitable access to mitigation tools (vaccines, labs).

Conclusion

- SGE-LSD (2016-2025) has laid a strong foundation of regional cooperation on LSD.
- While many gains made, key gaps remain.
- The last SGE LSD-14 proposed suspension of regular SGE-LSD meetings in Europe, however, due to recent outbreaks in France and Italy it could be reconsidered







THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION









