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1st GF-TADs Regional Conference in the European region

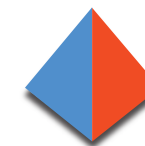
REMESA

the Animal Health Network for the Mediterranean

Rachid Bouguedour, Francesco Valentini

WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa,
REMESA Secretariat

22-25/September/2025, Belgrade, Serbia



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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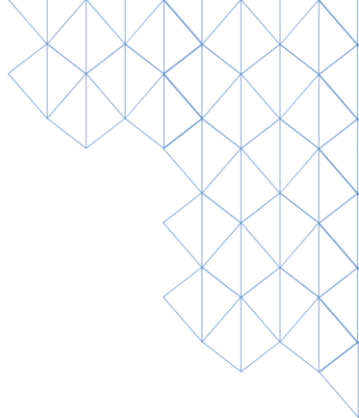


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I N D E X

1. The strategic role of the Mediterranean basin
2. The Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA)
 - How everything started
 - Structure
 - Resources
 - Objectives
 - What's next?
3. Strengthening the prevention and control of major TADs and zoonoses in the Mediterranean
 - REMESA's priorities
 - example of FMD and VBDs



A satellite image of the Earth showing the Mediterranean basin. The sea is a deep blue, surrounded by landmasses including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The land shows various terrain features like mountains, rivers, and deserts. The text "Part 1" is written in a white, italicized font in the upper center.

Part 1

The strategic role of the Mediterranean basin

Strategic importance of the Mediterranean



The Mediterranean Basin

... is a unique ecosystem

... is a strategic political and economic corridor

3 regions: Africa, Europe and the Middle East

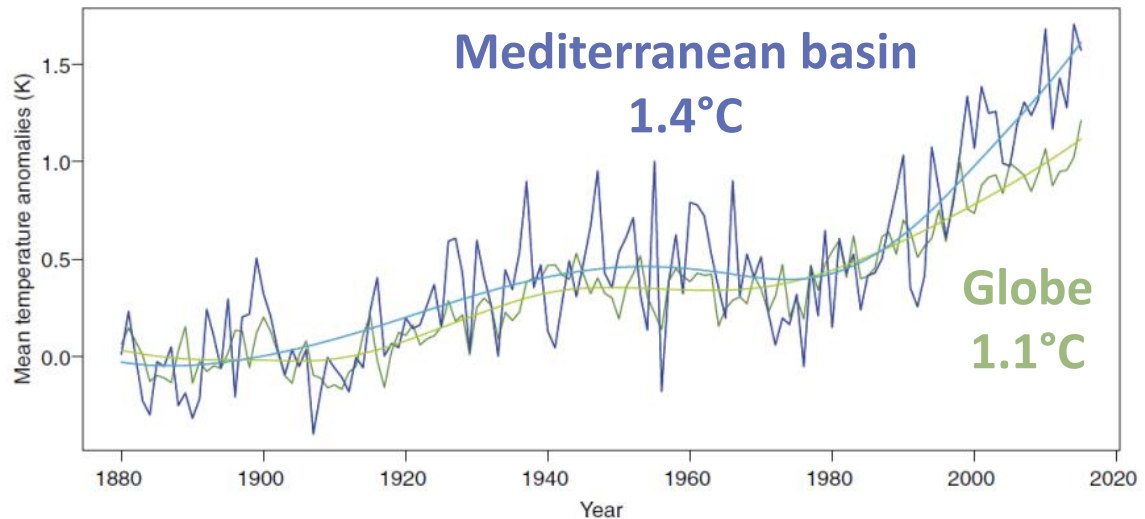
... no longer represents an effective barrier against the introduction of diseases

Challenges in the Mediterranean Basin

Two main challenges

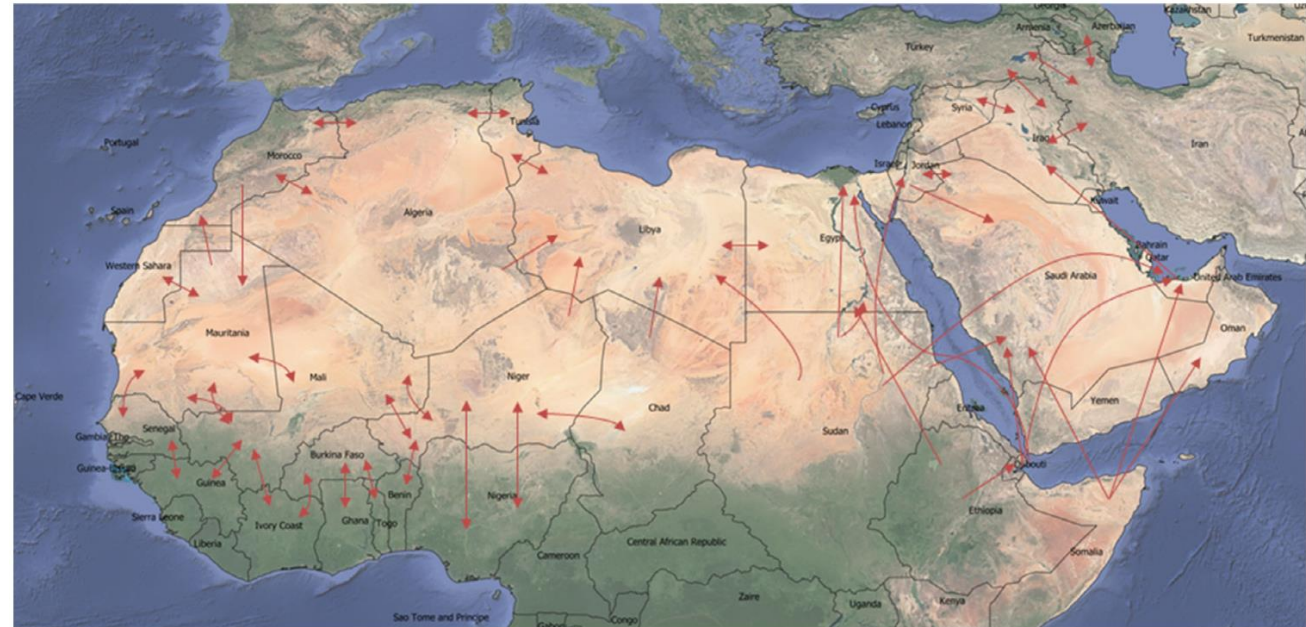
1) Climate change and Animal Movement

- Introduction and spread of diseases
- Increased trade and movement (both legal and illegal)
- Increased permeability of the Sahara Desert



Data from <http://berkeleyearth.org/>

2) Negative effects of socio-economic and political instability on veterinary and public health



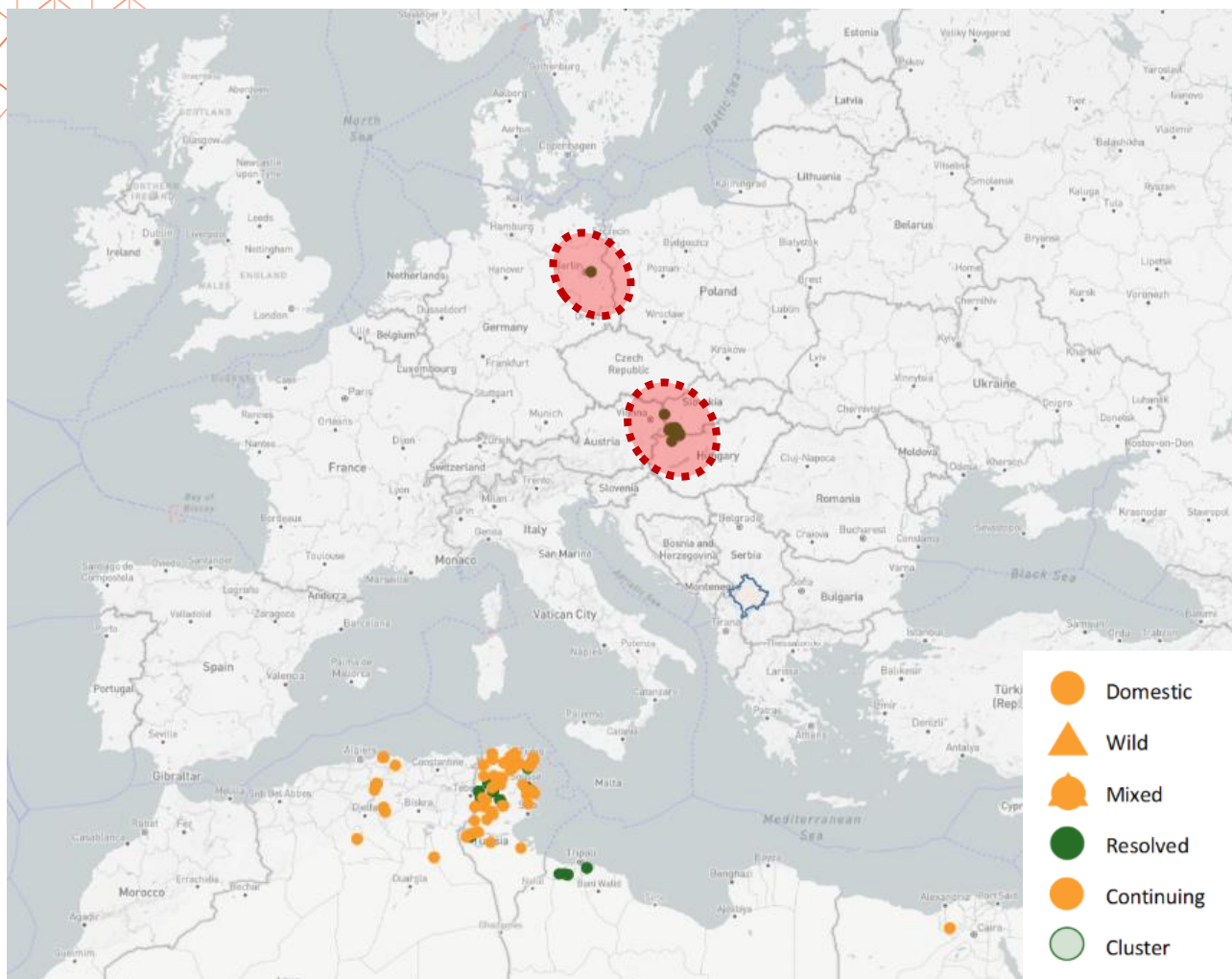
The Mediterranean basin is warming faster than the whole planet
(Annual average temperature compared to pre-industrial temperatures)

Principal movement pathways of live ruminants across North African and Middle East countries.

Adapted from information reported by Bouslikhane (2015), Di Nardo et al., (2011), Bouguedour and Ripani (2016), Jenet et al. (2016) Rift Valley Fever—epidemiological update and risk of introduction into Europe. *EFSA Journal* 2020;18(3):e06041, 80 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6041>

An evolving epidemiological landscape...

ex.1 Foot and Mouth Disease



ex.2 Lumpy Skin Disease



A satellite image of the Mediterranean region, showing the Mediterranean Sea, surrounding landmasses including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, and the Red Sea. The text "Part 2" is overlaid in the upper center.

Part 2

The Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA)

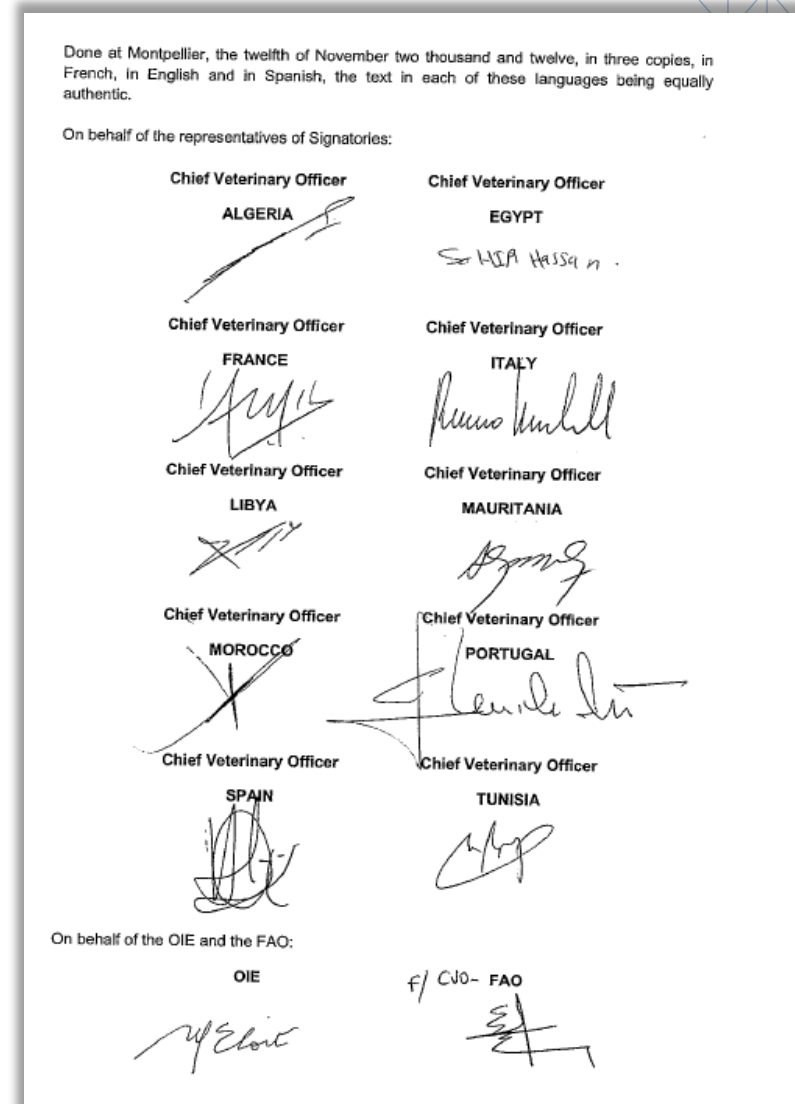
How everything started ...

❑ 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.



Member countries



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REMESA
Mediterranean Animal Health Network

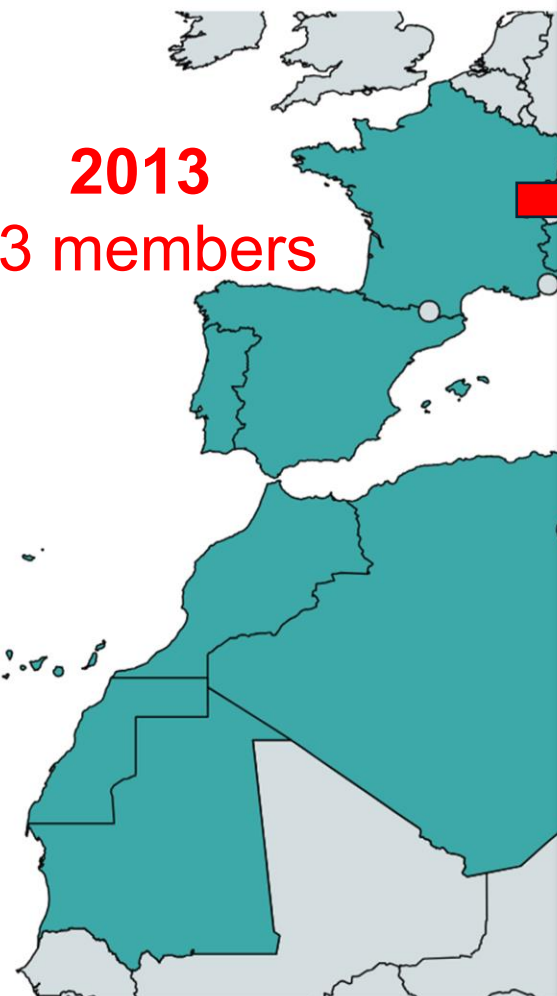


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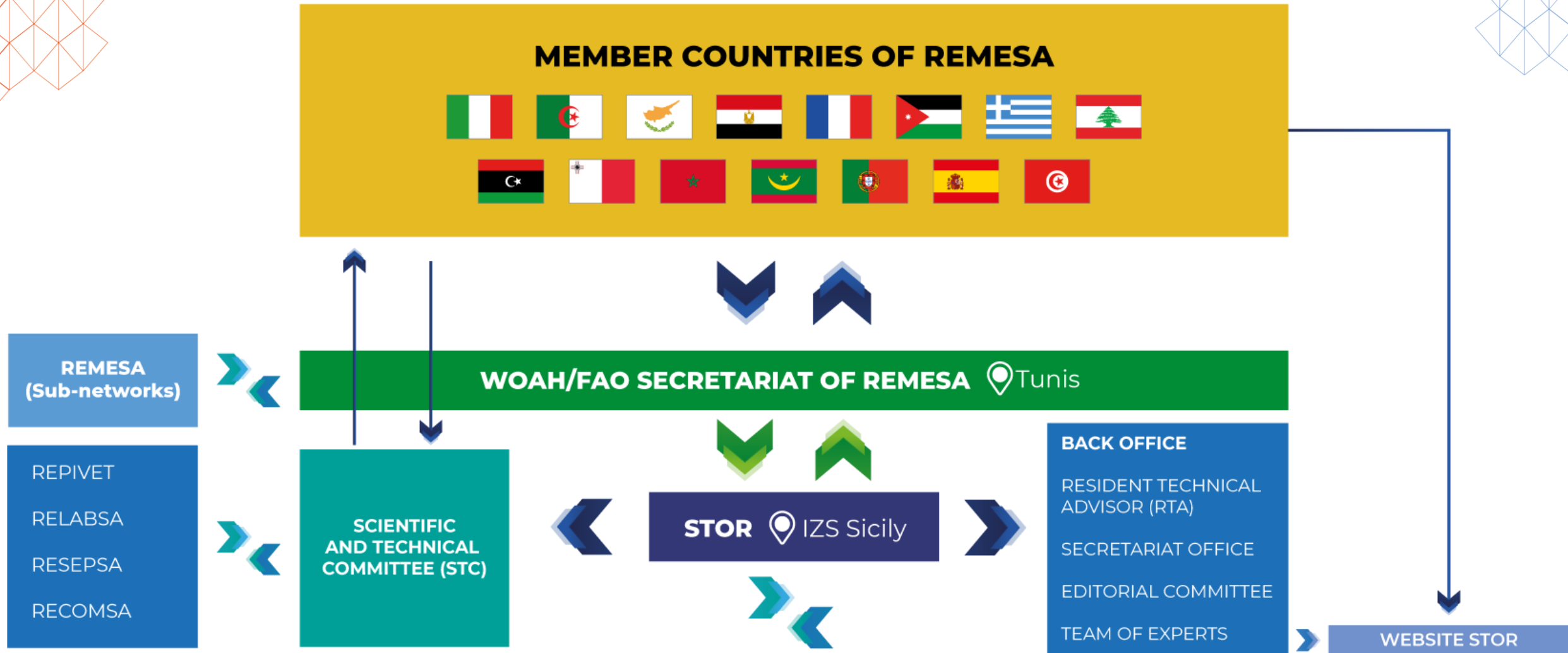
2009
10 members

2013
13 members

2015
15 members



Structure of the network



Resources (as of today)

JPC meetings

- FAO



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- WOAH World fund



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*Previously EU and France
fundings were allocated as well*

STOR office management

Sicily Region :
*agreement between WOAHA
and Sicily Region (2021)*



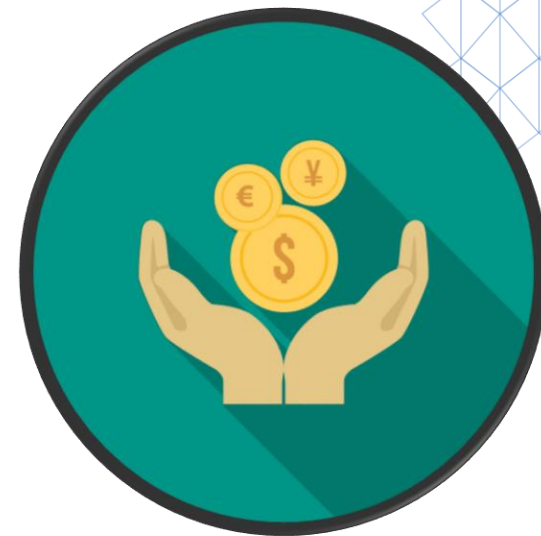
STOR activities

- WOAH World Fund :**
*Intention letter STOR/WOAH on
8/04/2024*
*Subgrant Agreement STOR/WOAH on
21/05/2024*



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- Sicily Region :**
scholarship/grant



RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY

General Objective

The general objective of REMESA is the:

- improvement of **Veterinary Public Health** in the Mediterranean basin
- **harmonization** and **coordination** of surveillance and control activities
- **facilitation of trade** in animals and their products between the countries of the REMESA

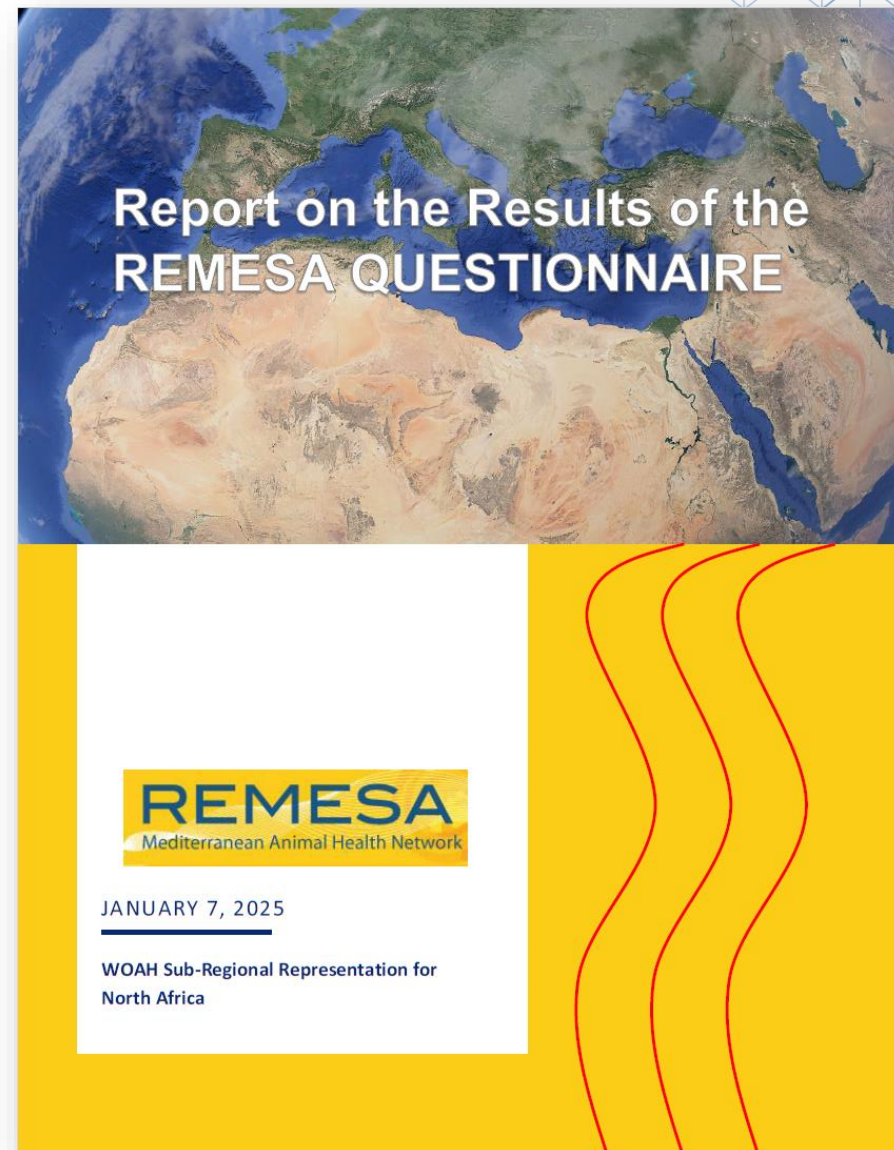
through

strengthening the **national** and **regional** skills and capacities of the **Veterinary Services** for the prevention and control of the main **transboundary animal diseases** and **zoonoses**.





What's next?



A satellite image of the Mediterranean region, showing the Mediterranean Sea, surrounding landmasses including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, and the surrounding oceans. The text "Part 3" is overlaid in the top right corner.

Part 3

**Strengthening the prevention and
control of major TADs and zoonoses
in the Mediterranean**



Priority diseases:

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

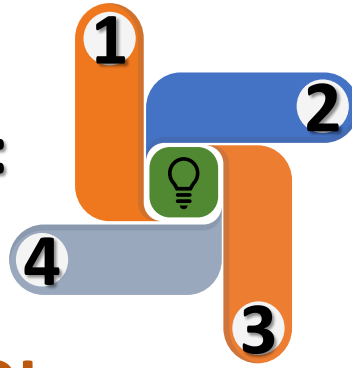
The Mediterranean Animal Health Network is based on the **veterinary services** of each country that adhered to its objectives and should be considered as a structure in which regional programs and projects may find their anchorage.

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.

What REMESA is doing/will do for FMD?



4 priority areas:



I. SURVEILLANCE and CONTROL

1. Passive and active **surveillance improved** and **harmonized** across the region.
2. **FMD Official Control Programmes endorsed by WOA**H + common strategy to recover FMD-free status.
3. **Field collection of clinical samples**, virus for typing and vaccine matching

IV. INVESTMENT in FMD CONTROL

1. **business case** for investment in FMD control and in advocacy for same.

II. RISK INFORMATION SHARING and RISK MANAGEMENT

1. “**risk information platforms**”
2. engage with **Sub-Saharan countries** to address the risk of trans-Saharan transmission of FMD viruses – convene a meeting

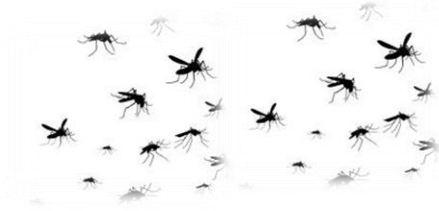
III. VACCINES, VACCINATION and POST-VACCINATION MONITORING

1. **multi-stakeholder platform** to address the availability, accessibility and affordability of **FMD vaccines** + comply with minimum international standards
2. **Vaccine matching**.
3. monitoring and measuring the efficacy of the vaccine and the vaccination strategy used, using small-scale immunological studies and **post-vaccination monitoring**.

What REMESA is doing/will do for VBDs?

02
VBDs

8 priority areas:



01
Identification of
Gaps and Needs

03
Enhancement of
Entomological Surveillance

05
Legal Framework
Updates

07
Collaboration, Transparency,
and Rapid Notification

02
Focus on
prevention

04
Support for Decision-Making
Tools and Policy Briefings

06
Public-Private
Partnership (PPP)

08
Other priorities

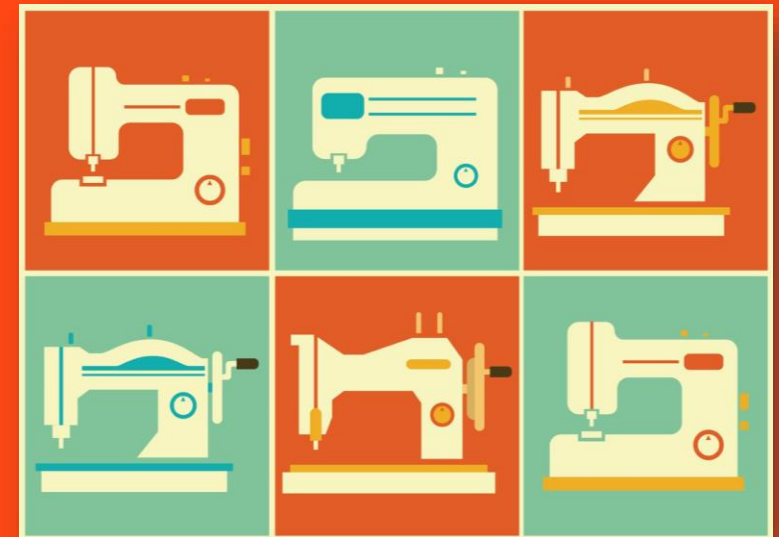


Example of activities...

- To **assess** existing **gaps and needs**
- To **map VBDs activities/projects** in the region to identify synergies and avoid duplications.
- To **establish technical working groups**
 - **vector surveillance (guidelines);**
 - VBDs **Legal Framework** updates/harmonisation;
- To plan **evidence-based** decision-making and targeted **policy briefings** training/workshop
- To foster **PPP**:
 - **pharmaceutical companies**
 - **farmers**
- **Risk information platforms**
- To strengthen **One Health** collaboration
- To leverage **resource mobilisation mechanisms**.

Conclusions

- i. Regional AH networks are of vital importance if we want to better manage/control emerging and re-emerging TADs and zoonoses
- ii. In order to develop evidence-based risk management 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





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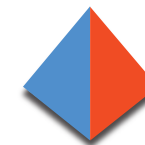


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Thank you
شكرا
Merci beaucoup



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