

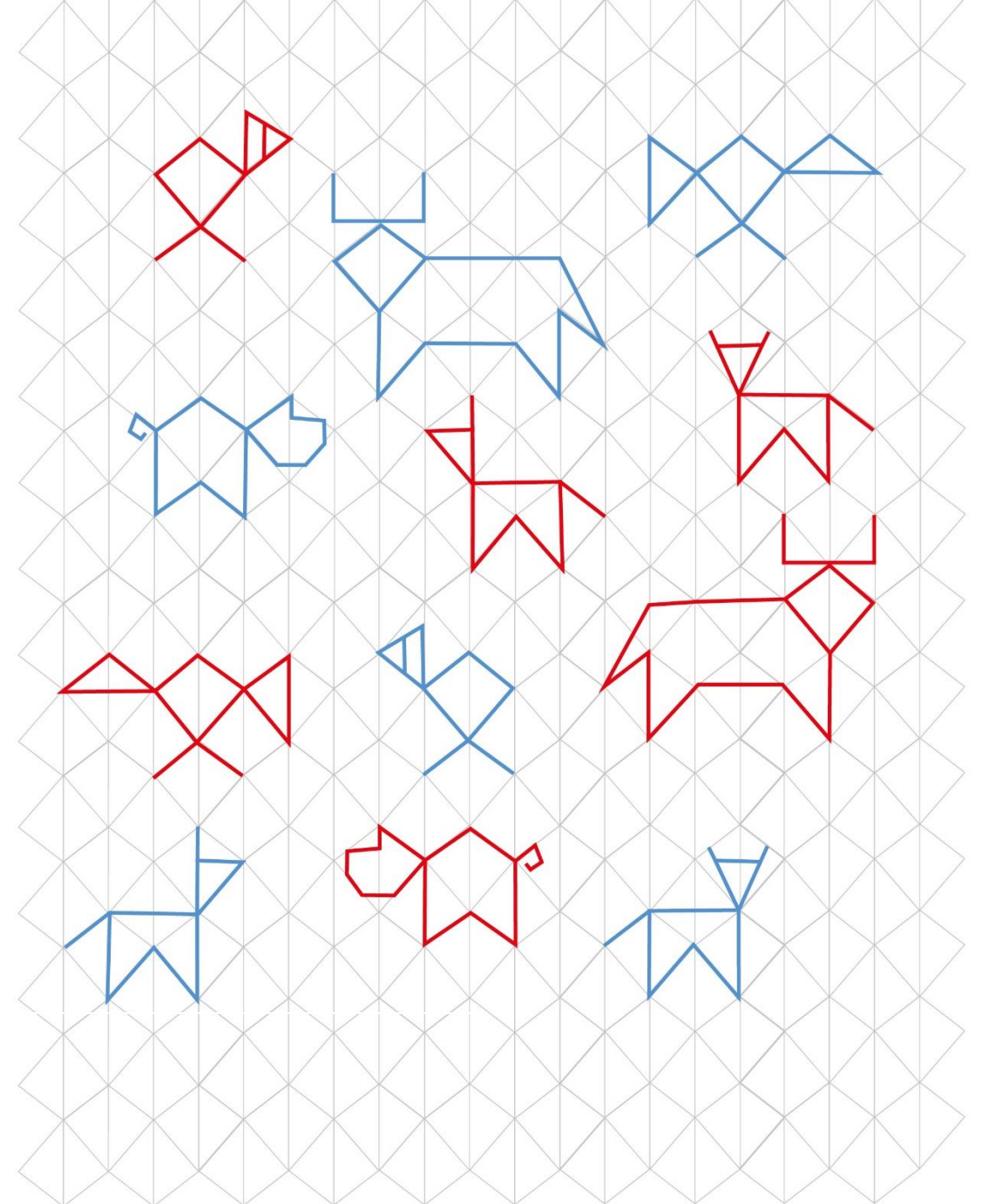
FMD EPINET Workplan

2025-2027

Identified issues and possible solutions

West Eurasia

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Epidemiology Network for West Eurasia: *EPINET*

FMD

- ▶ The regional epidemiology network (EPINET) was established during the 1st Regional Roadmap Workshop held in Shiraz, Iran, in 2008, bringing together 14 participating countries.

- ▶ **Active members: 14 member countries*

- ▶ Afghanistan Kyrgyzstan
- ▶ Armenia Pakistan
- ▶ Azerbaijan Syria
- ▶ Georgia Tajikistan
- ▶ Irak Turkey
- ▶ Iran Turkmenistan
- ▶ Kazakhstan Uzbekistan

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Main Objective

The network aims to enhance communication and active collaboration among member countries to achieve effective and coordinated FMD control. Its key goals include promoting the sharing of information on FMD outbreaks, virus circulation, vaccine selection, vaccination strategies, and vaccine effectiveness; ensuring cross-border coordination for implementing vaccination and movement control measures; and harmonizing national and regional activities.

To strengthen collaboration, a networking framework should be further developed among the EPINET co-leaders, utilizing modern communication tools such as email, virtual meetings (Zoom), and messaging platforms (Viber, WhatsApp, Google Workspace tools). Active participation and commitment from all member countries remain essential to maintaining the effectiveness and sustainability of the network.

Recommendations:

- ▶ **Encourage active participation** of nominated Points of Contact (CP) in the epidemiology and laboratory networks (EpiNet and WelNet), to strengthen collaboration and improve the timely exchange of technical information.
- ▶ **Promote bilateral coordination** between countries sharing borders to ensure timely sharing of information on disease outbreaks and coordination of disease prevention and control activities.
- ▶ **Foster information sharing** among member countries and partners to support the development of a **regional map of risk hotspots**, including live animal markets, slaughterhouses, migration routes, and shared pastures, to enhance regional preparedness and response capacity.



Issues	Solutions	Responsibility	Timeline	Identification of potential assistance
Lack of face to face, online meetings	- Frequency: face to face meeting ones a year - Online meetings: every quarter	EPINET Leader	Nov/Dec	FMD WG and FAO and WoAH Regional offices and Representations could organise a zoom meeting as requested
Data sharing and transparency	- Create a list of FMD epidemiology focal point (head of epi unit at national level) - Bilateral/multilateral MoU on data and information sharing - Information from WAHIS - Tools and SOPs for data sharing		Quarterly meeting or internal platform to share information	- EuFMD to link countries to platform which can be visualized in a map - Information sharing templates - Monthly reports
Gaps on capacities	- Needs assessments (country and regional) - Regional Capacity development programmes/approaches - Use of the Self Assessment Tool for country capacity assessment		Gaps assessed in a year	FAO, EuFMD, EuFMD Self Assessment Tool In service capacity development linked to epidemiology competencies
Gaps in understanding of epidemiology, and regional surveillance (virus circulation, strains, topotypes, risks in Value chains etc)	- Collaboration between WELNET and EPINET - Cross/trans border meetings on surveillance, early warning, response, cross border simex, SOPs etc. - Capacity development in mapping of value chains, identifying critical control points, and risk management in value chains - Assess countries' capacity and capabilities in epidemiology and surveillance using the FAO, OIE and EuFMD tools - Improve existing surveillance systems, through training on risk assessment, risk mapping and risk based surveillance - Trainings on monitoring and evaluation of surveillance results		Regular participations in Lab/epi network meetings Ongoing Cross border meetings- six monthly	Epidemiology value chain platform (EVC) Reference laboratory Network GVA meeting SOI, RISP for real time disease reporting EuFMD e-learning tools WoAH PVS tools FAO surveillance evaluation tool PSO assistance

Section 1: Strengthening Participation and Collaboration

- ▶ What challenges limit active participation in EpiNet and WelNet activities?
- ▶ What kind of support or motivation would help contact points (CPs) engage more regularly?
- ▶ How can we make EpiNet and WelNet activities more relevant to your national priorities?
- ▶ What tools or platforms would make participation easier?



Section 2: Future Directions and Regional Preparedness

- ▶ What should be EpiNet's top priorities for the next 1–3 years?
 - ▶ How can we make EpiNet more active, visible, and valuable for all members?
 - ▶ What tools or mechanisms would help improve joint response to outbreaks along borders?
 - ▶ How can EpiNet support bilateral or regional coordination more effectively?
 - ▶ What new activities, trainings, or partnerships could strengthen regional response capacity?
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Thank you for your attention!

