

WEBINAR REPORT

A joint online seminar for veterinary authorities of the EAEU member-states on the topic " WOAH standards and recommendations on brucellosis: trends in spread, diagnostic approaches, control and prevention measures."

Date: 27 March 2026

Format: Virtual

Organized by: WOAH Regional Representation for Europe in Moscow

In partnership with: Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)

Background

Brucellosis remains a significant zoonotic disease affecting both animal and human health, with considerable economic implications, particularly in endemic regions. Despite ongoing control efforts, the disease continues to pose challenges due to its complex epidemiology, diverse transmission pathways, and the need for sustained, resource-intensive interventions.

In this context, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional representation for Europe, in collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), organized a regional seminar to strengthen the understanding of international standards and promote harmonized approaches to disease prevention and control. The seminar aimed to address existing gaps in surveillance, diagnostics, and response strategies, while fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among veterinary authorities.

The initiative reflects the growing recognition that effective control and eventual eradication of brucellosis require coordinated, evidence-based actions, alignment with international standards, and strengthened collaboration across countries and sectors.

Goal

The primary goal of the seminar was to enhance understanding of Brucellosis and to promote coordinated regional approaches aligned with international standards and recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). The seminar aimed to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to monitor disease trends, improve diagnostic practices, and implement effective control and prevention measures.

More specifically, the seminar sought to facilitate the exchange of up-to-date epidemiological information, share country experiences and lessons learned, and review existing international standards and control strategies. It also aimed to foster collaboration among national veterinary authorities, laboratories, and international partners, and to identify priority areas for capacity building and future joint initiatives within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) region.

Specific Objectives Included:

- Sharing up-to-date epidemiological data.
- Discussing country experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in disease surveillance, control, and outbreak response.
- Reviewing WOAHA standards, international control measures.
- Strengthening collaboration among national veterinary authorities, laboratories, and international partners.
- Identifying priority areas for capacity building and joint initiatives.

Seminar Outline

The seminar was organized as a single main session dedicated to Brucellosis. The session featured a series of presentations delivered by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), participating Member Countries (the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation), Reference Centers, and partner organizations, including FGBU VGNKI. These contributions provided a comprehensive overview of current developments, challenges, and collaborative efforts related to the disease.

Opening Remarks

The seminar was opened by Dr. Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), who welcomed more than 280 participants. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of strong partnership and collaboration between WOAHA and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), highlighting the success of previous joint events and reaffirming WOAHA's commitment to continued support through this format.

He also stressed the importance of adopting a One Health approach to effectively address Brucellosis, given its significant impact on both animal and human health. Furthermore, he encouraged Member Countries to provide feedback on priority topics for future activities to be supported by the WOAHA Regional Representation for Europe.

Dr. Plavsic also extended his congratulations to the EAEU on the appointment of its new Minister, Dr. Subbotin, describing him as an experienced professional with many years of service across different levels of the agricultural sector. He wished him success in his important and demanding role.

Dr. Subbotin, representing the EAEU, also welcomed participants and highlighted the continued importance of addressing brucellosis, underlining its wide-ranging consequences for animal health, public health, and regional economies.

Keynote speakers

- Dr. Vasili Basiladze, Senior Advisor, RR Europe, WOAHA
- Dr. Fabrizio De Massis, Expert for WOAHA, National Reference Center for Brucellosis, IZS Teramo

- Dr. Oleg Sklyarov, Chief Research Scientist of the Scientific and Technological Laboratory of the Federal State Budgetary Institution FGBU VGNKI
- Drs Michael J. Gilsdorf and Miladin Kostovic - Independent Experts.
- Dr Jose Luis Saez Llorente, Deputy CVO of SPAIN
- Dr Jose Luis Saez Llorente, Deputy CVO of SPAIN
- Dr. Mevlida Hrapovic, Head of Department for Animal Health, Welfare Protection, and I&R of Animals, Administration for Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary affairs of Montenegro And
- Participating Member Countries (the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation),

Audience

The webinar brought together more than 280 participants, including World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Delegates, Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), and national representatives from Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Participating countries included the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation. Representatives of national veterinary authorities from these countries played a central role in the discussions.

The audience also included:

- WOAHC Collaborating Centers, Reference Laboratories, and independent experts (IZS Teramo, FGBU VGNKI).
- Stakeholders involved in animal health, epidemiology, and disease control.
- Over 280 attendees participated in the seminar.

Highlights of the Seminar

- **Opening Remarks** by Dr. Plavsic and Dr. Subbotin emphasized the urgency of addressing BT and FMD threats through regional collaboration.
- WOAHC provided comprehensive overviews of Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 8.4.1 Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *Brucella melitensis*, and *Brucella suis*, focusing on the WOAHC standards and recommendations, including trends in its spread, diagnostic approaches, and control and prevention measures for this zoonotic disease affecting both animals and humans worldwide.
- Presentations from Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the USA, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation highlighted field-level challenges, response strategies, and inter-country differences in managing Brucellosis.
- Reference Centers (IZS Teramo, FGBU VGNKI) presented updates on including trends in its spread, diagnostic approaches, and control and prevention measures.

Main Session: Brucellosis

The main session of the seminar focused on Brucellosis and featured a series of presentations delivered by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), participating Member Countries, including the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation, as well as Reference Centers and partner organizations such as IZS Teramo and FGBU VGNKI.

These contributions provided a comprehensive overview of current developments, success stories, key challenges, and ongoing collaborative efforts related to the prevention and control of the disease. The session facilitated the sharing of the latest epidemiological information on brucellosis and facilitated discussions on Member Countries' experiences in addressing challenges in disease prevention and control.

In addition, the session highlighted current international standards, recommendations, and control strategies, promoting a harmonized and evidence-based approach to disease management. It also provided a platform for dialogue on the broader impacts of brucellosis, including its economic and public health implications.

Overall, the session helped identify opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation and enhance coordinated efforts among countries to tackle brucellosis more effectively.

- **WOAH International Standards:** Dr. Vasili Basiladze presented an overview of the WOAH standards and recommendations on brucellosis, including trends in its spread, diagnostic approaches, and control and prevention measures for this zoonotic disease affecting both animals and humans worldwide. He explained its prevalence in certain regions, transmission dynamics, and control strategies recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), including test-and-slaughter policies, vaccination, and surveillance systems. He highlighted the importance of transparency to support safe trade and the eradication of the disease, as well as challenges such as limited resources and awareness, and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts between the animal and human health sectors for effective control and possible eradication.
- **Epidemiological Overview:** Drs. Fabrizio De Massis, Oleg Sklyarov, Michael J. Gilsdorf, and Miladin Kostovic provided insights into global and national approaches to disease control. *Dr. Fabrizio De Massis* presented on the epidemiology, diagnostics, and control strategies for brucellosis, emphasizing the significant global burden of the disease. He highlighted the importance of adopting tailored approaches based on local epidemiological conditions and available resources. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for long-term commitment, robust surveillance systems, and reliable data to ensure the effective implementation of control and eradication programs. This was followed by contributions from *Drs. Michael J. Gilsdorf and Miladin Kostovic*, who presented on the control of brucellosis in the United States. Their presentation outlined key elements of the U.S. approach, including surveillance systems, vaccination strategies, and the role of strong veterinary infrastructure and sustained funding. Lessons learned from the U.S. experience underscored the importance of effective surveillance, active industry engagement, and adequate financial support in achieving disease control objectives. *Dr. Oleg Sklyarov* presented on efforts to improve the

animal brucellosis control system in the Russian Federation. His presentation covered diagnostic tools, preventive measures, and vaccination strategies currently in use. He also reviewed the existing regulatory framework and proposed enhancements to diagnostic testing procedures, including reducing testing intervals to better monitor disease dynamics. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of compensation mechanisms for animal owners and addressed implementation challenges at the regional level.

- **Country Experiences:** Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and EAEU member countries shared their success stories, surveillance, movement control efforts and vaccination experiences.

Conclusions

- The session confirmed that Brucellosis remains a significant zoonotic disease with substantial animal health, public health, and economic impacts at both regional and global levels.
- Alignment with international standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) is essential to ensure effective disease control, safe trade, and progress toward eradication.
- Effective control of brucellosis requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, combining surveillance, vaccination, test-and-slaughter policies, and strong regulatory frameworks.
- Robust and reliable surveillance systems and high-quality data are critical for informed decision-making and successful implementation of control and eradication programs.
- Control strategies must be adapted to national and local epidemiological contexts, taking into account available resources and specific risk factors.
- Long-term commitment, sustainable funding, and strong veterinary infrastructure are key determinants of success, as demonstrated by country experiences.
- Stakeholder engagement, including the involvement of farmers and industry, as well as fair compensation mechanisms, is essential to ensure compliance and program effectiveness.
- Strengthening coordination between animal and human health sectors (One Health approach) is crucial for addressing the zoonotic nature of the disease.
- Countries continue to face challenges such as limited resources, uneven regional implementation, and gaps in awareness, which need to be addressed through targeted support and capacity building.
- Sharing country experiences and best practices highlighted that regional cooperation and knowledge exchange significantly enhance the effectiveness of control efforts.
- There is a clear need to strengthen regional collaboration and harmonize approaches to better manage transboundary risks.
- Continued efforts toward transparency, data sharing, and coordinated actions will be essential to accelerate progress toward the control and eventual eradication of brucellosis.



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ПРОГРАММА

Совместный онлайн семинар для уполномоченных органов в области ветеринарии государств-членов ЕАЭС на тему «Стандарты и рекомендации ВОЗЖ по бруцеллёзу. Тенденции распространения, меры борьбы, вопросы диагностики и профилактики»

(27 марта 2026 года, 10:00 по московскому времени)

AGENDA

A joint online seminar for veterinary authorities of the EAEU member-states on the topic "WOAH standards and recommendations on brucellosis: trends in spread, diagnostic approaches, control and prevention measures."

(27 March 2026, 10:00 Moscow time)

SEMINAR LINK

https://oie.zoom.us/meeting/register/E9RV5PmCS_-qrS4StpRlFw

Время / Time	Тема доклада / Topic	Докладчик / Speaker
10:00-10:10	Открытие семинара Opening speeches	Д-р В. Субботин, заместитель директора Департамента санитарных, фитосанитарных и ветеринарных мер ЕЭК / Dr V. Subbotin, Deputy Director of the Department for Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Veterinary Measures of the EEC Д-р Б. Плавшич, региональный представитель ВОЗЖ по Европе / Dr B. Plavšić, WOAH Regional Representative for Europe
10:10-10:20	Руководящие принципы и стандарты ВОЗЖ WOAH guidelines and standards	Д-р Василий Базиладзе, старший советник, Региональное представительство ВОЗЖ по Европе Dr. Vasili Basiladze, Senior Advisor, RR Europe, WOAH
10:20-10:40	Тенденции распространения, диагностические подходы, меры контроля и профилактики. Trends in spread, diagnostic approaches, control, and prevention measures.	Д-р Фабрицио Де Массис, эксперт ВОЗЖ (WOAH), Национальный референс-центр по бруцеллёзу, IZS Терамо Dr Fabrizio De Massis, Expert for WOAH, National Reference Centre for Brucellosis, IZS Teramo
10:40-11:00	Совершенствование системы контроля бруцеллёза в Российской Федерации Improvement of the brucellosis control system in the Russian Federation	Д-р Олег Скляр, Главный научный сотрудник научно-технологической лаборатории ФГБУ «ВГНКИ», Dr. Oleg Sklyarov, Chief Research Scientist of the Scientific and Technological Laboratory of the Federal State Budgetary Institution FGBU VGNKI
11:00- 11:20	Контроль и ликвидация бруцеллёза в Соединённых Штатах Америки Brucellosis control and eradication in the United States of America	Д-ра Майкл Дж. Гилсдорф и Миладин Костович - независимые эксперты Drs Michael J. Gilsdorf and Miladin Kostovic - Independent Experts.

11:20-11:40	<p>Опыт страны / успешный пример: ликвидация заболевания в Испании</p> <p>Country Experience/Success Story: Eradication of the Disease, SPAIN</p>	<p>Д-р Хосе Луис Саэс Льоренте, заместитель главного ветеринарного врача Испании Dr Jose Luis Saez Llorente, Deputy CVO of SPAIN</p>
11:40-12:00	<p>Практический опыт в диагностике и вакцинации. Опыт страны: Босния и Герцеговина Practical Experience in Diagnostics and Vaccination. Country Experience: Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>Д-р Саша Бошковић, главный ветеринарный врач Боснии и Герцеговины Dr Sasa Boskovic, CVO of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>
12:00-12:20	<p>Национальный контекст контроля бруцеллёза: стратегия без вакцинации и долгосрочный подход на основе эпиднадзора для достижения и поддержания статуса свободы от заболевания</p> <p>National Context of Brucellosis Control: Non-Vaccination Strategy and Long-Term Surveillance-Based Approach Towards Achieving and Maintaining Disease-Free Status</p>	<p>Д-р Мевлида Храпович, Начальник отдела по охране здоровья животных, защите их благополучия и идентификации и регистрации животных, Управление по безопасности пищевых продуктов, ветеринарным и фитосанитарным вопросам Черногории</p> <p>Dr Mevlida Hrapovic, Head of Department for Animal Health, Welfare Protection, and I&R of Animals, Administration for Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary affairs of Montenegro</p>
12:20-12:30	<p>Coffee Break Кофе-Пауза</p>	<p>All Все</p>
12:30-13:20	<p>Доклады от стран ЕАЭС с обзором ситуации по бруцеллезу и о предпринимаемых усилиях по борьбе /профилактике с этой болезнью.</p> <p>Presentations from EAEU countries with an overview of the brucellosis situation and ongoing efforts to combat/prevent this disease</p>	<p>Государства-члены ЕАЭС/ • Армения • Беларусь • Казахстан • Кыргызстан • Россия</p> <p>Presentation by countries • Armenia • Belarus • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Russia</p>
13:20-13:30	<p>Обсуждение. Закрытие семинара/ Discussion. Closing of the seminar</p>	<p><i>Модераторы</i> Д-ра В.Субботин, Б.Плавшич/ <i>Moderators</i> Drs V. Subbotin , B. Plavsic</p>