



World Organisation
for Animal Health

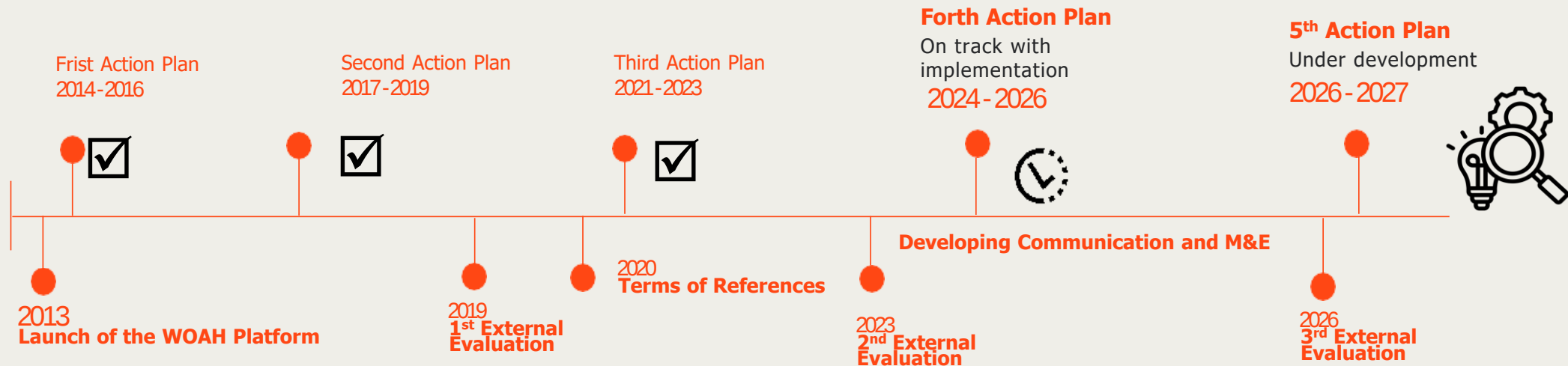
Regional training workshop for WOAH National Focal Points on Animal Welfare in Europe

30 June – 2 July 2026, Budapest, Hungary



Funded by
the European Union

WOAH Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe



to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe
and empower Veterinary Services to take action on
animal welfare in compliance with
WOAH standards



Priority topics



4th Action Plan for 2024-2026

Impact (Long-term objective):

Contribute to the improvement of animal welfare in Europe through the priority topics

Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective)

Progressively improve the compliance of WOAAH Members with WOAH standards

- Common vision and continuity
- Strengthening the WOAAH Members involvement
- Collaboration with all WOAAH Members and stakeholders





Governance

- WOAHA Regional Commission for Europe
- Steering Group (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Ireland, Portugal)

Stakeholders and partners

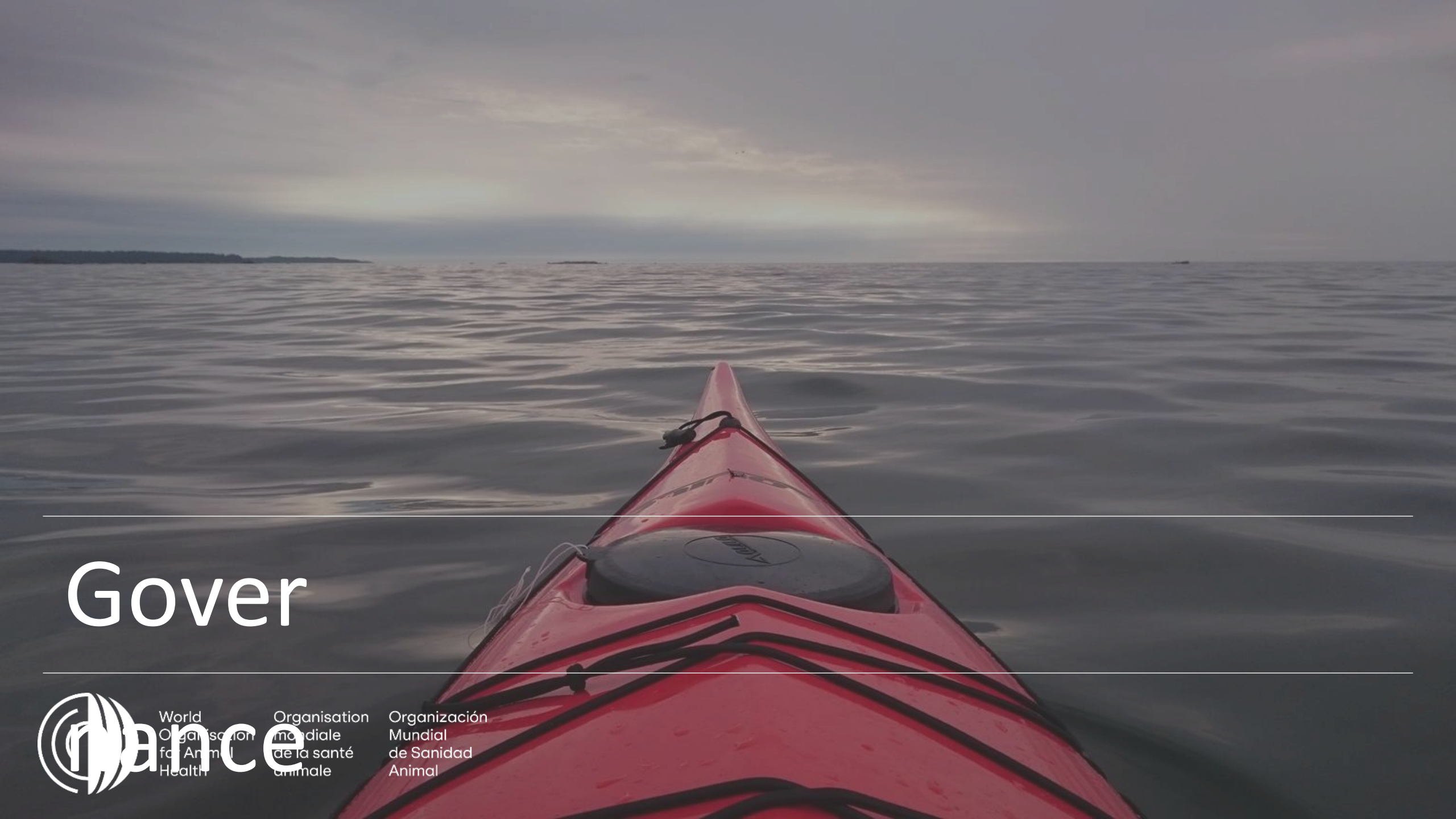
- annual coordination meetings

Communication

- developing communication strategy
- website updates
- annual newsletters
- Russian translations

Monitoring and evaluation

- tools within each priority topic
- overall indicators
- external consultant – review



Gover



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Governance – Steering Group

- Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ireland
- Israel
- Portugal
- European Commission
- Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre
- WOAH HQ

Steering Group Meeting (SG25)

October 2025, Azerbaijan

Steering Group meeting (SG26)

9th of April 2026 (Teleconference)

Steering Group meeting (SG27)

October 2026, Teramo (tbc)

Steering Group Meeting (SG28)

Q1/Q2 2027 online



Observers (resource partners from organisations and Member Countries, other interested parties, notably from the civil society, the industry, professional organisations, and NGO)





Monitoring and Evaluation



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Monitoring Evaluation Learning



WOAH Regional Platform on Animal
Welfare for Europe
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
system (MEL)

Report

2 March 2026

Dr Karen Iles



Monitoring Evaluation Learning

Strengths

- Support of stakeholders
~ great ideas!
- Commitment of the Secretariat to be even better
- Comprehensive reports
- Lessons & next steps
- SAM tools
- Collaborations
- Regular evaluations
- Applying evaluation recommendations

Challenges

- Foundation
- Terminology
- Time
- Reporting
- Roles
- ... and more



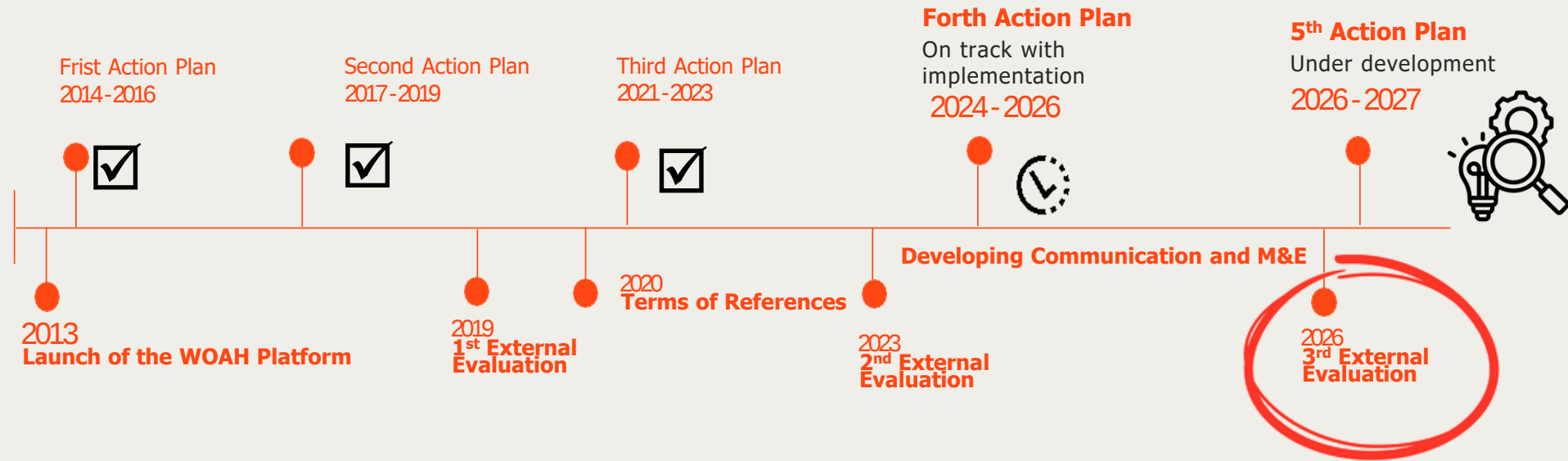
Monitoring Evaluation Learning

Recommendations

- Engage a MEL specialist
- Update the Platform's Theory of Change
- Update the Results Framework
- Revise how the Platform reports are written
- Plan an impact study
- Create a MEL Roadmap (MEL Document and MEL Matrix).

What to do and how to do it – in the report

fully functioning M&E system that meets the needs of the Platform



External Evaluation of the Platform – 2026

to review the Platform's relevance, cohesiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, and contribution towards impact with activities

Communication



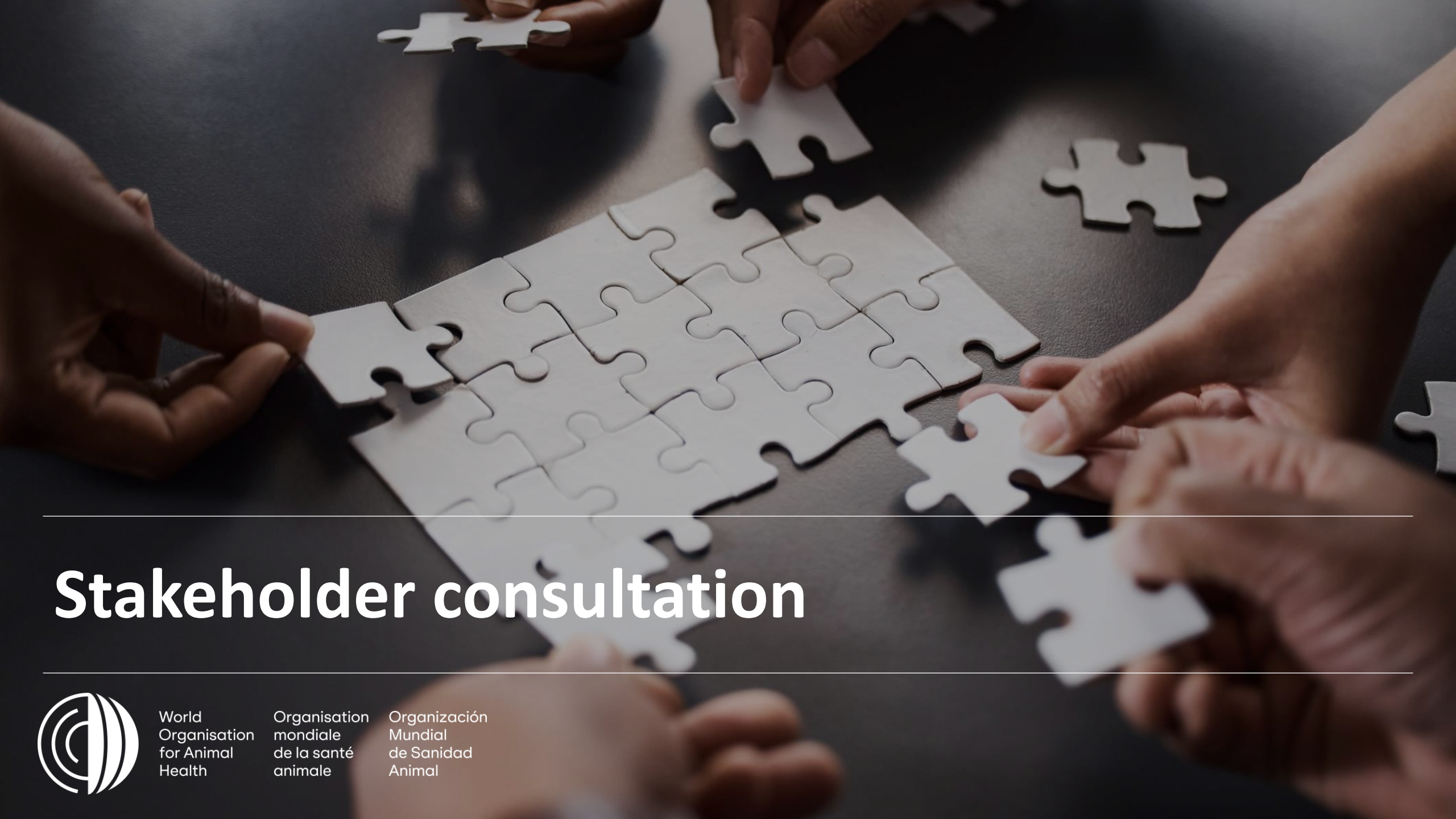
Communication Channels and Activities



Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Annual report - 2025



A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones working together to assemble a large puzzle made of white interlocking pieces on a dark, reflective surface. The puzzle is partially completed, with some pieces missing and others being placed. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the puzzle pieces and the skin.

Stakeholder consultation



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11th stakeholder consultation meeting

24th June 2026, Brussels



OTHER EVENTS



World Organisation
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The regional workshop on the development of national animal welfare action plans

13 February 2025, Tirana, Albania



Funded by
the European Union



- A need for a comprehensive, long-term, and sustainable approach to implementing WOAHP
- animal welfare standards
- Support for targeted Members in the development of National Action Plans on Animal Welfare.
- A pilot initiative – follow-up to be explored



11

WOAHP
members

32

Participants

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine

The regional workshop on the development of national animal welfare action plans

13 February 2025, Tirana, Albania

The key outcomes

- Participants presented overviews of their current animal welfare landscapes and policy developments,
- WOAH members guided in creating sustainable, multi-year national action plans aimed at improving long-term animal welfare management
 - Building the Action Plan of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
 - Portugal National Action Plan for Animal Welfare
 - WOAH PVS pathway
- The Theory of Change (ToC) methodology was introduced as a key tool for developing effective action plans. (participatory approach, establishing a clear causal framework, defining long-term goals, developing measurable indicators, and outlining actionable steps (RAWC and RSPCA))
- Working group exercise - practice the application of the main principles of developing action plans covering key elements: identifying priorities, defining objectives, engaging stakeholders, allocating resources, and establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework.
- A key goal of developing an action plan is prioritising efforts and resources based on identified topics and national contexts.
- Collaboration with diverse partners (industry, NGOs, educational institutions) will be crucial to coordinate activities, avoid duplication, and ensure broad stakeholders' engagement (producers, businesses, communities, and local authorities), especially regarding critical areas like dog population management.



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Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation

93rd General Session

Tuesday, 19th May 2026, (13.00 – 14.30), CNIT Forest, Paris

SIDE EVENT

The panel discussion explored

- Why investing in animal welfare should be seen not solely as a cost but as a strategic decision that can yield direct and indirect benefits.
- How implementing WOAHA animal welfare standards contributes to animal health and welfare, public health, resilient veterinary services, environmental improvements, citizens' expectations, market opportunities and sustainable food systems.
- How WOAHA's international standards provide a common framework for prioritising investments, mobilising public and private resources, and ensuring measurable, accountable results.

Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation



**Andrea
Gavinelli**

European
Commission
DG SANTE



**Ivan
Ivanov**

International
Finance
Corporation



**Marcelo
de Andrade
Mota**

WOAH Delegate
Brazil



**Phil
Hadley**

International
Meat Secretariat



**Sara
Shields**

Humane World
for Animals



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**93rd General Session
SIDE EVENT**



Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation

Conclusions

- Animal welfare should be viewed as a strategic investment, not merely a compliance cost.
- Investments in welfare generate benefits for animal health, productivity, resilience, and public trust.
- WOAHA standards provide a science-based framework for implementation and accountability.
- Effective progress requires collaboration between governments, industry, financial institutions, academia, and civil society.
- Innovation, digital tools, data systems, and capacity building are key enablers of welfare improvements.
- Strong Veterinary Services and supportive policies are essential to translate commitments into measurable outcomes.



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