



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



EuFMD activities under the Statement of Intentions Agreement, including the simulation exercise in Armenia and Georgia

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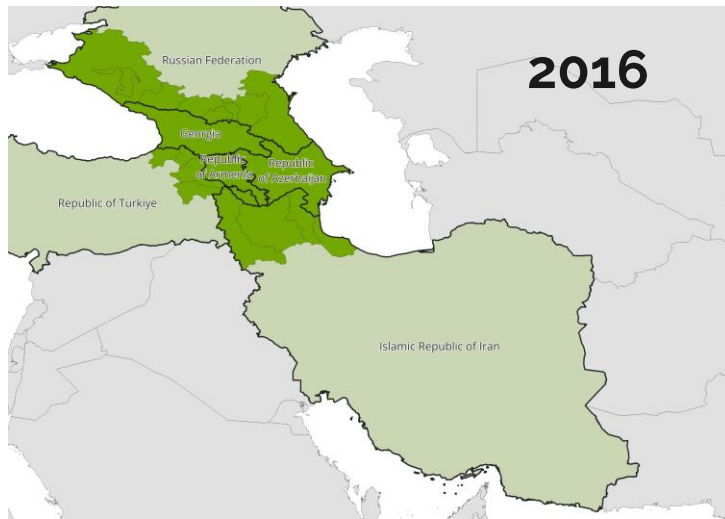
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Statement of Intentions (SOI) Agreement

- Background
- Priorities 2026/27
- Examples of activities :
 - Risk information sharing
 - Group for vaccination advise
 - Early Warning Surveillance programme
 - Simulation exercise 2026

Statement of Intentions (SOI) Agreement

- First agreed upon in 2016 by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Türkiye and the Russian Federation
- In 2024, all countries and Iraq signed new agreement text, except Russian Fed.; Pakistan formally included



Common vision

- intensified collaboration in the prevention and control of FMD and similar TADs
- improved confidence in effectiveness of control programmes implemented
- reduced risk of epidemics in the region

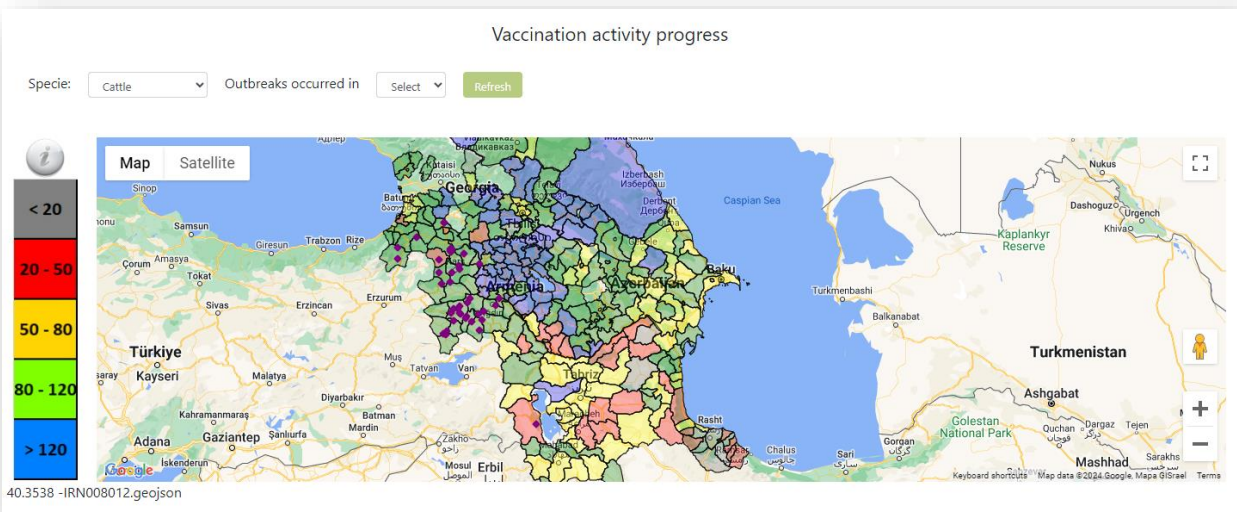
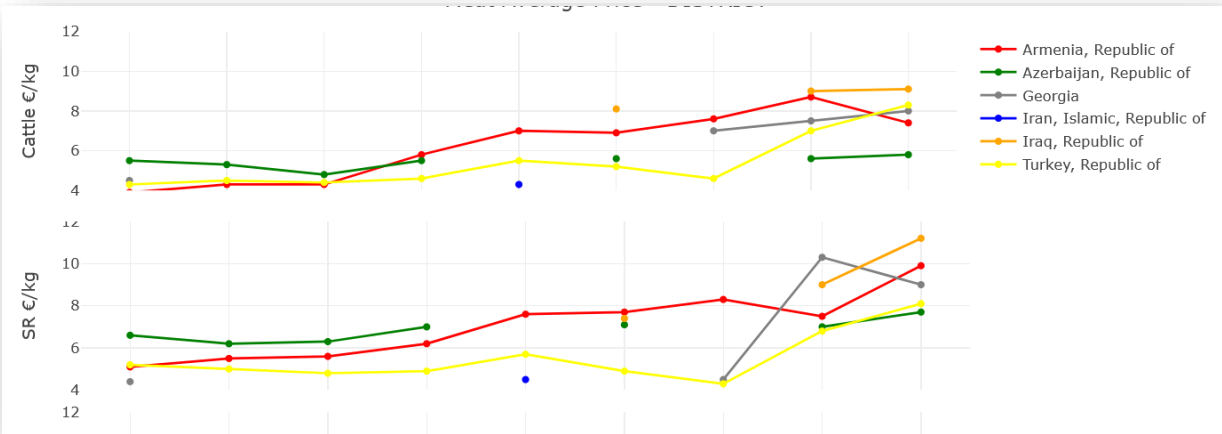
SOI Priorities 2026/27, adopted at the CVO meeting in Paris in June 2026

- Maintain and further improve reporting and **risk information sharing**
- Promote the **digitalization of reporting**
- Improve **regional understanding** of FMD/FAST risks (PCP stages, Quadripartite meetings, NFPs)
- Progressively implement an **Early Warning Surveillance Programme**
- Promote preparedness and control through participation in **training and proficiency tests**
- Organization of **multi-country simulation exercise** to improve cross-border coordination, communication and rapid response to FMD outbreaks.
- Monitor the **effectiveness of vaccination** (e.g. SSIS, vaccine strain recommendations)



Risk information sharing - SOI database

- Monthly reporting of outbreaks of FMD and other FAST diseases including email notification of reported outbreaks
- 3-monthly reporting of progress of vaccination and market prices for livestock and meat



Summary of the outbreaks registered				
Year	Country	Species	Serotype	Number
2016	Armenia, Republic of	CATTLE	A	1
2017	Iran, Islamic, Republic of	SMALL RUMINANTS	--	1
2017	Turkey, Republic of	CATTLE	A	11
2017	Turkey, Republic of	CATTLE	O	16
2017	Turkey, Republic of	CATTLE	PCR(+)	2
2017	Turkey, Republic of	SMALL RUMINANTS	A	1
2017	Turkey, Republic of	SMALL RUMINANTS	O	1
2018	Turkey, Republic of	CATTLE	O	9
2018	Turkey, Republic of	CATTLE	PCR(+)	2

Risk information sharing - FAST Report

- Published quarterly since 2020
- Structure:
 - Summary of significant events and information
 - Tables with outbreaks, vaccination & control, epi information, surveillance
- Digital version is currently developed and will be linked with a modernized version of the SOI database



Group for Vaccination Advice, Guidance and Consultation (GVA)

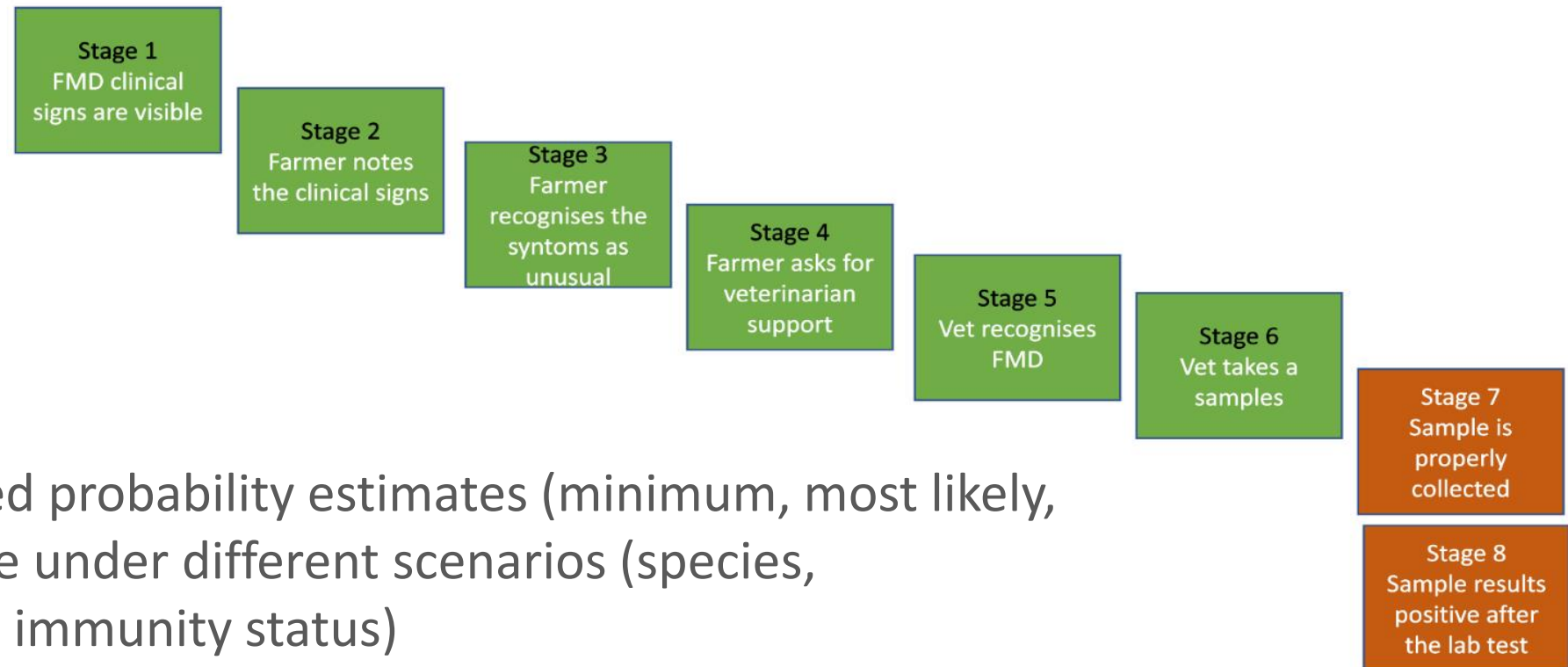
- 6-monthly GVA meetings with SEEN countries, incl. assessment of regional FMD situation and consultation on suitability of vaccine strains
- Post vaccination monitoring and small-scale immunogenicity studies
 - Assessment of vaccine quality and suitability
 - Evaluation of immune response (up to 180 days) to FMD vaccines
 - Testing of sera in national labs and at IZSLER Brescia
 - New studies started in 2026 with 3 different vaccines
- In June 2025, GVA meeting together with vaccine manufacturers to discuss SAT1 vaccine availability and evidence of efficacy,



Passive surveillance assessment of FMD/SPGP in SOI countries

Aim: To estimate the sensitivity of passive FMD/SPGP surveillance in selected SOI countries and identify critical weak points along the early detection pathway.

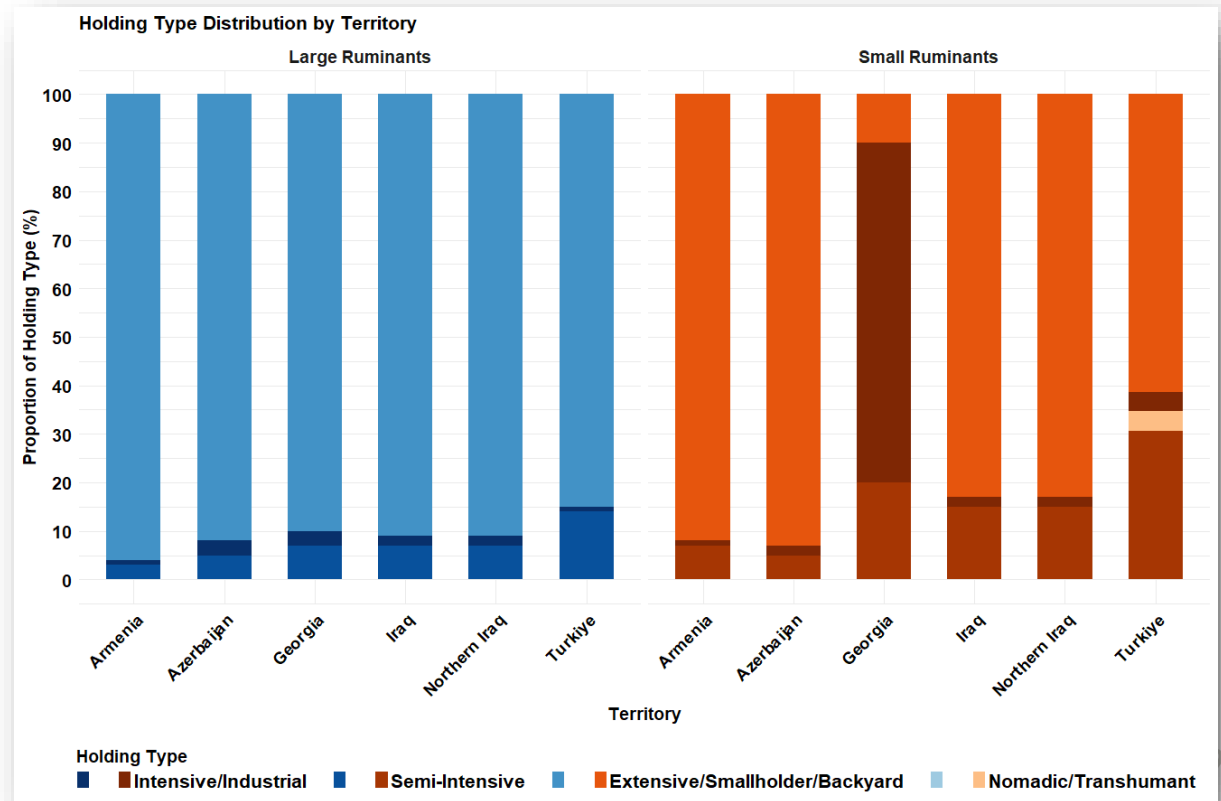
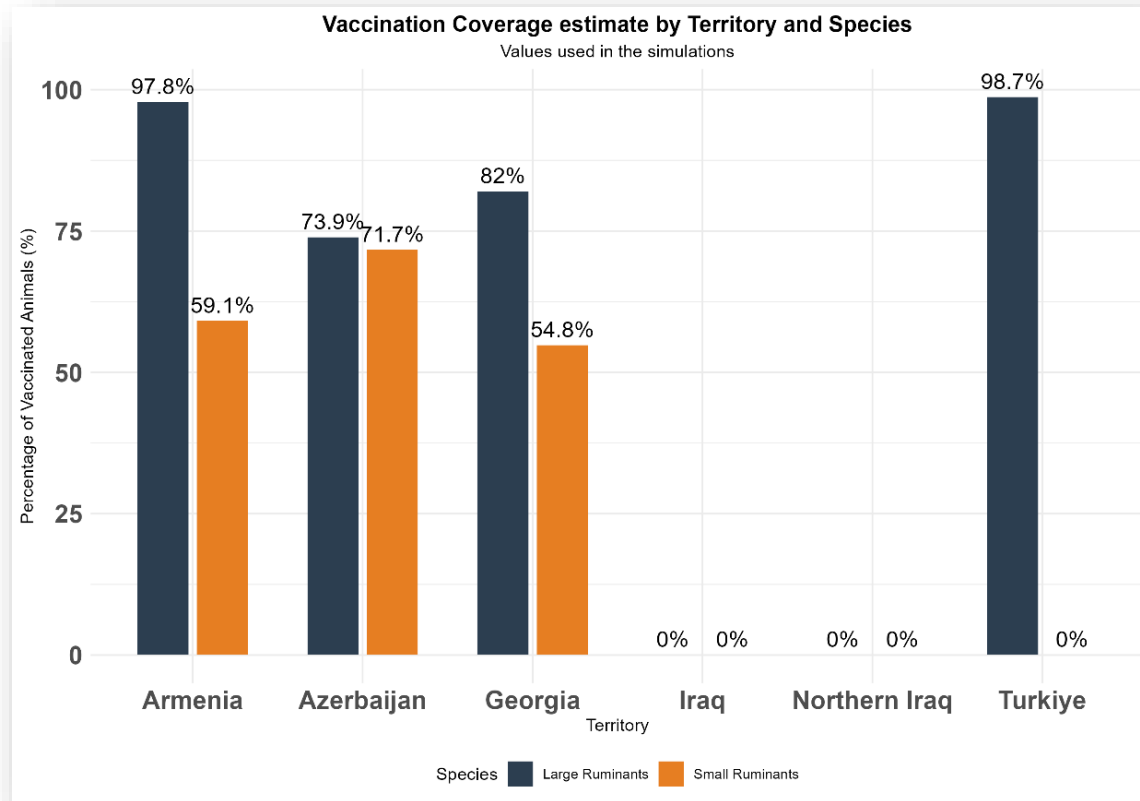
An **Expert Knowledge Elicitation** was used to estimate the probability of FMD/SPGP detection.



National experts provided probability estimates (minimum, most likely, maximum) for each stage under different scenarios (species, production systems, and immunity status)

Expert Panel and Livestock Data Framework

- Expert panel: field and central authority vets, epidemiologists, lab specialists (3-8/country)
- Livestock: cattle/buffalo vs sheep/goats (50-80% SR)
- Production system: intensive, semi-intensive, extensive/smallholder, nomadic/transhumant
- Vaccination status

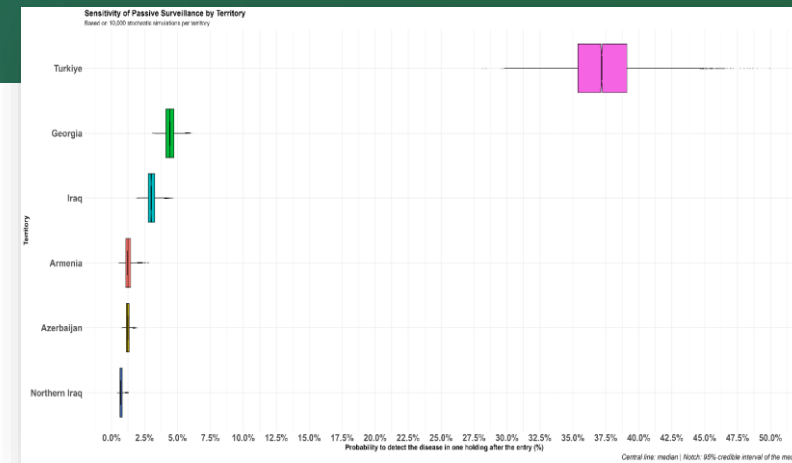


Results, discussion points

- Türkiye shows the most effective passive surveillance

about 1 in 3 infected holdings is detected and laboratory-confirmed through the 8-step passive surveillance chain in Türkiye, compared to approx. 1 in 25 or less elsewhere.

- Countries with low sensitivity likely have silent circulation risk; here, FMD incursions may remain undetected or detected late



Key messages

- Passive surveillance alone is not sufficient for early outbreak detection
- Bottleneck: Farmer-level detection and the move from suspicion to sample collection

Key messages (2)

- Vaccinated animals generally showed lower clinical-detection probabilities than non-vaccinated animals.
- Paradox: High LR vaccination rates and high proportions of SR inadvertently blind the surveillance system by masking clinical signs.
- Passive surveillance should be strengthened at farm level, especially through farmer awareness and training.

Future Plans:

- Monitor progress in improving pass. surveillance,
- Further surveillance sensitivity assessments using existing data sources.

FMD tabletop & field simulation exercise, Georgia & Armenia; June 2026

Aim

- strengthen regional capacity for coordinated preparedness and response to FMD by practicing protocols for early detection and disease investigation;
 - enhance regional risk communication;
 - discuss further improvement of national and regional preparedness and response capacities.
- Activity under SOI priorities



source: NFA

Participants: Georgia, Armenia, Türkiye, Russian Fed.
(Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq did not attend)

Georgia and Armenia used EuFMD training credits, hosted the exercise and participated with larger teams in the table-top and field exercise

Key messages:



- The exercise demonstrated a strong level of commitment and preparedness among participating veterinary services.
- Clear decision-making pathways are needed to guide actions responding to suspicions of FMD and follow-up.
- Vaccine procurement remains a key challenge for emergency vaccination to control exotic FMDV introduction.



Key messages (2):

- Biosecurity measures should be adapted to the realities of village-based livestock production systems.
- Challenge to assess coordination, communication and response efficiency during a field sim.ex. with many participants

Georgia,
Marneuli district



Take-home messages based on SOI experiences

- Collaboration is our strongest prevention tool.
- Information sharing enables early action.
- Preparedness requires regular improvement and testing.