World Organisation for Animal Health

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Harmonisation and effectiveness of biosecurity measures for emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases

Dr Alessandra Scaburri

Dr Silvia Bellini

Epidemiology and Support to Competent Authorities
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER)

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Technical Item I:

Emergency preparedness and response to peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) in the region

32nd Conference of the WOAH Regional Commission for Europe
(21-25 September 2026, Riga, Latvia)

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1. Introduction

Animal diseases are among the most significant limiting factors for livestock production. Their impact can vary from reduced productivity and restricted market access to the elimination of entire flocks or herds, with the resultant loss of biodiversity and valuable genetic resources. Their impact extends far beyond the livestock sector. Indeed, diseases already affecting domestic animals, including ASF and HPAI, are endangering wildlife animals, posing a significant threat to biodiversity. Worth mentioning that HPAI has led to the death and mass slaughter of over 557 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2023 and in 2024 it was detected in the Antarctic region for the first time affecting endangered species. So, the application of control measures such as biosecurity should be considered also as a tool to protect wildlife, to then avoid further spillover events from wild to domestic animals.

Some emerging or evolving infectious diseases have the potential to move quickly from local to international significance. The Europe Region continues to face increasing risks associated with emerging and re-emerging TADs, the most significant animal health threats currently affecting Europe Region include ASF, HPAI, FMD, LSD, SGP and PPR as regional priorities given their significant economic impact and consequences for international trade. In such circumstances, animal health measures have increasing importance to facilitate safe international trade of animals and animal products while avoiding unnecessary impediments to trade.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has long been actively involved in preventing and controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses. A core function of WOAH is the development of international standards that facilitate safe trade in animals and animal products, prevent and control animal diseases, and promote animal health and welfare. These standards set out WOAH requirements to reduce the transmission of pathogenic biological agents to animals, humans and the environment.

Biosecurity is a core component of animal health protection, contributing to animal welfare, public health and the sustainability of agricultural systems. The relevance of biosecurity is reflected in the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, where the term ‘biosecurity’ appears 274 times across 12 Sections and 46 Chapters.

Biosecurity should be regarded as a cross-cutting preventive practice, as its main requirements are not disease-specific and are effective against most pathogenic agents. According to the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code Glossary, biosecurity is defined as *a set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population*. The key components of biosecurity are intended to prevent, reduce or interrupt the transmission pathways of pathogenic agents.

The WOAH Regional Commission for Europe recognises the critical importance of harmonising biosecurity implementation across the Region, in line with WOAH standards. For this reason, biosecurity was selected as one of the two Technical Items for the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe. This provides an opportunity to review how biosecurity measures are being implemented across the Region and to assess progress since the previous survey conducted in 2018.

Key elements to be covered in the Technical Item

- Assess the progress made since the recommendations of the 2018 Regional Conference.
- Asses the harmonisation and effectiveness of biosecurity measures in order to prevent, detect, and control emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases in the Region.
- The regulatory frameworks and current biosecurity practices from responding Members and the role of Veterinary Services and governance frameworks in ensuring compliance.
- Lessons learned from recent outbreaks and incursions of ASF, HPAI, FMD, PPR and SGP.
- The level of implementation of WOAH international standards, protocols, and regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms in animal biosecurity.

- The adoption of good biosecurity practices at different levels of the animal production systems, and the identification of barriers to the effective implementation of these measures.
- Strengthening the roles and collaboration of farmers, animal keepers, Veterinary Services, competent authorities, and other stakeholders in the effective implementation of biosecurity measures across the animal production system.
- The public-private partnership and stakeholder engagement mechanisms for the implementation and application of more effective and standardised biosecurity measures.
- Recommendations for future action by WOAH Members and regional mechanisms to develop relevant and realistic recommendations aligned with WOAH 8th Strategic Plan and current regional and global challenges.

Technical Item objectives and methods

The WOAH Regional Commission for Europe recognises the crucial importance of harmonised implementation biosecurity measures across whole region, in line with WOAH Standards. It therefore decided to assign this topic to one of the two Technical Items of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe. This will provide an opportunity to examine how biosecurity measures are implemented across Europe at national, regional and farm level, review progress since 2018, analyses the current strengths and weaknesses and identify best practice and lessons learned.

This Technical Item was initially planned with a questionnaire. However, considering the numerous questionnaires that Members are required to respond regularly, the Regional Core Group has agreed to use a simplified questionnaire. This was supplemented with a compilation of existing information and supported with examples of best practices Members' experience. Additionally, WOAH has already addressed biosecurity topics in Technical Item I during its 28th Regional Conference, held in Georgia, in September 2018, which focused on the application of biosecurity in different production systems at the national, regional and farm levels.

The 2018 survey findings highlighted that most Members have established legal frameworks, biosecurity plans, and inspection procedures for biosecurity implementation, although financial support remains limited. Biosecurity measures were mainly focused on commercial poultry and pig production systems, reflecting regional concerns related to HPAI and ASF. The survey also emphasised the importance of awareness, training, stakeholder collaboration, surveillance, and practical measures and reported increasing use of digital tools, partnerships, and disease-specific biosecurity programmes to strengthen prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases.

The collecting data through the questionnaire will provide foundation for comparing the developments in biosecurity measures among the Members. Based on the questionnaire results and other available information from various sources, the selected experts were able to extract the necessary elements to draft the Technical Item. The results will be presented during the 32nd Conference of Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Riga, Latvia, from 21 to 25 September 2026.

Finally, the Technical Item should build on the findings and recommendations adopted at the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2018). It should assess the effectiveness of the current biosecurity measures in the region, identify any gaps or implementation challenges, analyse the lessons learned from recent incursions and the spread of priority TADs, highlight successful approaches and good practices, and propose practical recommendations to strengthen the harmonisation and implementation of biosecurity measures across the region.

2. Results of the survey

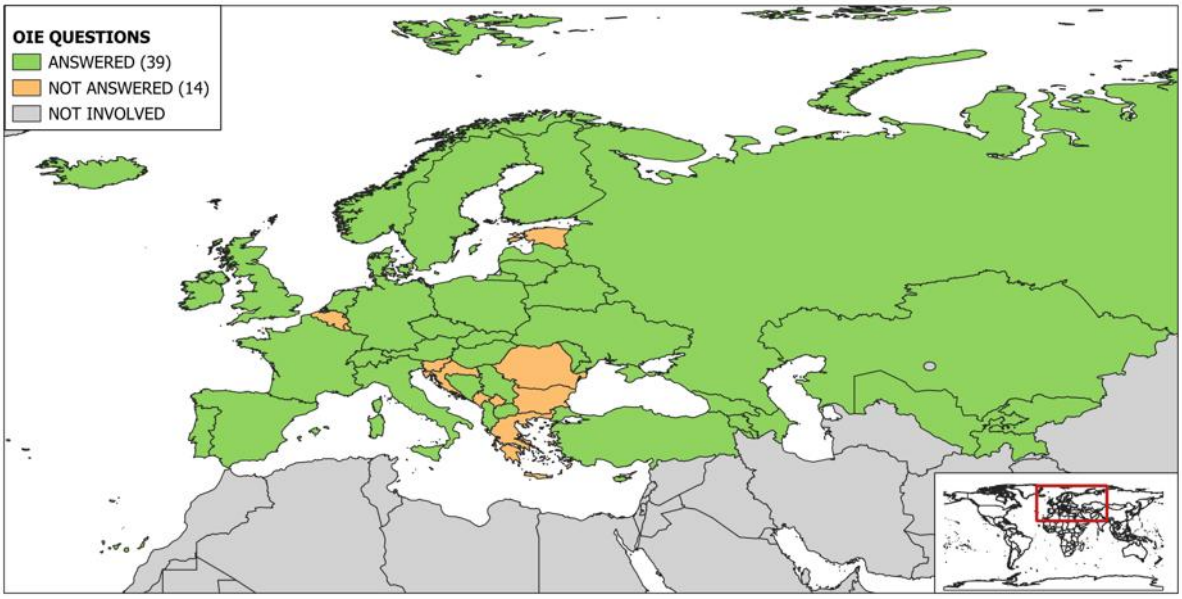
The 53 Members of the WOAH Regional Commission for Europe were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 39 Members responded to the questionnaire within the extended response period. The quantitative analysis presented in this Technical Item is based on the 36 responses received by the analytical cut-off date established for preparing the paper. The three additional responses received during the extended response period could not be incorporated into the quantitative analysis due to the timeframe required to finalise the paper. Nevertheless, these responses were reviewed and considered when preparing the Conference discussion and conclusions. Thirty-four Members participated in both the 2018 and 2026 surveys, allowing an assessment of progress in the implementation of biosecurity measures over time.

Overall responses received: 39/53 (73.6%)
Responses included in quantitative analysis: 36/53 (67.9%)

***Q1**. Members*

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Türkiye, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

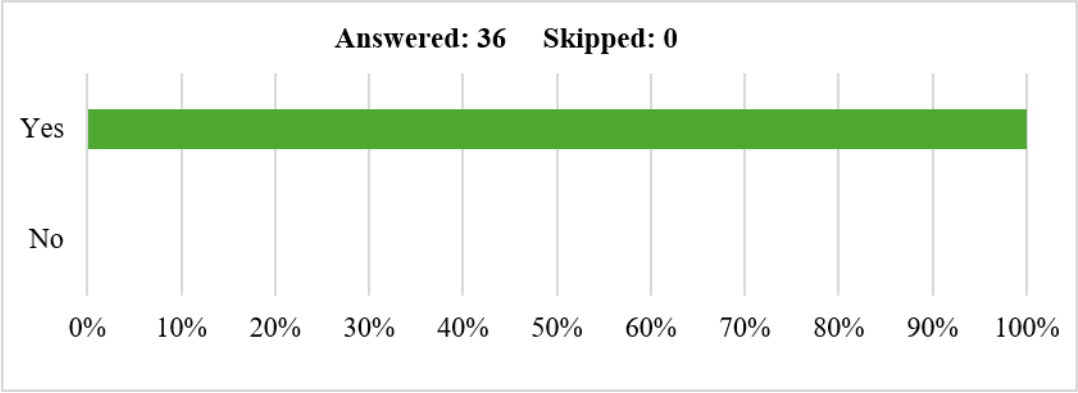
Figure 1. Members participating in the survey on the application of biosecurity



***Q4**. Does your country have a legal base for the implementation of biosecurity in veterinary legislation?*

The response rate to this question was 100% and all respondents reported that in their country a legal base exists for the implementation of biosecurity in veterinary legislation.

Figure 2. Members having a legal base for the implementation of biosecurity in veterinary legislation



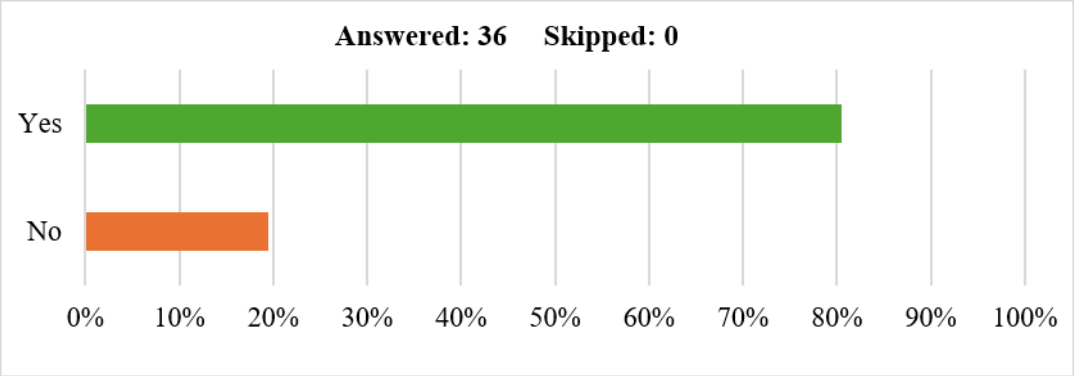
Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	100%	36
No	0%	0
Total respondents		**36**

***Q5**. Does your country have biosecurity plans that are enforced?*

The response rate to the question was 100%. According to the responses, in 7 Members (19.44%) no biosecurity plan was enforced in the country. However, these Members answered 'yes' to Q6, indicating the areas where biosecurity applies; one of the two questions (Q5 or Q6) must have been misunderstood.

Almost 20% of the responding Members reported that no biosecurity plan was enforced in the country. It should be noted that Veterinary Services are critical to animal health and to the effective implementation of WOAH standards. To fulfil these responsibilities, they require good governance, appropriate personnel and resources, adequate technical capacities, and effective coordination and collaboration with Competent Authorities and relevant stakeholders, including public and private actors. These capacities are essential for the effective and sustainable implementation of biosecurity measures(Article 3.1.1)

Figure 3. Members with enforced biosecurity plans

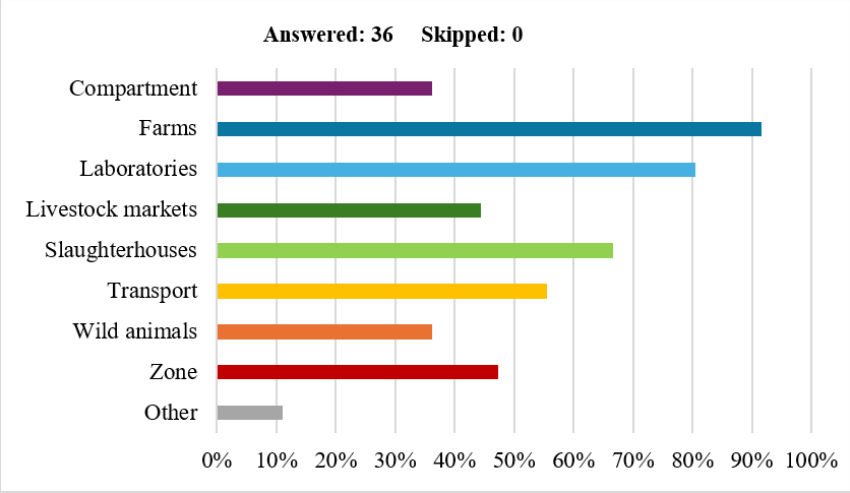


Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	80.56%	29
No	19.44%	7
Total respondents		**36**

***Q6.** Please indicate to which of the following those biosecurity plans apply by ticking the appropriate box or boxes*

The response rate to the question was 100% and, as in 2018, farms and laboratories are the areas in which biosecurity plans are most frequently implemented, followed by slaughterhouses, transport, zones, livestock markets, wild animals and others.

Figure 4. Areas in which Members have implemented biosecurity plans



Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Compartment	36.11%	13
Farms	91.67%	33
Laboratories	80.56%	29
Livestock markets	44.44%	16
Slaughterhouses	66.67%	24
Transport	55.56%	20
Wild animals	36.11%	13
Zone	47.22%	17
Other	11.11%	4
Total respondents: 36		

Farms and laboratories are the areas where biosecurity is most frequently implemented. Notably, 16.67% of respondents (6/36) reported enforcing biosecurity measures across all areas considered relevant for disease spread, including livestock markets, slaughterhouses, laboratories, farms, wild animals and, where appropriate, zones and compartments.

***Q7**. If you ticked "farms" in the Q6, please indicate the animal species targeted, including aquatic animals:*

The response rate to the question was 88.87% (32/36).

Biosecurity was reported to be applied to categories of farmed animals that included the following: swine, poultry, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, camels, bees, fur animals, rabbits, farmed game, kept deer, trout and salmon and more in general, aquaculture animals. Some respondents have also mentioned wildlife and wild boars.

Swine, poultry and bovine production systems were the most frequently mentioned. In some cases, respondents specified that biosecurity plans apply only to farms where animals are kept for commercial purposes. In the 2018 survey, swine and poultry were the most recurrently reported production systems. In the latest survey, bovine production is also frequently mentioned, probably reflecting the recent FMD outbreaks occurred in some Members.

***Q8.** If you ticked "wild animals" in question 7, please briefly describe the biosecurity plan(s) of your country applied to wild animals.*

All thirteen respondents who reported biosecurity measures for wild animals in Q7 also answered Q8.

Main diseases addressed

Most respondents referred to **ASF** and **HPAI** describing measures aimed at preventing disease transmission from wild to domestic animals. For avian influenza, the reported measures mainly focused on preventing virus introduction from wild birds into backyard holdings, for example by providing feed and water in enclosed areas.

Focus on ASF-related biosecurity

The most comprehensive biosecurity plans reported by respondents concerned ASF. Several critical areas requiring specific attention were identified, including:

- Operators;
- Hunting activities;
- Sample collection;
- Animal transport;
- Carcass disposal

Management of hunted wild boar carcasses

One respondent described specific measures for managing hunted wild boar carcasses to minimise the risk of ASFV spread. These measures included:

- **compliance with hygiene measures**, particularly handwashing and the cleaning and disinfection of footwear;
- **evisceration of hunted animals** on surfaces suitable for cleaning and disinfection, or on impermeable disposable material that is subsequently disposed of safely;
- **disinfection of the evisceration site** and of any other areas contaminated with blood, secretions or excretions from harvested wild boar.
- **cleaning and disinfection of all items that may contribute to ASFV spread**, including tools and knives used during evisceration;
- **transport of carcasses and all body parts**, including internal organs, in leak-proof containers or bags;
- **cleaning and disinfection after each transport** of the means of transport and all containers used to carry dead wild boar or their parts;
- **storage of carcasses and all body parts of dead wild boar** in a way that prevents direct contact with carcasses or body parts of other game species.

The respondent also reported that facilities used for the collection and storage of wild boar carcasses are inspected to verify compliance with national rules. Where non-compliance is detected, disciplinary measures are applied.

Physical barriers and area-based measures

One respondent reported the construction of a physical barrier, specifically a fence along the national border, to prevent the introduction of ASF from a neighbouring country.

Several respondents also reported the use of buffer zones, fencing and targeted monitoring in at-risk areas or species. These measures were described as supporting early detection and limiting disease spread.

Biosecurity measures for other wildlife diseases

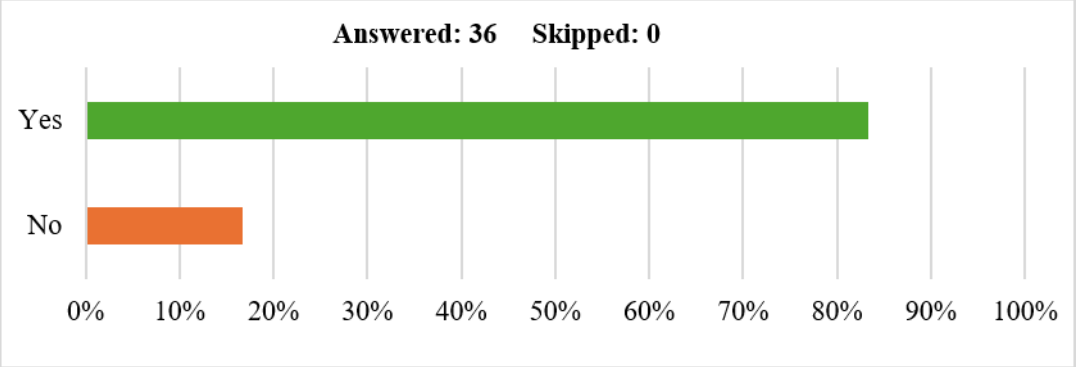
Biosecurity measures for handling hunted foxes were also mentioned, particularly to reduce the risk of rabies transmission to humans.

In addition, one country reported the application of hunting-related biosecurity measures to prevent tuberculosis transmission at the wildlife–livestock interface, noting that the same procedures are reportedly applicable to other transmissible diseases.

Another country reported the use of targeted badger vaccination and, mainly in the past, culling to manage the risk of tuberculosis transmission to cattle.

Q9. *Are procedures in place to monitor, assess and/or evaluate the implementation of biosecurity measures?*

Figure 5. Members having procedures in place to evaluate the implementation of biosecurity



Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	83.33%	30
No	16.67%	6
Total respondents		**36**

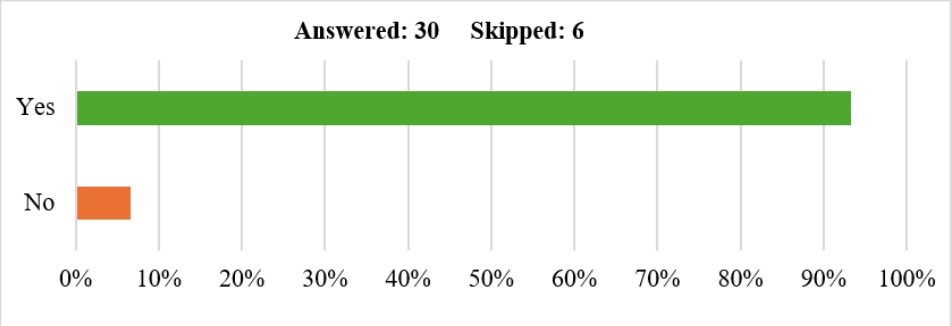
Several respondents reported that Veterinary Services use specific questionnaires or other tools to assess compliance with biosecurity measures. In some cases, these checks are carried out by official veterinarians or designated delegates, as reported in Q10.

No change was observed in this area compared with the 2018 survey.

Q10. *If the reply to Q9 is yes, are the Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity plans?*

The response rate to the question was 83.33% (30/36) and in 93.33% of the cases Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity.

Figure 6. Members with Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity

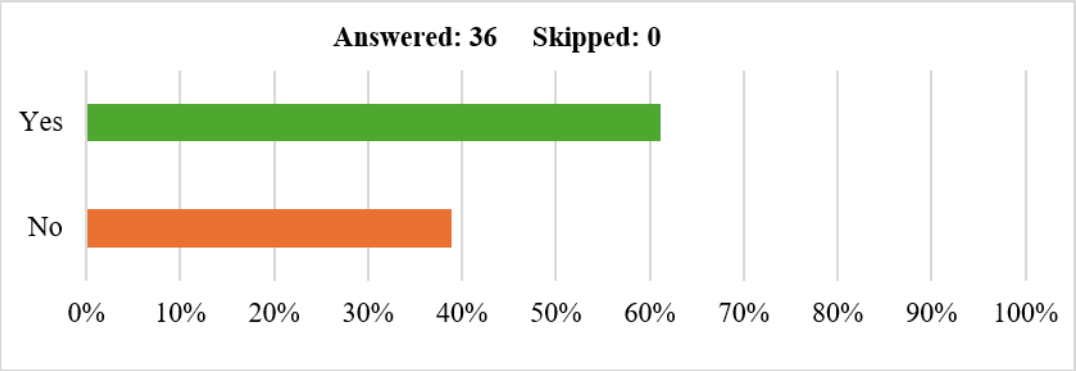


Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	93.33%	28
No	6.67%	2
Total respondents		**30**

Q11. *Does your country have national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practice (GFP) in different production sectors?*

Most of the Members (61.11%) reported having national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures, the remaining 38.89% reported that no such funds were available.

Figure 7. Members having national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practice (GFP) in different production sectors

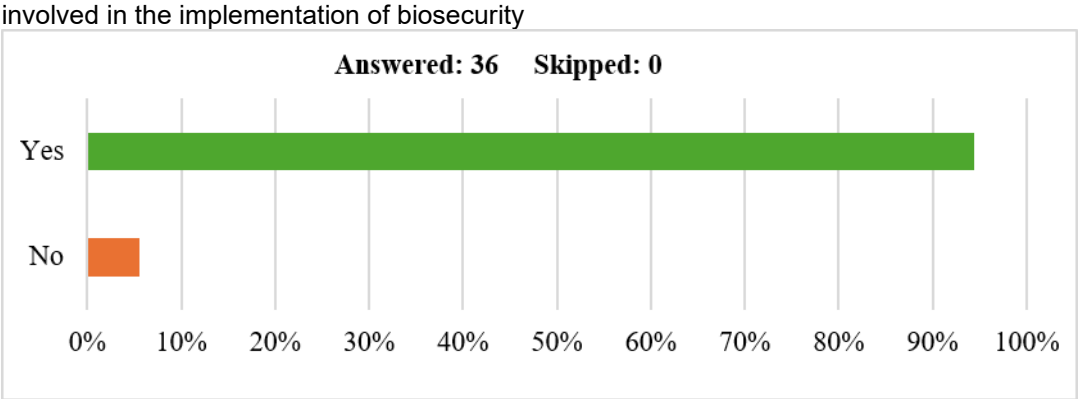


Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	61.11%	22
No	38.89%	14
Total respondents		**36**

Q12. *In your country, have the Veterinary Services and, where appropriate, Aquatic Animal Health Services, established collaboration with producers, stakeholders and relevant authorities to implement or improve biosecurity?*

The response rate for this question was 100% and collaboration with other relevant Authorities and stakeholders appears to be widely implemented among the participating Members. Only two Members, representing 5.56% of respondents, indicated that no such collaboration had been established.

Figure 8. Members in which cooperation has been established with the Authorities and the stakeholders involved in the implementation of biosecurity

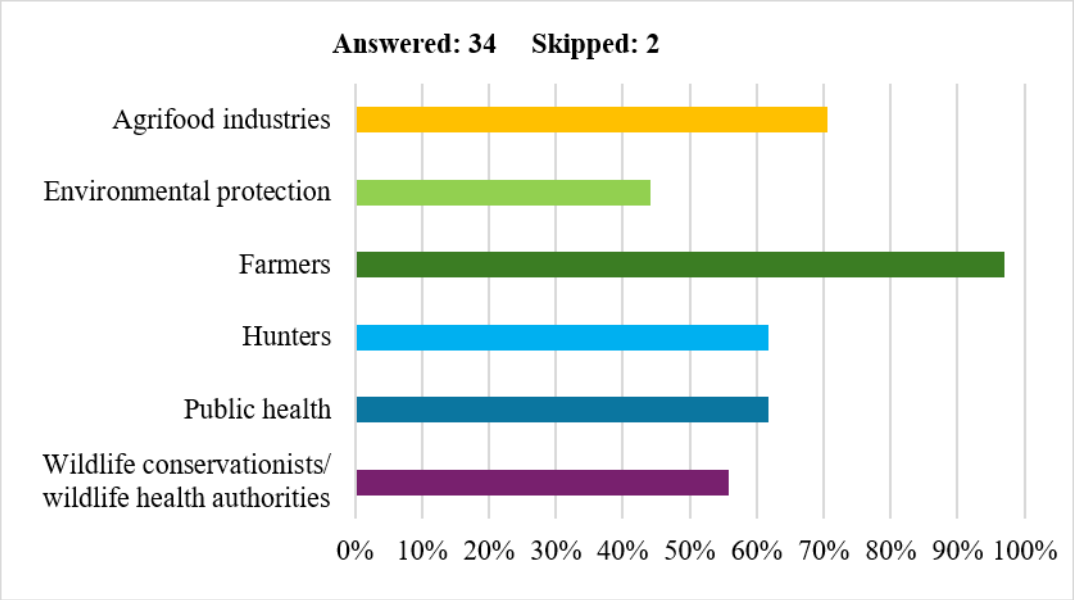


Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	94.44%	34
No	5.56%	2
Total respondents		**36**

Q13. *If the reply to Q12 is yes, please indicate with whom collaboration has been established. Please, select the appropriate box or boxes.*

The response rate to the question was 94.44% and most of the respondents (97.06%) stated that collaboration on biosecurity had been established with farmers, Agri-Food industries (70,59%), hunters and Public Health Authorities (61,76%). Followed by Wildlife Heath Authorities and Environment Protection Authority. Ten respondents (29.41%) indicated that collaboration has been established with all the categories listed in the question.

Figure 9. Authorities and stakeholders with whom collaboration has been established for the implementation of biosecurity



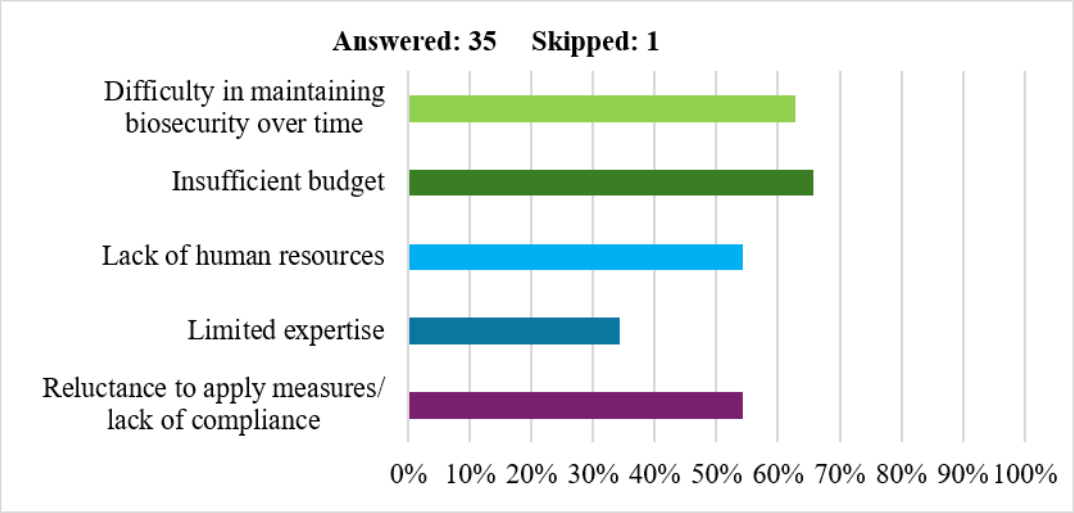
Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Agrifood industries	70.59%	24
Environmental protection	44.12%	15
Farmers	97.06%	33
Hunters	61.76%	21
Public health	61.76%	21
Wildlife conservationists/wildlife health authorities	55.88%	19
Total respondents: 34		

Veterinary Services should have the leadership, organisational structure and management systems required to develop, implement and update policies, legislation and programmes (Article 3.1.1). However, effective biosecurity implementation also depends on collaboration with relevant stakeholders, who should be aware of their strategic role and actively involved in the assessment process. Although veterinarians are officially responsible for verifying biosecurity implementation, they are less directly engaged than other actors in routine farm activities.

***Q14**. In your country, which of the following adversely affects the ability of industry and the Veterinary Services to apply biosecurity? Please select the appropriate box or boxes*

One Member did not respond. Among the remaining Members insufficient budget was the factor indicated by the highest proportion of respondents (65.71%), followed by difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time (62.86% of respondents), lack of human resources and reluctance to apply the measures (54.29%, same) and limited expertise (34.29%).

Figure 10. Factors adversely affecting the implementation of biosecurity



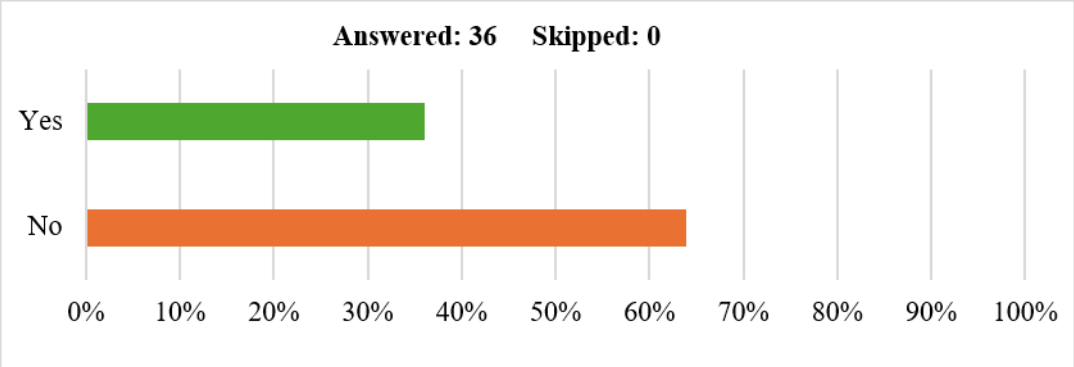
Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time	62.86%	22
Insufficient budget	65.71%	23
Lack of human resources	54.29%	19
Limited expertise	34.29%	12
Reluctance to apply measures/lack of compliance	54.29%	19
Total respondents: 35		

Field data indicate that sustaining biosecurity over time is critical to effective biosecurity management, particularly in high-risk areas. The presence of physical biosecurity requirements alone is insufficient to prevent pathogen introduction at farm level unless procedures are consistently and correctly applied in daily practice. Therefore, all personnel working directly with animals should receive appropriate training and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding the establishment's health status.

Q15. *Would your country have an example of best practice in biosecurity to share?*

The response rate to the question was 100%. According to the responses, 13 Members (36.11%) had as example of best practice in biosecurity to share.

Figure 11. Members having examples of best practice on biosecurity to share



Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Yes	36.11%	13
No	63.89%	23
Total respondents		**36**

Example of best practice: strategic biosecurity plan for pig farms

An exhaustive example was provided in response to Question 16, describing a strategic biosecurity plan for pig establishment. It was reported that the plan has three main objectives:

- to assess the overall level of biosecurity on pig farms;
- to raise awareness of the importance of implementing appropriate biosecurity measures;
- to specifically identify the risk of introduction and spread of Aujeszky's disease in pig farms.

Survey and farm coverage

The plan includes a range of measures, starting with a biosecurity survey of commercial pig farms. The survey is designed to assess farm-level biosecurity against the elements that should be included in a farm biosecurity plan.

Specific survey templates are used for intensive, extensive and small-scale farms. Participation is voluntary for small-scale farms, while farms kept exclusively for personal consumption are excluded from the survey. The Official Veterinary Services organise and coordinate the veterinary teams responsible for conducting the surveys.

Classification, follow-up and data management

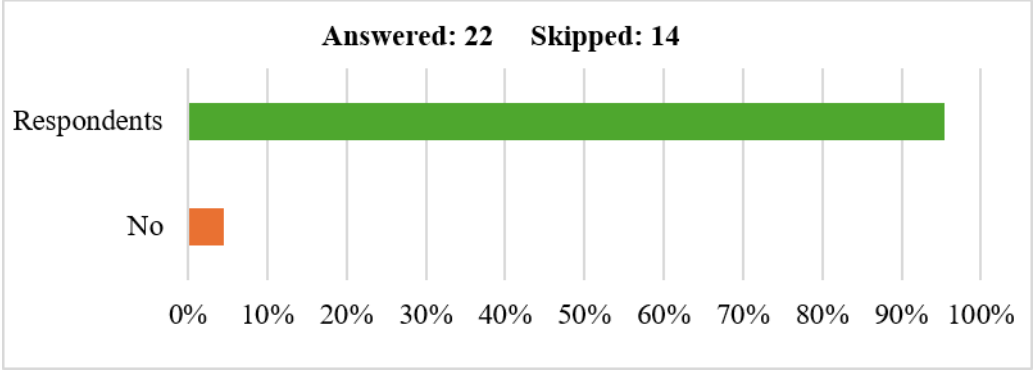
Based on the survey score, farms are classified into different biosecurity categories, ranging from very high to very low. Farms receiving a low or very low score are subject to follow-up inspections to verify that corrective biosecurity measures have been implemented.

The completed surveys are received, verified and recorded by the Official Veterinary Services in a national database specifically developed to manage the plan. This database enables the extraction and analysis of biosecurity data for commercial pig farms at national and/or regional level and is accessible exclusively to the Official Veterinary Services and other Competent Authorities.

Q16. *Concise description of the legal base in veterinary legislation for implementation of a biosecurity programme (BP) in production and trade of animals*

The response rate to this question was 61.11% (22/36). One respondent indicated that biosecurity has no legal basis in national legislation, which appears inconsistent with the responses to Question 4, where all Members reported the existence of a legal basis for biosecurity. The remaining respondents referred to national legislation establishing biosecurity requirements for farms, the food production chain, establishments, animal transport and trade. These legal acts may also include sanctions in cases of non-compliance.

Figure 12. Description of the legal base in veterinary legislation



Answer choice	Response %	Response nr.
Respondents	95.45%	21
No	4.55%	1
Total respondents		**22**

Worth remembering that Veterinary Services have responsibility for implementing the activities necessary for the Member Country to comply with WOAH standards (Article 3.1.1) and they should develop and document appropriate procedures and standards “for prevention, control and notification”.

Few Members reported that biosecurity is implemented in all production systems, including backyards, whereas most of the others reported that biosecurity is foreseen for holdings of a certain size or for commercial holdings and for certain production species (breeding farms, dairy farms, poultry, swine, aquaculture). Risk assessment was mentioned as a method to establish the level of risk of holdings, with mitigation measures applied based on the outcome of the assessment. Some tools have been mentioned to assess the level of farm biosecurity. A respondent reported that Veterinary Services, or designated official veterinarians, use a questionnaire to assess farm-level biosecurity implementation. Based on the results, farms are classified from very high to very low biosecurity level, and corrective measures are taken where deemed necessary.

The majority of the European Union (EU) countries reported that the general principles of biosecurity are comprehensively regulated in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (‘Animal Health Law’ – AHL) and acts adopted on its basis. Specific Articles were mentioned about the responsibilities for operators in respect of biosecurity and animal health (Article 10), the obligations of laboratories, facilities and others handling disease agents on biosecurity, biosafety and bio-containment measures (Article 16) and for transport (Article 125 and 192). Other specific acts were reported for trade, aquatic animals, germinal products, terrestrial animals (assembly canters, poultry establishments, hatcheries, animal shelters, control posts, bumble bee establishments, quarantine establishments and confined establishments), in case of disease outbreaks, for ASF. In the EU, Member States may develop more stringent and additional rules concerning biosecurity. Therefore, some respondents mentioned the existence of nation acts with specific measures for pig husbandry, aquaculture, bovine tuberculosis, poultry, wild porcine animals.

One respondent provided the example of the Poultry Biosecurity Review (PBR), which is offered as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. The PBR is a voluntary, publicly funded support programme aimed at strengthening good biosecurity practices by funding site-specific veterinary advice for eligible poultry farmers. Its legal basis is established in specific agricultural legislation.

A Member has reported its legislation on biological protection, to strengthen the safety system for biological agents, toxins, etc.

***Q17**. Explanation of a production system where a BP is implemented, with a brief description*

Response rate to this question was 50%

Missing	18
Total respondents	**18**

Several Members reported biosecurity programmes for production animals, with requirements tailored to different production systems; some activities are implemented on a voluntary basis. Biosecurity plans are generally developed according to holding size, production type and identified risk factors, while in other cases they are designed to address specific diseases, such as tuberculosis.

According to the questionnaire results, pigs were the production system most frequently covered by biosecurity programmes. This is likely related to the recent ASF epidemic and its economic impact on pig production. Other farming systems were also mentioned, including aquaculture, although no details were provided on the specific measures implemented.

Some respondents provided detailed descriptions of preventive measures implemented in pig establishments to reduce the risk of pathogen introduction and improve animal welfare. They mentioned the procedures implemented, including:

- Management practices to prevent the spread of pathogens (registration of pig movements, registration of movements of means of transport, personnel and external people).
- Monitoring animal health status (evidence of diseases, production parameters), visits of veterinarians.
- Structural requirements, including quarantine areas, storage facilities for dead animals, entrance and exit zones, changing areas and fencing. According to the reported rules, free-range farming is allowed only where double fencing is in place.
- Cleaning and disinfection procedures.

Additionally, some respondents mentioned the measure adopted to protect the animal of the establishment (external biosecurity), including fencing, quarantine, personnel hygiene measures such as dedicated clothing and equipment, rules governing farm entry for people and means of transport, feed management procedures and vaccination. These measures were reported for the programme implemented for small and large ruminants.

A respondents reported existence of a national plan aimed at improving pig farm biosecurity. It was first rolled out in 2015 and 2016 and was implemented in phases, with specific biannual objectives. The level of biosecurity is assessed by the veterinary authorities using a specific questionnaire which take into consideration the biosecurity measures implemented on the farm such as minimum distance from other farms, perimeter isolation (fencing), access for external vehicles, implementation of cleaning and disinfection procedures, access for people and the provision for changing rooms, feed handling, water supply, carcass management, loading operations and slurry management, staff training, the registration of visitors and vehicles, risks associated with the entry of animals, animal health surveillance and veterinary control, as well as the cleaning, disinfection, insect control and rodent control programme. After completion of the questionnaire, each farm receives a score and is classified into a biosecurity category ranging from very high to very low. The final phase of the plan involves visiting all the pig farms and taking corrective measures for any shortcomings found in the non-compliant farms

The same respondent reported that a specific awareness-raising campaign had been implemented, targeting small-scale farms and focusing on the importance of adopting appropriate biosecurity measures.

One country reported the adoption of a single national legislative framework to prevent and control diseases in both humans and animals, based on an evidence-based approach. The regulation applies to veterinary establishments and activities, including veterinary clinics, and aims to strengthen biosecurity and preventive measures across the veterinary sector.

One respondent reported that, for commercial poultry, the establishment site must be approved by the Veterinary Services. The keeper is required to appoint a veterinarian, who assesses site biosecurity, identifies risks of disease incursion and provides written recommendations on how these risks should be managed.

Biosecurity is a key tool for improving the health status and productivity of animal holdings and for strengthening disease prevention at farm level. In emergency situations, it also becomes an essential component of the control strategy applied in affected areas, supporting disease control or eradication. For this reason, biosecurity measures should be clearly defined for establishments with animals of susceptible species and located in affected or at-risk areas and minimum biosecurity requirements should therefore be established, at least, for all establishments involved in commercial activities, including backyards holdings where relevant.

When preparing a biosecurity plan for the swine sector, the potential role of swill feeding in disease spread should be considered as a potential risk factor for disease spread and, where relevant, adequately mitigated through appropriate preventive measures.

***Q18**. Possible partnership between different stakeholders in implementation of a BP*

Response rate to this question was 52.78%

missing	17
Total respondents	**19**

Members have established partnerships with different stakeholders and, depending on the organisation of the central administration, with different Authorities and Ministries, including: Health, Agriculture, Justice, Economy, Hunting Association and State Forests, Ministry for Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Veterinary

School, Unions, Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, Police Force, Farmer Associations, Hunters Associations, Ministry of Environment and Protection Entities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Association: producers, breeders for genetic improvements, private veterinarians, laboratories, traders, slaughterhouses, National Parks, Wildlife Service, NGOs and Birdwatch Associations. Partnerships with private companies for disinfection, disposal of dead animals and control of feed and water safety were also mentioned.

***Q19**. Evaluation of current level of implementation of a BP*

Response rate to this question was 50%.

missing	18
Total respondents	**18**

The level of biosecurity implementation is considered good in the pig and poultry sectors, while further improvement is still needed in cattle. Most respondents referred to commercial farms, where inspections are carried out either on a risk basis or according to predefined percentage-based criteria. Hunting grounds were mentioned in only one case. In some cases, verification is conducted by the Veterinary Services, whereas in others it is not considered necessary. One respondent reported that the assessment mainly focuses on external biosecurity, which is also regarded as the component with the highest level of implementation.

A biosecurity plan supports the systematic implementation of biosecurity measures and should incorporate the necessary provisions for its maintenance and continuous improvement. Accordingly, the assessment of its implementation constitutes an integral component of the plan.

***Q20**. Additional activities and benefits arising from a BP (e.g. accreditation or certification of farms with an appropriate level of implementation of biosecurity measures, national subsidies for certified*

Response rate to this question was 41.67%

missing	21
Total respondents	**15**

Most respondents identified early detection and disease prevention as the main benefits of implementing biosecurity. Some of them consider the implementation of biosecurity important to increase the trust with different stakeholders which in some cases are responsible for the implementation of biosecurity.

Some respondents considered biosecurity plans important for improving collaboration among farmers, private veterinarians and Veterinary Authorities. They therefore viewed biosecurity as a key means of strengthening trust among the stakeholders involved.

Others viewed the classification of establishments according to their biosecurity level as a tool to improve animal health status. In certain Members, establishments that implement biosecurity measures and participate in certification schemes are eligible for national subsidies.

It should be noted that the movement of infected animals and animal products is one of the main pathways for disease transmission. During epidemics, restriction zones are therefore established to prevent the further spread of pathogenic agents, and the movement of at-risk commodities from these areas is prohibited. However, establishments that comply with specific requirements may be allowed to continue trading and to send animals to slaughterhouses. This should be regarded as an important benefit of biosecurity implementation.
Furthermore, as already reported, the main biosecurity requirements are not disease-specific and are effective against most pathogenic agents. Consequently, in addition to reducing the risk of disease spread, biosecurity is expected to contribute to lower use of veterinary medicinal products; reduced killing of animals for disease-control purposes; decreased economic losses; protection of livelihoods; improved and more sustainable animal production; enhanced animal welfare; and stronger food security and food safety.

***Q21**. Publicity activities, awareness raising of training programmes implemented as part of BP, with presentation of developed and distributed materials, reports of evaluation*

Response rate to this question was 52.78%

missing	17
Total respondents	**19**

Several activities have been carried out to raise awareness of biosecurity, including training for farmers, veterinarians, laboratory personnel and hunters. To further promote the correct application of biosecurity measures, a range of communication materials and tools has been used, including leaflets, meetings, guidelines, videos, brochures and posters.

Additional awareness-raising initiatives, such as seminars, workshops, courses and publications in specialised magazines or on websites, have also been used to disseminate key messages.

***Q22**. Evaluation of implementation of a BP by the Competent Authorities (e.g. veterinary inspection services)*

Response rate to this question was 50%

missing	18
Total respondents	**18**

Most of the respondents reported that Veterinary Services carry out official controls on farm biosecurity. Non-compliance is followed up with appropriate enforcement measures. Biosecurity inspections may also be carried out in animal markets, quarantine facilities and slaughterhouses. Some Members reported using checklists to assess the level of compliance.

One country reported that inspections are carried out by field veterinarians, who submit the inspection results to the central Veterinary Authorities for evaluation.

One responded reported that the County Administrative Boards are responsible for the official control of Veterinarians Hygiene Plan. Each year, a risk-base selection of veterinary practices is inspected, if deficiencies are identified, corrective actions are taken.

***Q23**. New technology (software or applications, etc.) developed in support to the evaluation or implementation of biosecurity*

Response rate to this question was 47.22%

missing	19
Total respondents	**17**

Some respondents reported the use of national digital platforms to support veterinary activities, strengthen disease control and improve animal health management. These platforms may also provide farm veterinarians and animal keepers with information on herd health status, antimicrobial use and biosecurity levels.

In addition to these broad management platforms, decision-support tools have been developed for specific disease-control programmes, such as bovine tuberculosis, helping operators map risks and identify appropriate mitigation measures. Other tools are tailored to specific production sectors, particularly pig and poultry farming.

While some of these tools have been developed at national level, others are based on university-developed systems, such as Biocheck.UGent.

2. Discussion

The survey on the application of biosecurity in the different production systems was conceived as a questionnaire containing binary, multi choice responses, and descriptive answers. The answers collected provide relevant information on the subject that may be useful for other Members. The findings and preliminary recommendations will be presented in Riga, Latvia, in September 2026 for further discussion and elaboration.

The comparison could be conducted only for Members that responded to both the 2018 and 2026 questionnaires (Annex I). Therefore, the number of comparable responses was lower than the total number of responses received; the results of the comparison are reported in Annex I.

Furthermore, in some cases, the designated respondent differed between the two surveys, which may have affected the consistency and reliability of the results.

Where applicable, the key survey findings reported provide a concise comparative assessment of the two survey rounds. Detailed graphical representations of the results are provided in the accompanying attachment (Annex I).

Key survey findings:

- Most responding Members (100%) have a legal basis for implementing biosecurity in their veterinary legislation, and 80.56% have enforced biosecurity plans. A respondent reported the existence of a single legislation to prevent disease spread in humans and animals, which may result beneficial in the context of zoonotic diseases. Only 61.11% reported the availability of national funds to support biosecurity implementation. Overall, this suggests a slight improvement in this area compared to 2018 survey.
- Some respondents reported that biosecurity implementation is managed by stakeholders, with Veterinary Authorities involved only in the final verification stage. In other responding Members, the entire process is managed by Veterinary Authorities or their delegates.
- Procedures to assess biosecurity implementation are in place in 83.33% of responding Members, and Veterinary Services are generally involved in inspecting biosecurity plans, as reported by 93.33% of respondents. No major differences were observed compared with the previous survey.
- Biosecurity plans mainly apply to commercial farms, with poultry, pigs and cattle being the production systems most frequently covered. This is most likely linked to the recent HPAI, ASF and FMD epidemics in Europe. As in 20218, some respondents indicated that biosecurity inspections may also be conducted in animal markets, quarantine facilities and slaughterhouses.
- Examples of biosecurity requirements and plans were reported for HPAI, ASF and tuberculosis.
- A few Members reported biosecurity plans in aquatic animals but in the current survey practical examples were not provided.
- Most responding Members reported that biosecurity measures primarily target commercial holdings. However, all market-associated holdings should be included in biosecurity programmes because animal transport and slaughterhouse circuits are not fully segregated, creating potential pathways for pathogen transmission between them. No substantial differences were observed compared with the previous survey.
- National biosecurity plans should consider food waste as a potential risk factor for pathogenic agents' transmission, particularly in farming systems where this practice is more likely to occur.
- Respondents identified preventive measures considered relevant for reducing disease transmission from wild to domestic animals. Other disease control tools, such as vaccination, disease surveillance, zoning and culling of wild animals, were suggested as a means of enabling early detect of diseases and prevent diseases spreading.
- Biosecurity during hunting was identified as a useful measure to reduce disease spread within wildlife populations and at the wildlife–livestock interface. The removal and safe disposal of hunted animal remains was reported to help limit disease spread and enable sample collection for testing. An exhaustive example was provided.
- In line with the previous findings, farmers and hunters are the stakeholders with whom collaboration has most frequently been established to implement or improve biosecurity. Some respondents highlighted the relevance of the private sector in leading and promoting the implementation of biosecurity.
- Members have established partnerships with different stakeholders, depending on the disease to be controlled and the organisation of the Central Administration. Some respondents regarded biosecurity plans as an important means of enhancing collaboration among farmers, private veterinarians and Veterinary Authorities. In this regard, biosecurity was viewed as a key tool for strengthening trust among the stakeholders involved.
- Some respondents reported using online biosecurity tools, nationally implemented software and epidemiological decision-support systems to assess biosecurity, target surveillance and support evidence-based decision-making. While these tools are valuable, systematic analysis of the data recorded in these systems is essential to evaluate outcomes against programme objectives and to improve biosecurity plans.

- Many respondents highlighted the relevance of awareness campaigns and training in promoting the implementation of biosecurity.

The 2026 survey results confirm that most Members have established legal frameworks, biosecurity plans and inspection procedures for biosecurity implementation, although financial support remains limited. Stakeholder engagement is essential for effective biosecurity implementation, and some Members view biosecurity as a strategic tool to enhance collaboration and strengthen trust among the actors involved.

Biosecurity measures mainly target commercial poultry, pig and cattle production systems, reflecting regional concerns related to HPAI, ASF and FMD. Nevertheless, given that backyard holdings represent a significant component of the livestock sector in some Members, their potential contribution to pathogenic agents' dissemination should not be underestimated, and proportionate targeted preventive measures for these holdings should be incorporated into national biosecurity plans.

Preventive measures during hunting were described as a means of reducing the risk of pathogen transmission from wild animals to domestic animals and humans (rabies).

Several respondents reported the use of online biosecurity tools, nationally implemented software and epidemiological decision-support systems to assess biosecurity, direct surveillance activities and support evidence-based decision-making. Compared with the 2018 survey, a growing number of Veterinary Authorities reported the development of such tools at central level. Although these instruments represent valuable resources for the management of veterinary activities, systematic analysis of the data collected through these systems remains essential to assess outcomes against programme objectives and to inform the continuous improvement of biosecurity plans.

The survey also highlights the importance of stakeholder collaboration in promoting the implementation of biosecurity, as well as the increasing use of digital tools implemented at national level to strengthen the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases.

Finally, it is worth noting that establishing a biosecurity framework offers a strategic opportunity to strengthen collaboration among farmers, private veterinarians and Veterinary Authorities, while reinforcing mutual trust and shared responsibility among all stakeholders involved.

3. Acknowledgements

The authors wish to express their gratitude to the WOAH for facilitating this work and for its valuable contribution to the development of the questionnaire and the implementation of the survey among WOAH Delegates.

Annex I

Method of the survey

A structured questionnaire consisting of 23 questions was administered to participants. The questionnaire included different types of questions: some required binary responses (Yes/No), others allowed respondents to select multiple answers from a list of predefined options, and several open-ended questions invited participants to describe the current situation, practices, or experiences in their respective countries.

For each closed-ended question, a table reporting the frequency and percentage distribution of responses and a corresponding graphical representation were prepared. The response rate was calculated as the proportion of completed questionnaires relative to the total number of questionnaires distributed. Responses to open-ended questions were analysed descriptively and presented in a narrative format.

Results

In 2018 and 2026 39 Members responded to the questionnaire.

The Members that participated only in 2018 are: Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Romania, , and Slovenia.

The Members that participated only in 2026 are: Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Portugal.

The 34 Members that responded to both questionnaires are: Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Türkiye, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

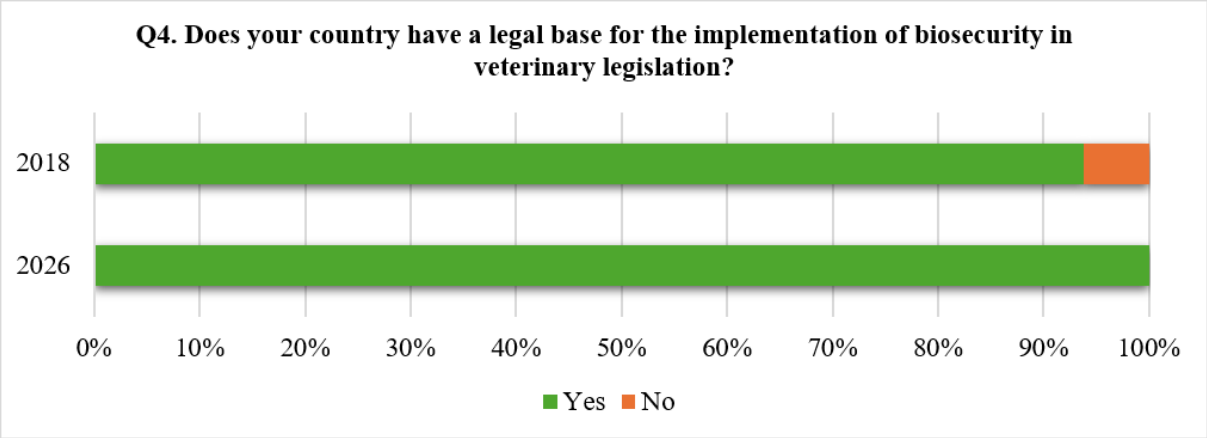
Table 1. Members that took part in the survey in 2018 and 2026 (in green the Members that participated in both surveys)

2018	Member		2026	Member
1	Armenia		1	Albania
2	Austria		2	Andorra
3	Belgium		3	Armenia
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina		4	Austria
5	Croatia		5	Azerbaijan
6	Cyprus		6	Belarus
7	Czech Republic		7	Bosnia and Herzegovina
8	Denmark		8	Cyprus
9	Estonia		9	Czech Republic
10	Finland		10	Denmark
11	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		11	Finland
12	France		12	France
13	Georgia		13	Georgia
14	Germany		14	Germany
15	Hungary		15	Hungary
16	Iceland		16	Iceland
17	Ireland		17	Ireland
18	Italy		18	Italy
19	Kazakhstan		19	Kazakhstan
20	Kyrgyzstan		20	Kyrgyzstan
21	Latvia		21	Latvia

22	Lithuania		22	Lithuania
23	Moldova		23	Moldova
24	Netherlands		24	Netherlands
25	Norway		25	North Macedonia (Rep. of)
26	Poland		26	Norway
27	Romania		27	Poland
28	Russia		28	Portugal
29	Serbia		29	Republic of Türkiye
30	Slovakia		30	Russia
31	Slovenia		31	Serbia
32	Spain		32	Slovakia
33	Sweden		33	Spain
34	Switzerland		34	Sweden
35	Tajikistan		35	Switzerland
36	Turkey		36	Tajikistan
37	Ukraine		37	Ukraine
38	United Kingdom		38	United Kingdom
39	Uzbekistan		39	Uzbekistan

Overall responses received: 34

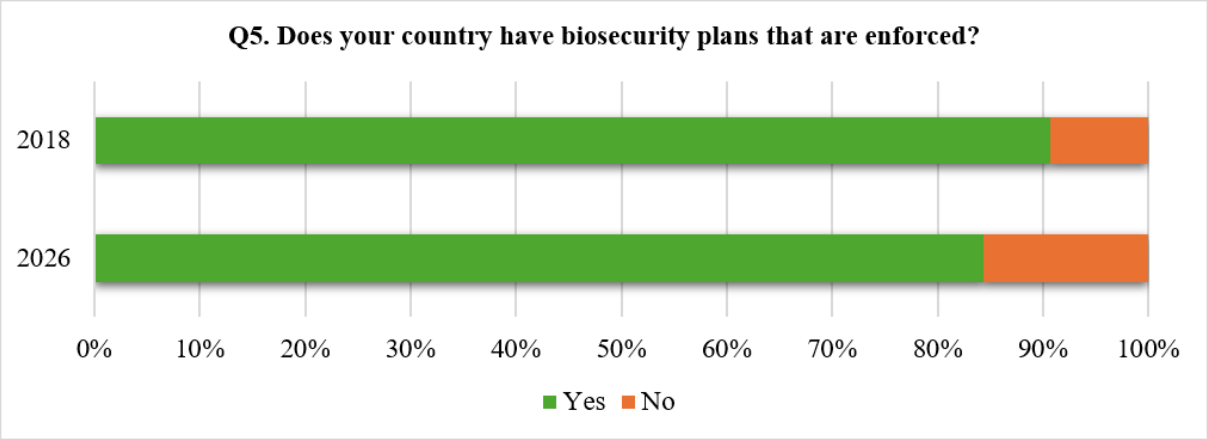
Responses included in quantitative analysis: 32



Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	93.75%	100%
No	6.25%	0%

In 2018, two Members did not have a legal a legal base for the implementation of biosecurity in veterinary legislation, whereas in 2026 both Members responded "Yes" to this question.

***Q5**. Does your country have biosecurity plans that are enforced?*



Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	90.63%	84.38%
No	9.38%	15.63%

In 2018, three Members did not have enforced biosecurity plans, while in 2026 these three Members answered "Yes".

Five Members reported having biosecurity plans in 2018, but in 2026 these five Members answered "No".

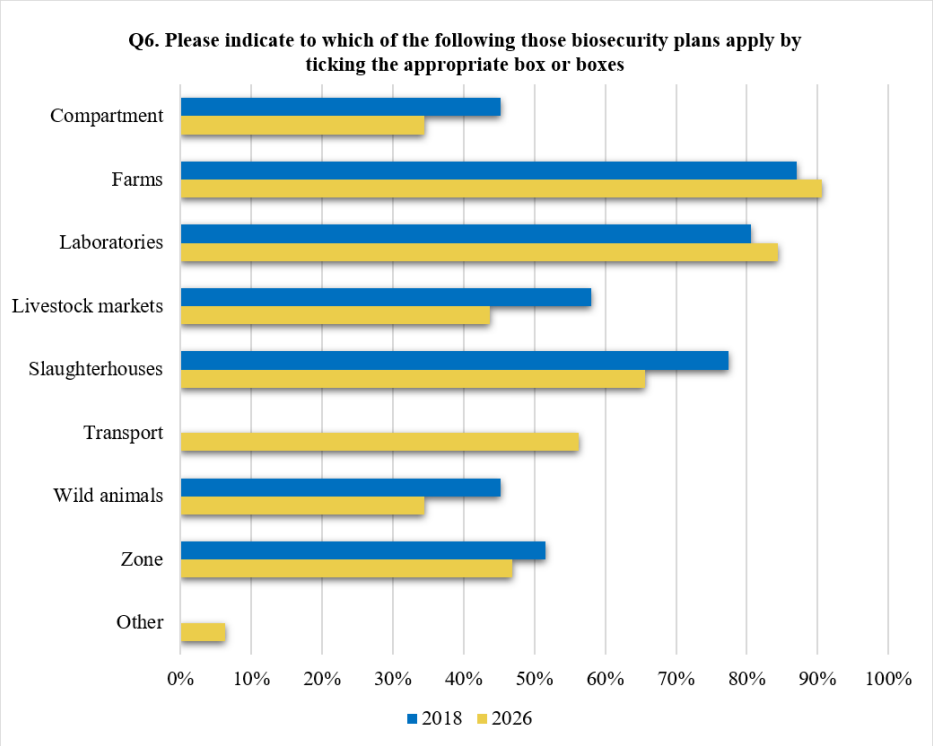
Q6. *Please indicate to which of the following those biosecurity plans apply by ticking the appropriate box or boxes.*

In 2018, one Member did not indicate any biosecurity plan because it answered "No". In 2026, it answered "Yes" and selected "Farms; Transport; Laboratories; Other".

In 2018, seven Members selected all categories.

In 2026, five Members selected all categories.

The category "Farms" had the highest percentage of responses (87.10% in 2018 and 90.63% in 2026), followed by "Laboratories" (80.65% in 2018 and 84.38% in 2026).



Answer choice	2018	2026
Compartment	45.16%	34.38%
Farms	87.10%	90.63%
Laboratories	80.65%	84.38%
Livestock markets	58.06%	43.75%
Slaughterhouses	77.42%	65.63%
Transport	---	56.25%
Wild animals	45.16%	34.38%
Zone	51.61%	46.88%
Other	---	6.25%

***Q7**. If you ticked "farms" in the Q6, please indicate the animal species targeted, including aquatic animals:*

The response rate was 84.38% (27/32) in 2018 and 87.50% (28/32) in 2026.
One Member did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.
In 2018, four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, three Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

***Q8.** If you ticked "wild animals" in Q6, please briefly describe the biosecurity plan(s) of your country applied to wild animals.*

The response rate was 56.25% (18/32) in 2018 and 40.63% (13/32) in 2026.

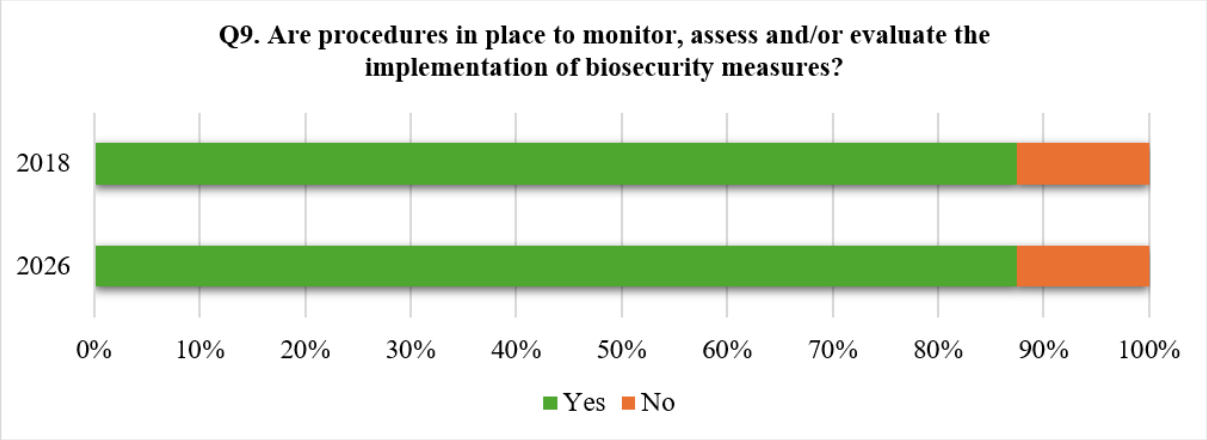
Twelve Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

One Member answered "Not available" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, the two Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Six Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

***Q9.** Are procedures in place to monitor, assess and/or evaluate the implementation of biosecurity measures?*

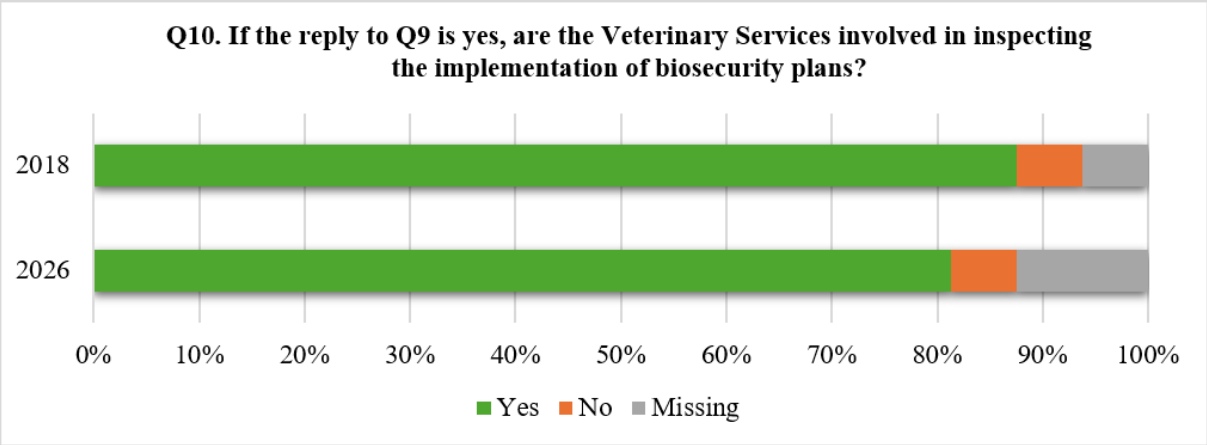


Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	87.50%	87.50%
No	12.50%	12.50%

In 2018, Two Members did not have procedures in place to monitor, assess, and/or evaluate the implementation of biosecurity measures, whereas in 2026 these Members answered "Yes".

Three Members reported having procedures in place to monitor, assess, and/or evaluate the implementation of biosecurity measures in 2018, but in 2026 these Members answered "No".

Q10. *If the reply to Q9 is yes, are the Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity plans?*



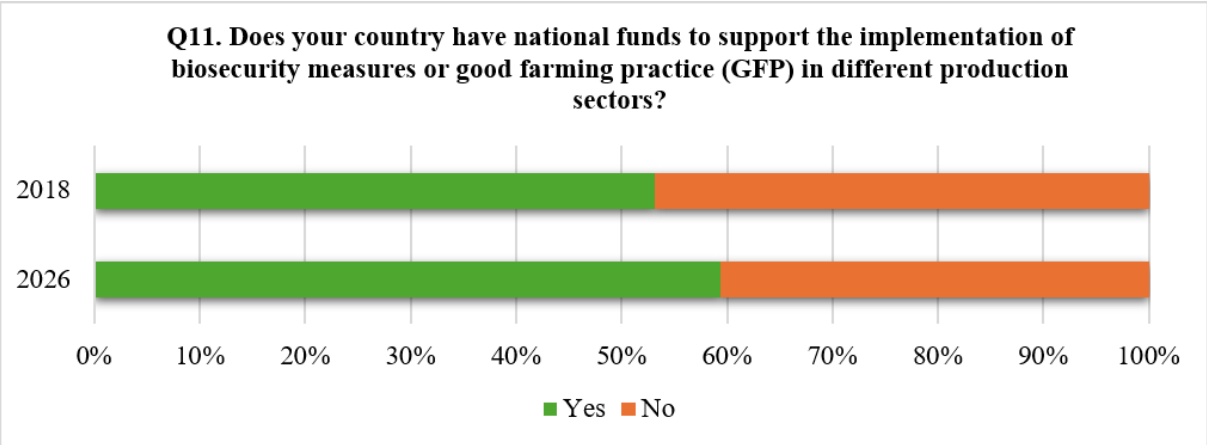
Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	87.50%	81.25%
No	6.25%	6.25%
Missing	6.25%	12.50%

For Q10, One Member did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026. One Member answered "No" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, Two Members did not have the Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity plans, whereas in 2026 these Members answered "Yes".

Four Members reported having the Veterinary Services involved in inspecting the implementation of biosecurity plans in 2018, but in 2026 these Members answered "No" or did not provide an answer.

Q11. *Does your country have national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practice (GFP) in different production sectors?*

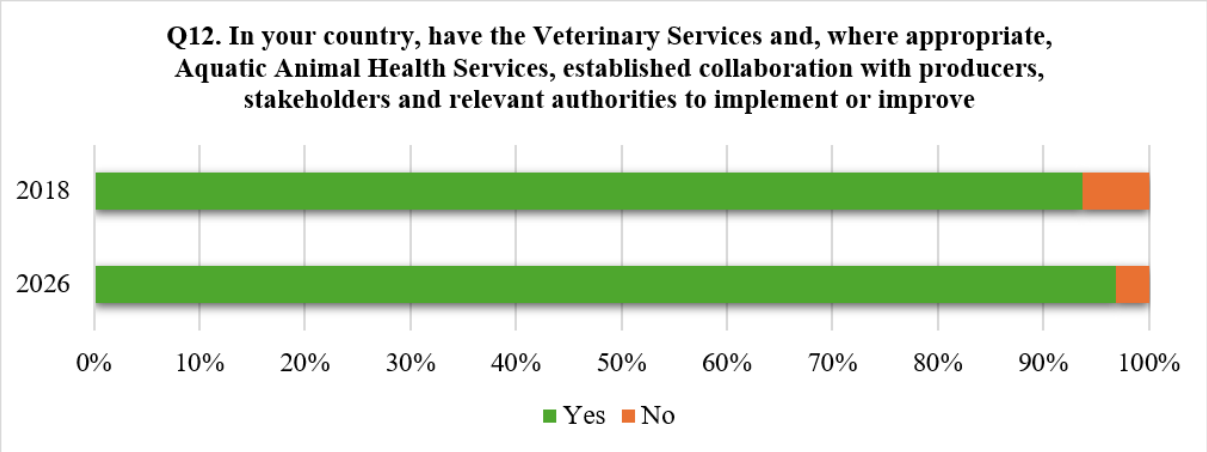


Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	53.13%	59.38%
No	46.88%	40.63%

In 2018, Seven Members did not have national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practice (GFP) in different production sectors, whereas in 2026 these countries answered "Yes".

Five Members reported having national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practice (GFP) in different production sectors in 2018, but in 2026 these Members answered "No" or did not provide an answer.

Q12. *In your country, have the Veterinary Services and, where appropriate, Aquatic Animal Health Services, established collaboration with producers, stakeholders and relevant authorities to implement or improve biosecurity?*



Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	93.75%	96.88%
No	6.25%	3.13%

In 2018, Two Members did not have the Veterinary Services and, where appropriate, Aquatic Animal Health Services, established collaboration with producers, stakeholders, and relevant authorities to implement or improve biosecurity, whereas in 2026 these Members answered "Yes".

One Member reported having the Veterinary Services and, where appropriate, Aquatic Animal Health Services, established collaboration with producers, stakeholders, and relevant authorities to implement or improve biosecurity in 2018, but in 2026 it answered "No".

Q13. *If the reply to Q12 is yes, please indicate with whom collaboration has been established. Please, select the appropriate box or boxes.*

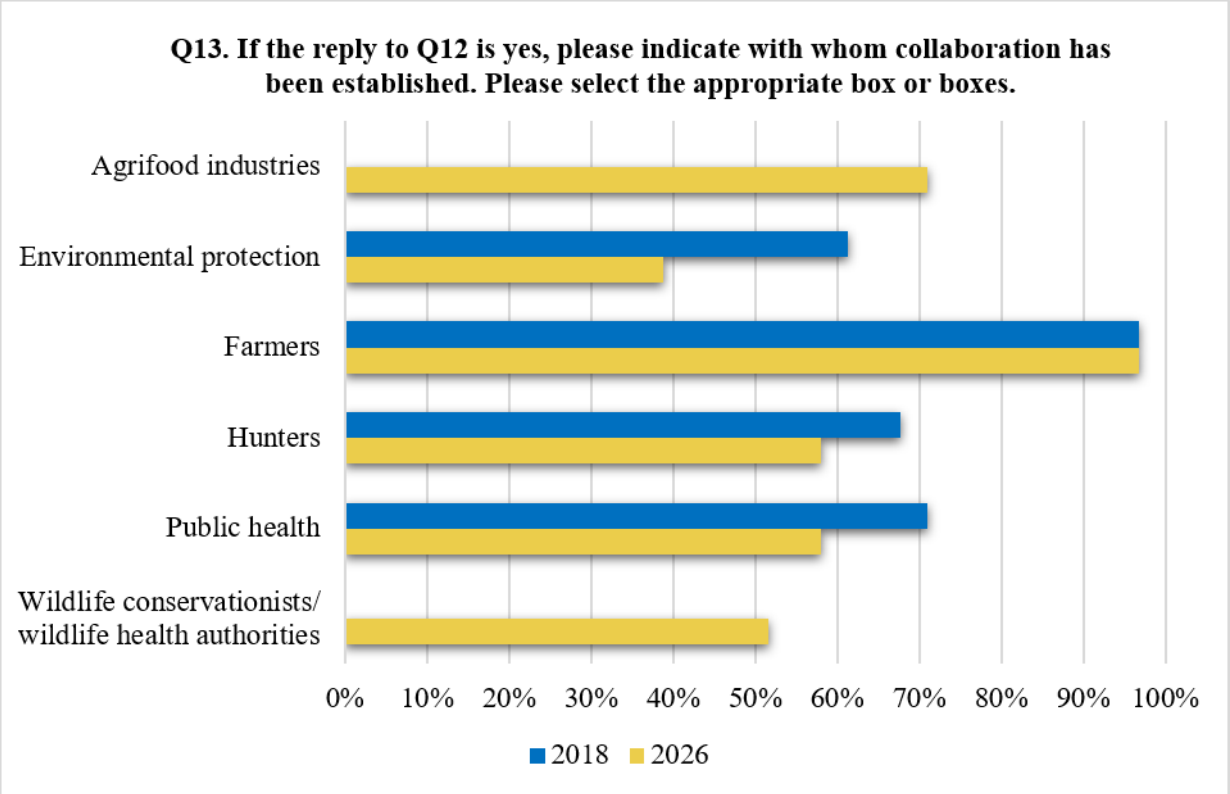
In 2018, One Member did not indicate any collaboration because it answered "No" in Q12. In 2026, it answered "Yes" and selected "Farmers".

In 2018, One Member selected "Farmers; Hunters; Public Health; Environmental Protection", whereas in 2026 it did not provide any collaboration details because it answered "No" in Q12.

In 2018, fifteen Members selected all categories.

In 2026, eight Members selected all categories.

The category "Farmers" had the highest percentage of responses and remained unchanged at 96.77% in both 2018 and 2026.



Answer choice	2018	2026
Agrifood industries	---	70.97%
Environmental protection	61.29%	38.71%
Farmers	96.77%	96.77%
Hunters	67.74%	58.06%
Public health	70.97%	58.06%
Wildlife conservationists/ wildlife health authorities	---	51.61%

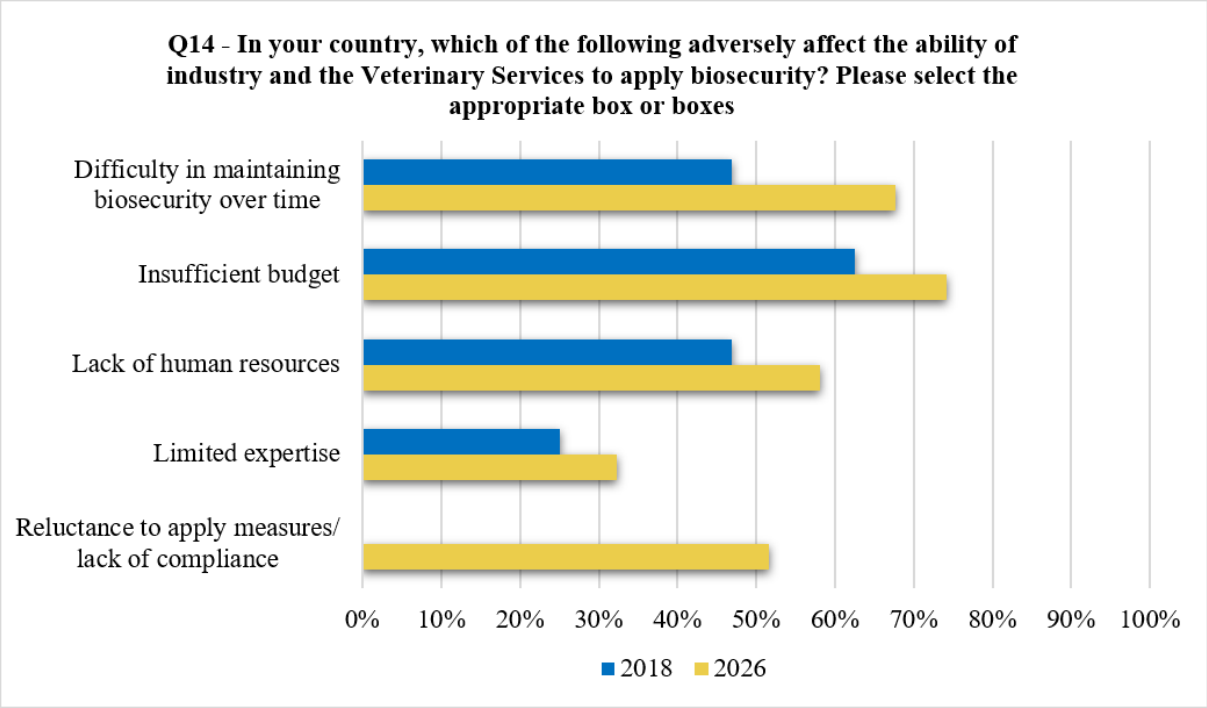
***Q14**. In your country, which of the following adversely affects the ability of industry and the Veterinary Services to apply biosecurity? Please select the appropriate box or boxes*

In 2018, One Member selected "Difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time", whereas in 2026 it did not provide an answer, even though it answered "Yes".

In 2018, no Members selected all categories.

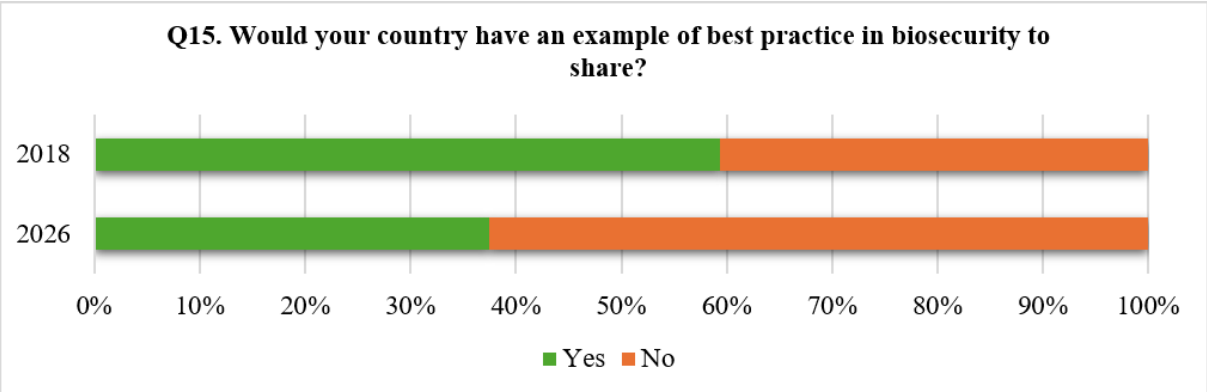
In 2026, four Members selected all.

The category "Insufficient budget" had the highest percentage of responses, accounting for 62.50% in 2018 and 74.19% in 2026.



Answer choice	2018	2026
Difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time	46.88%	67.74%
Insufficient budget	62.50%	74.19%
Lack of human resources	46.88%	58.06%
Limited expertise	25.00%	32.26%
Reluctance to apply measures/ lack of compliance	---	51.61%

Q15. *Would your country have an example of best practice in biosecurity to share?*



Answer choice	2018	2026
Yes	59.38%	37.50%
No	40.63%	62.50%

In 2018, Two Members did not have an example of best practice in biosecurity to share, whereas in 2026 these Members answered "Yes".

Nine Members reported having an example of best practice in biosecurity to share in 2018, but in 2026 these nine Members answered "No".

Q16. *Concise description of the legal base in veterinary legislation for implementation of a biosecurity programme (BP) in production and trade of animals*

The response rate was 68.75% (22/32) in 2018 and 56.25% (18/32) in 2026.
Six Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

In 2018, Four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Eight Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

Q17*. Explanation of a production system where a BP is implemented, with a brief description*

The response rate was 65.63% (21/32) in 2018 and 46.88% (15/32) in 2026.
Eight Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

In 2018, Three Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Nine Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

Q18*. Possible partnership between different stakeholders in implementation of a BP*

The response rate was 65.63% (21/32) in 2018 and 50% (16/32) in 2026.
Seven Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.
n 2018, Four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Nine Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

Q19*. Evaluation of current level of implementation of a BP*

The response rate was 68.75% (22/32) in 2018 and 46.88% (15/32) in 2026.
Six Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

One Member answered "Not available" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, Three Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Nine Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018

Q20*. Additional activities and benefits arising from a BP (e.g. accreditation or certification of farms with an appropriate level of implementation of biosecurity measures, national subsidies for certified*

The response rate was 65.63% (21/32) in 2018 and 40.63% (13/32) in 2026.
Eight Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

One Member answered "Not available" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, Three Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Ten Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

Q21*. Publicity activities, awareness raising of training programmes implemented as part of BP, with presentation of developed and distributed materials, reports of evaluation*

The response rate was 68.75% (22/32) in 2018 and 50.00% (16/32) in 2026.
Seven Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

In 2018, Four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Nine Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

***Q22**. Evaluation of implementation of a BP by the Competent Authorities (e.g. veterinary inspection services)*

The response rate was 65.63% (21/32) in 2018 and 46.88% (15/32) in 2026.
Seven Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

One Member answered "Not available" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, Four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Nine Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

One Member answered "No" in 2018. In 2026, it answered "Checks on farm, by veterinarians".

***Q23**. New technology (software or applications, etc.) developed in support to the evaluation or implementation of biosecurity*

The response rate was 59.38% (19/32) in 2018 and 43.75% (14/32) in 2026.
Eight Members did not provide an answer in either 2018 or 2026.

One Member answered "Not yet" in 2026 and did not provide an answer in 2018.
Two Members answered "Not available" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.
Two Members answered "No" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.
One Member answered "Not applicable" in 2018 and did not provide an answer in 2026.

In 2018, Four Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2026.

In 2026, Five Members did not provide an answer, whereas these Members responded in 2018.

One Member answered "No new technology is used" in 2018. In 2026, it answered "A platform was developed in order to provide the farmers and veterinarians with their health data. The current goal of such platform is to support animal owners and veterinarians in improving animal health and reducing antibiotic use through targeted analyses. For example, personalised reports on antibiotic use, analyses of calf mortality, or results from slaughter and meat inspections are available. This platform could be used to analyse the biosecurity level of each farm in the future".

One Member answered "None" in 2018. In 2026, it answered, "No new development for evaluation or implementation of biosecurity, but new software to survey disease development".

One Member answered "Not available" in 2018. In 2026, it answered "Not developed"