Dr. Bernard Van Goethem

GF-TAD's Europe Progress & Priorities

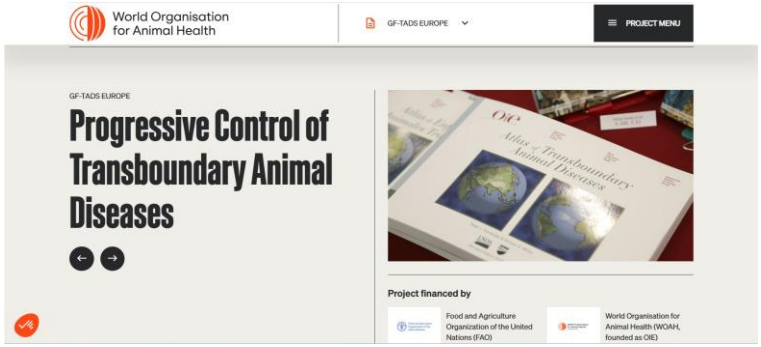
President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe

Director for Crisis Preparedness in food, animals, and plants,
DG SANTE
European Commission

World Organisation for Animal Health

GF-TADs is a proven regional mechanism for turning shared epidemiological risks into coordinated action.

- **The European regional branch was established in 2005** to respond to regional priorities;
- **Regional governance:** Regional Steering Committee (RSC) + permanent Secretariat, bringing together **FAO, WOAH, DG SANTE, and Members**.
- Encourages creation of **regional alliances and a common vision** for priority TADs, evidence-based, cross-border, **multi-disease strategies**;
- **Encompasses 53 WOAH European members**, including Western, Southeast, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia;
- **Operational model:** disease-specific **Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs)** provide a platform for technical exchange, harmonization, and joint action.
- **Current priority portfolio: ASF, HPAI, LSD, Rabies, FMD, PPR and Sheep/Goat Pox**.
- **52 Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) meetings conducted**: 25 ASF, 15 LSD, 8 Rabies, 3 HPAI, and 1 PPR/SGP SGE and RAGs for FMD.
- **2025 milestone:** The **1st GF-TADs Europe Regional Conference** in Belgrade brought the SGEs together and strengthened political commitment to regional cooperation.



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<u>GF-TADs Europe is no longer only a coordination platform - it is an established mechanism for regional disease prevention and control.</u>

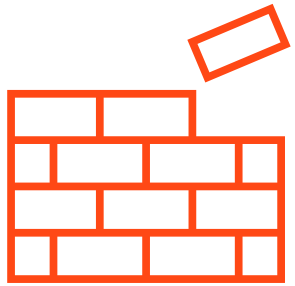
Progress: Stronger transparent cooperation, broader disease coverage

1. Stronger regional coordination

- Increased exchange of epidemiological information, technical experience, and control measures.
  - ➢ Regional Cooperation with the EU Commission - ADWEB I and II
- Closer coordination between **FAO-WOAH-European Commission-Veterinary Services**.

2. Expanded technical scope

- **PPR + Sheep/Goat Pox SGE launched in March 2026**, responding to the growing small-ruminant disease threat in Eastern/South-Eastern Europe and the Balkans.
- **FMD**: Several urgent coordination meetings on **FMD** under GF-TADs were organized during the crisis in Europe.



3. Greater emphasis on implementation

- Regionalization and vaccination, where relevant, recognized as **important control tools**.

4. A stronger regional voice

- The 2025 First Regional GF-TADs Conference created a **common** set of **recommendations** across priority diseases and reinforced the political visibility of GF-TADs Europe.

5. A platform for regular dialogue and transparent sharing

- The regular dialogue helped to create an environment in which countries and partners can openly and **transparently** share both their successes and their challenges.

The value of GF-TADs Europe is judged by successful outcomes

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Priorities: From regional coordination to measurable disease prevention and control

The priority for GF-TADs Europe is not simply to coordinate better - it is to translate regional expertise into earlier detection, faster response, stronger prevention, and measurable reduction of TAD impact.

ANTICIPATE	PREVENT	RESPOND	DELIVER
Stronger regional intelligence	Reduce transmission risks	Faster & coordinated action	Measure progress
• Risk-based surveillance	• Biosecurity at source	• Cross-border cooperation	• Clear SGE deliverables
• Early warning & data sharing	• Wildlife-livestock interface	• Preparedness & simulation	• Continued safe international trade
• WAHIS/ADIS transparency	• Strategic vaccination	• Harmonized measures	• Country-level implementation
• Regional risk assessment	• Sustainable control programs	• Rapid information exchange	• Demonstrable epidemiological impact



ASF • HPAI • LSD • Rabies • FMD • PPR/SPGP

GF-TADs Europe: anticipate threats, prevent transmission, respond together, and demonstrate impact.

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Due to ongoing challenges with TADs in the Europe Region, the **meetings** of the Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) for ASF (since 2014), Rabies (since 2019), LSD (since 2016) and HPAI (since 2023) were **merged** into this single event **to maximize the impact of different initiatives**, share regional experiences, technical advancements, and collaborative strategies for promote a coordinated approach. The conference also addressed the challenges posed by the re-emergence of FMD and PPR.



SIDE EVENT!

The 12th meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC)



- **290 participants (110 in person and 180 online) representing 42 countries**: CVOs, senior officials from across the region, staff from FAO, WOAH, and DG SANTE.

- The meeting reaffirmed the **key role of the GF-TADs as the joint FAO/WOAH platform** for coordinating the prevention, control, and eradication of transboundary animal diseases in Europe, with a continued focus on regional and global priorities.

- **Dr. Keti Margariti (Albania)** was unanimously endorsed as the **new Second Vice President of the RSC** following the institutional transition of Dr. Vasili Basiladze.

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2nd GF-TADs Regional Conference on Priority Transboundary Animal Diseases in Europe
Vienna, Austria • 19-22 January 2027

Conference theme:

From Recommendations to Implementation: Measuring Progress and Strengthening Regional Impact

Why this Conference?

- Build on the outcomes and recommendations of the **1st GF-TADs Europe Conference, Belgrade 2025**.
- Move from **exchange and recommendations to implementation, monitoring, and measurable impact**.
- Review progress, identify remaining gaps, and strengthen regional ownership.
- Reinforce coordinated prevention, preparedness, and control of priority transboundary animal diseases.

SIDE EVENT!

The 13th meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC)



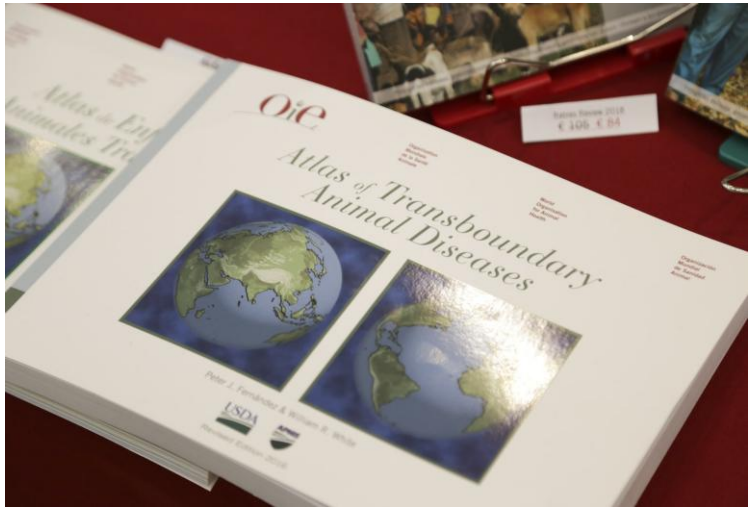
Seven priority diseases

African swine fever • Highly pathogenic avian influenza • Foot-and-mouth disease • Lumpy skin disease • Rabies • Peste des petits ruminants • Sheep pox & goat pox.

KEY AREAS OF WORK

Disease-specific sessions

- Regional epidemiological updates and risk trends.
- Review SGE/RAG outputs and recent outbreak lessons.
- Country case studies and practical experiences.
- Identify **updated priorities and implementation gaps**.



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Cross-cutting discussions

- Early warning, surveillance & reporting
- Emergency preparedness & response
- Biosecurity & vaccination
- Laboratory preparedness
- Wildlife/vector interfaces
- Risk communication
- Cross-border cooperation & sustainability





Strong ownership & follow-up

- Engage CVOs, Delegates, laboratories, experts, and partners.
- Strengthen the role of the **GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee**.
- Agree on concise recommendations, priorities, and a **monitoring mechanism for implementation**

TOR & ACTION PLAN - REVISION & ADOPTION

Update the governance and implementation framework through:

- Revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) to reflect the updated structure and responsibilities
- Revision of the Action Plan to align priorities, activities, and responsibilities
- Consultation and agreement among relevant Regional GF-TAD stakeholders
- Formal adoption of the revised TOR and Action Plan

STAFF CONTINUITY, LEAVE & ROTATION

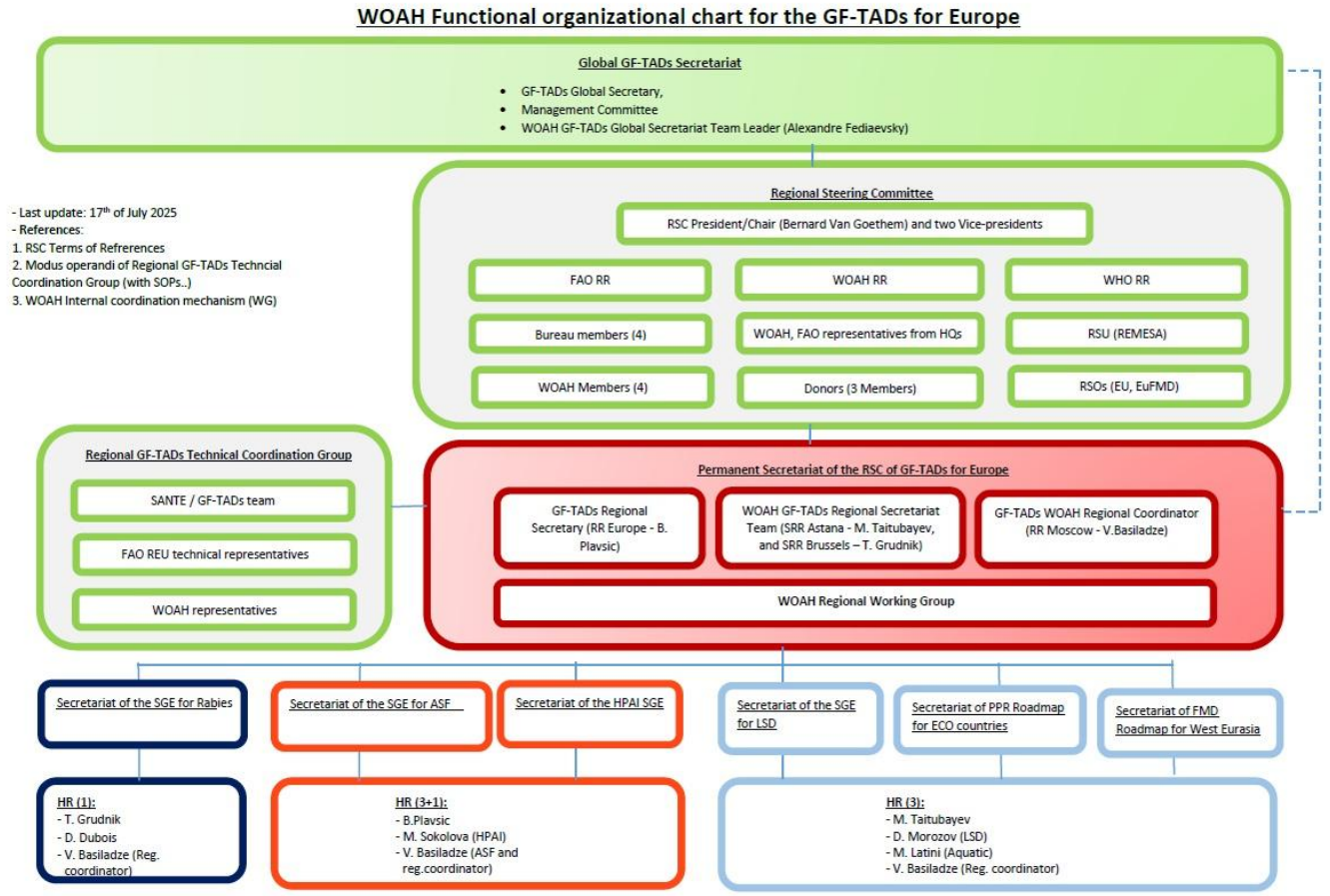
Ensure seamless operational continuity through:

- Clear leave arrangements and temporary replacement mechanisms
- Defined rotation of relevant functions and responsibilities
- Structured handover and transfer of responsibilities
- Preservation of institutional knowledge and continuity

PERIODIC REVIEW & ADAPTATION

Keep the mechanism fit for purpose through:

- Regular assessment of effectiveness and relevance
- Identification of emerging coordination needs
- Transparent decision-making procedures
- Continued alignment with the Global GF-TADs Strategy



CLEARER STRUCTURE • SEAMLESS CONTINUITY • STRONGER COORDINATION • REGULAR ADAPTATION

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Thank you!

https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/Projects/gf-tads-europe/

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World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

World Organisation for Animal Health