

# Terms of Reference and role of the National Focal Point on Animal Welfare

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## Regional training seminar for WOAHP National Focal Points on Animal Welfare for Europe

16-17 November 2022 – teleconference

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World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

**Animal welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the OIE since 2001, under the mandate granted by all Members.**

*Resolution XIV from the 70th OIE GS - 2002*





## National Focal Points

The WOAH is encouraging all members to nominate National Focal Points for strategic issues

- animal disease notification,
- wildlife,
- aquatic animals,
- veterinary products,
- animal production food safety,
- animal welfare,
- communication,
- veterinary laboratories.



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## National Focal Points

The nomination and responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the WOAH Delegate.

The focal point shall assist the Delegate and act as a contact point with the WOAH in each of the designated areas.

Information transmitted to the WOAH from focal points must be under the designated authority of Delegate.

The WOAH considers the official Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.



## National Focal Points

The specific tasks of each focal point topic are listed in their Terms of Reference.

The purpose of the Terms of Reference:

- assigning responsibilities to the various focal points to facilitate consistency and harmonisation amongs Members in assigning responsibilities to the various focal points
- better use expertise of focal points to support Delegates to comply with their rights, commitments and responsibilities towards the WOAHA



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Terms of Reference  
for the National Focal Points  
on Animal Welfare

Proposed tasks of the national focal point for animal welfare:

- establish a network of animal welfare experts within his country or to communicate with the existing network
- to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for animal welfare in his country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared
- to receive from the WOAH Headquarters copies of the reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and other relevant reports



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## Terms of Reference for the National Focal Points

- to conduct the in-country consultation process with recognised animal welfare experts on draft texts proposed in those reports as well as draft standards proposed by the Code Commission when dealing with animal welfare
- to prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual WOAH Member and/or the region, including comments on the proposals for new or revised WOAH standards related to animal welfare.



Capacity Building  
Programme for  
WOAH Focal Points

Objectives:

Facilitate consistency and harmonisation responsibilities in the assignment of focal points responsibilities

Make better use of the specialist knowledge of focal points to support Delegates;

Improve participation in the standard-setting process. Improve participation in the OIE standard-setting process

Two-year cycle - regional seminars and workshops for each categories of the focal point



## Regional Seminars for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare

- 6<sup>th</sup> cycle - The Hague, The Netherlands  
2019
- 5<sup>th</sup> cycle - Chisinau, Moldova  
2017
- 4<sup>th</sup> cycle- Kakheti, Georgia - 2015
- 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle - Teramo, Italy - 2013
- 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle - Kiev, Ukraine - 2012
- 1<sup>st</sup> cycle- Istanbul, Turkey - 2009





**OIE Platform**  
on Animal Welfare  
for Europe

## Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (launched in December 2013)

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

The third Action Plan (2021-2023) focuses on strengthening the Member Countries' involvement in the development of standards and the **regional collaboration towards its implementation** including work of the **National Focal Points on Animal Welfare**.





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