

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUROPE

by empowering Veterinary Services to take actions



2018 Newsletter



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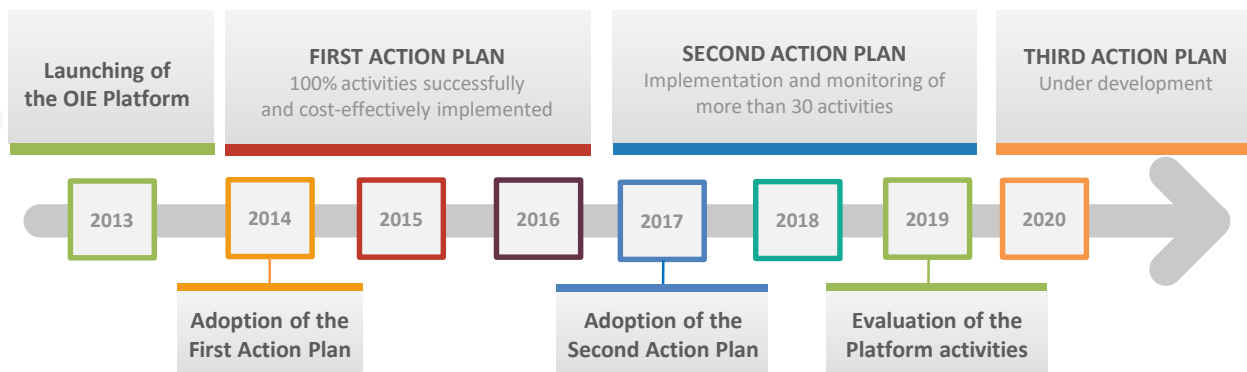
I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this, the fourth Newsletter of the OIE Platform for Animal Welfare for Europe. The Platform, which is now in its sixth year and coming towards the end of its second Action Plan (2017-2019), can be rightly proud of its achievements over the years – particularly its continued activities in the areas of stray dog population control, transport and slaughter of animals and its initial work in relation to working equids and animal welfare in natural disasters, which are new areas introduced in the second action plan.

Whilst it is heartening to look back on achievements so far, it is important to also look forward. In this regard a number of items of key strategic importance are currently underway – an external evaluation of the 1st and 2nd Action Plans, the preparation of a draft 3rd Action Plan and a draft revision of the original Concept Note, with a particular focus on Governance and Steering Group composition. These outputs will be discussed at the upcoming Steering Group meeting and will be brought forward for discussion at the next Regional Commission for Europe meeting, which will take place in May in Paris.

I thank all involved in this exciting project so far, and I look forward to the active engagement by all member countries in planning the next phase of the Platform, to ensure continued improvement in animal welfare standards across the region.

RECAP

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TOP NEWS

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FIRST EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PLATFORM

After five years of existence, the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe is now a well-established mechanism with renown and regular funding. In this favorable context, the OIE is aiming to develop a third Action Plan (2020-2022), leveraging successes from the previous ones and with a clear continuity between the Platform Action Plans.

In this context, it was deemed timely by the OIE to launch an external evaluation of the first two Action Plans and more broadly of the functioning of the OIE Platform to take stock of what worked well, what did not, and to provide recommendations for the development of the third Action Plan.

The overarching objective is to provide the OIE current and future donors, partners and stakeholders with a reasoned analytical assessment of the initiative as a basis to guide its future development.

The methodological approach defined by the end of 2018 includes a document review, a survey and a series of interviews with a variety of stakeholders, partners, experts, donors and personalities involved in running the platform.

The external expert has been selected in January and the outcome is expected before the end of the 1st semester 2019.

- Excellent?
- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 2018

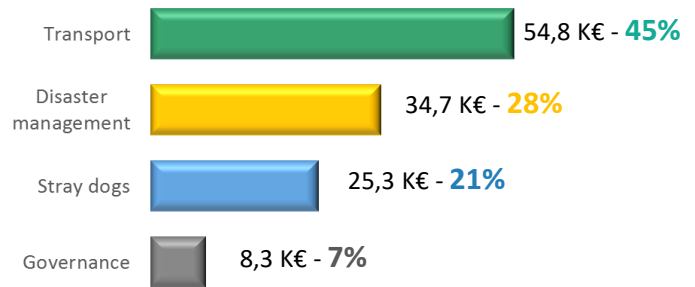
03

	<p>TRANSPORT First Whole Journey Scenario for Europe</p>		<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT for Balkan countries</p>	
<p>TRANSPORT Regional seminar for eight Central Asia and Caucasus countries</p>		<p>STRAY DOG Regional Roadmap for Balkans 3rd workshop to monitor progress</p>		<p>GOVERNANCE 2 Steering Group + 1 stakeholders meetings</p>

- An additional 17 experts from eight Central Asia and Caucasus countries were trained on long distance transport and joined the regional experts network on transport.
- The methodology of the innovative 'whole journey scenario' workshop proved very successful in strengthening the collaboration between the Competent Authorities of all the countries along the chosen route.
- The Regional Stray dog Roadmaps are on track to meet the regional visions by 2025 for the Balkans and 2030 for West Eurasia.
- A three years project was launched to raise preparedness of the Veterinary Services of the Balkan countries for natural disasters with a focus on animal welfare in a flooding scenario.

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In total, **123 K€** were disbursed for the implementation of activities planned in Year 2 (2018) under the 2nd Action Plan. With 45% of the funds disbursed in 2018, after it was 50% in 2017, transport clearly remains the number one focus of our Platform. The European Commission, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, RSPCA, IFAW, Four-Paws and the World Horse Welfare have provided financial support to the OIE Platform through the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund. Thank you for your generosity!



Distribution of funds per topic in 2018

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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Check the full calendar

<p>Governance</p> <p>15-16 May</p>	<p>Regional</p> <p>18-20 June</p>	<p>Stray dogs</p> <p>tbc September</p>	<p>Disaster Management</p> <p>tbc November</p>	<p>Governance</p> <p>tbc December</p>
<p>12TH SG MEETING to report and plan the delivery of the Second Action Plan and discuss the Third Action Plan</p>	<p>OIE REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE</p>	<p>3rd MEETING of the WEST EURASIA ROADMAP to review progress of the Roadmap</p>	<p>2nd WORKSHOP to enhance Balkan countries preparedness for natural disasters (flooding scenario)</p>	<p>13TH SG MEETING to finalize the Second Action Plan and schedule the activities under the Third Action Plan</p>

Other key activities for 2019 include webinars to animate the established expert networks, the carrying out of a baseline survey on the welfare of working equines and a possible subsequent awareness campaign.

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The website of the OIE Platform comprises a public access and restricted access for the Platform Steering Group Members and OIE Focal Points on animal welfare: <http://rpawe.oie.int>

