

Item 6 – Strategic Plan and Work Programme

European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2013-2017

In Black is the Plan as approved by the 40th Session [April 2013].

In RED are suggestions for modification from the EuFMD Team (Internal Meeting January 2015)

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives consist of **three strategic goals** as follows:

1. To Improve readiness for FMD crisis management by Members;
2. To Reduce risk to Members from the FMD situation in the European neighbourhood (progressive control in neighbouring regions);
3. To Promote the global strategy of progressive control of FMD.

The operational objective of maintaining a mechanism for emergency response to an FMD crisis in the European neighbourhood will underpin the first two objectives.

Beneficiaries

In general, beneficiaries will be the 36 countries which are members of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD)¹, hereinafter called "Members", and other neighbouring countries where the situation of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) creates a direct or indirect threat of introduction of the disease into one or more of the member countries of EuFMD.

¹ Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom.

Strategic goal 1 -Improve readiness for FMD crisis management by Members

Progress towards the Strategic Goal may also be assisted by joint activities with non-member states of EuFMD where there is a mutual advantage recognised by the EuFMD Executive Committee.

In 2015-17, more emphasis is suggested to be placed upon national ownership of actions under each component, continuing the trend towards demand driven training, towards joint decision on training development through regular interactions (webinars/online meeitngs) with MS representatives and ExCom advisors (1.3, 1.4). The greater involvement of livestock industry actors and pan-european livestock sector reps on self funding basis in training may assist towards better public: private sector interactions on contingency planning issues. There appears to be a demand from national training focal points for more training aids/assistance to them to engage /train their national vet personnel. This could be met through more emphasis on developing “job aids” that focal points in the MS can translate/adapt to national use.

Outputs and Activities

Develop a cadre of European experts in FMD crisis management - recognition and response training.

This component in future should continue to include all training activities under the training credits system; with a continued trend towards demand driven training that supports national efforts; to build on the channel of communication with the 37 MS training network, and the national demand for e-learning courses in national languages; supporting focal points to provide national training ““Equipping National Trainers In Relevant Expertise””.

Additional courses to be offered : training on management of contingency planning and simulation exercises. Potential for training menu to include accredited epidemiology modules as part of developing a system where our FMD training is part of accredited courses for training next generation managers (e.g. request of Turkey).

This includes conducting training on clinical disease recognition, sampling for diagnosis, local area epidemiological investigations, risk factor analysis, practical application of biosecurity principles, and other aspects of FMD crisis management.

Support contingency planning of Members and at European level – Developing decision support tools for managers.

In 2015-17 this component should continue the FMD modelling network, contingency planning (CP) knowledge bank and CP/simulation exercise managers networks.

This component should ensure some development of support tools for MS also, e.g.the FMD impacts calaculator. A common joint project (e.g. European livestock movements modelling project) and a more specific support project (e.g. regional project for MS wishing to establish modelling for decision making, could be a group of countries at similar stage of capacity).

This component may include a Vaccine Banks/Vaccination issues Working Group or Network.

This includes conducting training and providing support for Members to use disease simulation models and decision support tools to assist contingency planning, and engaging with researchers on FMD modelling to facilitate technology transfer of appropriately developed tools to assist Members.

Thrace region: programme for early warning surveillance in Greece/Bulgaria/Turkey.

This component is of proven value and importance and to be continued 2015-17. Consider further development, specifically:

- Better tools for ease of data entry and analysis to support national managers)
- Activities to assess capacity for implementing non-vaccination against FMD in Turkish Thrace
- LSD.

This includes collation and analysis of existing surveillance data, development of risk-based surveillance methods, tripartite coordination of activities, integration of decision support tools and risk analysis into policy evaluation and development, and management of support to surveillance activities.

Improved emergency management capacity for FMD in the Balkan region

This component is of proven value and importance , need to continue with trend towards self-governance and ownership -e.g. of the regular meetings on CP/simex planning. Use outcomes of first full sim-ex, assist with specific items in national CPs . Menu system could be offered in which the states select which type of support they need to progress the CPs.

Lab support issue, need to maintain capacity.
Second full simulation exercise - mid 2017?

A programme of support to MS in the Balkan region to improve the quality of contingency planning, to improve awareness of FMD risks and the economic consequences of emergencies, and give attention to the issues affecting national reference laboratory capacity for FMD confirmation and surveillance.

Research activities relevant to resolve policy issues.

Continue successful mechanism, considering:

- Greater support to the Fund
- Strengthen role of STC
- Some pre-identified priority projects funded under their components (e.g. 1.2)?

This includes support for research projects which have been endorsed by the standing technical committee of the EuFMD as being of benefit to EuFMD objectives; activities to translate research into tools, actions or activities which are of benefit to EuFMD activities; and actions to integrate research outcomes with policy.

Support provided to member states through emergency technical response to FMD outbreaks in the member state or the European neighbourhood.

This includes the maintenance of a capacity to provide advice, technical support and assistance to EuFMD member states and countries in the European neighbourhood in the event of an FMD outbreak, including laboratory and epidemiological support. This baseline activity is also serviced by several of the activities listed above, as these will also act to maintain a degree of organisational readiness to respond to an FMD crisis. This also includes assisting and supporting Members with vaccine procurement and supply, through the provision of technical input, advice on selection of vaccine strains, risk based evaluation of vaccination strategies and other related activities.

1.7 Proficiency Testing Service . (for non-EU countries, note in 2013 was listed under Pillar 2, the Lab Contract not Pillar 1)

1.8 New component on activities to improve risk communication.

Addressing the need of the MS for (inc those in West Eurasia, Israel) analysed risk information in ways that better address their needs, including the global and neighbourhood vaccination and surveillance information (currently generated under 3.1 and across Pillar 2). To be decided if more attention to risk assessment to Europe is needed.

Strategic goal 2: Reduce risk to Members from the European neighbourhood² (progressive control in neighbouring regions)

The system of three subregional components has worked well, as there are 3 sets of MS with specific interests (Turkey+Georgia, Israel/Cyprus, and REMESA group). The focus on PCP progress (national level, strategic planning) remains vital, but in 2015-17 as countries implement their strategic plans, a common supportive measure across the region, building on experience in Turkey, Georgia, Egypt, be be Training Network with focus on common needs in Epidemiology and Monitoring at central Level and 2) Support to national trainers to roll out training (based on FEPc for Pillar 1, using common languages in the neighbourhood : Russian, Arabic, Turkish).

Outputs and Activities

2.1 South-East Europe: promote better management in Turkey and neighbours.

This includes supporting the collation, analysis and application of epidemiological data, including spatial data, from the area; providing training in the practical application of epidemiology to control FMD and advance along the FAO/OIE progressive control pathway (PCP); engaging with national veterinary services to support them in

² The neighbourhood of the current 36 Members is here defined as follows:

- i. European Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and member of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe which are eligible for membership in EuFMD;
- ii. the countries and territories adjacent to Members.
- iii. The countries in North Africa cooperating with Members in the framework of REMESA

the detection, management, and control of FMD; and identification of circulating viruses. This also includes secretarial and coordination support for the West Eurasia roadmap for progressive control of FMD, in coordination with other stakeholder bodies, as regards the European neighbourhood.

This component also includes developing specific country projects in line with the PCP designed to improve national capacity to manage and control FMD and assist progress in cooperation with regionally coordinated GF-TADs programs and roadmaps.

2.2 South-East Mediterranean: support better management in the neighbourhood of Cyprus and Israel.

This includes holding workshops and training sessions for neighbour countries of Cyprus and Israel to support laboratory diagnosis, contingency planning, and vaccination strategy development; support to develop laboratory capacity in those countries; regional coordination of FMD control strategies.

This component also includes developing specific country projects in line with the PCP designed to improve national capacity to manage and control FMD and assist progress in cooperation with regionally coordinated GF-TADs programs and roadmaps.

2.3 North Africa: technical support to REMESA³ actions.

This includes, at the request of those Members participating in REMESA, actions to support activities carried out by France, Spain, Italy and Portugal aiming at strengthening and regionally coordinating laboratory diagnosis, contingency planning, vaccination strategy development, risk based surveillance and other associated actions in Mediterranean countries of North Africa which pose a risk of FMD virus incursion into the REMESA area.

2.4 Trainign Component

With Training Network across the neighbourhood, and language focal points (in 3 langauge groups).

[Old 2.4 – part of this come under new 1.8, parts under 3.3. Supporting surveillance networks to provide information needed by risk managers in the European neighbourhood.

This includes support for existing FAO or joint FAO/OIE surveillance networks (RESOLAB in West Africa, EARLN in East Africa, WELNET in West Eurasia, and those under REMESA), where such actions provide information to support analysis of the risk of FMD incursions into the European neighbourhood. The modes of support may include assisting with regional coordination or network meetings, actions to identify circulating virus strains, and actions to characterise the risk of FMD incursions due to factors which may be changing or subject to temporal or spatial dynamics. These actions may be taken in coordination with other stakeholder bodies.]

Strategic goal 3 - Promote the global strategy of progressive control of FMD

Consideration to be given to

- 1) *Merging 3.1 and 3.2*
- 2) *Adding a specific training support component, to develop /provide resources for regional/national training focal points. The approach taken could assist the community of PCP trainers (trainers network); make multiple use of the PCP related resources in regional languages developed under Pillar 2; could include a knowledge bank to assist PCP trainers (similar to Pillar 1); and could use webinars and e-learning to support the Global Lab Network (e.g.sample collection and shipment guidance).*

Outputs and Activities

3.1 Support FAO FMD Unit in collating information for review of progress of regional programmes on FMD control.

This includes collation, analysis and dissemination of relevant information on regional FMD control programmes worldwide; support for workshops to coordinate this process; and other associated actions.

3.2 Technical support to develop the OIE/FAO FMD progressive control pathway (PCP) methods and guidelines.

This includes engaging with the on-going development of the PCP, providing training in the application of the PCP at national level, regional level, and to international agencies; supporting the development of associated tools and activities to integrate relevant fields with PCP applications; and support for the development of regional PCP roadmaps.

³ REseau MEditerranéen de Santé Animale – REMESA: <http://www.remesanetwork.org/>

3.3 Support the global system for improved FMD reference lab services (World Reference Laboratory Contract, supporting FAO/OIE Strategy and Gf-TADs).

This includes supporting the FAO FMD World Reference Laboratory to provide services to the European neighbourhood and globally, including diagnostic service, vaccine matching, molecular epidemiological analysis of worldwide and regional FMD patterns, and provision of laboratory proficiency test (PTS) ring trials to FMD laboratories in non-EU states⁴ and internationally.

3.4 Training Component

Development of resources and several times per year online courses to support train the trainer approach, and support regional roll out of training. Supports course development but not budgeted to provide the in country regional or national training (latter expected to be provided under specific Components (3.2 and 3.3) or by external donor /partner funding, e.g. FAO and OIE).

Responsibilities for Implementation

The Secretariat of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease hosted by the Agriculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is responsible for the implementation of the Project.

⁴ EU Member States are included in the PTS funded under the EU-CRL activities.