

Cluster report for the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

October 2021 / March 2022

European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

EuFMD's programme, tools and initiatives

FAST

Foot-and-mouth And
Similar Transboundary
animal diseases

Dt

eufmd digital
transformation

vlearning

eufmd virtual learning
centre

microLearning

eufmd virtual learning

vlc EA

virtual learning centre
for East Africa

Tom

eufmd training
management system

SimExOn

simulation exercises
online

KnowBank

eufmd knowledge bank

GetPrepared

emergency preparedness toolbox

RiskComms

risk communications

SQRA

a method for spatial qualitative
risk analysis applied to fmd.

Pragmatist

prioritization of antigen management
with international surveillance tool

EuFMDiS

european foot-and-mouth disease
spread model

Vademos

fmd vaccine demand
estimation model

GVS

global vaccine
security

PQv

vaccine
prequalification

PCP

progressive control
pathway

PSO

pcp practitioner
officers

VPP

veterinary
paraprofessionals

PPP

public private
partnership

Sustainable development goals, UN-SDGs. EuFMD's programme has a focus on



Together against wasting resources, think twice before printing.

CLUSTER REPORT FOR THE EUFMD

OCTOBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

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1. Emergency Preparation of Member Nations

Component 1.1 (Training Programme); **1.2** (GET Prepared, EuFMDiS development, Emergency Preparedness Network, PPP initiative)

Reporting Officers Rodrigo Nova; Katherine Gibson // Executive Committee: L. Bognar; O. Kalda

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Achievement of the expected result through the delivery of training and the provision of tools to test and improve contingency plans and by enhancing the public-private engagement.

Expected result

Improved European preparedness for management of FMD and similar TADS (FAST disease).

I. Progress summary

The following online courses were delivered during the reporting period:

Course	Trainees completing the course
FMD Emergency Preparation course for the UK	115/152 (75.6%)
FMD Emergency Preparation course – multi-country (11 th version)	87/146 (59.5%)
FAST Diseases: Wildlife surveillance online workshop	9/22 (40%)
FMD Emergency Preparation course – multi-country (12 th version)	Ongoing (213 enrolled)

Simulation exercises: as part of the training credits (TCs) allocation, on October-November 2021 EuFMD supported the planning and conduction of two tabletop online Rift Valley fever (RVF) simulation exercises for Spain and Portugal respectively.

Due to the COVID-19 situation and travel restrictions, field and face-to-face trainings were postponed. In particular, the Real-Time Training courses, FMD laboratory training and some in-country missions could not take place during the first biennium. Therefore, Member Nations (MNs) were offered the opportunity to carry forward these TCs to the current biennium (2022-2023). The 2022-2023 training menu, which includes face-to-face activities to be run end of 2022 and during 2023, was discussed with Training Focal Points. Nearly 90% of the TCs credits for the current biennium have been already allocated.

Cascade materials: as part of the training on FAST diseases, resources and tools are being developed to provide assistance to MNs and enable cascade training at national level, increasing their capacity to respond to FAST disease emergencies. So far, awareness posters (for FAST diseases) and an FMD video for livestock keepers have been translated into multiple languages and distributed via the EuFMD website, social sharing platforms and the FAO YouTube channel. Job aids on FMD, and another video on FMD in endemic countries – in collaboration with the FMD Working Group - are being produced.

TOM: a pilot version of the **Training Management System** was developed and two countries (Ireland and Bulgaria) among Member Nations were engaged in the pilot for TOM. The EuFMD has progressed in the

development of a web application to allow National Veterinary Services to monitor the competency-based education programmes and the training completion to in the countries.

Get Prepared: The tool was launched at the 44th General Session of the EuFMD and is now active. The Simulation Exercises resources 'brick' was uploaded to the Wall in June 2021, with resources for additional components in the wall being identified or developed. Resource development has been delayed due to staff turnover, and the development of each 'brick' has been more labor-intensive than anticipated. Examples of good practices and job aids are being identified for peer review and uploading to the wall.

EuFMDiS: according to the workplan, the model is under development for Denmark, Estonia, and Lithuania. The model for Estonia, Lithuania, and Denmark should be operational by September 2022. Development is also planned in The Netherlands and France. New features in the EuFMDiS model were further developed, including the concept of providing a herd biosecurity score and the wildlife component. Similarly, the evaluation of data required for the model adaptation to other FAST diseases such as PPR and sheep/goat pox is being conducted by the EuFMD team. The EuFMDiS user engagement activities (EuFMDiS webinar and exercises) are being conducted as planned. The EuFMDiS team is working to include an additional feature, rendering capacity (carcass disposal), in the EuFMDiS modeling platform. For this, data has been received from three member nations (Bulgaria, Hungary and Ireland). EuFMD joined a consortium of 18 partners that submitted a proposal 'Evidence-based, cost-effective and feasible biosecurity practices for current and future livestock farming' to address the EU HORIZON Call 'Enhancing biosecurity in terrestrial livestock production'. The proposal foresees the use of EuFMDiS to support the assessment of the socio-economic impact of biosecurity measures at national or regional level to control FAST diseases.

EPN: the Emergency Preparedness Network is housed on the EuFMD VLearning site. Members are informed of EuFMD events, such as open webinars, and publications and some may be invited to provide support, such as peer review, for EuFMD work.

PPP: the private partners of the PPP Initiative have produced a workplan for the second biennium of Phase V. A second webinar on Business continuity during FAST disease outbreaks was conducted at the end of January 2022 and followed the webinar on Success Stories on Public-Private Partnership in Livestock Production and Animal Health in March 2021. More webinars, workshops and simulation exercises are planned for 2022 and 2023. Representative of private stakeholders were also invited to attend together with the public sectors the workshop in March 2022 focused on criteria for implementing emergency vaccination.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

As per the previous report, the indicator "At least 90 % of the training credits spent by the MN by the end of each biennium" could not be reached for 2020-2021. These training credits were carried over to the current biennium (2022-2023) of the current phase V of the Programme. The distribution of training credits for the current biennium considered allocating two out of the ten TC for online training with the remaining eight to be allocated to any training. This approach will ensure that, once travel restrictions are lifted, a minimum number of online courses will continue to be developed and delivered as part of PI work plan, considering the advantages of virtual trainings: cost-effectiveness, possibility to train a higher number of people and an environmentally-friendly approach.

Differences in the procedures of accreditation in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) bodies within the regions, is delaying the accreditation of EuFMD courses. The EuFMD effort is focused on mapping relevant bodies and procedures and progressively liaising with them to explore accreditation options.

There has been slow progress in adding further components (bricks) to the Get Prepared wall over the past six months, partly due to turnover in staff. Additional dedicated staff is expected to improve the rate of progress.

The private partners of the Public-Private Partnership are firmly engaged in increasing collaboration in the prevention and control of FAST diseases.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Continue the visibility campaign for the Knowledge Bank and develop additional job aids and training resources on FAST diseases.

Continue the development of a new field real-time training to be conducted in non-endemic countries with innovative learning tools.

Plan and deliver upcoming training activities for 1.1. (I.e. online simulation exercises workshop and Lumpy Skin Disease course and face-to-face FMD and LSD laboratory training at Pirbright).

Review the feasibility of further face-to-face training for 2022.

Pilot the Training Management System (TOM) in countries across the Pillars.

Continue developing GET Prepared by adding new “bricks in the wall” filled with content, and work continuing to identify and develop additional resources.

Continue the development of the EuFMDiS model for Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Denmark;

Collaborate with countries such as France, Belgium, and The Netherlands for the adaption of EuFMDiS and data collection.

Finalize the EuFMDiS wildlife component, as well as to develop additional components (i.e. Passive surveillance; Post-outbreak surveillance; Rendering plant capacity).

Develop EuFMDiS for other FAST diseases such as PPR and Sheep and goat pox.

Organize a number of events through the PPP initiative, including webinar, workshop and two simulation exercises.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

Four training courses were delivered during this period, some for multiple MNs and some country specific. This included a FMD Emergency preparation course using donated training credits and offered free of cost to MNs. Additionally, EuFMD supported the planning and conduction of two RVF simulation exercises. All donated credits during the 2020-2021 biennium were spent.

Nearly **500** trainees completed the training activities delivered during this period.

The EuFMDiS is soon available in **14** countries as the Baltic countries will join. A new regional cluster will be developed in northwestern Europe to include Denmark, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Belgium. France may soon decide to participate in the project.

2. Vaccine Security and Research Fund

Component 1.3 (Emergency vaccination); **3.4** (Improved security in FMD vaccine supply); **1.5** (Applied Research)

Reporting Officers David Mackay; Martin Illott; Bouda Vosough Ahmadi; Katherine Gibson // Executive Committee: H. Roest

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Component 1.3: Increased preparedness for use of vaccination in emergency response plans for FAST diseases through an increased understanding of the constraints to use vaccination and through the establishment of a new system to increase FMD vaccine security.

Component 1.5:

Delivery of valuable tools and knowledge addressing technical issues considered Europe-wide priorities for national preparedness against FAST diseases through the implementation of an applied research program (ARP).

Component 3.4: Improved security in FMD vaccine supply: support to the Public Private Sector Platform (PPSP) for vaccine security to identify and promote solutions to improve security in access to effective vaccines. The progress in this is partially covered by actions under 1.3.

Expected results

1.3: 60% of the countries to have incorporated changes in their contingency plans regarding the use of emergency vaccination against FAST diseases, as a result of the work done under this component, by the end of the phase V; 3 million vaccine doses assured under AESOP/assurance programme.

1.5 Expected Results: 20 peer reviewed papers and reports published by the end of the phase; average impact level of these publications 7 (scale 0 to 10) as assessed by external technical panel.

3.4 Reports published by the PPSP platform to inform and guide innovative approaches and partnerships for accelerated rate of investment in FMD vaccine production by private sector achieved.

I. Progress summary

FAST Emergency Vaccination Preparedness: In 2020/2021, EuFMD conducted scoping activities to better understand the state of preparedness for emergency vaccination for FMD and similar transboundary animal disease (FAST) in EuFMD Member Nations (MN). The scoping work, using surveys and a workshop with contingency planners/risk managers, identified specific gaps in the preparedness for emergency vaccination, and identified areas where EuFMD can offer support to MN.

The aim of the next phase of this project is to address some of the priorities identified by the network and particularly to develop criteria that can be used by EuFMD MN to decide if, and how, to implement emergency vaccination as a control measure for FAST diseases. The development of criteria will initially focus on FMD but could later be adapted to emergency vaccination for control of other FAST diseases. This work will be progressed through two interactive workshops with participants nominated by EuFMD member nations and the PPP group. The first of these workshops was held in March 2022, and discussions were based around four scenarios developed using EuFMDis.

PQv: The procedure for pre-qualification of vaccines (PQv) against FAST diseases, with the initial focus on FMD vaccines, is on target for implementation in 2022. The system will initially be operated by a secretariat based in EuFMD with the recruitment of a dedicated PQv team. A Standing Committee on Pre-Qualification of Vaccines (SCPQv), which will act as the decision-making, governance and oversight committee, has been proposed with nominated members from MNs and appropriate experts from partner organizations. The first formal meeting of SCPQv was held in February 2022 with EuFMD providing an update of the PQv project and the Chair of SPQV elected. The Committee should be formally established at the Special Session in April 2022. The second meeting of the multi-stakeholder platform on vaccine security was held in January to review progress following the Rome meeting in 2020 and identify new opportunities and the challenges for public and private stakeholders for FAST vaccines security.

The Pre-Qualification of vaccines Technical Advisory Group for FAST vaccines (PQvTAG) has been re-convened to consider some of the issues identified during the vaccine security workshop. A meeting of PQTAG has been organized for the end March 2022 to consider some technical and procedural issues to ensure PQv is streamlined and cost-effective for manufacturers and not unnecessarily burdensome on resources such that there is a return on investment. Once established, PQv will form an important element of a system of Assured Emergency Supply Options (AESOPS) that have the potential to supplement existing vaccine banks by creating long-term supply arrangements for FAST vaccines of assured quality in emergency and endemic situations.

FAR: The 10th call of the EuFMD Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD –FAR) has been issued with four themes endorsed by the Standing Technical Committee: Promote the study of criteria, guidelines and impact of emergency vaccination against FAST diseases in disease free countries.; Enhance laboratory capacity for FAST diseases Evaluate vaccination approaches/strategies and vaccine types for FAST diseases.; Promote the development of digital support tools for optimization of surveillance and other control activities for FAST diseases.

VADEMOS: Further development of the Vaccine demand estimation model has progressed based on the recommendations of the two validation workshops (held in Nov 2021) and the MSP vaccine security meeting (held in Jan 2022) to increase accuracy of the estimations of vaccine dose numbers needed to reduce progressively disease impacts and viral circulation. Feedback received from the experts who attended the workshops has been incorporated in the model. External validation will be pursued through a peer-reviewed publication that is under preparation, for the model to be added to the PCP FMD Toolkit in support of the GF-TADs FMD WG and the community of PCP countries. It will assist to provide evidence on cost-effectiveness of different vaccination strategies to inform decisions on national control programs. All countries with endemic FMD status have been added to the model based on FMD Roadmap regions, thus providing valuable information also at regional and global levels for the global effort against FMD. The model should be finalized, by fulfilling the recommendations mentioned in the above consultation meetings, by October 2022 where the model and results will be presented in the EuFMD Open Session 2022.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

The results of the 10th call for applied research will be used and promoted within the EuFMD activities to improve FAST disease control and preparedness in EuFMD MN and beyond.

Development of the Vaccine demand estimation model (VADEMOS) should be completed in three phases. The first phase is focused on developing a prototype model and an associated web interface that was finalized in Dec 2021. The model will be further developed, revised, and expanded in its Phase 2 that is focused on adding all the endemic countries and roadmap regions to enable estimating vaccine demand per region and global level. Phase 2 should be completed by October 2022. Further development under Phase 3 will be subject to feedback and recommendations that will be collected at national and regional levels.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Develop criteria that can be used by EuFMD MN to decide if, and how, to implement emergency vaccination as a control measure for FAST disease. Development of modeling options according to different criteria discussed for implementing emergency vaccination in four different regions of Europe.

Identify suitable independent scientific and technical experts (ISTEs) for undertaking evaluation of data submitted in Product Summary Files (PSFs) to support the PQv of FMD vaccines by Q2 2022

Work with FMD manufacturers to ensure PQv procedures facilitate applications for FMD vaccines by Q4 2022.

Conclude the ongoing expert elicitation, finalize the model for vaccine demand and include all five FMD roadmap regions to the model to estimate regional and global level demand;

Finalize a report on “the current unmet demand and future growth” based on the results of the model (October 2022).

Select and follow-up with proposals from the 10th FAR call.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

Further development of VADEMOS to estimate the size of the FMD disease vaccine market in endemic countries (i.e. demand for vaccine) has continued with results appreciated by the participants of the multi-stakeholder platform on vaccine security. In parallel, a web-based interface for the model was developed to facilitate the model use as a decision-support tool to provide insight on the future demand for FMD vaccine at national and regional levels.

The development of the PQv system is progressing with increased interest from public and private organizations and relevant inputs provided in order to ensure independence, transparency, usefulness, cost-effectiveness, sustainability and not unnecessarily burdensome. The constitution of the SCPQv would significantly assist the oversight of the system.

3. FAST Early warning, risk analysis and forecasting

Component 1.7 (Disease risk assessment and forecasting); **2.2** (Improved early warning for FAST diseases)
Reporting Officers Melissa Mclaws; Francesca Ambrosini // Executive Committee: V. Almansa

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Development of a system for regular FAST diseases rapid risk assessment and forecasting, able to collect and analyse risk information from the European neighbourhood and provide on regular basis early warning to EUFMD Members and to the public.

Expected results

Early warning system regularly updated with risk information collected from European neighbourhood and regions considered of epidemiological relevance for the spread of FAST diseases. Implementation of integrated disease surveillance program focused on specific risk hubs, able to provide updated information on the introduction and/or circulation of FAST diseases in European neighbourhood, and on the effectiveness of control measures implemented.

I. Progress summary

Risk: Risk mapping, risk information sharing, and risk-based surveillance activities have continued in North Africa, Middle East and South East European neighbourhood. In particular, the collaboration with CIRAD contributed to implement pilot studies in Egypt, Tunisia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to develop a methodology to better understand animal mobility and its socioeconomic drivers. Within the countries and the regions, the spatial qualitative risk analysis methodology is proving to be a valid visual model to better understand livestock movements, the related risk of diseases spread and control and to be a useful decision-making tool for countries. Regional restitution meetings were organized for the three regions to finalize the risk-mapping training cycle. A repository of the most up-to-date national risk maps for FAST diseases has been created, the progression of national Veterinary Services capacities in risk mapping and risk strategies was assessed, and their feedback and suggestions in terms of needs and future support were collected.

The EuFMD risk-monitoring tool aimed at regularly monitor risks from and within neighbourhood has been piloted with Austria and Bulgaria with positive feedback. Work is ongoing to revise the tool according to the feedback, and to maintain the input parameters updated. It is foreseen that this tool will be soon piloted in selected countries of Pillar II.

The information and data collected in the quarterly FAST Reports populate the database of the risk-monitoring tool, generating a dynamic process of risk information sharing between countries and regions.

Dashboards: Dashboards to display information related to PCP-FMD progress and FMD surveillance have been developed as a proof of concept using freely available tools in collaboration with the WRL (surveillance) and the GF-TADS FMD Working Group (PCP-FMD). A dashboard has also been developed in collaboration with WRL for molecular data sharing and phylogenetic trees. A fourth dashboard displaying information related to FMD vaccination is under development.

Reports: Global FMD Quarterly reports are published regularly in collaboration with the WRL and include information from the quarterly FAST disease report also regularly made available.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

The GIS spatial analysis is an area for further investment to develop predictive and control methods through risk mapping approaches. However, the difficulties of implementing physical trainings has impacted the programme as the use of the Spatial Qualitative Risk Analysis toolkit requires face-to-face sessions. The possibility of using tools which require less assistance and learning support will be considered. In some countries, a difficulty reported is the different level of skills reached and the turnover of national experts involved in the activities.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Ensure that the methodology to assess socio-economic drivers of animal movements in Iran, Tunisia, and Egypt can be adapted to other countries.

Revise the risk-monitoring tool according to the results of the pilot, revise the data flow system required to regularly update the tool, and make the tool available to neighbouring countries. Explore also the feasibility of making the tool available online.

Develop further the dashboards and ensure their availability to the FMD community, in collaboration with the WRL and EMPRES-i.

Develop a PRAGMATIST version adapted for use in endemic countries to assess the suitability of vaccines. This will assist endemic countries to determine the suitability (fitness for purpose) of the vaccines that they purchase and to interpret the results of post vaccination monitoring in the field.

EuFMD is exploring the possibility to broaden the collaborative efforts with other technical partners, in addition to CIRAD, to distinguish a first level of baseline competency and a second one as advanced ability to elaborate GIS models, to allow building capacity to elaborate national risk maps.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

A risk-monitoring tool has been developed and piloted with Spain, Bulgaria and Austria and feedback provided to-date has been positive.

Prototype dashboards have been developed for FMD surveillance and PCP-FMD.

Regional restitution workshops were carried out with CIRAD to understand the risk-mapping capacity of countries.

The joint [EuFMD/WRLFMD](#) quarterly report on the FMD global situation is published on time and includes information from work in Pillar II.

4. Co-ordination of neighbourhood, national activities in the context of the Global Strategy (PCP-FMD support)

Component 2.1 (Co-ordination and FAST control framework); **3.1** (Effective implementation of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP-FMD))

Reporting Officers: Francesca Ambrosini; Wilmot Chikurunhe // Executive Committee: JL. Angot

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives:

Sustained and effective implementation of the FMD Global Strategy achieved through enhanced co-ordination with GF-TADs partners, international agencies and national competent authorities, and improved technical guidance to countries and assistance to GF-TADs Regional Roadmaps meetings.

Expected results:

Improved coordination and collaboration with relevant international and regional partners and with the GF-TADs FMD Working Group to lead at the end of the 2019-21 biennium to: (i) at least 5 countries in the European Neighborhood advancing to PCP stage 3 or above, and/or providing FMDV circulation data in PCP stage 2; (ii) at the global level an increase of 15 country strategic plans submitted to the GF-TADs FMD Working Group for stage advancement and of 12 certified PCP support officers to assist countries and Roadmaps.

I. Progress summary

GF-TADS FMD WG: tailored PCP-FMD application tools have been further improved and developed to support the GF-TADs FMD Working Group.

The PCP-FMD Review Support System has been further involved in revision of Plans submitted by countries during the reporting period. The reviewing process was particularly targeted to the Georgian Official Control Programme, the Tanzanian, Kenyan and Saudi Arabian Risk-Based Strategic Plan. The Support Unit to the GF-TADs FMD-WG, made up by EuFMD staff, had become fully operational providing technical and logistical support to the GF-TADs FMD WG.

Meetings: the 3rd West Africa, 5th Middle East and 4th East Africa roadmap meeting for FMD control were organized and held in a virtual format in November, December 2021 and March 2022 respectively, in collaboration with the relevant OIE regional and Sub Regional representations, FAO regional offices and newly established Virtual Learning Centers. The Support Unit provided operational, coordination and technical assistance. The EuFMD operational team was particularly involved in the delivery of the RMM in Middle East and operational supports has been provided to the other RMMs.

Workshops: the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), in agreement with OIE, provided funds to the EuFMD to support the North African countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania) to improve risk communication, risk-based surveillance and surveillance networks, in collaboration with, Sciensano and ANSES, as expert institutions. Two workshops have been implemented, the first at regional level on risk based surveillance and the second at national level in Morocco, focused on FAST surveillance with dedicated session on PPR. Innovative on-line methodologies have been tested based on roleplaying and online simulation methodologies, both well received by the countries.

PSO: senior PCP Support Officers (PSO) were tasked to review the PSO system, identify issues and provide recommendations to the FMD-WG and EuFMD. After this review, the EuFMD and the other partners of the GF-TADs FMD-WG have proposed the PSO system re-structuration and expansion, and the piloting of a training development framework. As part of the training development framework, a series of short open-access virtual learning courses providing guidance on the PCP-FMD national strategies relevant for each PCP-FMD Stage, was developed under the umbrella of the GF-TADs, with the technical involvement of the PSOs network.

PPP: for the promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP) for FAST monitoring and control in all Pillar II sub-regions, active identification of relevant stakeholders in both the private and public sectors is taking place. A virtual workshop on applied public-private partnership (PPP) to FAST diseases control in Sudan, was held by the EuFMD and hosted by the AOAD, in June 2021.

Subsequently, three workshops on the three main selected topics (1- Export of animals in the Gulf; 2- EuFMD and pastoralists; and 3- EuFMD and vaccines security) were conducted. Work is in progress to start a pilot PPP project encompassing these topics.

Reporting: the quarterly FAST reports are produced with the aim of providing a regular update on surveillance and control activities relevant to FAST diseases in the European neighborhood. They are also used to inform the quarterly FMD report produced by the WRLFMD, in collaboration with EuFMD. Country cards including regularly updated information risk populations, data on outbreaks, vaccination and sero- surveillance of FAST diseases have also been developed for North Africa, Middle East and have been completed for the Southeast European Neighborhood (SEEN) countries. The country cards methodology of data collection is currently under revision to improve the reporting system. The FAST situation and control strategies adopted in SEEN countries have been regularly monitored and reported, including through: i) monthly online meetings with focal points in SEEN countries; and ii) three-monthly reports of the national consultants of the TransCaucasus countries (TCC) and the inclusion of quarterly FAST reports and monitoring the risk situation in the SOI platform.

Sharing FAST data and information: activities under the Statement of Intentions (SOI) agreement for mutual cooperation between Transcaucasia and neighbouring countries for the control of FMD and other FAST diseases continued. Regular monthly reporting of FMD vaccination and outbreaks was continued through the established platform by Turkey, I.R. Iran and the Transcaucasus countries (TCC) Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and six-monthly reporting by the Russian Federation. Iraq has continued to report outbreaks to the SOI database. I.R. Pakistan has started to share shape files of administrative layers. The SOI Joint Permanent Committee meeting was held in March 2022.

Changes and improvements to the SOI reporting platform since October 2021 included improved data quality and user-friendliness, and the reporting of market prices of live animals and their meat. The improved use of risk maps through joining SOI data with Lizmap (CIRAD) is currently evaluated and a repository on risk maps is also available. Regular meetings are also held between EuFMD, OIE and FAO regional offices in the three regions of the neighborhood, SEEN, NA and ME in order to ensure regular coordination and collaboration.

Simulation Exercises: A Multi-country FMD Tabletop simulation exercise was organized over three days in Nov. /Dec. 2021. The exercise was conducted with players from FMD free countries (Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey/Thrace) and endemic countries (Turkey/Anatolia, I.R. Iran, Iraq) and observers from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

The PSO network and the technical support provided to the countries is growing and requires further support at regional and sub-regional levels. Through the coordination and collaboration with the GF-TADs FMD-WG partners, the expansion of the PSO network will be piloted in sub-Saharan regions with the involvement of experts from the OIE/FAO reference centres and the piloting of the PSO Training Development Framework.

Considerations on the sustainability of the PSO network is of utmost importance, and would require equal and long-term commitment from GF-TADs partners.

The support to the EpiNet and WelNet activities in SEEN countries continued. The two networks would require additional support from GF-TADs (regional offices) in order to extend coordination and activities to the all countries of WestEurasia included in the network, beyond the SEEN.

In North Africa, the organization of FMD roadmap meeting or similar events alongside the REMESA JPC meetings should be promoted in coordination with the GF-TADs and FMD-WG, in order to establish a system able to assess regularly the improvements along the FMD PCP.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Update the PSO mechanisms following the review conducted by the PSO network during the current reporting period, including the implementation of the PSO Training Development Framework and progress the coordination with the GF-TADs FMD WG for the expansion of the PSO network.

Fine-tune and extend the PCP-FMD Toolkit, including the Vaccine Demand Estimation model (VADEMOS) and virtual training series on RAP and OCP to assist countries in the development of strategic plans.

Continue the support for the organization of virtual RAG and Roadmap and regional network Meetings (including REMESA) in collaboration with the GF-TADs FMD WG.

Continue support to SEEN countries on the progression along the PCP, especially Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan to stage 3, and I.R. Iran in updating their RBSPs.

Continue coordination meetings between EuFMD, FAO SEC, FAO REU, FAO SNE, FAO RAP and OIE on FAST diseases programmes in the European neighbourhood and West Eurasian region to improve mutual cooperation and utilize synergy effects between different national and regional FAST related activities.

Improve alignment of objectives and expected achievements of the EuFMD programme in support to the FMD control strategy (i.e. partnering, capacity building, disease prioritization tools) with the FMD-WG workplan 2022-2023.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

Virtual solutions support the GF-TADs FMD WG, including the organization and delivery of three virtual FMD Roadmap Meetings and three virtual meetings with Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) of West Africa, Middle East and East Africa.

The PCP-FMD Review Support System has proven instrumental in supporting the GF-TADs FMD WG in the timely review of strategic plans submitted by countries. A dedicated Support Unit to the GF-TADs FMD WG is now fully operational.

The PSO system mechanism have been reviewed through a consultation in the PSO network to inform an updating of the PSO structure and mechanisms (during Q4 2021) to support national authorities and progress in the FMD-PCP.

The SOI is a successful model of regional cooperation, building trust, and an effective mechanism of regional early warning for FAST diseases. Pakistan has been invited and participates in activities under the SOI and regular sharing of data and information on FAST diseases. The SOI is a model for data and information sharing in other Pillar II sub-regions and globally; many countries have expressed interest in implementing a similar system.

The Multi-country FMD Tabletop simulation exercise at the end of 2021 involved FMD-free and endemic countries and regions. This was a realistic and successful example of wider FMD emergency control and an inspiring model for future more intensive collaboration across pillars.

5. Cascading capacity building for FAST control – regional and global

Component 2.3 (Capacity development for surveillance and improved control programmes); **3.3** (Better training for Progressive Control)

Reporting Officer Marcello Nardi // Executive Committee: M. Blake

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Component 2.3: Improved capacity to develop and implement control strategies and surveillance for FAST diseases.

Component 3.3: Improved national and regional capacity for progressive control of FMD through delivery of high impact training in at least six roadmap regions

Expected results

Evidence of improved capacities of national laboratories and animal health services on FAST diagnosis control and early warning system (including At least 2500 individuals from the target countries have completed at least one EuFMD virtual learning course).

I. Progress summary

EuFMD Virtual Learning: the [platform](#) has a total of 18226 users registered and 1630 users accessed it during the reporting period. It has been regularly functioning for the overall reference period. The capacity of EuFMD Training team has been increased with the addition of support in the management of Moodle platform, instructional design and virtual learning development.

TQMS and Impact: the EuFMD finalized a report for the identification of the impact of virtual trainings delivered from September 2019 to December 2020. The report outlined the outcomes in application of the knowledge and skills related to FMD and how they had cascaded to others. In short, knowledge had been frequently cascaded for 40% of the learners. Participants indicated highest scores after having attended workshops rather than tutored virtual learning trainings. Highest percentages of cascading were found in Pillar III countries. The report identified key areas that will further enhance EuFMD's capability in addressing the needs.

At the same time, the EuFMD is working to re-align the impact indicators, adopting a more efficient process for the planning of the data collection of impact information and consolidating a database of training analytics to enhance the impact analysis in the next semester.

Training: in December 2021 the EuFMD finalized a report for the Strategic prioritization of the training needs in pillars II and III countries and regions.

The EuFMD identified areas of improvement in existing courses, either re-calibrate capacity development to different audiences or focus on specific content. The report also underlined the need to develop new training resources for Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) workshops, monitoring and evaluation of PCP control plans in Stages 2 and 3 and improving passive reporting, sample collection and shipment and investigation of FMD outbreak.

Over 1000 individuals from West, Central, East and Southern Africa and South Asia have completed at least one EuFMD course in the period September 2019 to date.

FMD Investigation training for Tunisia: following the recent resurgence of FMD in Tunisia, the Tunisian CVO requested EuFMD support. Among the support provided, the EuFMD is delivering an FMD Investigation training for Tunisian public and private veterinarians.

Open-access training: in the reporting period over 1000 learners have accessed EuFMD open access courses and over 400 learners completed at least one course.

- **Simulation Exercises for Animal Disease Emergencies:** in December 2021 the course was transitioned to the FAO eLearning academy platform.
- **Introduction to Rift Valley Fever – Arabic:** This open-access course, is being translated into Arabic. A set of cascade materials has also been created, with a mobile-first approach.

VLCs: the support to the establishment of **Virtual Learning Centers (VLC)** continues with a third VLC established for Eastern Africa:

- EuFMD is providing 100% direct financial support for the VLC manager and 50% of other human resources costs, with mentoring from the EuFMD team. The FAO-MDF project and the FAO Regional Office also supporting human resources.
- The FMD Investigation Training virtual Course was the first course delivered by the VLC EA. The 12 hours course was accredited in Kenya's veterinary board for twelve (12) CPD points for those who completed it;
- The second course supported by EuFMD, the Lumpy Skin Preparedness virtual course (March 2022) will be open to 500 participants;
- The VLC also supported the Online Animal disease real time reporting in the field with the use of Event Mobile Application (EMA-i), Eastern Africa Region from December 6th to 17th 2021, in partnership with MDF.

Virtual Learning Centers for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (VLC-RAP) and Southern Africa (VLC-SFS) are no longer receiving any financial support from EuFMD, although occasional support and alignment continues to be provided by EuFMD and the FAO-MDF project. The two VLCs are still active and the support provided contributes to the sustainability of the activities.

TOM: the first version of the web application of the Training Management System (TOM), a tool which will support the capacity developing by allowing National Veterinary Services to monitor the increased learning of the veterinarians, was finalized during the reporting period. An internal pilot will be run in the month of March 2022 to test the basic functions and identify further improvements, before launching external pilots. A Steering Committee will be established to advise and set future developments of the system. The committee will be made up by training managers from national competent authorities, competency based training providers in the veterinary post graduate area, veterinary statutory bodies supervising CPD schemes, associations representing relevant vet specialities, including paraprofessionals. The engagement of the Steering Committee should provide a basis for the identification of future sustainability of the tool after the initial piloting phase. The committee will be chaired and coordinated initially by the EuFMD and the first meeting will be scheduled shortly.

VPP: the activities to support training for veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) benefit from additional funds made available through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded project "Sustainable Business in Animal Health Service Provision through Training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals". Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa were selected as pilot project implementation. A methodology for developing a country specific

veterinary paraprofessional competency framework has been developed and tested in Uganda and should be validated shortly. This process is due to be rolled-out in Nigeria and South Africa during the first half of 2022. A training needs assessment is ongoing in all three countries. Detailed training plans will be developed in May 2022, and training development and implementation should take place in the second half of 2022.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

Continued demand for virtual training is expected and careful attention to the prioritization of training development, together with ensuring that there are sufficient human resources available to support the training programme, will therefore continue to be important. At the same time, as travel bans are expected to be lifted in many countries, in-person training events would need to be balanced with virtual events and planned in advance.

Identification of a Steering Committee will be a crucial for the development and future sustainability of the TOM Training Management System. In parallel, the identification and engagement of Veterinary Services in countries in Pillar II and III will be pivotal not only to validate and refine the usability of the tool, but also to identify needs that the TOM does not address at the moment.

It is important to investigate how to improve and to tailor further programs to improve the application and cascading rate among the learners.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Develop new courses as defined by strategic prioritization and continue defining a calendar of priorities for course revisions and development.

Explore improved methodologies to promote cascade training to national level and improved monitoring of cascade, also with the “Sustainable Business through Training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals” project that can provide support in identifying appropriate innovative methodologies and sharing of training materials.

TOM Training Management System:

- Identify countries, engage local stakeholders and roll-out a pilot of TOM in the Pillars II and III;
- Establish a Steering Committee to drive critical improvements in the development of the tool and plan for the future sustainability of the tool will be among the priorities for the next semester;

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

The EuFMD successfully launched the VLC in partnership with FAO regional offices (SFS, RAP and EA), which have been well received by both FAO colleagues and partners within national veterinary services. The VLCs ensures increased capacity to delivery FMD and other FAST courses, including the courses developed by EUFMD that were prioritized in the first years. It is expected that the EuFMD support to VLC EA will soon decrease.

The transition of the Simulation Exercises for Animal Disease Emergencies course to the FAO eLearning academy has given an increased visibility to the course and EuFMD work.

6. Balkans/South-East Europe

Component 1.4 (South-Eastern Europe)

Reporting Officer: Tsviatko Alexandrov; Goran Filipovic // Executive Committee: C. Dile; N. Babovski

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Achievement of the expected result through the increased collaboration in the region, implementation of risk-based surveillance approaches, assessment and improvement of contingency plans and access to a diagnostic bank.

Expected result

Improved surveillance and preparedness for management of FMD and similar TADS ('FAST disease') in South Eastern Europe.

I. Progress summary

The ongoing coordinated surveillance in Thrace continue to contribute to the high confidence in the probability of FMD freedom in the Thrace region. The database for the surveillance data registration, launched at the beginning of 2020, is giving good results, allowing the production of automatic reports and a user-friendly monitoring of the activities carried out. A warning function in case of upload of data on positive cases has been developed and added to the database. The Cameron model for "confidence in FMD freedom" was adapted to other FAST diseases (Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Sheep pox and Goat pox (SPGP) during the previous reporting period. The new PPR and SPGP models have been revised and preliminary results show a level of confidence above 90% in Greece and Bulgaria. Confidence of freedom from PPR and SPGP will be included in the next three- month cycle report in March 2022 as a pilot to include other FAST diseases in the confidence of freedom model. To increase reporting of potential FMD cases, awareness material has been produced and translated in Bulgarian, English, Greek, Serbian and Turkish.

A Thrace meeting and a South Eastern Europe (SEE) management meeting were organized online in July 2021 and February 2022 to present EuFMD's progress done in the implementation of the workplan for the region and to agree on the next steps for different activities to be organized in the second biennium.

At the SEE meeting organized in February 2022, countries agreed on activities for the second biennium, aiming to transfer knowledge and methodologies for various surveillance options available, including the syndromic surveillance. The guide "*THRACE risk-based surveillance system*."

Countries' data requirements and database user manual" is undergoing internal review and will be used to describe the risk-based surveillance system implemented in Thrace and promote its adoption by other SEE countries.

During the SEE MM in February 2022 the outcomes of four projects under the 1st SEE FAR call were presented. Based on the idea of exploring and proposing guidance on the establishment of stakeholders' implementation networks, a Guide and a Checklist were further developed and endorsed after the SEE management meeting in February 2022. The Guide provides a standardized framework for stakeholders' engagement with flexibility to adopt the Guide's principles according to the EuFMD SEE MN regulatory and policy requirements.

The 2nd SEE FAR call was issued on the 15th March. Proposals are expected to be submitted by 15th May 2022.

A virtual multi-country simulation exercise on FMD emergency response for the Thrace and SEEN region was conducted from 30 November to 2 December 2021 to assess the establishment of zoning and implementation of the control measures in case of an FMD outbreak; the procedures for implementation of surveillance in the restriction zones; and the procedures for implementation of control and/or eradication measures in endemic and non-endemic countries

The terms and activities related to the ongoing management and maintenance of the established diagnostic bank have been reviewed and agreed with the IZSLER institute. These have been incorporated in the final draft of the new Letter of Agreement (LoA) with IZSLER, which is expected to become effective soon.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

The global pandemic and the ongoing epidemics of non-FAST TADs in the region are posing some challenges for countries to engage in certain activities (e.g. Simulation exercises), although overall the response to EuFMD proposed activities has been quite positive in the reported biennium. The support provided to Thrace has been adapted to the new FAO HR policies that do not allow recruiting consultants that work at the same time for governmental institutions.

There have been delays in delivering some of the ordered PCR reagents from the manufacturing sites to the diagnostic bank at IZSLER institute, as a result of an increased demand of such reagents during the pandemic. Procurement plans will need to be adapted to address this issue accordingly.

SEE countries expressed concerns about the availability of the national funds necessary for the implementation of a syndromic surveillance plan.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Continue to work in on the EuFMD risk-based surveillance model adaptation, evolution and application of the model, to improve the sensitivity of the surveillance systems in the region and the collaboration between countries. To further adopt and use the system in terms of parameters, risk areas, adaptation on for other FAST diseases.

Select and follow up with proposals from the 2nd SEE FAR call. To conduct and adapt the planned trainings, including training for the syndromic surveillance, and simulation exercises agreed for the region and to plan additional ones.

Allocate more effort to follow-up the gaps identified during the simulation exercises already organized in the first biennium.

Organize one technical meeting for the representatives of the SEE laboratory network, in collaboration with FMD EU-RL

Finalize the LoA with IZSLER; dispatch reagents to national laboratories for PT and maintaining diagnostic methods.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

Risk based surveillance in Thrace has provided confidence for FMD freedom in the region and proved a successful and trustworthy system for surveillance and disease status reconfirmation. The probability of freedom from FMD in the Thrace region has been estimated to be constantly above 90%. The surveillance model has been further developed and adopted to other FASTs. Interest was expressed by the SEE countries to follow up with the activities in Thrace and improve the cooperation and coordination in the region.

Five projects to establish national networks to connect veterinary services, laboratories, research institutions, private sector and farmers funded by the EuFMD through the 1st FAR have progressed with success and the 2nd FAR call has been issued.

Participation of laboratories to PTs scheme enabled SEE countries to identify areas of improvements and/or confirm proficiencies in laboratory capacities

7. Laboratory networking for surveillance

Component 1.6 (Proficiency Test Services); **2.3** (Capacity development for surveillance and improved control programmes - PII laboratory support); **3.2** (Improved Global Laboratory Support)

Reporting Officers Kees van Maanen; Francesca Ambrosini // Executive Committee: S. Zientara

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

Strengthen global laboratory surveillance support to improve FMD virus intelligence for guiding regional and national implementation of the GF-TADs Strategy and for enhancing early warning surveillance, notification and response to FAST diseases, including supporting the participation in FMD Proficiency Test Services.

Expected results

Enhanced level and quality of surveillance information through improved capacities of the FMD Reference Laboratory network and national laboratories on FAST diagnosis, with an increase in the virus Pools achieving sampling targets for laboratory surveillance and increased evidence of improved capacities of laboratories.

I. Progress summary

Direct support to the annual workplan co-ordination and activities of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network was provided, including the publication of the joint quarterly global report (<http://www.fao.org/eufmd/resources/reports/quarterlyreport/en/>). During the current reporting period, the LoA with TPI - with a no-cost extension from the original end (30 Sept 2021) up until the 31 Dec 2021 – was finalized including a final report and a new LoA for the period March 2022 – September 2023 was drafted and discussed with the service provider.

The COVID-19 pandemic impact on the collection and shipment of samples, and consequently on the conduction of diagnostic services particularly in 2020, and the organization of the Annual Reference Laboratory Network Meetings in virtual format led initially to some unspent resources within this LoA. The amendment included two new activities to be delivered by the 31 Dec 2021 in addition to the original deliverable included in the agreement, notably the development of an interactive dashboard to the visualization of virological and molecular information and the translation of the FLITC course into French. The latter has been finalized and the development of an interactive genotyping dashboard has also been successful.

In the current reporting period, the number of shipments and samples received by the WRLFMD has significantly increased. An increasing dominance of the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage in Pool 1 was seen where it appears to be supplanting previously circulating serotype O lineages (including O/SEA/Mya-08 and O/ME-SA/PanAsia). This lineage continues to be detected in Pakistan (where it was first detected in 2019) and there has also been a second detection of the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage in Mauritius in 2021 that appears to be distinct to viruses that caused outbreaks in 2016. During Dec 2021/Jan2022, this lineage has appeared for the first time in Kazakhstan and in a neighbouring part of the Russian Federation and analysis of sequences exchanged between Network partners provides evidence of epidemiological links to earlier outbreaks detected in Mongolia. Also in West Eurasia and the Middle East, new introductions of different clades of the O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2^{ANT-10} lineage into Turkey (for the first time since 2017) and Jordan/Palestine (during 2021)

were detected. A new genetic clade within the O/ME-SA/PanAsia^{FAR-11} sub-lineage has also been detected in the I.R of Iran.

In November 2021 the WRLFMD organized a virtual meeting of the global OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network (<https://foot-and-mouth.org/>).

Sample panels for a new proficiency testing scheme (Phase XXXIV) have been prepared, and most panels have been shipped to the participating laboratories including the 30 countries supported in the WRLFMD LoA. All except one of the laboratories funded by EuFMD responded positively to the invitation, but due to a delay in export licenses being granted by the UK Department for International Trade there is a delay in shipping of panels. In the current reporting period, serum samples from small-scale immunogenicity studies performed in Palestine in 2019 in small and in large ruminants have been shipped to WRLFMD in Pirbright. These sera have been tested by virus neutralization test against a range of relevant field viruses and analysis of the results is underway.

Results of the PTs conducted by the EURL for non-EU countries and supported by EuFMD were shared by EURL with countries participating to the PTs scheme. One country out of 7 countries supported by EuFMD (Norway, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Kosovo) six agreed to participate and Bosnia- Herzegovina did not participate nor in 2020 neither in 2021. Four of these countries (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and Kosovo) were also supported with essential reagents from the EuFMD SEE diagnostic bank to test the PT samples.

The LoA with the FMD EU-RL expired on 31 December 2021. Terms and activities of the new LoA have been discussed and agreed and the new LoA will be signed in the upcoming weeks. The annual EURL meeting was held as a virtual meeting on 26 and 27 November and there was no need to provide additional support (travel, accommodation) for the eligible countries to participate

A new bilingual FLITC course in French and in English has been planned for November – December 2022. Following a previous assessment of the National Reference Laboratory capacities across the REMESA region, conducted in collaboration with the FMD EU-Reference Laboratory (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, ANSES), a workplan to address the priorities identified was developed and financial support was partially funded by France. Within this framework, a virtual laboratory training course for Improving diagnostic capacity for FAST diseases in laboratories of South Eastern Europe Neighborhood took place in November/December 2021. The virtual training sessions were received positively.

Following the establishment of a regional group for vaccination advice, guidance and consultation (Group for Vaccine Advice, Guidance and Consultation-GVA) in Northern Africa, a similar regional advisory group has been established in the Middle East in the South East European Neighbourhood (SEEN) and all GVA groups are now operational and have had their second meeting in this reporting period.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

Samples panels for a new proficiency testing scheme (Phase XXXIV) have been prepared and dispatched to the participating laboratories in 30 countries supported in the WRLFMD LoA shortly after the time of reporting. As a consequence of the COVID19 pandemic, the shipping costs for PT panels have increased, and this has been taken into account with the drafting of a new LoA.

The terms and priorities for a new LoA with TPI ending September 30, 2023 have been discussed and the new LoA is being processed now after consultation with the EC.

Based on the results assessment of national reference laboratory capacities across the REMESA region on FAST diseases (which will be reproduced in SEEN), systems should be defined to guarantee technical assistance from

the international references laboratories to improve the capacity of the national laboratories for FAST diagnosis.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Finalize the interactive genomics dashboard developed in collaboration with WRLFMD and Epi Interactive, make it available as a pilot for the OIE/FAO international FMD network and then to the wider FMD research community.

Progress with the collaboration and coordination with the WRLFMD and Epi Interactive for the development of tailored online interactive dashboards that can be used to display vaccine matching/Pragmatist data (first priority) as well as risk and epidemiological data. Involve other donors to create an adequate budget for this.

Strengthen coordination with the EU-RL to identify further training needs for the eligible countries, based on the outcomes of the last PT (PT -2021).

Support the development and implementation of workplans and the discussions in the fora for the groups on vaccination advice, guidance and consultation (GVA) in the different regions.

Plan to implement immunogenicity studies as part of PVM in other countries of Pillar II with the utilization of TCC expertise, with a special focus on I. R of Iran.

Finalize a new LoA with TPI (March 20th 2022 – September 30th 2023) with services in line with previous LoA.

Finalize a new LoA with ANSES with inclusion of diagnostic services and capacity building support

Strengthen the relation between the WRLFMD and the regional laboratory networks and identify the ways in which WRLFMD could assist these networks to play a more active role.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

Development of an interactive genomics dashboard.

Effective collaboration and interactions with WRLFMD, ANSES, IZSLER, in the support to countries under pillar II and pillar III regarding sample collection, shipment, data analysis and advice.

Despite the COVID19 pandemic, many countries responded positively and participated in the global and European (non-EU) PTS schemes supported by EuFMD.

As part of an OIE twinning project with the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU-PANVAC, Ethiopia), work has established a reference antigen panel (<https://www.wrlfmd.org/node/2096/>) that can be used to evaluate the serological responses of FMDV vaccines in the context of their suitability for use in eastern African countries. This approach has been discussed in the various GVA groups and during Road Map Meetings and can be extended to other regions. A bilingual FLITC course has been prepared and has already received significant interest, particularly from Francophone countries and will be delivered end of 2022. A highly interactive laboratory training course for the SEEN region has been successfully delivered by ANSES during this reporting period.

8. Geographic concern regions

Reporting Officer F. Rosso // **Executive Committee:** H.Seçkin

Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives

To give specific attention to identified regions of specific concern for FAST diseases risk of introduction and spread into EuFMD Member Nations - Region considered: South East European Neighbourhood (SEEN) - eastern neighbourhood of Turkey.

Expected results

To highlight FAST risk factors and FAST events of concern, identify initiatives implemented to better monitor risk and report risk information, highlight changes in control strategies.

I. Progress summary

The FAST situation and control strategies adopted in **Southeast European Neighbourhood (SEEN)** countries are regularly monitored and reported, through: i) regular online meetings with focal points in SEEN countries; ii) three-monthly meeting between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan on update of risks and epidemiological situation; ii) three-monthly reports of the national consultants of the Trans Caucasus Countries (TCC). Regular coordination meetings are also held between EuFMD and FAO and OIE regional offices.

- a) Implementation of the **Statement of Intentions (SOI) agreement**, for cooperation between Transcaucasia and neighbouring countries, for the control of FMD and FAST diseases.

The main activities under the SOI included:

- The **information system** developed under the SOI is fully functional and is continuously improved to assist collection, analysis and sharing of risk information related to vaccination programmes, outbreaks, and live animal and meat prices.
- A **Multi-country FMD Tabletop simulation exercise** was organized between FMD endemic and free countries. Together with all SOI members (as players or observers), Bulgaria, Greece and Turkish Thrace participated.
- At the second meeting of **Group for Vaccination Advice, Guidance and Consultation (GVA)** the results of the small-scale immunogenicity studies (SSIS) in the TCC were presented and an action plan agreed for 2022.
- At the regional risk-mapping meeting, the countries presented their national risk maps and discussed the way forward to ensure capacity improvement in identification of risk hubs.
- A **Laboratory training** was conducted by ANSES to address the needs identified in the Laboratory assessment, conducted in 2020. The training aimed at improving laboratory diagnostic capacity for FAST emergency diagnosis and post-vaccination monitoring.
- Regular meetings were held with the member countries for sharing **updates on the epidemiological FAST situation.**
- The Meeting of Joint Permanent Committee of the SOI (CVOs, EuFMD, EC, GF-TADs) was held to agree priorities for the 2022-23 workplan.

- b) A pilot project to **understand drivers of small ruminant mobility** was initiated by EuFMD in I.R. Iran (involving Iranian Veterinary Organisation- IVO, and Tehran University), with the collaboration of the CIRAD. During a workshop series, the actors of the production and marketing chain of small ruminants, and hotspots for small ruminants' production and trade were identified. The next project steps include the design and implementation of cross-sectional and longitudinal studies to identify socio-economic drivers of livestock mobility that could be monitored as proxies of live animal movements.
- c) The IVO was also part of a pilot project on **public-private partnerships** (PPP) for improved PVM in the dairy sector. Since several local and imported vaccines are used in I.R. Iran, the objective of this SSIS was to assess the effectiveness of FMD vaccines used in the dairy sector, with the support from veterinarians working in this sector. The results of the PVM are currently prepared for analysis and discussion with EuFMD.
- d) The Official Control Plan (OCP) of **Georgia** to progress to PCP stage 3 was reviewed by the GFTADs FMD Working Group and positive feedback shared with the country. Official response is pending from the RAG. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Armenia have implemented a range of FMD control and surveillance measure which are significantly contributing to reduce the virus circulation the laboratory and epidemiology networks (WelNet, EpiNet) of the West Eurasian PCP roadmap are supported for SEEN countries under the Pillar II and SEEN workplan.

II. Main issues for Executive Committee attention

The training on risk mapping was challenging for the participants and the trainers because of the limitations of the virtual training mode.

- The EpiNet and WelNet activities, for the SEEN countries, require assistance and logistical support which might be provided in future from the regional GF TADs partners (FAO, OIE).
- The feedback procedures for the plans submitted to the FMD working group need improvement in order to ensure timely responses from the FMD Working Group and the RAG. The Georgian OCP has not been approved by the RAG, one year after its submission and following positive comments by the FMD WG.

III. Priorities for the next six months

Continue the implementation of improved sharing of data and information on FMD and other FAST diseases, in the frame of the SOI. Develop database solutions to link the SOI database with other EuFMD FAST data collection (incl. Quarterly FAST Report, country cards, risk monitoring tool, Pragmatist).

Continue developing the national risk mapping capacity to harmonize and validate national risk maps and start producing regional risk maps.

Identify specific technical assistance to improve the capacity of the national laboratories for FAST diagnosis and PVM, based on the national laboratories' capacities, and the achievements in the laboratory training.

Continue the work of the Regional Group for Vaccination Advice, Guide and Consultation (GVA) with a priority on SSIS in the region, and support to countries on selection of quality vaccine.

Provide tutored support to SEEN countries to progress along the PCP.

IV. Significant outputs or success stories

The continued reporting of FMD outbreaks and vaccination in border areas, as part of the SOI initiative. Currently, FMD outbreaks and vaccination progress are reported monthly by Turkey, I.R. Iran and the TCC. The inclusion of price monitoring for live animals and meat is a useful added value for national and regional risk monitoring.

The high level of engagement of the countries in regular meetings and exchange information on the epidemiological situation and control measures implemented and in progressing along the PCP (Turkey, TCC, Iran)

The results of the SSIS in TCC have led to a stronger focus on the purchase of quality FMD vaccines.

EuFMD Committees

Executive Committee, Standing Technical Committee (STC), Special Committee for Surveillance and Applied Research (SCSAR), Special Committee on Biorisk Management (SCBRM), Tripartite Groups.

Hold-FAST tools

AESOP. Assured emergency supply options; **EuFMDiS**, FMD spread model; **GET PREPARED** toolbox. Emergency preparedness; **GVS.** Global Vaccine Security; **Online Simulation Exercises**; **Outbreak Investigation application**; **Pragmatist.** Prioritization of antigen management with international surveillance management tool; **PCP-FMD.** Progressive Control Pathway for foot-and-mouth disease; **PCP-Support Officers**; **SAT.** PCP Self-Assessment Tool; **RTT.** Real Time Training; **SMS Disease reporting**; **SQRA toolkit.** A method for spatial qualitative risk analysis applied to FMD; **Telegram**; **TOM.** EuFMD training management system; **Global Monthly reports**; **VADEMOS.** Vaccine Demand Estimation Model; **VLC.** Virtual Learning Center. **Microlearning.**

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs)

EuFMD's programme has a main focus on



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