

# Regional animal welfare activities

## Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

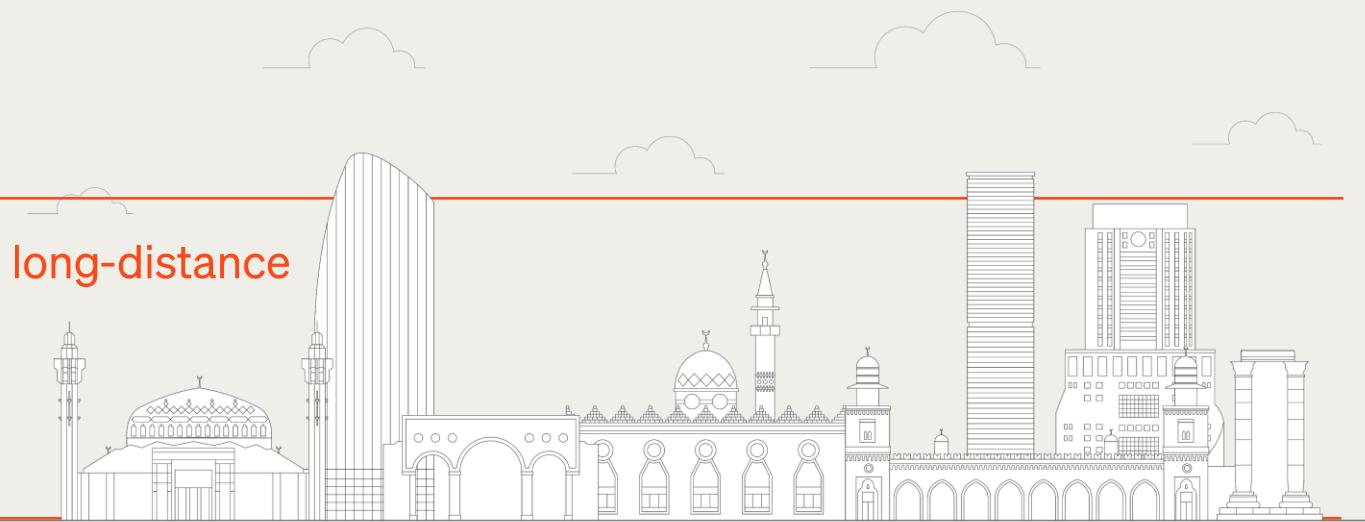
### and update from the Middle East and North Africa

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Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

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World Organisation  
for Animal Health

## Global Animal Welfare Strategy

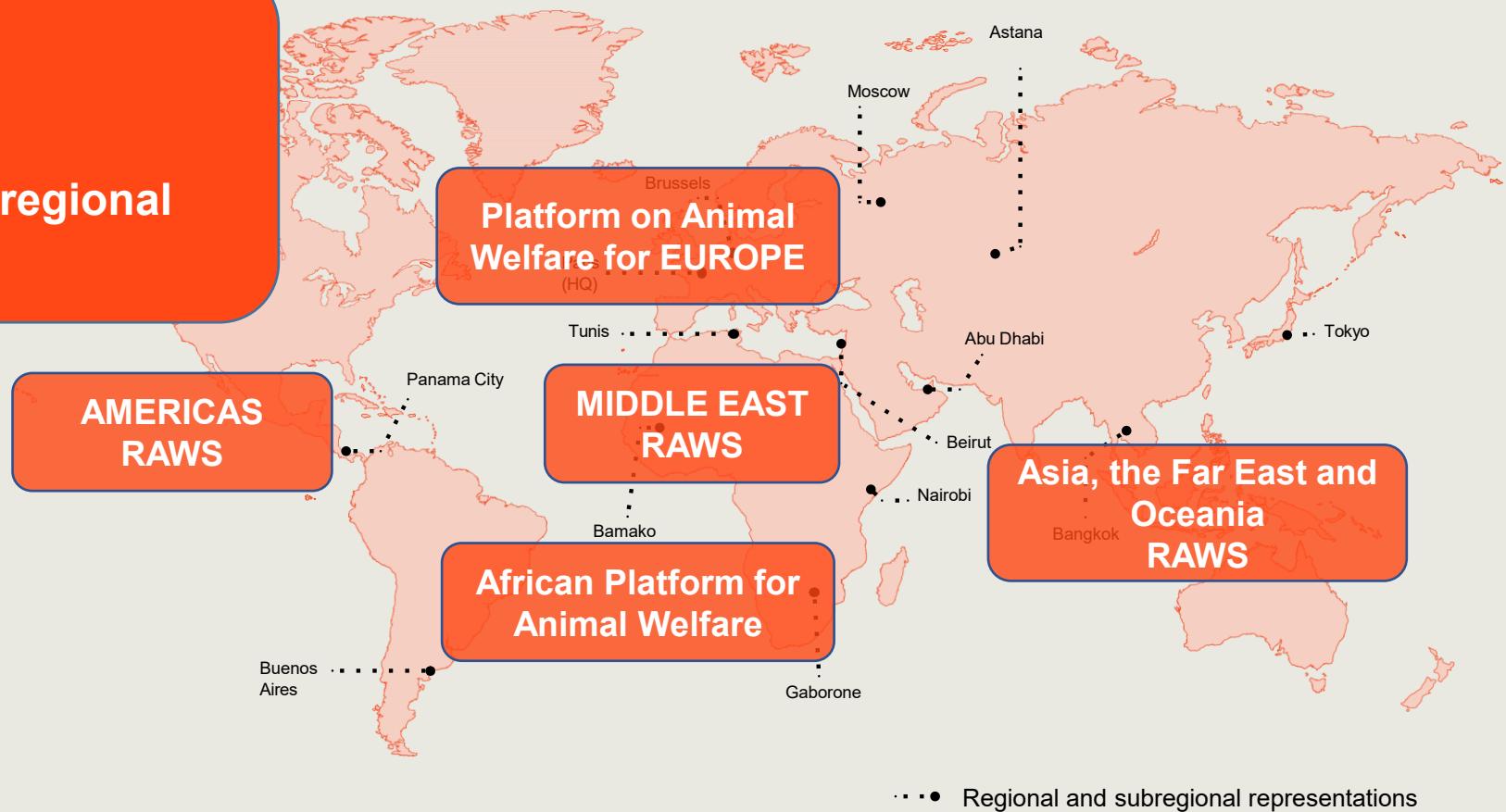


### Vision

A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

# Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS)

- Regional priorities
- Regional partners
- Governance
- Actions plans addressing regional needs



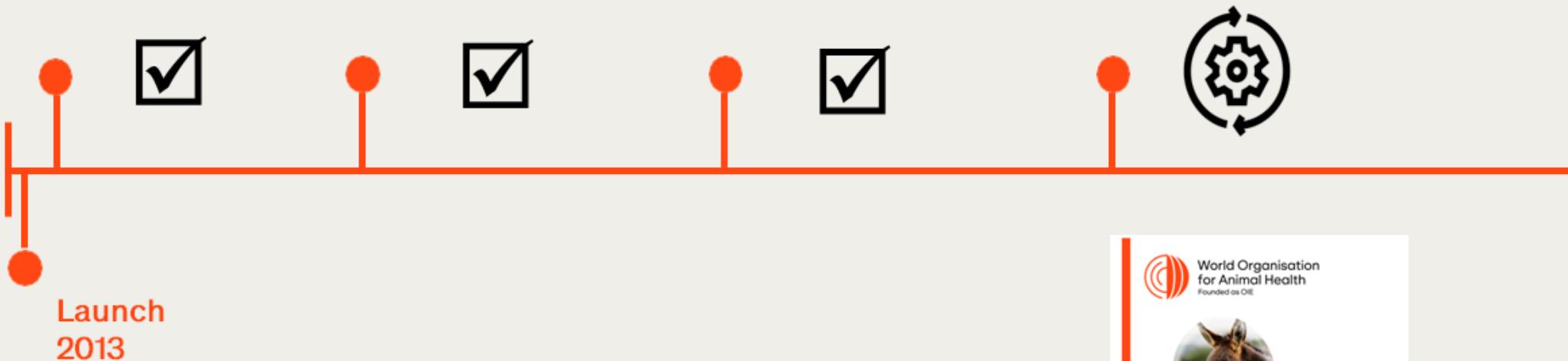
# WOAH Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan  
2014 - 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan  
2017 - 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan  
2021 - 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Action Plan  
2024 - 2026



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



# 4<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for 2024-2026

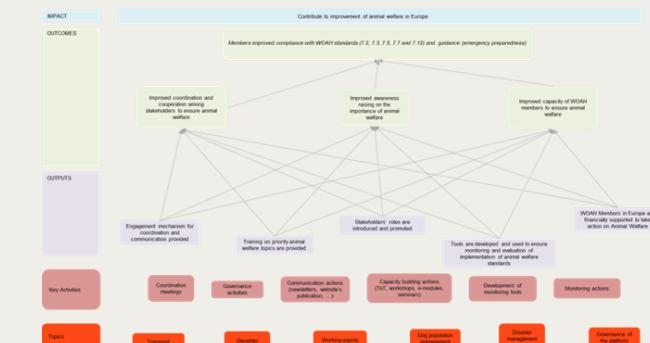
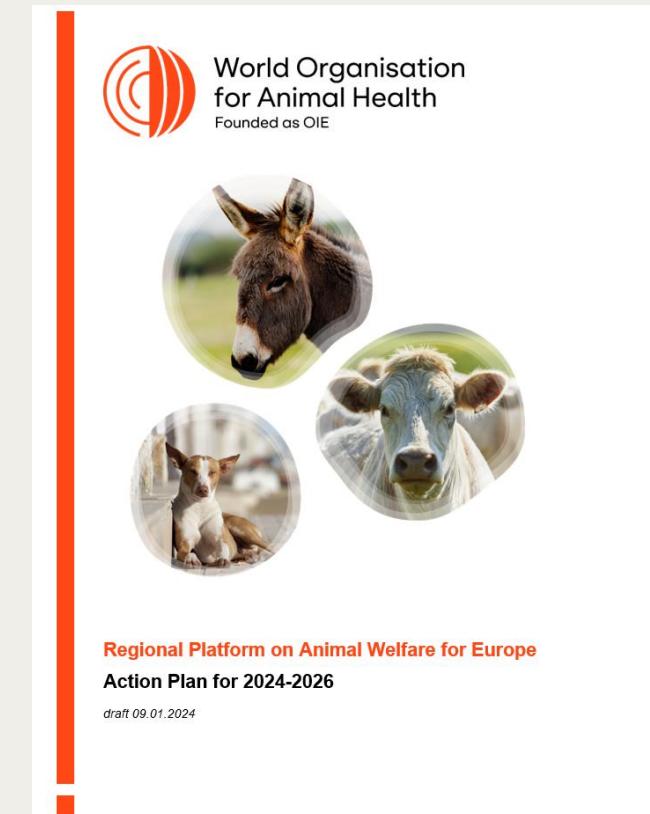
## **Impact (Long-term objective):**

Contribute to the improvement of animal welfare in Europe through the priority topics

## Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective)

Progressively improve the compliance of WOAH Members with WOAH standards

- **Common vision and continuity**
- **Strengthening the WOAH Members involvement**
- **Collaboration with all WOAH Members and stakeholders**



## Priority topics



# Slaughter of animals

- **New revised standard**

Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter  
adopted during the 91st WOAH General Assembly of Delegates- May 2024

- **Developing on-line training module**

WOAH Platform for the Training of Veterinary Services

- **Dissemination of training materials**

Train-the-trainer session, dedicated workshops, webinars

- **Development of a self-assessment and monitoring tool on slaughter**

# Dog population management

## Improving Members' capacity

- Regional roadmaps on dog population management

**Balkan Roadmap  
(objective 2026)**

- targeted support to address specific needs of countries
- continue with roadmaps workshops every 2 years
- measure progress

**West Eurasia Roadmap  
(objective 2030)**

- **Self-Assessment and Monitoring For Dog Population Management (SAM4DPM)**



Regular support for the SAM4DPM self-assessment rounds

Periodic flash thematic meetings

# Welfare of working equids

from raising awareness  
on welfare of working equids

 Regional Awareness Day (2017)

 Baseline Survey on Working Equids (2019)

 Online event September (2023)



- Thematic online meetings / seminars on working equids
- Workshop on working equids

towards a plan build with targeted Members and stakeholders adapted to Member needs

## Event on welfare of working equids

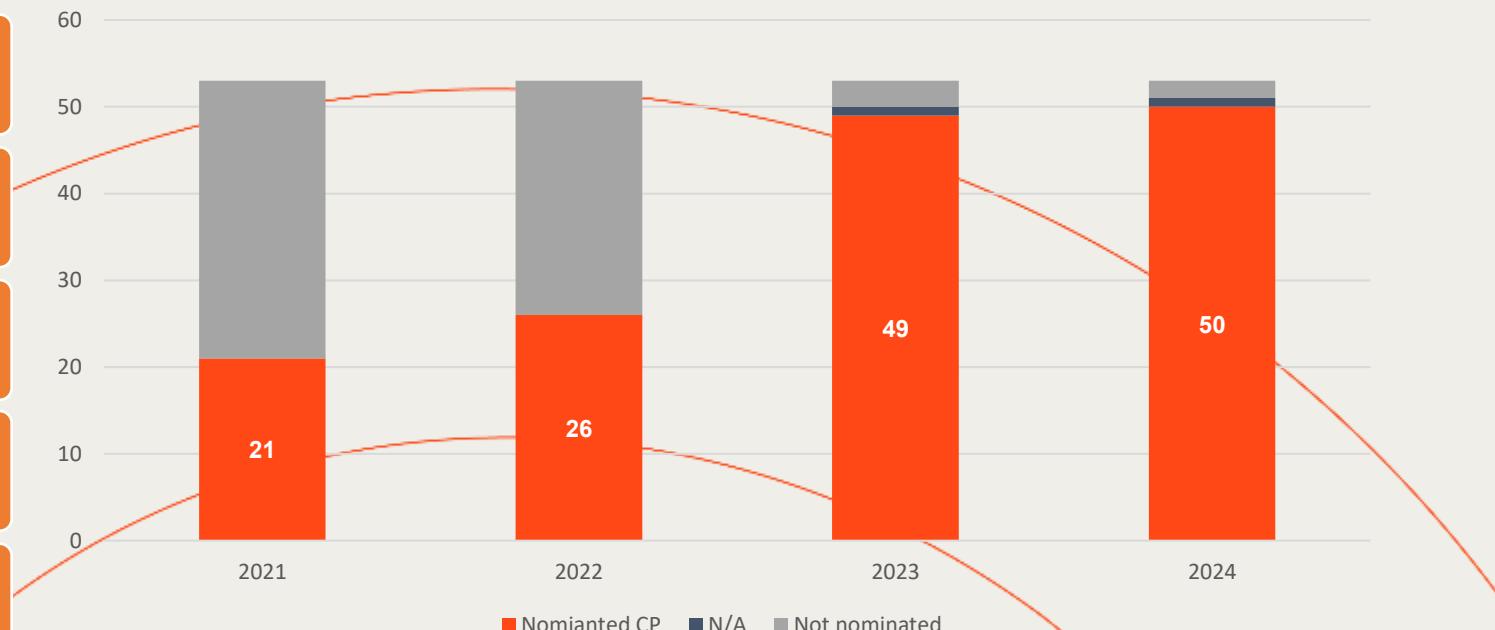
*back-to-back to animal welfare focal points meeting  
27 June 2024, Madrid, Spain*

- Technical lecture – WESLI technical resources
- Sharing country experience
  - Spain – addressing the welfare of equids at local festivals in Cataluña
  - World Horse Welfare project in Romania
- Working group exercise, reporting and discussion

developing project proposals - building a year plan for a grant to support improvement in the health and welfare of working equids supporting operators' livelihoods

# The network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

-  1<sup>st</sup> meeting – November 2021
-  2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – December 2022
-  3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – 20-22 June 2023
-  4<sup>th</sup> meeting – July 2024
-  5<sup>th</sup> meeting – March 2025



## Animal welfare in natural disasters Disaster Management and Risk Reduction



Workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (2024)



Pilot project on role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters and  
Identification of the regional needs:

### “Collective power”

Sharing knowledge, experiences and strengthening collaboration  
Developing a network of National Contact Points on DMRR  
Engagement of Civil Protection with Veterinary Services



2024 EU Civil Protection  
Planning participation for the next one 2026



WOAH Workshop  
on development of  
**Response Plans**  
(2025)

## Welfare of working Equids

- **Workshop on the welfare of working equids**

June 2024, Madrid back-to-back with NFP AW meeting

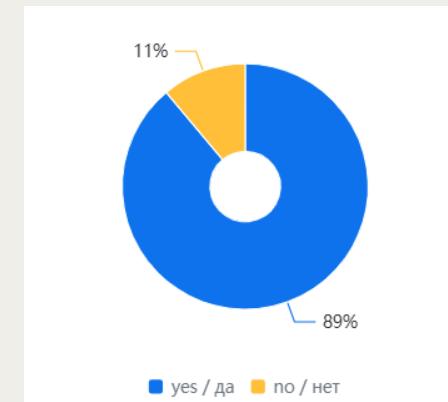


- **Online event on the welfare of working equids**

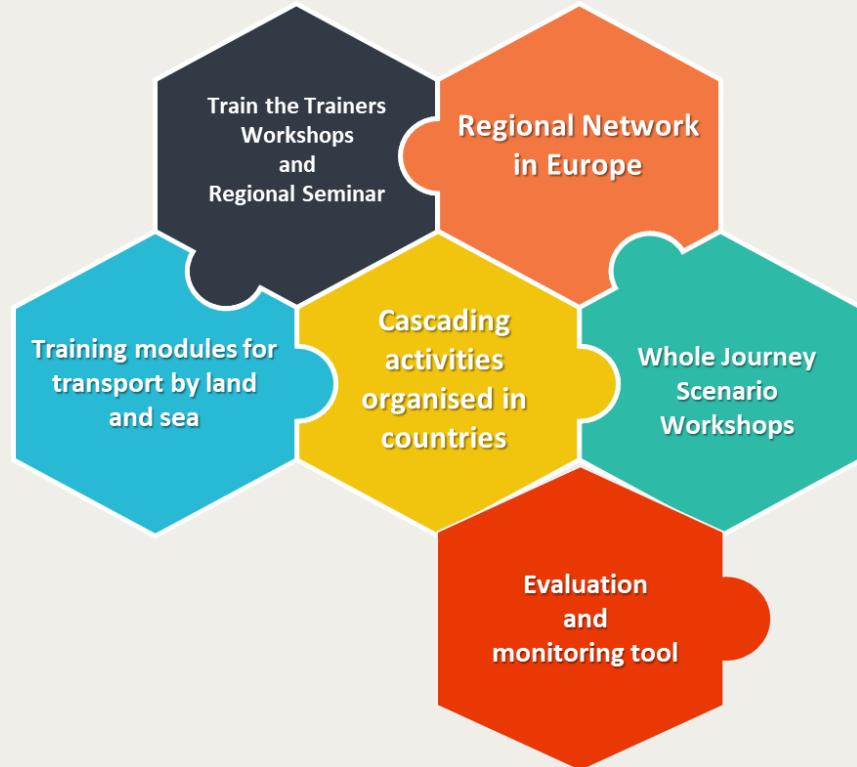
29 April 2025

- Importance of working in collaboration for progressively improving the welfare of working equids
- raising awareness of WOAH standards on the welfare of working equids
- sharing knowledge resources
- engagement with local partners

Is there a need for WOAH to assist members in the implementation of standards and requirements on the welfare of working equids?



# Transport of animals



**Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe**

## **Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:**

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

**Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport**

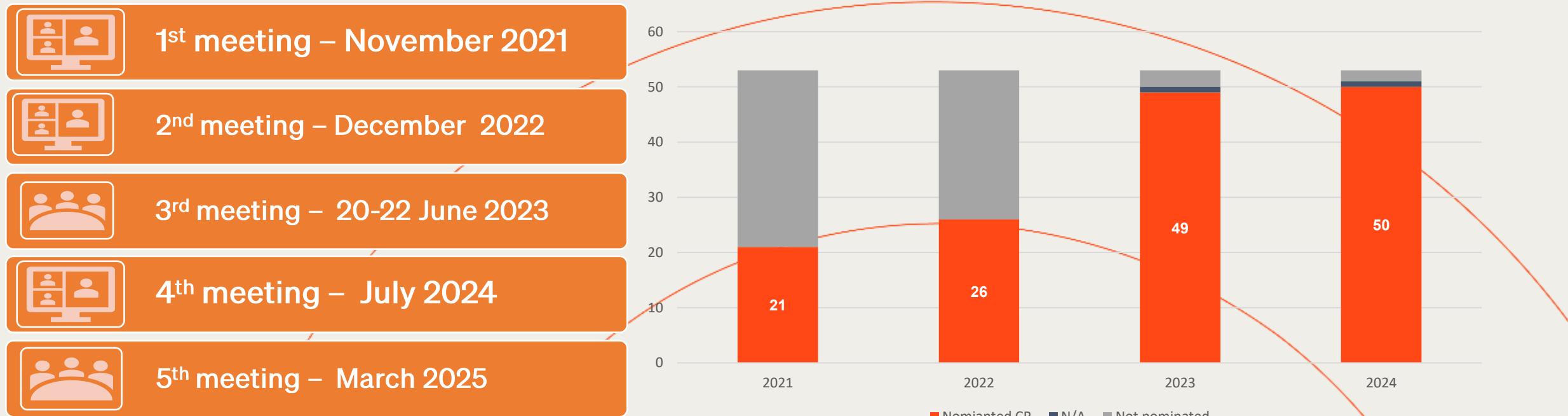
# Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe



# The network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

29<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe - November 2020

Terms of Reference of the National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation



# 5th meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Points on long- distance transportation in Europe

11-13 March 2025  
Thessaloniki, Greece



## WOAH updates

- *Global strategy*
- *Ad hoc Group on Transport of animals, Maria Correia*
- *Platform on animal welfare for Europe and NCTP Network's state of play and engagement plan*

## Stakeholders' perspective

- *UCBVE*
- *Animal Angles*
- *European Commission*



Also including  
Jordan, Thailand, and Uruguay

# 5th meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Points on long- distance transportation in Europe

11-13 March 2025

Thessaloniki, Greece



## Sharing experience

- *Transport of unweaned animals (Ireland)*
- *Addressing livestock vessel emergencies (Greece)*
- *Animal welfare through a sea journey (Australia)*
- *Extreme weather conditions (Germany)*

## Working group exercises

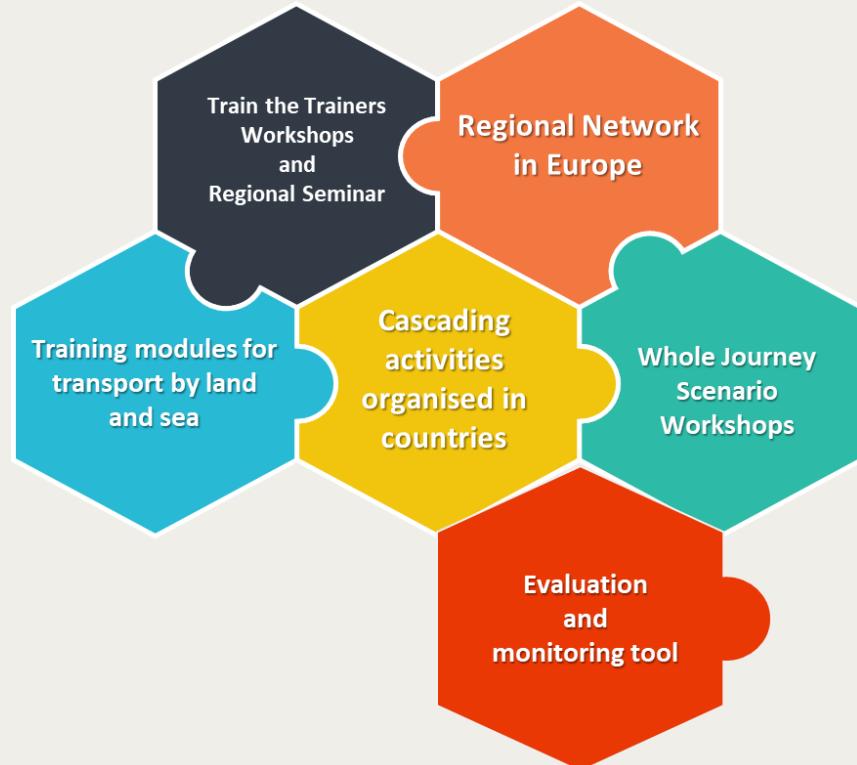
- *Procedures for routine and emergency communication between countries CA*
- *developing a self-assessment tool*



## Outcomes and conclusion

- Participant confirmed the effectiveness of the NCPT network in enhancing communication to address animal welfare issues emerging during long-distance transport and emphasised the importance of sharing experiences and knowledge through the network.
- The developed draft of the proposed template document for facilitating communication between Competent Authorities
- Discussed and confirmed the need and feasibility of the proposed self-assessment tool for monitoring the implementation of animal transport standards, as well as to review the proposed data collection questionnaire.

# Transport of animals



**Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe**

## **Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:**

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

**Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note**

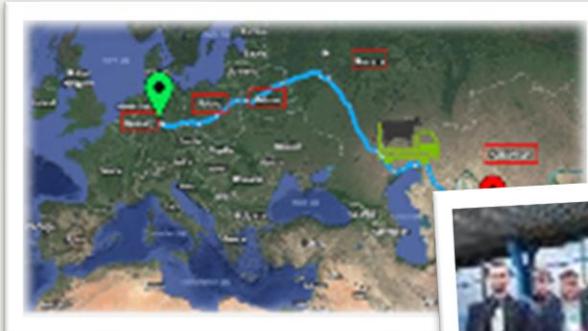
# “Whole Journey Scenario” workshops

- Objective to help countries improve animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAH standards for the whole duration of the journey along the specific route
- Focus on the responsibilities of the Competent Authorities over the entire journey
- Opportunity to share best practices and strengthen collaboration between Competent Authorities and other authorities

# ‘Whole Journey Scenario’ workshops

## Regional workshops

- Pilot ‘Whole Journey Scenario’ Workshop for Europe - April 2018, Poland
- Follow-up meeting - November 2021



- ‘Whole Journey Scenario’ workshop on animal welfare during transport for the Middle East - November 2019, Amman (Jordan)



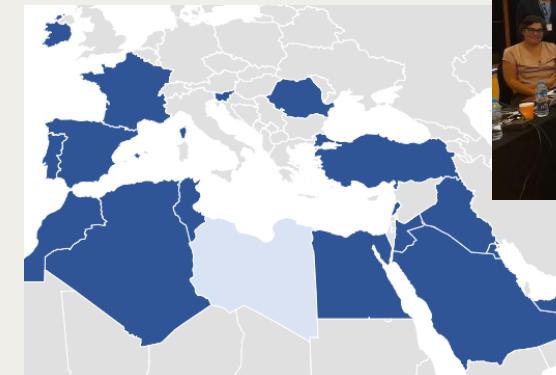
# ‘Whole Journey Scenario’ workshops

## Multi-regional workshops

- Multi-regional WJS workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe and the Middle East  
June 2021 – Teleconference



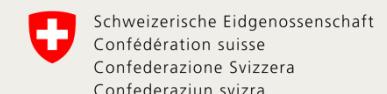
Multi-regional WJS workshop  
on long-distance transport by land and sea  
between Europe, the Middle East and North  
Africa - November 2022 – Cairo, Egypt



# Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

7 - 9 November 2023, Tunis, Tunisia

This workshop was funded by European Union, Ireland and Switzerland and kindly hosted by Tunisia



15  
WOAH  
Members

44  
Participants

# Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land for Europe

Paris, France 16 - 18 December 2024

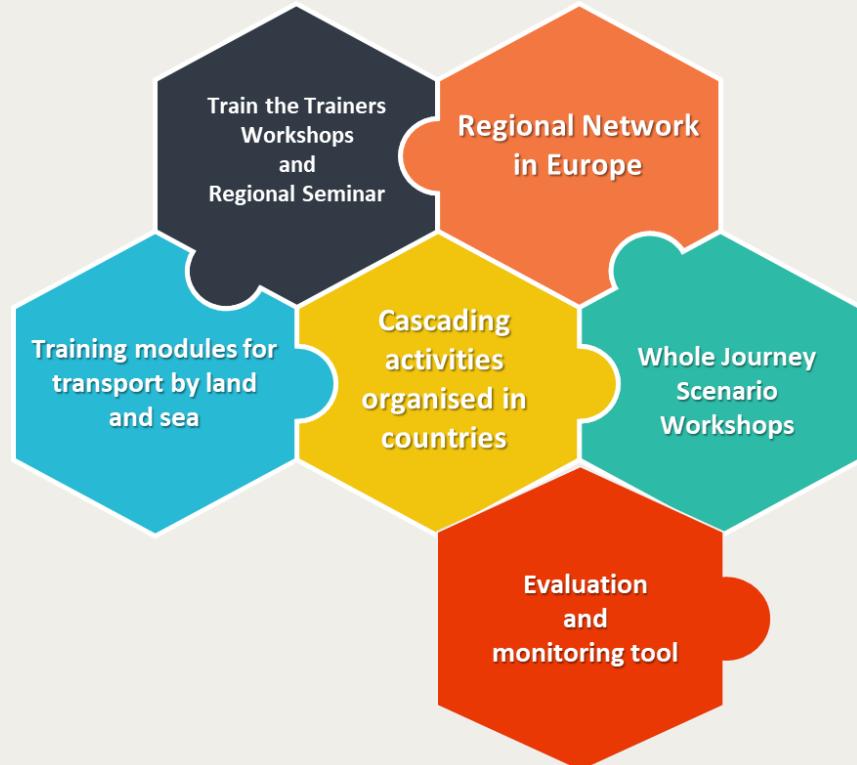


Addressing specific issues related to ensuring welfare during the transport of animals by land from central Europe to southern Europe

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, North Macedonia, Italy, Romania, Spain, and Türkiye.



# Transport of animals



**Network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe**

## **Whole Journey Scenario Workshops:**

- **within Europe**
- **multi regional Europe / Middle East / North Africa**

**Self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport - concept note**

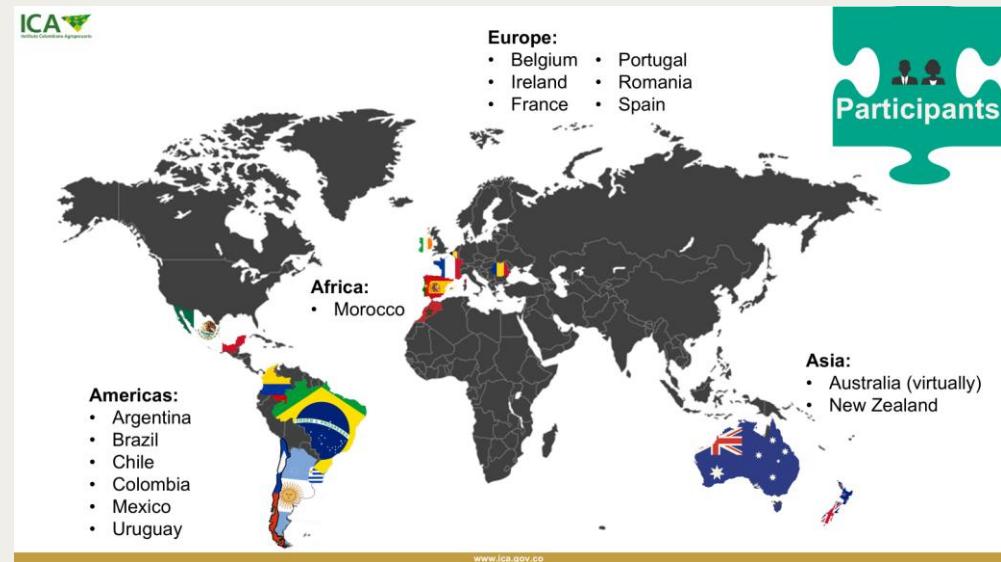
# 1<sup>st</sup> Whole Journey Scenario workshop held in the Americas

Multi-Regional Workshop in Colombia to Enhance Animal Welfare during Transport

6 – 8 November 2024, Cartagena, Colombia

Future steps for the Americas

- To identify and create the network of contact points for the region.
- To connect with contact points of importing countries and strengthen communication for problem-solving.
- To establish a regional agreement that determines the aspects to be met by countries involved in this activity to ensure the welfare of the animals to be exported.





## SIDE EVENT



# 92<sup>nd</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health

## Transport of animals shared responsibility – panel discussion

Monday, 26 May 2025

### Objectives:

- to exchange views on the challenges of transporting live animals by land and sea, and solutions for addressing those challenges.
- to raise awareness about the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to ensure animal welfare during transport.



## SIDE EVENT

# 92<sup>nd</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health

## SIDE EVENT

### Transport of animals shared responsibility – panel discussion

Monday, 26 May

**Katharina Kluge** - Germany

**Marcelo Andrade Mota** - Brazil

**Andrea Gavinelli** - European Commission

**Julia Havenstein** - Animals' Angels and ICFAW,

**Carolina Cucurella**

U.E.C.B.V. European Livestock and Meat Trading Union

**Anna Gance-Kubik**

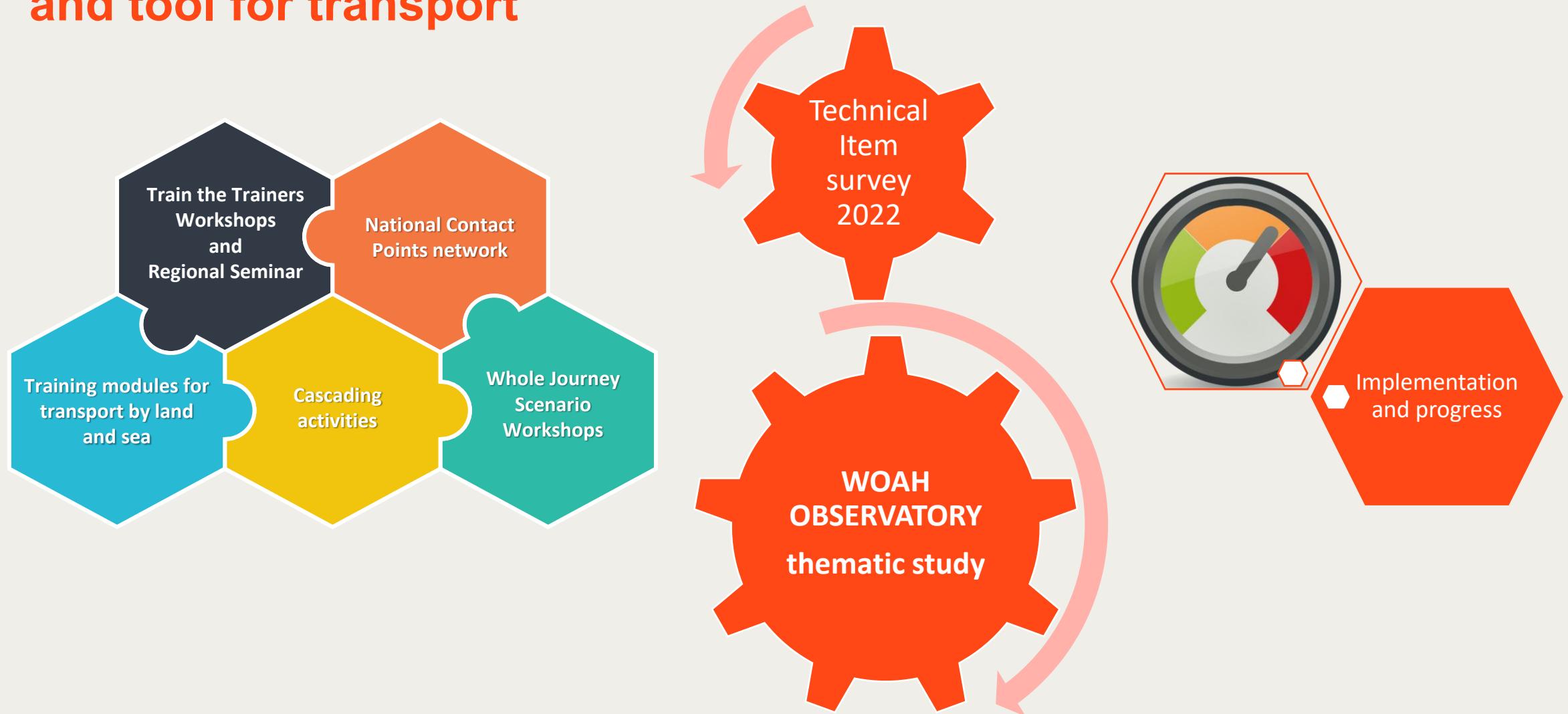
Animal Transport Association (ATA)



## CONCLUSION

- Long distance transport is a complex issue (animals are sentient beings, and the transport of animals is part of all animal operations and economic activities - reduce transport duration to the minimum)
- Priority not only for Europe but also globally – sharing experience
- Update standards based on the latest science and technology to facilitate implementation and enforcement.
- Need for strengthening communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities and all actors involved in the transport of live animals
- Emphasising the need for harmonised implementation and enforcement,
- Importance of appropriate planning and emergency procedures, including the processes for their verification
- Digital tools for better traceability, collecting data for welfare assessment, and exchanging information. On animal welfare and animal health.
- Support from WOAH (workshops, training, development of IT tools, guidance documents and checklists)
- Clear mechanisms for defining and establishing responsibilities

# Development of a self-assessment and monitoring methodology and tool for transport





## Developing a self-assessment and monitoring tool on animal transport

### External consultation (method)

- conduct a thorough review of the methodology
- determine the most appropriate elements for developing standards in transport.
- address whether the proposed questionnaire effectively aligns with the intended objectives
- define and describe a process and structure, data analysis

### External consultation (IT platform)

- define and describe a process and structure, data analysis
- Develop IT platform, database, users interface and dashboard



# Final report

## Supporting the creation of a self-assessment tool on the WOAH standards for the transport of animals by land and sea

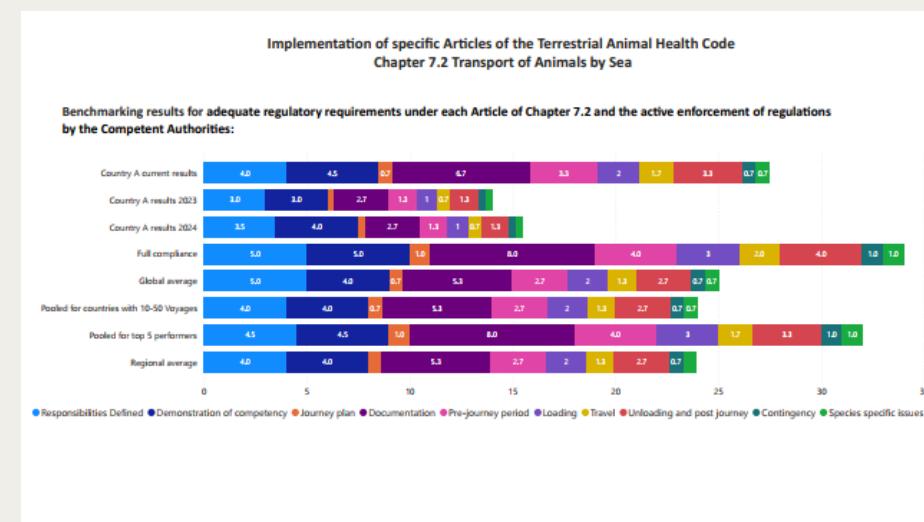
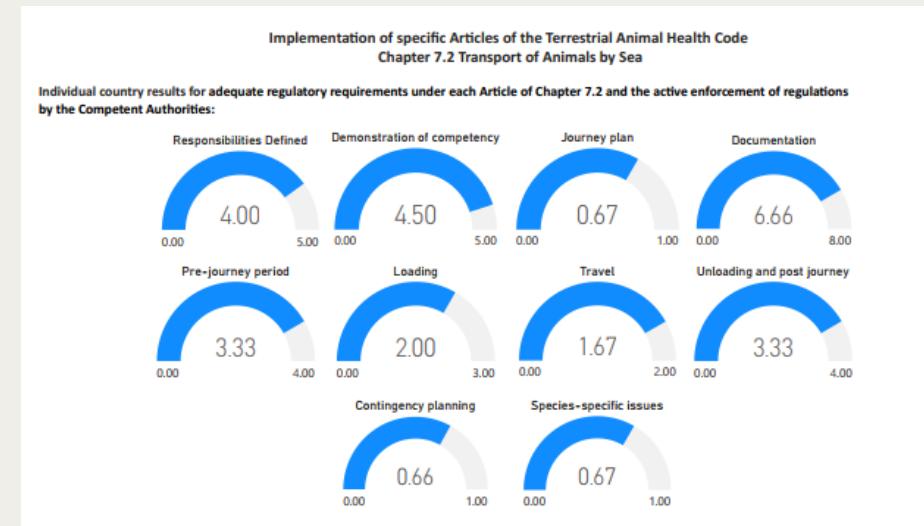
Impetus Animal Welfare

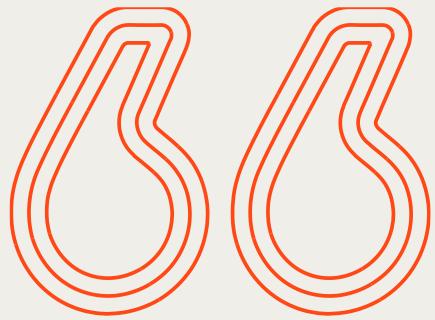
21 July 2025

Lead Contact: Dr Renee Sophie Willis

Supporting Team:

Patrick Coole and Dr Michael Patching





**Animal welfare  
is a journey  
not a destination**



David Bayvel



# Regional situation in the Middle East

Dr Fayçal Meziani RRME





# Animal Welfare in the Middle East: A Long-Standing Concept

2

## Animal Welfare in the Middle East: Not a new issue

- Animal welfare rooted in culture, daily life and religious principles since the **Islamic period (7th century)**
- Ethical foundations promoting **compassion, responsibility and avoidance of unnecessary suffering**

## Historical foundations

- Clear guidance on:
  - Feeding and watering of animals
  - Proper use, transport and rest
  - Humane slaughter practices



## Continuity today

- Modern animal welfare standards **build on these long-established principles**, adapted to:
  - Large scale production systems
  - Long-distance transport
  - Urbanisation and transboundary trade





# Animal Welfare in the Middle East: What Has Been Done

5

## Regional & inter-regional progress

Capacity-building led by **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** Regional and Sub-Regional Offices

Inter-regional workshops on **animal transport and long-journey scenarios**

Sub-regional webinars addressing **context-specific welfare issues**

Regional Webinar: Towards boosting animal welfare knowledge and implementation capacities in the Middle East  
WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf, 26.09.2024  
**Assessment in Dromedary Camel welfare & welfare issues**

Barbara Padalino, DVM, PhD, DipECABM(AWSEL)  
Division of Animal Sciences, Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

School of Science & Engineering, Southern Cross University, Australia

AlMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Southern Cross University

Barbara Padalino



## Priority focus areas

Welfare during **transport and handling** along the *whole journey*

Slaughter and humane handling awareness

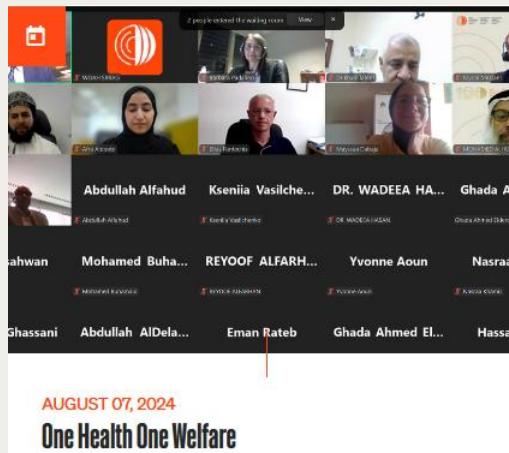
Linkages between **animal welfare, animal health and One Health**

## Concrete examples

**Whole-journey scenario** workshops (loading → transport → unloading → destination)

Sub-regional webinar on **dromedary camel welfare**

Regular inclusion of animal welfare in **regional meetings and focal point events**





# From Awareness to Impact: Gaps and the Way Forward

5

## Key gaps

- Implementation remains uneven at national level
- Limited monitoring and welfare indicators beyond training activities
- Enforcement responsibilities often fragmented across institutions
- Contextual constraints: heat stress, long journeys, rapid urbanization



## Way forward (pragmatic priorities)

- translate regional guidance into national SOPs and inspection tools
- Strengthen risk-based welfare inspections (transport, slaughter) and develop species-specific actions
- Develop simple regional indicators to track compliance and outcomes
- Continue targeted Regional and sub-regional actions on priority issues

## Expected impacts

- Improved welfare along transport chains
- Greater regional consistency
- Shift from activities to measurable welfare outcomes

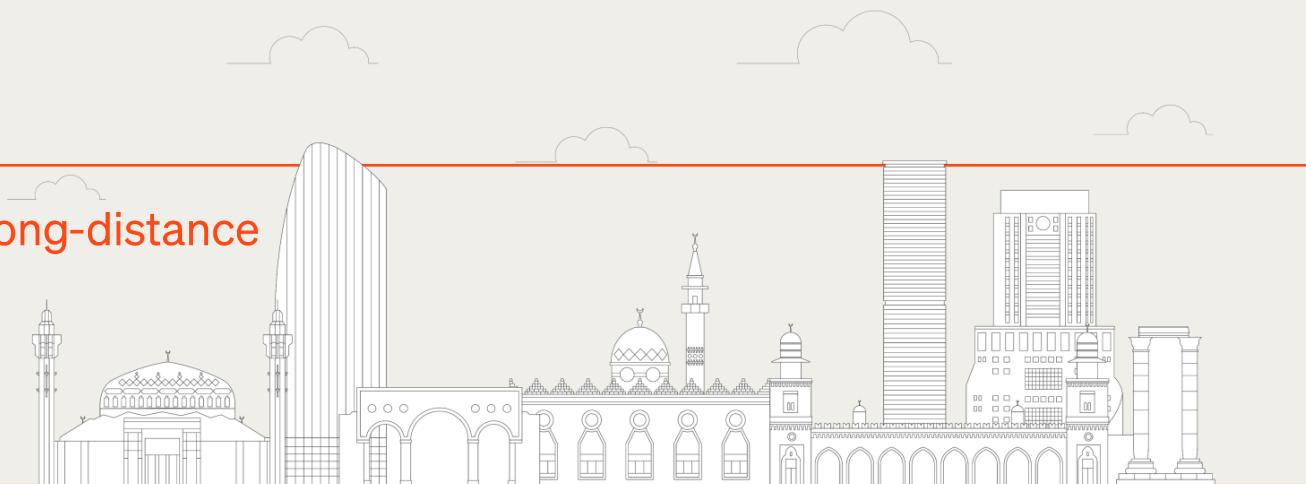


WOAH animal welfare regional platform and strategies and activities related to transport of animals.

## WOAH SRR-NA Activities

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# INDEX

- WOAH Twinning ENMV Sidi Thabet – IZS Teramo
- REMESA Network



## 1. WOAH Twinning ENMV Sidi Thabet – IZS Teramo

Twinning established (2020) between IZS-Teramo (WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare) and ENMV Sidi Thabet, Tunisia

**Objective:** strengthen capacity of ENMV to comply with WOAH animal welfare standards:

- At farm level
- During transport by land
- At slaughter and killing for disease control
- Including dog population management (DPM)

Collaboration with DGSV (Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture), ensuring training of official veterinary services

Regional focus (North Africa): develop expertise, partnerships and networks across the sub-region



## 1. WOAH Twinning ENMV Sidi Thabet – IZS Teramo

Programme aimed to enable ENMV to become a WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare

Foundations laid for a permanent Animal Welfare Training Centre at ENMV for North African countries

Closing workshop 12-14 June 2024

Creation of the Animal Welfare Platform for North Africa



ERFAN supported the twinning and conducted a regional survey on DPM and rabies [**“SAM tool”**]  
Survey implemented with WOAH (Tunis & Brussels), IZS-Teramo and under REMESA

ERFAN 2020 report provides a baseline on stray dog populations and rabies to monitor future progress



## 2. REMESA Activities

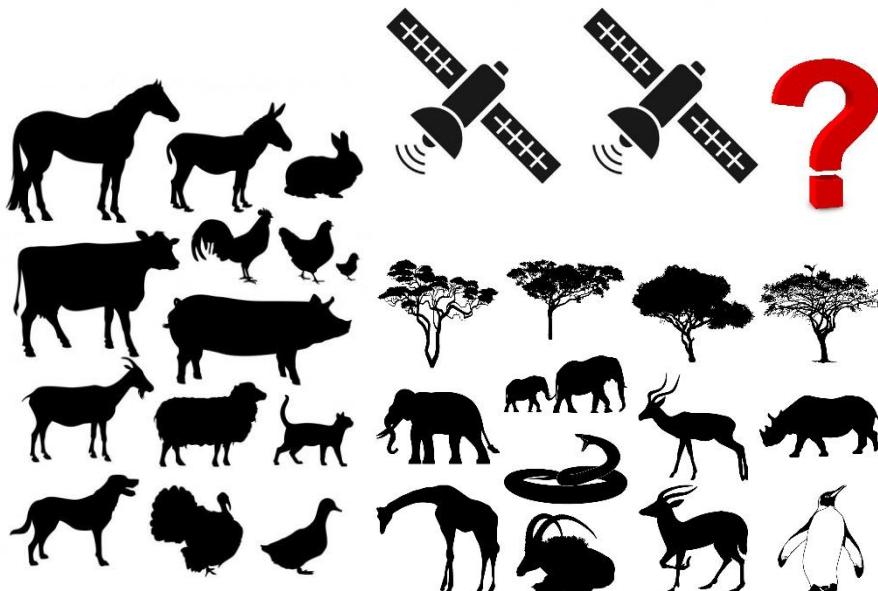


# STOR's project on Animal Movement



<https://stor.remesa.org>

## ***“Project on Animal Movement in the Mediterranean area/basin: risks and management”***



We appreciate if the STCs members can support us in this concern "Animal movement project" through supplying us with information on projects "either running or have finished" covering this area of research/activity, suggestion of certain approaches convenient with your countries, and available infra-structures. Please check the attached form and kindly fill-in the required fields "specified for animal movements projects in your countries".

On the other side, we are trying to create a group of experts in animal movement and working in REMESA member countries. It is also important to know who among the STC members would be available to be involved and his/her intended activities. In addition, we would be grateful if you could point us/recommend one or more experts in your country.



**QUESTIONNAIRE - TOPICS**

The aim is to identify and collect data related to Animal movement and traceability within Mediterranean countries, to be considered while preparing the next REMESA's proposed project "Animal Movement".

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please indicate the number of the national herds/flocks' number by species?

Species	Number	
Cattle		
Buffalo		
Sheep		
Goat		
Camel		
Others:		

2. Please indicate the approximate number of the national herds/flocks' number by species?

Species	Number
Cattle	
Buffalo	
Sheep	
Goat	
Camel	
Others:	

3. Please indicate the regions of your country where most of the animals are located, by species?

Species	North	East	South	West	Center
Cattle					
Buffalo					
Sheep					

shutterstock



# ONLINE INTENSIVE COURSE

Animal Welfare in Animal Trades

Three days online sessions in collaboration with:

**WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare**

**Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale  
dell'Abruzzo e del Molise Giuseppe Caporale**

# DAY 1



## PROGRAM FOR THE 1ST DAY | 11TH JULY 2024 | 10.00 - 13.00 (CET)



Moderators: Tomasz Grudnik and Leopoldo Stuardo

10.00 - 10.20 WELCOME

Rachid Bouguedour (WOAH SRR-NA), Mohammed Bengoumi (FAO SRR-NA), Guido Ruggero Loria (STOR-REMESA)

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
10:10-10:30	<b>Leopoldo Stuardo</b> Animal Welfare Standards Department - WOAH	Introduction to WOAH standards on animal welfare: General considerations and guiding principles for animal welfare
10:30-11:15	<b>Tomasz Grudnik</b> WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, Belgium	<p>The WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy in reference to transport of animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of animal welfare standards; Revision of animal transport chapter of the Terrestrial Code</li><li>• Capacity building and education; training materials</li><li>• Communication with governments, organisations and the public - Animal welfare Forum</li><li>• Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies</li><li>• Regional strategies</li></ul>
11:15-11:30		COFFEE BREAK
11:30-11:50	<b>Sara Rota Nodari</b> National Reference Center of Animal Welfare, IZS LER	WOAH Standard for animal welfare during on Land transport
11:50-12:10	<b>Tomasz Grudnik</b> WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, Belgium	WOAH Standard for animal welfare during in Sea transport
12:10-12:30	<b>Francesco Cerasoli</b> WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare, IZS AM	WOAH Standard for animal welfare during on Air transport
12:30-12:50	<b>Leopoldo Stuardo</b> Animal Welfare Standards Department - WOAH	"Technical Specification ISO TS 34700 Animal Welfare"

## PROGRAM FOR THE 2ND DAY | 11TH OCTOBER 2024 | 10.00 - 13.00 (CET)

**Moderators:** Tomasz Grudnik and Luigi Iannetti

**10.00 - 10.10 WELCOME**

Rachid Bouguedour (WOAH SRR-NA), Mohammed Bengoumi (FAO SRR-NA), Guido Ruggero Loria (STOR-REMESA)

# DAY 2

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
10:10-10:40	Luigi Iannetti	Long distance transport of live animals: WOAH standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects. Results of a WOAH survey
10:40-11:15	Tomasz Grudnik	Responsibilities of the Competent Authorities over the entire journey (activity example whole journey scenario workshops)
11:15-11:30		COFFEE BREAK
11:30-11:50	Leopoldo Stuardo	Emergency Plans for unforeseen Accidents during Transport
11:50 - 13:00	Ghazi Yehia (Lebanon) Ben Salem (Tunisia) Asma Chalmi (Algeria)	Challenges confronting implementation of WOAH Welfare standards in different North Africa and Middle East Countries

# Thank you

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Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport  
by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

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for Animal Health