WOAH and WOAH mandate on animal welfare
Regional Platforms and Regional strategies

Tomasz Grudnik
WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

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
World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

- Intergovernmental organization with focus on transparently disseminating information on animal diseases, improving animal health and welfare globally and thus build a safer, healthier and more sustainable world.
- 183 Member Countries
- 5 Regional and 8 Sub-Regional Offices
Global Animal Welfare Strategy

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.

(May 2017)
Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS)

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

- AMERICAS RAWS
- MIDDLE EAST RAWS
- African Platform for Animal Welfare
- OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for EUROPE
- Asia, the Far East and Oceania RAWS
Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
(launched in December 2013)

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

1st Action Plan 2014 - 2016
2nd Action Plan 2017 - 2019
3rd Action Plan 2021 - 2023
4th Action Plan 2024 - 2026

Launch 2013

- Transport of animals
- Dog population management
- Slaughter
- Animal welfare in natural disasters
- Welfare of working equids
Middle East Animal Welfare Action Plan
(2016 – 2019)

to empower Veterinary Services to take actions in Animal Welfare in compliance with OIE standards

Priority topics
1. Transport of animals by sea
2. Transport of animals by land
3. Slaughter of animals
4. Stray dog population control
Transport of animals

- Train the Trainers Workshops and Regional Seminar
- Regional Network in Europe
- OIE training modules for transport by land and sea
- Cascading activities organised in countries
- Whole Journey Scenario Workshops (new concept)
Training materials

Animal welfare - transport by land
(ENG/RUS/ARB)

1. Introduction to animal welfare
2. Animal behaviour
3. Use of animal behaviour in handling.
4. Planning and preparations
5. Loading and transport by land
6. Unloading and resting
7. Transport of poultry
8. Responsibilities and competencies
9. Animal welfare in transport and meat quality

Animal welfare - transport by sea
(ENG/ARB)

4. Planning and preparations
5. Loading and transport by sea
6. Unloading

Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics University of Queensland in Australia
OIE Collaborating Center on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis.
‘Train-the-Trainer’ Workshops

• ‘Train-the-Trainer’ Workshops on animal welfare during long distance transport by land (Kazakhstan - 2016/2017, Belarus - 2017, Russia - 2017)

• Regional Seminar on animal welfare during long distance transport (Moldova - 2018)

Regional ‘Training of Trainers’ Workshop on animal welfare during long transport by land and by sea for Middle East

Train the Trainers Workshops and Regional Seminar

November 2017 – March 2018

February – May 2019
Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe – transport of animals

Cascading activities organized in countries

- dedicated workshops (veterinary services, governmental authorities, business operators)
- training session for CA
- dedicated modules included in Continuing Professional Development Programs
“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.
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

Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Turkey
Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates

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 WJS workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa November 2023, Tunis – PLANNED
WJS & NCPT conclusions

- long distance transport is complex issue
- many animal welfare issues due to insufficient communication (technical and diplomatic channels for transmission of information are essential to facilitate info exchange among trading parties and CAs)
- Contact Points, ‘Route Leaflet’, follow-up workshops and ‘route’ meetings

- need for strengthening communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities and all actors involved in the transport of live animals
- importance of defining responsibilities (especially between departure port and destination)
- importance of appropriate planning and emergency procedures
- Support from WOAH (workshops, trainings, development of IT tools, guidance documents and checklist)

Item 1 recommendations
11 recommendations (5 for members | 6 for WOAH)

- **Members:**
  - Develop update legislation
  - Clearly identify responsibilities (through guidelines/procedures)
  - Procedures for communication
  - Inclusion of AW in veterinary school curricula

- **WOAH:**
  - Capacity building
  - Advocacy to increase stakeholders’ awareness
  - Technical support through revised, develops update standards
  - Provide relevant tools (one of them NCP on LDT)
  - Work closely with all actors for the implementation of standards

- **Common: collaboration** to support regional strategies
“One of the key takeaways from this workshop was to start building a contact network, that will be very useful to exchange information and better detect issues before a shipment reaches its final destination”

….need a continuous cooperation between veterinary authorities of exporting, transit, and importing countries, so that they can exchange reports on animal welfare violations or poor implementation.”

“The workshop brought together representatives from European countries, who are mostly exporters, and Middle East countries, who are mostly importers of live animals. We identified a weakness point: the lack of communication and follow-up, once a trip has started.”
The network of WOAH National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe

Terms of Reference of the National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation
(29th Regional Conference, 9-10 November 2020)

WOAH National Contact Points (nominated by the Delegate)
Main tasks - establishing operational communication links within the network of contact points in Europe to facilitate the exchange of the relevant information and solving problems arising with long-distance and cross border transport of animals in the region
**Technical Item I (with questionnaire)**

**Long-distance transport of live animals: WOAH standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects**

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**Summary**

- most of the Members have in place specific legislation on animal welfare during transport and generally aligned with WOAH standards,
- however, in many members certain crucial requirements are not included (specific responsibilities and mandatory documented training/practical experience for people in responsible for animals)
- major gaps for implementation of standards: limited budget and/or limited availability of resources and trained personnel
- suggested WOAH initiatives - developing training activities and provide additional guidance through revised and/or new standards in the Terrestrial Code and/or through other WOAH documents

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Main points of the for self-assessment and monitoring tool
• Focus on transport by sea and land
• Define the elements of the chapters relevant to assess the level of implementation of the standards
• Propose a survey
• Methodology to analyze the survey
• Point of discussion – IT aspects: host and maintenance

The Observatory developing a thematic study on the implementation of standards related to transport of live animals at global level
Animal welfare is a journey not a destination

David Bayvel