This Advocacy Document is a companion document to the detailed Action Plan 2014–2016 of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (the OIE region of Europe comprises 53 countries). It is intended for the international community of donors who share an interest in animal welfare in Europe and may want to invest in Platform activities. It presents the main objectives, activities and added value of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe.
In May 2013, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe officially adopted a Concept Note specifying the founding principles of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, including the composition of its governing body — the Steering Group (see next page). The OIE Member Countries in Europe decided to embark on operational activities with a well-defined and concrete Action Plan, rather than design a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS). The question of whether to develop a RAWS for Europe will be considered at a later stage, depending on the Platform’s achievements and needs.

The OIE Platform’s first Action Plan, the main outlines of which were discussed and adopted during the first meeting of the Platform Steering Group in December 2013, has the strategic objective of empowering the Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards and recognises the leading role of OIE Delegates and their National Animal Welfare Focal Points in this field. The commitment of OIE Member Countries to fully implement good governance of Veterinary Services is therefore crucial to the successful implementation of the Action Plan. The Plan focuses on the following three priority topics: (1) transport of animals by land; (2) slaughter of animals for human consumption; (3) control of stray dog populations.

Activities for the period 2014 – 2016

The list of activities adopted by the Steering Group for the first 3 years is given below. Activities 1 to 4 are to be implemented during the first year (2014), while the others will be implemented in 2015 and 2016. However, the Platform Action Plan is a living document, which may be adapted to cope with any emerging animal welfare priorities in the region.

The Platform’s activities, which should be funded mostly by the European Commission and EU Member States, are not intended to compete with or duplicate the various activities recently launched by the EU but are designed to complement them, targeting countries of the OIE region of Europe where the relevant OIE standards are not fully or adequately implemented.

- Development of the Platform website
- Translation of documents into Russian
- Organisation of workshops on stray dog management
- Organisation of awareness campaigns on stray dogs
- Organisation of ‘trainings of trainers’ on transport and slaughter
- Organisation of trainings on transport
- Management of the Platform, including a newsletter

All OIE PVS Pathway activities (including the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme) are not sensu stricto activities of the Platform but contribute to achieving its objectives.
The outcomes of the Action Plan are expected to benefit both EU Member States and other OIE Member Countries in the Europe region, since the progressive strengthening of animal welfare in the latter will generate several positive effects across Europe, not only in terms of harmonising production rules but also in addressing animal welfare concerns with a transboundary dimension, such as long-distance transport of animals, displacement of animals in the event of natural disasters and, most importantly, the appropriate management of stray dog populations, responsible companion animal ownership, and issues related to animal diseases (e.g., rabies). Progress with implementing the Action Plan will be assessed twice a year at meetings of the Steering Group, and the results will be reported at various meetings, including those of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (biennial Regional Conferences and annual meetings during OIE General Sessions). A more comprehensive evaluation of Platform outputs will be made at the end of the first phase (2017) using the Action Plan’s impact indicators. An additional key point of the evaluation will be to assess how the Action Plan has contributed to implementing the recommendations of the 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Malaysia, 2012).

**Impact indicators (regional and/or national level)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Output 1</th>
<th>Output 2</th>
<th>Output 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empower Veterinary Services (VS) to take action on animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards</td>
<td>Profile of animal welfare in Member Countries of the OIE Europe region</td>
<td>Level of advancement indicated in the OIE PVS evaluation on animal welfare (Critical Competency II.14)</td>
<td>Number of comments received from OIE Member Countries on OIE draft standards on animal welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of VS budget dedicated to animal welfare activities</td>
<td>Results of the self-assessment questionnaires (stray dogs only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of VS staff allocated to animal welfare</td>
<td>Number of animal welfare inspections carried out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe Action Plan</td>
<td>Number of animal welfare infringements registered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of regional and national events on animal welfare in the region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of countries identifying animal welfare as a national priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of animal welfare complaints in the press or sent to the VS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Composition of the Steering Group for the first 3 years**

- OIE Headquarters (chair)
- 3 Eastern European Countries (Serbia, Russia and Turkey)
- 2 EU Member States (Ireland and Spain)
- European Commission/DG SANCO
- OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare (IZSAM - Teramo)
- OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Europe (Sofia, Moscow, Brussels)
- France (donor)

*OIE SRR-Brussels holds the Secretariat*
The OIE PVS Pathway is a global programme for the sustainable improvement of a country’s Veterinary Services’ compliance with OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. This is an important foundation for improving animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health at national, regional and international level. It should be remembered that the activities of the Veterinary Services are a global public good and are consequently eligible for appropriate national, regional or international public funding support.

**Financial mechanism and budget** (in euros)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities 2014-2016</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platform website</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian translation</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness campaign</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Group meetings (twice a year)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform Newsletters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE workshops on stray dog population control</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE trainings of trainers on transport and slaughter (IAWP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE training on transport (IAWP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (in euros)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>113,000</td>
<td>197,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>460,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicative budget per activity not including in-kind support

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The OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

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The OIE first identified animal welfare as a priority in its Third Strategic Plan (2001–2005), resulting in the establishment of a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. Since then, the OIE has implemented an ambitious animal welfare agenda:

1. Three OIE Global Conferences on Animal Welfare have been held (France 2004; Egypt 2008; Malaysia 2012);
2. The OIE’s guiding principles for animal welfare (chapter 7.1) and nine animal welfare standards (chapters 7.2 to 7.10) have been democratically adopted by the General Assembly of Delegates; a new standard on dairy cows is currently (2014) being developed;
3. All countries have been encouraged to appoint a national Focal Point for Animal Welfare;
4. Animal welfare is an integral part of the ‘Day 1 competences’ of veterinarians and its companion core curriculum;
5. Of utmost importance and at the request of its Members, the OIE, in 2011, became the leading international organisation for animal welfare, in recognition of the fact that animal health is one of the five freedoms contributing to the welfare of animals.

The OIE therefore has key roles to play in Europe: leading the regional Animal Welfare agenda; raising the general profile of animal welfare in the region; ensuring that animal keepers and the public at large are better informed and fully appreciate their respective roles in promoting animal welfare; supporting the regional dialogue on animal welfare between EU Member States and non-EU countries; and facilitating the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards and guidelines, using the OIE PVS Pathway activities and capacity-building tools.