

EuFMD COMPONENT REPORTS

The report of all the Components of the EuFMD

*March-
September
2017*

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EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

March 2017 - September 2017

Component 1.1 - *Training for Member States*

Component Supervisor: M.Hovari

Component Manager: M.de la Puente /
D.Imanbayeva

Reporting: M. de la Puente / M. Hovari / J. Maud

Executive Committee: M.Blake

1.1-Training for Member States

1-Objectives of component

The overall objective of this component is:

Increased European expertise in FMD crisis management and improved quality of national FMD preparedness training programmes.

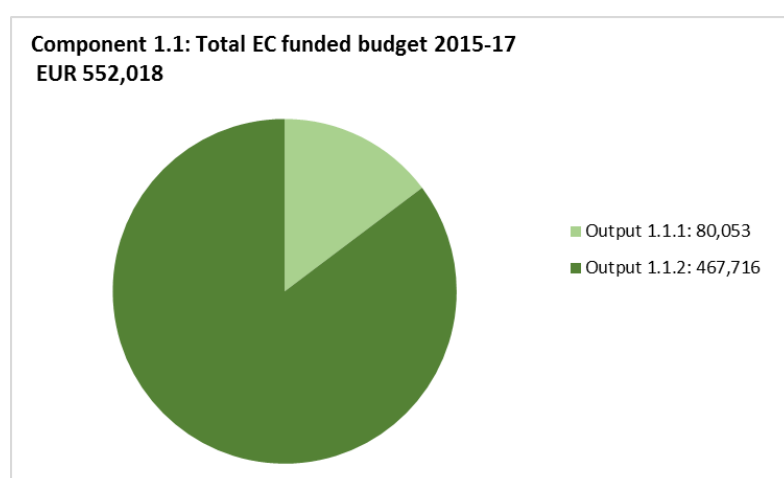
The activities (expected results) are:

1.1.1: System in place to enable every member state to cascade appropriate training and learning on FMD control to their public and private animal health services supported by infrastructure for learning and knowledge transfer in place, including e-learning, training resources and staff support.

1.1.2: Improved capacity in each of the MS to recognize, respond to and manage FMD through provision of a demand driven training programme supplied in response to MS priorities for training in areas of prevention, detection, and contingency planning for control operations and recovery.

Activities	Indicators	Baseline September 2015	Target 2 years	Unit of measure	Current Status
1.1.1	Knowledge Bank created and in use by member states	0	500	Participants from EuFMD member states that are registered and access training materials	Over 256
1.1.2	Implement >90 % of the demand driven programme	0	Over 330 TC used	Training Credits used by the 37 member states.	306 directly spent 56 diverted to regional approach

Resource base



Additional non-EC funded contributions

External funding received for development of training outside the EC funded programme, including the Real Time Training courses held in Nepal and funded by Australia and New Zealand, and the additional training purchased by Member States under the “Training Credits Top-Up Scheme” contribute funding which support the development of new training courses and materials which are then also used as part of training provided to MS under the EC funded programme. In addition, these funding sources support recruitment of additional personnel, as listed in the table below:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Contribution</i>	<i>Funding source</i>
Component Supervisor: Training Programmes Manager	50% of one FTE role (consultant P3 equivalent)	EuFMD Trust Fund- MS contributions, Australian Real Time Training
Network and Training Support Officer	30% of one FTE role (P2)	80% EuFMD Trust Fund, 20% EC project
Development of training materials	New online training materials, course materials or job aids	Australian Real Time Training and Training Credits Top Up fund

2-Project team

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Component supervisor	Mark Hovari	Contingency Planning Officer
Training Manager	Jenny Maud	Training Programmes Manager
Component Manager	Maria de la Puente (until June 2017) Dinara Imanbayeva (till September 2017)	Short Term Placement
Training and networking support	Nadia Rumich	Training and Networking Officer/Secretariat
Member State partners	Training Focal Point in each EuFMD MS	n/a
ExCom oversight	Martin Blake	ExCom member (Ireland)

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

All EuFMD Member States are direct beneficiaries of component 1.1.

The main partners are:

- Training focal point in each MS. A good relationship has been established and maintained with many focal points through the first two years of the training credits scheme.
- Letter of Agreement (LoA) with Royal Veterinary College (RVC), University of London. This will be mainly for RVC to maintain the EuFMD e-Learning website, and may extend to development of the Knowledge Bank and provision of technical and pedagogical assistance in the development of new online training courses.

4-Progress Report

1.1.1 System in place to enable every member state to cascade appropriate training and learning on FMD control to their public and private animal health services supported by infrastructure for learning and knowledge transfer in place, including e-learning, training resources and staff support.

Activities:

1.1.1.1 Training infrastructure: staffing and technical resources

Staffing

María de la Puente Arévalo (Spain) was recruited on a Short Term Placement (STP) from September 2016 to June 2017 and managed component 1.1 during that time. From July 2017, Dinara Imanbayeva (Kazakhstan) began a short term placement, and will assist with management of training for Member States alongside assisting with activities under components 2.1 and 2.4. Ruth Abascal (Spain) joins on a Short Term Placement from September 2017 and will manage component 1.1. for the six month period of her placement.

Chiara Addari (Operational, e-learning and training logistics) manages the administration for the EuFMD e-learning platform, including creation of online resources, registration and liaison with training participants and co-ordination of webinars. The rapidly rising number of e-learning courses being delivered demands increased staffing.

Following a two-stage interview process, Amir Shurrab was recruited as a consultant specialist learning technologist and instructional designer in June 2017. Amir will undertake the instructional design of several new e-learning courses alongside advanced technical troubleshooting support to the e-learning programme.

Jenny Maud (Training Programmes Manager) co-ordinates training development across the EuFMD programme, and oversees the delivery of the e-learning programme. Mark Hovari (Contingency Planning Manager) supervises component 1.1. Nadia Rumich manages communications on training, the webinar programme and networks.

Technical resources: EuFMD e-Learning Platform (<https://eufmdlearning.works>)

The EuFMD e-Learning Virtual Learning Environment now has over 5200 registered users, with over 2000 users added in the last six months. This rapid growth in user numbers is a result of the high volume of online courses conducted recently, along with the new possibility for users to register themselves on the site. The site is still hosted on servers at the Royal Veterinary College, who provide technical support for its maintenance.

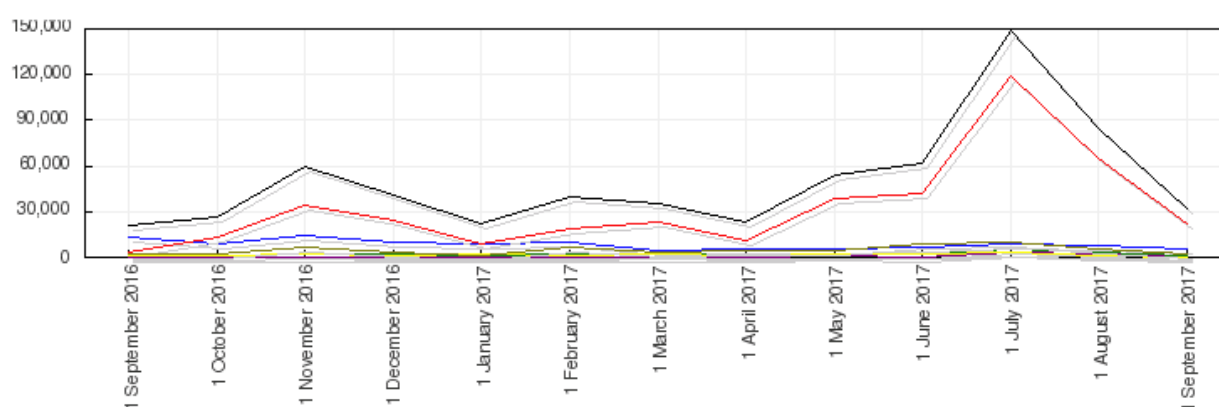


Figure 1: Activity on the EuFMD e-learning site (number of clicks by different participant types) over the last 12 months, illustrating a peak of activity during the last three months.

Technical Resources: Webinars

Webinars are organized frequently, with on average two per week. The software used has been recently upgraded to allow up to 500 simultaneous users.

1.1.1.2 Training infrastructure: online knowledge bank development (in co-operation with other training components)

The online EuFMD Knowledge Bank (<http://kb.eufmdlearning.works/>) includes 405 resources, and these resources have been accessed nearly 10,000 times over the last six month period (individual “clicks” on resources).

1.1.1.3 Open access areas of EuFMD e-Learning website

The open access “What is the PCP?” and “Introduction to the PCP” courses (see component 2.4) have been made available since February 2017. An open access “Introduction to FMD” course is in the final stages of development. It takes users approximately 60 minutes to complete and covers FMD pathogenesis, impacts, diagnostics and simple control measures including biosecurity. It is intended as a taster course for a wide audience of interested parties. It is hoped it will be a useful tool for all member states to direct their staff to, and should also attract users to the e-learning site, encourage them to explore the networks and other training resources available. It will be suitable for Member States to use as an introduction to face to face national training courses, and also as a resource for veterinary students.

1.1.1.4 Training infrastructure: framework for monitoring and evaluation

All training courses are evaluated by an online survey immediately after the final task, with summative assessments to verify participant’s knowledge at the end of each online training courses. A protocol for evaluation of each training course, based on the evidence provided by the survey and assessments has been developed. All results of surveys and evaluation documents are stored on a dedicated “trainers” section of the EuFMD e-Learning platform, and are shared with relevant nominating organizations.

1.1.1.5 Develop knowledge transfer tools and job aids

Initially, this activity focused on the development of improved training resources provided to MS participants on Real Time Training courses. These resources can easily and effectively pass on the knowledge gained during Real Time Training to colleagues upon return (“cascade training” is now a formal requirement of the Real Time Training). The material is now also offered for use during in-country training as was done recently in Germany and Italy.

The job-aids and knowledge transfer tools that are being developed or improved are:

- PowerPoint presentations on:
 - FMD Overview
 - Clinical Diagnosis
 - Epidemiology
 - Biosecurity.
- Fact sheets/videos on:
 - Biosecurity procedure
 - Clinical examination
 - Lesion ageing
 - How to use a timeline
 - Sampling
 - Sample packaging
 - Differential diagnosis.
- Template scenario exercises on outbreak investigations.
- Timeline template.
- Additional training tools (role games, exercises).

1.1.1.6 Support to in country training courses

This activity involves creating training resources that can be used by Member States as part of their national training and emergency initiatives.

Pilot of national “cascade” training course, Italy

The first phase of the FMD cascade training course was delivered by Italian Ministry of Health and *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER)* with support from EuFMD. EuFMD supported the design of the training programme and provided presentations, exercises, videos and other training material that was translated into Italian. This first part of the training included courses at national level, in Rome and in Brescia.

The second phase of the training has already started and is made up by courses at regional level, run by the official veterinarians trained in Rome or Brescia, who will now use the same course format and training material to deliver training in the regions.

The material that was developed for the Italian training will be shared with other Member States and the Italian colleagues will present their work to the EuFMD training focal points in a webinar.

It is hoped that pilot courses, such as this programme in Italy, can be used to promote increased national level training across the EuFMD membership.

Italy presented this National Cascade training programme to all Member States at the General Session of the EuFMD in April 2017.

Examples of in-country courses such as this, together with those earlier presented during a webinar for Member States (use of EuFMD e-learning as an induction to face to face training in Ireland, national Real Time Training in Germany) should be used to promote increased national level training across the EuFMD membership.

1.1.2 Improved capacity in each of the MS to recognize, respond to and manage FMD through provision of a demand driven training programme supplied in response to MS priorities for training in areas of prevention, detection, and contingency planning for control operations and recovery.

Activities

1.1.2.1 Training Credits system and needs assessment

During this six-month period, several on-line course were implemented in order to cover the needs assessed and received from all 37 Member States. With the end of the biennium, 306 of the 370 Training Credits (TC) available for training in 2015-17 were directly spent by Member States. 56 Training Credits are planned to be converted for the Regional approach for the next biennium (please see below). It should be noted that there have been TC carried over from Phase III to Phase IV, therefore the overall TC available were above 370.

Please see the table below for an update on the courses delivered since the beginning of the training period to date with the number of credits spent on them.

Table 1: Training courses delivered to date

Course	Training credits	Number of trainees under the credits scheme	Training credits spent on this course
1) Real Time Training (now with the requirement that participants carry out cascade training when they return home)	3 credits for 1 participant	36	108
2) Online FMD Emergency Preparation Course: English language Online course for multiple Member States in English	1 credit for 20 participants	397	24
3) Online FMD Emergency Preparation Course: Tailored National Course Online course in national language, tailored to specific country requirements	6 training credits for 120 participants	371	18
4) Online FMD Emergency Preparation Course: subsequent national course	4 training credits for 120 participants	389	12
5) Workshop: "To vaccinate or not to vaccinate: using modelling to evaluate FMD control options" Enable participants to interpret modelling outputs to guide FMD control options, and to set up their own modelling studies	2 training credits for one participant	15	30
6) Workshop: "Putting vaccination into practice" Desktop simulation based workshop looking at contingency planning on all aspects of FMD vaccination and subsequent proof of freedom	2 training credits for one participant	12	24
7) Online Course: Risk Based FMD Surveillance Risk based surveillance for FMD	0 training credit for one participant	70	0

8) Workshop: “Managing a crisis” Establishing train of command and managing communication within and outside the veterinary service in a crisis situation	2 training credits for one participant	16	32
9) Workshop: FMD Simulation exercises Design, implementation and evaluation of simulation exercises	2 training credits for one participant	13	26
10) Laboratory Training Course Two week intensive course on FMD diagnostics run by the Pirbright Institute	4 training credits for one participant	5	20
Total number of training credits spent			294*

* Turkey has spent its 10 credits in a specific Epidemiology course and Italy 2 credits on using the E-learning platform (294+12=306)

A balance of the 370 credits available for training in 2015-17 to date is as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 306 have been spent ❖ After clearing all reaming carryovers from previous time periods 56 TC are available to be used in the next biennium.
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1.1.2.2 Development of new training courses and Regional Approach

New courses were developed during the last six months.

The Online Course Risk Based FMD Surveillance course has been developed.

Regional approach:

Currently, work is done to develop a proposal for the Executive Committee on a sub-regional collaboration of the Member States for training purposes. The possible benefits of this approach are:

- strengthen the relationships between neighbouring countries;
- improve the cooperation in activities related to FMD preparedness and surveillance;
- Cost- effectiveness of spend training credits.

The current proposal is that each MS donates two TC from their ten TC pool for their region on a regional activity. Each TC donated is supported by EuFMD with another TC derived from unspent training credits of the first and second biennium.

In order to apply a regional approach to organize EuFMD training courses, sub-regional discussions need to be held with the training focal points to allow find the regional needs and the best way to apply this concept.

1.1.2.3 Delivery of training courses

To date the following training courses have been delivered during the work programme:

- **Real Time Training** courses in Kenya were held in June 2016, November 2016 and February 2017. All the countries that allocated credits to this training option had the opportunity to nominate participants to attend to one of these courses.
- **Online FMD Emergency Preparation Courses (FEPC)** have been delivered to more than 1000 veterinarians from Member States on seven courses to date. These courses are run on English and have participants from several Member States.
- **National tailor made FMD Emergency Preparation Courses** were held, in their own national languages, for: Spain; France; United Kingdom; Estonia; Serbia

In the past six months, France held its first and Spain its second subsequent national FEPC-C course under the training credit scheme.

The courses get very positive feedback from the participants and the completion rate is usually good, with some exceptions.

- **On-line Risk Based Surveillance Course** was held in June-July 2017. The aim of this training was to make participants familiar with the concepts of surveillance, risk based surveillance and surveillance systems for: early detection, case detection during an outbreak and surveillance to prove freedom.

Four workshops were delivered since the start of the training period:

- **Workshop on “Managing a crisis”** was held in September 2016, in Budapest (Hungary). The aim of the workshop was to increase the ability of Veterinary Services in Member States to manage an outbreak of foot-and mouth disease by effective emergency management and excellent internal and external communication.
- **Workshop on “To vaccinate or not to vaccinate: using modelling to evaluate FMD control options”** was held in November 2016, in Frascati (Italy). The aim of the workshop was to expose participants to the use of epidemiological modelling and socio-economic analysis in decision-making for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) contingency planning and response. The participants evaluated the decision-making process for FMD control and compared management strategies from an epidemiological perspective using the Australian Animal Disease Model (AADIS).
- **Workshop on “Simulation exercises”** was held in March 2017, in Sofia (Bulgaria). The aim of the workshop was to teach participants about how to select, design, conduct and evaluate simulation exercises through actually designing and carrying out small simulation exercises during the workshop. Furthermore the workshops aimed to make participants aware of the value of having a strategic approach to simulation exercises and use them within the context of their overall emergency preparedness.
- **Workshop on “Putting vaccination into practice”** was held in March 2017, in Grange (Ireland). The aim of the workshop was to deliver training and support to animal health personnel from Member States for planning the practical implementation of an emergency vaccination programme. The workshop employed scenario-based exercises and facilitated discussion to enhance understanding and critical analysis of the strategic risks and challenges, as well as to identify, discuss and develop the outline of critical policies, plans and procedures required as key elements of deploying effective emergency vaccination in a previously-free country setting.

Some useful information is extracted from each of the workshops to be shared with a broader audience. For example, in the case of the Modelling workshop, a webinar was delivered under the Modelling Network on one of the topics that was discussed during the workshop: Participatory multi-criteria decision analysis.

1.1.2.4 Training focal points informed of training opportunities and feedback

Training focal points have been regularly contacted to be informed about upcoming courses, to request their nominations of participants, to give us their feedback on different issues, etc.

Over the August 2017 period, phone/skype consultations were held with National Training Focal points to discuss overall satisfaction of the MS with the training provided, to discuss changes to the current Training Menu, to foreshadow the Regional approach and to gain a better understanding on the needs for novel training courses. The National Training Focal Points (NTFPs) were selected to represent the EuFMD MS. In total 14 NTFPs were contacted. The outcome is as follows:

- the draft training menu is fully supported by the NTFPS;
- there is a considerable interest for an EuFMD wildlife surveillance workshop;
- some countries support the development of new courses on Veterinary Ethics and in depth Risk Communication;
- there is an overall support for the Regional approach.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

To date, 56 credits have not been allocated. Some countries have never allocated their training credits or not all of them, despite repeated reminders. There are cases where training credits were allocated, but nominations of participants have not been received nor any feedback to organize the chosen course. In some cases, participation in workshops was cancelled. Furthermore, in some instances, the use of the training credits was put on hold until non-payment of their contribution to EuFMD was resolved.

The countries with the highest number of unallocated or unspent training credits were: Cyprus, Switzerland, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Luxembourg and FYRO Macedonia.

On one side, the EuFMD is looking for options to improve the engagement and participation from the countries that are not answering to our requests to allocate and use their training credits. On the other side, the EuFMD would like to propose to allocate unspent TC to the regional approach both from the first biennium and during the second biennium in order to recycle these funds and redistribute equally between the MS.

Even if the completion rates of the FMD Emergency Preparation Courses are generally good, there is a significant variability between the Member States taking these courses. There is the need for an analysis of why in some cases the completion rate was lower than average, in order to adapt better the course to the needs of each particular country.

There is a need for continued increase in human resource support for the expanded e-learning that has been met by the recent recruitment of an e-learning technologist.

6-Priorities for the next six months

1.1.1: System in place to enable every Member State to cascade appropriate training and learning on FMD control to their public and private animal health services supported by infrastructure for learning and knowledge transfer in place, including e-learning, training resources and staff support.

Staff support

As the needs for human resources to support the expanding e-learning and training programme continues to grow, funds have been identified under the MTF/INT/004/MUL fund (Training and Emergencies fund), to recruit an additional team member who will assist the team in the delivery of training and e-learning and in quality assurance for training courses.

EuFMD e-Learning platform

A review and forward planning meeting with the Royal Veterinary College is planned for late September 2017 in order to define the partnership for continued development of the EuFMD e-Learning platform and Knowledge Bank over the 2017-19 period.

Knowledge Bank

The Knowledge Bank has now been in use for nine months and will be reviewed, identifying areas where the search functionality can be improved, and to identify priorities for development of additional resources and “job aids” to be added to the Knowledge Bank.

Support to National Training

A series of communication activities will be held to raise the awareness of Member States for the numerous EuFMD tools now available to support national training, including the Knowledge Bank, Job Aids and Open Access e-Learning courses. The EuFMD will seek to identify additional Member States who would benefit from specific assistance from EuFMD towards national roll-out of FMD training.

1.1.2: Improved capacity in each of the MS to recognize, respond to and manage FMD through provision of a demand driven training programme supplied in response to MS priorities for training in areas of prevention, detection, and contingency planning for control operations and recovery.

In the next six months the focus will be on sending out and explaining the updated training menu to the National Focal Points and start the allocation of the training credits. It must be mentioned that this work has already started to some extent as nominations and arrangements are already underway for the upcoming real time training course in Kenya NTC 27-28 in November-December 2017.

After the initial TC allocation, steps will be taken to plan for the various activities requested and hopefully deliver e-learning and/or workshops before the next Executive Committee in April 2018.

In parallel, after the regional approach concept has been established, initial consultation with the relative groups has to begin so that the activities can be implemented with minimum delay.

7- Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
467,716	366,805	78 %	100,911

8-Gantt charts - Planned activities

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Updated programme:

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Activity extended beyond initial foreseen timescale

Activity did not occur in this month

1.1 Training for Member States	OUTPUT 1.1 Increased European expertise in FMD crisis management and improved quality of national FMD preparedness training programmes		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
	Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
	1.1.1 System in place to enable every MS to cascade appropriate training and learning on FMD control to their public and private animal health services supported by infrastructure for learning and knowledge transfer in place, including e-learning, training resources, and staff support	1.1.1.1 Training infrastructure: staffing & tech. res.																								
		1.1.1.2 Training infrastructure: online knowledge bank dev.	*	*			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/							
		1.1.1.3 Open access areas of the EuFMD e-Learning website					/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/						
		1.1.1.4 Training infrastructure: framework for M&E																								
		1.1.1.5 Dev. knowledge transfer tools & job aids																								
		1.1.1.6 Support to in-country training courses																								
	1.1.2 Improved capacity in each of the MS to recognize, respond to and manage FMD through provision of a demand driven training supplied in response to MS priorities for training in areas of prevention, detection, and CP for control operations and recovery	1.1.2.1 Training credits system & needs assessment																								
		1.1.2.2 Dev. of new courses																								
		1.1.2.3 Delivery of training courses																								
		1.1.2.4 Training focal points informed of training opportunities & feedback																								

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 1.2 - Improved Contingency Planning

Component supervisor: Keith Sumption

Component Manager: Mark Hovari

Reporting: Mark Hovari / Melissa McLaws

Focal point Executive Ctte:

1.2. – Improved Contingency Planning

1-Objectives of component

The overall objective of this component is: to improve contingency planning by Members and at European Level.

The activities (expected results) are:

1. System (networks) in place to assist contingency planning in every member state through providing technical support to the contingency planners and FMD modelling expert groups to improve the national capability on modelling, contingency planning, simulation exercises;
2. Improved system established for providing central resources for crisis situations including decision support tools (including disease spread and economic models), provision for diagnostic supplies, emergency access to national or regional vaccine banks, and sharing of critical human resources

Activities	Indicators	Baseline Sept. 2015	Target years	2	Unit of measure	Current Status
1.2.1	Annual participation in online meetings and webinars held for Contingency Planning, Modelling and Vaccination Networks	150	300		Participation in online meetings or webinars	319
1.2.2	Published and available new decision support tools and guidelines	0	3		Published tools and guidance that has been peer-reviewed	1

2-Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component supervisor	Keith Sumption	Secretariat
Component manager	Mark Hovari	Contingency Planning Officer/Secretariat
Training and networking support	Nadia Rumich	Network and Training Support Officer
Other EuFMD team members	Melissa McLaws	Consultant
Advisors	Modelling and CP advisory groups	Volunteer representatives from the modelling and CP networks.
STC oversight:	Eoin Ryan	STC
ExCom oversight		

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

The direct beneficiaries of the work of component 1.2 are all of the EuFMD member states, and in particular modeling groups and contingency planners at academic and government institutions. Beyond EuFMD Member States, component 1.2 has sought to network with partners in other regions of the world actively involved in using modeling to inform contingency planning.

Consultation will occur with the **Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission (FVO)** in order to ensure that the activities of component 1.2 are complementary to FVO activities on Contingency Planning. The FMD Economic Impact Calculator has been developed through a Letter of Agreement with Prof. Jonathan Rushton and colleagues at the **Royal Veterinary College, London, UK**.

4-Progress Report

Output 1.2.1. System (networks) in place to assist contingency planning in every member state through providing technical support to the contingency planners and FMD modelling expert groups to improve the national capability on modelling, contingency planning, simulation exercises.

Activity 1.2.1.1 Contingency planning network

The contingency planning network currently counts 290 members.

EuFMD has launched since November 2015 a series of webinars in English and Russian “Practical FMD Management Webinar Series”. This webinar series brings together practitioners from EuFMD Member States, Europe and neighboring countries, Balkans, Thrace and West Eurasia involved in FMD preparedness, surveillance, control and eradication. The webinars are organized within the framework of the EuFMD Contingency Planning and West Eurasia networks, inviting members from other Components – Thrace and Balkans.

Under the practical FMD Management Webinar series one new webinar was conducted since March 2017 focusing on measures to be taken in case of confirmation of foot-and-mouth disease (or other epizootic diseases) in slaughterhouses and also covers preventive measures taken at the borders.

Furthermore one more webinars was done under the network focusing on examining the role of the private sector in emergency preparedness and management in Denmark.

All records of the webinars are available at the EuFMD e-learning website under the Contingency Planning Network.

Activity 1.2.1.2 Modelling network:

The Modelling network is continuing to grow and engage members from Europe, North America, Australasia, and beyond. There are presently 263 members.

The webinar series is a popular platform for modellers working with FMD to present their work to the international community of modellers and contingency planners.

Since the 93rd ExCom, four webinars, a main tool for learning and information sharing, were delivered:

- In July 2017, Robert Sanson presented “Investigating Personnel Resource Requirements for Responding to Potential FMD Outbreaks in New Zealand using Stamping-out With or Without Emergency Vaccination: A Simulation Study”.
- In June 2017, Paul Bessel presented “Modelling bluetongue spread. How the environment influences spread”.
- In May 2017, Ron Bergevoet presented “Participatory Multi-Criteria, a valuable tool in decision making?”.
- In March 2017, Aldo Dekker presented “Modelling versus expert opinion”.

All records of the webinars are available on the EuFMD e-learning website under the Modelling Network.

The CROss BOrder Disease MOdelling (CroBoDiMo) initiative, brought up during the Central European CVO Meeting in 2016 was further discussed (on-line meeting was held in December 2016) with modellers (Mike Tildesley and Melissa McLaws) and with the Austrian lead AGES.

Discussions were also held with Graeme Garner and Richard Bradhurst on the possible adaptation of the Australian Animal Disease Spread (AADIS) in a European setting under the FAR initiative. The outcome was to

combine the two initiatives (CroBoDiMo and AADIS adaptation to Europe) and start with pilot countries from the Central – Eastern European region. Nine CVOs have been contacted and seven have replied positively to take part in a pilot to adapt the AADIS for a European setting. National focal points have been elected to act as a liaison between EuFMD and their countries.

Activity 1.2.1.3 Vaccine discussion network:

The Vaccination Network currently has 201 members.

The forum, which is the platform used to exchange ideas, had several entries in the past months.

One webinar was held in the past six months:

- In May 2017, David Paton, presented: “Optimizing emergency vaccination strategies for FMD: use of simulation models”.

The webinar was met with great success and further webinars were requested where experts with broad scientific background present the latest outcomes of studies that can be translated into policy and/or control actions.

All records of the webinars are available on the EuFMD e-learning website under the Vaccination Network.

Activity 1.2.1.4 Development of guidelines:

In order to assist countries to improve their emergency preparedness, a Guideline on Exercises and Training for Preparedness, “Get Prepared”, is being developed by EuFMD. This pathway recognizes that countries are at different risk levels, start at different preparedness levels, and have different resources for emergency management, and aim to fill a gap by assisting national planning based on identified risks and available resources.

The work on the guidelines to develop an FMD emergency vaccination operational plan is in the final stages.

Output 1.2.2. Improved system established for providing central resources for crisis situations including decision support tools (including disease spread and economic models), provision for diagnostic supplies, emergency access to national or regional vaccine banks, and sharing of critical human resources.

Activity 1.2.2.1 Economic impact calculator:

Under a Letter of Agreement (LoA), a prototype economic impact calculator was developed by a team at the Royal Veterinary College lead by Jonathan Rushton, with a final report submitted at the end of June 2015. This calculator is intended to assist previously free countries to rapidly assess the impact of an FMD outbreak, as well as guide the selection of the most economically favorable strategy to control the outbreak. Wider socioeconomic impacts are also considered qualitatively.

Whilst the prototype calculator has been developed, the tool must still be validated and refined further to comments from users and simulations with data input. Integration with other decision support tools (e.g. disease spread models) should also be considered.

Activity 1.2.2.2 Support to development of diagnostic banks:

No activities have been carried out.

Activity 1.2.2.3 Support to emergency access to vaccine banks:

During the REMESA meeting in Naples, July 2017 Dr Keith Sumption presented the concept on “Vaccine Bank Options”. The concept proposes that instead of individual procurement contracts purchasing a specific set of physical stock (specific antigens stored and formulation of a predefined number of doses if needed) from vaccine suppliers, buyers could choose to pay instead for an “option to buy”. This option would entitle them to buy a

wide array of various strains and only pay for formulation of the vaccine on a demand basis. The more countries are involved in the options approach the lower the “right to buy” costs become.

From a buyers perspective, they would have a wider and more flexible number of vaccine strains selection with reduced initial costs and would have to pay for formulated vaccines only when they need it.

Activity 1.2.2.4 Support to sharing critical human resources:

No activities have been carried out.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

None.

6-Priorities for the next six months

Outcome 1: System (networks) in place to assist contingency planning in every member state through providing technical support to the contingency planners and FMD modelling expert groups to improve the national capability on modelling, contingency planning, simulation exercises.

Activity 1.2.1.1 Contingency planning network:

The main focus is on continuing with the FMD practical management series to cover the final topics on biosecurity and laboratory. Following which, in line with the work of the GET Prepared Pathway, a new webinar series will be drafted. It will focus on Emergency Preparedness and its related topics (planning, training and exercises) as the main theme.

Further priorities would be:

- Added promotion of Contingency planning network and invitations to interested groups, delivered using webinar series and online meetings.
- Support MS in exchanging information on their specific experience with contingency planning and simulation exercises.
- Add more resources related to emergency preparedness to the EuFMD Knowledge Bank.

Work will resume to make the contingency planning self-assessment tool (developed under 1.4) useful for all Member States.

Activity 1.2.1.2 Modelling network:

- Progress with the CroBoDiMo initiative and adapt the AADIS for Europe.
- Continue to provide opportunities for members to interact and learn through webinars and maintaining and improving the website
- Seek opportunities to allow the network members to collaborate on a project. Two of the priority themes in the call for the Fund for Applied Research involve modelling, and so this could be a relevant opportunity.
- Explore opportunities for MS not currently engaged in modelling to develop this capacity. This could be through:

Activity 1.2.1.3 Vaccination discussion network:

The main focus is to hold a webinar introducing the guidelines on developing an FMD emergency vaccination operational plan and explore other topics which could be covered under this network.

Activity 1.2.1.4 Development of guidelines:

Focus will be on the finalization of GET Prepared Pathway concept, for peer review to the STC and other interested parties within FAO. After which, the guidelines on how to develop an FMD emergency vaccination plan should be published. Lastly, resume work on the crisis communication guideline originally drafted under Component 1.1.

Outcome 2: Improved system established for providing central resources for crisis situations including decision support tools (including disease spread and economic models), provision for diagnostic supplies, emergency access to national or regional vaccine banks, and sharing of critical human resources.

Activity 1.2.2.1 Economic impact calculator:

Search for new opportunities to receive feedback in the impact calculator.

Activity 1.2.2.2 Support to development of diagnostic banks:

Continuing work on development of diagnostic bank is needed.

Activity 1.2.2.3 Support to emergency access to vaccine banks:

Continuing work on the Vaccine Bank Options concept, if endorsed by the ExCom.

Activity 1.2.2.4 Support to sharing critical human resources:

The database of the national experts need to be updated.

Possibilities on how to support development of local expertise should be further outlined, including collaboration with Universities.

7- Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 90,000	€ 44,558	50 %	€ 45,442

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

March 2017 - September 2017

Component *1.3 - Thrace*



Component Supervisor: Mark Hovari
Component Manager: Paolo Motta
Reporting: Paolo Motta / Mark Hovari
Focal point Executive Ctte:

1.3 THRACE

1. Objective of the component

The Objective of this component is improved surveillance and management of FMD and other exotic diseases in the Thrace region of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.

The activities (expected results) are:

1. Maintenance of FMD freedom in Thrace region, and confidence at all times in this status on the basis of co-ordinated surveillance, and maintenance of confidence in capacity for early detection of FMD and containment if incursions were to occur.
2. Maintenance and improvement of a system for real-time data entry to support management of national surveillance activities aimed at maintaining disease freedom confidence;
3. Achievement of four years of risk-based surveillance results through activities implemented in each country for FMD (and other diseases as decided by Coordination Framework); in 2015-17 with the expected result of providing evidence for freedom from FMD, PPR and LSD in European Turkey and the neighbouring countries;
4. Improvement of capacity to respond to exotic disease incursions into the common border region, through participation in joint exercises and development of harmonised levels of contingency planning.

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline: September 2015</i>	<i>Target 2 years</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
1.3.1	Tripartite Management Meetings held	0	3	Tripartite Management Meetings held involving staff of the three countries	5
1.3.2	Maintain the data entry system with data entry meeting agreed targets	50%	75%	Percentage of reports entered by field operatives within expected time frame	>75%
1.3.3	The level of confidence in FMD disease freedom in Thrace region is higher than if activities stopped	50%	90%	Confidence in disease freedom	>90%
1.3.4	Joint exercises	0	2	Joint exercises of the three countries	2*

* Simulation Exercise Workshop in Sofia, February 2017; Erzurum Training, July 2017

2 - Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component Supervisor	Mark Hovari	Contingency Planning Officer Secretariat
Component manager	Paolo Motta	Short Term Professional
National focal points	Tsviatko Alexandrov (Bul) Sotiria Roula Antoniou (Gr) Naci Bulut (Tur)	Consultant, SCRPD member Hellenic Animal Health Directorate Consultant
National consultants: Greece: Bulgaria: Turkey	Aris Exakoidis (Field) Christina Fouki (Lab) Alexandra Miteva Georgi Georgiev Stoyan Moldovanov Abdulnaci Bulut OktayTezal	PSAs and Consultants
ExCom oversight	-	-

3 - Countries or partner organizations involved

EuFMD member states: Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey.

4 - Progress Report

Output 1.3.1. Maintenance of FMD freedom in Thrace region, and confidence at all times in this status on the basis of coordinated surveillance, and maintenance of confidence in capacity for early detection of FMD and containment if incursions were to occur.

1.3.1.1. Co-ordination framework between veterinary services and laboratories of the three countries maintained and improved through tripartite, management, and technical meetings

The 4th Management meeting of the current biennium was held in Athens, Greece, on 8th September 2017 with the National Focal Points (NFPs) of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, the component supervisor, the component manager and the Greek National Consultants.

The Tripartite meeting will be held in Dublin, Ireland, on 12th October 2017. The meeting will be chaired by EuFMD, OIE and FAO and attended by the European Commission, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, the Greek Animal Health Directorate, the Şap Institute (Turkey), National Focal Points (NFPs) of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, component supervisor and component manager.

A Statement of Intentions for increasing cooperation for the surveillance and management of FMD and other exotic diseases and for information sharing in the Thrace region of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey was signed during the EuFMD General Session (21 April 2017).

1.3.1.2. Regular assessment of FMD risk present in Thrace, and of preventive and control measures implemented in the area

During the Management meeting in September 2017 Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey reported on their respective FMD situations. The updated situations on the activities and outcomes, within the framework of FMD surveillance, as well as of other transboundary diseases (TADs), were presented. The identified current risks for the incursion of FMD and other TADs in Thrace were also jointly discussed including the Sheep and Goat Pox outbreak in Turkish Thrace (2017) and the upcoming Kurban Festival.

1.3.1.3 Establishment of a system for regular passive reporting of presence and absence of FMD and other TADs (pro-active primary surveillance)

There are currently six national consultants implementing the activities for the surveillance programme in the Thrace region. Campaigns of awareness and communication for the risk of FMD and other TADs were targeted at farmers, aiming to promote their involvement in reporting presence or absence of infectious diseases including FMD. Greece is implementing a dedicated land-line for identified sentinel farmers in the Evros Region. These farmers have been trained in conducting clinical examinations (both for FMD and LSD) on weekly basis and reporting the results of the examination through a land-line in direct contact with the Thrace national consultants. Together with the Bulgarian National Focal Point (NFP), the EuFMD developed awareness raising materials on FMD in wildlife for stakeholders involved in wildlife management and hunters. The leaflets and fact sheets focused on clinical symptomatology and disease transmission dynamics and are expected to be translated into Bulgarian, Greek and Turkish.

Output 1.3.2. Maintain and improve a system for real-time data entry to support management of national surveillance activities aimed at maintaining DF confidence.

1.3.2.1 System for real-time data entry maintained and improved and development of outputs easy to understand

The current online Database through the Google Fusion Tables platform is free of charge and enables sharing online surveillance data from the region. This software automatically provides visualization of geographical locations of the epidemiological units (farms or villages). It also allows to create the “heat maps” showing density of population of susceptible animals by species as well as of epi units visited more frequently. The software allows to include data on other Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) (LSD, PPR, and SGP) providing the opportunity for future applications and modeling for confidence of freedom for these diseases.

The national consultants regularly provided surveillance data on FMD, LSD, SGP, and PPR in all three countries. The data were entered into the database regularly and timely in all the countries. Some discrepancies were identified between the direct reporting from the consultants and the data uploaded on the database, but these did not affect the outputs of the modeling and the confidence in FMD freedom. These discrepancies were discussed during the Management meeting in September 2017 and corrective measures were agreed.

Output 1.3.3. Achieving four years of risk based surveillance results through activities implemented in each country for FMD (and other diseases as decided by Coordination Framework); in 2015-17 with the expected result of providing evidence for freedom from FMD, PPR and LSD in European Turkey and the neighboring countries.

1.3.3.1 Regular analysis of the active surveillance carried out for FMD and other TADs and reports of such activities shared between countries and institutions

The confidence in FMD freedom in the Thrace region was constantly above 95% for both the 1st and 2nd cycles of 2017. The data on clinical and laboratory surveillance for the SGP and PPR were also provided. The cycle reports were sent to the NFP for approval and subsequently presented and discussed at the Management meeting in September 2017.

1.3.3.2 Studies implemented to provide evidence on effectiveness of FMD and other TADs vaccination in the Thrace region.

A total of 217 serological samples, from both cattle and small ruminants (collected in January 2017) were shipped to The Pirbright Institute for viral neutralization as part of a study to evaluate the FMD post-vaccination immunity in Turkish Thrace. The report of this study is in preparation and the outcomes will be presented during the Tripartite meeting in Dublin.

A study on vaccine effectiveness in Turkish Anatolia, outside the Thrace region, is under development and it is planned to be carried out in early 2018.

Output 1.3.4. Improved capacity to respond to exotic disease incursions in to the common border region, through participation in joint exercises and development of harmonized levels of contingency planning.

1.3.4.1 Regular support for laboratory (reagents and trainings) on FMD and other TADs.

The procurement of diagnostic and sampling materials is regularly managed between NFPs and EuFMD. Field and laboratory consumables as well as diagnostic kits are currently procured centrally by EuFMD. New arrangements (discussed and agreed during the Management meeting in February 2017) are now ongoing and field and laboratory consumables are being directly procured within each country while diagnostic kits will be procured centrally by EuFMD.

1.3.4.2. Development of specific exercises and workshop to improve and assess the contingency planning capacity in Thrace and the coordination between countries in case of emergency.

The Workshop “**THRACE foot and mouth disease (FMD) Training and Exercise**” was carried out in Erzurum (Turkey), 3-6 July 2017, and delivered for participants from the Thrace region of Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece. A total of 14 participants (five from Greece, four from Bulgaria and five from Turkey) were trained with the aim to improve the preparedness of the veterinary services in the Thrace region in the event of detection of a suspected incursion of an exotic livestock infectious disease, notably FMD and PPR. The two key objectives firstly were to train regional official veterinarians on Outbreak Investigation (OI) and Outbreak management (OM) while promoting regional co-operation through a joint exercise.

The course was made up by an online e-learning training, in the trainees’ national languages (Greek, Bulgarian and Turkish) to provide background knowledge on the training topics and allowing to optimize timing for practical activities during the face-to-face phase, and was followed by a three-and-a-half-day face-to-face workshop including a field visit to an FMD-affected village.

The workshop highlighted the need to improve disease reporting and passive surveillance for FMD (and other exotic diseases including PPR and SGP) in the Thrace region and provided the platform for strengthening the collaboration and cooperation among the three countries with regards to emergency preparedness and information sharing.

5 - Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

Because of the results-based approach of EuFMD component 1.3, expenditure in the first biennium was higher than originally anticipated during the planning of PHASE IV under the consultancy budget line. Some adjustments are foreseen in the planning for the next two years which should ensure that the project can continue overall till September 2019. If these adjustment cannot be done two solutions are currently envisioned to tackle such a situation:

- No other activities except of active surveillance for FMD and other TAD are implemented under this component (except ones which can be delivered by HQ staff). Some Consultancy daily rates/number of days are decreased to maintain activities until the end of phase IV (September 2019). Activities are carried out until September 2018 and, during this time, a plan is drawn up on how to switch focus from active surveillance activities to activities that increase passive surveillance (farmer reporting).

6 - Priorities for the next six months

Outcome 1.3.1:

1.3.1.1 To organize and hold the next Management meeting in spring 2018.

The current THRACE active surveillance will be continued in the three countries up until September 2018 and the future sustainability above this date will be assessed and discussed at the next Management Meeting (March 2018);

1.3.1.2 To continue the on-going co-operation and updating on the FMD situation in Thrace (including preventive and control measures and information of the passive surveillance in the countries) and sign a Statement of Intentions between the Thrace countries.

Outcome 1.3.2:

1.3.2.1 To continue use the online platform, develop and implement system of backups, and improve the Operational Manual if needed. Explore possibilities for improving data management and spatial visualizations.

Outcome 1.3.3:

1.3.3.1 To produce and circulate on quarterly basis the relevant cycle reports for 2017 using data regularly uploaded in the online platform.

1.3.3.2 To assess and communicate the outcomes of the evaluation of the post-vaccination immunity study in Turkish Thrace.

1.3.3.3 To design and implement a training on participatory epidemiology (PE) for passive surveillance assessment and communication/awareness: workshop (WS) for NFPs and national consultants to be carried out latest by March 2018. Possibly together with Management Meeting.

Outcome 1.3.4:

1.3.4.1 To continue to procure necessary laboratory diagnostic material and consumables and field consumables for the surveillance activities; to implement a new system for the direct procurement of consumables from the Thrace countries by June 2017.

1.3.4.2 Follow the FMD wildlife leaflet translations in the three countries.

1.3.4.2 Explore the ideas of Vaccine Bank Options for THRACE

1.3.4.2. To design and conduct a joint simulation exercise for the three countries if support from the countries and funds are available.

8 - Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
354,474	288,594	81%	65,880

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component *1.4 - Balkans*



Pillar Manager: Keith Sumption
Component Supervisor: Mark Hovari
Component Manager: -
Reporting: Mark Hovari
Focal point Executive Ctte:

1.4 BALKANS

1. Objective of the component

The **objective of component** to improve emergency management capacity for FMD in the Balkan region.

The **targets (expected results)** are:

1. Confidence in the coordination framework for western Balkan countries as a tool to ensure the continuous development, testing and improvement of national emergency management plans, and to ensure sufficient FMD laboratory capacity for crises;
2. Contingency plans for FMD agreed at national level and tested through at least one exercise. Contingency plans comply with EU legislation;
3. Integration of national FMD reference centers (laboratories) in the national CPs and establishment of a system of immediate regional diagnostic support for an FMD crisis.

Activities	Indicators	Baseline: Sept 2015	Target 2 years	Unit of measure	Current Status
1.4.1	Management Meetings held compared to if project was not supported.	0	3		1
1.4.2	Increase of use of exercises and drills for FMD emergency preparedness in Balkan countries	3	5	Number of countries having a national FMD exercise	4*
1.4.3	Participation in Balkan region proficiency test exercises	0	12	Number of National participations in exercises in 24 months	6

- On-line Greek national SimEx, July 2017

2. Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component supervisor	Mark Hovari	Contingency Planning Officer
Component manager	(prev. Natasha Antovska)	Short Term Placement
National focal points:		
Serbia	Budimir Plavsic	Head of Animal Health Department
Bulgaria	Tsviatko Alexandrov	Member SCRD, Head of Animal Health Department
Romania	(Not appointed by CVO yet: Ioana Alexandra Neghirla)	Head of Animal Health Control Disease Service National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
Moldova	Maxim Sirbu	Head of Department for Animal Health
Kosovo	Bafti Murati	
FYR of Macedonia	Biljana Strojmanovska	
Albania	Veli Stafa	Veterinary Specialist
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Zorana Mehmedbasic	Head of Department for Animal Health and Welfare
Montenegro	Mevlida Hrapovic	
Croatia	Ljupka Maltar	Head of Department for data analysis, reporting, contingency planning and risk analysis
Laboratory network coordinator:	Vesna Milicevic	Head of Serbian FMD NRL
ExCom oversight		

3. Countries or partner organizations involved

- EuFMD member states directly involved: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, FYR of Macedonia and Romania;
- Non EuFMD member states directly involved: Kosovo, Montenegro, Moldova and Ukraine (as per 42nd EuFMD General Session)
- Greece and Turkey are beneficiaries and supported under Component 1.3 THRACE

4-Progress Report

Output 1.4.1. Confidence in the coordination framework for western Balkan countries as a tool to ensure the continuous development, testing and improvement of national emergency management plans, and to ensure sufficient FMD laboratory capacity for crises.

Two missions were undertaken to developing a better understanding of the emergency preparedness of the Balkan countries and assessing the challenges faced by them. One of the countries visited was Montenegro and the other Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main outcome from this mission was that further training and enhancing local expertise is needed especially in the view of several Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) effect the region.

Montenegro was invited to become an EuFMD Member State, but after initial correspondence there were no further steps taken by the country.

During the call for STPs in spring 2017 a suitable candidate was selected for component 1.4 (D. Di Sabatino, Italy), but contracting was not possible as not all FAO requirements were met. No other applicant fulfilled the requirements needed for managing the components and thus no STP was assigned.

Since July 2017 Mirzet Sabirovic is acting as expert support for the component assisting in development of the new workplan.

1.4.2. Contingency plans for FMD agreed at national level and tested through at least one exercise. Contingency plans comply with EU legislation.

Following the Workshop on “Simulation exercises” held in March 2017, in Sofia (Bulgaria) national simulation exercises were planned to be conducted during the summer 2017. The countries were invited to send their exercise initiating document (PID) to EuFMD to assist in their upcoming exercises.

Due to the lack of response from the countries no local simulation exercises were held, with the exception of Greece, where an on-line exercise was conducted in July 2017.

Output 1.4.3 Integration of national FMD reference centers (laboratories) in the national CPs and establishment of a system of immediate regional diagnostic support for an FMD crisis.

No progress was made in the past six months.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

It is proposed to add Ukraine to component 1.4. Involvement in the activities conducted could assist in improving the emergency preparedness of the country.

6-Priorities for the next six months

Outcome 1.4.1: Confidence in the coordination framework for western Balkan countries as a tool to ensure the continuous development, testing and improvement of national emergency management plans, and to ensure sufficient FMD laboratory capacity for crises

National Focal Points will be contacted in September to familiarize themselves with the changes of this component for the next biennium in the form of an on-line management meeting. Also a call for a 1.4 STP will be announced both to veterinary services and to universities to ensure progress under this component.

Outcome 1.4.2: Contingency plans for FMD agreed at national level and tested through at least one exercise. Contingency plans comply with EU legislation.

Due to the strong links between improving emergency preparedness and the GET prepared (see component 1.2.) work will focus in the next six month to collaborate with three volunteer Balkan countries on developing their emergency preparedness and lead up no national simulation exercises in the next biennium.

In parallel work will start to outline possible new workshops for the next biennium that harmonize with the GET prepared focusing on diseases prioritization and principles of risk assessment.

Outcome 1.4.3: Integration of national FMD reference centers (laboratories) in the national CPs and establishment of a system of immediate regional diagnostic support for an FMD crisis

Follow-up activities for the Balkans laboratory simulation exercise will need to be carried out, based on funds available.

7. Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 178,120	€ 86,787	49%	€ 91,333

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Component 1.5 EuFMD Fund for Applied Research

March 2017 - September 2017

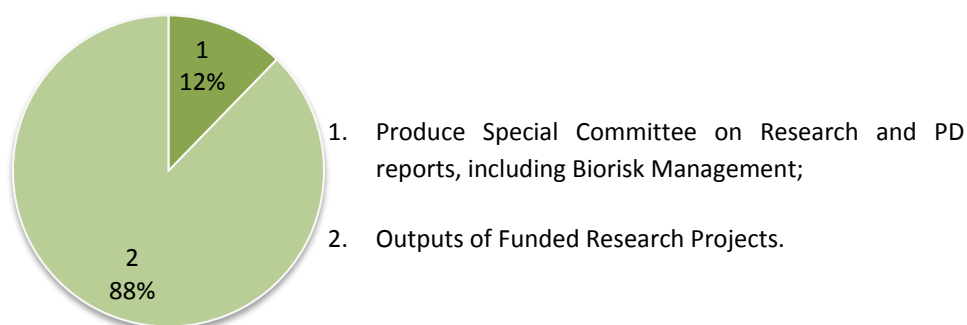


1.5 – EuFMD Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD-FAR)

1-Objective of component

Guidance of EC institutions involved in decisions on Research Funding. This includes support for research projects which have been endorsed by the EuFMD STC as being a benefit of the EUFMD objectives: activities to translate research into tools, actions or activities which are of benefit to EUFMD activities: and actions to integrate research outcomes with policy.

The activities (expected results) are:



% use of funds on achieving each Output

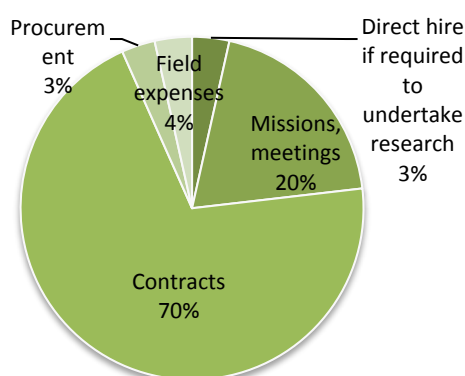
FOCAL POINTS: Standing Technical Committee: Eoin Ryan

DIRECTLY INVOLVED BENEFICIARIES: direct beneficiaries are usually policy makers in veterinary services and specialized agencies (NRLs).

RESOURCE BASE:

- **HR: two sources** P3 (5%), P2 (5%), STP (50%) (Admin Fund). Contractors awarded research projects supply their expertise/HR as per terms of the awards.

- **Budget for Activities** (EC - TF): **€ 285,000** excludes HQ based support services/costs.



Summary

- Between April and October 2017, on the basis of having a maximum of 200,000 € to disburse under the 4th FAR round and following STC recommendation, three projects were fully funded and one was partially funded for a total commitment of 152,481 €.
- The financial review for the biennium 2015-17 identified additional funds to be dedicated to a 5th FAR round allowing a specific call for proposals. Following priorities identified during the 42nd General Session the 5th call was addressed to the development of a risk and mapping system for the European neighbourhood region integrating livestock values and movement patterns.
- Two very good proposals were received to the 5th call. The recommendations of the STC relating to these will be presented to the Executive. Funding of one or more of these is also contingent on the budget allocation for Component 1.5 for the 2nd biennium, to be agreed at the Executive.
- Proposed way ahead is to request specific proposals in the areas that did not receive applications during the 4th round, subject to review at the Open Session by the STC.

Fourth and Fifth calls

The EuFMD, under the multi-annual agreement with the European Commission (DG-SANTE) has, since 2008, provided support for small applied research projects that are relevant to the technical issues that are seen as priorities of the EuFMD Member States. The thematic priorities have been mainly identified at the biennial General Sessions, held in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and 2015 and a specific Research fund was adopted as a component (1.5) of the four year EC funded Workplan of the Commission.

Funding

The EuFMD-FAR has earmarked 241,588€ funding for the first 24-month period (October 2015 to September 2017) under the Financial Agreement between EC and FAO relating to the EuFMD, managed through trust fund TF MTF/INT/003/EC. Studies contributing directly to components of the 2015-17 workplan may also be funded by those components, which may allow more than the above fund to be used to commission work.

The current funding for the 4th round of application is modest and limited to a ceiling of 50,000 € per study/project, enabling some three grants to the maximum amount and one grant for a proof of concept study of 5,000 €. Project duration span between 12 to 18 months, with starting dates from July 2017 to January 2018, with the latest study to be completed before 31st March 2019. This deadline allows for reporting and evaluation of the performance of the Fund at the 43rd General Session of the EuFMD Commission in April 2019. The funding for the 5th round of application was limited to a ceiling of 150,000 € for the selected study/project to be carried out over the 24-month between October 2017 and September 2019. EuFMD-FAR is managed by the EuFMD Secretariat, advised by the Standing Technical Committee which acts as the Grant Review Board and a Referee Panel.

Schedule for calls for applications and status of current awards

	Published programme –calls for application				Current status
	Funding available	Invitation to apply	Closing Date	Announcement Results	Result
Round 4	180,000 €	Feb.2017	15 th March 2017	Early May 2017	4 projects awarded after STC review and Executive clearance
Round 5	100,000 €	July 2017	15 th Sept 2017	Expected before mid-Oct 2017	Under STC review and Executive clearance
Further call (subject to biennium budget, Oct 2017)	100,000€	To be decided	<2 months after call	<1 month after application closing deadline	

Successful applications/Grants awarded (Round 4)

	EuFMD-FAR Project	Lead	Value	LoA signed	Call	Decision	Progress/Output to be reported at Open Session 2018
1	Validating the use of bulk tank milk for surveillance of FMD among commercial farms in endemic settings	Pirbright	48,881 €	Signed (20 th July 2017)	4 th	Rome 42 nd GS 2017	Yes
2	Evaluation in field conditions of a safe and cost-effective protocol for shipment of samples from FMD suspected case for laboratory diagnostic	ANSES	50,000 €	Expected start date 2 October (signed Sept 2017)	4 th	Rome 42 nd GS 2017	Yes
3	Alternative sampling strategies for FMD and transport of FMDV RNA to an international reference center (proof of concept)	FLI	5,000 €	Expected start date November 2017	4 th	Rome 42 nd GS 2017	Yes
4	Adapting the Australian Animal Disease (AADIS) model to simulate spread and control of FMD in Europe	...	48,600 €	Expected start date 18/09/17	4 th	Rome 42 nd GS 2017	Yes
	TOTAL committed (€)		152,481 €				

2-Project team

Role	Name	Status
Pillar manager	K. Sumption	Secretariat
Component manager	Paolo Motta	Secretariat
Standing Technical Committee	E. Ryan, Chairman	
Special Committee for Research:	18 persons acting as experts for the first round technical reviews reviewers	
Focal Point Executive Cttee	C. Bruschke	

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

The STC and SCRPD Committees are the main partners involved.

4-Progress Report

Fifth call sent out and deadline for submissions is before the 94th Executive Committee in mid-October 2017.

Grants awarded under Phase IV (EuFMD-FAR)

These are summarized in the Table at the start.

1. The 4th call was made in February 2017 with priority topics identified and listed. A total of 13 applications were received and reviewed by the two-stage process, expert reviewers followed by STC, and a teleconference held to make recommendations, which were then proposed to the Chairs of the Executive and approved on 15th May.
1. Following the 5th call made in July 2017, two applications were received and results of the 1st Stage review will be discussed by the STC ahead of the Executive Committee Session.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

1. The Biorisk management Group (under the STC) has identified a need for some technical review studies and technical meetings for which Component 1.5, whose workplan includes Biorisk Management meetings (under Output 1.5.1), could make a good claim for support. A dedicated workplan and budget for this Group will be discussed under Item 13 of the 93rd ExCom Agenda.
2. The situation for FMD research in the EU remains extremely bleak, and the FAR Fund remains the only dedicated call for FMD research other than at national level. Given the limited funds, specific calls must be considered. Possible priority areas are those that did not receive, or receive limited applications in the 4th round but had been priorities identified and published in these calls by the STC:
 - Tools to manage FMD in wildlife: issues highlighted by the requirement to prove freedom from disease of wildlife;

- To improve readiness for FMD crisis management by Members.
3. The EuFMD Secretary has been nominated by CVO- FAO as the representative on the STAR-IDAZ Consortium of animal health research funders, with the agreement of the Chair, EuFMD Commission. This gives the opportunity to promote additional investment in FMD research, and identify possible partners in joint calls.

6-Priorities for the next six months

- Review and decisions on the 5th call applications, processing awarded projects (LOA process).
- Decision on Themes and specific calls for the 6th call.
- Supporting the STC, the Biorisk Management Group, and Special Committee on Research (SCRPD) online or face to face meeting plan.

7- Themes

Theme 1: Tools to assist modelling: focus on estimating confidence in disease freedom using post-outbreak surveillance in vaccinated populations.

Theme 2: Impact calculators: extending these to estimate impacts of vaccination-to-live scenarios and business continuity planning.

Theme 3: Tools to manage FMD in wildlife: issues highlighted by the requirement to prove freedom from disease of wildlife.

Theme 4: Methodologies for rapid evaluation of vaccine stability.

Theme 5: Optimizing the use of bulk tank milk for FMD surveillance.

Theme 6: Testing of biosafe transport methods for transport of FMDV RNA to international reference centres

Theme 7: Development of a risk information and mapping system for the European neighbourhood region that integrates livestock values and movement patterns.

8. Budget

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
301,930	136,825	45%	165,105

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Component 1.7 – *Proficiency Testing Scheme*

Pillar Manager: Keith Sumption

Component Manager: Kees van Maanen

Reporting: Kees van Maanen

Executive Committee: Christianne Bruschke

1.7 Proficiency Testing Scheme

1. Objective(s) of component

The overarching objective (output) is **Harmonized Proficiency Testing Service for EU and non-EU Members in the European neighbourhood.**

The activities (expected results) are:

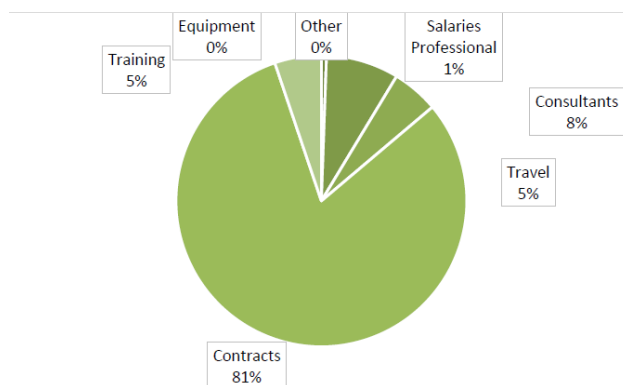
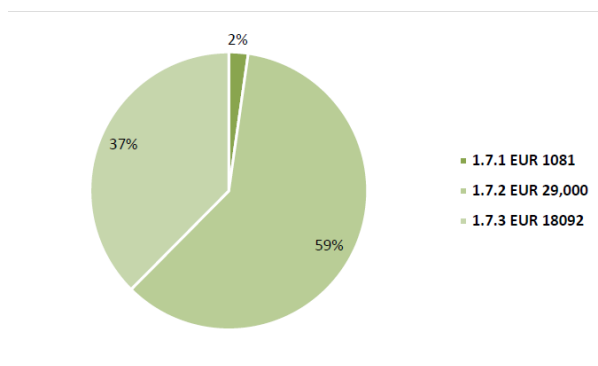
1.7.1 Increased participation and better national alignment of the NRLs in the European neighbourhood to the EuFMD and EU standard for FMD diagnostic NRLs performance (as defined at GS39), with specific results of:

- Participation of 24 non-EU EuFMD member states and neighbourhood countries in annual PTS;
- Management and participation in annual EU reference laboratory meeting.

Resource Base

Total component budget (EC funded): EUR 48,829

Budget split by targets:



Non- EC funded contributions to this component:

Description	Contribution	Funding Source
Component supervisor: Keith Sumption	1 % FTE (P5)	EuFMD Trust Fund (MS Contributions(

2-Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary - Secretariat
Component manager	Kees van Maanen	Secretariat
Partner	The Pirbright Institute	Contracted through a Letter of Agreement
Excom Oversight	Christianne Bruschke	Executive Committee (Netherlands)

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

The **direct beneficiaries** of this component are the 9 EuFMD MS and 15 neighbourhood countries who are supported to undergo laboratory proficiency testing (see table below).

The **Pirbright Institute** is contracted to carry out this proficiency testing through a Letter of Agreement (LOA).

The 24 laboratories to be included in the PTS under this section of the agreement are:

EuFMD MS not in the EU	European neighborhood states:
Serbia	Kosovo
Albania	Montenegro
FYRO Macedonia	Armenia
Bosnia	Azerbaijan
Turkey	Ukraine
Georgia	Belarus
Switzerland	Moldova
Norway	Iran
Israel	Egypt
	Lebanon
	Libya
	Morocco
	Tunisia
	Algeria
	Iraq

4-Progress against indicators

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline Sept 2015</i>	<i>Target 2 years</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
1.7	Proportion of target reference laboratories participating	16	24	Number participating over total of neighbourhood countries indicated in contract with service provider	16

Report

The results of the annual Proficiency Test 2015 and 2016 are presented in the table below (courtesy Don King and Anna Ludi, TPI). PT results are scored according to criteria agreed by the NRLs within Europe, each laboratory receives a personalized anonymous feedback letter to highlight areas in which they could improve, and performance of each laboratory is broadly categorized into one of four groups: (Category 1) to emphasize critical issues where immediate action is required that impact upon the laboratory to correctly identify FMD virus (virology tests) or FMDV infected animals (serological tests), (Category 2) laboratories with serious issues with the performance of individual tests that need to be addressed, (Category 3) to record additional observations which may need to be considered by the laboratory to improve the local performance of individual tests and (Category 4) laboratories whose tests which are fit for purpose and where no further action is required.

For the 2015 participating EuFMD (non EU) and European neighborhood labs (altogether n=16), none of the labs was in category 1 or 2, so none of the labs had critical or serious issues with individual tests. For the European neighborhood countries that participated in 2015, the proportion of labs in categories 3 and 4 was 63% and 38%, respectively. This was a positive development as compared with 2014 (83% and 17%, respectively).

In the PT 2016, there has been a change in emphasis from previous years, i.e. the PT has focused on 1) the laboratory's response to an outbreak within the country and 2) laboratory methods and analysis of results for quality assurance purpose. Three panels were available: Panel 1 –Outbreak scenarios for vesicular diseases (including FMD and SVD); Panel 2 –Quality Assurance Panel FMDV samples; Panel 3 –Continuation of outbreak scenarios of FMD and SVD. In total 17 out of 24 invited EuFMD non-EU or European neighborhood countries participated in the 2016 PTS (Israel, Ukraine, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo and Libya did not participate).

During the 2017 annual workshop of EU national reference laboratories for foot-and-mouth disease and swine vesicular disease, 9 – 10 May 2017, Horseley, UK, the results and conclusions of the Proficiency Testing Scheme (PTS) 2016 were presented. Altogether 65 countries participated in 2016. The EU NRLs performed well, all scored in category 3 and 4. It was also checked which labs were ISO 17025 accredited for which tests. For NSP tests this was for example only true for 12/27 EU NRLs. Overall, the results for virological tests and NSP antibody tests were very satisfactory, whereas some more problems were encountered with the interpretation (and cross-reactivity) of SP antibody tests.

On a related subject, the results of a PTS in the Balkan countries were presented, this work was carried out under component 1.4 of the EuFMD work program in collaboration with IZSLER, Brescia and with ANSES for the PCR reagents. Despite many positive observations still several concerns remain regarding sustainability, import problems, and operability of test capacity.

The impact of Brexit for future plans and maintenance of schemes that support EU NRLs were also briefly discussed and are also mentioned here in the context of the organization of the PTS by WRLFMD. In the FMD directive it is not explicitly written that the EU ref lab should be in one of the EU member states, but that was certainly the intention. If the UK

becomes a third country there will be an end to the Pirbright lab as EU ref lab. This has nothing to do with the WRLFMD task. In 2018 the EURL meeting will still be organized as usual, but after that the situation may change. For about ten years (1996 – 2006 or so) there was no EURL, but there is a strong commitment to keep a EURL now that it has existed for a decade. Service contracts between NRLs and TPI also have to be reviewed. Eleven member states do have such a contract to handle live virus/ship samples etc. and should review these contracts. In summary, EURL in Pirbright will have an extension of the contract with one year, so also 2018. After that the PTS for EU NRLs and for third countries may be organized separately by EURL and WRLFMD. It seems preferable if there could be a joint PTS where the new EURL subcontracts the preparation of the panels for the EU to WRLFMD. UK will be expected to stay as a EuFMD member after Brexit.

	2015	2016
Total invited laboratories ¹	91	94
Total number of shipments ¹	66	70
Participants from European Union (funded by EURL for FMD)	27 (EU member states)	28 (EU member states)
% of labs meeting target performance ⁴	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 67 % Cat-4 33 %	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 60.71 % Cat-4 39.29 %
EUFMD funded participants		
Participants from Global Network Labs ²	Panaftosa Brazil, Pakchong Thailand, BVI Botswana, OVI South Africa, ARRIAH Russia, NVRU Nigeria, LNERV Senegal, Emabakasi FMD laboratory Kenya, NAHDIC Ethiopia, USDA USA ³	BVI Botswana, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Thailand.
% of labs meeting target performance ⁴	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 10 % Cat-3 60 % Cat-4 30 %	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 60 % Cat-4 40 %
Participants from EuFMD Member states (non-EU)	Serbia, Albania, FYRO Macedonia, Turkey, Georgia, Switzerland, Norway, Israel	Albania, Georgia, Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey
% of labs meeting target performance ⁴	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 88 % Cat-4 13 %	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 66.6 % Cat-4 33.3 %
Participants from neighbourhood countries	Montenegro, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria	Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Lebanon, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia
% of labs meeting target performance ⁴	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 63 % Cat-4 38 %	Cat-1 0 % Cat-2 0 % Cat-3 77.7 % Cat-4 22.2 %
Summary of EUFMD funded participants		
Invited		
Panels shipped	Panel 1	7
	Panel 2	23
	Panel 3	25
	Panel 4	-
Total number of participants funded by EUFMD	26	26

¹ Additional countries participate in the PTS at their own expense (not funded via the EURL for FMD or EuFMD)

² Not including IZSLER and CODA-CERVA who participate as European NRLs

Fig.1 Results of the annual Proficiency Test 2015 and 2016

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

No specific issues, apart from a miscalculation in the budgeting phase leading to a negative balance (€ 48,829 budgeted for all activities under this component), whereas in the final contract with The Pirbright Institute € 64,000 was budgeted to carry out these activities, apart from additional costs for EuFMD representation and participation in the annual meetings).

6-Areas that require more attention in the next 24 month period

No specific areas apart from evaluating the new format of the PTS and trying to get all invited laboratories on board.

7. Budget

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 46,000	€ 65,140	140%	- € 18,640*

* Negative balance due to miscalculation in the budgeting phase (€ 39,000 budgeted for this part of the contract with The Pirbright Institute whereas in the final contract € 64,000 was budgeted to carry out these activities during this first biennium)

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 1.8 - Risk Analysis and Communication



1.8– Risk Analysis and Communication

1 Objective(s) of component

The overall objective of this component is: to improve the quality, utility and availability of information gathered relevant to FMD risk of entry into member states and facilitate the use of this by risk managers.

OUTPUTS (EXPECTED RESULTS):

- System established and routinely operated to update and communicate the antigen bank priorities based on risk information gathered from Pillar 1 to 3 activities, and others;
- System established to ensure that changes in FMD incidence and FMDV circulating lineages/threats in the virus pools is communicated to surveillance managers;
- Tools for improving assessment of risk of entry and consequence of entry into EuFMD MS are improved and used to better identify specific areas for EU/EuFMD attention;
- System for gathering and assessing information on specific risk drivers, such as differential in meat prices between Europe and third countries, is developed and validated for at least one driver.

Activities	Indicators	Baseline: September 2015	Target 2 years	Unit of measure	Current Status
1.8.1	Tool developed and published, available for use.	0	1	Report (tool available)	1
1.8.2	Number of FMD monthly reports produced compared to situation without funding	8	24	Number of Global Monthly Reports	22
1.8.3	Tool developed and published, available for use.	0	1	Report (tool available)	0
1.8.4	Pilot study	0	1	Study completed	1*

*Mission to Iran in August 2017

2 - Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component Supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary, Secretariat
Component Manager	Mark Hóvari	Contingency Planning Officer, Secretariat
EuFMD Monthly Reports	Maria-Teresa Scicluna	STP
National FAO Focal Point: (Co-ordination-national level)	FAO assistant representatives in countries of interest (TBC)	FAO Staff in national offices
FAO HQ Contact	Julio Pinto	Animal Health Officer (Animal Disease Emergencies and Early Warning)
National focal points	Naci Bulut (Turkey) TBC (other countries)	Consultant, SCRPD member
ExCom oversight	Lajos Bognar	ExCom member

3 - Countries or partner organizations involved

- i. All EuFMD Member States are direct beneficiaries of this component, and in particular, this component will involve work with Turkey.
- ii. Non EuFMD Member States will also be involved, for instance for information gathering and WelNET: Iran, Pakistan.

4 - Progress Report

1.8.1 System established and routinely operated to update and communicate the antigen bank priorities based on risk information gathered Pillar 1 to 3 activities, and others:

The Prioritization of Antigen Management with International Surveillance Tool (PRAGMATIST) has been developed in collaboration with the WRL to assist vaccine bank managers select which strains are most important to maintain in their vaccine bank. It is a spreadsheet model that considers 1) which strains pose the greatest threat of incursion and 2) ability of available vaccines to protect against the most important antigens are calculated for each vaccine.

It is foreseen that the tool will be continuously updated and maintained as part of preparing the Global Monthly Report. Draft outputs (tables and charts) from this tool have been produced to include in the Global Monthly Report. Furthermore plans have been made to establish a global network of FMD experts, selected from the different FMD pools that will routinely provide data for the constant update of the PRAGMATIST.

1.8.2 System established to ensure that changes in FMD incidence and FMDV circulating lineages/threats in the virus pools is communicated to surveillance managers:

The report has been produced on monthly basis by Dr Maria-Teresa Scicluna, for which different information sources are used such OIE WAHID, FAO World/Regional/National Reference Laboratories for FMD and FAO Global Animal Disease Information System data basis, also FAO/EuFMD supported FMD network and FAO/EuFMD projects and field officers information.

The report takes an overview on the changes of FMD virus strain distribution within the different pools, to highlight the differences in the FMD movement and to allow an overview evaluation of the effectiveness of the FMD control and eradication adopted in the countries. Ready to print version distributed through EuFMD. Work is in progress to include continuously updated data in the form of graphs and tables for an immediate view of the relative distribution of the most recent various FMD serotypes/viral lineages at Pool and country level in relation to the FMD susceptible population and presumed FMD incidence.

1.8.3. Tools for improving assessment of risk of entry and consequence of entry into EuFMD MS are improved and issued to better identify specific areas for EU/EuFMD attention

No activities have been carried out.

1.8.4 System for gathering and assessing information on specific risk drivers, such as differential meat prices between Europe and third countries, is developed and validated for at least one driver

With the assistance of Component 2.1 a mission to Iran in August 2017 was carried out by EuFMD experts Paolo Motta and Abdunaci Bulut. The overall aim of the mission was to explore the interest of the Iranian Veterinary Organisation (IVO) in developing a monitoring system for early warning of animal disease spread in the region and the opportunities for its implementation. The monitoring system aims at using key economic drivers for livestock trade-related movements such as prices of livestock and animal products (meat). For further details, please refer to Component 2.1.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

None.

6-Priorities for the next six months

1.8.1 System established and routinely operated to update and communicate the antigen bank priorities based on risk information gathered Pillar 1 to 3 activities, and others:

- Make a call to establish a pool of global experts to provide data for the PRAGAMATIS
- Select and train the global experts on the tool
- Include the outcome of the PRAGMATIST into the Global Monthly Report

1.8.2 System established to ensure that changes in FMD incidence and FMDV circulating lineages/threats in the virus pools is communicated to surveillance managers:

- Continue with publication of monthly reports

1.8.4 System for gathering and assessing information on specific risk drivers, such as differential meat prices between Europe and third countries, is developed and validated for at least one driver

- Build on the outcomes of the Mission conducted in Iran.

7- Budget (€) – by activity

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 46,500	€ 13,820	30%	€ 32,680

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 2.1 South East Europe

Pillar Manager: K. Sumption

Component Manager: G. Ismayilova

Reporting: G. Ismayilova

Focal point Executive Ctte: Jeanluc Angot

2.1 SOUTH EAST EUROPE

1-Objective(s) of component

The overall objective of this component is: To improve the ability of Turkey, Georgia and neighbouring West Eurasia countries in FMD management and control to promote their progress along PCP stages and to reduce the risk posed by FMD in the region, with FAO, OIE, EC and EuFMD and the countries in the W. Eurasia region working in coordination under GF-TADS.

OUTPUTS (EXPECTED RESULTS):

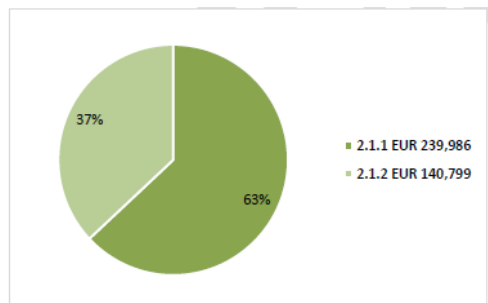
2.1.1 Member states (Turkey, Georgia) and immediate neighbours (Armenia, Azerbaijan), and other countries on request, achieve progress within their current Stage of the PCP and in their capacity to manage their programme, and evaluate the feasibility of achieving and maintaining higher stages.

2.1.2 Regional Capacity to manage the FMD risks is improved through development of regional expertise in epidemiology and laboratory disciplines to support the PCP, and on management of control programs, and regional networking to support better information exchange between risk managers in the West Eurasia Roadmap countries

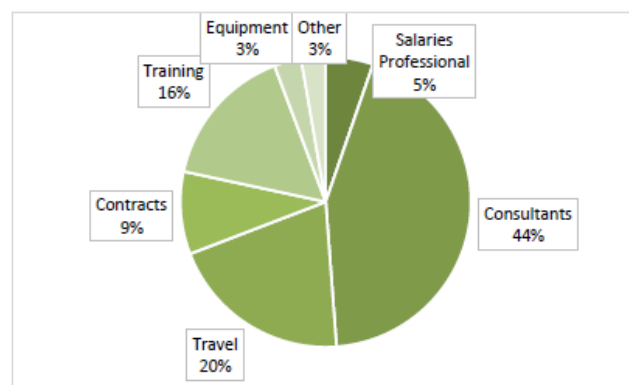
DIRECTLY INVOLVED BENEFICIARIES: The direct beneficiaries of this component are the EuFMD member states Turkey and Georgia and non EuFMD members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, (and possibly other countries in region including Iran, Russian Federation). Indirect beneficiaries: West Eurasia Roadmap participants

RESOURCE BASE:

Total component budget (EC funded) - Budget split by targets:



Budget split by budget line:



Non- EC funded contributions to this component:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Contribution</i>	<i>Funding source</i>
Component Supervisor: Executive Secretary	10% FTE (P5)	EuFMD Trust Fund (MS contributions)

2-Project team

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Component Supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary, Secretariat
Component manager	Gunel Ismayilova	EuFMD
Other EuFMD Team members:	Carsten Potzsch	EuFMD
National FAO Focal Point: (Co-ordination-national level)	FAO assistant Representatives in Turkey, Georgia	FAO Staff in national offices
FAO Sub-regional animal health focal points (Co-ordination – Central Asia, Eastern Europe))	A Rozstalnyy (Georgia/Eastern Europe)	FAO Animal Production and Health Officer based in Budapest Office
FAO HQ Contact	Eran Raizman	Head, EMPRES, AGAH Rome
National focal points	Abdulnaci Bulut (Turkey) Lasha Avaliani (Georgia) Zurab Rukhadze (Georgia) Satenik Kharatyan (Armenia) Tamilla Aliyeva (Azerbaijan)	
National consultants:	Abdulnaci Bulut (Tur) Zurab Rukhadze (G) Satenik Kharatyan (Arm) Tamilla Aliyeva (Azb)	
ExCom oversight	J.Angot	ExCom (France)

3 - Countries or partner organizations involved

- EuFMD member states (Direct Assistance) : Turkey, Georgia;
- Non EuFMD members(information gathering and WelNET)) : Armenia, Azerbaijan, (and possibly other countries in region including Iran, Russia);
- FAO and OIE (regional roadmap activities) and the EU (coordination of activities in Georgia).

4 - Progress Report

Output 2.1.1 Member states (Turkey, Georgia) and immediate neighbours (Armenia, Azerbaijan), and other countries on request, achieve progress within their current Stage of the PCP and in their capacity to manage their programme, and evaluate the feasibility of achieving and maintaining higher stages.

Activity 2.1.1.1: Assist with development of risk-based strategic plan (RBSP) in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Update of RBSP in Georgia

- The RBSPs of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been accepted, countries had their PCP-FMD Stage 2 confirmed during the 7th Regional FMD West Eurasia Roadmap meeting in Bishkek, 6-8 of April 2016.
- The TransCaucasus Workshop on FMD risk management for potential PCP Stage 3 zones was carried out on the 20-22 June, 2017 in Georgia. According to the discussions and conclusions of the workshop, RBSPs of three countries need to be updated considering the differences in risks for FMD introduction and spread in the candidate zones for PCP Stage 3 and the whole country. Countries requested assistance of EuFMD in updating of RBSPs, including Stage 3 requirements.

Activity 2.1.1.2: Assist with establishment and implementation of monitoring of RBSP in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan

- To support the TransCaucasus (TCC) countries to further progress along the PCP, the TransCaucasus Workshop on FMD risk management for potential PCP Stage 3 zones was held on the 20-22 June, 2017 in Georgia, Tbilisi and Racha-Lechkhumi. Veterinarians from Armenia and Azerbaijan (two participants per country), Georgia (four participants from central level and four veterinarians from Racha-Lechkhumi region) participated in the workshop. The objectives of the workshop (2,5 days) were to:
 - reduce the risk of FMD spread and introduction through improved surveillance;
 - improve early detection of FMD;
 - improve confidence of FMD freedom through clinical investigations;
 - improve FMD awareness;
 - agree on forms and protocols of clinical investigations;
 - develop an action plan to achieve PCP Stage 3 in these candidate zones.

Georgia has confirmed that Racha-Lechkhumi region is a zone-candidate for PCP Stage 3, Azerbaijan appointed Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic as candidate zone, but later the decision changed on proceeding with Absheron region instead, while Armenia communicated the selection of a first-time candidate zone in Kotayk and Lory regions. The exercise on identification and prioritization of risks for FMD introduction and spread in the candidate zones for PCP Stage 3 has shown differences in risks between the whole country and candidate zones. These differences need to be addressed by the updated Risk-Based Strategic Plans (RBSPs).

A proposal prepared by Georgia for clinical and serological surveillance in candidate zones, with a special focus on clinical surveillance including form and protocol for clinical investigation, has been discussed and agreed upon after application of the clinical forms in the field. After further improvement, these forms and guidelines will be used as a basis for clinical and serological surveillance in all three countries.

2.1.1.1 Assist with implementation of monitoring of RBSP and technical support for national epi-network in Turkey

- The new Strategic Plan for the West Anatolia FMD Control Zone, which is a part of an Agricultural Development Plan ordered by the President and launched by the Prime Minister in 2016 was developed by the General Directorate for

Food and Control (GDFC). The FMD Strategic Plan separates Anatolian Turkey into a western (FMD Control Zone, containing 44 provinces) and to an eastern part. The strategic goal of the plan is that Turkish Thrace becomes free without vaccination, the FMD Control Zone (CZ) becomes free with vaccination by 2021 and entire Anatolian Turkey becomes free with vaccination by 2023.

- GDFC requested EuFMD to jointly provide four separate Workshops on FMD control for five regions of Western Anatolia surveillance zone (Marmara, Aegean, Black sea, Central Anatolian and Mediterranean regions) with particular attention to the practical aspects of implementation of FMD control in the field.

The first and the second workshops on FMD Control and surveillance in the West Anatolia FMD Control Zone of Turkey took place on 7-10th and 13-16th of February in Ankara. In the first workshop 22 provincial veterinarians participated from the 11 provinces of İstanbul, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Bilecik, Yalova, Bursa, Balıkesir, Çanakkale, Bolu and Eskişehir; and in the second workshop 22 veterinarians from another 11 provinces: İzmir, Manisa, Kütahya, Uşak, Aydın, Denizli, Muğla, Afyon, Burdur, Isparta and Antalya. The members of central epidemiology group participated in both workshops.

The third and fourth workshops were carried out on 14-17th and 28-30th of March. In the third workshop a total of 22 provincial veterinarians from the 12 provinces of Nevşehir, Kırşehir, Bartın, Ankara, Çankiri, Kastamonu, Bilecik, Zonguldak, Kırıkkale, Karabük, Yozgat, Çorum participated; and the fourth workshop involved a total of 29 provincial veterinarians from 12 provinces - Samsun, Adana, Karaman, Kayseri, Aksaray, Sivas, Tokat, Sinop, Amasya, Konya, Mersin and Nidgde. In addition, members of the central epidemiology group participated as well.

The workshops were conducted using interactive presentations, practical field work, group exercises and discussions. Provincial veterinarians showed high interest in the topics and their practical application, and found the workshop useful for their responsibilities in improved FMD control in the FMD Control Zone. A protocol was drafted by GDFC with assistance from EuFMD for outbreak investigation and clinical investigation procedures. This includes forms to be used in the field both for standard (Outbreak Investigation level 1) outbreak and clinical investigation. Also, the number of follow-up visits to infected epi-units along with relevant objectives, resources and actions have been drafted for further elaboration by GDFC. GDFC and EuFMD considered the training objectives achieved.

Activity 2.1.1.4 Assist component 1.8

- The focal points from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran agreed to gather and provide necessary information on meat prices, when requested.
- A mission to Iran from 29th of July -7th of August 2017 was carried out by EuFMD expert Paolo Motta and Turkish national consultant Abdulnaci Bulut. The overall aim of the mission was to explore the interest of the Iranian Veterinary Organisation (IVO) in developing a monitoring system for early warning of animal disease spread in the region and the opportunities for its implementation. The monitoring system aims at using key economic drivers for livestock trade-related movements such as prices of livestock and animal products (meat).

This mission had the following main objectives:

1. To gain an overview of the livestock trading system in key Provinces of the country for piloting suitable data capturing approaches for sustainably gather relevant information on livestock movements;
2. To present the concept to the IVO and interested parties, and discuss opportunities for establishing a monitoring system of live animals and meat prices (e.g. at livestock markets and processing plants);

During the mission some of the key areas for livestock trade-related movements in the country, and across borders with neighbouring countries (livestock markets , slaughterhouses/meat processing plants , fattening farms, livestock production complexes and a quarantine farm), were visited in West Azerbaijan Province, Qom Province and Sistan and Baluchestan Province). Preliminary results from the mission and from the baseline assessment in Iran will be jointly

presented with equivalent results from Turkey, and in collaboration with EuFMD, during the 1st West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 18-20 September 2017.

Output 2: Regional Capacity to manage the FMD risks is improved through development of regional expertise in epidemiology and laboratory disciplines to support the PCP and on management of control programs, and by regional networking to support better information exchange between risk managers in the West Eurasia Roadmap countries, as well as in Europe and beyond.

Activity 2.1.2.1 Support better information exchange between risk managers in the West Eurasia Roadmap countries

- A meeting was held, during the 84th General Session of the OIE on the 25 May 2016 “Regional cooperation between Transcaucasia and neighbouring countries in the prevention and control of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) and other major epizootic transboundary diseases”. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the possible establishment of cooperation between TransCaucasus (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) and neighbouring countries (Turkey, Iran, Russia) aimed to improve the collaboration and coordination for the prevention and control of FMD and other epizootic transboundary diseases. The main output was an agreed “Statement of Intentions”. Four of the eight “Intentions” agreed concerned improved sharing of disease information and vaccination programmes. In the interim, until better solutions are found, the EuFMD requested from the six countries a monthly report to be provided by the 10th of each Month. Monthly reporting by the countries (Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia) started in October 2016. First report from Russian Federation (RF) has been received in April 2017, according their internal rules of reporting RF agreed to report not on monthly but on quarterly basis.
- To follow up on progress achieved since agreement on the “Statement of Intentions”, the Second Meeting on Regional cooperation between Transcaucasia and neighbouring countries in the prevention and control of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) was held on 22nd May in Paris on the side of the 85th General Session of the OIE 2017.
 - Up to now all information regarding autumn/spring vaccination campaigns has been shared by TCC countries on monthly basis. Iran shared information on autumn vaccination campaign and outbreaks occurred in September and October only. After starting reporting in April 2017 Turkey is timely providing relevant information regarding vaccination and outbreaks in the area bordering with TCC countries.
 - From February 2017 the reports on vaccination are shared in the excel format agreed between countries during the Regional Workshop on FMD prevention and control in January 2017 in Georgia, Bazaleti. Google Fusion for visualisation of vaccination, agreed by the countries as the most suitable option, needs major input for further development, whereas the existing alternative Empres-I West Eurasia Database could be used only for Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia, and requires considerable improvements.
 - For the outbreak reporting, a trial Google Fusion Database was introduced, following the agreements in January. The online meeting on use of the first version of the TCC database based on Google Fusion for outbreaks visualisation was carried out in March 2017. Turkey is started to use TCC Google Fusion Database to immediately inform TCC countries regarding FMD outbreaks close to the border.

Activity 2.1.2.2. Development of regional expertise in epidemiology and laboratory disciplines

- Since November 2015, EuFMD launched a series of webinars “Practical FMD Management Webinar Series”. This webinar series brings together practitioners from EuFMD Member States, Europe and neighbouring countries, Balkans, Thrace and West Eurasia involved in FMD preparedness, surveillance, control and eradication. The webinars are organized within the framework of the EuFMD Contingency Planning network and West Eurasia networks. To date, a total of ten webinars have been delivered in English followed by same-topic in Russian language, except several of them, specifically

designated to West Eurasia Networks. During the reporting period the following webinar have been delivered in Russian and English languages:

- Practical aspects of the emergency measures to be taken in slaughterhouses in case of FMD and other epizootic disease confirmation.

All records of the webinars are available on the EuFMD e-learning website under the West Eurasia Webinar series page. A forum to discuss the webinar series with the possibility to ask additional questions to presenters have been created within the page.

- In response to the request for assistance from Kyrgyzstan during the 7th FMD roadmap meeting for West Eurasia was held on 6-8 April 2016 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and following request from GF-TADS FMD Working Group, EuFMD provided technical support to Kyrgyzstan to complete their RBSP. The workshop on RBSP Development was carried out on 3-6 October at the Ministry of Agriculture of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan submitted RBSP for attention the GF-TADS FMD working group in January 2017 and received comments from GF-TADS FMD Working Group. The RBSP is currently under revision to address comments.
- FITC (FMD Field Investigation Training Course) in Turkish language, adapted for endemic countries from FEPC (FMD Emergency Preparedness Course) was carried out from 4th of June-15th of July. Around 152 Turkish provincial veterinarians were enrolled in the course, which is conducted in collaboration with GDFC. It is planned to repeat FITC in Turkish in collaboration with GDFC by the end of 2017, involving Turkish veterinarians together with Turkish speaking veterinarians from Azerbaijan, Iran and Cyprus.
- FITC (FMD Field Investigation Training Course) in Russian language is planned to be organized by the end of 2017.
- Steps forward for development of the West Eurasia networks Epi-net and Welnet in support of better information share have been discussed during the West Eurasia networks online meeting: West Eurasia Networks-discussion on regional needs and networks activity plans proposals, carried out on 11th of May. In preparation of the upcoming First West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting leaders of the networks preliminary presented ideas for the networks development and annual workplans.
- The “First Regional West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting” took place in Tbilisi, Georgia on 18-20 September, 2017. The aim is to support sustainable regional networks development, to promote technical discussions and coordination to address existing gaps in regional FMD control, as well as to consolidate on the past activities and recommendations from the West Eurasia Roadmap meetings. The GFTADS Working Group decided that the West Eurasia Roadmap meeting will be organized next year in 2018. EuFMD provides assistance in preparation of the meeting and support of participation of from Iran and Turkey, as well as expert assistance in delivery of the workshop.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention

Turkey:

- The new Strategic Plan for the West Anatolia FMD Control Zone, which is a part of an Agricultural Development Plan ordered by the President and launched by the Prime Minister in 2016. The FMD Strategic Plan separates Anatolian Turkey into a western (FMD Control Zone, containing 44 provinces) and to an eastern part. The Risk-Based Strategic Plan for Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease” prepared in English by EuFMD, GDFC and the SAP Institute will be updated according the new FMD control strategy by October/November 2017.
- The situation in Turkey remains unstable, structural changes in GDFC are ongoing. The head of GDFC is still not officially appointed, Dr. Pakdil is temporary back as acting Director General. The Central Epidemiology and Monitoring Unit and Epidemiology Network, represented by the staff from Regional Institutes are operational and actively involved in implementation of the new FMD control strategy in Turkey. Four workshops have been conducted with

EuFMD expert support to support introduction of the new strategy in FMD Control Zone. Turkey is planning to conduct two more one-week courses in October for the remaining 37 eastern provinces, and have requested participation of EuFMD experts again to increase the quality of the training.

Georgia:

- Dr Demna Khelaia has been officially appointed as CVO and Dr. Lasha Avaliani as deputy CVO and OIE delegate.

TransCaucasus countries:

- During the the TransCaucasus Workshop on FMD risk management for potential PCP Stage 3 zones in Racha-Lechkhumi, countries discussed their common and specific needs to be taken in consideration when developing the next EuFMD 2-year program to ensure further progress towards PCP-Stage 3. The common needs are as following:
 - Updating of RBSP, including Stage 3 requirements;
 - laboratory support and trainings;
 - serosurvey design, validation/follow up of serosurvey test results, interpretation of test results, adjustment of national and regional FMD control measures;
 - advise on vaccine selection, tender and evaluation of technical offers by the bidders.

West Eurasia:

- There is a need for further development of the West Eurasia database for visualisation of Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran and Russian Federation monthly reporting on vaccination and outbreaks, based on Google Fusion, Google Maps and Google Spreadsheets software. The data will be uploaded directly by the users. Currently, it was possible to upload only monthly reporting data of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to Empres-i West Eurasia Database (it is currently done at HQ in Rome).
- The implementation of a structured monitoring system of live animals and meat prices for the next biennium (October 2017/September 2019) in co-operation and collaboration with Turkey other countries in the region was presented by EuFMD experts and discussed at the 1st West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting.

6-Priorities

Turkey:

- Follow-up surveillance strategy in FMD Control Zone and new RBSP
- Organization of FITC online course in Turkish for Turkish speaking vets (Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey, Cyprus)
- Organization of FITC online course in Russian for Russian speaking countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan).

Georgia and neighbours:

- Moving to the establishment of PCP stage 3 zones in Racha-Lechkhumi of Georgia, Absheron region of Azerbaijan and Lory and Kotayk regions of Armenia. Assistance to the countries in revision of the current RBSP and progression to PCP stage 3.

West Eurasia:

- Develop West Eurasia Networks e-learning page as a mean for better information exchange in the region and communication between experts and participants.
- Support to GFTADs working group in organization and delivery of the Regional West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting” in Tbilisi, Georgia on 18-20 September, 2017.
- Further support of Epi-net and Welnet development
- Follow-up on a development of the regional database.

8- Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 334,909.00	215,599.00	64%	119,310.00

7-Gantt charts – Planned, and Progress Update/revised program

2.1 South East Europe	OUTPUT 2.1 South East Europe: better FMD management in Turkey and neighbours		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
	Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
	2.1.1 MS (Turkey , Georgia) and immediate neighbours (Armenia, Azerbaijan), and other countries on request, achieve progress within their current Stage of the PCP and their capacity to manage their programme and evaluate the feasibility of achieving and maintaining higher stages	2.1.1.1 Assist with dev. of risk-based strategic plan (RBSP) in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Update of RBSP in Georgia																								
		2.1.1.2 Assist with establishment and implementation of monitoring of RBSP in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan																								
		2.1.1.3 Assist with implementation of monitoring of RBSP and technical support for national epi-network in Turkey																								
		2.1.1.4 Assist component 1.8 in meat price monitoring systems																								
	2.1.2 Regional Capacity to manage the FMD risks is improved through dev. of regional expertise in epidemiology and laboratory disciplines to support the PCP and on management of control programs, and regional networking to support better information exchange between risk managers in the West Eurasia Roadmap countries, as well as in Europe and beyond	2.1.2.1 Support better information exchange between risk managers in the West Eurasia Roadmap countries																								
		2.1.2.2 Dev. of regional expertise in epidemiology and laboratory disciplines																								

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 2.2 – *South East Mediterranean*

Pillar Manager: Keith Sumption

Component Supervisor: Keith Sumption

Component Manager: Kees van Maanen

Reporting: Kees van Maanen

Focal point Executive Ctte: Jean-Luc Angot

2.2 South East Mediterranean

1-Objective(s) of component

The overall objective of this component is: better FMD management in the neighbourhood of Cyprus and Israel

OUTPUTS (EXPECTED RESULTS):

1. Risk-based Strategy Plans (RBSP) adopted, implemented and monitored in Egypt
2. Risk-based Strategy Plans (RBSP) adopted, implemented and monitored in Palestine and Israel;
3. Risk-based Strategy Plans developed and PCP-FMD progress achieved in Jordan and Lebanon;
4. System in place to provide improved disease risk information through networking for better information exchange to managers of countries under this component for planning risk-based FMD control re: risk-based surveillance, risk-based vaccination programmes and vaccine selection for the threats from particularly bordering areas in the Middle-East and sub-Saharan East Africa.

DIRECTLY INVOLVED BENEFICIARIES: Israel, Cyprus, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan.

RESOURCE BASE

HR: HQ operational costs are identified and for support of activities under Pillar II, two STPs have been selected.

€ 206,324 Agreed at ExCom 90

Budget for Activities (EC - TF): *excludes HQ based support services/costs.*

€ 175,239

2-Project team

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Component Supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary, Secretariat
Component manager	Kees van Maanen	EuFMD consultant
Other EuFMD team members	Chris Bartels, Melissa McLaws, Nick Lyons	Consultants
Regional and National consultants:	Khawla Salem al Njoum (FAO Jerusalem)	FAO support to Palestine
National focal points		
Israel	Nadav Galon	CVO Israel
Palestine	Iyad Adra	CVO Palestine
Egypt	Mohamed Atea	Deputy CVO Egypt
EARLN	Sabenzia Wekesa	EARLN Coordinator
ExCom oversight	Jean-Luc Angot	Executive Committee (France)

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

The activities will be mainly implemented in Israel and Cyprus as EuFMD members and in Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan as neighbouring countries.

The EuFMD will work in coordination with FAO offices in Jerusalem and Cairo, and with approval from OIE Beirut and GfTADS' approval of the East African Regional Laboratory Network (EARLN).

4-Progress against indicators

Activities	Indicators	Baseline Sept.15	Target 2 years	Unit of measure	Current Status
2.2.1	Number of countries in region with a Risk Based Strategic Plan that has been accepted by GF-TADs FMD Working Group.	1 (Egypt)	4 (Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon)	Number of countries	Achieved: 2 RBSPs (Egypt accepted by GF-TADs FMD Working Group, Palestine waiting for the next roadmap meeting 15-19 October in Amman, Jordan)*
2.2.4	Assist networking through online meetings and sharing of FMD information to risk managers of countries under this component	0	140 participations in 24 months involving 6 countries	Number of regional participations in online meetings	185 participants from 11 Arabic speaking countries in the NENA region.**

*: Output 2.2.1 in line with the original planning for two countries (Egypt and Palestine), RBSPs have been implemented, whereas Jordan and Lebanon are still in the process of developing RBSPs. It is expected that this will not be finished by 1-10-2017, but by 1-4-2018.

** : Output 2.2.4, an LoA has been signed between EuFMD and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and the first FITC course in Arabic has been delivered (under coordination of component 2.4) between July 5th and August 3rd 2017.

Progress Report

Output 1. Risk-based Strategy Plans (RBSP) adopted, implemented and monitored in Egypt

EuFMD has been working for many years in Egypt to progress FMD control. EuFMD has supported the veterinary services of Egypt in reviewing the FMD control strategy and Egypt has finalized a risk-based strategy plan (RBSP) for FMD control. This RBSP has been presented during the Third Regional meeting of the FMD Control Roadmap for the Middle East in Doha, Qatar, 1-2 December 2015. Egypt has been assessed by the Regional Advisory Group to be in PCP stage 2. Egypt produces reports with relevant data of passive and active surveillance activities, although with some delays and not yet on a monthly basis. Under this component regularly sample shipments to WRLFMD in Pirbright are organized and funded, for the last shipment in July 2017 the results illustrated again the predominance of African O EA-3 strains and their very close relatedness with the recent outbreak strains in

the Gaza strip, Israel and the West Bank, the absence of O Ind2001 strains and the continued presence of A/AFRICA/G-IV strains.

EuFMD support for 2015-2017 has been delayed because of the previously reported problems to find a feasible solution between LLNL/US-DOS and FAO for (sub)contracting the activities that were agreed upon. In the meantime a solution has been found by (sub)contracting the LLNL/US-DOS funded activities to a private company (Animal Health Works). These externally funded activities particularly relate to expenses in relation to training (accommodation, travel expenses, meals), vaccine quality assessment (expert consultation), support to regional collaboration and extended expert support to the General Organisation of Veterinary Services (GOVS) and the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in the field of M&E. The contribution of EuFMD for the activities in Egypt is related to consultancies providing training and expertise.

A real-time Training of trainers (ToT) course on outbreak investigation was carried out in January 2017 guided by two experienced EuFMD trainers and this course has been adopted and carried out already six times now by Egyptian trainers. EuFMD staff have joined the 6th training course in March 2017 to observe this cascade training, learn lessons from it and advise and encourage the Egyptian Veterinary Services.

A real-time training course on advanced outbreak investigation (organized for the first time) was planned for end of March 2017, but had to be rescheduled because the Egyptian coordinator of the courses passed away. This course was delivered in July 2017 guided by two experienced EuFMD trainers. The main workshop objectives were to train GOVS epidemiology staff (central and regional) plus staff from the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) about additional aspects of FMD outbreak investigation such as 1) analysis of risk factors for introduction into and spread within outbreak area; 2) evaluation of vaccine effectiveness; 3) assessing the extent of virus circulation in a reported and confirmed outbreak; 4) quantification of the disease impact on livestock production and livelihoods. These four aspects were evaluated at epi-unit level (villages) at the end of a confirmed FMD outbreak. For several reasons, this training course was very productive and was regarded successful by the participants. Only the most important aspects of epidemiological investigation/risk factor analysis, economic impact, vaccine effectiveness and virus circulation were discussed by the trainers in order to have ample time available for small group work. Two participants had recently completed an in-depth Socio-Economics course (E-learning was provided by EuFMD), which allowed them to contribute significantly to this subject. Also, the combination of central and district level GOVS staff and lab staff collaboration created a valid synergy.

A vaccine audit was carried out in April 2017 with two international experts in FMD vaccine production accompanied by an EuFMD expert in the framework of improvement of FMD vaccine manufacturing in Egypt through auditing on vaccine quality (including efficacy and safety data and all relevant aspects of QA/QC) at the 2 plants in Egypt (one government owned and one private) and the vaccine control institute. The mission revealed many challenges and deficiencies and has led to many recommendations to all relevant parties involved. A follow-up mission is planned for October 2017.

The current FMD situation in Egypt is a point of concern. Since farmers have to pay for the FMD vaccinations the vaccination coverage seems to have dropped significantly and many outbreaks are reported not to speak about those that are not reported. There are also serious doubts with respect to the current capacities and capabilities for FMD diagnosis in AHRI.

Output 2. Risk-based Strategy Plans (RBSP) adopted, implemented and monitored in Palestine and Israel

As reported previously in January 2017, a joint Israeli-Palestinian workshop has been organized on risk based surveillance, risk based vaccination and post vaccination monitoring. Many subjects were discussed and the workshop was experienced by all as fruitful and productive event, and has contributed to better communication and transparency between the parties with respect to FMD and hopefully also other TADs.

Just before the start of the workshop, an FMD outbreak was reported in a Kibbutz dairy farm 4 km from the border with the Gaza strip and it became clear that outbreaks had been going on in the Gaza strip for several weeks already. The virus was rapidly identified and characterized and appeared to be FMDV/O/EA-3 which is dominant in Egypt. The hypothesis at that time was that this virus has arrived in the Gaza Strip through transport of animals from Egypt by tunnels. In May and June 2017 additional outbreaks were reported in the West Bank and in Israel close to the border with the West Bank. All virus strains were characterized as FMDV/O/EA-3 and are very closely related to each other and to all FMDV/O/EA-3 strains (n=21) collected in 2016 and 2017 in Egypt. How the virus has managed to reach the West Bank is still unclear.

Output 3. Risk-based Strategy Plans developed and PCP-FMD progress achieved in Jordan and Lebanon

In order to develop Risk-based Strategic Plans, workshops have been planned with focal points of Jordan and Lebanon. It was decided to plan three workshops in each country to assist these countries with the development of a RBSP. It was also decided not to organize joint workshops, but to work separately with each of the countries.

In Jordan, in the first two workshops the structure and contents of the RBSP have been explained, value chains, risk hotspots and pathways were developed and evaluated and priority risk pathways were refined. For each risk pathway a qualitative risk assessment was made for the different steps in the risk pathway and intervention options identified for the high risks. Also a start was made with the development of chapter 3 of the RBSP and goal, strategic objective, component objectives and tactics were identified. The main themes were improving veterinary services, reducing spread within Jordan and reducing introductions into Jordan. Also the concepts of results based management were explained and discussed with an emphasis on indicators, targets, means of verification and baseline information.

Recently, Jordan has experienced FMD outbreaks and has reported these outbreaks to World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) on March 13th 2017 (according to the report, the outbreaks started on February 21st 2017), which is 10 years after the last reported outbreaks. Collaboration with the Jordanian University of Science and Technology (JUST) has revealed that these outbreaks have been caused by the FMDV lineage O/Ind2001d where the Jordan isolates are most closely related to isolates from Saudi Arabia (2016). At the end of February 2017, a Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed between JUST and EuFMD/FAO in which the following outputs were agreed upon: 1) adapt FMD Investigation Training Course (FITC) to the Near East/North African (NENA) context and deliver to 120 participants from NENA countries (more specifically Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Libya and Syria); 2) make appropriate recommendations for improving FMD preparedness related training methodology and national level training for official veterinarians in the above mentioned NENA countries; 3) produce Training material for private veterinarians, animal health workers and farmers on biosecurity and notification of FMD outbreaks; 4) develop and deliver a 4-hour long pilot on-line course for private veterinarians, animal health workers and farmers.

The purpose of the third workshop (14 – 16 May 2017) was to summarize, evaluate and continue the work of the previous two workshops directed at the development of a Risk Based Strategic Plan (RBSP), with a focus on the recent FMD outbreaks and FMD epidemiology in Jordan. The workshop covered the most relevant aspects of (advanced) outbreak investigation, contingency planning, risk based surveillance and control measures, including risk based vaccination. Two days of training were done in class and one day was dedicated mainly to a field visit to two cattle farms that had been affected by FMD some months previously. The most important issues raised by the participants with respect to the recent FMD outbreaks were: 1) Farmers were reluctant to notify of outbreaks because they were afraid of the negative consequence in milk sales ; 2) politically, there was high pressure related to the export to Saudi Arabia; 3) due to the above stated problems, no samples were shipped to The Pirbright Institute; 4) doubts regarding the effectiveness of the ARRIAH vaccine; 5) budget shortages to deal effectively with the outbreaks; 6) the absence of a relevant contingency plan. The LoA between JUST and EuFMD was also discussed with the participants and it was agreed that JUST and VS would collaborate where possible to realize these outputs.

In Lebanon, the first workshop was carried out in June 2016 by EuFMD Chris Bartels and Mounir Khayli. The focus of this mission was on zooming out of the veterinary field and to consider the various livestock production systems present in Lebanon. Understanding these livestock production systems through analysis of the value chains for a range of animal products (beef, dairy, sheep) allowed to clearly identify the private and public stakeholders involved and next to superimpose risks of FMD introduction and FMD spread across the value chains. The third step was to elaborate on identified risks through the construction of risk pathways to support risk estimation and prioritization. This step will help to define a risk-based strategy plan based on the risks that are ranked highest.

In the spirit of the PCP-FMD, the first priority for Lebanon is to provide evidence of the assumed absence of FMD virus circulation through conducting a number of sero-surveys (discussed/designed during this workshop). If these surveys support the absence of FMD virus circulation, the focus of a FMD control plan shifts to risk analysis of introduction through the three routes described above and developing contingency plans. However, if these surveys show evidence for virus circulation, more intensive surveillance on FMD occurrence and its risks of transmission are needed to support identification of risk hotspots. The follow up on this workshop is for the participants to elaborate on the situation analysis in Lebanon, including aspects of livestock distribution and seasonal movements, risk hotspots and their pathways and the identification of gaps and needs with the Veterinary Services for their role in controlling FMD. Despite several attempts we have not been able to plan a second workshop until now. The Lebanese counterpart indicates that first the results of the serosurveys should be awaited, but despite several requests for information the status and results of these surveys remain unclear until now.

Output 4. System in place to provide improved disease risk information through networking for better information exchange to managers of countries under this component for planning risk-based FMD control re: risk-based surveillance, risk-based vaccination programmes and vaccine selection for the threats from particularly bordering areas in the Middle-East and sub-Saharan East Africa

EuFMD produces the Global Monthly Report (GMR). For this report, many sources are used and information is also received from a number of focal contact persons. The GMR adds to the quarterly and annual WRLFMD reports, and – since it is on a monthly basis – provides more real-time information. Guest editors contribute significantly to the interpretation of relevant events stressing the highlights of that particular month and placing it in a broader context. The timely information sharing of the new type A/ASAI/Genotype VII strain by all involved is exemplary including the relatively rapid generation of vaccine matching results. The information has been shared through GMRs and online meetings and directly by the WRLFMD representing the FAO/OIE FMD laboratory network. Also the available and already published information regarding the predominance of FMDV/O/EA-3 in Egypt and access to the most recent information from GOVS and AHRI in Egypt enabled EuFMD consultants to correctly predict the toptype and lineage of the FMD virus responsible for recent outbreaks in the Gaza strip and Israel and inform the Israeli and Palestinian authorities already about available vaccine matching information in collaboration with WRLFMD in Pirbright.

In the GMR the gaps in virological surveillance in pools 4 and 5 are illustrated clearly. Some budget is available for facilitating shipments from countries in sub-Saharan East Africa representing putative threats to countries in the Middle-East. Under component 3.3, funds are available to encourage improved virological surveillance by training in early warning, notification, outbreak investigation and sample transport and to support shipments from RSLs in pools 4 and 5. Under component 2.2.4, missions have been carried out in April and May to Ethiopia and Sudan, on request of these countries and in consultation and collaboration with the local/regional FAO offices.

Virtual networking through webinars and online meetings has been organised in connection with similar activities that have started already under component 2.3 REMESA with a focus on the NENA countries. EuFMD and JUST implemented together an on-line FMD Investigation Course (FITC) in Arabic language. The duration of this on-

line FITC was 30 days, started July 5th, 2017 and was concluded August 3rd, 2017. Two webinars were delivered (at the beginning and the end of this FITC). Both webinars were delivered in Arabic. The total number of participants was 185 from 11 Arabic speaking countries in the NENA region. However, only 44 (24%) of the participants were able to complete the course including the final assessment. Overall, participants that finished the final assessment and participated in the course evaluation were satisfied with the course contents and indicated that this course will help them in their daily work activities. In addition, almost all respondents showed interest in participating in similar courses in the future.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

- In Egypt activities have started again, but the current FMD situation in the country is a point of concern. The vaccine is no longer supplied for free and vaccination coverage has dropped dramatically. Also the management and performance of the virology department within AHRI is a point of concern. Since Egypt is part of two FMD pools and on a crucial crossway between Africa and the Middle East EuFMD should definitely continue and maybe extend activities in Egypt.
- A joint steering committee for Israel and Palestine has appeared not to be feasible until now and is not considered a realistic ambition anymore for this phase of the program and probably also not for the next phase. However, a joint workshop that was recently organized was a success and all parties are open to continue such activities.
- Despite the three workshops organized in Jordan the government still is reluctant to be more transparent about the FMD situation. Export policies are involved and we cannot speak yet of a transparent and enabling environment. Also a recent PVS mission has formulated several points of concern. The activities in Jordan should continue in the next phase of the program.
- For Lebanon, only one workshop has been organized until now and planning of a second workshop has not yet succeeded. The Lebanese suggestion that FMD is circulating at a very low level and that the country or zones within the country may even be free with vaccination will have to be substantiated by the proposed serosurveillance studies. With all the refugees from Syria and the continuing conflict there the situation, also with respect to TADs, should be judged as volatile and unpredictable. Also the recent FMD outbreak in Northern Israel caused by A/ASIA/G-VII represents most probably an incursion from Lebanon or Syria.

6-Areas that require more attention in the next 24 month period

- Continued support to Egypt (monitoring and evaluation of RBSP implementation, passive and active surveillance, laboratory support, regular shipments to Pirbright, risk based vaccination and post vaccination monitoring);
- Continued support to Jordan (RBSP development and contingency planning, passive and active surveillance, laboratory support, regular shipments to Pirbright, risk based vaccination and post vaccination monitoring, vaccine effectiveness studies);
- Support for Lebanon to be specified and reconsidered if results from serosurveillance studies are not shared and the counterpart remains reluctant to organize relevant workshops and trainings;
- Continued support to Palestine ((monitoring and evaluation of RBSP implementation, passive and active surveillance, laboratory support, regular shipments to Pirbright, risk based vaccination and post vaccination monitoring);

- Organization of more joint Israeli-Palestinian workshops to discuss technical subjects of mutual interest related to FMD and other TADs as a means to improve communication and understanding;
- Implementation of the remaining activities/outputs described in the LoA between EuFMD and JUST and continued and intensified collaboration with JUST in Jordan as a focal point for CPD and virtual networking in the NENA region;
- As requested during the May mission to Sudan provide technical assistance for PCP/RBSP development in Sudan in collaboration with/supported by the FAO Khartoum office.

7. Budget

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 175,239	€ 123,493	70%	€ 51,746

Additional contributions to this component (not included in above table):

Description	Contribution	Funding source
Funding from US-DOS for training activities in Egypt (contributes to activities under 2.2.1.1)	Total value of funding: \$158,575	United States Department of Security

8-Gantt charts – Planned program (olivegreen) and progress update/revised (shading/darkgreen for rescheduling) program

2.2 South East Mediterranean	OUTPUT 2.2 SEM better FMD management in the neighbourhood of Cyprus and Israel		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
	Target	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
	2.2.1 Risk Based Strategic Plans (RBSP) adopted and PCP progress achieved in countries neighbouring to Israel, including Palestine, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon	2.2.1.1a) Training of Trainers (TOT) on outbreak investigation and follow-up of TOT																								
2.2.1.1b) Training on advanced outbreak investigation																										
2.2.1.1c) Training on local response in case of FMD outbreak (activity dependent on contrib to funding provided by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA LLNL)																										
2.2.1.2 Establishing M&E mechanism at GOVS																										
2.2.1.3 Vaccine quality audit (activity dependent on contrib to funding provided by LLNL)																										
2.2.1.4 Regional technical meeting (activity dependent on contrib to funding provided by LLNL)																										
2.2.2 Coordination framework in place to facilitate communication, review and guide upon activity implementation nationally and regionally, including the establishment of a system to improve planning of surveillance measures aimed improving confidence in disease detection and/or freedom (as applicable) in the neighbourhood	2.2.1.5 Support to Animal Health Research Institute (activity dependent on contribution to funding provided by LLNL)																									
	2.2.2.1 Finalization of risk-based strategy plan in Palestine																									
	2.2.2.2 Establishing M&E mechanism on implementation and impact of RBSP																									
	2.2.2.3 Support to Central Veterinary Laboratory Al Aroub and to Polytechnic University Hebron																									
	2.2.2.4 Workshops on RBS and risk-based vaccination																									
	2.2.2.5 Steering committee and regular meetings convened																									
2.2.3 Risk-based Strategy Plans dev. and PCP-FMD progress achieved in Jordan and Lebanon	2.2.3.1 Needs assessment prior to missions																									
	2.2.3.2 Provision of training and support																									
2.2.4 System in place to provide improved disease risk information through networking for better information exchange to managers of countries under this component for planning risk-based FMD control	2.2.4.1 Implementation of a lab& epi –network																									
	2.2.4.2 Sample submission from regions posing risk to Israel supported																									
	2.2.4.3 Information on disease risk collated and communicated to risk managers in this region																									
Target (Expected Result)		Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

March 2017 - September 2017

Component 2.3 - Support to REMESA

Pillar Manager: Keith Sumption

Component Manager: Karima Ouali / Fabrizio Rosso / Abdenacer Bakkouri

Reporting: Fabrizio Rosso

Focal point Executive Ctte: Jean-Luc Angot

2.3 SUPPORT TO REMESA

1-Objective(s) of component

The overall objective of this component is: To assist national FMD risk management as part of the REMESA action plan

OUTPUTS (expected results):

1. Progress to develop, adopt and implement Risk Based Strategic Plans for FMD control in Libya and Mauritania, and capacity to achieve and maintain PCP Stage 3 or 4 in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia;
2. Coordination framework in place to facilitate communication, review and guide upon activity implementation nationally and regionally, as needed to progress the REMESA Strategic Plan, including the establishment of surveillance measures aimed to improve security of sanitary barriers between countries or zones with different FMD situations;
3. System in place to provide improved disease risk information for planning of vaccination programmes, including vaccine banks, to support managers in REMESA.

89 % use of funds on achieving the Outputs

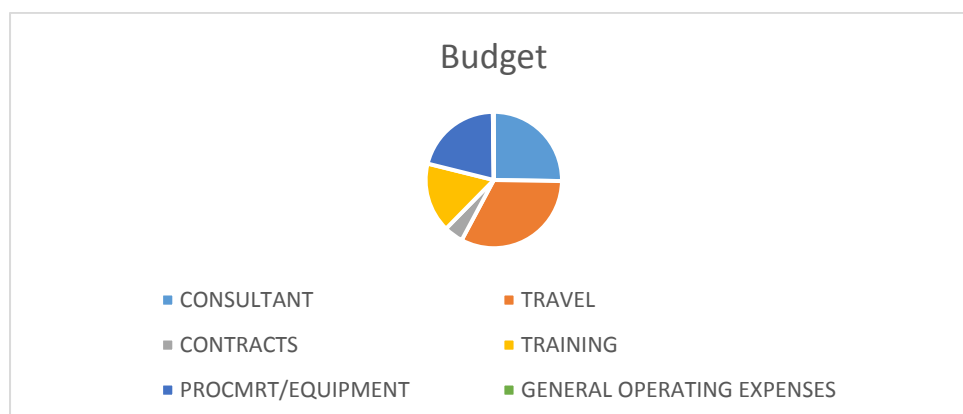
Directly involved beneficiaries: *Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, and Tunisia*

Resource base:

- **HQ based** – P2 (6,5%), STP and Operational (12,5%). Missions – international consultants on daily rates.

- **Budget for Activities 198,049** (EC - TF): *excludes HQ based support services/costs.*

Agreed by ExCom 90



2. Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component Supervisor	Fabrizio Rosso	EuFMD Secretariat
Component Manager	Karima Ouali / Abdenacer Bakkouri	EuFMD Secretariat
REMESA RCU contacts	M Bengoumi (FAO)	
	R Bouguedour (OIE)	
FAO Regional Contact (Coordination with FAO NE regional activities)	Markos Tibbo	FAO Regional Animal Production and Health Officer, Near-East (Cairo)
ExCom oversight	Jean-Luc ANGOT	Executive Committee (France)

3. Countries or partner organizations involved

The activities are addressed mainly to the North African countries within the REMESA framework: Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. The EuFMD Member States (France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, and Malta) are also involved as during the REMESA-JPC meetings the programme and results are shared, commented and approved. Other North African countries, part of REMESA but not directly involved in the present workplan (Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan), can benefit of the activities supported by this component to improve the coordination framework to progress the REMESA action plan (output 2).

EuFMD works in coordination with REMESA RCU, with lines of communication with the Veterinary Services of the countries involved in the programme. The proposed activities are in line with the framework of the Global FMD Control Strategy. Joint workshops developed and implemented with FAO and OIE improve the effectiveness and impact of the activities and may assist to extend the strategic planning to other diseases where these GF-TADs partners would take the lead. EuFMD involves in the activities, as appropriate, the expertise of the OIE Reference Laboratories based in the REMESA region such as IZSLER (Brescia) and ANSES (France).

4. Progress Report

Outcome 1: Progress to develop, adopt and implement Risk Based Strategic Plans for FMD control in Libya and Mauritania, and capacity to achieve and maintain PCP Stage 3 or 4 in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia

- a. Some progress has been obtained within the work plan for **Libya**. Following the re-establishment of the contact with the Libyan Veterinary Services in early February, a joined training was organized with FAOSNE (held in February and already reported). Furthermore, a FMD lab training was carried out in Tunis in March for two (02) Libyan lab staff in charge of the FMD diagnostic.
The draft project for a field study drafted together with the Libyan Veterinary Services to determine the serotypes circulating among small ruminant population in the country and the survey on animal movements to allow a better understanding of the risk for North Africa is still in the pipeline and not yet carried out.
- b. A workshop was organized in Mauritania from on 6th – 8th March 2017 to define goal, objectives, tactics and activities of the **Risk-Based Strategic Plan (RBSP) for FMD control** and to start the first drafting of the plan. The workshop was part of a series of workshops aimed to assist the veterinary services of Mauritania for the development and implementation of the RBSP and for improving the knowledge on FMD circulation in the country. The previous workshops organized in the country are listed hereunder:
 - 1) WS: Principles of PCP, value chain analysis and risk analysis [February 2015].
 - 2) WS: Value chain analysis, FMD risk analysis in Mauritania, FMD active surveillance in Mauritania, prioritization of FMD control, gaps and possible control measures [May 2015].
 - 3) Training on outbreak investigation [May 2015].

- 4) WS: value-chain analysis revision, risk pathways and hotspots identification and FMD socio-economic impact [May-June 2016].
- 5) WS: Risk hotspots and FMD socio economic impact revision, surveillance design and implementation [October 2016].
- 6) WS: define goal, objectives, tactics and activities of the Risk-Based Strategic Plan (RBSP) [March 2017].

The progress of the programme in Mauritania is now very much relying on the ability of the country to collect the remaining missing information and finalize the drafting of the different chapter of the RBSP. Any further activity will depend on the level of commitments of the country.

Outcome 2: Coordination framework in place to facilitate communication, review and guide upon activity implementation nationally and regionally as needed to progress the REMESA Strategic Plan. Establishment of surveillance measures aimed improving security of sanitary barriers between countries or zones with different FMD situations

- a. An **FMD Francophone network** was created with the aim of improving the networking and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience on FMD prevention and control between countries. The network is counting more than 80 participants from 36 towns of 17 countries.

The geographical distribution of the participant can be found by following this link:

https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1plks7Bu_5vDdEwSlbrNOncEr2K0yspztWfXeXC-M



A series of webinars have been organized within the Francophone network and the North African network to cover the thematic identified as priorities within the beneficiary countries ((i) Control and Management of the outbreaks; (ii) Epidemiology ; (iii) Laboratory diagnostics; (iiii) Risk assessment and monitoring.

The following webinars have been carried out:

- Impact socio-économique de la fièvre aphteuse et le rôle du commerce transfrontalier du bétail dans l'amplification et la dissémination des maladies (held in June 2017) ;
 - Cartographie des risques et leurs utilités dans le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse (held in May 2017)
 - Situation épidémiologique de la fièvre aphteuse et les mesures à prendre pour une détection précoce (held in April 2017);
 - Réseau francophone pour le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse - lancement du réseau et de ses activités! (held in February 2017);
- b. In support to components 2.2 (support to south east Mediterranean), 2.4 (training development and coordination) and also to 2.3 (support to REMESA network), an **On-line Food and Mouth Disease Investigation Course (FITC) in Arabic**, was delivered from July 5th to August 3rd, 2017 along with the Faculty of Veterinary

Medicine at Jordan University of Science and Technology. 69 participant from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia among 185 participants from 11 countries of MENA region have attended this online course.

Outcome 3: Activities to support implementation of laboratory network in Maghreb and Western Sahel countries in coordination with the RESOLAB-FMD:

A regional workshop has been carried out in Dakar, Senegal from 6th - 10th March 2017 in coordination with the RESOLAB-FMD and with the attendance of 08 participants in charge of the FMD diagnosis in national laboratories from Mauritania, Senegal, Guinée-Bissau and Mali (2 per country). The workshop was focused on diagnostic technique for the detection and typing of the virus, and the shipment of samples to the laboratories. It was organized in support of the laboratory network in the Western Sahel countries in order to strengthen the diagnostic capacity of FMD in laboratories at national as well as regional level.

Outcome 4: System in place to provide improved disease risk information for planning of vaccination programmes, including vaccine banks, to support managers in REMESA

- a. Diagnostic kits have been delivered to Algeria and Tunisia in order to carry out the surveillance on small ruminant planned for the region (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) which aims to detect the possible circulation of the disease among the small ruminant population. The surveillance has been carried out in Morocco (723 samples) with results not yet available. Despite the efforts made, the surveillance is still in the pipeline in Algeria and Tunisia mainly due to the FMD outbreaks occurred in Algeria and Tunisia in April 2017 and which oriented the countries to give more attention to the preventive and control measures in order to limit the occurrence of outbreaks. In the recent REMESA JPC meeting held in July in Italy, the countries have indicated September 2017 as possible period for the implementation of such surveillance.
- b. For the same reason mentioned above and for the lack of vaccine (Algeria) the field study on “**vaccine effectiveness**”, proposed to Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia in order to evaluate the effectiveness of FMD vaccines currently used in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco has started with the collection of samples (Morocco) but not concluded yet.

5. Issues for Executive Committee attention

1. Abdenacer Bakkouri has joined the EuFMD from September 2017. He is replacing as STP component manager for Comp. 2.3, Karima Ouali, STP from Algeria, who worked on the component from February 2016 until June 2017.
2. The programme should focus on a better understanding of the risk associated with the incursion of FMDV in the area (e.g. animal movements) and on the analysis of the factors that drive the change of such risks (e.g. market demand). The possibility of implementing studies in Libya on animal mobility and FMD circulation with the support of the Libyan Veterinary Services should be encouraged despite the instability of the country. Furthermore, an ongoing risk based surveillance for early detection and a risk-based vaccination should be promoted in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco despite the tendency of the countries to prioritize mass vaccination and surveillance carried out in specific periods.

6. Priorities

- i. Maintain the **collaboration and coordination** established with **FAO and OIE** in order to provide proper joint assistance and support to the development of a regional FMD control strategy;
- ii. Support the Libyan Veterinary Services in the FMD control and a better understanding of their current situation and animal movement;
- iii. Implement a **continuous risk based surveillance** in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia;

- iv. Support the development of the **coordination framework** - REMESA networks (webinar series);
- v. Finalize the **development of RBSP in Mauritania** and promote a **regional laboratory network**;
- vi. Assist the design and implementation **of field vaccine studies**, and promote **risk based vaccination strategies**;
- vii. Support studies on risks associated to **livestock value chain and animal mobility**.

7. Budget (€)

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
198,049 €	176,600 €	89 %	21,449 €

Expenses until September 2017 in proportion to budget allocated per each budget line

Note: Administrative expenses are not included

8. Gantt charts – Planned and Progress Update/revised programme / :re-scheduled activities

2.3 Support to REMESA	OUTPUT 2.3 REMESA: Assist national FMD risk management as part of the REMESA action plan		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
	Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
2.3.1 Progress to dev., adopt, and implement risk based strategic plans for FMD control in Libya and Mauritania, and capacity to achieve and maintain PCP Stage 3 or 4 in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia	2.3.1.1 Training to assist national staff to complete RBSP in Mauritania									/	/				/	/	/									
	2.3.1.2 Socio-economic study on FMD in Mauritania									/	/				/	/										
	2.3.1.3 Support field FMD serosurveillance and outbreak investigations in Mauritania																									
	2.3.1.4 Support laboratory diagnosis in Mauritania																									
	2.3.1.5 Assistance on training (e-learning, webinar) for national taskforce members in Libya																									
	2.3.1.6 Support laboratory diagnosis in Libya																									
	2.2.1.7 Implementation of trainings and workshops to promote risk based surveillance and early detection control prog. In Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco																									
	2.2.1.8 Support laboratory diagnosis in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco																									
	2.3.1.9 Support emergency preparedness and test emergency response in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco																									
2.3.2 Coordination framework in place to facilitate communication, review and guide upon activity implementation nationally and regionally as needed to progress the REMESA Strategic Plan, including the establishment of surveillance measures aimed improving security of sanitary barriers between countries or zones with different FMD situations	2.3.2.1 Support REMESA coordination activities																									
	2.3.2.2 Implementation of epi-network between countries and dev. of a training credit system																									
	2.3.2.3 Assistance and support the dev of a regional control strategy																									
	2.3.2.4 Design surveillance system to be implemented in high risk areas and support with models and diagnostic kits the active surveillance							/	/	/																
2.3.3 System in place to provide improved disease risk information for planning of vaccination programmes, including vaccine banks, to support managers in REMESA	2.3.3.1 Support implementation of regional laboratory network in Maghreb and Western Sahel countries																									
	2.3.3.2 Support the dev. of regional vaccine bank																									
	2.3.3.3 Support the vaccination programmes with tools for designing, implementing, assessing.												/	/	/	/										

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 2.4 - Pillar II Training development and coordination



Component Supervisor: Keith Sumption
Component Manager: Jenny Maud
Reporting: Jenny Maud
Focal point Executive Ctte: Martin Blake

2.4 Pillar II Training development and coordination

1. Objective of the component

The overall objective of this component is: Improved national and regional capacity for management of FMD through development and evaluation of training programmes for national staff.

The targets (expected results) are:

- 1.4.1** To have developed a wide range of PCP-FMD resources and training materials in various modes (e-learning, training of trainers, face to face, webinars) and languages for countries in Pillar II.
- 1.4.2** To have established a method of monitoring and evaluation of PCP-FMD training materials and resources to safeguard the uptake and appropriateness by the intended target audiences (beneficiaries).
- 2.4.3** Fit for purpose training courses and resources are available for wider use by neighbourhood countries which are largely appropriate and adaptable to the needs of the global community (Pillar III update/ GF-TADs)

Resource base

Total component budget (EC funded): EUR 164,688

2. Project team

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Component Supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary
Component Manager	Jenny Maud	Training Programmes Manager
Network and training support	Nadia Rumich	Network and Training Officer
Co-ordination with components 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3	Pillar II component managers	Secretariat
ExCom oversight	Martin Blake	Executive Committee

3. Countries or partner organizations involved

Countries involved:

The direct beneficiaries of this component are the countries involved in Pillar II activities and listed as beneficiaries under components 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. In some instances, and with the agreement of direct beneficiaries, training opportunities (particularly e-learning) may be extended to additional neighbouring countries. Additionally, it is intended that the training resources developed under this component will be repurposed for use for the wider global community under component 3.4.

Partner organizations:

The Royal Veterinary College, London, UK, (RVC) provide technical inputs and pedagogical advice in the development of training courses, particularly the Introduction to the Progressive Control Pathway e-learning course.

The Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) have signed a letter of agreement for the adaptation and delivery of the online Field Investigation Training Course in Arabic language, and for the development of additional online tools to provide training on local biosecurity to farmers and field veterinary staff.

4. Progress against indicators

Activities	Indicators	Baseline Sept.15	Target 2 years	Achieved Sep.17	Explanation of indicator
2.4.1 Develop new courses after completion of regional needs and capacity assessment	New courses developed after regional gap analysis	0	4	4: Socio-economic impact 24hrs, Risk Analysis Along the Value Chain (24hrs); Field Investigation Training (12 hrs); Introduction to the Progressive Control Pathway (6 hrs); Post Vaccination Monitoring (24 hrs- in combo with PIII); FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course (12hrs- in combo with PIII)	New online training courses developed, one course equivalent to 20 study hours
2.4.2 Develop monitoring framework for PCP-FMD training courses and materials	Percentage of training courses satisfying monitoring and evaluation criteria	0	100	100	Percentage of courses meeting M and E criteria

5. Reporting of activities

Reporting format	Responsibility	Output	Distribution	Sent out by
Six monthly report to ExCom	Component manager	Written report for ExCom	ExCom, STC	Network and Training Officer
Report on results of monitoring and evaluation of training courses	Component manager	Written report	Executive, summary to ExCom, STC	Component manager
Report on usage statistics of e-learning website	Component manager and Royal Veterinary College	Written report	Executive, summary to ExCom, STC	Component manager
Annual Report for General Session	Training Development Officer	Written report	Member States	Network and Training Officer

6. Progress report

Target 2.4.1: To have developed a wide range of PCP-FMD resources and training materials in various modes (e-learning, training of trainers, face to face, webinars) and languages for countries in Pillar II

Activities:

2.4.1.1 Method for training needs assessment developed, and component managers supported in its use

Recruitment of Animal Health Officers on Short Term Placements (STP)

Karima Ouali (Algeria) continued to assist with delivery of activities under component 2.4 (alongside other components) until June 2017. Dinara Imanbayeva (Kazakhstan) joined EuFMD in July 2017 and during her placement will assist with training activities under Pillar I and II. Under Pillar II, she will be especially involved in training and networking for the West Eurasia Region. Ipek Keskim (Turkey) and Abdenacer Bakkouri (Morocco) joined the Pillar II team in September 2017 and will also assist with training activities.

2.4.1.2 Pillar II component managers conduct needs assessment and 2.4.1.3 Research existing training courses

The training needs assessment process was conducted prior to September 2016 and reported at the Executive Committee meeting held in September 2016.

2.4.1.4 Plan for training development

Based on the findings of the training needs assessment a plan for training developed and delivery 2015-17 was developed and presented to the Executive Committee in September 2016.

2.4.1.5 New training courses developed

An updated summary of all the online courses that have been developed and delivered for Pillar II countries is on the next page. (Some courses are developed under pillar III funding but will also be made available to pillar II countries). Included below is an update on those courses which have been developed or delivered in the period April-September 2017.

FMD Socio-economic Impact Assessment

This is a new type of e-learning course, aimed at providing more in-depth applied training to those working in central veterinary services and directly involved in the development and implementation of FMD control strategies.

The course involved four hours of training per week for a six-week period. The aim is that the training is practical and applied, and therefore the training involved interactive exercises, and one hour per week of online tutoring per week by Skype or webinar. Trainers were Chris Bartels, Joao Afonso and Theo Knight-Jones.

Four nominations for the training course were received from all Pillar II countries, and additionally 10 pillar III countries were offered places on the course. Of the Pillar III countries only 3 nominated participants in a timely manner (Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nepal).

The learning objectives of the course were that those participants completing the course would feel confident to conduct or guide field studies on socio-economic impact analysis provide their superiors with quality information to better decide upon FMD control options. In particular, participants were expected to be able to:

- Describe different levels of impact assessment on FMD and to provide examples appropriate to a specific country's situation.

- Use practical knowledge and tools to conduct impact assessment into a local FMD outbreak, including to be able to:
 - understand the purpose and use of impact assessment;
 - know when, where and with whom to conduct such assessment and how to go about it;
- Use tools such as questionnaire(s), participatory epidemiology approaches, data recording sheets (or portable devices with software), data entry and validation software.
- Analyze, interpret and report findings of multiple local outbreak impact assessment studies into one overall document.
- Understand techniques that can be used to model the impact of FMD at sectorial and / or national level making use of local outbreak assessment results and modeling techniques.

A total of 68 participants were nominated for this course. Of these 27 failed to begin the course. Of the remainder, 32 participated in at least half of the course activities and 20 completed all six course assignments and passed the final assessment, gaining their certificate. It is disappointing that 27 participants did not make an attempt to begin the course, and this likely reflects that participants were nominated to take part by their veterinary services and perhaps not personally interested in committing to such a demanding course.

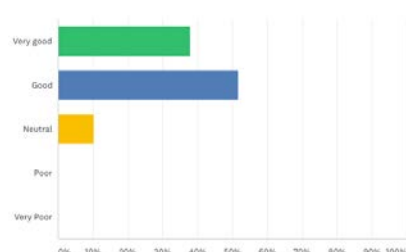


Figure 1: Responses to the post-course survey question "how do you rate this course overall" for the FMD Socio-economic Impact Assessment Course

The feedback from most participants was positive with 90% of participants rating the course as good or very good, and all recommending that other colleagues in their country should take the course in future.

Participants differed in their views of the level of complexity of the course; some felt that it was too complex, while others felt further depth was needed in order to allow them to fully understand the subject, reflecting a broad range of target audiences for training. Many commented on the challenge of fitting in training around their normal jobs.

The overall aim of this course was to enable pillar II countries to conduct socio-economic impact assessments for FMD, and to this end, a call for research proposals has been issued to all those who successfully completed the course. Successful proposals will be mentored in conducting their research by EuFMD experts and, if the project is completed successfully, supported to attend the Open Session in 2018 and present their results.

FMD Investigation Training Course (FIT-C) in Turkish *(please see additionally reported under component 2.1)*

The online FMD Investigation Training Course was translated into Turkish and, working in partnership with GDFC and the SAP Institute, a national online FMD Investigation Training Course was organized for 152 provincial veterinarians in Turkey. 74 (48%) of these veterinarians completed the course and gained their certificate.

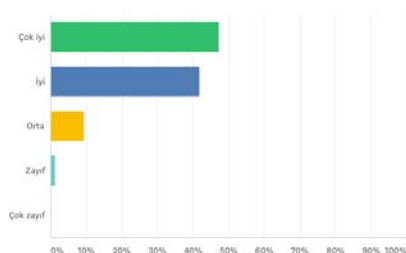


Figure 2: Responses to the question "how do you rate this course overall" for the FMD Investigation Training Course for Turkey

FMD Investigation Training Course (FIT-C) in Arabic (please see additionally reported under component 2.3)

The online FMD Investigation Training Course was translated into Arabic, and, under a Letter of Agreement with the Jordan Institute of Science and Technology (JUST), delivered to 180 participants nominated by Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Sudan.

The course generated a high level of discussion, with a wide range of discussion topics including; livestock markets and how to manage FMD in these markets; lesions and what samples are best to be collected and how?; ring vaccination and how to apply?; vaccination strategies during outbreaks; biosecurity measures during outbreaks; role of camels in disease transmission; role of wind in FMDV transmission; National control strategies and contingency planning.

The feedback received from those participants taking the course was very positive, however disappointing only 25% of those nominated completed the course, which is considerably lower than completion rates achieved elsewhere in our programme.

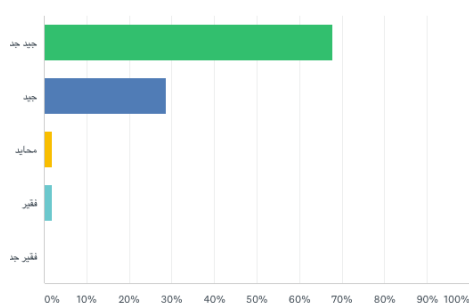


Figure 3: Responses to the question "How do you rate this course overall" for the Arabic FMD Investigation Training Course

A full report on the training course has been produced by JUST and gives more details on the course feedback and evaluation. More detailed investigation into the reason for the relatively low completion rates is underway.

In depth: Risk Analysis Along the Value Chain

This second "in-depth" e-learning course has been developed by Melissa McLaws, Carsten Potzsch and Chris Bartels. The course is scheduled to be delivered in September and October 2017, with four places offered to each Pillar II country.

Participants who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- Apply the key concepts and principles of risk analysis;
- Map value chains in order to identify disease transmission risks and control options;
- Assess the impact and feasibility of candidate risk mitigation measures;
- Apply what they have learned to the development of a Risk-Based Strategic Plan for FMD control.

E-learning available for Pillar II countries updated Sept2017



	Course	Audience	Dates	Details	Study time	Number of places
Open access resources available for all	Introduction to the Progressive Control Pathway	All interested in the principles of the PCP-FMD	Available now	Open access online course which introduces the challenge of global control of FMD, and the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP-FMD), its principles and the activities involved in its implementation at national and regional level.	7 hours	Unlimited
	Progressive Control Practitioner Network	All involved in working on FMD control through the PCP-FMD	Available now	This training network supports those working on FMD control through the PCP. Each month we examine a topic in detail, with a combination of webinars, online discussions and online exercises. Network participants can choose training most relevant to their needs and connect with global colleagues working on similar issues.	Up to 6 hours per month available on optional basis	Unlimited
	Epi and biostatistics short modules	All	To be dev. Aut. 17	Short modules on introductory aspects of biostatistics and epidemiology relevant to FMD control. These modules may be followed on their own, or in preparation for EuFMD advanced courses.	1 hour per module	Unlimited
	Knowledge Bank Resources	All	Available now	A searchable database of FMD resources, including training tools that can be used to conduct national training and stakeholder awareness raising on FMD.	N/A	N/A
Field level disease invest	FMD Investigation Training Course	Vets responsible for diagnosis/ field invest. of FMD outbreaks		Covers field investigation of FMD outbreaks including clinical diagnosis, lesion ageing, sampling, laboratory testing, epidemiology, outbreak investigation, biosecurity, vaccines and vaccination. The course includes two live webinars and expert tutors lead lively discussions in our online forum. Turkish held June 2017, Arabic held July 2017, French language course pending.	10 hours over 4 week period	(dependent on country)
Specialist, in depth training	Socio-economic impact assessment for FMD	Central vet services (epi) resp for design and implementation of nat. FMD control strategy. Initial courses in English. French and Russian to follow.	April 2017	Covers FMD impact assessment methods, provides practical tools on how to conduct impact assessments, collate and analyze data collected, and outlines how to model impact at sectoral or national level. In English.	6 weeks, 4 hours study per week	(dependent on country)
	FMD Risk analysis along the value chain		Sept 2017	Introduces the concept of value chains and how to analyse risk along the value chain, identify risk hotspots for FMD transmission and apply them to formulate a risk based strategic plan for FMD control. In English	6 weeks, 4 hours study per week	(dependent on country)
	Post vaccination monitoring for FMD		Sept 2017	Covers FMD vaccines, decision making on their purchase, serological studies to assess vaccine quality and population immunity, assessment of field vaccine effectiveness and evaluation of vaccination programmes. In English NB: developed under component 3.2 and first course will be for PIII countries, later to be made available to PII countries	6 weeks, 4 hours study per week	(dependent on country)
	FMD Laboratory diagnostics	FMD laboratory staff	Oct 2017	For lab personnel. Covers diagnostic testing methodology, includ test interpretation and laboratory troubleshooting. In partnership with the World Reference Laboratory TPI In English. NB: developed under comp3.2 but available to PII countries		(dependent on country)

2.4.1.6 Support to training delivery

Amir Shurrab has been recruited as a consultant learning technologist and instructional designer (see output 1.1.1 for more details), bringing additional capacity into the EuFMD team itself, in addition to that contracted through academic partners. Amir is a native Arabic speaker, which became invaluable during the translation of the Arabic FMD Investigation Training Course.

2.4.1.7 Clear structure for delivery costs of training courses set up

Some delivery costs of online training, particularly honoraria of experts who act as trainers in online courses will be met by components 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. In these cases a clear structure for costs has been communicated to component managers.

Target 2.4.2: To have established a method for monitoring and evaluation of PCP-FMD training materials and resources to safeguard the update and appropriateness by the intended target audiences and beneficiaries and 2.4.2.1 Development of monitoring and evaluation methodology and 2.4.2.2 Monitoring and evaluation of training

All training courses are evaluated by an online feedback survey immediately after the workshop, with summative assessments to verify participant's knowledge used at the end of online training courses. A protocol for evaluation of each training course, based on the evidence provided by the survey and assessments has been developed. All results of surveys and evaluation documents are stored on a dedicated "trainers" section of the EuFMD e-Learning platform, and are shared with relevant nominating organizations.

Target 2.4.3: Fit for purpose training courses and resources are available for wider use by neighbourhood countries and are largely appropriate and adaptable to the needs of the global community

The open access introductory e-learning course on the PCP has been made available as a freely available open access resource globally. The Field Investigation Training course is used for both pillar II and pillar III countries. As illustrated by the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment course, some places on the "in-depth" e-learning course will be made available to non-Pillar II countries, through collaboration with FAO and OIE partners.

6. Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

The relatively low completion levels for the recent courses (in comparison to e-learning courses delivered under other parts of the programme), particularly the Arabic FMD Investigation Training Course require further follow up in order to determine reasons and possible mitigation measures or alternative training or participant nomination strategies.

7. Priorities for the next six months

The next six months will focus on:

- Additional follow up to the recently conducted e-learning courses, particularly the Arabic FMD Investigation Training Course in order to better understand reasons for relatively low participation and future directions for Arabic language training.
- Delivery of:
 - In-depth Risk Analysis Along the Value Chain course
 - Russian Language FMD Investigation Training Course
 - FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course (funded under Pillar III but available to Pillar II countries)
- Identification of potential partners or delivery routes for French language training
- Development of further open access courses:
 - Basic Epidemiology and Biostatistics
 - Risk Based Strategic Plan (developed as part of the Risk Analysis Along the Value Chain course)
- Evaluation of additional or newly training needs to be addressed by the development of additional new training courses or resource for the 2017-19 period.

8. Budget

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
140,500	69,723	50%	70,777

9. Updated Gantt Chart (// indicates delayed from original plan)

OUTPUT 2.4 National and Regional Capacity for the Management of FMD through development and evaluation of training programmes for national staff		YEAR 1													YEAR 2												
Target	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S		
.4.1 To have developed a wide range of PCP-FMD resources and training materials in various modes (e-learning, training of trainers, face-to-face, webinars) and languages for countries in Pillar II	2.4.1.1 Design needs assessment framework																										
	2.4.1.2 Pillar II component managers conduct needs assessment																										
	2.4.1.3 Research existing training resources available																										
	2.4.1.4 Plan for training courses and resources to be developed is completed												/	/	/												
	2.4.1.5 Dev. Of training courses and resources																										
	2.4.1.6 Support delivery of training courses and resources (funded by comps 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3)																										
	2.4.1.7 Clear structure for delivery costs of training courses set up												/	/	/												
2.4.2 To have established a method for monitoring and evaluation of PCP-FMD training materials and resources to safeguard the uptake and appropriateness by the intended target audiences/beneficiaries	2.4.2.1 Framework for M&E of training set up (in co-ordination with other training comp)																										
	2.4.2.2 M&E of training occurs																										
2.4.3 Fit for purpose training courses and resources are available for wider use by neighbourhood countries and which are largely appropriate and adaptable to the needs of the global community (Pillar 3 uptake/GF-TADs)	2.4.3.1 Training materials and resources are designed to be readily translated and adaptable																										

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March 2017 - September 2017

Component 3.2 - Support to Global Progress Monitoring of FMD Control programmes



3.2 PROGRESSIVE CONTROL PATHWAY (PCP)

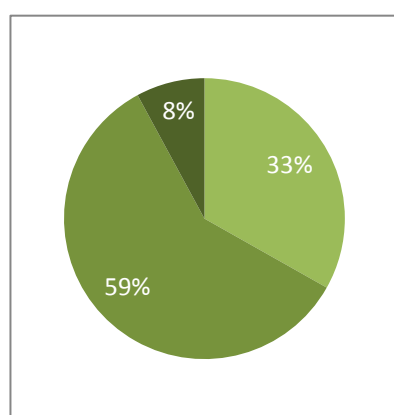
1. Objective of the component

The overall objective of this component is: *to enhance the international capacity for the application of the EuFMD/FAO/OIE PCP-FMD through development of tools, guidelines and knowledge transfer.*

OUTPUTS (EXPECTED RESULTS):

Dissemination of the principles and applications of PCP-FMD, primarily for countries endemic with FMD but including EuFMD member states and neighbourhood; Developing guiding documents (guidelines and technical notes), trainings and workshops on PCP-FMD

Specific Outputs:



1. PCP toolbox developed for PCP-FMD user community, including guiding documents developed for joint FAO/OIE application;
2. System for training PCP-FMD experts well established and supported by resources.
3. Representation in regional roadmap meetings, FAO/OIE FMD working group and EuFMD executive meeting

DIRECT INVOLVED BENEFICIARIES: the FMD WG of FAO/OIE; international pool of expertise at national and regional level that utilise the PCP in their work with countries, including European neighbourhood; and Pillar 2 activities of EuFMD that will use the guidelines/training resources.

RESOURCE BASE: as bullet points and

- **HR: Management** P5 (10%), P2 (5%). Products/Activities: developed with 3 consultants.

- **Budget for Activities** (EC - TF): *excludes HQ based support services/costs.*

€ 21,907

(+ € 24,893)

€63.300 (including +€16.500 as discussed in ExCom87)

2-Project team

Role	Name	Status
Pillar manager	Keith Sumption	Secretariat
Component manager	Chris Bartels	EuFMD consultant
GFTADS-FMD WG	Samia Metwally	FAO
	Laure Weber-Vintzel	OIE
National consultants:	Not applicable	
ExCom oversight		

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

Application of PCP-FMD is worldwide, particularly for endemic situations (PCP-FMD Stage 1-3). Therefore, there is no tailoring to specific countries. EuFMD will work with FAO and OIE where appropriate in developing these tools and guidelines.

As West Eurasia (component 2.1), South-east Mediterranean (component 2.2) and North Africa (component 2.3) are focal areas for EuFMD, new developed PCP-FMD tools and training may well be first applied in these regions.

4-Progress Report

Outcome 1: PCP toolbox further developed for PCP-FMD user community, including norms set, guiding documents developed for joint FAO/OIE application:

In the previous progress report, it was indicated that EuFMD is contributing to the development of guidelines on socio-economic analysis of FMD. In the time window of this progress report, the FAO and OIE FMD working group has drawn up the plan to contract a consultant to produce such guidelines. Meanwhile, under component 3.4, an online training on “Assessment of the socio-economic impact of FMD” was conducted for veterinary staff of Pillar II and Pillar III countries (75 participants). The materials developed under this online training may well serve as a technical paper (instead of a guideline) on “How to conduct socio-economic impact assessment of FMD?”

For countries in PCP-FMD Stage 0, the review of the template for the “Risk Assessment Plan” by the FAO/OIE FMD Working Group was processed into a newer version of this template and redistributed to members of the Working Group for their final review.

The revision of the general PCP guidelines resulted in a latest version sent around on 22 August 2017. Key elements to the revised PCP guidelines are

- For countries to move from Stage 3 to Stage 4 to acquire OIE endorsement of their national control and elimination programme with the focus in Stage 4 to approach FMD freedom;
- Stage 5 equal to the OIE status in which FMD freedom with or without vaccination is achieved;
- The fulfilment of the requirements for these Stages 4 and 5 is no longer assessed by the Regional Advisory Group (under GfTADs) but by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the World Assembly of OIE delegates;
- Current debate focuses on the naming of Stage 3, over terms of elimination versus eradication. However, the focus of Stage 3 is well defined: Progressive reduction in both outbreak incidence and virus circulation in at least one zone of the country based on a National Control and Elimination Programme.

Based on the FAO/OIE guidelines on Post-vaccination monitoring, EuFMD is currently developing an online-training course for the SAARC and SADC region. The course is developed and will be delivered by Dr Giancarlo Ferrari, Prof David Paton and Dr Nick Lyons and is scheduled from September-October 2017.

Outcome 2: System for training PCP-FMD experts well established, and as part of the GF-TADS led implementation of the GF-TADS strategy, contributes to national and regional PCP progress

a) Needs for PCP-FMD training in Asia and Africa (activity 3.2.2.1) are investigated in part with components 2.4, 3.3 and 3.4.

As indicated under Outcome 1, an online training course on Post-vaccination monitoring is planned for SAARC and SADC regions in September-October 2017.

b). In March 2017, EuFMD conducted a one-day training (in Paris, France) for 15 Regional Representatives and staff of headquarters of the OIE on the PCP-FMD with the aim to familiarize them with principles and approaches of the PCP to control FMD and other TADs.

Outcome 3: The GF-TADS system for PCP assessment is maintained and/or further improved, and the quality and impact of regional roadmap meetings in at least 3 regions further improved

In April 2017, the FAO/OIE FMD Working Group has shared their vision for 2017-2018 with EuFMD. In this vision, a number of activities are directly partnered with EuFMD:

- a. Support to regional roadmap meetings through pre-meeting webinars on PCP, PCP workshop during the meetings and support in the assessment procedure of countries.
This was started for the Roadmap meeting in West Africa and SAARC last year and again applied for the SADC roadmap meeting in September 2017.
- b. PCP training of FAO and OIE officers.
Details for selection and training needs to be further elaborated.
- c. Expert missions to support development and implementation of Risk Assessment Plan (RAP) and Risk-based Strategy Plans (RBSP).
The principle applied here is for countries to request such missions themselves. Concurrently, the FMD Working Group is discussing the organization of a regional workshop on the RAP for countries in Stage 0, in West Africa.
- d. Further finalization of the current PCP guidelines, RAP and RBSP templates and drafting a template for the National Control and Elimination plan.
Although this is work in progress, considerable progress is made over the last 12 months.

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

An issue for the Executive Committee's attention is that activities under this component are entangled with activities under components 2.4 and 3.4 in which training needs are addressed.

In particular the PCP Practitioner Network intends to establish a network of active users in FMD endemic countries in Africa and Asia of the PCP through monthly themes with development of presentations, exercises and job-aids. These materials are the basis for additional training (online or workshops in country) of veterinary officers.

With the vision of the FAO/OIE FMD Working Group defined, it will facilitate developing the work plan 2018-2019 for this component.

EuFMD was invited to take part in the last FMD Working Group meeting. This has facilitated a better understanding of the near-future plans laid out by the FMD Working Group and more direct collaboration between EuFMD and the FMD Working Group.

In the GANTT chart below, the progress is indicated alongside the original planning.

6. Priorities

Peer-review of new PCP-FMD Guidelines;
Regional workshop on Risk Assessment Plan (RAP) for countries in PCP-FMD Stage 0;
National workshops on developing Risk-based Strategy Plans for countries in PCP-FMD Stage 1;
Training of Regional OIE and FAO staff on PCP-FMD;
Support to FMD WG to maintain momentum on PCP-FMD between regional roadmap meetings;

7. Budget

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
95,000	76,084	80%	18,916

8. Updated Gantt Chart (// indicates delayed from original plan)

OUTPUT 3.2 Improved capacity, methods, and guidelines for application of the EuFMD, FAO and OIE progressive control pathway (PCP) for FMD		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
3.2.1 PCP toolbox further developed for PCP-FMD user community, including norms set, guiding documents developed for joint FAO/OIE application	3.2.1.1 Revision of general PCP-FMD guidelines (timing to be decided with FAO&OIE)																		/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3.2.1.2 Support to developing guidelines on socio-economic impact assessment of FMD																								
	3.2.1.3 Development of additional guidelines relevant for PCP-FMD stages 0 – 3 (conducting sero-surveys, value-chain analysis, risk assessment, stakeholder consultation)																								
	3.2.1.4 Alongside the guidelines, development (in line with activities under components 2.4, 3.3 and 3.4), broadcasting e-learning materials and organizing e-learning courses on PCP-FMD for countries in Stage 0-3.																								
3.2.2 System for training PCP-FMD experts well established, and as part of the GF-TADS led implementation of the GF-TADS strategy, contributes to national and regional PCP progress	3.2.2.1 Identify needs for PCP-FMD training in different regions of Asia and Africa (in coordination with comp 2.4, 3.3 and 3.4)																		/	/	/	/			
	3.2.2.2 Explore financial resources for training PCP-FMD experts																					/	/	/	/
	3.2.2.3 Conducting PCP-FMD training for experts in one region of Asia and Africa each																								
	3.2.2.4 Support and maintain a network of PCP-FMD experts through establishing a PCP-FMD community (see also comp 3.3 and 3.4)																								
	3.2.2.5 Explore ways to accredit PCP-FMD trainers (see also comp 3.4)																		/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3.2.2.6 Establish links between PCP-FMD experts with regional laboratory and epidemiology networks (comp 3.3)																		/	/	/	/	/	/	/
The GF-TADS system for PCP assessment is maintained and/or further improved, and the quality and impact of regional roadmap meetings in at least 3 regions further improved.	3.2.3.1 Support the facilitation of regional roadmap meetings (MENA, West Eurasian, Eastern Africa, SADC, SAARC, others), including reporting																								
	3.2.3.2 Support to follow-up on Target (Expected Result) and actions agreed during the regional roadmap meetings																								
	3.2.3.3 Adaptation of PCP-FMD assessment materials and procedures at regional roadmap meetings, dependent on revision of PCP-FMD guidelines (activity 1.1) and request from FMD-Working Group.																								

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March - September 2017

Component 3.3 - *Laboratory support*

Pillar Manager: Keith Sumption

Component Supervisor: Keith Sumption

Component Manager: Kees van Maanen

Reporting: Kees van Maanen

Focal point Executive Ctte:

3.3 Laboratory support

1. Objective of the component

The overall objective of this component is:

improved international FMD reference laboratory services and their contribution to regional epidemio-surveillance networks

The output of this component should result in an increased level and quality of surveillance information from the OIE/FAO Lab Network, with progress towards the targets required for regional roadmap vaccine priority setting in at least the 3 priority virus pools (Africa and West Eurasia). Activities will in 2015-17 re-invigorate regional laboratory networks, with better epidemiology linkages, to ensure better technical expertise development at regional levels, underpinning surveillance and regional roadmaps.

OUTPUTS (EXPECTED RESULTS):

1. Coordination of international harmonization in methods and support activities by the OIE/FAO global FMD laboratory network.
2. International surveillance performance in 3 priority virus pools meets or exceeds minimum required for regional vaccine match recommendations, via diagnostic activities managed by the WRL;
3. Epidemio-surveillance networks in 3 priority pools function effectively in gathering, sharing and improving use made of surveillance information
4. Support for a global proficiency test scheme, to include 19 laboratories in the global network

DIRECTLY INVOLVED BENEFICIARIES:

RESOURCE BASE

HR: HQ operational costs are identified and for support of activities under Pillar III a STP has been selected (Obakeng Kemolathle).

€ 498,958 Agreed at ExCom 90 (€ 387,533 contracted to WRLFMD, in addition € 39,000.—contracted to WRLFMD under component 1.7).

Budget for Activities (EC - TF): excludes HQ based support services/costs.

€ 476,692

2-Project team

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Component supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary
Component manager	Kees van Maanen	Secretariat
STC members involved in oversight role	Stephan Zientara (lab) Nick Lyons (epi)	STC
Contractor	The Pirbright Institute- Donald King	Head, World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright
FAO Contact		Lab Unit coordinator, FAO
Excom oversight	TBC	Executive Committee

3-Countries or partner organizations involved

FAO and OIE developed the joint global laboratory network proposal in collaboration with the World Reference Laboratory at the Pirbright Institute.

4-Progress against indicators

Activities	Indicators	Baseline Sept 2015	Target 2 years	Unit of measure	Current Status
3.3.1	Number of OIE/FAO Laboratory Network meetings	2	2	Annual International Meeting	2
3.3.2	Number of samples typed in relation to minimum surveillance requirements per pool	1	2	Number of samples typed over the number expected (120 per year per pool from at least 5 countries)	2
3.3.3	Number of new modules for e-learning and training on laboratory surveillance meeting quality standards	0	3	e-learning modules	13**
3.3.4	Number of laboratories supported to take part in global proficiency testing scheme annually	12*	10	Laboratories taking part in proficiency testing scheme annually	9

*: With respect to output 3.3.4 in the original workplan erroneously 19 laboratories in the global FMD laboratories network were mentioned as funded by EuFMD. Actually 12 laboratories in this global network are invited to participate in the PTS with funding provided by EuFMD. This number is also agreed upon in the LoA between EuFMD/FAO and WRLFMD (additionally 24 FMD laboratories from EuFMD (but not EU) members and EU neighbourhood countries are invited to participate in the PTS with funding provided by EuFMD. This funding is covered under component 1.7 of the EuFMD work program.

*: TPI has used a significant grant from BBSRC to develop together with a commercial company (Phyigital Ltd) 13 Elearning modules that can be used for a FMD Laboratory training course. These modules have also been reviewed by EuFMD and will be used in the first joint TPI/EuFMD FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course (FLITC) in October 2017.

Progress Report

Output 1. Coordination of international harmonization in methods and support activities by the OIE/FAO global FMD laboratory network.

The 11th OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network Meeting was organised in ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, Paris 30th of November – 2nd of December. The meeting started with a closed session, followed by an open session and lasted 3 days, thus creating more opportunities for discussion and interactions. A summary report of the meeting is available and also the annual report for 2016 of the network has been published. The OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network is a vital contributor to the global control of FMD and provides opportunities and expertise for developing and sustaining laboratory capacity and capability, exchange of materials and technologies, harmonising approaches to diagnosis and supporting complementary research. Laboratories within the network regularly receive samples for FMD diagnosis from many parts of the world. The in vitro antigenic properties of selected isolates are assessed for vaccine matching and nucleotide sequencing allows precise characterisation of new isolates and tracing of their origin by comparison with viruses held in virus collections. This analysis assists the monitoring of the ‘real time’ emergence and spread of FMD virus globally. The 12th OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network Meeting is planned for end November 2017 in Pretoria.

Output 2. International surveillance performance in 3 priority virus pools meets or exceeds minimum required for regional vaccine match recommendations, via diagnostic activities managed by the WRL;

Over two thousand clinical samples from suspect cases of FMD were tested by laboratories in the Network (and associated laboratories) during 2016. However, sampling within these pools is not equivalent: surveillance within West Africa (Pool 5) is particularly sparse and efforts are currently underway with the network to improve sample collection and testing in this region.

The OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network has recently detected a number of viral lineages that have emerged from their established endemic pools to cause field outbreaks in geographically distant locations. There is probably no single factor that underpins these changes, but since 2010 the current dynamic transboundary patterns of FMD virus movements are probably influenced by the migration of people in North Africa and the Middle East due to the escalation of regional political crises, as well as new trading patterns and demand for animal protein that arise due to increased prosperity in East Asian countries. These unexpected outbreaks caused by emerging viral lineages reinforce the importance of surveillance activities undertaken by the Network. Continuing on from the situation in 2015 also in 2016 there appears to be an upsurge in long-distance trans-pool movements of FMD virus from Pools 1 and 2 (recent high-profile examples O/ME-SA/Ind-2001d and A/ASIA/G-VII).

In Europe, the greatest concerns relate to the emergence of the A/ASIA/G-VII lineage that has spread to the margins of Anatolian Turkey (close to the FMD-free [with vaccination] zone in Thrace) since in vitro and in vivo data indicates that vaccines (containing A-SAU-95 or A-Iran-05-like viruses) supplied by Merial and MSD are unlikely to provide protection. Further cattle studies to evaluate A22 and A-May-97 have been carried out at CVI-Lelystad. An update on FM vaccine potency tests for vaccines that may protect against FMDV A/ASIA/G-VII (G18) was given at the EURL meeting in May 2017 (Horseley, UK) by Dr Beatriz Sanz-Bernardo. According to r1 values a combination of A/SAU/95 – A/IRN/05, A/MAY/97, or A22 were considered candidates for in vivo protection tests. In a PGP study with a commercial vaccine containing A/SAU/95 and A/IRN/05 7/16 animals had generalised infection, which is not acceptable. There was a clear correlation with homologous and heterologous VN titres. In conclusion a new vaccine is being developed by BI/Merial to be used in Europe in the event of an FMD outbreak with viruses from the A/ASIA/G-VII lineage, a commercial vaccine with A/SAU/95 (and A/IRN/05) only provides partial protection and studies with A/MAY/97 will have to be completed to confirm that this is a reasonable vaccine candidate (or not). At the same meeting Dr Pascal Hudelet (BI/Merial) gave an update on the development of a new vaccine based on a G-VII strain. The whole process takes at best 15 – 18 months. A first industrial batch was already available at that time, and an efficacy study (PD50) on-going. Regulatory submission (starting in endemic countries) is expected in September 2017, with a launch in endemic markets early 2018 and marketing authorization in EU/availability for vaccine banks in Q2 2018. However, if a GVII outbreak would occur in Europe a shortcut is possible: One million doses are available, the MSV is purity checked and the PD₅₀ will be known end of May 2017.

A joined EuFMD/WRLFMD mission has been carried out in June 2016 to support Embakasi FMD laboratory, one of the RSLs in pool 4. WRLFMD activities continue as planned, under the current LoA describing outputs and activities in the time period October 2015 – October 2017, and a final report will be provided before November 30th 2017.

Output 3. Epidemio-surveillance networks in three priority pools function effectively in gathering, sharing and improving use made of surveillance information

To revitalise the networks in East Africa, a core group has been formed to organize a series of webinars and online meetings. Since February 2016 these have been organised on a monthly basis. In 2016 nine webinars have been organised, and the structure has been amended after discussions in the core group and feedback from the audience. In 2017 it appeared quite difficult to organize webinars

Networks in West Africa also need to be revitalised. Since most countries in pool are Francophone, the implementation of a Francophone network has been discussed at the Open Session in Cascais, Portugal and in

the meantime this network has been set up under the EuFMD umbrella with the valuable assistance of Dr Labib Bakkali-Kassimi, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, Paris. In 2017 four webinars have been organised with the following topics: 1) Réseau francophone pour le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse - lancement du réseau et de ses activités!; 2) Situation épidémiologique de la fièvre aphteuse et les mesures à prendre pour une détection précoce; 3) Cartographie des risques et leurs utilités dans le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse; 4) Impact socio-économique de la fièvre aphteuse et le rôle du commerce transfrontalier du bétail dans l'amplification et la dissémination des maladies.

In West Eurasia (pool 3) networks also need to be revitalised. Steps forward for development of the West Eurasia networks Epi-net and Welnet in support of better information share have been discussed during the West Eurasia networks online meeting: West Eurasia Networks-discussion on regional needs and networks activity plans proposals, carried out on 11th of May. In preparation to the upcoming First West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting leaders of the networks preliminary presented ideas for the networks development and annual workplans. The "First Regional West Eurasia FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting" is planned to be organised in Tbilisi, Georgia on 18-20 September, 2017. The aim to support sustainable regional networks development, to promote technical discussions and coordination to address existing gaps in regional FMD control, as well as to consolidate on the past activities and recommendations from the West Eurasia Roadmap meetings. See component 2.1 report for more information.

In the context of e-learning a FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course (FLITC) is being developed in collaboration with WRLFMD/TPI. Relevant topics have been jointly identified and TPI has used a significant grant from BBSRC to develop - together with a commercial company (Phygital Ltd) - 13 E-Learning modules that can be used for a FMD Laboratory training course. These modules have also been reviewed by EuFMD and will be used in the first joint TPI/EuFMD FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course (FLITC) in October 2017. Two components from the EuFMD work program (3.3 and 3.4)

Output 4. Support for a global proficiency test scheme, to include 12 laboratories in the global network

WRLFMD activities continue as planned, under the current LoA describing outputs and activities in the time period October 2015 – October 2017. The 2016 PTS has been finished and results are summarised in the 2016 annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network. Ten out of 13 FMD laboratories in the global network invited to participate funded by EuFMD actually participated in this PTS (India, Senegal and Argentina did not participate), whereas 16 out of 24 EuFMD_non-EU or European neighborhood countries invited to participate funded by EuFMD actually participated in this PTS (Israel, Ukraine, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo and Libya did not participate).

5-Issues for Executive Committee attention arising during implementation

It is a real challenge to engage the EA countries in the virtual networking activities, both with respect to the number of participants from the region, speakers from the region and even the roles and responsibilities of the core group. Several factors may contribute to this and we will certainly continue with the webinars and online-meeting, but sustainability is not sure yet and critical success factors still to be identified.

In West Africa (pool 5) only few countries are active with collecting, testing and reporting samples. Since most of these countries are Francophone first a Francophone network has been created. The challenge is now to identify subjects and speakers for webinars and to enhance the uptake of this form of communication. There is also a clear need for more field training and laboratory training in pool 5, related to outbreak investigation, sample collection, sample transport and investigation and international sample shipments.

In West Eurasia (pool 3) the networks (WELNET and WE epinet) have not been very active recently. The physical network meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia in April 2017 is expected to lead to concrete plans and a revival regarding webinars, e-learning and other forms of virtual networking.

- Webinar series for East Africa (pool 4) continued and for West Africa (pool 5) planned in conjunction with the Francophone network and for West Eurasia (pool 3) planned in conjunction/collaboration with component 3.1, WELNET and WE epinet.

7-Areas that require more attention in the next 24 month period

- Better virological surveillance in West and Central Africa (pool 5) and also in East Africa (pool 4) and South Africa (pool 6) by involving more countries in each pool and focussing on field and laboratory training in passive and active clinical surveillance, early warning, sample collection, use of LFDs or other carriers in the field and funding shipments of specimens and inactivated LFDs;
- Continue virtual networking in pools 3, 4 and 5 and use E-learning and online meetings for Continuous Professional Development. Webinar series for East Africa (pool 4) continued and for West Africa (pool 5) planned in conjunction with the Francophone network and for West Eurasia (pool 3) planned in conjunction/collaboration with component 2.1, 2.4, 3.1 and 3.4;
- Organization of a first FLITC course in October 2017 (collaboration between TPI and EUFMD) and evaluation of this course;
- Organizing several FLITC courses, also in other languages (French, Russian, Arabic should be considered)

9. Budget - By ACTIVITY

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
€ 476,692	€ 400,523	84%	€ 76,169

8-Gantt charts – Planned program (olivegreen) and progress update/revised (shading/darkgreen for rescheduling) program

3.3 Lab. support	OUTPUT 3.3 Improved international FMD reference lab services and their contribution to regional epidemio-surveillance networks		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
	Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
3.3.1 Co-ordination of international harmonization in methods and support activities by the OIE/FAO global FMD laboratory network		3.3.1.1. Harmonisation of communication and data sharing between network laboratories (WRL)																								
		3.3.1.2. organization of the annual OIE/FAO ref lab meeting incl support to regional support labs																								
		3.3.1.3. Annual report on global FMD status (WRL)																								
		3.3.1.4. Diagnostic services for samples submitted to WRL (managed by WRL, some tests may be delegated to leading laboratories in the global network with WRL support and supervision)																								
	3.3.2 International surv. performance in 3 priority virus pools meets or exceeds minimum required for regional vacc. match recoss, via diagnostic activities managed by WRL	3.3.2.1. Support to sample shipment from labs in pools 3, 4, and 5 to WRL (managed by WRL)																								
		3.3.2.2. Training & supervision to regional support laboratories in pools 4 and 5 (managed by WRL)																								
		3.3.2.3 Support to obtain samples from outbreaks																								
		3.3.2.4 Procurement of reagents and kits																								
	3.3.3 Epidemio-surveillance networks in three priority pools function effectively in gathering, sharing and improving use made of surveillance information	3.3.3.1 Current status of laboratory and epidemiology networks in pools 3, 4 and 5 analysed and needs assessed																								
		3.3.3.2 Dev of training material for all relevant FMD laboratory tests including pitfalls and trouble-shooting, biosafety, sample archiving, laboratory management, quality systems etc. (contracted to WRLFMD in Pirbright)																								
		3.3.3.3 FLITC courses delivered and organised for pools 3, 4 and 5 in close collaboration with component 2.1, 2,4 and 3.4																								
		3.3.3.4 Online meetings concerning network management, issues, priorities, topics of interest are organized twice a year																								
	3.3.4 Support for global PTS, to include 12 labs in global network	3.3.4.1. Global PTS for 12 network labs including 4 RSLs located in pools 4 and 5																								

EuFMD Phase IV

Report to the EuFMD Executive

Period March-September 2017

Component 3.4 - *Global access to PCP-FMD training resources*

Component Supervisor: Keith Sumption
Component Manager: Jenny Maud
Reporting: Jenny Maud
Focal point Executive Ctte: Martin Blake

3.3 Global access to PCP-FMD training resources

1. Objective(s) of component

The overall objective of this component is:

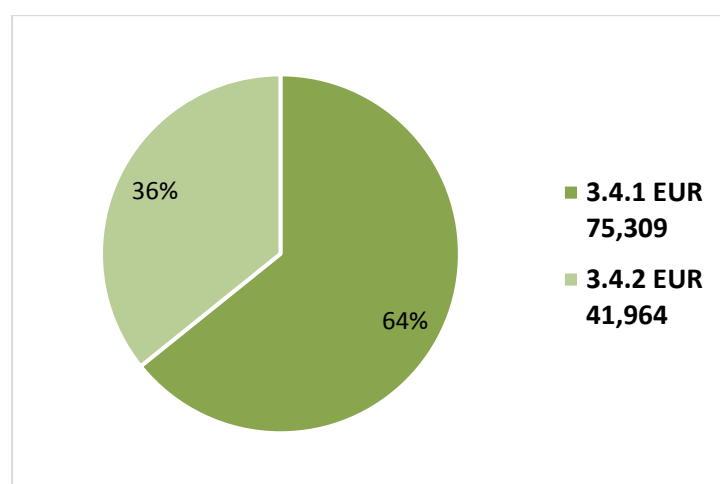
Improved national and regional capacity for the roll-out of the Global Strategy and the management of FMD: Pillar III Training Component.

Outputs (expected results):

3.4.1 PCP and associated training resources tested, evaluated and available for use (in more than one official language) in African and Asian FMD endemic regions in line with the intentions of the GF-TADS FMD WG.

3.4.2 System established to safeguard the sustainable use of PCP training resources in at least two regions outside the European neighbourhood, and supportive to the establishment of regional and global PCP-FMD networks of trainers and users.

Resource base:



2. Project team

Role	Name	Status
Component Supervisor	Keith Sumption	Executive Secretary
Component Manager	Jenny Maud	Training Programmes Manager
Component Manager: PCP	Chris Bartels	
Partner Organisations	Training activities carried out in collaboration with regional partners and organisations in support of the GF-TADs Global Strategy for FMD control.	n/a
ExCom oversight	Martin Blake	Executive Committee

3. Countries or partner organizations involved

For the roll-out of PCP-FMD training and resources in Asian and African regions, a close collaboration is foreseen with regional FAO or OIE offices. Additionally roll-out may make use of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), bi-lateral or multilateral organisations, especially where such partnerships might bring sources of additional funding or resources. Activities in this component are in support of the roll-out of the Global Strategy for FMD Control.

4. Progress against indicators

Activities	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Sept	Target years	2	Achieved Sept2017	Explanation of indicator
3.4.1 Adaptation, delivery and evaluation of PCP and associated training resources, including pilot training in several regions	e-learning courses delivered	0		4		2 (note two additional courses will begin in September 2017)	e-learning courses delivered
3.4.2: Develop and implement a support network including training programmes for the practitioners of the PCP in at least two regions outside the European neighbourhood	Number of participants from region taking part in taking part in online training course or webinar.	0		200		92	Participants engaging in single e-learning event annually (eg joining online course or webinar)

5. Progress report

Target 3.4.1: PCP and associated training resources tested, evaluated and available for use (in more than one official language) in African and Asian FMD endemic regions in line with the intentions of the GF-TADS FMD Working Group.

Activities:

3.4.1.1 Identification of partners for collaboration in Southern African Region

See ExCom 93 report: this activity now completed.

3.4.1.2 Identification of partners for collaboration in delivery of training in a region of Asia

South Asia has been identified as the priority region in Asia, and the main partner for collaboration has been identified as the FAO Regional Support Unit (RSU-SAARC) and the FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific (FAO-RAP). The capacity of the RSU-SAARC reduced significantly in July 2017 due to the end of a project funded by the Asian Development Bank.

Dr Bishnu Adhikari, existing EuFMD Nepal national consultant in support of the Real Time Training has been recruited to support additionally the roll-out of e-learning for SAARC countries. He is working on a full-time basis from March- December 2017, in a dual role support component 3.4 activities and the Real Time Training programme. Additionally we continue to attempt to overcome institutional difficulties in recruiting two additional veterinarians working in government veterinary services in the SAARC region to join EuFMD in Rome on a Short Term Placement basis.

3.4.1.3 Existing training resources are researched training needs assessment carried out in regions identified in Africa

See ExCom 93 report: this activity now completed.

3.4.1.4: Existing training resources are researched training needs assessment carried out in regions identified in Asia

Training needs assessment surveys were sent to the CVO's and epidemiology focal points of the SAARC countries as part of the participant recruitment process for the upcoming e-learning course.

The use of the pilot e-learning course as part of the needs assessment process was very valuable in understanding audiences and their needs in Southern Africa and we repeated this aspect for South Asia.

The training needs assessment for SAARC was therefore conducted in three ways:

- Countries submitting training nominations were asked to complete a training needs assessment questionnaire (responses received from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan in this manner)
- All participants in the online course completed questions relating to training needs as part of the course feedback survey
- Telephone interviews were conducted with a number of the pilot online course participants in order to gain a better understanding of their feedback on the course and ideas for future training support.

Results of central veterinary services training needs assessment

(note unfortunately responses were only received from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan)

All three countries listed FMD as the most important infectious disease of livestock in their country.

The greatest challenges to FMD control identified were:

Country 1:

1. *Vaccination facilities: Unplanned, inaccessibility and improper vaccination*
2. *Formulations and implementation of regulations regarding animal movement: Vehicle movement and animal movement*
3. *Laboratory diagnosis: Lack of sampling, improper sampling shipment*
4. *Behavioural Change Communication: Lack of awareness, knowledge on farm biosecurity and vaccination:*
5. *Cross border connection: Illegal intrusion of cattle, inadequate quarantine facility*

Country 2:

1. *Cross-border movement of animals*
2. *Inadequate vaccination coverage and difficulties in implementing bi-annual vaccination*
3. *Inadequate fund support to implement control program*
4. *Inadequate knowledge and experience of veterinary personnel to conduct and implement effective control program including disease outbreak investigation, surveillance and risk assessment*
5. *Lack of adherence to biosecurity by the livestock owners and in-country animal movements*

Country 3:

1. *Lacking proper diagnosis*
2. *Virus mutation and poor hygiene & sanitation*
3. *Difficulty to investigate strains and prevalent serotypes*
4. *Availability of effective vaccination and maintenance of cold chain*
5. *Scattered herds and scattered livestock population*

Self-assessed priorities for training identified as a result of the needs assessment were:

Country 1:

Epidemiology training to conduct study, surveillance, risk assessment and analysis is the highest priority to improve FMD control capacity in my country.

Country 2:

1. *Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impact of the FMD control measures*
2. *Conducting socio-economic analysis such as impact assessment of clinical FMD and cost-benefit analysis of FMD control interventions*
3. *Conduct value chain analysis and assess the risks of FMD transmission along the value-chains and then developing a risk-based strategic control plan*
4. *Designing FMD surveillance and post vaccination surveillance plan*
5. *Quantitative risk analysis for incursion and spread of FMD into FMD-free areas*
6. *Laboratory training on molecular diagnosis; post-vaccination monitoring of immunity*
7. *Strategies to declare FMD free zone/compartment*

Country 3:

Proper sampling and timely reporting of the outbreaks of the disease is important. Local veterinarians and laboratory personal needs to be trained more effectively.

Reponses from participants taking part in pilot online course

92% of respondents identified FMD as the most important livestock disease in their country. Other diseases of importance identified included avian influenza, clostrideal diseases, haemorrhagic septicemia, peste des petits ruminants, brucellosis, rabies, anthrax, tuberculosis and mastitis.

The table below illustrates the capacity rating given to a range of capacity areas and personnel groups related to FMD control (where 0=no capacity, 4= high capacity).



Figure four: current capacities in different FMD control activities as rated by course participants in feedback survey.

Participants in the survey were asked to list five priority areas for future FMD related training in their country. The word cloud below illustrates the most frequent responses to this question:

Q16 What are the top five priorities for FMD related training in your country? Consider both WHO should be trained, and WHAT training these personnel require

Answered: 52 Skipped: 10



Figure five: word cloud illustrating common phrases used in response to question on top priorities for FMD related training

The survey conducted through the personal communication via telephone conversation demonstrated positive feedback on the course provided, and some specific areas within the course materials for further improvement. The participants suggested additional areas to be focused on including training on risk assessment, impact analysis, surveillance, vaccine monitoring. Participants commented that they would like similar training to be made available on other priority livestock diseases in the region, and also on the need for training for livestock keepers and para-veterinarians.

3.4.1.5: Plan for development of training resources in Africa region and 3.4.1.6: Plan for development of training resources for Asia region.

Following the FMD Investigation Training pilot courses in both South Asia and Southern Africa, and the identification of similar training needs in each, the training course, developed under component 3.2, on FMD Post Vaccination Monitoring, will be offered to 3 participants from each country in both regions.

Both regions have also been offered places on the online FMD Laboratory Investigation Training course developed in partnership with The Pirbright Institute (see component 3.3).

In Southern Africa, increasingly we intend that sustainable use of e-learning is taken over by regional partners identified, while in South Asia, we intend to continue support into 2017-19, following approval of this approach at the EuFMD General Session in April 2017. In South Asia we therefore intend to further plan a 12 month schedule of training courses to be provided, including at least one national level e-learning course.

3.4.1.7 Training courses and resources are adapted for local use

The online Field Investigation Training Course (FIT-C) developed under Pillar II has been adapted to the regional situation of Southern Africa by Wilmot Chikunhe, and adapted for SAARC by Bishnu Adhikari.

3.4.1.8 System for monitoring and evaluation established

All online courses are monitored with a final summative assessment and all participants complete a feedback survey. Extracts from the feedback survey for the recent course in Southern Africa are included below. Evaluation of the impact of training will be part of the follow-up process to the needs assessment.

3.4.1.9 Courses delivered and evaluated in Africa region

The online Field Investigation Training Course for Southern Africa was held December 2016-January 2017. See ExCom 93 report for more details.

3.4.1.10 Courses delivered and evaluated in Asia region

Learning from delays that resulted from lack of nomination of veterinarians to take part in e-learning course by government veterinary services in Southern Africa, for the course in South Asia we employed two methods of seeking nominations for participation:

- Formal request for nominations to Chief Veterinary Officer and Training Focal Point (20 places per country)
- Publicised open call for nominations for people to nominate themselves.

As a result of these processes, 181 participants were registered, coming from all member countries of SAARC (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Maldives). One hundred of these participants actively participated in the online course (based on the online activity record) with the remaining 81 remaining inactive.

Sixty-nine participants completed the course and gained their certificate. This overall completion rate (40%) is significantly lower than the experience with European countries, and may be due to issues with connectivity. Of those completing the course, 17% accessed the course using a smartphone, 8% used a tablet device, with the remainder using desktop or laptop computers. 55% indicated some intermittent problems accessing live webinars, an indication of the challenges of lower bandwidth connectivity.

The interest of the participants in the subject material was evidenced by the high level of interactivity in the online forum. The participants were asked questions and expert tutors also answered questions posed by the participants. Many colleagues shared personal experiences of the challenges of FMD control in their local region.

Discussion	Started by	Replies	Unread	Last post
Clinical score card based diagnosis of FMD	MUDASSAR CHANDA	0	0	MUDASSAR CHANDA Mon, 15 May 2017, 5:02 PM
Pendle diagnostic kit	Anviban Guha	1	0	Pati Sharamagouda Mon, 15 May 2017, 4:08 PM
Chet's lesion ageing query	Chet Kharel	3	0	Jenny Mauld Mon, 15 May 2017, 2:08 PM
RT-PCR	Huzrat Ullah	3	0	Risaul Karim Mon, 15 May 2017, 1:154 AM
Clinical and Laboratory Diagnosis Module is very well designed and is very informative.	Sominder Juneja	0	0	Sominder Juneja Fri, 12 May 2017, 12:36 AM
Final Question:	Bishnu Adhikari	13	0	Bishnu Adhikari Wed, 10 May 2017, 12:47 PM
clinical diagnosis of FMD in buffaloes	Chet Kharel	1	0	David Paton Tue, 9 May 2017, 6:05 PM
clinical diagnosis	ThotaganurageChandaneKumari Wimalaratne	0	0	ThotaganurageChandaneKumari Wimalaratne Wed, 3 May 2017, 1:153 AM

Figure two: Screenshot taken from one of the online discussion fora demonstrating lively interaction between course participants.

A post-course online survey was completed by the participants of the course and some of the summary data from this is illustrated below:

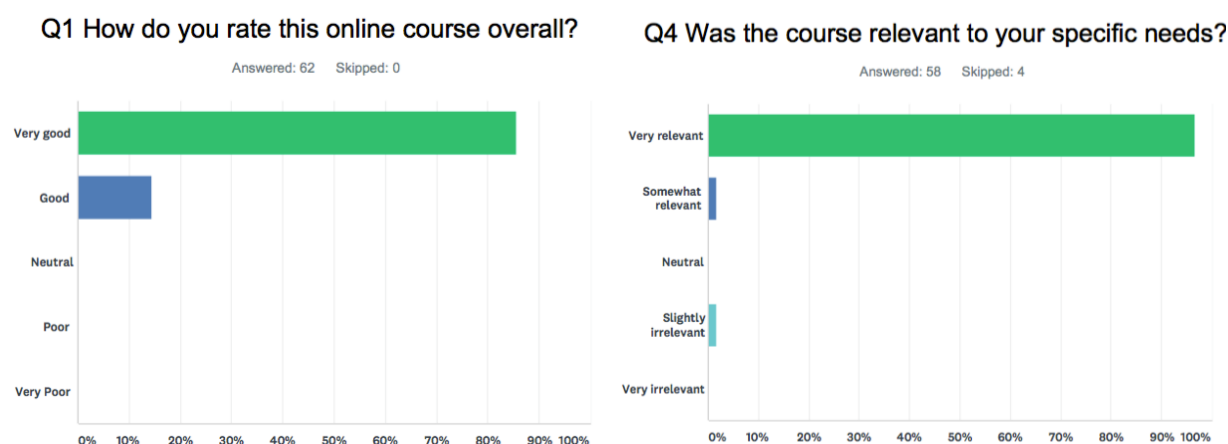


Figure three: examples of responses to some of the questions in the post-course feedback survey.

The course was well received by the participants. 85% of the trainees surveyed rated the course as “very good” and 96% rated it as a very relevant to their specific needs. More than 70% of trainees expressed that they are very confident in recognizing clinical signs and in taking the correct samples to enable laboratory diagnosis of FMD after following the course. All the respondents are willing to take part in the courses related to different aspects of FMD if organized in the region in future.

Target 3.4.2: System established to safeguard the sustainable use of PCP training resources in at least two regions outside the European neighbourhood, and supportive to the establishment of regional and global PCP-FMD networks of trainers and users.

3.4.2.1 Develop webinar series and network for global PCP practitioners

The Progressive Control Practitioners’ Network was launched in January 2017 as a new concept in networking, regular webinars and self-directed training resource from which participants can select training of interest to them, and accrue “training points” towards a series of certificates of participation.

A Progressive Control Practitioner is defined as any person that is working on controlling FMD in non FMD free countries and aware of the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD. The PCP approach is a risk-oriented mindset, focusing on results and acknowledging the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

Three training ‘months’ were conducted between 19 January and 21 June 2017 on subjects:

1. NSP-Ab sero-surveillance
2. Outbreak Investigation
3. Socio-economic impact assessment

Number of Practitioners involved

98 persons from 23 countries have registered for the Practitioner Network. For each of the three subjects between 19 and 50 people have taken part in the webinars:

Month	Webinar 1	Webinar 2
NSP sero survey	50	38
Outbreak investigation	42	18
Socio economic impact	26	19

Completion of training activities

18 participants have completed at least one additional training activity

8 of these completed over five training activities

5 have qualified for the bronze level practitioners (10 training points= 10 hour's training)

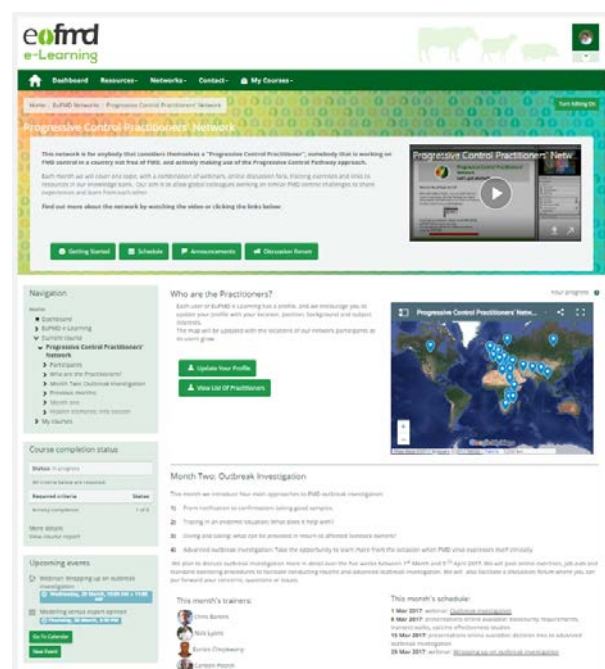


Figure 4: Progressive Control Practitioners' Network

webpage

In July 2017 an internal review of the activities of the Practitioners' Network was conducted, including a number of telephone interviews with members of the network. A summary of the findings of this review are below:

Current strengths

- Broad range of new training resources have been developed and added to the knowledge bank.
- Engagement with a number of motivated practitioners who are enthusiastic about the concept of the network and actively attend multiple webinars and training resources.

Areas for improvement

- Lower than desired number participants joining the network and low engagement of each participant with the training resources.
- Lack of interaction between participants and tutors in online discussion forum.

Next steps and recommendations

- Develop a communication plan to raise awareness of what the network offers
- Review the planned content to ensure relevance to needs of practitioners
- Explore additional motivating factors to encourage participation, such as ensuring usefulness of training to daily activities and/or recognition of participation in the network by superiors, enhancing prospects for promotion
- Encourage more personal participation in webinars and discussion forum by network members
- Consider convening a steering committee to advise on network development and assist in recruiting network members

3.4.2.2 Support regional networks in target regions identified under 3.4.1, and provide assistance to networking activities in other regions if appropriate

Southern Africa

David Paton and Fabrizio Rosso will represent EuFMD at the upcoming roadmap meeting for Southern Africa (postponed from July). At this meeting they will discuss the ongoing possibilities for e-learning in Southern Africa, and support the further development ideas for the regional e-learning hub. In addition they will explore the possibility of EuFMD support to the use of webinars to support regional networks.

SAARC

A priority is to investigate the use of webinars to support the new epidemiology networks established in the South Asia region by the RSU-SAARC, whose currently reduced activities will otherwise mean a loss of momentum.

3.4.2.3 Assist collaborating organizations to develop a sustainable system for training

As noted in the report for the 93rd Executive Committee meeting, at the meeting of the SADC Livestock Technical Committee meeting, following consultation activities and a presentation by EuFMD STP Wilmot Chikurunhe, the following agreement was reached:

“The LTC endorses the proposal by FAO for creation of an e-learning hub for capacity building of animal health practitioners on TADs and zoonotic diseases in the SADC region”.

EuFMD has continued to provide remote advice and support on the establishment of such an e-learning hub (see 3.4.2.2 above)

3.4.2.4 Research additional sources of funding to support training

Efforts to identify possible additional sources of funding to support training under Pillar III should be intensified in the 2017-19 period.

5. Issues arising for the Executive Committee during implementation

We continue to experience delays in the recruitment of colleagues from the South Asia region on Short Term Placements due to reluctance of host countries to release the identified candidates. It may be necessary to explore alternative methods of recruitment of human resources to support this component should the delays continue.

6. Priorities for the next six months

Activities in Southern Africa

Delivery of e-learning courses:

- FMD Post Vaccination Monitoring
- FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course

Continued support to FAO Southern Africa in advising on the development of a regional e-learning hub. This may include supporting local staff to develop a webinar series to support laboratory or epidemiology networking.

Activities in South Asia

Delivery of e-learning courses:

- FMD Post Vaccination Monitoring
- FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course

Identification of countries in which to pilot national level e-learning courses

Activities in West Africa

This new area has been prioritized under the 2017-19 work programme. The first step will be:

- Identification of appropriate regional partners
- Developing an understanding of the training needs and appropriate modalities for training for this new region.

Progressive Control Practitioners' Network

Topics planned for the next six months of the network include:

- Risk analysis along the value chain
- Stakeholder consultation
- Post vaccination monitoring

Some of the training material developed for the in-depth training under component 2.4 will be re-used as bite-sized training exercises for the wider global network. Improvements will be made to the network activities in line with the mid-term review detailed above.

7 .Budget €

Total Budget Workplan activity 24 months	Expenses Oct. 15 –Aug. 17	% project completion	Actual available
92,500	48,559	52%	43,941

7 . GANTT chart //indicate change

OUTPUT 3.4 Improved National and Regional Capacity for the Roll-Out of the Global Strategy and the Management of FMD: Pillar III Training Component		YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
Target (Expected Result)	Activities	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
3.4.1 A full range of PCP training resources and materials, tested and evaluated as fit-for-purpose for use in African and Asian FMD endemic regions	3.4.1.1 Identification of partners for collaboration in delivery of training in Sub Saharan Africa	/	/	/																					
	3.4.1.2 Identification of partners for collaboration in delivery of training in a region of Asia			/	/	/	/																		
	3.4.1.3 Training needs assessment carried out in regions identified in Africa		/	/	/																				
	3.4.1.4 Training needs assessment carried out in regions identified in Asia					/	/	/																	
	3.4.1.5 Plan for dev. of training resources in Africa region				/	/																			
	3.4.1.6 Plan for dev. of training resources for Asia region							/	/																
	3.4.1.7 Training courses and resources are adapted for local use				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/								
	3.4.1.8 System for M&E established				/	/	/	/	/	/															
	3.4.1.9 Courses delivered and evaluated Africa region								/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/								
	3.4.1.10 Courses delivered and evaluated Asia region													/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
3.4.2: System established to safeguard the sustainable use of PCP training resources in at least two regions outside the European neighbourhood, and supportive to the establishment of regional and global PCP-FMD networks of trainers and users	3.4.2.1 Develop webinar series and network for global PCP practitioners	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3.4.2.2 Support regional networks in target regions identified under 3.4.1, and provide assistance to networking activities in other regions if appropriate	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3.4.2.3 Assist collaborating organizations to develop a sustainable system for training	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	3.4.2.4 Research additional sources of funding to support training	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/