



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Held on 25 November 2022, 9:00-13:00, WEB

(Agreed on 2 December 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Fernanda DÓREA
Céline DUPUY
Flavie VIAL
Saara RAULO

- Hearing Experts:
Jedrt MAURER WERNIG

- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU (Chair), Anna KARAGIANNI

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Quirine TEN BOSCH

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 13 October 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 13 October 2022 were agreed through written procedure.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Rabies Technical Report

During this meeting the comments in the Technical Report discussed and applied and the sections Conclusions and Recommendations further developed.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

This was the last meeting for this WG.

8. Task distribution

The WG will keep working on the technical report to finalise the text up until 2 December 2022.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wg-early-indicators-and-syndromic-surveillance-project.pdf>



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Held on 13 October 2022, 13:00-17:00, WEB

(Agreed on 21 October 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Fernanda DÓREA
Quirine TEN BOSCH
- Hearing Experts:
Jedrt MAURER WERNIG
Flavie VIAL
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU (Chair), Lisa KOHNLE

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Céline DUPUY and Saara RAULO.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 6 September 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 6 September 2022 were agreed.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Rabies Technical Report

Edits and comments on the abstract and introduction were discussed by the WG. It was agreed to mention also the limitations of the WOA-H-WAHIS database on top of ADIS. For the section related to syndromic surveillance, the inclusion of additional references and examples of countries conducting this type of surveillance was considered. The WG had a closer look at the table with indicators and mentioned that it would be useful to highlight with which data source they decided to go ahead with. It was agreed that EFSA will further develop the question as to why certain diseases were chosen, while the WG will reflect in the conclusions whether the listed objectives were addressed and/or met. In the following, the WG will go through the whole report and add where necessary. The next WG meeting will focus on the conclusions and the recommendations.

5.2. Rabies Dashboard

The changes requested to and implemented by the JRC were presented and discussed. The amendments requested by the WG has been implemented and the WG is satisfied with the dashboard.

5.3. Avian Influenza Technical Report

It was suggested to change the format of the technical report on avian influenza to differentiate better between the work that was performed by the external contractor (four deliverables) and the input provided by the WG. Two options were proposed by EFSA for the publication of the deliverables: external scientific reports or appendices to the technical report, with which the WG agreed. The final output of the WG would therefore be a very short technical report including only the evaluation of the tool as well as conclusions and recommendations for further development. It was moreover discussed to focus the introductory sections more on highly pathogenic avian influenza and to update the information on the current epidemiological situation.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 November 2022.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-early-indicators-and-syndromic-surveillance-project.pdf>

8. Task distribution

The WG will keep working on the technical report on rabies and provide additional comments on the dashboard, if any.

The WG will also work on a list of bullet points to come up with clear conclusions and recommendations in relation to the tool proposed for avian influenza.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE - RABIES EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Teleconference, 6th September 2022

(Agreed on 13th July 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Fernanda Dórea
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch

- Hearing Experts¹:
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Flavie Vial

- EFSA:
BIOHAW: Inma AZNAR (Chair), Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU, Lisa KOHNLE, Kateryna CHUZHAKINA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absence were received from Saara Raulo, while Quirine ten Bosch apologised for the delay.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Avian Influenza pilot project progress

Avian Influenza Technical Report

A first Draft of the Technical Report was presented. It was agreed that the introduction Section will be the same for both Technical Reports (Rabies and Avian Influenza). It will cover the rationale behind initiating the project, how and which diseases were selected as examples, and the type of tools that were explored to improve early warning. The main body of the report will consist of the proposed solution to develop an early warning system for avian influenza and the four deliverables submitted by the contractor. Finally, there will be a Section summarising the limitations and opportunities of the proposed spatiotemporal risk assessment model, including an outlook on how it could be further developed. The sections of the Technical Report were shared between experts to start drafting.

4.2. Rabies pilot project progress

EFSA Rabies Dashboard in TIM News

The comments by experts were discussed and a list with comments was prepared and shared with the JRC colleagues to proceed with the amendments.

The proposals on wording and linguistic improvements will be collected from the experts through a word document shared in TEAMS, by **18 September 2022**. The proposals will be sent to the colleagues of JRC to start the implementation.

Discrepancies (affiliation of the news, dates, irrelevant articles) that have been identified will be discussed with the JRC in order to improve the keywords used and reduce the noise of the articles that are not relevant.

Rabies Technical Report

A first Draft of the Technical Report was presented. It was agreed that the introduction Section will be the same for both Technical Reports (Rabies and Avian Influenza). The sections of the Technical Report were shared between experts to start drafting.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled in October.

6. Tasks

EFSA Rabies Dashboard in TIM News

The proposals on wording and linguistic improvements will be collected from the experts through a word document shared in TEAMS, by **18 September 2022**

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Rabies Technical Report

The experts should start drafting the relevant Sections in the document of the Technical Report.

Avian Influenza Technical Report

The experts should start drafting the relevant Sections in the document of the Technical Report.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE - RABIES EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Teleconference, 30th June 2022

(Agreed on 20th June 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Fernanda Dorea
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch
Saara Raulo
- Hearing Experts¹:
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Flavie Vial
- EFSA:
BIOHAW: Inma AZNAR (Chair), Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU, Lisa KOHNLE, Kateryna CHUZHAKINA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Avian Influenza pilot project progress

The draft report on the Early Warning pilot project for Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza was reviewed by the experts, the comments were discussed and further actions of improvement were proposed.

4.2. Rabies pilot project progress and results of first analyses

An overview of the progress made since the last meeting of the WG in developing an early warning system for rabies was given. The EFSA Rabies Dashboard in TIM News was presented.

Results of the first exploratory time-series analyses of TIM News and EMPRES-I data were presented.

The WG experts discussed the option of validation of the Tim News tool for its capacity to work as an early warning system and it was concluded that at this stage it is not necessary since the data are not available. The validation should be reconsidered at later stages when the tool starts to be used by the users and based on their feedback.

It was proposed to make the tool available to a selected group of users in order to follow up the tool at regular basis and after a certain time to provide us their feedback on the necessity and the practical value on the management of the disease. Their views will be assessed by a questionnaire.

The target groups to be included in the team could be: managers, policy makers, and people working on the domain of risk assessment.

It was proposed to present the tool to the PAFF committee and/or to CVO meetings and to use the Zoonosis and the Rabies NRL Networks in order to better communicate the project and identify the users for the assessment.

It was decided not to use the terms Donor and Receptor Countries and instead to use non-EU countries neighbouring EU and EU countries neighbouring non-EU countries.

5. Next meeting

Next meeting will be in September.

6. Tasks

The WG experts will review the first draft of the technical report containing a summary of the activities and results of the pilot project for Early warning for Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and provide comments and suggestions. WG members will also have a look at the TIM tool to propose how to make it more friendly to the users

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE - RABIES EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Teleconference, 20th May 2022

(Agreed on 7th June 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Fernanda Dorea
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch
Saara Raulo
- Hearing Experts¹:
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Flavie Vial
- EFSA:
BIOHAW: Inma AZNAR (Chair), Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes. The Chair of the WG was Inma Aznar instead of Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU as written in the Agenda.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Avian Influenza pilot project progress

The progress on the pilot project on Avian Influenza was presented and a discussion on the main elements was conducted. EFSA informed the WG members that the report produced by the contractors was already available and that the WG experts will have the opportunity to review the draft report, comment on it and make proposals for improvement.

4.2. Rabies pilot project progress and results of first analyses

An overview of the progress made since the last meeting of the WG in developing an early warning system for rabies was given. The EFSA Rabies Dashboard in TIM News was presented.

Results of the first exploratory time-series analyses of TIM News and EMPRES-I data were presented. The WG experts discussed the objectives and scope of the pilot project and refined the project approach and its next activities.

5. Next meeting

The WG proposed to have shorter WG meetings (2 hours) but more often (once a month) and to organise separated meetings for Rabies and Avian Influenza.

6. Tasks

The WG experts will review the report on Avian Influenza and provide comments and suggestions by 10 June 2022.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY INDICATORS AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE - RABIES EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Teleconference, 19th November 2021

(Agreed on 24th November 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Fernanda Dorea
 - Céline Dupuy
 - Quirine ten Bosch
 - Saara Raulo

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Jedrt Maurer Wernig
 - Flavie Vial

- EFSA:
 - ALPHA: Andrea Gervelmeyer (Chair), Verena Oswaldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Rabies pilot project progress and results of first analyses

An overview of the progress made since the last meeting of the WG in developing an early warning system for rabies was given. Results of first exploratory time-series analyses of TIM News and EMPRES-I data were presented. The WG experts discussed the objectives and scope of the pilot project and refined the project approach and its next activities. Tasks and deadlines were agreed.

5. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting will be made by EFSA.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY WARNING AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

TELE-conference, 28th January 2021

(Agreed on 15 February 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Eyal Klement
Fernanda Dorea
Saara Raulo
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch

■ Hearing Experts³:

Gabriel Gargallo
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Anouk Veldhuis
Flavie Vial
Gerdien van Schaik

■ EFSA:

ALPHA: Inma Aznar (Vice Chair), Yves Van der Stede (Chair)

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ingrid van de Leemput.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Overview of the HPAI pilot project proposal and comments received

The comments received by the WG members on the proposal for HPAI Early Warning were discussed. The WG members asked for more specific details on the variables to be included in the model for HPAI. EFSA explained that more detailed specifications will be available soon. The updated draft with specific details on the model variables will be circulated among WG experts for their comments. This draft will also contain information on how far back the datasets for wild birds go. A proposal on which data should be used for modelling purposes and which should be used for validation will be made to the WG members. The feed-back from the experts on this draft will be passed on to the contractors.

4.2. Presentation on the existing tool to visualize wild bird connectivity and ongoing work

One of the experts presented the work carried out to date on a tool to visualise wild bird abundance and connectivity. This tool is being developed by EFSA in collaboration with EURING and EBP. The quantity and quality of the data to be displayed by the tool were discussed, as well as the applications of the tool, the deadlines for delivery and the type of outputs. The early warning model to be developed must be done in a way that can be fitted in this tool, with the outputs being visualised here. In this way, the visualisation tool that will be available mid 2021 will be upgraded into an early warning tool.

4.3. Overview of the Rabies pilot project proposal and comments received

The proposal shared with WG members describing an early warning system for rabies was discussed. A discussion on the type of information to be displayed in the dashboard for rabies was held among the participants. The question of whether or not the dashboard should be focused on sylvatic rabies or should contain also information on rabies on domestic animals was discussed lengthily. EFSA on collaboration with some of the experts will provide with an updated draft with more specific information on the type of outputs to be shown in the dashboard to be considered and reviewed again by WG experts.

4.4. Presentation of Tools for Innovation Monitoring (TIM)

EFSA has signed an agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) that allows collaboration in terms of the TIM tool. A presentation describing the main aspects of this tool was made to the WG members.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

The objective of the presentation was to enable discussion on how this tool could be utilised to help with the design of an early warning system for rabies (different searches leading to different data set/categories which need to be improved). Although this tool, could, and will be used for other diseases, one option would be to use rabies as a pilot project where the principles of using TIM on early warning could be tested.

4.5. Presentation on the MOOD project

Céline Dupuy presented some background information on the MOOD project (Monitoring outbreak events for disease surveillance in a data science context). This project is the result of a Horizon 2020 EC call with a four-year duration (2020-2024). As the MOOD project shares some of the goals of the EWS project, a description of some of the synergies between both projects were presented. The MOOD project aims to improve the early detection, assessment and monitoring of emerging infectious diseases. One of the diseases to be tackled in the MOOD project is Influenza. A description of the programmed activities for the coming 4 years was presented. It was recommended to liaise with the contact person for this project in order to share ideas.

5. Task distribution

EFSA will share the new draft protocols for both rabies and HPAI with the WG members; WG members are expected to provide feed-back to EFSA.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting will be made by EFSA.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY WARNING AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

TELE-conference, 3rd September 2020

(Agreed on 10th September 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Eyal Klement
Fernanda Dorea
Saara Raulo
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch

■ Hearing Experts³:

Gabriel Gargallo
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Anouk Veldhuis
Flavie Vial
Gerdien van Schaik

■ EFSA:

ALPHA: Inma Aznar (Vice Chair), Yves Van der Stede (Chair), Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ingrid van de Leemput, José Cortinas Abrahantes and Ana Afonso.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on Gantt chart

Fernanda Dorea presented a Gantt chart made based on the initial indicators table provided to the experts to be completed for this meeting. The indicators were categorised into four groups: risk factors, unspecific indicators, suspicions and cases. A potential outcome of this Gantt chart and discussion could be a dashboard – combining the indicators – for early warning and syndromic surveillance.

The discussion focused on the structure and classification of the risk factors/indicators within Gantt chart for each disease. It was agreed that the focus during the discussion should be on risk factors and unspecific indicators as these are more related to the early warning system and syndromic surveillance.

4.2. Discussion on Risk factors/unspecific indicators for 3 diseases

Discussion was first started based on HPAI and every risk factor/indicator was discussed in detail. Rabies and LSD were covered in the same manner; for each risk factor/indicator also further steps were discussed.

For each disease proposals were identified and will be discussed in detail in the next working group meeting. For highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) there will be three proposals, for rabies there will be two proposals, and for lumpy skin disease (LSD) the possibility of a proposal will be discussed in a subgroup of experts based on a background information that they have access to.

5. Task distribution

5.1. Proposals

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Specific tasks were distributed among the WG experts. The proposals should be sent by 1st November 2020.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held on 19th November 2020.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

WG ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EARLY WARNING AND SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

TELE-conference, 29 May 2020

(Agreed on 12 June 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Eyal Klement
Fernanda Dorea
Saara Raulo,
Ingrid van de Leemput
Céline Dupuy
Quirine ten Bosch

■ Hearing Experts³:

Gabriel Gargallo
Jedrt Maurer Wernig
Anouk Veldhuis
Flavie Vial
Gerdien van Schaik

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar, Yves van der Stede, Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin
AMU: José Cortinas Abrahantes
SCER: Ana Afonso

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion of the proposed pilot projects, methodology, potential indicators and data sources and any other information needed

A presentation was prepared by EFSA introducing the project, background and objectives. Three presentations of the diseases to be considered for further discussion (lumpy skin disease, rabies and avian influenza) were presented by experts and EFSA as well as tools and data sources currently in use. The participants presented current early warning and syndromic surveillance systems in their country and/or organization.

Background document of the project and three diseases was prepared by EFSA and distributed to the experts before the meeting. This document and presentations were used as a base for discussion. During the discussion many experts listed LSD as their top choice for the pilot project. It was discussed that the focus should be on one disease rather than tackling all the three. A proposal to make a document for the diseases and their potential indicators and data sources was made.

4.2. Task distribution and deadlines

EFSA: to compile a table with the three proposed pilot project diseases potential indicators and data sources. This will be made available for the experts in June for comments. Based on this document a decision of which pilot project(s) will be selected to further exploration will be made in a short discussion meeting.

5. Next meeting(s)

WG members aimed to have a short discussion meeting of the output of the table mentioned before between July and October if possible. A proposal will be subsequently made by EFSA. The next official WG meeting will be held in October 2020.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf