

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

**Action number: CA17110**

**STSM title: Finalizing a data collection tool for input data to model the freedom of controlled cattle diseases**

**STSM start and end date: 27/06/2021 to 17/07/2021**

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### PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

(max.200 words)

The aims of WG2|STSM5 were to (i) finalize the data collection tool to deduce existence of data about control programmes (CPs) (ii) improve the current version of the questionnaire (iii) check quality and data availability and (iv) develop guidelines on to use the tool. Overall, the goal was to (i) “clean” and (ii) improve the tool, in a way to facilitate good data quality acquirement that will help the modelling work on WG3. Additionally several parameters obtained with the questionnaire still needed to be analysed and described (e.g. diagnostic strategies).

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

(max.500 words)

Together with the supervisor of this STSM – Mr. Eleftherios Meletis, we agreed to focus on 3 aspects:

1. Test out the limitations
2. Improve the ease of the data collection
3. Provide usefull data for WG3 modelling

To complete the objectives of this STSM the first week was dedicated on cleaning the latest version of the tool, by dropping questions/variables either not important for WG3 work or too difficult to acquire good quality data. To this end, a document with the cleaned version of the tool was provided and justification for the variable selection was provided. Further, we created a Google Form with the selected variables.

As part of the aim's of this STSM we spent the 2nd week finalizing the data collection tool that was embedded in a google form (accessible here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L-kY8cELn6itt3U41kQLYWqFaVfCtgORqvCTE9nnIGM/edit?usp=sharing>) and prepared a guidelines document with helpful information on how a user can can use the tool (the guidelines are also included in the google form).

Also the Google Form was sent out to colleagues from Greece, Romania and other members of SOUND control for feedback.

During the third week we (i) updated the google form given the feeback we received (ii) developed an example on how to fill in the new tool, to be used by the potential users as a template (i.e., country 'X' (an ideal country with high quality data).

In the last, we created a document with an overview of the sources specified by the respondents (in the initial data collection tool) developing a precise analysis targeted on data sets.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED**

The main results of this STSM were:

1. Updated cleaned “version” of the data collection tool, that can be implemented to acquire good quality data for non-regulated cattle diseases, The acquired data can be used by WG3 to estimate the probability of freedom from disease.
2. Improved tool embedded in a Google form: The data collection tool was implemented in a Google form as a way to represent how the tool should work.
3. Guidelines document with information on how one can use the tool: Guidelines are important, so that user knows what information is required from their side.
4. Developed country ‘X’: A template (ideal country) is also important, In this way the user knows what each question requires as an answer.
5. Overview of the sources: The old version of the tool was disseminated among SOUND-control members, therefore information on data quality and sources were available. I spent few days checking the sources/references used, so that to check potential links.

### **FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)**

During the STSM, the main objective were to finalize the question “What information/data is needed to model the freedom from disease for non-regulated cattle diseases?”. As future work we should find better means to ask that information from users, because it was pointed out that GoogleForm is not optimal for the type of data we want to gather. Therefore if the questions part is complete we should explore efficient ways to collect the data both user-friendly (i.e. the user can easily input) and data-extraction friendly techniques (the analysis of the data to be done easily).

In conclusion, given that I am an early career investigator, I feel that the Short-Term Scientific Mission gave me the opportunity to improve my education and skills and to implement short research trials within the COST Action CA17110.