

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: COST action 17110

Grantee name: Xhelil Koleci

Details of the STSM

Title: **Finalise the bottom-up questionnaire**

Start and end date: **16/02/2022 to 05/03/2022**

Purpose of the STSM

Following a SOUND control workshop in September 2021 where a stakeholder engagement strategy was developed, WG4 undertook the preparation of materials (top-down and bottom-up questionnaires and focus groups/interview guidelines) that could be used in any country to gather country-related stakeholder information. The strategy focused on gathering information, technical, socio-economic, trust, and other inputs needed by stakeholders to make decisions about purchasing cattle from other European countries with respect to cattle diseases that are not subject to compulsory regulations in the EU (C, D and E diseases and other non-listed diseases). The work undertaken through this STSM is key within this process.

The aims of this STSM were:

1. Finalise the bottom-up questionnaire. This questionnaire aims at understanding farmers' motivation and their decision-making process regarding animal trade.
2. Develop guidelines for the implementation of focus-groups or interviews in other countries/regions.

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

The first step taken was to organize a brain storming session including several members of Animal Health Ireland's staff, where the existing questionnaire draft was discussed in detail. Based on the results and comments obtained during the

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brainstorming session and taking into account the STSM's objectives, the questionnaire was redrafted.

The questionnaire is divided into five parts (A-E) as follow:

- Group A – About the farmer and the farm. This section includes questions on the farmer's age, education, whether is full or part time and the size and type of farm.
- Group B – Exploring the farmer's trading in the past and future and relationships with trading partners: including questions on intra-community trade and how the trading partners were chosen.
- Group C – Understanding the initial decision: this section explores the factors that made the farmer decide to buy animals from another country instead of buying locally.
- Group D – Using information when buying animals: this section explores the information that was requested from the seller/trader when buying animals.
- Group E: – Disease control programmes (CP's) influence in the decision-making process: exploring awareness and participation in CPs.
- Group F – Disease Risk: exploring attitudes to disease risk.
- Part E – SOUND control tool. In SOUND control we are working to find a way to compare the results from different CPs so that those who want to purchase an animal(s) from a different country can be aware of the health status of those animals. This section explores the information that a farmer would find helpful and the most suitable format (website, app etc).

The initial draft was discussed with supervisors, Dr. Maria Guelbenzu and Mrs. Alison Burrell and later with the other WG4 leaders Dr. Luis Pedro and Prof. John Berezowski. The questionnaire was developed further after these discussions. A Power Point presentation was prepared and presented on 16th of March at the WG4 virtual meeting. A focus group guideline was also drafted and is available to be used in field.

Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

All objectives of the STSM were fulfilled as follow.

- a). The bottom-up questionnaire was finalised.
- b). The focus-groups guidelines were drafted.
- c). A translated and adapted version of both the questionnaire and the focus-group guidelines in Albanian language was prepared.

The questionnaire was presented at a WG4 meeting and some of the members volunteered to apply the materials produced it in their own countries.

Both questionnaire and focus-group guidelines will be used, and data will be analysed and used in the development of the research agenda.