

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA17110 (Standardizing output-based surveillance to control non-regulated diseases of cattle in the EU- SOUND-control)

Grantee name: Dima Farra

Details of the STSM

Title: "Review on the use of scenario-tree models for animal health surveillance purposes".

Start and end date: 06/06/2022 to 23/06/2022

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

During the STSM I worked on a scoping review that had been initiated to document the use of scenario tree models for surveillance purposes in the veterinary field across the world. The main objective of this STSM was to perform the full-text reading of the 84 selected papers that passed the first-stage/ abstract screening. The work I performed consisted of 1. Develop a method that enable data-extraction in a standardised way by a group of researchers, 2. To coordinate the data-extraction process and 3 to perform data extraction of part of the selected papers during the full-text screening phase by using an extraction form created beforehand.

The scoping review project started during 2021 and the steps were approved by all project participants. The extraction process and extraction tools were created and agreed on with other reviewers before the STSM started and during previous STSMs conducted within WG4. Specifically, the data extraction form aims in gathering data on the different methodologies used for scenario tree modelling. It also documents the structure of the scenario trees in the selected studies. My STSM aimed to build on the previous activities and to ensure that the relevant data were extracted from the selected papers and recorded on a uniform basis. Together with the previous STSM candidate and the WG co-leaders I found a number of people available to support the work. I developed a comprehensive method to enable easy data-extraction, coordinated and planned the data-extraction progress and hosted online meeting to support the researchers involved. The work is still ongoing. We plan to finish the data—extraction by the end of

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

August in order to enable data-analysis in the beginning of September aiming to present the first results on the final SOUND-control meeting in Greece on 19 and 20 September.

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

Description and assessment of whether the STSM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the STSM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

The extraction process is ongoing. The extracted data is digitalised using an Excel table with pre-defined answer options to ensure uniformity between the different researchers involved. Of the 84 papers that passed the abstract screening and passed the eligibility criteria– so far 18 are finished. The definition of being finished is that the data has been extracted by 2 reviewers, has been compared and any disagreement has been resolved. 37 papers are in progress (finished by 1 reviewer or did not resolve the disagreement yet) and 29 papers are planned to be reviewed in the coming weeks. The filled data extraction form for the papers was uploaded in a specifically designed Microsoft Teams folder. Additionally, a template was provided and saved online that is accessible for all the reviewers. Additionally, I developed an Excel form that support the reviewers in their planning and data extraction process. A pair of two reviewers were assigned to review each of the papers. These pairs differ per week to ensure randomness of data-extraction. Additionally, all the selected papers were uploaded in the Teams folder to support the reviewers as much as possible in their task. Each pair that reviewed a paper compare and discuss their results with the data extracted by other reviewers.

The next project steps currently taken are to finalise the data-extraction of the remaining papers (2 reviewers per paper) – finalise in the extraction form – and resolve any disagreement between the reviewers. I am still supporting the coordination of the meetings between reviewers and I created a planning to make sure the data will be extracted in time. I introduce the new reviewers that indicated willing to be involved to the process and the extraction tool. For the coming period I will keep extracting data from the papers jointly with other reviewers and keep joining the project group regular meetings and discuss updates on the review, even though the STSM period has finished.

Overall aim is to extract all of the data by the end of August for the last meeting of the COST Action, and to present the results of this STSM there. The results of this STSM will serve as a basis for a scientific publication.