

**Invitation Letter to BTSF National Contact Points seeking applications for BTSF training activities on
Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control**

**Contract 2017 96 01
under the “Better Training for safer Food” Initiative**

Phase 2/2

1. Course objectives.....	2
2. Training dates and locations.....	3
3. Selection criteria for participants	6
4. Country allocations.....	8
5. Face-to-face logistical arrangements	9
6. Virtual Classrooms	9
Annex 1: Background and main topics covered in training	10
Annex 2: Legislation and guidance	12
Annex 3: Agenda.....	13
Annex 4: Training material, outcomes and dissemination activities.....	14
Annex 5: Contractor contact details	15
Annex 6: Seat allocations.....	15

1. Course objectives

General objectives

- To provide for a common understanding of the current state of play of tools suitable to address emerging animal diseases (including zoonoses), and the related early reaction veterinary interventions.
- To increase the efficacy of veterinary services in protecting the EU territory against the occurrence of emerging animal diseases.
- To give the opportunity to the trainees to compare key elements of contingency plans and other preparedness elements elaborated by their respective Member States in order to identify and share best practices.

Specific objectives

- For participants to gain a common understanding of animal disease surveillance, disease awareness, contingency planning and modern tools to prevent, control and eliminate disease, through lectures, formal presentations, interactive question and answer sessions and syndicate work. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and share best practice in these areas having in mind that early detection is vital;
- To undertake a simulation exercise with the participants role playing functions of local and national disease control centres and national reference laboratory, if appropriate. The simulation exercise will test leadership, organisational skills, delegation, ability to work in teams, communication and the sharing of information, flexibility and ability to supply solutions, which comply with EU law. Participants will gain an appreciation of how simulation exercises can be used to verify contingency plans;
- To provide practical elements to the training by a field visit to a livestock enterprise taking account of the epidemiological situation in the host country. Participants will work in syndicate groups solving simulated problems of suspect disease and disease control in a real-world situation taking into account that disease may affect wildlife, domestic animals and humans (One Health concept);
- To engender a spirit of co-operation and transparency in participants by working in different syndicate groups, discussions and sharing best practice recognising that transmissible animal diseases are transboundary diseases and co-operation between Member States and neighbouring countries will be necessary to combat animal diseases and that such co-operation may best be achieved in advance by holding joint simulation exercises to test contingency plans and,
- To provide participants with the necessary tools and resources to disseminate the knowledge gained through the training course to colleagues in their home countries with the objectives to promote in all Member States enhanced disease preparedness and efficient immediate disease response systems.

2. Training dates and locations

15 Face-to-face trainings of 5 days will be delivered between September 2022 and January 2024 with approximately 30 people in each session. The course is supposed to be held on the spot, but there is a possibility to switch to the online format if the health situation were to deteriorate in the future. In this context, the programme, dates and seat allocation may be subject to variation.

In the table below, for all training sessions except for the first one in Riga, there are 2 options for the dates of the training: one option if the training is held on the spot, and one option if the training is held online. **Please consider the face-to-face dates for now.** If the health situation does not allow us to implement face-to-face courses anymore, we will inform you via email and ask you to consider the proposed dates for *online trainings*.

This course is a 5-day-long training (from Monday midday to Friday midday), when held on the spot. The course agenda is attached (Annex 3).

Table 1: Training dates and Location

Year	Training sessions	Course title	Locations	Proposed dates	Registration deadline
2022	TS01 - ADP	ADP – Focus on ASF	Riga	12 - 16 September 2022	12 th July 2022
	TS02 - ADP	ADP – Focus on PPR	Sofia Zoom	24 - 28 October 2022 19 - 28 October 2022	24 th August 2022
	TS03 - ADP	ADP – Focus on FMD	Utrecht Zoom	14 - 18 November 2022 14 - 23 November 2022	14 th September 2022
	TS04 - ADP	ADP – Focus on AI	Venice Zoom	5 - 9 December 2022 5 - 14 December 2022	5 th October 2022
2023	TS05 - ADP	ADP – Focus on AI	Venice Zoom	16 - 20 January 2023 16 - 25 January 2023	16 th November 2022
	TS06 - ADP	ADP – Focus on FMD	Utrecht	13 - 17 February 2023 13 - 22	13 th December 2022

			Zoom	February 2023	
	TS07 - ADP	ADP – Focus on PPR	Sofia Zoom	13 - 17 March 2023 13 - 22 March 2023	13 th January 2023
	TS08 - ADP	ADP – Focus on ASF	Riga Zoom	17 - 21 April 2023 17 - 25 April 2023	17 th February 2023
	TS09 - ADP	ADP – Focus on PPR	Sofia Zoom	8 - 12 May 2023 8 - 17 May 2023	8 th March 2023
	TS10 - ADP	ADP – Focus on ASF	Riga Zoom	12 - 16 June 2023 12 - 21 June 2023	12 th April 2023
	TS11 - ADP	ADP – Focus on ASF	Riga Zoom	18 - 22 September 2023 18 - 27 September 2023	18 th July 2023
	TS12 - ADP	ADP – Focus on FMD	Utrecht Zoom	16 - 20 October 2023 16 - 25 October 2023	16 th August 2023
	TS13 - ADP	ADP – Focus on AI	Venice Zoom	13 - 17 November 2023 13 - 22 November 2023	13 th September 2023
	TS14 - ADP	ADP – Focus on AI	Venice Zoom	11 - 15 December 2023 11 - 20 December 2023	11 th October 2023

2024	TS15 - ADP	ADP – Focus on FMD	Utrecht <i>Zoom</i>	15 - 19 January 2024 <i>15 - 24 January 2024</i>	15th November 2023
-------------	------------	--------------------	------------------------	--	--

For organisational purposes, names of participants should be communicated at the latest 30 days before each workshop. A reminder will be sent to NCPs before each event.

3. Selection criteria for participants

- Participant must:
1. Fulfil the eligibility criteria
 2. Meet the minimum requirements
 3. Be selected using the evaluation criteria

1. Eligibility criteria for Course on Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control

Officials from relevant competent authorities with a working knowledge of contingency planning and animal disease control.

Participants must meet the minimum requirements below to ensure they can follow and fully participate in this course. Participants who do not meet the minimum requirements should not be proposed for the training.

2. Minimum requirements for Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control	Yes/No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member State veterinary services staff with adequate professional experience, familiar with the relevant EU legislation and animal disease surveillance and the most modern and effective control measures. Preferably participants who have not previously attended sessions on similar diseases, and consequently on similar training locations. In a position to provide training to and sharing experience with others following their attendance has been identified as the target group for the training. Able to understand and speak English in order to participate actively in the training session. 	

The evaluation criteria should be used as a tool to prioritise participation (higher score indicates higher priority), but there is no minimum score necessary.

3. Evaluation criteria for Course 2	Enter Score
<p>a) Experience in Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control, within a Competent Authority</p> <p><u>Scoring</u></p> <p>less than 3 years = 0 points; ≥ 3 years = 5 points; 5 - 10 years = 10 points; > 10 years = 12.5 points</p>	
<p>b) Experience in implementing Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control within a Competent Authority</p> <p><u>Scoring</u></p> <p>no experience = 0 points; < 2 years = 5 points; 2-5 years = 7.5 points; > 5 years = 10 points</p>	
<p>c) During the course, participants will be provided with a training package to be used</p>	

	<p>as support dissemination material. Commitment to disseminate the knowledge received is a prerequisite for course participation.</p> <p><u>Scoring</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to distribute the training material among their colleagues = 5 points; 2. Point 1 plus preparing and giving presentations based on the training material for the staff of national Competent Authorities/uploading training material to national Competent Authorities' intranets/websites = 10 points 3. Points 1, 2 plus preparing informative articles in the professional national journals = 15 points 4. no commitment = 0 points 	
Total score		

4. *Country allocations*

Information on the country allocations for the planned sessions listed above is available in the Annex 6 sent together with the present document.

You are welcome to nominate more participants for the reserve list than indicated in the table attached. If seats become available you will be informed in due time.

5. Face-to-face logistical arrangements

In case of face-to-face training sessions, the European Commission will fund in full the visa, travel, accommodation, meals, and field visit costs for all training participants. No daily allowance will be paid on top of this. Any other costs are to be paid by the participants themselves.

Participants will arrive at the training venues on Monday morning and training will commence on Monday afternoon (depending on travel connections, participants may be requested to arrive at the training venues on Sunday evening). Return travel will be on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning according to flight connections.

JVLc Team will liaise further with the nominated participants for all logistics and practical aspects.

6. Virtual Classrooms

The VC sessions will be organised with the use of the Zoom web conferencing tool. To avoid delays, participants will be invited to take part in a short technical test of their equipment a few days before the training sessions. This will allow participants to test their equipment and view the main features of the VC application platform.

During this brief test, participants will have the chance to learn all the tools of the VC platform. During this meeting, the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager will also go through the main aspects of the agenda and different sessions that are foreseen. Additionally, in the morning of Day 1 of the VC, time will be dedicated to a technical session to refresh participants on the main features of the platform, and ensure connections are working properly.

The participants should have a computer with a working camera and audio system (speaker and microphone) as well as a good internet connection.

Annex 1: Background and main topics covered in training

Background

The impact of transmissible animal diseases and the measures necessary to control those diseases can be devastating for individual animals, animal populations, animal keepers and the economy. Recent experiences have demonstrated transmissible animal diseases may also have a significant impact on public health and food safety.

The Commission's communication of 19 September 2007 on a new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013) where 'Prevention is better than cure' aims to promote animal health by placing greater emphasis on preventive measures, disease surveillance, disease control and research, in order to reduce the incidence of animal diseases and minimise the impact of outbreaks when they do occur. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases 'Animal Health Law' (AHL) provides a single and simplified regulatory framework for animal health seeking convergence with international standards while ensuring a firm commitment to high standards of animal health.

There is an existing body of EU legislation relating to epidemic emergencies and contingency planning, inter alia, Classical Swine Fever 2001/89/EC, Foot and Mouth Disease 2003/85/EC, Avian Influenza 2005/94/EC, African Swine Fever 2002/60/EC. These 'vertical' disease control directives have been repealed since April 2021 and new delegated and implementing acts have been brought forward under the AHL.

Training of Member State veterinary services staff will improve knowledge, understanding and compliance with EU animal health law in these areas and will ensure a high level of disease awareness and preparedness. It will give the ability to launch the rapid response necessary to efficiently bring the outbreak under control, regain freedom of disease status and resumption of trade.

Main topics covered in the training

- EU legislation relevant to epidemics emergencies and beyond (i.e. emerging diseases)
- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (Animal Health Law) – provisions related to disease awareness, preparedness and control
- Disease awareness and preparedness
- Stakeholders involvement and enhanced passive primary surveillance
- Contingency planning
- Operating procedure for investigating suspect cases
- Data collection for epidemiological analysis of outbreaks
- Measures to be taken in case of outbreaks, including stamping out taking into consideration animal protection at killing and carcass disposal considering environmental concerns
- Preventive measures and biosecurity
- Management of animal movements and certification
- Surveillance
- Notifications and exchange of information at national internal and EU level
- Coordination between public health and animal health services
- Networking, coordination, cooperation and mutual support between Member States and if necessary with neighbouring non EU countries
- Application, self-assessment, analysis and update of contingency plans
- Simulation exercises and other preparedness activities
- Insight into the use of modelling of disease spread scenarios
- Antigen and vaccine banks
- Communication with public

Annex 2: Legislation and guidance

The following table is a **supporting document for participants to the Animal Disease Preparedness including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control training course**. It summarizes the main legislation (both the acts that have been repealed and those that have been more recently adopted) and other relevant documents on the legal framework for animal health, currently undergoing a very wide and complex process of revision. This table will be regularly updated to take into account new incoming pieces of legislation. However, it is to be considered as a guidance document to help participants to the training course, and it is not exhaustive. Moreover, it has no official value and it does not reflect the position of the European Commission.

Most important acts and background documents to take into consideration at the training course

<i>Surveillance, control, eradication of animal diseases</i> <i>with main emphasis to African swine fever, Highly pathogenic avian influenza, Peste des Petit Ruminants, Foot and Mouth Disease</i>	
Legislation repealed by Regulation (EU) 2016/429	New legislation – other relevant documents (not to be considered as exhaustive)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64/432/EEC (animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine) - 91/68/EEC (animal health conditions governing intra-EU trade in ovine and caprine animals) - 92/119/EEC (introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease) - 2002/60/EC (laying down specific provisions for the control of African swine fever) - 2003/85/EC (on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease) - 91/666/EEC (establishing Community reserves of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines) - 2005/94/EC (on Community measures for the control of avian influenza) - 82/894/EEC notification of animal diseases within the Community (provides the legal basis for ADNS) - AI Diagnostic Manual: Commission Decision 2006/437/EC - AI Contingency plans: Commission Decision 2007/24/EC - AI Surveillance: Commission Decision 2010/367 - AI Birds in zoos: Commission Decision 2007/598 - AI in wild birds Commission Decision 2006/563/EC - ASF Diagnostic Manual: Commission Decision 2003/422 - ASF Regionalization: Commission Decision 2014/709 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation (EU) 2016/429 - Annex V Correlation table - Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/1629 - Implementing Regulation 2018/1882 - Delegated Regulation 2020/687, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/1140 - Delegated Regulation 2020/689, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/881 - Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (on official controls and other official activities; that repealed <i>inter alia</i> Directives 89/662 and 90/425) - Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/690 - Implementing Regulation 2020/2002 - Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605, as last amended - Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 - EFSA Assessments of listing and categorisation of animal diseases - OIE Terrestrial Code - OIE Terrestrial Manual - OIE Manual on ASF in the wild boar: ecology and biosecurity - Control and eradication of ASF in the EU: Commission Working document 7113/2015 - Principles for ASF regionalization: Commission Working document 7112/205 - <u>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/140</u> laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU)

Surveillance, control, eradication of animal diseases

with main emphasis to African swine fever, Highly pathogenic avian influenza, Peste des Petit Ruminants, Foot and Mouth Disease

Legislation repealed by Regulation (EU) 2016/429	New legislation – other relevant documents (not to be considered as exhaustive)
	<p>2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the Union antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegated Reg. 2020/688 (animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs) - Implementing Reg. 2020/2235 on model animal health certificates, model official certificates and model animal health/official certificates, for the entry into the Union and movements within the Union of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods, official certification regarding such certificates - Del. Regulation (EU) 2022/139 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management, storage and replacement of stocks of the Union antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks and the biosecurity, biosafety and bio-containment requirements for the operation of those banks - EU Reference laboratory for avian influenza https://www.izsvenezie.com/reference-laboratories/avian-influenza-newcastle-disease/ - EU Reference laboratory for African swine fever https://asf-referencelab.info/asf/en - EU Reference laboratory for foot and mouth disease https://sitesv2.anses.fr/en/minisite/lrue-fievre-aphteuse/opening-eurl-fmd-website#:~:text=The%20consortium%20between%20ANSES%20(France,all%20members%20of%20the%20network - EU Reference Laboratory for Peste des Petit Ruminants https://eurl-ppr.cirad.fr/

Annex 3: Agenda

Please find the two versions of the training session agenda (F2F and VC) attached to the invitation email.

Annex 4: Training material, outcomes and dissemination activities

Training material

All participants will receive the training material in advance of the training. The material will include additional pre-recorded material for offline studies. Preparatory videos will introduce the specific topic and provide background information to participants.

All participants will receive a Dissemination Kit electronically to enable them to actively disseminate course knowledge upon their return from BTSF training. Participants attending face-to-face courses will receive the information on the USB stick.

Dissemination Kit

This contains the following training materials:

- All course presentations
- Study notes on field trips and group activities/discussions and conclusions thereof
- Additional references for further study
- Written guidance on how to actively disseminate course knowledge to colleagues upon participants' return to their home countries, different methodologies/examples/best practice
- Other information and material delivered at the course such as quizzes, FAQs etc.

Dissemination questionnaire

Two to three months after the respective training session, participants will receive a standard questionnaire requesting information on the dissemination activities of the participant after the training, and details on differences in the approach adopted in day-to-day work following the training.

Self-assessment test

Furthermore, the programme will include an anonymous knowledge test to be carried out at the beginning and at the end of each training session in order to measure the impact of the training on the understanding of the participants of the subjects taught.

Participants are expected to agree to carry out the above tests and to reply to the surveys and questionnaires.

For Virtual Classrooms

Participant agree to be registered in the BTSF ACADEMY and agree to be recorded during VC training sessions and to take a group photo of the participants and tutors at the end of the training. Videos and photo will be published in the BTSF ACADEMY in the corresponding training course section and will be visible only to registered users of the BTSF ACADEMY.

Please find more information regarding data protection here:

<https://btsfacademy.eu/training/mod/page/view.php?id=417>

Annex 5: Contractor contact details

The Project is managed by: JVL Consulting

Project Manager: Fabiana Quadu

Training Coordinator for Course: Klaas Steijn

Separate notifications will be sent to National Contact Points for each course and will contain the names and contact details of the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager as well as logistical details on the event.

All official communication between National Contact Points and the project will be maintained through the functional e-mail address 20179601ADP@jvl-c.com.

All information on BTSF training can be found at the [BTSF ACADEMY](#) website. The website will be regularly updated with details of forthcoming courses.

Annex 6: Seat allocations

Please find the seat allocations for each of the training sessions attached to the invitation email.