



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Teramo | 10 January 2020

OIE Collaborating Centre Network on Veterinary Emergencies

SECRETARIAT

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"

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Web site: http://demo.izs.it/j_web-emvet/

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During an informal meeting held in parallel to the “First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries” organized in Teramo on 26-28 November 2018, the three OIE Collaborating Centres working in the area of emergency and disaster management - Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health (CENSA, Cuba) , Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare (Teramo, Italy) and Biological Threat Reduction (IIAD, Texas A and M, USA) - agreed on the proposal to form an ‘OIE network on veterinary emergencies’ and established the network’s ToRs. The parties also agreed to propose that the Secretariat rotate between the centres with it first being held by IZSAM, Teramo.

The proposal was reviewed and approved by the Biological Standards Commission in February 2019.

The worldwide OIE Collaborating Center network on Veterinary Emergencies (OIE EmVetNet) currently operates with the following purposes:

To provide technical advice and support for training, exercising, and evaluation across the emergency management cycle for all hazards, and to facilitate multidisciplinary approaches;

- To exchange and share knowledge on best practices (including models and case studies e.g. model legislation, contingency/emergency plans, communication)
- To make recommendations on research needs to support veterinary emergency management
- To identify, cooperate and coordinate with stakeholders (Member Countries, NGOs, public health, private sector) and seek to extend and diversify the network
- To support operational activities e.g. OIE, Tripartite (WHO, OIE, FAO), GOARN, or EMC response missions.

As agreed by the parties, the main activities of the network should focus on:

- Advise on the integration of emergency management into existing OIE tools (PVS, laboratory twinning, veterinary legislation, veterinary education day 1 CCs) and structures (OIE Working Groups)
- Support the OIE ad hoc group on emergency management
- Support implementation of 3-year OIE-FAO-INTERPOL proposal on building resilience against agrocrime and agroterrorism



- Seek twinnings with other centers of expertise in other regions
- Support scientific programme of horizon scanning workshop and OIE Global Conference
- Provide evidence for advocacy for better linkages between veterinary services and national disaster/emergency management plans, and integration of the veterinary component into One Health, UN SDGs, Sendai framework.

Specifically, the network aims at:

- Providing technical advice and support for training, exercising, and evaluation across the emergency management cycle for all hazards, and to facilitate multidisciplinary approaches to emergency management
- Exchanging and sharing knowledge on best practices (including models and case studies e.g. model legislation, contingency/emergency plans, communication)
- Making recommendations on research needs to support veterinary emergency management
- Identifying, cooperating, and coordinating with stakeholders (MCs, NGOs, public health, private sector) and seek to extend and diversify the network
- Supporting operational activities (e.g. OIE, Tripartite (WHO, OIE, FAO), GOARN, or EMC response missions).

A WEBex meeting was held on **29 July 2019** in order to update the parties on the aims of the network and to agree on the initial tasks and deadlines, and to address the OIE request to support the development of Standard Operating Procedures and ToRs for Reference Centre networks. The parties revised and validated the ToRs and took stock of the individual and institutional involvement of the OIE CC network members in Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (DMRR) initiatives, at domestic and/or international level. During the discussion, it has been agreed to circulate a web design proposal based on other existing OIE websites taken as a reference for the development of the OIE-EmVetNet website.

A second opportunistic meeting was organized in Paris (OIE HQ) on **27 November 2019**. This meeting was arranged to validate the mock version of the OIE EmVetNet website; to take stock of the network progresses and initiatives in view to the 2019 annual report and to start identifying possible common activities to be undertaken in the forthcoming years.

The network is now organizing a **third meeting** which will be held in Houston tentatively for Spring 2020. In this meeting, network partners will engage in working discussions to develop concept strategies for collaborative activities that can be shared with donors in support of the OIE and EmVetNet missions. Participants will also brainstorm how to expand and communicate main activities, including adding new network partners. Finally, the third meeting will include discussions on implementation of the 5-year action plan for 2020-2025, pending approval from the OIE Biological Standards Commission.

Annual activities of the network also include:

- The network represented the animal health sector at OIE, WHO GOARN, and FAO meetings which aim to strengthen international frameworks for emergency preparedness (throughout 2019)
- IIAD have taken on a project to assess the vulnerability of the animal health sector to agro-crime and agro-terrorism (2019-2020)
- IIAD and CENSA supported the OIE ad hoc group on veterinary emergencies to draft guidance on simulation exercises (2019-2020)
- IIAD, CENSA, and IZSAM mobilized to provide support to the Bahamas, specifically the Grand Bahamas and Abacos islands, after Hurricane Dorian (September 2019)
- IZSAM provides scientific and technical support to the second Action Plan of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (2017-2019) addressing the welfare of animals in disasters
- IIAD, CENSA and IZSAM participation to OIE Workshop on Approaches to Improve Sustainable Management of Animal Health Emergencies (Paris, 26-27 November 2019).

The website of the **OIE Collaborating Center network - veterinary emergencies** is currently available at the following address:

http://demo.izs.it/j_web-emvet/ (**Figure 1**), but soon it will be moved to www.oie.int under the OIE domain. Standard English is the language used in the website, which can be also accessed by mobile devices.

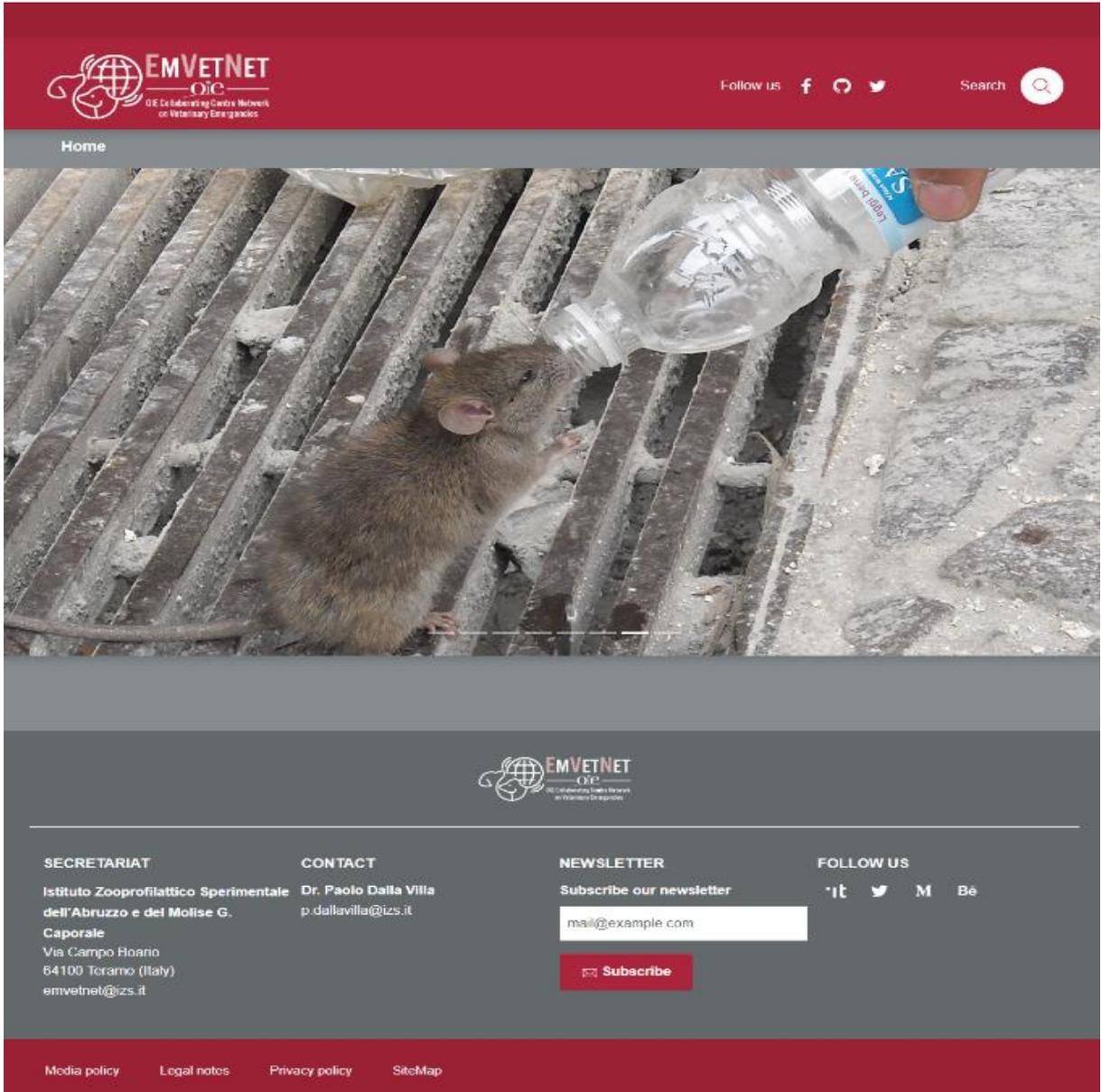


Figure 1



In the following lines a brief description of the main sections included in the website is given, along with some screen shots:

About

In this section the objectives, activities, membership and coordination of the OIE-EmVetNet might be included (Figure 2)

Home / About

About

Disasters of all types, including natural ones, may provoke severe loss of human and animal lives, have direct and indirect a negative impact on public health and adversely affect the sustainability of important agri-food sectors. To better address the on-going challenges posed by a growing number of large and small-scale disasters, the **Collaborating Center network on veterinary emergencies** has been established in 2018 between the OIE Collaborating Centre on Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety (IZSAM, Italy), the OIE Collaborating Centre for the Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health (GENSA, Cuba) and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction (IIAD, Texas A and M, USA). This network has been activated in order to enhance and promote a new culture of risks prevention and mitigation in veterinary emergencies management, and to provide a common platform for international cooperative work on the protection of communities and animals in the occurrence of catastrophic events.

The specific tasks of the network are to:

- Provide technical support for training, exercising, and simulation of emergencies;
- Exchange and share knowledge on operating manuals, procedures and best practices in emergency management;
- Make recommendations on research in emergency management;
- Identify, cooperate and coordinate with stakeholders in veterinary medicine in order to extend and diversify the network;
- Support operational activities in the occurrence of catastrophic events.

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Figure 2



Figure 3

Members' area

A documents repository can be included for the exchange of technical and scientific documents among network's members. Access to this area will be restricted to username and password verification (Figure 3).

Technical support

This section could contain a summary list of the services provided by the OIE CCs in the field of Veterinary Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (Vet DMRR)

OIE standards

OIE internationally recognized standards (FAO/WHO), Guidelines (LEGS), Codes and Recommendations by different institutions, stakeholders organizations and policy makers

Databases

Data retrievals and analysis systems might be included within this section (contents and feasibility to be further discussed)

Training opportunities and resources

training and educational opportunities (courses, seminars, workshops, etc.) on Vet DMRR

Links

Vet DMRR resources, on line journals , other resources, national websites on

Latest news

A list of latest news on Vet DMRR will be periodically prepared and published under this section. Users can also subscribe a mailing list to receive the news by e-mail (Figure 4)

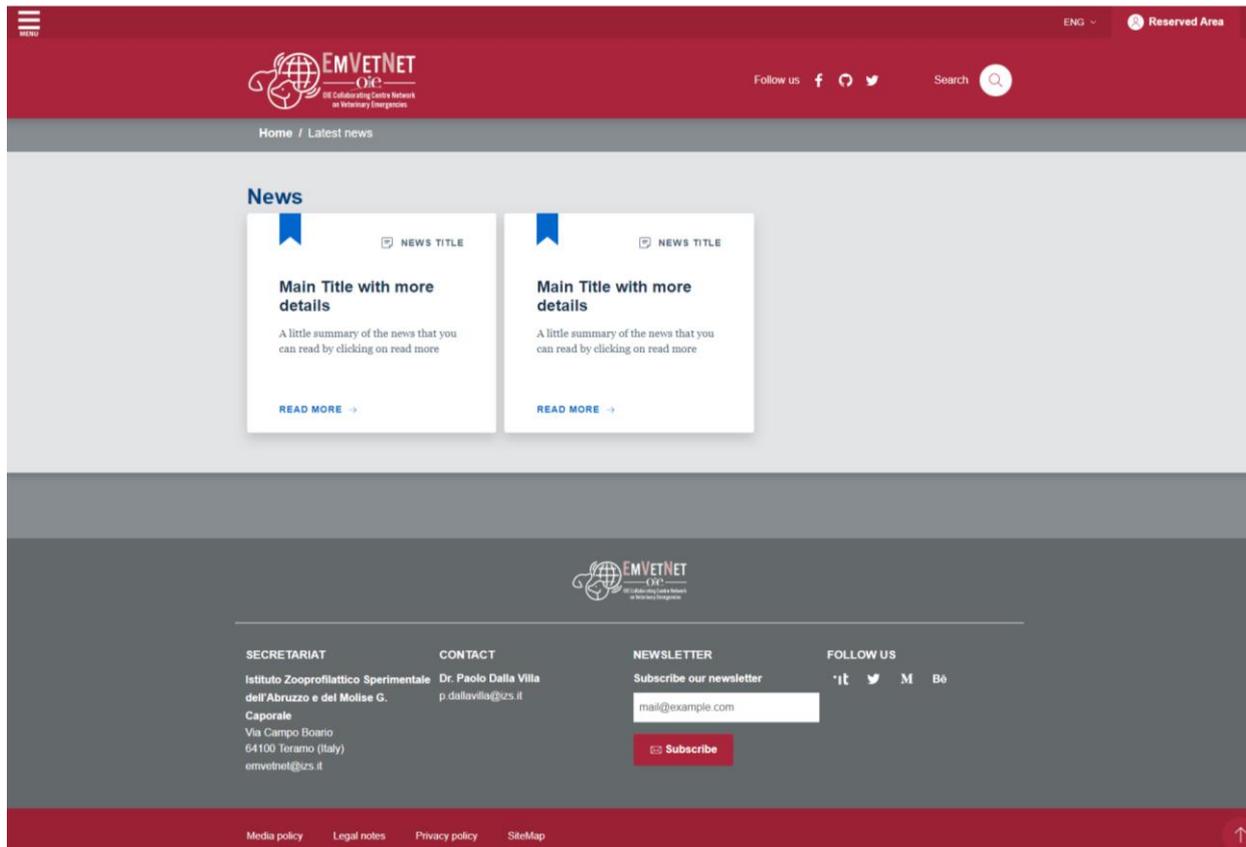


Figure 4