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Towards harmonisation of animal health legislation: Development of a framework for cross-country comparison

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Description of the project

- Project started in 2015
- Joint project with residents: Lucie, Pia and Anaïs
- Two supervisors: Klaus and Katharina
- Need of comparison tools for legislation and standards
 - Trade purposes, list and comparison of available documents
 - Redaction of new guidelines/legislation
- Two case studies
 - African Swine Fever
 - Drug residues in foodstuff from animal origin

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Study objective

- Develop a useful framework for comparing legislation in animal health
 - User friendly
 - Adjustable to the topic
 - Different animal health topics
 - Food safety?
 - Adjustable to the documents
 - Legislation and standards
 - Systematic process
 - Covering all important information
 - Guidance for comparison
 - Integrating a complete descriptive analysis
 - Tool as support for further analyses

Framework development

- Guided by two reference documents
 - OIE Animal Health Standard
 - European legislation
- First focus on African Swine Fever

- Identification of elements/topics in these two sources
 - Covering all main points necessary and likely to appear in similar standards
 - Systematic analysis to develop a list of attributes to be included in a framework

Organization of framework

- Identification of 71 relevant elements
 - Organized in 8 categories
 - Each item phrased as a question
- List of questions to be used when reviewing a document
- Capture all relevant information
 - From texts with the same objective but from a different source

Framework

Categories (5/8)	Examples of element for comparison
General information about the reviewed document	<i>What is the legislative reference document used? To whom, where and when does it apply?</i>
General information about the country/sub-country area where it applies	<i>Is the country historically free of ASF or free as a result of an eradication programme? Does the VA have authority over all domestic pigs in the country?</i>
Case definition and reporting organisation	<i>Define suspect case of ASF. How is a confirmed diagnosis followed up and traced?</i>
Communication to the public	<i>How is information about an outbreak situation communicated to stakeholders and the public?</i>
Surveillance system in place	<i>What is the monitoring/surveillance system in place? Is there a risk-based sampling strategy?</i>

Legislation comparison

Question	Review of OIE standard
What is the legislative reference document used?	Terrestrial Animal Health Code: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
Is the legislation primary (issued by legislative body) or secondary (issued by executive body)?	Veterinary Legislation
When did it come into force?	The development of these standards and recommendations is the result of the continuous work since the first Terrestrial Code was published in 1968. The 25th edition incorporates modifications to the Terrestrial Code agreed at the 84th OIE General Session in May 2016.
To whom, where and when does it apply?	The OIE Terrestrial Code is a reference document for use by Veterinary Authorities, import/export services, epidemiologists and all those involved in international trade.

Extract from Excel table
User-friendly? ...

Discussion

- Comparative analysis of legislation and standards
 - challenging and time-consuming exercise
 - systematic and organised process
- Development of a structured approach
- Basis for further descriptive analysis
- Studies for ASF and residues on going

Perspectives and case studies



Number of legislation	Summary/objective
96/23 (directive)	Levels and frequency of sampling for bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine animals
97/747 (decision)	Levels and frequency of sampling for milk, eggs, honey, rabbits, farmed and wild game

Comparative analysis of legislation on veterinary drug residues in foodstuff : How is defined the monitoring sampling strategy?	
EU legislation	Sampling levels and frequencies for the monitoring of certain substances and residues in foodstuff are defined according to the country production.
Customs Union/Russia	/
USA	The domestic sampling strategy is based on 3 pillars including random and targeted sampling.

Internal situation			
Strengths		Weaknesses	
1.	Legislation available in all countries	1.	Variable degree of detail and completeness
...		...	
External situation			
Opportunities		Threats	
1.	Harmonisation could facilitate international trade	1.	Persisting, high consumer concern in Europe
...		...	





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Thanks!

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