

## **Advice 20-2012 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on an inventory and analysis of the epidemiological surveillance activities of animal diseases and zoonotic diseases in animals and food**

The objectives of this advice are to analyse the epidemiological surveillance activities in Belgium concerning animal and zoonotic diseases in animals and food, and to verify the suitability between these activities and national/international recommendations, in order to identify improvement pathways.

An exhaustive inventory of the Belgian epidemiological surveillance activities of animal and zoonotic diseases present in animals and food was carried out. Multiple recommendations emerged from this study, such as to update the list of notifiable diseases and to extend the application field of the epidemiosurveillance to small ruminants, horses and lagomorphes.

Based on a survey of the management of 24 epidemiological surveillance activities, typologies were realized to characterize their organization. The analysis of these typologies allowed to identify gaps (or needs) and to make recommendations.

Finally, an inventory was realized of the national and international, current and future, vertical (specific animal diseases) and horizontal (structural and organizational aspects of the surveillance activities) recommendations concerning epidemiological surveillance in animal health domains. This inventory was based, on a web search and on a SWOT analysis of the opinions of representatives and users of the Belgian epidemiosurveillance systems. An analysis of the differences between, in one hand, the organization of the existing systems and the typologies and, on the other hand, the recommendations concerning the epidemiological surveillance identified in this chapter, allowed to identify gaps (needs) and to make recommendations to improve the system. The main recommendations concern: the amelioration of the communication between animal and public health authorities namely via the creation of a national epidemiological surveillance platform, the improvement of the coordination, the follow-up and the steering of the surveillance activities according to the objectives, the extension of the epidemiological surveillance activities to other animal species, the responsabilisation and motivation of the stock breeders and veterinarians to stimulate their vigilance, increase their confidence in and their collaboration with the authorities, the organization of continuing education, etc.

More detailed information is available in the text of the advice and in the annexes.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".