



SMS RO-UA ROUA00136

DEVELOPMENT OF SCREENING AND MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR EMERGING DISEASES AND PREVENTION OF CROSS-BORDER EPIDEMICS IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT



NEWSLETTER 2 - Advancing Cross-Border Animal Health: SMS-RO-UA Project Updates

This newsletter presents the latest milestones of the SMS-RO-UA project, including the launch events in Ukraine and Romania, the October study visit on emerging animal diseases, the December kick-off conference in Izmail, and the upcoming One Health public awareness campaign with workshops, seminars, and educational videos.

Launching conference in Izmail, Ukraine

Launching coordinated cross-border monitoring and veterinary capacity-building

On December 3, 2025, youth Public Organization "New European Generation" hosted the SMS-RO-UA kick-off conference in Izmail, Ukraine, bringing together authorities, veterinary experts, universities, and local communities. Welcome addresses from the State Service for Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Odesa Region, the Managing Authority, and the Joint Secretariat highlighted the urgency of strengthening veterinary capacities and cross-border cooperation. Project partners presented their planned activities, including field sampling and laboratory analyses for African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, Leptospirosis, and West Nile Virus, as well as capacity-building initiatives and the application of One Health approaches. Veterinary practitioners and volunteers shared insights on practical disease management, while interactive discussions strengthened knowledge exchange, stakeholder coordination, and laid the foundation for the project's operational phase.

Inside:

- Launch events in Odesa and Murighiol
- Kick-off conference in Izmail
- Study visit and TOR approval for priority diseases
- One Health public awareness video campaign: workshops, seminars and videos



Launching event in Odesa, Ukraine

Bringing international cooperation and public health closer to Ukrainian communities

On September 18, 2025, Odesa State Agrarian University hosted the launch event of the project, aimed at strengthening cross-border epidemic prevention. Conducted in a hybrid format, the event promoted the project to the Ukrainian public and attracted wide interest from local authorities, researchers, NGOs, and health and veterinary experts. It successfully raised awareness about the project's goals, EU funding opportunities, and avenues for public and professional engagement, laying the groundwork for strong regional collaboration.

Launching event in Murighiol, Romania

Romania at the forefront of cross-border health cooperation

On September 25, 2025, the Veterinary Sanitary and Food Safety Directorate of Tulcea hosted the launch event of the project in Murighiol, Romania, highlighting Romania's active role in strengthening cross-border epidemic prevention. The hybrid event engaged national and regional authorities, local communities, NGOs, and veterinary and epidemiology experts, with focused discussions on African Swine Fever evolution in the Danube Delta, anatomopathological changes from Avian Influenza, and new rapid-detection standards for Leptospirosis and West Nile Virus. Romanian participants actively shared expertise, explored cooperation opportunities, and contributed to shaping practical approaches for monitoring and preventing emerging diseases in the cross-border region.



Strengthening Cross-Border Health Cooperation Through the SMS-RO-UA Project

Building lasting partnerships and networks to tackle emerging diseases in Ukraine and Romania

The two launch events also revealed the strong potential for long-term partnerships and networking between Ukrainian and Romanian institutions. Beyond formal presentations, participants explored opportunities for joint research, shared resources, and coordinated training programs, demonstrating that the project can serve as a catalyst for sustainable regional collaboration. These interactions not only reinforce professional connections but also lay the groundwork for a community of practice capable of responding more effectively to future cross-border health challenges.



First Study Visit in Odesa, Ukraine

Advancing cross-border collaboration on emerging animal diseases

On October 2, 2025, Odesa State Agrarian University hosted a study visit bringing together Ukrainian and Romanian partners to advance cross-border cooperation in animal health. During the meeting, the Terms of Reference for the joint research activity "Analysis of Emerging Animal Diseases in the Cross-Border Area" was officially approved, establishing a coordinated framework for monitoring African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, Leptospirosis, West Nile Virus, and Toxoplasmosis.

The activity aims to build early detection systems, enhance laboratory capacities, align diagnostic protocols, and promote scientific cooperation under the One Health approach. This milestone reflects the shared commitment of both countries to protecting human and animal health, ecosystems, and communities in the Lower Danube region.



"One Health" information Campaign

As part of the SMS-RO-UA project, LP1 will lead an information campaign to enhance public awareness of animal health and welfare under the One Health approach. On December 26, the first workshop brought together 10 veterinary professionals to identify knowledge gaps, prioritize actions, and developed a recommendation sheet for pet keepers and breeders. In January, a series of five short videos explaining emerging diseases, transmission, prevention, and risk mitigation will be produced and shared on open resources.

The campaign will also include six seminars in the Odesa region for the general public, breeders, and veterinary staff, alongside two specialized workshops for veterinary services and NGOs to discuss current challenges, vaccination, stray animal management, and develop a Joint Action Plan aligned with EU practices and cross-border collaboration.

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Programme's website: www.ro-ua.net

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