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



Newsletter 10 - Strengthening Community Awareness and Preparedness for Emerging Diseases

During the final stage of the project, a series of information seminars and training activities were organised in the Lower Danube region to strengthen awareness of infectious disease risks and promote the **One Health** approach. The activities brought together local authorities, healthcare and veterinary professionals, volunteers, pet owners, community representatives, universities, research institutions and public organisations from Ukraine and Romania.

One Health Information Seminars in the Odesa Region

The information campaign was finalized. The remaining information seminars were held in **Bolhrad** on 27 August, **Kiliia** on 9 September and **Reni** on 24 September 2026, engaging local stakeholders and community members in discussions on the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.

The seminars focused on zoonotic and vector-borne diseases relevant to the Lower Danube region, including rabies, toxoplasmosis, West Nile virus, leptospirosis and Lyme disease. Participants discussed how infectious diseases can spread between animals, people and the environment, as well as the importance of vaccination, parasite prevention, responsible animal ownership and animal identification.

Other topics included proper nutrition, household health risks, early detection of infectious diseases and practical measures that communities can take to prevent disease and protect public health. The discussions also addressed common myths and facts related to animal and human health.

The interactive format of the seminars, including Q&A sessions, discussions and anonymous surveys, provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences, raise questions and discuss practical situations from everyday community life. In total, 69 participants took part in the four information seminars organised in the Odesa region.



TRAINING ON EMERGING DISEASES AND CROSS-BORDER EPIDEMICS

On **29–30 September 2026**, Odesa State Agrarian University hosted the **two-day training seminar “Awareness and Preparedness: Detection of Emerging Diseases and Prevention of Cross-Border Epidemics.”** The event brought together 127 participants, both offline and online, representing public authorities, veterinary and medical institutions, universities, research organisations and civil society from Ukraine and Romania.

The first day focused on knowledge and experience sharing. Participants addressed emerging diseases, sampling and pathogen identification protocols, cross-border disease surveillance, early warning systems, wildlife biosecurity and epizootic risks in the Lower Danube region. Particular attention was given to African swine fever, West Nile virus, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis and avian influenza, as well as the role of the One Health approach in preventing and managing health threats.

The second day focused on practical training. Participants worked in groups on laboratory preparedness and biosafety, ELISA sample preparation, laboratory equipment, pathomorphological diagnostics and biological sample collection. The training concluded with a workshop and discussion on mechanisms for preventing and responding to emerging transboundary animal diseases.



FROM AWARENESS TO PRACTICAL PREPAREDNESS

The activities combined community-level awareness with professional training, creating opportunities for different groups to exchange knowledge and discuss common challenges. The information seminars helped communities better understand health risks and preventive measures, while the professional training strengthened practical knowledge and preparedness for the early detection and response to emerging diseases.

Together, these activities reinforced the importance of coordinated action across human health, animal health and environmental sectors. Cooperation, timely information sharing and stronger professional links remain essential for identifying risks early and preventing the spread of infectious diseases across borders.

PARTNER DETAILS



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