



Plateforme ESA  
Épidémiosurveillance  
en Santé Animale



# The French platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health by and for those involved in animal health

Animal diseases are a potential threat to public health, the economy and the environment.

Monitoring animal health and particularly the emergence of new infectious agents in the country is a key step in preventing health risks. It is an essential component of any policy aimed at preventing and combating diseases.

A detailed review of national health and safety policy was launched during the French National consultation on the health sector (*Etats généraux du sanitaire*) in January 2010 and resulted in the creation of the French platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health (ESA Platform) at the end of 2011.

The ESA Platform is coordinated by ANSES (the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) and the French Ministry of Agriculture (Directorate General for Food, DGAL).

It is composed of six full members: laboratories (ADILVA, ANSES), livestock organisations (Coop de France, GDS France), the DGAL, vets organisation (SNGTV) and two associate members, FNC and ONCFS.



anses  
agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire  
alimentation, environnement, travail



COOP  
DE FRANCE



GDS  
France  
l'acteur sanitaire ensemble



Office National  
de la Chasse  
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## ➤ New risks and new targets to monitor

The challenges linked to animal health have changed significantly over the last twenty years.

Emerging diseases that threaten or affect animal populations (Schmallenberg virus, bluetongue, avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, etc.) raise public health issues and have strong economic repercussions.

In France, the control of many animal diseases is an economic asset that must be preserved.

Numerous changes in society, trade, the environment and the climate lead to the identification of new risks, linked for example to wildlife or to new kinds of pets (rodents, fish, reptiles, etc.).

### What does epidemiological surveillance involve ?

SURVEILLANCE = organisation + observations + analyses

→ **knowledge**

→ **assistance in decision-making**

Surveillance is an organised means of collecting information about the health status of an animal population in order to :

- provide a tool to assist in decision-making as regards prevention and/or control measures to be implemented,
- assess the effectiveness of the measures and adapt them,
- demonstrate absence of disease,
- provide epidemiological data.

**The ESA Platform is at the centre of a network of partners performing well-defined complementary tasks** (example of domestic animals)



## ↳ What is the ESA Platform's purpose ?

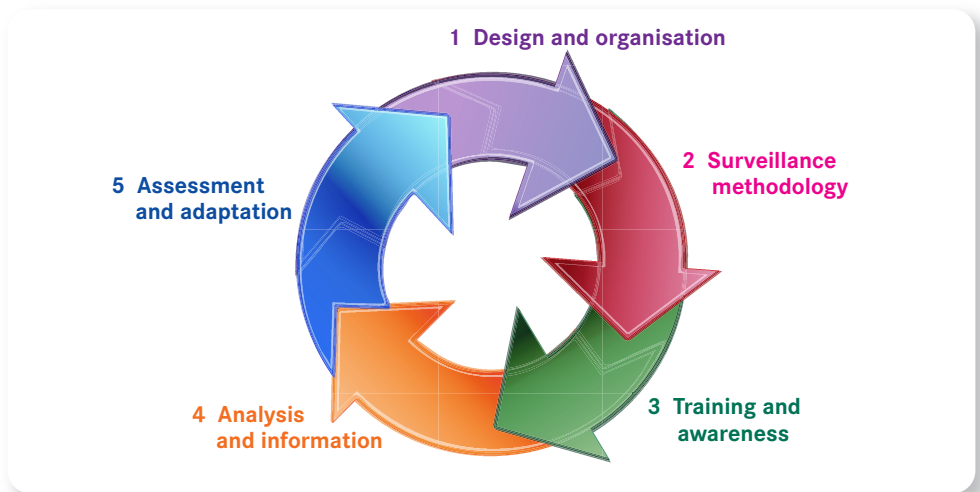
### A tool to optimise epidemiological surveillance of priority health risks in animal health.

The ESA Platform is a shared tool serving the stakeholders involved in the monitoring of animal diseases. It operates under the authority of the French Ministry of Agriculture.

The primary objectives of the surveillance system are :

- to systematically detect a disease in order to eradicate it (e.g. tuberculosis)
- to ensure early detection of diseases that are rare or not present in the country so as to limit their consequences should they appear (foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax),
- to demonstrate absence of disease (brucellosis, classical swine fever).

The aim is not only to monitor and keep track of established diseases, but also to identify the emergence of new diseases as early as possible.



## ↳ Multiple skills

- **epidemiology** and animal health, epidemiological surveillance **methodology**,
- farming practices and **organisation of animal production sectors**, knowledge of populations and wildlife management
- **regulatory expertise**,
- disease **prevention and control policies**,
- management and **statistical analysis** of data, IT.

## Priority issues

Bovine tuberculosis  
Abortions in ruminants  
Influenza virus in pigs  
Avian influenza  
Bee disorders  
Bluetongue  
Shellfish mortality  
Schmallenberg virus  
Monitoring of wildlife  
Observatory for livestock mortality  
International disease watch

## The ESA Platform draws on :

- over 80 identified monitoring systems,
- a standardised assessment method and procedure (Oasis) for surveillance activities,
- an information system (under construction) to centralise and provide health data for use in epidemiological surveillance,
- a resource centre : [www.plateforme-esa.fr](http://www.plateforme-esa.fr)



## Find out more

The ESA Platform produces an annual surveillance report on the major animal diseases. It is published in a special edition of the *Bulletin épidémiologique Anses-DGAL* (ANSES-DGAL Epidemiological Bulletin) available on the Internet at:

<http://www.anses.fr/bulletin-epidemiologique>  
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/bulletin-epidemiologique>

THE ESA PLATFORM WEBSITE (in French) : <http://plateforme-esa.fr>  
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