



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

A decorative border composed of various circular icons in shades of blue, green, orange, and white. The icons include stylized human faces with different expressions (smiling, neutral), speech bubbles with equals signs, and simplified representations of agricultural products like wheat stalks and fruits.

**SUMMARY OF FAO'S
VIRTUAL LEARNING
CENTER ACTIVITIES IN
EUROPE AND CENTRAL
ASIA AS OF
1 JANUARY 2025**

Summary of the Virtual Learning Center activities in Europe and Central Asia as of 1 January 2025

Dear Training Focal Points,
Dear colleagues,

The **Virtual Learning Center (VLC)** in Europe and Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization is delighted to share its fourth biannual newsletter summarizing the courses delivered in the second half of 2024 and those planned for the first half of 2025, as well as other ongoing VLC activities.

Delivered courses:

In the second half of 2024, the following online courses were successfully conducted:



Sheep and Goat Pox Preparedness Course in Russian (September – October 2024, 436 participants from 15 countries). This 4-week course is an adaptation of the **English version** with improvements based on the feedback received during its delivery in late 2023. The target audience was official and private veterinarians involved in the management of sheep and goat pox.



Avian Influenza Preparedness Course in English (October-November 2024, 357 participants from 43 countries). This course, previously developed by FAO in collaboration with the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) in late 2021, had already been delivered in English, as well as Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian. Due to strong interest in this topic, it was delivered again in English to European countries with the support of FLI experts. The target audience included both official and private veterinarians.



Introduction to One Health Course in Russian (November-December 2024, 186 participants from 12 countries). Participants were nominated from four sectors, in the spirit of One Health: public health, animal health, environment health and food safety. The course, developed by FAO, was delivered by the Quadripartite, which consists of FAO, the UN Environment programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). It includes five core modules, plus a case study focused on the practical application of Joint Risk Assessments (JRA). This course aims to develop national capacity to address intersectoral health challenges through a One Health approach, and to encourage interaction between people working in different areas.



Upcoming courses:

The VLC continues to work in various areas and topics beyond animal health. We plan to offer the following courses in the first half of 2025:

Open access courses: As opposed to tutored courses, these can be accessed at any point in time.

Improving Ruminant Biosecurity open access in English, Russian and Turkish.

An adaptation of the [tutored course delivered earlier this year](#), this course will allow a wider audience to learn about biosecurity to prevent disease introduction at any point in time.

African Swine Fever Introductory Course in Serbian.

This course, already available in [English](#), has been translated into Serbian given the dynamics and gradual spread of the disease in the Balkans.

Tutored courses:

Food Loss and Waste Introductory Course in English. The course, to be delivered in February–March 2025, will host approximately 400 participants and include different food value chain actors (e.g. farmers, processors, retailers) in Europe and Central Asia.

Zoonoses Course in English. Under development by a team of experts from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), this course will cover the main zoonotic diseases in the region, e.g. brucellosis, tuberculosis, anthrax or echinococcosis. The plan is to deliver it in March–April 2025.

New developments:

Management of Animal Brucellosis Course. Currently under discussion, its development is planned to start in early 2025. Adaptation to several other languages spoken in the region, namely Russian and Turkish, is also planned.

Introduction to Epidemiology Course. Currently under discussion, with development expected to begin in 2025.

Food safety. Also currently under discussion, with development expected to start in 2025.

Other:

The VLCs have received the [accreditation of three online courses](#) by the Veterinary Continuing Education in Europe ([VetCEE](#)) as a level 7 post-graduate training courses: the Sheep and Goat Pox Preparedness Course, the Avian influenza Preparedness Course, and the African Swine Fever Introductory Course (open access). All participants who successfully completed these courses in the second half of 2024 received certificates and ECTS credits.

An updated version of [the VLC web page](#) will be launched in early 2025. It will include more detailed information on courses delivered, as well as course cards with their outlines and structure.

If you wish to receive regular updates on VLC courses, please contact us to be added to our distribution list. Feel free to share this newsletter with your network and colleagues.

For any questions or suggestions regarding regional VLC courses, or to share your training needs, please contact us at REU-VLC@fao.org

<https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org>

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