



Network News

VSF Europa Update - June 2008

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VSF Europa Meeting in Lisbon

International Seminar

This year, VSF Portugal was the host country for the first Board Meeting of 2008 and the annual General Assembly in Lisbon. On this occasion, VSF Portugal organised an international seminar on EU-Africa Challenges for Rural Development and Animal Health Control, which took place on the 5th of June. For more information about the seminar, see www.vsfe.org.

VSF Europa would like to thank VSF Portugal for organising such an interesting international seminar and being such a great host.

Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was held on the 6th of June. It was attended by representatives of six member organisations.

Commitment of Members

The 15th Board Meeting was opened with a lively discussion about the commitment of each VSF Europa member to the network, which is felt to need strengthening in some places. A minimum participation of each member should consist in the attendance of meetings, as well as being an active participation in email discussions. Each member organisation will be asked to provide a written declaration of commitment, where the expectations from VSF Europa, the contribution to the network, as well as the proposals on how to improve the efficiency of the network will be expressed. The aim is to evoke a discussion about VSF Europa network inside each member organisation and to generally strengthen the commitment within VSF Europa.

Vaccinating for Africa!

In 2008, five members of VSF Europa carried out the action day "Vaccinating for Africa!", namely VSF Suisse, VSF Germany, AVSF France, VSF Austria, and VETAID UK. A special area on the TWIKI website will be posted, where each member will be able to put some information about the results of the vaccination day in the respective countries.

Legal Status

It has now been confirmed that VSF Europa falls under the legal status of a small AISBL (international non profit association).

The board elected Patrick Ruppel (VSF Belgium) as the new treasurer, who took over responsibilities from Carline Mainenti (AVSF France). Alessandro Broglia was confirmed as president, and Katja Helbig (VSF Germany) was elected as new secretary of VSF Europa.

EU project Bet-Net

VSF Europa members VSF Belgium, DIO, SIVTRO, VETAID, AVSF France and VSF Germany submitted a proposal for a common project to the EU at the end of March 2008. The project is called "Better Networking for better impact in poverty alleviation through livestock related activities", in short, "Bet-Net". VSF Belgium is the lead agency, the other mentioned VSF Europa members are sub-grantees. The decision of the EU on whether or not the project will be accepted is expected in the summer of 2008. The project will help the European network of livestock-focused NGOs to enhance its quality management by the development and dissemination of good practices, it will facilitate coordination, knowledge management and this will lead to better efficacy and better advocacy and lobbying capacities of the network.

Case study publication

Due to delayed feedback from some members, the case study publication has not yet been finished. The board set a new deadline, 31st of July, by which the information on projects of each member must be submitted. If information is still be missing by this date, the project will be continued with only those members who kept to the deadline. The publication will be ready for the next board meeting.

News from the Development Education Project (DEP) Group

As a new tools for the DEP, a photo exhibition about pastoralism in Iran has been created by SIVTRO. It consists of 18 pictures, and has been presented to Italian civil society.

Furthermore, an exhibition by VSF Belgium about the milk chain in Niger (available in French, Dutch and English) will be ready soon. It consists of seven signboards which can be viewed on this website.

AVSF France created a video in Haiti on the intensive urbanisation of irrigated land. The translation is available in French and Creole till now, but it will also be available in English soon.

A catalogue of tools will be ready at the end of June and sent to the network in PDF format.

Furthermore, the raising of awareness among students, government officials and rural professionals is going on well. Moreover, we are trying to initiate partnerships in Eastern Europe (Poland and Romania).

We started working together on a methodology to evaluate development education activities.

News from members

Members exchanged a short newsletter about news and highlights in their organisation, current activities, and projects in the field. These newsletters could be attached to the single national VSF newsletters.