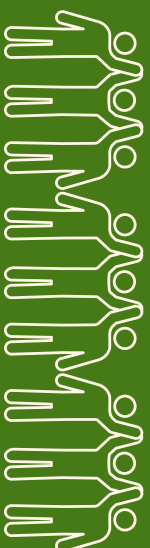


CONCLUSIONS

The plethora of national requirements with respect to the covered species, type of holdings, executing veterinarian, and subjects indicate a **crucial need for more consistent implementation** in most EU countries.

FVE reinitiates that the intention of regular animal health visits should be to advise farmers on improving animal health, biosecurity and to carry out preventive work.

To achieve this, only a veterinary practitioner regularly visiting the establishment will have solid and detailed knowledge about the operating conditions and will be able to build, together with the caregiver, a robust **preventive animal health plan**.



FVE CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 25 AND TO GIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE TO ENSURE PROPER AND CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 25!



The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) - representing around 300,000 veterinarians across 38 European countries - aims to enhance animal health, animal welfare, and public health and to protect the environment by promoting the veterinary profession.



Download the full report by scanning the QR code



REGULAR ANIMAL HEALTH VISITS

FVE SURVEY ON THE APPLICATION OF ART. 25, ANIMAL HEALTH LAW



BACKGROUND



In 2016, the European Union adopted the 'Animal Health Law', and Article 25 laid down requirements for all operators (from production animals to wild animals) to ensure that their establishments receive regular animal health visits from a veterinarian.



Animal health visits have great potential to improve animal health and welfare, reduce the use of antibiotics, enhance sustainability and profitability, and improve working conditions in terms of workload planning and predictability, especially in rural areas.



These 'animal health visits' were to be implemented in all EU countries by April 2021. With the support of its members, FVE investigated the situation in 2022 and established a **country score** based on the criteria laid out in the FVE position paper '[Prevention is better than cure](#)'.

COUNTRY SCORE



The maximal score of 100 (the ideal situation according to the FVE position paper) was not achieved by any country.

- **The Netherlands and Belgium head the ranking (respectively 78 and 77 points)**
- **Eight countries scored > 65**
- **Nine countries had between 65 and 40**
- **Eight countries scored < 40**

RESULTS



HOW MANY? A total of 18 EU MS/EFTA countries (58%) had implemented regular animal health visits in 2022, but most of them only in specific livestock species. Of eight countries that haven't implemented regular animal health visits, three said they had plans to do so in the future.



WHO? Most regular animal health visits are performed by private practitioners with a one-to-one contract with the farm (15/21 responses). Alongside private practitioners, official veterinarians performed the animal health visits in Finland, France, Spain, and Sweden. In Switzerland and Estonia, solely official veterinarians were in charge of the animal health visits.



TOPICS. Animal health data followed by animal treatments (e.g. antibiotic use, withdrawal times), performance parameters, and identification & registration were the most current subjects covered by animal health visits.

Biosecurity, while specifically mentioned in Art. 25 of the Animal Health Law, was only included in 23 countries having implemented regular animal health visits.