

Challenges behind the evaluation of animal health surveillance and control strategies

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First key challenges: the definitions

- Lack of common definitions leading to clear lack of common understanding as regard:
 - Evaluation vs. assessment vs. review, etc...
 - Monitoring vs. surveillance vs. (official) control, etc...
- Issues not specific to animal health domain. Can be found in most (if not all) EU regulated domains with large differences in defining these terms across policy areas.



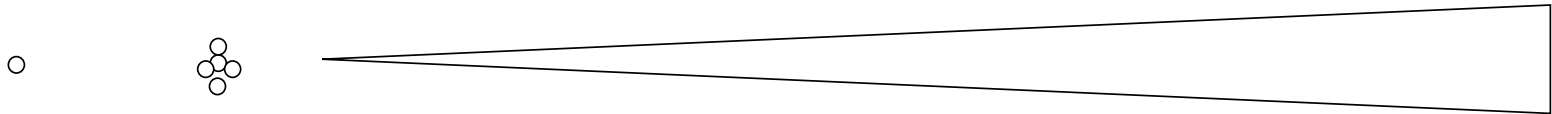
Different types of diseases based on

Animal health diseases: From introduction to establishment

Time



Geographic scope (from local to global)



Epidemiology



Type of animal surveillance programme

Early warning
for emerging diseases

Case findings

Surveillance and controls
for endemic diseases

Freedom from disease

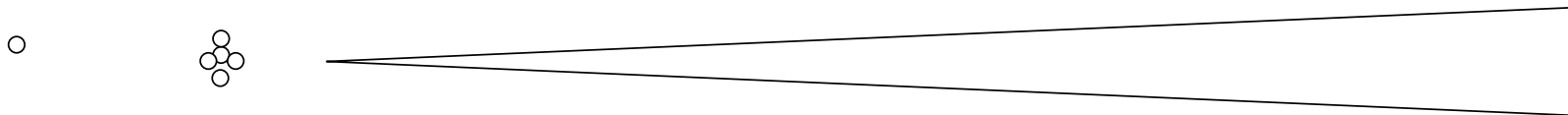


...complementary policy objectives

Animal health diseases: From introduction to establishment

Time

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Epidemiology



Policy interest

Public Good

Public/Private

Private/Public

Deregulated

Policy interest

Eradication

Containment

Cost optimisation of routine control programmes

Type of animal surveillance programme

Early warning

for emerging diseases

Case findings

Surveillance and control for endemic diseases

Freedom from disease



...leading to the selection of surveillance strategy which depends on:

- Status of disease in country/region (type of disease: absence to presence)
- Epidemiologic knowledge (any knowledge gaps ?)
- Policy context (EU legislation + potential national additional one)
- Livestock industry structure
- Trade patterns (export incentives)
- Zoonotic potential (higher commitment if exists)
- *... but also other potential external factors e.g. political sensitivity of the issue.*



Challenges for the evaluation of any AH surveillance programme needs to be considered at:

- The ad hoc surveillance programme level (**internal challenges**)
- Policy context, perceived consumer context (**external challenges**): placing the evaluation of the results of the ad hoc evaluation in its correct policy dimension at both national, European (and international contexts).



Internal challenges:

- Correct definition and design of the evaluation framework (EQs, criteria, indicators, measurements of indicators, analysis, reporting)
- Data gaps management
- Unit costs accuracy (for economic evaluations)
- Difficulties of completing a CBA analysis (especially indirect benefits)

External challenges:

- Evaluation and decision making:
 - Integrated framework for considering evaluation results (« positioning » in the policies context (food safety, trade, production, environment, consumer))
 - Funding and resources availability
 - Institutionalising evaluations (recurrent exercise)
 - Potential confusion between evaluation and comparison, benchmarking.



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