

Scientific and Technical Office of REMESA (STOR) (2022-2024)

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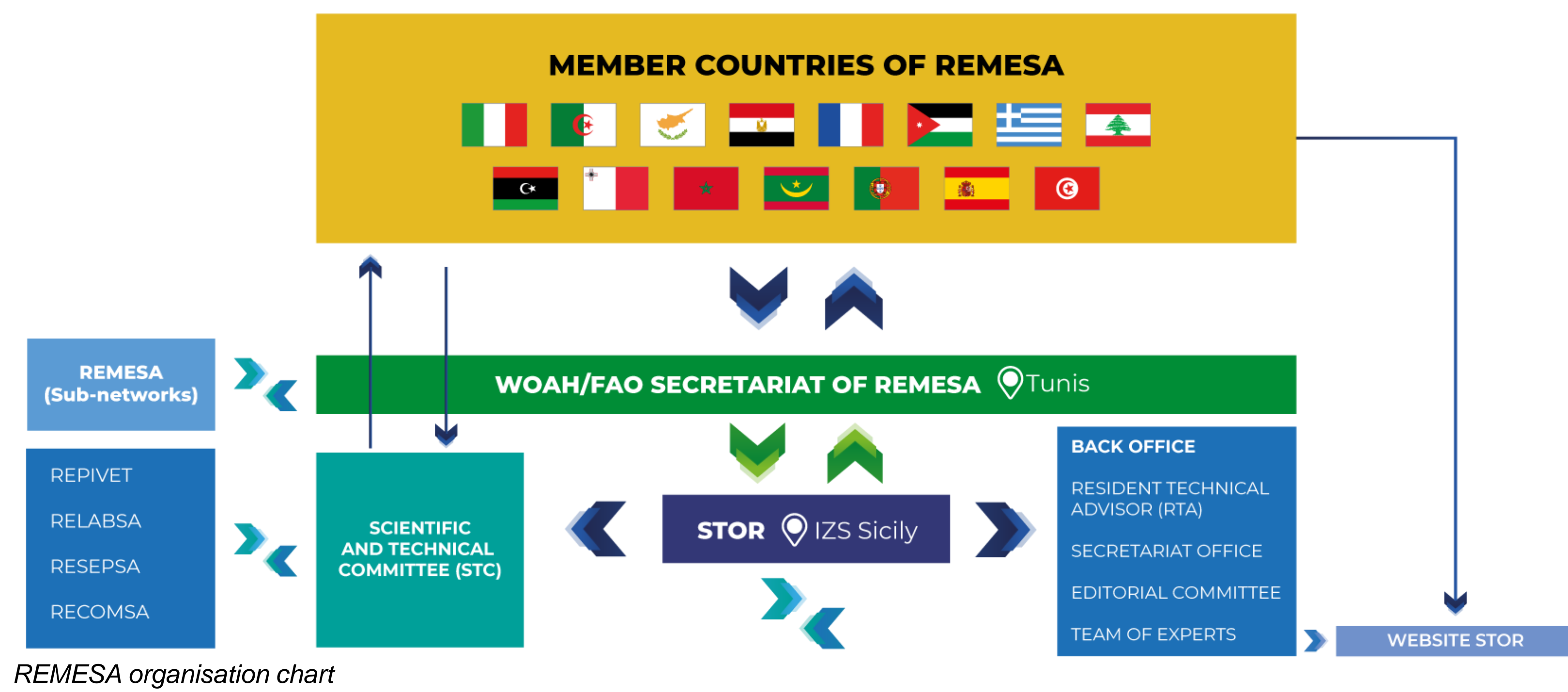
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Introduction/Background

At the 18th meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) of REMESA (*REseau MEditerranéen de Santé Animale*) (June 2018) a resolution was adopted to establish the Scientific and Technical Office of REMESA (STOR), containing details on its organization and objectives.

The STOR is an international initiative created to facilitate and strengthen communication among REMESA member countries, with the aim of implementing a strong network to contrast emerging animal health threats in the Mediterranean area.

The STOR is an extension of the REMESA co-secretariat (WOAH/FAO) and works under its supervision and coordination. The STOR is located and hosted at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (IZS) of Sicily in Palermo (Italy).



REMESA organisation chart

Objectives

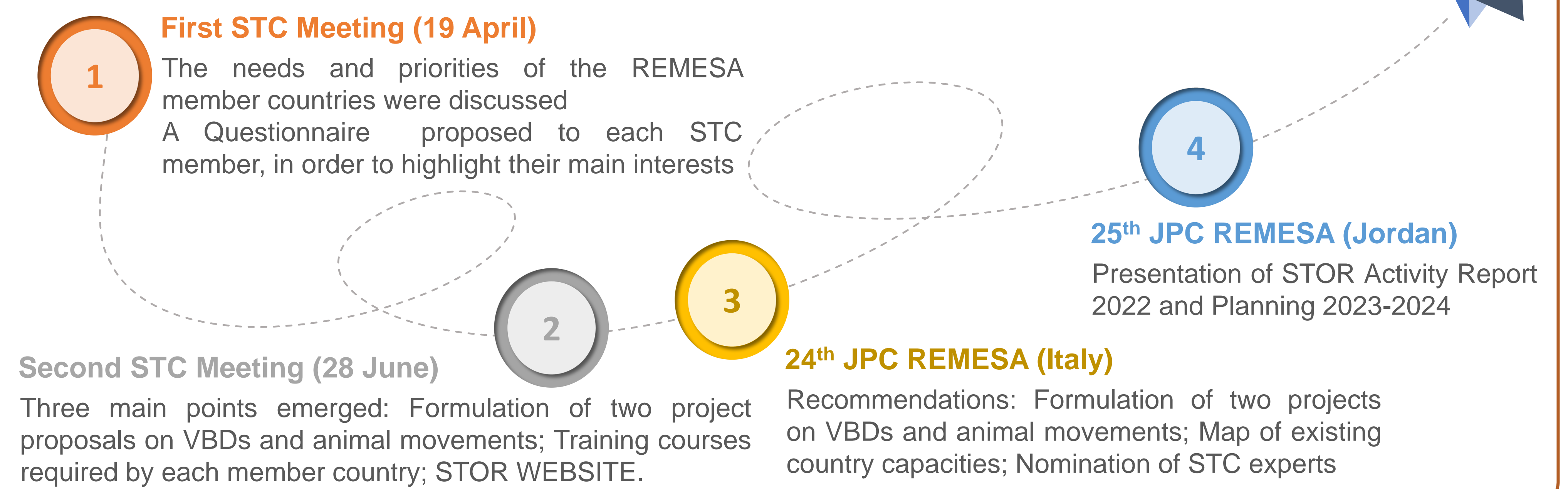
The STOR was created to pursue the following objectives:

- To conduct various technical initiatives to develop and strengthen the role of REMESA;
- To facilitate cooperation between Research Centers, Institutes, Laboratories and Universities and to build partnerships under the coordination of the co-secretariat;
- To strengthen and coordinate scientific programmes and measures to effectively prevent and control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) and Zoonoses (One Health) through the establishment of scientific consortia, knowledge and capacity transfer;
- To map needs in order to prioritise activities;
- To share expertise and best practices of control strategies and emergency response plans
- To provide multi-annual strategic work plans/roadmaps;
- To ensure the management of the STOR website for all REMESA-related activities;
- To develop the capacity to design and manage competitive research projects and implement fundraising strategies to ensure the necessary financial resources;
- To support REMESA's activities through the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of REMESA, composed of experts from the member countries;
- To cooperate with the regional thematic sub-networks: REPIVET, RELABSA, RECOMSA and RESEPSA.

Main thematic areas

- TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES
- ONE HEALTH (AMR and ZOOSES)
- EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE
- ANIMAL WELFARE
- BIO-RISK MANAGEMENT
- AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH
- CLIMATE CHANGES

Achievements



Future Activities

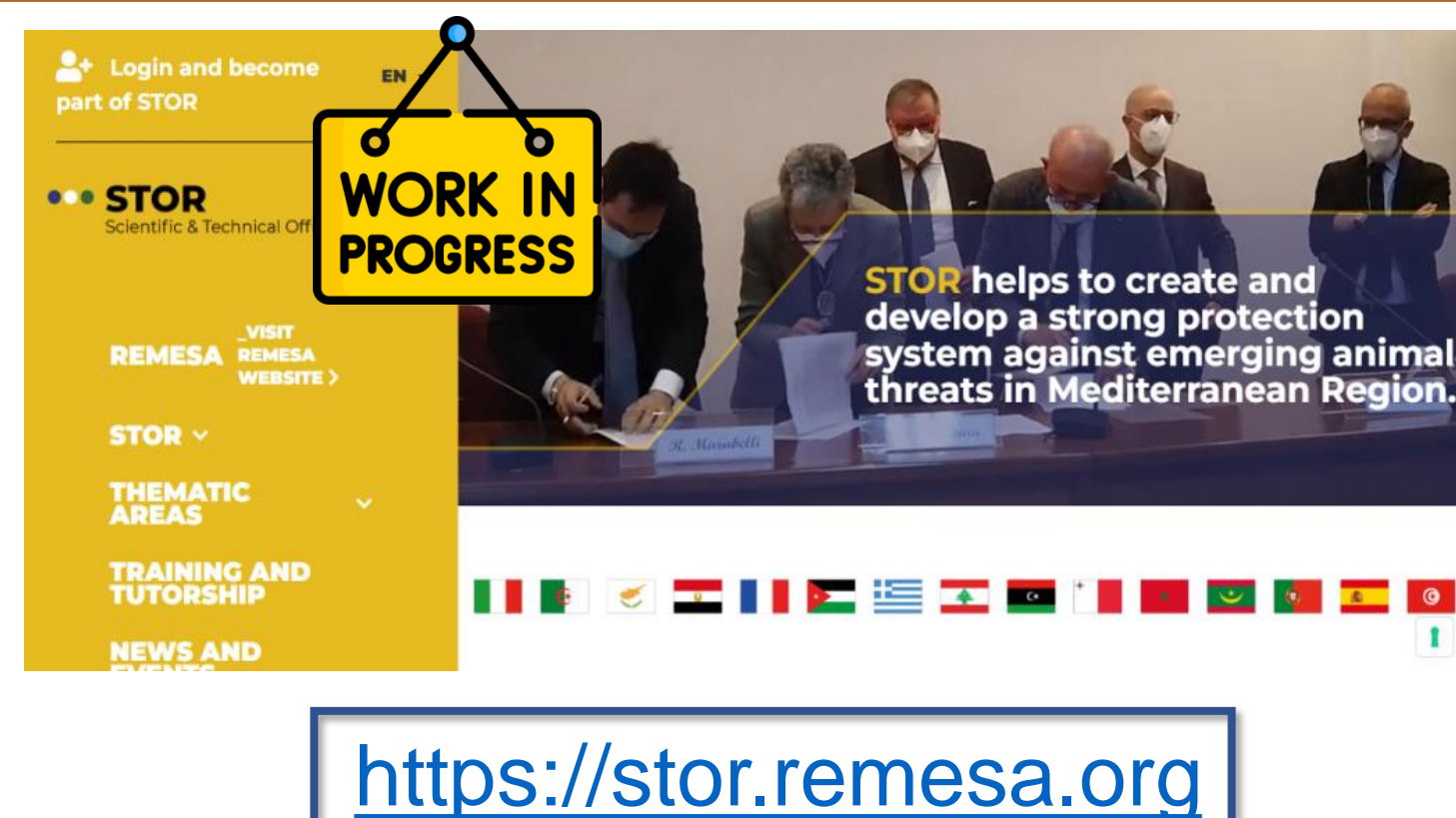
The Activity Plan 2023-2024 include:

- 9 Webinars per year, on the main thematic areas
- 1 one-week Training Workshop per year for member countries representatives, to be hosted face to face in one European institute
- 1 on-line intensive workshop per year, with a meeting schedule every week during one month;
- 1 international conference per year
- 4 Scholarships
- 4 short one/two weeks-stages in a European institute for master/PhD students from African countries

Activity	Topic	PROPOSED STOR ACTIVITIES FOR 2023												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
WEBINARS	Vector Born Diseases: Rift Valley Fever		X											
	Food frauds: ensuring food safety and authenticity			X										
	Biosafety and Biosecurity of laboratories				X									
	BlueTongue (BT) and Epizootic Hemorrhagic diseases (EHD)					X								
	Aquaculture: modern culture system, obstacles and challenges, improper management						X							
	Brucellosis						X							
	TSE: Surveillance and diagnosis of animal prion diseases and meat meals							X			X			
	Vector Born Diseases: Entomological surveillance											X		
	"Emerging pathogens in marine mammals, sea turtles, sentinel and indicators of the health of the Mediterranean"												X	
	TRAINING WORKSHOPS	Rabies control and Animal Welfare									X			
ONLINE INTENSIVE COURSE	Animal Welfare in Animal Trades (Europe, North Africa and Middle East)					X								
CONFERENCE	Climate change and its influence in One Health										X			

Website

The new REMESA STOR website was created by a team of experts of IZS Sicily and IZS Teramo to strengthen and facilitate cooperation and connections among all the countries and public institutions operating in the REMESA areas. This website is to be merged with the existing one for REMESA managed by FAO.



Conclusions

The STOR must play an important technical and scientific role in the Mediterranean region. Through the STC boosts scientific activities, promotes cooperation and initiatives between member countries, with the aim of improving animal health and developing safe trade. The new website has the ambition of not being a "shop window" but an operational tool with bottom-up interactive approach, also providing statistics and indicators, with the aim of increasing the visibility of REMESA's activities