



Evaluation of the animal health law (AHL)

AHAC 11th May

European Commission, DG SANTE G2

Animal Health Law

- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ('Animal Health Law') (AHL)
 - adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in March 2016
 - Entry into force from 21 April 2016
 - Entry into application from 21 April 2021



Evaluation is a legal obligation

- Art. 282 of the AHL:

The **Commission shall evaluate this regulation (...)**

and submit the results to the European Parliament and to the Council

no later than 22 April 2026.

Evaluation as a tool for better regulation

The evaluation will assess the functioning of the AHL to answer the following questions: is the AHL...

- an adequate frame to **prevent and control animal diseases**?
- ensuring **safe operation with animals and animal products** in the EU single market?
- **effective, proportionate, coherent and easily applicable**?
- of **EU added value**?

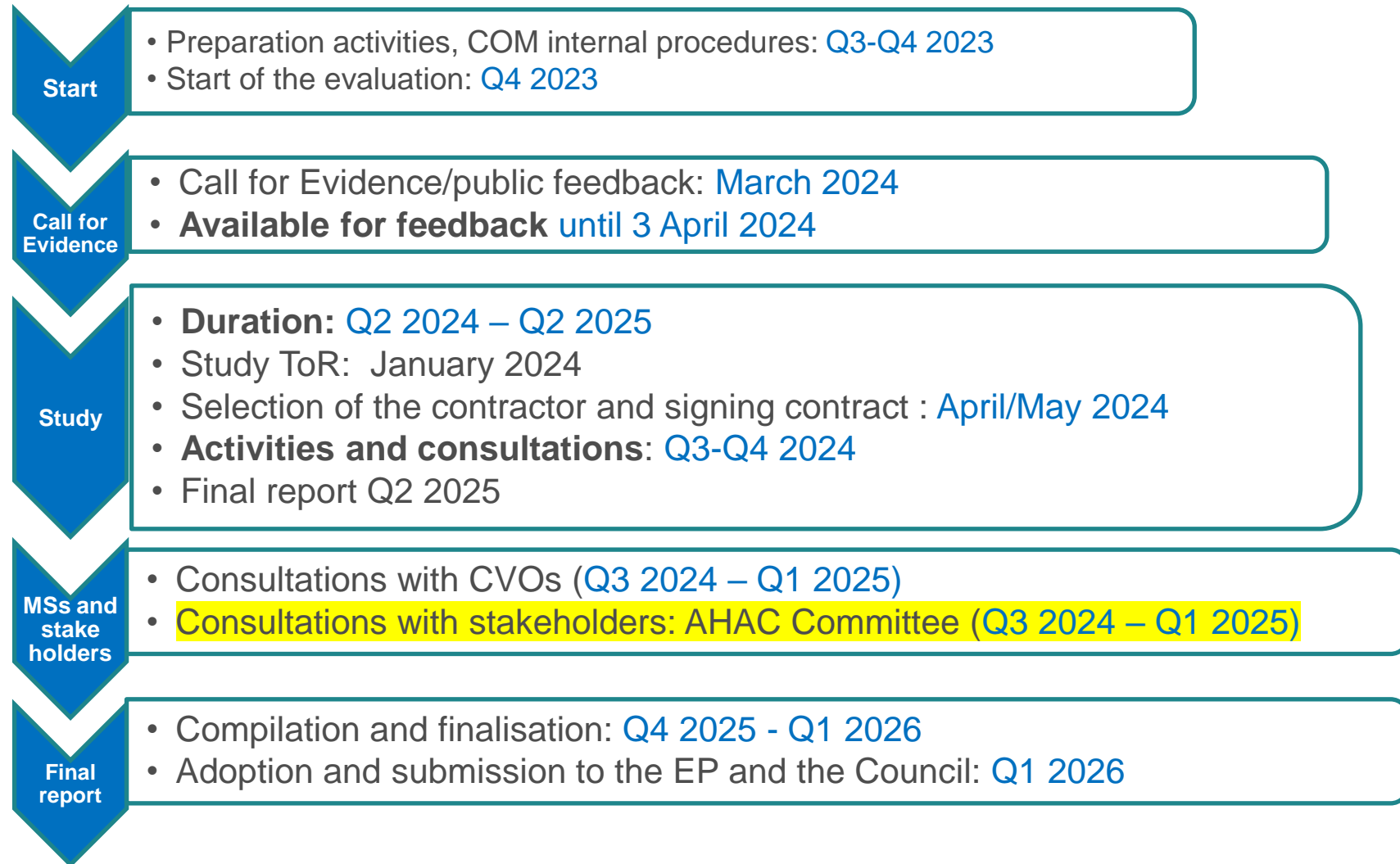
and – last but not least:

Evaluation as a tool for better regulation

The evaluation aims to identify

- **opportunities to reduce the administrative burden**
- **potential for simplification**

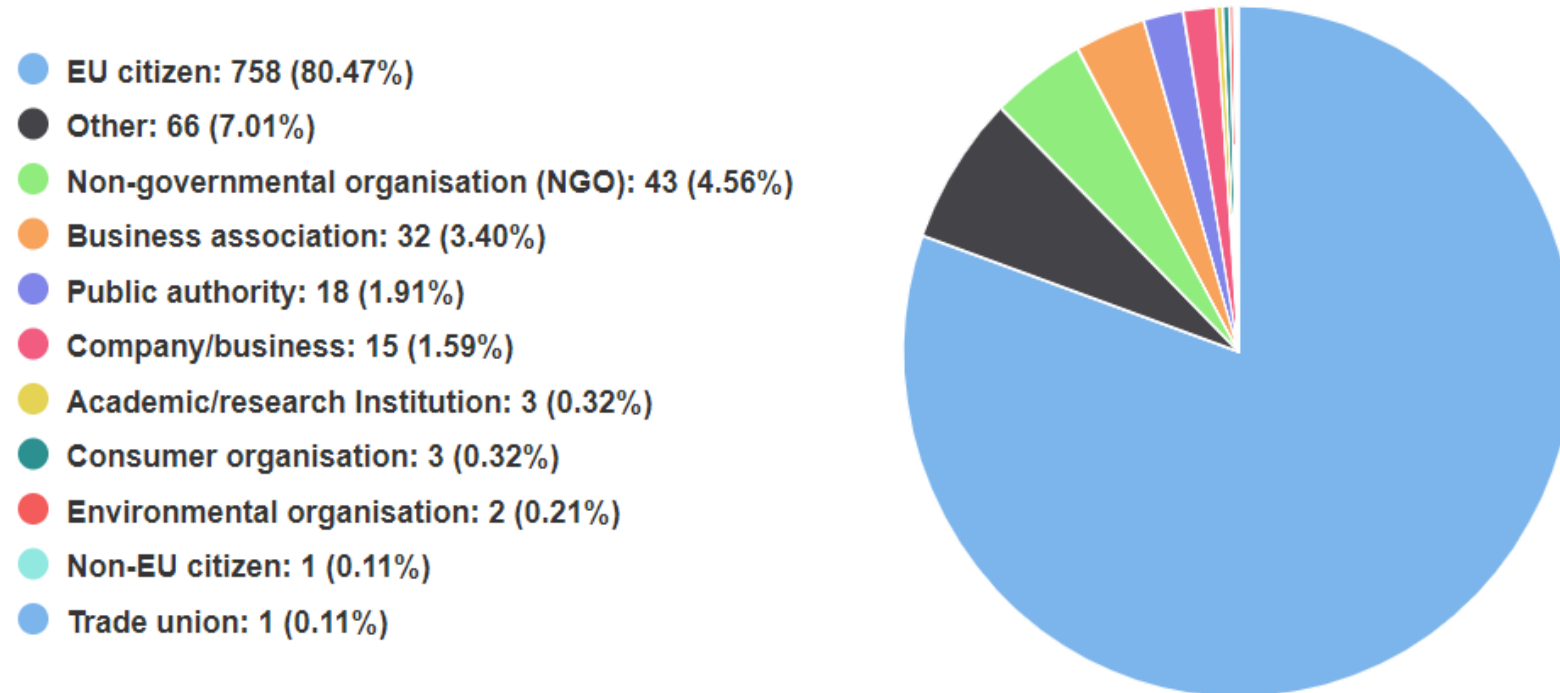
The process timeline



Public feedback - statistics

Total of valid unique feedback instances received: 734 (+ 208 campaigns)

By category of respondent



Public feedback - statistics

Feedback received from

- 23 Member States - 934 comments (Norway included)
 - Out of which 74 % (693) from NL, DE, BE
- 6 Third Countries – 8 comments

Public feedback - statistics

Netherlands
33%

Germany 22%

Belgium 19%

Spain 10%

France 5%

Portugal 2%

Denmark 1%

Austria 1%

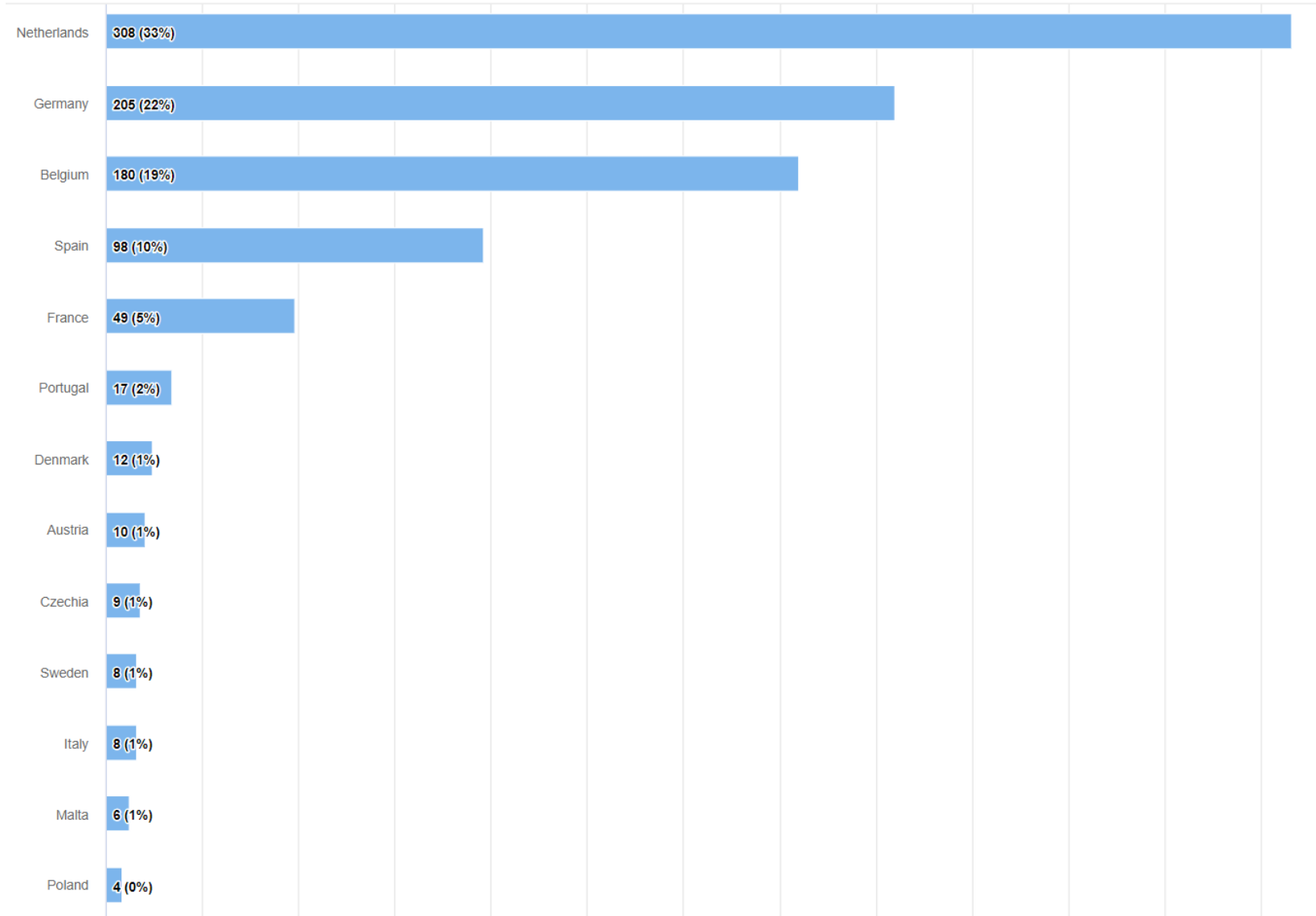
Czechia 1%

Sweden 1%

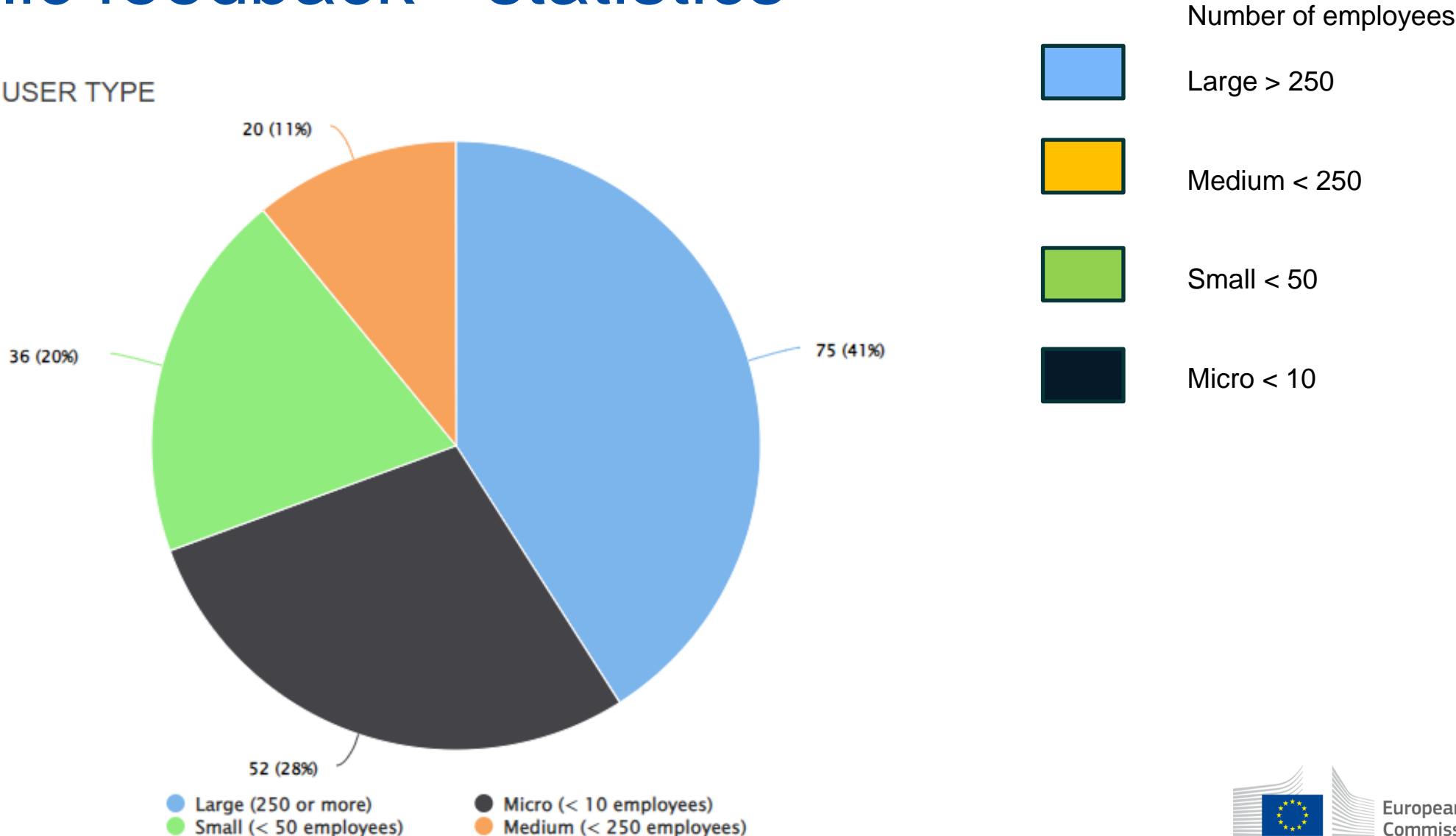
Italy 1%

10 **Malta** >1%

Poland >1%



Public feedback - statistics



Preliminary assessment of the feedback

an in-depth assessment will be carried out by the contractor during summer

The vast majority of comments was sent by EU citizens (> 80% of all comments received)

Most of them are breeders of birds (ornamental, poultry, endangered species), rabbits and ornamental fish

Their concerns: exchanging with colleagues in and outside the EU as well as organising exhibitions became difficult and expensive.

e.g. “Large disparities in TRACES fees and too much red tape threaten friendships across national borders”

To all who gave feedback



Who else will be consulted?

After the summer break a contractor will consult

- EU Member States' competent authorities – via e.g. surveys, interviews, case studies
- Members of the Animal Health Advisory Committee (AHAC) – via e.g. surveys, interviews

By whom will you be consulted and how?

- A contractor was chosen by an evaluation team
- The contractor ([ecorys](#)) will perform a **supporting study** including data collection by
 - desk research
 - surveys, interviews, focus groups, case studies and
 - validation workshops
- Timeframe: **one year** - Final study report May 2025

Next steps

- Interviews and surveys will start after the summer break
- We will keep you informed about the updates and next steps in the process
- We appreciate very much your constructive input

Thank you

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Consultation activities

Targeted surveys: competent authorities, livestock farmers, meat operators and their respective associations, international organisations, research institutes, NGOs shall be consulted through a targeted survey
clear selection criteria to justify which groups will be invited
Different stakeholders will receive adjusted different questionnaires

Targeted interviews: minimum 40 interviews with CA, AHAC members, other stakeholders where needed to better understand views expressed during the targeted surveys and tackle certain points in more detail.
clear selection criteria to select the interviewees
list of interviewees will be agreed with the Commission. interview questions tailored to the target group with open and closed questions.

Focus groups at least 5 focus groups (meetings) comprised of ideally livestock farmers and / or veterinarians to gather opinions about the implementation of the AHL.
the contractor is expected to present partial findings of the work carried out

2 case studies, covering for example: Implementation / enforcement of the AHL in a representative sample of Member States
specific themes e.g. digitalisation, reporting obligations, management of a specific disease, implementation in accession countries
define robust criteria to select appropriate case studies. The case studies shall inform how effective the AHL has been in view of its objectives and provide a basis for identifying good practices in implementation of the legislative framework and in promoting compliance.