From 2004 to 2005, Ekaterina Panina carried out a six-month internship at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, in the Scientific and Technical Department and the Regional Activities Department. She helped to create the OIE regional website and suggested its design, using illustrations from the Pasteur Institute.

Dr Panina is glad to have joined the OIE and is looking forward to contributing to the work of the Regional Representation in Moscow.

**OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe**

**Dr Aleksandra Miteva**

Dr Aleksandra Miteva was appointed as a Technical Assistant to the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 1 July 2013. Aleksandra Miteva has a Master's degree in veterinary medicine and graduated from the University of Forestry, Sofia, in 2006. Her professional experience has principally been in the area of animal health (the surveillance and control of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses). She started her professional career as a teacher in infectious animal diseases and zoonoses at the Vocational High School of Veterinary Medicine in Kostinbrod, Sofia region.

Between 2008 and 2013, Aleksandra Miteva worked as an expert at the Animal Health Directorate of the National Veterinary Service (now the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency), in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Her main responsibilities involved the preparation and implementation of surveillance, control and eradication programmes and contingency planning for certain infectious animal diseases and zoonoses (such as salmonellosis in poultry and pigs, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, rabies, foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, among others). Her former work also included the areas of epidemiology, zoonoses outbreak management, veterinary legislation related to animal health and some animal welfare issues (such as the welfare of pigs, poultry and laboratory animals), as well as electronic systems related to animal health (including the OIE World Animal Health Information System – WAHIS, the Animal Disease Notification System – ADNS, the Trade Control and Expert System – TRACES, and national identification and registration databases), preparing guidelines and instructions for the prevention and control of animal diseases, and organising courses on animal health issues.

**Meetings**

**The need for good governance of Veterinary Services to assure standards for food safety and certification and for facilitating trade**

**Pereira, Colombia, 12–13 September 2013**

A regional seminar on ‘The need for good governance of Veterinary Services to assure standards for food safety and certification and for facilitating trade’ was organised with the support of the government of Colombia, in the city of Pereira, Colombia, on 12–13 September 2013.

A total of 215 participants attended the meeting, including the OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety, or their representatives, from 21 countries of the Americas; personnel from the Colombian Agricultural Institute (Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario or ICA) and other government agencies, private-practice veterinarians, representatives from industry and other interested parties.

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission; Dr Gillian Mylrea, Deputy Head of the OIE International Trade Department, and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives for the Americas, Drs Luis Barcos and Filiberto Frago Santamaria, were also present.

The seminar provided an opportunity for stakeholders involved in the food production chain, including primary livestock producers, processors, retailers and private practice veterinarians, to meet and exchange views and experiences, while also enabling the OIE personnel to highlight the activities carried out by the Organisation in the fields of food safety, trade,
The Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), founded in 2004, is a joint FAO/OIE initiative that combines the strengths of both organisations to achieve common goals. GF-TADs is a facilitating mechanism to coordinate regional action in the fight against transboundary animal diseases (TADs), to aid capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs, based on regional priorities.

Since 2005, the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific has operated as GF-TADs’ regional branch.

The European Union (EU)-funded Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and re-emerging Diseases (HPED) was established in 2010. The objective of the OIE component of the HPED Programme is to strengthen regional integration and regional and sub-regional cooperation, and to provide capacity-building for the surveillance, early detection and eradication of highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging TADs in the region, as well as good governance in animal health systems. Since this programme began, the meetings of the Steering Committee of HPED and those of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs have been held back to back. Thus, the Fourth Meeting of the HPED Steering Committee and the Seventh Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific were held in July 2013, in Tokyo. There were nearly 50 participants, representing the OIE, FAO, WHO, and regional organisations, including the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN); the South-Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), as well as various countries in the region.

The conclusions and recommendations of the two meetings will set the foundation for future activities in the Asia–Pacific region, targeting good governance and animal health, including zoonoses.