

EMIDA

Coordination of European research on emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock

The Challenge

The disease threats to the livestock industry have increased steadily over the past decades as a result of globalisation, evolving pathogens and climate change. Responding to animal disease threats relies heavily on science; research makes a significant contribution to the development of disease control policy and the translation of policy, and other drivers for improving animal health, into practical effect. Although the legislation that underpins policy for the control of statutory diseases is determined at the EU level, the research that supports policy development and implementation is primarily carried out at the national level and is largely uncoordinated as is the research on other major infectious diseases currently affecting livestock production.

Project Objective

The aim of the Animal Health ERA-NET is to build on and accelerate the work of the SCAR CWG1 in developing a durable focused network of national research funders in Member and Associated States of the EU for the purpose of sharing information, coordinating activities and working towards a common research agenda and mutual research funding activities in the field of animal health. The scope of the project will include emerging and major infectious diseases of production animals, including fish and bees and including those conditions which pose a threat to human health but excluding food safety issues relating to the handling of livestock products and diseases of wildlife except where they act as reservoirs of infection for humans or production animals.

Key Points

- Mapping and analysis of existing research and current needs and information on the commissioning and management of joint programmes
- Develop, test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots)
- Developing a strategic trans-national animal health research agenda

EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health

TA2: Technology and Systems

TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle

TA4: Sustainable Feed Production

TA5: Integration with the Environment

TA6: Knowledge Management

TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare

TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Diseases, Pathogens, Livestock, animal health

Project Information

Contract number:

219235

Contract type:

Coordination (or networking) actions

Research area:

KBBE - Coordination of European research in the area of animal health, including emerging threats, infectious diseases and surveillance

Duration:

39 months (01/04/2008 – 03/06/2011)

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Key New Knowledge Expected

- Identification of overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths/weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities in Animal Health programmes at European level
- Identification of emerging needs and urgent actions
- Identification of common research requirements
- Procedures for establishing research needs, monitoring and evaluating research output
- Best practice for identifying, commissioning and managing jointly funded research programmes
- Development of mechanisms needed to enable the joint funding of a trans-national animal health research programme
- Identification of procedures for prioritising and procuring research on animal pathogens when faced with unexpected or rapidly developing threats
- Procedures to take forward more ambitious jointly funded trans-national research activities in key areas of animal health
- Identification of strategic (including infrastructure and expertise) and innovative requirements for animal disease research
- Development of criteria for priority setting
- Strategic research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in jointly funded programmes

Potential Impacts



RTD

- An analysis of the outputs of relevant foresight studies in the animal health area performed to date will result in a draft list of future research needs
- A report on mapped and analysed data and information from national programmes
- A report on Mapping of European Research Publications on Infectious Diseases of Livestock
- A Disease database (DISCONTTOOLS)
- Through the coordination of funding, the ERA-Net will develop improved tools for the control of the major infectious disease threats of livestock. E.g. a database linked to the project website will contain data on programmes, management procedures, perceived needs and gaps, and on existing collaboration



Policy

- With a Strategy Board including DG Sanco, EFSA, FVE, IFAH, ETPGAH, OIE, the project will develop integrated animal health research policies and activities at the EU-wide level.

Other

- By providing additional resources for networking of research activities and mutual opening of national programmes, cooperation and coordination of national research programmes on animal health, including fish health, will be increased at the EU level.