

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

Three times in a row: EPIZONE Good to Excellent

27-11-2009 12:15:42

For the third time in a row EPIZONE received the highest score from our reviewers in Brussels. Based on the 3rd Annual Report the reviewers gave their comments on how EPIZONE is "running" after 36 months. Some general remarks from the review...

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Annual Report year 3 EPIZONE

27-11-2009 12:29:22

Some highlights from the 3rd Annual Report: · One of the main highlights from the third year is that EPIZONE raised the preparedness regarding Peste de Petit Ruminants (PPR) in Europe. For that purpose, CIRAD (EPIZONE partner institute)...

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Selected EPIZONE "Internal call" projects 2009-2010

27-11-2009 12:28:44

The EPIZONE "internal call" supports integration activities of research already established in EPIZONE as well as new and original research activities that fit into one of the EPIZONE themes. Integration with EPIZONE partners is the main goal and...

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Europe better prepared for future PPR outbreaks

27-11-2009 12:31:44

EPIZONE started in 2009 an interlaboratory comparison trial for PPR genome and antibody detection to strengthen the diagnostic capacities on Peste des Petit Ruminants within Europe. CIRAD, France, organised a ring trial on PPRV detection for the EPIZONE...

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Bilateral collaborative PRRSV project- Poland and China

27-11-2009 12:31:06

On 6-14 October 2009 Professors Zygmunt Pejsak and Tomasz Stadejek of the National Veterinary Research Institute, Poland (NVRI, EPIZONE partner institute) and the director of NVRI, Professor Tadeusz Wijaszka visited China. Improve existing diagnostic...

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Short term missions, unique opportunity for training

27-11-2009 12:36:06

Short Term Missions (STM) are organised within EPIZONE Work package 3.2, Education. They allow partners to set up training courses for individuals in other laboratories. The duration can vary from one up to 16 weeks. Since the beginning of EPIZONE...

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European Food Science Day

27-11-2009 12:36:45

Over 100 participants from a variety of stakeholders came together on the European Food Science Day in Brussels on November 18, 2009. EPIZONE was one of the organisers of this day, together with eight other CommNet projects. Speakers included high...

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EU conference 'Influenza at the interface between humans and animals

30-11-2009 17:59:10

Three Young EPIZONE PhD's participated in the conference on 'Influenza at the interface between humans and animals' organized by the European Commission (DG Health and Consumers) on the 30th October 2009 in Brussels. The conference was organised...

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Recommendations on KHV diagnosis and surveillance

27-11-2009 12:38:05

The fish people of EPIZONE, Work Package 6.1, held a successful workshop on Koi Herpes Virus

(KHV) diagnosis and surveillance at Central Veterinary Institute, at November 12 and 13, 2009 in Lelystad, The Netherlands. The discussion started with...

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Bridges to the future, Annual Meeting EPIZONE 2010

27-11-2009 12:48:28

The 4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Bridges to the future" will be held in St Malo, France from 7-10 June 2010. Special topic of this meeting will be "Major Epidemic Threats". The Scientific Committee Taking their place on this committee are: Dr...

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Activity agenda

27-11-2009 13:13:31

Activity agenda (meetings,courses and events) 14 -15 January 2010 -Half Yearly meeting for Theme Leaders, Work package leaders, EAP, MAB, CF, Lelystad, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands. 11-12 March 2010 - EPIZONE course "Laboratory contingency..."

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[EPIZONE update News gathering](#)

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www.epizone-eu.net

EPIZONE is the Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control, supported by funding under the Sixth Research Framework Programme of the EU.

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Three times in a row: EPIZONE Good to Excellent

For the third time in a row EPIZONE received the highest score from our reviewers in Brussels. Based on the 3rd Annual Report the reviewers gave their comments on how EPIZONE is “running” after 36 months.

Some general remarks from the review report:

- Concerning the use potential: The whole animal infectious disease area has a strong interest in the outcome of the EPIZONE project. Particularly the bodies involved in the formulation of the animal health policy and strategies.
- They noticed that EPIZONE has shown its potency and justification in the handling of the recent outbreaks of bluetongue in northern Europe. The screening and surveillance has been massive.

Also the risk assessment on the possible introduction of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever by migrating birds as a consequence of climatic change highlighted how EPIZONE plays an important role in the prevention and control of animal diseases.

- An important indicator of our success is the amount of publications: 25 published, 2 accepted, 3 submitted, 2 in press and 5 in preparation.

The review report closes with the phrase that our project deserves to survive and that it is important to increase awareness of the great potential of EPIZONE.

Selected EPIZONE “Internal call” projects 2009-2010

The EPIZONE “internal call” supports integration activities of research already established in EPIZONE as well as new and original research activities that fit into one of the EPIZONE themes. Integration with EPIZONE partners is the main goal and external partners are invited.

There should be a minimum of 4 partners involved and active cooperation with China was encouraged. The duration of projects is a maximum of 12 months.

3 Selected projects 2009-2010

1-Establishing the transmission dynamics of Bluetongue serotype 8 and entomological aspects in Northern Europe.

At the onset of the 2006 BTV-8 epidemic in Northern Europe, epidemiologists of the EPIZONE partners in the affected countries (CVI, CIRAD, FLI, VAR) formed a consortium to exchange and explore outbreak data.

This proposal aims to:

- 1) Provide a discussion forum between teams working on similar topics (transmission and spatial models) using different techniques and
- 2) Provide a framework to store and access data on the various topics needed and covering the entire geographical spectrum.

2-Testing of different prime boost strategies to deliver candidate protective African swine fever virus antigens.

African swine fever virus (ASFV) infection results in severe socio-economic effects in affected countries and is difficult to control due to lack of a vaccine, stability of the virus in the environment and in pork products and presence in wildlife reservoirs.

The main aim of the project is to evaluate different prime boost strategies for delivery of African swine fever virus antigens to pigs and test the ability to confer protection against lethal virus challenge.

3-Development of serological methods for detection of Koi herpes virus (KHV)antibodies in carp, *Cyprinus carpio*.

In 2006, the production of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in Europe was

125 000 ton while the same year China produced 2 590 000 ton. The production in aquaculture is the fastest growing animal industry in the world and have a high socio-economic impact in especially Asia and Europe. Therefore, protection from emerging diseases in aquaculture should be given high priority. Koi Herpes Virus disease, KHVD, is an emerging, highly contagious disease responsible for mass mortality in common carp and koi.

The aim of this project is to develop, validate and implement serological techniques (seroneutralisation, immunofluorescence, ELISA) for detection of antibodies against Koi herpes virus (KHV) in carp.

Europe better prepared for future PPR outbreaks

EPIZONE started in 2009 an interlaboratory comparison trial for PPR genome and antibody detection to strengthen the diagnostic capacities on Peste des Petit Ruminants within Europe. CIRAD, France, organised a ring trial on PPRV detection for the EPIZONE institutes, taking advantage of the active network on epizootic animal diseases. Reference materials and protocols are shared in order to allow national reference laboratories within the network to enforce their expertise. Seven EPIZONE institutes received 15 coded sera and 5 coded virus test samples.

After this ring trial the institutes are able to diagnose PPR in their laboratories. This EPIZONE initiative was well received by the European Commission and shows the importance of EPIZONE.

Strengthen the diagnostic capacities

The ring trial was initiated because in summer 2008, Morocco reported the emergence of PPR outbreaks that could threaten Europe. A large vaccination campaign was implemented that seems to have limited the disease spread. However, it is now important to strengthen the diagnostic capacities within Europe.

Bilateral collaborative PRRSV project- Poland and China

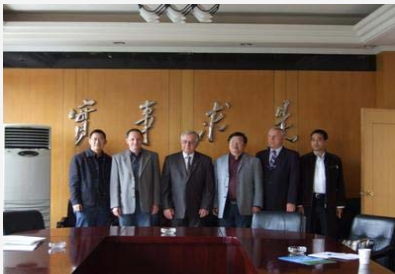
On 6-14 October 2009 Professors Zygmunt Pejsak and Tomasz Stadejek of the National Veterinary Research Institute, Poland (NVRI, EPIZONE partner institute) and the director of NVRI, Professor Tadeusz Wijaszka visited China.

Improve existing diagnostic methods

The visit was in frame of the Sino-Polish, bilateral collaborative project funded by the ministries of science of Poland and China. Partner institute is Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI, EPIZONE partner Institute) of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). Due to growing importance of porcine high fever disease in China, in which porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) is involved, the Lanzhou institute came up with the proposal of this collaboration to employ PRRSV expertise of the OIE reference laboratory from Pulawy in order to improve existing diagnostic methods to detect and characterize PRRSV strains.

International meeting on PRRSV 2010

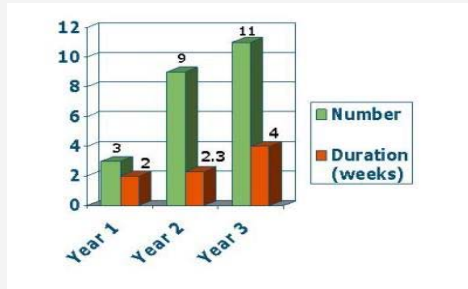
Lanzhou Institute of Animal Science and Veterinary Pharmaceutics of CAAS and Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute (SVRI) of CAAS, the leader of PRRSV research in China and the Shandong Technical Center for Inspection and Quarantine, were also visited. It was proposed that in 2010 in Pulawy the three institutes, NVRI, LVRI and SVRI will organize an international meeting on PRRSV to exchange experience on the diagnosis and control of this disease between researchers from China, Russia, Europe and North America. This will also be a good opportunity to promote the EU funded COST project "Understanding and combating porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome in Europe".



Short term missions, unique opportunity for training

Short Term Missions (STM) are organised within EPIZONE Work package 3.2, Education. They allow partners to set up training courses for individuals in other laboratories. The duration can vary from one up to 16 weeks.

Since the beginning of EPIZONE project, 30 STM have been implemented, a total duration of 88 weeks.



Increased success

The increased success of the short-term missions between EPIZONE partners was confirmed in year 3 with eleven short-term missions sponsoring 13 scientists.

However, the distribution of STM is far from being balanced between partners.

The Work Package leader Emmanuel Albina (CIRAD, France) and the coordinator Wim van der Poel (CVI, The Netherlands) therefore wish to encourage the under represented partners to use this unique opportunity for training and networking.

REPORT SHORT TERM MISSION, Bianca Zecchin

Bianca Zecchin from the OIE/FAO and National Reference Laboratory for Avian influenza and Newcastle disease, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Padova, Italy, visited the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) Uppsala, Sweden from 11-25 October 2009.

Avian influenza

"Avian influenza is an important epizootic disease that has caused widespread economic loss for the poultry industry both at a global and a European level. In our laboratory we have identified nine length variation types (LVTs) in the C-terminal of the Non-structural 1 protein (NS1) of influenza A viruses. NS1 can counteract the host immune response by blocking the synthesis of type I interferon and so we are interested in determining whether these LVTs can alter the ability of NS1 to abrogate IFN expression.

With this in mind, I undertook a short term mission in order to learn a specific technique related to our aim, under the supervision of Dr. Mikael Berg, Siamak Zohari, and Munir Muhammad all of whom I would like to thank for their support and helpfulness in carrying out this study.

Learned a new protocol

The two weeks spent in Uppsala were very intense, with work, seminars and discussions. The SVA laboratories are really well organized and the working conditions and facilities are of a high standard. It is a place to meet and work with people from different countries with their different experiences and different points of view. During my stay I met some really helpful and friendly people who made me feel comfortable, they were willing to discuss and recommend ways on how to improve the outcome of my studies. Importantly, I learned a new protocol that will allow us to answer some questions related to our work on NS1 and I will transfer this new know-how to our Institute.

A good opportunity

I would like to recommend this short term mission program because it is a good opportunity to learn new techniques, exchange protocols, expand scientific networks and create co-operations between different institutes and countries".



European Food Science Day

Over 100 participants from a variety of stakeholders came together on the European Food Science Day in Brussels on November 18, 2009. EPIZONE was one of the organisers of this day, together with eight other [CommNet](#) projects. Speakers included high level representatives from the European Commission and Parliament as well as from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries (CIAA). EPIZONE presented some results at the breakout session "Reducing Risks".

EPIZONE during the day

Coordinator Professor Wim van der Poel presented an overview of the epizootic diseases in food producing animals, as well as the work within EPIZONE on these diseases. Main point of this presentation was: to show the media and policy makers involved that the animal production is of major importance for the world food supply and that animal diseases have a vast economic and social impact. But also that international collaboration improves research, preparedness and control and that EPIZONE has a proven track record by the work performed on bluetongue, PPRV and many more. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion.



EU conference 'Influenza at the interface between humans and animals'

Three Young EPIZONE PhD's participated in the conference on '[Influenza at the interface between humans and animals](#)' organized by the European Commission (DG Health and Consumers) on the 30th October 2009 in Brussels. The conference was organised within the framework of the EU Veterinary week 2009, which promoted the "**One Health**" concept, linking animal and human health and highlighting the importance of veterinary and medical sectors working in a coordinated manner. For more information: see [programme](#) and lectures

BEST MOMENTS FROM THE INFLUENZA ANIMAL-HUMAN INTERFACE

(A personal report/impression from a Young EPIZONE participant):

Many networks

"Numerous synonyms have been used to illustrate a common issue: inter or multidisciplinary, multisectorial, integration, holistic approach. Not only at the human and animal interface, but as Vincent Martin, from FAO pointed out, at the environmental level too. To achieve it, many networks have been created and are established that could be useful for other diseases of our globalised world, both at the regional or continental level and at the more world-wide international organisations level: FAO-OIE-WHO-EU-AU-IBAR have interacted between them in one or another way.

Scientific point of view

From the scientific point of view, the most interesting part was to observe two positions-virologists vs. epidemiologists-which should not be separated but bridged together. Virologist Ilaria Capua (IZS-Ve, Italy) defended that we are talking about the same virus, whether the result is avian, swine or human influenza, so they should not be treated in separate boxes. Kirsten van Reeth (Ghent University, Belgium) explained in a magisterial, clear and very interesting talk the influenza viruses that have affected pigs, and how the current human H1N1 strain has evolved from two pig reassortants, therefore surveillance of influenza in pigs is highly justifiable.

These talks have allowed me to think in future research interests. In my opinion, and following the same reasoning, as pig viruses are reassortants of birds/human viruses, humans and bird strains should also be monitored. Humans are very much being monitored but the attention in birds has been very much focused throughout the talks to H5N1, when other H5 and H7 can be also be highly pathogenic, and when the pandemic strains in humans have been H1, H2 and H3. Maybe then H1, H2 and H3 subtypes should also be looked for in birds, from a preventive perspective for humans, without neglecting the current surveillance that is taking place from an avian preventive point of view.

Epidemiological and risk assessment perspective

From the epidemiological and risk assessment perspective, however, it is important to examine the different strains separately, as it will define the prevention or control strategy to follow depending on the target host or population at risk, as Mo Salman (Colorado State University, USA) has highlighted.

A consensus has been stated at the very end of the conference by Alberto Laddomada (DG SANCO, European Commission), as both virologists and epidemiologists interventions must be taken into account: the former to follow the evolution of an "unpredictable"virus, that is, to reduce the current uncertainty surrounding AIV's genetic variation by increasing surveillance in all animals, but also to focus on the different forms of disease that happen in each of the final hosts where the strain transmits successfully for control or prevention purposes".

Recommendations on KHV diagnosis and surveillance

The fish people of EPIZONE, Work Package 6.1, held a successful workshop on Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) diagnosis and surveillance at Central Veterinary Institute, at November 12 and 13, 2009 in Lelystad, The Netherlands.

The discussion started with presentations about current diagnostic and surveillance methods for KHV, and an open and extensive discussion followed. A report will be written with recommendations on the methods to use for diagnosis and surveillance, which could be used as a basis for national reference laboratories, veterinary authorities, the EU and the OIE.

Invited expert OIE

Eleven participants attended from seven EPIZONE Institutes (SVA (Sweden), FLI (Germany), AFSSA (France), DTU VET (Denmark), NVRI (Poland), IZS-Ve (Italy), CVI (The Netherlands) and Keith Way (from CEFAS, Weymouth, UK) participated as invited expert, in his function of leader of the OIE reference laboratory for KHV disease.

Bridges to the future, Annual Meeting EPIZONE 2010

The 4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Bridges to the future" will be held in

St Malo, France from 7-10 June 2010. Special topic of this meeting will be "Major Epidemic Threats".

The Scientific Committee

Taking their place on this committee are: Dr Martin Beer (FLI, Germany), Dr Marie Frédérique Le Potier (AFSSA, France), Dr Linda Dixon (IAH, United Kingdom), Professor Christian Griot (IVI, Switzerland), Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel (OIE), Professor Alexander Donaldson (Bio-Vet Solutions Ltd, United Kingdom), Professor Dirk Pfeiffer (Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom), Professor Markus Czub (University Calgary, Canada), Dr Alex Morrow (DEFRA), Professor Wim van der Poel, coordinator of EPIZONE (CVI, The Netherlands) and Dr Michèle Bouloy (Institut Pasteur, France). Chairman of the Scientific Committee is Dr Philippe Vannier (AFSSA, France).

Online

Draft programme, keynote speakers, registration- and abstract submission forms will be online end of December 2009.

Activity agenda

Activity agenda (meetings,courses and events)

- 14 -15 January 2010 -Half Yearly meeting for Theme Leaders, Work package leaders, EAP, MAB, CF, Lelystad, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands.
- 11-12 March 2010 – EPIZONE course "Laboratory contingency planning", Legnaro (Padua), Italy, deadline for application: 15th December 2009.
- 21 - 23 April 2010 -EPIZONE course: "Epidemiological tools to support veterinary authorities and risk managers in controlling animal disease epidemics".
- 10 - 12 May 2010 -International conference EDEN 2010: Emerging Diseases in a changing European environment.
- 7-10 June 2010 -4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Bridges to the Future", ST Malo, hosted by AFSSA, France.
- 15-17 September 2010-1st EAVLD Congress, Lelystad, hosted by CVI The Netherlands.
- 20-24 August 2012 -ISVEE 13th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology& Economics, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Impression of the Science Communication workshop,

29-30 October 2009

Everybody can run a conversation and send an email. But formulating and communicating key messages to the media and stakeholders beyond other scientists is a whole different cup of tea. EPIZONE organized two-day workshop in science communication in Denmark, Århus.

With 16 participants from eight countries and various backgrounds, discussions started already at arrival the day before, on how to present and what the difficulties are. The first course day was filled with information and practice on communications basics, what key messages are and how to write a success story.

The second day had more presentations on press releases and we ended the course with an interview roleplay exercise.

After this two days course the participants left with key messages in the back of our mind and ready for the media.