

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

EPIZONE project Extension until March 31st 2012

13-12-2011 13:05:55

In consultation with all partners institutes EPIZONE has decided to request a project extension without extra budget, until March 31st 2012. In October of this year it became clear that a number of partners had problems completing some of their...

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6th Annual Meeting Brighton 2012

13-12-2011 13:11:27

The 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Viruses on the move" will take place 12 - 14 June 2012 in Brighton, UK. From 15th January 2012, abstract submission, hotel reservation and registration will be open on the EPIZONE website. Special topic Special topic...

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Report workshop Beijing 2011

13-12-2011 13:13:15

EPIZONE organised in cooperation with Partner LVRI and EU-project Conflutech the workshop: "Promoting Scientific Cooperation between China and Europe to Combat Epizootic Diseases", 2-4 July 2011, Beijing. Report available The report of this workshop...

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Report workshop on metadata and data sharing in the veterinary field

13-12-2011 13:14:23

The workshop "Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field" was held in Venice, Italy, November 2011 and organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVE) within the framework of the EPIZONE project. Share experience...

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Four years Young EPIZONE

13-12-2011 13:16:57

Young EPIZONE was founded four years ago by the former EPIZONE coordinator Jitty Oosterga. She brought a group of 7 PhD students from Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium and Poland together to start a network for "young" people within the EPIZONE network....

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Project Management Course Young EPIZONE

13-12-2011 13:18:32

The latest in a long line of successful meetings and workshops organized by Young EPIZONE was held in September 2011 in Amsterdam. Thirteen junior scientists from Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and Germany got together for a course...

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Short term Mission Maarten Hoek from CVI, The Netherlands

15-12-2011 12:32:11

Maarten Hoek from Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR visited the FAO in Rome from 26-28 September 2011, to learn from FAO's expertise in global surveillance of (emerging) animal and zoonotic diseases and to obtain a better understanding of...

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Short term mission of Fang Yongxiang from LVRI, China

13-12-2011 13:21:59

Fang Yongxiang assistant researcher from Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), visited the National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, from 13 September...

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Short term mission of Carolina Probst from FLI, Germany

13-12-2011 13:23:20

Carolina Probst from Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Germany, visited CISA from 7 - 11 November 2011 The

reason for my visit to the Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA) was to exchange knowledge on the animal health situation in both countries...

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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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EPIZONE project Extension until March 31st 2012

In consultation with all partners institutes EPIZONE has decided to request a project extension without extra budget, until March 31st 2012.

In October of this year it became clear that a number of partners had problems completing some of their deliverables and that there were remaining budgets. This was discussed with all the partners and the scientific officer and the financial officer of the European Commission. It was concluded that the best way to deal with these issues would be to extend the project.

JPA5 adjusted

Therefore a letter to request for a project extension, without extra budget, until March 31st 2012, was sent to the Commission in the end of November. Assuming this request will be granted, the year 5 Joint Programme of Activities (JPA5) was adjusted: The work packages will now end in month 70 and the final deliverables of the extended work packages now have been scheduled for month 70. This should enable partners to complete all scheduled deliverables and spend budgets entirely, according to JPA5.

Under-expenditure

To ensure that the total budget of the whole EPIZONE project will be spent , all partners are asked to spend at least 102% of their allocated budgets. This is to ensure that unforeseen under-expenditure of some partners will not lead to the under-expenditure of the project because such would lead to a penalty from the Commission. For information of the partners the EPIZONE management will make monthly budget updates.

As soon as the extension has been approved by the Commission, the EPIZONE management will send an information letter to all partners.

6th Annual Meeting Brighton 2012

The 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Viruses on the move" will take place 12 - 14 June 2012 in Brighton, UK.

From 15th January 2012, abstract submission, hotel reservation and registration will be open on the [EPIZONE website](#).

Special topic

Special topic of this meeting will be "African swine fever and other emerging virus diseases", because African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, highly fatal disease of pigs which has severe socio-economic consequences in affected countries. The recent spread of ASF to the Trans Caucasus region and Russian Federation emphasises the risks for further global spread and the threat posed to global food security. There is an urgent need for coordinated action and development of improved tools and knowledge to control ASF. Other emerging viruses present similar challenges.

Keynote presentations

-[James Wood](#), Cambridge University UK: " Evolution of Influenza Viruses".

-[Sarah Cleaveland](#), Glasgow University UK: "Identifying virus reservoirs in complex ecosystems: new tools for an old problem".

-[Stuart Nichol](#), Special Pathogens Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta USA: " Rift Valley fever: hitting a moving target with a One Health approach".

-[Christian Drosten](#), University of Bonn, Germany: " Bats as reservoirs for virus infections".

-[Oliver Pybus](#), University of Oxford UK: " Viral evolution: endless forms most probable".

-[Carmina Gallardo](#), CISA/INIA, Madrid, Spain: " African swine fever in Africa: The role of the African indigenous pigs in the transmission of the disease".

Offered Papers Sessions

- 1 Diagnostics
- 2 Risk Assessment
- 3 Intervention Strategies
- 4 Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases
- 5 African swine fever virus
- 6 Applications of new sequencing technologies

Book a meeting room

The main meeting will be held in the historic Dome Complex in Brighton Centre. Smaller meetings will be held on 12th June at the Old Ship Hotel, including Young EPIZONE, Coordinating Form and EPIZONE core group on information sharing in the field of animal health research. If you would like to book a room for a meeting on 12th please let the organisers know by E-mailing epizone.help@iah.ac.uk

Report workshop Beijing 2011

EPIZONE organised in cooperation with **Partner LVRI** and **EU-project Conflutech** the workshop:

"Promoting Scientific Cooperation between China and Europe to Combat Epizootic Diseases", 2-4 July 2011, Beijing.

Report available

The report of this workshop is available now as a [download](#) on the EPIZONE website.

Large amount young scientists

Around 50 persons from Asia, Europe and the Middle-East participated in this 3-day workshop, hosted by Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, and kindly accommodated by CAAS at their offices in Beijing. There were a large amount of young scientists involved in this workshop who were able to interact and exchange views amongst themselves and with senior scientists on their research activities in a relaxed and fruitful atmosphere.

This workshop was a follow up on the workshops:

- "Building Bridges for Research in Swine Diseases", 2008, Shanghai and
- "New generation researchers in pig viral diseases: building bridges from labs to policy and the farms", 2010, Madrid.

Reports of those workshops are also available as [download](#) on the EPIZONE website

Report workshop on metadata and data sharing in the veterinary field

The workshop "Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field" was held in Venice, Italy, November 2011 and organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) within the framework of the EPIZONE project.

Share experience and ideas

It was a forum to share practical experience and ideas for future developments, in line with the promotion of information and data sharing which is pivotal to the achievement of the EPIZONE objectives.

Selected scientists and representatives from EPIZONE Member Organizations as well as relevant non-EPIZONE members took part in the discussion (around 25 participants).

Report available

Report of the workshop is available now as a [download](#) on the EPIZONE website.

This workshop was the follow-up to the workshop "Data and Information Sharing within the Veterinary Scientific Community: Legislative State of the Art and the Role of EPIZONE", which was held in Mira, Venice, in March 2011. Report also available as download.

Four years Young EPIZONE

Young EPIZONE was founded four years ago by the former EPIZONE coordinator Jitty Oosterga. She brought a group of 7 PhD students from Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium and Poland together to start a network for “young” people within the EPIZONE network. This “core” group discussed what they wanted Young EPIZONE to be, and they decided that the focus of Young EPIZONE would be to:

- 1) Get to know other junior scientist to exchange experiences, share knowledge and PARTY!
- 2) Get to know senior scientists who are sometimes difficult to approach.
- 3) Improve training and job opportunities.

First meeting in Brescia

The core group started enthusiastically and organised a special meeting during the Annual meeting in Brescia.....and it was a SUCCESS! The speed-dating session helped the young people to get to know other people. After this introduction, Christian Griot (director IVI, Switzerland) and Isabel Minguez (scientific officer of the European Commission) shared their experiences with us explaining how they moved from their PhD to the top. Both Christian and Isabel were always very helpful and supported Young EPIZONE as much as they could.

Work package 3.3 Young EPIZONE

After this Annual meeting a website was developed and Young EPIZONE became a real work package, WP 3.3. This also meant that Young EPIZONE got a budget, and this allowed the core group to come together once a year in Lelystad to organize the Annual Meetings. With this budget we could sponsor other young EPIZONE members enabling them to join our meetings, which would have been difficult without it.

Participate in Theme 5 meetings

In the mean time we were contacted by the Theme leaders of Theme 5, Linda Dixon and Marie-Frédérique Le Potier to participate in the Theme 5 meeting. This became a recurrent event in the life of Young EPIZONE. During these Theme 5 meetings, senior scientists were invited to give presentations for a small group of Young EPIZONE students, with a lot of interaction. After these initial days of Young EPIZONE presentations, everybody stayed for the rest of the Theme meetings. Importantly because the groups of Young EPIZONE members were small, it was a perfect opportunity to get to know each other very well.

Annual Meetings

Three more Annual meetings followed and everyone’s network increased during the “outbreak games” we played. We also improved each other’s presentation and poster skills in workshops. One of the most legendary Annual Meetings was in Antalya, Turkey. On the beach, in the pool and during the beach PARTY many friendships were made.

Learned a lot

For me personally, Young EPIZONE helped me to feel comfortable during international meetings, because it was an easy way to get to know other people. I am sure that without Young EPIZONE I would never have had the network I have now. I also learned a lot from working with people from different nationalities in a core group, and I have some friends for life. I would like to thank everybody who helped Young EPIZONE, joined our meetings and especially the core group members for all their enthusiastic work.

Eefke Weesendorp

Work package leader

Project Management Course Young EPIZONE

The latest in a long line of successful meetings and workshops organized by Young EPIZONE was held in September 2011 in Amsterdam. Thirteen junior scientists from Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and Germany got together for a course in project management. We were hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in the Trippenhuis, a marvelous 17th century palace in downtown Amsterdam.

Interactive lectures and discussions

During three days of interactive lectures and lively discussions led by Roy Moezelaar of the University of Wageningen, we learned a lot about the ins and outs of project management, but also about ourselves. We got introduced to a diverse range of topics: from planning and leadership to cultural differences, from negotiation to the importance of personal growth.

Exercises

Many individual and group exercises gave us ample opportunity to apply our new knowledge. Two presentations by seasoned project managers from the Central Veterinary Institute in Lelystad concluded a very instructive course in a friendly and productive atmosphere. A big thank you to everybody involved; I am convinced that we will benefit greatly from this experience, and I'd certainly recommend this course to anybody with an interest in the management side of science.

Michael Eschbaumer

member core group Young EPIZONE

Short term Mission Maarten Hoek from CVI, The Netherlands

Maarten Hoek from Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR visited the FAO in Rome from 26-28 September 2011, to learn from FAO's expertise in global surveillance of (emerging) animal and zoonotic diseases and to obtain a better understanding of disease forecasting tools developed by the FAO. In addition, the short term mission reinforced and allowed further exploration of collaboration opportunities between the FAO and CVI.

Two main reasons to visit the FAO

- **The first** was to gain insight in the workings of the FAO database EMPRESS (Emergency Prevention System), where does the data originate from, how complete, how accurate is it, how timely is it etc. When using data from a database to perform calculations and analysis to inform policy development and managerial decisions, it is important to understand the shortcomings and strengths of a dataset as not to make conclusions which are not supported by the data resulting in erroneous recommendations.

- **The second** reason was to share and discuss work done on Rift Valley fever (RVF). RVF is a, potentially serious, infection in cattle and man. Our study was a desk study and none of the team members working on this project had field experience with RVF. Therefore it was felt essential to have our work verified and validated by experts with field experience and to learn from their experiences.

Link desktop work with field work

The most interesting part of the visit was to link desktop work with field work. To hear the stories from the field enhanced by pictures and movies reemphasised the importance on gaining better insights in RVF, for the development of prevention and control policies for the EU.

Exotic diseases

A short term mission to the FAO is highly recommended to anyone working with exotic diseases. Due to the very definition of exotic diseases, home field experience cannot be had. The FAO is in a unique position to provide this experience without the need to travel to far flung places. Also, visiting the FAO and discussing work with experts will also help in identifying future research needs, and will aid productive collaboration.

Short term mission of Fang Yongxiang from LVRI, China

Fang Yongxiang assistant researcher from Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), visited the National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, from 13 September 2011 - 23 November 2011.

The purpose of my visit to DTU-VET was to investigate immunological adjuvant effects to TLR 7 agonists in pig peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs). This will lay the foundation for development new animal vaccine adjuvant. In addition, using high-throughput qPCR and Fluidigm techniques, quantification of porcine TLR 1-10, TIRAP, MyD88, IRF3, TRIF, expression in normal and experimental pigs infected with Swine influenza virus(SIV), serotype II and V Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae (App), Staphylococcus aureus.

Broaden horizon

During the times I stayed in DTU-VET, I had the opportunity to discuss and exchange scientific knowledge as well as practical skills with senior and junior scientists in related field of research. It was a valuable experience that gave me some new ideas that I could apply in the study. It was not only improving my experimental skill but also broadened my horizon of scientific issue. Furthermore, this also expanded my scientific network which could be useful in further collaborations.

Great opportunities

I would like to recommend this short-term mission to anyone who wants to improve scientific knowledge and practical skills. This programme offers a great opportunity to exchange scientific idea, experience and laboratory practices with other researches who may work in the similar field of expertise and interest. The short-term mission will widen the horizon on techniques and scientific issues, extend scientist network and co-operations between different institutes and countries.

Short term mission of Carolina Probst from FLI, Germany

Carolina Probst from Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Germany, visited CISA from 7 – 11 November 2011

The reason for my visit to the Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA) was to exchange knowledge on the animal health situation in both countries (Spain and Germany) and to share experiences gained with research projects.

Issues discussed

The issues discussed were the collection and centralisation of data, data analysis, as well as surveillance and control methods of notifiable diseases. The main focus was Avian Influenza, especially the notable epidemiological patterns of the LPAI H7N7 outbreak in Germany in 2011 as well as the HPAI H7N7 outbreak in Spain in 2009.

We also discussed and compared the situation in both countries especially regarding Bluetongue (BTV-8 including the problems arising with the start of the vaccination campaign in Germany) and Classical swine fever in wild boar as well as different other endemic diseases like Brucellosis, Equine infectious anaemia, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (including the problem Germany had with the PregSure vaccine causing pancytopenia in calves) and Bovine Herpesvirus Type 1. We also discussed the eradication programs in place, and the issues with regard to prophylactic approaches in both countries.

Great opportunity

I had the great opportunity to learn about how the Spanish colleagues work, think, interact with each other and how they manage with different epidemiological issues. Especially the comprehensive way Epidemiology is taught in Spanish veterinary universities (both public and private) is impressive. I took back home a lot of good ideas, including “simple” ones like working with two screens at the same time and would strongly recommend such a short term mission to anybody who wants to open up its mind. I particularly enjoyed talking and discussing with my colleagues about almost everything in a very familiar way. I am delighted to have met them all and would like to say again GRACIAS.