

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

### **EPIZONE, EU succes story**

25-6-2010 15:52:58

In the framework of the forthcoming Impact Assessment conference on Agriculture and Food (8th July 2010, Brussels), eight success stories have been selected by the European Commission - DG Research, Directorate E1 "Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food"...

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### **4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE**

24-6-2010 14:06:56

The 4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, entitled "Bridges to the Future", was held in Saint Malo, France, from 7-10 June 2010. This meeting was hosted by AFSSA (Agence Francaise de Securite Sanitaire des Aliments) France, one of the 17 partner institutes...

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### **Keynote speakers 4th Annual Meeting**

24-6-2010 14:10:12

8 June Dr Rob Raynard, from University of Aberdeen; Scottish Fish Immunology Research Centre, was the first keynote speaker on Tuesday 8 June with the presentation entitled: 'Infectious Salmon Anaemia: emergence, control and surveillance in Aquaculture'....

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### **Report on the Young EPIZONE Meeting, Saint Malo**

24-6-2010 14:11:19

The Young EPIZONE meeting was held the day before the main EPIZONE meeting and was split into several sessions and workshops. Incorporating the theme of 'Building Bridges to the Future' and with positive feedback from the previous annual meeting we...

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### **Interactive session on 'Major Epidemic Threats' of the future**

24-6-2010 14:18:06

In recent years, several epidemics have occurred in the European Union, e.g. bluetongue, foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, resulting in devastating consequences for livestock production in terms of both animal welfare and economic losses....

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### **5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE**

24-6-2010 14:20:09

The 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE will be organised by CVI (Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen University and Research Centre) in Arnhem, The Netherlands. The meeting will be held from 11-14 April 2011. The 5th annual meeting's slogan is...

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### **EPIZONE presented at the World Expo in Shanghai**

24-6-2010 14:30:20

From 15 to 18 June 2010 the European Commission organized the EU-China Science & Technology week at the World Expo in Shanghai, China. The meeting was held at the EU pavilion inside the Belgium pavilion at the Worlds Expo exhibition park. In a program...

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### **Scientific Opinion on Q fever, EFSA report**

24-6-2010 14:31:36

The recent developments in the EU, especially the increase in confirmed human cases of Q fever in the Netherlands, call for special consideration as regards the risks posed by Q fever for humans and animals. The European Commission requested further...

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### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Training Courses**

24-6-2010 14:33:20

The EuFMD Commission is continuing to organize 'Real-Time' Training Program which is an intensive, 4 day

program of clinical FMD investigation for the recognition and sampling of animals for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) hosted by SAP and Erzurum...

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## Activity agenda (meetings, courses and events)

24-6-2010 14:35:29

1-3 July 2010

Brescia, Italy 11-14 July 2010

Disease Control...

-5th Young European Veterinary Pathologist International Meeting, IZSLER,

-International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Centers for

[Read more >>>](#)

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EPIZONE update News gathering

Contact information:

E-mail: [epizone.cvi@wur.nl](mailto:epizone.cvi@wur.nl)

[www.epizone-eu.net](http://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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## **EPIZONE, EU succes story**

In the framework of the forthcoming Impact Assessment conference on Agriculture and Food (8th July 2010, Brussels), eight success stories have been selected by the European Commission - DG Research, Directorate E1 "Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food" from the vast list of FP6 projects. EPIZONE is one of them!

These success stories will be part of a press kit to be handed out to journalists.

## 4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE, entitled "Bridges to the Future", was held in Saint Malo, France, from 7-10 June 2010. This meeting was hosted by AFSSA (Agence Francaise de Securite Sanitaire des Aliments) France, one of the 17 partner institutes of EPIZONE. About 340 participants from 27 countries attended; scientists, from many different fields of research, from inside and outside EPIZONE, [sponsors](#) and policy makers. Also [11 other \(EU\) projects](#) presented their work

### 8 June and 9 June

243 abstracts were submitted, and during the meeting 36 oral presentations were given and around 200 posters were setup. Besides this 5 Keynote speakers were invited and special to this year was the interactive session on "Major Epidemic Threats" prepared by EPIZONE's Theme 7, working on Risk Assessment.



### Poster sessions and project presentations

Throughout the conference there was plenty of time to review and discuss the posters, to network and to participate in the invited (EU) project presentations of GFRA, FluLabNet, ICONZ, CSFV go DIVA, NEW-Flubird, ArboZoonet, FLUTEST, WildTech, GlAd, FLUTRAIN, and MED-VET-NET.



### 7 June and 10 June

Monday 7 June, many work packages were held and the **EPIZONE Internal Call BT-DYNVECT** presented their findings of the one year project in a satellite Symposium: Establishing the transmission dynamics of Bluetongue serotype 8 and entomological aspects in Northern Europe. ([see programme](#)). **Young EPIZONE** had a full day [programme](#) with three workshops: networking, job interviews and CV writing. **A GFRA Workshop** was held on Thursday 10 June, with an introduction of the project and examples of GFRA activities. The workshop ended with roundtable discussions ([see programme](#)).

**An abstract book is available as download on the EPIZONE website [here](#).**

## Keynote speakers 4th Annual Meeting

**8 June**

**Dr Rob Raynard**, from University of Aberdeen; Scottish Fish Immunology Research Centre, was the first keynote speaker on Tuesday 8 June with the presentation entitled: '[Infectious Salmon Anaemia: emergence, control and surveillance in Aquaculture](#)'. "The disease was first reported from Norway in 1984, where it is still widespread. Subsequently it occurred in Canada, the USA, the Faeroe Islands and Chile. An outbreak occurred in Scotland in 1998/9 and this was eradicated at a cost then over £20M." ...[read more](#). The keynote lecture was followed by oral presentations from EPIZONE's Theme 4, Diagnostics, ([see abstract book for all oral presentations, available as download](#) ).

The **afternoon session** highlighted EPIZONE's Theme 5, Intervention Strategies, and was opened by keynote speaker **Dr Ken Mc Cullough**, from Institute of Virology and Immunophylaxis (IVI), with the lecture: '[Viruses, Vaccines and Dendritic Cells: a question of Life, the Universe and Everything?](#)' "Dendritic cells (DC) play a critical role in immune defence development by mediating the interaction of various components within the innate and adaptive immune compartments. During the last decade, the increase in our knowledge on the critical role of DC has elaborated our understanding of how viruses evade and modulate immune defence processes, as well as promoted research and development of vaccines for targeting DC." ... [read more](#)

**9 June "Major Epidemic Threats"**

The second day of the meeting focused on the special topic of this year "Major Epidemic Threats" and started with the keynote speaker **Dr Hana Weingartl**, from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, giving a presentation entitled: '[Susceptibility of pigs to Zaire Ebola virus and their potential as an intermediate host species](#)' .

"Ebola viruses are one of the examples of re-emerging pathogens in humans and nonhuman primates. Swine was not suspected to be a potential host for these viruses, until detection of Reston Ebola virus in pigs in the Philippines. Subsequently, specific antibodies were found in pig farmers indicating exposure to the virus. This important observation raised the possibility that pigs may be an amplifying species and trans Ebola virus also to humans" ... [read more](#)

In the **afternoon session** two keynote speakers presented their work: **Professor Ian Brown** from Veterinary Laboratories Agency with: '[Threats to animal health from influenza, an EU perspective](#) and

**Professor Chris Olsen** from University of Wisconsin-Madison; School of Veterinary Medicine with: '[Swine influenza in North America: virus evolution, control and public health implications](#)' .

Ian Brown: " During the last ten years there have been multiple threats to animal health in the EU from influenza. Primarily this has involved outbreaks in domestic poultry with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of various subtypes. The cost to the industry and the community can be estimated in billions of Euros. Other influenza viruses present significant disease threat to other hosts such as the recent pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus whereby spread to animal populations provides additional challenges to the veterinary community and industry alike." ... [read more](#)

Chris Olsen: " Pigs have suffered the effects of influenza virus infection since at least the 1930s. For six decades, the primary cause of influenza in North American pigs was viruses of the classical swine influenza H1N1 lineage. However, in the late 1990s, a wide variety of novel reassortant viruses of multiple subtypes emerged within the North American swine population, with differing implications for both swine and human health" ... [read more](#).

## Report on the Young EPIZONE Meeting, Saint Malo

The Young EPIZONE meeting was held the day before the main EPIZONE meeting and was split into several sessions and workshops. Incorporating the theme of 'Building Bridges to the Future' and with positive feedback from the previous annual meeting we decided to focus on networking and communication.

### Debating

In the morning session people were randomly allocated groups and were given a debate topic with information and time in those groups to prepare their cases which were presented to everyone. We tried to use this format to make the meeting less intimidating and to allow people to work with people that they didn't know. Debating also gives people the opportunity to respond to questions in a non-threatening environment!

### Improve networking and CV writing

The afternoon session comprised a networking presentation on why and how to improve your networking followed by small group work to prepare an 'elevator pitch'. This was followed by presentations from Meril and Qiagen representatives on what they look for in a CV and at the interview. Young EPIZONE members were asked to bring along a copy of their CV's for the final workshop on CV writing and were provided with a handout on how to prepare a good CV and covering letter.

### Feedback

In the morning session we had approximately 50 people attend our meeting and around 30 for the afternoon sessions. After the final session we asked our member's to complete a questionnaire for feedback about the meeting. Almost half rated the CV session and networking as the most useful components of the meeting and nearly 70% rated the topics covered in the meeting as very useful, the majority would like us to keep a similar format for future meetings. Several people suggested that we send out a detailed schedule prior to the meeting and we will incorporate this for future events. Other suggestions included inviting more senior scientists, this was the aim for the networking session but unfortunately invited speakers had to cancel last minute and so this was not possible.

### Suggestions for the next meeting

We asked for suggestions on subjects to be covered in the future and these included how to write a good paper, work on the elevator pitch, oral and poster presentation workshops. In our first meeting we ran workshops on poster and oral presentations which proved to be popular and so hope to re-run these in April.

### Poster prizes

We provided handouts on poster presentations at our poster walk, were Young EPIZONE members worked in groups of 2 or 3 and rated all the posters and presented their top 2 or 3 in each category to the rest of the group highlighting why they had been chosen. We presented prizes for the best PhD and non PhD posters. This proved to be extremely popular and certainly encouraged people to stop and read more of the posters and shall be done again at future meetings.



**On the evening of the Young EPIZONE meeting** we also offered our member's the opportunity to socialise together and arranged for those who wanted to attend to meet at one of the local restaurants and it was fantastic to see the majority of people who had attended the meeting there.

## Interactive session on ‘Major Epidemic Threats’ of the future

In recent years, several epidemics have occurred in the European Union, e.g. bluetongue, foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, resulting in devastating consequences for livestock production in terms of both animal welfare and economic losses.

### Annual Meeting, all expertise together

The EPIZONE Network of Excellence has established a network of scientists with expertise in the diagnosis and control of viruses that can cause such epidemics.

The collaborative nature of this network aims at reducing the likelihood and consequences of any future epidemic threats. The annual meetings provide a unique opportunity to bring all expertise in the network together.

EPIZONE’s Theme 7, Risk Assessment, used this opportunity to elicit the opinion of all participants about the future epidemic threats by means of an interactive session. Professor Dirk Pfeiffer from the Royal Veterinary College in London, UK, was moderator of the interactive session.

The results will be analysed and a report produced for the EPIZONE website.

### Interactive session Wednesday afternoon

The Theme 7 working group, Louise Kelly, Clazien de Vos, Anthony Wilson, Emma Snary and Paul Gale prepared two sessions.

**The first session** was entitled: “Threats and changes” and asked for the audience’s opinion on the current most threatening viruses (in terms of their likelihood of introduction and impact should they be introduced) and how those threats are affected by future changes in, for example, climate and the environment.

**The second session** was entitled: “Preparedness: prevention, detection and control” and asked for the audience’s opinion on the current state of preparedness for the most threatening viruses: can their introduction be prevented, is early detection possible, and are tools available to control epidemic spread?

-The first questions focused on the background of the audience such as expertise, region of origin and years of experience, to allow for stratification of the answers in the analysis of the results.

### The overall results of the first session were:

- The combined opinions of the audience suggest that the current most threatening viruses are influenza viruses and foot and mouth disease virus, both with respect to impact and likelihood.
- The combined opinions of the audience suggest that there will be a large increase in the expected likelihood of introduction of West Nile fever, Rift Valley fever and Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever and their subsequent spread and persistence in the future.

-The questions in the second session were based on the two current most threatening viruses. Results still have to be analysed.

-Finally, some statements on disease prevention, detection and control were posed and the session was concluded with two evaluation questions. The majority of the audience was positive in its judgment: 40% enjoyed the session very much, 47% found the session interesting, 7% vote for times fly when..., and 6% thought it was just ok.

## 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE will be organised by CVI (Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen University and Research Centre) in Arnhem, The Netherlands. The meeting will be held from 11-14 April 2011.

The 5th annual meeting's slogan is "**Science on alert**".

## EPIZONE presented at the World Expo in Shanghai

From 15 to 18 June 2010 the European Commission organized the EU-China Science & Technology week at the World Expo in Shanghai, China. The meeting was held at the EU pavilion inside the Belgium pavilion at the Worlds Expo exhibition park. In a program of science policy sessions, scientific workshop and media briefings participants showed joint achievements, exchanged success stories and explored new perspectives and collaboration opportunities between European and Chinese research organizations. EPIZONE was invited by the EU: "as a **key contributor** to the workshop session on 17th June, which we are organising. EPIZONE would be one of the **flagships's projects** to be featured during this session". The theme of the Expo was "Better city, Better life".



### EPIZONE presentation

Besides a short press briefing, the EPIZONE network was presented in a dedicated session by its coordinator Prof. Wim H. M. van der Poel. This session was entitled "Feeding cities and citizens with sustainable and safe food", and was chaired by Maive Rute, DG Research director for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. The 4 projects in this session focused on the impact of safe and sustainable food production and all have Chinese partners. In his presentation the EPIZONE coordinator showed the activities of the network and emphasized the aims of EPIZONE to improve collaboration of veterinary research to prevent and control epizootic animal diseases in order to guarantee sustainable and safe production of food of animal origin.

### Integrate EU and China research

The EU-China S&T week was bringing together over 500 leading scientists, journalists and representatives of industry, academia and governments from Europe and China who extensively shared knowledge and experiences with the aim to work together and integrate EU and China research.



## Scientific Opinion on Q fever, EFSA report

The recent developments in the EU, especially the increase in confirmed human cases of Q fever in the Netherlands, call for special consideration as regards the risks posed by Q fever for humans and animals. The European Commission requested further scientific advice and risk assessment, as regards Q fever in animals. The mandate posed three questions:

- to assess the significance of the occurrence of Q fever in the EU Member States for a better
- understanding of the scale and distribution of the disease and infection (with the focus on farm animals and humans) to assess the risk factors for Q fever occurrence and persistence in animal husbandry and the related risks for humans, and
- to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of disease control options.

An opinion, in response to the mandate, was prepared by the EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, with input from EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) and the Zoonoses and Assessment Methodologies Unit, and in close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

## Foot-and-Mouth Disease Training Courses

The EuFMD Commission is continuing to organize ['Real-Time' Training Program](#) which is an intensive, 4 day program of clinical FMD investigation for the recognition and sampling of animals for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) hosted by SAP and Erzurum Veterinary Control and Research Institute of Turkey. Participants receive intensive class-room training for one day followed by 2-3 days of visiting suspect outbreaks, carrying out a full investigation of suspected cases and collection of epi-information, testing of samples onsite or at a laboratory equipped to undertake ELISA and penside tests for virus and antibody, and analyses to trace the movements of animals and to trace source and spread of infection.

Upcoming Training Course

18/10/2010

### **Training Course 9**

Erzurum, Turkey

18-22 October 2010 **(tentative)**

## Activity agenda (meetings, courses and events)

- 1-3 July 2010 -5th Young European Veterinary Pathologist International Meeting, IZSLER, Brescia, Italy
- 11-14 July 2010 -International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), USA
- 16 July 2010 - Follow up Swine Viral Disease workshop, Building Bridges, Shanghai, Madrid
- 1-3 September - Symposium Climate change: Health and Ecology, SVA, Mare Löhmus, Sweden
- 15-17 September 2010 -1st EAVLD Congress, Lelystad, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands.
- 18- 22 October 2010 -Training course 9, Foot-and-Mouth Disease Training Courses, Erzurum, Turkey.
- 21-22 October 2010 -PRRS building bridges, V-2 COST, EPIZONE meeting, Warsaw, Poland.
- 11-14 April 2011 -5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Arnhem, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands.
- 20-24 August 2012 -ISVEE 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology& Economics, Maastricht, the Netherlands.