

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

Directors meeting EPIZONE ahead

18-8-2010 14:48:04

With EPIZONE in its fifth year, the good reviews from the European Commission and positive feedback from industry, related projects and scientists, means we may call EPIZONE a success. To continue this, the Coordinating Forum of the project reached...

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EPIZONE success story

28-9-2010 16:11:47

Professor Wim van der Poel, coordinator of EPIZONE has given a presentation at the conference "Food for the 21st century: How EU Research impacts on Food Quality and Safety?" which took place on 8th July at the European Parliament in Brussels. Wim...

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Satellite Symposium at 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

27-9-2010 14:19:02

The 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Science on alert" will be held from 11-14 April 2011 in Arnhem, The Netherlands. At this Annual Meeting we will present all the outcomes from the five successful EPIZONE years. There will be plenary lectures by invited...

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Preliminary results interactive session 4th Annual meeting

20-9-2010 15:00:07

All results from the interactive session are currently being analysed in more detail, to include for example stratification by region and area of expertise. The analysed results will be published in a report for the EPIZONE website at the end of 2010....

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Workshop EU-China swine viral diseases, 12-14 July, Madrid

20-9-2010 18:07:45

About 70 persons from Asia and Europe participated in the workshop in Madrid, titled "New generation researchers in pig viral diseases: building bridges from labs to policy and the farm". The 3 day programme started on Monday 12 June with the welcome...

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Epidemiological database for download

18-8-2010 14:40:08

The new prototype database for storing data of biological agents and their sequences is now available at the EPIZONE website. It can be downloaded together with a corresponding manual free of charge here. In addition, a demo version is available...

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Workshop formaldehyde replacement as disinfectants

27-9-2010 14:41:38

Formaldehyde is widely used as a disinfectant for decontamination of laboratories and animal facilities. Due to the negative effects on health and environment, replacement of formaldehyde by alternatives has to be investigated. A lot of such research...

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Short term mission Stefanie Schmeiser from HVS

20-9-2010 15:58:04

Stefanie Schmeiser from Hannover Veterinary School (HSV), Germany, visited CODA-CERVA, Belgium from 9 - 20 August 2010. The goal was to improve research on pestivirus replication and assembly with a combination of valuable results from my doctoral...

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Short term mission Claudia Nassuato from IZSLer, Italy

20-9-2010 17:26:20

Claudia Nassuato from ISZler Italy, visited the Central Veterinary Institute, The Netherlands from 18 -23 July

2010. The aim of the short term mission was the application of algorithms for between-farm spatial transmission kernel estimation developed...

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Activity agenda (meetings, courses and events)

28-9-2010 22:06:49

21-22 October 2010 - PRRS building bridges, V-2 COST, EPIZONE meeting, Warsaw, Poland. 11-14 April 2011 - 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Arnhem, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands. 11-12 January 2011 - Workshop formaldehyde replacement...

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[EPIZONE update News gathering](#)

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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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Directors meeting EPIZONE ahead

With EPIZONE in its fifth year, the good reviews from the European Commission and positive feedback from industry, related projects and scientists, means we may call EPIZONE a success.

To continue this, the Coordinating Forum of the project reached the consensus that action towards sustainability should be taken in cooperation with the directors of the institutes currently partners in EPIZONE.

For that purpose a directors meeting was held in Brussels, June 28-29, 2010.

Action plan sustainability

With 21 participants and representatives from 12 institutes, some ground rules were established for EPIZONE in the future. The meeting was chaired by Martin Shirley, Director of IAH, and consisted of presentations about themes, work packages, annual meetings and funding possibilities in the future. From the outcomes of this directors meeting, a new and certainly enhanced action plan will be produced. With this, EPIZONE will be able to continue after the 31st of May 2011.

EPIZONE success story

Professor Wim van der Poel, coordinator of EPIZONE has given a presentation at the conference "Food for the 21st century: How EU Research impacts on Food Quality and Safety?" which took place on 8th July 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

High visibility

Wim was invited to give a presentation because EPIZONE was identified as one of the projects which deserved to be given high visibility on this occasion.

Eight success stories were selected by the European Commission-DG Research, Directorate E1 "Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food" from the vast list of FP6 projects. EPIZONE was one of them.

See for programme [here](#)



Wim van der Poel

Satellite Symposium at 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

The 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "**Science on alert**" will be held from 11-14 April 2011 in Arnhem, The Netherlands.

At this Annual Meeting we will present all the outcomes from the five successful EPIZONE years. There will be plenary lectures by invited speakers, selected oral and poster presentations and presentations of other (EU) projects. As always we will stimulate cooperation and create vast opportunities for networking and scientific exchange.

EPIZONE Themes

All presentations will cover recent research in epizootic diseases of cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, fish or horses in the fields of the EPIZONE themes diagnostics, vaccine development, risk assessment, surveillance and epidemiology.

Satellite symposium

This year there will be also a satellite symposium on the 13th April 2011 titled "**Bluetongue and other vector borne diseases**".

Vector borne diseases like West Nile, Crimean Congo, Rift-Valley and especially bluetongue are a threat to all countries in Europe. During recent years the risk of entry and spread of new infectious agents in Europe has increased due to global travel and trade. In addition climate change is likely to increase the risk of spreading of arthropod borne diseases.

The combined opinions of the scientists participating in the interactive session of the 4th Annual Meeting EPIZONE implies that there will be a large increase in the likelihood of an introduction of West Nile fever, Rift Valley fever and Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever and their subsequent spread and persistence in the future. In this satellite symposium we will give special attention to the latest research results of those diseases and lessons learned from the past.

The 5th Annual Meeting website with a lot of information about the venue, draft programme, forms etc. will be online soon.

Preliminary results interactive session 4th Annual meeting

All results from the interactive session are currently being analysed in more detail, to include for example stratification by region and area of expertise. The analysed results will be published in a report for the EPIZONE website at the end of 2010. You can find some preliminary results in this article.

All expertise together

EPIZONE's Theme 7, Risk Assessment, used the opportunity to elicit the opinion of all participants of the 4th Annual Meeting 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 annual meetings provide a unique opportunity to bring all expertise in the network together.

The overall results of the first session (Threats and Changes) were:

As reported in the June update:

- 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.

Preliminary results of the second session (Preparedness, prevention, detection and control) are:

- For influenza viruses, more than 50% of the audience considered wildlife to be the most likely source of an outbreak in their region and if an outbreak were to occur, the views suggested that culling and vaccination would be the most appropriate methods of control (both methods obtained almost equal percentages of the audience vote (around 30% each)).
- For foot-and-mouth disease, the audience were again of the opinion that control would be best achieved by vaccination or culling (around 40% of the vote in each case) should an outbreak occur. However, the most likely source of any outbreak was considered to be legally or illegally imported live animals, with more than 50% of the audience selecting this source.
- Overall, the majority of the audience were of the opinion that recent epidemics within the EU have had an influence on how we think about the future. In particular, 81% felt that we have changed the way we use and share data, 66% felt that farmers are now more aware of looking for clinical signs, 74% felt that policy-makers have changed the way they view emergency vaccination and 84% felt that we are now more aware of the role of wildlife in the introduction and spread of disease.

Workshop EU-China swine viral diseases, 12-14 July, Madrid

About 70 persons from Asia and Europe participated in the workshop in Madrid, titled "New generation researchers in pig viral diseases: building bridges from labs to policy and the farm". The 3 day programme started on Monday 12 June with the welcome session, see [programme here](#).

A lot of young scientists from China and Europe participated in this workshop.

The aim of the workshop was scientific exchange on swine viral diseases of global importance.

The Madrid workshop was the follow up of the very successful workshop "Building Bridges" in 2008 on swine viral diseases held in Shanghai. The workshop was organized by the European Commission in cooperation with Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, CAAS, the University of Madrid, the EPIZONE project and [other projects](#).



 Picture

Spanish team became world champion 2010!!

The team arrived on Monday 12th in Madrid.

Epidemiological database for download

The new prototype database for storing data of biological agents and their sequences is now available at the EPIZONE website. It can be downloaded together with a corresponding manual free of charge [here](#).

In addition, a demo version is available at this webpage showing an example of the performance of this database. Please note that these items are only accessible by using the username and password displayed on this EPIZONE page.

The web-based prototype database was developed by Irene Greiser-Wilke and Bernd Zimmermann in the framework of EPIZONE WP 6.4.

Information on viruses or bacteria

With the help of this database information on viruses or bacteria like data of isolation, geographical information, references, and sequences can be stored and evaluated. It is an excellent tool for molecular epidemiology studies that could help understanding developments and trends in epidemics and allow better control and emergency preparedness measures.

Individual needs

The database can be easily adjusted to the individual needs of any interested scientist. The fields of the basic table containing the biological and epidemiologic data of the organisms, the sequence table, and the table with the sequence types are configured during setup. The database consists of two modes, the administrator and the user mode with different accession rights, user names and passwords.

Low costs

To keep the costs low, open source software was used. The database operates under Linux (such as Debian or Ubuntu), with an Apache2 webserver and MySQL installed. For customizing the scripts, skills in SQL, PERL and HTML are necessary.

Benefits

Further benefits of the database are the simple way to obtain sequence data from GenBank and export selected sequences into alignment programs like Clustal X. Epidemiological data can be downloaded as text files or in a format that can be imported into spreadsheets. An additional module facilitates geotagging. The geographical data are connected to Google Maps, where individual outbreaks in a selected period can be visualized.

Workshop formaldehyde replacement as disinfectants

Formaldehyde is widely used as a disinfectant for decontamination of laboratories and animal facilities. Due to the negative effects on health and environment, replacement of formaldehyde by alternatives has to be investigated. A lot of such research has already been done, however, this information is in general not publicly available. There is a strong need to gather this information in order to conclude which substitutes can be used as alternatives.

Bring together necessary information

Therefore a number of partners from the EU funded Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control (EPIZONE) will organize a workshop to bring together necessary information about alternatives for formaldehyde. Not only EPIZONE members will share their experiences but we have also invited leading scientists on this subject.

Participants and results

This workshop is primarily intended for biosafety officers, facility managers, policy makers, biotechnicians, occupational health workers, etc.

The results of the workshop containing the summary of the presentations, the conclusions and recommendations will be published in a booklet and will be presented to the EU and to all participants of the workshop.

General information

Date: January 11 + 12, 2011.

Venue: Central Veterinary Institute, Lelystad, The Netherlands.

Preliminary programme: Click [here](#) for the programme.

Registration: Click [here](#) for the registration form.

Registration fee (includes workshop, coffee, social dinner and booklet):

EPIZONE members: one representative free; extra persons € 50,00 each.

Non EPIZONE members: € 150,00.

Registration deadline: November 15, 2010.

Short term mission Stefanie Schmeiser from HVS

Stefanie Schmeiser from Hannover Veterinary School (HSV), Germany, visited CODA-CERVA, Belgium from 9 - 20 August 2010.

The goal was to improve research on pestivirus replication and assembly with a combination of valuable results from my doctoral thesis on pestivirus morphogenesis and the high advanced technology and knowledge of electron tomography which is available at the CODA-CERVA. During the visit I was able to use this technology intensively to gain 3D pictures of pestivirus infected cells. The second purpose was the transfer of knowledge on pestivirus infection models and preparation of cells in situ for electron microscopy from me to the local laboratory. I provided protocols and practical training to scientists and technicians of the CODA-CERVA in order to establish these techniques at their institute.

Intensive exchange with senior and junior scientists

There are two aspects which I would like to point out: First, the short term mission turned out to be a two week period of most effective work on application of electron tomography on the samples that I brought with me for this project. So I was able to perform intensive studies on pestivirus morphology and morphogenesis on ultra structural level with intensive personal support of experts in the field of electron microscopy. The second aspect I would like to accentuate is the intensive exchange with senior and junior scientists in my field of research. It was a valuable experience to share knowledge as well as practical skills.

Extraordinary results of scientific work

I recommend this program to each scientist as it widens the horizon on techniques and scientific issues and brings you into contact with people who may share a similar field of expertise and interest. This programme has the potential to provide an increase in scientific knowledge and practical skills for both sides and as in my case to lead to extraordinary results of scientific work that otherwise would not have been achieved.

Short term mission Claudia Nassuato from IZSLer, Italy

Claudia Nassuato from ISZler Italy, visited the Central Veterinary Institute, The Netherlands from 18 -23 July 2010.

The aim of the short term mission was the application of algorithms for between-farm spatial transmission kernel estimation developed in Netherlands to data of the Italian 2006-2007 swine vesicular disease virus (SVDV) outbreak. In particular, the analysis helped in investigating and comparing the spatial spreading of the infection between the two main periods detected in the epidemic: one going from November 2006 to February 2007 during which a quite long distance spreading of the infection was observed and one from May to October 2007 with an apparent more local phenomenon.

Better insight

This first analysis has allowed a better insight in spatial spreading of SVDV in Lombardy in 2006-2007. In particular it has allowed the comparison of the two epidemic periods and to quantify the difference between the two in terms of a kernel parameter related to local spreading. Moreover a methodology has been developed and a programming code has been written for the analysis that could be applied to other sets of data and diseases. Dataset will be checked again according to lab-results; some additional analysis will be performed in particular for the 2006 dataset due to the complexity of the data. These new results will be shared with the CVI epidemiological group.

High professional profile

During the week I stayed in Lelystad I met people with excellent skills and strong capabilities and open to discuss some disease topics of interest. In particular my tutor helped me to develop my skills to reach my present objectives and has sent me some ideas for methodology I could apply in the future to other diseases.

I would really suggest to others that they try this experience of its high professional profile and the possibility of growing in a friendly and international atmosphere.

Activity agenda (meetings, courses and events)

- 21-22 October 2010 - PRRS building bridges, V-2 COST, EPIZONE meeting, Warsaw, Poland.
- 11-14 April 2011 - 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Arnhem, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands.
- 11-12 January 2011 - Workshop formaldehyde replacement as disinfectants, CVI, Lelystad, The Netherlands
- 12-13 January 2011 - m54 (half yearly) meeting, Lelystad, The Netherlands
- 20-24 August 2012 - ISVEE 13th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics, Maastricht, the Netherlands