European Commission

THE SECOND EUROPEAN SURVEILLANCE NETWORK FOR INFLUENZA IN PIGS - ESNIP 2

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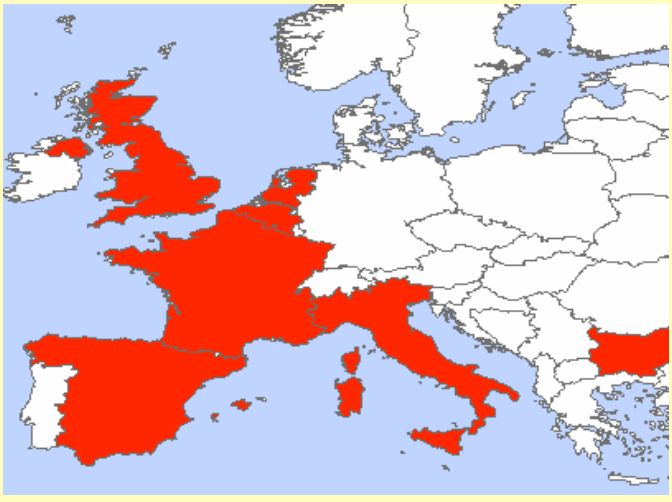
The importance of influenza viruses in animals and humans has led to the establishment of organized surveillance networks, first for human, later avian and most recently swine influenza viruses (SIV).

The "European Surveillance Network for Influenza in Pigs 1" (ESNIP 1) was the first attempt to improve our knowledge and understanding of influenza in pigs. Fourteen partners from 10 different European Countries (Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom) participated in ESNIP 1, including 2 human influenza reference laboratories and 3 industrial partners. It lasted from 2001 to 2003 and contributed in standardizing diagnostic methods, establishing a central SIV bank and database and improving our understanding of SIV epidemiology and evolution.

ESNIP 2 is a co-ordination action (*SSPE-CT-2005-022749*) funded by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Research Programme. It maintains and expands the surveillance network that was established during ESNIP 1.

ESNIP 2 has two strategic objectives:

1) To further expand our knowledge of the epidemiology and evolution of swine influenza viruses in Europe and to apply this knowledge to optimize diagnostic techniques for swine influenza.
2) To provide insights into the public health risk of influenza in swine by monitoring swine for avian influenza viruses and by comparison of influenza viruses in swine and in human populations.



Countries participating in ESNIP 2

Within this frame, the project has established a virological and serological surveillance network in several European countries. Other major objectives include the development of a novel, rapid test for the detection of SIV and the screening of pigs in Europe for the circulation of avian influenza viruses.

The network is coordinated by Kristien Van Reeth, *Ghent University, Belgium* (P1).
The consortium consists of researchers from:

- *The Veterinary Laboratories Agency, UK* (P2)
- *The Central Institute for Animal Disease Control, The Netherlands* (P3)
- *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna, Sezione di Parma, Italy* (P4)
- *The French Food Safety Agency, France* (P5)
- *The National Institute for Medical Research, UK* (P6)
- *MERIAL Discovery Research, France* (P7)
- *Laboratorios HIPRA, Spain* (P8)
- *The National Diagnostic Veterinary Research Institute, Bulgaria* (P9) and
- *The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong* (P10).
- *The University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA* , will also cooperate with the network.

Participation from Hong Kong and co-operation with the USA will facilitate greater global interaction and worldwide understanding of the epidemiology of SIV.

ESNIP 2 started in January 2006 with the "kick off meeting" in Ghent, Belgium and will last until the end of 2008.

For more information and updates, visit our website at **www.esnip.ugent.be**