

## Announcement

### Coordination of European Research on Emerging and Major Infectious Diseases of Livestock (EMIDA ERA-Net)

### Transnational Call for Proposals

The 1<sup>st</sup> joint call for transnational projects of the EMIDA ERA-Net initiative will open on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 with a total budget in the region of €20 million.

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#### 1. What is EMIDA ERA-Net?

The aim of EMIDA is to accelerate the development of a durable focused network of national research funders in Member and Associated States of the EU for the purpose of sharing information, coordinating activities and working towards a common research agenda and mutual research funding activities in the field of animal health. The scope includes emerging and major infectious diseases of production animals, including fish and bees and including those conditions which pose a threat to human health but excluding food safety issues relating to the handling of livestock products and diseases of wildlife except where they act as reservoirs of infection for humans or production animals.

#### 2. Call Topics

The 1<sup>st</sup> joint call for transnational projects of EMIDA includes the following 4 topics:

##### 1. Vector-borne Diseases\*

Development of underpinning knowledge and tools for early warning, detection & monitoring and novel control strategies.

##### 2. Zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance, excluding microbial safety of products\*

Development of underpinning knowledge and tools for early warning, detection & monitoring and novel control strategies.

##### 3. Major infectious diseases affecting production\*

Development of underpinning knowledge and tools for early warning, detection & monitoring and novel control strategies including genetics of resistance.

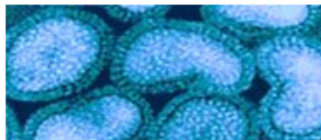
##### 4. Aquaculture\*

Development of underpinning knowledge and tools for early warning, detection & monitoring and novel control strategies, particularly vaccine-based approaches.

\*see ANNEX I: Detailed Descriptions of Topics



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### 3. Project Eligibility Criteria

In order to increase the capacity of European animal health science and research and to enhance the coordination and collaboration of pan-European research activities in this field, funding opportunities will be offered to excellent and innovative transnational R&D projects.

- The maximum project duration is three years.
- Project consortia must involve a minimum of three partners from three different (participating) countries. Members from non-participating countries are welcome, but will have to fund their contribution to the research project themselves.
- Potential project consortia partners must contact their national contact points to confirm whether national funding might be available for any particular subject within the four topics before agreeing to participate. National call documents are legally binding.
- Proposals coming forward with support (financial or in kind) from industry or other non-EMIDA funding bodies are encouraged.

### 4. Timeline

- The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **16th November 2009, 1p.m. (CET)**.
- Invitations for full proposals will be from **23rd December 2009**.
- The deadline for submitting full proposals will be **1st March 2010, 1p.m. (CET)**.
- The funding decisions will be announced at the **end of June 2010**.

### 5. Application Procedure

**Applications will involve a two-step submission procedure** with a **pre-proposal** and a **full proposal**. All proposals must be submitted electronically to the EMIDA ERA-Net call office ([www.submission-emida-era.net](http://www.submission-emida-era.net)) as the central communication point

**Pre-proposals** will be checked for national **eligibility criteria**, to be published in the **EMIDA ERA-Net 1<sup>st</sup> call guidelines** by each country ([www.submission-emida-era.net](http://www.submission-emida-era.net)). **The project description may not exceed 3 pages.**

An internal EMIDA ERA-Net panel will decide which consortia will be invited to submit full proposals.

**Full proposals** will be peer reviewed by an expert panel that is different for each of the four topics.

### 6. Forms and Guidelines

Forms and guidelines will be available after 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 on [www.submission-emida-era.net](http://www.submission-emida-era.net).

**Visit our website for more information**

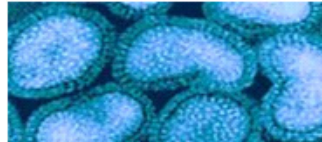
[www.EMIDA-ERA.Net](http://www.EMIDA-ERA.Net)

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## ANNEX I: Detailed Descriptions of Topics

### Topic 1: Vector Borne Diseases of livestock

The movement of vector borne diseases and associated factors that influence their spread are issues that should be considered on a transnational basis. Ecological changes, international trade and travel are well quoted examples that further the risk of disease spread and in recent years an extension of vector ranges has developed, resulting in an increase in vector-borne disease prevalence across much of Europe.

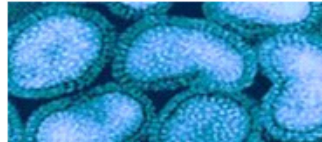
Co-ordinated efforts to improve understanding of the spread of vector borne diseases (into and within Europe), identification of future emerging pathogens that could pose a threat and importantly cost effective methods for their control are required. Further information on the epidemiology and host-pathogen interactions of many of these diseases is necessary for the development of such control tools.

Research proposals should be aimed at providing knowledge and information that will aid the development of appropriate approaches to the early warning, prevention, control and eradication of such diseases. Collaborative proposals are invited that address one or more of the following topics:

- Development of cost effective control tools including novel vaccines, remote and laboratory diagnostic tests and vector abatement methods.
- Improved understanding of the epidemiology (and modelling) of vector borne diseases from local to continental scale (including disease spread within and into Europe); development of early warning and early identification strategies on a European level.
- Further understanding of host/pathogen/vector interaction.
- Further understanding of the complexity of natural history that may result in the development of habitats favourable for the introduction and transmission of vector borne diseases.
- Science based prioritisation of current and emerging diseases posing the greatest risk to animal and/or public health.

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## Topic 2: Zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance, excluding microbial safety of products

Animal reservoirs are an important source for (re-)emerging zoonoses. HIV, BSE, SARS, Avian and Swine Influenza are examples of infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans in the recent decades. Not all of these diseases do impair animal health, but when livestock health is involved serious economic consequences can result from an introduction and an outbreak of such a disease. Even, if not, the effect on human health and the impact on society at large can be enormous. The same will apply for the antimicrobial resistance introduced in everyday life as a result of the use of antibiotics in the livestock industry. On this background the EC Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013) provides focus to deal with these issues. As stated that 'prevention is better than cure' the enhancement of early warning will be necessary, which allow preventive measures to be taken. This requires development of cost-effective sensitive and fast detection, identification and monitoring systems, both generic (screening) and specific, next to the improvement of the quality, accuracy, availability and timeliness of data on live animals and feed, both within countries and across Member State borders.

Regarding the reduction of the use of antibiotics and any subsequent decreases in antimicrobial resistance, a basic foundation on the quantitative effect still seems to be lacking. Nevertheless there is a need for alternatives for (use of) antibiotics.

Research proposals should be aimed at providing knowledge and information that will either aid the development of appropriate approaches to the early warning, prevention, control and eradication of zoonoses, contribute to hazard identification and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance or enhance the development of effective alternatives for (use of) antibiotics in order to maintain their efficacy and protect public health. Collaborative proposals are invited that address one or more of the following topics:

- Development of cost-effective sensitive and fast detection, identification and monitoring systems, both generic (screening) and specific, contributing to enhancement of early warning of zoonotic diseases.
- Improvement of the quality, accuracy, availability and timeliness of data on live animals and feed, both within countries and across Member State borders, contributing to enhancement of early warning of zoonotic diseases.
- Development or improvement of cost-effective, sensitive and fast systems of hazard identification and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance.
- Development of innovative alternatives for (use of) antibiotics in animal production.

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### Topic 3: Major infectious diseases affecting production

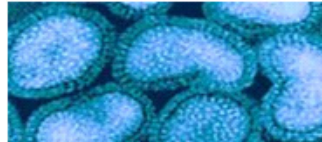
Disease continues to be a major constraint on livestock production across all sectors, having a significant impact on welfare while increasing production costs and the environmental footprint associated with food products of animal origin. Changing production systems and pathogen evolution have resulted in the re-emergence of some disease problems that had previously been brought under control while multi-pathogen disease syndromes remain a major challenge. The viability of the European livestock industries depends on them remaining at the forefront of technological developments to reduce the impact of disease and meet the demands for environmentally neutral and more humane production systems.

Proposals should address, through the generation of underpinning knowledge and technological advances, one or more of the following:

- Development of diagnostic tests and strategies for the early detection and monitoring of disease, or disease causing agents, including subclinical conditions affecting production.
- Development of sustainable disease control methods that minimise or reduce reliance on the use of antimicrobial/anti-parasitic compounds and other chemicals in order to maintain their efficacy and protect public health.
- Promotion of disease prevention/control through improved bio-security, including vaccination or other immunological intervention.
- Promotion of sustainable methods, including selection for increased resistance, to reduce or eliminate endemic diseases, which have a significant impact on animal welfare and production costs.

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#### Topic 4: Aquaculture

In a global perspective, the aquaculture industry is the fastest growing food sector with an average increase of 6-8% per year. In the EU, however, stagnation has been observed over the last 6 years with a yearly production in the EU-27 of 1.3 million tons. Almost ½ of all consumed fish in the world originate from aquaculture and the demand for aquaculture products is ever growing. On this background, a new strategy for sustainable development of the European aquaculture sector was launched by the Commission in April 2009.

An important pillar in this strategy is the health aspects and measures for preventing the introduction of diseases as well as the use of vaccines and non pollutant food additives as alternatives to antibiotics and toxic chemical products.

The recently implemented Council Directive 2006/88/EC (adopted 1st August 2009) aims at improving health status in the EU aquaculture industry through early warning systems and increased vigilance towards new and emerging diseases.

Prevention and early warning of infectious diseases in aquaculture require the development of cost-effective, sensitive, specific and fast diagnostic tests, combined with knowledge of important factors for the introduction, spread and disappearance of the diseases. Once introduced, several diseases can only be controlled effectively through the use of vaccines. In some cases there are effective vaccines on the market that need to be optimized by introducing new and better vaccination strategies, in other cases there is a need for development of new vaccines.

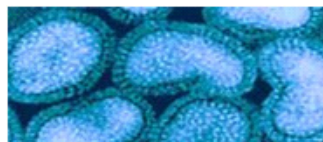
Proposals should address, through the generation of underpinning knowledge and technological advances, one or more of the following:

- Use of strategic vaccination as a tool for controlling and eradicating diseases in aquaculture.
- Development of sensitive, specific, fast, and low cost diagnostic tests for detection of pathogens in aquaculture.
- Functional genomics of important pathogens in aquaculture for understanding pathogenicity mechanisms.
- Molecular epidemiology and spatio-temporal analysis to improve knowledge on the most important factors in the spread and disappearance of diseases in aquaculture.

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## ANNEX II: National Contact Points

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