



# FLUTRAIN

Training and technology transfer of Avian influenza diagnostic and disease management skills

Coordination Action

Sustainable management of Europe's natural resources  
Sixth Framework Programme  
Priority SSP/8.1  
Policy-oriented research

<b>Periodic activity report</b>
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## First year

Period covered: from 01-03-2007 to 01-03-2008

Date of preparation: April 2008

Start date of project: 01-03-2007

Duration: 36 months

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Project coordinator organisation name:

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle  
Venezie (IZSVe)

## **Publishable executive summary**

The world wide avian influenza crisis has highlighted the need for comprehensive training and the transfer of technology to accession and INCO countries with the clear goal of aiding these countries in combating AI with the most up-to-date diagnostic and disease management procedures. The FLUTRAIN project is aiming to fulfil this requirement at two levels. It will firstly approach the need for training by providing two workshops over the duration of the project (3 years) that will call on experts in the AI field to pass on their valuable expertise in the diagnosis and management of AI to participants from accession and INCO countries. Training opportunities will also be provided in partner labs in order to consolidate the information and practical experience gained during the workshops. In addition a CD-ROM will be prepared containing essential information provided during the workshops. A website will be developed which will enable participants and the general public to access the training programs and will include on-line discussion forums between trainees and trainers. The second goal of FLUTRAIN will be the transfer of technology to accession and INCO countries. This will include the provision of new, simplified and cost effective diagnostic methods and reagents. It will also involve the transfer of deliverables, both for serological and virological diagnosis that have been (or will be) developed in three European projects namely AVIFLU, Lab-on-Site and FLUAID. The consortium is made up of 11 members which includes 2 SMEs. Eight associated partners have also been identified. Finally FLUTRAIN will identify and supply funds, in a bi-lateral manner, for one-off specific support missions that will target specific AI problems in recipient countries.

The goals of FLUTRAIN are being achieved through the close interaction between European institutes along with the collaboration of Associated Partners as listed below:

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Participant name</b>	<b>Country</b>
P1	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie	Italy
P2	Veterinary Laboratories Agency	UK
P3	Central Institute for Animal Disease Control	Netherlands
P4	Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre	Belgium
P5	University of Ghent	Belgium
P6	Swedish University of Agricultural Science	Sweden
P7	Istituto Zooprofilattico di Brescia	Italy
P8	Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research	Denmark
P9	Università degli Studi di Padova	Italy
P10	Capture Productions Limited	Ireland
P11	Svannova Biotech AB	Sweden

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Associated Participant name</b>	<b>Country</b>
AP1	United States Department of Agriculture Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory – USDA	USA
AP2	Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health	Romania
AP3	Poultry Centre of the Croatian Veterinary Institute	Croatia
AP4	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
AP5	Firat University	Turkey
AP6	National Research Veterinary Institute	Nigeria
AP7	National Center for Veterinary Diagnosis	Vietnam
AP8	Department of Emerging and Exotic Diseases	Bulgaria

The work performed and the most significant results achieved in the first 12 months by FLUTRAIN are summarised below. Detailed results are available in the FLUTRAIN first year periodic activity report.

- *Workshop on Avian Influenza: outbreak management, EU legislation and intervention strategies*

A three day workshop was held in Legnaro, Italy on the 20-22 November 2007. It had the objective of delivering updated information on AI outbreak management within the EU, and offered the opportunity to improve knowledge on AI legislation, ecology, epidemiology and diagnosis. The workshop included a theoretical part and a practical session aiming at developing skills related to outbreak management and professional networking among participants. Twenty participants from Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, Vietnam, Nigeria, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Belgium attended the workshop.

- *Assessment missions for selection for workshop candidates*

In the first year of the project it was decided to focus primarily on EU-bordering countries. Therefore, in order to select suitable candidates, laboratory assessment missions were organised in eight beneficiary countries namely: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine. The assessment teams consisted of a senior and junior Veterinarian/Scientist from partner laboratories. A comprehensive report was prepared following each mission.

- *Workshop on Avian influenza diagnostics*

Based on the results of the assessment missions, a 2 week workshop on AI diagnostics was jointly held at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (P1) and the Veterinary Medicine Faculty, University of Padova (P9) Legnaro Italy from the 28<sup>th</sup> January to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2008.

Participants of the workshop were from diagnostic laboratories in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine.

- *Internships in partner laboratories*

In order to consolidate the techniques and skills obtained during the workshop on AI diagnostics, internships lasting two week were organised for candidates from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine in 4 EU partner laboratories (P1, P3, P4 and P6) directly following the workshop.

- *Support mission*

Following a specific assistance request from the Central Laboratory for Veterinary Quality Control on Poultry Production, Cairo, Egypt an expert in DNA sequencing techniques was sent from P1's laboratory to assist the Egyptian colleagues in the successful implementation of routine sequencing in their laboratory .

- *Transfer of technology developed in other EU funded projects to INCO and accession countries*

Real-Time PCR protocols for AI subtypes H5 and H7 that were developed and validated during the AVIFLU project were transferred to participants during the first Avian influenza diagnostic workshop in Legnaro, Italy (28<sup>th</sup> January to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2008).

- Group photo from the 2 week workshop on Avian influenza diagnostics jointly held at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (P1) and the Veterinary Medicine Faculty, University of Padova (P9) Legnaro Italy from the 28<sup>th</sup> January to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2008.

