



VETBIONET

Veterinary Biocontained facility Network for excellence in animal infectiology research and experimentation

Deliverable D6.1

List of Activities of Interest to be maintained after the EU funding period, inventory of potential external funding sources and identification of partner legal requirements

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1. Summary

Objectives:

D 6.1 relates to Task 6.1 (*Identification of the activities and tools to be maintained in the long term*) within WP6 (*Network Sustainability*) to compile a list of VetBioNet activities and tools that can be maintained beyond the current five-year term of funding under Horizon 2020. There are three specific objectives:

- 1) Identify potential future users and funders of Network Services
- 2) Organise two stakeholder workshops
- 3) Identify tools and resources to be maintained (including databases)

These objectives have been addressed through internal and external consultation as described below.

Rationale:

A Sustainability Board comprising five VetBioNet partners (MRI, INRA, AU, CVI, FLI) was established in the first instance to provide focused leadership on matters relating to Network sustainability. The members of the Sustainability Board were instrumental in the identification of future users and in setting up the first Stakeholder Workshop where community opinions could be gathered. There was additional input into the planning and running of the Stakeholder Workshop by UNOTT, APHA and EAAP.

The meeting was structured over two half-days with a networking event in the evening with a view to addressing the three specific objectives described above. The rationale was to provide Stakeholders with a description of VetBioNet activities followed by a consultation on which activities should be maintained and a discussion on how that might be achieved. The VetBioNet co-ordinator (INRA) described the overall structure and aims of the Network, followed by presentations by the WP leaders on sustainability (MRI), transnational access (WBVR), best practice (APHA), ethics and societal impact (UNOTT) and data resources, communication and stakeholder engagement (EAAP). The Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to describe their own organisations and their interests in VetBioNet.

Teams involved:

This activity involved the VetBioNet Sustainability Board members (MRI, INRA, AU, CVI, FLI) and a number of other VetBioNet partners allocated to Task 6.1 (UEDIN, TPI, APHA, INIA, EDI-IVI, PIWET, MS, ANSES, Erasmus MC, IZSVe, UNOTT, EAAP).

2. Introduction

The aim of this deliverable is to identify the activities and tools of interest to be maintained after the current period of VetBioNet funding under Horizon 2020. This was achieved through Stakeholder consultation. Internal Stakeholders are the VetBioNet Consortium partners themselves, External Stakeholders encompasses a wide range of networks, organisations and funders who have an interest in VetBioNet facilities, activities and resources. The identification of External Stakeholders was the first objective of this deliverable. This was achieved by the VetBioNet Sustainability Board drafting a list of potential Stakeholders, which was then circulated to all VetBioNet Consortium members for comments and additional suggestions. The list of 58 organisations can be seen in Annex 1. This was used as the basis to prioritise which Stakeholders should be invited to the First Stakeholder Workshop at COPA-COGECA in Brussels on 27-28 November 2017. The Workshop was attended by 16 Internal Stakeholders and 14 External Stakeholders. As described above, the Internal Stakeholder presentations were designed to provide the External Stakeholders with knowledge of VetBioNet facilities, resources and activities. The External Stakeholder presentations were designed to inform all participants of their activities and potential interests in VetBioNet. Collectively, these presentations set the scene for three interactive sessions on the second day of the workshop to discuss VetBioNet activities that would be of interest for sustainability. These sessions were facilitated by VetBioNet WP leaders and focussed on: (a) transnational access; (b) best practices, ethics and societal impact; and (c) data resources, communication and stakeholder engagement. The outcomes of these sessions are listed below.

3. Results

3.1 Result 1: The Stakeholder consultation resulted in a number of VetBioNet activities that were of interest for sustainability:

- a) Access to the BSL3 facilities and the specialised expertise within the facilities;
- b) Finding mechanisms for exchange of valuable samples;
- c) Provision of guidelines on ethics and good practice;
- d) Access to experimental protocols and new technologies that reduce animal usage (3Rs);
- e) Establishing mechanisms for data access and data sharing (including data protection and confidentiality) via an outward-facing web portal for the Network.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°731014

3.2 Result 2: A report on the Stakeholder Workshop is publically available on the VetBioNet website: <http://www.vetbionet.eu/first-vetbionet-stakeholders-meeting/>

4. Conclusions

The First Stakeholder Workshop identified a number of activities that should be maintained beyond the current term of funding for VetBioNet under Horizon 2020. The identification of precise funding mechanisms by which VetBioNet sustainability can be achieved extends beyond Task 6.1 within WP6. This includes ‘Identification of partner legal requirements’ which is on the Agenda for discussion at the Second VetBioNet Annual Meeting in Madrid in May 2019. This includes the legal frameworks and licences for working with pathogens, genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) and animals, which are all relevant for TNAs. It is worth noting that the political landscape within Europe has changed considerably from the inception of VetBioNet. Future funding mechanisms for UK partners within EU Consortia are yet to be decided but are likely to impact in some way on the future of VetBioNet. A second Stakeholder Meeting is being planned and will take place sometime after the Second Annual VetBioNet Meeting in Autumn 2019.

5. Annexes

Annex 1: Potential VetBioNet Stakeholders for Sustainability

Organisation	Organisation type
STAR-IDAZ	International Research Consortium
BBSRC UK Veterinary Vaccinology Network	UK Research Network
International Veterinary Vaccinology Network	International Research Network
EVAg-H2020	European Network
MIRRI-ESFRI	European Network
EMBARC /MIRRI	European Network
ERINHA (European Research	European Network

Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents)	
EVI	European Network
MedVetNet/Cofund One-Health (2017 application)	European Network
COPA COGECA	European Agri-Cooperative
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
IFAH Europe	Association Representing Manufacturers of Animal Health Products in Europe
Health for Animals	Global Animal Medicines Association
Diagnostics for Animals	Association Representing Manufacturers of Animal Health Diagnostics
IABS	International Alliance for Biological Standardization
ZAPI	Public-Private Partnership on Disease Preparedness
EATRIS-ESFRI	European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine
EPIZONE-ERG	European Research Network
SAPHIR-H2020	Horizon 2020 Research Project
PARAGONE-H2020	Horizon 2020 Research Project
BIOSTEP-H2020	Horizon 2020 Project Promoting Stakeholder on the European Bioeconomy
CIRAD	Agricultural Research and International Cooperation Organisation

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TargetFish-FP7	FP7 Research Project
EAS	European Aquaculture Society
AQUA EXCEL	Horizon 2020 Aquaculture Research Infrastructures Project
ASForce-FP7	FP7 Research Project
OFFLU	Network of expertise on animal influenza
GalvMED	Global Sustainable Improvement in Smalholder Agriculture
BSL4ZNet	High Containment Laboratory Preparedness Network
MedVetNet	Self-Sustainable Association for Zoonoses Research
IDOH	European Union Infectious Diseases and One Health
LMU Munich	University, TNA User
FU Berlin	University, TNA User
Norwegian Veterinary Institute	Research Organisation, BSL3
ECDC	European Union Agency for Defence Against Infectious Diseases
DG SANTE	The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission
Merial	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Zoetis	Company Producing Animal Health Products
MSD	Company Producing Animal Health Products

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Bayer Animal Health	Company Producing Animal Health Products
CEVA	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Boehringer-Ingelheim Animal Health GmbH	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Virbac	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Elanco Animal Health	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Lohmann Animal Health	Company Producing Animal Health Products
Olmix	Company Providing Algae-based Solutions for Human, Animal and Plant Health
IDEXX	Veterinary Diagnostics Service Provider
ID Vet	Manufacturer of Farm Animal Diagnostic Kits
Klifovet AG	Provider of Multi-Centre, Multinational Studies
CEBIPHAR	Contractor for Clinical Studies
EBRF	Forum for Human, Animal and Plant Pathogen Biosecurity
EBSA	Biosafety and Biosecurity Best Practices
International Veterinary Biosafety Workgroup	Best Practice in Veterinary Microbiological Biocontainment and Safety
European Commission	Funder

Annex 2: Report on First VetBioNet Stakeholder Meeting, COPA-COGECA (Brussels), 27-28 November 2017

The goal of WorkPackage (WP)6 of VetBioNet is to develop a Sustainability Plan to maintain the network of pre-eminent high-containment (BSL3) research facilities across Europe to conduct research on epizootic and zoonotic diseases beyond the current funding period under Horizon 2020 (2017-2022). An essential step towards the development of this Sustainability Plan is the identification of stakeholders who have an interest in the outputs of research conducted within the VetBioNet facilities. Potential stakeholders include research funders, research scientists, policy makers and industry who are working towards the prevention and control of infectious diseases of livestock and zoonoses.

WP6 is committed to hosting two VetBioNet stakeholder meetings within the first 24 months of the project. The goal is facilitate knowledge exchange between the VetBioNet Consortium and stakeholders for efficiency of scale of the BSL3 facilities to ultimately benefit the European bioeconomy. The first of these meetings was held at COPA-COGECA in Brussels on 27-28 November 2017. There were 30 attendees, 16 were from VetBioNet and 14 were stakeholder representatives from other European-funded projects/networks, public organisations, industry, funders and charities. It should be noted that the VetBioNet members themselves are primary stakeholders in the project.

The meeting was structured over two half-days with a networking reception in the evening. The purpose and desired outcomes of the meeting were set out on the first day. This included a presentation from the VetBioNet Co-ordinators (Frédéric Lantier & Sascha Trapp, INRA) describing the overall structure and aims of the Consortium. This was followed by presentations by the WP leaders on sustainability (Gary Entrican, MRI), transnational access (Norbert Stockhofe, WBVR), best practice (Hugh Simmons, APHA), ethics and societal impact (Kate Millar, UNOTT) and data Resources, communication and stakeholder engagement (Andrea Rosati, EAAP). The session concluded with short presentations from 10 stakeholders from different sectors explaining their own backgrounds and potential interests in VetBioNet.

The second day involved stakeholder consultation, informed by the presentations from the previous day. Delegates were allocated into three parallel working groups that discussed (1) transnational access; (2) best practices, ethics and societal impact; and (3) data resources, communication and stakeholder engagement. The working groups covered each topic in turn with the discussions facilitated by the same VetBioNet WP leaders who then summarised the collective findings in short summary presentations. Among the areas where sustainability was seen to be important were: access to the BSL3 facilities and the specialised expertise

within the facilities; mechanisms for exchange of valuable samples; provision of guidelines on ethics and good practice; access to experimental protocols and new technologies that reduce animal usage (3Rs). It was agreed that establishing mechanisms for data access and data sharing (including data protection and confidentiality) via an outward-facing web portal is fundamental to all of these areas.

Feedback from the meeting and the summaries of the discussion groups will form a basis for the second stakeholder meeting which will take place in autumn 2019 at a date and venue to be decided.