



MEDREONET NEWSLETTER N°1

Management

As far as administrative matters are concerned, few comments have been sent for the consortium agreement. We will send soon the final copy for signature.

All of you (except Morocco) should now have received the first prefinancing payments. You will find in the attached document the costs eligible for the project.

Note that eligible costs are depending upon each partner's duties. In your internal financial plan, do not forget the costs for audit and overheads.

Additional meetings

Apart from the meetings needed for the different WP activities, keeping in mind that the objective of the project is to share information and encourage meetings on *Culicoides* borne disease, it is possible to organise additional meetings for instance on a regional basis.

The following rules apply:

- Objectives of the meeting have to fulfil Med_Reo_Net objectives
- Med_Reo_Net coordinator has to be informed about the objectives and the participants of this meeting.
- In order to disseminate the results of this meeting, a short summary of conclusions will be send to the coordinator.
- Note that it is additional activities and that the core activities of Med_Reo_Net are the priority.

Some WP activities news:

For each WP, minutes of the kick off meeting will be available on Med_Reo_Net website.

WP1: you have all received the questionnaire designed by Armando Giovannini. For the countries where several labs are involved please centralise the information at national level before sending the questionnaire to Armando.

WP2: Very interesting discussions started on traps comparison which is a key topic for our work. We hope to have soon the protocol(s) ready before starting field studies.

WP4: Development of Med_Reo_Net web-based GIS has started in IZS Teramo. BT maps will first be developed and then for the other related diseases (AHS, EHDV). The idea is to develop, like in East-BTNet, a map for official outbreaks at province level (Nuts 3).

WP5: A meeting of the partners involved in field studies (Algeria, Bulgaria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey) is planned for the end of the first semester 2007 in CRESA, Barcelona in the framework of WP5 "Risk assessment".



Additional information

OIE network for bluetongue Reference Laboratories

A meeting of the OIE ad hoc group on bluetongue was organised under the auspices of the OIE on 14 March 2007 in Italy. The aim is to develop a network for bluetongue OIE Reference Laboratories. The establishment of a worldwide network of OIE Bluetongue Reference Laboratories will contribute to improve the knowledge of the bluetongue epidemiological situation and will support the development of a wider global bluetongue surveillance network. Such a network will also provide additional data and analysis of data on the global situation of the disease thereby increasing the efficacy of the system as a tool for international animal disease control and to facilitate international trade of animals.

Note that this has a broader geographical perspective than Medreonet. Medreonet was presented during this meeting where some Medreonet partners were present as OIE bluetongue reference laboratories.

BT8 epidemic

Epidemiological analysis of the BT8 epizootic has been released on the EFSA website.
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/in_focus/bluetongue/bluetongue_report_s8.html

On April 19 2007, some of the results of the EFSA BT8 working group were presented in CICDC Lelystad. Presentations in pdf format can be find here:
<http://www.cidc-lelystad.wur.nl/NL/onderzoek/Virus/Bluetongue/BT+symposium/>