

RISKSUR

Providing a new generation of methodologies and tools for cost-effective risk-based animal health surveillance systems for the benefit of livestock producers, decision makers and consumers

Background

The increase in the occurrence of new (emerging) diseases and the spread of exotic ones along with increasing levels of endemic and food-borne diseases require earlier, better and safer surveillance to achieve this objective. Furthermore, it is recognised that improved protection of human health will require more effective linking of animal and human health surveillance systems as well as adoption of interdisciplinary approaches, which is one of the aspects of the One Health concept. However, financial constraints of governments in times of public spending cuts have reduced or limited investments in surveillance of animal disease.

In addition, cross-compliance and equivalence issues constrain governments in relation to surveillance strategy design. Efficient and practical solutions taking advantage of the novel scientific methodologies are urgently needed, as well as integration of epidemiological approaches with socio-economic and qualitative methods where appropriate.

Objectives

The overall aim of RISKSUR is to develop and validate conceptual and decision support frameworks and associated tools for designing efficient risk-based animal health surveillance systems. RISKSUR will develop tools and frameworks targeted at the following surveillance objectives associated with livestock diseases:

1. Detection of incursion of exotic, new (emerging) and re-emerging disease
2. Declaration of freedom from specified diseases and infections
3. Monitoring of endemic diseases (case detection, disease frequency estimation)

The RISKSUR objectives will be achieved through the following strategies:

- Bringing together a multi-disciplinary consortium of veterinarians, epidemiologists and economists.
- Using extensive applied experience in design and implementation of animal health surveillance systems at farm, regional, national and/or international level and economic evaluation.
- Involving business partners with applied expertise in animal health surveillance and the early adoption and translation of new technology to guarantee data access to ensure the development of practical solutions.
- Collaborating with key stakeholders to ensure policy relevance such as veterinary administrations and the Chief Veterinary Offices (CVO) from different countries.

Funding Programme:

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement N°310806.



Project Duration:

01/11/2012 – 31/10/2015

Project Budget:

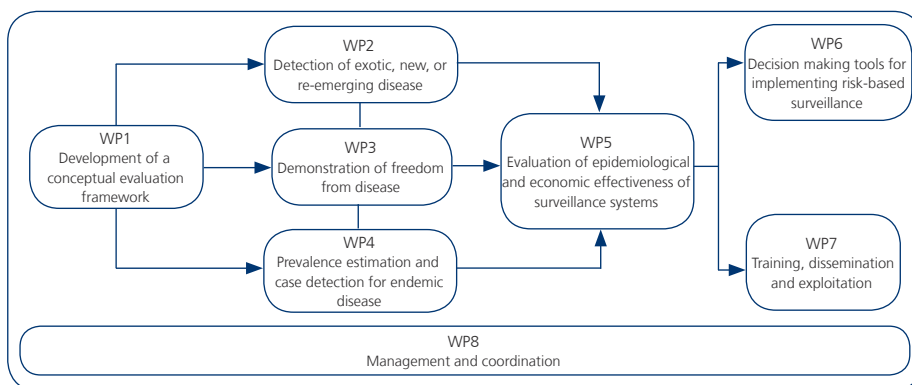
3.8 million euro

Project Website:

www.fp7-risksur.eu

Activities

The concept of the proposed RISKSUR project is to focus on the above three surveillance objectives in different workpackages (WP).



The first WP (WP1) will develop a conceptual generic framework for design of risk-based surveillance systems, including novel scientific methods. The latter will be developed for each of the aforementioned three surveillance objectives in WPs 2-4. The results of these will be evaluated for single and multi-objective surveillance systems specifically in relation to their efficiency in WP5. The transfer of knowledge and technology to key stakeholders from policy and industry is facilitated through the development of tools assisting the implementation of the systems under WP 6 as well as communication and training in WP 7. WP 8 covers the project coordination and management

Impact

This highly integrated multi-disciplinary European research project will have a considerably high impact on animal health surveillance and disease control and prevention. Over the last 20-30 years the amount of data generated by surveillance systems has increased substantially, as has the range of scientific methods that have been developed in this context. But decision makers find it difficult to adopt new tools due to lack of validation and integration into complex systems. As a consequence, the surveillance systems in most countries do not fully exploit the data, in a situation where risks of disease emergence and spread as well as the impact of the consequences of such events have increased substantially and the resources available to deal with these events are being under increasing pressure.

RISKSUR will generate structured and transparent decision support tools that are based on validated scientific methods which will for the first time provide decision makers with objective mechanisms for informing surveillance system design that includes cost-effectiveness calculations.

Project Coordinator:

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Project Participants:

- accelopment AG, CH
- Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, UK
- Arcadia International, BE
- Cirad – Agricultural Research for Development, FR
- Complutense University of Madrid, ES
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IT
- Friedrich-Löffler-Institut, DE
- Gezondheidsdienst voor Dieren – Dutch Animal Health Service, NL
- Safoso AG, CH
- Swedish National Veterinary Institute, SE
- TraceTracker AS, NO