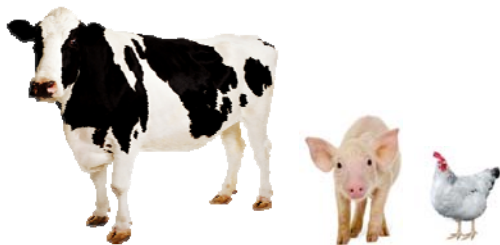


VET-TWIN Newsletter 01/2016



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First meeting of Vet-Twin project

The "kick off" meeting of Vet-Twin project was held on February 25th, 2016 at the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy (NVRI). The title of the project coordinated by the NVRI is "Strengthening of scientific excellence of the National Veterinary Research Institute in animal health and food chain safety". The project aims to raise the profile of scientific Institute and to enhance the scientific collaboration within the consortium through common publications and applying for EU research projects. Much attention is drawn to young researchers - the project is meant to create environment for their continuous development and to increase their mobility. The project also aims to prepare the concept of scientific cooperation of three Institutes in the future, when the project is

finished. Vet-Twin is coordinated by the project leader Dr. Miroslaw Polak.

The meeting was attended by guests from partner Institutes: Anne Mayer-Scholl PhD from BfR, Kristian Moeller PhD and Lars Ole Andresen PhD from DTU-Vet, and representatives of the NVRI. The Polish side was represented by Krzysztof Niemczuk PhD, ScD (Director General of NVRI), prof. Jacek Kuźmak PhD, ScD (Deputy Director for Research, manager of WP2), Miroslaw Polak PhD, ScD (project coordinator, manager of WP1), MSc Monika Banaszek-Urban, Malgorzata Olejnik PhD (manager of WP4), Krzysztof Śmietanka PhD, ScD (manager of WP5), Dariusz Wasyl PhD, ScD (manager of WP3) and

Grzegorz Woźniakowski PhD, ScD
(manager of WP6).



Pic. 1. Participants of “kick off” meeting in Pulawy.

During the meeting each Work Package has been presented by its Manager and the participation of each partner within the project as well as principles of communication within the consortium have been discussed.

Presentation of Work Packages

Work Package 1

The management structure of the project includes The Project Assembly (PA), The Steering Committee (SC) and The Dissemination and Exploitation Group (DEG). PA is composed of one representative from each partner and is chaired by the Project Coordinator. It will be the governing body of the consortium. The members are: Mirosław Polak, Karsten Noeckler from BfR and Ulrike Lyhs from DTU-Vet. SC will be the executive body of the consortium, and it consists of the Work Package (WP) Managers, chaired by the Project Coordinator. The SC will be responsible for the day-to-day technical development of the project, including the work-plan follow-up and the application of the foreseen contingency measures, in case deviations are detected. DEG will be responsible for exploitable deliverables and will be the communication branch of the project. Members of this body are: Andrzej Kowalczyk, Marek Kukier, Mirosław Polak, Dariusz Wasyl and Grzegorz Woźniakowski.

Work Package 2

Implementation of this work package should contribute to the achievement of the specific objective No.1 defined as ‘to strengthen the potential and capability for international cooperation and integration’. As the effect of work within this package, two strategic documents will be prepared. For this purpose the Working Group should be defined, consisting of 2-3 representatives from each partner. They should cover three following research areas: 1) diagnosis of infectious diseases, 2) zoonoses and 3) food safety. This Working Group should meet once a year and prepare reports from those meetings. First meeting ought to be organized in October/November 2016 to exchange data related to recent projects, recent advances, current needs and emerging threats among defined research areas. After NVRI will purchase the equipment for teleconferences, meetings of the Working Group, as well as meetings of other project

bodies, could be organized in such a way. Kristian Moeller will be the key person appointed to the Working Group by DTU-Vet.

Work Package 3

E-Platform should be a tool for direct communication between partners and be available only for researchers working in the three institutes. One of its functionalities will be a database of registered scientists, with personal accounts, where users will define their research areas and submit publications, conference papers etc. Therefore researchers will be able to find partners for new projects and contact them directly. Also information about open calls for projects, PhD studies, conferences will be published there.

Work Package 4

This work package is dedicated for training activities. 15 trainings for 20 researchers from NVRI are planned to be organized by partners from Denmark and Germany (9 in DTU-Vet and 6 in BfR). Experienced scientists, with at least a basic knowledge on the subject, committed and motivated, will be the participants of those trainings. They will also provide in-house trainings afterwards. There are 6 main topics for the trainings:

- - NGS,
- - qPCR Platform,
- - Multiplex serology,
- - Risk assessment,
- - Molecular methods and MS for detection of foodborne pathogens,
- - HRMS in proteomics.

Work Package 5

First task within this Work Package is the organization of 4 summer/winter schools. Summer schools are proposed to be organized in early July on following subjects:

- 1) Emerging infectious diseases and zoonotic threats.
- 2) Chemical food safety.

and winter schools (in February or March) on:

- 1) Project design for fund raising; Intellectual property rights, research commercialization.
- 2) Genomics in veterinary research and diagnosis.

External participants, especially from other institutes that NVRI will be welcomed to join those schools.

Second task is the organization of short term (two weeks to two months) missions in DTU-Vet and BfR for young scientists from NVRI. Calls for those missions should be made once or twice a year, so they would fit the current needs. Experts from DTU-Vet and BfR will be asked to participate in the evaluation of applications, as they will be able to decide whether such internship is possible to be organized or not (subject, date, etc.).

Third task is dedicated to the congress for young scientists. The proposed date for it is autumn 2017. It can be good idea to engage PhD students of NVRI in organization of the congress, since usually this group is considered as 'young scientists'. There is no clear definition of 'young scientists' in the VET-TWIN project description, so apart from PhD students also scientists without PhD or having PhD not longer

than 7 years could be considered as 'young'.

Work Package 6

WP 6 Manager presented the tasks assigned to this WP:

- 1) Partnership newsletter - to be issued twice a year;
- 2) Identification and participation in selected conferences and events where the project and its participants will be presented;

- 3) Lectures given by experts from partner institutes and trained NVRI scientists during thematic annual conferences (organized by NVRI) on fish, poultry, swine, cattle diseases and food safety;
- 4) Organizing "Open Day of NVRI" for school and university students - one of them can be joined with young scientists congress (WP 5).

Twining Coordinators Day in Brussels

On March 14th, 2016 Dr. Mirosław Polak PhD DsC and Ms. Agata Bialek took part in a training meeting for twinning projects coordinators (Twining Coordinators Day) within Horizon 2020, which was held in Brussels.

In the official part of the meeting representatives of the Research Executive Agency - B5, the EU agenda that is coordinating twinning projects from the European Commission, presented issues concerning networking among project beneficiaries, expected effects of ongoing work and formal and financial aspects of the projects in the Horizon 2020 programme. Additionally, the statistics from the first call for Twining actions were presented. In total 552 applications from 24 countries were submitted. Most of submitted/successful applications which received funding originated from Portugal (77/11), Poland (62/7),

Czech Republic (56/5) and Romania (53/9).



Pic. 2. Twining Coordinators Day in Brussels (14.03.2016).

During the second part of the meeting the representatives of various consortia had the possibility to meet their Project Officer and discuss with them the current issues that have appeared since the beginning of project realization, as well as principles of future cooperation. Officer responsible for the Vet-Twin project is Ms. Monica Hoek, a member of B5 unit, dealing with the theme entitled: "Spreading Excellence,

Widening Participation, Science with and for Society." Representatives of our Institute presented the progress of work and future plans related to the implementation of the project. The

proposed solutions and results up to date have been positively evaluated by our Project Officer.

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