LinkTADs

Overview of LinkTADs and the Main Achievements to Date

Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo, FAO

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LinkTADs Dissemination Event in EU

Time	Title	Speaker
	About LinkTADs and the Tools Available for the Research Community	
10:30-10:55	**Overview of LinkTADs and the Main Achievements to Date**	**Daniel Beltrán-Alcrudo** *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*
10:55-11:20	**Chinese Research Funding and LinkTADs Online Cooperation Opportunities/ Funding Database**	**Kai Zhang** *Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI)*
	Applied Examples of Cooperation and Collaborations under LinkTADs	
11:20-11:45	**Cooperation between CIRAD and China in the Field of Veterinary Epidemiology**	**François Roger** *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)*
11:45-12:10	**Applied Research and Teaching Opportunities between the EU and China**	**Timothee Vergne** *Royal Veterinary College (RVC)*
12:10-12:35	**Evaluation of a Portable Real-Time PCR Assay for African and Classical Swine Fever Viruses via Close Collaboration**	**Frederik Widén** *Swedish National Veterinary Institute (SVA)*

Background and Rationale

China's exponential growth

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Sharp increase in demand of animal products

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Radical change in livestock production + trade + expansion of agricultural areas

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Today China is world's 1st livestock producer and consumer

- Huge importance for animal diseases
- The fight against diseases relies on developing new intervention/control tools
- International collaboration can speed up these advances
- **LinkTADs** assists in the EU-China coordination/facilitation of research

LinkTADs - Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in EU and China

Some basic data:

- FP7-funded project
- Activity Code: KBBE.2013.1.3-04
- Duration: 1 Nov 2013 - 31 Oct 2016 (36 months)
- 11 partners; 6 from Europe and 5 from China

LinkTADs Objectives

Bring together and coordinate world-class research in EU and China, thus improving scientific excellence in animal health (epidemiology and laboratory)

Main objectives:

- **identify the priority areas** for joint actions (WP2);
- **link EU and Chinese animal health** research, training programmes and innovation projects;
- ensure **networking of scientific communities** and stakeholders;
- provide a long-term vision and coordinate planning on **future common research**;
- contribute to **international policies** (WP5);
- support researchers through **exchange programmes and training** (WP7);
- **share** results and methodologies (WP8);
- **build on the network** by generating new opportunities / funded projects.

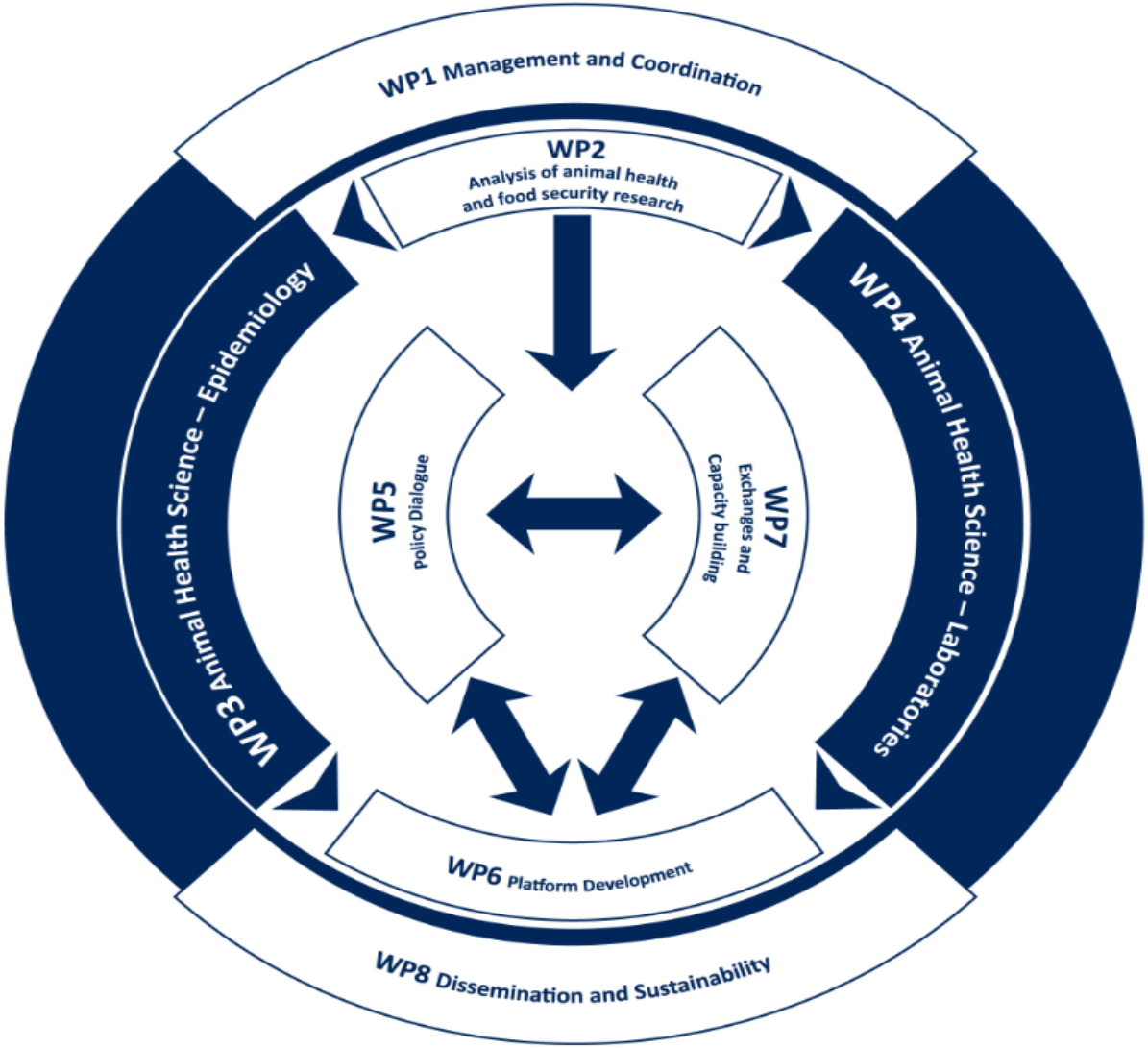
Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo – daniel.beltranalcrudo@fao.org

Participant list

#	Organization name	Short name	Country
1	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	**FAO**	Italy
2	Europa Media Non-profit Ltd.	**EM**	Hungary
3	Royal Veterinary College	**RVC**	UK
4	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherché Agronomique pour le Développement.	**CIRAD**	France
5	Staten Veterinaermedicinska Anstalt	**SVA**	Sweden
6	Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute	**SHVRI**	China
7	Harbin Veterinary Research Institute	**HVRI**	China
8	China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center	**CAHEC**	China
9	Beijing Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention	**CADC**	China
10	Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação	**SPI**	Portugal
11	Huazhong Agricultural University	**HZAU**	China

Work Packages (WPs)

WP
WP1 - Management and coordination
WP2 - Analysis of animal health and food security
WP3 - Animal Health Science (Epidemiology)
WP4 - Animal Health Science (Laboratories)
WP5 - Supporting policy dialogue
WP6 - Platform development
WP7 - Exchanges and capacity building
WP8 - Dissemination and sustainability



WP1: Coordination and Management

Leader(s): FAO, closely supported by EM

Main objectives:

- Day-to-day coordination
- Contact with beneficiaries and the EC
- Maintain good relations within the consortium

Outputs:

- Project toolbox; Quality assurance plan; Gender strategy; Memorandum with CAAS; Internal and official reporting

Coordination mechanisms:

- Consortium meetings:
  - **Kick off Meeting (Rome, November 2013)**
  - **1st Progress Meeting (Shanghai, October 2014)**
  - 2nd Progress Meeting (Vienna, October 2015)
- WP Leaders teleconferences (every 3 months)
- To-Do Lists (every 3 months) and 6-month plans

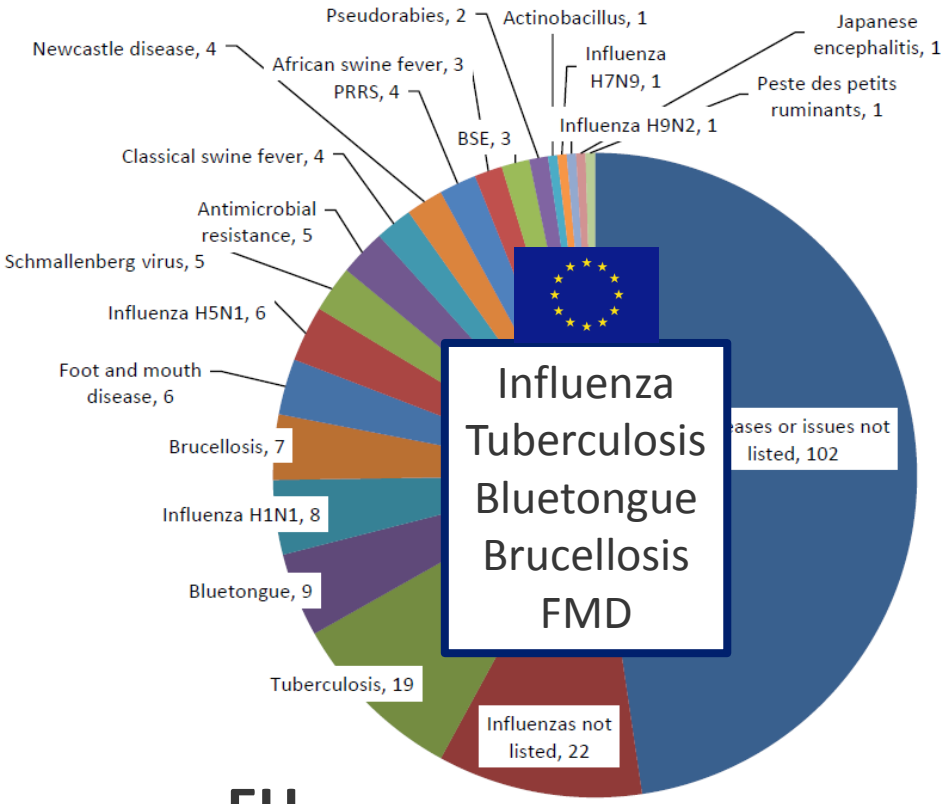
WP2: Analysis of animal health and food security research in the EU and in China

Leader/Co-leader: RVC / CADC

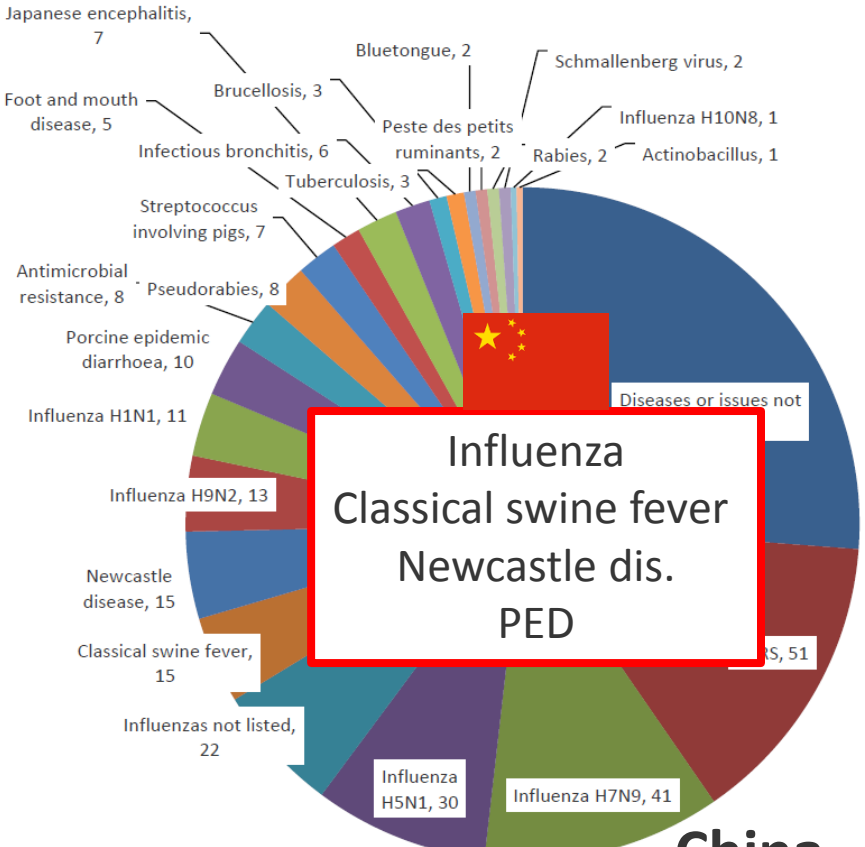
- **Objective:** Lay the technical foundations of the project, by identifying the research areas where joint actions are needed and where the future activities of the project should focus. WP3 and WP4 will build on its conclusions.
- **Main activities:**
  - **Review of emerging animal health and food security issues**
  - **Identify/map synergies, overlaps and gaps**
  - Identify areas where policy discussion/harmonization EU-China is required
    - through an on-line survey followed by a webinar

WP2: Animal health priorities in EU and China

- Literature review of published scientific papers

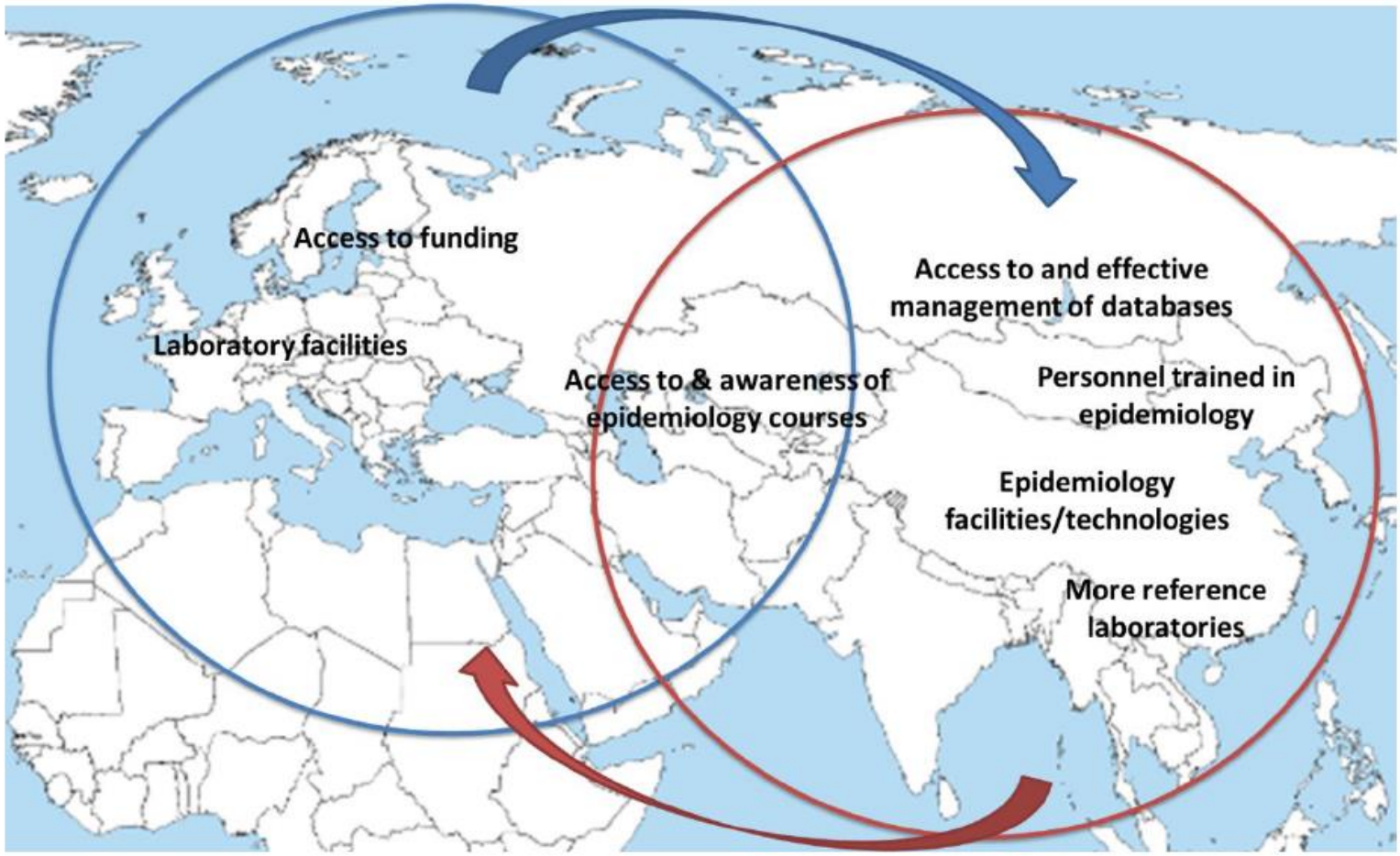


EU



China

WP2: Synergies and gaps



WP3: Animal Health Science -Epidemiology

Leader / Co-leader: CIRAD / CAHEC

- **Objective:** Improving epidemiology that would strengthen the emergence response capacity for EIDs and public health threats.
- Aims to exchange knowledge and foster cooperation in the following areas:
  - Design of **risk-based surveillance programmes**;
  - Development of **cost-effective, targeted control strategies**
  - **Identify and fill knowledge gaps** in the epidemiology/ecology/economy of priority TADs and EIDs

WP3 events summary

Task	Event	Title	Location	Date
3.1.1	**Meeting**	**Follow-up on the FETPV program**	**Beijing**	**31 July 2014**
3.1.2	**Meeting**	**Eco-epidemiology of Avian Influenza and other EIDs**	**Shanghai**	**14 April 2014**
3.2.1	**Workshop**	**Risk-based surveillance and Evaluation of surveillance systems**	**Qingdao**	**13-14 July 2015**
3.2.2	**Workshop**	**Workshop on Eco-epidemiology of TADs and EIDs**	**Qingdao**	**8-9 April 2015**
3.3	**Training**	**Field Epidemiology Training , training of trainer**	**Qingdao**	**April and July 2015**
3.4	Training	Analytical epidemiology training	TBD	TBD (2016)

WP3 - Twining of European and Chinese Research projects

Twining with RISKSUR project:

Joint event (Workshop 3.2.1)

Implementation of a Chinese RiskSur case study thanks to LinkTADs

Twining with ASFORCE project:

Twining with H5N1 and H7N9 transmission ecology project (NIH):

Joint event (Meeting 3.1.2)

JE collaboration (SHVRI – CIRAD - SVA)

New project funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology

Future projects EU-China / Epi-Lab

Concept notes from Workshop 3.2.2

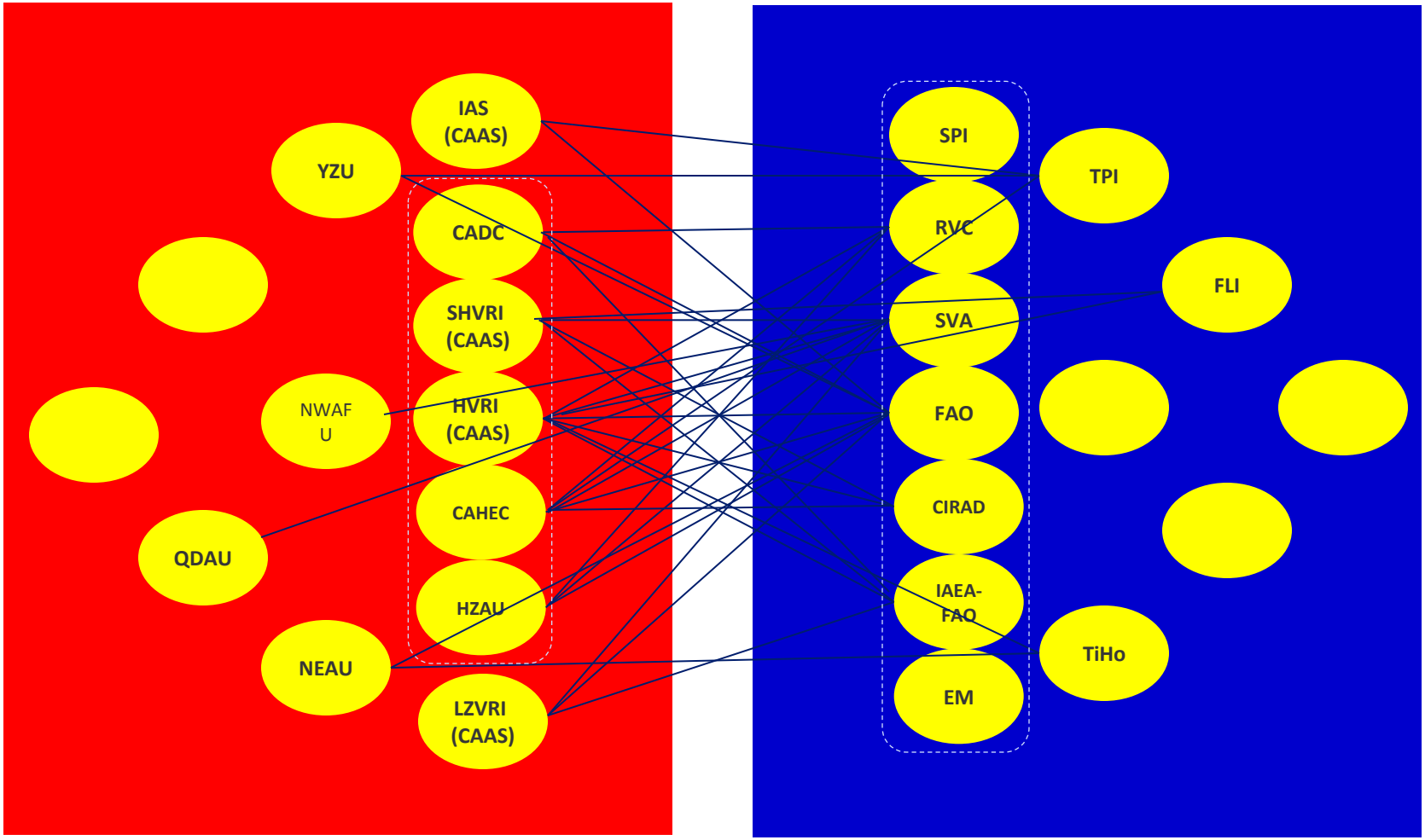
Propositions for exchanges and short visits (WP7)

WP4: Animal Health Science - Laboratory issues

Leader / Co-leader: HVRI / FAO-IAEA Division

- **Objective:** to select, upgrade and/or implement diagnostic technologies for early and rapid detection of animal pathogens via collaboration between EU and Chinese laboratories.
- **Activities:**
  - Establish a network for collaboration between EU and Chinese labs
  - Adopt, upgrade and implement a selection of diagnostic technologies
  - Establish joint research laboratories
    - **MOU for establishing the Joint Laboratory between HVRI and SVA**
  - Organize technical workshops on laboratory issues:
    - **Joint CSF Workshop with the Hannover Veterinary Medicine University** (Harbin, Feb 2014)
    - **1st Workshop on Bridging Research Activities on Transboundary Animal Disease (TADs) and Zoonoses between China and the EU** (Shanghai, April 2014)
    - **Workshop on Vaccine and Diagnostic technology development on TADs (Shanghai, October 2014)**
    - **Novel Vaccines against Priority TADs** (Harbin, 16-17 July 2015)
    - New Diagnostic Technologies & Coordination of Research (Vienna, 12-13 October 2015)
  - Apply for other research projects: on Japanese encephalitis
  - Organize and industry meeting

Exchange networking between China and EU



WP4 4th Workshop: New Diagnostic Technologies & Coordination of Research (12-13 Oct 2015, Vienna) - *DRAFT*

New Diagnostic Technologies:

- How to approach new and emerging viral diseases (Akbar Dastjerdi, APHA, Weybridge, UK)
- Molecular platforms for detection of emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, in the one health environment (TBD)
- COMPARE: EU funded project on Next Generation Sequencing for molecular risk assessment (Marion Koopmans, RIVM)
- High throughput technologies and automatic stations (without human supervision), e.g. Illumina, multi-Q-PCR (TBD)
- How bioinformatics can support new animal disease diagnosis? (Ioannis Xenarios, SIB)
- New diagnostic tools for field application and their role in early diseases detection and rapid enforcement of control measures (RAPIDIA) (Mikael Leijon, SVA)
- Application of molecular biology testing in China in animal health (Hua-Ji Qiu, Harbin Veterinary Research Institute)

Coordination of research:

- Improving opportunities for collaborative research between EU and China (TBD)
- Mapping of veterinary research institutions in China and opportunities for research collaboration with European institutions (TBD)
- Avian influenza research agendas (OFFLU, US, EU research agendas) (Gwenaelle Dauphin, FAO)

WP5: Supporting Policy dialogue

Leader / Co-leader: SPI / SHVRI

- **Objective:** Support the international policy dialogue in infectious diseases of animal and zoonoses between the EU and China
- **Activities:**
  - Mapping ongoing bilateral dialogues between China and European countries
  - Linking existing funding schemes
  - Identify research topics of common interest
  - Policy dialogue consultation meetings:
    - **African swine fever (ASF) Policy Event – Lessons learnt from Europe and policy challenges for Asia (Beijing, Nov 2014)**
    - WP5 Veterinary Laboratory Systems and Policy (IAEA, Vienna, 14 Oct 2015)
  - Two policy webinars
    - **Rabies prevention and control tools in Asia (30 June 2015)**

WP5 2ND Workshop on Veterinary Laboratory Systems and Policy (14 October 2015, Vienna) - *DRAFT*

Presentations planned:

- Formulation EU policy and legislation in animal health and supervision of the animal health surveillance and control programmes in EU - Roles and responsibilities of DG Sante (Christianne Bruschke, DG SANCO)
- Experience from a head of EU-Ref lab: mandate, responsibilities, challenges in disease diagnostic and networking (Emmanuelle Robardet, ANSES)
- Translation of EU policy and legislation at national level (Ulrich Herzog, CVO Austria)
- Description of the Chinese national laboratory diagnostic vet laboratory network: structure, functions, and responsibilities (TBD)
- Experience from a head of Chinese national reference lab: mandate, responsibilities, challenges in disease diagnostic and networking (Zengjun Lu, Lanzhou, national ref lab for FMD)
- FAO guidelines on veterinary laboratory policy (Gwenaelle Dauphin, FAO)
- The roles and responsibilities of an OIE and FAO Reference Laboratory (Giovanni Cattoli, IZSVe)
- *Discussion*

WP6: Platform development

Leader / Co-leader: EM / HZAU

- **Objective:** Create a web platform to provide all relevant information about EU-China cooperation and information on ongoing and past activities in the EU and China
- www.linktads.com
  - Launched in October 2014
  - 4,118 visitors from 100 countries
  - 106 registered users on the platform
  - Translated into Chinese
  - Functions:
    - **Linking to social media -** To share most of LinkTADs content on social pages via a special share tool; average share rate by external users is 25 times per news item
    - **Discussions on LinkTADs EPI-LAB Community -** Registered users in the Member Area have the possibility to interact and access to additional platform features
    - **Blog and comments -** LinkTADs researchers publish popular blogs regularly;
    - **Document upload and download –** in the e-Resources section, which is a collection of interesting reports, studies, scientific articles, etc.
    - **Search functions -** Search for documents in the e-Resources section; partners from our database of organizations; and funding available to international researchers
    - **EU-China Cooperation –** collection of links and documents on relevant cooperation in the field of animal health and food security

WP6 - Platform structure

MY ACCOUNT

MY MESSAGES

MY DISCUSSIONS

MY PROFILE

Welcome to the LinkTADs Member Area!

Here you can share your scientific papers, look for cooperation opportunities and funding within ongoing projects and initiatives, discuss animal health and food safety topics as well as look for partners for future joint projects.

Would you have any questions, please contact admin@linktads.com

Regards,
LinkTADs Admin

COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES

FIND FUNDING

Cooperation Opportunities

This section serves as a bridge between researchers from EU and China in order to **establish future international cooperation in the field of veterinary research**.

It is divided into two subsections:

Opportunities, listing relevant EU and international projects and initiatives, working in the areas of animal health, TADs, zoonoses, epidemilogy and laboratory research, etc.

Find funding, where registered users can search for programmes and initiatives offering financial support for the mobility of researchers, i.e. PhD scholarships, research grants, exchanges of experts, training and other types of support.

EPI-LAB COMMUNITY

DISCUSSIONS

PARTNER SEARCH

Epi-Lab Community

Epi-Lab Community section has two functions:

- it allows registered users to discuss important issues in veterinary research;

- it enables registered users to search for partner organizations for future joint projects based on expertise, organization type and country.

WP7: Exchanges and capacity building

Leader / Co-leader: SHVRI / RVC

- **Objective:** To promote short exchanges between European and Chinese research organizations (both ways) to:
  - raise the awareness of the cooperation opportunities;
  - enhance existing collaborations and encourage new partnerships.

- **Activities:**
  - To prepare and organize series of exchanges including:
    - 4 Short-term academic visits (1-week visits):
      - **HVRI and SVA**
      - **CAHEC to RVC**
      - HRVI and SHRVI to IAEA
    - Laboratory and epidemiology work (up to 1 month long)

WP8: Dissemination and sustainability (1)

Leader / Co-leader: FAO / HVRI

- **Objectives:**
  - Maximize project's visibility
  - Widely disseminate information.
- **Achievements and future activities:**
  - Dissemination plan and visual identity (website, PowerPoint template, leaflets, flyers)
  - Dissemination actions
    - Present LinkTADs at conferences/fairs/exhibitions
    - Peer-reviewed articles
    - Web blog (9 published), facebook (67 likes), LinkedIn page (more than 1000 connections) and LinkedIn group (199 members), Twitter (95 followers, more than 550 tweets), weibo (more than 94 posts, 40 followers).
    - Newsletters (2 so far) reaching 500 researchers and more than 20 relevant projects each.
  - Dissemination events back-to-back with major meetings:
    - **EU – Montpellier, together with EPIZONE and ESVV,** Sept 2015
    - China - Chinese Veterinary Congress, Nov 2015
  - Webinars
    - **Disease outbreak investigation** (9 October 2014)
    - **Surveillance on antimicrobial resistance** (5 February 2015)
    - Rabies prevention and control tools (Oct 2015)
  - Focal point network (LinkTADs + external organizations) – 18 members, will start working at the end of the project and continue after project completion in order to facilitate EU-China research cooperation in the field of animal health.

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Thank you for your attention!

Project Manager:
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo
E-mail: Daniel.BeltranAlcrudo@fao.org
Phone: + 3906 5705 3823
Fax: + 3906 5705 3057