

## “EPIZONE”

### Fighting epizootic diseases by improving excellence

*In recent years, much time and money has been devoted to fighting and controlling outbreaks of well-known major animal diseases, such as avian influenza, classical swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease. The threat of new strains of these diseases from the Far East increases every day.*

*Epizootic diseases in agriculture and aquaculture animals constitute a major risk to food production and in some cases risks to public health.*

Such diseases spread very quickly through animals, vectors or animal products especially where susceptible animals are kept at a high density. Outbreaks in Europe of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK, avian influenza in Italy and the Netherlands as well as the current influenza crisis worldwide have shown enormous social and economic impact, and need to be addressed across the whole production chain and also at international level.

The mission of **EPIZONE** is to **improve research on preparedness, prevention, detection and control of epizootic diseases within Europe by improvement of excellence through integration and collaboration while taking into account the public health concerns of consumers and other stakeholders throughout the food chain.**

The project acts as a “Virtual Institute” that consists of 18 institutes from 12 countries, 1 SME and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. An external advisory panel has been established in which the main stakeholders participate, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

On 13 June 2006, EPIZONE has been launched in Brussels. The web site [www.epizone-eu.net](http://www.epizone-eu.net) went online shortly after.

LABORATORY TESTING.  
SOURCE: AQUATOUR.

**EPIZONE**



**Project acronym:**

EPIZONE

**Full title of Project:**

Network of Excellence for  
Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and  
Control

**EU contract number:**

016236

**Web-site:**

[www.epizone-eu.net](http://www.epizone-eu.net)

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EPIZONE will generate a worldwide network of institutes contributing their expertise and sharing their knowledge. Its activities are organised in 3 horizontal non-scientific integration themes – Virtual Institute, Strategic Integration and Spreading Excellence – and 4 vertical scientific integration themes – Diagnostics, Intervention Strategies, Surveillance and Epidemiology, and Risk Assessment.



SAMPLES FOR TESTING.  
SOURCE: AQUATOUR.

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