



Secretariat

Enhancing Research for Africa Network

ACTIVITY REPORT YEAR 2021



Introduction

The Unit “Research, Development and Cooperation in International Relations”, part of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Teramo, is responsible for the coordination and secretariat of the Enhancing Research for Africa Network (ERFAN).

Strengthening existing institutional relations and developing new partnerships was a crucial challenge for 2021, a year characterized by the ongoing Covid19 health emergency.

Despite the rapid spread of the pandemic and the systemic change caused by the situation, in the area of international cooperation, the Secretariat has worked to strengthen the tools and resources to ensure the continuation of scientific cooperation activities within the ERFAN network. The actions implemented were aimed at strengthening the network of international relations between Zooprophyllactic Institutes and partners in Africa; at the enhancing communication channels and training and information activities.

Through innovative tools and methodologies concerning various projects, ERFAN has contributed to strengthening scientific cooperation between Italy and Africa in human and animal health and food hygiene.

To guarantee equal opportunities for development and growth for partners, ERFAN has committed itself to disseminate results, standard operating procedures, good practices and knowledge.

The results, achieved during 2021, were obtained thanks to the active technical and scientific support of the colleagues of the Veterinary Institutions participating in the network.

ACTIVITY REPORT YEAR 2021

OIE Report

Preparation and submission of the first progress report, including the descriptive report and the financial-accounting report. May 2021. Following this, the OIE disbursed the payment for the second year.

Communication and dissemination of results

Predisposition of the communication and dissemination plan of the project results, identification of tools, methodology and activities aimed at the valorisation and exploitation of the results.

Specifically:

- **Website:** Website restyling, management and updating. Publication of news and funding opportunities for research and development, design of the new sections "ERFANet" and "Achievements", and content insertion. Preparation of the contents of the video tutorial explaining the new website. Publication of the video tutorial on social channels. Design of the new e-Learning platform "ERFAN Dialogues", preparation and insertion of contents.
- **Youtube:** Page customization and content creation.
- **Facebook:** content uploading and post writing.
- **Instagram:** Official profile management
- **Newsletter:** Restyling. Content writing.
- **Informative Pills:** publication of the informative video "Animal Welfare and OIE standards: what are and how are developed" on ERFAN social channels.
- Support for the initiative "ERFAN digital communication: towards shared ownership", preparation of contents and graphic design.

Meeting: ERFAN Round Table

The event, held in July 2021, was in online mode. The Secretariat was scientific coordinator of the event. The activities carried out by the ERFAN Secretariat in this area involved the organization, management and publicizing of the online meeting, including the drafting of the agenda, two presentations and the follow-up report.

Participants: 71 – Working time: 6 hrs.

Meeting: ERFAN General Meeting

The event was held in October in mixed form: in presence on the first day and online, on the second. The Secretariat was scientific coordinator of the event. The activities carried out by the ERFAN Secretariat in this area have included:

- Preparation of information and presentation materials, related to the communication plan and dissemination of project results, and the financial-accounting aspect.
- Preparation and sending of the formal invitation letters to the Participants and elaboration of the invited mailing.
- Preparation of the event program.
- Preparation of the framing material (graphic design and contents of the flyer).
- Preparation of Bullets Points for the DG of the OIE.
- Organization and management of the in-person meeting (including logistics and promotion of the event).
- Organization and management of the digital event (including technical aspects and promotion of the event).

Participants: 62 - Working time: 6 hrs.

Meeting: Working groups ERFAN online

The organization and management of the third round of working group (WG) meetings was carried out, including the preparation of agendas and follow-up reports.

The Secretariat was scientific coordinator of the WG meetings.

Specifically, the following WG meetings were organized and carried out:

- “Maladies à transmission vectorielle”- Nord-ouest Afrique, May 2021.
- “Fièvre charbonneuse », Nord-ouest Afrique, December 2021.
- “Tuberculose bovine”, Nord-ouest Afrique, December 2021.
- “Mycoplasmoses des petits ruminants”, Nord-ouest Afrique, December 2021.
- “Rédaction de projets de coopération internationale”, Nord-ouest Afrique, December 2021.
- Online meetings with Italian WG coordinators November/December 2021.

The following online WG meetings have been planned and are being organized for the first quarter of 2022:

- “TSE”, Nord-ouest Afrique.
- “Project design for development cooperation”, Southern Africa.

- “Rédaction de projets de coopération internationale » Nord-ouest de l’Afrique.
- “Maladies à transmission vectorielle”, Nord-ouest de l’Afrique.
- “Anthrax”, Southern Africa.
- “Bovine Tuberculosis”, Southern Africa.
- “Brucellosis”, Southern Africa.
- “CBPP and others Mycoplasmosis”, Southern Africa.
- “TSE”, Southern Africa.
- “Animal Welfare”, Southern Africa.
- “Food Hygiene”, Southern Africa.
- “Vector borne diseases- RVF”, Southern Africa.

The Secretariat planned and organized online meetings, for the first quarter of 2022, with the Focal person of the Institutions participating to ERFAN in order to share the planning of activities in 2022.

Training courses

The activities carried out by the ERFAN Secretariat in this area were: Organization and performance of events, including the draft of the agenda, list of participants and publicizing the event.

The following training activities were carried out in online mode:

- “Applying OIE animal welfare standards in Africa Animal welfare”. March – July 2021. Participants 22 – Working time: 56 hrs.
- “Rift Valley Fever”. Co-organised with Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria-South Africa. In collaboration with VBD/RVF WGs. Participants: 33 – Working time: 12 hrs.

Organized and planned for 2022

- “Rift Valley Fever and other mosquito-borne Arboviroses: entomological surveillance”. Online Course eLearning, for North Africa partners. Co-organized with IZSAM.
- Online Course on “Rift Valley Fever”. Co-organized with Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria-South Africa.
- Online Course on “Ticks Identification”. Co-organized with the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria-South Africa.

ERFAN Information Days

The activities carried out by the ERFAN Secretariat in this area were: Organization and performance of events, including the draft of the agenda, list of participants and publicizing the event.

The following training activities were carried out in online mode:

- "Detection of Salmonella spp. according to ISO6579-1:2017". March/May 2021. Participants: 59 – Working time: 8 hrs.
- "Contagious Agalactiae and other emerging mycoplasma diseases of ruminants". April/May 2021. Participants: 44 –Working time: 7 hrs.
- "Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia. Overview of the disease". February/March 2021. Participants: 57 – Working time: 12 hrs.
- "Organisation and Management of Proficiency Testing". April/June 2021. Participants: 94 – Working time: 12 hrs.
- "Conception de projet : outils et bonnes pratiques". February/March 2021. Participants: 40 - Working time: 5 hrs.
- "Organisation and Management of Proficiency Testing – Question Time". July 2021. Participants: 39 – Working time: 6 hrs.
- "Anthrax: aetiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and management". April/May 2021. Participants: 48 – Working time: 7 hrs.
- "Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control" October/November 2021. Participants: 74 – Working time: 13 hrs.
- "Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Plan" July 2021(prima parte). Participants: 40 – Working time: 4 hrs.
- "Klebsiella pneumoniae in food matrix; diagnostic procedures". July 2021. Participants: 43 – Working time: 3 hrs.
- "Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Plan" (second part) October/November 2021. Participants: 39 - Working time: 4 hrs.
- "La recherche documentaire en médecine vétérinaire et santé publique". November 2021. Participants: 26 - Working time: 7 hrs.
- "Q fever: monitoring and investigation in animals and humans living in rural areas in Africa ". December 2021. Participants: 21 - Working time: 4 hrs.
- "Covid pandemic: the importance of veterinary cooperation". December 2021. Participants: 30 – Working time: 5 hrs.

Organized and planned for 2022

The following online days delivered synchronously and asynchronously have been planned and are being organized for 2022:

- “Webinar on TSE”.
- “Bibliographic research”.
- “Organisation and Management of Proficiency Testing” – 2nd edition.
- “NGS application on Food Hygiene pathogens.
- “Project design: tools and best practices” for Southern Africa- 2nd edition.
- “Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia. Overview of the disease”. 2nd edition.
- “Laboratory Information Management System: SILAB for Africa”.
- “NGS and Bioinformatics”.
- “Preparation of bacterial suspensions for use in validation of analytical terms”.
- “How to write a scientific paper”.
- “Animal Welfare and herd biosafety”.
- “Tuberculosis in Wildlife and wild boar management”.
- “Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Plan” 2nd edition.

TSE Working Group Questionnaire

Support to the WG “TSE” Nord-Ouest Afrique, for the administration of the OIE questionnaire and data collection. Activity carried out in January 2021.

Project proposal; Presentation support

Support to the finalization of the project proposal “Recherche sur la Cameline Prion Disease- C.Pr.D au Maghreb” drafted by Prof. Amara (Tunisia) in collaboration with IZS Turin, ISS Rome, Morocco, Algeria and France.

Partners support

- Support to the National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center (NAHDIC), Sebeta, Ethiopia, for membership in the ERFAN network.
- Support (administrative and financial) to Dr. Leruo Keokilwe (BNVL) for participation in the XXIII Congress of the International Micoplasmology Organization (IOM). November 2021.
- Support to the partners (Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory, Central Veterinary Laboratory of Namibia, Central Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Puglia e Basilicata) for the writing of the project “LISAK: Baseline study on *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* spp. and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* prevalence and AMR in RTE meat products and

environmental samples in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and South Africa" (descriptive part and budget).

- Support to the University of Pretoria (preparation of the Collaboration Agreement) for the activation and funding of a Master Research proposal on "Sampling plan for CBPP in Tanzania".
- Support to IZSPB for the drafting of the project proposal "Anthrax diagnosis and management, biosafety and biosecurity training to improve scientific knowledge and methods", project to be submitted in 2022 (including the preparation of the Collaboration Agreement between IZSPB and the University of Gondar).
- Support to NAHDIC for the drafting of the project for a PhD research project "Risk factor of Brucellosis in human and animal, species distribution in pastoralist and semi pastoral (Oromia, Afar and Somali) regions of selected areas in Ethiopia".
- Support to IZSPB for the drafting of the AICS twinning project proposal with Jordan. August 2021.

Scouting di call for proposals, grant and procurement

- Scouting and timely mapping of opportunities through research on the main platforms for the publication of international and national calls.
- Drafting of the monitoring plan of calls for proposals and grants weekly.
- Weekly updating of the "Call for proposal" section within the ERFAN website.

Teramo 15 February 2022

Secretariat Coordinator
Massimo Scacchia

