



## Lab news

### 2013 Annual scientific meeting of MedVetNet

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The last annual scientific meeting of MedVetNet – “One health, one medicine: sharing challenges for combating zoonoses” - held on 24 to 25 June 2013, in Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted by the Technology University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark. MedVetNet 2013 targets human and animal health researchers working on the examination, implications and eradication of foodborne zoonoses using the “One Health” approach. Much of the work done through this approach has been cross-disciplinary - including a variety of sectors - and its implications reach beyond the study and eradication of

zoonoses. The meeting aimed to present the broad range of disciplines relevant to the One Health approach, as well as keynote presentations dedicated to combining these disciplines to facilitate economic development in zoonotically-plagued regions. <http://www.medvetnet2013.eu/fileadmin/filer/David/MedVetNet2013/MVN2013Flyer02.pdf>

### Short summary of the 2nd EPPO Workshop for heads of plant pest diagnostic laboratories

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EPPO is intergovernmental organisation responsible for European cooperation in plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region (more information on EPPO was recently published in EUROREFERENCE and is available in <http://www.ansespro.fr/euroreference/>). Since 1998, EPPO has established a work programme in the area of diagnostics to harmonize procedures across the region. Among the different activities conducted in the framework of this programme, EPPO organises Workshops and Conferences.

Since 2011, Workshops for Heads of plant pest diagnostic laboratories are organised to promote exchanges of views on strategic issues for diagnostics. The second Workshop took place in Hammamet, Tunisia on 2013, 5-7 september. The main theme of the Workshop, “Plant pest diagnostic laboratories: towards national and regional reference laboratories”, was chosen based on suggestions made by heads of laboratories.

The Workshop started with presentations from different laboratories of their experience with reference laboratories. A presentation of the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for bees health was made as well as a presentation of the revision of the Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 by the European Commission Directorate General Safety of the food Chain (SANCO). The scope of this regulation will extend to the plant health and plant reproductive material sectors (seeds included) so that a network of National Reference Laboratories and EURLs can also be established in the plant health sector.

In addition to the plenary presentations, three subgroups were formed to discuss the following topics:

- Accreditation what are the needs of laboratories?
- Organisation of proficiency testing (PT) and test performance studies (TPS): what are the challenges?
- Roles of National Reference Laboratories (NRL)
- Reference material
- Possible scope of regional reference laboratories

Each group reported back to the plenary. Discussions in subgroups were very active and several recommendations have been identified as a result of these discussions.

The summary of the main conclusions and recommendations of this Workshop can be downloaded at [http://archives.epo.int/MEETINGS/2013\\_conferences/labs\\_tunisia.htm](http://archives.epo.int/MEETINGS/2013_conferences/labs_tunisia.htm)