

APHAEA - WP4: Development of a European wildlife disease network

Objective:

To **develop a European network for wildlife health surveillance** in which harmonized methods are **adopted** for:

- (a) estimating abundance of key hosts (population size, density)
- (b) diagnosing key pathogens in key hosts (sampling strategies, storage/archiving, diagnostic techniques)

Sub-objective: to involve European countries/networks/partners beyond APHAEA

- in the development of harmonized methods
- in the wildlife health surveillance network

Milestones and Deliverables:

- 1. Identify stakeholders, organizations and experts to be contacted** (for a+b)
 - August/September 2012 : **Establish a list of participants** (=network partners)
- 2. Review of published and unpublished methods by APHAEA project team** for established list of hosts and pathogens:
 - Template for abundance estimation (→ WP1)
 - EWDA Diagnosis Cards (→ WP2)
 - December 2012: **Consultation of network partners**
- 3. Adaptation of review documents considering participants' feedbacks**
 - May 2013: **Final, approved review versions available** on the APHAEA website
- 4. Proposal for harmonized procedures**
 - August/September 2013: **Harmonization concept sent to network partners for review** (assessment form):
 - Realistic methods for local applications?
 - Limitations?
 - Suggestions?
 - October 2013: **1st Consultation workshop** → detailed presentation of protocols, discussion and general agreement
 - February 2014: **Approved harmonized protocols available** on the APHAEA website
- 5. Validation of endorsed protocols** through application (→ WP3)
 - a. Estimating abundance of selected key hosts in selected countries
 - b. Cross-sectional studies on selected key pathogens in selected countries
 - March 2015: **2nd Consultation workshop** → presentation of WP3 results (incl. feasibility, reliability and acceptance of proposed harmonized protocols); needs for adaptations vs. protocol approval; further steps (European network)
 - May 2015: **Workshop proceeding available** on the APHAEA website