

VALIDATION OF HARMONIZED METHODS ON SELECTED WILDLIFE HOST-PATHOGEN COMBINATIONS

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APHAEA (harmonized Approaches in monitoring wildlife Population Health, And Ecology and Abundance, www.aphaea.org) aims to establish a European wildlife disease surveillance network that is capable of providing reliable estimates on abundance of wildlife species and pathogen distribution and occurrence in key wildlife species in order to improve wildlife health surveillance in general. To test proposed harmonized protocols for practical feasibility and to demonstrate the advantages of harmonization, three host-pathogen combinations have been selected:

Wild boar and Aujeszky's disease virus

Red fox and *Echinococcus multilocularis*

Common vole and *Francisella tularensis*

Project and external partners were invited to share existing data or contribute to collecting new ones for each host-pathogen combination. Therefore, questionnaires were developed to scan data concerning population and disease related questions. Partners provided information on the considered region and time period, existing data sources, hunting or collecting strategies and the possibility of collecting new population related data following the proposed harmonized protocols. Moreover, questions on disease occurrence, ongoing, finished or planned investigations, the numbers of collected samples and the possibility of participating in future studies were asked. The feedback on the respective questionnaires was analyzed to identify strengths and weaknesses of the proposed surveillance schemes.