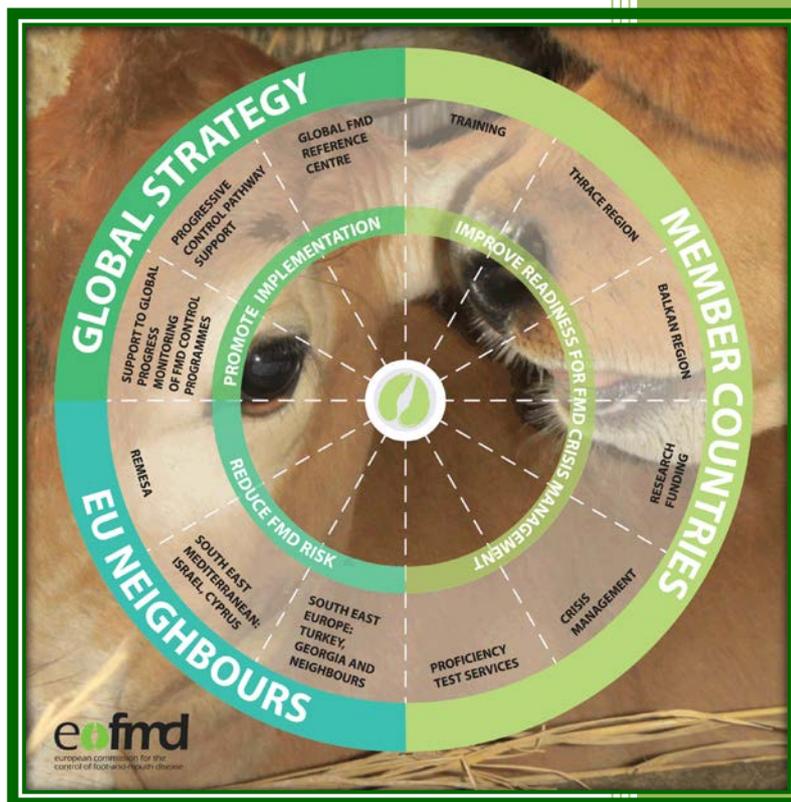


2017

5th Call EUFMD – Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD-FAR) - 2017



eofmd
european commission for the
control of foot-and-mouth disease

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EuFMD Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD-FAR)

Fifth Call

The EuFMD, under the multi-annual agreement with the European Commission (DG-SANTE), has since 2008 provided support for small applied research projects that are relevant to the technical issues that are seen as priorities of the EuFMD member states¹. The thematic priorities have been mainly identified at the biennial General Sessions, held in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and 2015 and a specific Research fund was adopted as a component (1.5) of the 4 year, EC funded Workplan of the Commission. In addition to this, Funds are available to assist the work in specific Pillars and the 5th Call relates to Pillar II, European neighbourhood.

Context

The Strategic Plan of the EuFMD for the period 2015-19 has three Strategic Objectives (Pillars), which are:

1. To Improve readiness for FMD crisis management by Members;
2. To Reduce risk to Members from the FMD situation in the European neighbourhood (progressive control in neighbouring regions);
3. To Promote the global strategy of progressive control of FMD.

The plan was updated and adopted at the 42nd General Session of the EuFMD member states in April 2017.

Fifth Call Scope

This relates to Pillar II, and is the 7th theme identified in calls for proposals.

Pillar II: To Reduce risk to Members from the FMD situation in the European neighbourhood (progressive control in neighbouring regions)

Theme 7: Development of a risk information and mapping system for the European neighbourhood region that integrates livestock values and movement patterns

Expected results:

1. ***Development of an risk information and mapping system for the European neighbourhood region that integrates livestock values and movement patterns, pilot phase (year 1), with movement information from at least 3 countries and price information from at least 3 additional territories***
2. ***Application, refinement and extension of the system (year 2), with at least six months of application and evaluation in surveillance planning in at least two REMESA /North African countries and/or Eurasian/middle-east countries***

Intended application: To better enable national risk assessors and risk managers in European neighbourhood countries to prioritise activities (in surveillance, or response to risk such as vaccination or communication) based on information of the likelihood and impact for FMD spread of animal movements across borders and within

¹ Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom.

countries. The system is expected to provide information to guide decisions, and be supported for early adoption in pilot form under the workplan of the EuFMD before September 2019.

The sustainability of the system will depend largely on the value perceived by countries and by international institutions involved in risk assessment or risk management (EFSA/EC, OIE, FAO). The desired system should have a relatively low level of cost for data collection required, as far as feasible not requiring external subsidy.

Context: Following outbreaks of FMD in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco in 2014-17, renewed attention and concern of the member states of EuFMD, and those in REMESA, has been given to the impact of animal movements between neighbourhood countries (including from Mid-East/Gulf). The FMD strain typing indicates the opening of trade corridors with sub-Saharan countries (to Libya/Egypt/North Africa) and between Indian subcontinent and Mid-East (with overspill into the neighbourhood).

The EuFMD work with the neighbourhood countries has focussed on prevention strategies (risk based strategic plans under the Progressive Control pathway) and the practical application of risk analysis for prioritising surveillance and control measures. The increasing frequency of the jumps of infection into the neighbourhood is a new feature and requires that these are better understood, in order to better predict the likelihood of these events and their consequences for national control plans, as well as priority setting on activities.

Price differentials across value chains, and across borders, are understood to drive animal and product movements; seasonality and other factors have their role also as drivers. Interest and capacity to collect some livestock price and market trade data has been seen from parties in the region, and EuFMD is assessing the possibilities for a network for data collection from countries including Iran, Turkey and Libya, and possibly Mid-East countries such as Jordan. Ideally this would be extended to sufficient west or central African countries to be able to capture price information relevant to assessing drivers for movement into North Africa.

On the side of internal movements, we understand research studies have captured movement information in some North African countries, and this could provide support for prioritising surveillance or other activities.

The vision is for an integrated system that will assist with questions of risk and priorities, and which may provide indications of changing risk levels associated with anticipated animal movements.

Desirable elements to proposals

- Close working relationship embedded in the workplan, between the EuFMD Secretariat and the grant - recipient organization (RO). This may involve for example staff exchange, co-appointments, interns or secondments on cost-efficient model.
- The RO should bring the capacity of its own network and be able to leverage its existing workplans with countries in the European neighbourhood
- The RO should already have significant work in the field of movement data with North African countries which will be major beneficiaries of the system
- The RO should provide the scientific and technical lead, guiding and encouraging the activities of EuFMD and FAO that will be complementary and synergistic, but not dependant on FAO to provide all the data required in the first year;
- The RO should be able to provide assurance that data or outputs of analysis, where data is obtained from neighbourhood countries, is able to be used for national and regional planning purposes, within a few months of project start;
- The involvement of students or recent graduates in relevant disciplines, from the neighbourhood region, is encouraged, as part of development of sufficient capacity in the wider region for risk based approaches to disease management;
- The RO should be able to provide training, by virtual or other routes, where needed to ensure the system receives satisfactory levels of data and to improve understanding and uptake.

Funding available

The budget envelope at this point is **100,000€** over two years. The proposal and workplan should cover two 12 month periods. FAO is likely to award the funds in a 12 month agreement that can be extended to 24 months based on progress achieved by the 9th month. During contract negotiation, there is the possibility that additional funding will be made available but the proposals should be prepared on the basis of a level of 50,000 per annum. The RO can assume that FAO/EuFMD will find separate funds to support a limited number of workshops (1-2 per year) which need not be costed in the proposal but should be stated if they are needed for progress. The funds are therefore expected mainly to cover expert services, mainly through provision of human resources (days/months) of categories of persons engaged in the project.

In addition there is the possibility of additional funds being available for support to networking and training for countries in the West/Central and North Africa regions. Imaginative proposals that assist building a network of those interested in risk based control would be more likely to receive funding to extend the impact of the work.

Notes on the funding

The budget available for the two years project is mainly dedicated to the provision of expertise for the delivery of the services necessary to develop the risk information and mapping system. Such expertise should be identified within the recipient organization however, specific expertise and field knowledge can identified within other national institutions/organization with demonstrated scientific and technical expertise. Any form of collaboration with other entities necessary for the development of the system or the collection of data should be described in the application form.

The expenses related to the overheads, travel and procurement can be partially covered with the funding available not exceeding 10% of the budget for the overheads, 20% for the travel and 10% for the procurement. Any additional expenses needed for the development of the system should be indicated together with the application form.

General:

1. Payments are usually made in three tranches, the initial advance being not greater than 30%, and final payment not less than 20%. The interim payment is conditional on interim reports/progress and the necessary milestone indicators will be agreed with the RO.

2. Eligibility of costs

- ✚ Currency : mandatory in USD or EURO
- ✚ Non - Eligible costs for financing (EU funded projects)
 - overhead costs
 - administrative
 - any other indirect costs.

3. Budget drafting some useful indications (a template is attached)

1) **Human Resources - Personnel:** -insert wording **Experts** –Avoid wording Consultant

2) Procurement & Expandable equipment ancillary to services

(Include Non-disposable and Disposable Equipment/Material)

- ✚ Non disposable Equipment: Beneficiaries receiving benefit at end of the project should be precisely indicated into the Description of the services
- ✚ Total amount of budget dedicated to purchase of disposable equipment not to be more than 5% of total procurement
- ✚ Disposable Equipment (intended as consumable) should not be charged than more than effective cost
- ✚ “FAO could ask to provide proforma invoice/or quotations of supplied consumables/materials)
- ✚ *to indicate final Beneficiaries and who will keep equipment at the end of project as results and implementation of service after end of Agreement*

- ✦ **In case of sub-contracting / or partnership where the RO wishes to work with additional parties :**
The FAO form of agreement is strictly bilateral - and must be only between one unique partner and FAO/EUFMD.

The direct partner needs to be the sole and unique counterpart with FAO in the complete wording of the agreement /Letter of Agreement (LoA).

The wording in the LoA and Note for the File needs to be in active tense, where partner is clearly responsible and not to mention any other entities if not as under partner supervision and responsibility

Any kind of partnerships in LoA **must be eliminated, no wording of sub-contracting/ or other partners in budget section to be mentioned.**

LoA establishes rights and obligations for the two Parties signing the agreement.

Where the RO works with partners, the Agreement must state:

The direct partner assumes the risk of non-performance of other partners (names to be specified) and any other subcontractor for all the services that will be provided within the framework of the current LoA.

3) **TRAVEL:(to include estimated cost per person for travel to)**

- ✦ Nb persons ; _____
- ✦ Destination : _____
- ✦ Duration: _____
- ✦ Estimated cost:
- ✦ Flights Economy A/R: \$ _____
- ✦ Transportation: \$ _____
- ✦ Arrangement: \$ _____
- ✦ Accommodation \$ _____
- ✦ Fee Visa: \$ _____

Applicants

Applications are welcome from any source and are not limited by geographical origin. Awards are normally made to not-for-profit research centres with a capacity for signing the contract, with principal investigators capable of delivering quality research, and for managing funds and reporting. For-profit bodies are welcome to apply as part of a consortium but normally the financial award can be made only to the Leader which should be a non-profit organisation. Interested parties can discuss ideas prior to proposal with the Secretariat or Members of the Standing Technical Committee.

The applicant should declare this contact with the STC on the form. **The application form is given in Annex 2** and online.

Review Process

Applications will be assessed in two stages, first by external referees (Referee Panel) then by the Standing Technical Committee (acting as the Grant Review Board), a multidisciplinary panel of experts who are familiar with the priorities and scope of the fund and the context of the institutions which are expected to utilise the knowledge, tools and outputs.

Two-Tiered Peer Review Process

1st Review by Referee Panel

- TWO external referees are chosen for their expertise in specific research areas; at least one of these is from the EuFMD Special Committee on Research but not an applicant in the current call
- Initial review of scientific merit and research ethics
- Rate and give comments on each grant application

2nd Review by Grant Review Board

- Assess quality of Referee Panel's comments
- Final review of scientific merit and research ethics
- Evaluate relevance to scope of fund and thematic priorities, applicability to local context, applicant's track record, administering institution's research capability, "value for money" of proposals
- Make recommendations on funding to the Executive Committee.

Assessment Criteria

These are provided in **Annex 1** and [online](#).

Composition of the Referee Panel

The Referee Panel includes the 15 members of the Special Committee for Research and Programme Development (SCRPD) of the EuFMD, plus three experts from the FAO FMD Reference Centres in Europe. The Referees for each proposal will be selected by the Chair of the STC, or in the case of a conflict of interest, his/her Deputy. One referee must always be from the SCRPD but according to need, the Chairperson may also invite an external referee to undertake the review if the expertise is not present within the SCRPD.

Reviewers should complete a conflict of interest statement before review.

Composition of the Grant Review Board

The GRB is composed of the Members of the STC plus the Secretary, EuFMD Commission. DG-SANTE have the right to be represented in the GRB. Representatives of the GRB should complete a conflict of interest statement before review, and if doubt exists, not take part in the review of the applications in which a conflict of interest may exist. The Chairperson should ensure that a minimum of there are at least three persons for any decisions, co-opting a member of the Executive Committee if this is required.

Minutes of these meetings will be reported to the EuFMD Executive Committee.

Award of Grants and dispersion of funds

The EuFMD Secretariat will provide the Executive Committee with the recommendations for funding; decisions will be normally taken by the Executive or the Chairperson of the Executive together with the EC at the regular Executive Committee Sessions at six monthly intervals. In case of urgency, decisions will be taken by the Chairman and the representative of the EC as soon as the Review Board have made their recommendations.

Funding will be dispersed by the EuFMD through Letters of Agreement (LoA) which are contracts between the FAO of the UN and not-for-profit institutions. In exceptional circumstances, the funds may also be dispersed through direct implementation mechanisms by the Secretariat where LoAs cannot be used. The application form should provide most of the details needed to enable the LoA to be finalised quickly after decision is taken, and initial funding dispersed. Limited changes to the proposal may be agreed when the LoA is negotiated and any major changes would require a review by the Chairman of the STC.

The Reporting schedule will be set at the time of the LoAs being agreed and normally the contractees must provide reports that coincide with the timing of the six-monthly STC meetings and provide an oral report to the biennial Open Session of the Standing Technical Committee (Next Session: October 2018).

Table 1: Titles of Research Studies funded by the EuFMD, 2008-16

1. Development of full genome sequencing methods and tools for application to FMD tracing in outbreak situations (Contractor: Pirbright);
2. 1st Global Review of research on FMD (Awarded to GFRA, Contractor OVI);
3. Comparative performance of NSP tests for use in regions affected by SAT viruses (Contractor OVI);
4. Production of antisera for vaccine matching against SAT viruses (Contractor BVI, Botswana);
5. Production of antisera for studies on type A FMDV from African and elsewhere (Contractor : Lelystad);
6. FMD epidemiology in wild boar populations in endemic areas of Anatolia, Turkey (Contractor FAO/SAP Institute Turkey);
7. Methods for real-time tracking wildboar dispersion in Europe (direct management with Bulgaria);
8. FMD serology using commercial kits for use in wild boar –parameters for negative populations (AFFSA);
9. Development of methods for non-invasive sampling of wildlife for FMD (direct management with Bulgaria);
10. Application of vaccine effectiveness study methods to assess type Asia-1 and type A vaccine effectiveness in Turkey (Pirbright);
11. Contract to develop an “FMD surveillance design and analysis model “ (FMDSurv software using multiple data sources to calculate confidence in FMD freedom) (AUSVet);
12. Application of smart-phone applications for real-time data collection in FMD outbreak investigation and local risk factor determination (Royal Vet College, London);
13. Improving molecular diagnostic tests for use with African FMDV; validation of PCR-serotyping of African FMDV serotypes and methods of transporting RNA/cDNA samples cheaply (DTU, Denmark and Pirbright).
14. Use of lateral flow device for safe and low cost shipment of FMDV suspected samples (ANSES, FMDVINACT)
15. Modelling of FMD-control strategies, including vaccination - adaptation of a model for use in various countries (FLI)
16. In vitro and in vivo experiments (domestic pigs) to optimise and validate a non-invasive sampling method of wild boar using maize baits (maize cobs with six swabs incorporated in each) and pSWABs (FLI)
17. Improving quality assurance along the FMD vaccine production and supply chain (TPI/CVI)
18. Realising the potential of simple isothermal molecular tools for field diagnosis of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (TPI)
19. Prototype Model for the Rapid Assessment of FMD Impacts (RVC)
20. 2nd Global Review of research on FMD (Awarded to GFRA, Contractor TPI).