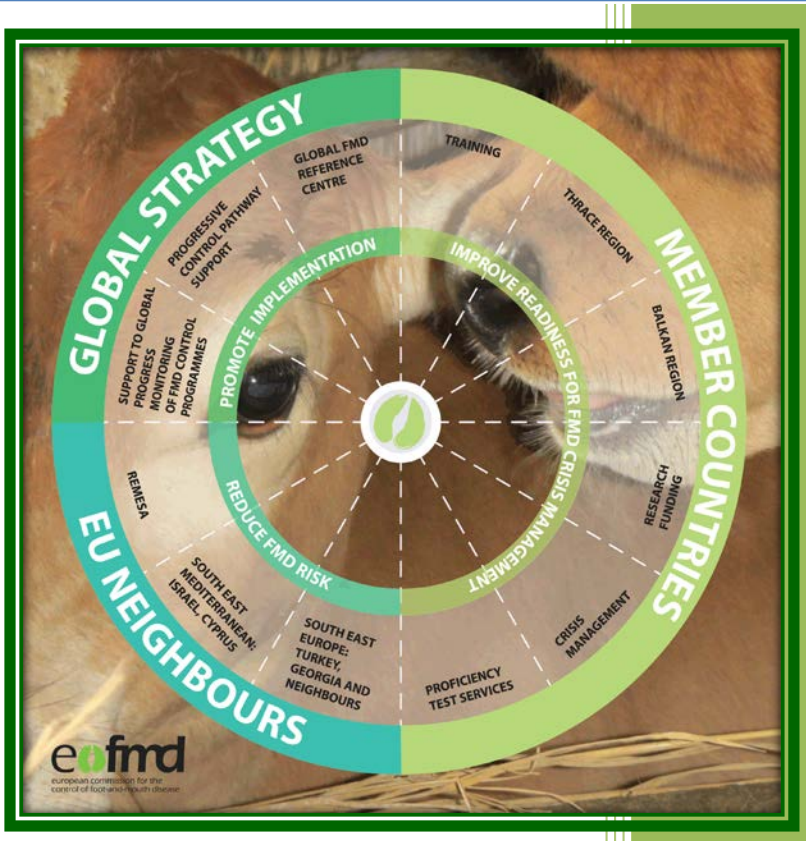
2018

6th Call EUFMD – Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD-FAR) – 2018

Pilot studies – West /Central Africa



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

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EuFMD Fund for Applied Research (EuFMD-FAR)

Sixth Call:

Call for proposals on the following, relating to West and/or Central African countries

1. *Une <u>étude pilote</u> visant à établir la faisabilité d'engager des para-vétérinaires, des prestataires de services de santé animale privés ou d'autres acteurs non étatiques dans la collecte d'échantillons de fièvre aphteuse et la soumission aux laboratoires / autorités nationaux;*

2. *<u>Une étude</u> sur la demande des éleveurs et autres parties prenantes pour les services de prévention ou de gestion de la fièvre aphteuse, pour déterminer s'il existe un marché potentiel pour les services (y compris l'alerte précoce des risques) et identifier ce qui sera nécessaire de changer si la demande doit être satisfaite et / ou le service doit être introduit*

Background

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 states[1]. The thematic priorities have been mainly identified at the biennial General Sessions, held in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 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 6th Call relates to Pillar III, global strategy.

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.
The 6th Call scope relates to Pillar III, and is the 8th theme identified in calls for proposals.

[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,

Thème 8: Comprendre les perspectives des parties prenantes et tester des modèles pour impliquer les partenaires de terrain dans le développement de stratégies futures de surveillance et de contrôle

Résultats attendus:

1. **Une étude pilote réalisée avant août 2018** pour établir la faisabilité d'engager des para-vétérinaires, des prestataires de services de santé animale privés ou d'autres acteurs non étatiques dans la collecte d'échantillons de fièvre aphteuse et la soumission aux laboratoires / autorités nationaux;
2. Une étude de terrain **menée avant août 2018** sur la demande des éleveurs et autres parties prenantes pour les services de prévention ou de gestion de la fièvre aphteuse, pour établir s'il existe un marché potentiel pour les services et (y compris l'alerte précoce des risques) et qui identifiera ce qui devra changer si la demande doit être satisfaite et / ou le service doit etre introduit.

Impact of the results

The results will inform the application of the progressive control pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) in West and Central Africa, guiding national workshops, and livestock/animal health service projects aligned to the Global FMD Strategy. Results will have immediate application to the development of the national risk based strategic plans (RBSP) which are the first step of the PCP in the countries concerned.

The results also have the potential to inform international and national policy on the capacity of non-state actors (e.g. herders/pastoralist associations, community animal health workers, private services, livestock producer associations) in FMD control and improve the understanding of these stakeholders' perspectives in order to optimize their engagement in surveillance and preventive actions. The pilot model for improved sample collection, from the field, and submission, to the national authorities, might transform the current lack of sampling for FMD which affects both demand for vaccine and affects regional planning – it may also change the offering by vaccine producers of strains suited to use in West and Central Africa.

Follow-up to the pilot studies may involve the extension to additional countries, depending on the value of the results obtained, and depending on the interest of the service providers and national stakeholders for specific information to inform FMD control.

Context:

In West and Central Africa (WCA) the Sahelian countries have the highest concentration of ruminant livestock. Cross-border movements of these animals also extend through trade corridors within countries in Northern Africa. There is a need to strengthen understanding and expertise across the region at multiple levels, ensuring sufficient regional management options for FMD in different production settings. An important concern, and a severe limitation, in the way of developing efficient regional control measures is the lack of knowledge or paucity of information regarding virus strains circulating in these endemic countries. This limitation and the lack of information on incidence and impact of FMD, as well as on vaccine suitability, in WCA is a serious constraint to national and regional assessment of FMD risks and control options. This is increasingly relevant given the rapid livestock development and the rise of livestock movements across borders. In the near future, this rise in cross-border movements is also likely to increase the demand for evidence of health status/vaccination status of livestock before movement across WCA borders.

Regular sampling of infected animals and sample shipment to a reference laboratory for FMD virus characterization will enable filling this knowledge gap. Recent scientific developments have enabled the accurate diagnosis of FMD and virus characterization also with limited resources (e.g. equipment, reagents and technical personnel). Methods for preservation of clinical samples in a form that is safe and not prone to degradation during transportation, but from which the infectious agent can be recovered upon arrival in biosecure laboratory, are now available.

By use of low cost submission routes, selected National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) could be assisted in typing samples, and this may become the basis for improving the information base in a short term. The model of providing this rapid diagnostic capability, through Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) kits, and of assisting submission is now promising and may lead to a sustainable system for sample submission.

In WCA, the human population, technical expertise and academic centres are in the relatively wealthier coastal fringes while Sahelian countries currently experience weak “pull” for capacity development on FMD. In this context non-state actors (herders/pastoralist associations, community animal health workers, private services, livestock producer associations) are, hence, the key stakeholders. Understanding how to improve the capacity of these stakeholders and how they may be better engaged in disease reporting and sample collection, and submission, would contribute significantly to increase reporting and submission rates, and eventually effective surveillance and preventive measures.

The vision for the proposed model through the engagement of non-state actors in animal health management is that, alongside with estimating the burden of infection at country levels and gathering of information relevant to vaccine selection, it could also prove useful for alternative and future applications including the assessment of impact of the disease and the implementation of control interventions (e.g. vaccine delivery).

Éléments souhaitables aux propositions

- L'organisation bénéficiaire (OB) de subventions devrait apporter la capacité de son propre réseau et être en mesure de tirer parti de ses plans de travail existants avec les pays de l'AOC.
- L' OB devrait avoir des antécédents de travail dans le pays concerné et être en mesure de fournir la preuve du soutien du service vétérinaire (souhaitable) et être en mesure d'obtenir les permis nécessaires pour entreprendre le travail sur le terrain;
- L’OB devrait déjà avoir un travail important dans le domaine des para-vétérinaires et des acteurs privés prestataires de services d'élevage (non étatiques) dans les pays qui seront les principaux bénéficiaires du système;
- L'OB devrait fournir la leadership opérationnel et technique dans l'évaluation de la capacité des acteurs non étatiques à fournir des services et dans leur engagement effectif dans la prestation;
- La proposition devrait considérer qu'un certain nombre de kits de diagnostic rapide de la fièvre aphteuse seront fournis au OB (probablement 100 tests individuels par pays). La proposition doit démontrer la capacité de l'OB à gérer le traitement et la gestion des échantillons au niveau national. Sachant que l'envoi des échantillons aux Laboratoires Internationaux de Référence de la fièvre aphteuse devrait être pris en charge par d’autre partenaires du projet de l’EuFMD, les frais d’envoi des échantillons ne doit pas être inclus dans la proposition.
- L’OB devrait fournir des preuves de la capacité à agrandir la mise en œuvre du système modèle à un public plus large et à des zones plus larges si le projet pilote a du succès;

- L'OB devrait être en mesure d'offrir une formation, par voie virtuelle ou autre, lorsque celle-ci est nécessaire pour s'assurer que le système reçoive des niveaux satisfaisants de capacité et d'engagement des acteurs non étatiques et pour améliorer sa mise en oeuvre;
- Des relations de travail étroites intégrées dans le plan de travail, entre le Secrétariat d'EuFMD et l'OB. Ceci peut impliquer par exemple une consultation sur la conception et la mise en œuvre des activités du projet.

Funding available and timeframe

The total budget envelope at this point is **20,000€ for both studies.** Their final report are desired before the end of August 2018. Imaginative proposals that assist building a network of those interested in the identification of effective engaging approaches for non-state actors would be more likely to receive funding to extend the impact of the work.

Notes on the funding

The funds are expected to be used mainly to provide expertise to undertake the studies. The proportion of expenses related to the overheads, travel and procurement should not exceed: 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:_____
- Esitmated cost:
- FlightsEconomyA/R:$ _____
- Transportation:$____
- Arrangement:$
- Accomodation $____
- 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 or organizations with a capacity for signing the contract, with principal investigators capable of delivering quality research and/or other project outputs, 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 1** 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 technical areas and geographical regions; at least one of these is from the EuFMD Special Committee on Research
- Initial review of technical merit and feasibility of the proposal
- Review of the evidence of the applicant's, past and future, capacity and presence in the selected country
- Rate and give comments on each grant application

2nd Review by Grant Review Board

- Assess quality of Referee Panel's comments
- Final review of technical merit and feasibility and evidence of the applicant capacity and presence in the selected country
- 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 2** 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).