



Short Term Professional staff training program in support of EuFMD activities

EuFMD Short Term Professional Officer program

The opportunity

The EuFMD Commission, based in FAO, has funds to support **Short Term Professional (STP)** staff to work in Rome (or possibly at other FAO offices including Ankara, Turkey) for the purpose of gaining professional experience in risk management of FMD, and of work in an international environment on FMD control. The duration of such STP attachments are a minimum of **3 months** and the EuFMD Commission will support living allowances in Rome to a ceiling of **€ 2000** per month in 2011. Candidates will be selected on merit, taking into consideration the experience and profile, and the duration (availability).

Trainees are expected to travel and undertake duties as part of the EuFMD Secretariat, participating in meetings and workshops, disease investigations and field missions as required and appropriate to their skill set and aspirations. These missions will be part of the normal EuFMD program and it is expected, but not guaranteed, that trainees will gain experience of FMD control in the field.

Background

The EuFMD Secretariat, based in the Food-and-Agriculture (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, has a small core staff of two full time technical officers, a communication officer and two clerks, with a program of activities that support FMD control in the European region, from training courses to implementing field projects supporting FMD surveillance and control in the Trans-Caucasus, Iran, Syria and other middle-east and African proximity countries.

There is considerable interest shown from Member States and from outside of Europe from veterinarians to work upon issues relating to FMD management, and several enquiries about longer term training in emergency response and management of FMD have resulted from the EuFMD training program. Longer term attachments with the EuFMD Secretariat could benefit both the persons concerned and the Commission/member states, with the STP officer being given an opportunity to work on the key areas of :

1. FMD threat monitoring, including networking of FMD reference laboratories and surveillance centers;
2. Development of the FMD training program, including improved networking of trainees and trainers, and guidance materials;
3. Development and application of monitoring, surveillance and laboratory guidelines for the FMD progressive control pathway (FMD-PCP);
4. Risk management and response to FMD outbreaks – including assistance with simulation exercise management and guidelines;
5. EuFMD Research Group and Global FMD research – assisting implement of the RG workplan, development of concept notes and Sessions of the Research Group;

6. Technical assistance to EuFMD actions supporting FMD surveillance and control in West Eurasia (epidemiology, laboratory skills of most relevance).

The terms of reference for each person would focus on one or more of the above key areas, and be agreed prior to acceptance.

Profile of STP trainees

Candidates should be veterinary graduates, have a high standard of spoken and written English, and should normally have recent experience at post-graduate level in disciplines relevant to the EuFMD such as the investigation and control of exotic/contagious animal diseases, epidemiology, pathology/laboratory diagnosis, risk management and contingency planning for disease control. The trainees should normally be working for the State Veterinary Service and be expected to use their experience after return to their full time positions.

Modality

The EuFMD Commission will support

1. the cost of air travel to and from Rome, at beginning and end of the training, in line with normal FAO procedures;
2. a modest living allowance for the officer
3. costs of travel and allowances for any missions conducted during the period of attachment.

Prior to commencement, an agreement would be drawn up with the employer regarding the release of the person to undertake the STP position.

Application

Applications can be made directly to the Secretariat. If offered a position we expect the applicant to negotiate their release from their current duties. Applications with supporting letter from their Chief Veterinary Officer may also assist selection. The minimum duration would be 3 months, maximum 11 months.

The funds would be used to support a modest living allowance (circa 2000 € per month) .

Informal enquiries can be made to the Secretary, EuFMD Commission (eufmd@fao.org) , tel +39 0657055528.

Applications should include :

- an FAO personal history form or curriculum vitae
- a covering letter indicating, with reasons, which of the above 6 key areas the candidate wishes to focus upon, and the relevance of the position for their current or future profile.
- wherever possible, evidence that if accepted they be released from their normal duties for the duration but would continue to receive their normal entitlements of salary and related entitlements;

A Selection Panel of the Secretary and Chairman of the Executive Committee would agree the Terms of Reference for each position if there is significant interest/competition for places. Interviews (supported by the EuFMD Commission) may be held if necessary.