



European Partnership on  
Animal Health and Welfare

# External Newsletter

1st Edition | December 2024

# — WHAT IS THE — **EUP AH&W ?**

Welcome to the first newsletter from the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W). This transnational, cross-disciplinary project, co-funded by the European Commission (EC), was launched in January 2024 to improve the control of infectious animal diseases and to promote animal welfare whilst promoting positive societal impact. The Partnership is presently funded for 7 years, with the possibility of a 3-year extension, and the EC and research partners are anticipated to invest about €360 million to boost research and facilitate cooperation between researchers, national and regional funding agencies and policy makers across Europe.

## **Aims/objectives**

The goal of EUP AH&W is to strengthen Europe's capacity to provide a sustainable livestock production sector, both terrestrial and aquatic, by promoting animal welfare and preventing and controlling infectious animal diseases.

It brings together scientists, veterinarians, stakeholders, authorities and funders working in animal health and welfare, public health, food safety, economic sustainability and the environment.

As outlined in the **EUP AH&W Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, the Partnership is committed to generating key knowledge and develop innovative methodologies, tools and products to promote sustainability in livestock production, for both terrestrial and aquatic animals. The EUP AH&W will support the development of an animal-friendly livestock sector and reduce the risk of animal infections, both from endemic and emerging origin. It aligns with the European Green Deal, and in particular with the Farm to Fork Strategy, focusing on reducing antimicrobial use and improving animal welfare.

EUP AH&W outputs will impact areas such as farm management, animal-based (welfare) measures, and the resilience of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture; zoonoses; vector-borne, food-borne pathogens and emerging diseases at primary production; and other issues such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



# Overview

The activities of the European Partnership on Animal Health & Welfare (EUP AH&W) are structured around five priority areas:

- Surveillance/monitoring systems and risk assessment of animal health and welfare;
- Procedures, methodologies, and tools to assess animal health and animal welfare;
- Management and husbandry guidelines on farm, including aquaculture, during transport and at slaughter;
- Vaccines and treatments; and
- Socio-economic aspects.

Each of these priority areas is represented in the EUP AH&W logo.

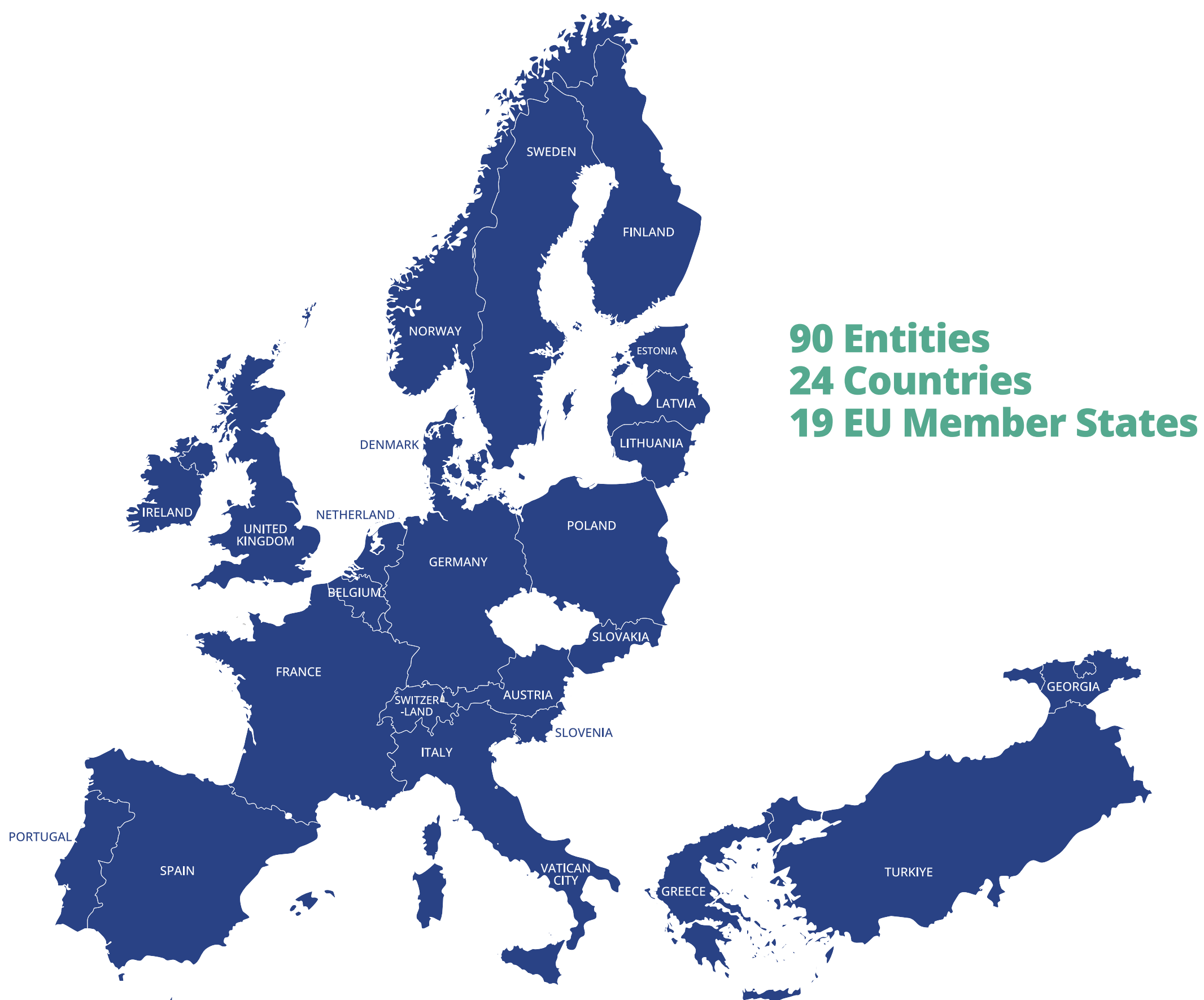


Based on the general objectives of the EUP AH&W, four specific objectives (SOs) have also been outlined in the SRIA:

- **SO1: To facilitate the cooperation between all relevant actors on the prevention and control of animal infectious diseases and the monitoring of animal welfare** by enhancing collaboration between public and private actors through research, training, capacity building, and shared experiences.
- **SO2: To boost research and to increase the evidence-base to develop products and tools for animal disease control and animal welfare monitoring** by promoting transnational research to create new knowledge, methodologies, techniques, databases and products.
- **SO3: To enhance cross-sector cooperation and collaboration (One Health - One Welfare perspective)** by supporting multidisciplinary actions to sustain animal, human, and ecosystem health and welfare.
- **SO4: To strengthen the dissemination and uptake of project outputs to societal, political and private stakeholders by engaging with stakeholders** (upstream and continuous interaction) to ensure the implementation of EUP AH&W outputs across Europe.

The proposal also defined a series of Operational Objectives (OO1 to OO9) to be addressed by the internal programme and external research calls over the life of the project. Research and integrative activities align with the OOs to achieve the objectives. Further information is available on the [EUP AH&W website](#).

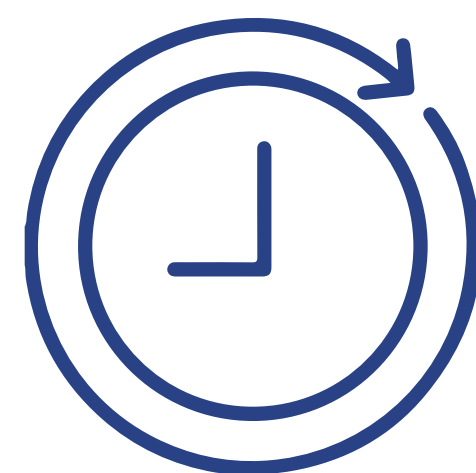
Funded by the **Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation** and the **EUP AH&W partner institutions/organisations**, the Partnership has initially brought together 90 entities (research-performing organisations [RPOs], funding organisations, and ministries), including the European Food Safety Authority and European Medicines Agency, from 24 countries (including 19 EU Member States and 5 countries associated with Horizon Europe). Other organisations are encouraged to consider participating in the work programme through [EUP AH&W external calls](#).



**Launched:**  
**2024**



**Co-funded  
Partnership:**  
**€360 million**



**Duration:**  
**7 (+3) Years**

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## VISION

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Infectious  
animal diseases  
are optimally  
prevented and  
controlled with  
appropriate  
means

Antimicrobials  
are used  
prudently

Animal  
welfare is  
respected and  
promoted in every  
phase of the  
production  
cycle

EUP AH&W uses a collaborative approach across the partners to address existing and emerging infectious animal diseases, affecting terrestrial and aquatic animals. Diseases with zoonotic risks, such as bird flu, as well as the growing issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are integral to the Partnership in order to ensure that a high level of animal welfare is provided throughout an animal's life. The objectives of the EUP AH&W align with the European Green Deal and its associated Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system.



# Highlights

First call for  
research proposals

External call closed with  
 **130 pre-proposals  
submitted**

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**3 Topics**  
**30 Funders**

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 **Over € 24 million  
with EU co-funding**

The first external EUP AH&W call for proposals was also open to non-partner applicants (budget restriction applied to members) and addressed the following topics:

- Novel technologies for prevention, detection, assessment, and management of animal health and welfare.
- Fundamental research for animal health and welfare.
- Animal health and welfare and society.

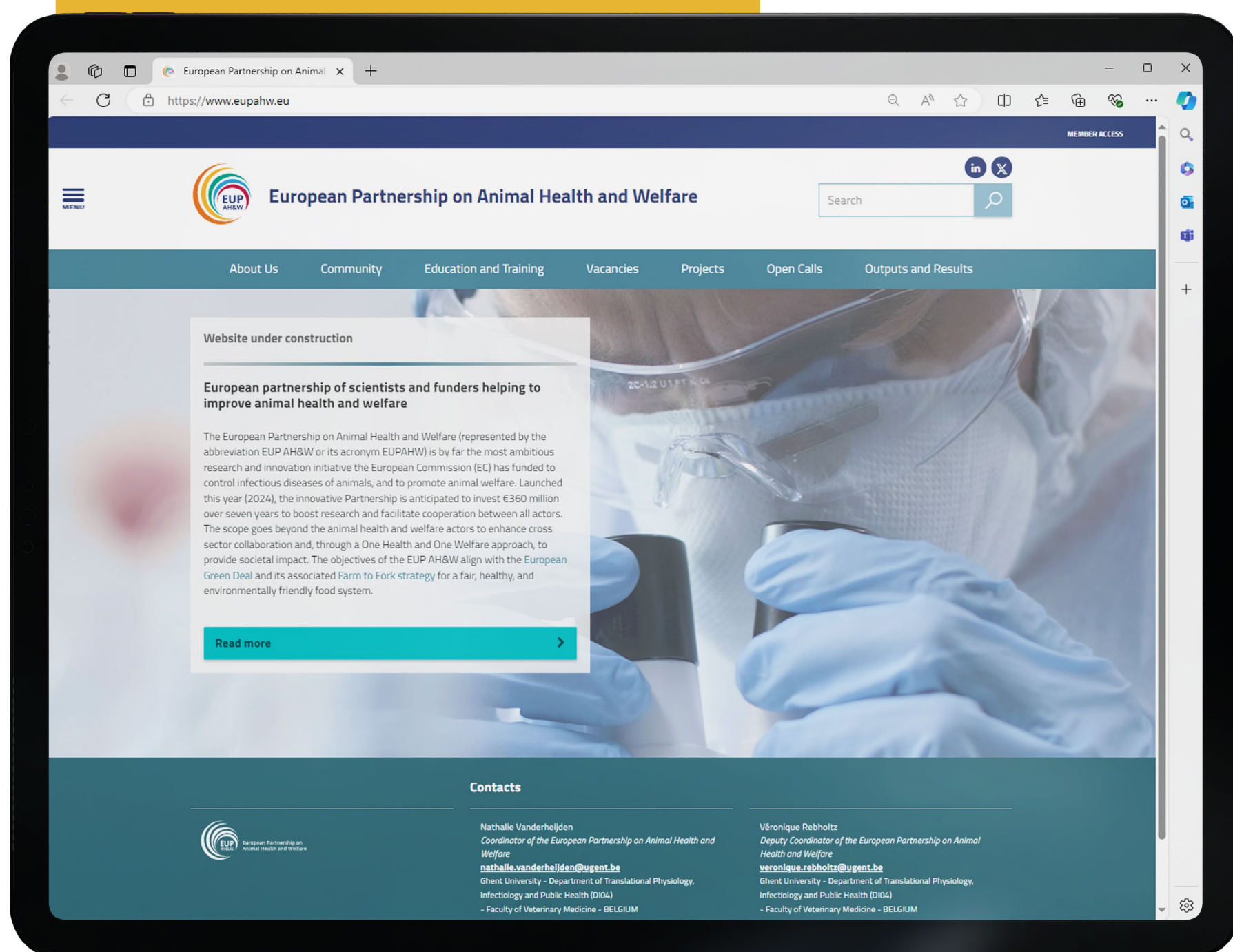
The pre-proposal step of the first call closed on 8th of July, generated significant interest, with 130 pre-proposals submitted by 711 organisations from 32 countries, including partners and associated partners. Following an eligibility review and expert evaluation, the selection process of pre-proposals has been completed, and the successful candidates have been informed.

These selected candidates are now invited to submit their full proposals, with the final submission deadline set for 4th February 2025.

Visit <https://eupahw.ptj.de/call1> for more details.



# New version of our website coming soon!



We are pleased to inform you that a new version of our website will be going live soon (<https://www.eupahw.eu/>).

This website will be the place to find out about current and future activities as well as related outputs and the impact of completed projects. The website will continue to evolve and grow throughout the duration of the EUP AH&W, reflecting the dynamic nature of the research.

# First Scientific Workshop

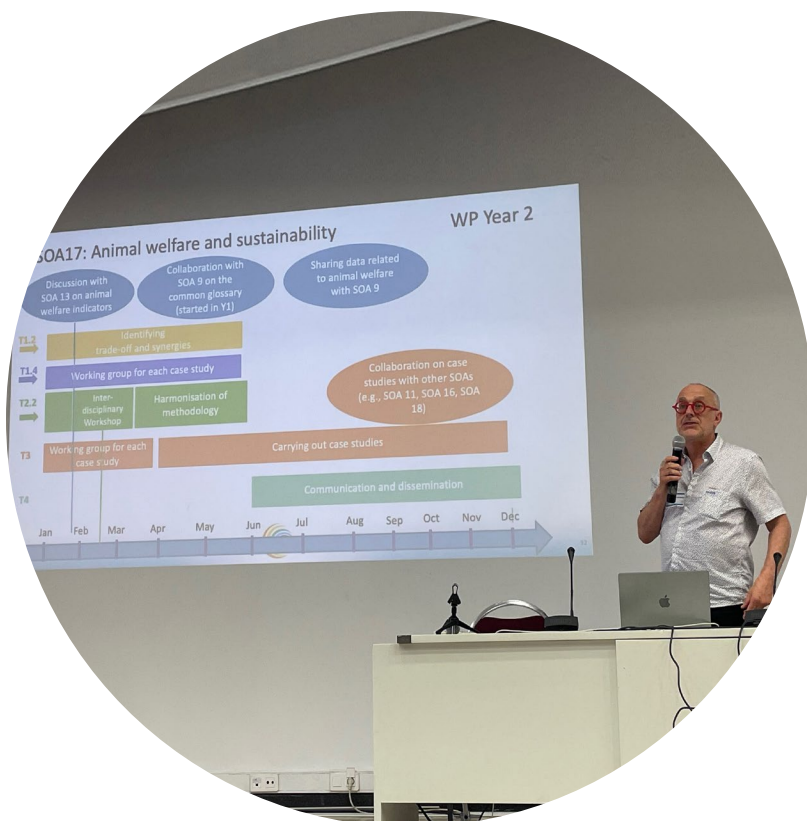
- Thessaloniki, Greece



Synergies and collaborative projects were discussed between partners at the first scientific workshop for EUP AH&W held in Thessaloniki in Greece on 5th and 6th June 2024. Over 200 key RPO scientists came together in June in Thessaloniki to share protocols, discuss collaborative research activities, avoid overlaps and develop synergies across the 17 Joint Internal Projects (JIPs). More information on the JIPs can be found on the [Projects](#) page of our website where the JIPs are posted under the priority area that they are designed to address.

# First Scientific Workshop

- Thessaloniki, Greece



Nathalie Vanderheijden from the University of Ghent, coordinator of the EUP AH&W, sums up the Partnership as follows: **“Our Partnership is a new, open initiative, bringing together EC funding, national/regional funders and research-performing organisations to concentrate efforts on developments with high societal, economic and policy impact.”**

EFSA’s Chief Scientist Carlos Das Neves says in relation to the Partnership: **“We are pleased to announce that EFSA will be a full partner of the European Partnership Animal Health & Welfare. This is the first time that we will be a beneficiary in a research partnership under Horizon Europe, which will enable a smoother transition from research to regulatory science. We are prepared and committed to bring our expertise to the table, together with the best experts in Europe, for the benefit of animal health and welfare.”**

Quotes taken from press release publicising the launch of EUP AH&W available in full [here](#).



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As the first year of the EUP AH&W Project comes to an end, we're grateful for the support and collaboration of our internal and external partners.

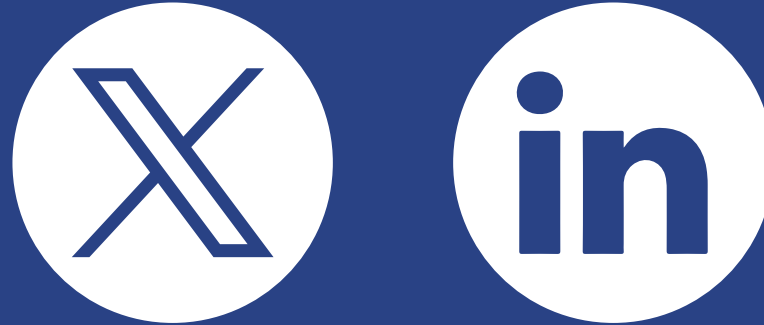
We look forward to another year of innovation, impact, and working together to improve animal health and welfare.

We wish you a successful 2025.

**From the EUP AH&W Team**



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Find out about Partnership opportunities, jobs and workshops within the EUP AH&W network by following #EUPAHW on X and LinkedIn

**Please forward this Newsletter to anyone who may be interested in the EUP AH&W research.**

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This Newsletter is part of the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W) and was co-funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Project 1101136346 EUPAHW.

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