



European Partnership on
Animal Health and Welfare

External Newsletter

2nd Edition | Summer 2025



Co-funded by
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Silent, but deadly: increase in alveolar echinococcosis, a potentially fatal food- borne parasitic disease

SOA 11 research, published in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, highlights data deficiencies in disease monitoring.

European health experts from EUP AH&W have used published records and reports to show how a rare and fatal, parasitic disease in Europe is becoming a growing issue for more people, raising concern over the surveillance of the disease.

Human alveolar echinococcosis (AE), a rare zoonotic disease, is fatal to humans if left untreated. Caused by the larval stage of the fox tapeworm (*E. multilocularis*), AE was previously found in specific regions of the Northern Hemisphere (including Europe and North America). In Europe, the life cycle of the parasites is perpetuated mainly by foxes and small wild rodents, such as mice and rats. Pets, including dogs and cats, may become infected through ingestion of infected animals as well as material contaminated by infected fox faeces. Humans are infected by ingesting parasite eggs present in the faeces of foxes that contaminate the environment, water, fruit and vegetables as well as petting and caring for dogs or cats. Symptoms can take years to emerge, making the disease difficult to track back and to treat. Recent research published in the journal “*The Lancet Infectious Diseases*” has shown that the number of reported cases of AE has increased in Europe during last 25 years. These numbers are low, and many more cases are not reported or diagnosed, according to the first multicentre study led by the new “European Union Reference Laboratory for Public Health on Helminths and Protozoa” at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS – Rome, Italy).

This research, part-funded by the KNOW-PATH project within the European Union’s Horizon EUP AH&W, and led by Dr Adriano Casulli from ISS, involved colleagues from across Europe. Health experts studied published research

of AE cases in humans between 1997 and 2023 and identified 4207 cases across Europe. This review has highlighted how AE has been under-reported and misdiagnosed in humans, generally due to a delay between exposure and the development of symptoms lasting 5 to 15 years. Researchers conclude that the real burden of this neglected parasitic infection occurring in Europe is underreported and probably higher.

Dr Adriano Casulli says, *“The incidence of this human parasitic disease is on the rise in Europe, especially in countries where this parasitic pathogen is ‘historically’ present. The incidence in Europe in the period 2021-2023 was 0.12 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, but we think this figure is underestimated. This has an impact on healthcare costs within Europe as those who are infected need lifelong treatment. We urge governments to increase surveillance of Echinococcus multilocularis in animals and humans in Europe in a One Health perspective”.*

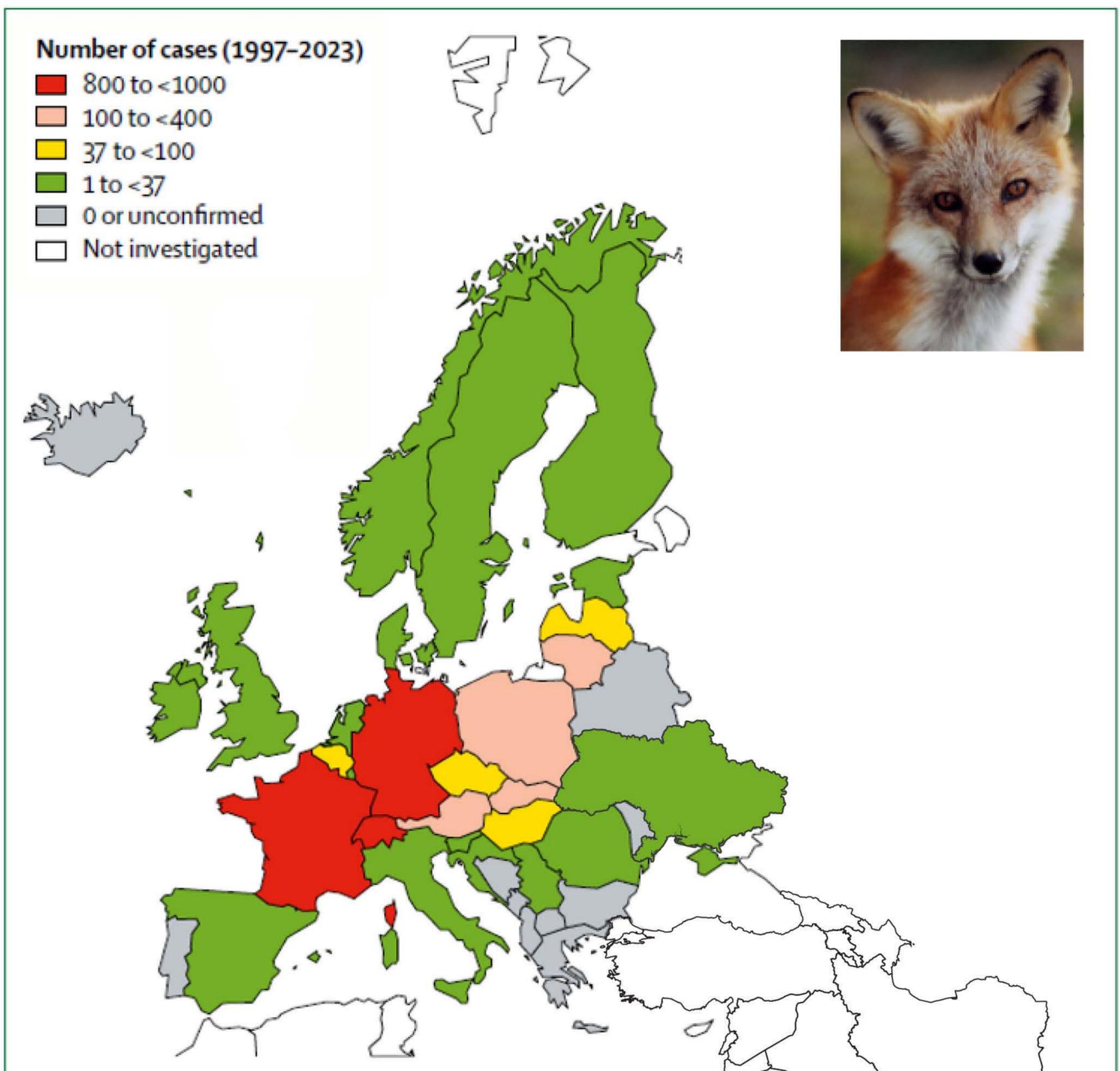


Image showing countries currently affected by alveolar echinococcosis within Europe along with tapeworm, carrier (fox).

The paper ([available online](#)) highlights a worrying expansion of a potentially fatal disease into new geographic areas. Given that this disease is often undetected until its advanced stages, it poses serious diagnostic and treatment challenges, prompting renewed calls for heightened surveillance, public awareness, and preventive measures.

*Paper details: Adriano Casulli, Bernadette Abela, Daniele Petrone, Barbara Šoba, Balázs Dezsényi, Jacek Karamon, Laurence Millon, Urmas Saarma, Daniela Antolová, François Chappuis, Severin Gloor, Marcel Stoeckle, Beat Müllhaupt, Relja Beck, Heimo Lagler, Felix Lötsch, Herbert Auer, Marie-Pierre Hayette, Libuše Kolářová, Sniedze Laivacuma, Mindaugas Šarkūnas, Vitalijus Sokolovas, Audronė Marcinkutė, Karin Troell, Ansgar Deibel, Pikka Jokelainen, Małgorzata Sulima, Dagny Krankowska, Stillhard Roman, Gaëtan-Romain Joliat, Nermin Halkic, Solange Bresson-Hadni, Joanna Halina Bednarek, Andrzej Załęski, Małgorzata Paul, Sheraz Yaqub, Mogens Jensenius, Joke van der Giessen, Laura Nabarro, Peter Chiodini, Florent Demonmerot, Jenny Knapp, Beate Grüner, Peter Kern, Lynn Peters, Federica Santolamazza, Azzurra Santoro. "Unveiling the incidences and trends of alveolar echinococcosis in Europe: a systematic review from the KNOW-PATH project" *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 2025, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(25\)00283-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(25)00283-X).*

This work forms part of SOA 11 project within EUP AH&W ([SOA 11- Know path knowledge on priority pathogens infectious diseases and their detection methods](#)), more information on this and other research within the Partnership can be found on our website.

Highlights

EUP AH&W impact

IMPACT METRICS

Showcasing our **engagement** and **reach** across various platforms and activities.

(Numbers correct as of July 2025)

Dissemination & Engagement



Publications

14



Conferences Presentations

19



External Meetings

30



Summer School

1



External Training Events

6

Social Media Reach



LinkedIn Followers

769



Bluesky Followers

77



Instagram Followers

58

Since its establishment in January 2024, the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W) has acted as a lightning rod for research that supports the control of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animals, and the promotion of animal welfare. Further details on the Partnership can be found on our [website](#) or through our [flyer](#).

The large number of collaborators, Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and projects that form the research active part of the Partnership all feed into a community of evidence that seeks to make a demonstrable impact on how animal health and welfare is monitored, measured and improved.

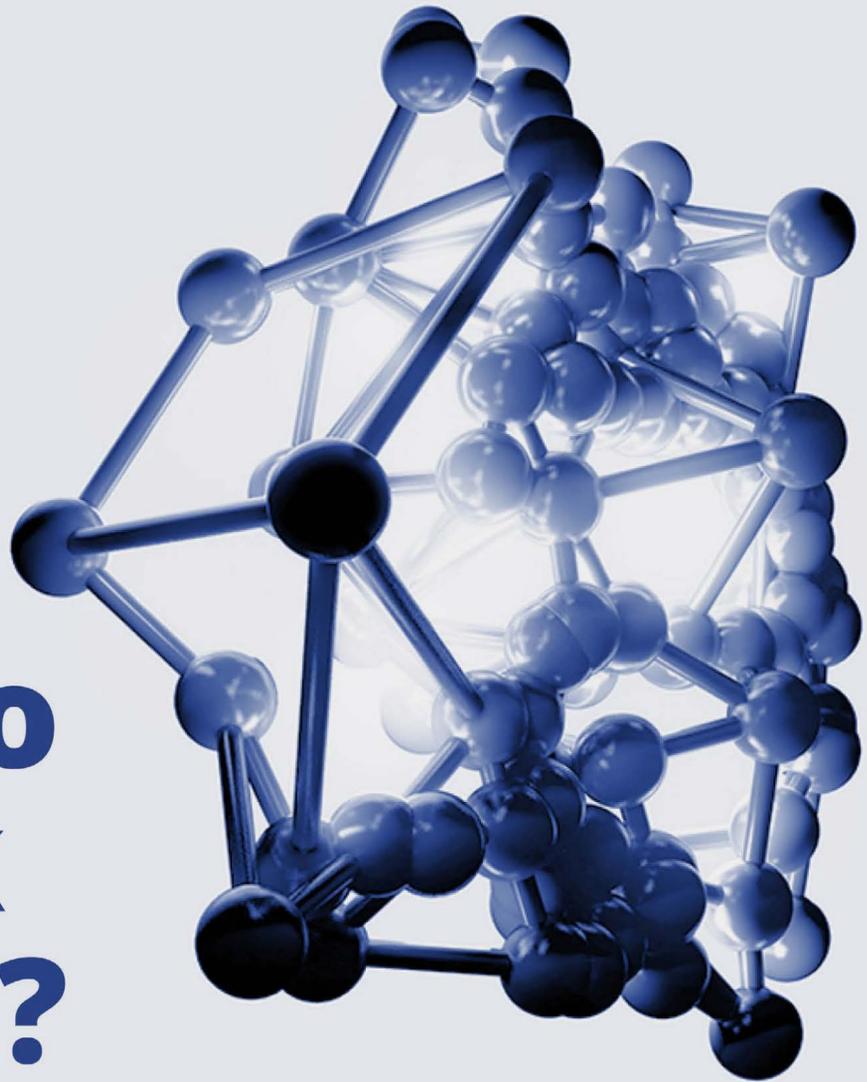
- **Over the last 12 months, the Partnership has generated:**
- **19 presentations at scientific conferences**
- **14 publications in high-ranking research journals**
- **Participation in 30 external research meetings**
- **6 training courses with external attendees**
- **A Summer School (more details below)**
- **One scientific workshop held in Thessaloniki, Greece.**

The Partnership has an ongoing mission to expand the knowledge base on the links between animal health (including vaccination, zoonoses, and diagnostics) and animal welfare (including methods to assess and improve animal wellbeing). Follow us on social media to learn more!



Updating our
**Research
Agenda:**

**What
science do
you think
is needed?**



Relevant research topics are welcome

The Partnership's **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** will be updated in 2026. You can have your say as to what research actions should be included in the revised SRIA. To allow you to contribute, a form will be available from our Partnership website **throughout October 2025**. It will address each of the nine Operational Objectives (a snapshot can be found [here](#)) in the current SRIA, and ask you to comment on the 51 Actions that we have now, how they should be updated and which new ones should be added. The more convincing your argument is, the greater the chance that your ideas will be included.

Please keep an eye on the [website](#).... And start the thinking process now!

Early career researchers welcomed to the inaugural EUP AH&W Summer School



A slightly overcast and wet week in July 2025 saw 29 early career researchers drawn from across the breadth of the EUP AH&W Partnership together to take part in a highly engaging and diverse Summer School.

The week was a social, informative and challenging experience for attendees, with individuals coming from a range of different professional backgrounds. Attendees were hosted at the University of Surrey, based in the historic town of Guildford within the leafy Surrey hills, with lectures and practical activities making use of the state-of-the-art facilities within the University. Attendees were also given a unique opportunity to visit the Animal and Plant Health Agency ([APHA](#), a Defra executive agency) facilities and see how England and Wales are dealing with animal disease incursions.

Selected recordings of the lectures will be available to EUP AH&W consortia members through the SharePoint site in the near future.



Above: Welcome drinks and networking reception at the Vet School, University of Surrey.



Above: Day 4 Evening dinner with the attendees.



Above: Snapshot of a Summer School lecture in session



Above: Summer School Attendees visited APHA



Above: Prof. em Annemarie Käsbohrer (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), WP5 CEED leader EUP AH&W) and Professor Roberto La Ragione (Interim Pro-Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean for the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences (FHMS), Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, WP5 CEED deputy leader EUP AH&W) welcomed early career researchers from across the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W) to the University of Surrey for the inaugural EUP AH&W Summer School.



Left to right: Sam Ogbemor, Dr Sophie Rocks, and Dr Aurore Poirier - CEED team at Surrey.

Expanding our research - new Joint Internal Projects planned

EUP AH&W is delighted to announce that the second round of transposing the EUP AH&W's [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#) actions into Joint Internal Projects (JIP's) has been completed, pending approval by the Executive Board (EB) and the Governing Board. These new projects will be part of the proposal to address the [EU call for the additional activities of the EUPAHW](#).

After a complex multistage process, a total of 18 JIP proposals have been selected to be included in the proposal to extend the EUP AH&W. The JIP proposals involve 55 Research Performing Organisations (RPO's) and are all planned to be 3-year projects with a cumulated total budget of €103 million, 50% co-funded by the partners. Sixteen of the proposals are planned to start in January 2026, and two projects are planned to start at the beginning of 2027.

EUP AH&W first external call outcomes - “Supporting the Future of Animal Health and Welfare”



EUPAHW FIRST CALL OUTCOMES

- **20 PROJECTS** RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING
- **19 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**
- **84 DIFFERENT ENTITIES**
- **9 ACTIONS** UNDER **7 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES** FROM THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA OF THE PARTNERSHIP



EUP AH&W's first external call for projects was titled “Supporting the Future of Animal Health and Welfare” and submission of full proposals closed on 4th February 2025.

The call for proposals was competitive with 41 full proposals submitted. Out of these submissions, 20 projects have been selected for funding. The selected projects address 9 actions under **7 Operational Objectives** from the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (**SRIA**) of the Partnership.

The selected projects (listed below with the coordinator country in brackets, and on the [EUP AH&W website](#)) involve 84 different research entities with participants coming from 19 different countries. Congratulations to all involved.

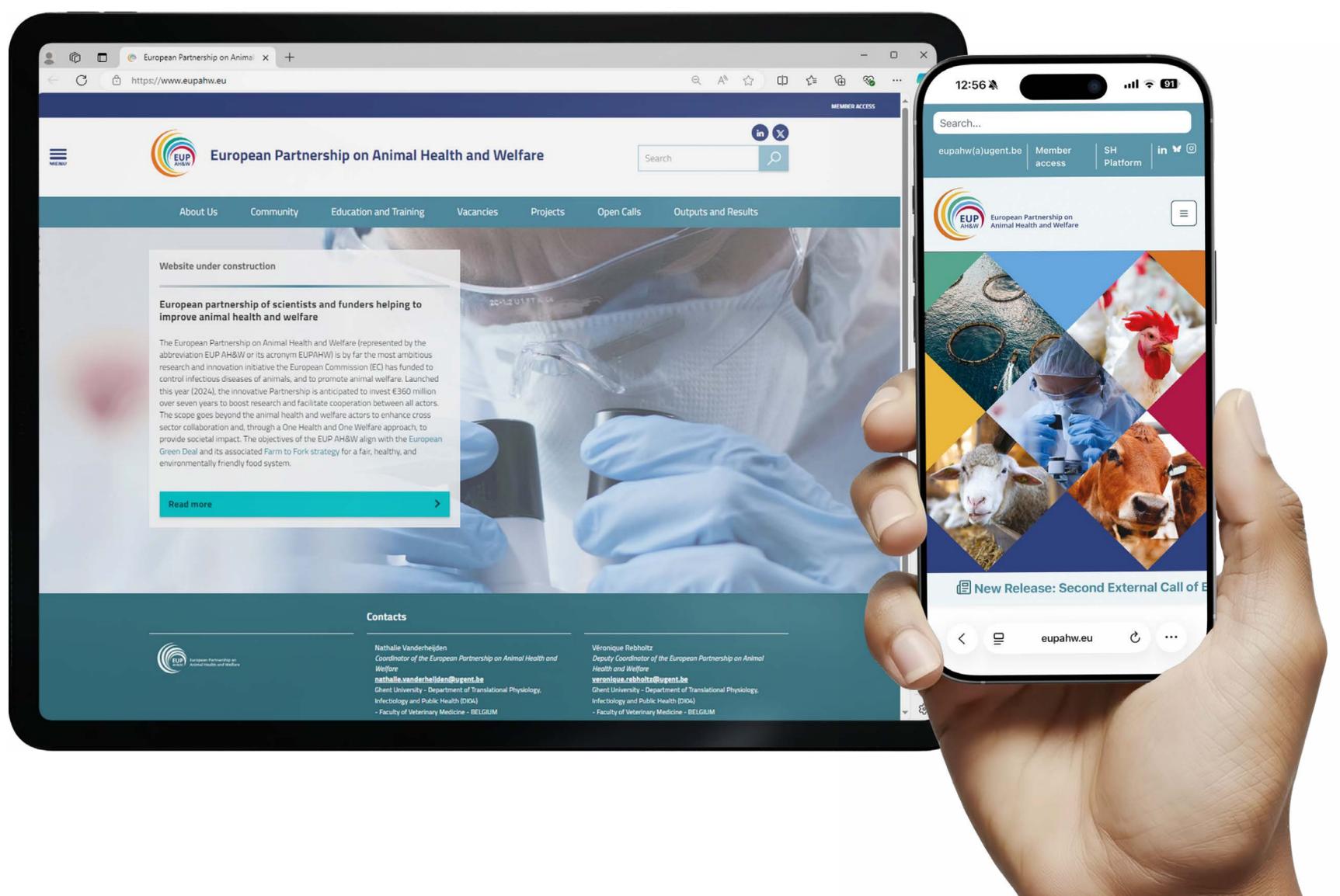
- **HEN-CARE** - Hen Emotional Needs - Comprehensive Assessment and Resilience Enhancement (UK)
- **ASF-RESIST** - Defining host factors of susceptibility and resistance to African Swine Fever in domestic and wild suids (FR)
- **EVIVA** - Evolution of avian influenza viruses in the context of vaccination (IT)
- **BIOFRAME** - Tailored Biosecurity Framework for Non-Intensive Animal Farming Systems (BE)
- **CATTLE-AIV** - Comprehensive Analysis of Transmission, Tropism, and Livestock Epidemiology of Avian Influenza Viruses (DK)
- **HoliWell** - Towards a Holistic Assessment of Animal Welfare using Emotion and Deep Learning (UK)
- **PathOmics** - Pathogen Tracing via Metagenomics, Metabolomics, and Volatilomics for Early Disease Diagnosis in Swine and Poultry (BE)
- **MICROBEEome** - Bacteriophages and the Honeybee Gut Microbiome: Impacts on Immunity and Disease Resistance (BE)
- **AQUAMED** - Unravelling Mediterranean Aquaculture Pathogens: Advancing Diagnostic and Vaccine-like Solutions (PT)
- **IMM4ASF** - Basis of protective immunity and reversion to virulence of African swine fever virus (ES)
- **MATFOETFIGHT** - Decoding the Maternal-Foetal Immune Dynamics Against PRRSV (UK)
- **AquTRep** - T cell Repertoire Analysis: development of immunological tools to evaluate vaccine protection in key European farmed fish species (ES)
- **EPIG** - Ecology of Pathogenic *Streptococcus suis* and their Interactions with Microbiota and Pig Immunity (NL)
- **AQUAWELL** - Steering microbiomes to ensure rainbow trout health and welfare (DK)
- **BRUCELLIN** - Novel integrated approaches for brucellosis prevention, control and eradication using brucellin-derived tools in production animals (FR)
- **Smart4Welfare** - Adoption of smart technology for animal welfare and sustainable livestock systems (EE)
- **ERA BSE** - Eradication of BSE: improving tools for detection and management of genetic and environmental risks (UK)
- **TechGen4Health** - Application of novel technologies, diagnostics and genomics to improve disease resistance of cattle in grazing systems (DE)
- **ISOEAVLG** - Immunity stimulation by oral administration of encapsulated autologous vaccine against *Lactococcus garvieae* in sea bream and sea bass (IT)
- **PRRSV-OUT** - Harnessing genomics to fight PRRSV: Discovery of essential host factors and their functional association with resistance (FR)

The second external call of the EUP AH&W will be launched in January 2026.

External funders, who are not current beneficiaries of EUP AH&W, are welcome to join this call (without the possibility of receiving EU top-up funding).

Please contact the Call Secretariat at ptj-pahw@fz-juelich.de if you have any questions about the call.

Stay up to date

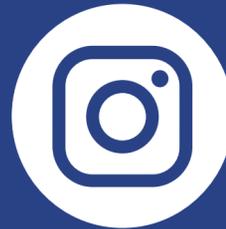


Keep up to date with EUP AH&W outputs on our website (<https://www.eupahw.eu/>). This website will be the place to find out about current and future activities as well as related outputs and the impact of completed projects. The website will continue to evolve and grow throughout the duration of the EUP AH&W, reflecting the dynamic nature of the research.



European Partnership on
Animal Health and Welfare

Follow us on social media



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

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

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