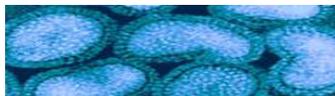


## Foresight & Programming Unit – EMIDA

### Foresight & Programming Unit, Terms of Reference (long term)

DELIVERABLE 4.1      A framework for a durable Foresight & Programming unit, including terms of reference, to develop a strategic research agenda dynamically

16 April 2009



## Framework for a durable Foresight & Programming unit

Date: 16 April 2009  
Version no: 01  
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### Introduction

The final outcome of Workpackage 4 will be a common strategic research agenda (SRA) for emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock on EU-level to be used effectively and efficiently by Memberstates in their strategic research agendas respectively. To achieve this the longer-term strategic requirements have to be identified. Therefore the current state-of-the-art knowledge on future aspects of animal disease development in Europe and the world, should be framed. For example, the driving forces and threats related to animal infectious diseases as identified in existing foresight studies should be mapped, and validated with current expert knowledge. Additionally, this should be seen in the perspective of existing research programmes. As the world exists of dynamic ecosystems which influence the animal health arena this exercise should not be a one time event. It must be repeated with a certain frequency to enable us to adjust research programmes and adapt to the dynamic environment we are living in. Which, in fact, should be sustained by a durable process.

### Description of work

Right from the start the Foresight & Programming Unit (FPU) was established. The intention was to create a small group of Workpackage 4 members with an interest in the animal diseases and its future perspectives. It was expected that a small group would be active, flexible and decisive in the envisaged process. The proof of the pudding is, as always, in the eating. But the progress made, so far, with the small FPU which was established has been tremendous, considering pace and volume.

The framework of the methods envisaged to be used by the FPU for development of a common strategic research agenda consists of three activities. Identification of topics, prioritisation of topics and identification of shared priorities. The identification of topics primarily consists of the review of publications of foresight exercises and the outcome of the questionnaire review performed by Workpackage 2. A Delphi<sup>1</sup> study will be used to validate these results and prioritise the topics identified. To arrive at shared priorities and regional preferences a consensus workshop will be conducted based on the input of Delphi study. Policymakers and former Delphi study participants will be invited to participate in this consensus workshop. The common strategic research agenda shall be based on the outcome of this workshop. This framework is depicted in figure 1.

### Sustainability

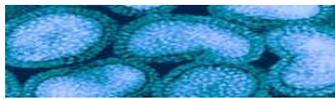
Considering the dynamics of the animal health arena it is foreseen that the work of the FPU must be sustained and taken forward by the SCAR Collaborative WorkingGroup Animal Health and Welfare (SCAR CWG) after the EMIDA ERA-NET project has ended. Therefore terms of reference has been drafted, see page 4.

### Delineation

In the long term the FPU will be an operational unit of the SCAR CWG, which will be the sustainable version of the EMIDA ERA-NET formalised by modus operandi and a Collaboration Agreement (CA). Therefore the terms of reference of the durable FPU shall be part of the CA and will be finalised together with the CA.

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<sup>1</sup> Delphi is an iterative technique used for the systematic measuring and aiding of forecasting activities and decision-making, and has been applied in a variety of disciplines. Delphi provides a structure to facilitate group communication on a specific task, and is recognised as being an effective procedure when reliable consensus of opinion needs to be obtained from diverse and dispersed groups. Delphi involves sequential collection of questionnaire data interspersed with controlled opinion feedback



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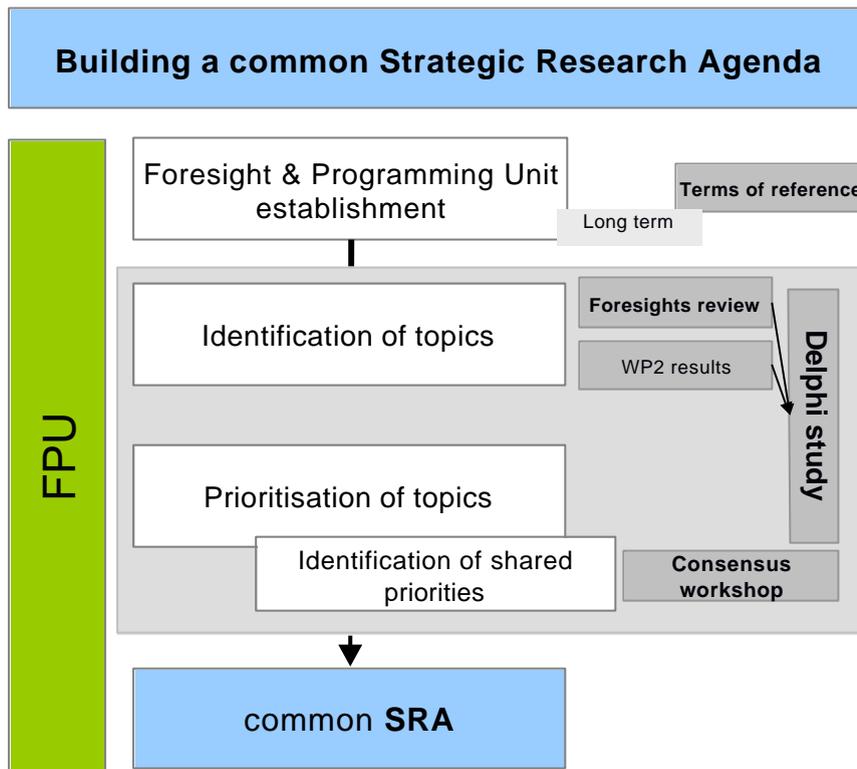
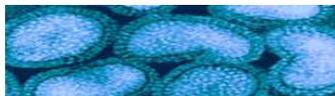


figure 1. framework to develop a strategic research agenda



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### Background

The disease threats to the livestock industry have increased steadily over the past decades as a result of globalisation, evolving pathogens and climate change. Responding to animal disease threats relies heavily on science; research makes a significant contribution to the development of disease prevention and control policy and the translation of policy, and other drivers for improving animal health, into practical effect. Although the legislation that underpins policy for the control of statutory diseases is determined at the EU level, the research that supports policy development and implementation is primarily carried out at the national level and is lacking a common strategic approach for the research on major infectious diseases affecting livestock production now and in the (near) future.

The aim of the Foresight & Programming Unit (FPU) is to build on and continue the work of the EMIDA ERA-NET. As an operational unit of the SCAR CWG it will support its task in maintaining a durable focused network of national research funders in Member and Associated States of the EU for the sole purpose of a common strategic research agenda in the field of animal health.

### Scope and delineation

The scope of the FPU will include emerging and major infectious diseases of production animals in the EU, including fish and bees and including those conditions which pose a threat to human health but excluding food safety issues relating to the handling of livestock products and diseases of wildlife except where they act as reservoirs of infection for humans or production animals.

The FPU is expected to support, with relevant and dedicated output, the SCAR CWG in its effort to achieve the goals it has set. The FPU's remit and goals are restricted to the relevant SCAR CWG's objectives and the available resources.

### Objectives

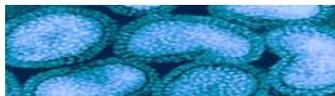
The FPU's work will be a continuation of and based upon the work and output of the preliminary FPU which was established within the EMIDA ERA-NET. The objectives of its work to support the SCAR CWG are:

- To maintain and evaluate on a regular basis the common strategic research agenda based on shared regional and trans-national priorities to be taken forward by the SCAR CWG by means of jointly funded programmes;
- To facilitate the establishment of (strategic) research programmes in Member and Associated states wishing to develop research activities in the field of animal diseases;
- To facilitate cost-effectiveness of research-commissioning by trying to establish and publish shared priorities on a trans-national programme level.

The output of the FPU's work will allow for better coordination of national programmes at an EU-wide level and further development and establishment of joint programmes.

Transparency and access to research programmes and results across all Member and Associated states are inevitable **conditions** to create the situation that allow the FPU's to perform their tasks.

A worthwhile spin-off could be the better coordination of research priorities suitable for EU Framework Programme funding.



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### Tasks

The FPU will structurally embed the foresight and strategic programming activities of the EMIDA ERA-NET in the SCAR CWG activity programma. The tasks identified, are to:

*As the FPU is part of the SCAR CWG (and in the end must relate to the foresight unit of SCAR) the work should focus on topics which address issues on EU-level (of common interest so to speak) The FPU should be in the position to make proposals to the SCAR CWG management group, which does not exist yet, regarding future research topics. Therefore this description of tasks include making proposals for commissioning new foresights on EU level (regions) and proposals for commissioning research (i.e. DG Research Framework Programmes)*

- Maintain the common Strategic Research Agenda (renewal on regular basis for instance)
  - Evaluate common Strategic Research Agenda
  - Evaluate best practices for priority setting
- Propose new/additional foresights to cover identified gaps in future outlooks on regional or trans-national level;
- Develop a common approach or methodology to identify knowledge gaps;
- Contribute to the action plan for joint trans-national programming;
- Propose (strategic) research topics for commissioning on EU level taking into account the on-going and planned research in European countries;
- Propose research capacity and capability building (infrastructure and expertise) on regional and trans-national level;
- Explore the opportunities for contribution to the Foresight Monitoring Mechanism initiative of SCAR.

### Operational procedures

To become fully operational the FPU have to write and maintain operational procedures:

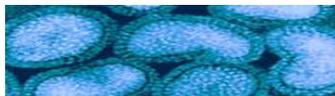
- For tasks mentioned (like action plan for maintenance of common SRA (evaluation, update frequency))
- For organising meetings
- For organising workshops
- For writing reports
- For communication and dissemination

### FPU structure and Finance

The FPU will be an operational unit within the SCAR CWG. Its reports will be discussed in the SCAR CWG before they will be made publically available. The work will be an on-going process with product updates in a certain frequency (to be decided still). The work consists of individual and plenary tasks which need to be coordinated and organised. Therefore an executive committee, consisting of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, should run the FPU.

The constitution of the FPU consist of an executive committee and four members.

Membership duration will be a maximum of 4 years. To prevent loss of experience only half of the FPU will be replaced simultaneously at time of FPU renewal. The eight members should be an equal representation of the EU Memberstate regions, Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Europe. The chair and the vice-chair should never represent the same European region, and the countries from which they will be chosen will be assigned in a prescheduled order. The secretary will be responsible for the organisation of meetings,



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workshops, etcetera. The treasurer will be responsible for the budget made available by donations / fee of the SCAR CWG consortium partners (or by the Commission?).

The FPU will meet on a regular basis. The meetings will coincide with the regular SCAR CWG's meetings as much as possible. As the output of the FPU will be discussion-papers for the SCAR CWG additional FPU preparatory meetings are foreseen. Moreover, as far as can be expected at the moment preparatory work for consensus workshops will need additional effort and meetings.

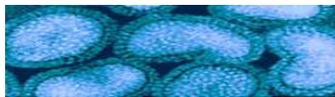
Funding of these additional meetings should cover travel and subsistence or will allow for video / teleconference facilities to be used. The budget to cover these expenses should not be provided by the current FPU members at the time, because this will not encourage random rotation of FPU members after every term. This budget will be donated by all SCAR CWG consortium partners and could be regarded as a membership fee. **Note**: a suggestion has been made to ask the Commission to fund the work of the FPU, because this will make life a lot easier as regarding for instance legal position of the FPU (which is non-existent).

### Transparency and Communication

To increase (governmental, scientific and public) awareness the FPU will try to conduct its work as transparently as possible. Any FPU publication will be made available via the public site of the SCAR CWG website and with consent of the SCAR CWG consortium.

### Link to other Foresight platforms

The FPU will survey the field of emerging risks and emerging diseases regarding threats to animal health, looking for relevant networks/platforms, which already exist or are to be established. As a goal the FPU will seek for participation in or collaboration with these networks/platforms to build synergy.



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Annex: FPU membership

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Organisation	Country	Representative	Alternate	Position	Term*
				Chair	2014
				Vice-chair	2012
				Secretary	2014
				Treasurer	2012
				Member	2014
				Member	2014
				Member	2012
				Member	2012

term\*: date when term ends; rotation frequency is 4 years for all members; first time half of the members will be replaced after 2 years