EU-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT

Network of excellence for epizootic disease diagnosis and control (Epizone)

**Time of action:** EPIZONE is due to commence in May 2006

**EU budget (funding):** € 14 million for 5 years

The consequences of epizootic infections can be devastating, but research into preparedness, prevention, detection, and control of epizootics is not the task of one laboratory, nor the responsibility of each Member State. The problem has to be tackled across the whole production chain of animal-related food.

The EPIZONE Network of Excellence provides a structure at the European level to facilitate this united effort. It brings together the research of 20 institutions from ten European countries, along with China and Turkey. Its focus is on sharing expertise and spreading excellence between more than 250 associated scientists.

EPIZONE will also manage its own scientific work programmes. Research will cover diagnostics, intervention strategies, surveillance and epidemiology, and risk assessment.

**Project Coordinator is Dr. P. A. van Rijn**