



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community Research

## EU-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT

### **Generation of information and tools to support the management of the avian influenza crisis in poultry (Fluaid)**

**Time of action:** FLUAID started in January 2006 and is scheduled to end in June 2008

**EU budget (funding):** €1.2 million

#### **Abstract**

Recent research results from the AVIFLU project have proven that poultry vaccination against avian influenza (AI) could be an effective approach to manage outbreaks in flocks. However, much more research is required to develop effective vaccines and then determine how they should be administered for optimal protection and containment.

The main goal of FLUAID, which complements AVIFLU, is the joint development and application of novel technologies, primarily diagnostic tools and vaccines, to combat AI in poultry. The project offers a unique opportunity for animal health research centres in Europe to work in partnership with their counterparts from around the globe, share knowledge, and produce common strategies. Seven European institutes will work in close collaboration with six universities, research institutes or government departments from Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Africa and Australia.

FLUAID will conduct pilot studies and trial candidate vaccines and build up a European vaccine bank from which appropriate vaccines can be selected and commercially produced in the event of an avian influenza outbreak in poultry. On the diagnostic side, the partners will work together on technologies that are able to differentiate between vaccinated birds and those that have been infected with wild-type virus. In this way it will be possible to use vaccination as a tool to eradicate infection from developing countries.

It is also important to understand the consequences of vaccination programmes in birds. In other species (pigs, humans) long-term vaccination results in antigenic modifications of the field virus. The project will therefore look into genetic and antigenic variability of endemic strains and routes of virus transmission.

The results of this study will be especially important to decision-makers as they design and implement strategies to manage avian influenza in European poultry.

**Project coordinator**

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**List of partners (listed countrywise). Coordinator will only give out names and other contacts upon request**

IT – Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro  
UK – Veterinary Laboratories Agency  
NL – Central Institute for Animal Disease Control (CIDC), Lelystad  
FR - Agence Francaise de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments  
PAKISTAN – National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad  
THAILAND – Department of Livestock Development, Bangkok  
CH - Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis, Mittelhäusern  
AUSTRALIA – Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong  
UK – Central Science Laboratory, York  
FR - Innovative Diagnostic Vet  
SOUTH AFRICA - University of Stellenbosch  
INDONESIA - Department of Animal Health  
VIETNAM - National Center for Veterinary Diagnosis, Hanoi

**Website**

None