

ESFLU Training School – 1st Grant Period

Introduction

Swine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease in pigs caused by influenza A viruses (swIAV) which leads to production losses. The intensification of pork production systems and free livestock movement across borders fosters the spread of the virus in Europe. New variants, some with zoonotic potential, constantly emerge. Recent human pandemics have highlighted the zoonotic and reverse zoonotic potential of swine influenza and its risks for both animal and public health. Despite the burdens caused by swine influenza, surveillance across Europe is scanty and fragmented. Disease awareness is low in some European countries, diagnostic protocols are not harmonized, most countries lack standardised procedures and vaccine coverage is inconsistent.

Training School Details

WG 1 (Strengthen the capability in Europe for the identification and characterization of swine influenza A virus) is organizing a training school in order to implement the most important steps in the diagnosis of influenza, from the most-up-to-date sampling guides, through the different molecular and serological diagnostic techniques to the interpretation of diagnostic results. The ultimate goal is to finally strengthen detection and characterization capability of swine influenza A virus circulating across Europe. The main informational details are presented in *table 1*.

Table 1 Main informational details for the WG1, Training School

Training Scope	Monitoring and Surveillance of swine Influenza A virus Sampling techniques Diagnostics, identification and characterization of swine Influenza A virus
Date	5 th to 8 th September 2023
Duration	4 training days
Location	Royal GD Arnsbergstraat 7, 7418 EZ Deventer, NL-The Netherlands
No of trainees	15
Scientific Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Sasan Fereidouni (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna) ▪ Dr Annika Graaf (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut) ▪ Dr Lucía Dieste Pérez (Royal GD)
Application Coordination	Dr Dimitrios Papadopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

This training School is essential to:

- Bridge gaps concerning swine Influenza A Virus sampling, identification and characterization techniques.
- Record best SOPs and practices and harmonize sampling and diagnostic protocols.
- Foster knowledge in early career scientists.
- Encourage and support swine influenza virus detection in countries that usually do not monitor this virus

Profile of the candidates

- Preferred young scientists with research interest focused on swine influenza A virus
- Be part of (swine) influenza A virus surveillance team at national level or willing to build up a laboratory with (swine) influenza A virus diagnostics
- Have experience in laboratory work
- Minimum master's degree

Registration

For on-site participation candidates are requested to provide a full curriculum including a publications list and a one-page motivation letter. All applications for the training school must be submitted via email to the Training Grants Coordinator of the Action, Dr Papadopoulos Dimitrios (depapado@auth.gr), with subject ESFLU Training School 5th-8th Sept.

All applications will be equally evaluated. Gender, geography, career stage and qualifications of the applicant and their match to the WG1 objectives will be taken into consideration when evaluating the proposals

Deadline for applications submission is the **14th of July 2023** (17.00 pm, CET).

Expenses Reimbursement

Trainers and trainees will receive a Daily allowance for each day and will be reimbursed for the travel expenses according to the COST travel reimbursement rules¹.

¹ [COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3.pdf](#)