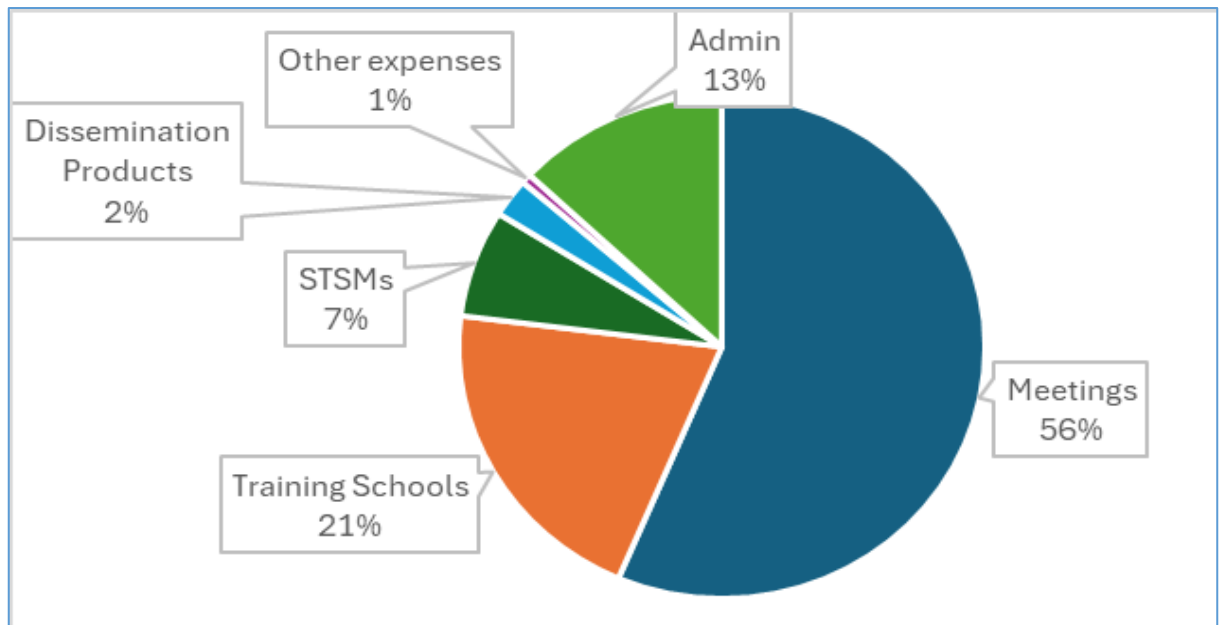


MC7 Meeting, 27th March, Copenhagen

Meeting Part I (opened for all ESFLU Members)

- Highlights on Community Feedback (previous ESFLU survey);
 - Training schools praised – suggested adding online resources.
 - Interest in more online meetings between face-to-face ones.
 - Call for better research sharing, focus on joint manuscripts, and conference visibility.
 - Create a central hub on ESFLU's website (swine influenza news, updates, forum).
 - Increase the dissemination activity and raise awareness of swine influenza
 - Annual swine flu symposium.
 - Plan an EU-funded joint research project.
 - Strategic stakeholder engagement and outreach.
- Presentation of GP3 budget, WGs updates and plans & grant awards.
 - Budget can cover participation in 3 conferences, 1 national event for ITC and 2 other

Allocation of expenses for GP3 – 162 k€ in total



Summary of WG discussions, updates and plans:

WG	Outcome	Summary of discussions & decisions	Planned activities	Active members
WG1	SOP Guidelines	- Version #1 draft preparation is in the final stage; to be published and shared on the ESFLU & WOAHA websites by May 2025; - feedback collection will continue through GP3; - Version 2 will be drafted in GP4; - Joint publication planned.	- Publish v1 by the end of May 2025 - Collect feedback - Decide on/Prepare call for STSM on comparison of SOPs GP4: - Draft v2 in GP4 - Joint publication	H. Everett, C. Hjulsgaard, C. Chiapponi, A. Prosperi, A.M. Moreno, S. Fereidouni, A. Graaf-Rau
WG1	Ring Trial (PTS)	- Focused on PCR detection/subtyping; - RNA in liquid medium, testing without RNA extraction and WGS; - Organized by ANSES; - strain selection already finalized; - Scheduled for summer 2025. - Reagents costs will be covered by Ronald Dijkman; - Shipment costs covered by COST and Ceva (for ITC countries) or participants	- Finalize cost overview - Call for participants & assess the willingness to cover the shipment costs - Prepare and distribute samples - Decide on STSM to prepare samples/analyse results; prepare a call - Joint publication	L. Dieste Perez, S. Hévere, S Zohari, S.Fereidouni, A. Graaf-Rau
WG1	Wild Boar Influenza Study	- Pilot study in progress in Austria - Subgroup of 17 people (ESFLU and non-ESFLU members) - More countries may be included (200-300 lung/swabs samples per a country)	- Expand data collection - Decide on/Prepare STSM call for testing collected samples - Plan publication	S. Fereidouni
WG1	Surveillance study	- Data from 2013-2024 - Volunteers and subgroup leaders needed	Online Meeting planned for summer 2025 to make clear plans	Coordinator to be designated

WG1 & WG2	Training School – Antigenic Cartography	- Proposed venue: Erasmus Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Autumn 2025; 3–4 days; - aimed at early-career scientists and technicians; - webinars and resources will be prepared to share with all ESFLU members 12-13 trainees, 2-3 trainers - Training School Plan: Antiserum production; HA, HI and Neutralization Assay; Data processing & normalization; Antigenic Distance Computation; Multidimensional Scaling (MDS); Construction of the Antigenic Map; Coordinate Optimization; Error Minimization; Visualization; Antigenic Clustering; Vaccine Strain Selection; Evolutionary Insights; Model Validation and Refinement	- Finalize developing program content - Announcement & Call for participants - Select beneficiaries - Consider webinars - Share training materials	M. Richards (?)
WG2	Sequence Collection & Reports on swIAV Diversity	- Improved communication around sequence calls (announced in advance) - Reports will be continued with annual instead of biannual frequency - Joint paper will be published - Consensus on the authorship: at least 3 strains sequences per year to be a co-author, 2 co-authors per institution sharing sequences, providing comments on the manuscript required - If these criteria will not be met, authors are moved under the "ESFLU Consortium" umbrella (list of names). - Providers will be able to choose which sequences are included in the paper.	- Two calls for sequences planned this year (April & Oct 2025) - Call 4: October 2024 - March 2025 sequences > From April 14th to May 9th 2025 (very soon!) - Call 5: April 2025 - September 2025 sequences > From October 13th to November 7th.	P. Ryt-Hansen, A. Byrne, G. Richard

WG2	Bioinformatics SOPs	• Aim: to homogenize sequences generation procedures • 9 teams participated • Need for volunteers (some people expressed willingness to get involved) • Guidelines will be published on Zenodo & website • Discussed possibility for publication as a paper	• Online meeting will be organized to assign roles and plan further work	To be determined
WG2	Phylogenetic Training School & Phylogenetics SOPs	• Past event. Organized in GP2, very positive feedback •	• Training materials will be adapted as phylogenetics SOPs and published as a paper	G. Richard, A. Byrne, A. Fusaro, C. Chiapponni (+ B. Mollett?)
WG2	GP4 Training School Preparations	• Nextstrain training selected as a main subject by voting	• A questionnaire will be circulated to specify the content	WG2 Leaders
WG3	Dissemination of surveillance survey and Training School on Surveillance (under WG3.1)	• Planned for Sept 2025 in Munich (~12 participants, 3-4 trainers). • Dissemination of results in cooperation with WG1	• Finalize participant list and content • Dissemination of results in cooperation with WG1	T. Tobias
WG3	Literature Review (under WG3.2)	• Review on clinical signs, shedding, and transmission; in final stage of preparation	• Finalize manuscript, to be submitted by May 2025 • Plan dissemination of results • Close WG3.2 subgroup	C. Hautefeuille
WG3	Evaluation of Economic impact (under WG3.3)	• Literature research conducted - split by outbreak vs. endemic • Stakeholder survey will be carried out, combined with social and zoonotic perspectives	• Common meeting with WG3.6 planned to design a survey • Launch a survey, collect and analyze responses	K. Lillie-Jaschniski

		- Quantitative assessment not possible – perception will be considered instead - Survey targets: farmers, industry, veterinarians, public; topics include awareness and biosecurity		
WG3	Socioanthropology (WG3.6)	Discussion focused on goals: focus on awareness and communication strategies for zoonotic risks, identification of knowledge gaps, levers and obstacles.	- Analyze awareness gaps - Identify communication levers - Common survey planned with WG3.3	L. Dieste-Perez
WG3	Guidelines for management and control (under WG3.5)	Issues and involvement of additional members discussed	- STSM will be announced soon - First draft of the paper planned for Oct	M. Kjosevski
WG4	General Recommendations	Enhanced communication; publishing ESFLU research; developing outreach strategies; discuss post-COST sustainability.	- Improve online communication - Plan outreach & EU project proposals	
WG4	Roadmap of Projects Dissemination	Presented preliminary results of a survey regarding swIAV ongoing and planned research projects	Detailed report on survey results will be prepared and disseminated	K. Podgorska, D. Novosel

Meeting Part II (MC Members only)

- Review of expected resources to be produced

Scientific papers	WG	Nature	People in charge	Finalisation date	Dissemination
Sampling and diagnostics	1	ESFLU SOP	Annika, Sasan, Helen, Chiara	May 2025	Websites: ESFLU, WOA, ...
Surveillance	3	ESFLU guidelines	Tijs, Julia	End 2025?	
Management and control (biosec, vaccination)	3	ESFLU guidelines		Early 2026?	
Bionformatics	2	ESFLU SOP	Gautier, Pia	2025	
Virus compilations	2	Zenedo reports	Alex, Gautier, Pia	2024 & 2025	
Set of slides on ESFLU results and statements to be used at local level	Every WG	Ppt/pdf	All	End 2025?	Web - conferences

Other potential resources: road map of swine influenza related projects

- Review of expected scientific papers to be issued under ESFLU

Scientific papers	WG	People in charge	Manuscript finalisation date
Virus evolution and spread	2	Gautier, Alex, Gautier	Early 2026
Vaccine efficacy review and meta-analysis	3	Claire, Oumaima	May 2025
Economic impact?	3	Kathrin, Miro	2026
Biosecurity literature review	3	Paula, Miro, Han	2026
Sequence analysis pipelines	2	Pia, Gautier, Alex	2025?
Linking phylogeography and trade	2	Marina Meester, Simon Dellicour	2025?
Swine flu perception	3	Lucia, Carlsen, Jelena, Han	2026
Ring trial results	1	Lucia, Severine, Annika	2026
Lab and sampling SOPs	1	Chiara, Helen, Annika, Sasan	2026
Surveillance systems in Europe	3	Tijs, Lars	2026
Surveillance results in Europe (after ESNIP)	1	(to be assigned)	2026

Other potential publications: study on swine influenza in wild boars, results of the ring trial on bioinformatics, social anthropology study in France

- Review of planned/needed STSMs and/or virtual mobility grants

Need	WG	Host/Supervisor
SOP comparison	1	Sasan
Analysing PTS results	1	Annika/Lucia
Wild boars surveillance study	1	Sasan
Phylogenetics & Phylodynamics (individual project)	2	Gautier/Pia/Alex?
Economic impact: literature review	3	Kathrin
Socio-anthropology	3	Lucia
Biosecurity survey	3	Miro
Prepare communication material – key messages	4	Dinko
Drafting surveillance guidelines (to decide)	3	Tijs? Lars?

- Review of activity related to involving stakeholders

A mapping of targets, key messages, required actions etc was initiated but needs to be fully completed and actions taken to ensure the stakeholders will be reached before the end of the project.

Target	Key messages	Support material	Required actions	Timeline
Pig vet practitioners	Review of all measures to prevent and manage swine flu	Guidelines on surveillance and management	Disseminate to all pig vets in your country ESFLU newsletter	End of the project

Farmers	Risks to humans Economic impact	Outcomes of disease perception		
Policy makers	Need to control this disease Funding required Surveillance required	Various publications An advocacy paper ESFLU newsletter	ESFLU newsletter	
Scientific community	Need to control this disease – knowledge gaps	All scientific publications and guidelines	Presenting our results in conferences Keep those docs on line	
AH Laboratories	We recommend harmonized SOPs	Sampling and testing SOPs	Disseminate SOPs, scientific paper, offer participation to RT	This summer
PH laboratories	Optimize detection of human swine flu cases	Sampling and testing SOPs	One Health partnership at national and international level	
Public health authorities	Optimize detection of human swine flu cases	Position paper on zoonotic risk	Contact international and national agencies (ECDC)/ministries	
Pharma (Health for Animals)				
Funders				
General public?				

Summary of the discussion

Sustainability

- Appointing a person or creating a group working on sustainability was proposed, cooperating with the core group (Dimitrios Papadopoulos suggested based on his experience).
- The group would explore the EU and other funding possibilities available for increasing sustainability of swine influenza cooperation, research and surveillance programs. [EUPAHW could represent a good opportunity, to be explored.](#)

Communication with Stakeholders & Dissemination

- It is unclear who will coordinate communication with stakeholders listed in the table, but it fits into WG4 activity
- Suggestion to include veterinary authorities alongside public health and funders
- General need for better communication strategy
 - Dissemination materials targeting stakeholders and the general public should be designed with a strong focus on clarity and accessibility. These materials should follow a press-pack style format, featuring an informative and engaging introductory section that encourages further exploration - can be made with the support of mobility grant?
 - A barcode/QR directing to the ESFLU website should be prepared to enable quick dissemination on posters
 - Ask for adding link to ESFLU on the OFFLU website (it is currently re-designed)
 - More clarity is needed on our website, access to information is difficult
 - Proposed to position ESFLU website in google to address a specific audience
- Contact Animal Health Europe – organisation prioritizing animal diseases for Discontools database, and suggest including swine influenza

Organisation/coordination

- Vaccine efficacy subgroup to be closed after finalizing publication

STSMs plans

- Suggested to move 1 surveillance STSM to the next year and take 2 persons for SOPs comparison this year
- Additional STSM may be needed for PTS preparation/results analysis
- Lower priority may be put on the phylogenetic STSM as it benefits only 1 person
- The final STSMs schedule remains to be decided

Final ESFLU Meetings

- Location - in Zagreb, The Netherlands or Budapest (CEVA would be a local organizer if the latter selected)
- One day of final meeting and 2-day congress (scientific conference) proposed
- Inviting people from the outside of the network discussed (keynote lecture per each day, students, poster sessions, results from other projects)

Identified Priorities

- Finalize scientific resources and publications
- Expand stakeholder engagement and external communication.
- Prepare post-ESFLU sustainability strategy.
- Continue advancing ESFLU's role in One Health and pandemic preparedness

To do LIST

- ☐ Create a sustainability working group (appoint Dimitrios as a coordinator?)
- ☐ Assign coordination of stakeholder communication (likely under WG4).
- ☐ Design press-pack-style dissemination materials with key messages, targeting stakeholders, policy makers, practitioners and general public (ensure clarity and engagement). Consider using mobility grant
- ☐ Prepare barcode/QR code linking to the ESFLU website (for posters, events).
- ☐ Ask for a possibility to add ESFLU link to the OFFLU website.
- ☐ Improve website usability and access to resources
- ☐ Contact Animal Health Europe (and/or Discontools coordinator Johannes Charlier) to advocate for including swine influenza in Discontools (Tijs)
- ☐ Conclude on STSMs priority/schedule (Core Group) and prepare the calls for candidates
- ☐ Final ESFLU Meeting: choose location and dates: Zagreb, Budapest (CEVA), or The Netherlands. Discuss format and agenda
- ☐ Close the vaccine efficacy subgroup after the paper is submitted.