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Editorial

Dear ESFLU members,

Summer is approaching fast, and it's time to reflect on past months within the ESFLU community. In this newsletter we focus on the highlights of the annual meeting 2025.

The 3rd annual meeting took place in beautiful Copenhagen on the 25th-27th of March.

In the first days, we gathered at the University of Copenhagen at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural Department in Frederiksberg. The first two days included break-out sessions within the working groups, updates on ongoing projects, and planning for upcoming events. In plenary sessions, we enjoyed the presentations of the results on surveillance, genetic diversity, biosecurity, and other topics. The detailed program can be found [here](#).

On the last day of the meeting, we gathered at the Geological Museum to discuss the way forward in the ESFLU community. The meeting ended with the Management Committee (MC) meetings and selected presentations can be found in the ESFLU cloud.

The annual meeting was complemented with social events, including a tour at the Veterinary Historical Museum. We learned how animal production has changed during the last century and how innovative solutions have taken place, such as rumen magnet to prevent hardware disease.

Once again, thank you to the local organisers for Danish hospitality! And thank you to all the participants for such a fruitful and inspiring meeting! It was a great pleasure to meet you in Copenhagen!

Best wishes

ESFLU Core Group

ESFLU was initiated with 76 experts from 25 countries. Today ESFLU gathers nearly 200 experts from 30 countries in an interdisciplinary One Health approach.

The Action strives to advance scientific knowledge concerning swIAV, improve disease surveillance and management capabilities, benefit pork production and reduce risks to both animal and human health.

Summary of WG discussions, progress and plans

More detailed version is found in [ESFLU annual meeting 2025 - Materials from the meeting](#)

WG1. Strengthen the capability in Europe for the identification and characterisation of swine influenza virus

- SOP guidelines are progressing and will be published online soon
- Ring Trial (PTS) is scheduled for summer 2025
- Wild boar influenza study is in progress in Austria, more countries may be included to expand data collection. If you are interested to contribute, please contact: esflu@swineflu.eu
- Surveillance study requires more planning. Online meeting is planned for summer 2025

WG1 & WG2

- Training School – Antigenic Cartography is aimed for early-career scientists and technicians. The program needs to be finalised, call for participants is coming

WG 2. Increase sharing and analyses of surveillance and virology data

- Sequence collection and Reports on swIAV diversity reports will be continued annually. This year, calls for sequences in April (already released) and October
- Bioinformatics SOPs guidelines will be published on Zenodo and the website
- Phylogenetic Training School and Phylogenetics SOPs received very positive feedback, materials will be adapted as phylogenetics SOPs and published as a paper
- GP4 Training School is in preparation, Next-strain training selected as a main subject

WG3. Foster knowledge exchange on surveillance and management measures to improve control of swIAV in pig herds

- **WG3.1 - Main focus: Surveillance.** Training School on surveillance is planned for September 2025 in Munich. Dissemination of the surveillance survey will be done in cooperation with WG1
- **WG3.2 - Main focus: Vaccine efficacy.** Literature review on clinical signs, shedding, and transmission is in the final stage of preparation. Manuscript is submitted by May 2025
- **WG3.3 - Main focus: Cost-benefit analysis.** Evaluation of economic impact literature research

is conducted. Stakeholder survey will be carried out. Meeting with WG3.6 planned to design the survey

- **WG3.4 - Main focus: Zoonotic risk.** Feedback on improving detection of human swine flu virus infections was provided by the ECDC respiratory viruses group (presented on Jan 22nd 2025)
- **WG3.5 - Main focus: Biosecurity/management.** Guidelines for management and control STSM will be announced soon. First draft of the paper planned for October. Application for Virtual mobility grant was advertised after the meeting
- **WG3.6 - Main focus: Socioanthropology aspects.** Socioanthropology discussion focused on goals: awareness and communication strategies for zoonotic risk, identification of knowledge gaps, levers, and obstacles

WG4. Dissemination, communication and awareness

- Recommended to enhance communication, publishing ESFLU research, developing outreach strategies, and discussing post-COST sustainability
- Roadmap of projects dissemination, preliminary results of the survey of swIAV research projects has been presented. Detailed results will be prepared and disseminated soon

Identified ESFLU Action Priorities discussed during the MC Meeting

- Plan the Final ESFLU Meeting, provisionally scheduled for Autumn 2026 in Croatia.
Begin preparations for a high-level scientific and stakeholder event marking the culmination of the Action
- Expand stakeholder engagement and external communication
Broaden outreach efforts to strengthen ESFLU's visibility, impact, and long-term relevance
- Develop a post-ESFLU sustainability strategy
Outline future pathways for collaboration, funding, and continuation of key activities.



We welcome volunteers to contribute to these tasks!!! If you are interested, please contact us via esflu@swineflu.eu

Postcards from Copenhagen 2025



Resources and Scientific Publications

Several collaborative publications and resources are expected to be released over 2025-2026, including

- SOP guidelines (management, lab and bioinformatics)
- Sequence-based surveillance reports and publication
- Reports and/or literature reviews on the roadmap of projects related to swine influenza, control, surveillance, economic, and social aspects of swine influenza

Planned STSMs and virtual mobility grants

As we move forward into GP4, ESFLU continues to support scientific exchange and collaboration through Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants. Several STSMs and VM grants were proposed across several Working Groups and are currently under preparation/discussion:

- SOP comparison
- Wild boars surveillance study
- Phylogenetics & Phylodynamics
- Economic impact, socio-anthropology and biosecurity surveys/reviews
- Preparation of communication materials with key ESFLU messages
- Drafting surveillance guidelines

Each STSM and VM grant call will outline the specific goals, duration, eligibility, and expected outcomes. Members are encouraged to apply and collaborate with hosts across the network.

Stay tuned for further announcements and open calls for contributions, training and collaboration opportunities through our mailing list, ESFLU website and LinkedIn.

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