

CALLISTO

**Companion Animals
multisectorial, interprofessional, Interdisciplinary
Strategic Think tank On disease transmission**



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Animal Health Advisory Committee

9 March 2015

CCAB Borschette, 1D



The CALLISTO Project



- CALLISTO is an **EU funded** project
- The “Coordination and Support Action” addresses **companion animals** and their implications in **the transmission of pathogens affecting people and food producing animals**



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Aims and expected impact

1. develop a detailed **overview of the role of companion animals** as a source of **infectious diseases for man and food animals**, including available information on disease incidence and geographical distribution in these host categories;
2. **identify knowledge and technology gaps** in the management of the most important zoonoses transmitted by companion animals;



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Aims and expected impact

3. **propose targeted actions** that contribute to reducing the risk for infectious disease outbreaks **in man and food animals** associated with keeping companion animals;
4. **disseminate** the results of CALLISTO to relevant stakeholders to contribute to the uptake of the CALLISTO-proposed actions and to promote risk-awareness in healthy and balanced human/animal relationships.



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Consortium Partners

- University of Copenhagen
- International Assoc. of Human-Animal Interaction Organisations
- Erasmus Medical Center
- World Small Animal Veterinary Associations
- Federation of European Companion Animal Vet. Associations
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G.Caporale" (ICT)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- University of Bristol
- Federation of Veterinarians of Europe



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Over 50 organisations involved

Exceptional mix of people

- Research community (bio-sciences and social sciences !)
- Animal owners and keepers
- Governmental organisations and institutions
- Non governmental organisations
- Industry
- Europe, N. America, New Zealand



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“multisectorial, interprofessional, interdisciplinary”

7 Expert Groups

1. Viral diseases
2. Bacterial diseases
3. Parasitic diseases
4. Epidemiology and Underlying Factors
5. Sociology and Welfare
6. User community
7. Policy actions

5 Work Packages

1. Expert Group meetings
2. Cross expert group meetings
3. Conferences
4. Communication
5. Management

3 Annual Cycles

1. Current situation (2012)
2. Risk identification (2013)
3. Proposed actions (2014)

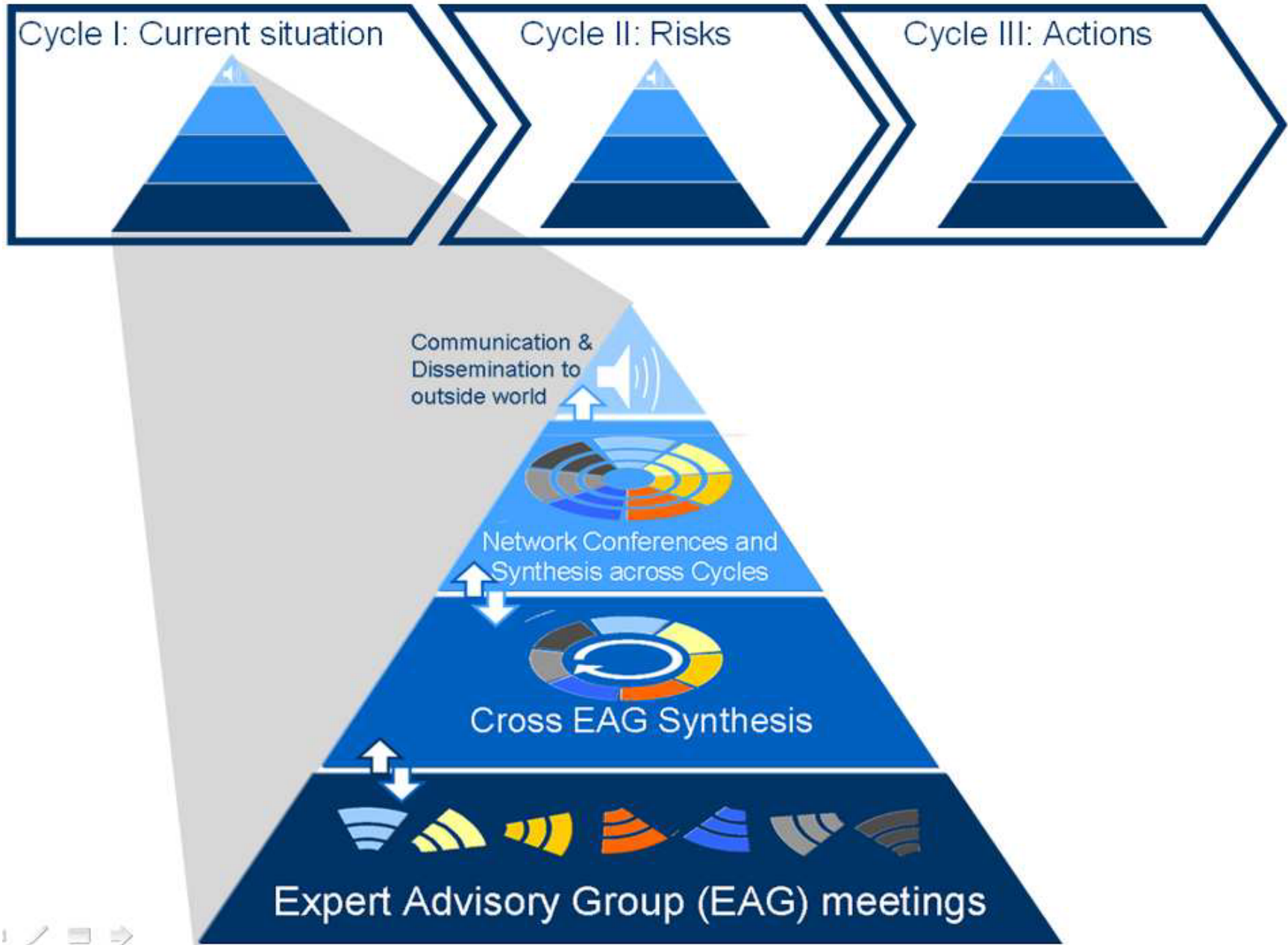
“Dahlem” Conferences

Experts from different backgrounds meet in various combinations



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Work flow



Some figures

- 66 million cats
- 61 million dogs
- 39 million ornamental birds
- 6 million horses
- 9 million aquaria

- Annual spending pet care products: € 25.7 billion



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2 Definitions

- **Companion Animal**

Domesticated, domestic-bred or wild-caught animals permanently living in a community and kept by people for company, enjoyment, work or psychological support

- **Responsible Pet Ownership**

Is a duty of care, based on the principle that animals are sentient beings, having intrinsic value, are dependent on humans for their health and welfare and are a part of the ecosystem



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Conclusions and Recommendations

- Keeping companion animals is a **positive** thing to do!



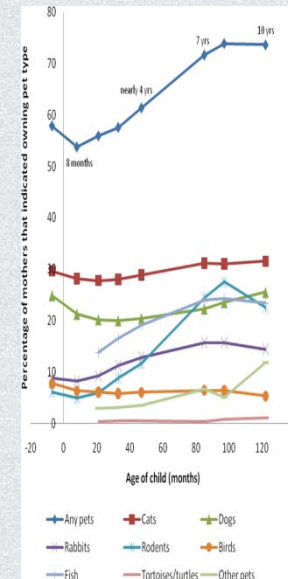
- Important to have a **balanced** risk communication





Companion Animal Demography

- Collecting data on species and numbers of CAs in the EU and their geographical distribution
- Identification and Registration of CAs in accessible databases
- Monitoring trends in CAs import into EU
- Further initiatives to control cross border movement of infected animals



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Education & Communication



- A key principle for
 - enhancing the positive aspects of keeping companion animals
 - mitigating or eliminating associated risks

is the promotion of **Responsible Pet Ownership** (RPO)

- Education of physicians, veterinarians, animal owners, ... etc. on companion animal zoonosis



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Surveillance and Control

- Set up the basis for the creation of a European network for
 - monitoring of known zoonotic agents and
 - early detection of emerging zoonotic infectious diseases
- Reporting of zoonoses in companion animals
- Inclusion of CAs in surveillance programmes on antibiotic resistance



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Risk Assessment

- Fraction of disease due to companion animals ?
- Identification of Risk factors
- Dynamics of infections to people and food producing animals



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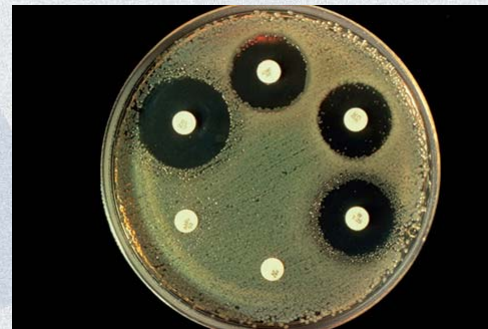


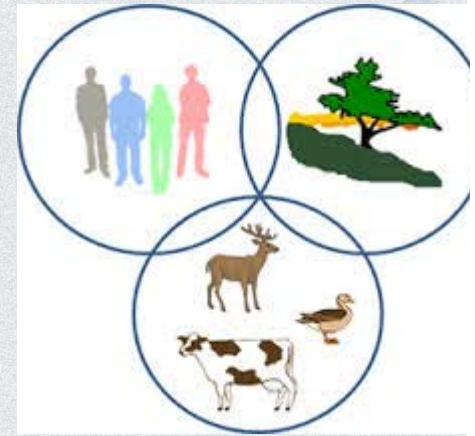
New Tools

- Ensure quality control of diagnostics and susceptibility testing
 - Minimum requirements, regulation and certification of diagnostic labs
- Regulation use of critically important antimicrobials



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• Strengthening One Health approach

- Addressing risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interfaces
- Promotion positive aspects of human-animal-ecosystem interactions



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Thank you for your attention!



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