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Newsletter



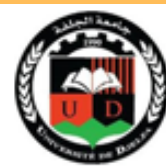
F2F Meeting and Research highlights



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI
STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II



Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
del Lazio e della Toscana *M. Aleandri*



Universität
Zürich ^{UZH}





**8-9 December 2022, Nancy,
France**



The 2022 annual project meeting was held in Nancy, France, and was hosted by ANSES.



The meeting was attended by all partners involved in the project, including the technical advisors.



The progress and results achieved in each work package, as well as the planned future activities, were presented and discussed by each partner during the exciting meeting!!!

ECHINO-SAFE-MED Research highlights

Development and validation of improved, easy-to-use diagnostic tools for Cystic Echinococcosis (CE) diagnosis in sheep

The aim of WPI is to develop and harmonize new tools for early diagnosis of CE in sheep in European Mediterranean countries (France, Greece and Italy) and to transfer these methods to Mediterranean countries in North Africa (Algeria and Tunisia). Teams from ANSES, IZSLT, UNINA, UZH and VRI-HAO are involved in WPI. The preliminary results are presented below.

LIVER ULTRASOUND (US)

Preliminary results showed a US sensitivity of 92.4% and a specificity of 85.6%. These results confirm that ultrasonography can be considered a reliable *in vivo* technique for the assessment of CE in small ruminants.



SANDWICH-ELISA

Preliminary results from the UZH team on sheep sera collected in Italy showed low specificity due to cross-reactivity with other parasites (e.g., *Taenia hydatigena*, *Fasciola hepatica*). Further studies are needed to reduce the effect of co-infection on the specificity of the ELISA test for sheep.



SKIN TEST

Four *Echinococcus granulosus* antigens were selected and used in different dilutions. Preliminary results showed differences in skin thickening between control and naturally infected sheep (mainly for antigens from protoscolices and vesicular). Further studies are needed to confirm the results obtained and to determine the antigen concentrations required for optimal results.

