Publishable Summary

Arbo-zoonet is an international network for capacity building for the control of the emerging viral vector borne zoonotic diseases, in particular: West Nile fever (WNF), Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever (CCHF).

Through a large network of 25 beneficiaries including key laboratories in Europe and neighbouring countries, the purpose of this project was to work out integrated control measures in case of outbreaks of these diseases. The different aspects of the issues addressed include vector control, vaccination programmes, improved therapy strategies, diagnostic tools and surveillance, public awareness, capacity building and improvement of infrastructure in endemic regions.

Among various actions, the Arbo-zoonet project has generated information in different areas:

1) it created common knowledge on the diseases, shared and exchanged data, expertise, experiences and scientific information through general and specific meetings;
2) it established surveillance systems monitoring disease occurrence and assessed new vaccines;
3) it developed, distributed and harmonized tools for disease detection and control tools;
4) it disseminated knowledge through specific technical workshops and trained staff of relevant third countries;
5) it interlinked different scientific disciplines and established exchanges with other networks.

The consortium was gathered for coordination action. It has addressed these scientific questions which are of joint interest for other EU networks with which we established close links. The information generated by Arbo-zoonet should enable the development of effective control measures, which could be a great help for the EU as well as for national health authorities to respond with efficacy to outbreaks of diseases.