



Risk based surveillance for animal health in Europe (SANTERO)

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Key words

Risk-based surveillance, antimicrobial residues, food safety, Switzerland, legislation comparison

Aim of the study

The project aimed to promote the development of additional risk-based surveillance and the dissemination and integration of the approach in existing surveillance routines. SANTERO focused on process development to standardise surveillance documentation. Second, SANTERO applied methods and tools developed in RISK-SUR to compare the current situation and an imagined risk-based surveillance (task 2.2). Third, tools were to be developed for a impact assessments of surveillance. The SANTERO consortium consisted of partners from seven EU countries (CH, DK, G, NL, NO, SE, UK). SAFOSO was involved in tasks 2.2, 3.1 and 3.3.

Material and methods

For task 2.2, data were available for the national programme for residues in foodstuffs. Data on risk factors for risk of drug residues are currently not available and comparing two surveillance models could only be applied to data from the Netherlands and Denmark. In order to evaluate the current system, we assessed alternative sampling strategies: the objective to prove freedom of residues in meat and to estimate the prevalence in the population. For task 3.3, a framework for cross-country legislation comparison was developed. Relevant standards and legislations were search by internet following a methodological protocol. Assessments were conducted using methods developed in RISKSUR to establish transferability to the Swiss setting.

Results and significance

Task 2.2: The sample size directly impacts the costs of the national programme. According to the programme's objective, the sampling extent differs. Involved costs have to be considered before implementation. Switzerland is using a very reliable diagnostic test, but as its price is high, every sample taken has to be justified. Consideration of a risk-based surveillance system would allow, for the same costs, to detect more positive samples and increase the sensitivity of the programme. Data from DK and NL substantiate this finding. Task 3.1: A website was created and operated throughout the project (<http://santero.fp7-risksur.eu/>). A summer school was organized in June 2016 on risk based animal health surveillance, and >100 registrations were received. A course was taught at the University of Ghent (2 days). Task 3.3: A total of 13 documents relevant to EU legislation were identified and analysed. Legal documents related to AM residues in Switzerland (8 documents), the Customs Union/Russia (4 documents) and the USA (5 documents). Private standards were generally found not to be as detailed as the legislations and rarely mentioned specifically AM residues. Regarding selected substances, MRLs were compared between the EU, Customs Union, USA and the Codex recommendations. Some substantial differences were identified between the different levels depending on the drug, indicating a need for harmonisation and further strengthening of evidence-based standard setting.

Publications, posters and presentations

Léger, A.; Dorea, F.; Häslér, B.; Peyre, M.; Schrapps, T.; Lindberg, A.; Stärk, K.D.C. (2017): RISKSUR webtools: Building surveillance capacity through training and application. ICAHS International Conference for Animal Health Surveillance, Rotorua, New Zealand (poster).

Alban, L.; Léger, A.; Veldhuis, A.; Oorburg, D.; van Schaik, G. (submitted): Modernizing the antimicrobial residue monitoring programs in Europe – the balance between flexibility and harmonization. Food Control

Léger, A.; Alban, L.; Veldhuis, A.; van Schaik, G.; Stärk, K.D.C. (submitted): Legislation and standards comparison on drug residues in food of animal origin in Europe, USA and the Eurasian Customs Union. Food Control

Léger, A.; Gjertsen Prestmo, P.; Collineau, L.; Depner, K.; Stärk, K.D.C. (submitted): Towards harmonisation of animal health legislation: Development of a framework for cross-country comparison. ECVPH Annual Meeting, September 2017.

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