

### Approaches and framework conditions for improved animal health in organic dairy farming

To whom it may concern,

The IMPRO project is about strategies and tools to improve animal health in organic dairy farming and to address what is needed to bring organic dairy farming closer to the expectation of consumers.

Minimum standards laid down in the EU regulation on organic farming have not led to outstanding animal health, which is an important reason for buying organic products. Indeed, prevalences of production diseases in organic dairy farms do not generally differ from levels reported in conventional dairy farms. Therefore, new strategies are required to address the need to improve animal health in organic dairy farming and to correspond to the expectation of consumers.

In order to assess the current state and investigate options for improvement, we visited more than 200 organic farms in Europe. Farmers and animal health advisors participated in the project and contributed to the assessment of the level of extant production diseases, the estimation of the costs of these diseases and the benefits of animal health improvements, as well as undertake an examination of the motivation and attitudes of farmers and their animal health advisors to a range of measures to improve animal health.

We invite you to participate in a lively discussion with members of the project team and other stakeholders on results of our research activities and implications of a participatory approach to improve and harmonize the animal health status in organic dairy farming.

We are confident the workshop will meet both your interest and those of the sector and we look forward to meeting you in Brussels.

Prof. Dr. Albert Sundrum

Coordinator

### Agenda

9:00 Registration

9:30 Welcome

*Barbara Ehrle-Manthey, Hessian Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection*  
*Wim Haentjens, DG RTD European Commission, Project Officer*

9:40 Key note

*Albert Sundrum, University of Kassel, IMPRO Coordinator*

10:00 IMPRO Highlights:

- **Animal health situation on European organic dairy farms**  
*Ulf Emanuelson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*
- **Economic consequences**  
*Henk Hogeveen, Wageningen University*
- **Application of alternative treatments**  
*Caroline Doehring, University of Kassel*

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 Supporting the improvement of animal health

- **Tools for participatory application on the farm level**
  - **Impact matrix tool**  
*Susanne Hoischen-Taubner, University of Kassel*
  - **Monitoring and preventive protocols**  
*Christine Fourichon, ONIRIS - Ecole nationale vétérinaire, agroalimentaire et de l'alimentation Nantes-Atlantique*
  - **Cost benefit module animal health**  
*Felix van Soest, Wageningen University*
- **Policy outlining options**  
*Albert Sundrum, University of Kassel*

12:00 Discussion on IMPRO recommendations

13:00 Buffet Lunch

Space for private sessions / consultations

### **Location**

Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU  
Rue Montoyer 21, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on [conference@impro-dairy.eu](mailto:conference@impro-dairy.eu).

### **Registration**

[www.impro-dairy.eu/workshop](http://www.impro-dairy.eu/workshop)



### **How to get to the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union**

#### **By car**

Follow the motorway E40 that becomes the N23 when entering the city. At the Schuman roundabout, take the second exit which leads onto Rue de la Loi. Follow Rue de la Loi until Rue de la Science. Turn left onto Rue de la Science. Cross Rue Belliard. Turn then right onto Rue Montoyer.

The Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU is on the left hand side.



Limited short-term public parking space is available in Rue de l'Industrie and around Square Meeûs. The nearest public underground car park ("Interparking") is located in 19, Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels.

#### **By public transport**

From Brussels Airport (BRU):

Proceed to platform C at Level 0. Take Bus no.12 or 21 to "Brussels-Luxembourg". Alight at station "Brussels-Luxembourg". Cross Square Luxembourg towards Rue du Luxembourg. Follow Rue du Luxembourg, then turn right onto the Rue de l'Industrie.

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From Gare du Midi (Railway station):

Take Metro no. 2 or 6 to "Elisabeth". Alight at station "Trône/Troon". Leave the station through the exit "Rue Montoyer". Walk down Rue Montoyer.

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#### **By taxi**

The minimum fare for taxis in Brussels is 2.40€. A kilometer (0.62 miles) is charged with 1.80€ within the municipal area and 2.70€ in the outlying districts. From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. an additional surcharge of 2.00€ applies.

"Taxis bleus" phone: +32 (0) 268 00 00

"Taxis verts" phone: +32 (0) 349 49 49.

**Final Workshop for  
Dissemination and Discussion**



**Impact matrix analysis and  
cost-benefit calculations  
to improve management practices  
regarding health status  
in organic dairy farming**