Animal Task Force’s meeting
22 & 23 September 2014
PAS Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding
Research Services – Training – Consulting

- Department of Animal Reproduction and Breeding
- Department of Infectious Diseases
- Department of Food Hygiene, Technology and Toxicology
Veterinary Research Institute of Thessaloniki is a research unit of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization DIMITRA (former NAGREF) and was established in 1997.
The main purpose of the Institute is conduction of research aiming to the:

- Improvement of livestock production (productivity, farm management, sustainability)
- Sustainable development, characterization and use of local animal genetic resources
- Protection of public health
- Disease prevention and control in farm animals
- Improvement of reproductive performance (classical and biotechnological methods)
- Hygiene and technology of food of animal origin
- Development of livestock systems, environmental protection, animal welfare and production of quality products
DEPARTMENT OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES

- Genetic analysis, genomic analysis, SNPs detection e.g. sheep and goats genotype analysis for scrapie.
- Study of the acquired antibiotic resistance in bacteria and of the anthelminthic resistance in parasites.
- Study of the effectiveness of new pharmaceutical substances.
- Study of the microbial pathogenicity in health, welfare and productivity of farm animals.
- Study of the anthelminthic activity of bio-active plants.
- Epidemiological studies and development of prevention schemes for infectious and parasitic diseases.
- Development of vaccines against bacterial infections.
- Zoonoses and protection of public health.
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING

- Development of novel reproductive management schemes
- Reproductive disorders of farm animals (diagnosis, control, prevention)
- Biotechnology in farm animal reproduction (artificial insemination, in vitro embryo production, embryo transfer, etc).
- Early Pregnancy Diagnosis (hormone assessment, ultrasonography)
- Endocrinology and Hormonal control of reproduction
- Study of genetic diversity and utilization of selected genotypes
- Gamete and embryo cryopreservation
- Conservation and development of local breeds
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD HYGIENE, TECHNOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY

- Food quality and food safety
- Food technology
- Microbiology and Biochemistry of animal origin food
- Residues of chemical and pharmaceutical substances in food
- Animal and feedstuff toxicology
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN VRI

Suggestions/adjustments to the White Paper?

1. To summarize the deliverables of the projects focused on identifying research gaps on the field of animal health and welfare. Many different actions operated in the same field but from different perspectives, obtaining sometimes different outcomes.
2. Knowing which diseases are circulating across Europe would be relevant in order to better know which threats are likely to emerge in the next future and develop the right tools to face them e.g. threat of introduction of exotic diseases in Europe.

Moreover, we have not data from the Balkan and North-East European countries that act as an “entrance” for the diseases. It seems to be significant to obtain as much data as we can from the Balkan and East European Borders.