

# NEWSLETTER

## Quality Transport and Control Post Projects



**Coordinator:** Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali - C.R.P.A. S.p.A. C.so Garibaldi, 42 - 42121 Reggio Emilia - ITALY Ph +39 0522 436999 Fax +39 0522 435142 - [www.crupa.it](http://www.crupa.it) - [info@crpa.it](mailto:info@crpa.it). **Editor:** Istituto G. Caporale, via Campo Boario - 64100 Teramo - ITALY Ph +39 0861 3321 Fax +39 0861 332251 - [www.izs.it](http://www.izs.it) - [protocollo@pec.izs.it](mailto:protocollo@pec.izs.it). **Contributors CRPA:** Kees De Roest, Paolo Ferrari, Paolo Rossi. **Contributors Istituto G. Caporale:** Barbara Alessandrini, Giorgia Canulli, Silvia D'Albenzio, Francesca Pompei. **Design:** Francescomaria Di Bonaventura. **Newsletter info:** [formazione@izs.it](mailto:formazione@izs.it).

### Information Technologies for a proactive dissemination

**I**n general terms, information, both print and electronic, is rapidly becoming available to a worldwide audience. In the animal welfare scenario - especially as concerns transport - this trend is today increasingly visible, because of the growing attention expressed by business operators towards innovation as market opportunity. That's the reason why both Quality Transport & Control Post projects focus on multimedia tools for outcome and result spreading.

The first High Quality Control Posts project proposes four eLearning tools to allow a quick and effective dissemination of knowledge and expertise especially on: Legislation framework, Bio-security and health risk, work safety, animal welfare and practices, logistics and information systems. They are specifically designed for official veterinarians, CP staff, transport companies and drivers. Since June 2012, the eLearning tools will be progressively available in English, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Italian and Greek.

The second project on Quality Transport & Control Posts foresees the publication of three-month electronic newsletters and two user-friendly handbooks, particularly focused on the transport of horses and sheep. They will be published in English, French, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish both in paper and electronic version. A summary of the initiative progress will be also available in Polish, Dutch and Romanian.

In order to facilitate and enhance web-based knowledge sharing among all the relevant stakeholders, in this second initiative the project partnership will also establish a peer-to-peer-based social network involving knowledgeable and trustworthy collaborators who are will-

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**T**he Newsletter n.0 is devoted to introduce the project "Development of EU wide animal transport certification system and renovation of Control Posts in the European Union". This initiative is financed by the Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG SANCO) of the European Commission in the framework of the EU Animal Welfare strategy and implemented by a relevant Consortium of research institutes, universities, private companies and associations, from several European countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands.

### Stakeholders' role for the project success



Stakeholder theories have grown in number and type since the term stakeholder was first coined in 1963. According to R. Edward Freeman...

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During the project life cycle, seven Newsletters will be published with the aim to inform all relevant stakeholders on the activities done and objectives achieved. Together with the [www.controlpost.eu](http://www.controlpost.eu) website and social networks, it represents the core tool of the information strategy performed by the project Consortium for implementing and stimulating a proactive interaction among policy makers, Animal Welfare scientists, CP managers, animal transporters and their associations. Knowledge sharing on the EU legislation, national law, as well as on the latest research outcomes and good practices concerning animal welfare during

### Renovation and promotion of high quality Control Posts in the EU



Each year more than 35 million of cattle, pigs, sheep and horses are transported throughout Europe while the common perception of animal...

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transport and at Control Posts is one of the significant outcomes expected since beginning, for the empowerment of the European strengths in field.

This initiative represents the natural evolution and extension of the first project on EU Control Posts renovation funded by DG SANCO, started in 2011 and managed by a European Consortium composed by the same scientific and technical organisations here involved and official Control Posts located at the cross roads of important flows of animals transported over long journeys in the EU.

### Welfare assessment and animal transport certification



In the second project which started in January 2012 a certification scheme for animal transport on long journeys will be established in consistency...

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# Stakeholders' role for the project success



## Information Technologies for a proactive dissemination

ing to share their expertise on animal welfare during transport (especially very long journeys). Social networks are changing the way information is spread out in the world and their application in training and

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knowledge management is being tested in several fields. The adoption of a web-based Internet relay chat client, such as Twitter, and a business-related social networking site, such as LinkedIn, will introduce an innovative way of learning and disseminating information within the Quality Transport & Control Posts projects.

Both projects are available in Internet at the website [www.controlpost.eu](http://www.controlpost.eu), which represents a multilingual platform for disseminating the overall outcomes and results: a considerable source of data, references, simulations, images, networking, as well as a working tools for all interested European Control Posts, thanks to its innovative booking system.



➤ - American philosopher and professor of business administration very well known for his work on the stakeholder theory - the stakeholder concept was originally defined as including “those groups without whose support the organisation would cease to exist.”

Extending this academic perspective focused on companies to pilot initiatives aimed to produce innovation within a defined sector/area, the stakeholder concept should include “any group or individual which can affect or is affected by a specific project”.

From an analytical point of view, stakeholders can assist organisations or groups of organisations during the process they act for introducing innovation, analysing how their project fits into the small and large environment. A rational project management would not make major decisions influencing the final results without considering the impact they could have on all the specific stakeholders' categories. Within the project “Development of an EU wide animal transport certification system and renovation of control posts in the European Union”, stakeholders will include policy decision makers, animal welfare scientists, CPs managers, animal transporters and their associations, as well as all other organisations or professionals mainly working on animal transport and Control Posts.

Considering that - in this specific field - improvement in legislation, managing systems, equipments and technologies are based on science, a scholarly theory that other stakeholders could have some duties should be a “pleasant relief”.

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One of the project tasks is to create and coordinate a permanent social network among the stakeholders, with the aim to stimulate knowledge and expertise sharing on the main treated topics and to establish a permanent cooperation among the interested parties. The stakeholders are invited to work together for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating methodologies and tools properly designed and adopted for introducing innovation. Their constant involvement in the project management is crucial to agree actions to be done, to obtain feedback on activities already implemented and to foresee future development strategies. An Advisory Board, involving representative stakeholders, was established. The project Management Committee and the advisors are required to discuss - time by time - on project outcomes and to give relevant inputs for the success of the initiative. International conferences addressed to the European animal welfare universe support the project dissemination program, focused on pilot certification schemes for transporters and high quality Control Posts.

# Renovation and promotion of high quality Control Posts in the EU

## A new CPs certification model for increasing animal protection



► welfare relates to living conditions on farm, animal welfare during transport has received growing attention in recent years. Whether the animals are being bought and sold by farmers, being sent to other farms for fattening, or on their way to slaughter, often farm animals are moved over long distances in trucks. En route, they can be susceptible to impairment of their welfare conditions (i.e. thirst, injuries, health problem and even death). The EU has regulated the protection of animals during transport since 1977 and more recently through the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

According to a report of November 2011 of the European Commission, since this regulation is in force, improvements have been achieved in the number of injured, dehydrated and exhausted animals, as well as the number of animals that die during transport.

“*While the common perception of animal welfare (AW) relates to living conditions on farm, animal welfare during transport has received growing attention in recent years*”

Notably, 90% of these improvements were on long-distance and international animal transport.

Conditions of transported animals have improved mainly because of better vehicles and higher AW awareness among transporters, farmers and others involved with the practice, including the managers of Control Posts (CPs) where animals transported over very long journeys must stop and rest 24 hours according to Regulation (EC) 1/2005.

In order to improve the conditions of animal transport and of the control posts recently two actions were launched and financed by the Directorate Health and Consumers of the European Commission with the aim of:

- 1 improving the equipment and animal housing conditions of Control Posts located at the cross roads of important flows of animals transported over long journeys in the EU;

- 2 establishing a quality certification scheme for Control Posts and for long journey transport of animals.

The first action started in January 2011 whereas the second in January 2012.

Specific objectives of the two actions are:

- Planning, designing, financing the building and renovation of 18 CPs in order to set up a reference for the highest quality standards for all other CPs;
- Establishment of a pilot certification scheme for CPs with an adequate involvement of relevant stakeholders represented by an appointed advisory board. The quality certification system allows to classify the CPs according to their degree of compliance with AW standards and with high level of bio security;
- Implementation of a specific quality certification scheme for animal transport over long distances

- Set up of a European wide on line booking service with detailed information concerning the CPs concerned;

- Development of e-learning tools to provide information and awareness, targeted to drivers of transport companies, CP staff and official veterinary inspectors, on the practical ways they can improve the welfare and biosecurity of animals hosted in CPs and transported over long journeys;

- Production of handbooks, maps, a dedicated website and an international stakeholder conference.

Both actions are coordinated by CRPA, Research Centre for Animal Production of Reggio Emilia, Italy; the other scientific partners are:

- ICT, Istituto G. Caporale Teramo (IT);
- Wageningen Livestock Research (NL);
- IRTA, Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentaries (ES);
- BC, Baltic Control Ltd. (DK);
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE);
- IDELE, Institut de l'Elevage (FR);
- IFIP, Institut du Porc (FR);
- FLI, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (DE);
- SGGW, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Economic Sciences (PL);
- K.U.Leuven, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (BE);
- N.AG.RE.F. -VRI, National Agricultural Research Foundation-Veterinary Research Institute (GR);

The consortium of partners and third parties guarantees a geographical coverage of the project in eleven Member States: Spain, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Greece, Denmark, Hungary and Belgium. The majority of the EU CPs are located in these countries.

The two projects will foresee the building and renovation of 18 EU CPs located at the main crossroads of live animal flows in the EU in seven countries: France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain,

Greece and Hungary. The Feasibility Study “Evaluation of the feasibility of a certification scheme for high quality control posts” has counted 123 operative CPs which implies that almost 15% of the CPs are directly interested by the action.

The renovation plans are based on the quality criteria laid down in the Feasibility Study and the knowledge of the consortium partners regarding AW, bio security, work safety and economic and environmental sustainability. These 18 CPs will be part of the certification scheme developed by this action.

The same knowledge base will serve as input for the contents of the handbook to be used by the owners of the CPs, animal transport companies and veterinarians. Detailed information on the optimal outlay and possible improvements in equipment will be contained in the handbook. E-learning tools will be developed for the transport companies, CP staff and veterinarians of the competent authorities. Both the handbook and the e-learning tools will be translated in the main languages of the EU.

The advisory board serves as a platform for discussion and dissemination of the project results among the main stakeholders. This board is also being consulted for the definition of the certification scheme for CPs. Towards the end of 2012 an international final conference will be organised in order to present the handbook, to disseminate the results of the entire project and to collect comments on the proposed certification scheme in EU

Please consult the website:

[www.controlpost.eu](http://www.controlpost.eu), to learn more

Other information about the two actions can be downloaded from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/financing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/financing/index_en.htm)



# Welfare assessment and animal transport certification

## New protocols and schemes for the respect of the animal welfare principles

with the certification scheme developed for CPs. In order to establish the transport certification system a scientific basis will be implemented. It will create a checklist of primarily animal based parameters and key parameters able to ensure full compliance with the animal transport regulation (Regulation (EC) 1/2005).

The scientific research foresees the development of animal welfare assessment protocols for cattle, pigs, sheep and horses at loading, during transport and at unloading in the CP, the farm or the slaughterhouse. In the first project the protocols for cattle and pigs in CPs were established, whereas new animal transport protocols for sheep



and horses are under development. The assessment approach developed by the Welfare Quality® project and the assessment protocols for cattle and pigs in control posts developed in the first action, are used as starting points for the AW protocols. New measures will be gathered to address specifically the welfare assessment on transport for the four mentioned animal species. All four protocols will produce a checklist for the quality certification of animal transporters and recommendations for monitoring during transport. A dataset of about 200 transport loads will allow a correlation analysis between transport data (such as temperature in the compartments, humidity, animal density, travel times and stop times) and animal based parameters assessed at arrival. This will provide the foundation for multi criteria analysis. In March 2012 a meeting was organised with the animal transport organisations of six EU Member states (France, Spain, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Italy) and with the research organisations. As mentioned by the transporters organisations, a lot of information about the journeys is

already compulsory. For the transport organisations a certification scheme for animal transport will create the opportunity for a better compliance with legislation in the EU and increase the quality level of animal transport. Trucks used for long distance transports are equipped with very different GPS and other automated sensor systems. This action will investigate if and how such information can be accessed and used in the assessment protocols. Moreover, the project proposes to design a system for collecting and processing such data, so that they can be used as part of a certification scheme. This protocol development will be carried out in close collaboration with the animal transport organisations of the above mentioned countries. Their involvement is critical to the success of the methodology.

Once the protocols are generated a critical component is to obtain objective and repeatable assessments in order to allow their uniform interpretation and application by the assessors, particularly for the animal based parameters assessed by direct observation. To achieve this, training material is developed for each protocol, and the partners that take care of the assessments will undergo a 2 and a half days training and inter-assessors repeatability evaluation program per species. The experiences with the protocols are used to assess validity, repeatability and feasibility of the measures and control options for the legal requirements. The assessments will provide data to support the multi criteria analysis for obtaining integrated overall welfare scores needed for the certification scheme. The assessments will highlight important correlations between the transport data and the animal based parameters for risk analysis. Recommendations for monitoring during transport are produced; and addressed to drivers and CP managers. The recommendations aim to ensure that the animals are transported constantly under appropriate AW conditions and in compliance with EU regulation.

The proposed scheme will be tested on 10 transport companies by means of initial audits. Training courses will be organised for certification personnel of interested certification bodies. This work will be completed with a cost benefit analysis focused on the comparison between public control systems and the proposed private animal transport certification system. Emphasis in this analysis is put on the estimate of the costs inherent to enforced public control of compliance with legislation and on the costs related to the private certification

scheme.

The knowledge basis of the consortium partners will serve as input for the contents of handbooks and maps to be disseminated through the web and used by companies engaged in animal transport. A direct involvement and permanent consultation of the different categories of stakeholders (policy decision makers, CP managers, animal transporters, meat and dairy industry and animal welfare NGOs) will be guaranteed by means of the creation of a social network. A dedicated website will be used to this end and to inform potential users about the progress of the action.

For this second project another advisory board will accompany the partners in designing the transport certification scheme. The different categories of stakeholders are represented in the board such as animal transport companies, farmers' organisations, the meat industry, animal protection leagues,

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breeders organisations, retailers and organisations of veterinarians.

At the end of this second action, foreseen by the end of 2013, an international conference will be organised which serves as a platform for discussion and dissemination of the project results and for the illustration of the multilanguage handbook.

