



Regional Training Course on the Whole Genome Sequence Analysis of the Avian Influenza Virus and the Newcastle Disease Virus

Hosted by

The Government of the Austria

through the

Animal Production and Health Laboratory

Seibersdorf, Austria

28 September to 2 October 2026

Ref. No.: TN-RER5030-2603018

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to train participants on the practical use of a recently established cloud environment for Whole Genome Analysis (WGS) of animal and zoonotic pathogens, with a specific focus on the WGS analysis of Avian Influenza Virus (AIV) and Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV).

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after 5 June 2026 will not be considered.

Project Background

This regional project brings together Member States across Europe and Central Asia to strengthen food security, agricultural sustainability, and climate resilience through the strategic application of nuclear and isotopic technologies. Addressing shared challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and food safety risks, the initiative promotes science-based solutions aligned with national priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the European Green Deal. Focusing on crop production, agriculture water and soil management, livestock production, and food safety, the project enhances technical capacities, supports resilient agrifood systems, and improves the quality and safety of food production through coordinated capacity building, laboratory strengthening, and regional cooperation.

Scope and Nature

The training course will consist of:

- i) Theoretical classes on sample preparation prior to submission, including quality control of the samples.
- ii) Creating accounts on GenPat-VETLAB, sample registration and addition of metadata on the cloud environment.
- iii) Labelling, packing and shipment of the selected samples.
- iv) Theoretical classes of WGS technologies, quality control of the WGS readings and bio-informatic processing of the raw WGS data.
- v) Use of the tools for analysis of the important biological markers of the AIV and the NDV virus.

Participation

The regional training course is open to 20 participants.

Each Member State is invited to nominate 1 to (max) 2 participant who must match the profile described in the corresponding paragraph (Participants' Qualifications and Experience), indicating the order of priority.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The training course is open for staff members of the officially designated veterinary laboratories*, responsible for implementation of the animal disease monitoring plans. Additionally, the nominees should be engaged with molecular diagnostics and genetic sequencing of animal and zoonotic pathogens, specifically AIVs and NDVs.

*Officially designated veterinary laboratories are the laboratories, legally responsible to the National Veterinary Authorities in Member States for the detection and characterization of animal and zoonotic diseases.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2603018) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the training course from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four

months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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