DISCONTOOLS PMB, Brussels

DISCONTOOLS held a project management board (PMB) at the Belgian Federal Public Service Health, Food chain safety and Environment at 29 November 2017 with representatives from member state funders of animal health research, research and education organisations and industry.

The meeting had a strong focus on future communication activities of the project. To this end, first the results from an online user survey and the website statistics were presented. The user survey showed that the database is helping its users in identifying research gaps and increasing general knowledge on a disease. About 30% of respondents said the database helped them to develop or evaluate research calls and research proposals. The users expressed a very high level of trust in the provided information. The website statistics showed that discontools.eu attracts an average of 450 sessions per months (4,096 users in over the last year). Users typically visit the site on a few (1-3) occasion per year. Users cover different sectors including the animal health industry, government bodies and research institutions. The site mainly attracts visitors from within Europe, but also USA, India and Canada are within the top-ten of visitors per country.

The results of these analyses and indicated point of improvement were discussed to advance future communication activities of DISCONTOOLS. The prototype of a refreshed DISCONTOOLS website was presented. This website will be launched in the beginning of 2018.

Updated disease information has been provided (or is soon expected to be provided) by the DISCONTOOLS expert groups on Liver fluke, Cryptosporidium, BVDV, PPR, Nipah, Varroa and Leishmania. After review by the PMB, this information will be published on the website in the coming months. Further, the PMB decided to conduct efforts in order to establish expert groups for the diseases Toxoplasma, Coccidiosis (non-poultry) and Poultry Red mite. The next PMB meeting will take place on the 19th of April in Greece.

DISCONTOOLS Project Management Board
Brussels, November 29th, 2017