

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) DISCONTTOOLS between the Parties listed below.

The Parties are:

Organisation	Country
University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna,	Austria
Ministero della Salute	Italy
Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	Belgium
Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit	The Netherlands
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (INIA-CSIC)	Spain
Federal Department of Home Affairs, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Division of Innovation	Switzerland
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	UK
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (UKRI-BBSRC)	UK
AnimalhealthEurope	Belgium

1. Background

The DISCONTTOOLS project began as an FP 7 EU project involving a wide range of stakeholders including the research community, regulators, international organisations, CVOs, veterinarians & farmers. The aim was to provide a mechanism for focusing and prioritising research that ultimately delivered new and improved vaccines, pharmaceuticals and diagnostic tests. The project delivered part of the Action Plan of the European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH) in terms of a disease database, a gap analysis and a prioritisation exercise.

The project started on the 1st of March 2008 and ended in February 2013. After wide stakeholder agreement that the project needed to be continued the project was re-launched in June 2014 with the financial support of a range of national funders in the EU, with industry providing secretariat support. The aim is to keep the information in the database up-to-date, with regular re-evaluation and updates of the specific disease information.

2. Aim of the Memorandum

2.1. This Memorandum agrees a coordinated approach to the relationship between the Parties (normally research programme owners and funders) within the DISCONTTOOLS project.

3. Purpose of the Memorandum

- 3.1. This Memorandum establishes the responsibilities of the Parties and the general principles for their cooperation.
- 3.2. This Memorandum is not intended to create a binding legal obligation between the Parties.
- 3.3. Any organisation that funds and/or manages a programme of research on infectious diseases of animals and zoonoses or that is a stakeholder of research programmes on animal health and shares the objectives of DISCONTTOOLS may become a member.
- 3.4. Cooperation under this MoU may commence from the date of signature. This MoU may be modified or extended by a mutual determination of all Parties in writing.
- 3.5. Any Party may discontinue its participation under the MOU at any time. A Party should endeavour to give the other Parties at least 90 calendar days' notice in writing of its intention to end its cooperation under this MoU.

4. Principles of working together

4.1. The Parties will work closely based on common principles:

- The Parties each recognise the independence and remit of the other Parties, but will seek to collaborate and cooperate in the achievement of their shared and respective objectives within the DISCONTTOOLS project.
- The Parties will operate transparently while undertaking their responsibilities in good faith.
- The Parties will involve and work with each other, in good faith, in areas of shared interest or concern, with other relevant delivery partners included where the Parties agree that this would be appropriate.
- The Parties will use reasonable endeavours to keep each other informed of any data, research, collected information or other work or development that might influence the decisions or activities of the Parties, to the fullest extent possible, taking account of their respective obligations under the law.
- Each Party undertakes to take part, in a manner of good faith, in the efficient implementation of the activities of DISCONTTOOLS.
- Each Party undertakes to ensure that its representatives shall be of sufficient calibre and have sufficient expertise to perform the duties required of them in the Memorandum.
- Each Party shall bear its own costs in connection with its involvement in the activities of DISCONTTOOLS and, if required and within its capacity, contribute to the overall running of the Group through attending the project's meetings.
- Each Party undertakes to perform its tasks in the DISCONTTOOLS project at its own risk.

- Each Party shall be solely liable for any loss, damage or injury to third parties.
- Each Party undertakes to notify promptly, in accordance with the governance structure of DISCONTTOOLS, any significant information, fact, problem or delay likely to affect its involvement in the activities of DISCONTTOOLS.
- Each Party shall take reasonable measures to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Parties.
- Each Party agrees in good faith not to knowingly use any proprietary rights of a third party for which such Party has not acquired the right to grant licences and user rights to the other Parties. For the avoidance of doubt such Party shall, using its best endeavours, acquire the right to grant licences and user rights to the other Parties where it is able to do so.
- Each Party agrees in good faith not to disclose any confidential information to the other Parties, unless the Parties have signed a separate non-confidential agreement.

4.2. Through the observation of this Memorandum, all Parties will ensure their respective responsibilities are discharged consistently in keeping with these common principles.

4.3. Nothing in this Memorandum shall fetter the statutory rights, powers and duties of any Party or require any Party to act in any way inconsistent with its statutory duties.

5. Methods of joint working

5.1. The Parties will commit to once yearly meetings (with additional meetings, if required, conducted via teleconferencing or videoconferencing) to review the DISCONTTOOLS project and take strategic decisions according to the Terms of Reference of the project as provided in the Annex.

5.2. The DISCONTTOOLS secretariat is based at the offices of AnimalhealthEurope. The secretariat will carry out the day-to-day management of the project as described in the Annex as well as organize the annual meetings.

The parties have agreed to and adopted the terms set out in this Memorandum on the Project Management Board meeting of 13 May 2022 in Brussels, Belgium.

Name:

Party representing:

Signature:

Date and location:

ANNEX

Terms of Reference (ToR) of the DISCONTTOOLS project

1. Background

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2. Governance structure

The DISCONTTOOLS project receives funding from a range of national funders of research from EU member states. The project will be managed by a Project Management Board (PMB) comprising members from various stakeholders in animal health (see below). The governance structure of the project is presented graphically in Figure 1.

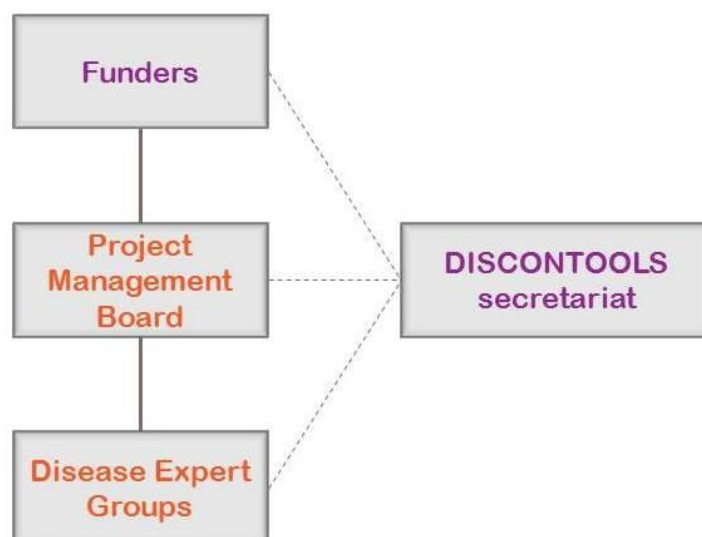


Figure 1. Governance structure of DISCONTTOOLS

The **Funders** provide financing to the project, approve the composition of the Project Management Board, approve detailed and provisional budgets and take ownership of the DISCONTTOOLS disease information documents. The Funders will receive regular updates about the project (by e-mail) and there will be a face-to-face meeting at least once a year. The Funders of DISCONTTOOLS are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Funders of the DISCONTTOOLS project

Country	Funder of DISCONTTOOLS
Austria	University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
Italy	Ministero della Salute
The Netherlands	Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit
Spain	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (INIA-CSIC)
Switzerland	Federal Department of Home Affairs, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Division of Innovation
UK	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
UK	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

The **Project Management Board (PMB)** comprises the Funders and members selected from the animal health industry, users of animal health products, public bodies, research and education networks. The meetings are chaired by the DISCONTTOOLS project manager or a delegated substitute. There will also be observers from the European Commission as appropriate. The PMB will be responsible for the following activities:

- Review and monitor the DISCONTTOOLS programme.
- Decide on strategies within the framework of the project.
- Develop the strategies for the exploitation and dissemination of information from the project.
- Provide regular statements on the implementation of the activities of the project.
- Approve the documents provided by the Disease Expert Groups before they are uploaded to the DISCONTTOOLS website. Approval meaning that the DISCONTTOOLS procedures were followed and that the documents comply with expectations of the DISCONTTOOLS funders and PMB.

The PMB will have a face-to-face meeting at least once per year and may meet more frequently either in person or by teleconference as necessary. The composition of the PMB is given in Table 2. New members may be proposed by the Funders of the DISCONTTOOLS project or members of the Project Management Board, and will first require approval by the Funders of the DISCONTTOOLS project.

The **Disease Expert Groups** are created by the DISCONTTOOLS secretariat in order to update the information in the DISCONTTOOLS database for diseases identified by the Project Management Board. A different Disease Expert Group is formed for each identified disease. The Disease Expert Groups are by preference composed of members with expertise in epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, control and trade/economics; include representatives from academia, industry and contain by preference members with a global representation. The group is responsible for preparing the disease and product information documents and completing the prioritisation and gap analysis scoring sheets.

The **DISCONTTOOLS secretariat** is based at the offices of AnimalhealthEurope. Its role is to carry out the day-to-day management of the project and connect the different stakeholders with each other. Its responsibilities include:

- Support the Disease Expert Groups in developing their documentation, including through organising expert group meetings where needed.
- Review these documents for consistency.

- Implement the decisions taken by the Funders and PMB.
- Upload the information provided by the Disease Expert Group on the DISCONTTOOLS website after it is approved by the PMB.
- Develop promotional materials.
- Present the project on meetings and conferences.

Table 2. Composition of the DISCONTTOOLS Project Management Board

Stakeholder	Organisation
Animal Health Industry	AnimalhealthEurope
	Diagnostics for Animals
Public bodies	Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA)
	Chief Veterinary Officers
Users of animal health products	Copa-Cogeca
	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
Education & Research networks	The European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)
	Epizone
	STAR-IDAZ IRC
Funders	
	DG RTD and DG AGRI of the European Commission (observer)
	World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (observer)
	DISCONTTOOLS secretariat