



Press release

2016, April 28th

New EuroGenomics Cooperative drives progress in bovine breeding

Seven key players of the bovine genetic improvement have established a European cooperative aimed at exchanging genomic data in Holstein breed, improving genomic evaluation techniques, and increasing the effectiveness of bovine breeding. The name of the organisation is: EuroGenomics Coöperative U.A..

Based on the strong principle that the genetics is owned by breeders, a legal entity under the form of a cooperative has been formed to optimise processes around mutual policy making and joint execution of activities. Within the cooperative, the partners focus on driving genetic progress by:

- genotyping for breeding and herd management;
- sharing of genetic data for reliable traits;
- performing applied research;
- genomic evaluation of animals based on the joint European reference population.

Innovative members

The newly formed EuroGenomics Coöperative U.A is composed by seven members from eight European countries. They are driven by innovation and are continuously looking for new ways to improve the effectiveness of bovine breeding. The large-scale genotyping of female animals that offers a new range of tools for breeders, genome sequencing and new selection techniques are a few examples of the fields of interest.

Members of the EuroGenomics Coöperative U.A.: *Viking Genetics (Denmark, Sweden, Finland), Evolution and OrigenPlus (France), CRV (The Netherlands and Flanders, Belgium), CONAFE (Spain, 4 AI centres are associated: Aberekin S.A., Ascol S.C., Xenetica Fontao S.A., Genetical S.C.), MCB Krasne and Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers (Poland, 2 additional AI centres in Poland are associated: WCHiRZ Poznan, MCHiRZ Lowicz)*

Genomic evaluation for third parties

As a new activity, the EuroGenomics Coöperative offers third parties the option to apply for genomic evaluation of AI bulls (see press release: [New genomic evaluation service for International AI bulls](#)). This evaluation is based on the EuroGenomics reference population(*), which is the largest reference population world-wide with more than 33,000 genotyped Holstein bulls.

With the joint forces within the EuroGenomics Cooperative, European farmers will have access to reliable genomic breeding values for domestic as well as international bulls.

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(*): Since 2009, Holstein cattle breeders in Europe have decided to pool their genomic data to create the EuroGenomics Reference Population. Contributors are: Alice (on behalf of Evolution, Origen Plus, Gènes Diffusion), CRV, Viking Genetics, vit and DHV, CONAFE, and Genomika Polska.