

# PulseNet Europe



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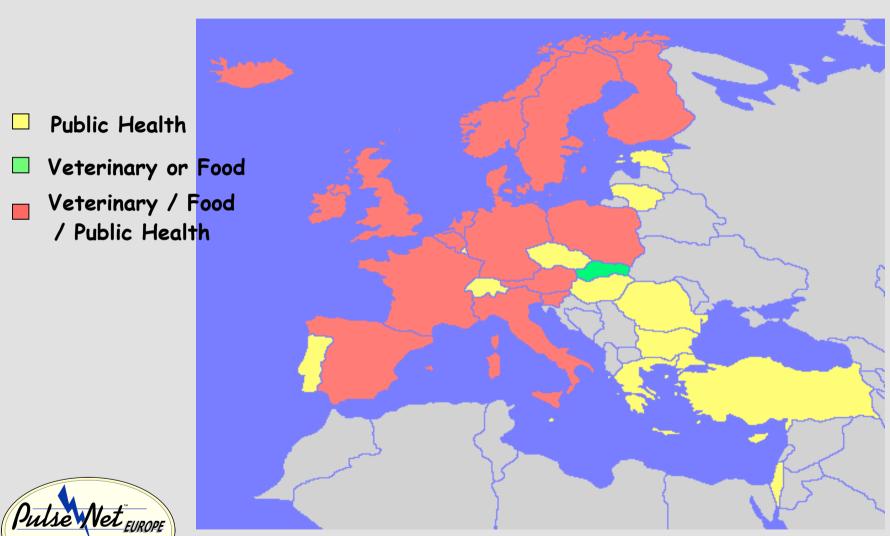


# A network of Food, Public health and Veterinary laboratories

Dedicated to molecular surveillance of food-borne infections







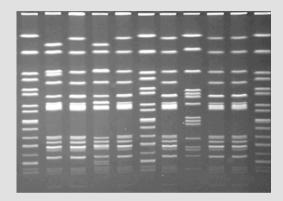
The European Molecular Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance







#### **Methods**

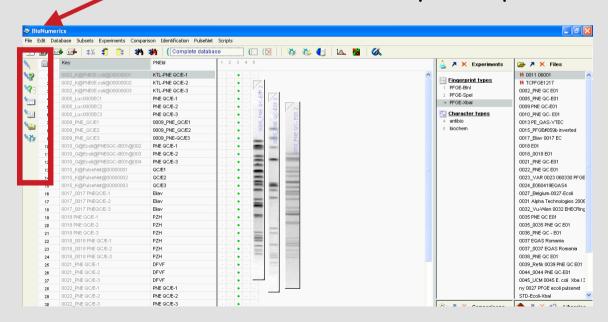


Pulse-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE)



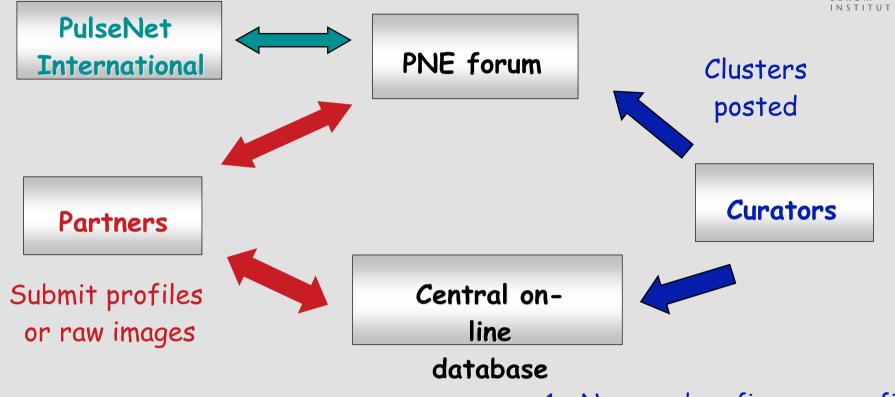
#### Salmonella Listeria VTEC

76 extra PulseNet Europe scripts



BioNumerics software





- Direct on-line access to the database
- 1. Name and confirm new profiles
- 2. Compare own data to database in real-time 2. Perform cluster analysis

3. Get names for new profiles





# **Quality Assurance System**

Quality of PFGE gel images and correct band assignment are critical

- Patners will be certified based on the ability to produce images which can be directly submitted to the database
- First round started February 2006
  - 48 participants
- 40 requested Salmonella, 32 VTEC and 28 Listeria EQAS strains



# **EQAS** PulseNet Europe

- Ensures comparability of data uploaded from different partners
- Managed by curators for each pathogen
- Based on certification to;
  - ·Perform PFGE
  - Analyse and submit PFGE results to PNE EQAS database



# Strains and PFGE protocols

- 3 VTEC strains
- Standardised PulseNet US protocol
  - •http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/protocols.htm
- Patterns analysed using BioNumerics software
  - ·V4.1, Applied Maths, Kortrijk, Belgium





#### Criteria for evaluation

- Gel quality
- Correct visual pattern
- •Correct normalisation using the S. Braenderup standard
- Running and tiff file uploading according to guidelines
- Band marking compared to the PulseNet
   ghalysis guidelines



#### Results

- 29 partners submitted their XbaI PFGE results
  - · After BioNumerics analysis (12 laboratories)
  - Raw tiff files (17 laboratories)
- •Tiff files were evaluated by curators and comparison to the standard gel were recorded in worksheet
  - PulseNet certification file submission and analysis worksheet

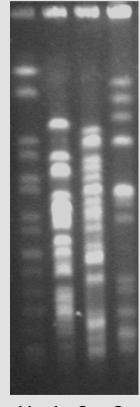
arison to standard gel

Eye match

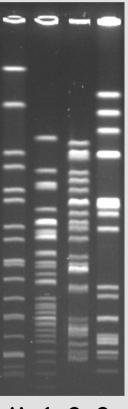


#### PFGE gels

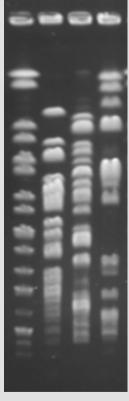
M: H9812 International PulseNet Standard; 1: PNE QC/C1; 2: PNE QC/C2; 3: PNE QC/C3



M 1 2 3 Bad quality



M 1 2 3
Good
quality



M 1 2 3 Incomplete restriction



#### Certification in three levels

- •12 partners successfully completed the certification exercise for both gel preparation and data analysis
  - Certified to submit all information to the PNE central database using the customised scripts
- •13 partners successfully completed the certification exercise for gel preparation only
  - Certified to submit tiff -files to the PNE central database via the curators that will analyse the gel
- •4 partners failed the certification exercise
- Curators provide constructive feedback for improving quality was the constructive feedback for improving quality







### Certificate

This is to certify that

Statens Serum Institut; Department of Bacteriology, Mycology & Parasitology; Bacterial Typing

has successfully completed and passed the PulseNet Europe EQAS certification set for

 ${\it Listeria} \ - {\it for Both Pulse - field Gel Electrophoresis Gels}$ 

and BioNumerics Analysis

Europe, October 2006

Curator Dr. Anna ëlle KEROUANTON

> AFSSA Lerqap Maisons -Alfort, France

Curator
Dr. Anne BRISABOIS
AFSSA Lerqap
Maisons - Alfort, France



#### **Conclusion-EQAS**

- PFGE protocol for VTEC caused problems for few partners
- Reproducibility of PFGE patterns was
   acceptable within the certified laboratories
- After certification process;
  - Proficiency test
  - Ensure good quality gels





#### **Benefit – National level**

- Direct on-line access to database from all countries
  - Data is analysed and ready to be compared
- Compare own data to database in real-time

Standardised methods and training

- Certification
- Troubleshooting help



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#### **Benefit - General**

- Link between food, public health and veterinary laboratories
- •Forum for development and standardisation of new molecular sub-typing methods
- International names for profiles
  - ·Same profile from different countries have same





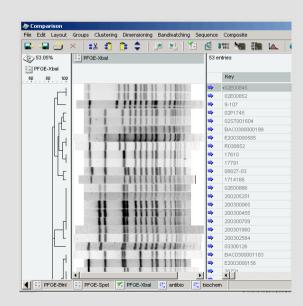
#### Benefit - EU level

- High discriminatory molecular surveillance
- Real-time detection of international clusters
- Link sporadic cases from different countries

in case of international outbreak

Global surveillance throughPulseNet International







#### Benefit – EU level

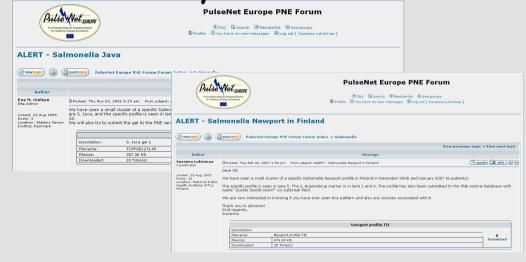
- •Facilitates the identification of outbreak sources and linking outbreaks to already known sources
- •Standardised methods  $\rightarrow$  results are comparable
- EQAS system for PFGE
- Information on trends



#### Benefit - EU level

- Accentuate problem areas in the European food production,
  - · Areas with urgent need for research

Fast alert and communication system







## **PNE** now

#### Med-Vet-Net funding ended in November 2006











# At present;

- Administration work has been minimised
- Full IT-help not possible
- Databases are not fully utilised

•PNE forum are used for ALERTs and exchange of PFGE profiles





# Agreement

The Steering committee agrees to and strongly supports the transfer of PNE to ECDC, including all databases, protocols and know-how.

In addition, the Steering committee will - to the best of its abilities - support the transfer of ongoing PNE activities and future of the European Molecular Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance auspices of ECDC.

