

## IO2.2. Best practices on zoonoses interventions.

<b>Type of practice</b>	International Conference
<b>Best practice title</b>	International Conference on Prevention and control of <i>Campylobacter</i> in the poultry production system
<b>Period of implementation</b>	31 August 2015
<b>Location</b>	Milan, August, 31, 2015 Civil Society Pavilion, Cascina Triulza EXPO 2015
<b>Geographical coverage</b>	More than 100 participants from 13 Countries attended the Conference coming from National Competent Authorities of the EU Member States, Candidate and Third Countries
<b>Contacts</b>	Formazione.teramo@izs.it
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://www.izs.it/IZS/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/805110010719/T/Conferenza-Internazionale-Prevention-and-control-of-Campylobacter-in-the-poultry-production-system">http://www.izs.it/IZS/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/805110010719/T/Conferenza-Internazionale-Prevention-and-control-of-Campylobacter-in-the-poultry-production-system</a> (the website is in Italian but the contents are in English)
<b>Target audience</b>	The International Conference was devoted to: - National Competent Authorities of EU - member States, candidate, and third Countries and to all the stakeholders interested to the improvement of the quality and safety of poultry meats as well as to the protection of human and animal health.
<b>Background and objectives</b>	Human campylobacteriosis is still one of the foodborne diseases whose real social impact is largely underestimated, as reported by ECDC. The consumption of contaminated food, poultry meat in particular, is considered one of the main sources of human infection, as reported by several published papers and scientific studies. Contaminated poultry meat, in fact, plays a crucial role in human exposure, causing the 20%-30% of all human cases of campylobacteriosis in EU and representing the primary source of infection in 50%-80% of cases. Member States, as active part of the EU integrated approach to food safety from the farm to the fork, are strongly committed to take action and to adopt appropriate methods to fight against <i>Campylobacter</i> in animals, in animal-by products, and in humans, to reduce the disease spreading, improve the quality of meat production, and to protect public health. The National Food Safety Authorities of the EU member States agreed on the need to share knowledge and expertise on the new methods and approaches to control <i>Campylobacter</i> in the farming sector and consequently in the production chain as well as to discuss the most appropriate risk communication strategies to increase consumer awareness on the role of the competent authorities to protect human health and on the risks associated to

	<p>the consumption of contaminated meat products. Taking into account the impact of the disease on the poultry production and on human health, the Italian Ministry of Health promoted this International Conference, with the collaboration of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise, as National Reference Laboratory for <i>Campylobacter</i>, and Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie.</p> <p>The Conference aimed to achieve the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To update the scientific community, policy and decision makers and stakeholders on <i>Campylobacter</i> contamination levels in poultry farms, poultry products and biosecurity measures in Europe.</li> <li>- To examine the main risk factors and critical points influencing the colonisation and maintenance of <i>Campylobacter</i> contamination along the poultry meat production chain, particularly focused on the farming systems.</li> <li>- To discuss the efficacy and feasibility of possible control strategies and prevention, through acting measures on farm, for <i>Campylobacter</i> contamination along the poultry meat production chain.</li> <li>- To examine effective risk communication approaches to increase the consumer awareness and information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Short description</b></p>	<p>In the framework of the Universal Exposition of Milan, taken into account the main topics covered by the initiative, the General Directorate for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicinal Product of the Italian Ministry of Health with the collaboration of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise, as National Reference Laboratory for <i>Campylobacter</i>, and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, promoted the International Conference on Prevention and control of <i>Campylobacter</i> in the poultry production system.</p> <p>The event was held on August, the 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Civil Society Pavilion of Cascina Triulza.</p> <p>The advanced level of the scientific and technical contents of the meeting was assured by the participation of keynote speakers from the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Reference Laboratory for <i>Campylobacter</i>, the Italian and French National Reference Laboratories, the National Food Safety Agencies of United Kingdom and Hungary, the Technical University of Denmark and the Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade Association.</p> <p>During the Conference some European Countries, such as Denmark and United Kingdom, presented their approaches to <i>Campylobacter</i> prevention and control, always defined with the aim to integrate the available methods to apply along the whole poultry production chain.</p>

	The strict implementation of biosecurity measures at farms and hygiene procedures during slaughtering are both crucial to control <i>Campylobacter</i> along the broiler production chain and reducing the contamination levels in carcasses. Furthermore risk communication initiatives devoted to consumers and food business operators are important in order to mitigate cross - contamination risks during food handling.
<b>Activities</b>	Planning, organisation, delivery and evaluation of the International Conference
<b>Products</b>	Communication products such as the Conference Agenda, the Conference Brochure, a dedicated Website, training materials Delivery of the event
<b>Impact</b>	The involvement of all the main actors at national and international level, as well as of the producers and consumers associations, was crucial to define and share a common approach to the disease: the conference offered to the scientific community and the policy makers, the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness and adequacy of the current measures adopted to control <i>Campylobacter</i> contamination along the poultry meat production chain. Different topics were presented and widely discussed during the event, such as the most recent scientific knowledge on <i>Campylobacter</i> , the recognised risk factors for animals and humans, the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of biosafety measures at farm levels, the costs and the social impact of contamination.
<b>Key words</b>	<i>Campylobacter</i> prevention, <i>Campylobacter</i> control, <i>Campylobacter</i> and poultry production chain