Leonardo 2019 Fellowship
Luiss – UF One Health Center of Excellence

International trade issues and economic ramifications of the African Swine Fever crisis in Europe

Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 15th, 2019 – 17.00 CET

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

ENVIRONMENT

African Swine Fever (ASF) is becoming a major veterinary concern. It is a viral disease of pigs accounting for mortality rates approaching 100%, meaning every infected individual has a near 100% chance of dying. Infection was recently detected in five wild boars on the boundaries between France and Luxemburg, in the heart of Europe. There is no vaccine against ASF, which makes mass culling the only option for disease control. This issue does not specifically concern the veterinary or the agricultural sector only. It causes major economic losses with short, medium and long-term implication for the disruption of the production system.

The European Union (EU) economy and trade regulations have been supported by a Common Agricultural Policy since 1958. This has been one of the strongholds of the EU, enabling it to become a top commercial player in the global economy, also in the agricultural sector. This devastating disease has the potential of seriously shaking such foundations. The management of a massive ASF outbreak in the EU comprises not only huge direct costs associated with the death (and necessary slaughtering) of infected pigs, but also indirect costs related to halting on production and exports, to indemnification of farmers and to swine depopulation. In addition, there are other serious challenges to consider: the political and ethical issues associated with the killing of clinically healthy, but potentially infected animals, the practical difficulties on the disposal of carcasses and animal waste and the sanitization of swine.

RESEARCH AIM

The selected candidate will be in charge of exploring the economic implications of the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) to the industrial compartment in selected pilot European countries, possibly including projections of the potential costs of delays to the implementation of control measures.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The outcome of the Fellowship will be at least one published article or feasibility study following the research conducted by the selected candidate and a final dissemination event (conference or similar).

SUPERVISOR

Pr. Ilaria Capua
Director of the One Health Center of Excellence
HOST INSTITUTIONS
Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome, Italy
University of Florida (UF), Gainesville, Florida
Institute for Scientific Interchange (ISI), Turin, Italy

HIRING INSTITUTION
Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome, Italy

REQUIREMENTS

DEGREE and CAREER
At least 3 years Bachelor’s Degree + 2 years Master’s Degree or equivalent giving access to a PhD program, in the area of International Trade, Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary Studies, Global Governance, Development Studies. Preferably enrolled in a PhD program. Knowledge of the food supply chain or previous working experience in this field is highly appreciated.

LANGUAGE
Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are a prerequisite.

HOW TO APPLY

June 1st 2019 TILL JULY 15th 2019
Online application open and accessible through the Luiss website