# Summary and main outcomes

**More than 145 participants from 30 countries all over the world**

In conjunction with the ICAR Technical Workshop, the ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference organized by the ICAR Functional Traits Working Group was held in Aarhus, Denmark from 30 to 31 May, 2013. There were more than 145 participants from over 30 countries representing different disciplines - farmers, veterinarians, representatives of research and dairy industry, breeding and recording organizations, advisory services, administrators.

The popularity of this conference demonstrates that the topic of health data recording has been addressed at the right time. Mr. Sergio Pavon from the EU Commission DG Health and Consumer Protection stressed the increased focus on animal health in the context of animal welfare, food safety and environmental aspects. The program included many other well know experts covering data legislative aspects, recording, logistics, processing, data quality and validation, benefits as well as challenges of working with health data. The delegates exchanged their views and experiences ranging from countries with experience in health data to countries that are in the planning or start-up phase.

## Main outcomes

- Easy care, healthy, "invisible" cow is what farmers want.
- The aim is to have minimum effort for recording with maximum benefit for herd improvement.
- Multidisciplinary use of farm and veterinary data will help to achieve this aim.
- Clear agreements concerning data ownership and use are needed.
- Legal regulations may be supportive for establishing health monitoring systems, but motivation of the stakeholders involved is the key factor for long-term success.
- Disease information such as mastitis, infertility, lameness, metabolic disorders are necessary for targeted improvement of animal health which is in accordance with the EU-strategy "Prevention is better than cure".
- Data quality and data quantity assurance measures are very important.
- There is a need for international standardization.
- Electronic devices and automated systems may contribute to future solutions.
- Each country has to find solutions fitting their circumstances.
- We can do better when we work together (multidisciplinary, multi-country approaches)!

The PDF files of the presentations are available on the web at:
*www.icar.org/Documents/Aarhus_2013/PowerPoint/index.htm*