



## Press Release

### Further improvement of Genomic evaluation within EuroGenomics

Since 2009 the EuroGenomics partners VikingGenetics (Denmark/Sweden/Finland), UNCEIA (France), DHV and vit (Germany) and CRV (Netherlands/Belgium) co-operate in the field of genomics to further increase the reliability of genomic breeding values. By combining all data of proven bulls, a high quality reference population of 16,000 bulls was created which enabled the accurate estimation of DNA marker effects. In July, Interbull certified the national genomic evaluation systems based on the EuroGenomics reference population for official publications. Since August, this has allowed international trading of young bulls based on their genomic breeding values.

Because of the successful co-operation, the partners decided to extend their co-operation. A new contract has now been signed, where the partners have agreed to exchange the genotyping and progeny data of all their newly proven bulls. The latest exchange involves 2,300 bulls, which means that the new EuroGenomics reference population now consists of **18,300 bulls**, which is by far the largest reference population in the world.

Unbiased predictions for reliable breeding values are one of the key objectives for the EuroGenomics partners. Therefore, data from selected bull dams are not added to the reference population, as such inclusion could lead to overestimated levels of genomic breeding values as well as reliabilities.

Another co-operation between the partners involves high-density genotyping. The 550 most influential Holstein bulls have now been retyped with the newest Illumina DNA chip, which reads 777,000 markers (instead of 50,000 markers with the standard DNA chip). The more detailed genomic information is expected to increase reliability of genomic predictions for Holstein bulls, but can also be of importance for other breeds.

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**Please contact:**

For technical questions, members of Steering Committee:

UNCEIA: Xavier David, EuroGenomics coordinator: +33 675 38 27 31

CRV: Alfred de Vries: +31 26 38 98 522

DHV: Egbert Feddersen: + 49 228 91 44 751

vit: Reinhard Reents: + 49 423 19 55 140

VikingGenetics: Søren Borchersen: + 45 23 60 07 63

Note: UNCEIA and DHV represent the breeding companies in their countries.

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EuroGenomics-partner are:

