



Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

Escola Superior  
de Tecnologia  
e Gestão

CECAV is a multidisciplinary research unit, based at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD) in Vila Real in northern Portugal. The Centre is focused on animal and veterinary sciences, employing an interdisciplinary approach that combines research, development and innovation (RDI) in a fundamental and applied science strategy. CECAV is strongly committed to promoting a balanced approach that includes food-production, animal health and welfare as well as food quality and safety.

Research shows that 75% of infectious diseases affecting humans have their origin in animal. The "One Health" approach adopted by CECAV, which treats human and animal health as part of the same system, is an excellent framework that addresses the prevention of these diseases.

The Centre is organized in three main axes, namely: Animal Production, Animal Health and Welfare, and Food Safety and Public Health. Concerning the Food safety and Public Health area, the group is focusing their research in zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks. These areas are in line with some of the major issues discussed by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

An analysis of the 2014-2017 work results of CECAV shows that, due to the holistic approach, it is difficult to assess the addressed specific area of Food Safety and Public Health. It is possible to verify that in 33 projects, involving several parties, 22 are related to this subject. These projects are financed by Portugal 2020, Interreg, H2020 and FCT. It is worth mentioning the internationalization of the research activity and the participation in thematic networks:



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Ensino Certificado



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CYSTINET, European Network on Taeniosis/Cysticercosis and EURO-FBP. A European network for Food Borne Parasites.

In addition to those, a unique Animal Science Doctoral Program, promoted together with the Universities of Lisboa and Porto, has been developed and the students have been granted scholarships funded by Norte 2020.

CECAV researchers developed activities with scientific impact, measurable through a series of indexed papers, books, book chapters and proceedings in the period 2014-17, in addition to a large number of participations in, or organization of, national and international events. The published scientific work shows the multidisciplinary approach that underpins the main objectives of these research unit.

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