

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER.
OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015**

| ACTIVITY/ DESCRIPTION | OBJECTIVE | EXPECTED OUTPUTS |
|---|---|--|
| <p>ACTIVITY 1. Organization -in collaboration with the URL on CSF the “Workshop on Laboratory Diagnosis of African and Classical Swine Fever (ASF and CSF)” which will take place in Valdeolmos, Madrid, Spain, on June 2015.</p> | <p>To present the evaluation of the XII-ILCT-ASF results to the NRLs and OLs. Presentation of the current ASF situation worldwide, current available diagnostic techniques, laboratory contingency plans and the main advances on ASF diagnosis.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and OLs for the participation in the Workshop (March-April 2015). 2) Prepare programme and working documents 3) Draft report of the workshop including conclusions and recommendations to be sent to DG SANCO within 1 month after the workshop (together with the cost statement). 4) Publication of the presentations of the workshop at the EURL-ASF website within 1 month after the workshop. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 2. Organization of the “Workshop on Laboratory Contingency Planning and simulation exercises on Diagnosis and Molecular Characterization of African Swine Fever (ASF)” which will take place in Valdeolmos, Madrid, Spain, on June 2015.</p> | <p>To improve the ability of NRLs situated in affected and/or high risk European countries to respond to an ASF incursion from the laboratory point of view. Special emphasis will be done to the laboratory contingency plans (LCPs) and the management and interpretation of the laboratory results including the typing of the ASF viruses responsible of the outbreaks.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs for Central and Eastern EU-MS countries, and EU MS with would have experienced significant problems in the ILCT during 2014. 2) Prepare programme and working documents 3) Providing digital formats (CDs) with practical information related to ASF general overview, laboratory contingency plans as well as the URL SOPs for ASF diagnosis and molecular characterization. 4) Draft report of the workshop including conclusions and recommendations to be sent to DG SANCO within 1 month after the workshop (together with the cost statement). |
| <p>ACTIVITY 3. Evaluation of the results obtained from the different laboratories during the XII-Inter-Laboratory comparison test for ASF (XII-ILCT-ASF).</p> | <p>To evaluate the performance for ASF diagnosis in the national reference laboratories (NRLs) and, where relevant, in other official laboratories (OLs). To identify the gaps, weaknesses and needs for the harmonization of ASF laboratory diagnosis.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Elaboration and submission of the individual result and performance report’s to each participating laboratory. 2) Elaboration of final report to be distributed to all participants during the Annual Meeting of NRLs for ASF. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 4. Organization of the XIII-Inter-Laboratory comparison test for ASF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 4.1:</i> Sample preparation. • <i>Sub-activity 4.2:</i> Distribution of samples. | <p>Harmonization of ASF laboratory diagnosis in the NRLs and OLs throughout an ILCT, taking into consideration the current situation of ASF in Europe and worldwide.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and OLs for the participation in the XIII-ILCT (July 2015). 2) Selection, preparation and quality control of test samples (August-September 2015). 3) Distribution of the panel of samples to participating laboratories (October-November 2015). |
| <p>ACTIVITY 5. Active assistance to EU member states in the diagnosis of ASF outbreaks, and other European countries if requested/needed.</p> | <p>To assist the EU member states and European countries in an effective and rapid containment of the outbreaks for the control of ASF.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Diagnosis (confirmatory testing) by the EURL international prescribed assays. 2) Genetic identification of the ASFV isolate(s) responsible of |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 5.1:</i> confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epidemiological studies. • <i>Sub-activity 5.2:</i> Provision of emergency ASF diagnostic kits | | <p>the outbreak (s).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Elaboration and submission of the confirmatory diagnosis' molecular characterization reports 4) Large-scale production of ASF diagnostic kits and reference reagents. Distribution in case of emergency if is requested. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 6. Molecular and biological characterization of viral isolates collected in the ASF outbreaks worldwide in 2014-2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 6.1:</i> Genetic characterization of current ASFV isolates. • <i>Sub-activity 6.2:</i> "In-vivo" experimental studies of current circulating ASFV isolates. | <p>To increase the knowledge about the features of current circulating ASFV isolates, with special attention to those responsible of the European ASF outbreaks.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Evaluation of 2014-2015 ASF viral genotypes circulating worldwide. 2) Characterization of pathological aspects of ASFV isolates related with virulence. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 7. Prepare and distribute SOPs, reference standards and other biological reagents for ASF serological and virological diagnosis previous request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 7.1:</i> Preparation and distribution of ASF reference standards, biological material and reagents for ASF diagnosis. • <i>Sub-activity 7.2:</i> Preparation and distribution of the URL-ASF reference material. | <p>To assist NRLs and OLs on the implementation, validation and internal verification of official and alternative ASF diagnostic methods.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Production and quality control of the EURL-reference standards (antigen and sera) for ASF antibody detection. 2) Production and quality control of the biological material for ASF antibody and virus detection. 3) Updating of the URL-ASF reference material according the current ASF situation worldwide. Elaboration and submission of the ASF-URL reference material description report 2014-2015. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 8. Assisting NRLs and OLs, in particular in affected and/or high risk European countries, by the organization of specific short term ASF diagnostic trainings at the EURL previous request.</p> | <p>To increase preparedness on ASF diagnostic techniques; To improve diagnostic capacities through transfer of new diagnostic tools; production/quality control of ASF reference standards.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing of the corresponding ASF reference standards and materials for conducting the training. 2) Providing digital formats (CDs) with practical information related to ASF general overview, epidemiology, clinical lesions as well as the OIE and URL SOPs for ASF diagnosis. 3) Elaboration and submission of the trainings' technical reports. |
| <p>ACTIVITY 9. Assisting NRLs and OLs, in particular in affected and/or high risk European countries, through EURL Mission, previous request.</p> | <p>Evaluation of the current ASF laboratory capacities, providing methodological support on ASF antibody and virus detection techniques by diagnostic training course on site. Assessing and monitoring the implementation of new diagnostic techniques.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing of the corresponding ASF reference standards and materials for conducting the mission. 2) Providing digital formats (CDs) with practical information related to ASF general overview, epidemiology, clinical lesions as well as the OIE and URL SOPs for ASF diagnosis. 3) Elaboration and submission of the missions' technical reports. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| ACTIVITY 10. To have available qualified EURL staff to assist during outbreaks / crisis situations and/or to engage the EURL on-site | To assist the EU member states and European countries in an effective and rapid containment of the outbreaks for the control of ASF. | 1) Ready EURL experts to assist in affected areas <i>“on-site”</i> . |
| ACTIVITY 11. Participation in meetings within the EU and eastern European countries due to emergency and /or high risk situation. Active participation in ASF global platforms and expert’s workshops. | Upon the request of the EC and/or CVOs from EU or in order to fulfill the role as EURL, provide scientific and technical advice on ASF laboratory diagnosis in affected and/or high risk European countries. Participation as expert in workshops and meetings organized by International Institutions or specific countries, with the objective to respond to the current ASF threat and its potential for worldwide spreading. Collaboration and coordination activities in tasks based on ASF diagnosis, with regards to prevention, early detection and progressive control efforts. | 1) Scientific advice and information exchange related to ASF diagnosis and current situation in affected and/or high risk European countries. 2) Scientific and technical advice and coordination of actions in a global context, related to diagnosis. 3) Overturn knowledge to EU NRLs from MS. |
| ACTIVITY 12. Validation, updating and/or improvement of ASF diagnostic techniques. | To perform a comprehensive comparative study of current serological and virological tests analyzing samples from domestic and wild suids, including alternative samples for diagnosis. Development of new ASF diagnostic assays. | 1) Large scale comparative study of current ASF serological and virological tests using field and experimental samples from domestic and wild suids. 2) Development of new serological ASF tests. |
| ACTIVITY 13. Maintenance and update of the EURL web site and sequence data bank. | World Wide Web dissemination of updated information regards ASF, ASF-EURL activities, validated SOPs and genetic data from current ASFV circulating isolates. | 1) Updated information of ASF and EURL general activities. 2) Updated information of new developed or improved SOPs for diagnosing ASF. |