

**PROPOSED 2015 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION
REFERENCE LABORATORY “Detection of animal proteins in feedingstuffs”
EURL-AP**

Walloon Agricultural Research Centre – CRA-W (Belgium)

Activities (1 to 5) and Subactivities (1.1 to 5.6) are presented including the amount of requested workload (estimated in man/day) as well as with their conformity with the DG Sanco operational objectives (OO1 to OO4) as listed in the table at the end page of this document.

**Activity 1 Scientific advice & support to the European Commission
(95 m/d – OO1, OO3)**

- 1.1 Scientific advice and support to the European Commission (65 m/d – OO1, OO3):
- *In relation to the development of EC feed legislation (in 2015 towards the extension of feed ban relaxation to pigs, preparation to poultry extension [SOP preparation mainly]),*
 - *Participation and scientific assistance to DG Sanco meetings (e.g SCoFCAH)*
 - *Technical assistance on request of DG Sanco (e.g. scientific questions, comparison of methods, requested priority experiments, new feed materials). This assistance and related experiments concern issues which are not covered by other activities (Activity 4).*
- 1.2 On the request of DG SANCO or the NRLs, performance of 15 counter-analyses on samples with disputed results (30 m/d – OO3).

Activity 2 Scientific knowledge vigilance and dissemination (72 m/d – OO1, OO3)

- 2.1 Upon the request of the European Commission or in order to fulfil his role as

EURL, participation in international scientific fora/meetings related to animal proteins in feedstuffs and their detection (IAG annual meeting, AOCS annual conference, workshops organised by DG Sanco, workshops organised by joined EURLs, 3 others [EFSA, EFPR, FEFAC, workshops organised at Member State level by NRL...]) with eventual presentations and posters to prepare for it. (missions outside the EU will get the agreement of DG Sanco) (30 m/d – OO1, OO3)

- 2.2 Participation in the annual EURL Directors co-ordination meeting (4 m/d – OO3)
- 2.3 Valorisation of EURL-AP activities (production in journals, books, help to other EURL's...) (30 m/d – OO1)
- 2.4 Expert meetings at EURL-AP (EU experts invited for scientific discussions on current issues on PAP detection. Expert meetings may also be needed for SOP edition or revision [cf 5.4]) (8 m/d – OO1, OO3)

Activity 3 Maintenance of EURL-AP technical skills (275 m/d – OO1, OO4)

- 3.1 Daily and long-term management of the EURL-AP (85 m/d – OO4):
 - *Team organisation and administration tasks,*
 - *Maintenance of the competences of the EURL-AP team and formation of the new recruits,*
 - *Preparation of the reports of activities according to the report guidelines transmitted by DG Sanco,*
 - *Preparation of the new workprogramme and its matching with the operational objectives as defined by DG Sanco as of 2015, its budget, the deliverables and the performance indicators,*
 - *Filling ex-post results in performance indicator form*

- *Adaptation of documents to new accounting rules as of 2015*

3.2 Maintenance and development of the sample bank (190 m/d – OO1):

- *Establishment of the specification for new material or for renewal of existing material of the EURL-AP sample bank,*
- *Composition analyses (PCR, microscopy, NIR,...) of the collected samples,*
- *Maintenance of informatics tools for the appropriate management of the samples (SMS system),*
- *Collection/production of samples of animal origin in support to EURL-AP method development experiments,*
- *Storing of the samples and production of microscopic image representative of the particles,*
- *Maintenance of the sample bank.*

Activity 4 Development and evaluation of analytical methods (470 m/d – OO1)

4.1 Development and research on PAPs detection and characterization by light microscopy or PCR (180 m/d – OO1):

- *Contribute to the development on PAPs detection and characterization and improvement of existing methods of analysis (tuning of combination of light microscopy and PCR according to the types of feed, complementary species specific PCR targets and higher taxonomic rank targeting notably for insects)*
- *Calibrants for targets in development.*

4.2 Development and evaluation of complementary methods (190 m/d – OO1):

- *Contribute to the development of complementary analytical methods necessary to assure the correct implementation of official methods and explorative or alternative methods:*

- *Immunological methods for milk and blood derivatives vs prohibited PAPs*
- *FISH for terrestrial bones identification from sediments*
- *Mass spectrometry (Q-TOF spectrometry tandem) for the selection of blood peptides*
- *Infrared spectroscopic methods for collagen identification within bones from sediments*
- *Aptamers based methods for bovine products,*
- *Other emerging techniques according needs*
- *Evaluation and testing of the sequential combination of the selected successful complementary methods with a view to the SOP operational diagrams completion.*
- *Performing EURL-AP available methods or adapting them on outbreak material to make them available for the NRLs network.*

4.3 Organization and preparation of collaborative studies for validation of methods from 4.1 (PCR poultry and insects targets) and 4.2 (when those methods are validated internally) (100 m/d – OO1)

Activity 5 NRL network management and support (465 m/d – OO1, OO2, OO3)

5.1 Management of the Network and scientific advice (135 m/d – OO2, OO3):

- *Supply information and scientific advices (including non-official experiments or analyses of results upon NRL submission [excluding counter analyses which are included in 1.2]),*
- *Audit NRLs, coordinate on-site training on methods of analysis and assist staff from NRLs if proficiency testing reveals limited experience (on agreement of DG Sanco),*
- *To help to develop, extend and keep in the NRLs the highest standard of*

technical skill and quality management under accreditation on analytical methods for detection and identification of animal proteins in feed ingredients and in feedingstuffs.

5.2 Communication and maintenance of information tools (35 m/d – OO3):

- *Maintenance and update of EURL website (internet/intranet) to disseminate and share information with NRLs and others stake holders,*
- *Preparation and sending of newsletters for NRLs.*

5.3 Organization of proficiency tests (1 for microscopy and 2 for PCR skills) and follow-up (175 m/d – OO2):

- *Definition (with the collaboration of the DG-Sanco) of the objectives*
- *Preparation of the proficiency tests (including homogeneity study)*
- *Invitation of the NRLs to participate*
- *Packaging and sending of the samples*
- *Collection of the results*
- *Redaction of the reports*

5.4 Production of SOPs, assistance support and samples of references dedicated to NRL network (30 m/d – OO1):

- *Revision of public SOPs: definition of the objective, development, expert meeting, redaction and diffusion on internet*
- *Coordinate the preparation, reception, storage, maintenance and distribution to national reference laboratories (NRL) of samples containing animal proteins derived from different species and in particular from fish, poultry, pigs and ruminants to be used as reference or control materials¹.*
- *Production of technical network SOPs (redaction and posting on intranet)*
- *Production of support (e.g. excel files for cut-off determination, ...)*

¹ Samples prepared by the EURL-AP for NRLs and intended for other purposes than that of reference material (for instance for the organisation of proficiency test at the Member State level) will be charged to the requesting NRL as, according to DG Sanco, this falls under the responsibilities and duties of the NRL and therefore not covered by the EURL-AP budget.

5.5 Organisation of the EURL-AP workshop (35 m/d – OO1):

- *Preparation of the agenda,*
- *Invitation of the attendees,*
- *Realisation of the workshop,*
- *Minutes of the workshop.*
- *Handling of participants' cost claims*

Note: For 2015 it is proposed, as for the last 5 years, to organise the annual workshop outside Belgium. In 2015 the Irish NRL proposed to host the workshop in Ireland.

5.6 Organization of specific training and scientific formation (55 m/d – OO1, OO2)

- *Training for microscopy and PCR (preparation, realisation at EURL-AP facilities)*
- *Other educational activities (CD, DVD, training notes update...)*
- *Contribution to the preparation and organisation of other DG Sanco supported educational programs (TAIEX, BTSF)*

TABLE : OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

OO1: To ensure the development and use of high quality analytical methods across the EU-RL network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensuring dissemination of analytical and reference methods from EU-RLs to NRLs; – monitoring of publication by EU-RLs of new developed methods and corresponding validation studies; – coordination of EU-RL activities on practical arrangements for the application of new analytical methods; – EU-RLs, NRLs and Member States coordination for the preparation of the 2016 work programmes regarding new or improved methods, and/or dissemination information means on methods and reference materials; – planning of trainings, meetings and workshops organised by the EU-RLs for the harmonization of diagnostic techniques and of methods of analysis; – initiation of EU-RLs collaboration with laboratories in third countries.
OO2: To maintain appropriate level of proficiency testing ensuring efficiency of control analysis methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensuring planning and initiation of comparative testing by EU-RLs in accordance with internationally accepted protocols; – address underperforming related issues within the EU-RL network; – coordination of EU-RLs, NRLs and the Member States for the planning of performance testing in the work programmes.
OO3: To ensure the availability of scientific and technical assistance provided by the EU-RLs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – queries to EU-RLs for policy making and enforcement; – initiation of EU-RLs collaboration with EFSA and international organisations; – organisation of meetings for scientific and technical assistance from the EU-RLs; – guidance initiation regarding analytical methods; – networking activities for appropriate assistance by the EU-RLs.
OO4: To ensure a sound and efficient management of EU-RL funding cycle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – collection, verification and validation of EU-RL work programmes; – control and verification of financial expenditure; – communication with EU-RLs for the execution of their work programmes; – evaluation of the EU-RL annual technical and financial report; – support to the EU-RLs for the preparation of their annual work programmes; – evaluation of the EU-RL reported performance indicator ex-ante and ex-post.