

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY (EURL) FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER.
IN RESPECT OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2016 AND 2017**

ACTIVITY/ DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
<p>ACTIVITY 1. Organization -in collaboration with the EURL on CSF the “Workshop on Laboratory Diagnosis of African and Classical Swine Fever (ASF and CSF)” which will take place in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannover, Germany in May-June 2016. • Madrid, Spain in May-June 2017 	<p>To present the evaluation of the XIII-ILCT-ASF results to the national reference laboratories (NRLs) and other official laboratories from EU candidate Member States (MS) as well as neighbouring countries with the EU where relevant.. Presentation of the current ASF situation worldwide, current available diagnostic techniques, laboratory contingency plans and the main advances on ASF diagnosis and advances on research on epidemiology, diagnosis and vaccines.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and for the participation in the Workshop (March-April 2016/2017). 2) Individual call to EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU when appropriate, for the participation in the Workshop (March-April 2016/2017). Prepare programme and working documents 3) Draft report of the meeting including conclusions and recommendations to be sent to DG SANTE 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 meeting.
<p>ACTIVITY 2. Evaluation of the results obtained from the different laboratories during the XIII (2016) and XIV (2017) Inter-Laboratory comparison tests for ASF (ILCT-ASF).</p>	<p>To evaluate the performance for ASF diagnosis in the EU NRLs and, where relevant, in other official laboratories from EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU. 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) To propose corrective actions for NRL in order to overcome the weak spots identified through the ILCT 3) Elaboration of final report to be distributed to all participants during the Annual Meeting of NRLs for ASF.
<p>ACTIVITY 3. Organization of the XIV (2016) and XV (2017) annual Inter-Laboratory comparison test (ILCT) for ASF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 3.1:</i> Sample preparation. • <i>Sub-activity 3.2:</i> Distribution of samples. 	<p>Harmonization of ASF laboratory diagnosis in the EU NRLs. throughout the annual ILCT, taking into consideration the current situation of ASF in Europe and worldwide. To assist the harmonization of other official laboratories from EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU when appropriate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to EU NRLs for the participation in the ILCT (July 2016 and 2017). 2) Individual call to other official laboratories from EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU. for the participation in the ILCT (July 2016 and 2017) to participate when appropriate. 3) Selection, preparation and quality control of test samples (August-September 2016 and 2017). 4) Distribution of the panel of samples to participating laboratories (October-November 2016 and 2017).
<p>ACTIVITY 4. Active assistance to EU member states in the diagnosis of ASF outbreaks, and other European countries if requested/needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 4.1:</i> confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epidemiological studies. 	<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 the outbreak (s). 3) Elaboration and submission of the confirmatory diagnosis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 4.2:</i> Provision of emergency ASF diagnostic kits 		<p>and molecular characterization reports</p> <p>4) Large-scale production of ASF diagnostic reference reagents. Distribution in case of emergency if is requested.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 5. Molecular and biological characterization of viral isolates collected in the ASF outbreaks worldwide in 2016-2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 5.1:</i> Genetic characterization of current ASFV isolates. • <i>Sub-activity 5.2:</i> “<i>In-vivo</i>” 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 2016-2017 ASF viral genotypes circulating worldwide. 2) Characterization of pathological aspects of ASFV isolates related with virulence.
<p>ACTIVITY 6. 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 6.1:</i> Preparation and distribution of ASF reference standards, biological material and reagents for ASF diagnosis. • <i>Sub-activity 6.2:</i> Preparation and distribution of the URL-ASF reference material. 	<p>To assist EU NRLs and other official laboratories from EU candidates as well as neighbouring countries with the EU 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 2016-2017.
<p>ACTIVITY 7. Assisting EU NRLs and other official laboratories from EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU, in particular in affected and/or high risk European countries, by the organization of specific short term training on ASF diagnostic and laboratory contingency plan at the EURL previous request.</p>	<p>To increase preparedness on ASF diagnostic techniques and laboratory contingency plan; 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 laboratory contingency plan and 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 8. Assisting EU NRLs and other official laboratories from EU candidate MS as well as neighbouring countries with the EU, 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 and laboratory contingency plan.</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 laboratory contingency plan and general overview, epidemiology, clinical lesions as well as the OIE and URL standardized operating procedures (SOPs) for ASF diagnosis.

		3) Elaboration and submission of the missions' technical reports.
ACTIVITY 9. 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 "on-site".
ACTIVITY 10. Participation in meetings within the EU and 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 European Commission (EC) and/or chief veterinary officers (CVOs) from EU or in order to fulfill the role as EURL, provide scientific and technical advice on ASF laboratory diagnosis and laboratory contingency plan 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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 EU MS and other International Institutions..
ACTIVITY 11. 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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Updated information of ASF and EURL general activities. 2) Updated information of new developed or improved SOPs for diagnosing ASF.