

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER.
OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2014**

ACTIVITY/ DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
<p>ACTIVITY 1. Organization -in collaboration with the EU Reference Laboratory for CSF (Institute for Virology, Hannover, Germany)- of the “Workshop on Laboratory Diagnosis of African and Classical Swine Fever (ASF and CSF)” which will take place in Valdeolmos, Madrid, Spain, on May/June 2014.</p>	<p>To present the evaluation of the XI-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 2014). 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. Evaluation of the results obtained from the different laboratories during the XI-Inter-Laboratory comparison test for ASF (XI-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 Workshop of NRLs for ASF and CSF.
<p>ACTIVITY 3. Organization of the XII-Inter-Laboratory comparison test 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 NRLs and OLs taking into consideration the current situation of ASF worldwide.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and OLs for the participation in the XII-ILCT (July 2014). 2) Selection, preparation and quality control of test samples (August-September 2014). 3) Distribution of the panel of samples to participating laboratories (October-November 2014).
<p>ACTIVITY 4. 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 4.1:</i> Preparation and distribution of ASF reference standards, biological material and reagents for ASF diagnosis. • <i>Sub-activity 4.2:</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 2013-2014.
<p>ACTIVITY 5. 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 and 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.
ACTIVITY 6. Assisting NRLs and OLS, in particular in affected and/or high risk European countries, through EURL Mission, previous request.	Evaluation of the current ASF laboratory capacities, providing methodological support on ASF antibody and virus detection techniques by diagnostic training course on site.	<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 7. Active assistance to EU member states in the diagnosis of ASF outbreaks, and other European countries if requested/needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 7.1:</i> confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epidemiological studies. • <i>Sub-activity 7.2:</i> Provision of emergency ASF diagnostic kits 	To assist the EU member states and European countries in an effective and rapid containment of the outbreaks for the control of ASF.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Diagnosis (confirmatory testing) by the OIE international prescribed assays. 2) Genetic identification of the ASFV isolate(s) responsible of the outbreak (s). 3) Elaboration and submission of the confirmatory diagnosis' molecular characterization reports 4) OIE Large-scale production of ASF diagnostic kits. Distribution in case of emergency if is requested.
ACTIVITY 8. Molecular and biological characterization of viral isolates collected in the ASF outbreaks worldwide in 2013-2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 8.1:</i> Genetic characterization of current ASFV isolates. • <i>Sub-activity 8.2:</i> "In-vivo" experimental studies of current ASFV isolates. 	To increase the knowledge about the features of current circulating ASFV isolates, with special attention to those responsible of the European ASF outbreaks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Evaluation of 2013-2014 ASF viral genotypes circulating worldwide. 2) Characterization of pathological aspects of ASFV isolates related with virulence.
ACTIVITY 9. Validation, updating and/or improvement of ASF diagnostic techniques. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 9.1:</i> continuing evaluation of meat juice in field samples for application in ASF sero-surveillance programs. • <i>Sub-activity 9.2:</i> evaluation of performance of new ASF diagnostic assays. 	Evaluation of the performance of ASF diagnostic assays and its suitability for testing ASF on alternative samples based on a country's laboratory infrastructure and surveillance needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Large scale validation of the suitability of meat juice as sampling material for ASF antibody detection using ASF validated antibody techniques. 2) Large scale validation of new developed ASF diagnostic assays.
ACTIVITY 10. 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. Attend	<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.

	expert workshops organized by International Institutions or specific countries, with the objective to respond to the current increasing potential of ASF globalization and/or to coordinate ASF early warning, prevention and progressive control efforts.	3) Overturn knowledge to EU NRLs from MS.
ACTIVITY 11. 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 12. 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.