

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2013

ACTIVITY/ DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
ACTIVITY 1. Evaluation of the results obtained from the different laboratories during the X-Inter-Laboratory comparison test for ASF (X-ILCT-ASF).	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.	<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.
ACTIVITY 2. Prepare programme and working documents for Annual Meeting of NRLs for ASF to be held in Brussels in June 2013.	To present the evaluation of the X-ILCT-ASF results to the NRLs and OLs. Presentation of the current ASF situation worldwide and the main advances on ASF diagnosis.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and OLs for the participation in the Annual Meeting (March-April 2013). 2) Draft report of the meeting including conclusions and recommendations to be sent to DG SANCO within 1 month after the meeting (together with the cost statement). 3) Publication of the presentations of the meeting at the EURL-ASF website within 1 month after the meeting.
ACTIVITY 3. Organization of the XI-Inter-Laboratory comparison test for ASF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 3.1:</i> Sample preparation. • <i>Sub-activity 3.2:</i> Distribution of samples. 	Harmonization of ASF laboratory diagnosis in the NRLs and OLs taking into consideration the current situation of ASF worldwide.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual call to NRLs and OLs for the participation in the XI-ILCT (July 2013). 2) Selection, preparation and quality control of test samples (August-September 2013). 3) Distribution of the panel of samples to participating laboratories (October-November 2013).
ACTIVITY 4. Prepare and distribute SOPs, reference standards and other biological reagents for ASF serological and virological diagnosis previous request. <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. 	To assist NRLs and OLs on the implementation, validation and internal verification of official and alternative ASF diagnostic methods.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Production and quality control of the OIE-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-ULR reference material description report 2012-2013.

<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' financial and technical reports.
<p>ACTIVITY 6. 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.</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' financial and technical reports.
<p>ACTIVITY 7. 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 7.1:</i> confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epidemiological studies. • <i>Sub-activity 7.2:</i> Provision of emergency ASF diagnostic kits 	<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 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.
<p>ACTIVITY 8. Molecular and biological characterization of viral isolates collected in the ASF outbreaks worldwide in 2012-2013.</p> <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. • <i>Sub-activity 8.3:</i> Determination of the carrier status in survival animals. 	<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 2012-2013 ASF viral genotypes circulating worldwide. 2) Characterization of pathological aspects of ASFV isolates related with virulence. 3) Evaluation of the role of carrier's pigs in the transmission of the disease in affected areas in Europe.

<p>ACTIVITY 9. Validation, updating and/or improvement of ASF diagnostic techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sub-activity 9.1:</i> evaluation of oral fluid samples for application in ASF control and eradication programs • <i>Sub-activity 9.2:</i> evaluation of meat juice samples for application in ASF sero-surveillance programs. • <i>Sub-activity 9:</i> evaluation of performance of new ASF diagnostic assays. 	<p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Large scale validation of the suitability of oral fluid as sampling material for virus and antibody detection using ASF validated diagnostic techniques. 2) Large scale validation of the suitability of meat juice as sampling material for ASF antibody detection using ASF validated antibody techniques. 3) Large scale validation of new developed ASF diagnostic assays.
<p>ACTIVITY 10. Participation in meetings within the EU and eastern European countries due to emergency and /or high risk situation.</p>	<p>Upon the request of the EC and/or CVOs from EU or in order to fulfill the role as EURL, provide scientific and technical advised on ASF laboratory diagnosis in affected and/or high risk European countries.</p>	<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.
<p>ACTIVITY 11. To have available qualified EURL staff to assist during outbreaks / crisis situations and/or to engage the EURL on-site</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) Ready EURL experts to assists in affected areas "on-site".
<p>ACTIVITY 12. Maintenance of the EURL accreditation scope (ISO17025) from ENAC, the Spanish accreditation body, on ASF diagnostic techniques.</p>	<p>To keep at EURL appropriate quality assurance systems for ASF laboratory activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitoring and maintenance of the quality system for its revision by the ENAC in 2013.
<p>ACTIVITY 13. Maintenance and update of the EURL web site and sequence data bank.</p>	<p>World Wide Web dissemination of updated information regards ASF, ASF-EURL activities, validated SOPs and genetic data from current ASFV circulating isolates.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New ASFV sequence database available. 2) Updated information of ASF EURL general activities. 3) Updated information of new developed or improved SOPs for diagnosing ASF.
<p>ACTIVITY 14. Maintenance and extension of the ASF virus and sera bank.</p>	<p>Updated EURL bank with samples collected in affected areas worldwide.</p>	