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EUROPEAN REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS

January-December 2012

European Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins (EURLMB)
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Work Programme for the European Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins

Objectives for the period January-December 2012

LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the Community Reference Laboratories for feed and food are described in Article 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

1. Coordination of activities of NRL network and provision of technical assistance and training

1.1. Organization of the XV Workshop of the European NRL network of marine biotoxins

Date: to be determined (Oct.- Nov. 2012)

Place: to be agreed during the XIV meeting in Vienna

Duration: 1,5-2 days

The EURLMB will organise and coordinate the workshop and will edit the minutes that will be distributed to the participants and published on the EURLMB website.

1.2. Supply information to EU MS and third countries on analytical methods on marine biotoxins (e mail, website)

Duration: ongoing (as required)

In addition to on-going assistance, the EURLMB website is available at: <http://www.aesan.msps.es/en/EURLMB/web/home.shtml>. There, it can be consulted about marine toxins legislation, methodologies, different meetings minutes and recommendations and all the activities related to EURLMB.

1.3. Assist NRLs on the implementation, validation and accreditation of methods particularly by provision of advice and EURL SOPS.

Duration: ongoing

The EURLMB will assist NRLs on the implementation and validation of official and alternative analytical methods by providing them with technical information, standards when available, contaminated materials, etc at their request. Moreover,

protocols for marine biotoxins determination are published on the EURLMB website.

- 1.4. Technical assistance to Third Countries on analytical methods.
The EURLMB will assist third countries by providing them with samples from the EURLMB Proficiency Testing trials in order to have intercomparison results, useful for the validation and accreditation of methods for marine biotoxins detection. This provision will depend on samples availability.
- 1.5. Training activities for the staff of NRL MS and third countries (as required, maximum 4 countries).
- 1.6. Working group on LC-MS. The activities will be focused on implementations for the analysis of lipophilic toxins and method development (LC-MS) for emerging toxins.
- 1.7. Working group on PSP. The activities will be focused on implementations and applicability of precolumn and postcolumn HPLC methods .
- 1.8. Collaboration with the University of Vigo (Department of Analytical and Food Chemistry) in the organization of training courses, symposiums, seminars or activities related with the Analysis of Marine Biotoxins.

NOTE: If it is required after the next XIV Workshop of EU-NRLs (October 2011, Viena) the ongoing working groups could be modified (eliminated, modified, or new ones created).

2. Scientific advice and support

- 2.1. Provide scientific assistance to DG-SANCO.
Duration: ongoing
The EURLMB will assist DG-SANCO and FVO if it is required on issues related with the control of marine biotoxins in molluscs.
- 2.2. Provide technical assistance in cases where the results of analysis are contested between Member States and/or Member States and Third Countries.
Duration: ongoing, when requested.

3. Interlaboratory Proficiency Testing

The interlaboratory proficiency testing trials organised by the EURLMB for the NRLs are aimed at evaluating the ability of the NRLs to apply satisfactorily the recognised testing methods for marine biotoxins for the purpose of Regulations (EC) Nos. 853/2004 and 854/2004 stated in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) N° 2074/2005. At the same time, the equivalence of the different methods applied is

studied. The EURLMB will organise one trial for each marine biotoxins group legislated in the EU:

3.1. EURLMB 2012 Proficiency Testing for PSP toxins determination (EURLMB-2012-PT-PSP).

3.2. EURLMB 2012 Proficiency Testing for LIPOPHILIC toxins determination (EURLMB-2012-PT-LIPO).

3.3. EURLMB 2012 Proficiency Testing for ASP toxins determination (EURLMB-2012-PT-ASP).

Schedule for the Proficiency Testing trials (participants registration, samples dispatch, results submission and PT report) will be agreed by the EU-NRLs network and published in the “EU EURLMB/NRLs timetable of activities for 2012”, which will be circulated to the network in the first quarter of 2012.

NRLs will receive in advance the Programme and the “Application Form” to be registered at each trial together with information about the foreseen dates for samples dispatch and results submission. Samples for the trial will be accompanied with the identity code for each participant. At the same time, participants will receive by email the “Protocol” for the exercise, a “Sample Arrival Form” to be sent to the EURLMB just after samples reception and the “Reporting Sheet” for results submission.

Preliminary results on EURLMB-2012-PT exercises will be presented by the EURLMB during the XIII Workshop of the European NRL network of marine biotoxins and discussed by the group. A final and detailed report (with all information on participants, aim of the exercise, schedule and instructions, materials preparation, methods used by participants, evaluation of results, proficiency results,..) will be elaborated and edited by the EURLMB for each PT, circulated to participants in the trial and published on the EURLMB website. A follow-up report on the management in cases of underperformance in the Proficiency Testing by NRLs will be submitted to DG SANCO together with the EURLMB technical report for 2012 (planned for March 2013).

4. Missions

4.1. Visit to NRLs when necessary, in order to solve problems with results after ring trials or validation studies (see points 3 and 5).

4.2. Participate in activities related to the involvement on the Working Group 5 ('Biotoxins') of CEN/TC 275 Technical Committee “Food analysis – Horizontal methods” (European Committee for Standardization).

4.3. Participate in activities related to the involvement on the AOAC Task Force for Marine Biotoxins.

4.4. On going participation in the Codex Alimentarius working groups and meetings related to marine biotoxins.

4.5. Assist third countries on technical issues on request.

5. Development of analytical and detection methods

5.1. Collaboration with AOAC on the evaluation of the LC/MS-MS method for the analysis of the lipophilic toxins legislated in the EU as a possible AOAC Official Method (OMA). (Report has been submitted and evaluation process in progress)

5.2. Accreditation of the PSP precolumn HPLC-FLD (AOAC 2005.6) method for the determination of these toxins at EURLMB. .

5.3. Pending on the reactivation of the activities related to phycotoxins through CEN/TC 275/WG5-Biotoxins, finalization of necessary requirements to get the validated method for “the determination of Domoic acid in shellfish and finfish by RP-HPLC using UV detection” as a CEN standard.

5.4. Pending on the reactivation of the activities related to phycotoxins through CEN/TC 275/WG5-Biotoxins, collaboration in the elaboration of a document about “Criteria of analytical methods for marine biotoxins”.

5.5. Evaluation of possible implementations and applicability of Precolumn and Postcolumn HPLC /FLD method for PSP toxins in the EU among the WG on PSP.

5.6. Continuation with tasks related with the implementation and application of methodologies based on biological assays and LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of ciguatoxins in fish.

5.7. Continuation with tasks related with the implementation of methodologies based on biological assays LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of brevetoxins in shellfish.

5.8. Continuation with tasks related with the implementation of methodologies based on biological assays LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of palytoxins in fish.

5.9. Identification of methodological options to be applied to possible emerging marine toxins which could be included in the EU Regulation Pinnatoxins, Cyclic Imines, etc..)

6. Implementation of DG SANCO “Protocol for the management of underperformance in comparative testing and/or lack of collaboration of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) with CRLs activities”

6.1. Underperformance (i.e failure in proficiency test). See Point 3.
The EURLMB will carry out a follow-up of those NRLs that fails in the EURLMB-2010-Proficiency Testing for PSP, lipophilic and ASP toxins determination in order to identify the origin of the bad results.

6.2. Re-enforcement of the collaboration between NRLs and EURLMB.

According to DG SANCO protocol, the EURLMB will contact those NRLs for which a lack of collaboration with the CRL is detected.

NOTE: The calendar as well as the organization of the activities of this Work Program (January-December 2012) for this period could be affected by the move to the new facilities at the University Campus.