

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE
EU COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY
FOR MOLLUSC DISEASES**

2012

I. LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the EU Reference Laboratory for Mollusc Diseases are given in Annex IV, Part 1 of the Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

II. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012

- (1) To organise and prepare the **Annual Meeting** of the National Reference Laboratories for mollusc diseases in March or April 2012.
- (2) To collect material for and produce **report** on the Annual Meeting of National Reference Laboratories for Mollusc Diseases.
- (3) Maintain and update the library and **collections** of mollusc pathogens notably through **mscope**, a tool enabling access to scanned histological slides .
- (4) Update the **internet site** of the EU Reference Laboratory (<http://www.eurl-mollusc.eu/>).
- (5) Supply available **reference** reagents and **material** to the National Reference Laboratories in Member States.
- (6) Identify and characterise mollusc **pathogen isolates** on assistance request of the National Reference Laboratories.
- (7) Provide the National Reference Laboratories with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to help them to build their **Quality Assurance** System.
- (8) Organise an **Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Testing** for the diagnosis by histology of molluscs pathogens included in the Council Directive 2006/88/EC
- (9) Design, conduct and coordinate assessment of **alternative methods** for the identification of mollusc pathogens listed in the Council Directive 2006/88/EC. In this context it is notably planned to develop a **multiplex Taq Man assay** for the detection of *Marteilia refringens* and *Bonamia ostreae*.
- (10) Design and conduct **epidemiological or experimental studies** on the listed diseases in order to improve diagnosis and surveillance at a European level. In this context, it is notably planned to carry out a molecular epidemiological study on *Bonamia exitiosa* in Europe.
- (11) Provide opportunities of **education, training** and retraining in laboratory diagnosis of molluscs.
- (12) Attend **international** meetings and **conferences** especially the 2012 **NSA** (National Shellfisheries Association) annual meeting (2012 March 25-29 Seattle, USA) and the 13th **ISVEE** (International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics) conference (2012 August 20-24 Maastricht, The Netherlands).