



## Work Programme 2014 of the EURL for Heavy Metals in Feed and Food

Overview of the major objectives for the period January-December 2014

The following activities will be carried out:

1. Organisation of a proficiency test for the determination of heavy metals in canned vegetables (Deadline: September 2014), and report on the organisation and outcome of the mentioned proficiency test (Deadline: October 2014) (\*)

*Matrix:* 1

Fresh matrix as consumed (not lyophilised) similar to the matrix analysed by official control laboratories, allowing to check how certain correction factors are implemented and taken into consideration (i.e. uncertainty calculation).

*Analytes:* Total (Cd, Pb, As, Hg(\*\*), Sn) and iAs.

In case the outcome of the exercise shows some scientific interest, a manuscript will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

2. Organisation of a proficiency test for the determination of heavy metals in feed of vegetable origin (Deadline: September 2014), and report on the organisation and outcome of the mentioned proficiency test (Deadline: November 2014)(\*)

*Matrix:* 1 (feed of vegetable origin)

*Analytes:* Total (Cd, Pb, As and Hg(\*\*))

(\*) Subcontracting foreseen for activities 1 and 2:

The performance of the participants to the PT is not evaluated using consensus values. It relies instead on reference values provided by Certified Reference Materials (when available) or determined by expert (non-NRL) laboratories including at least one National Metrology Institute. This approach is fully compliant with the ISO 17043 and ISO 13528 standards. The analytical measurements for (a) the characterisation of the reference value and the evaluation of (b) homogeneity and (c) stability of the test item have therefore to be subcontracted, for each analyte investigated.

(\*\*) Participants will be requested to determine total mercury in the feed sample. However, the endogenous concentration is expected to be low and may be below the analytical limit of detection for many of the participating NRLs. No z-score will then be calculated for results reported as "less than".

3. Organisation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop of the EURL-HM with participation of National Reference Laboratories (September 2014) and report on this activity and its outcome (Deadline October 2014).

4. Providing support to standardisation bodies such as CEN for the harmonisation of analytical methods for the determination of heavy metals in food and feed. This will require a regular participation in the meetings of CEN TC 275/WG 10 (Elements and their Chemical Species in Food) and CEN TC 327/WG 4 (Heavy Metals, Trace Elements and Minerals in Feed) (Deadline: December 2014).
5. Providing support to DG SANCO on technical matters related to heavy metals analysis, which implies participation in the Working Groups of National Experts on Industrial Contaminants and on Analytical Methods (feed).
6. Providing support to NRLs if requested.