



Network of Reference Laboratories in the field of animal health in the European Union

OIE Second Global Conference of Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

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Context

■ 38 EU Reference Laboratories:

- 21 in the sector of feed and food

- 17 in the field of animal health and live animals:

- CSF

- AHS

- AI

- ND

- SVD

- fish dis

- Molluscs

- rabies

- BT

- ASF

- FMD

- Equine dis

- Brucel

- TB

- Crustacean dis

- Zootechnics - rabies serology



Coordination of the network of EURL

- 3 main tools for coordination:
 - Common basic EU legal framework
 - Common financing provisions and management
 - Evaluation of performance
- Additional tool:
 - Scientific forum for EURL



Common basic EU legal framework for the network of EURL*

- Provides for a common set of general tasks and remits:
 - the diagnostic methods
 - active assistance in the diagnosis of disease outbreaks
 - training
- Provides for minimum requirements to be met by the labs:
 - staff qualification
 - Equipments
 - Reagents
 - Infrastructure
 - confidentiality and communication issues

* 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



Common financing provisions for the network of EURL*

- **The operation and financing of the EURL is based on the approval of annual work programmes and their budget ensuring a harmonised operation of the network and facilitates its management:**
 - **Framework partnership agreement and annual specific agreement**
 - **Pre-financing and payment of the financial assistance**
 - **Eligibility of expenditure**
 - **Staff**
 - **Subcontracting**
 - **Capital equipment**
 - **Consumables**
 - **Comparative tests**
 - **Missions**
 - **Overheads**
 - **Workshops**
 - **Submission of reports on the operation of the laboratories**
 - **Organisation of Workshops**

• Council Decision 2009/470/EC of 25 May 2009 on expenditure in the veterinary field
• Commission Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006 of 28 November 2006 laying down detailed rules for the granting of Community financial assistance to Community reference laboratories for feed and food and the animal health sector



External evaluation of the network of EURL in the field of animal health

- 12 EURLs evaluated
- Purpose was to evaluate
 - the functioning, performance and the fulfilment the obligations and duties of the EURLs
 - the efficiency of the use of financial aid from the Community to EURLs for eligible costs, in particular during the last 15 years
- **Methodology:**
 - Desk reserch, experts interviews, questionnaires adressed to EURLs
 - 12 EURL visited, NRL survey, CVO survey
 - OIE interview, stakeholders (EMVD, IFAHO) interviews



External evaluation of the network of EURL in the field of animal health

- **Key messages from evaluation (1):**
 - EURLs significantly contributed to harmonised diagnosis and control of animal diseases in the EU
 - EURLs activities represent good value for money
 - CRLs have growing volume of valuable archives (documents, training materials, manuals, collection of reference strains, sera and reagents)
 - Recommend establishing a EU CRL coordination centre



External evaluation of the network of EURL in the field of animal health

- **Key messages from evaluation (2):**
 - CRL staff only dedicated to public tasks: avoid conflicts of interest and distortion of competition
 - Combine some laboratories:
 - AI+ND
 - FMD+SVD
 - Unify two on rabies (control+serology)
 - Designate new EURL
 - West Nile disease
 - Bees and bumble bees diseases
 - identification and registration of animals
 - Rating of existing EURL on the basis of fulfilment of duties and tasks and on its present and future relevance



Scientific Forum for EURLs

- Aim to bring together the EURLs on a regular basis, to discuss scientific issues of common interest and relevance to CRL activities
 - => *Sharing of experiences is a rational, time efficient way to stay on top of the multitude of issues expected of EURLs*
 - => *Ensuring a harmonised, consistent approach to food safety and animal health*

