EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE
AGENCY (HADEA)
Department A Health and Food Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP

Single Market Programme (SMP Food)

Activities of the EU Reference Laboratories and EU Reference Centres in 2025-2027

SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027

SUBMISSION FORM: DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION
(Annex 1 – Description of the action (part B))

SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027

Activities of the EU Reference Laboratories and EU Reference Centres in 2025-2027

Applicant shall provide information on each question contained in the Form.

The **information** filled in the Form, **shall be clear, concise, consistent and complete**.

For questions on the information requested in this Form, please contact: HADEA-EURL@ec.europa.eu

For questions on the eGRANTS Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Applicant - COORDINATOR (Name of EURL)	UAL - EURL for Pesticide Residues in Fruits and Vegetables (EURL-FV)
Topic	SMP-FOOD-2023-EURL-EURC-AG-IBA
Implementation period	**01/01/2025 – 31/12/2027**

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1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS

AQC	Analytical Quality Control
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CIRCABC	Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, Businesses and Citizens
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
DIN	German institute for standardization
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EPRW	European Pesticide Residue Workshop
EUPT-FV	EU Proficiency Test on pesticide residues in Fruits and Vegetables
EUPT-Qual	Qualitative EU Proficiency Test on pesticide residues in Fruits and Vegetables
EUPT-SC	EU Proficiency Test on pesticide residues in Special Commodities of plant origin
EURL-AO	EU Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in products of Animal Origin
EURL-CF	EU Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Cereals and Feeding Stuff
EURL-FV	EU Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Fruits and Vegetables
EURL-SRM	EU Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues using Single Residue Methods
GC-MS/MS	Gas chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LAPRW	Latin American Pesticide Residue Workshop
LC-MS/MS	Liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry
LOQ	Limit of Quantification
MACP	Multiannual Control Programme
MRL	Maximum residue level
MRM	Multi Residue Method
NRLs	National Reference Laboratories
OfLs	Official Laboratories
PAFF	Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
PFAS	Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PPPs	Plant Protection Products
QuEChERS	Extraction method, acronym for Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged and Safe
RAFA	Recent Advances in Food Analysis (workshop)

2. INTRODUCTION

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 - Article 94(2)

European Union reference laboratories designated in accordance with Article 93(1) shall be **responsible for the tasks** described under section 3 below, insofar as they are included in the reference laboratories' annual or multiannual work programmes that have been established in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the relevant work programmes adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690.

3. WORK PACKAGE 1– ACTIVITIES of EURL Pesticides in FV in 2025-2027

3.1. AVAILABILITY AND USE OF HIGH-QUALITY METHODS

Objectives: TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF HIGH-QUALITY METHODS AND TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCE BY NRLs

- *Art. 94.2.a Providing national reference laboratories with details and guidance on the methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including reference methods.*

- *Art. 94.2.b Providing reference materials to national reference laboratories*

- *Art. 94.2.c Coordinating the application by the national reference laboratories and, if necessary, by other official laboratories of the methods referred to in point (a), in particular, by organising regular inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests and by ensuring appropriate follow-up of such comparative testing or proficiency tests in accordance, where available, with internationally accepted protocols, and informing the Commission and the Member States of the results and follow-up to the inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests.*

- *Art. 94.2.l Where relevant for their area of competence, cooperate among themselves and with the Commission, as appropriate, to develop methods of analysis, testing or diagnosis of high standards.*

Sub-activity 3.1.1 Updating the EURL website and the EURL DataPool

Objectives: To update and maintain the EURL-FV webpage, as well as contribute to the design and contents of the EURL DataPool (in cooperation with the other EURLs).

Description: The dedicated webpage "EURL for Fruits and Vegetables": http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/docs/public/home.asp?LabID=500&Lang=EN

located at the EURLs common website (http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/), designed to support dissemination of information and network activities, is continuously updated. It represents the main source of information exchange between the EURLs and the NRLs as well as with other official EU and third countries laboratories. The EURL-FV website holds information about the activities and events carried out by the EURL-FV as well as available published reports and scientific papers. It also holds forms, sheets and other documents ready to fill out on-line, thus facilitating management tasks and quality monitoring as well as direct links to other relevant websites. Constant collaboration between the EURL-FV and the EURL website management is necessary.

Furthermore, the website aids contacts (via specific links) between laboratory researchers and experts providing a valuable tool for dissemination. The website includes different sections, corresponding to the activities of the EURL: Proficiency Tests, Workshops, Services, The EURL-FV Network, AQC Panel and Library.

The e-learning platform will continue to give laboratories access to new analytical developments, new equipment, and new methods, but also to basic procedures within the analytical process, such as pipetting or estimation of uncertainty. The e-learning platform is certified in accordance with the ISO-9001:2015 standards.

Access to the AQC Panel topic in the main EURL website will allow laboratories to consult the "Analytical quality control and validation procedures for pesticide residues analysis in food and feed." (SANTE/11312/2021 v2). The site will allow constant feedback from the laboratories, so it will be useful in collecting information or suggestions from laboratories on the future revisions of the document.

Expected Output:

- Forms and other information to conduct the EUPTs uploaded onto EUPT-FV area.

- Videos and presentations of the e-platform organised in the period 2025-2027.

- Technical or scientific documents containing the results of the scientific activities developed by the EURL-FV available in the EURL-FV website (through the Library section).

Duration: Throughout the year

Sub-activity 3.1.2 Providing analytical standards to NRLs on request

Objectives: To supply analytical standards to the NRLs upon request.

Description: In order to promote the enlargement of the NRLs´ analytical scope and to offer them the possibility to verify their standard solutions, we will provide them with the analytical standards that they request.

With the publication of EUPT-FV27, FV28, FV29, EUPT-SC09, SC10 and SC11 target lists (mandatory and voluntary), requests are expected from NRLs to send them analytical standards of those pesticides newly included in the lists of possible pesticides. Furthermore, during the year, for example, with the publication of the coordinated multiannual control programme and the working documents on pesticides to be considered for inclusion in the national control programmes to ensure compliance with maximum residue levels of pesticides residues in and on food of plant and animal origin, we will provide them with the requested substances.

Expected Output: List of analytical standards supplied to NRLs upon request.

Duration: Throughout the year

Sub-activity 3.1.3 Organisation of proficiency tests and follow up on the results

Objectives: To organise proficiency tests simulating, as far as possible, the real sample conditions and to follow up on the results obtained by the NRLs and OfLs, emphasizing on unacceptable results.

Description: The European Proficiency Test on fruits and vegetables EUPT-FV27, FV28 and FV29, in accordance with previous schemes and statements, will be open to all OfLs, especially the NRLs of EU Member States. Additionally, laboratories from EFTA countries and other third countries will be

invited to participate, so quality assurance can reach them on the basis of the proficiency test. These countries might be invited to take part after Health and Food Audit and Analysis recommendation and by request of DG SANTE.

These EUPTs will be carried out in a way which simulates, as far as possible, the real sample conditions that arrive at a laboratory in its routine work such as: the use of commercial formulations for pesticide treatment; homogeneity of intra-samples and the consideration of all classes/types of compounds.

The commodities used for the test materials will be selected by the EUPT Scientific Committee. The whole organisation of the EUPT will be very similar to that of previous EUPTs performed by the EURL-FV. In case of using a commodity that can be grown in a greenhouse, the EURL-FV will subcontract the experimental farm UAL-ANECOOP for the growing of the material and treatment with pesticides.

The naming of subcontractors in the Grant Agreement does not imply that the Agency approves them and the associated costs. Subcontracting will have to be in line with the provisions of Articles 6.2.B and 9.3 (subcontracting) of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement. Subcontract/s will have to be awarded ensuring the best value for money or, if appropriate, the lowest price, ensuring there is no conflict of interests and that all applicable internal and/or national procurement rules have been followed.

Additionally, a second proficiency test will be organised in order to offer the NRLs and OfLs the possibility to test their methods with special commodities such as baby food, herbs, spices, etc. and evaluate their performance with regard to those commodities (EUPT-SC09, SC10 and SC11). Participation in this PT remains on a voluntary basis.

These Proficiency Tests will be based on the Quality Control Norm ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing.

Once a year, the EURL-FV will organise a meeting of the EUPTs Scientific Committee to discuss the evaluation of the EUPT results and to decide about the following years´ EUPTs.

Expected Output: Final reports of the six proficiency tests organised during 2025, 2026 and 2027: EUPT-FV27, EUPT-FV28, EUPT-FV29, EUPT-SC09 and EUPT-SC10 and EUPT-SC11.

Duration: 2025-2027

Sub-activity 3.1.4 Cooperation and meetings with other EURLs

Objectives: To maintain a smooth channel of communication between the EURLs for pesticide residues.

Description: Constant collaboration with the other pesticide residue EURLs will be maintained for general management activities, horizontal tasks, and other specific tasks. Additionally, during the year, the four EURLs will meet in order to discuss specific issues like the EURLs webpage, EUPTs, the CIRCABC domain, EUPT submission webpage or joint workshops. Inter-EURL-meetings in some cases in presence of DG SANTE representatives will be carried out with the aim to discuss, plan, coordinate or evaluate EURL-activities such as the preparation of work programs, EUPTs or web-applications. In certain cases, online-meetings or tele-conferences will be carried out.

The four EURLs for pesticide residues will physically meet at least for the AQC expert meetings, the EUPT Scientific Committee meeting and the Joint EURL/NRLs Workshop, in 2025 and 2027. In 2026

they will meet during the EUPT Scientific Committee meeting and at the EPRW 2026. Online meetings will be organised so that the four EURLs will meet approximately every two months (considering also physical meetings).

Expected Output: Minutes of the meetings.

Duration: 2025-2027

Sub-activity 3.1.5 Evaluation of different novel chromatographic columns for MRM compounds in both LC and GC-MS/MS.

Objectives: To evaluate new chromatographic columns considering stationary phase or their dimensions for the analysis of MRM compounds in both liquid and gas chromatography.

Description: Considering the stationary phase and dimensions of chromatographic columns is essential for the analysis of MRM compounds in both liquid and gas chromatography. Nowadays, chromatography companies frequently bring new columns to the market that allow not only better separation, but also better peak shapes and longer lifetimes, which can be an improvement for laboratories. The problem is that many new chromatographic columns come onto the market, but laboratories, either due to lack of time or high cost, are unable to test them. In this activity, the EURL-FV will test different types of new columns to provide the laboratory network with realistic information on the possible advantages and disadvantages of columns applied to pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report and/or scientific publication.

Duration: 2026

Sub-activity 3.1.6 Evaluation of qualitative fast analysis

Objectives: Evaluating the Extension of MRM methods with new compounds.

Description: Pesticide residue labs have more of a need to extend existing methods than to have new ones, especially for those labs involved on import control. The capability of laboratories to extend their scope will be evaluated with the organisation of a qualitative proficiency test on a voluntary basis (EUPT-Qual), with the intention to promote the rapid screening of a large number of pesticide residues in the EU control laboratories over a very short period of time (72 h). This supports OfLs in checking their performance in these situations. It also allows the EURL to identify the large scope laboratories (“scouting laboratories”). This activity will include both difficult matrices and uncommon compounds (MRM amenable) and will be carried out annually. Participation in the screening PT remains on a voluntary basis; nevertheless, all NRLs and OfLs involved in the determination of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables for the EU-coordinated monitoring programme, or for their own national programmes and third countries will be invited to take part.

Following the recommendation of the NRL network, the title of these PT series will change from “screening EUPT-SM” to “qualitative EUPT-QUAL”.

Expected Output: Final reports of EUPT-Qual17, EUPT-Qual18, EUPT-Qual19.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.7 Co-formulants

Objectives: Investigate co-formulants to define possible next steps.

Description: The steps planned to be taken are:

- Start investigating with already available information (literature, EFSA output on co-formulants), which co-formulants could be relevant (possible detectable residues) in fruits and vegetables/cereals, animal products etc.;

- Discuss the results with the Commission to define possible further steps (e.g. define priorities for possible method development, if relevant), taking into account regulatory developments in this area.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.8 Development and validation of methods for the analysis of PFAS pesticides in fruits and vegetables.

Objectives: Development and validation of methods for the analysis of PFAS pesticides in fruits and vegetables.

Description: The steps planned to be taken are

- Investigate which PFAS substances and relevant metabolites e.g. TFA might need further method development (selection of PFAS substances to be defined in collaboration with the Commission) and establish a list;

- Discuss the results with the Commission to define priorities for such method development.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.9 Evaluation of procedural calibration for quantification of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables.

Objectives: To evaluate advantages and disadvantages of procedural calibration for the quantification of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables.

Description: In pesticide multiresidue analysis, and more precisely, in document SANTE/11312/2021v2 for quality control, different approaches for quantification are described: multiple- or single-level calibration, procedural calibration, standard addition or internal standard calibration, among others. All of them are acceptable, as far as they are fit for purpose. Multiple level calibration is one of the preferred options by EU NRLs/OfLs, but more and more labs are

implementing procedural calibration due to the additional advantages that it presents, especially the possibility to correct for low recoveries. However, important aspects have to be considered, such as the commodity in which procedural calibration is carried out. This activity will assess in detail advantages and disadvantages of procedural calibration and the impact that it has in the quality of the results.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report and/or scientific publication.

Duration: 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.10 Evaluation of dilution with ethyl acetate as an alternative for injection in GC-MS/MS

Objectives: To assess dilution of acetonitrile extracts with ethyl acetate as an alternative solvent for injection in GC-MS/MS.

Description: Most of the EU NRLs/OfLs use the QuEChERS method for the extraction of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables. In those cases, the final extract is in acetonitrile, but analysis by GC-MS/MS generally requires injection in more volatile solvents, such as ethyl acetate or cyclohexane. Therefore, labs have to change solvent, which is time consuming and might be problematic for some volatile compounds. This activity will evaluate the possibility of diluting the acetonitrile extract with ethyl acetate.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report and/or scientific publication.

Duration: 2026

Sub-activity 3.1.11 Validation of new substances of SANCO/12745/2013 and those with low analytical coverage

Objectives: To validate new MRM compounds included in Working Document SANCO/12745/2013 and those with a low analytical coverage.

Description: The main multiresidue extraction method used in the EU (QuEChERS) will be evaluated in three commodity groups (high water content, high water and acid content and high fat content) at low concentration levels in order to support the EU NRLs/OfLs in the enlargement of their analytical scope, especially with those pesticides newly included in Chapter 4 of the working document SANCO/12745/2013, those with poor or medium analytical coverage, plus those included in the revisions), and those MRM amenable included in Annex II of the working document. The new compounds will be validated at least at two concentration levels, being the lowest one at least 5 µg/kg. The validation report will include all the information about validation parameters, transitions, ion rations, etc.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report and/or scientific publication.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.12 Evaluation of microflow chromatography as a green approach to reduce organic solvent waste in the laboratory

Objectives: To reduce organic solvent waste due to the mobile phase of liquid chromatography by using microflow chromatography.

Description: One of the main sources of contamination in the lab are solvent flows of mobile phases in liquid chromatography, which involve approximately 150 L of organic solvents per year and equipment. This high solvent generation, apart from the cost to the laboratory, has the disadvantage of collection or treatment. Therefore, decreasing the flow rate in LC is a key to moving towards eco-friendly labs. The aim is to reduce flow rates of 400 µL/min to less than 100 µL/min. This would imply a saving of more than 7 times the production of organic waste in the lab. The study will be aimed at verifying that the methods will be sufficiently robust as those using normal flow.

Expected Output: 1 Technical report and/or scientific publication.

Duration: 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.13 Analytical work on additional compounds as requested by the COM

Objectives: Provide ad-hoc technical assistance to DG-SANTE by conducting ad-hoc analytical experiments on compounds not mentioned elsewhere in this work program. The goal is to remain flexible and maintain the ability to react to emerging issues if the need arises (as in the cases of ethylene oxide and cypermethrin in the past).

Description: If requested by DG-SANTE, analytical work will be conducted on compounds of emerging interest not mentioned in this work program. Should this ad-hoc task require an extensive amount of work, other analytical tasks within the work program may need to be postponed/reduced/replaced, in consultation/agreement with DG-SANTE.

The inquiries by DG-SANTE will be answered as requested (e.g. as a summarized conclusion via e-mail). The work done will be summarized in a short communication and/or a presentation (oral or poster) at an expert conference.

Expected Output: Short communication and/or (oral or poster) presentation of work on additional compounds as requested by the COM delivered at an expert conference.

Duration: Throughout 2025, 2026, 2027.

List of Indicators WP1:

- Number of laboratory methods available in the EURL

- Number of laboratory methods for which details and guidance as regards their techniques, validation and interpretation are available in the EURL website (intranet + public domain)

- Number of new laboratory methods developed in the reporting period

- Number of laboratory methods improved in the reporting period

- Number of Proficiency Tests (PTs) organised by the EURL for national reference laboratories/NRLs + ORLs

- Cost of PTs (€) – only transport costs for PT samples

- Success rate of Member States NRLs+OLs in PTs (%)

- Number of Comparative Tests (CTs) organised by the EURL for NRLs

- Cost of CTs – only transport costs for CT samples

- Success rate of Member States NRLs+OLs in CTs (%)

- Number of corrective actions undertaken (aggregated data on corrective actions for all NRLs)

3.2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRLs

Objectives: TO PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRLs

- *Art. 94.2.d Coordinating practical arrangements necessary to apply new methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, and informing national reference laboratories of advances in this field.*

- *Art. 94.2.e Conducting training courses for staff from national reference laboratories and, if needed, from other official laboratories, as well as of experts from third countries.*

- *Art. 94.2.g Providing information on relevant national, Union and international research activities to national reference laboratories.*

Sub-activity 3.2.1 Providing technical and scientific support to NRLs

Objectives: To support the NRLs in the development of their analytical methods and the enlargement of their scope of analysis.

Description: Description: The results of the scientific activities developed by the EURL-FV will be published as technical or scientific documents, depending on the impact of the activities. They will be disseminated in the EURL–FV website (www.eurl-pesticides.eu), through the "Library" section, making them available for OfLs and members of the scientific community. The main EURL-FV contributions to international conferences will also be uploaded to the EURL–FV website.

Additional assistance to the NRLs will be supported by constant communication via e-mail, telephone or online meetings.

The e-learning platform will enable the network of NRLs and OfLs to have full access to online resources of diverse complexity, which can be accessed using the internet anytime and anyplace. The more relevant scientific activities of the working programme will be included in the e-learning platform.

During 2025, 2026 and 2027 at least nine new technical reports and/or scientific papers will be published on the website. At least four of the sub-activities 3.1.5 to 3.1.13 will be presented in a multimedia way in the e-learning platform.

Expected Output: 9 Technical reports and/or scientific papers available on the website, 4 videos available on the e-learning platform.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.2.2 Organisation of workshops

Objectives: To organise workshops with the NRLs to act as a platform for information exchange

Description: In 2025, the annual EURL/NRLs-FV workshop will be celebrated together with the other EURLs for pesticide residues, in Freiburg, Germany, and organised by EURL-AO (October 2025).

In Fall 2026, the EURL-FV will organise a similar workshop, where the network of NRLs-FV will be invited.

In 2027, the annual EURL/NRLs-FV workshop will be again celebrated together with the other EURLs for pesticide residues, in Copenhagen, Denmark, and organised by EURL-CF.

The workshops will consist of technical and scientific communications. Extensive interaction with all NRLs that will attend will be the main objective. Attention will also be paid to the evaluation of the EUPT results and their relationship with the various analytical methods applied by the NRLs and OfLs establishing actions for improvement.

NRLs representatives from all the EU Member States will participate in the workshops.

Expected Output: Workshop presentations available on the EURL website, Evaluation forms (satisfaction rate of participants and their comments).

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.2.3 Organisation of training courses

Objectives: To organise a training course for staff from national reference laboratories in order to provide them with scientific and technical assistance.

Description: The EURL-FV will support the NRLs with technical “lab activities”. This technical assistance will consist of the selection of a limited group of NRLs (approx. eight) for a 1-2 days technical training at the EURL-FV laboratory (Almería, Spain). NRLs could be selected on the basis of specific criteria, such as poor performance in EUPT tests or the use of specific instrumentation, but always making sure that all NRLs-FV have been invited in each 3 - 4 year period. The topic of the training courses will be decided at a later stage, in consultation with DG SANTE, if necessary. The trainings will be held once a year (one in 2025, one in 2026 and one in 2027).

Expected Output: Training material (presentations, excel files) available on the EURL website, Evaluation forms (satisfaction rate of participants and their comments).

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.2.4 Visits to NRLs

Objectives: On-site visits to NRLs to provide them with technical and scientific support. Description: Each year, the EURL-FV will visit one NRL with deficits or problems in the areas of EUPT-performance, analytical scope or country network of OfLs. The NRLs to be visited might be selected in consultation with DG SANTE. Expected Output: Mission Reports and follow-up reports. Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.2.5 Updating and publication of the list of NRLs

Objectives: To update the network of NRLs and OfLs. Description: The network of NRLs and OfLs is constantly changing, and for this reason it is necessary to keep it updated. Every year before the participation in EUPT-FV, the EURL-FV contacts the NRLs in order to obtain the detailed list of OfLs. In parallel, the EURL DataPool also gathers information about possible changes in the list. Expected Output: Updated list of NRLs published in the EURL-FV website. Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

List of Indicators WP2:

- Number of workshops & meetings organised

- No. of participants in workshops & meetings

- Cost for workshops & meetings (€)

- Number of technical assistance provided by the EURL to NRLs enquiries

3.3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Objectives: TO PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- *Art. 94.2.f Providing scientific and technical assistance to the Commission within the scope of their mission.*

- *Art. 94.2.h Collaborating within the scope of their mission with laboratories in third countries and with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).*

- *Art. 94.2.i Assisting actively in the diagnosis of outbreaks in Member States of foodborne, zoonotic or animal diseases, or of pests of plants, by carrying out confirmatory diagnosis, characterisation and taxonomic or epizootic studies on pathogen isolates or pest specimens.*

Sub-activity 3.3.1 Information on LOQs, residue definitions and standards for MRL reviews, new active substances and other substances, when requested by COM

Objectives: To give technical and scientific support to the Commission when requested.

Description: This horizontal task with the four EURLs and coordinated by EURL-SRM and EURL-CF will give scientific support to the Commission as regards complex residue definitions or other analytical parameters such as LOQs for Art. 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 proposals, new substances and other substances.

Expected Output: List of E-mails sent to the Commission.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.2 Assistance to COM for the EU MACP and the monitoring working document

Objectives: To give technical and scientific support to the Commission in the drafting of the EU MACP.

Description: Assistance to the European Commission will continue regarding the selection of the number of analyses, commodities and pesticide lists to be monitored by the Member States in the coordinated multiannual control programmes (MACP) of the Union. This assistance will also be related to the update of the list of pesticides included in the monitoring working document.

Expected Output: New versions of the MACP and monitoring working documents

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.3 Contribution to the revision of the analytical quality control guidelines

Objectives: Update and edition of EU Guidelines on Quality Control Procedures.

Description: In order to continue the process of achieving complete harmonisation measures for pesticide residue analysis within the EU, the SANTE document “Analytical quality control and method validation procedures for pesticide residues analysis in food and feed” (SANTE/11312/2021 v2) needs to be revised and updated on continuous basis.

Therefore, the aim is to carry on with the specific forum (AQC Panel) on the EURL-FV website to facilitate the discussion and to point out difficulties and improvements on the EU AQC Guidelines. This network will provide interaction among EURLs-NRLs-OfLs. The outcome of the discussion in this

specific forum will improve and facilitate further updated revisions of the EU AQC Guidelines, to be presented in the joint workshop every two years.

The AQC Scientific Committee together with the four EURLs for pesticide residues will meet three times in 2025 and three in 2027 in order to discuss about the possible changes and modifications to the SANTE Guidelines. The first two meetings will be organised by EURL-FV (the second one will be in combination with the EUPTs Scientific Committee expert meeting). The third AQC meeting of 2025 will take place in Freiburg, Germany, prior to the Joint workshop, and organised by the EURL-AO (In 2027 the third meeting will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, organised by the EURL-CF). In those joint workshops, the draft document will be voted by the NRLs If successful, after the Commission approval and endorsement by Member States, the new version of the document will be edited by the end of 2025.

In 2026, the AQC meeting will be organised in combination with the EUPTs Scientific Committee expert meeting.

Expected Output: Updated version of SANTE Document (SANTE/11312/2021 v3).

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.4 General technical support to the Commission

Objectives: To provide technical and scientific support to the Commission when requested

Description: Technical and scientific support to the Commission will be provided when requested. Constant communication will be established via e-mail, telephone calls or meetings. Where necessary, technical advice will be provided to DG SANTE upon request.

Attendance to the Standing Committee (PAFF) meetings at request of the DG SANTE and assistance to the audit team of the department Health and Food Audits and Analysis if they so request it, by accompanying the inspectors in the audit visits giving technical support as a “national expert”.

Expected Output: List of E-mails exchanged, minutes of the meetings, Audit Reports.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.5 Collaboration with European and international organisations (EFSA, CEN, ISO, …) Comments to EFSA on LOQs, standards and methods at the stage of the draft reasoned opinion

Objectives: To provide scientific support to EFSA.

Description: Involvement in the EFSA residue evaluation process by giving opinions and advice, especially regarding residue definition and post registration analytical methods. In the case of new substances, it is estimated to carry out experimental analytical work if requested by the DG SANTE. This is a horizontal task with the four EURLs and coordinated by EURL-SRM and EURL-CF.

In 2025-2027 this activity will continue as in previous years.

Expected Output: List of E-mails exchanged with EFSA and other international organisations, minutes of the meetings held.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.6 Collaboration with European and international organisations (EFSA, CEN, ISO, …) Participation in the EFSA networking group on pesticides residues monitoring

Objectives: To provide technical and scientific support to EFSA in the Network of Chemical Monitoring Data Collection.

Description: The EURL-FV yearly collaborates with EFSA with the attendance to the meetings of the Network of Chemical Monitoring Data Collection, with presence of the Member States, the EFTA countries, the European Commission and EFSA. The technical and scientific assistance includes all matters related to pesticide residues monitoring covered by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, including the preparation of the EFSA Annual Reports on Pesticide Residues and the review of the EFSA standardised data model for reporting the monitoring results.

In 2025, 2026 and 2027, one representative from the EURL-FV will attend the meeting of the networking group.

Expected Output: Minutes of the meeting.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.7 Collaboration with European and international organisations (EFSA, CEN, ISO, …) Participation in the meetings of the CEN/TC 275/WG 3 Working group Pesticides

Objectives: To participate in the development of standardised methods (CEN methods)

Description: Since 2015, the EURL-FV participates in the Working group 3 (Pesticides, CEN/TC 275/WG 3) dedicated to the standardization of methods for the determination of pesticide residues in food. Furthermore, the EURL-FV is directly involved in the modular QuEChERS, being the project leader of that CEN method.

In 2025, 2026 and 2027, Carmen Ferrer will attend the working group meetings organised by the German institute for standardization, DIN (Berlin, Germany).

Expected Output: Minutes of the meetings.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.8 Collaboration with Third Countries

Objectives: To promote the international networking and dissemination of information and activities from the EURL-FV, especially in countries with intensive European export-import relationships.

Description: This assistance will be supported by, at least, constant communication via e-mail and telephone. Selected third countries will be invited to participate in the workshops and training courses as well as to visit the laboratories in relevant cases. Important information for selection of laboratories to participate in EUPT will come from the Health and Food Audits and Analysis section as a consequence of their inspections.

Laboratories from EFTA countries and other third countries will be invited to participate in the EUPTs-FV.

Assistance to Latin American countries will also be provided through participation in the Latin American Pesticide Residue Workshop, LAPRW, of which Carmen Ferrer is a member of the Scientific Committee.

Expected Output: List of E-mails exchanged, List of non-EU laboratories participating in EUPTs-FV and workshop.

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

Sub-activity 3.3.9 Participation in symposiums, workshops and seminars for the dissemination of scientific information

Objectives: To disseminate the EURL-FV activities to the scientific community.

Description: The most relevant results of the scientific activities developed by the EURL-FV will be presented as posters and/or oral presentations in international workshops. Oral presentations by the EURL-FV of the scientific activities developed in the laboratory will be presented in 2025 and 2027 in the Latin American Pesticide Residue Workshop (LAPRW 202572027), in the European Pesticide Residue Workshop (EPRW 2026) or in RAFA (Recent Advances in Food Analysis 2026), among others.

Expected Output: Oral presentations of the scientific activities developed in the laboratory presented in 2025 and 2027 in the Latin American Pesticide Residue Workshop (LAPRW 202572027), in the European Pesticide Residue Workshop (EPRW 2026) or in RAFA (Recent Advances in Food Analysis 2026).

Duration: 2025, 2026 and 2027

List of Indicators WP3:

- Number of technical and scientific feedback provided by the EURL based on European Commission enquiries

- Number of collaboration activities with other organisations

3.4. REAGENTS AND REFERENCE COLLECTIONS

- *Art. 94.2.*j *Coordinating or performing tests for the verification of the quality of reagents and lots of reagents used for the diagnosis of foodborne, zoonotic or animal diseases and pests of plants.*

- *Art. 94.2.k Where relevant for their area of competence, establishing and maintaining:*
  i. reference collections of pests of plants and/or reference strains of pathogenic agents;

ii. *reference collections of materials intended to come into contact with food used to calibrate analytical equipment and provide samples thereof to national reference laboratories;*

iii. *up-to-date lists of available reference substances and reagents and of manufacturers and suppliers of such substances and reagents.*

Not applicable.

3.5. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO OTHER LEGISLATION

Not applicable

4. REMARKS

(if applicable)