

**EURL-*Campylobacter*
work programme 2023-
2024 and closing
remarks**

Hanna Skarin

EURL-*Campylobacter* Workshop 2023



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EURL Work programme 2023-2024

- Due to late adoption of the new Single Market Program (SMP) Work programme for 2023-2024 by the European Commission, the call for submission of EURL work programmes was delayed.
- December 2022: DG SANTE G4 desk officer informally agreed with the EURL-*Campylobacter* work program for 2023.
- 2nd May 2023: The European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) invited EURLs to submit their work programs.
- 15th June 2023: deadline for formal submission of EURL work programmes for 2023-2024.
- Signed grant agreements are not expected until early 2024.

EURL-Campyobacter activities 2023-2024

New template for the EURLs work programmes, follows Regulation (EU) 625/2017, Article 94. It divides the work into 4 main activities:

- 1: To ensure availability and use of high-quality methods and to ensure high quality performance by NRLs
- 2: To provide scientific and technical assistance to NRLs
- 3: To provide scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission and other organisations
- 4: Reagents and reference collections

Work Package 1. Methods for laboratory analysis and performance testing of NRLs

Task 1: Organisation of proficiency tests (PTs)

- To organise, write reports and follow-up results from following PTs:
 - Annual PT enumeration
 - Annual PT detection
 - 2024: WGS and cluster analysis

Task 2: Methods for laboratory analysis

- Standardisation of methods – next slide
- Genotyping methods – next slide
- Alternative methods
 - Stay updated on alternative methods
 - If necessary, on ad-hoc basis compare and evaluate different alternative methods
- Reference materials
 - Strains or DNA will be provided when needed

WP1, task 2: Standardisation of methods



ISO 10272 Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for detection and enumeration of *Campylobacter* spp.

- Convene the work of CEN/TC 463/WG3 *Campylobacter*
- Perform a survey to the NRL network about enrichment procedures for detection of *Campylobacter*
- A literature study to screen for alternate enrichment broths and improvements to Preston broth
- Perform comparable testing of alternative enrichment broths if suitable candidates are found
- Write a validation plan for turning ISO 10272:2017 into ‘broad range of foods’.

WP1, task 2: Standardisation of methods



ISO 19036 Microbiology of the food chain — Estimation of measurement uncertainty for quantitative determinations

- Continue EURLs working group for measurement uncertainty to collaborate with EURL-*Lm* and EURL-CPS in guidance of NRLs
- Work together with ISO/TC 34/SC9 towards an expansion and transfer of the database of matrix uncertainty to the website of SC9

Participate in CEN/TC 463 and ISO/TC 34/SC9 annual plenary meetings

- To stay updated on standardisation work for the food chain and align activities
- To inform NRLs about relevant updates on standards

WP1, task 2: Genotyping methods

Inter-EURLs Working group on NGS

- The WG will stay active and have regular meetings (twice a year)
- Next coming activity: Webinar “Proficiency Tests on Next Generation Sequencing: approaches in use at the European Union Reference Laboratories” September 29th September 10-12
- Update guidance documents available on EURLs websites
 - EURL-*Campylobacter* task leader of the ‘Guidance document for cluster analysis of WGS data’
 - 3rd version expected to be published in 2024
- Organisation with EFSA on second ‘Science Meets Policy’ conference in Parma 5-6 September 2023
- Organisation of joint training – see WP2



Work Package 2. Scientific and technical assistance to NRLs

Task 1: Workshop

- To organise an annual workshop for the NRL-network
- Objective: To inform the NRLs of the activities of the EURL and at other NRLs as well as research developments and information on European level
- At least one NRL representative from each EU MS is expected to participate

Task 2: Training activities

- 2023 and 2024. Joint training course of the Inter EURLs WG-NGS “Introduction to bioinformatics for genomic data mining. At RIVM, the Netherlands 2023. At SVA/SLV in Uppsala 2024.
- 2023. Joint training course of the EURLs WG on Measurement uncertainty at SVA in Uppsala.
- 2024. ‘*Campylobacter* whole genome sequencing analysis’ at SVA in Uppsala.

Work Package 2. Scientific and technical assistance to NRLs

Task 3: Ad hoc assistance to NRLs

- Scientific and technical advice
- Perform confirmatory testing
- Maintenance and updating of the EURL-*Campylobacter* website

Task 4: Preparedness of staff

- To stay updated on research activities and advances in the field
 - Participate in relevant national and international seminars and research meetings
 - To have an internal journal club 3 times/year
 - EURL staff meetings every other week

Work Package 3. Scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission and other organisations

- Review the annual 'European Union One Health Zoonoses Report (EUOHZ)'.
- Collaborate with the ECDC to harmonise surveillance and detection of outbreaks of *Campylobacter*.
 - Follow activities in EpiPulse and discuss events.
- Collaborate with EFSA to harmonise surveillance and detection of outbreaks of *Campylobacter*.
 - Participate in the Advisory board of the One Health WGS system
 - Providing technical support to adapt the system to *Campylobacter*
- Provide HaDEA with proposals for work programmes and budgets as well as technical and financial reports.

Work Package 3. Scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission and other organisations

- Ad-hoc scientific and technical assistance, for example:
 - To DG SANTE and MSs on topics related to practical laboratory issues of the PHC
 - To DG SANTE, EFSA and the EURL-AMR regarding the harmonised isolation of *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* for AMR monitoring as laid down in the Commission Implementing Decision (EC) No 2020/1729
 - To other stakeholders, e.g. WOAH and countries outside Europe

Work Package 4. Reference materials and collection

- To maintain and update the reference collection of well characterized *Campylobacter* strains
- Lyophilize strains of different levels and species to be used in PTs for detection
- Test stability of reference materials during storage and transportation
- Adapt protocol to be able to provide stable reference material for enumeration PTs



Upcoming activities



Proficiency Tests on Next Generation Sequencing: approaches in use at the European Union Reference Laboratories

Webinar 29th of September

Time	Topic	Moderator
10:00	Introduction	Valeria Michelacci
10:15	Presentations by each EURL on experiences in the organization of NGS PTs (15 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EURL AMR - Susanne Karlsmose Pedersen - EURL <i>Campylobacter</i> - Bo Segerman - EURL <i>E. coli</i> - Valeria Michelacci - EURL <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> – Maroua Sayeb - EURL <i>Salmonella</i> 	
11:30	Discussion	
12:00	Closure	

Training courses

- **17-18 October 2023.** Joint training course of the EURLs WG on Measurement uncertainty at SVA in Uppsala. Participant list closed. Maybe organised again in the future.
- **25-26 January 2024.** ‘*Campylobacter* whole genome sequencing analysis’ at SVA in Uppsala. Hands-on practice. Requires basic knowledge about NGS and working in Linux. Invitation will be sent out in October.
- **2024 dates yet to be decided.** Joint training course of the Inter EURLs WG-NGS “Introduction to bioinformatics for genomic data mining. SVA/SLV in Uppsala. Introductory course that requires no previous knowledge on NGS.
- **Jan or Feb 2025?** Next training course on ISO 10272.

Workshop 2024

- Physical meeting
- Proposed dates 1-2 October or 15-16 October:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30/9	1/10	2/10	3/10	4/10

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14/10	15/10	16/10	17/10	18/10

- Please tell us in the chat if you are prevented to attend any of these dates

Proficiency tests 2024

- **PT 36:** Enumeration (and identification) – chicken meat (10 samples).
Mandatory for each MS.
- **PT 37:** Detection and species identification – chicken caeca (10 samples).
Voluntary for each MS.
- **PT 38:** WGS and cluster detection of *Campylobacter* (2 DNA samples + dataset). Voluntary for each MS.

- Date for send-off: **11th of March**

Last minute info/reminders...

- Workshop presentations will be posted on the EURL-*Campylobacter* website in the coming weeks.
- Let us know as soon as possible if you want to modify the version you have sent to us.
- A workshop report will be produced before end of November. Please provide us with an abstract of your presentation if you have not yet done so.
- Please fill in the evaluation of the workshop – you should have received a link through Questback and it will be open until Thursday 5/10.



Thank you for your participation and see you in Uppsala next year!