



European Reference Laboratories in Plant Health

4th EPPO Workshop for Heads of Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratories
September 2019

Official Control Regulation EU 2017/625

- 47 EURLs:
 - 28 in Food & Feed
 - 19 in Animal Health

+ 5 in Plant Health!!!
- COM regularly **reviews** the EURL mandates, and e.g. merging existing EURLs, creating new ones, suppressing some.

Official Control Regulation EU 2017/625

- COM to decide **in which areas EURLs should be maintained/created**
 - => end 2017: greenlight for set up of the Plant Health EURLs
- Legal basis: **articles 92 to 94 of the OCR**

Plant health specificities?

- Over 250 pests
 - Directive 2000/29/EC
 - New Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016-2031
- Often very different substrates (hosts) for the same pest
- Diverse diagnostic methods
 - Conventional (Morphological, microscopy)
 - Immunological (e.g. Elisa, IF)
 - Molecular (e.g. PCR, RealTime PCR, LAMP, sequencing, HTS)
 - Combination of the above
 - Validated diagnostic protocols not available for all pests)

Article 92

Art. 92 Establishment of EURLs

=> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/631
7 February 2018

- **Why?**
- **How?**

=> **MS Experts group meetings**

Article 93

Art. 93 Designation of EURLs

Eligibility/exclusion criteria

- EN/ISO 17025
- Impartial, free from any conflict
- Staff
- Infrastructure, equipment and products
- Knowledge of international standards and practices
- Able to face emergency situations
- Biosecurity standards

Article 94

Art. 94 Responsibilities and Tasks

1. Methods for analysis, testing or diagnosis

- Providing NRLs with **details and guidance** on the methods, including reference methods;
- Producing **improved or modified methods** on plant pests, and participating in validation studies of methods;
- Coordinating practical arrangements necessary to **apply new methods** and informing NRL of advances in this field.

Article 94

2. Inter-laboratory tests

- Coordinating the application by the NRLs and, if necessary, by other official laboratories of the methods referred to 1, 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;
- Assess the **performance** of the NRLs and identifying potential analytical problems that could be solved by assistance from the EURL in order to improve performance;
- **Informing** the Commission and the Member States of the results and follow-up to the inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests.

Article 94

3. Material and References

- Providing **reference materials** to NRLs;
- Coordinating or performing tests for the verification of the quality of **reagents** and lots of reagents used for analysis, testing or diagnosis of plant pests;
- Establishing and maintaining:
 - **reference collections of plant pests**; the EURL may establish and maintain those reference collections by contractual outsourcing to other official laboratories and to scientific organisations;
 - **up-to-date lists of** available reference substances and reagents and of manufacturers and suppliers of such substances and reagents.

Article 94

4. Trainings

- Ensuring that the **EURL staff is well trained**, up-dated and knowledgeable about the area of plant pests;
- Conducting **training courses** for staff from NRLs and, if needed, from other official laboratories, as well as of experts from third countries.

Article 94

5. Communication

- Providing information on relevant national, Union and international research activities to NRLs;
- Providing scientific and technical assistance to the Commission within the scope of their mission;
- Assisting actively in the diagnosis of contaminations or outbreaks in Member States, by carrying out confirmatory diagnosis, characterisation and taxonomic studies;
- Collaborating within the scope of their mission with laboratories in third countries;
- Collaborating within the scope of their mission with the European, Food Safety Agency (EFSA);
- **Publishing the list of the NRLs designated by the Member States for each EURL. 😊**

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- 1) Public selection : calls in June and October 2018
- 2) => Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/530
27 March 2019

Bacteria NVWA-NRC (NL), ILVO, (BE), CREA-DC (DIALAB) (IT) & NIB (SLO)

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas NVWA-NRC (NL), CREA-DC (DIALAB) (IT) & NIB (SLO)

Insects and mites, ANSES (France) & AGES (Austria)

Nematodes, , ANSES (France) & ILVO, (BE)

Fungi and oomycetes, ANSES (France)

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- 1) Public selection : calls in June and October 2018
- 2) => Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/530
27 March 2019
- 2) Priority level 1 given to :
 - Union quarantine pests pursuant to Art, 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (most of them currently listed in Annex I, Part A, of Directive 2000/29/EC);
 - plant pests not yet listed as Union quarantine pests, but are subject to the measures to be adopted pursuant to Art. 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (measures currently adopted pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC);
 - Other which might represent an emerging risk for (a part of) the Union territory, and the entry or spread of those pests might have a significant impact for the Union agriculture or forests.

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Priority level 2 given to those :

- Belonging to the Priority pests list;
- Under emergency measures;
- Surveyed.

+any requested by the Commission

Start of work : 1st August 2019

