



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**

**EURL-PFAO 2025-2027**

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

**EURL-PFAO 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](mailto:HADEA-EURL@ec.europa.eu)

For questions on the [eGRANTS](#) Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

<b>Applicant - COORDINATOR (Name of EURL)</b>	European Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content
<b>Topic</b>	<b>SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027</b> <b>Pesticide Residues in Food of Animal Origin and Commodities with High Fat Content (PFAO)</b>
<b>Implementation period</b>	<b>01/01/2025 – 31/12/2027</b>

**CONTACT PERSON for the programme :**

Name	Dr. Björn Hardebusch
Function	Director of EURL PFAO
E-mail	bjoern.hardebusch@cvuafr.bwl.de

<b>ASSOCIATED PARTNER 1 (Name)</b>	
<b>Contact person :</b>	
<b>e-mail :</b>	

## Contents

1.	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS .....	4
2.	INTRODUCTION .....	4
3.	WORK PACKAGES .....	5
3.1.	Work Package 1 - AVAILABILITY AND USE OF HIGH-QUALITY METHODS.....	5
	Objectives: TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF HIGH-QUALITY METHODS AND TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCE BY NRLs .....	5
3.2.	Work Package 2 - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRLs.....	12
	Objectives: TO PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRLs .....	12
3.3.	Work Package 3 - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.....	16
	Objectives: TO PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.....	16
3.4.	Work Package 4 - REAGENTS AND REFERENCE COLLECTIONS .....	21
3.5.	REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO OTHER LEGISLATION .....	21
4.	REMARKS.....	21

## 1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS

GC-MSMS	Gas Chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry
LC-MSMS	Liquid Chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry
EURL PFAO	European Reference Laboratory for pesticides residues in food of animal origin and commodities with high fat content
EU(PT)	European Proficiency Test
ToF	Time of flight (accurate mass spectrometry)
MRLs	Maximum Residue Limits (for Pesticide residue)
NRLs	National Reference Laboratories
OfLs	Official Laboratories

## 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 PACKAGES

#### 3.1. Work Package 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 Update and evaluation of current methods used by NRLs

Objectives: Keeping analytical methods up to date and assistance for NRLs in application of methods; Improvement of analytical coverage of OfLs/NRLs

Description: Follow up of the interlaboratory study of pyrethroids. Focus will be set on the separate analysis of alpha cypermethrin in matrices of animal origin. The EURL PFAO will provide information to the NRLs/OfLs.

Additionally the EURL PFAO will support the NRLs to improve their analytical scope, especially for substances included in the EU Multi-Annual Control Programme (MACP) and for pesticides mentioned in chapter 4 and Annex II of the Working Document SANCO/12475/2013 Rev 15 with a focus on MRM amenable pesticides and metabolites. All of these pesticides will be part of the target lists for the EUPTs AO 20, 21 and 22.

Expected Output: workshop report on presentation of work at (EURL) workshops.

Duration: Throughout 2025/26

### Sub-activity 3.1.2 Scope-Extension for pesticides relevant in food of animal origin

Objectives: EFSA support regarding Art. 12 review, extension of scope, inclusion of pesticide metabolites in existing multi residue methods

Description: For analytes under Art. 12 review it is important to develop and improve methods in order to support EFSA regarding achievable LOQs (see sub-activity 3.3.3 Support of Commission and EFSA including Art. 12 proposals). The list of analytes will be available from the EFSA webpage in the document "Overview of the MRL review progress under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005". Usually this list will be updated regularly. Support of Commission and EFSA.

Expected Output: List of validation reports for the expanded pesticides report on MRM amenable pesticides and their metabolites tested for Art. 12 proposals.

Duration: 2025 - 2027

### Sub-activity 3.1.3 *Accurate Mass GC-Orbitrap and/or LC-Q-ToF*

Objectives: Development and validation of a screening and/or quantification method with GC and/or LC high resolution accurate mass instrumentation

Description: For the analysis of a high number of pesticides high resolution accurate mass instrumentation (eg. GC or LC coupled to ToF or Orbitrap) will be used to check for MRL compliance of the samples. With growing demand on pesticide residue laboratories to extend their scope of analysis, high resolution accurate mass systems have found increasing popularity. The information obtained can be used to reanalyse the sample in case of later findings. Matrices of interest are animal fat/plant oil and edible offal (i.e. liver and kidney). At least the development and validation of one screening method or quantitative method with either GC-Orbitrap or LC-Q-ToF will be performed using the matrix (animal fat and plant oil). If analysis is performed by LC-Q-TOF the validation will be performed for about 400 pesticides. If analysis is performed by GC-Orbitrap the validation will be performed for about 200 pesticides. Support of NRLs (and OfFs), in particular in case of implementation of screening and quantitative methods for high resolution accurate mass instrumentation.

Expected Output: Method report published on the EURL webpage. Results presented at EURL workshops and international conferences (workshop reports).

Duration: 3 month in 2025 and 2026

#### Sub-activity 3.1.4 *Automatisation of $\mu$ -SPE based method for GC amenable pesticides*

**Objectives:** Further development and validation of a fully automated micro-solid phase extraction ( $\mu$ -SPE) method

**Description:** Rapid methods such as QuEChERS and dispersive SPE methods are used by laboratories within Europe. Automatic sample preparation is getting important residues analysis. The EURL PFAO has upgraded an existing GC-MS/MS system with a  $\mu$ -SPE PAL system. With this upgrade it shall be possible to perform a clean-up in less than 5 min and the extract is injected directly online into the GC-MS/MS. The automated procedure is expected to replace the d-SPE in routine laboratories. Advantages of the module is the less time and solvent consuming, reduced cost of analysis and reduced analytical errors associated with human factors. The recently developed method will be improved and more matrices of interest (egg, muscle, fat and milk) will be validated. Support of NRLs (and OfLs), in particular in case of effective and fully automated clean-up methods.

**Expected Output:** Validation report of  $\mu$ -SPE method published on the EURL website.

**Duration:** up to 6 month in 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.1.5 Validation study with FATChers method

**Objectives:** Implementation of a fast and robust analytical procedure for the analysis of pesticides residues

**Description:** The FATChers method was originally developed by the NRL in Austria with successful participation in EUPTs AO in the past. It is the aim of national (German §64, DIN) and international working groups (CEN) to make this method an official method. The EURL PFAO will implement this method and check the possibility for all relevant pesticides in food of animal origin. Then the EURL PFAO will coordinate a validation study with other laboratories to check the robustness of the method via a ring trail. If successful, the method can become official (finally a CEN method)

**Expected Output:** Validation report, official status of the method (§64, DIN and CEN), presentation at workshops (workshop reports).

**Duration:** 9 months during 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.1.6 Development and validation of a method for the analysis of insects for food consumption

Objectives: Method development and validation of GC- and LC amenable pesticides in different insects available on the market as food or food ingredient

Description: Insects as food or food ingredients are normal in some parts of the world. So far insects are not very popular as food or food ingredients in Europe and therefore analytical methods are poor. It is the aim of the EURL PFAO to have an analytical method available, if this matrix will become of higher interest.

In the European Union the following insects are authorised as novel food: Dried mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*), frozen, paste and powdered forms of lesser mealworm larvae (*Alphitobius diaperinus*), frozen, dried and powdered forms of migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*) and frozen, dried and powdered forms of house cricket (*Acheta domestica*). The EURL PFAO will use these insects as test material that are available on the market and test them to be free of pesticides for the use of method development and later validation. Residues in insects may occur as they are grown on straw and other plant material where pesticides may have been used. Validation will be performed according to SANTE SANTE/11312/2021 (V2). The list of pesticides will be compiled in cooperation with the EURL CF taking into account pesticides residues in feed. Results will be discussed and presented at the EURL PFAO workshop.

Expected Output: Method and validation report, presentation at (EURL) workshops (workshop reports)

Duration: 3 month in 2026 and 2027

#### Sub-activity 3.1.7 Organisation of EUPT AO-20, preparation for EUPT AO-21 (Art. 94.2.c)

Objectives: Performing of a Proficiency Test (PT) in the matrix egg

Description: Performance of a proficiency test (EUPT) for MRM-pesticides. EUPT AO-20 will be performed with all NRLs and OfLs of EU Member States and Associated States. It is designed for 80 to 120 participating laboratories.

The target analyte list will comprise about 80 to 120 MRM-pesticides (intention 100) which are part of the MACP and the Working Document SANCO/12745/2013 Rev15. According to the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests the target pesticide list will be fixed in January 2025 with the assistance of the members of the Scientific Committee for EUPTs. The PT will be performed and evaluated in accordance with the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests for pesticide residues in food and feed. The time schedule will be coordinated with the other pesticide EURLs and the Commission to avoid overlapping periods. The planned matrix is liquid whole egg.

Preparation of EUPT AO 21 will start at the end of 2025. This comprises drafting the target list and time schedule, discussions with the EUPT panel, pre-tests with blank material (planned milk or milk product).

Expected Output: report on EUPT AO-20, certificates for participants, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: 2025



*Sub-activity 3.1.8 Organisation of EUPT AO-21, preparation for EUPT AO-22 (Art. 94.2.c)*

Objectives: Performing of a Proficiency Test (PT) in the matrix milk or milk product (planned)

Description: Performance of a proficiency test (EUPT) for MRM-pesticides. EUPT AO-21 will be performed with all NRLs and OfLs of EU Member States and Associated States. It is designed for 80 to 120 participating laboratories.

The target analyte list will comprise about 80 to 120 MRM-pesticides (intention 100) which are part of the MACP and the Working Document SANCO/12745/2013 Rev15. According to the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests the target pesticide list will be fixed in January 2026 with the assistance of the members of the Scientific Committee for EUPTs. The PT will be performed and evaluated in accordance with the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests for pesticide residues in food and feed. The time schedule will be coordinated with the other pesticide EURLs and the Commission to avoid overlapping periods. The planned matrix is milk or milk product (dairy product).

Preparation of EUPT AO 22 will start at the end of 2026. This comprises drafting the target list and time schedule, discussions with the EUPT panel, pre-tests with blank material (planned kidney).

Expected Output: report on EUPT AO-21, certificates for participants, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: 2026

*Sub-activity 3.1.9 Organisation of EUPT AO-22, preparation for EUPT AO-23 (Art. 94.2.c)*

Objectives: Performing of a Proficiency Test (PT) in the matrix kidney (planned)

Description: Performance of a proficiency test (EUPT) for MRM-pesticides. EUPT AO-22 will be performed with all NRLs and OfLs of EU Member States and Associated States. It is designed for 80 to 120 participating laboratories.

The target analyte list will comprise about 80 to 120 MRM-pesticides (intention 100) which are part of the MACP and the Working Document SANCO/12745/2013 Rev15. According to the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests the target pesticide list will be fixed in January 2027 with the assistance of the members of the Scientific Committee for EUPTs. The PT will be performed and evaluated in accordance with the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests for pesticide residues in food and feed. The time schedule will be coordinated with the other pesticide EURLs and the Commission to avoid overlapping periods. The planned matrix is kidney.

Preparation of EUPT AO 23 will start at the end of 2027. This comprises drafting the target list and time schedule, discussions with the EUPT panel, pre-tests with blank material (planned matrix not set yet).

Expected Output: report on EUPT AO-22, certificates for participants, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: 2027

Sub-activity 3.1.10 Proficiency Test *on the analysis of alpha-cypermethrin in matrices of animal origin (Art. 94.2.c)*

Objectives: Performance of a proficiency test (PT) for determination of pyrethroids (especially alpha-cypermethrin) in egg, animal muscle/fat and cream

Description: It is a wish of the Commission to perform a proficiency test on the analysis of alpha-cypermethrin in selected matrices of animal origin. The EURL will produce three different kinds of test material (egg, pork fat/muscle and cream), spiked with the analytes of interest (alpha-cypermethrin) and send it to the registered participants. The material will be shipped together with EUPT AO 20 or earlier, if feasible. The PT will be performed and evaluated in accordance with the General Protocol for EU proficiency tests for pesticide residues in food and feed. The time schedule will be coordinated with the other pesticide EURLs and the Commission to avoid overlapping periods.

Expected Output: evaluation report, certificates for participants, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: first half of 2025

Sub-activity 3.1.11 Investigations on substances used as co-formulants in pesticide formulations

Objectives: Investigation of information regarding co-formulants in pesticides formulation and their relevance as residues

Description:

-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: evaluation report, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: 2025-2027

Sub-activity 3.1.12 Investigations on PFAS substances and relevant metabolites in food of animal origin

Objectives: Investigation of PFAS substances and possible relevant metabolites in the matrices (animal origin and high fat content commodities) relevant for EURL PFAO

Description:

- 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: evaluation report, presentation at EURL workshop (workshop report)

Duration: 2025-2027
---------------------

**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. Work Package 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 Workshop with NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.d and 94.2.g)

Objectives: Discussion of EUPT AO-20, method developments and general exchange of information

Description: A joint EURL-NRL workshop is planned for 2025 organised by EURL-AO in Freiburg, Germany. The joint workshop will allow the comprehensive exchange of information on the results of EUPT AO-20. In addition, also other important analytical developments and aspects of general importance will be exchanged.

Carrying out the workshop with comprehensive exchange of information and strengthening of the cooperation between the EURL, NRLs and COM.

Expected Output: Workshop presentations available in CIRCA BC for download, workshop report

Duration: September 2025

#### Sub-activity 3.2.2 Workshop with NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.d and 94.2.g)

Objectives: Discussion of EUPT AO-21, method developments and general exchange of information

Description: The EURL-AO workshop is planned for 2026 in Freiburg, Germany. The workshop will allow the comprehensive exchange of information on the results of EUPT AO-21. In addition, also other important analytical developments and aspects of general importance will be exchanged.

Carrying out the workshop with comprehensive exchange of information and strengthening of the cooperation between the EURL, NRLs and COM.

Expected Output: Workshop presentations available in CIRCA BC for download, feedback by participants evaluated, workshop report

Duration: October 2026

#### Sub-activity 3.2.3 Workshop with NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.d and 94.2.g)

Objectives: Discussion of EUPT AO-22, method developments and general exchange of information

Description: A joint EURL-NRL workshop is planned for 2027 organised by EURL-CF in Copenhagen, Denmark. The joint workshop will allow the comprehensive exchange of information on the results of EUPT AO-22. In addition, also other important analytical developments and aspects of general importance will be exchanged.

Carrying out the workshop with comprehensive exchange of information and strengthening of the cooperation between the EURL, NRLs and COM.

Expected Output: Workshop presentations available in CIRCA BC for download, workshop report provided by EURL-CF.

Duration: 2027 (no date fixed)

#### Sub-activity 3.2.4 *Training for NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Training on specific methods / Training requested by NRLs

Description: Representatives of NRLs will be invited to attend a practical training in Freiburg in 2025. It will take place approx. in October 2025. The training will cover technical aspects as regards the analysis of pesticides in products of animal origin, including those with low analytical capabilities indicated in Chapter 4 of document SANCO/12745/2013 Rev15, and the exchange of experiences among participants. Special needs and problems of the laboratories will be considered in the design of the training program. In addition an individual training for selected laboratories will be offered if requested and agreed by the Commission.

Expected Output: Lessons and presentations available on CIRCA BC. Training report uploaded on CIRCA BC. Evaluation report of the training.

Duration: During second half of 2025

#### Sub-activity 3.2.5 *Training for NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Training on specific methods

Description: Representatives of NRLs will be invited to attend a theoretical training in Freiburg in 2026. It will take place in the second half of 2026 combined with the workshop. The training will cover aspects of the SANTE document e.g. validation or measurement uncertainties. The participants will be asked for topics of interest and the requests will be taken into account.

Expected Output: Lessons and presentations available on CIRCA BC. Training report uploaded on CIRCA BC. Evaluation report of the training.

Duration: During second half of 2026

#### Sub-activity 3.2.6 *Training for NRLs AO (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Training on specific methods / Training requested by NRLs

Description: Representatives of NRLs will be invited to attend a practical training in Freiburg in 2027. It will take place approx. in October 2027. The training will cover technical aspects as regards the analysis of pesticides in products of animal origin, including those with low analytical capabilities indicated in Chapter 4 of document SANCO/12745/2013 Rev15, and the exchange of experiences among participants. Special needs and problems of the laboratories will be considered in the design of the training program. In addition an individual training for selected laboratories will be offered if requested and agreed by the Commission.

Expected Output: Lessons and presentations available on CIRCA BC. Training report uploaded on CIRCA BC. Evaluation report of the training.

Duration: During second half of 2027

#### Sub-activity 3.2.7 *Visit of a NRL (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Visit of a NRL with obvious analytical problems or newly nominated in 2025

Description: An NRL with obvious analytical difficulties (possible choice in 2025: NRL Romania) will be visited allowing to identify problems directly in the laboratory. According to the experience, the identification of the real reason for underperformance is difficult on basis of questionnaires and/or exchange of emails and phone calls. The NRL will be selected after the evaluation of EUPT AO-19/20 and the Commission will be informed about the selected NRL. In case of newly nominated NRLs, the EURL PFAO will do a welcome visit and discuss analytical challenges and pitfalls. Issues will be faced at the NRL and solutions to solve possible problems will be developed.

Expected Output: Mission report.

Duration: In 2025

#### Sub-activity 3.2.8 *Visit of a NRL (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Visit of a NRL with obvious analytical problems or newly nominated in 2026

Description: An NRL with obvious analytical difficulties (possible choice in 2026: not decided) will be visited allowing to identify problems directly in the laboratory. According to the experience, the identification of the real reason for underperformance is difficult on basis of questionnaires and/or exchange of emails and phone calls. The NRL will be selected after the evaluation of EUPT AO-20/21 and the Commission will be informed about the selected NRL. In case of newly nominated NRLs, the EURL PFAO will do a welcome visit and discuss analytical challenges and pitfalls. Issues will be faced at the NRL and solutions to solve possible problems will be developed.

Expected Output: Mission report.

Duration: During 2026

#### Sub-activity 3.2.9 *Visit of a NRL (Art. 94.2.e)*

Objectives: Visit of a NRL with obvious analytical problems or newly nominated in 2027

Description: An NRL with obvious analytical difficulties (possible choice in 2027: not decided) will be visited allowing to identify problems directly in the laboratory. According to the experience, the identification of the real reason for underperformance is difficult on basis of questionnaires and/or exchange of emails and phone calls. The NRL will be selected after the evaluation of EUPT AO-21/22 and the Commission will be informed about the selected NRL. In case of newly nominated NRLs, the EURL PFAO will do a welcome visit and discuss analytical challenges and pitfalls. Issues will be faced at the NRL and solutions to solve possible problems will be developed.

Expected Output: Mission report.

Duration: During 2027

#### Sub-activity 3.2.10 *Test Material Service (Art. 94.2.d)*

Objectives: Test Material Service for improvement of the quality of pesticide residue analysis.

Description: Leftovers from previous EUPT AO will be offered to NRLs (and OfLs) via CIRCA BC to be used for their internal quality control. On the request of NRLs (and OfLs) test items from previous EUPT AO will be sent to these laboratories. The analysis of the test items assists laboratories to check the quality of their methods and especially to identify any bias in results. As the left overs are not offered as reference material, no quality control of the material has been performed yet. To check the stability of the test items over the storage period it is planned to perform a quality test of selected pesticides present in five test items and compare the results with the data given in the final report. Leftovers from the respective stored PT spiking solutions will be analysed on the selected pesticides, too. Stability of the selected pesticides in matrices and in solvent should be compared and discussed. The results of the test can be provided to the laboratories that order the corresponding test material.

Expected Output: Number of requests, list of pesticides selected for quality tests and quality control results.

Duration: During 2025-2027

#### **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
- Number of technical and scientific feedback provided by the EURL based on European Commission enquiries
- Number of collaboration activities with other organisations

### 3.3. Work Package 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 NRL-OfL-Contacts (Art. 94.2.f)

Objectives: Maintenance and Update of contacts to official laboratories (OfLs) and National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)

Description: For the EURL/NRL network, the list of all NRLs and contact points in the field “pesticides in food of animal origin and commodities with high fat content” will be kept updated. The list of NRLs will be published on the web page of EURL PFAO. In addition, all OfLs as reported by the NRLs will be added to another list and will be made available to the Commission and NRLs.

This task will be performed in close cooperation with the EURL for Single Residue Methods (EURL SRM).

Expected Output: Updated contact list of NRLs and OfLs

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.2 Support of Commission and EFSA including Article 12 Proposals (Art. 94.2.f)

Objectives: Support of Commission and EFSA

Description: Scientific support to the Commission and EFSA as regards the evaluation of possible applicability of proposed post-registration methods in routine analysis laboratories and residue definitions, especially in the case of article 12 proposals. If it is necessary to establish achievable LOQs for pesticides considered of low importance in food of animal origin and thus not in the scope of EURL PFAO, then commercially available standards will be purchased. Validation according to the



SANTE Guidance Document SANTE/11312/2021 (V2) will be performed in as much cases as possible. For method development and validation see 1.02.

Expected Output: List of responses to consultation requirements, to EFSA Reasoned Opinions and to European Commission Draft Regulations.

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.3 *Documentation services I (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Maintenance and update of EURL website

Description: Maintenance of the EURL-website in cooperation with the other EURLs for pesticide residues, exchange of information via the website and updating on regular basis with the particular aim of disseminating information to NRLs. Information about important improvements of analytical methodology and major changes in EU legislation. Small technical updates will be performed as a new website was not foreseen feasible to the NRLs.

Expected Output: Updated EURL website.

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.4 *Co-ordinating meetings I (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Participation in annual coordinating meetings and general management activities of the EURLs for Pesticides

Description: 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 (e.g. work programs, EUPTs or web-applications). In certain cases online-meetings or tele-conferences will be carried out. Date and place of these events will be decided later. The SANTE document (SANTE/11312/2021 (V2)) will be discussed, revised and published in 2026. Exchange and harmonizing of information;

Expected Output: Meeting reports/minutes; updated SANTE document (SANTE/11312/2021 (V3)).

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.5 *Co-ordinating meetings II (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Participation in annual co-ordinating meetings and general management activities of the Commission

Description: If planned by the Commission, participation in annual co-ordinating meetings and general management activities of the Commission (e.g. meetings between COM and directors of EURLs). Exchange and harmonization of information

Expected Output: Meeting reports/minutes.

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.6 *International Cooperation (Art. 94.2.h)*

Objectives: Cooperation with international organizations, in particular EFSA, CEN, WHO, UNEP, and other institutions, and dissemination of information (also as online meetings)

Description: If required, cooperation with international organizations, also for harmonization of requirements in the field of pesticide analysis. Possible participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> LAPRW in 2025 and/or 11<sup>th</sup> LAPRW 2027 in South America (no specific dates set, yet), 12th RAFA in Prague (approx. November 2026) or other conferences for dissemination of information and achievements of the EURL. In 2026 participation in the 16th EPRW approx. held in Sweden. Exchange of relevant information

Expected Output: oral and/or poster presentations available for download via CIRCA BC.

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.7 *Scientific Committee for EUPT (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Harmonized Procedures for EUPTs for Pesticide Residues

Description: Online and mail discussions about matrices and target lists for EUPTs. EURL PFAO participates in all meetings to discuss and evaluate individual EUPT results and overall EUPT performances.

Expected Output: Harmonized EUPTs for Pesticide Residues, General Protocol for EUPTs updated

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.8 *Scientific Committee for the SANTE Document (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Harmonized Analytical Quality Control for Pesticide Residue Analysis

Description: Contribute in the revision of “Method Validation and Quality Control Procedures for Pesticide Residue Analysis in Food and Feed”: Participation in all meetings of the Advisory Group for the improvement of the document and contributions by mail contacts.

Expected Output: Harmonized Procedures for Analytical Quality Control in Pesticide Residue Analysis, SANTE document updated

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

Sub-activity 3.3.9 *Analytical and Scientific Support for NRLs (Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Solving Analytical Problems and Interpretation of Data / Documents

Description: General scientific information will be provided to NRLs. In particular in case of problems, NRLs will be supported with methods for analysis of MRM-pesticides. In certain cases also the analytes could be supplied (e.g. in case of lack of information about pesticides and the availability of standards, degradation of analytes).

Expected Output: Report on the number and type of requests that the NRLs have in 2025-27 and on how many of those the EURL-AO managed to respond.

Duration: Throughout 2025-2027

Sub-activity 3.3.10 Monitoring of pesticide residues in wild boar and/or non-refined oils and/or fish/insects (cooperation with EURL SRM) *(Art. 94.2.f)*

Objectives: Pilot monitoring of a specific matrix of interest (wild boar / non refined oils / fish / insects)

Description: Pesticide finding in swine muscle and fat are usually rare. When checking wild boar the number of positive pesticide findings as well as the amount is higher. Wild boar is usually living in forests and is eating almost everything. Due to this pesticides residues in muscle and fat might be higher than in commercially produced pig meat.

The EURL PFAO will start a monitoring programme by collecting wild boar from almost all parts of Europe (if available). This will be done with the help from the corresponding NRLs. 40-50 samples will be collected. The pesticides spectrum will be close to the MACCP. Additionally the samples will be analysed by accurate mass instruments for a wide number of pesticides (>400).

The EURL PFAO will collect non refined oils from the European market (with the help of the NRLs). Usually the amount of pesticides is low, but differs depending on the region. About 50 samples will be collected and analysed as described before.

For the possible matrices fish and insects there will be a cooperation with EURL SRM where up to 80 samples will be analysed.

Expected Output: Monitoring report for each matrix.

Duration: During 2025 - 2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.11 Import of validation data from EURL PFAO into the EURL Datapool (Art. 94.2.f)

**Objectives:** Support of EURL Datapool by entering validation data from EURL PFAO. Increasing the availability and simplify the access (for NRLs) to validation data for pesticides in food of animal origin.

**Description:** The EURL Datapool is a helpful tool for the laboratories with a lot of information regarding pesticides and validation data. The majority of validation data in the datapool is from food of plant origin. Data from food of animal origin is poorly represented. The EURL PFAO has generated validation data in the past years. The data was made available to the NRLs in the form of validation reports but is still not available in the datapool so far, due to technical reasons. It is the aim to enter all datasets from different kind of animal matrices into the EURL datapool. The data will be from quantification studies using GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS and GC-HRMS.

**Expected Output:** EURL Datapool updated with validation data from EURL PFAO.

**Duration:** on-going task in 2025-2027

#### Sub-activity 3.3.12 Cooperation with other EURLs

**Objectives:** Cooperation with the EURL for veterinary drugs in Berlin

**Description:** Some pesticides are also used as veterinary drugs and biocides. In the case veterinary drugs some pesticides have different MRL values, even after harmonisation in the past. The EURL PFAO will cooperate with the EURL for veterinary medical products with the aim for harmonised methods and regulations and the exchange of information. Projects will focus on sharing of PT test material, possible organisation of a common EUPT on relevant analytes in egg (eg. fipronil, deltamethrin, phoxim, amitraz) and discussion of relevant common topics within the two NRL networks. Also the information on relevant metabolites will be discussed. Cooperation in an interlaboratory study on relevant dual use substances deriving from real samples.

**Expected Output:** (one) meeting report with the two different networks.

**Duration:** 4 month in 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. Work Package 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)