ANNOUNCEMENT/INVITATION

EUPT – SRM19

(Matrix: Grape Homogenate)

(update on: 20/11/2023)

Dear Colleagues,

We herewith cordially invite you to participate in the upcoming European Proficiency Test on the analysis of residues of pesticides requiring single residue methods (EUPT-SRM19). This exercise is organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM).

The EUPT-SRM19 is scheduled to run from 5 February till 12 March, 2024.

All relevant documentation is linked within the **EUPT-SRM19-Website.**

1. AIMS

Participation in proficiency tests is part of the QA/QC system of laboratories. It provides them with an assessment of their analytical performance and allows them to make a comparison with the performance of other laboratories. The general aim is to help laboratories demonstrate adequate analytical performance towards accreditation bodies and other stakeholders and, in case of underperformance, to help them identify sources of errors, so that the necessary measures for quality improvement can be taken.

2. TEST ITEM and BLANK MATERIAL

The commodity for the Test Item will be **grape homogenate.** The Test Item will foreseeably contain both incurred and spiked pesticides, and one jar with deeply frozen material between 250 and 300 g will be shipped to each participating lab. No blank material will be sent to the participants. Additional Test Item can be provided at extra charge only if sufficient explanations are given by the requesting laboratory, and only if excess material is available. To request a double amount of material (= two containers with Test Item) please state your request during your registration and contact the **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

3. TARGET ANALYTES

Analytes potentially contained in the Test Item are shown in the **Target Pesticides List (TPL).** For each of the analytes a specific minimum required reporting level (MRRL) is given. The TPL may be updated prior to the start of the PT. The latest version of the TPL will always be accessible within the **EUPT-SRM19-Website.** In case of significant changes, the registered participants will be informed via e-mail.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The names of the compounds contained in the Test Item will be disclosed to the participants within 3 working days after the final EUPT deadline via e-mail. The preliminary assigned concentrations will be disclosed in the preliminary report, which will be released approx. 3 weeks after the deadline of the test.

5. METHODS TO BE USED

The use of analytical methods routinely employed by the participating laboratories is preferred. At the same time, however, participants are also encouraged to use the EUPT as a starting point for introducing new methods and analytes in their scope.

6. SHIPMENT AND RECEIPT OF TEST ITEM:

The shipment of the Test Item is planned on **Monday, 5 February 2024**, so that the majority of the participants will receive the sample on Tuesday, **6 February**.
If a laboratory will be on holiday in the week of the shipment, it should inform the organizer by 25 January in order to arrange alternative shipment.

Participants must check the integrity and condition of the materials upon receipt and are requested to report **within 48 h,** if they accept the materials or not. For this, the "**EUPT-SRM19 Result Submission website**" (Web-Tool) should be used. In case of no reaction by the participant, the organizers will assume that the material has been accepted. **In case the material is received in inacceptable condition or if problems with sample delivery occur, please additionally contact the organizers via e-mail (**eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**) to ensure that corrective actions are taken as early as possible.**

7. OBLIGED AND ELIGIBLE LABS

Participation in the EUPT-SRM19 is mandatory for:

- all NRLs for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (**NRL-SRMs**), see Art. 101 (1)(a) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017,
- all Official Laboratories (**OfLs**) performing pesticide residue analyses of **fruits and vegetables** within the frame of National and EU official controls, please refer to Art 38 (2) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017 and Art. 28 of Reg. (EC) 396/2005. This **includes laboratories involved in import controls of fruits and vegetables** listed under Reg. (EU) 1793/2019.

Based on the data stored in the Lab-Network Database (DataPool) about the commodity scope and the status of each lab, all official laboratories are classified as either "**obliged"** or **"not obliged"** to take part in this PT. This information can also be found on the EUPT-Registration form. In case an erroneous classification is noticed, this shall be reported to the corresponding NRL and to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**, accompanied by a brief explanation.

This EUPT is furthermore open to the following laboratories as long as sufficient material is available:

- **any other OfLs from EU countries** that are not covered by the above obligations to participate;
- **NRLs and OfLs** from **EU-candidate countries** and **EFTA countries**;
- **laboratories analysing official organic samples** within the frame of Reg. 889/2008/EC[1];
- Laboratories from **Third Countries** (countries outside EU), preferably if they are **involved in controls of products destined for export to the EU**.

The latter two lab groups have to **provide a proof of their function** (e.g. a digital copy of a document stating official appointment) during the registration.

Update on 11.11.2023

For laboratories designated as OfLs by competent authorities of a MS according to Art 37 (1) of Reg. 625/2017/EU, the OfL-status as well as the analytical scope covered within the frame of official controls needs to be confirmed by the responsible NRLs via the EURL-DataPool. In the case of **non-governmental laboratories that have been designated as OfLs according to Art 37 (1) of Reg. 625/2017/EU**, certain documentation should be additionally provided for facilitating NRLs and EUPT-organizers in their assessment whether the concerned laboratory is eligible or even obliged to participate in a certain EUPT. This information can be provided in form of electronic copies of documents, which should a) testify OfL-designation, b) allow to identify whether pesticides residues are to be targeted within official control activity/ies (e.g. MACP or National monitoring programs) and c) allow to identify whether the relevant official control activity/ies are still running. These document copies may be uploaded during the registration process and will be accessible to both the EURLs and the responsible NRLs. In case of doubts, e.g. due to missing information, the PT-organizers retain the right to refuse participation in an EUPT. The organizers may furthermore contact the responsible NRLs or the competent authorities within the contracting MSs to clarify whether the OfL-designation is still valid and whether a pesticide-related official control activity is running or foreseen. In exceptional cases, NRLs or competent authorities may request exceptional PT-participation for a laboratory. The could be for example the case if the required documentation could not be fully collected in due time, or if the fulfilment of the above criteria is not yet complete but envisaged, or if PT-participation would help the competent authority in evaluating the laboratory's performance, in view of a potential designation as OfL.

Laboratories analysing official samples on behalf of EU Member States other than the Member State they are located in, will additionally need to provide an **electronic copy of a document testifying the designation by the competent authority of the MS on whose territory they are located in** (see **Art 37 (2b)** of Reg. 625/2017/EU).

8. REGISTRATION

The registration for the EUPT-SRM19 will run through the **EURL-DataPool**. To register for the EUPT-SRM19, please log-in to the EURL-DataPool using your EURL-DataPool login credentials and click the register "EUPT Registration". If you are not yet registered in the EURL-DataPool, **you have to register into the EURL-**

[1] Internally classified as „889-labs"

DataPool first. If you have lost your EURL-DataPool login credentials, please use the "**forgot password" feature** to request a new password.

The registration period will be open from 15 December 2023 till 7 January 2024. An instruction on EUPTs registration will be provided later on the **EURL-DataPool** and on the **EUPT-SRM19-Website.**

9. OBLIGED LABS NOT PARTICIPATING:

DG-SANTE expects to receive an **explanation** from all **obliged labs not intending to participate** in this EUPT. In order to compile all explanations for non-participation in one place, please **enter this information only directly into the EUPT-Registration Form** and **do NOT submit it via e-mail**. If you do so, you will still be prompted to access the website and enter your explanation there.

All obliged labs should thus access the Registration Website via DataPool, regardless of whether they intend to participate or not.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **The EUPT-SRM19 registration form within the "EURL-DataPool"** will be accessible from **15 December 2023 till 7 January 2024.**
- The **shipment** of the Test Items is planned on **5 February, 2024.**
- **Results and method information** should be submitted by **12 March 2024 at 23 h (11 p.m.) CET** on the "**EUPT-SRM19 Result Submission website**".

10. PARTICIPATION FEE and PAYMENT

To cover the costs of handling and shipment, a general fee of **250 €** for one bottle Test Item will be charged to each participating laboratory **from EU Member States, EU-candidate countries or EFTA countries**. The fee for labs from **third countries** is set at **400 €** for one bottle Test Item. For double amount, the fee will double.

An invoice issued in pdf format and for the "invoice address" stated in the registration form will be sent after the shipment to the e-mail address(es) of the person(s) responsible for the PT and, if stated during registration, also to the person in charge of the payment. **Details on payment will be given in the invoices**.

As stated in the **General EUPT Protocol**, the EURLs will issue digital invoices in PDF format only and without any electronic signature. If, due to locally applying legal requirements, a participating laboratory needs an electronic invoice, e.g. certificated or signed e-invoice in XML or using a special billing platform to generate and submit an e-invoice, it has to provide the PT-Organizers a suitable and free tool to generate the necessary e-invoice and provide full assistance in case this tool requires the use of a language other than English. Otherwise, the PT-Organiser will not issue an e-invoice. Depending on the incurring extra workload, the participating laboratory may be charged for this extra service.

The EURLs will not complete any special form required by the participating laboratories for their financial department or payment office. If completion of such forms is prerequisite for payment in the institution of the participating laboratory, this laboratory or its payment office is requested to fill-in the forms and to send the pre-filled form to the EUPT Organisers. The EURLs are willing to provide any information required in the form as long as it is readily available, but they does not agree to provide any personalized (private) data for this purpose. After verification, and if necessary correction, of the information, the EUPT Organisers will return the form with signature and stamp.

The participants must get familiar with the payment system in their laboratories and are responsible for the correctness with data for the invoice that they stated during registration. **Additional costs may apply if extra services are requested in relation to the payment or if invoices have to be modified and re-sent due to new information.**

11. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

All documents relating to EUPT-SRM19 will be uploaded onto the **CIRCA-BC platform** and linked to the **EUPT-SRM19-Website.**

The schedule for all activities and deadlines within this PT can be found in the **EUPT-SRM19 Calendar**.

The pesticides potentially present in the Test Item can be found in the **EUPT-SRM19 Target Pesticides List.**

The ***EUPT-SRM19 Specific Protocol*** will be published by 18 January 2024. This should be read carefully.

Please also refer to the valid version of the **General EUPT Protocol**, which contains the general procedures and rules valid for all proficiency tests organized by the 4 EURLs for pesticide residues, among them the general evaluation rules of the EUPTs and the payment conditions.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION, CONFIDENTIALITY, DISCLAIMER

The EUPT-SRM19 is organized by the EURL-SRM on behalf of DG-SANTE. DG-SANTE is the proprietor of all EUPT data and has thus access to all information. This also includes the Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis.

- In each EUPT, the participating laboratories are given a unique code, initially only known to themselves and the organisers. In the final EUPT-Report, the list of participating laboratories will not be linked to their laboratory codes.
- **The participating laboratories are not allowed to communicate with each other on matters concerning the EUPT from the start of the EUPT until the publication of the preliminary report.**
- **The organizers are allowed to provide NRLs with the EUPT-SRM19 codes of all OfLs in their respective networks.**
- The organizers further reserve the right to share EUPT results and codes with other EURLs.
- The organisers may further present the EUPT-results on a country-by-country basis. For those EU **countries where only one laboratory has participated**, the identification of certain laboratories could thus be indirectly revealed.
- All laboratories are requested to **provide information on the analytical methods used**. If information on the methodology used is not sufficiently provided, the organisers reserve the right not to accept the analytical results reported by the participants concerned or to exclude the lab from the final report.
- Please note that **all documents mentioned above may be subject to minor changes**. In the case of significant changes, participants will be informed by e-mail. **However, please still check periodically the EUPT-SRM19-Website for possible updates** in case the email does not get through to you.
- By registering for this EUPT, the laboratories accept all above conditions and provisions.

13. SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The EUPT-SRM19 organizing Team is always at your disposal to answer any questions and give you technical support. For any further questions about the EUPT-SRM19, please mail to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

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14. EUPT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Best regards,

The EUPT-SRM19 Organising Team