Announcement/Invitation

EUPT – SRM21

(Matrix: Cow's Milk)

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Dear Colleagues,

We herewith cordially invite you to participate in the upcoming European Proficiency Test on the residue analysis of pesticides requiring single residue methods (EUPT-SRM21). This exercise is organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM).

The EUPT-SRM21 is scheduled to run from 2 March till 31 March, 2026.

All relevant documentation is linked within the **EUPT-SRM21-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 they can take the necessary quality improvement measures.

2. PROFICIENCY TESTING ITEM (PT Item)

The PT Item of the EUPT-SRM21 will be **cow's milk** and will contain some of the analytes from the Target Pesticides List (see below). The majority of the compounds will be spiked but some may be already contained in the original material and spiked on top. One jar with ~ 200 g – 250 g deeply frozen material will be shipped to each participating lab. No blank material will be sent to the participants. Additional Test Item can be provided at an extra charge, but only if the requesting laboratory provides sufficient explanations and there is excess material available. To request a second container of PT Item please state your request during your registration and contact the **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

3. TARGET ANALYTES

Analytes potentially contained in the PT 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-SRM21-Website.** In case of significant changes, the participants will be informed via email.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The names of the compounds contained in the PT item will be communicated to participants by email within 3 working days after the results submission deadline. Preliminary assigned values (prAV) for each target analyte along with preliminary z scores will be published in the Preliminary Report, which will be released approx. 3 weeks after the deadline for additional information.

5. METHODS TO BE USED

Laboratories should preferably employ analytical methods routinely employed. However, participants are also encouraged to use the EUPT as an opportunity for testing newly introduced methods or analytes in their scope.

6. SHIPMENT AND RECEIPT OF TEST ITEM

The shipment of the Test Item is planned for **Monday, 2 March 2026**, so that the majority of the participants receives the sample by Tuesday, **3 March**.
If a laboratory will be on holiday in the week of the shipment, it should inform the organiser by 13 February, so that an alternative shipment can be arranged.

Participants must check the integrity and condition of the materials upon receipt and are requested to report **within 48 h** whether they accept the materials or not. For this, the "**EUPT-SRM21 Result Submission website"** (Web-Tool) should be used. If the participant does not respond, the organisers will assume that the material has been accepted. **If the material is received in a condition that cannot be accepted or if problems with sample delivery are noticed, please contact the organisers ASAP by email (**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-SRM21 is considered mandatory for:

- all NRLs for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (**NRL-SRMs**) and food of Animal Origin (**NRL-AOs**)[1],
- all Official Laboratories (**OfLs**) performing pesticide residue analyses in food or feed of animal origin, (disregarding honey but including milk-based food for infants and small children), within the frame of National and EU official controls[2].

Based on the data stored in the Lab-Network Database (DataPool) regarding the status (e.g. OfL, NRL) and the commodity scope of each laboratory, a number of official laboratories are classified as "**obliged"** to participate in this PT. This information can also be found on the EUPT-Registration form. Should a laboratory notice an erroneous classification, the matter should be reported to the relevant NRL and to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**, along with 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[3];
- laboratories from **Third Countries** (countries outside the EU), preferably if **involved in the controls of products destined for export to the EU**.

[1] see Art. 101 (1)(a) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017

[2] see Art 38 (2) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017 and Art. 28 of Reg. (EC) 396/2005, this **includes laboratories involved in import controls** listed under Reg. (EU) 1793/2019.

[3] Internally classified as „889-labs"

The latter two lab groups have to provide a proof of their function during registration.

For laboratories designated as OfLs by the competent authorities of an EU Member State (MS) according to Art 37 (1) of Reg. 625/2017/EU, the OfL status and the analytical scope covered within the framework of official controls must 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 additional documentation must be provided to assist the NRLs and EUPT organisers in assessing the laboratory's eligibility or obligation to participate in a particular EUPT. This information can be provided in the form of electronic copies of documents which should: a) testify OfL-designation; b) allow identification of whether pesticides residues are to be targeted within official control activity/ies (e.g. MACP or National monitoring programs); and c) allow identification of whether the relevant official control activity/ies are still ongoing. These document copies should be uploaded during the registration process and will be accessible to both the EURLs and the responsible NRLs. If there is any doubt, e.g. due to missing information, the PT organisers reserve the right to refuse participation in an EUPT. They may also contact the relevant NRLs or competent authorities in the contracting MSs to verify the OfL designation and confirm whether a pesticide-related official control activity is ongoing or planned. In exceptional cases, NRLs or competent authorities may request exceptional PT participation for a laboratory[4].

Laboratories analysing official samples on behalf of EU Member States other than the Member State in which they are located must also provide an electronic copy of a document certifying their designation by the competent authority of the Member State in whose territory they are located (see Art 37 (2b) of Reg. 625/2017/EU). NRLs of countries subcontracting official control activities to such "exterritorial" laboratories should make sure to include these laboratories in the OfL-Network and that their activities are tracked within the EURL-DataPool.

8. REGISTRATION

The registration for the EUPT-SRM21 will run through the **EURL-DataPool**. To register for the EUPT-SRM21, 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-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 expectedly last from 07 November 2025 till 16 January 2026. An instruction on EUPTs registration is provided here: **How to Register in EUPTs?**

9. OBLIGED LABS NOT PARTICIPATING:

DG-SANTE expects to receive an **explanation** from all **obliged labs not intending to participate** in EUPTs. This **explanation needs to be tracked in the DataPool**, and for this the affected labs need to **enter the EUPT Registration Form. Do not submit your explanation via email.** If you do so, you will still be prompted to access the website and enter your explanation there.

Therefore, all obliged labs should access the Registration Website via DataPool, regardless of whether they intend to participate or not!

[4] e. g. if 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **The EUPT-SRM21 registration form within the "EURL-DataPool"** will be accessible from **7 November 2025 till 16 January 2026.**
- The **shipment** of the Test Items is planned on **2 March, 2026.**
- **Results and method information** should be submitted by **31 March 2026 at 23 h (11 p.m.) CEST** on the "**EUPT-SRM21 Result Submission Website**".

10. PARTICIPATION FEE and PAYMENT

To cover handling and shipping costs, each p**articipating laboratory from EU Member States, EU candidate countries or EFTA countries** will be charged a general fee of **249 €** for one bottle of PT item. The fee for laboratories in **third countries** is set at **399 €** for one PT item. **If you order two bottles** you will receive two shipments and **the fee will be double**.

A PDF invoice will be sent to the email address(es) of the person(s) responsible for the PT, as stated in the registration form, after the shipment. If stated during registration, it will also be sent to the person in charge of the payment.
If no payment or no proof of payment is received and no explanation is given to the organisers by the payment deadline, the organisers reserve the right not to issue the participation certificate for the concerned laboratory, to exclude its results and its name from the Final EUPT-Report, and to refuse its participation in future EUPT-SRMs. 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 a participating laboratory requires an electronic invoice due to local legal requirements, it must provide the PT organisers with a suitable, freely accessible tool for generating the e-invoice and provide full assistance if requested by the EURL, including assistance if the tool requires the use of a language other than English. Otherwise, the PT organisers will not issue an e-invoice. Depending on the extra workload incurred, the participating laboratory may be charged for this service.

The EURLs will not complete any special forms required by participating laboratories for their financial departments or payment offices. If completion of such forms is a prerequisite for payment at the participating laboratory's institution, the laboratory or its payment office is requested to complete the forms and send the completed form to the EUPT organisers. The EURLs are willing to provide any information required in the form, as long as it is readily available; however, they do not agree to provide any personalised (private) data for this purpose. After verifying the information (and, if necessary, correcting and supplementing it), the EUPT organisers will return the form with a signature and stamp.

Participants must get familiar with the payment system in their laboratories and take responsibility for ensuring that the information stated during registration is correct. For example, if a purchase number is required on the invoice, participants must enter it when registering. **Additional costs may be incurred if extra services are requested in relation to the payment or if invoices have to be modified and re-sent due to new information or incorrect data.**

11. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

All documents related to EUPT-SRM21 will be accessible on-line and linked to the **EUPT-SRM21 Website.** They will be additionally uploaded onto the **CIRCA-BC platform**[5].

The schedule for all activities and deadlines within this PT can be found in the **EUPT-SRM21 Calendar**.

The pesticides potentially present in the Test Item can be found in the **EUPT-SRM21 Target Pesticides List.**

The **EUPT-SRM21 Specific Protocol** will expectedly be published by 16 February 2026. 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 organised by the four EURLs for pesticide residues, among them the general rules for the statistical evaluation of results of the EUPTs and the payment conditions.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION, CONFIDENTIALITY, DISCLAIMER

The EUPT-SRM21 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 share EUPT results and codes with other EURLs as well as the responsible NRLs.**
- 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 the EUPT-SRM21-Website regularly for any updates** in case the email does not reach you.
- By registering for this EUPT, the laboratories accept all above conditions and provisions.

[5] Note that this platform has a restricted access

13. SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The EUPT-SRM21 Organisation Team is always at your disposal to answer any questions and give you technical support. For any further questions about the EUPT-SRM21, please mail to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

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14. EUPT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Best regards,

The EUPT-SRM21 Organisation Team