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ANNEX V

THE EU REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ON *LEGIONELLA*, ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. The consortium designated as the EU reference laboratory for public health on *Legionella* (hereinafter ‘EURL’):

Consortium led by:

Hospices Civils de Lyon, 3 quai des Célestins, 69002 Lyon, France

Also composed of:

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161, Roma, Italy

Technische Universitaet Dresden, Helmholtzstraße 10, Dresden 01069, Germany

Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge, Avenida Padre Cruz, 1649-016 Lisboa, Portugal

2. Responsibilities and tasks

The EURL shall provide support to national reference laboratories and promote good practice and quality to strengthen public health microbiology in the field of *Legionella*.

The EURL shall provide support to the members of the laboratory networks of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)’s European Legionnaires’ Disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet)¹ on aspects related to diagnostics, testing methods, use of certain tests for the uniform surveillance, notification and reporting of diseases.

For the implementation of the activities under the EURL’s work plan which the EURL shall develop and agree with the ECDC, the EURL shall coordinate the laboratory network of ELDSNet consisting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) for Legionnaires’ disease and the Operational Contact Points (OCPs) for Microbiology for Legionnaires’ disease.

Upon request from the ECDC, the EURL shall participate in relevant ECDC networks and structures. The EURL shall participate in the network of EU reference laboratories that is to be operated and coordinated by the ECDC in accordance with Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371.

The EURL shall ensure that there is:

- a sufficient number of qualified staff in relation to the volume of the tasks that the EURL is to carry out in their scope of designation;
- adequate training of staff for the execution of the tasks of the EURL.

¹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/eldsnet>

The EURL shall establish its confidentiality policy, including rules for the appropriate secure handling, storage and processing of samples and information, including measures to prevent undue disclosure of confidential information.

The EURL shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- (a) Providing reference methods, such as for detection and characterisation purposes, in the field of the EURL to members of the network supported by the EURL, according to the needs defined by this network;
- (b) Providing reference diagnostic services in the field of the EURL to members of the network supported by the EURL;
- (c) Providing external quality assessment schemes for detection, isolation, and characterisation from clinical and environmental specimens in the field of the EURL to members of the network supported by the EURL, according to the needs defined by this network;
- (d) Providing scientific advice and technical assistance, including on diagnostic techniques and characterisation methods in the field of the EURL to members of the network supported by the EURL, according to the needs defined by this network;
- (e) Providing scientific advice and technical support to the ECDC on laboratory topics, including method developments, genomic typing, material availability and other topics in the field of the EURL;
- (f) Providing scientific and technical assistance to the Commission concerning the EURL's specific area of public health and in coordination with the ECDC;
- (g) Performing country visits to review, evaluate, and improve laboratory surveillance for case and outbreaks detection in the field of the EURL;
- (h) Providing information, guidance and support to the ECDC in outbreak situations in the field of the EURL, including providing contributions to ECDC risk assessments;
- (i) Organising and delivering training, including wet lab training, in the field of the EURL to members of the network supported by the EURL;
- (j) Organising and delivering scientific webinars in the field of the EURL for members of the network supported by the EURL;
- (k) Ensuring coordination, communication and dissemination with members of the network supported by the EURL and with the ECDC;
- (l) Organising laboratory network meetings in the field of the EURL;
- (m) Ensuring coordination with other EU reference laboratories in public health and/or in other areas such as *in vitro* medical devices, the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centres or relevant initiatives in the field of the EURL;
- (n) Collaborating, in cooperation with ECDC, with laboratories in third countries and with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), as relevant;
- (o) Providing scientific and technical assistance on other issues relevant to members of the network supported by the EURL.