

EURL-PH-AMR

EU Reference Laboratory for public health on

AMR

101194806

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**EURL-PH-AMR advisory service
function**



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INSTITUT**



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Document overview

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Introduction

An important function of the EURL-PH-AMR is to support ECDC and the members of **EURGen-Net** in case of national outbreaks and cross-border threats to health caused by priority pathogens as outlined in Task 10.1 of the GA-101194806. An EURL advisory service function will be developed and implemented during the first year of the EURL (2025). The advisory service function will focus on supporting national outbreak and cross-border investigations and will include provision of scientific advice and technical assistance on phenotypic and genotypic reference testing, bioinformatics analysis and analytical support for reporting outbreaks to the EpiPulse, surveillance and alert system.

The advisory service function is complemented by the reference testing services provided by the EURL-PH-AMR (described in Laboratory testing strategy, MS14).

Remit of the EURL-PH-AMR advisory service function

The overall objective of the EURL-PH-AMR advisory service function is to support national incidents, outbreaks and cross-border investigations.

Specific objectives of the advisory service function include:

Provision of EURL support to ECDC:

- Providing ad hoc advice on reference testing for phenotypic and genomic methodologies required for national outbreak and cross-border investigations and molecular surveillance for emerging resistance in priority pathogens as defined for EURGen-Net (carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant Enterobacterales (CCRE), carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAb), carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CPRa)). Providing information, guidance and support to ECDC on microbiology related matters relevant in case of confirmed multi-country AMR outbreaks or incidents
- Contributing to ECDC risk assessments in scope of the EURL.
- On request of ECDC, contributing to presentations at the Health Security Committee and/or the Advisory Committee on Public Health meetings coordinated by the European Commission.

Provision of EURL support to EURGen-Net laboratories:

- Providing advice to national reference laboratories (NRLs) or equivalent expert laboratories (NELs) regarding analysis and reporting of molecular surveillance data for monitoring of priority pathogens.
- Assisting laboratories with microbiological and bioinformatic data analysis.
- Supporting relevant operational contact points (OCPs) and national focal points (NFPs) with reporting relevant data on national or potential cross-border outbreaks to EpiPulse.

Roles and responsibilities

ECDC

- Monitoring submitted reports and requests for support from members of EURGen-Net
- Requesting advisory service from the EURL-PH-AMR by contacting the coordinator at: EURL-PH-AMR@ssi.dk (include 'Request a Read receipt' in the message requesting the service)
- In partnership with EURL-PH-AMR, assessing reported incidents and agreeing on support and action level
- Defining the type of the advisory service required and level of the remit of the support function delivered by the EURL-PH-AMR

EURL-PH-AMR

- Monitoring submitted requests for support from ECDC and members of EURGen-Net received via the dedicated EURL-PH-AMR mailbox or via direct contact to personnel of the EURL-PH-AMR.
- In partnership with ECDC, assessing reported incidents and agreeing on support and action level.
- Maintaining an up-to-date rota of named duty staff, including a 'coordinator' and deputies, covering 6-months periods.
- Coordinating the rota and being responsible for an up-to-date list of named duty staff, including a coordinator, and deputies covering 6-months periods.
- Upon receiving a request for support through ECDC, the coordinator will set up an ad hoc support team that includes staff covering relevant areas to support the investigations. The support team may include:
 - EURL scientific/technical experts
 - EURL data scientists and bioinformaticians
 - EURL scientists to assist the team (e.g. secretarial tasks)
- Together with ECDC, the available coordinator will agree on the tasks that the dedicated support team will undertake.
- Completing the agreed tasks and recording the request for support and outcome in a dedicated database.
- Following up on remaining actions and concluding requests for support in agreement with ECDC.
- Contributing to ECDC risk assessments in scope of the EURL. The EURL contribution will be acknowledged in the document, but ECDC is responsible for the final content of the document; the EURL may be required to provide its contribution within one working day.
- On request of ECDC, contributing to presentations at the Health Security Committee and/or the Advisory Committee on Public Health meetings coordinated by the European Commission.

EURGen-Net (NRLs, NELs, NFPs, OCPs)

- Reporting national incidents/outbreaks in EpiPulse.
- Requesting support for scientific advice and technical support through ECDC

- Providing phenotypic and/or genotypic data related to the incident under investigation.
- Providing anonymised background epidemiological data and local risk assessment.
- Participate in joint analyses and investigation
- Report national results to relevant national authorities and institutions.

Rotas

Rotas for the coordinator role will ensure continuous availability of the advisory support function. The coordinator will set up a team of scientific/technical experts with relevant expertise for each incident.

SSI will coordinate the rota and is responsible for having in place an up-to-date list of named duty staff and deputies for the coordinator role. In case of a planned or unforeseen absence of the coordinator, the coordinator function will be provided by first and second deputies from the consortium (Table, page 5).

The composition of the advisory support team for the individual incident/outbreak will be agreed between ECDC and the consortium for each incident/outbreak. The coordinator at EURL-PH-AMR (Table, page 5) will coordinate the participation of the support team.

The rota is updated every 6 months covering January-June and July-December, respectively at least one working day of ahead of Q1 and Q3.

Capacity

The EURL-PH-AMR has capacity to support 4 requests for outbreak investigations per year. Prioritisation of requests for support will be agreed with ECDC based on risk assessment.

Confidentiality

Personal identifiable information is not shared with the EURL-PH-AMR, which operates under the principle that knowledge about individual persons or individual events cannot be obtained nor derived from the results nor conclusions of the investigations. The EURL-PH-AMR operates in compliance with 'SSI Guidance on anonymisation, level of discretion and publication of aggregated information and statistics.

Table: Advisory function rota January 2025-June 2025

| | Coordinator | | | Support team | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Coordinator | First deputy for coordinator | Second deputy for coordinator | Experts (SSI) public health microbiology, medical microbiology, epidemiology, genomic testing and bioinformatics | Experts (EDL) reference diagnostic testing, public health microbiology, medical microbiology |
| | SSI | SSI | EDL | SSI | EDL |
| M1 – 2025 | ARL | CWC | OE | SSI team | EDL team |
| M2 – 2025 | CWC | ARL | GK | SSI team | EDL team |
| M3 – 2025 | ARL | CWC | OE | SSI team | EDL team |
| M4 – 2025 | CWC | ARL | GK | SSI team | EDL team |
| M5 – 2025 | ARL | CWC | OE | SSI team | EDL team |
| M6 - 2025 | CWC | ARL | GK | SSI team | EDL team |

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