

## EURL-PH-AMR

# EU Reference Laboratory for public health on antimicrobial resistance

**GA 101194806**

**Milestone number:**

**MS5/MS6**

**Milestone name:**

**Online kick-off meeting for  
EARS-Net and EURGen-Net  
(minutes)**



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## Document overview

<b>Milestone number</b>	MS5/MS6 (combined)
<b>Milestone name</b>	Online kick-off meeting for EARS-Net and EURGen-Net (minutes)
<b>Work package number / name</b>	WP1 Coordination
<b>Task number / name</b>	T1.1 Coordination with laboratory network members and ECDC
<b>Due date</b>	30.04.2025
<b>Reviewed and agreed by ECDC</b>	N/A (circulated for comments to the speakers)
<b>Revision (requested by the Commission)</b>	Paola D'Acapito 05.05.2025 Version 1.1 Completed 23.06.2025
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<b>Authors</b>	SSI, DTU, EDL
<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	SSI
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="https://en.ssi.dk/surveillance-and-preparedness/international-cooperation/eurl-ph-amr">https://en.ssi.dk/surveillance-and-preparedness/international-cooperation/eurl-ph-amr</a>



## EURL-PH-AMR kick-off meeting (virtual)

[Link to meeting](#)

Thursday 20 March 2025 at 13.00-15.00 CET

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>Introduction to the EURL-PH-AMR</b>		
13.00-13.10	Welcome	Anders Rhod Larsen (SSI)
13.10-13.20	Background, roles and objectives of EURL-PH-AMR	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
13.20-13.35	Introduction to DG SANTE, HaDEA and ECDC and their respective roles in EURL-PH-AMR	Velina Pendolovska and Julia Langer (DG SANTE); Paola D'Acapito (HaDEA); Anke Kohlenberg, Marius Linkevicius and Pete Kinross (ECDC)
13.35-13.45	Introduction of the personnel of the three consortium partners (SSI, DTU and EDL) and their roles	Anders Rhod Larsen (SSI), Rene S. Hendriksen (DTU), Oskar Ekelund (EDL)
<b>Activities for EARS-Net</b>		
13.45-13.55	Overview of the activities for EARS-Net	Birgitte Helwigh (DTU)
13.55-14.05	EARS-Net EQAs – plan for 2025 and onwards	Ana Rita Rebelo (DTU)
<b>Activities for EURGen-Net</b>		
14.05-14.15	Overview of the activities for EURGen-Net	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
14.15-14.25	Activities for EURGen-Net in 2025	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)

14.25-14.35	EURL-PH-AMR Laboratory testing service	Oskar Ekelund (EDL)
14.35-14.45	EURL-PH-AMR Advisory service function	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
14.45-14.55	EURL-PH-AMR training programme	Valeria Bortolaia (SSI)
<b>Conclusions</b>		
14.55-15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and answers</li> <li>• Save the dates</li> </ul>	Anders Rhod Larsen (SSI)

## **Attendees**

The online EURL-PH-AMR kick-off meeting for members of EARS-Net and EURGen-Net was attended by:

SSI: Valeria Bortolaia, Camilla Wiuff Coia, Anette Hammerum, Anders Rhod Larsen, Louise Roer

DTU: Ana Rita Rebelo, Carmen Espinosa Gongora, Rene S. Hendriksen and Birgitte Helwich

EDL: Oskar Ekelund

HaDEA: Paola D'Acapito

DG SANTE: Velina Pendolovska

ECDC: Andreas Hoefler, Pete Kinross, Anke Kohlenberg, Marius Linkevicius, Dominique Monnet, Diamantis Plachouras

Attendees from EARS-Net/EURGen-Net – 80 representatives

## Minutes

Introduction to the EURL-PH-AMR	Speaker
<i>Welcome and introduction to EURL-PH-AMR</i>	
A warm welcome was given to the representatives of EARS-Net and EURGen-Net, NFPs for AMR, OCPs for Microbiology, DG SANTE, HaDEA, ECDC and EURL-PH-AMR consortium members.	Anders Rhod Larsen (SSI)
<i>Background, roles and objectives of EURL-PH-AMR</i>	
<p>A consortium including SSI, DTU and EDL (EUCAST Development Lab) has been designated as EU reference laboratory for AMR and funded under the EU4health programme. The EURL-PH-AMR will provide laboratory support to selected activities of EURGen-Net and EARS-Net members and technical support and services to ECDC. The EURL-PH-AMR is mandated by 'EU Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threat to health' and activities are aligned with EU AMR policy. Overall objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further strengthening the EU public health microbiology capacity</li> <li>• Facilitating technology transition to optimise EU-wide use of whole genome sequencing (WGS)</li> <li>• Strengthening collaboration and integration between the ECDC-led disease networks</li> </ul> <p>The main role of the EURL-PH-AMR is to organise and implement support activities under agreed workplans (documented in the grant agreement) for disease network members of the ECDC-led EARS-Net and EURGen-Net. The EURL will also be part of a network of other EURLs (currently five other EURLs, from May 2025 eight others. Intended added value of the EURL-PH-AMR action includes: strengthening the role of clinical and national reference laboratories, modernising diagnostic and molecular typing testing tests and operationalization of genomic surveillance, closing current knowledge gaps through collaboration and knowledge sharing, encouraging and boosting research, development and innovation.</p>	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
<i>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – EU Policy developments</i>	
<p>Velina Pendolovska, gave an overview of policies underpinning the EURL-PH-AMR. AMR is of highest political priority of the European Commission. 2023 council recommendations on AMR includes; strengthening national AMR action plans, surveillance of AMR and consumption of antimicrobials (AMC), infection, prevention and control (EU guidelines), Antimicrobial stewardship (EU guidelines), targets for AMR/AMC, improving awareness, education/training, fostering R&amp;D, increasing cooperation and global actions.</p> <p>AMR improvement targets have recently been introduced in EU, but one targets has already been breached (incidence of carbapenem-resistant <i>K. pneumoniae</i> BSI) and comprehensive efforts must be made. The 'EU Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on</p>	Velina Pendolovska (DG SANTE)

<p>serious cross-border threat to health’ includes 7 important articles addressing AMR: AMR as cross border threat to health, preparedness and response planning, assessments by ECDC, coordination by the EU Health Security Committee, improvements of surveillance and reporting, and EU Reference Laboratories (including EURL-PH-AMR).</p> <p>The aim of EURLs is to support NRLs to promote good practice and alignment by MS on diagnostic methods, use of certain tests for surveillance, notification and reporting of diseases by MS. An EURL network is operated/coordinated by ECDC. In March 2024, the first 6 EURL for public health were designated, and in November 2024, 3 more EURLs on food- and waterborne diseases were designated. More EURLs will designated later. The first 6 EURL for public health have been in service since January 2025.</p>	
<p><i>EURL-PH-AMR – Role of HaDEA</i></p>	
<p>Paola D’Acapito, HaDEA Programme Manager, and Project Officer for the EURL-PH-AMR action, introduced The European Health and Digital Executive Agency, HaDEA, which implements EU programmes on behalf of the European Commission (i.e. food, digital, industry and space developments).</p> <p>The EURL-PH-AMR is mandated by Article 15 of ‘EU Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threat to health’ and funded via the EU4Health programme managed by HaDEA. HaDEA manages a series of other programme related to food, digital, industry and space developments and collaborates with several parent General Directorates. In the domain of health preparedness and emergency response, HaDEA works in close collaboration with DG SANTE and DG HERA. The DGs define policies and draw up annual work programmes. The executive agencies (such as HaDEA) are responsible for the implementation of calls (both for grants and procurements), management of funded actions, and provides feedback to policy. Each grant goes through a “management lifecycle” of issuing calls for proposals, evaluation of submitted applications, signature of grant agreements, monitoring progress in the project, and disseminating final results.</p>	<p>Paola D’Acapito (HaDEA)</p>
<p><i>Collaboration between ECDC, EARS-Net / EURGen-Net and the EURL-PH-AMR</i></p>	
<p>Anke Kohlenberg, Expert Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections at ECDC gave an overview of the collaboration and coordination between ECDC, EARS-Net, EURGen-Net and EURL-PH-AMR.</p> <p>While EARS-Net/EURGen-Net undertake surveillance activities (including maintenance of related tools and publication of related reports), the EURL undertakes laboratory support activities, including reference testing, provision of reference material, scientific advice and technical assistance, collaboration and research, training and outbreak investigation support. The following EURL-PH-AMR services are provided to each of the networks and ECDC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EARS-Net: phenotypic EQAs, meetings for EARS-Net representatives</li> </ul>	<p>Anke Kohlenberg (ECDC)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EURGen-Net: Reference testing/material resources, Phenotypic EQA/genomic proficiency testing, scientific advice and technical assistance, collaboration/research activities, support to outbreak investigations, meetings for EURGen-Net representatives.</li> <li>• ECDC: protocols for phenotypic/genotypic testing, support to outbreak investigations, support to risk assessments.</li> </ul> <p>The EURL will mainly communicate with the EARS-Net/EURGen-Net OCPs/CPOs for Microbiology and the (Observer) NFPs for AMR. Main contact points at ECDC for EURL-related questions are Anke Kohlenberg and Marius Linkevicius (see slides for full list of contact points and email-addresses).</p> <p>The main added value of the EURL-PH-AMR includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual EQAs for EARS-Net (&gt; 900 clinical laboratories)</li> <li>• Annual EQA and genomic proficiency testing for EURGen-Net (&gt;30 NRLs)</li> <li>• Reference testing (EURGen-Net)</li> <li>• Training activities (EURGen-Net)</li> <li>• Advisory function to NRLs and ECDC including ad hoc advice, contribution to risk assessment (EURGen-Net)</li> <li>• Organisation of meetings related to EURL-PH-AMR support activities.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Introduction of the personnel of the three consortium partners (SSI, DTU and EDL) and their roles and responsibilities</i></p>	
<p>Members of the full teams at SSI, DTU and EDL and their main areas of work were presented (see slides).</p> <p><b>SSI</b> is leading/coordinating the consortium and implementation of the overall action. SSI brings expertise in NRL core function (capacity building), clinical microbiology, bioinformatics, application of WGS for surveillance and outbreak detection. SSI is also delivering parts of the EU genomic epidemiology training programme: GenEpi-BioTrain.</p> <p><b>EDL</b> is responsible for phenotypic reference testing of priority pathogens and emerging resistance threats, and contributes to collection of isolates and development of harmonised laboratory methods and protocols, scientific advice, EQAs, collaboration and research, outbreak response and training.</p> <p><b>EDL</b> brings expertise in phenotypic testing, laboratory capacity building/training, strong and long tradition of research and development, standardisation of testing methodology and development of international guidance.</p> <p><b>DTU</b> is responsible for provision of phenotypic EQAs for EARS-net and EURGen-Net, development of WGS protocol, scientific advice and training and supports consortium administration, reference materials and collaboration/research. DTU brings expertise microbiology, molecular microbiology, WGS, bioinformatics, internal/external quality assurance, capacity building, development of guidance and project management.</p>	<p>Anders Rhod Larsen (SSI)</p> <p>Oskar Ekelund (EDL)</p> <p>Rene S. Hendriksen (DTU)</p>
<p><i>Overview of the activities for EARS-Net</i></p>	

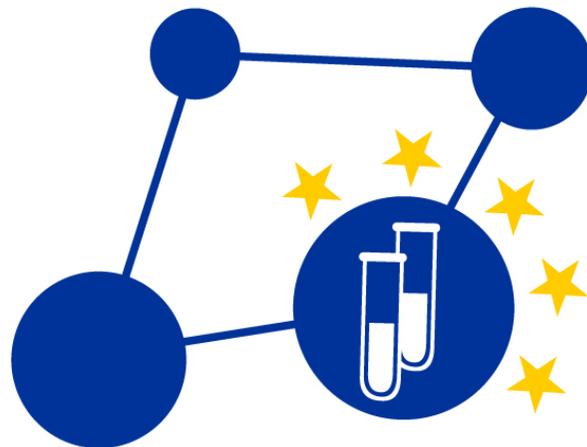
<p><b>Activities of EURL-PH-AMR for EARS-Net</b> members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EURL-PH-AMR kick-off Meeting (today)</li> <li>• Network meetings in 2026, 2028, 2030</li> <li>• Annual EARS-Net EQA</li> </ul>	<p>Birgitte Helwich (DTU)</p>
<p><i>EARS-Net EQAs – plan for 2025 and onwards</i></p>	
<p><b>EQA</b> scope: Assess the quality of species identification and the accuracy of the interpretation of phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) results, and to evaluate the overall comparability of routinely collected AST results between European laboratories</p> <p>The annual EQA preparation/planning is coordinated with and approved by ECDC. Three types of reports will be produced at each EQA: 1) Individual evaluation reports + certificates for each laboratory, 2) National reports shared with National EQA Coordinators and 3) EU/EEA Annual reports.</p> <p>The 'management and communication' involved, and the 'preparation of the EQA material', and timelines were explained step-by-step (see slides).</p> <p>Key dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tentative shipment: 10 June 2025</li> <li>• Tentative EQA launch: 11 June 2025</li> <li>• Tentative EQA deadline: 4 August 2025</li> </ul> <p>Timelines are: Individual evaluation reports and certificates (October/November), feedback survey (November), preparation of annual report (December/January), preparation of national reports (January). From 2026 and onwards, shipment of strains will be moved from June to May and most steps completed one month earlier.</p>	<p>Ana Rita Rebelo (DTU)</p>
<p><i>Overview of the activities for EURGen-Net</i></p>	
<p>The overall approach to building capacity for surveillance/outbreak detection and modernising reference testing and and typing of AMR builds on the approach of the EURGen-RefLabCap project – and involves training, capacity building, networking support and provision of guidance on best practice.</p> <p>The EURL activities are organised in administrative (WP1-4) and technical (WP5-11) work packages.</p> <p><u>WP5: Reference diagnostics and test protocols (lead: EDL)</u> Includes reference testing and development of protocols phenotypic and genotypic characterisation of resistance mechanisms, WGS workflows and testing of bioinformatics tools, and contribution to ECDC survey and laboratory protocols.</p> <p><u>WP6: Electronic repository of available reference materials accessible to EURGen-Net (lead: SSI)</u> Includes an electronic repository (catalogue) of the reference materials (launched, June 2025). Up to 10 new isolates can be shipped to network members per year.</p> <p><u>WP7: EQA and proficiency testing (lead: DTU)</u></p>	<p>Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)</p>

<p>Assessments of the quality of species ID and phenotypic AST results, and evaluation of the overall comparability of routinely collected AST results. Annual phenotypic EQAs for EARS-Net and EURGen-Net; annual genomic proficiency testing for EURGen-Net.</p> <p><u>WP8: Scientific advice and technical assistance – capacity building (lead: SSI)</u></p> <p>Objectives are to identify gaps in national reference laboratory capacity in EURGen-Net, develop and implement plans to address the gaps and strengthen the capacity and provide bespoke support. Through surveys and consultation with members of EURGen-Net, candidates for support, technical areas, duration and levels of support will be agreed with each country</p> <p><u>WP9: Collaboration and research (lead: SSI)</u></p> <p>Objective is to identify research needs, design and conduct collaborative research studies to strengthen collaboration and expertise among members of EURGen-Net. This will include conducting survey of existing research collaborations, gaps, ideas and needs for new collaborative research studies. A proposed study protocol will be developed by the EURL-PH-AMR.</p> <p><u>WP10: Monitoring, alert notifications and support in outbreak Response (lead: SSI)</u></p> <p>The objective is to establish a scientific and technical advisory function for the members of EURGen-Net and ECDC. It will support national outbreaks and cross-border investigations (involving a request approval process with ECDC). The service will provide scientific and technical advice on phenotypic and genotypic reference testing, microbiological and bioinformatics analysis and support to OCPs on reporting data.</p> <p><u>WP11: Training (lead: SSI)</u></p> <p>The objective is to deliver training activities aimed at expanding knowledge and skills required to develop and implement national prevention, preparedness and response plans. Training are developed in areas of 'best practice and technology transition. Bespoke support to individual countries/NRL can be arranged in relation to selected EURL activities.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><i>Annual EURL-PH-AMR work plan for 2025</i></a></p>	
<p>Key EURL-PH-AMR activities for 2025 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of reference testing service</li> <li>• Establishment of the EURL advisory service function</li> <li>• EQAs for phenotypic testing for EARS-Net (Jun)</li> <li>• EQA for phenotypic testing (Jun) and proficiency testing (PT) for WGS for EURGen-Net (Oct)</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul> <p>Moreover, the EURL-PH-AMR website and a newsletter will be issued in June 2025.</p>	<p>Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>EURL-PH-AMR laboratory testing service</i></a></p>	
<p>EDL will provide a laboratory testing service for phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) for EURGen-Net. An agreed 'Laboratory testing strategy' is described in the EURL-PH-AMR document: MS14 (including description of quality indicators and review). EDL has preparedness to test up to a</p>	<p>Oskar Ekelund (EDL)</p>

<p>maximum of 1,000 isolates per year. Testing will be performed according to EUCAST guidelines, normally starting by disk diffusion, followed by broth microdilution (BMD) and/or functional testing when necessary. Reference testing is always initiated and approved by ECDC. Guidelines for sample submission are under development. Quality indicators will be used to monitor the service and follow-up will take place after 12 and again after 48 months.</p>	
<p><i><a href="#">EURL-PH-AMR advisory service function</a></i></p>	
<p>An EURL advisory service function will be developed and implemented during the first year of the EURL (2025) (described in MS30, in revision). SSI and EDL will be available to provide advice to ECDC and NRLs on all working days. The advisory service function will focus on supporting national outbreak and cross-border investigations includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing scientific advice and technical assistance on phenotypic and genotypic reference testing</li> <li>• Assisting with bioinformatics analysis/interpretation for reporting on incidents (nationally and to EpiPulse)</li> <li>• Contributing to ECDC rapid risk assessments</li> </ul> <p>In partnership EURL-PH-AMR and ECDC will define the required actions for each incident/outbreak/request. Up to 4 significant incidents are supported by EURL-PH-AMR per year</p> <p>The first requests received are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments on ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment on carbapenem –resistant Enterobacterales - third update (received January 2025)</li> <li>• Request to support cross-border investigation of converged OXA-48 and aerobactin plasmid outbreak reported in EpiPulse (received February 2025 - ongoing)</li> </ul> <p>Requests for outbreak support can be submitted to:  <a href="mailto:EURL-PH-AMR@ssi.dk">EURL-PH-AMR@ssi.dk</a></p>	<p>Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)</p>
<p><i><a href="#">EURL-PH-AMR training programme</a></i></p>	
<p>The aim of the training activities is to share know-how, best practices, and to promote national and international cooperation to strengthen AMR surveillance in Europe. This will be delivered through various types of training activities; virtual workshops, educational webinars, virtual outbreak simulation exercises, pilot surveillance exercises, and face-to-face multidisciplinary training (see also slides for details). All consortium partners (SSI, DTU and EDL) will contribute to delivering the training activities. A training plan will be developed every year in collaboration with ECDC. In 2025, the training plan is scheduled to be agreed by March. Going forward, annual training plans will be developed by October for the coming year.</p>	<p>Valeria Bortolaia (SSI)</p> <p>Lina Cavaco (SSI)</p>



STATENS  
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# EUURL

## PUBLIC HEALTH

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)  
IN BACTERIA

# EUURL-PH-AMR kick-off meeting

20 march 2025



Funded by the  
European Union

## Participants Today are

Representatives from the two ECDC disease networks:

EARS-Net

EURGEN-Net

ECDCs NFPs for AMR, OCPs for microbiology (present in the SRM system on 9 January)

Representatives from

ECDC, DG Sante, HaDEA and the EURL-PH-AMR consortium members (SSI, DTU and EDL)

# Mentimeter

How many of these 9 abbreviations do you know?

Representatives from the two ECDC disease networks:

EARS-Net

EURGen-Net

NFPs, OCPs (SRM system)

ECDC, DG Sante, HaDEA and the EURL-PH-AMR consortium members

<https://www.menti.com/aljqv7jvma3a>

Code. 7959 1116



# Mentimeter

## Abbreviations

**DG SANTE:** Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

**ECDC:** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

**EARS-Net:** European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network

**EURGen-Net:** European Antimicrobial Resistance Genes Surveillance Network

**EURL-PH-AMR:** EU Reference Laboratory for Public Health on Antimicrobial Resistance

**HaDEA:** European Health and Digital Executive Agency

**NFPs:** National Focal Points

**OCPs:** Operational Contact Points

**SRM:** Stakeholder Relationship Management System

# Agenda



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13.55-14.05	EARS-Net EQAs – plan for 2025 and onwards	Ana Rita Rebelo (DTU)
<b>Activities for EURGen-Net</b>		
14.05-14.15	Overview of the activities for EURGen-Net	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
14.15-14.25	Activities for EURGen-Net in 2025	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
14.25-14.35	EURL-PH-AMR Laboratory testing service	Oskar Ekelund (EDL)
14.35-14.45	EURL-PH-AMR Advisory service function	Camilla Wiuff Coia (SSI)
14.45-14.55	EURL-PH-AMR training programme	Valeria Bortolaia (SSI)

Questions & Answers

## **Background, roles and objectives of EURL-PH-AMR**

Camilla Coia, SSI

# Background



- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a major threat to human health, in terms of deaths, burden of disease, hospital length of stay, healthcare costs and socio-economic impact. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic revealed the need in Europe for **harmonisation** and **expansion of the capacity for outbreak detection** of emerging infectious diseases, including AMR.
- A call for the designation of **a network EU Reference Laboratories for Public Health** (including the EURL-PH-AMR) was proposed by the European Commission to support the monitoring of disease outbreaks (Regulation (EU) 2022/2371) .
- A consortium including **SSI, DTU and EDL** (EUCAST Development Lab) has been designated as EU reference laboratory for AMR and funded under the EU4health programme.
- The EURL-PH-AMR will provide laboratory **support to selected activities of EURGen-Net and EARS-Net** and **technical support and services to ECDC**



## Acts and actions in the EU

- Decision (EU) 1082/2013 on serious cross-border health threats'
- Superseded by the **Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threat to health:**  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj/eng>
- **European One Health action plan against AMR (2017)**  
[https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-01/amr\\_2017\\_action-plan\\_0.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-01/amr_2017_action-plan_0.pdf)
  - Making the EU a best practice region
  - Improve AMR detection in the human health sector by providing EU support for networking, collaboration and reference laboratory activities
  - Well-functioning reference laboratory services are essential to support the action to control antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- **Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach (2023):**  
[https://health.ec.europa.eu/antimicrobials-resistance/eu-action-antimicrobial-resistance\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/antimicrobials-resistance/eu-action-antimicrobial-resistance_en)



# The aim of EURLs for Public Health

The overarching aim of the EURLs is to support national reference laboratories to **promote good practice** and alignment by Member States regarding

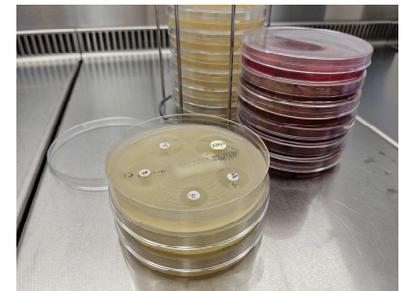
- **diagnostics, testing methods,**
- **tests for the uniform surveillance**
- **notification and reporting of serious cross-border health threats**

Overview of the EURLs:

[https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/surveillance-and-early-warning/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/surveillance-and-early-warning/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health_en)

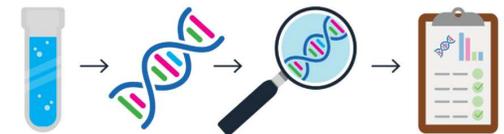
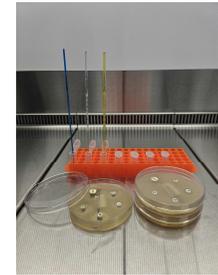
**The EURL-PH-AMR covers the following priority pathogens:**

- CCRE – Carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant Enterobacterales
- CRAb - Carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*
- CRPa - Carbapenem- and/or colistin-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



# Objectives of EURL-PH-AMR

- **Further strengthening the EU public health microbiology capacity** through activities aimed at improving detection, surveillance and risk assessment of antimicrobial resistant bacteria at national and EU level.
- **Facilitating technology transition to optimise EU-wide use of whole genome sequencing (WGS)** of antimicrobial resistant bacteria for detection, surveillance, and epidemiologic investigations of outbreaks by providing coordination, capacity building and support to disease network members.
- **Strengthening collaboration and integration between the ECDC-led disease networks** with a particular focus on integration of laboratory activities underpinning EU surveillance of AMR.



## The roles of EURL-PH-AMR

- Organise and implement laboratory support activities under agreed workplans for disease network members
- Coordinate implementation of activities with **ECDC-led** disease networks, **EURGen-Net** and **EARS-Net**, **ECDC** and other relevant EURLs
- Participate as member in the network of EURLs (currently 6 EURLs in service)



**EARS-Net**

**EURGen-Net**

## Intended added value of EURL-PH-AMR in the EU disease networks

- **Strengthening the role of clinical laboratories and NRLs** through networks of local/regional laboratories in the health systems of their countries.
- **Modernising diagnostic and molecular typing tests using WGS and operationalisation of genomic surveillance** to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.
- **Closing current knowledge gaps by collaboration and knowledge sharing;** to allow EU to act and control emerging resistance more rapidly and, as result improve healthcare and save cost.
- **Encouraging and boosting research, development, and innovation;** the EURL will create opportunities for network laboratories to participate in cross-border research. This will allow for synergies that result in new innovations and developments in fighting AMR.

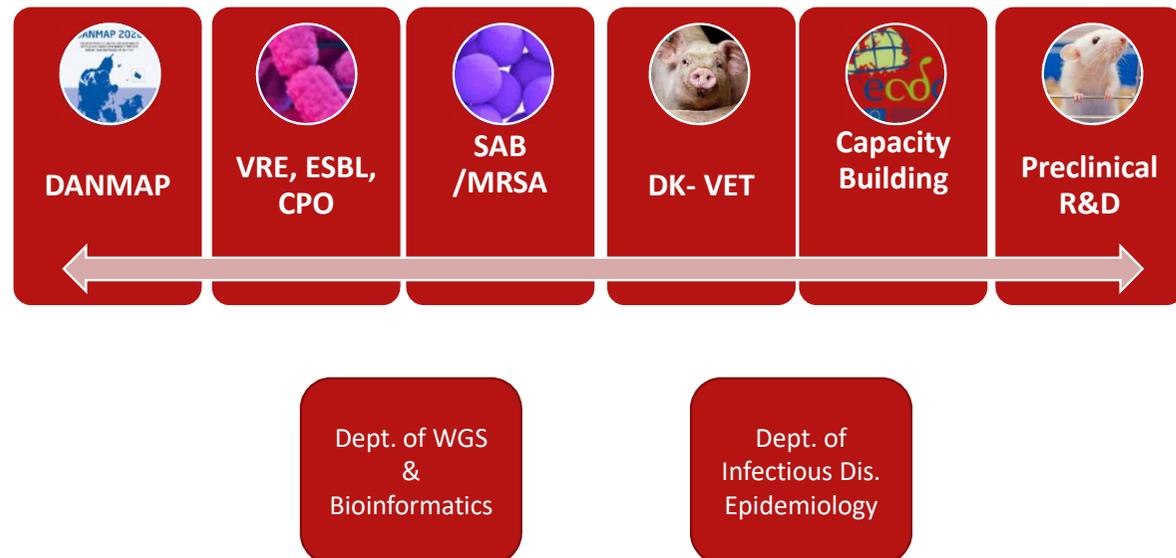


## **Introduction of the personnel of the three consortium partners (SSI, DTU and EDL) and their roles and responsibilities**

Anders Rhod Larsen, SSI  
Rene Hendriksen, DTU  
Oskar Ekelund, EDL

## Who we are?

- SSI ensures preparedness against infectious diseases and biological threats as well as control of congenital disorders
- NRL-AMR (20 AC, 10 Tech)



# SSI role in EURL-PH-AMR

Managing role. Responsible for administrative tasks

WP 1-4: Coordination, Dissemination, Evaluation and Sustainability



Camilla Wiuff Coia, Marianne Noer, Valeria Bortolaia, Kasper Thystrup Karstensen & Anders Rhod Larsen

Technical role. Responsible for implementation of activities for the **EURGen-Net**

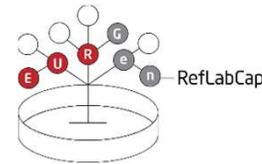
WP 6- 11: Reference material resources; EQA, Scientific advice and technical assistance; Collaboration and research; Monitoring, alert notification and support in outbreak response and Training



+ Henrik Hasman, Louise Roer, Lina Cavaco, Anette Hammerum, Barbara Holzkecht, Frank Hansen

# Added value for the EURL-PH-AMR

- SSI NRL-AMR
  - Expertise in NRL core functions, clinical microbiology, bioinformatics, and use of WGS for surveillance and outbreak detections.
- EURGen-RefLabCap
- GenEpi-BioTrain



## EDL - Who we are?

- Clinical microbiology Region Kronoberg/EUCAST Development Laboratory
- Two laboratory sites – Växjö and Karlskrona
- 65 employees
- Population size 350 000
- Broad range of microbiological diagnostics
- Approx. 300 000 samples per year
- Strong and long tradition of research and development



## Roles and responsibilities

- WP5 Reference Testing - Lead
  - Phenotypic reference testing of priority pathogens and emerging resistance threats
  - Laboratory testing strategy in agreement with ECDC
  - Contribute to collection of isolates of interest during EU-level outbreaks
  - Harmonised laboratory methods and protocols for priority pathogens
  
- Supporting role:
  - WP1-4 Consortium administration
  - WP6 Reference materials
  - WP7 EQA
  - WP8 Scientific advice
  - WP9 Collaboration and research
  - WP10 Outbreak response
  - WP11 Training



Oskar Ekelund



Onur Karatuna



Erika Matuschek



Jenny Åhman



Gunnar Kahlmeter



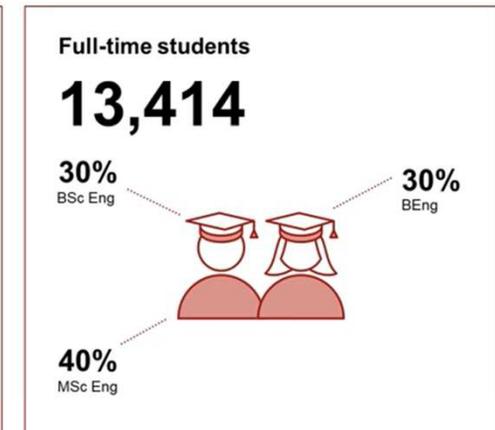
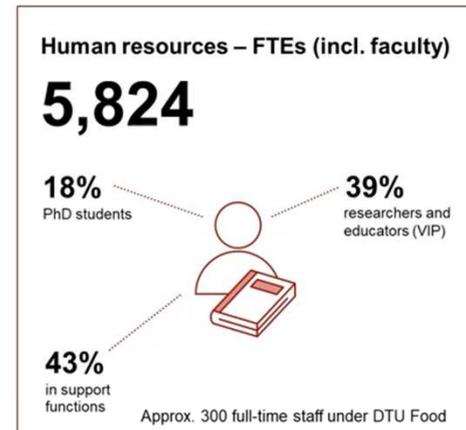
Sofia Somajo



# DTU - Who we are?

- **DTU National Food Institute**

- Conducts applied research into sustainable and value-creating solutions in the area of food and health through advice, innovation and teaching for the benefit of society

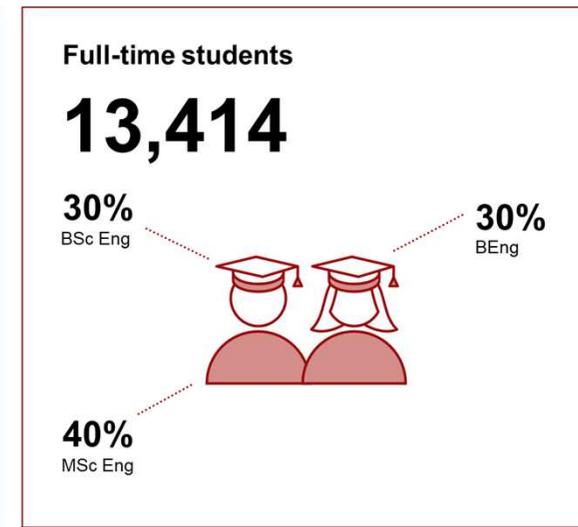
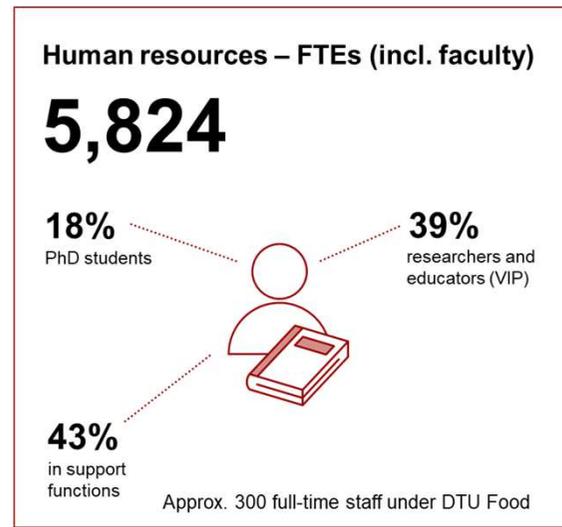


- **The Research Group for Global Capacity Building**

- Provide laboratory strengthening and capacity building for global surveillance of infectious disease agents and antimicrobial resistance
- Develop, implement and operationalize procedures for phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing and whole genome sequencing
- We conduct applied research, advisory service, technical assistance and consultancy with the goal of increasing the global capacity for AMR surveillance including improving the quality of surveillance data



# DTU - Who we are?



- **DTU National Food Institute**
  - Conducts research into and disseminates - through advice, innovation and teaching - sustainable and value-creating solutions in the area of food and health for the benefit of society
- **The Research Group for Global Capacity Building**
  - Works to strengthen the global surveillance of infectious disease agents and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and to develop and implement procedures for building laboratory capacity worldwide, with a focus on whole genome sequencing (WGS)
  - We conduct research, consultancy, and PhD projects, with the goal of increasing global capacity for the monitoring of AMR and improving the quality of monitoring data.

# Glo-CaB role in EURL-PH-AMR



- Technical role:
  - WP 5 Development of WGS protocol
  - WP 7 Provision of AST EQA for EARS-Net and EURGen-Net and development of a digital EQA (EURGen-Net)
  - WP 8 Scientific advice
  - WP 11 Training
- Supporting role:
  - WP1-4 Consortium administration
  - WP6 Reference materials
  - WP9 Collaboration and research



Rene  
Hendriksen



Birgitte  
Helwich



Ana Rita  
Rebelo



Freya H.  
Møllnitz



Jette S.  
Kjeldgaard



Carmen E.  
Gongora

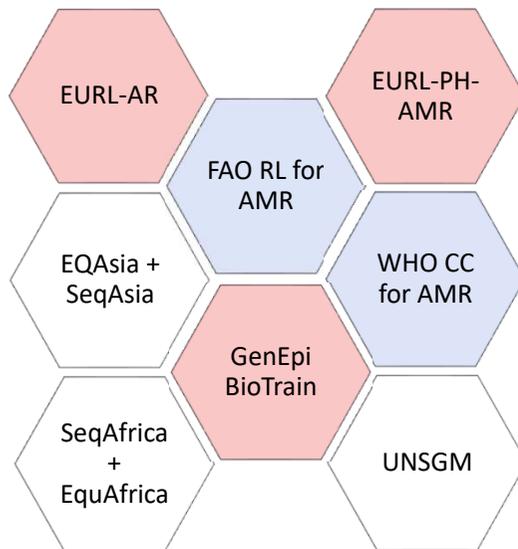


Joana  
Mourao

# Added value for the EURL-PH-AMR



~ 30 employees; projects in Europe, Asia, Africa, ...



## Subject matter experts in

- Classical microbiology
- Molecular microbiology
- Whole-genome sequencing
- Bioinformatics
- Internal quality assurance
- External quality assessments
- Capacity building
- Site-visits
- Development of guidance
- Project management





# Overview of the activities for EARS-Net

Birgitte Helwigh & Ana Rita Rebelo, DTU

# Overview of the activities for EARS-Net



- EARS-Net Kick-off Meeting - today
- Network meeting 2026, 2028, 2030
- Annual EARS-Net EQA

# EARS-Net EQA



## SCOPE

Assess the quality of species identification and the accuracy of the interpretation of phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) results, and to evaluate the overall comparability of routinely collected AST results between European laboratories

## ANNUAL EQA PREPARATION

Coordinated with and approved by ECDC

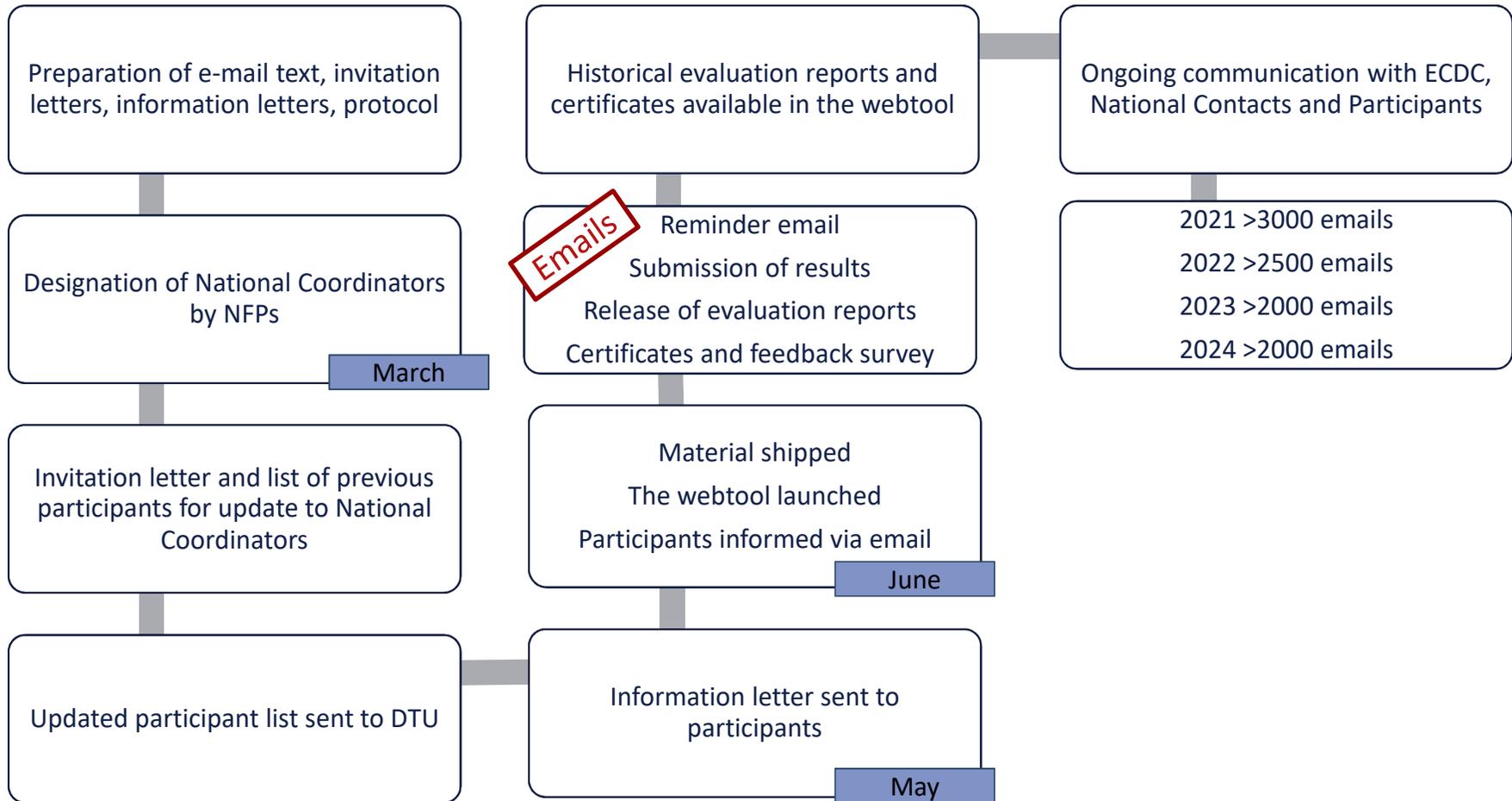
## REPORTS

- Individual evaluation reports + certificates for each laboratory
- National reports shared with National EQA Coordinators
- EU/EEA Annual report

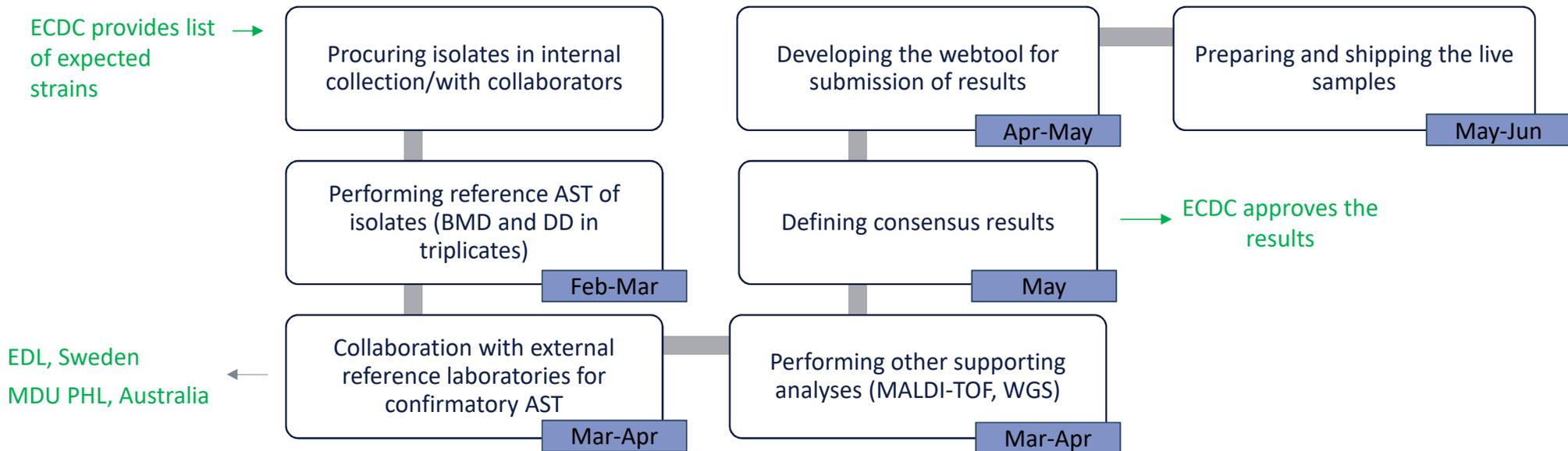
# Management and Communication



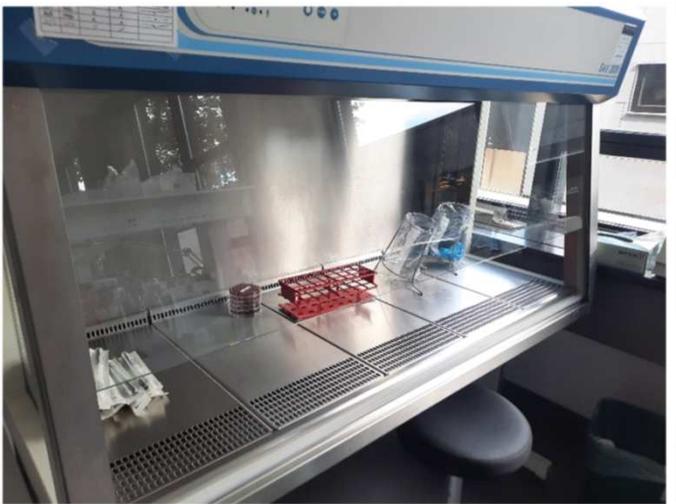
ECDC approves the all documents and emails →



# Preparation of material



And ongoing development of all the supporting documentation (protocol; test forms; etc.)



# Timeline of the EQA 2025

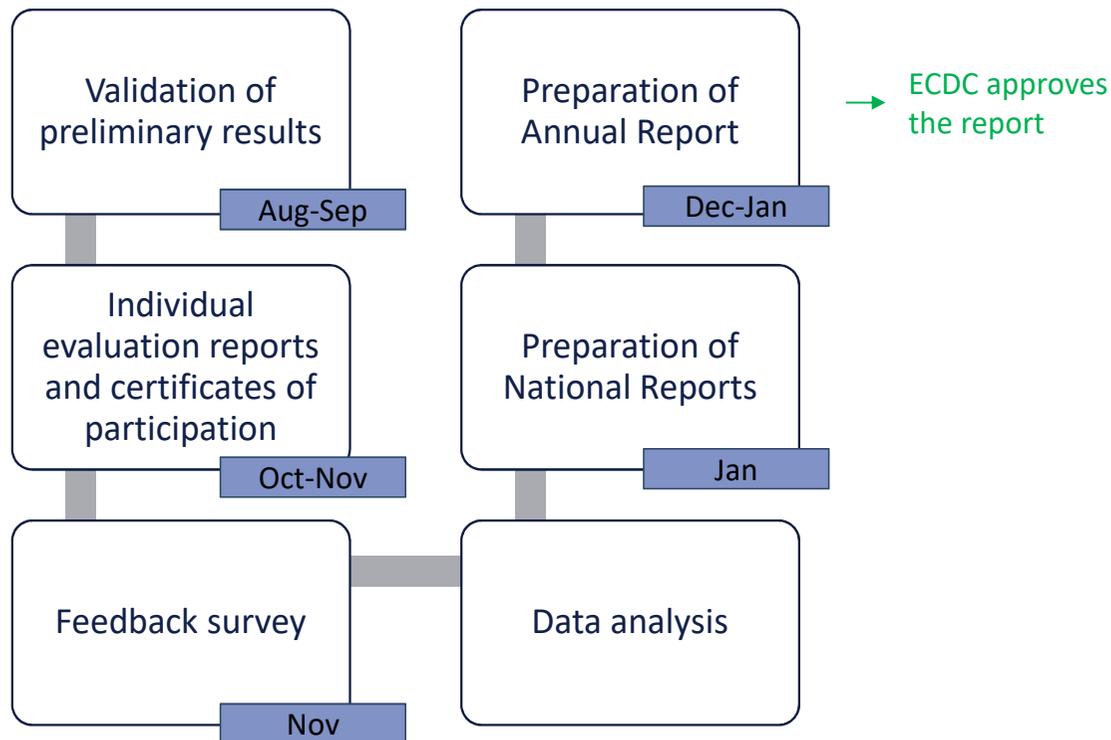


Tentative **shipment** date: 10 June

Tentative **EQA launch** date: 11 June

Tentative **EQA deadline**: 4 August

# Analysis and dissemination of results



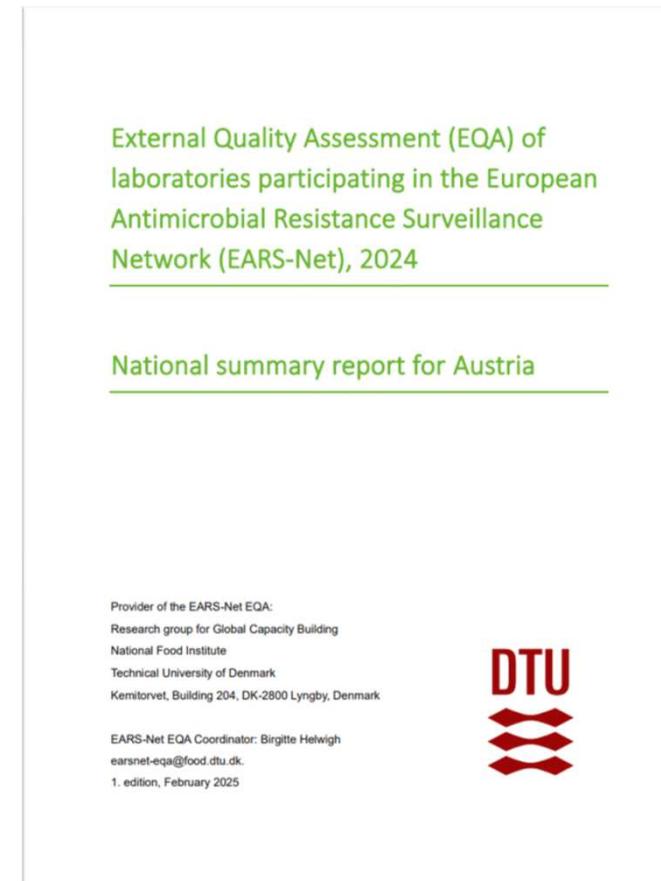
2023 EARS-Net EQA



# Certificates and National Reports



2024 EARS-Net EQA



2024 EARS-Net EQA

# Participation 2021-2024



Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nr. of registered laboratories	642	948	951	980
Nr. of participating laboratories for species identification – N (%)	N/A	854 (90.1%)	869 (91.4%)	912 (93.1%)
Nr. of participating laboratories for AST interpretation – N (%)	591 (92.1%)	850 (89.7%)	865 (91.0%)	910 (92.6%)

Preliminary data: unpublished

## EARS-Net EQA 2026 and onwards



- Shipment of strains to participants and launch of the EQA moved to May instead of June
- Most tasks expected to take place one month earlier than 2025

## EURGen-Net AST EQA 2025

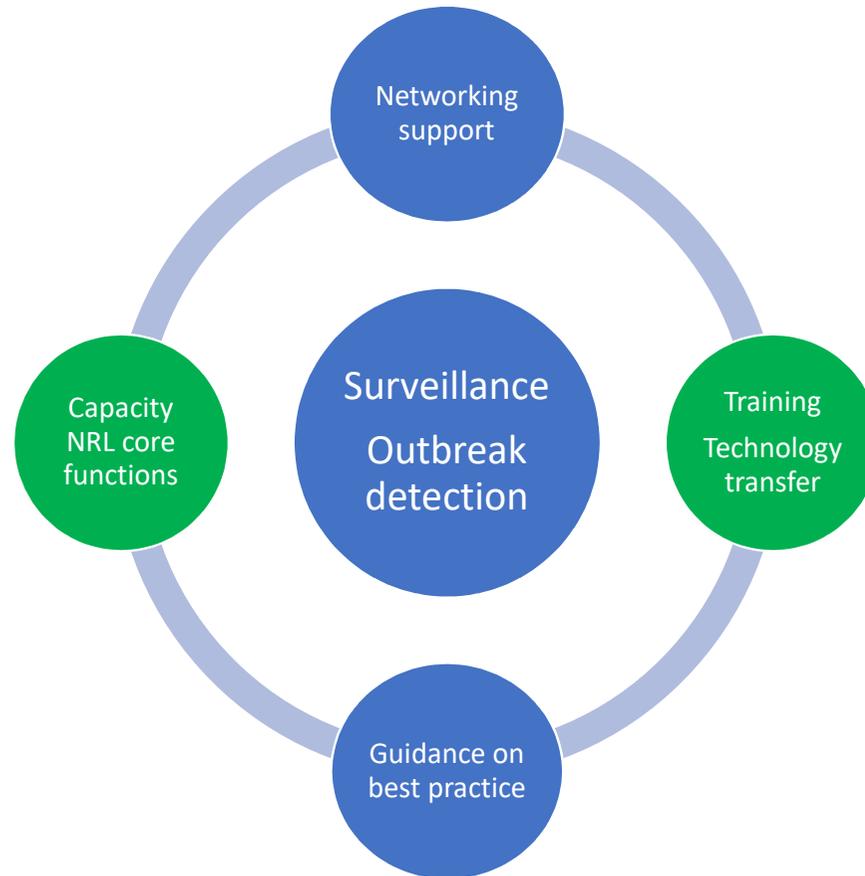


- EURGen-Net AST EQA will be in a similar setup but launched in October 2025 and onwards

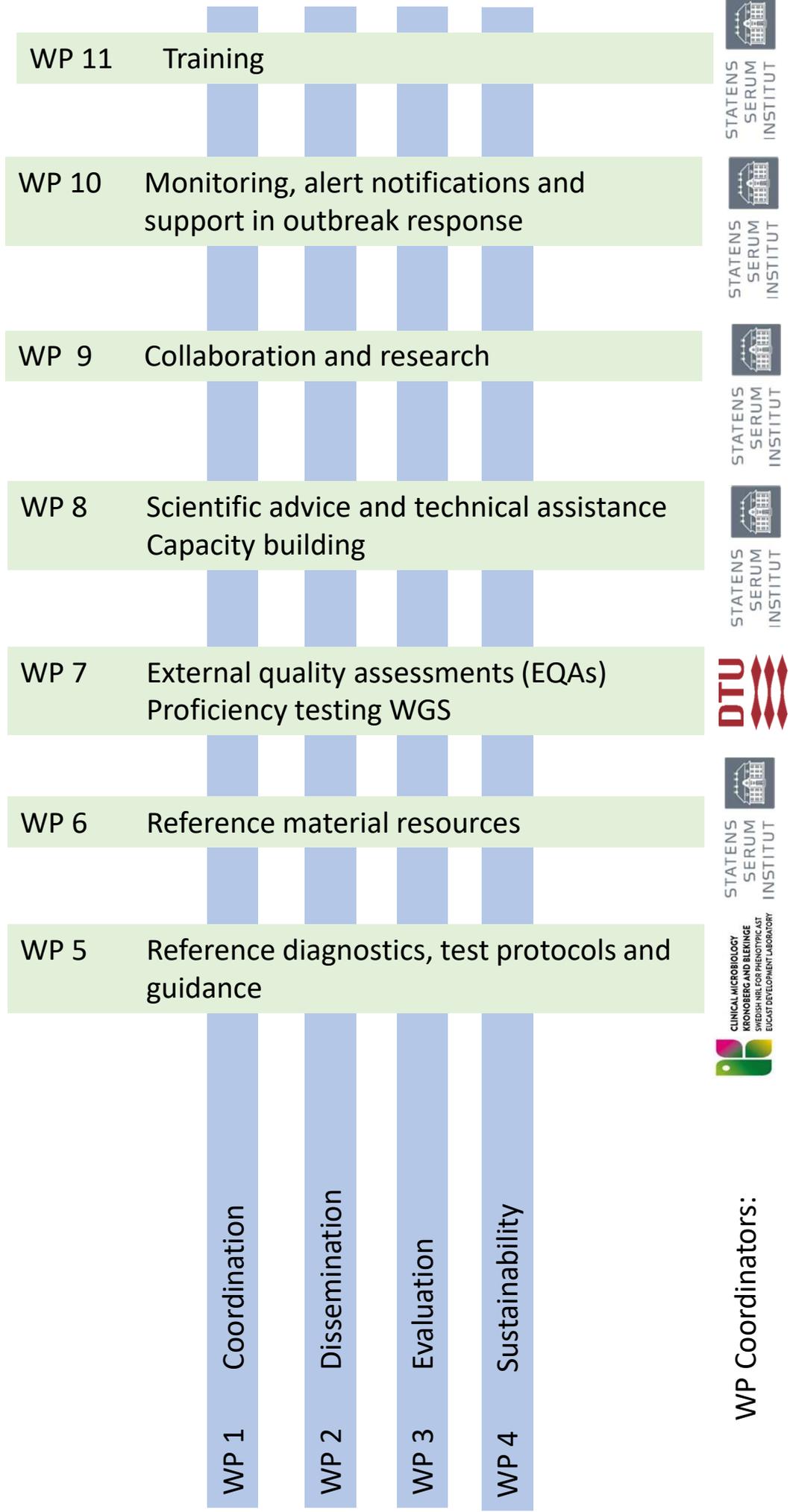
# Overview of the activities for EURGen-Net

Camilla Coia, SSI

# Approach to building capacity for surveillance and outbreak detection and modernising reference testing and typing of AMR



# Structure of the EURL-PH-AMR work plan



WP Coordinators:

# EURL-PH-AMR consortium partners and their key roles

## Statens Serum Institut – SSI (DK)

- Consortium lead (coordination)
- Best practice laboratory guidance (genotypic)
- Reference material resources
- WGS proficiency testing (EURGen-Net)
- Capacity building and support to NRLs
- Collaboration and research
- Advisory service function
- Training



## Technical University of Denmark – DTU (DK)

- AST external quality assessment (EARS-Net and EURGen-Net)
- Capacity building, training



## EUCAST Development Laboratory - EDL (SE)

- Reference testing for AMR
- Laboratory testing methodology (phenotypic)
- Best practice laboratory guidance
- Advisory service function
- Capacity building, training



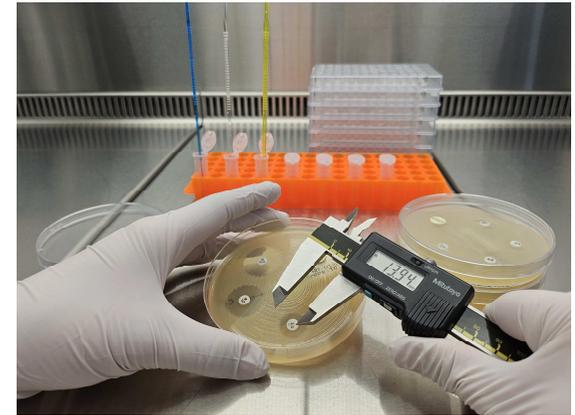
## Reference diagnostics and test protocols (WP5) – Lead: EDL

### Phenotypic and functional reference testing service

- The objective is to provide reference testing to support EU-level outbreak investigations of priority pathogens and emerging resistance threats, and
- To contribute to collection of isolates of interest during outbreaks

### Guidance (EDL and SSI)

- Protocols for phenotypic and genotypic characterisation of resistance mechanisms
- WGS workflows and testing of bioinformatics tools and functional gene databases
- Contribution to ECDC survey and laboratory protocols and technical advice on generation of national data and reporting



## Electronic repository of available reference materials accessible to EURGen-Net (WP6) – lead: SSI

- An electronic repository (catalogue) of the available reference materials (with defined antimicrobial resistance phenotype and genotype) is launched (June 2025)
- Reviewed and updated every 3 months
- Up to 10 new isolates can be shipped to network members per year



## EQA and proficiency testing (WP7) – Lead: DTU

### Phenotypic EQAs (DTU)

Assessments of the quality of species ID and phenotypic AST results, and to evaluate the overall comparability of routinely collected AST results

- Annual EQA for **EARS-Net** clinical laboratories (6 strains, up to 1200 laboratories)
- Annual EQA for NRLs in **EURGen-Net** (4 strains, 37 NRLs)

### Genomic proficiency testing (PTs) (SSI)

Assessments of proficiency for genomic testing and bioinformatics analysis

- Annual PT for NRLs in **EURGen-Net** (4 strains, 37 NRLs)



## Scientific advice and technical assistance – capacity building (WP8) – Lead: SSI – (EDL and DTU)

### Objectives are:

- to identify gaps in national reference laboratory capacity in **EURGen-Net**, develop and implement plans to address the gaps and strengthen the capacity
- **to provide bespoke support to the EURGen-Net laboratories** to strengthen and build capacity for surveillance and outbreak investigation of priority pathogens
- Through surveys and consultation with members of EURGen-Net, candidates for support, technical areas, duration and levels of support will be agreed with each country



## Collaboration and research (WP9) – Lead: SSI

- Objective is to identify research needs, design and **conduct collaborative research studies** to strengthen collaboration and expertise among members of **EURGen-Net**

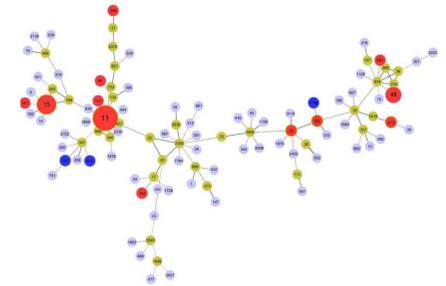
First steps include:

- A survey of existing research collaborations, ideas, gaps and needs for research studies
- A review of evidence on high-risk pathogens/clones of relevance to the network
- A proposed protocol on a collaborative research study



## Monitoring, alert notifications and support in outbreak response (WP10) – Lead: SSI

- The objective is to establish a scientific and technical advisory function for the members of **EURGen-Net and ECDC**, including:
  - Supporting **national outbreak** and **cross-border investigations** (up to 4 incidents year – request approval process with ECDC)
  - Scientific and technical advice on phenotypic and genotypic reference testing, microbiological and bioinformatic analysis
  - Support to the operational contact points on reporting data on national/cross-border outbreaks
  - Provide advice on analysis and reporting of molecular surveillance data for monitoring of priority pathogens on *ad hoc* basis



## Training (WP11) – Lead: SSI

- The objective is to deliver training activities aimed at expanding knowledge and skills required to develop and implement national prevention, preparedness and response plans, aligned with Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health.
- Training plans are developed annually in two categories:
  - Best practice
  - Technology transition
- Bespoke support to individual countries/NRLs can be arranged in relation to selected activities in WP11

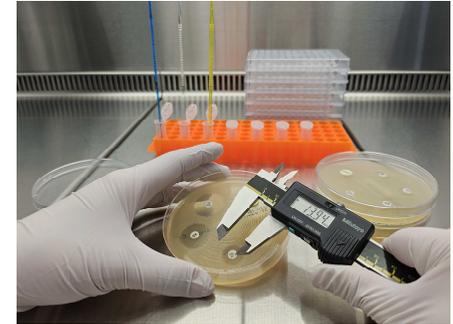


# Annual EURL-PH-AMR work plan for 2025

Camilla Coia, SSI

# Key activities 2025

- Establishment of reference testing service
- Establishment of the EURL advisory service function
- EQAs for phenotypic testing for EARS-Net (Jun)
- EQA for phenotypic testing (Oct) and proficiency testing (PT) for WGS for EURGen-Net (Oct)
- Training



## Administrative tasks 2025

### Coordination

- WP1 – Setting up project management, consortium coordination, collection of documentation for progress reporting

### Dissemination

- WP2 – Communication and dissemination plan
- **WP2 – Launch EURL-PH-AMR website (Jun)**
- **WP2 – EURL-PH-AMR newsletter (Jun)**

### Evaluation

- WP3 – Evaluation strategy and plan
- WP3 – User feedback survey for EURGen-Net members



# Laboratory testing strategy

Oskar Ekelund, EDL

# Laboratory Testing Strategy

- Preparedness for phenotypic AST of up to a maximum of 1000 isolates per year
- According to EUCAST guidelines, normally starting with disk diffusion, followed by broth microdilution (BMD) and/or functional testing when considered necessary.
- Reference testing of isolates is always initiated by ECDC
- Sample submission guidelines under development
- Quality indicators
- Follow-up M12 and M48

Grant Agreement Number: EURL-PH-AMR - 101194806 - GAP-101194806

Project Title: EURL for public health in the field of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in bacteria

Project Acronym: EURL-PH-AMR



EU4Health Programme

Milestone: 14

Laboratory Testing Strategy

Version n°: 1.0  
Date: 30-01-2025

\*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Health and Digital Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.\*



# Advisory service function

Camilla Coia, SSI

## EURL-PH-AMR advisory service function

- An EURL advisory service function will be developed and implemented during the first year of the EURL (2025).
- SSI and EDL will be available to provide advice to **ECDC** and **NRLs** on all working days
- The advisory service function will focus on supporting **national outbreak** and **cross-border investigations** includes:
  - Providing scientific advice and technical assistance on phenotypic and genotypic reference testing
  - Assisting with bioinformatics analysis/interpretation for reporting on incidents (nationally and to EpiPulse)
  - Contributing to ECDC rapid risk assessments
- In partnership EURL-PH-AMR and ECDC will define the required actions for each incident/outbreak/request
- Up to 4 significant incidents are supported by EURL-PH-AMR per year

## First requests received by EURL-PH-AMR

- Provide comments on ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment on carbapenem –resistant Enterobacterales - third update



- Request to support cross-border investigation of converged OXA-48 and aerobactin plasmid outbreak reported in EpiPulse (**Outbreak support request #001**, February 2025 - ongoing)



**Requests for outbreak support can be emailed to:**

**[EURL-PH-AMR@ssi.dk](mailto:EURL-PH-AMR@ssi.dk)**

# **EURL-PH-AMR training programme**

Valeria Bortolaia and Lina Cavaco, SSI

## Key aims of training activities

To share

- know how
- best practice

To strengthen  
the network  
nationally and  
internationally



## Preliminary plans for training activities in 2025

Training activity	Aims
Virtual workshop	○ To discuss WGS-based <b>surveillance</b> of CCRE, CRAb and CRPa in European countries with focus on selection of <b>isolates to submit to WGS</b> (organized by SSI) – <i>June 2025</i>
Webinar	○ To share <b>good practice for AST</b> of CCRE, CRAb and CRPa (organized by EDL) – <i>October 2025</i>
Pilot surveillance exercise	○ ● To advance participants' knowledge and use of open source tools for integrated analysis and visualisation of WGS, antimicrobial resistance and epidemiological <b>data for public health action</b> (organized by SSI) – <i>May 2025</i>
Virtual simulation exercise	○ ● To improve NRL preparedness to deal with an <b>outbreak situation</b> (organized by DTU) – <i>September 2025</i>
Face-to-face multidisciplinary training	● To enhance capacity for applied genomic epidemiology with focus on promoting a <b>shared language</b> among microbiologists, bioinformaticians and epidemiologists (organized by SSI) – <i>October 2025</i>

# Key elements of each training activity

## Programme & Intended Learning Outcomes

In agreement with ECDC

## Invitation

## Training material

- to give trainees the opportunity to revise content at own pace
- to foster cascading of training in own country

## Feedback

- to improve future training activities
- to better understand training needs

## Report



**Questions and answers?**



# Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – EU policy developments

Kick-off meeting for the European Reference Laboratory for Public Health on AMR (EURL-PH-AMR) for EURGen-Net and EARS-Net  
20 March 2025

*DG SANTE.B2: Health Security*

# AMR political priorities



**Mission Letter from  
President von der Leyen to  
Olivér Várhelyi –  
Commissioner for Health and  
Animal Welfare**



**...continue the work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the major threats to health, working with Member States to reach the 2030 targets...**



## 2023 Council Recommendation on AMR

1. Strengthening national AMR action plans
2. Reinforcing surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial consumption (AMC)
3. Strengthening infection prevention and control  
=> Commission to develop *Guidelines*
4. Strengthening antimicrobial stewardship and prudent use  
=> Commission to develop *Guidelines*
5. Recommending EU and national targets for AMC and AMR in human health
6. Improving awareness, education and training
7. Fostering R&D, innovation incentives and access to antimicrobials and AMR relevant medical countermeasures
8. Increasing cooperation
9. Enhancing global actions

# EU AMR targets

Baseline 2019; target year 2030

**Reduce by 20% the total consumption of antibiotics in humans**

•Defined daily doses (DDDs) per 1 000 inhabitants per day

**At least 65% of the total consumption of antibiotics in humans belongs to the 'Access' group of antibiotics**

•As defined in the AWaRe classification of the WHO

**Reduce by 15% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)**

•Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 10% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with third-generation cephalosporin-resistant *Escherichia coli***

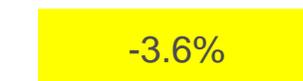
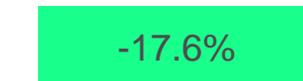
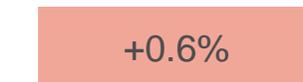
•Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 5% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae***

•Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 50% the overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030**

Levels in 2023



**Legend:**  
**Green** – target reached;  
**Yellow** – progress but target not reached;  
**Red** – regress (moving away from target)



EMA to publish 2023 sales data by the end of March 2025 and 2024 sales data by the end of December 2025

# Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 and AMR/HAI

- Article 2: identifies AMR and healthcare associated infections as serious cross-border threats to health
- Article 7: reporting on prevention, preparedness and response planning
  - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1808 on the template for provision of information on prevention, preparedness and response planning, Chapter 12
- Article 8: assessment by ECDC
- Article 9: EU state of health preparedness report, AMR included in 2023 [edition](#)
- Article 10: coordination in the EU Health Security Committee
- Article 13: epidemiological surveillance, improvements made to existing reporting
- Article 15: EU Reference laboratories including on AMR

# EU reference labs for public health



- **Aim:** support national reference laboratories to promote good practice and alignment by MS on diagnostics, testing methods, use of certain tests for the uniform surveillance, notification and reporting of diseases by MS.
- **EURL network** operated and coordinated by the ECDC, cooperation with WHO
- **Designation of first six EURLs for public health** (22 March 2024):
  - (1) **AMR in bacteria**; (2) Vector-borne viral pathogens; (3) Emerging, rodent-borne and zoonotic viral pathogens; (4) High-risk, emerging and zoonotic bacterial pathogens; (5) Legionella; (6) Diphtheria and pertussis
  - Designation and funding for 7 years (budget: 21.7 M EUR); operational since 1 January 2025
- **Designation of second three EURLs for public health** (29 Nov 2024):
  - (1) **Food- and water-borne diseases in bacteria**; (2) Food- and water-borne diseases in viruses; (3) Food- and water-borne diseases in parasites
  - Call for Proposals closed (19 Dec 2024- 6 March 2025) - budget 20.5 M EUR
- **2025 and beyond: EURLs will continue to be designated**
  - March 2025: next Call for Applications expected
  - Study ongoing on the possible designation of a EURL on health-security relevant biotoxins

# EURLs: what is the state of play?

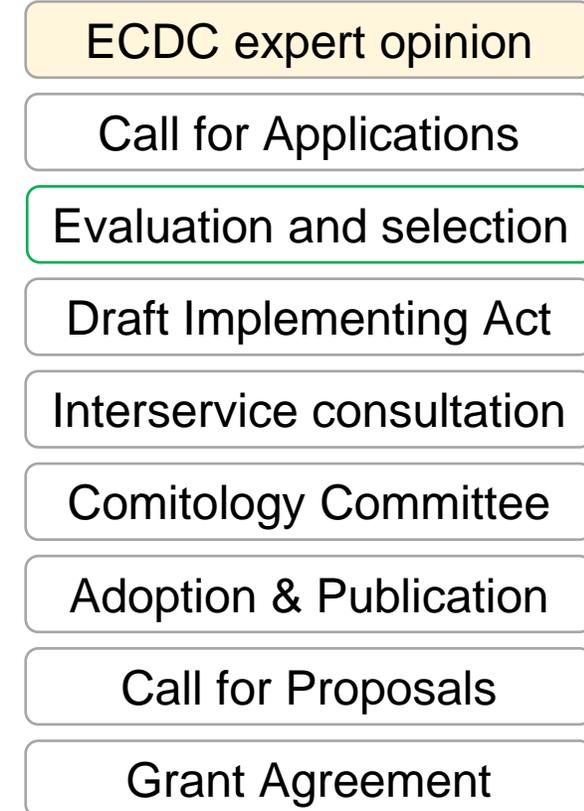
## 2023: 6 EURLs



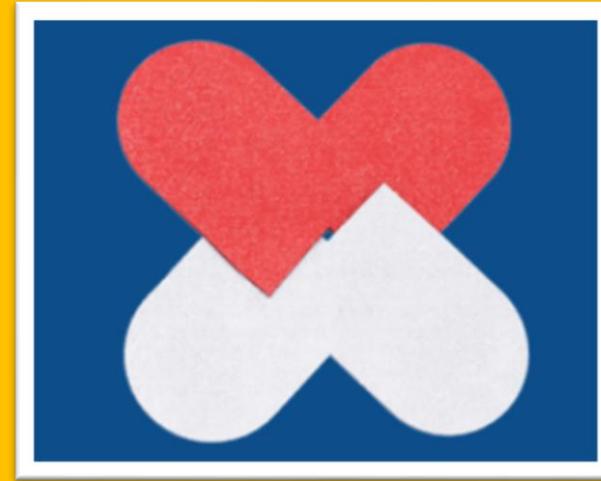
## 2024: 3 EURLs



## 2025 EURLs



# Thank you



Antimicrobial Resistance Symbol from EU-supported JAMRAI



<https://health.ec.europa.eu/antimicrobial-resistance>

For further questions:  
SANTE-CONSULT-B2@ec.europa.eu



# EURL-PH-AMR – role of HaDEA

Paola D'Acapito  
Programme Manager, HADEA.A1 - EU4Health  
European Health and Digital Executive Agency - HaDEA



HaDEA

The European  
Health and Digital Executive Agency



**Covent Garden**  
Place Charles Rogier 16 – **Brussels, BE**

# EU Regulation 2022/2371, EU4Health and the EU reference Laboratories

## Article 15 EU reference laboratories

[.... **6. Grants may be awarded to the EU reference laboratories** referred to in paragraph 1 for the costs that they incur in implementing annual or multiannual work programmes that have been established in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the work programmes adopted by the Commission **in accordance with the EU4Health Programme.**]

# The Programmes managed by HaDEA



**Health**

**EU4Health**

Horizon Europe –  
Health



**Food**

Single Market  
Programme  
(SMP): Food  
Safety



**Digital**

Horizon Europe –  
Digital  
Connecting Europe  
Facility – Digital  
Digital Europe  
Programme



**Industry**

Horizon Europe  
– Industry



**Space**

Horizon Europe –  
Space

# HaDEA and Directorates-General of the European Commission



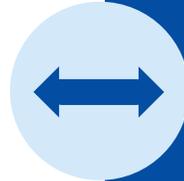
# European Commission vs Executive Agencies



## European Commission

Directorates-General (DG SANTE,  
DG HERA, DG RTD, etc...)

- Definition of policies
- Drafting of Work Programmes



## Executive Agencies

EAs (HaDEA, CINEA, REA,  
EACEA, EISMEA, ERCEA)

- Implementation of calls for proposals/ procurement procedures
- Management of funded projects
- Feedback to policy

# Project management lifecycles

## Grants



Call for proposals



Proposal submissions



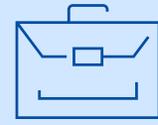
Evaluation & selection



Signature of grant agreements



Project monitoring



Dissemination of final results

## Procurement



Preparation of tender specifications



Publication of calls



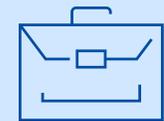
Submission of tenders



Evaluation of tenders



Opinion from the advisory committee on procurement and contracts (ACPC)



Award decision, signature and management of the ensuing contracts

# Thank you



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European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

## **Collaboration between ECDC, EARS-Net / EURGen-Net and the EURL-PH-AMR**

Anke Kohlenberg, ECDC

EURL-PH-AMR kick-off meeting, 20 March 2025

# ECDC networks vs. EURL-PH-AMR



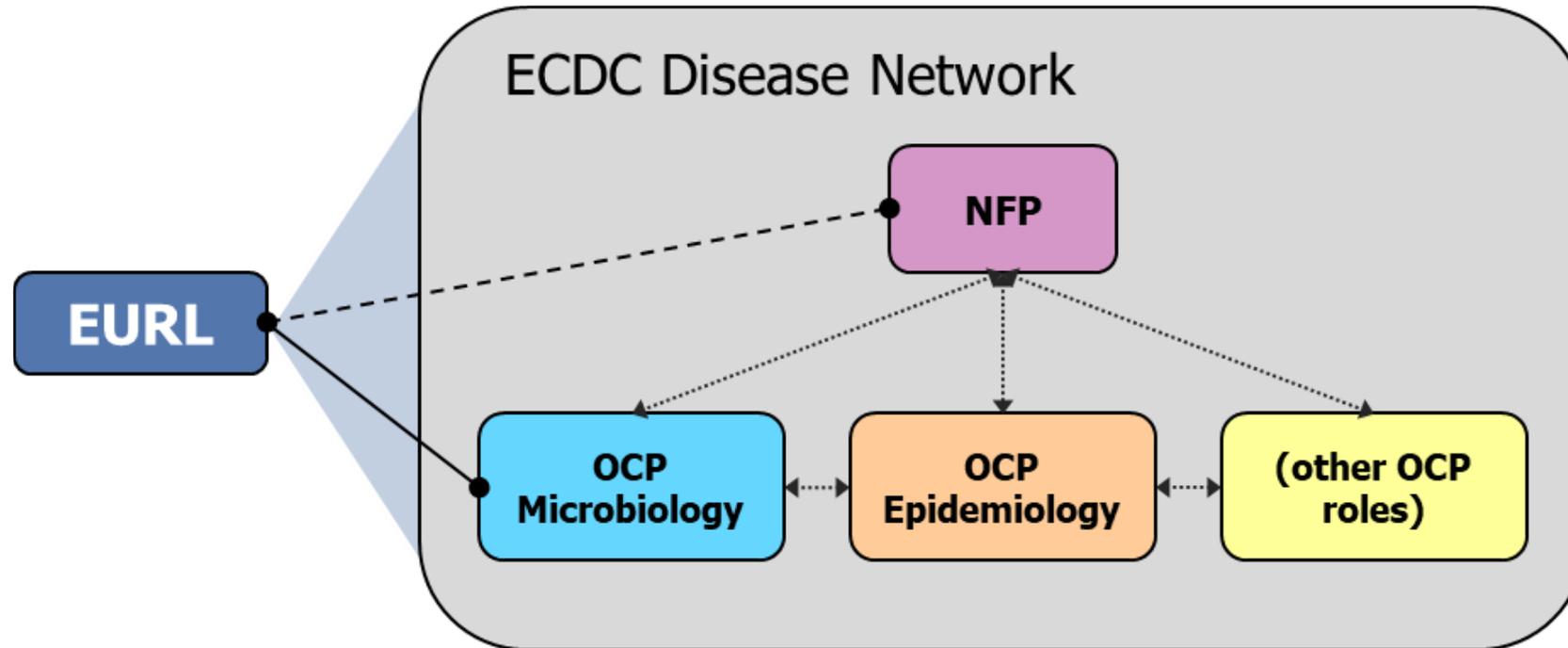
	ECDC EARS-Net and EURGen-Net	EURL-PH-AMR
<b>Legal basis</b>	Regulation (EU) 2022/2370 and Regulation (EU) 2022/2371	Regulation (EU) 2022/2371
<b>Coordination</b>	ECDC	Consortium SSI, DTU, EDL
<b>Funding</b>	ECDC	HaDEA grant (EU4Health)
<b>Main aim</b>	Phenotypic (EARS-Net) and genomic surveillance (EURGen-Net) of AMR	Laboratory support to AMR surveillance and related capacity building
<b>Duration</b>	EARS-Net 1998 - EURGen-Net 2017 -	2025 – (7-year funding)
<b>Main activities</b>	<b>Surveillance activities (including maintenance of related tools):</b> Phenotypic surveillance outputs, structured genomic surveys, multi-country outbreak investigations, rapid risk assessments	<b>Laboratory support activities:</b> Reference testing/material, EQAs, scientific advice and technical assistance, collaboration and research, training, outbreak support
<b>External contracts</b>	Strain collection and quality verification; DNA extraction; Whole genome sequencing; EUCAST; WHONET and EARS-Net support	NA

# EURL services for the networks/ECDC



Institution/network	Support/services from EURL-PH-AMR
<b>EARS-Net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phenotypic external quality assessment (EQA)</li><li>• Meeting for EARS-Net representatives</li></ul>
<b>EURGen-Net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reference testing/material resources</li><li>• Phenotypic EQA/genomic proficiency testing</li><li>• Scientific advice and technical assistance</li><li>• Collaboration and research activities</li><li>• Support to outbreak investigations</li><li>• Meeting for EURGen-Net representatives</li></ul>
<b>ECDC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protocols for phenotypic/genotypic testing</li><li>• Support to outbreak investigations</li><li>• Support to risk assessments</li></ul>

# Communication between EURL-PH-AMR and ECDC networks



The EURL will mainly communicate with the EARS-Net/EURGen-Net OCPs/CPOs for Microbiology and the (Observer) NFPs for AMR

# Main ECDC contact points for EURL-related questions



<b>Network/activity</b>	<b>Contact points</b>
<b>General EURL-related questions</b>	Anke.Kohlenberg@ecdc.europa.eu Marius.Linkevicius@ecdc.europa.eu EURL-PH@ecdc.europa.eu
<b>EARS-Net (EQA)</b>	Pete.Kinross@ecdc.europa.eu EARS-Net@ecdc.europa.eu
<b>EURGen-Net CRE</b>	Anke.Kohlenberg@ecdc.europa.eu Marius.Linkevicius@ecdc.europa.eu
<b>EURGen-Net CRAb/CRPa</b>	Pete.Kinross@ecdc.europa.eu Andreas.Hoefer@ecdc.europa.eu

# EURL-PH-AMR – main added value

- Regular yearly EQAs for EARS-Net (>900 clinical laboratories)
- Regular EURGen-Net EQAs and genomic proficiency testing (>30 national reference laboratories)
- Reference testing function (EURGen-Net) 
- Monitoring, alert notifications and support to outbreak response (EURGen-Net) 
- Training activities (EURGen-Net, continuation from EURGen-RefLabCap)
- Advisory function to NRLs and to ECDC including ad hoc advice, contribution to risk assessments (EURGen-Net) 
- Organisation of meetings related to EURL-PH-AMR activities/support with network representatives bi-annually

**Thank you**