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ANNEX 4

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2024

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ANNEX IV

CONTRIBUTING TO A HIGH LEVEL OF HEALTH FOR HUMANS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS ALONG THE FOOD CHAIN AND IN RELATED AREAS

1. INTRODUCTION

This work programme implements the specific objective of contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas. The work programme is subject to a positive opinion by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed established by Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

On the basis of the objectives specified in the Article 3(2)(e) of the Single Market Programme Regulation, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2023-2027, as follows:

- 1) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- 2) for procurements (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- 3) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- 4) for other actions or expenditure, a provision for payment of experts' remunerations or allowances (point 4).

Actions	Indicative amount for 2023	Indicative amount for 2024	Indicative amount for 2025	Indicative amount for 2026	Indicative amount for 2027
Grants	136 900 000	133 050 000	106 350 000	106 350 000	106 350 000
Procurements	39 249 000	-	-	-	-
Indirect management	5 850 000	3 450 000	3 450 000	1 800 000	-
Other actions	620 000	-	-	-	-
Total	182 619 000	136 500 000	109 800 000	108 150 000	106 350 000

1.1. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) 2017/826 (Single Market Programme) in particular Annex I thereof.

1.2. Budget line

03.0206

1.3. Objectives pursued

As laid down in Article (3)(2)(e) of the Single Market Programme Regulation, the general objective is to contribute to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants, and the safety of food and feed, including by preventing, detecting and eradicating animal diseases and plant pests, including by means of emergency measures in the event of large-scale crisis situations and unforeseeable events affecting animal or plant health, supporting the

improvement of the welfare of animals, the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the development of sustainable food production and consumption as well as by stimulating the exchange of best practices between stakeholders in those fields.

1.4. Expected results

The results expected by the Commission are the correct implementation of the actions described in Annex I of the Single Market Programme Regulation, namely:

1. Veterinary and phytosanitary emergency measures and programmes, including activities for the control of pests in the outermost regions which are excluded from the territorial scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031
2. Activities to support the improvement of the welfare of animals, including measures to ensure operators' compliance with animal welfare standards and traceability including during animal transport.
3. European Union reference laboratories referred to in Article 92 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Official Controls Regulation), and the European Union reference centres referred to in Articles 95 and 97 of the Official Controls Regulation and Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.
4. Coordinated control programmes and information and data collection, referred to in Article 112 of the Official Controls Regulation.
5. Activities for preventing food waste and combating food fraud.
6. Activities supporting sustainable food production and consumption, including short supply chains.
7. Development of data-bases and computerised information management systems necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of the legislation related to the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(e) and having a proven added value for the Union as a whole; implementation of new technologies to improve traceability of products.
8. The training of the staff of the competent authorities responsible for official controls and other parties involved in the management and/or prevention of animal diseases or plant pests, as referred to in Article 130 of the Official Controls Regulation, including activities for the control of pests in the outermost regions which are excluded from the territorial scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.
9. Travel, accommodation and daily subsistence expenses incurred by Member States' experts as a result of the Commission appointing them to assist its experts as provided for in Articles 116(4) and 120(4) of the Official Controls Regulation.
10. Technical and scientific work necessary to ensure the correct implementation of the legislation in the area related to the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(e) and the adaptation of that legislation to scientific, technological and societal developments, including studies and coordination activities necessary for the prevention of the appearance of emerging plant pests and animal diseases.
11. Activities carried out by the Member States or international organisations operating with the aim of achieving the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(e) in support of the development and implementation of the rules related to that objective.
12. Projects organised by one or more Member States with the aim of improving, through the use of innovative techniques and protocols, the efficient implementation of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(e).

13. Support to information and awareness raising initiatives by the Union and Member States aimed at ensuring improved, compliant and sustainable food production and consumption, including food waste prevention contributing to the circular economy and food fraud prevention activities, as well as other initiatives contributing to a high level of health for plants and animals, food and feed safety, within the implementation of the rules in the area of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(e).
14. Measures carried out to protect human, animal and plant health and animal welfare, applicable to animals, animal products, plants, plant products, and other relevant objects arriving from third countries at a Union border.
15. National plant and animal health reference laboratories where appropriate and without prejudice to the obligation for Member States to provide adequate financial resources for those national reference laboratories in accordance with the the Official Controls Regulation and on condition that the actions supporting the performance by those national reference laboratories of the official controls and official activities within the meaning of Article 2 of the Official Controls Regulation can be clearly shown to represent Union added value, and that sufficient funding is available under the Programme to support those actions.

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is **EUR 136 900 000** for the year 2023.

List of grants for 2023:

Action	Indicative date of launch	Indicative amount for 2023 (in EUR)
Coordinated Control Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) monitoring in commensal and zoonotic agents on samples of food and food-producing animals.	1 st semester 2023	3 000 000
Implementation of the collection and reporting of data on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals.	2 st semester 2023	6 750 000
EU support to Member States to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention programmes	1 st semester 2023	600 000
EU support to stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention in their operations	1 st semester 2023	3 000 000
Support European Food Bank Federation's capacity building	1 st semester 2023	100 000
EU support to EPPO in relation to the development of training material for EU operators to be authorised for the issuance of plant passports	1 st semester 2023	150 000
Activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres for 2023.	1 st semester 2023	21 000 000

Implementation of Emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests for 2023	1 st semester 2023	102 300 000
	Total	136 900 000

2.1. Coordinated Control Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) monitoring in commensal and zoonotic agents on samples of food and food-producing animals

2.1.1. Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants shall be awarded to Member States on the basis of Article 10(1)(g)(i) of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as foreseen in Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

2.1.2. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.1.3. Budget line

03.0206

The total budget for years 2023-2024 is EUR 6 000 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 3 000 000.

2.1.4. Description of the action

The monitoring of AMR in food and farmed animals conducted by Member States allows informing on the development and spread of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and supports decision-making on AMR. The current Decision on AMR monitoring (Decision 2020/1729) will run until 2027. The financing of this action would consist of reimbursing certain costs incurred by Member States for sampling and testing for AMR in food and food-producing animals.

There is an EU legal obligation (Commission Decision 2020/1729) for the implementation of monitoring by sampling and laboratory testing covering the entire year in order to be representative of the evolution of the Antimicrobial resistance in food. The economic consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the beneficiaries' budgets even further increases the need to ensure that there is no break at this time in the support of the said activities. Therefore, in accordance with Article 24(4), first subparagraph, of the Single Market Programme Regulation costs incurred before the date of submission of the grant application in respect of the activities of the AMR which have already begun may be considered eligible where it is necessary to ensure continuity. The costs incurred as from 01/01/2023 may be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

2.1.5. Objective

To ensure adequate implementation of the harmonised monitoring and reporting of AMR in 2023.

2.1.6. *Expected results*

Monitoring data generated by Member States will be forwarded to EFSA for scientific analysis to continue to respond effectively to the constantly evolving threat of AMR and to ensure continuity in assessing future trends in AMR. A scientific report will be published by EFSA, resulting in a reduction of the AMR burden in humans and animals.

2.1.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

2.1.8. *EU co-financing rate*

50% of the eligible costs for all Member States, except for Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90% of the Union average where the EU co-financing rate shall be 75% of the eligible costs in accordance with article 12 (5) (a) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.1.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action, consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated.

2.2. Implementation of the collection and reporting of data on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals for the period 2023-2027.

2.2.1. *Type of applicants targeted by the direct award*

Grants shall be awarded to Member States on the basis of Article 10(1)(g)(i) of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as foreseen in Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

2.2.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.2.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

The total budget for the full duration of the project (2022-2027) is EUR 32 400 000 to be paid by annual instalments¹ of maximum EUR 6 750 000 for the period 2022-2024 and EUR 4 050 000 for the period 2025-2027.

This section refers to the second annual instalment of the action.

2.2.4. *Description of the action*

The aim of the action is to support the Member States to allow for the funding of recruitment of staff to support the implementation of the data collection on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals (legal requirement under Art. 57 of Regulation (EU) 2019/6). Having efficient data collection systems set in place in due time in the Member States is crucial to monitor progress

¹ Article 112,2 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 and article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 December 2017.

towards the achievement of the Farm-to-Fork ('F2F') target on antimicrobial sales reduction in the EU. Being able to monitor progress allows Member States to propose new targeted measures according to the situation on the ground, thus supporting the achievement of the 'F2F' target by 2030.

2.2.5. *Objective*

To support Member States in the implementation of the data collection on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals.

2.2.6. *Expected results*

Setting up or developing data collection systems in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/6 and with the specific requirements set in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/578, will require sizeable efforts from Member States. Funding under this action of recruitment of staff by Member States will result in a timely and efficient operationalisation of the data collection systems, which is determinant to achieve the objectives described in the section above. Additional deliverables under this action are:

- recruitment of one IT staff and two admin staff to cover the needs over the period of 2022-2024 (more staff is needed over this period than over the following period, as the data collection systems need to be set up)
- recruitment of one IT staff and one admin staff to cover the needs over the period of 2025-2027

2.2.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.2.8. *EU co-financing rate*

100% of the eligible costs in accordance with Article 12(5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.2.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action, consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated.

2.3. EU support to Member States to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention programmes

2.3.1. *Type of applicants targeted by the direct award*

Grants shall be awarded to Member States on the basis of Article 10(1)(g)(i) of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as foreseen in Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

2.3.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.3.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

2.3.4. *Description of the action*

While Member States have legislative obligations to conduct monitoring of food waste starting from 2020, only a limited number have conducted such an exercise before. Therefore, there is a need for assistance to help Member States verify the efficiency of the current methods (in terms of cost and data quality) and help them improve the monitoring by addressing problems identified in the first year of reporting.

The grant proposal should include the field study/data collection exercise according to improved methodologies.

Member States proposals may address the whole food supply chain or focus on specific stages (hotspots). The improved monitoring will enable more accurate quantification of food waste levels and better implementation of food waste prevention programmes. The grant proposal should include the field study/data collection exercise according to improved methodologies.

2.3.5. *Objective*

To support Member States for testing and revising (improving) national/regional solutions used by Member States to measure food waste amounts on their respective territories in line with EU measurement methodology.

2.3.6. *Expected results*

Tested and improved national/regional food waste measurement methods including new data sets. Improved data quality and Member State capacity for future monitoring. More targeted food waste prevention activities undertaken at national level for improved results.

2.3.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.3.8. *EU co-financing rate*

50% of the eligible costs in accordance with Article 12(5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.3.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action, consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated.

2.4. EU support to Stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention in their operations and organisation

2.4.1. *Type of applicants targeted by a call for proposals*

Legally established organisations, public authorities, public sector bodies.

2.4.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.4.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

2.4.4. *Description of the action*

The action provides action grants for pilot and demonstration projects aimed at reduction of food waste, in particular projects which:

- develop, test and demonstrate innovative organisational/management/cooperative approaches (including social innovation);
- develop and demonstrate innovative technologies;
- develop, test and demonstrate monitoring of food waste at the level of industry/sector of food supply chain using a collaborative approach.

2.4.5. *Objective*

The objective of the action is to improve integration of food waste prevention in business operations, but also other type of actions such as the elaboration and implementation of food waste prevention guidelines, food waste monitoring programs, communication materials, development of new business models etc.

The European Commission is particularly looking for solutions and technologies and that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Project proposals should include an initial food waste diagnosis to understand the extent of the issue and should integrate food waste measurement as part of the assessment of the effectiveness of the food waste prevention initiatives proposed.

2.4.6. *Expected results*

Following the implementation of the grant, projects are expected to clearly identify the amounts of food waste reduced as a result of the action carried out. Deliverables should be prepared for further dissemination of the actions as “best practices”.

2.4.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.4.8. *EU co-financing rate*

50% of the eligible costs in accordance with Article 12 (5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.4.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action; Consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated (project design and implementation, project team and cooperation arrangements); Impact.

2.5. Support European Food Bank Federation’s capacity building

2.5.1. *Type of applicants targeted by the direct award*

A Grant shall be awarded to the European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA) on the basis of Article 10 of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as foreseen in Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation. The European Federation of Food Banks is the only EU-wide organisation which supports and coordinates the work of food banks in the EU/Europe.

2.5.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.5.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

2.5.4. *Description of the action*

FEBA is committed to the facilitation of food donation in the EU, including lifting of legal and operational barriers, whilst leveraging learning and best practices between its members. As focus on food waste prevention increases and more businesses engage in food donation activities, it is important that food banks continue to build their skills and capacity to recover and redistribute food in safe and efficient manner. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine pose new challenges for the recovery and redistribution of surplus food and have put increasing pressure on food banks as demand for food aid increases.

The direct grant to be awarded by DG SANTE would support activities related to food banks in order to facilitate food donation increase the share of surplus food made available for human consumption, thereby addressing both food insecurity and preventing food waste.

2.5.5. *Objective*

To facilitate food donation and support the sharing of best practice and learning amongst its member organisations, by addressing both food insecurity and preventing food waste.

2.5.6. *Expected results*

Increase FEBA's capacity to redistribute food fit for human consumption, which would be otherwise wasted and in this way contribute to the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy and sustainable development goal (SDG) - 12.3. Quantify the impact of food donation in the EU.

2.5.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.5.8. *EU co-financing rate*

50% of the eligible costs in accordance with Article 12(5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.5.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action, consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated, environmental, economic and social gains expected.

2.6. EU support to EPPO in relation to the development of training material for EU operators to be authorised for the issuance of plant passports

2.6.1. Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

A Grant shall be awarded to the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) on the basis of Article 10 of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as foreseen in Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation is the body best positioned to implement the activities, meet the objectives, and deliver the expected results with regards to its technical competence and high degree of specialisation.

2.6.2. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.6.3. Budget line

03.0206

2.6.4. Description of the action

EPPO is one of the Regional Plant Protection Organisations under the IPPC and is comprising 52 European and Mediterranean member countries, including all EU Member States. EPPO is dealing with plant quarantine as well as with plant protection (pesticides). On plant quarantine, EPPO a.o. provides pest datasheets and risk analysis, develops lists of pests proposed for regulation at national level, pest alert lists, risk management standards for specific pests and diagnostic protocols.

The grant aims to support EPPO for developing pest/crop specific guides for operators to facilitate their knowledge and capacity in order for them to be authorized by the MSs' Competent Authorities for the issuance of plant passports, and thus to facilitate the implementation of the related provisions of Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031. At the same time, to support MSs' capacities and provide harmonized guidance for the implementation of Regulation 2019/827.

2.6.5. Objective

The objective is to develop pest/crop specific guides for operators to facilitate their knowledge and capacity in order for them to be authorized by the MSs' Competent Authorities for the issuance of plant passports, and thus to facilitate the implementation of the related provisions of Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031. At the same time, to support Member States capacities and provide harmonized guidance for the implementation of Regulation 2019/827.

2.6.6. Expected results

Harmonized guidance available to be used by Member States in the framework of the implementation of Regulation 2019/827.

2.6.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.6.8. *EU co-financing rate*

50% of the eligible costs in accordance with Article 12(5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.6.9. *Award criteria*

Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the action, consistency and adequacy of the resources allocated.

2.7. Activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres in 2023-2024

2.7.1. *Type of applicants by direct award*

Grants shall be awarded to European Union reference laboratories (EURLs) referred to in Article 92 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and European Union reference centres referred to in Articles 95 and 97 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the European Union reference centres (EURCs) referred to in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the basis of Article 10(1)(g)(i) of the Single Market Programme Regulation and without a call for proposals as set out in Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

2.7.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.7.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

The total budget for years 2023-2024 is EUR 42 000 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 21 000 000.

2.7.4. *Description of the action*

For the period of application of this Annex the following activity areas are to be funded:

Pesticides:

- Development, validation and dissemination of new and improved methods for analysing pesticide residues in food of animal origin, high-fat content commodities, cereals, feeding stuff, fruits and vegetables;
- Provision of scientific and technical assistance to the Commission, including limits of quantification and residue definitions in the framework of the review of existing Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) as laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 396/2005, the setting of MRLs for new active substances on the basis of its Article 6, the deletion of MRLs following the revocation of authorisations for plant protection products (PPPs) on the basis of Article 17 of this Regulation;
- Provision of technical assistance for the preparation of the EU multi-annual coordinated programme for the monitoring of pesticide residues established annually under article 29 of Regulation (EC) 396/2005;

- Coordinating and drafting the update of document SANTE/11312/2021 on the analytical quality control and method validation procedures for pesticide residues analysis in food and feed;
- Providing national reference laboratories with details and guidance on the methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including reference methods;
- Providing reference materials to national reference laboratories;
- Organisation of proficiency tests and ensuring appropriate follow-up of such proficiency tests in accordance, where available, with internationally accepted protocols, and informing the Commission and the Member States of the results and follow-up to proficiency tests;
- Preparation, organisation and realisation of training courses, including workshops, for staff from national reference laboratories and, if needed, from other official laboratories, as well as of experts from third countries, including on-site visits to national reference laboratories demonstrating such need, as appropriate, depending on the outcome of their performance to the inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests;
- Maintenance and update of the EURLs website and online tools and databases in support of the national reference laboratories;
- Provision of scientific and technical assistance to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) including assistance in the review of MRLs of pesticides and research on new active substances;
- Participation in International Workshops and Collaboration with Standardisation bodies, as appropriate.

Contaminants:

- Ensuring reliability of analysis of persistent organic pollutants, metals, nitrogenous compounds, processing contaminants, mycotoxins and plant toxins in feed and food;
- Providing technical assistance to the Commission for the elaboration of EU legislation on performance criteria for methods of analysis to be used for official control and other regulatory activities;
- Providing national reference laboratories with details and guidance on the methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including reference methods;
- Organisation of proficiency tests and ensuring appropriate follow-up of such proficiency tests;
- Preparation, organisation and realisation of training courses, including workshops, for staff from national reference laboratories and, if needed, from other official laboratories, as well as of experts from third countries;
- Maintenance and update of the EURLs website;
- Participation in International Workshops and collaboration with Standardisation bodies, as appropriate;
- Development of methods of analysis of new (emerging) contaminants such as chlorinated paraffins, quinolizidine alkaloids, per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), mineral oil hydrocarbons, polychlorinated naphthalenes etc.

Residues:

- Ensuring reliability of analysis of residues of veterinary medicinal products;

- Method development and dissemination of methods of analysis for residues of veterinary medicinal products (including prohibited substances) in animals and products of animal origin;
- Technical assistance related to implementation of new rules as regards performance criteria of analytical methods;
- Development of guidance documents related to validation of analytical methods;
- Participation in International Workshops and collaboration with Standardisation bodies, as appropriate;
- Maintenance and update of the EURLs website;
- Technical assistance related to analytical aspects of residue monitoring.

Biological Risks:

- Evaluation of new high quality analytical methods for biological hazards;
- Improvement of existing methods for biological hazards;
- Molecular characterisation of isolates from outbreak investigations;
- Delivery of training, information, updates to national reference laboratories (NRLs) and third countries;
- Cooperation among EURLs on biological risks to develop harmonised procedures for the application of molecular typing methods and to organise trainings on molecular typing analyses. A transition from traditional analytical methods to whole genome sequencing is expected in the coming years making this cooperation and support a priority;
- Development, validation and dissemination of new and improved methods for biological hazards, including methods to characterise with precision the nature of animal protein detected in feed for farmed animals in terms of species and tissue.

Food Contact materials:

- Development, validation, deployment and inter-laboratory comparison of modular multi-analytical methods;
- Support to EFSA in the verification of methods supplied by applicants to the extent required by applicable legislation;
- Development of screening methods and as far as relevant the use of analytical markers and libraries to support the new Regulation on plastic recycling and possible future policies on Food Contact materials, as well as initiation and follow-up of such developments where that is more efficiently done external to the EURL;
- Other support in the context of the development of new policies in the context of the impact assessment of Food Contact materials to the extent that aspects of these policies are in the field of competence of the EURL.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs):

- Assist the Commission on authorisation of regulated products under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed through the validation of the detection methods, the assessment of the appropriateness of the certified reference materials, and bioinformatic support;
- Organise proficiency tests for NRLs, including the required follow up, or inter-laboratory comparative studies, as relevant and agreed;
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the NRLs through the provision of details and guidance on analytical methods

- Development of analytical methods for genetically modified organism (GMO) detection (with particular reference to high-throughput analytical methods and dissemination to NRLs);
- Delivery of guidance, training, information, updates to NRLs and third countries through the organisation of annual workshops and using the dedicated CIRCA-BC platform;
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to other organisations such as CEN through the development of European standards (analytical methods) and the participation to expert meetings on feed additives analysis;
- Bioinformatic support to the Commission for the implementation of the GMO legislation;
- Technical assistance to the Commission related to analytical aspects for the implementation of GMOs.

Feed additives:

- Organise proficiency tests, including the required follow up, or inter-laboratory comparative studies, as relevant and agreed; The proficiency tests will focus on preservatives, antioxidants and other zootechnical additives.
- Provide NRLs with relevant pure chemical standards of the feed additives' active substances or reference test materials;
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the NRLs through the provision of details and guidance on analytical methods via training and regular update of the web-based analytical methods overview and via the set-up of a web-based collection of high resolution mass spectrometry spectra for selected feed additives;
- Facilitate the dissemination of information, exchange of views and interaction between the EURL, NRLs and national control laboratories through the organisation of annual workshops and using the dedicated CIRCA-BC platform;
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission through the development of high quality and reliable analytical methods for the determination in feed of antibiotics at cross-contamination level and of p-phenetidine;
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to other organisations such as CEN through the development of European standards (analytical methods) and the participation to expert meetings on feed additives analysis;
- Provide cross-linking with Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 by facilitating the knowledge exchange between the two NRL networks Feed additives authorisation (FAA) and Feed additives control (FAC).

Plant Health:

- Improve, validate and disseminate diagnostic methods for a list of quarantine plant pests, potential quarantine pests or other emerging pests. This list is prepared by the Commission and discussed during the Standing Committee and based on the phytosanitary situation in the Union territory and on the most threatening pests related to trade from third countries.
- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the Commission, as regards the effectiveness and the reliability of available diagnostic methods, including methods to be used in legal acts aiming at protecting the Union territory.

- Provide scientific and technical assistance to the Member States, including for confirmatory official tests;
- Organise proficiency tests per year, including the required follow-up, or test performance studies, as relevant;
- Conduct training courses for experts of NRLs or for the competent authorities on relevant issues related to the new or improved diagnostic methods as referred to in the first indent, or on specific topics requested by NRLs or competent authorities;
- In relation to the diagnostics methods and the pests selected in the first indent, establish and maintain reagents stock when applicable, and reference collections of plant pests or of reference specimen; prepare and distribute to the NRLs the reagents and the reference material used in diagnostic methods for testing or verification of their quality;
- Collaborate with laboratories in third countries as regards the implementation of diagnostic methods to be applied for imports into the Union territory, including the organization of trainings;
- Collaborate with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) as regards implementation of diagnostic methods.

Animal Health:

- Provision of scientific and technical assistance to the Commission in the area of competence of the EURL;
- Development and implementation of high quality analytical methods specific to the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of notifiable and regulated diseases regarding outbreaks, epidemiological investigations and control measures (e.g. characterisation of the pathogen, vaccine matching);
- Development and regular update of EURL websites to ensure that they include the relevant details and guidance for the techniques, validation and interpretation of the diagnostic methods;
- Activities related to the preparation and distribution of standard operating procedures (SOPs), reference standards and other biological reagents for serological and agent identification tests;
- Molecular and biological characterisation of isolates of pathogens from outbreaks, sequence data banks and vaccine matching results;
- Development of harmonised procedures for the application of up-to-date methods that are applied for disease diagnosis (e.g. methods applied for molecular and serological investigations) as well as for characterization of the infectious agent (e.g. molecular typing methods) and organise corresponding trainings;
- Timely sharing of data and information in particular of genetic sequences or any other relevant characteristic of the isolated pathogens;
- Where relevant for the area of competence, establishing and maintaining reference collections of pathogen strains and reference substances and reagents;
- Quality controls of vaccines in EU vaccine banks, including safety, efficacy, sterility etc.

Animal welfare:

- Provision of scientific and technical assistance to the Commission in the area of animal welfare;
- Provision of scientific and technical assistance to the relevant national support networks and bodies and competent authorities in the area of animal welfare, e.g. by replying to enquiries and by organising annual meetings;
- Collaboration with Union and third country research bodies in the field of animal welfare, e.g. in the development and assessment of animal welfare indicators and baselines in terms of animal welfare;
- Collaboration with scientific national and international fora and organisations working on animal welfare;
- Coordination amongst the EU animal welfare reference centres to align and standardise working methods;
- Conducting surveys in the Member States with the aim to identify knowledge gaps and assess potential training needs;
- Development or coordination of development of animal welfare indicators and of methods for the assessment of the level of welfare of animals and of methods for the improvement of the welfare of animals, e.g. by preparing reviews and factsheets about indicators for animal welfare assessment, by the identification of 'Iceberg' indicators such as for the assessment of 'fit for transport';
- Carrying out scientific or technical studies on the welfare of animals used for commercial or scientific purposes;
- Identify appropriate training methodologies and strengthen continuous learning as levers to increase the effectiveness of official controls in the EU in the relevant areas and welfare of species covered by the EURCs;
- Reviewing existing training activities and materials, assess knowledge, skills and competence gaps in the EU in order to then develop training materials for specific topics;
- Conducting training courses on topics identified in need;
- Disseminating research findings and technical innovations, in particular by implementing and maintaining websites of the centres providing specific topic folders and publishing studies and materials on the homepages as well as on social media and by publishing and disseminating newsletters;
- Evaluation of dissemination activities following the 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' model to monitor engagement metrics (e.g. Google Analytics and Twitter Analytics) for the website and social media and adapt content to optimise engagement;
- Support the Commission and Member States regarding requests related to the stunning, killing and transport of farmed fish.

Zootechnics:

- Working with breed societies and third parties designated by breed societies, competent authorities and other authorities of the Member States to facilitate:
 - (a) the uniform application of methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation for purebred breeding animals of the bovine species and informing them on methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species, and
 - (b) the preservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds;
- Regular revision of the results of performance testing and genetic evaluations of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species carried out by breed societies or third parties designated by those breed societies and of the data on which they are based;

- Comparing methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species;
- Providing trainings to support breed societies or third parties designated by those breed societies, competent authorities and other authorities:
 - a) which are participating in international comparisons of the results of genetic evaluations of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species;
 - b) in the preservation of endangered breeds and the preservation of genetic diversity within those breeds;
- Development and harmonisation of the methods used for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity within those breeds or assistance in such development or harmonisation;
- Development of the methods used for the characterisation of the status of endangered breeds with regard to their genetic diversity or their danger of being lost to farming or assistance in such development;
- Facilitating the resolution of emerging problems in Member States linked to the genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species.

Implementation of Article 24(4) of the Single Market Programme Regulation: activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres have started many years ago, are, and need to be, continuous; any break in the support of the said activities could result in the loss of the benefit of the actions EU funded during the previous years. The economic consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the beneficiaries' budgets even further increase the need to ensure that there is no break at this time in the support of the said activities. The costs incurred as from 01/01/2023 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

2.7.5. *Objective*

EURLs, EURCs, national reference laboratories (NRLs), national support networks and bodies (which include National Reference Centres – NRCs) and competent authorities in the Member States form a network with an important role, both in the case of emergencies and in times of “business as usual”. The network is thus a priority for the Commission.

The activities expected to be performed should support the related objectives of Union legislation. To ensure this the activities need to be specified in a work programme and priorities need to be identified. That said, some flexibility needs to be provided for activities resulting from non-predictable events (e.g. food contamination, adulteration or fraud, emerging diseases (e.g. zoonotic), re-emergence of diseases, introduction of new diseases and newly emerging plant pests).

For the period of application of this Annex the following general priority areas are specified:

- The provision of certified reference material and methods of laboratory analysis:
 - to detect and quantify chemical, biological and microbiological hazards (chemicals, contaminants, pesticides, pathogens),
 - to detect the presence of unauthorised GMOs in food and feed and to detect and quantify authorised GMOs in view of enabling the verification of compliance with the GMO legislation,
 - to detect unauthorised substances or the unauthorised use of authorised substances,
 - to develop and validate methods of diagnosis for regulated and where considered necessary, unregulated plant pests and diseases;
- The development of methods to detect fraudulent practices;

- The development of methods to characterise with precision the nature of animal protein detected in feed for farmed animals in terms of species and tissue;
- Through timely communication of relevant information ensure the use of adequate methods of laboratory analysis when tolerances (maximum levels/maximum limits, migration limit) are modified or new reference methods are introduced in legislation;
- To advise on improved official control requirements on animal welfare rules (e.g. on transport, slaughter and farming) to better meet the specific needs of animals guarantying their welfare.

The general objective of the action is to contribute to public, animal and plant health, to food safety, to animal welfare and to the quality of animals, plants and goods produced and traded in the agri-food chain, by ensuring the availability of harmonised, high quality and reliable methods of laboratory analysis, test, diagnosis, methods used for the genetic evaluation and performance testing, or for the characterisation of the status of endangered breeds, and by ensuring their correct implementation by National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), by official laboratories in official controls, investigations, other official activities and by breed societies carrying out approved breeding programmes.

The specific objectives are:

- to maintain and improve effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls and other official activities, and thus support the enforcement of compliance with applicable legislation;
- to contribute to a timely detection and eradication of diseases and pests;
- to ensure the availability and uniform application of methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation for purebred breeding animals of the bovine species and methods used for the characterisation of the status of endangered breeds with regard to their genetic diversity or their danger of being lost to farming.

Furthermore, the Commission has the following operational objectives:

Operational objective 1: To ensure availability of harmonised, efficient and reliable methods of laboratory analysis, test or diagnosis and their correct implementation by Members States' NRLs in official controls, and investigations and other official activities.

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) provide NRLs with details and guidance on the methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including reference methods;
- b) upload in their websites the relevant details and guidance for the techniques, validation and interpretation of the diagnostic methods;
- c) provide reference materials to NRLs;
- d) coordinate practical arrangements (including validation) necessary to apply new methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis and informing the NRLs of advances in this field;
- e) organise regular inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests and by ensuring appropriate follow-up (including individual trainings in laboratory diagnosis) of such comparative testing or proficiency tests in accordance, where available, with internationally accepted protocols. Inform the Commission and the Member States of the results (e.g. by presenting and discussing the results on a workshop) and follow-up to the inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests;
- f) ensure the cooperation among EURLs, with NRLs and with the Commission.

Operational objective 2: To ensure the availability of scientific and technical assistance for NRLs.

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) provide Member States' NRLs with details and guidance on developments in their field and in particular on new methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including the practical arrangements necessary to apply these methods;
- b) provide information to NRLs on research activities in their area of competence (e.g. during workshops, trainings);
- c) conduct training courses for staff of NRLs and, if appropriate, staff of other official laboratories and experts from third countries.

Operational objective 3: To provide scientific and technical assistance within the scope of their mission to the Commission and collaborate with laboratories in third countries and with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) provide scientific and technical assistance to the Commission within the area of competence;
- b) ensure the collaboration of EURLs/EURCs in within the area of competence and in view of the general and specific objectives of their work programme with laboratories/centres in Member States, third countries, EFSA, EMA, ECDC and WOAH;
- c) assist actively in the diagnosis and investigation of outbreaks of foodborne, zoonotic or animal diseases, or of pests of plants diseases by carrying out epizootic studies on pathogen isolates or pest specimens; in the case of pests of plants performing confirmatory diagnosis characterisation and where necessary, wider taxonomic studies;
- d) establish and maintain: reference collections of pests of plants and/or reference strains of pathogenic agents; reference collections of test results; reference collections of substances to manufacture materials intended to come into contact with food used to calibrate analytical equipment and provide samples thereof to NRLs; up-to-date lists of available reference substances and reagents and of manufacturers and suppliers of such substances and reagents.

Operational objective 4: To provide scientific and technical expertise within the scope of their mission in the form of coordinated assistance to relevant national support networks and bodies in the area of welfare requirements for animals.

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) provide scientific and technical assistance to relevant national support networks and bodies in the area of animal welfare,
- b) develop and apply the animal welfare indicators, develop methods for the assessment of animal welfare and its improvement;
- c) carry out scientific and technical studies on animal welfare of animals;

- d) develop training materials and conduct training courses in the area of animal welfare for staff of the national support networks or bodies, of staff of the competent authorities and of experts from third countries;
- e) disseminate research findings and technical innovations and collaborate with Union research bodies in the in the area of animal welfare within the framework of the general and specific objectives of their work programme.

Operational objective 5: To ensure the availability of scientific and technical assistance for breeding societies, third parties designated by breed societies and competent authorities:

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) develop and/or harmonise methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation for purebred breeding animals of the bovine species, review regularly and compare the results of performance testing and genetic evaluations carried out by breed societies or third parties designated by those breed societies and the data on which they are based;
- b) facilitate the uniform application of methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation for purebred breeding animals of the bovine species for breed societies, third parties designated by breed societies and competent authorities;
- c) develop and/or harmonise methods used for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity within those breeds or provide assistance in such development or harmonisation;
- d) develop methods used for the characterisation of the status of endangered breeds with regard to their genetic diversity or their danger of being lost to farming or provide assistance in such development;
- e) facilitate the preservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds.

Operational objective 6: To ensure a sound and efficient management of the EURL/EURC funding cycle.

Measures and activities for the implementation of the objective:

- a) to collect, verify, and validate EURL/EURCs work programmes;
- b) to control and verify financial expenditure;
- c) to communicate with EURLs/EURCs for the execution of their work programmes;
- d) to evaluate the EURLs/EURCs technical and financial report;
- e) to support the EURLs/EURCs for the preparation of their work programmes.

2.7.6. *Expected results*

The implementation of the objectives listed above shall be measured by the following indicators and expected results.

Operational Objective	Indicators	Expected results
1	Availability of harmonised, efficient and reliable methods of laboratory analysis, test or diagnosis. Number of available methods, new laboratory methods	All NRLs implemented methods of laboratory analysis, test or diagnosis correctly and participate in proficiency and comparative tests.

	<p>developed or laboratory methods improved.</p> <p>Number of laboratory methods for which details and guidance as regards their techniques, validation and interpretation are available in the EURL website.</p> <p>Number and scope of proficiency and comparative tests organised by EURL. Success rate of NRLs/OLs in proficiency and comparative tests. Number of corrective actions undertaken.</p>	<p>NRLs have published the expected number of laboratory methods, including detail and guidance as regards their techniques, validation and interpretation in the EURL website.</p> <p>All NRLs and where necessary official laboratories completed proficiency and comparative tests successfully. Corrective actions implemented.</p>
2	Number of technical requests provided by EURLs to NRLs.	Timely and adequate response to technical assistance enquiries of NRLs.
3	<p>Number of technical and scientific enquires requested from the Commission.</p> <p>Number of collaboration activities with other organisations.</p>	Timely and adequate response to scientific and technical enquiries of the Commission and adequate collaboration with other organisations.
4	<p>Availability of updated, reliable and consistent technical data, research findings, new techniques and expertise necessary for the correct application of EU legislation in the field of animal welfare.</p> <p>Number and quality of technical and scientific studies and materials developed and/or updated and number of enquires requested from national support networks and bodies and competent authorities.</p> <p>Number of training and collaboration activities with national support networks and bodies and competent authorities.</p> <p>Development of a quality assurance system in EURC.</p>	<p>Efficient contribution to the performance of official controls and other official activities which are aimed at identifying possible violations to the rules.</p> <p>Timely and adequate development and/or update of technical and scientific studies and materials. Timely and adequate response to scientific and technical enquiries of national support networks and bodies and competent authorities.</p> <p>Adequate training and collaboration with national support networks and bodies and competent authorities. Uniform dissemination of knowledge on critical animal welfare issues in Member States</p> <p>Application and regular evaluation of the quality assurance system.</p>
5	<p>Availability of harmonised methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species, and methods used for the preservation of endangered breeds and the preservation of genetic diversity within those breeds.</p> <p>Number of technical requests provided by EURCs to breed societies, third parties and</p>	<p>The results of performance testing and genetic evaluations carried out by breed societies or third parties designated by those breed societies reviewed and compared.</p> <p>Efficient contribution to the preservation of endangered breeds and the preservation of genetic diversity within those breeds.</p> <p>Timely and adequate response to technical</p>

	competent authorities.	assistance enquiries of breed societies, third parties and competent authorities.
6	Timelines and level of completion of necessary steps of EURL/EURC programmes' funding cycle.	Timely and completed funding cycle.

2.7.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.7.8. *EU co-financing rate*

100% of the eligible costs in accordance with article 12(5)(b)(ii) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.7.9. *Award criteria*

- Conformity to the Commission's work programme for the respective period;
- Consistency of the programme with the objectives and expected results listed in point 2.6.5. and 2.6.6.;
- The overall quality of the programme, i.e. the relevance of the planned activities (type and impact of actions proposed) taking into account the specific activity field of the EURL/EURC.
- Any of the situations of exclusion listed in Articles 136 to 141 and of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 will be used as exclusion criteria.

2.8. Implementation of emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests for 2023

2.8.1. *Type of applicants targeted by the direct award*

- bodies identified by the basic act, within the meaning of Article 58 of the Financial Regulation (FR), as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 195(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046
- bodies with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly situation within the meaning of Article 195 (d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046
- for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals, within the meaning of Article 195 (f) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046

2.8.2. *Legal basis*

Regulation (EU) 2020/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

2.8.3. *Budget line and retroactivity*

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In accordance with Article 13 of the Single Market Programme Regulation, emergency measures

- shall be eligible prior to the date of submission of the grant application in accordance with in Article 193(2), second subparagraph, point (b) of the Financial Regulation;
- shall be eligible from the date of the suspected occurrence of an animal disease or the presence of a plant pest, provided that that occurrence or presence is subsequently confirmed.

2.8.4. *Description of the action*

The activities to be funded are described in the Single Market Programme Regulation, and in particular Annex I points 1.1, 1.2. and 1.3.

Eligible costs

In accordance with Article 13(2) of the Single Market Programme Regulation, the financial contribution by the Union shall cover the eligible costs related to the implementation of the emergency measures to combat animal diseases and plant pests; these eligible costs are listed in part 1.4.1 (veterinary emergency measures) and 1.4.2 (phytosanitary emergency measures) of Annex I to the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.8.5. *Objective*

The objectives of the actions are to combat animal diseases or plant pests by applying emergency measures in accordance with part 1 of Annex I of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.8.6. *Expected results*

The results expected by the Commission of the action referred to under the “objective” section are the avoidance of further spread of the animal diseases and plant pests and, when they appear on the Union territory, their fast eradication.

2.8.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by DG SANTE

2.8.8. *EU co-financing rate*

According to Article 12(5) of the Single Market Programme Regulation, the general rate for grants shall be **20%** of the eligible costs which shall be increased to **30%** of the eligible costs in respect of:

- a) Cross-border activities implemented together by two or more Member States in order to control, prevent or eradicate diseases and pests.

The potential application of point (a) will depend on the programme submitted. How Member States will cooperate should be clearly described in the programme.

- b) Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90% of the Union average.

The above co-financing rate may be increased, upon availability of resources, up to, respectively, 50% and 75% of the eligible costs.

The general rate shall be increased to **100%** of the eligible costs where the activities benefitting from the Union contribution concern the prevention and control of serious human, plant and animal health risks for the Union, and:

- a) are designed to avoid human casualties or major economic disruptions for the Union as a whole;
- b) are implemented in third countries.

In accordance with Article 12(5)(c) of the Single Market Programme Regulation, where that is necessary on the grounds of budgetary unavailability, insufficient implementation of the programme or the emergency measure, or the phasing-out of the co-financing of actions against animal diseases or plant pests the co-financing rates shall be lower. The amount of the reduction in the co-financing rates shall reflect the significance of the grounds for a lower rate. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts establishing lower co-financing rates. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with Article 21(6) of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

2.8.9. *Award criteria*

The award criteria for the financial contribution by the Union are:

- a) compliance with the requirements of the relevant Union law;
- b) relevance of the planned activities in view of the prevention or eradication of the animal diseases and plant pests;
- c) activities related to prevention or eradication of plant pests during the first year after the detection of the outbreak.

Any new outbreak detected in 2022 and outbreaks detected after 1 January 2023 should be eligible for co-funding under the emergency measures described in this Section, subject to budget availability and for the first year only. From the second year of the outbreak onwards, co-funding should be introduced under the *phytosanitary programmes* described in Section 2.7., together with the survey activities.

The Commission will inform Member States about the respective procedures, prior to the submission applications, reports and requests for payments. Rules, procedures and further guidelines as regards the practical modalities for the submission, assessment, award and payment of these activities will be made available on DG SANTE website https://ec.europa.eu/food/funding/food-chain-funding_en".

3. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary envelope reserved for procurement activities in 2023 is **EUR 39 249 000**.

3.1. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

3.2. Budget line

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3.3. Indicative list of envisaged contracts

Actions	Indicative timing (launching)	Estimated No of contracts	Type of contract
<p>Better Training for Safer Food aims at financing the training of the competent authorities' staff responsible for official controls in the fields of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant health.</p> <p>The operational objectives pursued are to develop, organise and manage the training programmes in the identified areas in order to ensure high level of competence amongst control staff, make official controls more uniform, objective and efficient throughout the Union, contribute to a greater uniformity of control procedures between EU and non-EU partners and help to the establishment of sustainable food systems across the EU.</p>	1 st semester 2023	8 to 16	<p>Call for tender/direct contracts and/or specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procurement procedures.</p> <p>Implemented by the Executive Agency.</p>
<p>Study supporting implementation of use of surplus food – assessment of barriers to food donation and use of avoided food waste to produce feed</p>	1 st semester 2023	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract, direct contract or administrative arrangement</p>
<p>Regulated non-quarantine pests(RNQPs) assessment project</p>	1 st semester 2023	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract</p>
<p>Study on the invertebrate biocontrol agents</p>	1 st semester 2023	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract</p>
<p>Supply of live attenuated vaccine against Lumpy Skin disease</p>	1 st semester	1	<p>Direct contract</p>

	2023		
Supply of live attenuated vaccine against Peste des Petits Ruminants	1 st semester 2023	1	Direct contract
EU support to the Commission expert group “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) One Health Network (AMR-OHN)”	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract
Animal Welfare Conference at the occasion of the adoption of the Commission proposals for the revised animal welfare legislation	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract
Consumer segmentation study on food waste prevention and date marking	1 st semester 2023	1	Administrative arrangement or specific contract using an existing framework contract
Support to DG SANTE on the monitoring framework of Farm to Fork Strategy	1 st semester 2023	1	Administrative arrangement
Technical support to combat agri-food fraud	1 st semester 2023	1	Administrative arrangement
Circular products and materials flows in a resilient economy	1 st semester 2023	1	Administrative arrangement
Translation of guidance documents, manuals, reports, and provisions for Member States	1 st semester 2023	1	Service Level Agreement
EU support to the Commission Expert Group “EU Platform on Animal Welfare” (the Platform)	1 st semester	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or

	2023		direct contract
Study on the monitoring of the EU animal welfare policy	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract
Supporting the production and use of sustainable Food Contact Material	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract
Overview on biology and ecology of micro-organism species potentially used as active substances in plant protection products	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract.
Systematic literature review on environmental occurrence and population levels of micro-organism species used as active substances in plant protection products	1 st semester 2023	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Participation in major European food fairs and EU Open Day	1 st semester 2023	1 to 3	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or low value procedures. Co-delegation to DG AGRI.
Annual service fee for Drupal web content management system.	1 st semester 2023	1 to 3	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or low value procedures. Co-delegation to DG DIGIT.
Horizontal communication activities in the Food and Feed area.	2 nd semester 2023	3 to 5	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or low value procedures.
Policy related communication activities in the Food and Feed area.	1 st semester	1 to 4	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or

	2023		low value procedures
Maintenance and up-grade of existing information systems for official controls, including RASFF/ AAC/FF and integration of system components in “Information Management System for Official Controls” (IMSOC) including digitalization studies	1 st semester 2023	40 to 50	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Maintenance and further improvement of the existing information systems for plant varieties ‘PLANT CATALOGUES’ (e.g. FRUMATIS, FOREMATIS, and integration in and further development of the portal “Plant Variety Lists” (PLAVARLIS).	1 st semester 2023	4 to 6	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Maintenance and further improvement of the existing information systems implementing the Transparency Regulation for food and feed safety, supporting the implementation of legal provisions on food information and composition, Food Innovation Portal (FIP), (GENERAL FOOD LAW) and food production, processing, losses and waste and Health Agencies Collaboration (HPAC) and Plant protection and pesticides (PPPAMS,PIMS).	1 st semester 2023	30 to 45	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Use and maintenance of existing IT tools supporting the collection and treatment of data (statistics and reporting services) relevant for the Food and Feed Safety area.	1 st semester 2023	2 to 4	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Provision of technical assistance to operational policies, the procurement of software and infrastructure and the IT governance and management of external service providers. Development and maintenance of information systems, project management, business analysis, quality control, documentation and support.	1 st semester 2023	25 to 40	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Maintenance and evolution of Information Systems to support	1 st semester	12 to 16	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or

FVO operations (MISDOC/IMSA and Country Profiles)	2023		low value procedures
Farm to fork – food labelling – IT support	1 st semester 2023	2-4	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures
Support to Europhyt	1 st semester 2023	8-12	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures

3.4. Implementation

The actions will be implemented directly by DG SANTE, HaDEA or by the indicated codelegations and sub-delegations.

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope for actions implemented under indirect management is respectively EUR 5 850 000 for 2023, EUR 3 450 000 for 2024, EUR 3 450 000 for 2025 and EUR 1 800 000 for 2026.

4.1. Financial contribution to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for activities carried out for the control of foot-and-mouth disease (EuFMD)

4.1.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The FAO is the only organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.1.2. Description of the action

Financial contribution towards the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations for activities delivered by the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) aiming at assisting the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outside the Union and supporting awareness and preparedness activities for all EuFMD Member Nations.

Considering the opportunity to implement sensible and cost-effective combination of actions and without negatively impacting on the core objective of EuFMD, additional transboundary animal diseases have been included in the preparedness and risk reduction activities, according to the threat posed to the Member Nations. The additional diseases, which are included in the EuFMD mandate as per its amended Constitution, are lumpy skin disease, peste des petits ruminants, Rift Valley fever, rinderpest and sheep pox and goat pox. The enlargement of the scope of EuFMD activities has been included in the EuFMD Constitution adopted by Member Nations in April 2022 and is expected to enter into force with the concurrence of the Council of FAO in December 2022.

The EuFMD/FAO has established a strategic plan comprising three pillars.

The first pillar aims at the improvement of readiness for FMD crisis management in the 39 Member Nations, which include all EU Member States, notably through real-time training of group of European experts in FMD crisis management, support for contingency planning, development of decision support tools for disease control managers and a programme for the development of an early warning and disease management system focussing mainly in the highest risk areas for the EU such as the Thraces region.

The second pillar aims at the reduction of risks to Member Nations from the FMD situation in the European neighbourhood through the progressive control of FMD in neighbouring regions, mainly the areas bordering the Member Nations Georgia, Turkey and Israel, but also the countries in the North of Africa.

The third pillar aims at the promotion of the global strategy of progressive control of FMD through expert support to FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the work of the World Reference Laboratory for FMD.

Each pillar includes a mechanism for emergency response to a FMD crisis, including the delivery of emergency courses, the supply of diagnostic reagents and kits, the provision of expertise and other support to regions that represent a risk to Member Nations.

A strategic workplan 2019-2023 is being delivered with consistent achievements. The new strategy 2023-2027 foresees to continue the successful work and to use, based on a recommendation of GF-TADs, synergies for the preparedness of veterinary services to prevent and where necessary to control certain other transboundary animal diseases (TADs) of similar epidemiology affecting ruminants, in line with the EUFMD Constitution. Activities aimed at improving awareness and prevention, preparedness and response, surveillance and control of FMD and similar TADs will be tailored to the different needs identified in Europe, its neighbouring regions and other areas considered to pose a risk for Europe.

The further exploitation of the existing EuFMD training platform and the digitalisation of certain priority tools and systems will ensure enhancement of preparedness for FMD and for other threats posed by similar TADs. The strategy will contribute to the global FMD control strategy as part of the actions aimed at constantly monitoring the FMD spread, maintaining global virus intelligence and identification of necessary risk mitigation measures for Europe (e.i. vaccine strains)

Objective

Co-financing assistance to implement control measures and training to enhance preparedness of EuFMD Member Nations, , and in neighbouring countries and other high risk areas in Europe.

Expected results

Improved preparedness of EU and non-EU Member Nations of EuFMD for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and similar transboundary animal diseases of ruminants, and reduced risk of incursion of those diseases into the EU.

Budget:

EUR 2 600 000 for 2023, EUR 1 800 000 for 2024, EUR 1 800 000 for 2025, EUR 1 800 000 for 2026

For 2023 the financial contribution is to be split as follows :

- a. EUR 800 000 last instalment of the 2019-2023 agreement
- b. EUR 1 800 000 first annual instalment of the new agreement to be signed, covering the period 2023-2027

Further annual contributions shall be based on the financial report produced by the European Commission for the Control of Foot-And-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) to either the annual Session of the Executive Committee or the biennial General Session of the EuFMD, supported by detailed documentation in accordance with the rules of the FAO and the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement for Union funding of FAO activities.

4.2. EU support to the FAO as regarding the Codex Planetarius: supporting a discussion towards global consensus on minimum sustainability standards for agrifood systems

4.2.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The FAO is the only

organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.2.2. *Description of the action*

Food systems already represent the biggest impact of any human activity on the planet, and to feed our growing population without increasing our environmental footprint, will require us to use 60% fewer resources than we do today. Therefore, the agrifood system of the future needs to conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources sustainably minimising impact on climate change, and deliver healthy and nutritious diets to a growing population in the context of rapid global urbanisation, especially in developing regions. The EU Farm to Fork Strategy itself aims to accelerate our transition towards such a sustainable food system in support of the European Green Deal.

This action would complement and leverage an ongoing funding effort by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) within the GEF-7 Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Programme (FOLUR-IP) on the CP managed by FAO.

The Codex Planetarius (CP) would protect Planetary health, in the same way the existing Codex Alimentarius protects human health and food safety. The work, will aim to define and confirm the need for a minimum sustainability standards to harmonize and prioritise the efforts of the diverse commodity-specific sustainability standards. A proof of concept will be developed and explored through some a set of feasibility studies and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Objective

The objective of the action is to review and analyse potential governance and scientific advice structures/mechanisms for the set of sustainability standards, to explore possible options and scenarios, building on the experience of existing standard-setting bodies in food and agriculture. For example:

- If and how sustainability standards could be integrated into and/or linked to the Codex Alimentarius;
- Transferable lessons to establish a similar set of sustainability standards: key partners to engage, explore ways and means to establish a new parallel Codex to host a minimum set of sustainability standards, pathways for national implementation, etc.
- Ex-ante assessment of impacts on socio-economic dimensions of agri-food systems, operationalization of sustainability standards within WTO processes, among others.

Expected results

Set of feasibility studies to build a proof of concept and inform the design of Codex Planetarius.

Budget: EUR 300 000 for 2023

4.3. Support to the FAO programme on Food Safety Foresight on Food Safety Foresight to identify and analyse emerging issues

4.3.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The FAO is the only organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.3.2. Description of the action

Foresight in food safety facilitates the timely identification of drivers and related trends, both within and outside agrifood systems, that have implications for food safety and therefore also for consumer health, national economy and international trade. This is of particular relevance due to the ongoing transformation of the agrifood systems towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as proactive identification and evaluation of emerging drivers and trends promote strategic planning and preparedness to take advantage of opportunities and address challenges in food safety that may arise.

In the 2022 EC publication, ‘Better Regulation. Joining forces to make better laws’ (https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/better_regulation_joining_forces_to_make_better_laws_en_0.pdf), the importance of integrating strategic foresight into policymaking is laid out as a means to ensure that decisions taken today are grounded in a longer-term perspective. The FAO foresight activities align well with the Commission’s better regulation agenda and aims to guide the global food safety landscape.

Objective

The action aims at :

- To conduct evidence synthesis of some of the emerging issues covered in the foresight report “Thinking about the future of food safety”² by developing a series of technical briefs. These can include:
 - o New technologies that are emerging in the context of global increase in retailer and consumer demands on food safety/quality, and transparency (e.g. packaging, food contact materials, smart labeling, traceability, AI etc.).
 - o Circular economy and food safety implications - for instance, utilization of waste streams for various purposes, food safety implications for controlled indoor farming systems, among others through collaboration/consultation with private entities, academic institutes, and national/regional authorities, these briefs will describe the food safety implications, regulatory constraints, barriers to market, as well as the necessary validation steps for moving forward.

- To organise and implement a technical meeting in 2023 on an emerging issue (to be decided among topics such as new food sources and food production systems, new technologies, advances in microbiome science, etc.). In addition, this gathering can help create a network of relevant stakeholders, generally those who

² <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8667en>

also engage in foresight activities, ranging from government authorities, risk assessment bodies, academic institutes and private sector to broaden the scope of information sources as well as to provide recommendations for moving forward. The network can also be used to disseminate information gathered to countries that lack resources for foresight activities.

- To update and strengthen data/information collection methods by creating a self-sustaining platform for the foresight repository of emerging issues, that forms the basis of future FAO food safety work in the area of foresight. This can be achieved through the expansion of automatization capability as well as addition of human resources capacity.

Expected results

To improve the timely identification of drivers and related trends, both within and outside agrifood systems, that have implications for food safety and therefore also for consumer health, national economy and international trade

Budget: EUR 450 000 for 2023

4.4. Support to the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advice to Codex Alimentarius

4.4.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the World Health Organisation (WHO) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The WHO is the only organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.4.2. Description of the action

The financing mechanisms that are currently in place for scientific advice programme are relying partially on core budgets of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and WHO and partially on “extra budgetary contributions”. These mechanisms do not allow to respond to all requests for scientific advice brought forth by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (and this is a serious concern for Codex Members).

In order to provide an EU contribution to the scientific advice programme, this action will provide funding for meetings of Joint FAO/WHO risk assessment bodies' meetings (JMPR, JEMRA, JECFA) to carry out the risk assessment tasks they have been assigned including, where applicable, for the support of high-level independent consultants to these tasks. This would also help in reducing backlogs, accelerating the assessment of compounds and promoting monographs / guidelines publication.

The Commission, as representative of the EU, deems necessary to join the limited group of donors that support the work of Codex by providing extra budgetary contributions aimed at implementation of the biannual work –plan for scientific advice of FAO/WHO.

Objective

The action aims at supporting the Joint FAO/WHO risk assessment bodies' meetings (JMPR, JEMRA, JECFA over a three-year period :

- JEMRA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment) : Technical reports on Microbial Risk Assessment series for different biological hazards. Not exclusive list of work that will be performed, would include: quantitative risk assessment tools for the evaluation of different intervention scenarios impact on public health – Web based application platform. Systematic reviews: source attribution of foodborne diseases and estimation of global burden of foodborne diseases.

- JMPR (Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues) : Toxicological Monographs and Residue Monographs. Not exclusive list of work that will be performed, would include: multiple exposure safety/risk assessment guidelines including Critical harmonisation between JMPR and JECFA for Veterinary Drugs when compounds have a dual use, and recommendations on the relevance of considering multiple exposure when evaluating pesticides

- JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives) : Toxicological Monographs and Residue Monographs. Not exclusive list of work that will be performed, would include: assessment of Nanoparticles in food guidelines. Safety assessment of titanium dioxide used as a food additive. Update the toxic equivalency factors and risk assessment for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds at the international level.

Expected results

The support to the Joint FAO/WHO risk assessment bodies will provide the scientific basis for the Codex work.

Budget: EUR 600 000 for 2023

4.5. Support to the WHO guidance on healthy diets and sustainability

4.5.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the World Health Organisation (WHO) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The WHO is the only organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.5.2. Description of the action

The financing mechanisms that are currently in place for WHO nutrition guidance development activities are relying partially on core budget of WHO and partially on extra budgetary contributions.

Objective

This WHO work would help to advance risk assessment methods to consider, where possible, the interdependence of human, animal and plant health and the wider environment. The One Health approach will be implemented to address issues related to consumption of meat, fish, or dairy products, pulses, alternative protein sources with an integrated approach to risks, benefits, and sustainability. The Commission, as representative of the EU, considers this work important to the preparation of future

international guidelines and deems necessary to support the work of WHO by providing extra budgetary contributions aimed at implementation of its multi-annual work.

Expected results

Outputs of WHO work will develop evidence-informed WHO recommendations (taking into consideration risk-benefit assessment on the consumption of concerned food commodities (such as meat, milk/dairy products, pulses, alternative protein sources) over a three-year period.

This work will further support the translation of the dietary goals for preventing obesity and diet-related NCDs into food-based guidance, minimum nutritional requirements, the reduction of dietary-borne diseases burden, and clarify and possibly assess environmental sustainability issues related to different dietary patterns and practices.

All the expected results will provide the scientific basis for WHO guideline and publication of systematic reviews and risk-benefit assessments which serve as the background evidence reviews for the guideline.

Risk-benefit assessment guidelines will integrate environmental aspects.

This work could also provide methodologies for subsequent development of international food standards that would integrate environmental aspects.

Budget: EUR 300 000 for 2023

4.6. Support to the OECD Seed Schemes digitalisation pilot project

4.6.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the Organisation for Economic cooperation and Development (OECD) via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The WHO is the only organisation combining competence in the relevant area with political commitment through its large number of member countries hence guaranteeing the highest impact.

4.6.2. Description of the action

The OECD, via the OECD Seed Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed lays down the rules for seed moving in international trade while promoting the use of certified seed that is of consistently high quality for the benefit of the farmers. These seeds are produced – and officially controlled – according to a set of harmonised procedures put in place in the 61 participating countries. In 2018-19, the OECD Seed Schemes certified 1.3 billion kg of seed, roughly a third of the total global exports of field crops (pulses, cereals, industrial crops and forages). Currently, over 69 000 varieties of agricultural crops are registered under the OECD Seed Schemes. The EU is one of the biggest exporters of the seed in the world and thus a big user of the Schemes.

Objective

The objective of the action is to develop an international digitalised seed varietal certification system that can further improve the traceability of the seed lots across seed generations and borders increasing the robustness and reliability of the system and decreasing fraud by making it more difficult to counterfeit seed lots. Digitalisation is expected to create important time and efficiency gains in automating these processes.

Seed being the first input product in the food chain, this ultimately also impacts food security.

In a feasibility study a series of modular, digital tools/frameworks were developed to solve today's challenges and help future-proof the OECD Seed Schemes. Through those pilot modules, the OECD Seed Schemes will test the value propositions proposed and the underlying technology.

Expected results

The action aims at developing the following modules :

- Seed Lot Traceability Hub
- Digital Seed Tags
- Seed Tag Validation Tool
- Updates to Variety Database
- Blockchain ready

Budget: EUR 200 000 for 2023

4.7. EU support to World Organisation for Animal Health events, capacity building actions and other related activities on animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health

4.7.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The WOAH, founded as OIE, is the body best positioned to implement the activities, meet the objectives, and deliver the expected results with regards to its technical competence and high degree of specialisation

4.7.2. Description of the action

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. In order to improve the animal health status worldwide and consequently lower the animal disease risk in the EU, it is important that the EU approach to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health be shared with all WOAH Members.

Objective

The objective is to support the roll out of WOAH's global strategies, programmes, initiatives and frameworks through supporting its events (such as global or regional conferences, seminars, meetings and workshops), capacity building actions (including development of online training material) and other related activities in relation to terrestrial and aquatic animals as well as wildlife and other One Health related topics in order to promote the Union's animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health policy at the occasion.

The action would also foresee organisation of events (such as global or regional conferences, seminars, meetings and workshops), capacity building actions (including development of online training material) and other related activities on animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health. To be included in the action also the evolutive maintenance of the WOAH information systems (WAHIS), especially in view

of keeping the interoperability with the EU information system (ADIS) as a priority for WOAAH.

Regarding animal welfare, the Commission is a member and main donor of the Organisation's Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe since its creation in 2013. The Commission provides co-funding for the implementation of the Platform's three years Action Plans. In addition to the Platform, the Commission also supports some other regional workshops and trainings on animal welfare.

Expected results

Increased awareness and approximation with the Union's animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health policy and improved animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health standards in neighbouring countries and throughout the WOAAH region of Europe and neighbouring WOAAH regions; thus, lower the risk of animal disease incursion in the EU.

Budget: EUR 1 400 000 for 2023, EUR 1 650 000 for 2024 and EUR 1 650 000 for 2025

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions or expenditure is **EUR 620 000**.

5.1. Reimbursement of accommodation and travel costs of experts carrying out audits and fact-finding missions and other control activities with DG SANTE Health and Food Audits and Analysis (SANTE.F) Directorate in 2023.

5.1.1. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

5.1.2. Budget line

03.0206 - EUR 400 000

5.1.3. General description

DG SANTE Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate experts carry out controls, including audits and fact-finding missions, in order to verify, among others, the implementation and enforcement of legislation by Member States' and third countries' competent authorities and verify laboratories and testing facilities' adherence to standards in respect of conduct of studies underpinning regulated product submissions to the European Food Safety Authority. National experts accompany the teams whenever necessary.

The action consists in the reimbursement of accommodation and travel costs of experts carrying out audits and fact-finding missions and other control activities together with DG SANTE Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate in 2023.

5.1.4. Implementation

These actions will be implemented during the first semester in direct management by DG SANTE.

5.2. Reimbursement of experts carrying out external assessment on veterinary programmes, phytosanitary programmes, or other grants.

5.2.1. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

5.2.2. Budget line

03.0206 - EUR 120 000

5.2.3. General description

The external assessment supports the establishment of veterinary eradication programmes while ensuring continuity in the Commission's efforts to contribute to a high level of health for humans and animals along the food chain and in related areas.

The action consists in the reimbursement of experts work carrying out external assessment on the Member States' veterinary monitoring and eradication programmes. or on other actions where needed (phytosanitary programmes, etc).

5.2.4. Implementation

These actions will be implemented during the first semester in direct management by HaDEA.

5.3. Reimbursement of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (as per Commission Decision 2007/142/EC).

5.3.1. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April (Single Market Programme), and in particular Annex I thereof.

5.3.2. Budget line

03.0206 - EUR 100 000

5.3.3. General description

In the event of outbreaks of certain animal diseases or suspicion thereof, the Commission can provide assistance to the Member States and to third countries by means of highly experienced veterinary epidemiology expertise.

Expertise and support are more efficiently provided by a specialised team of experts, such as a EU Emergency Veterinary Team, whose Members make themselves available to the Commission on request. Such a team should be established and their role and tasks be defined.

The EU Veterinary Emergency Team (established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC) allows the Commission to make use of this expertise and dispatch it on the relevant hot spots on very short notice. This, in turn, helps shape the response to the specific animal health crisis and tries to minimise the impact of the disease.

5.3.4. Implementation

These actions will be implemented throughout the year in direct management by DG SANTE.