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ANNEX 3

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 2024-2027

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ANNEX III

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 2024-2027, 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 5).

Actions	Indicative amount for 2024	Indicative amount for 2025	Indicative amount for 2026	Indicative amount for 2027
Grants	132 385 000	132 400 000	126 300 000	126 300 000
Procurements	47 852 000	-	-	-
Indirect management	3 950 000	3 950 000	2 300 000	-
Other actions	1 610 000	-	-	-
Total	185 797 000	136 350 000	128 600 000	126 300 000

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 Regulation') 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 health 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.

1.5. Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming contribution

Food strand work programme actions regarding reducing food waste, reducing the sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture, combating animal diseases and plant pests, supporting EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres of animal welfare contribute to the climate and biodiversity dimension in line with Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources. Emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests directly contribute to halting biodiversity decline. Antimicrobial use could affect microbial diversity and potentially threaten the health of ecosystems. In line with the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU is taking action to ensure prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. This contributes to the transition towards more sustainable food systems which are key for combating climate change and environmental degradation. Supporting development of better laboratory methods and animal welfare studies also contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming.

Food has embedded environmental consequences because of the energy, natural resources use and associated emissions generated throughout its life cycle. Food consumption is the main contributor to the environmental impacts and biodiversity footprint of EU consumption. When food is discarded, all the embedded energy and resources and their environmental consequences, such as green house gas emissions – that accumulate along the food chain – still materialise with no benefit for human nutrition. In the EU, over 58 million tonnes of food waste are generated annually, accounting for about 16% of the total greenhouse gas emissions from the EU food system.

Food waste reduction is expected to have a series of significant positive environmental impacts. The most significant environmental benefits linked to food waste prevention are the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, land use, water use and marine eutrophication. As regards biodiversity, reducing food waste can also bring significant improvements by helping to address pressures related to land use, climate change and ecotoxicity.

The **action grants** on food waste that will be awarded to Member States and stakeholders, under the 2024 SMP, seek to support both Member States and stakeholders in improving food waste measurement and implementing actions to reduce food waste, notably in the context of the Commission’s legislative proposal setting food waste reduction targets to be achieved by Member States by 2030 (COM(2023) 420 final). Whilst targets are set at the level of Member States, national authorities will need to mobilise all players in order to significantly reduce food waste; in particular, reducing food waste at consumption (the key hotspot for food waste generation) requires coordinated efforts involving multiple players from both public and private sectors. Moreover, the grant awarded to the European Food Bank Federation (FEBA) also will contribute to these objectives as its aim is to enhance the capacity of FEBA and its members to recover surplus food from the food supply chain that would otherwise be discarded and redistribute it to those in need. The food waste strand of the 2024 SMP also provides for **procurement** of operational support services (online communications and online community management) in order to facilitate the sharing of best practices in food waste prevention through the [EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste](#) and the [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming will be taken into account during the design of calls.

Remaining actions are considered not relevant since they fund food strand actions for general or specifically targeted purposes (communication, IT services, training of staff, policy evaluation studies, contributions to support work of international organizations etc).

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is **EUR 132 385 000** for the year 2024.

List of grants for 2024:

Action	Indicative date of launch/annual instalment	Indicative amount for 2024 (in EUR)
Coordinated Control Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) monitoring in commensal and zoonotic agents on samples of food and food-producing animals (second annual instalment)	1 st semester 2024	3 000 000
Implementation of the collection and reporting of data on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals (third annual instalment)	2 nd semester 2024	3 275 000
EU support to Member States to improve measurement of food waste and help implement national food waste prevention programmes	1 st semester 2024	2 000 000

EU support to stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and support implement food waste actions	1 st semester 2024	2 000 000
Support European Food Bank Federation's capacity building	2 nd semester 2024	100 000
Activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres (second annual instalment)	1 st semester 2024	21 000 000
Implementation of Emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests for 2024	1 st semester 2024	101 010 000
	Total	132 385 000

2.1. Coordinated Control Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) monitoring in commensal and zoonotic agents on samples of food and food-producing animals in the period 2024-2027

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 instalments¹ of maximum EUR 3 000 000.

The total budget for years 2025-2027 is EUR 13 000 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 3 000 000 for the years 2026 and 2027, maximum EUR 7 000 000 for 2025.

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 Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1729 lays down rules on AMR monitoring from 2021 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.

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.

2.1.5. *Objective*

To ensure adequate implementation of the harmonised monitoring and reporting of AMR in 2024-2027.

2.1.6. *Expected results*

Monitoring data generated by Member States will be forwarded to the European Food Safety Authority ('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 2024-2027

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 16 775 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 6 750 000 for the period 2022-2023, EUR 3 275 000 in 2024.

This section refers to the third 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 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 national 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*

As of 2020, Member States have legislative obligations to conduct monitoring of food waste and implement food waste prevention programmes. However, despite legal obligations and other EU supporting measures, Member States' responses to food waste have been uneven and food waste generation is not decreasing as required to make significant progress towards Sustainable Development Goal Target. Therefore, there is a need for further assistance to support Member States in improving food waste measurement and implementing actions to reduce food waste, notably in the context of the Commission's legislative proposal setting food waste reduction targets to be achieved by Member States by 2030².

The grant proposal should cover one or several of the following topics: monitoring of food waste levels; development and /or implementation of actions foreseen in food waste prevention programmes; evaluation of the effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives and their related impacts.

Member States' proposals may address the whole food supply chain or focus on specific stages and/or hotspots, for example actions addressing household food waste. For all actions proposed, improved monitoring will enable a more accurate quantification of food waste levels and better implementation of food waste prevention programmes/interventions and will allow the evaluation of their impacts.

2.3.5. *Objective*

To support Member States in:

- 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,
- implementing food waste prevention programmes (either new or ongoing actions) and the evaluation of their impacts.

2.3.6. *Expected results*

Depending on the actions proposed, one or several of the following results can be expected:

- tested and improved national/regional food waste measurement methods including new data sets;
- improved data quality and Member State capacity for future monitoring;
- more effective national food waste prevention strategies and programmes that address the behavioural and market drivers identified by Member States;
- 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 COM(2023) 420 final

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 support implement food waste prevention actions 2024-2025

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

The total budget for the full duration of the project (2024-2025) is EUR 4 000 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 2 000 000.

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 to reduce food waste;
- transfer evidence-based food waste prevention solutions to new contexts/organisations/countries, including use of models, studies and evaluation frameworks;
- develop and implement food waste reduction interventions at the level of industry/sector of food supply chain using a collaborative approach;
- develop and implement food waste reduction interventions, involving one or multiple actors, at the level of consumption.

2.4.5. *Objective*

The objective of the action is to support EU stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and help implement effective food waste prevention initiatives in their operations and organisations or in other parts of the food supply chain, including actions targeting consumers. The type of actions can include behavioural change interventions, awareness raising, education and training, elaboration and implementation of food waste prevention guidelines, consumer segmentation studies, food waste monitoring programmes, communication activities, development of new business models etc.

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 and/or intermediate indicators (e.g., reflecting changes in knowledge, attitudes and/or behaviour). 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 2024-2025

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

The total budget for the full duration of the project (2024-2025) is EUR 200 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 100 000.

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 ongoing conflict in Ukraine and rising food prices as well as the changing landscape as regards food redistribution (e.g., increased supply chain efficiency, emergence of new actors and business models) 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 and 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. Activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres in 2024-2027

2.6.1. 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.

2.6.2. 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

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

The total budget for years 2025-2027 is EUR 63 000 000 to be paid by annual instalments of maximum EUR 21 000 000.

EURLs and EURCs tasks and responsibilities are laid down in Article 94 and 96 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Article 29(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

2.6.4. *Description of the action*

Applications for the period 2025-2027 shall be submitted in 2024 in order to allow starting of the action on 01/01/2025.

For the period of application of this action areas referred in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, including the following 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;
- 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;
- 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 in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/808;
- 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.

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;
- 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, including products developed using new genomic techniques (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, including products developed using new genomic techniques;
- Technical assistance to the Commission related to analytical aspects for the implementation of GMO legislation, including products developed using new genomic techniques.

Feed additives:

- Organise proficiency tests which 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;
- 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, validation and dissemination of high quality analytical methods for 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), including methods to characterise with precision the nature of animal protein detected in feed for farmed animals in terms of species and tissue;
- 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;
- Provision to NRLs of reference materials 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 and dissemination of standard operating procedures (SOPs), reference standards and 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 characterisation of the infectious agent (e.g. molecular

- typing methods) and for characterisation of the nature of animal protein detected in feed for farmed animals, and organisation of 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.
 - Participation in international workshops, conferences and collaboration with organisations working on animal health, as relevant and agreed with Commission.

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.

2.6.5. 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 and follow-up to the inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency tests (e.g. by presenting and discussing the results on a workshop); Organise at least one inter-laboratory comparative testing or proficiency test annually;
- 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 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 breed 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.

2.6.6. *Expected results*

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

Operational	Indicators	Expected results
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Objective		
1	<p>Availability of harmonised, efficient and reliable methods of laboratory analysis, test or diagnosis. Number of available methods, new laboratory methods 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 (at least one proficiency or comparative test annually). Success rate of NRLs/OLs in proficiency and comparative tests. Number of corrective actions undertaken.</p>	<p>All NRLs implemented methods of laboratory analysis, test or diagnosis correctly and participate in proficiency and comparative tests.</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	<p>Number of technical requests provided by EURLs to NRLs.</p>	<p>Timely and adequate response to technical assistance enquiries of NRLs.</p>
3	<p>Number of technical and scientific enquires requested from the Commission.</p> <p>Number of collaboration activities with other organisations.</p>	<p>Timely and adequate response to scientific and technical enquiries of the Commission and adequate collaboration with other organisations.</p>
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</p>	<p>The results of performance testing and genetic evaluations carried out by breed societies or third parties designated by</p>

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

2.6.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by HaDEA.

2.6.8. *EU co-financing rate*

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

2.6.9. *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.

2.7. Implementation of emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests for 2024

2.7.1. *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

2.7.2. *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.

2.7.3. *Budget line*

03.0206

2.7.4. *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

Eligible costs are defined in Article 13 of the Single Market Programme Regulation and listed in part 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 of the Annex I thereof.

2.7.5. *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.

2.7.6. *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.

2.7.7. *Implementation*

Implemented by DG SANTE

2.7.8. *EU co-financing rate*

Due to insufficient funds, the general rate for grants is reduced, in line with the provisions of Article 12(5)(c) of the Single Market Programme Regulation. Therefore 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.

2.7.9. *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.

For plant pests: outbreaks detected after 1 January 2024 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* which are financed through a separate financing decision, 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 2024 is **EUR 47 852 000**.

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

03.0206

3.3. Indicative list of envisaged contracts

Actions	Indicative timing (launching)	Estimated No of contracts	Envisaged type of contract and indicative amount
<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 2024	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 HaDEA.</p> <p>Indicative amount is EUR 8 500 000</p>
<p>Operational support services for Commission expert groups and stakeholder networks as regards online communications, online community management and sharing best practices (EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste)</p>	1 st semester 2024	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract, direct contract or administrative arrangement</p> <p>Indicative amount is EUR 117 000</p>
<p>Study on commitments pledged under the EU Code of Conduct on responsible food business practices</p>	1 st semester 2024	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract</p> <p>Indicative amount is EUR 180 000</p>
<p>Study supporting the impact assessment on the Revision of EU Rules on Food Contact Materials</p>	3 rd semester 2024	1	<p>Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract</p> <p>Indicative amount is EUR 400 000</p>

Evaluation of consumers acceptance for cell culture-derived food designations	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 200 000
Consolidation of knowledge on the use of traditional herbal products to treat animals in the Union and increase availability of veterinary medicinal products by providing alternatives to pharmaceuticals	3 rd semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 300 000
Study supporting the evaluation of Community plant variety rights and of the Community Plant Variety Office	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 500 000
Expansion of the Sheep and Goat Pox EU vaccine bank	1 st semester 2024	1	Direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 600 000
Reinforce the contract for the foot and mouth disease vaccine banks	1 st semester 2024	1	Direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 1 000 000
Study supporting the evaluation of Animal Health Law	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 300 000
Study on the animal welfare practices from breeding to slaughter in the EU pig sector	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 200 000
Study on modalities for the use of new technologies and digitalization to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract

rules on animal welfare during transport			Indicative amount is EUR 500 000
Study on indicators in the field of animal welfare	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 1 000 000
EU support to the Commission Expert Group “EU Platform on Animal Welfare” (the Platform)	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contract by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 35 000
Study supporting the evaluation of the European Food Safety Authority	1 st semester 2024	1	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 450 000
Participation in European food fairs and EU Open Day	1 st semester 2024	1 to 3	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract . Co-delegation to DG AGRI. Indicative amount is EUR 210 000
Annual service fee for the Commission’s web content management system (Europa Web Publishing Platform - EWPP)	2 nd semester 2024	1 to 3	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or low value procedures. Co-delegation to DG DIGIT. Indicative amount is EUR 10 000
Horizontal communication activities in the food, feed, animal health, plant health and animal welfare areas	2 nd semester 2024	3 to 5	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 450 000

Policy related communication activities in the food, feed, animal health, plant health and animal welfare areas	2 nd semester 2024	1 to 4	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 400 000
Maintenance and upgrade of existing information systems for official controls, including TRACES, TRACES-ADIS, RASFF (and other related networks including AAC / FF), integration of system components in “Information Management System for Official Controls” (IMSOC) including digitalization studies.	1 st semester 2024	40 to 70	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 14 000 000
Maintenance and further improvement of the existing information systems for plant varieties including FOREMATIS, FRUMATIS, EUPVP.	1 st semester 2024	3 to 5	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 700 000
Maintenance and further improvement of the existing information systems implementing the Transparency Regulation for food and feed safety, supporting the implementation of legal provisions via the Food Information Portal: Food Contact Material, Feed Additives, Novel Food, Genetically Modified Organisms and other domains subject to transparency and Plant protection & pesticides (PPPAMS, PIMS), in the context of a collaboration with Agencies (mainly EFSA via HPAC).	1 st semester 2024	20 to 35	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 4 500 000
Use and maintenance of existing IT tools supporting the collection and treatment of data (statistics and reporting services) relevant for the Food Sustainability area.	1 st semester 2024	1 to 3	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 400 000
Provision of ICT assistance to operational policies, such as the procurement of software and infrastructure, IT governance, portfolio rationalisation and modernisation, data strategy implementation and management of external service providers. Development and maintenance of information systems with Artificial Intelligence, project management, cybersecurity	1 st semester 2024	40 to 60	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 9 000 000

measures, business analysis, testing, quality control, documentation and user/helpdesk support. Support and maintenance for other systems, for example AWP, FLWP, HOA and AMR.			
Maintenance and evolution of Information Systems to support Health and Food audit operations (MISDOC/IMSA and Country Profiles)	1 st semester 2024	10 to 15	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 2 400 000
Farm to fork – Food Labelling, Information System (FLIS)	1 st semester 2024	2-4	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 500 000
EUROPHYT portal	1 st semester 2024	5-10	Specific contracts by using existing framework contract or direct contract Indicative amount is EUR 1 000 000

3.4. Implementation

The actions will be implemented directly by DG SANTE or HaDEA, pursuant to what will be agreed in the implementation plan between DG SANTE and HaDEA, on the basis of the adopted work programme.

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope for actions implemented under indirect management is respectively EUR 3 950 000 for 2024, EUR 3 950 000 for 2025 and EUR 2 300 000 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)³. 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 was included in the EuFMD Constitution adopted by Member Nations in April 2022 and entered into force with the concurrence of the Council of FAO in December 2022.

The EuFMD has established a new strategic plan comprising a series of priorities which were endorsed by its constituency in May 2023.

This new strategy focuses on the following principles:

Coordination which ensures alignment of objectives and efforts with global and regional GF-TADs strategies and European Commission (DG-SANTE) priorities, seeking optimization of resources used across the organizations to achieve common goals.

Collaboration with the Member Nations veterinary services, the WOA, regional and international centres of expertise, the EURLs, training providers and maintain regular cooperation with the FAO Animal Production and Health Division to improve the resilience of the livestock sector.

Regular and effective communication to promote the vision and mission of the Commission, provide evidence of achievements and main issues in the areas of

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

prevention, response, and control of fast and improve the availability of risk information to Member Nations.

Resource mobilization ensuring adequate capacity towards the Commission's strategic objectives and priorities, working in partnership with regional and international donors, institutions, and organizations.

Promote public-private platforms to facilitate collaboration and cooperation towards the common goals of improved fast prevention, preparedness, and control according to the threats posed to Europe.

Ensuring that digitalization drives the development and improvement of tools, trainings, communication, and functions of the Commission with an efficient use of resources and contributing to the reduction of carbon footprint. Ensure optimization of digital solutions already available with the development of new ones when necessary tailored to end-user needs.

Enhancing and foster the link between science and policy through knowledge translation, bringing relevant research outcomes to risk managers and policy makers. Ensure the work of the Commission is driven by innovation and evidence-based approach safeguarded by independent technical committees.

Ensuring best use of expertise, resources, tools, and capacity development systems and seek to leverage efforts and resources to increase impact of actions. Promoting the One-Health approach and contribute to the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems, taking into account cross-cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion to achieve the UN programming principle of leaving no one behind.

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 1 800 000 for 2024, EUR 1 800 000 for 2025, EUR 1 800 000 for 2026

4.2. EU support to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the related IPPC events, capacity building and other activities on plant health

4.2.1. Implementing entity

The action is implemented by the IPPC via a contribution agreement on the basis of Article 62(1)(c)(ii). The IPPC is the only organisation best positioned to implement the activities, meet the objectives, deliver the expected results and ensuring high degree of specialisation.

4.2.2. Description of the action

The IPPC FAO is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for setting global standards for plant health and for improving plant health worldwide. In order to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the EU, and their spread internationally, it is important that the IPPC has sufficient capacity to fulfil its functions properly and to deliver on its strategic objectives for 2020-2030. In order to lower the plant health risks in the EU, it is also important that the EU approach to plant health is shared with all IPPC Members. The funding from the FAO core budget is insufficient for covering the costs, both staffing and operational, of the IPPC Secretariat and the IPPC work programme. The IPPC activities therefore strongly depend on the availability of the complementary “extra budgetary contributions” provided by the IPPC Contracting Parties.

Objective

The objective is to support the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the related activities through supporting the IPPC events (standard setting meetings, regional or global workshops, meetings, seminars or conferences), capacity building actions (including development of online training material) and other related activities in relation to the IPPC portfolio in plant health and to its roles in One Health, in order, *inter alia*, to promote the Union's plant health policies and approaches at the occasion.

The action would also foresee possible organisation of the above referred to events, capacity building actions and other related activities on plant health. The action will also include the Union's continued support to the IPPC ePhyto system, its further development and maintenance, so as to ensure its interoperability with the EU information system (TRACES/IMSOC).

Expected results

Increased Union's input into the IPPC standard setting activities and work programme, thus contributing to longer-term improved awareness and approximation with the Union's plant health policies. Support to IPPC activities, namely within the Strategic Framework that are EU's priority areas such as:

- Commodity and pathway specific international standards;
- Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems;
- Internationally recognised diagnostic protocols for plant pests;
- Internationally recognised phytosanitary treatments;
- Global phytosanitary research coordination;
- Harmonization of electronic data exchange;
- Management of eCommerce and courier mail pathways;
- One Health related activities.

The above referred to support to the IPPC is expected to contribute to improved plant health standards in Union's trading partners and the reliability of their plant health certification of exports of plants and plant products destined into the Union; thus, lower the risk of plant pests incursion in the EU. Even so, reference to international standards facilitates the market access for EU plant material export to third countries.

Budget: EUR 500 000 for 2024, EUR 500 000 for 2025, EUR 500 000 for 2026

4.3. 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

4.3.1. 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.

4.3.2. Description of the action

The 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 WOAH.

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 WOAH region of Europe and neighbouring WOAH regions; thus, lower the risk of animal disease incursion in the EU.

Budget: 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 1 610 000**.

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 2024.

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 300 000

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 2024.

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 grants and procurements of SMP Food

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 160 000

5.2.3. General description

The external assessment supports the evaluation of the grants and procurements proposals submitted for the SMP Food actions, where needed.

The action consists in the reimbursement of the experts work carrying out those external assessments.

5.2.4. Implementation

These actions will be implemented in direct management by HaDEA.

5.3. Support to DG SANTE on the monitoring framework of Farm to Fork Strategy

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 1 000 000

5.3.3. General description

The Farm to Fork Strategy requires monitoring of the transition to a sustainable food system so that it operates within planetary boundaries, including progress on the targets and overall reduction of the environmental and climate footprint of the EU food system. The Framework for a Sustainable EU Food System initiative will generate specific related monitoring requirements. The proposed action aims to ensure that Farm to Fork monitoring framework will be improved and adapted to properly address all these requirements.

The monitoring framework of the Farm to Fork Strategy consists of several stages:

- review of existing indicators and underpinning data, selection of most relevant indicators out of the existing ones, and identification of gaps (i.e. areas where indicators are lacking),
- development of new indicators (methodologies) and their data collection methods, including their baseline,
- consultation process of the whole set of indicators with Member States and Farm to Fork stakeholders,
- technical development of a dashboard for visualizing the indicators.

This action will complete, improve and fine-tune the indicators for the monitoring of the Farm to Fork strategy. New indicators may take further time to become operational, depending on the availability of their underlying data. Through this action the monitoring framework will be developed in order to cater for the monitoring of the Framework for a Sustainable EU Food System.

5.3.4. Implementation

These actions will be implemented by Joint Research Centre (JRC) through administrative arrangement with DG SANTE.

5.4. Translation of guidance documents, manuals, reports, and provisions for Member States

5.4.1. 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.

5.4.2. Budget line

03.0206 - EUR 150 000

5.4.3. *General description*

This action covers translation of food pillar activities provided in guidance documents, manuals, reports, and provisions for Member States. It covers actions which do not fall under Directorate General for Translations (DGT) main business activities.

5.4.4. *Implementation*

This action will be implemented by DGT through service level agreement with DG SANTE.