



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public Health, Cancer and Health security  
The Director

Luxembourg  
SANTE.B.2/RF/mo (2025)5888046

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Subject: Member State competent authorities in the scope of the call for applications for an EU reference laboratory on respiratory viruses (Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371)**

According to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health, the European Commission is empowered to designate EU reference laboratories (EURLs) for public health “to provide support to national reference laboratories to promote good practice and alignment by Member States on a voluntary basis on diagnostics, testing methods, use of certain tests for the uniform surveillance, notification and reporting of diseases by Member States”.

To date, the Commission has designated nine EURLs for public health <sup>(1)</sup>.

On 2 October 2023, the first calls for applications for EURLs were published by the Commission <sup>(2)</sup>. Laboratories in EU/EEA countries were invited to submit applications to be designated as EURLs in one of six areas of public health. As part of their application, national laboratories had to seek endorsement by a national competent authority. The competent authorities endorsing applicants were asked to confirm that each candidate laboratory met the eligibility criteria of the call. Importantly, this included the confirmation that they already played an active role in the national public health microbiology system.

A second set of calls for applications to designate further EURLs in the field of food- and water-borne diseases was launched on 30 April 2024 <sup>(3)</sup>. To streamline the application process and as a result of feedback received from the Member States, each EU/EEA country was asked to formally nominate one national competent authority in public health before the second set of calls for application were launched. Only that authority was responsible for the endorsement of national applicants. This information was made public

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/surveillance-and-early-warning/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/surveillance-and-early-warning/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/consultations/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health-2023-calls-applications\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/consultations/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health-2023-calls-applications_en)

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/consultations/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health-2024-calls-applications\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/consultations/eu-reference-laboratories-public-health-2024-calls-applications_en)

in the calls and applicants were invited to contact the nominated authority via pre-defined contact channels.

The Commission is currently working on the next call for applications to designate a EURL for respiratory viruses, which is expected to be launched by the end of May 2025. Competent public health authorities will again be asked to endorse national laboratories wishing to apply. Similarly to the previous call, we will provide the list of nominated national competent authorities responsible for the endorsement of national applicants within the call for applications. To this end, **we ask countries to review the contact information of their nominated national competent authorities.**

The current list of nominated national competent authorities can be found here: [https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a0d90025-720d-44ca-b181-ef0fb88c22e0\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a0d90025-720d-44ca-b181-ef0fb88c22e0_en).

**Only in the case that the current contact information is no longer valid, we ask the countries to provide the following updated information:**

- name of national competent authority, to be transmitted to the applicants;
- contact information (mailbox email address and general telephone number), to be transmitted to the applicants;
- name of responsible person(s), for correspondence with the Commission.

***In case you prefer to submit a personal email address and phone number for public dissemination to the applicants, we require a clear authorisation that this information can be used for this purpose, for reasons of GDPR.***

We would be grateful to receive any required updates to the contact information via e-mail ([SANTE-CONSULT-B2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-CONSULT-B2@ec.europa.eu)) by 31 May 2025.

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