

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2023

Activities in 2023

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Centre Information

Title of WOA Collaborating Centre	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna "Bruno Ubertini"
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Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official):	Giorgio Varisco, General Director
Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	Maria Beatrice Boniotti; Biologist, Head of Reparto Tecnologie Biologiche Applicate; WOA Contact Point for the Veterinary Biologicals Biobank Collaborating Centre
Name of the writer:	Maria Beatrice Boniotti

TOR1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOA

Category	Title of activity	Scope
Training, capacity building (true)	Virtual Biobank Project	Development of a web-based portal where users can search and request biobank materials and development of a material management system, a software solution for the local management of biobank materials
Diagnosis, biotechnology and laboratory (true)	Biobanking	Our biobank is a repository for diverse biological resources relevant to the veterinary field. We meticulously collect and characterize cell cultures, microorganisms, serum samples, tissues, and organs, ensuring their quality parameters meet rigorous standards for application in diagnostics, research, and production endeavors. In 2023, our biobank facilitated the distribution of 28 cell lines, 6 bacterial strains, and 19 viral strains to various foreign countries. Recipients included Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Jordan, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Hungary, and the United States. Moreover, we distributed 61 cell lines, 7 bacterial strains, and 2 virus strains to other Institutes in Italy.

TOR3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable area
Development of a WOA Virtual Biobank	To provide the WOA Member Countries with a web-based system collecting information on reference standards or important biological materials	Laboratory expertise Training and education Veterinary products
Definition of minimum requirements of data associated to biobank materials	To harmonize information associated to reference standard and, in general, to biological material	Laboratory expertise Training and education health management Veterinary products
Implementation of ISO 20387	To create tools to facilitate the implementation of ISO 20387- General Requirements for Biobanking	Laboratory expertise Training and education health management Veterinary products

3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: GMO, DURC

Relevance for WOA: Facilitation of international collaboration,

Relevance for the Codes or Manual: Manual,

Field: Diagnostics,

Animal Category: Terrestrial, Aquatic,

Disease:

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases): Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases,

If any, please specify relevance for Codes or Manual, chapter and title

(e.g. Terrestrial Manual Chapter 2.3.5 - Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture)

Answer: Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.3- Transport of Biological Material

Notes:

Answer:

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
European Virus Archive Global	Europe	Europe	Collection of viruses and derived products to facilitate the research and the retrieve of important viruses worldwide and to respond quickly in the event of epidemiological

Joint Research Project MIRRI-it	Italy-Europe	Europe	To overcome fragmentation in the availability of resources and services, enhance the quality management system of the collections, and focus on needs and challenges of the stakeholders interested in the biotechnological transfer of these resources
BY-COVID	Europe	Europe	To develop and share community resources, data standards and guidelines that will enable a rapid and effective response to COVID-19 and novel epidemics
BBMRI-IT	Italy-Europe	Europe	BBMRI-IT is a network of more than 80 biobanks. The Italian Node of BBMRI collaborates with the entire scientific community that operates in activities directly or indirectly connected with research based on biological resources. Among the goals, the increase of the quality management level of biobanks to make samples comparable across different countries and different biobanking systems.

TOR4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHC Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOAHC CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
WOAH Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease	IZS delle Venezie (Padova, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository
WOAH Reference Laboratory for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	IZS del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (Torino, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository
WOAH Reference Laboratory for Bluetongue	IZS dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (Teramo, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository
WOAH Reference Laboratory for Babesiosis, Theileriosis and Leishmaniosis	IZS della Sicilia (Palermo, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository

WOAH Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease, WOA Reference Laboratory for Swine Vesicular Disease, WOA Reference Laboratory for Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease, WOA Reference Laboratory for Rabbit Myxomatosis, WOA Reference Laboratory for Swine Influenza, WOA Reference Laboratory for Paratuberculosis	IZS della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (Brescia, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository
WOAH Reference Laboratory for Equine Infection Anaemia	IZS del Lazio e Toscana (Roma, IT)	Europe	Italian network of biobanks or biorepository

TOR6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?

No

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

No

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOA, to personnel from WOA Members?

Yes

a) Technical visit : 3

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 1

d) Internships (>1 month) : 0

TYPE OF TECHNICAL TRAINING PROVIDED (A, B, C OR D)	CONTENT	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE EXPERT(S) PROVIDED WITH TRAINING	NO. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE CORRESPONDING COUNTRY
A	Visit to the IZSLER Biobank infrastructure and Laboratories	Moldavia	3
C	1 week Training on Biobanking activities	Italy	1

TOR8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOA?

No

TOR9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOA that may be useful to Members of WOA

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

0

b) International conferences:

0

c) National conferences:

1

Oral presentation: IL PROGETTO WOAHA VIRTUAL BIOBANK, XXII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE SIDILV, BRESCIA, 11-13 October 2023

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

In April 2023, the WOAHA Virtual Biobank Project was initiated, marking the commencement of extensive endeavors. These efforts have been dedicated to developing a user-friendly web-based catalog, facilitating seamless exploration and request processes for biological materials provided by WOAHA Laboratory Reference Centers and other accredited laboratories.

Furthermore, efforts have been made to develop a robust material management system. This system encompasses specialized software designed to streamline the local management of biobank materials, ensuring efficient tracking and organization.

12. Additional comments regarding your report: