

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAHO Reference Laboratory:	Equine infectious anaemia
*Address of laboratory:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana M. Aleandri via Appia Nuova, 1411 - 00178 Roma, Italy
*Tel:	+390679099449
*E-mail address:	teresa.scicluna@izslt.it
Website:	https://www.izslt.it/
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Maria Teresa Scicluna - Head of the Virology Unit
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAHO Reference Expert:	Dr. Maria Teresa Scicluna
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAHO Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Elisa	Yes	9331	0
AGID	Yes	595	0
Immunoblot	Yes	163	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
PCR	Yes	23	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAHO?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAHO-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAHO Members?

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient WOAHO Member Countries	Country of recipients
Negative sera for EIAV	ELISA/AGID	Provided	0	10	1	THAILAND,
Weak positive reference serum	ELISA	Provided	0	10	1	THAILAND,

Maria Teresa Scicluna - - ITALY

Positive sera for EIAV	ELISA/AGID	Provided	0	10	1	THAILAND,
Weak positive reference serum	AGID	Provided	0	27	1	THAILAND,
EIAV p26 Antigen	AGID	Provided	7	0	1	ITALY,
EIAV p26 Antigen	AGID	Produced	300	0	1	ITALY,
Reagents for ELISA	ELISA	Produced	30	0	1	ITALY,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHA Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHA Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHA Member?

Yes

Name of the WOAHA Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
CHILE	technical advice on the use of molecular diagnostic methods	email
HUNGARY	technical advice on the combined use of the serological diagnostic tests to increase diagnostic capacity	email
THAILAND	technical advice on the combined use of the serological diagnostic tests to increase diagnostic capacity	Videoconference and email
UKRAINE	technical advice on the combined use of the serological diagnostic tests to increase diagnostic capacity	email

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHA Members other than the own?

No

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

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: Genetic study of EIA field strains using whole genome sequencing for phylogenetic studies and for the evaluation of the development of a molecular diagnostic method. Production of recombinant proteins, other than p26 and monoclonal antibodies principally for diagnostic purposes.

Relevance for WOAHA Disease Control, Capacity Building, Facilitation of international collaboration,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Manual,

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Field Epidemiology and Surveillance, Diagnostics,

Animal Category Terrestrial,

Disease:

Equine infectious anaemia

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases) Relevant for international movement,

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: Chapter: 3.6.5. Equine infectious anaemia (infection with equine infectious anaemia virus)

Notes:

Answer:

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

The WOAHP Reference Laboratory, as National Reference Centre for EIAV, continues to collect data on Italian surveillance activities and outbreaks using an online platform made available to the Italian Laboratory Network who every trimester upload the results of the tests conducted according to the National Surveillance Programme.

The data is elaborated and presented on the website <https://craie.izslt.it/craie/> with different level of access as following:

- a section accessible to the public to view the national epidemiological situation (CRAIE Web GIS) which at present is under review,
- a section accessible to the official authorities (CRAIE Web GIS), within which they can manage the outbreaks by downloading the list of premises that must be controlled, within a radius of 3 km from the outbreak and within 30 day from the declaration of outbreak.

The whole system is also accessible to the National and to Regional Veterinary Services to verify the activities carried out according to their competency.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

The data made available at the following website <https://craie.izslt.it/craie/> which at present is being reviewed and may not be accessible.

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

0

b) International conferences:

0

c) National conferences:

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WEBINAR Anemia Infettiva Equina: algoritmo diagnostico a garanzia dei sistemi di sorveglianza (Equine Infectious Anemia: Diagnostic Algorithm to ensure Surveillance Systems) 11 NOVEMBRE 2025

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

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<https://www.izs.it/equinotio/index.html>

<https://craie.izslt.it/craie/>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHP Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO 17025	Accreditation certificate 00182 Testing REV. 07 (pdf)	QMS Certificate.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
ELISA	ACCREDIA
AGID	ACCREDIA
Immunoblot	ACCREDIA

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biosecurity management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Biosecurity Manual

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

Yes

Title of event	Date	location	Role (speaker, presenting poster, short communications)	Title of the work presented
Simposio de la Red de Vigilancia de Enfermedades FIAVE	2025-09-04	Paraguay	Speaker in a webinar	Equine Infectious Anemia: a Trojan horse

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAHP Ref. Labs/ organising WOAHP Ref Lab
Proficiency test for ELISA and AGID methods	Organiser	2	2/1

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Proficiency test for ELISA technique	Organiser	39	ELISA	FRANCE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, ITALY, SAN MARINO, THAILAND, UKRAINE,
Proficiency test for AGID technique	Organiser	14	AGID	FRANCE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, ITALY, THAILAND, UKRAINE,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

As already stated in a previous report, considering that Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) is not a transboundary and zoonotic disease and affects only equids, the attention dedicated by each country is especially related to diagnostic activities are usually limited to the international movement of horses. Furthermore, even if EIA prevalence is in general low, however it could cause major economic impact in case of outbreaks in economically valuable horses. In fact, in the past EIA was not included in the ex OIE list A of diseases, and at present, according to the Animal Health Law (Reg 2016/429) for the European Union, EIA is listed in the D and E categories, meaning that measures are needed to prevent it from spreading both within and into the Member States and surveillance is required within the European Union. Both in the European Union and in the other Regional Countries, surveillances activities for this disease are limited or non-existing, as priority is given to other diseases of other species accordingly with the animal production economics of the individual countries.

During 2023/2024, following the request by WOA, the Italian and Chinese RLS for EIAV jointly revised the EIA Chapter of the WOA Terrestrial Manual. In addition, Dr. Munstermann for WOA organised a Webinar on Equine Infectious Anemia, on the 5th June 2024, in which the European Union Reference Laboratory was also included, together with the WOA RLS as speakers the WOA for an audience principally working in Asia. Such events aid to give visibility to the activities which, WOA RL carry out, and the support that they can provide on request.

Similar events for other Regions would be helpful in giving a greater visibility to the WOA RL. Moreover the network is at present working on the organization of a Interlaboratory trial (IT) on EIAV to which all the WOA members could participate and it would be useful if this information could be disseminated through the WOA website, even by creating a dedicated section.

In view of the information provided above, we would like to make proposals, confirming those of the previous report, as the visibility of the RL, in fact, is the major key for the expansion of RL activities.

The WOA RLS, with the support of WOA, could implement collaboration with the local laboratories of the Regional Countries, to collect biological samples from positive subjects, target organs and EDTA blood samples, to perform genome sequencing for the study of the virus and to evaluate the sensitivity and the sensibility of the molecular methods that are in development for the detection of circulating EIAVs. Furthermore, means to increase awareness among member states could be improved on WOA website informing them on the availability by the WOA RLS to also provide training, participate to research projects, validation and comparison of methods, supply reagents.