

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Sheep pox and goat pox
*Address of laboratory:	Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Uccle
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Website:	https://www.sciensano.be/en
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Prof. Nick De Regge
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Prof. Nick De Regge; head of the service Exotic and vector-borne diseases
*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 WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
ELISA	Yes	20	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
pan-capripox PCR, species differentiation PCR, SPPV DIVA PCR, whole genome sequencing	Yes	0	40

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

No

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

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient WOA Member Countries	Country of recipients
inactivated SPPV virus	PCR	na	0ml	5 ml	1	SOUTH AFRICA,
inactivated SPPV	PCR	na	0ml	5ml	1	SERBIA,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

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

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
DIVA PCR SPPV	A DIVA PCR test to distinguish animals vaccinated with the Bakirkoy strain to animals infected with wild type strains is under development

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

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

Yes

Name of WOAHS Member Country seeking assistance	Date	Which diagnostic test used	No. samples received for provision of diagnostic support	No. samples received for provision of confirmatory diagnoses
GREECE	2025-07-01	PCR, sequencing	0	5
BULGARIA	2025-05-16	PCR, sequencing	0	10
ROMANIA	2025-07-05	PCR, sequencing	0	15
SERBIA	2025-11-12	PCR, sequencing	0	5

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

Yes

Name of the WOAHS Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
GREECE	information about diagnostic matrices and vaccines	email
ROMANIA	information about diagnostic matrices and pooling	email

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAHS Member Countries involved other than your country
SPPV strains in Nigeria	2 years	characterize SPPV strains circulating in Nigeria	NVRI Nigeria	NIGERIA

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

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: need for information on virus presence in different animal products, and efficacy of different inactivation/desinfection methods and inactivation by production processes

Relevance for WOAHS Disease Control, Standard Setting,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Code, Manual,

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Field Epidemiology and Surveillance,

Animal Category Terrestrial,

Disease:

Sheep pox and goat pox

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases) 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:

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:

information on circulating SPPV strains in Europe

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:

sequences of circulating strains shared with member nations

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:

3

presentations at meetings of EUFMD, GFTAD, EC-PAFF

c) National conferences:

1

preparedness webinar

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

1

EFSA advise on SPPV vaccination

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

Yes

a) Technical visit : 1

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

d) Internships (>1 month) 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
A	CYPRUS	25

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
17025	see previous year	
17043	see previous year	

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
pan-capripox virus PCR, SPPV isolation, capripox virus ELISA	Belac

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

Yes

Contained use approval for work with capripox viruses under BSL3 conditions from the 'Leefmilieu Brussel'

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA^H REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

No

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

No

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

No

na

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA^H 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^H Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

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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
capripox virology and serology	organizer, PT for European NRLS and labs from third countries	50	capripox ELISA , VNT, IPMA ; capripox PCR (pan, speciesspecific, DIVA)	
capripox virology and serology	organizer, PT for South East Asian countries supported by WOAHA	5	capripox ELISA , VNT, IPMA ; capripox PCR (pan, speciesspecific, DIVA)	

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
expert advice on questions raised by the code commission after proposed changes to the code chapter during ad hoc group in 2024	online meetings	SPPV/GTPV code chapter
expertadvice	Brussels, online	revision of SPPV/GTPV manual

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

No