

AHAW UNIT

Parma, 16 October 2012

SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Network Sub-Group on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals

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EFSA / AHAW

Participants

Network members	Antti Oksanen (FI), Helen Roberts (UK), June Fanning (IE), Roberto Andrea Balbo (MT)
AHAW Panel members	Mariano Domingo, Preben Willeberg
Invited speakers	Peter Deplazes, Thomas Romig
EFSA:	Andrea Gervelmeyer (AHAW), Andrea Bau, Elisa Aiassa, Gabriele Zancanaro(SAS)

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting was chaired by Andrea Gervelmeyer.

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Hélène Klein (DG SANCO G2).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA encouraged participants to fill in the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI). No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Discussions

The draft EFSA scientific report on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals was discussed with the meeting participants.

Relevant elements that need to be addressed in assessing the quality of *E. multilocularis* surveillance reports in the context of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011:

It was agreed to provide a cascade of options for reporting the suitable definite hosts species targeted by the surveillance programmes. Domestic definitive hosts should only be selected

if evidence for absence of wild definitive hosts exists. In that case, only domestic definitive host animals that have access to outdoors are suitable.

If collection of samples is not ongoing throughout the 12-months surveillance period a justification for this should be provided together with an indication of which effect this might have on the results.

In addition to individual animals, faecal samples collected by environmental surveys should be added as an option for the relevant epidemiological unit of the surveillance system.

With view to the sampling location, Member States agreed that reporting of data would be done at the NUTS 3¹ level.

The case definition for the reporting should include epidemiological information consistent with infection in the country in addition to laboratory criteria. A case definition taking account of faeces as a sampling unit should be added. In this case, for samples from dogs and cats with recent travel history to endemic country, the condition that they must not have been treated in the 120 h prior to sampling must be added.

A list of diagnostics methods compatible with Annex 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 with their sensitivity and specificity will be provided by the experts.

Proposal for harmonisation of *E. multilocularis* surveillance reports in the context of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011:

It was agreed to not provide a fixed list of risk factors but to enable Member States to define their risk factors and respective relative risks for their geographical units and to report the relevant evidence for these. A distinction must be made between geographical risk factors (e.g. proximity to endemic areas or presence of intermediate hosts) and non-geographical risk factors (e.g. age or gender), the first leading to the identification of geographical epidemiological units (for each of which the requirement of a design prevalence of 1% and a confidence level of 95% must be fulfilled), the latter leading to risk groups, essential where a risk-based sampling has to be performed within a geographical epidemiological unit.

5. Meeting Conclusions

The format for harmonising reporting of *E. multilocularis* surveillance data proposed in the EFSA scientific report was agreed with Member States and *E. multilocularis* experts.

Member States also agreed to use the EFSA Data Collection Framework on a voluntary basis for their annual reporting of *E. multilocularis* surveillance data.

¹ Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, regional level
