

EuroCigua II Project - Specific Agreements

SPECIFIC AGREEMENT no.1 - Management, scientific coordination and risk characterisation of CTX in imported fish

Coordinator: Ministerio de Sanidad Gobierno de España, Spanish Ministry of Health (MS)

Partners: Economic and Food Safety Authority of Portugal (ASAE)

Collaborators: Directorate General of Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine (Ministry of Health, Italy), Fondazione Centro Ricerche Marine – Cesenatico (Italy), Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR, Netherlands).

Governing Board (GB): MS, UVIGO, IRTA and ISCIII. Chaired by the MS. The GB is composed by the MS, as project coordinator, together with the institution that coordinates each of the other 3 Specific Agreements. This board works as an Executive committee, representing the interests of all partners involved in the 4 Specific Agreements, and presided by the MS which is the institution taking decisions.

Advisory Board (AB): Chaired by the MH. Members: Dr. Ronald L. Manger (Retired from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Ctr, Seattle, WA), Dr Robert Dickey (Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), Austin Texas), Dr. Patricia Tester (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce, USA), Dr. Takeshi Yasumoto (JFRL, Japan), Dr Naomasa Oshiro (National Institute of Health Sciences Japan), EFSA (Observer), ECDC (Observer), the European Commission (Observer), FAO (Observer).

Objectives: The main objective of this Specific agreement is to provide the mechanisms in order to assure that the objectives of the FPA are accomplished in a global manner according to the main tasks reflected in the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) that includes the 4 specific agreements. In particular:

- To facilitate cooperation and scientific advancement of all four Specific Agreements;
- Favour scientific cooperation among partners within the Governing Board and facilitate interchange of information with the Advisory Board;
- Ensure scientific coherence and data integration among all four Specific Agreements;
- Integrate the different results of the specific agreements in order to provide EFSA with the main goals of the FPA in terms of the risk characterization of the Ciguatoxin poisoning in the EU;
- Drafting a final report.

This Specific Agreement also includes a first attempt to characterize the risk of CTX in imported fish in collaboration with the other SAs.

SPECIFIC AGREEMENT no.2 - Epidemiology of ciguatera poisoning in the European Union

Coordinator: Instituto de Salud Carlos III - National Centre of Epidemiology – (ISCIIII-CNE)

Partners: Canary Health Service (Servicio Canario de la Salud), Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA), German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), National Institute for Public Health and the Environment from Netherlands (RIVM)

Collaborators: Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN), Serviço de Saúde da Região Autónoma da Madeira (SeSaRAM), French General Directorate for Food of the Ministry of Agriculture (DGAI).

Objectives: The main objective of this agreement is to foster a proper detection and reporting of ciguatera poisoning (CP) cases and outbreaks to characterise the epidemiology of CP in Europe. To achieve the goal several tasks will be performed: awareness-raising of CP, collection of CP cases or outbreaks due to consumption of indigenous contaminated fish (from mainland Europe and Macaronesia) or fish imported from tropical CP endemic regions or travel related cases; and strengthen the investigation and reporting of CP outbreaks.

SPECIFIC AGREEMENT no.3 - Modelling toxin producing microalgae and the emergence of ciguatoxins in fish in Europe under climate change

Coordinator: Institute of Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (IRTA)

Partners: Canary Health Service (SCS), Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canarias (ULPGC)

Collaborators: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain), Consejería de Agricultura Ganadería y Pesca del Gobierno de Canarias (Spain), Dr Pat Tester (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, European Environment Agency (EU), US Department of Commerce, USA), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Dr. Tsumuraya (Japan) and members of the advisory board

Objectives: The main objective is to contribute to the prediction of toxin producing microalgae associated to ciguatera and the emergence of CTX in fish in Europe through a modelling approach, under climate change scenarios. The areas of study will be the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands focusing

on environmental data, data on the microalgal communities and fish, and on the presence and fate of toxins in the ecosystems. The data obtained will contribute with the other grants to complement the characterisation of Ciguatera risk in Europe.

SPECIFIC AGREEMENT no.4 - Characterisation of ciguatoxins in microalgae and fish, reference materials and training

Coordinator: University of Vigo

Partner: Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera I.P. (IPMA)

Collaborators: Prof. Yasumoto (Japan Food Research Laboratories, Japan), Dr. Oshiro (National Institute Health Sciences, Japan), Dr. Dickey (USA), Dr. Manger (Retired from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research, USA), Dr. Tsumuraya (Osaka Prefecture University, Japan), University of California San Francisco for Mass Spectrometry Facility (USA), Dr. Philipp Hess (IFREMER, France), Dr. Arjen Gerssen (Wageningen Food Safety Research, University Wageningen), French NRL for marine biotoxins Paris (France), NRL for marine biotoxins at Fondazione Centro Ricerche Marine in Cesenatico (Italy) ,IRMM (JRC, EU Commission)

Objectives: To contribute to the full characterisation of the CP risk in Europe in imported and indigenous fish from European Risk areas, Canary Islands and Madeira, as well as in the microalgae responsible for the contamination of the fish in hotspot areas of Madeira Archipelago selected for the study. The full characterisation will be carried out by applying the LC-MS methodologies developed in the first EURO CIGUA through the preparation of adequate reference materials. The provision of the required capacity building for the CTX surveillance in Europe will also be included as a priority goal.