

# Agenda: day one 17<sup>th</sup>!

Day 1	12 May, Central European Time	
Time	Presentations	
13:45	Welcome and opening	M Gabriella Perrotta (Italian Ministry of Health), Claudio Ghittino (director IZSPLV) and Giuseppe Ru (EURL)
14:00	EURL TSE Work programme 2024-2025: what done, what to do	Giuseppe Ru (EURL)
14:15	Rapid Tests EQA (RB & RS): results of the 2024 round and forthcoming 2025 round	Maria Mazza (EURL)
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<b>15:15 – 15:45 Informal networking with coffee break</b>		
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16:00	Histopathology interpretation 2024 EQA	Barbara Iulini (EURL)
16:15	The 2023 TSE EUSR and update on surveillance carried out in 2024	Francesca Baldinelli (EFSA)
16:45	EU-wide collaboration on PrP genetics in sheep with AS: state of play and next steps	Romolo Nonno (EURL)
	Discussion: issues and proposals	
18:00	Wrap up of the day	

# Greetings from the Italian Ministry of Health

Dr. Maria Gabriella Perrotta

Greetings from the General  
Director of the IZSPLV

Dr. Claudio Ghittino

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# EURL TSE

past and future work programmes  
what done, what to do

Giuseppe Ru, EURL-TSE



# outline

- the latest EQAs
- beyond the EQAs
- the agenda of this meeting
- announcement: the 2026 EURL annual meeting

the EQAs started in late 2024 and completed in early 2025

# The 2024 round of External Quality Assessments (EQA)

**9 different Proficiency Tests (PT)** have been run:

- 2 Screening: **Rapid test** for BSE and for scrapie (RB24, RS24)
- 4 Confirmatory: **Immunoblot** for BSE and scrapie (WB24, WS24), **PrP immunohistochemistry technical** (II24) and **interpretation** (IT24)
- 1 Discriminatory: **Discriminatory western blot** in small ruminants (DS24)
- 2 Genotyping: **PRNP genotyping** in sheep and in goats (GS24, GG24)

# The 2024 round (EU+EFTA)

<b>EQA</b>	<b>EQA description</b>	<b>Applying countries / readers</b>	<b>Announcement date</b>	<b>Period of material distribution</b>	<b>Deadline for results submission</b>	<b>successful NRLs at round 1</b>
RB24	BSE screening rapid test	26	03/12/2024	03 December	30/12/2024	26
RS24	Scrapie screening rapid test	27	03/12/2024	03 December	30/12/2024	27
WB24	BSE confirmatory immunoblot	21	03/12/2024	03 December	30/12/2024	19
WS24	Scrapie confirmatory immunoblot	22	03/12/2024	03 December	30/12/2024	20
II24	Immunohistochemistry Interpretation	42	22/10/2024	22 October	04/11/2024	39
IT24	Immunohistochemistry Technical	17	02/10/2024	09 October	04/11/2024	14
DS24	Discriminatory western blot in small ruminants	16	09/10/2024	21 October	06/12/2024	15
GS24	PRNP sheep genotyping	14	20/09/2024	23 September	31/10/2024	10
GG24	PRNP goat genotyping	22	20/09/2024	23 September	31/10/2024	16

**On average a large number of participants**



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**Launched between September and December**

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**Submissions by December**

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**Results presented in the following presentations**

The new round

News in the following presentations...

# Beyond the EQAs

- As usual, the 2024-2025 was a period of **assistance and dialogue** with the NRLs. The following countries requested some help or exchange views:
  - **2024:** Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia
  - **2025:** Latvia, Malta, Poland, Sweden
- **Lab safety:** a new webinar will be organized in the next few months (let's discuss by the end of this meeting)
- **Atypical BSE: reference tissues propagation** updates over the meeting

# The 2025-2027 is a 3-year work programme

- Approved by the EC
- Currently ongoing
- Activities as expected:

AVAILABILITY AND USE OF HIGH-QUALITY METHODS  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRLs  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EC  
REAGENTS AND REFERENCE COLLECTIONS

- Likely it will require to adapt to new legislation provisions in the field of surveillance (shift to WOAH strategies)

**SUBMISSION FORM: DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**  
(Annex 1 – Description of the action (part B))

**SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027**

**Activities of the EU Reference Laboratories  
and EU Reference Centres in 2025-2027**

Applicant shall provide information on each question contained in the Form.  
The **information** filled in the Form, **shall be clear, concise, consistent and complete.**  
For questions on the information requested in this Form, please contact: [HADEA-EURL@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HADEA-EURL@ec.europa.eu)  
For questions on the [eGRANTS](#) Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

<b>Applicant - COORDINATOR</b> (Name of EURL)	EURL for TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSES)
<b>Topic</b>	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
<b>Implementation period</b>	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2027

**CONTACT PERSON for the programme :**

<b>Name</b>	Giuseppe Ru
<b>Function</b>	Director of the European Reference Laboratory for TSEs
<b>E-mail</b>	giuseppe.ru@izsto.it

**ASSOCIATED PARTNER 1**  
(Name)

<b>Contact person :</b>	Istituto Superiore di Sanità
<b>e-mail :</b>	Gabriele Vaccari gabriele.vaccari@iss.it

# Highlights from the agenda

today

EQA  
feedback

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	Discussion: issues and proposals	
18:00	Wrap up of the day	

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09:05	Recent EFSA outputs on TSEs.	Angel Ortiz Pelaez (EFSA)
9:25	Discriminatory Western Blot in Small Ruminants EQA (DS): results of the 2024 round	Laura Pirisinu (EURL)
9:55	Atypical BSE prion progression in natural hosts. Progress report.	Sonja Ernst, (Germany NRL)
10:05	PRNP genotyping in sheep EQA (GS): results of the 2024 round	Barbara Chiappini (EURL)
10:35	Forthcoming 2025 round: Discriminatory Western Blot in Small Ruminants and in Bovine (DS & DB), PRNP Genotyping in sheep (GS) and goats (GG)	Clarissa Ferreri (EURL)

tomorrow

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11:35	An overview of the ongoing ScResGoats ICRAD project	John Spiropoulos (WOAH Reference Laboratory for TSE)
12:05	Preventing future TSE outbreaks: exploring PRNP diversity for resistance in Portuguese Goats	Leonor Orge (Portugal NRL)
12:20	Unravelling Goat prion isolates through ovine models.	Sonja Ernst, (Germany NRL)
12:50	Homozygous 222K transgenic mice act as silent carriers for classical scrapie prions	Natalia Fernández-Borges (CSIC - INIA - CISA)
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EFSA updates

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EFSA updates

tomorrow

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AS & genetics

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Goat TSE:  
a full  
immersion

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Next year: back to Rome

