



New series of DG SANTE audits on AMR monitoring

17th EURL-AR workshop

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(online)

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Unit F5: Health Protection

DG SANTE F: Health and food audits and analysis

SANTE F: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - related projects

- AMR monitoring: new legislation - Decision (EU) 2020/1729 - new series (started in 2023)
- AMR One Health Joint Country Visits (SANTE F & ECDC)
- Another series starting later this year – VMP audits



First series of AMR monitoring audits

- **Decision 2013/652/EU** (2014-2020)
- 2015 – 2016 (8 Member States) and 2017 – 2018: (6 Member States + CH)
- 2 **overview reports** published: interim (2017) & final (2019)
- Final report (summarizing the 1st series) ‘highlighted **certain implementation challenges** (...) taken into account (...) **when revising Decision 2013/652/EU**’

New series of audits

- **Decision (EU) 2020/1729** (2021-2026)
- New format: **hybrid** (remote mtgs + onsite visits)
- Planning and implementation of AMR- monitoring programme from **1/01/2021** till date
- **New!** Sampling in border control posts (BCPs)
- **COVID** still challenging in 2021
- **2023:** IE, MT, PT visited and HR (planned - September) - no reports yet published

AMR Audits: objectives

- **To evaluate the implementation** of harmonised AMR monitoring, as required by the Decision(s)
- To gather (and disseminate) information on the **good practices**, including **voluntary systems** and new initiatives for **improving the awareness and understanding** of AMR

Also, **bigger picture**: to highlight **difficulties** and to contribute to further **development** of the relevant legislation

Audit Scope

- **Competent authorities:** structure, responsibilities and cooperation
- **Sampling framework:** SNCP, SLHs, BCPs, retail
- **Official laboratories:** designations, coordination (role of NRL), accreditation and quality systems, analysis performed and methods used
- **Assessment & reporting of AMR**
- **Good practices & developing areas**

Audit itinerary (2023)

- Approx. 6-7 days of meetings/on-site visits
- Remote: Opening meeting and meeting on sampling at the stage of retail (Thurs or Fri, during the week prior to onsite visits)
- On the spot (team travels to MS: Sun or Mon, back on Fri or Sat):
 - **Two slaughterhouses** (poultry/porcine/bovine)
 - **One BCP**
 - **Laboratories** (last of the onsite visits): NRL for AMR plus other laboratories involved in the programme (remote connection with additional labs possible)
- Remote: clarification mtg (if necessary), closing meeting (Tues or Wed, week after the visits)

Planning for 2024

- Mixture of **stand-alone** AMR monitoring audits and **combined with VMP audits**: more details closer to date
- One Health country visits (?) – depending on **invitations** received (SANTE F and ECDC)



***Salmonella* spp. isolates from poultry - SNCP**

Preliminary findings

- Limited information as only 3 MS audited and looking only at 2022 (poultry year)
- Limited number of isolates – upper limit of 170 not reached (in MS audited)

Sampling at slaughter

Preliminary findings

- **New!** Nr of samples - prevalence Salmonella (pigs), *C. jejuni/coli* – 2021 versus 2023 
- Planning v. implementation:
 - Late start/uneven distribution of samples over the year
 - Achieving the required numbers of samples/isolates
- New definition of epi unit for pigs and bovines BUT Member States choosing to use the old one (to have better use of the data obtained)
- Random selection v. 'census' sampling 

Sampling at retail

Preliminary findings

- Sample allocation to NUTS 3/ at local level to retail outlets (also issues with planning v. implementation)
- Sampling & transport: days of week (36hrs/expiration date?)/transport (cold chain)
- Fresh meat - not based on origin & not restricted to packed/unpacked

Sampling of imported meat at BCPs

Preliminary findings

- **New!** 2021 teething issues (plus COVID)
- Inclusion of all BCPs designated for fresh meat e.g. airport BCPs– sampling of small and valuable consignments ('trade samples'?)
- Start late in the year (risk of not being able to capture all origins)
- Sampling of carcasses
- Many **other challenges** e.g. difficulties in planning ahead and ensuring the lab capacity


Laboratory - visit agenda

- NRL coordination role and accreditation
- Training, competence, PTs
- Procedures alignment with the standards (MIC, ESBL)
- Traceability (including media and equipment calibration) and procedures followed
- Quality control issues identified and corrected
- Handling of unusual/implausible results

National experts


- In every audit
- Technical support
- We carry the weight!
- Evaluate documented procedures and its implementation
- To highlight areas for improvement

Laboratory Preliminary findings

- PTs, results, actions taken on failures 
- NRL-AMR: accreditation and coordination role
- Adaptation to methods/deviations from EURL protocols
 - Problems with the availability of media!
- Quality control system
 - Sample acceptance criteria on entering the lab
 - Storage of samples and isolates
 - Media validation (less frequent)
 - Equipment including calibration

Reporting

Preliminary findings

- Early on – only one year of data (2021) available so far
- Traceability – records at slaughterhouse and laboratory (*origin, epi unit, laboratory results*) 
- Errors in transcription, some fields left blank (e.g. CHED P no, country of origin)
- Overall description of the AMR monitoring (sampling design, stratification, randomisation)

Good practices

Preliminary findings



- Coordination/info sharing between authorities including labs
- How the MS use the info obtained? Trend analysis but also awareness raising, setting targets etc.
- One Health – coordination with other authorities
- Voluntary testing: other commodities, vegetables, wild/companion animals etc.
- Use of WGS

Thank you



Questions?

