

NEWSLETTER

FWD AMR-RefLabCap project Overview of activities in 2023

In this Newsletter, you can find an overview of the FWD AMR-RefLabCap project activities in the coming year.

Mapping and evaluation of capacities in regional/local laboratories for the detection and characterisation of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in humans

The FWD AMR-RefLabCap team will continue supporting NRLs within the Network in carrying out mapping and evaluation of regional and local laboratories capacities in each country for the detection and characterisation of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. In 2022, the FWD AMR-RefLabCap team advised and helped the NRLs to prepare the methodology for carrying out the mapping. In 2023, each NRL participating in the mapping exercise should make the results of the mapping and analysis available in their national language and prepare a summary report in English. The report should contain a description of strengths and weakness which will form the basis for further national capacity building activities in the country. The project team will prepare a consolidated overview report containing an analysis for all participating countries and comparison of similarities and differences between the countries. An online workshop to assist the NRLs in performing data analysis and interpretation of the mapping results in their country will be organized by FWD AMR-RefLabCap team on **31 January 2023**.

Deadline for delivering the summary report (in English) is **21 March 2023**.

Support to NRLs to establish national surveillance networks and to carry out capacity building activities for regional and local laboratories

The capacity building training will be offered to minimum 16 countries, including the previously identified “priority countries” based on the needs identified in the mapping of local/regional capacity carried out in each country. Over the years 2023-2024, the project team will provide a range of support activities, including two one-day physical workshops, online meetings/workshops, learning materials, and bespoke consultancy services. In addition, the activities will cover the support to national public health reference laboratories for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* to establish and to coordinate a national (sentinel) network of regional and local laboratories to support AMR monitoring in human *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infections.

Webinar on how to plan an EQA **14 February 2023**.

First physical workshop is planned for **autumn 2023**.

Mid-term network meeting

The mid-term network meeting will be a physical 2-day meeting at SSI, Copenhagen. Two persons per country will be invited to participate in the meeting that will take place **26-27 April 2023**.

2nd annual EQA for genotypic testing of AMR

The FWD AMR-RefLabCap project has developed an EQA scheme for the network members that can be used to test the technical and analytical skills for WGS-based resistome profiling and identification of high-risk antimicrobial resistant *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* clones. After participation in the EQAs, the laboratories will be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in their technical and analytical set up and implement appropriate actions for improvement of their performance.

Webinar on the results of the first rounds of EQA and Ring-trial, **7 February 2023**

The second round of this EQA (EQA2-WGS-AMR) will be launched in **Q2 2023**.

2nd annual ring-trial for WGS-based prediction of AMR

Throughout the project period FWD AMR-RefLabCap team will organise three *in silico* inter-laboratory ring trials of bioinformatics pipelines for prediction of AMR targets, enabling the participants to evaluate their tools and database performance for AMR target detection compared to the other participants and reference datasets.

Webinar on the results of first ring-trial (RingTrial1-WGS-AMR), **7 february 2023**

Second ring-trial (RingTrial2-WGS-AMR) will be launched in coordination with the 2nd annual EQA (see above).

Multidisciplinary training

The FWD AMR-RefLabCap team aims to provide multidisciplinary training to the public health epidemiologists and microbiologists identified by the network members through annual workshops and webinars. The training include the topics related to AMR surveillance of human *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infections, including technology transfer for integration of WGS to national surveillance and outbreak investigation.

One webinar and the second annual workshop (online) are planned for **autumn 2023**.

Table 1. Overview of the upcoming activities in FWD AMR – ReflabCap in 2023 and important dates

Title	Activity	Time/Duration
Mapping and evaluation of capacities in regional/local laboratories for the detection and characterisation of <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>Campylobacter</i> in humans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd workshop online • Submission of country summary report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 January 2023 • 21 March 2023
Support to NRLs to establish national network of laboratories and to carry out capacity building activities for regional and local laboratories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar on “How to plan an EQA” • 1st one-day workshop in Copenhagen (physical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 February 2023 • Q3 2023
Mid-term network meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-days meeting, SSI, Copenhagen (physical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26-27 April 2023
EQA for genotypic testing of AMR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar on EQA1-WGS-AMR and RingTrial2-WGS-AMR • Launch of EQA2-WGS-AMR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 February 2023 • Q2 2023
Ring-trial of bioinformatics pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of RingTrial2-WGS-AMR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 2023
Multidisciplinary training for public health microbiologists and epidemiologists, related to AMR surveillance, incl. WGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd workshop (online) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 2023