

Invitation to the EURGen-RefLabCap Network Meeting 2021 – 1 and 2 December 2021

Dear member of the EURGen-RefLabCap Network,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the EURGen-RefLabCap Network Meeting 2021.

The meeting will be held in-person at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Denmark and it will begin on 1 December at 12:00 with lunch. During the first day of the meeting we will provide an update on the current activities in the EURGen-RefLabCap project, discuss the work plan of the project and present results of the questionnaire on capability and capacity for public health reference laboratory functions (i.e. NRL core functions as defined by ECDC) in the participating countries. We will encourage discussion between the NRLs regarding their questionnaire results, their main difficulties experienced when implementing actions with respect to the laboratory core functions, and exchange of potential strategies to help implementing the core functions. The first day will end with a network dinner.

The second day will focus on whole-genome sequencing (WGS), with presentations regarding the different international initiatives exploring these technologies, and with discussion of the main challenges identified by the EURGen-RefLabCap members. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss possible approaches to implement or improve their WGS capacity, and provide their input on a draft European harmonised protocol for WGS-based CRE/CCRE surveillance and outbreak investigations. The Network Meeting will end on 2 December at 13:00.

We would also like to invite the EURGen-RefLabCap members identified as priority countries for an additional session, taking place immediately after the main Network Meeting, on 2 December from 14:15 to 16:30. The additional session aims at promoting the collaboration between the priority countries and the EURGen-RefLabCap group, and at clarifying questions regarding the individual action plans for capacity building.

Please note that the priority countries have not yet been informed of their status. If you belong to a priority country you will be contacted with a separate email on 25 October.

Registration of participants

All countries participating in the EURGen-RefLabCap network are invited to participate in the meeting. Countries that are members of the EU Health Programme may register two participants per country, and accommodation including breakfast, lunch at DTU both days, network dinner and a daily allowance will be covered by the EURGen-RefLabCap project. Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey may register two participants, but their expenses are not reimbursed by the EURGen-RefLabCap project.

If you intend to participate in this meeting, please kindly complete the registration on the website <https://www.eurgen-reflabcap.eu/events-and-news/registration-for-eurgen-meeting>. Each participating member from your institution must submit an individual registration form. The submission deadline is 27 October 2021.

Expenses and reimbursement

The EURGen-RefLabCap group will directly provide accommodation and breakfast at the hotel 'Zleep', near the meeting venue. We will reimburse the travel to Copenhagen in economy class or equivalent at the lowest available rate. We kindly ask participants to make their own travel arrangements, and to save travel tickets, travel invoices and boarding passes for reimbursement. The EURGen-RefLabCap group will provide lunch on the 1 and 2 of December, and a network dinner on 1 December.

Additional food expenses and internal travel expenses in Denmark (such as transportation from the airport to the hotel/DTU, between the hotel and DTU, and from the hotel/DTU to the airport) will not be reimbursed. Instead, participants will receive a *per diem* value.

Practical details

The meeting will begin on 1 December 2021 at 12:00 with lunch, at the venue Glassalen (the Glass Hall) at Technical University of Denmark (DTU).

Address: Glassalen (the Glass Hall), Building 101, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Anker Engelundsvej 1, 2800 Kongens Lyngby, Denmark

Map of DTU campus: <https://www.dtu.dk/english/about/campuses/dtu-lyngby-campus>

The Zleep hotel is located in the immediate vicinity of DTU campus. The distance between the hotel and the meeting venue (Glassalen) is approximately one kilometre, with the possibility of using a bus service.

Hotel address: Lundtoftegårdsvej 12, 2800 Kongens Lyngby, Denmark

Hotel website: <https://www.zleep.com/da/hotel/lyngby/>

Furthermore, traveling between the hotel/DTU and the airport is estimated to take approximately one hour. We suggest that participants use the Rejseplanen service (<https://www.rejseplanen.dk/>) to help them with planning transportations.

If you have any questions about the EURGen-RefLabCap Network Meeting 2021 you may contact us at EURGen-RefLabCap@food.dtu.dk.

Kind regards on behalf of the EURGen-RefLabCap group.