

EUROLAB Newsletter

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Dear EUROLAB members,



- 2 Please find below the first EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2021 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB, and relevant developments to the laboratory community.
- 5
- 11 Following the year of 2020 and its extraordinary circumstances, we are still looking for some normality to overcome the profoundly changed life in society and in the organization of professional activities. Laboratories are facing the economic and social impact created by the pandemic together with the growing changes related with digitalization, new technologies and new policies. Laboratories, however, are resilient and they are already establishing the drivers for the future, transforming challenges into opportunities and developing strategies to create added value for the international trade and for the confidence of consumers and citizens.
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- 16 EUROLAB is also adapting to these times of transition, developing a digital approach to become more effective in the relation with their members, creating new models for the networking and for the cooperation and preparing a roadmap for the future engagement with stakeholders and partners in the political, economic and technical domains of interest for the laboratory community and for the society.
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- 19 It is also a transition time for the EUROLAB leadership, as a change in the presidency is being expected in the next General Assembly. This renewal of persons is an opportunity to bring new ideas and new approaches and, for sure, great expectations will be fulfilled. From my side, being this the last of my forewords for the EUROLAB newsletter, I would like to express my profound gratitude for the kind support and cooperation of all, for the many lessons learned in the visits to the National Associations events, and the fine people and friendship that I was fortunate to find in many countries' association members of EUROLAB, truly being the greatest value of this organization.
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- 22 Looking forward to increase co-operation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the laboratories contribution to the improvement of safety and quality of life.

Wishing you all the best and stay healthy and safe!

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro
EUROLAB President

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National Members News

ASCOLAB

ASCOLAB training for the Gecamines Panda central laboratory staff: selection, verification and validation of analytical methods and measurement uncertainty



An intensive three-day course on selection, verification and validation of test laboratories method has been organized and facilitated by ASCOLAB. No matter how well a method performs elsewhere, analysts need to confirm that the method is valid when applied in their laboratory.

ASCOLAB held a training course on selection, verification and validation of methods and measurement uncertainty at GCM-LCP (Panda Central Laboratory), LIKASI, DRC from 01 to 03 February 2021. Seventeen participants from different sections of the laboratory attended the training.

Mme. Aimee Mwema (GCM-LCP laboratory Manager) and Mr. Viki Kanama (ASCOLAB CEO) formally opened the course.

The trainer, Mr. Patrick Lawu, highlighted the objectives of the course and emphasized the need for full participation by all trainees from the onset, so as to achieve the learning objectives of individuals, group exercises and class discussions.



The training was very intensive, and required a basic understanding of mathematics. The course covered statistical fundamentals before progressing to relatively advanced concepts of statistical techniques that are used in both method validation/verification and in calculating measurement uncertainty of test results. Practical and group work was interspersed throughout the training programme and consisted of exercises in:

- Hypothesis testing; t-test applications;

- Outliers determination: Dixon and Grubbs tests;
- ANOVA Analysis;
- F-Tests;
- Ruggedness testing;
- Linearity testing;
- LOD & LOQ;
- Measurement uncertainty.
- A group exercise on measurement certainty using real data produced by a mineral-testing laboratory.



All trainees participated openly and actively in discussions, individual assignments and group work. The course consisted of a mix of theoretical and practical applications and included critiques of real examples of validation, verification and measurement uncertainty. The course ended with a one-hour examination on the knowledge assimilated by the trainees.

The course was very successful based on both the feedback from participants and the outcome of the examination. The participants indicated that the training course achieved all its objectives, was very practical and added significantly to their understanding of statistics.

In her closing meeting, Mme. Aimée Mwema, the GCM-LCP management representative, emphasized the importance for participants to utilize the knowledge gained in the pursuit of accreditation of their laboratory.

EUROLAB-CZ



AcoustiAdrienne

The Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, a member of EUROLAB-CZ, is now improving its services in the field of the acoustic testing. New onsite methods for the acoustic performance of road and railway traffic noise reducing devices has been accredited. The AcoustiAdrienne device serves for the non-destructive measurement of sound absorption, sound insulation and the sound diffraction of a noise barrier at a road or a railway on the basis of the Adrienne method described in EN 1793-4 and EN 16272-4, EN 1793-5 as well as EN 1793-6 and EN 16272-6.

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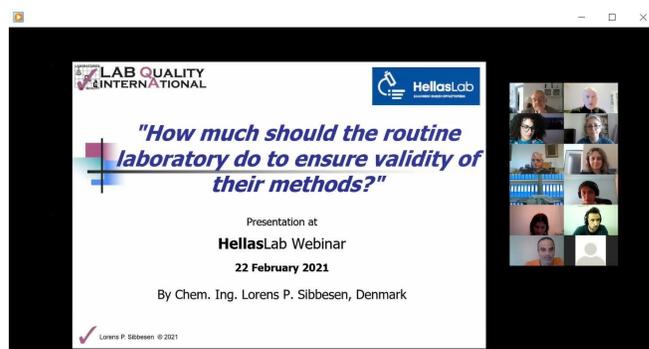
Body, ESYD, who presented the new working procedure for remote assessments for laboratories.

A brief introduction of the president and Managing Director of ESYD was followed by a presentation of HellasLab president, Dr. P. Agathonos, showing the results of the Eurolab questionnaire about this subject.

A series of questions were asked on line from participating laboratories and most of them were answered.

You can find all presentations and some photos [here](#).

A webinar was held on December 14 & 21, 2020, dealing with uncertainty. 30 participants from laboratories all over Greece (and Denmark) attended the 2-hour webinar. This was the first of a series of webinars that HellasLab has planned in order to



HellasLab

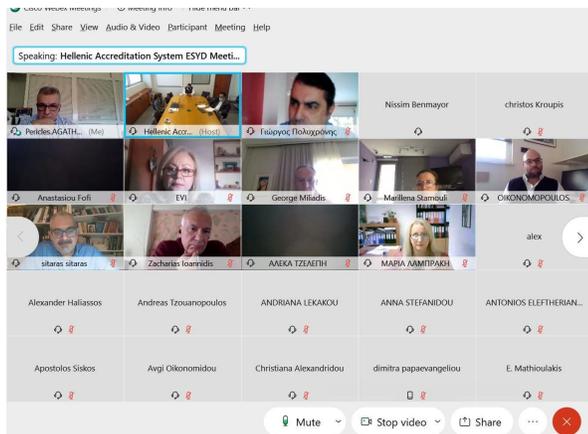


Hellaslab organized on Friday, November 27, 2020 a webinar on "Remote Assessment of Laboratories", together with the ESYD, Greek Accreditation Body, and was attended by over 400 participants from laboratories all over Greece. Main speaker was I. Si-

taras, Laboratory Director of Greek Accreditation

continue training and networking among managers and technicians of Greek laboratories during this difficult period.

The same seminar was repeated on January 18 & 25, 2021, as many laboratories wanted to attend. A very interesting webinar was also presented on February, 22, 2021, by Lorens Sibbesen from Denmark, attended by over 90 participants.



TURKLAB



TURKLAB Technical Seminar, "Cell Culture Applications in Virucidal, Skin Irritation and Industrial Analyses"

In 2021, we are continuing our series of technical seminars, held in conjunction with the TURKLAB Academy, to raise funds for technical laboratory equipment. The first seminar of this year was held on Thursday, 7 January 2021, with the participation of the company Exim Yaşam Bilimleri (Life Sciences). The webinar on "Cell Culture Applications in Virucidal, Skin Irritation and Industrial Analyses" was held by Mr. Haluk Camcı from Exim Yaşam Bilimleri. He gave a detailed presentation on Cell Culture Ap-

lications, Cell Culture Consumables and Growth Media, Ozone Therapy and Virucidal analysis and answered questions from the attendees. Almost 100 people from various organisations attended the presentation.

Technical Seminar "Molecular Analysis Applications for Food Samples"

The Research Products Specialist at Anatolia Genetworks, Evren Taştan, was TURKLAB's guest at the technical seminar held at the TURKLAB Academy, and gave a presentation titled "Applications in Molecular Analysis for Food Samples". 100 people from various organisations attended the seminar. Taştan gave a detailed presentation about DNA isolation and Real-Time PCR applications for food samples, and he answered questions from the attendees.

Method Validation/Verification Training



At the first training session, conducted on 2-3 February 2021 by Reha Uygun at Petlas Lastik San. Tic. A.Ş. Kırşehir factory, participants were provided with theoretical and practical information regarding statistical techniques and laboratory statistics used to validate methods, which is the most important factor in determining the performance of laboratories, under the scope of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. Model practices were implemented using Excel sheets.

Consumer Products Laboratories Committee Meeting

The Consumer Products Laboratories Committee held its first meeting of 2021 on 23 February 2021, with the participation of members and the TURKLAB General Secretary, Çağatay Turan, using the Zoom application.

At the meeting, a presentation was given by the head of the committee, Neslihan Sözer, on TURKLAB's activities in 2020 and its targets for 2021. Information on the meeting with the Market Surveillance Directorate General of the Turkish Ministry of Trade was provided. Views were exchanged regarding the communiqué on the inspection of some textile, apparel and leather products (Product Safety and Inspection: 2021/18), which will come into

force on 1 March 2021, and it was decided to work on the standardisation of laboratories with regard to the tests included in this communiqué.

ISO 19011:2018 INTERNAL AUDIT TRAINING (for ISO/IEC 17025:2017)

From 25-26 February 2021, an ISO 19011:2018 (for ISO/IEC 17025:2017) Internal Audit Training was carried out via the Zoom application for approximately 14 hours, based on the "Risk Based Approach".

On the first day of the training; following a general



introduction of the ISO 19011:2018 standard, the terms and definitions related to the audit were discussed, and a presentation was given on the principles of the audit, information was provided about sample applications and exercises were conducted. Subsequently, a presentation was given on the management of the audit program, information was provided about sample applications and exercises were conducted. On the second day of the training course, a presentation was given on the implementation of the audit program, information was provided about sample applications and exercises were conducted. Then a presentation was given on the competence of the auditors, information was provided about sample applications and exercises were conducted. The training session concluded with the evaluation conducted at the end of the presentation.

ISO 19011:2018 INTERNAL AUDIT TRAINING (f TURKLAB Sectoral Meeting, 15 March 2021

All Occupational Hygiene Laboratories were invited to our "Sectoral Meeting", which was held on 15/03/2021, with a broad participation. We would like to thank all laboratories that attended the meeting.

At the speeches given during the meeting, it was observed that the main topics discussed at the "Problems Encountered by Occupational Hygiene Laboratories in the Field and Expectations Workshop" held in 2018 continued to be relevant in terms of laboratories and the expectations maintained in terms of the implementation of workshop decisions. It was also underlined that our work as an association shall continue to convey the requests of the laboratories to Official Authorities and that the expectations are in order to improve the industry and service provided within the industry.

TIC Market Trends

Business Developments

- **ALS Limited** has announced improvements to its tool ALS Compass, a sampling intelligence that integrates data management. [Read more.](#)
- **ALS Limited** has announced that its tool Portable XRF, used in mineral exploration and mining to acquire preliminary information on the site, is now available for ALS Geochemistry laboratories in Australia. [Read more.](#)
- **ALS Limited** has announced an update to its current sample container provided for cyanide analysis in order to ensure that the sample is stored in complete darkness at all times, maintaining the integrity of the sample throughout sampling, analysis and storage. [Read more.](#)
- **AmSpec** has opened a new branch and laboratory in Masai Johor Bahru (Kota Masai), as part of a strategy to reinforce its position in South-East Asia. [Read more.](#)
- **AmSpec** has opened a new branch and laboratory in Barcelona, which will join the other AmSpec facilities in the region (Algeciras, Cartagena, Huelva and Las Palmas). [Read more.](#)
- **AmSpec Morocco** has successfully obtained ISO 9001:2015 accreditation for a wide spectrum of testing services. [Read more.](#)
- **AmSpec Portugal** has been involved in the first attendance for Non-Radioactivity Testing on steel scrap metal at the Leixoes Port. [Read more.](#)
- **Applus+** in Italy has been awarded a three-year Master Services Agreement for Inspection and Project Expediting by a major Italian Oil & Gas company. [Read more.](#)
- **Applus+** in Spain has been certified as Top Employer 2021 for third consecutive year, and has obtained this distinction for the first time in the Latin American region. [Read more.](#)
- **Applus+** Italy has been awarded the accreditation for Industrial Products, according to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 as Inspection Body type "A" by the Italian Accreditation Body ACCREDIA. [Read more.](#)
- **Baltic Control** has been officially approved by Indonesia's KSO SCISI (KSO Sucofindo-Surveyor Indonesia) to carry out verification and surveys of Food & Beverage products prior to their shipment from Europe (excl. Netherlands and Belgium) to the Republic of Indonesia. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** and **OPTEL** have joined forces to address the critical issue of reliability and traceability in COVID-19 vaccine logistics chains. The complexity of cold chain conditions, the timeliness of delivery as well as the need to mitigate risk of any deviation are identified as critical challenges for successful large-scale vaccination. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has been entrusted by CAM Négoce to inspect several hundred million of medical masks prior to export from China. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has become a supporting member of the Hydrogen Council. The Hydrogen Council is a global CEO-led initiative launched in 2017 that brings together leading companies with a united vision and long-term ambition for hydrogen to foster the clean energy transition. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has launched "Reshape Your Laboratory", a suite of partnership solutions, ranging from laboratory design for lean operations to fully outsourced operational management, to deliver sustainable cost savings and enhance quality in the world's testing laboratories. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has published its results for the full year of 2020. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has joined the Coalition for the Energy of the Future, gathering 14 international companies committed to accelerating the energy transition in transport and logistics. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has won the S&P Global Gold Class and the Industry Mover Sustainability Awards. [Read more.](#)

- **Bureau Veritas** has been awarded project certification for EolMed, an offshore wind farm project developed by Qair and involving Total, Ideol and Vestas Wind Systems A/S. [Read more.](#)
- **Bureau Veritas** has published a white paper, entitled “Remote inspections – A solution for the present, an opportunity for the future,” outlining the importance of remote inspections to ensure business continuity. [Read more.](#)
- **CCIC** has announced that the Petrochemical Testing Center of China Inspection Group (Southeast Region) was officially opened, and the petrochemical product division of Fujian Company moved to a new location. [Read more.](#)
- **Commodity Inspection Services BV** team has been awarded accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 by ANAB (ANSI International Accreditation Board). [Read more.](#)
- **Control Union** has been appointed as an approved Certification Body (CB) for the Responsible Plastic Management (RPM) Program, allowing organisations taking positive steps towards reduction, reuse and recycling of plastic to benefit from the RPM trust mark. [Read more.](#)
- **Control Union** has been recognised as the first Certification Body for the ISCC CORSIA Program, allowing organisations in the sustainable aviation fuel supply chain to supply sustainable aviation fuels. [Read more.](#)
- **Cotecna Brazil** has been awarded by VLI – Tubarao Terminal with a two-year contract for the supervision of storage, receipt, fumigation and supervision of loading of soybean, corn, soybean meal and fertilizer at VLI terminal TPD. [Read more.](#)
- **Cotecna** has announced that one of its members, Neutron, has recently completed the revamping of their Metal Lab, including the addition of a clean room for metal trace detection, designed in compliance with ISO 8 standards aiming to reduce interferences from external environment and from contaminated materials. [Read more.](#)
- **Cotecna Inspection SA Turkey** has been accredited by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC) as an ISO17065 Product Certification Body. [Read more.](#)
- **DEKRA** has been awarded sustainability ‘platinum rating’ by EcoVadis. This puts DEKRA among the top 1% of evaluated companies. [Read more.](#)
- **DEKRA** has announced the opening of its first vehicle inspection station in Guadalajara, Mexico. [Read more.](#)
- **DEKRA** has started the process of becoming a UK Approved Body for UKCA marking. [Read more.](#)
- **Element** has expanded its product qualification testing (PQT) capability for wireless technology at sites in Hull and Hitchin, UK. [Read more.](#)
- **Element** has been recognized with a new Nadcap accreditation for fastener testing at its Huntington Beach, California laboratory. [Read more.](#)
- **Element** has started the process to create a new center in Linköping, Sweden, bringing three laboratories together into one site close to major clients in the aerospace, defense and industrials sectors. [Read more.](#)
- **Element** has been approved by Sikorsky to provide non-destructive testing (NDT) from its Newtown, Pennsylvania laboratory. [Read more.](#)
- **Element** has been approved by the City of Los Angeles as a Testing Agent for non-metallics. [Read more.](#)
- **Eurofins** has launched a new CE marked serological assay for the identification and quantification of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. This ELISA kit can support vaccination campaigns by confirming the success of a vaccination and monitoring the antibody levels over time. [Read more.](#)
- **Eurofins** has launched a new extraction-free RT-PCR method, upgrading its RT-PCR assay for use with pharynx gargle and saliva sample matrices. [Read more.](#)

- Eurofins's Clinical Enterprise, Inc. has received US Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a direct-to-consumer (DTC) version of its empowerDX COVID-19 Home Collection Kit. [Read more.](#)
- Eurofins Cosmetics & Personal Care have developed and implemented a 3-step testing protocol for single-use nappies, in order to protect infants from hazardous substances or contaminants. [Read more.](#)
- Eurofins has announced the launch by its subsidiary empowerDX, of its direct-to-consumer, FDA-emergency use authorised, COVID-19 Home Collection Kit on Amazon in the US. [Read more.](#)
- Eurofins Technologies has announced the launch of GSD NovaType II, its upgraded RT-PCR kit for the identification of mutations associated with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern. [Read more.](#)
- HQTS has won a tender to provide quality inspection services for a project run by The UN Refugee Agency. The two sides will cooperate closely for the next five years. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek & BEXIMCO have unveiled a new Center of Excellence (COE) for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Bangladesh. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has announced its appointment by Sun Cable Pty Ltd. to provide marine survey client representation services to assure quality and safety of the Australia-ASEAN Power Link (AAPL). [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has announced the launch of a new in-country service for fire testing and certification of building products in Saudi Arabia, to support the increasing demand for fire resistance testing from customers in the region. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has announced the construction of a new Minerals Global Centre of Excellence, located in Perth, Western Australia. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek and Greenlink have secured a marine licence for the Greenlink Interconnector, a proposed electricity interconnector between Wales and the Republic of Ireland. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has opened a new facility in Puerto Rico to expand building and construction services to the Caribbean. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has delivered a permit feasibility study for the world's longest proposed subsea cable between the UK and Morocco. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has announced the launch of Crystek, a process to evaluate the composition and production of honey, which can predict and prevent crystallization. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has launched a testing strategy for the determination of 57 allergens in cosmetics. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has published its 2020 full year results. [Read more.](#)
- ISQ has started developing, within the ErasmusPlus DESTINE project, a new level 4 qualification training, fostering technical training in the Additive Manufacturing & Design Technician area. [Read more.](#)
- ISQ has launched the Inspire program, an "open innovation" initiative that aims to involve all ISQ employees in ISQ change and continuous improvement. [Read more.](#)
- ISQ has collaborated with ADENE in the validation of the water performance assessment model of hotel units. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa N.V. has contributed to the development of a certification scheme for public face masks based on NEN-spec 1-2. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa Turkey has certified Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport according to the new ISO/PAS 45005: 2020 standard regarding COVID-19 prevention measures. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa has developed the We Care standard for the implementation and certification of sustainability requirements at company sites and in supply chain management in the food industry. The standard has been published by the FiBL - Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau or Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Germany. [Read more.](#)

- **Kiwa** has announced the future hosting of a wireless webinar on May 5, focusing on different areas of regulatory approvals for wireless and electronics products. [Read more.](#)
- **QIMA** has announced a new partnership with the digital B2B platform Serai. Serai users can now access QIMA inspection, audit and testing services to minimize supply chain risk and manage product quality. [Read more.](#)
- **QISJ** has been nominated by the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency for road use eligibility inspection (RWI). [Read more.](#)
- **Ravi Energie** has been accredited by Quality Council of India to carry out Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH). [Read more.](#)
- **RINA** has announced the opening of its Fleet Operating Centre (FOC) to facilitate greater accuracy and efficiency in the managing of RINA classes shipping vessels. [Read more.](#)
- **RINA** has officially become a member of the European hydrogen energy and fuel cell association. [Read more.](#)
- **RINA Services** has joined the IFS Academy and has been recognized as an IFS Training Provider. [Read more.](#)
- **RINA** has been chosen by the Barilla Group to verify compliance with the rules set out in the Carta del Mulino regulatory document, which aims to enhance biodiversity and build value for communities in line with its ESG objectives. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has announced its appointment by Gate Group to deliver food safety and COVID-19 Safety Control auditing services across the company's global airline catering facilities. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has launched a new, international EDANA NWSP 360.0 method for the detection of chemicals in baby diapers, sanitary products and tampons. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has received the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to participate and provide services for third party 510(k) premarket submissions for medical devices. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has announced its partnership with Sintali to act as a global certification services provider for EDGE certification, as well as to solidify the consortium's presence in India. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has announced a partnership with RLP AgroScience, which will allow more complex, tailor-made experimental designs to be provided for environmental and human safety assessments of pesticides, chemicals, biocides and human drugs/veterinary drugs. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has assisted Nepal with the design, procurement and implementation of the launch of the Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) and the Nepal Trade Information Portal (NTIP). [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has launched the first Independently Checked Mark (IC Mark) for reusable fabric masks in the US and Canada. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has announced investment in Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) equipment at its Fujairah laboratory to assist clients when looking at chemical waste contamination in fuels. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has launched 'Realize', a programme to help companies measure their food safety culture maturity levels and comply with the latest Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) requirements. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has opened a new toy testing facility in Mexico City. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** laboratory in Colombo, Sri Lanka has become the first in the country to receive Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) accreditation for the testing of 300 pesticides in food and agricultural products. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has launched its new website, SGS E-Customs, which will help global businesses achieve frictionless trade. [Read more.](#)
- **SGS** has signed a contract with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy (MICEVN)

of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the implementation of the Conformity Assessment Program on industrial products, starting May 1, 2021. [Read more.](#)

- SGS has launched a new portfolio of environmental, social and governance solutions, end-to-end services, to help organizations implement more efficient processes, address stakeholder concerns and accomplish their sustainability goals. [Read more.](#)
- SOCOTEC has announced the participation of their Luxembourg teams in the extension and renovation project of the Konrad Adenauer building, which houses the annex of the European Parliament located in Luxembourg. [Read more.](#)
- SZU's testing laboratory has been recognised in the European RADMAC group by the certification body DIN CERTCO. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV AUSTRIA has announced that the Italian lab Archa has been authorised for OK compost certification tests. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV AUSTRIA has set up a joint venture with dhpG IT-Services GmbH. To become the market leader in the field of security operations centers (SOC) through future-oriented solutions and constant further development. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV AUSTRIA has launched its new claim "digital.now: connecting technology - living the future". [Read more.](#)
- TÜV Rheinland has announced that it is now capable of performing interoperability tests mandated by the new IEEE 1547.1-2020 standard. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has signed an agreement to implement Spacewell's Axxerion software at its new Singapore headquarters. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD National Engineering Laboratory has launched a Joint Industry Project (JIP) to help the water industry increase the accuracy of abstraction and leakage reporting. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has signed a business agreement with Samjong KPMG to strengthen the Industrial Operation Technology (OT) security business and share expertise on security authentication systems. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has been granted the status of a full Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA) Member Firm. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD Hong Kong has signed an agreement with the China Quality Certification Centre (CQC) on China Mandatory Product Certification (CCC) testing. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has achieved US Department of Transportation accreditation as Approval and Inspection Agency for Approval and Inspection of UN Portable Tanks. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has expanded its method of calculating ice throw and ice fall from wind turbines. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has partnered with ViewSonic, a global provider of visual solutions to develop the testing of a colour blindness feature in monitors. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has confirmed the conformity of Vestas' status code lists to FGW TR 10 Rev. 0. This makes Vestas the first manufacturer to be able to present a complete certificate of conformity for its wind turbines. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD Academy has launched its new website and blog on all aspects of occupational health and safety. [Read more.](#)
- UL has announced that Trina Solar has received UL's Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) certifications for its photovoltaic (PV) products, promoting transparency on their environmental impact. [Read more.](#)
- UL has announced that Firedome is the first cybersecurity software to achieve UL's Secure IoT Component Qualification, a solution that helps internet of things (IoT) product manufacturers identify third

-party components that can benefit the security of their products. [Read more.](#)

- UL has expanded its certification capabilities in Australia and New Zealand. [Read more.](#)
- UL has granted ERG the first wind turbine lifetime extension certificate to advance the ongoing safe operation of clean, sustainable energy generation. [Read more.](#)
- UL has expanded the scope of the IECEE CB Scheme scope to include the issuance of test reports and certificates with functional safety evaluations. [Read more.](#)
- UL has been approved to test and certify civilian drones in India in efforts to drive India's leadership in commercial drone use. [Read more.](#)
- UL has recognised iSiCHECK as the first smart badge to achieve IoT security rating. [Read more.](#)
- UL has launched in-flight battery fire containment certification services in accordance with ANSI/CAN/UL 5800, the Standard for Safety for Battery Fire Containment Products to help the airline industry reduce the safety risk posed by lithium-ion batteries. [Read more.](#)
- UL has announced the approval of one of its labs by Ethernet Alliance for Powering over Ethernet (PoE) certification testing. [Read more.](#)

Personnel Developments

- Alfred H. Knight has appointed Jo Wang as Deputy Laboratory Manager of AHK China. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has announced the appointment of Lynda Clarizio as a Non-Executive Director of Intertek with effect from 1 March 2021. [Read more.](#)
- SZU has appointed Mr. Petr Matoušek as the new director of the SZU branch in Jablonec nad Nisou on January 1st, 2021. In this position he replaces Mr. Jiří Malach. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD Product Service GmbH has announced that Walter Reithmaier has been appointed as its new CEO with effect from the start of this year, replacing Dr. Peter Havel. In his new position he is responsible for the operational business of testing medtech, industrial, automotive and consumer products, and will focus on digitalisation, sustainability and future viability. [Read more.](#)

Mergers and Acquisition

- ALS Limited has acquired Steel River Testing, an environmental testing business based in Newcastle and servicing the greater Hunter Valley region, specialised in ambient air and stack emissions testing and capable of evaluating general water parameters. [Read more.](#)
- ALS Limited has announced the acquisition of Grupo Investiga, the leading independent laboratory in Brazil and Latin America for the Cosmetics and Personal Care industry. [Read more.](#)
- Applus+ has acquired the two companies, Inecosa and Adicora from the Iberdrola Group to form part of the Energy & Industry division of Applus+. [Read more.](#)
- Belgorail has announced the acquisition of the Dutch company HHC/DRS, now part of the Certifer group. [Read more.](#)
- Bureau Veritas has completed the acquisition of [Secura B.V.](#) (starting with a majority stake), an independent service company specializing in cybersecurity services. [Read more.](#)
- DEKRA has announced an expansion in non-destructive material testing (NDT) business by taking over the engineering firm Ingenieurbüro Witte in Versmold/Ostwestfalen, adding to its network of non-destructive material testing sites in the region in northern Germany. [Read more.](#)
- Element has acquired the pharmaceutical analytical testing company Avomeen, strengthening the group's Life Sciences business unit in North America. [Read more.](#)
- Eurofins Scientific has announced the acquisition of Beacon Discovery, a drug discovery and contract

research organization (CRO) focused on G-Protein Coupled Receptor (GPCR) research. [Read more.](#)

- Kiwa has announced the acquisition of International Fire Consultants (IFC Group), a specialist in fire safety consultancy. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa has acquired Wijnveld GmbH & Co., an engineering company with focus is on the topics of needs-based fire protection, fire protection plans and also fire cause investigations. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has announced the acquisition of a majority stake (80%) in Ryobi Geotechnique International Pte Ltd (RGIPL), a Singaporean company specializing in providing geoenvironmental solutions for activities such as instrumentation and monitoring, soil investigation, and geotechnical engineering for the construction and infrastructure industry. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has announced the acquisition of Analytical & Development Services (ADS), headquartered in Cambridge, UK, from Concept Life Sciences. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has announced the acquisition of the lab facilities of ISL, a laboratory providing analytical services for pharmaceutical products and substances based in Ringaskiddy (Cork), Ireland. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has announced the acquisition of Autoscope/CTOK, a privately owned business operating three vehicle inspection services (VIS) centers in Le Mans, France. [Read more.](#)

Accreditation and Standardisation

Accreditation

IAF/ILAC

- Dr. Thomas Facklam has been selected as contractor for the IAF ILAC Single Organization Project.
- The 2021 IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings will be held online. A schedule has been published [here](#).
- The IAF/ILAC Document on Peer-Evaluations Under COVID-19 Pandemic Conditions was approved with 90 Members in favor, 1 against and 6 abstained. Comments received on the ballot have been provided to the responsible Co-Conveners for their consideration.
- The theme for World Accreditation Day 2021 is Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of SDGs. Members are encouraged to submit case studies on this topic, both for use in WAD materials and publication on the [Public Sector Assurance](#) and [Business Benefits](#) websites.
- Further to the 14-day ballot/referendum to all IAF and ILAC Members, which closed 20 January 2021, [IAF/ILAC-A1/A2: Addendum 01/2021 - IAF/ILAC Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) has now been published and is available in the [Publications/IAF-ILAC Joint Publications \(A Series\)](#) section of the IAF website, as well as the [Publications/Joint ILAC-IAF Documents \(A-Series\)](#) area of the ILAC website.
- The result of the ballot on Joint IAF/ILAC Statement on Replacement of Assessments during the COVID-19 Pandemic is available. The vote passed within IAF, and the results have been posted on the Members' side of the IAF website under Ballot Results & Comments.
- The ISO/IAF/ILAC Joint Strategic Group is developing a survey to get the views of those within the conformity assessment community and their stakeholders to understand the lessons learnt from the pandemic, including the experiences of remote assessment and auditing.
- Registration is now open for the below mid-term ILAC and IAF Virtual Meetings taking place between 15 April and 12 May, 2021 and all ILAC and IAF members are welcome to join. The official meeting website is [here](#).

⇒ ILAC Accreditation Committee (ILAC AIC) - 15 April, 2021

- ⇒ ILAC Arrangement Committee (ILAC ARC) – 20 April, 2021
- ⇒ ILAC Inspection Committee (ILAC IC) – 22 April, 2021
- ⇒ IAF Multilateral Arrangement Committee (IAF MLAC) – 29 April, 2021
- ⇒ IAF/ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) – 06 May, 2021
- ⇒ IAF Technical Committee (IAF TC) – 12 May, 2021

IAF

- IAF has announced the removal from the IAF website of IAF MD 3:2008 Advanced Surveillance and Recertification Procedures (ASRP) and IAF MD 11:2019 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems.
- IAF is seeking nominations for the position of Chair for the IAF Database Management Committee (DMC) for 2021 - 2022. In October 2020, the IAF DMC Acting Chair, Mr. Marcus Long, stepped down and Ms. Kylie Sheehan (JAS-ANZ), agreed to assume the position on a temporary basis. The DMC manages IAF Database LLC., which oversees the operation of IAF Certsearch.
- Emanuele Riva of ACCREDIA will be confirmed as the IAF Chair during the 2021 General Assembly meeting given that no further nominations were received.
- The latest edition of IAF Outlook is now available [here](#). IAF Outlook provides the latest news in the fields of conformity assessment and accreditation; subscribe [here](#) to receive a formal notification whenever IAF Outlook is published.
- The IAF CABAC (Conformity Assessment Bodies Advisory Committee) is submitting a paper to the IAF Technical Committee proposing the creation of an IAF Task Force to draw together all the numerous remote documents, policies and procedures and have a definitive document on the issue. The proposal is that the document would consist of a generic framework and then specific sections dealing with individual conformity assessment areas, defined by CASCO standards.
- The IAF vote on scheme recognition of FSSC 22000 passed and thus it becomes a sub-scope of the IAF MLA. IAF AB Members can apply for a sub-scope extension to FSSC 22000 as soon as their Regional Group has extended its IAF MLA scope to FSSC 22000.
- IAF informs that, to date, two nominations have been received for the position of IAF Vice Chair: Wolfram Hartmann of DAkkS (Germany) and Lori Gillespie of ANAB (USA).
- IAF is seeking nominations for the position of IAF Technical Committee Chair (2022-2024). Any IAF member is eligible to put his/her name forward. Nominations are due April 29.

EA

- A remote plenary information seminar with ENFSI (European Network of Forensic Science Institutes) was held on Monday 22 March 2021.
- EA HHC informs of a new work item proposal to align EA-3/01 with ILAC P8. These documents deal with the use of accreditation symbols, logos and other claims of accreditation.
- The following revised EA publications are now available:
 - ⇒ EA-1/17 EA Rules of Procedures in “EA Governance and Policy documents” [here](#).
 - ⇒ EA-INF/01 List of EA Publications and International Documents in “Information and Promotional Documents” [here](#).
 - ⇒ EA-INF/02 Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers in “Information and Promotional Documents” [here](#).
- EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee held its 25th meeting on 2-3 March.
- EA HHC has developed additional requirements for the TE scheme (Textile Exchange) that has been

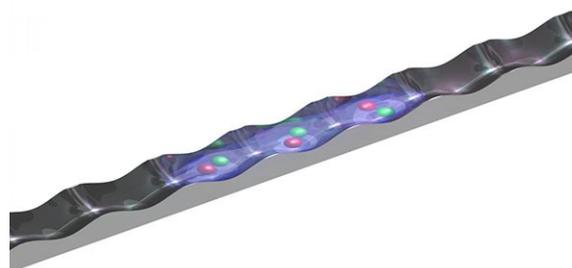
The Laboratory of the future

Laboratory News

- **Nanoparticle drug-delivery system developed to treat brain disorders:** A team of bioengineers has proven a novel system of nanoparticles can successfully carry three times more targeted drug across the previously difficult-to-breach healthy blood brain barrier. This shows promise for future delivery of neurological drug treatments direct to the brain. [Read more.](#)
- **Successful AI and ML framework for repurposing drug candidate:** Researchers apply causal inference theory and deep learning algorithms to sort through confounding data and successfully pinpoint drug candidates for treatment repurposing. The new framework enables artificial intelligence and machine learning to suggest drug candidates, 'test' a drug on a patient, speed up hypothesis generation and potentially speed up a clinical trial. [Read more.](#)
- **Avalanching nanoparticles observed - a potentially significant step in technological transformation:** Columbia engineers are the first to have observed avalanches in nanoparticles. Following in the footsteps of photon avalanching (PA) forty years ago, researchers now look forward to the significant impact of the potential technical transformations afforded by newly demonstrated avalanching nanoparticles (ANP). [Read more.](#)



- **Uncovering the magic of metallographic Turing pattern formation:** While we have become used to seeing stripes and spots in nature, it still seems amazing to see similarly distinct 'Turing patterns' form on non-biological surfaces. Now, an international research collaboration has uncovered the magic of metallography - observing the formation of these highly ordered patterns and using super computers to simulate the process of accumulation as they form at the surface
- **Laser-triggered chemical adhesion for tissue engineering of replacement organs:** Laser-triggered chemical adhesion used to build proteins onto biological polymer scaffolding to bring artificial but functional, laboratory-grown replacement organs one step closer to a reality. Researchers have found lasers and molecular tethers can create perfectly patterned platforms for tissue engineering. [Read more.](#)
- **Not just a droplet: Explaining one dimensional quantum liquid formation:** A new type of quantum droplet - the most dilute liquids ever experimentally observed - helps unravel the mechanism leading to the formation of one dimensional self-bound quantum liquids in free space. Researchers present a microscopic theory of lattice quantum droplets. [Read more.](#)
- **Closed-loop chemical recycling of common petrochemical realised:** Imagine plastics and rubber that can be chemically unzipped back to reusable monomers for recycling. In the way of all the most exciting advances, this process of depolymerisation - a chemical transformation not generally thought practical for commodity materials - has now been realised for one of the most common petrochemicals in the world when a researcher spotted a viscous gloop forming in the bottom of a chemical flask during a catalytic reaction. [Read more.](#)
- **Kinky graphene 'straintronics' for smaller, faster microchips:** Using 'straintronics' rather than electronics, researchers have produced the tiniest microchips yet by applying what is effectively nano-origami to graphene to create structural functionality. These nanomaterial developments allows more microchips within smaller spaces and could drive improvements in computer and mobile performance speeds and technological miniaturisation. [Read more.](#)



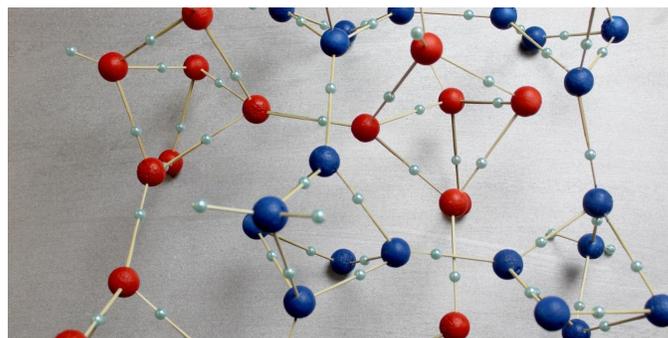
- **A novel light harvesting engine strings buckyballs and chromophores on DNA:** Researchers have synthesised a novel type of organic light-harvesting supramolecule by arranging fluorescent dyes and bucky balls in three-dimensions using a DNA scaffold. The resulting helical string of electron donors and acceptors has the ability to increase quantum efficiency by suppressing 'self-quenching'. [Read more.](#)
- **Bringing DNA sequencing to the frontlines in the fight against anti-microbial resistance:** The future may see DNA sequencing as a routine bacterial diagnostic technique in hospitals and clinical care settings. An interdisciplinary network of academics and industry experts aim to bring the training required to apply recent advances in DNA sequencing to the frontlines in the fight against the spread of infectious disease and anti-microbial resistant bacteria. [Read more.](#)



- **'Team ice' uncover crucial information to aid the development of new more active cryoprotectants:** Researchers uncover new understanding around the interactions between synthetic polymers and ice formation, underpinning new understanding around the fundamental principles of ice re-crystallisation. This crucial piece to the puzzle was uncovered by an ever-growing collaborative network known as 'Team Ice', and will impact the efficient design for the next generation of cryoprotectants. [Read more.](#)
- **Machine Learning to Predict Organic Solar Cell Performance:** Researchers have combined experimental data with algorithms to enable an unprecedented ability to predict the performance of organic solar cells. [Read more.](#)
- **Improving Food Safety Testing for Leafy Greens:** A new University of Illinois study aims to develop better testing methods for produce to prevent outbreaks of foodborne disease. [Read more.](#)
- **A New Way to Program Light on an Ultra-**

Small Scale: Recent discovery is an important step toward control of nanolight, which is light that can access the smallest length scales imaginable. [Read more.](#)

- **Shuffling Bubbles Reveal How Liquid Foams Evolve:** The application of foams tends to take advantage of their unique structure, which is why understanding how their structure can change over time is so important. [Read more](#)
- **New Catalytic Reactor Promises More Sustainable Chemical Manufacturing:** The Spinning Disc Mesh Reactor developed by Bath chemical engineers could make pharmaceuticals production safer and more sustainable. [Read more.](#)



- **A New Crystalline Ice Form:** Scientists elucidate crystal structure for exotic ice XIX. [Read more.](#)
- **New Catalytic Reactor Promises More Sustainable Chemical Manufacturing:** The Spinning Disc Mesh Reactor developed by Bath chemical engineers could make pharmaceuticals production safer and more sustainable. [Read more.](#)
- **A Laser-Based Technique to Unlock the Mysteries of Exosomes:** In a recent study, a team based in Korea explored a different and promising method for analyzing exosomes. [Read more.](#)
- **Adapting Solar Tech to Detect Chemical Warfare Agents & Pesticides:** Researchers are harnessing next-generation photovoltaics materials to create a fast, accurate testing mechanism for harmful compounds. [Read more.](#)
- **Researchers Use AI to Improve Microscope Image Quality:** New method could democratize deep learning-enhanced microscopy. [Read more.](#)
- **Promising Breakthrough for Better Design of Electronic Materials:** A deeper understanding of molecular vibrations can increase electron velocity in semiconductor materials. [Read more.](#)
- **Liquid Metals provide Effective Transport Sys-**

tem: A new method for creating hollow nanoparticles using liquid metals has been devised by chemists from ITMO University (St Petersburg). Hollow nanocapsules are widely used for various purposes, from targeted drug delivery to catalysis induction in petrochemistry. [Read more.](#)

Laboratory Events

- The **Paperless Lab Academy** will take place on **27 – 29th April 2021** in an online format. The conference will set the stage for discussions on strategies and implementation of 21st-century technologies in the laboratory. It is about discussing key milestones to generate solid business insights from the laboratory, connecting with colleagues who share similar operational issues, learning about user's case studies and how they are deployed into their processes, discovering the informatics trends from cutting-edge thought leaders, being in the know about the last informatics tools and methodologies in a creative and productive atmosphere. [Read more.](#)
- The **IMEKO XXIII World congress (IMEKO2021)** will be held as an international conference in August 30-September 3, 2021, co-organized by Science Council of Japan (SCJ) and The Society of Instrument and Control Engineers (SICE). IMEKO2021 will be held as the first online virtual conference for IMEKO to ensure the safety of participants, chairpersons, authors, conference delegates, sponsors and exhibitors. All information [here.](#)
- The **20th International Metrology Congress, CIM 2021**, will be held on **28-30 September 2021**. The Congress is a showcase for industrial best practices and advances in R&D dedicated to measurements, analysis and testing processes. 200 technical presentations and 6 round tables sessions will address three main applications where trust in measurements is key: Industry 4.0, Green Deal and Health. [Read more.](#)
- The **European Light Microscopy Initiative (elmi) 2021** will take place virtually from **22 – 25 June**. elmi was created in 2001 to establish a unique communication network between European scientists working in the field of light microscopy and the manufacturers of their equipment. Its aim is to promote the quickly developing field of light microscopy as a fundamental research tool for the life sciences and to strengthen the channels of communication between researchers, core facilities and industry. More information [here.](#)
- The **Microscience Microscopy Congress 2021** will take place from **5 - 9 July 2021** in virtual format. The event has the aim of bringing the global microscopy and imaging community together, providing the opportunities for their latest equipment. Participants will be able to enhance their knowledge-base and skill-set thanks to a wide array of panels. [Read more.](#)
- The **ARABLAB+** event, originally scheduled for September 2020, will take place instead in Dubai on **15-17 November 2021**. The event will bring together more than 1,000 laboratories, who will have the chance to showcase their work and innovations to 10,000+ visitors and meet buyers from 100+ countries. [Read more.](#)
- The **ACHEMA live event** has been postponed by nine months to **4-8 April 2022**. This decision was taken after intensive discussions with the community and in the ACHEMA Committee in view of the continuing uncertainty caused by the Corona pandemic. The **virtual appointment** will still be focused on the topics of Digital Lab, Modular and Connected Production and Product and Process Security. [Read more.](#)



Policy News

Chemicals

- **Biocidal:** the [delegated regulation](#) amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products was published in the Official Journal of the EU.
- **Biocides:** the Commission adopted a delegated [regulation](#) amending Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council to include potassium sorbate as an active substance in Annex I thereto.
- **EU Council endorses new chemicals strategy for sustainability:** The European Council endorsed on March 15 a new chemicals strategy setting a long-term vision for the EU chemicals policy. Source: [New Europe](#)
- **Future EU chemicals strategy outlined:** The EU Council set out its long-term aims for EU chemicals policy Monday, for a toxic-free environment with better protection of human health and the environment, and a more competitive chemicals industry. Source: [EUbusiness](#)

Circular economy

- **Circular Economy Action Plan:** The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee released its [report](#) on the New Circular Economy Action Plan, tabled with one amendment. It presents a set of initiative aimed at establishing a product policy framework to promote sustainable products, services, and business models. The European Parliament is expected to discuss and vote on the Report during a plenary session scheduled to take place on 8 February 2021.
- **Organic production:** The expert group on Organic Production has made available the [draft Delegated Act](#) on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council to lay down the rules for control authorities and control bodies and the official controls as regards the consignments intended for import into the Union (with annexes).

Counterfeit products and product safety

- **Consumer Safety:** the European Commission published the results of a [polling](#) among European consumers on topics relevant to safety, recalls and their behaviour towards products' sustainability.
- **Safety Gate:** as already mentioned in last week EU weekly, the European Commission published its annual report on the Safety Gate on March 2, 2021. The Safety Gate is the EU rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products helping to take dangerous non-food products off the market. Here is a [report](#) highlighting the main findings of the report.
- **General Product Safety Directive:** BusinessEurope published a [position paper](#) on the revision of the General Product Safety Directive. BusinessEurope has also published a [position paper](#).
- **Batteries Regulation:** the Internal Market and Consumer Protection committee met to discuss the European Commission's proposal on batteries and waste batteries. A summary report is accessible [here](#). DigitalEurope has published a position paper [here](#).
- **UKAS:** the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) welcomes [feedback](#) on its Call for Evidence on the UK Product Safety Framework.
- **European standardisation framework:** DigitalEurope has published a [position paper](#) on the new European Standardisation Strategy.

- **First phase of new EU import control system in operation:** A new import control system, reinforcing the EU Customs Union's 'first line of defence' against security and safety threats posed by illicit traffic in goods across the EU's external borders, came into force. Source: [EU business](#)

Cybersecurity and digitalization

- **Future EU robotics policy:** In the framework of the revision of the machinery directive, the European Commission has recently been [revealed](#) new rules as part of a series of efforts to ensure the safety of next-generation technologies.
- **ENISA:** The EU Cybersecurity Act grants a [permanent mandate to ENISA](#), the EU Agency for cybersecurity, more resources, and new tasks. In particular, ENISA will have a key role in setting up and maintaining the European cybersecurity certification framework.
- **Cybersecurity of 5G networks:** An [EU-wide cybersecurity certification scheme](#) for 5G networks will be rolled out across the bloc in a bid to patch technical vulnerabilities in next-generation mobile communications.
- **Council approves €7.6B Digital Europe plan for cutting-edge tech:** The Council of the European Union, which is currently chaired by Portugal, on Tuesday (16 March) gave the green light to the Digital Europe programme to fund investment in cutting-edge technology in the EU, in areas such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, with a total budget of €7.6 billion to 2027. Source: [Euractiv](#)
- **Council of Europe and facial recognition:** The [Council of Europe](#) has called for strict rules to avoid the significant risks to privacy and data protection posed by the increasing use of facial recognition technologies.
- **Jourová defends EU data against US 'mass surveillance' in Privacy Shield talks:** EU negotiators want an 'absolute guarantee' that personal data transferred to the US will not be subject to 'mass surveillance,' as part of ongoing talks on a new EU-US data transfer mechanism, according to the European Commission's vice-president for values and transparency, Věra Jourová. Source: [Euractiv](#)
- The European Commission presented a [communication](#) on "2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade" that proposes to agree on a set of digital principles, to launch multi-country projects, and to prepare a legislative proposal setting out a robust governance framework.
- **Taxonomy:** on February 2021, ECSO, the European Cyber Security Organisation, published a [report](#) entitled "A Taxonomy for the European Cybersecurity Market: Facilitating Market Defragmentation".
- **ePrivacy:** the European Data Protection Board published a [statement](#) on the agreement between Council and Parliament on the new ePrivacy Regulation.
- **AIDA Report:** Following the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA) hearing on "AI and Health" held on 2 December 2020, its secretariat published a [working paper](#) with the key takeaways from the hearing, including the position of political groups on the topics discussed.
- **Cybersecurity:** on 22 March, the European Council [adopted](#) conclusions on the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade, noting that cybersecurity is essential for building a resilient, green and digital Europe.
- **AI:** The European Commission has [reaffirmed](#) that the upcoming AI legislation will consider the fight against risks to fundamental rights posed by certain 'high-risk' applications.
- **DSA:** DigitalEurope has published a [position paper](#) on the Digital Services Act.
- **Commission in bid for EU data sovereignty with digital decade targets:** The European Commission will try to mitigate the risks stemming from EU data being in the hands of third countries by outlining a series of 2030 objectives that will help the bloc procure next-generation data processing technologies, documents obtained by EURACTIV reveal. Source: [Euractiv](#)

- **EU SMEs in bid for greater interoperability in Digital Markets Act:** Forty pan-European tech companies have penned a letter to MEPs calling for support for bolstered interoperability requirements in the Digital Markets Act (DMA) while stressing the importance of keeping the rules aligned to developments in the area across EU nations. Source: [Euractiv](#)

Environment

- **EU introduces new energy labels for domestic appliances:** A new version of the EU energy label became effective in shops and online retailers Monday, applying to product categories such as fridges, washing machines and TVs, and helping to cut energy bills. From 1 March the new labels initially apply to the four product categories: fridges and freezers, dishwashers, washing machines, and television sets (and other external monitors). New labels for light bulbs and lamps with fixed light sources will follow on 1 September, and other products will follow in the coming years. Source: [EUbusiness](#)
- **Combustion engines:** On 10 March, a nine-country coalition led by the Netherlands and Denmark [called](#) on the European Commission to decide on a phaseout date for the internal combustion engine as part of efforts to curb emissions and put the bloc on track to meet its climate targets.
- **Investors renew push for EU methane emissions standard on gas:** A group representing European investors managing €36 trillion in assets renewed pressure on the European Commission to introduce mandatory methane emissions standards for natural gas, according to a letter dated 31 March. Source: Euractiv
- **ETS:** Bruegel published a [report](#) on “A whole-economy carbon price for Europe and how to get there”, arguing that putting carbon pricing at the centre of the EU climate policy architecture would provide major benefits. On 10 March, the European Parliament [endorsed](#) the creation of a carbon border charge that would shield EU companies against cheaper imports from countries with weaker climate policies.
- **Sustainable governance:** the European Parliament passed a [resolution](#) to tackle environmental and human rights issues in the supply chains of EU businesses ahead of the Commission’s proposal on corporate due diligence later this year. [Here](#) is a report.
- **Emissions trading system:** Agora Energiewende organised a panel discussion on the Commission’s proposal to extend the ETS system to the building sector, in the framework of the “Fit for 55 Package”, to be presented in June 2021. A report is accessible [here](#).
- **Green Deal:** Politico with the Confederation of European Paper Industries [organised](#) a debate on the European Commission’s Green Deal and the contribution of bioeconomy towards reaching green targets.
- **Sustainable products:** The European Commission welcomes feedback until 9 June 2021 on the public consultation on its [Proposal for a Directive](#) that will revise the Ecodesign Directive and propose additional legislative measures to make products placed on the EU market more sustainable.
- **EPBD:** the European consumer voice in standardisation (ANEC) [published](#) a position paper on the Commission’s roadmap on the Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.
- **Ecodesign:** the European Commission [published](#) the final draft of the preparatory study on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024.
- **Decarbonisation by 2050:** Europe has set a clear goal for full decarbonisation by 2050, with renewables-based electricity set to become the dominant energy carrier, and that means fossil gas will have “only a marginal role” in the long run, EU climate chief Frans Timmermans [said](#) on 25 March. On 26 March, the European Commission has launched an [open consultation](#) on revising the Gas Directive and Gas Regulation.
- **Energy efficiency:** The European Commission welcomes [feedback](#) until 22 June 2021 on its public consultation on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

- **Europe halfway towards closing all coal power plants by 2030:** Half of Europe's 324 coal-fuelled power plants have either closed or announced a retirement date before 2030, it emerged on Monday (22 March) when French power utility EDF announced the 162nd plant will close in 2022. Source: [Euractiv](#)

Food

- **Farm to Fork Strategy:** On 4 February, the European Parliament hosted a hearing on the Farm to Fork Strategy, discussing among other Geographical Indication certificates. A summary report is accessible [here](#).
- **Food labelling:** The EU food safety agency is to provide [scientific advice](#) to support the development of a future EU-wide system for front-of-pack nutrition labelling of foodstuffs, including setting conditions for nutrition and health claims on food.
- **Antimicrobials:** the European Commission welcomes [feedback](#) until 5 May 2021 on its proposal for a regulation on updating EU rules on official controls to allow controls of imports for the use of certain antimicrobials.
- **Organic farming:** in the framework of the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, on 25 March the European Commission [presented](#) an [Action Plan](#) for the Development of Organic Production.
- **Food safety:** On 29 March, the Commission adopted its new [implementing Regulation](#) which amend rules on the integrated management system for official controls.

Medical devices

- **Commission's initiative on hazardous products:** The European Commission released three initiatives aiming at authorizing hazardous products, namely lead and [phthalates](#), in [specific devices](#) and [medical devices](#) and only if the requestor meets certain criteria.
- **HERA Incubator:** On 15 March, the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety held a debate on the European Commission's communication "HERA Incubator: Anticipating together the threat of COVID-19 variants". A report of the meeting is accessible [here](#).
- **Adapted vaccines:** on 24 March, as an immediate action under the [HERA Incubator](#), the Commission introduced a measure to speed up the authorisation of adapted COVID-19 vaccines, allowing companies to focus on gathering the necessary evidence in time and enable the authorisation of adapted vaccines with a smaller set of additional data submitted to the European Medicines Agency.
- **Digital Green Certificate:** EU lawmakers are picking up the pace in their race against the clock to have vaccine certificates ready for the summer, although a number of [technical problems](#) remain to be addressed. The European Parliament is expected to ratify the COVID certificate in [June](#).
- **Vaccines:** Johnson & Johnson is expected to start delivering its single-shot COVID vaccine to Europe on [April 19](#), giving the continent a boost as it struggles to speed up its vaccination drive.
- **HERA:** The European Commission welcomes [feedback](#) until 12 May 2021 on its public consultation regarding the setting up of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority.
- **EU4Health Programme:** On 26 March, the European Commission [welcomed](#) the entry into force of the [EU4Health programme](#). It aims to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector, including in medical devices.
- **EU countries agree to mutually recognise rapid antigen tests:** The EU's Health Security committee agreed on Thursday on a list of rapid antigen tests, which will be mutually recognised by member states, as well as on a common standardised set of data to be included in COVID-19 test result certificates. Source: [New Europe](#)

Trade

- **EU-India:** Portugal's Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva unveiled that [improved relations](#) between the EU and India, both seeking to end dependence on China, could serve as a vehicle to rebalance the bloc's arduous ties with Beijing.
- **EU-Mercosur:** Portugal and Argentina, which hold the presidencies of the EU Council and [Mercosur](#), respectively, have agreed to make progress on the outstanding issues for the entry into force of the EU-Mercosur agreement, Argentina's government has announced.
- **Brexit:** The European Union launched [legal action](#) against Britain for unilaterally easing trading conditions for businesses in Northern Ireland, in an alleged breach of the Brexit withdrawal agreement. This month Britain extended grace periods on Irish Sea border checks from the end of March to October. Britain could be taken to the European Court of Justice and face [trade sanctions](#).
- **Customs Union:** The European Commission launched its [new import control system](#) (ICS2) against security and safety threats posed by illicit traffic in goods across the EU's external borders. In its first phase, it will focus on postal and express consignments coming to or through the EU by air, before eventually being applied to all modes of cargo transport.
- **EU-UK:** the European Parliament is set to [ratify](#) the EU-U.K. post-Brexit trade deal at a plenary session starting April 26.
- **China:** on 22 March, the Chinese Government [imposed](#) retaliatory sanctions on EU officials, starting a diplomatic crisis that could slow down the ratification of the Beijing-Brussels trade deal secured in December.
- **Container shipping:** EUIPO and the OECD have jointly released a [study](#) providing a detailed analysis of economy-and industry-specific patterns in the misuse of containerised maritime transport by counterfeiters. It also looks at the sources of counterfeits being shipped in containers and the ports of entry into the European Union. In addition, the role of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Chinese investments into port infrastructure in the EU are examined.
- **Guidance documents:** The European Commission has adopted [three new guidance documents](#): two relate to the Goods Package and the third addresses the free movement of goods in the EU. Productise wrote an article summarizing the key points of the guidance.
- **New transatlantic partnership for global change in motion:** US President Joe Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, visited the weekly meeting of the College of Commissioners in Brussels on March 9 to discuss how the United States and European Union will use innovation, technology, and the power of their combined market to reduce global emissions. Source: [New Europe](#)
- **European Parliament to ratify UK trade deal in late April, president says:** The European Parliament will finally grant its consent to the EU-U.K. post-Brexit trade deal at a plenary session starting April 26, Parliament President David Sassoli said Tuesday. "We will have our plenary April 26, so this is the last date" for ratification, Sassoli said in an interview with POLITICO, adding that "there will be no extension" to this date. Source: [POLITICO](#)

International Events

27-28 April 2021: [Paperless Lab Academy](#), Baveno

5-6 May 2021: [Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology](#) - Virtual

22-25 June 2021: [European Light Microscopy Initiative \(elmi\) 2021](#)—Virtual

5-9 July 2021: [Microscience Microscopy Congress 2021](#) - Virtual

30 August-3 September 2021: [IMEKO XXIII World congress](#)— Virtual

28-30 September 2021: [20th International Metrology Congress](#)— Virtual

14-17 November 2021: [ARABLAB+](#) - Virtual

4-8 April 2022: [ACHEMA Live Event](#)

EUROLAB Events

April 27th, 2021—EUROLAB General Assembly and EUROLAB Board Meeting

April 16th, 2021—EUROLAB TCQA Meeting

The EUROLAB Annual Report

The EUROLAB Annual Report 2020 has now been published!

This Annual Report includes an overview of EUROLAB's most notable achievements and milestones for the year 2020, with details on current and future activities, international collaborations, projects of interest to laboratories and the latest news from the Technical Committee on Quality Assurance.

The document summarizes all our endeavours in a year unlike any other, and we hope it can be useful for our members and for laboratories in Europe and beyond.

You can find the report online [here](#).



The New EUROLAB CookBook N. 18 on Risk-Based Approach

Following the work of the EUROLAB Working Group on Risk Analysis, a new version of CookBook N. 18 on Risk-Based Approach was published.

Revised by Paolo Moscatti and by Paolo Ciori of UL, the CookBook separates what is considered mandatory in accordance with 17025 from what is advisable for good and comprehensive risk management system.

Find the CookBook [here](#):

EUROLAB "Cookbook" – Doc No. 18



AN INTRODUCTION TO RISK CONSIDERATION

Introduction

This cookbook aims at recalling basic concepts and providing simple tools and possibilities of applying the "considering of risks and opportunities" in the framework of the ISO / IEC 17025:2017.

The risk-based approach and the awareness of risks is accentuated in the new version of the standard and a risk-based thinking approach and process design in the laboratory is promoted; although ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 do not stipulate a complete risk management system (RMS), for example conforming to the requirements of ISO 31000.

Dealing with risks and opportunities in the laboratory is not a novelty. The previous version of ISO/IEC 17025 already used the term risk in several chapters, particularly in the context of corrective and preventive actions but also associated with validation of methods and the introduction of the concept of uncertainty of measurement. If a laboratory knows its risks, it has the capability to assess/prioritize them and is also informed about the consequences. It will be easier to make plans how to come up with risks and their effects. Recognizing mistakes or nonconformities at an earlier stage gives the laboratory the opportunity to react early. Financial penalties or other heavy losses might be averted. The main goal of this is not minimizing any risks, but in fact optimizing the laboratory profile of risks and opportunities determined by the laboratory strategy.

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017

The international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 states in its introduction:

This document requires the laboratory to plan and implement actions to address risks and opportunities. Addressing both risks and opportunities establishes a basis for increasing the effectiveness of the management system, achieving improved results and preventing negative effects. The laboratory is responsible for deciding which risks and opportunities need to be addressed.

The laboratory is responsible for deciding which risks and opportunities need to be addressed. The accreditation body, however, assesses whether the laboratory has established appropriate actions for dealing with risks and opportunities in accredited laboratories.

The standard explicitly refers to the term risk in:

- Foreword,
- Introduction,
- Clause 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 on impartiality,
- Clause 7.8.6.1 considering the risk in terms of decision rules used in reports,
- Clause 7.10.1 related to management of nonconforming work,
- Clause 8.5 on actions to be implemented to address risks and opportunities,
- Clause 8.6 on improvement
- Clause 8.7 on corrective action
- Clause 8.9 on management reviews.

Clause 8.5 "Actions to address risks and opportunities" sets minimum requirements for laboratories which shall be considered. The exploitation of improvement potentials should always be aligned with the aim and purpose of laboratory activities.