

E4. EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME IN IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY ORGANIZED BY EDQM/CoE 2013: ROMANIAN EXPERIENCE.

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Introduction: EDQM department of Council of Europe launched in 2010 a pilot project on External Quality Control Scheme targeting blood establishment laboratories in Europe. The project was developed in collaboration with European Committee of Expert son Blood Transfusion. The project plan includes external quality schemes for serology, molecular biology tests and immuno-haematology. Initially limited to a maximum of 60 participating laboratories per exercise, starting with 2012 the access has been extended to 100. The participation is free, participants having to pay only the transport fee.

Material and method: Participation to an external quality control scheme is a mandatory requirement and a mean to evaluate laboratories performance, namely the competence of technicians authorized to perform those tests. During 2010- 2012 Romania did not participate in this program for financial reasons and accountability constraints. In 2013, National Institute of Transfusion Haematology supported the participation of six blood establishments to the external quality control scheme in immuno-hematology. This scheme included testing of unknown samples for ABO, phenotype RH / KEL and extended phenotype Duffy, Kidd, MNSs, irregular antibody screening and identification. All these tests are included in the immuno-hematology testing algorithm set up by NITH; all reagents are available upon request.

Results: Final results for 2013 exercise are introduced and discussed.

Conclusion: Participation of the 6 Romanian blood establishments to the external quality control scheme provided an opportunity both for objective evaluation of their competence in immuno-haematology and of the managerial capacity to manage this activity.