



**ISTITUTO ZOOPROFILATTICO SPERIMENTALE
DELLA LOMBARDIA E DELL'EMILIA ROMAGNA**
"BRUNO UBERTINI"
ENTE SANITARIO DI DIRITTO PUBBLICO

The Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (IZSLER) is a governmental Organisation providing a broad range of services to the Veterinary Services, Breeders and Consumers. Its functions today can be described as those of a Technical-Scientific Body providing services as required of it by national and regional law.

IZSLER is one of the 10 Istituti Zooprofilattici Sperimentali (IZS) of Italy. All them belong to National Sanitary System and are connected to International Organisations as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Union (EU).

They set up a network, which covers all Italian territory and they have 10 Headquarters located in the cities of Torino, Brescia, Padova, Roma, Perugia, Teramo, Foggia, Napoli, Palermo and Sassari, and a total of 90 Diagnostic Centres, related to them, sited in all Italian Provinces.

The main tasks assigned by national laws to IZS are:

- experimental research on aetiology and pathogenesis of infectious diseases of domestic and wild animals;
- research on hygiene of breedings and zootechnic productions;
- diagnosis of animal diseases and zoonoses;
- epidemiological surveillance on animal health and on hygiene of zootechnic production and foods of animal origin;
- laboratory support for microbiological and chemical research on foods of animal origin for human consumption and on animal feed stuff;
- assistance, advice and information to breeders for eradication of infectious diseases and

for hygienic/sanitary improvement of zootechnic productions;

- production of biologicals to improve zootechnic productions;
- training of personnel skilled in zooprophyllaxis, of veterinarians and other operators;
- co-operation at international level for animal health and production
- IZS, furthermore, are a technical scientific and operative support for carrying out prophylaxis campaigns; healing and eradication; sanitary defence and animal production improvement; veterinary drug-monitoring.

IZS work for:

- Ministry of Health
- National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità)
- Regions
- Local Veterinary Services
- Breeders and producers of food of animal origin
- Consumers
- Public and private Institutions, Associations, Organisations.

IZSLER performs diagnosis for a variety of viral infectious diseases of domestic animals as well as zoonotic and arthropod borne diseases, and microbiological and chemical analysis on foodstuffs of animal origin destined for human consumption and on food resources for animals.

The activities of IZSLER are supported by over 600 people who work in the headquarter of Brescia and 16 diagnostic centres, one in each province of Lombardia and Emilia Romagna. Approximately 120 of them are veterinarians, biologists, chemists.

Infrastructure of IZSLER consists of laboratories for microbiological and chemical analysis of food and foodstuff, bacteriology, parasitology and entomology, welfare assessment, cell cultures, virology, histopathology, MAbs production, molecular biology and immunology. Animal facilities include BL3, BL2 and conventional units, a SPF-chicken unit and a small pig pathogen free unit. Laboratories are fully equipped with traditional and innovative specialist equipment (e.g. TEM, NGS, a flow cytometer and a mass spectrometry apparatus).

The logistic of IZSLER includes a network of 17 provincial laboratories equally distributed

within the jurisdictional regions (Lombardia and Emilia Romagna) and closely linked to the central Institute in Brescia in order to bring the means of diagnosis and consultancy as near to the users as possible.

In the IZSLER are located 13 National Reference Centres and the OIE Reference Laboratories for Swine Vesicular Disease, Rabbit Haemorrhagic Diseases (RHD), Myxomatosis and Swine Influenza, and the OIE Collaborative Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank. This one takes advantage from the existing Biobank (www.ibvr.org) which includes several samples and materials; therefore it represents a rich source of samples for different uses and, at the same time, warrants the state-of-the-art diagnostic skills in direct and indirect diagnostic tests for animal diseases

In order to provide qualified lab tests and activities that will be recognised by other countries, the Institute has adopted a policy of quality satisfaction for companies, business and operators. The Institute has been an accredited multi-site laboratory, in conformity with standard UNI CEI EN 45001 and ISO 17025 since 1997.