

“EUROCIGUA, Risk Characterization of Ciguatera Food Poisoning in Europe” GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2015/03

EuroCigua



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ABSTRACT

Since 2008, autochthonous ciguatera food poisoning (CFP) outbreaks have been reported in Spain (Canary Islands) and in Portugal (Madeira). In the Canary Islands the fish genus *Seriola* was involved in many of the outbreaks. *Gambierdiscus* spp., microalgae responsible for CFP, was also detected in the waters of the Madeira and Canary Islands. In order to characterize the risk of CFP in the European Union, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and fourteen European organizations have signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) that is co-funded by EFSA aimed to characterize the risk of Ciguatera Food Poisoning in Europe (EuroCigua).

The main goal of Specific Agreement (SA) no.1 is the management and the scientific coordination of the project. It is coordinated by the Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN). The SA no.2 aims to determine the incidence of ciguatera in Europe and the epidemiological characteristics of cases, and it is coordinated by the Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII). The assessment of the presence of ciguatoxin in food and the environment is the main objective of SA no.3, coordinated by the Institute for Research and Technology in Food and Agriculture (IRTA). Finally, the SA no.4 is coordinated by the University of Vigo (UVigo), whose main target is to develop and validate methods for the detection, quantification and confirmation of the presence of ciguatoxin contaminated specimens.

This innovative project joint efforts of research organizations, epidemiology institutions and competent authorities on food safety from several European Member States. The project has strong links to European institutions and international research institutions across the world in order to use this experience for the characterization of this intoxication in Europe as well as its impact in public health. The project started in June 2016 and will run for 4 years.