

#### EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (HaDEA)

Department A Health and Food Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP

Food Programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses

#### submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

### **Annex I.a: Programme for the eradication of Rabies**

Member States seeking an EU financial contribution for national programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis shall submit online this document completely filled out by the 31 May of the year preceding its implementation (part 2.1 of Annex I to the Single Market Programme Regulation).

#### If encountering difficulties:

- concerning the information requested, please contact <a href="https://example.com/handle-ver-proge-europa.eu">HADEA-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu</a>.
- on the technical point of view, please contact <a href="mailto:SANTE-Bl@ec.europa.eu">SANTE-Bl@ec.europa.eu</a>, include in your message a printscreen of the complete window where the problem appears and the version of this pdf:

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- 5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state :	LIETUVA			
Disease	Rabies			
Species :	Foxes and racoon dogs			
This program is multi annual :	no			
Request of Union co-finan	ncing from beginning of :	2023	To end of:	2023
			Year for request	2023
Contact data				
Name :		Phone :		
Email :		Your job type within the CA:		

Submission Date 29/11/2022

Submission Number 1669725941157-18869

### A. Technical information

- 1. Submitted programme
- 1.1 Provide a concise description of
  - the programme with its main objective, overall strategy and timeframe. In case of a long time strategy, interim objectives for each year should be specified.
  - target population for vaccination, surveillance and monitoring
  - main measures: vaccination scheme, surveillance, monitoring and other measures
  - areas of implementation of the programme
  - areas you envisage to continue vaccinating from 2020 onwards

#### (max. 32000 chars):

The main objective of the rabies eradication, control and monitoring programme is to maintain the status of rabies free country, taking into account the rabies situation in the neighboring countries Belarus and Poland. The programme covers: oral vaccination of foxes and raccoon dogs at the buffer zone with Belarus and Poland: Oral vaccination against rabies will be carried out at the 50 km buffer zone at the border with Belarus and Poland twice a year using aerial distribution of baits. Estimated optimal number per square kilometer is approx. 20-25 baits. The aircraft flying lines are separated by 500 m. Every batch of the vaccine will be tested for vaccine efficiency.

Surveillance of the vaccination efficiency:

The samples (blood sample and mandibular) from foxes and raccoon dogs hunted in the vaccination territory will be tested for vaccination efficiency.

Also, all suspected to be infected with rabies animals (found dead foxes and raccoon dogs) and domestic animals (dogs, cats, farmed animals with clinical signs) to be infected with rabies from all the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be tested.

Verifications will be carried out by the central competent authority, to ensure that the programme activities are implemented as planned and with satisfactory quality (in particular when it comes to distance between flight tracks, vaccine baits density and submission/testing of samples under the rabies passive surveillance) after the each campaign.

In the case when FAT is positive and/or inconclusive, additional RTCIT (Rabies Tissue Culture Infection test) ir/arba real-time RT-PCR is performed.

All positive rabies samples are sent to the EURL of rabies (Nancy, France) for virus characterisation and sequencing.

#### 1.2. Benefits of the programme

#### Describe

- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in the previous years, in line with the objectives and expected results
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs

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It is expected, that no rabies cases will be detected in the Republic of Lithuania.

2. Description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented

Provide the name and surface of the areas where the following activities are implemented (if administrative areas are not used, describe the natural or artificial boundaries used to determine the geographical areas)

- vaccination and monitoring
- surveillance

#### Attach maps

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Oral vaccination against rabies will be carried out at the 50 km buffer zone at the border with Belarus and Poland twice a year using aerial distribution of baits (vaccination plan attached). Every batch will be tested for vaccine efficiency.

Rabies vaccination efficiency tests will be carried out on foxes and raccoon dogs hunted in the vaccination buffer zone.

Found dead foxes and raccoon dogs and domestic animal suspected to be infected with rabies from all the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be tested for rabies.

For the purpose of early detection of rabies cases SFVS plans to test at least 200 samples of wild animals-foxes and racoon dogs per year. Taking into account our experience during the last years, approximately 150 foxes and 30 racoon dogs that have been found dead or have been killed due to suspicion are tested yearly.

It should be noted, that testing of suspected to be infected with rabies domestic animals are not cofinanced by the EU, but approximately 20 cats, 20 dogs and 1-5 other domestic animals are tested for the suspicion of rabies annually (also see information about the supervision of suspected domestic animals).

3. Description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 32 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

#### 3.1. Notification of the disease

#### (max. 32000 chars):

No rabies cases have been detected since 2018 up to now. The last case of rabies was detected in 2018 (one fox in the proximity of Belarus border). However, rabies is still diagnosed in the neighboring countries- Belarus and Poland.

The detailed information about the rabies situation in Lithuania is published in the Internet page of SFVS: https://vmvt.lt/gyvunu-sveikata-ir-gerove/gyvunu-sveikata/gyvunu-ligos/pasiutlige/pasiutliges-situacija-lietuvoje

In the case when animal keeper or veterinarian does not report the case when rabies is suspected for the animal, administrative measures are applied. In the case when due to this animal health was infringed, criminal liability can be applied.

In accordance with the rules approved by the Minister of Public Health in the case when the person has a contact with wild animal (was bitten or had a contact) or was attacked by the domestic animal, the information about the case is sent by the public health specialists to the territorial SFVS. The official veterinarian of territorial SFVS carry out the observation of the suspected animal for at least 14 days. Approximately 5000 animals (dogs, cats and others) are observed annually.

The hunters are informed about the wild animals, killed on roads and they are instructed to deliver the samples to the territorial SFVS.

The compensation is payed to the private veterinarians and hunters for the delivery of samples of dead/hunted foxes and racoon dogs.

### 3.2. Target animals and estimation of the animal population

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Rabies vaccination efficiency tests will be carried out on foxes and raccoon dogs hunted in the vaccination buffer zone. The hunting bag from 2019-2020 season was 9586 foxes and 1861 raccoon dogs.

Found dead foxes and raccoon dogs and domestic animal suspect domestic animals of Carnivora, Bovidae, Suidae, Equidae, Cervidae ir Camelidae species suspected to be infected with rabies from all the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be tested.

The monitoring of of vaccine baits uptake and foxes/racoon dogs population immunity, for each campaign will be carried out throughout the year as there is no hunting limitation for these animals.

3.3. Tests used and sampling schemes

#### Describe:

- a. the tests used for surveillance and monitoring, when are to be used and in which animals
- b. the sampling schemes in each area of the programme for surveillance and monitoring and details on the collection of dead animals

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Rabies vaccination efficiency tests will be carried out on foxes and raccoon dogs hunted in the vaccination buffer zone. Whole body of the animal is delivered to the National State Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute by the hunter and blood samples are tested serological (Elisa) and mandibular is tested for presence of biomarker (tetracycline).

Dead foxes and raccoon dogs are collected in all territory of the Republic of Lithuania by hunters and authorised veterinarians and delivered to National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute to test for rabies suspicion.

Instructions on submission of animals / samples to the laboratory (for rabies diagnosis) are published in the Internet page of SFVS at:

https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/c15118a0ca5011e583a295d9366c7ab3/asr

https://vmvt.lt/gyvunu-sveikata-ir-gerove/gyvunu-sveikata/gyvunu-ligos/pasiutlige/ismokos-uz-lapiu-ir-usuriniu-sunu

https://vmvt.lt/gyvunu-sveikata-ir-gerove/gyvunu-sveikata/gyvunu-uzkreciamosios-ligos/pasiutlige Meetings with territorial SFVS on the implementation of animal disease surveillance programme are carried out.

Territorial SFVS carry out at least quarterly meetings with private veterinarians and hunters and they inform about annual disease surveillance plans and the need to tests the suspect/indicator animals for rabies.

### 3.4. Vaccines used and vaccination schemes

#### Describe

- > vaccination of kept animals in the framework of the eradication programme
  - vaccine(s) to be used
  - targeted population
- vaccination of wild animals:
  - definition/demarcation of the vaccination area
  - frequency and expected dates of the vaccination campaigns
  - vaccine bait(s) to be used
  - vaccine bait distribution method and designed vaccine bait density
  - vaccination of stray dogs with the vaccine(s) to be used and the targeted population

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Vaccination of kept animals is not included in the programme.

Oral vaccination against rabies will be carried out at the 50 km buffer zone at the border with Belarus and Poland twice a year using aerial distribution of baits.

#### 3.5. Measures in case of a positive result

Please describe the measures taken and if reinforced vaccination, surveillance or monitoring are foreseen.

#### (max. 32000 chars):

In the case of positive result in wild animals, decision on the reinforced vaccination will be taken taking into account the distribution of the disease and general epizootic situation. Intensified passive and active surveillance is performed in the administrative unit, where wild animal infected with rabies was detected.

#### 3.6 Awareness campaigns and other measures

- > Awareness campaigns :
  - Please describe the awareness raising campaigns to be implemented
- Other measures :
  - Please describe measures to be implemented to reduce the contact with infected animals
  - Please describe coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, where relevant

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Information about rabies situation in Lithuania is provided in the Internet page of SFVS and information about spring and autumn vaccination campaigns is provided in the Internet page and in the paper and electronic newspapers. The neighboring countries are informed by official letters. Information about rabies ins provided during the regular meetings with private and authorized veterinarians and official

veterinarians.

Also, in every case when the domestic animal attack human, investigation of the case is carried out and the health status of the animal is supervised by the official veterinarian. Animal keepers are obliged to vaccinate their dog, cats and ferrets against rabies.

Also, the article will be published in the Hunters magazine, informing about the situation of rabies and vaccination campaigns and the possibility to get compensations for hunted fox and raccoon dogs, delivered for testing of vaccination efficiency in the buffer zone.

Awareness campaigns- publications in the website of SFVS at www.vmvt.lt that are shared with other institutions and media:

https://vmvt.lt/naujienos/rupiniesi-savo-augintinio-sveikata-paskiepyk-nuo-pasiutliges

Trainings – territorial SFVS carry out at least quarterly meetings with private veterinarians and hunters and provide them information with the disease situation in Lithuania and neighbouring countries as well inform about annual disease surveillance plans and the need to tests the suspect/indicator animals for rabies.

Official veterinarians participate in the trainings of dog owners, organised by the Lithuanian Kennel Club when provide information about rabies also:

https://www.mesirsunys.lt/naujiena/atsakingo-seimininko-akademija-visoje-lietuvoje/

Other – publications in the website of SFVS at www.vmvt.lt at least two times a year about the current status of rabies in Lithuania as well as vaccination campaigns.
e.g.

https://vmvt.lt/naujienos/ateinancia-savaite-lietuvoje-pradedamas-rudeninis-laukiniu-gyvunu-vakcinavimas-nuo

## B. General information

- 1. Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme
  - Describe:
  - competent authorities (CA) involved in the implementation of the programme and their responsabilities
  - other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the programme, their role and their communication channels with the CA.

(max. 32000 chars):

State Food and Veterinary Service is the competent authority of the Republic of Lithuania, which is empowered to prepare and carry out the activities related to contagious animal diseases. Samples of

wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs) which are hunted in the vaccination zone will be delivered by the hunters. Wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs), found dead in all territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be collected by hunters and authorized veterinarians. Samples from domestic animals suspected to be infected with rabies will be delivered by the authorized veterinarians.

The samples will be tested in the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute, which is a refference laboratory of the Republic of Lithuania.

### 2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars):

Law on veterinary activities empowers State Food and Veterinary Service to carry out contagious animal disease eradication programme. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law) and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases are applied directly. Also, Rules on rabies control, approved by the Order No. B1-463 of director of SFVS on 11 May 2007 as last amended are applied.

- 3. Historical data on the epidemiological situation, including:
  - a. a concise description of the following indicators:
    - number of confirmed cases by listed animal species (excludes bat cases), during at least the past 5 years
    - maps indicating the distribution of confirmed cases referred before per year, during at least the past
       5 years
    - disease control strategy and results of control measures, during at least the past 5 years
    - number of rabies cases in previously (last year) free areas compared to previous year
    - % of seroconversion in target species (juveniles/adult separately) compared to previous year
    - % of vaccine uptake in target species (juveniles/adult separately) compared to previous year

b. an assessment of the evolution of the indicators along the years is requested as well as obstacles and constraints identified that hamper the progress of eradication.

(max. 32000 chars):

No cases of rabies have been detected during 2019 -2021. One case of rabies have been detected in 2018- dead fox was found at the border with Belarus. No cases of rabies have been detected during 2017-2016. Two cases of rabies (raccoon dog and fox) have been detected at the border with Belarus in 2015.

- 4. Control on the implementation of the programme and Intermediate targets
- 4.1 Control on the implementation of the programme

Describe the system to control the implementation of the programme:

- flight tracks
- methods to be used to assess the correct vaccine bait distribution
- strategy to monitor the effectiveness of the vaccination as regards serology and vaccine bait uptake in the targeted animal population, the sampling schemes, with details on the collection of dead animals, and diagnostic methods
- measures to ensure the maintenance of the quality of the vaccine bait before it is distributed particularly as regards titration of the vaccine baits and controls of the cold chain (official controls to be performed on the vaccine)
- 4.2 Intermediate targets of the eradication programme:
  - expected annual decrease of the number of outbreaks
  - expected number of confirmed outbreaks in areas with outbreaks during the previous year
  - expected percentage of sero-conversion in targeted animal populations
  - expected percentage of vaccine uptake in animals of the targeted species

#### (max. 32000 chars):

It is expected that no cases of rabies will be detected in the Republic of Lithuania.

Before the start of the campaigns, the samples of baits and vaccines will be tested in the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute for the vaccine efficiency.

Every day flight report (number of distributed baits, number of flights and temperature control) is provided to the territorial SFVS, which is in charge of control of distribution of baits. During the flight all distributed baits are recorded in a special system automatically and records of tracks are provided by the company to territorial SFVS.

Certain number of hunted foxes and raccoon dogs are delivered to the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute for the vaccination efficiency tests- serology blood tests and tetracycline test for vaccine bait intake. Also found dead foxes and raccoon dogs will be tested as rabies suspect animals.

## C. Targets

1. Tests to be carried out for the monitoring of the vaccination effectiveness

Targets for year: 2023

Country	Region	Animal Species	Type of test	Test description	Number of tests	Expected number of positive results	% positive	
LIETUVA	Buffer zone	Foxes and racoon dogs	serological test	ELISA	820	330	40	X
LIETUVA	Buffer zone	Foxes and racoon dogs	presence of biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	820	650	79	X
	-1		_	Totals :	1 640	980		
				_		Add a new	row	
			Total tests	s Serological (FAVN) in MS	0			
			Total test	s Serological (FAVN) in TC	0			
			Total tests	s Serological (ELISA) in MS	820			
			Total test	s Serological (ELISA) in TC	0			
			Total test	s Serological (Other) in MS	0			
			Total tes	ts Serological (Other) in TC	0			
		Total tests preser	nce of biomarker (Te	etracycline in bones) in MS	820			
		Total tests prese	nce of biomarker (T	etracycline in bones) in TC	0			
		To	otal tests presence	of biomarker (Other) in MS	0	1		
		Т	otal tests presence	of biomarker (Other) in TC	0	-		

2. Surveillance tests to be carried out

Targets for year: 2023

Country	Region	Animal Species	Category	Test description	Number of tests	Expected number of positive results	
LIETUVA	All territory	Foxes and racoon (	Suspect or dead animals	FAT	200	0	X
				Total	200	0	
					Add a nev	v row	
				Total tests FAT in MS	200		
				Total tests FAT in TC	0		
				Total PCR tests in MS	0		
				Total PCR tests in TC	0		
			Total tests Vir	us characterisation tests in MS	0		
			Total tests Vir	us characterisation tests in TC	0		
			Total t	ests Virus isolation tests in MS	0		
			Total t	tests Virus isolation tests in TC	0		
				Total other tests MS	0		
				Total other tests TC	0		

*Wildlife oral vaccination to be carried out* 

Targets for year: 2023

Country	Region / area	Products used	Number of doses	Size of the vaccination area (km²)	
LIETUVA	Buffer zone	SAD Bern strain	1010000	20 400	X
	_	Total	1 010 000		
				Add a new row	
	Oral vaccine and ba	aits made of SAD Bern strain in MS	1 010 000		
	Oral vaccine ar	nd baits made of SAG2 strain in MS	0		
	Oral vaccine and b	paits made of SAD B19 strain in MS	0		
	Oral vaccine and baits ma	ade of SAD Clone attenuated in MS	0		
	Oral vaccine and baits m	nade of SPBN GASGAS strain in MS	0		
		Total Vaccines distributed	1 010 000		
Purchase	and distribution of oral v	accine and bait in neighbouring TC	0		

(max. 32000 chars):			

4 Official control of oral vaccines to be carried out

Targets for year:

2023

Country	Number of batches distributed	Number of batches controlled by the CA	Number of virus titrations performed		
LIETUVA	6	6	18	X	
Total	6		18		
			Add a new row		
	Vaccine titration tests in MS				
	Vaccine titration tests in TC				

### 2. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who performs the official sampling? Who pays? (e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Authorized private vets perform the sampling and are paid by State Food and Veterinary Service from state budget Purchasing of sampling equipment is included in the sampling costs.

# Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance Authorised veterinarians and hunters deliver foxes and raccoon dogs that have been found dead to the territorial SFVS of National Food and Veterinary

Authorised veterinarians and hunters deliver foxes and raccoon dogs that have been found dead to the territorial SFVS of National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute and are paid from the national budget.

- b) Implementing entities **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
- (e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

The rabies vaccination efficiency monitoring programme has been prepared by the SFVS AHWD and the number of samples have been distributed to the covered territorial unites of SFVS.

The samples are collected by the hunter organisations and delivered to the territorial units of SFVS, which organise their delivery to the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute.

The samples will be tested in the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute, which is a reference laboratory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Samples of wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs) which are hunted in the vaccination zone will be delivered by the hunters. Wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs), found dead in all territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be collected by hunters and authorized veterinarians. Samples from domestic animals suspected to be infected with rabies will be delivered by the authorized veterinarians.

c) Implementing entities - compensation

(max. 32000 chars):		
N/A		

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Vaccine is provided and vaccination is performed by the approved vaccine provider, which is chosen by the means of public procurement procedure. Vaccine costs and vaccine distribution costs are paid by SFVS from the national budget.

Every day flight report (number of distributed baits, number of flights and temperature control) is provided to the territorial SFVS, which is in charge of control of distribution of baits. During the flight all distributed baits are recorded in a special system automatically and records of tracks are provided by the company to territorial SFVS.

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implements this measure? Who provides the equipment/service? Who pays?

#### (max. 32000 chars):

State Food and Veterinary Service is the competent authority of the Republic of Lithuania, which is empowered to prepare and carry out the activities related to contagious animal diseases.

SFVS Animal Health and Welfare Department is responsible for the preparation of the rabies control programme and the purchase of the vaccine baits.

When the batches are delivered to the storage place, the samples for the vaccine efficiency tests are taken by the representative of SFVS AHWD. The storage place and storage conditions are controlled by the Klaipėda SFVS department (the cold- stores have temperature self monitoring system). As the distribution of the baits will be performed in three phases from three different local airports (Trakai, Moletai, ir Kaunas), the official veterinarians of these territorial units of SFVS carry out daily control of the storage and distribution of baits.

Every day flight report (number of distributed baits, number of flights and temperature control) is provided to the territorial SFVS, which is in charge of control of distribution of baits. During the flight all distributed baits are recorded in a special system automatically and records of tracks are provided by the company to territorial SFVS.

The rabies vaccination efficiency monitoring programme has been prepared by the SFVS AHWD and the number of samples have been distributed to the covered territorial unites of SFVS.

Standard	requiremen	its for	the s	submission	of	prog	ıramm	e fo	r era	adicatio	n,	control	and	sur	veill	ance
_,									c=c							

The samples are collected by the hunter organisations and delivered to the territorial units of SFVS, which organise their delivery to the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute.

The samples will be tested in the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute, which is a reference laboratory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Samples of wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs) which are hunted in the vaccination zone will be delivered by the hunters. Wild animals (foxes and raccoon dogs), found dead in all territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be collected by hunters and authorized veterinarians. Samples from domestic animals suspected to be infected with rabies will be delivered by the authorized veterinarians.

### 2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

$\boxtimes$ yes		
□no		

### 3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

In the "Guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes", it is indicated that in exceptional and duly justified cases, additional necessary measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

If you introduced these type of measures in this programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and also justification of their cost:

Please note, that due to public procurement procedure, we purchase the vaccine and the distribution, therefore we can not separate unit cost.

### **Attachments**

#### **IMPORTANT**:

- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here: jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE <u>SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD</u> ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

#### List of all attachments

	Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and) :	File size
		Total size of attachments:	