



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex IV: Programme for the surveillance of Avian Influenza in poultry and wild birds

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : BULGARIA

Disease Avian Influenza

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning : To end of

Request year for multiannual programme :

1. Contact data

Name Phone

Email Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date
05/12/2022 17:15:55

Submission Number
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ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

2. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1.1 Designation of the authorities in charge of supervising coordinating and implementing the programme. Please describe in details who designs, who implements, and who monitors the programme in poultry. (Roles of central authority, local authorities, vets, farmers, labs, hunting associations, etc.)

(max. 32000 chars) :

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) is the competent authorities for control and surveillance of the AI programme.

Department "Animal Health" within Directorate "Animal health and Welfare" at the Headquarters of BFSA Animal Health and Welfare Directorate:

- Development and updating of this program, according to the epizootic situation, analysis of the received, population changes that occurred in the course of the program data, etc. factors influencing it;- Controls the activities, the inclusion in a special program; Analyzes the received data and prepares reports;- Proposes measures in case of outbreaks.

Regional Directorates for Food Safety- Organizes the activity and the official control of the measures in the program at the district level;- Participate in the meetings of the regional and municipal epizootic commissions;- Hold places and cooperate with representatives of EAG, hunting organizations and associations and ornithological organizations;- Hold meetings and cooperate with breeders for effective implementation of the measures in a special program;- Hold meetings and cooperate at the local level in the Bulgarian Veterinary Union (BVU) / register veterinarians for the implementation of measures in this program.- Collect data for the supervision on the territory of the respective RFSD and create an analysis of the epizootic situation and the effectiveness of the implemented measures;- Implement the measures imposed by the BFSA in case of detection of the disease.

Registered veterinarians:- Performs activities under the program in case of delegation of travel by the BFSA Central Office- Inform RFSD about avian influenza and monitor the health status of birds in the sites that provide veterinary care;- Acts when implementing measures in case of detection of the disease.

Executive Forest Agency (EFA), regional structures and territorial divisions of state enterprises under the Forest Act:- The effect of the data in the development and implementation of a special program for wild birds, according to the epizootic situation, analysis of the received, population changes that occurred during the program, etc. factors influencing it;- Provides signals for suspicious / found dead wild birds;- Organizes the provision of samples of wild birds for laboratory diagnostic tests;- Action in the application of measures in case of detection of a disease.

National hunting association (NLR-SLRB) and their members:- Notify suspicious / found dead wild birds;- Provides samples of wild birds for laboratory diagnostic tests;- Action in the application of measures in case of detection of a disease.

National Diagnostic Research Veterinary Medical Institute (NDNVM), National Reference Laboratory "Influenza A and Newcastle disease in birds"- maintains constant diagnostic readiness;- conducting

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laboratory-diagnostic tests of all received samples under the program and priority processing in case of suspicion of samples;- informs the Central Office of the BFSa and the RFSD for laboratory testing;- the laboratory results from the supervision in VetIS of the BFSa;- summarized data on the performed laboratory tests provided.- fulfills its obligations according to art. 101 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the Low Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities carried out in order to ensure compliance with food and feed law, health rules and compliance with animals and animal welfare, plant health and plant protection products, ensuring cooperation with the EU Reference Laboratory, participating in regular fitness tests (ring tests) organized by the EU Reference Laboratory and organizing fitness tests for others diagnostic laboratories;- Stores and preserves isolates from agents, receipt from confirmed cases in the country.

2.1.2 Description of System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

All commercial holdings are registered in accordance with Article 137 of the law of the Veterinary activity. The register of commercial holdings are entered into the national electronic database and maintained by Headquarter at the BFSa. The records on registration of farms are kept at central level (Headquarter at BFSa) and local level (RFSDs).

The size limit for poultry to be registered obligatorily regarding Ordinance N° 44 for the veterinary requirements for livestock holdings, is as follows:

- 50 adult birds regardless of species and
- 100 broilers or starters regardless of species.

The data available in the database includes the location of the holding, type of holding (including technology), capacity, species, holding ID, data on the owner. In addition, an upgrade of the system is about to be launched enabling new functionalities such as batches, movement of batches, etc.

2.1.3 Design (risk based surveillance, or surveillance based on representative sampling taking into account criteria in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

Provide justification for the choice of the design. Please refer also explicitly to the objectives of the surveillance programme as mentioned in section 2 of Annex II Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The objectives of the current programme includes :

1. Early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry.
2. Early detection of HPAI in wild birds providing for:
 - (a) an early warning for possible HPAI introduction into poultry, in particular when viruses enter through migratory movements of wild birds;
 - (b) information for the assessment of risks for virus spread following findings of HPAI in wild birds.
3. Detection of HPAI in poultry species which generally do not show significant clinical signs.
4. Detection of circulating low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIV) that may easily spread

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between poultry flocks in particular in areas with a high density of poultry holdings in view of their potential to mutate to HPAI in order to:

(a) identify clusters of infection with LPAIV; and

(b) monitor the risk of spread of LPAIV by movements of poultry and by fomites in certain production systems at risk.

5. Contribution to increased knowledge on HPAI and LPAIV posing a potential zoonotic risk.

The surveillance design in the programme is based on two approaches- risk based sampling and the representative sampling.

Risk-based surveillance: The criteria and risk factors used in the preparation of the program are based on data from surveillance and registered cases in the country and neighboring countries in recent years, and the location of poultry farms in high density areas, major migratory wildlife routes or aggregation of birds in and around water bodies.

Given the role and evolution of the course of the disease in waterfowl, the regions with high density of duck farms, namely Plovdiv, Haskovo, Stara Zagora and Lovech are considered high risk.

All regions bordering Romania are also considered at risk for avian influenza due to their proximity to the Danube river.

Two main migratory routes of birds from Europe to Africa pass through the country - Via Pontica and Via Aristotelis (Fig. 1). In conclusion, 14 administrative districts have been identified as high risk with regard to avian influenza (Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Lovech, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv and Haskovo). Figure 1. Migration routes Via Pontica and Via Aristotelis (Figure 2 - Regions considered to be at high risk for avian influenza).

Supervision based on representative sampling: Other areas with the country will also be included in the program, and their supervision is based on representative sampling. The number of poultry holdings covered by the program is determined in such a way that sampling is considered representative of them.

The surveillance is based on the provisions set in CDR (EU) 2020/689 and Regulation 2016/429 .

Surveillance strategy for 2023 and 2024:

Samples, sampling and laboratory diagnostic methods to be implemented:

Surveillance based on risk assessment in poultry

Passive surveillance - sampling from all industrial poultry holdings for virological tests, as follows:

- In Galliformes - in any case of suspicion and increased mortality or clinical signs at the site;
- In Waterfowl - Intensified (targeted) passive supervision - for waterfowl from high-risk areas - regularly every two weeks samples of dead birds are taken from each hall (of at least 2 birds), the allowable period between two samplings is 14- 21 days, as well as any increase in mortality or clinical signs. On a weekly basis, poultry operators electronically submit mortality / carrying data (if applicable) for each batch of birds in the hall.

Representative serological surveillance in Waterfowl:

- serological (blood) samples from each batch of fattening ducks aged 45-65 days. Take 20 samples

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from each hall

- serological (blood) samples from each batch of Peking ducks aged 25-30 days. Take 20 samples per hall.

Active surveillance

- Waterfowls - serological sampling on each batch of fattening ducks at the age of 45-65 days (25-30 days for pecking ducks) (sample size 20 samples/per unit from each unit the batch was kept).

- Galliformes - representative serological sampling from each unit in a percentage of the holdings for breeders, laying hens, turkeys and game birds

-Sampling for virological testing upon suspicion (clinical symptoms, increased mortality, etc.)

-Sampling for virological testing in case of sero-positive results

Representative serological surveillance in Galliformes:

- 31 breeding hens holding, 53 laying hens holdigns, 2 turkey breeders holding to be sampled serologically , 10 samples per holding

- 5 holdings with kept waterfowl poultry - 20 serological samples per holding

Sampling procedures for poultry. The number of poultry holdings (for each category of birds except ducks, geese and mule ducks) to be sampled shall be determined so as to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry holding when the prevalence of infected poultry holdings is at least 5% with 95% confidence. Blood samples for serological tests shall be collected from all categories of poultry production and poultry species from at least 5 to 10 birds (excluding ducks, geese and mallards) from the holding, and from different premises if there is more than one room. In the case of several rooms, samples shall be taken from at least five birds per room. The number of holdings for ducks, geese and ducks to be sampled shall be determined so as to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry holding where the prevalence of infected poultry holdings is at least 5% with 99% confidence. The number of divers to be sampled on the holding shall be determined in such a way as to ensure a 95% probability of identifying at least one seropositive bird for avian influenza if the prevalence of seropositive birds is greater than or equal to 20%.

Frequency and period of testing of the representative serological surveillance shall be carried out once a year. The time limit for sampling on a poultry holding must coincide with the production season for each category of poultry. In order to optimize efficiency and to avoid unnecessary entry of persons into poultry holdings, where possible, sampling may be combined with sampling for other purposes, such as salmonella control. Sampling shall be carried out in accordance with an approved monitoring program from 1 January to 31 December of each calendar year.

Based on a risk assessment, at the request of the BFSA, the frequency of sampling at poultry farms in the country may be increased.

2.1.3.1 *Short description of predominant poultry population and types of poultry production.*

Please provide also a table with the number of poultry holdings and birds existing for each poultry type, and map with the geographic distribution and density of poultry holdings. (If not available, please explain)

(max. 32000 chars) :

The number of poultry farms, divided by production categories, located in the country at the time of the

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current program and which are included in the program are as follows:

Laying hens: In the Republic of Bulgaria there are 188 registered sites with laying hens, with a total number of birds in them with a capacity of 7,305,866 and 31 sites with breeding hens with 1,989,053 birds by capacity. The number of sites that will be tested by a representative sample of serological surveillance samples within the program are indicated in point 2.1.3

Turkeys: Breeding turkeys - 1 site in which 8100 turkeys are reared and 1 site with 4400 turkeys for fattening. The holding will be sampled within the representative serological sampling

Game farms (kept birds): Samples will also be taken from pheasants, quails and partridges, from aviaries in which they are bred and then resettled in hunting farms. There are 5 aviaries in the country, from which a representative sample will be taken for serological surveillance.

Broilers: In the Republic of Bulgaria broilers are kept indoors and they are not included in the program for representative sampling for serological surveillance, and samples of them will be taken in case of increased mortality and / or clinical signs. The number of sites where broilers are kept is 251, in which 6 988 989 birds are kept in terms of capacity for a period of 1 year.

Backyards: Private farms are subject to sampling in case of suspicion and / or increased mortality in backyard birds, sampling will be mandatory.

Waterfowl - geese and ducks: In the Republic of Bulgaria there are 240 sites with a total number of 1,538,856 fattening waterfowl and 5 sites with 39,460 pekin (broiler) ducks. Samples for serological and virological testing will be taken from them as described in point 2.1.3

Figure 5 enclosed provide distribution of farms for ducks, broilers, laying hens and breeding flocks.

The surveillance program shall include sampling of the following poultry species and production categories:- laying hens;- laying hens reared in open spaces;- breeding chickens;- breeding turkeys;- breeding ducks;- breeding geese;- turkeys for fattening;- ducks for suffocation and fattening;- geese for fattening;- farmed game birds (order Chickens), focusing on adult birds such as breeding birds;- farmed feathered game (waterfowl);- ratites.

2.1.3.2 Criteria and risk factors for risk based surveillance (1) Please describe the risk factors as regard the criteria set in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

(max. 32000 chars) :

please see point 2.1.3

(1) Including maps showing target sampling sites identified as being particularly at risk for the introduction of avian influenza virus, taking into account criteria set out in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

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2.2 Target populations

Please explain:

- 1) *The strategy of selection of the holdings to be sampled. (Random, risk based, geographic distribution)*
- 2) *The number of holdings sampled, with regard to the minimum requirements set in Annex II section 9 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*
- 3) *The number of samples taken in each holding with regard to the minimum requirements set in Annex II section 9 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

please see point 2.1.3

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2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS ^(a) (except ducks, geese and farmed game birds (waterfowl e.g. mallards) to be sampled

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year **2023**

Category : chicken breeders

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BG	31	31	10	310	310	ELISA test	X
BG	31	6	10	30	60	HI-test (H5)	X
BG	31	6	10	30	60	HI-test (H7)	X
Bg	31	6	10	60	60	PCR test	X
Total					490		

Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

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Category : laying hens

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI –H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BG	188	53	10	530	530	ELISA test	X
BG	188	6	10	60	60	HI-test (H5)	X
BG	188	6	10	530	60	HI-test (H7)	X
BG	188	8	10	80	80	PCR test	X
BG	188	20	10	200	200	agar gel immune diffusion test	X
Total					930		

Add a new row

- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
- (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested
- (c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Category : turkey breeders

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI –H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
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BG	1	1	10	10	10	ELISA test	X
BG	1	1	10	10	10	PCR test	X
Total					20		

Add a new row

- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
 (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested
 (c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total poultry 2023	1 440	1 850

2.2.2 DUCKS ,GEESE AND FARMED GAME BIRDS (WATERFOWL e.g. MALLARD) HOLDINGS (a) to be sampled.

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year **2023**

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Category : fattening ducks

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BG	250	250	20	8 000	8 000	HI-test (H5)	X
BG	250	250	20	8 000	8 000	HI-test (H7)	X
BG	250	250	20	15 000	3 000	PCR test	X
BG	250	3	20	60	60	Virus isolation test	X
Total					19 060		

Add a new row

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

Category : farmed game (waterfowl e.g. mallards)

delete this category

In the column "Total number of samples", please put 0 if the same samples have already been counted for another laboratory analysis (example : for HI-H5 and HI -H7 test, only 1 sample should be counted)

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BG	5	5	20	100	100	HI-test (H5)	X
BG	5	5	20	100	100	HI-test (H7)	X
BG	5	2	20	40	40	PCR test	X
Total					240		

Add a new row

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- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
 (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total ducks and geese and farmed game birds 2023	19 300	31 300

TOTALS for Poultry (2.2.1) + Ducks and Geese (2.2.2) and farmed game birds for year :

2023

Poultry + Ducks/Geese /farmed game birds	Total number of tests
Grand Total	20 740
Grand Total ELISA	850
Grand Total agar	200
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	8 220
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	8 220
Grand Total Virus Isolation test	60
Grand Total PCR test	3 190
Grand Total Samplings	33 150

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2.3 Sampling procedures, sampling periods and frequency of testing taking into account criteria set out in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

For each poultry category please detail the place of sampling (holding or slaughterhouse), the period and frequency of the testing, and who is in charge of the sampling.

(max. 32000 chars):

Sampling procedures in domestic poultry.

The number of poultry holdings (for each poultry production category, except those of ducks, geese and mallards) to be sampled is defined so as to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry holding where the prevalence of infected poultry holding is 5 %, with a 95 % confidence interval.

The number of duck, goose and mallard holdings to be sampled is defined so as to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry holding where the prevalence of infected poultry holdings is 5 %, with a 95 % confidence interval.

Sampling procedures for serological testing

Serological testing for Avian influenza shall be carried out in the following species and birds category:

a) Domestic poultry hens, kept in non-commercial holdings (back yards) or in industrial holdings

- the gallinaceous species /breeding stocks, laying hens, turkeys, ratites/;

- the waterfowls species / breeders and fattening ducks and geese/;

b) Birds, reared and used for hunting (pheasants, partridge, quails, half-savage birds) ((gallinaceous) focusing on adult birds such as breeding birds and waterfowl);

Sampling for virological testing

The sampling of poultry holdings shall be carried as described in pt. 2.1.3.

In order to optimise efficiency and also to avoid the unnecessary entry of persons onto poultry holdings, whenever it possible sampling may be combined with sampling for other purposes, such as within the framework of Salmonella control.

Sampling shall be carried out in accordance with the approved surveillance programme from 1 January to 31 December of each year of the programme.

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2.4. Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used.

Please describe the tests to be used and their purpose (screening test or confirmatory test or follow-up investigations) for each category of poultry.

Please explain the number of tests calculation for each poultry category, and if it is in line with Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

Description of the used serological tests : (max 32000 chars)

For serological analyses are sent serum samples of clinically healthy birds.

☒ Blood obtained by a single-use closed blood sampling system. The blood is collected of the internal part of the wing from v. cutanea ulnaris and v. Brachialis, using vacuum container type butterfly.

The samples are chilled immediately on ice and submitted to the laboratory as quickly as possible. If rapid transportation cannot be guaranteed the samples can be stored for 48 to 72 hours at 0 - 4oC and for a longer period – at -70o C. The specimens for virological sampling should not be transported on dry ice, since the CO2 inactivate immediately the avian influenza virus.

The plan for laboratory surveillance for 2015 is based on a regional principle as regards to the samples which have to be taken from different bird species and sent for analyses. The programme includes examination of live poultry. It is preferable the samples taken from domestic poultry from gallinaceous species and waterfowls to be sent with a separate cover letters. The samples should be taken within the migratory period of the wild birds and can include considerable number of slaughtered domestic poultry.

In case of taking samples from one settlement the latter must be collected from at least three different backyards/ flocks.

Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Art. 6 of CDR (EU) 2020/689.

Testing of samples shall be carried out at National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza under the National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute /NDRVI/.

All positive serological findings shall be confirmed by the National Laboratories for avian influenza by a haemagglutination-inhibition test, using designated strains supplied by the Community Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza:

a) for H5 subtype:

- initial testing using teal/England/7894/06 (H5N3);

- testing of all positives with chicken/Scotland/59(H5N1) to eliminate N3 cross reactive antibodies;

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b) for H7 subtype:

- initial testing using turkey/England/647/77 (H7N7);
- testing of all positive with African starling/983/79 (H7N1) to eliminate N7 cross reactive antibodies.

All positive serological findings must be followed up at the poultry holding by epidemiological investigations and further sampling for testing by virological methods in order to determine, if active infection of avian influenza virus is present on the poultry holding. The conclusions of all those investigations shall be reported to the Commission.

The specific protocols provided by the EURL for the submission of samples and diagnostic material shall be used. The samples should be addressed to: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe), Legnaro, Italy.

3. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in wild birds

3.1.1 *Designation of the authorities in charge of supervising, coordinating, and implementing the programme and relevant collaborating partners (e.g. epidemiologists, ornithologists, nature bird observation and hunter organisations).*

Please describe in detail who designs, who implements, and who monitors the programme in wild birds.

Please detail the system in place to detect the dead wild birds; please explain who delivers the wild birds to the laboratory.

(max. 32000 chars):

The BFSA of Bulgaria is the national competent authority responsible for the implementation of the AI Surveillance Programme.

This Programme is implemented on the field either by official veterinarians or in case of specific instructions of the BFSA by private (registered) veterinarians under official controls within the 28 administrative districts of Bulgaria.

The outcomes of implementation of the AI Surveillance Programme are reported in writing on monthly basis by the 28 "Animal Health" Department Chiefs (with the 28 Regional Food Safety Departments) to the "Animal Health and Welfare" Directorate at the BFSA Central Administration.

The National reference Laboratory regularly sends information regarding the samples from the Surveillance Programme to the Animal Health and Welfare Directorate in the BFSA.

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The suspect/dead birds are notified to official veterinarians on a regional level. Further those are sent for laboratory analysis to the NRL with the respective sample submission letter (a template).

3.1.2 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied

(max. 32000 chars) :

The programme is to be implemented on the territory of all 28 administrative districts of the country.

3.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

Please provide main species, number of birds, migratory routes, geographic distribution or risk areas.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Described in the attached file.

3.2 Design, criteria, risk factors and target population(3)

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(max. 32000 chars) :

- (a) A risk-based surveillance (RBS) shall be implemented as a 'passive' surveillance system by laboratory investigation of moribund wild birds or birds found dead and it shall be specifically directed towards water bird species.
- (b) Wild birds, in particular migratory water birds, that have been shown to be at a higher risk of becoming infected with, and transmitting the HPAI virus, the 'target species' (TS), shall be specifically targeted.
- (c) Areas close to the sea, lakes and waterways where birds were found dead; and in particular when these areas are in close proximity to poultry holdings, especially in areas where there is a high density of poultry holdings, shall be targeted.
- (d) It is necessary the participation of ornithological institutions and organizations responsible for the ringing of birds. Where necessary this must be done under the supervision of these organizations or by the hunters.
- (e) If the epidemiological situation for the HPAI virus so requires, surveillance activities shall be enhanced by awareness raising and active searching and monitoring for dead or moribund wild birds, in particular for those belonging to TS.

(3) Areas at risk (wetlands in particular where links with high density poultry populations), previous positive findings as referred to in Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 should be taken into account and if possible complemented by a map.

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS focussed on target species

Investigations according to the surveillance programme set out in conformity with Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Targets for year

2023

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Total number of wild birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of wild birds to be samples for passive surveillance	Type of test	Number of tests	
BG	290	290	PCR test	290	X

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Total	290	290	290
Add a new row			
<p>(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</p>			

	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	290
Total Virus isolation tests	0
Total PCR tests	290
Total Other tests	0
Total number of wild birds to be sampled for passive surveillance	290

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

Please also explain which samples are taken from wild birds

max 32000 chars :

Sampling must be carried out in accordance with the diagnostic manual.- Wild birds found dead or dying are sampled - swabs from the cloaca and trachea / nasopharynx and / or tissues - for molecular identification (PCR) and / or virus isolation.-

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3.4 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used .

Please explain also which laboratory do the tests for the wild birds, and which, and how many tests are planned for each wild bird

max 32000 chars :

1. Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Art. 6 of CDR (EU) 2020/689.
2. Testing of samples shall be carried out at National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza under the National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute /NDRVI/.
Initial screening using M gene PCR shall be carried out, followed by rapid testing of positive findings for H5 which shall be carried out within a period of not more than 2 weeks. In case of a positive finding for H5, an analysis of the cleavage site shall be undertaken as soon as possible to determine whether or not it has a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). Where H5 HPAI is confirmed, further analysis to determine the N type must be done rapidly.
3. All positive serological findings shall be confirmed by the National Laboratories for avian influenza by a haemagglutination-inhibition test, using designated strains supplied by the Community Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza
4. In case of confirmed positive cases of HPAI, the control measures laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases shall apply.

4. *Short description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in poultry during the last five years*

max 32000 chars :

For 2016 - 26 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) in domestic flocks and 2 cases in wild birds were detected
For 2017 - 53 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) in domestic flocks and 12 cases in wild birds were detected
For 2018 - 28 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) in domestic flocks and no cases in wild birds were detected
For 2019 - 5 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) (1 secondary) in domestic flocks and no cases in wild birds were detected
For 2020 - 9 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) in domestic flocks and no cases in wild birds were detected.
For 2021 - 15 outbreaks of HPAI (H5N8) in domestic flocks.

Laying hens, breeders, broilers, ducks (pecking and mallards) were affected by the virus. Detailed information on the outbreaks are available on the BfSA

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webpage: <https://www.bfsa.bg/bg/Page/influentza/index/influentza/%D0%98%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B0%20%EF%BF%BD>

The outcomes from the epidemiological investigation identified as the predominant reason for introduction of AI in most of the affected poultry holdings possible incursion of infection via indirect contact with wild birds and break of the biosecurity measures.

Cases in wild birds:

H5N5 2021 Burgas Grey heron
H5N5 2021 Burgas Herring gull
H5N8 2017 Pazardzhik Common buzzard
H5N8 2017 Plovdiv Mute swan
H5N8 2017 Burgas Mute swan
H5N8 2017 Dobrich Crested coots
H5N8 2017 Yambol Pheasants
H5N8 2017 Burgas Mute swans
H5N8 2017 Dobrich Great egret
H5N8 2017 Burgas Mute swans
H5N8 2017 Varna Goose
H5N8 2017 Varna Mute swan
H5 2017 Sofia-city Swan geese
H5 2017 Burgas
H5 2017 Varna Mute swans
H5 2017 Pazardzhik
H5 2016 Yambol Herons

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency immediately put in force all relevant emergency and eradication measures pursuant to Council Directive 2005/94/EC on Community measures for the control of avian influenza, Commission Decision 2006/563/EC, Decision 2006/415/EC, Commission Decision 2006/416/EC and the National contingency plan for AI.

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5. *Short description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in wild birds during the last five years*

(max. 32000 chars):

please see point 4

6. *Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease*

Please explain also briefly the measures implemented in case of suspicion or confirmation of the disease

(max. 32000 chars):

According to Art. 55 and Art.39 of the Law on the Veterinary Activities (LVA) the owners of holdings/private veterinarians are obliged to report to the veterinary authorities any suspicion for infectious disease or increased mortality of the animals on the farm.

In case of suspicion/confirmation of the disease the vet authorities should enforce the measures provided for in the National Contingency Plan for AI as well as any AI outbreak in the country will be notified as required by the EU legislation (Art. 18 and 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, CIR (EU) 2020/2002) and the national legislation - Art. 50 of the Law on the Veterinary Activities: https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2021/03/09/zakon_za_veterinarnomeditsinskata_deinost.pdf

The measures enforced are in line with Delegated Regulation (EC) 2020/687. Generally, the following measures have been carried out:

- Total stamping out: killing and safe disposal of all poultry of the infected flock. The poultry have been killed in compliance with the OIE, EU and national animal welfare requirements.
- The safe disposal of the bodies of the dead birds and other animal by-products has been ensured under the supervision of the local competent authorities.
- Safe disposal of all poultry products and eggs that were produced during the period between the suspected introduction of the disease and killing, and of all existing by-products and feedstuffs.
- Cleaning and disinfection of the premises, stables, other possibly contaminated rooms, manure, equipment, vehicles etc. that could spread the virus in and outside of the farm.

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- Establishment of the restricted zones: a protection zone with a radius of at least 3 km and a surveillance zone with a radius of at least 10 km around the infected holding (minimum 3 km protection zone for at least 21 days and 10 km surveillance zone for at least 30 days). Strict restrictions on movement of poultry and products derived from poultry have been implemented in all poultry holdings located in the restricted zones. A compulsory indoor ban of poultry flocks in the restricted zones was enforced as well.

- Clinical examination of all poultry flocks and as appropriate, sampling have been carried out in the protection zone and risk based in the surveillance zone.

- Virus isolation to identify the genetic subtype, in case of primary outbreak.

These measures are also stipulated in the Operational Manual for the Control and Eradication of Avian Influenza (contingency plan). Please find the detailed information here:

https://www.bfsa.bg/userfiles/files/ZJ/CP/16%20Ref.Operational_manual_AI_BG_NEW2020.pdf

7. Costs

7.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

7.1.1 Poultry including ducks, geese and farmed game birds

Please also check the consistency between the numbers mentioned in tables 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 7.2.1, and the information provided in box 2.3 and 2.4. Please comment also the cost-efficiency aspects of the programme

(max. 32000 chars):

1. Costs related to taking and transportation of samples for testing to diagnostics laboratories.
2. Costs for the purchase of the required diagnostics kits.
3. Costs for compensations to the owners of compulsively killed or slaughtered birds.
4. Costs for remuneration of the labour of the executers of the program.

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7.1.2 Wild birds

Please also check the consistency between the numbers mentions in tables 3.2.1, 7.2.2 and the information provided in box 3.3 and 3.4.

(max. 32000 chars) :

1. Costs related to taking and transportation of samples of wild birds for testing to diagnostics laboratories.
2. Costs for the purchase of the required diagnostics kits.
3. Costs for remuneration of the labor of the staff involved in the implementation of the program.

7.2 Summary of the annual costs :

7.2.1 Poultry surveillance including ducks, geese and farmed game birds : *Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme - poultry*

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C. 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 perform 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):

Official sampling is carried out by the official veterinarians and paid by the national budget.

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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):

Official testing is carried out by the NRL for AI/ND and covered by the national budget.

c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars):

The compensations are implemented in accordance to the Law on Veterinary Activities. The costs for compensations are within the state budget.

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination** : who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars):

n/a

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

(max. 32000 chars):

n/a

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.

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:

n/a

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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 **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD** 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.

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