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.b: Programme for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis or sheep and goat brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)

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).

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5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : PORTUGAL

Disease Sheep And Goat Brucellosis

Species :

This program is multi annual : no

Request of the Union co-financing from beginning of: 2023

First year of implementation of the programme described in this document:

1. Contact data

Name

Phone

Email

Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

30/11/2022 14:40:51

Submission Number

1669819253489-18937

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

Describe timeline with prevalence, incidence data and, where relevant, vaccination history covering at least the past 5 years.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Portugal has been implementing co-financed ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programme (O&CBEP) since 1991, and herds covered by the programme have a health status attributed in accordance with Council Directive 91/68/EEC and its amendments and the national legislation.

The Autonomous Region of Açores, listed in Chapter 2 of Part I of Annex I of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021, has the disease-free status from infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis in ovine and caprine animal populations, with a surveillance programme in place.

The programme is advancing in a pre-eradication phase (see graphics and tables in the attached file), based on test and slaughter of positive animals with compensation paid to operators.
Vaccination is considered a useful tool for brucellosis control as it increases herd immunity and decreases environmental contamination. Data on vaccination history covering the past 5 years is attached in the last page of this form. It has been and will continue to be applied at Norte Region. Algarve stoppped by the end of 2018 and Centro by the end of 2021 (data are included at attached file).

The O&CBEP for the five non-disease-free Regions of Portugal (mainland) resulted with the following indicators along the last 5 years, from 2017 to 2021:
Herd apparent prevalence of herds with at least one positive animal
- 0.73%, 0.49%, 0.39%, 0.39%, 0.40%.

Herd incidence:
- 0.63%, 0.42%, 0.33%, 0.34%,0.36%.

Animal prevalence:
- 0.11%, 0.08%, 0.05%, 0.04%, 0.03%.

The variation of herd apparent prevalence by Region, from 2020 to 2021, was the following:
- Norte – 1.27% to 1.32%
- Centro – maintained 0.04%
- LVT – 0.10% to 0.09%
- Alentejo – maintained 0.09%
- Algarve – 0.10% to 0.11%

There were 198 positive herds and 179 were new positive. By the end of 2021 (31/December), 14 herds had an infected status (13 in the Norte region and 1 in LVT region); 11 counties had a total of 14 infected herds: 10 of the counties were from the Norte region and 1 from the LVT region.
Positive animals were subjected to sanitary slaughter and those coming from newly infected herds were subjected to organ collection for bacteriology. A total of 552 animals were slaughtered and 353 animals were sampled. From these, 26 had isolation of Brucella (25 from the Norte region).

In the Norte region 8 of the 10 counties had only 1 infected herd each. The other 5 remaining infected herds (38.5%) were from 2 counties.

The maps are in the attached file.
The O&CBEP foresee the investigation of positive and infected herds in order to trace-back and trace-forward the infection. For this evaluation a specific data collection questionnaire is used (epidemiological enquiry). There were 64 epidemiological inquiries in newly infected herds. The main probable reasons for the infection were related to direct contact with other ruminants, introduction of animals and other origins.

In 2021 there was no notification of abortions of sheep and goat animals related to clinical signs consistent with infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis and so there was no laboratorial investigation on abortions related to this disease.
In 2023, a new procedure will be established for abortion material collection for brucellosis surveillance, establishing a network with NRL and private laboratories that receive abortion materials for the diagnosis of other abortion agents (Chlamydophyla, Q Fever, Toxoplasma, etc.) which will collect samples to be sent to INIAV.

According to the Directorate-General of Health (DGS), 11 human cases of brucellosis were notified in 2021 (provisional data) and were distributed by the following districts (SINAVE database):
- Aveiro and Lisboa - 1 case in each district.
- Évora, Faro and Setúbal - 2 cases each.
- Santarém - 3 cases.

3. *Description of the submitted programme*

Describe the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 16 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 including at least:
(a) the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex IV to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689:
(i) for the granting of the disease-free status to establishments and the maintenance of that status;
(ii) to confirm or rule out the disease in the event of a suspected case;
(b) the disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case;
(c) the biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented;
(e) the measures to be implemented as regards additional animal populations, if relevant;
(f) the derogations to be applied in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, if relevant;
(g) coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, if relevant.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Requirements for eradication programme bades on granting disease-free status at the level of establishments are in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17th December 2019.

(a) the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex IV to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Sampling scheme:
All non-castrated ovine and caprine over 6 months of age are tested in all herds from the Continental area of Portugal.

Diagnostic methods used:
The official diagnostic tests are the serological Rose Bengal test (RBT), as screening test, and the

Complement Fixation Test (CFT), as confirmatory test, when serial diagnostic is applied.
ELISA tests may be used as a complementary diagnostic test for the investigation of false positive serological reaction in specific geographical areas.
Bacteriology is an important tool to confirm infection.

Methodology related to diagnostic tests use are presented in detail in point 4.4.6.

(i) for the granting of the disease-free status to establishment and the maintenance of that status.

Establishment with B4 health status
The disease-free status from infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis without vaccination (B4) may only be granted to an establishment keeping ov/cap animals that complies with Section 1, Chapter 1, Part I, Annex IV of Delegated Regulantion (EU) 2020/689.

- In the past 12 months there has been no confirmed case of infection in ov/cap kept in the establishment,
- In the past 3 years none of the animals in the establishment has been vaccinated against the infection;
- If the entire animals over 6 months of age present in the establishment at the time of blood sampling have tested negative to:
  - 2 serological tests with 6 months interval for establishments classifying for the first time;
  - 3 serological tests with al least 30, 60 and 180 days interval, for establishments that had infected animals, after the removal of the last positive/confirmed case.
- Animals showing clinical signs consistent with infection, such as abortions, have been subjected to investigations with negative results.

- Since the beginning of the first sampling referred above, all ov/cap animals and all germinal products of ov/cap origin introduced into the establishment must have been originated from B3 or B4 establishments and must have come from a free Member State (MS) or free Region and, in the case of repopulation, entire ov/cap animals over 6 months of age that have been tested negative in a PreMT or PosMT.

- The B4 status may be granted to an B3 establishment if requirements for granting the status are fulfilled and if all animals have not been vaccinated during the past 3 years and entire ov/cap animals over 6 months of age are serologically tested with negative results at appropriate intervals of not more than 12 months.

The status (B4) may only be maintained if the requirements set for granting continue to be fulfilled and serological testing is carried out with negative results on samples taken from all entire animals over 6 months of age at appropriate intervals of not more than 12 months or are entire animals over 6 months of age kept in establishment located in a Member State or a Region free from infection (always considering the type of production and the identified risk factors).

Establishment with B3 health status
The disease-free status from infection, with vaccination (B3), may is granted when the establishment fulfils the requirement for B4 status but has ovine or caprine animals vaccinated against brucellosis less than 3 years ago.

(ii) to confirm or rule out the disease in the event of a suspected case.

A suspected case occurs in the following occasions:
- If one ov/cap animal from a B3 or B4 establishment is positive to a serological test (is positive to RBT and has CFT >=20 IU/ml).
- A notified abortion storm;
- If an Epidemiological Inquiry reveals the possibility of infection by contact with an infected holding.
- When there are no conditions for the establishment to be classified as B3 or B4 (whenever the plan is not being fulfilled).
- For any other reason considered relevant to the strategy against brucellosis by the veterinary services.

Whenever there is a suspected case of the disease and until it's confirmation or rule out, the DSAVR conduct the following actions:
- Suspension of status (B3S/B4S); the maximum period of time that disease-free status may be suspended in the routine testing is 365 days;
- Prohibition of movement of germinal products of ov/cap and and ov/cap animals from and out of the establishment, unless the animals are for immediate slaughter in a designated slaughterhouse;
- Operators are also notified to isolate the suspected cases, where technically possible;
- Epidemiological enquiry (EI);
- In the case that the pattern of positive results in B3 and B4 establishment are not compatible with infection (single reactors, low CFT titres, etc) and EI do not indicate any risk, DSAVR may decide on the investigation of possible false positive serological reaction;
- The DSAVR may decide not to suspend the disease-free status of the whole establishment when there are different epidemiological units.
- The DSAVR may extended measures to additional susceptible species kept in the establishment and to any establishment with epidemiological link with the establishment where the suspected case occurred.

Regarding the serological positive animals, DSAVR sets the following standard procedures, unless false positive reactions protocol are initiated:
- serological positive animals are marked and are compulsory sent to slaughter under official supervision within 30 days following the date of official notification of the operator;
- collection of material for laboratory diagnosis;
- preparation of a dossier for the payment of compensation;
- the remaining animals are submitted to serological test 30 days following the removal of the last positive animal for slaughter.

The B3 or B4 status may only be restored if the requirements set out for the granting and maintenance for this status are fulfilled and the results of further investigations substantiate absence of infection, and the status of all suspected cases has been determined.

(b) disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case.

An establishment is infected, if the presence of Brucella abortus, Brucella melitensis and Brucella suis is confirmed, by its isolation in a bacteriological examination of samples taken from sanitary slaughter or from other origin.

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

DSAVR shall apply measures to the infected establishment, if they were not yet implemented, namely:
- Withdrawn of status to infected (B.2.1). The withdrawal may be limited to the epidemiological unit where the case was confirmed.
- Prohibit movement of germinal products of ov/cap origin and of ov/cap animals from and out of the establishment, unless the animals are for immediate slaughter in a designated slaughterhouse. (sanitary sequestration);
- Isolate the suspected cases, where technically possible.
- Sanitary slaughter of infected animals, with compensation.
- Conduct investigations and the epidemiological enquiry (EI), as mentioned to the suspicious case.

The B3/B4 status may only be regained if all confirmed cases and all animals that have tested non-negative have been removed and the remaining animals fulfil the requirements set out for the granting of status, according the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, Annex IV, Part I, Chapter 1 and 2, Section 4.

(Please see point 4.4.9, as regard more measures)

(c) biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented:

The notification to the operator related to sanitary sequestration, forbiddens entries and exits (except to slaughter) of animals and contains instructions related to cleaning and disinfection of the stables and outbuildings areas and loading points, of the materials or substances from animals or been in contact with them, as well as containers, utensils and other objects used by animals.
During the EI, operators are faced with a range of questions related to biosecurity measures and management which have also informative and educational purposes. Subjects as management of pregnant animals, use of pastures, risk on sharing equipment, and the scope for direct or indirect contact with other epidemiological units are referred.

(e) measures to be implemented as regards additional animal populations, if relevant;
From 2023 the “Sanitary surveillance programme in hunting game species” already implemented at national level will include serology for Brucella in cervids and wild boars.
We already know about the endemic circulation of B. suis biovar 2 in the wild boars population which constitute a risk in the extensive production systems of ruminants. Also a set of biosecurity measure are being discussed with the livestock producers and the hunters representatives to improve biosecurity.

(f) derogations to be applied in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, if relevant.
Not relevant.

(g) coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, if relevant.
Not relevant

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

Duration of the programme : 2023 - 2023

☒ Eradication

☒ Testing

☒ Slaughter of animals tested positive

☒ Vaccination

Other, please specify

4.1.1 Timeline for the eradication

Describe the timeline with prevalence, incidence data and, where relevant, vaccination history covering at least the past 5 years and the estimated duration of the eradication programme

The evolution of prevalence and incidence covering the past 5 years was already discribed in point 2 and is illustrated in the Annex - attached file. The prevalence of positive animals remained constant at national level, from 2020 to 2021.
We intend to submit the 8 districts for indemnity recognition in 2022.
As regards Region Norte, considering that the vaccination program in Vila Real and Bragança will be caried out, for at least up to 2024, full indemnity will be achieved in 2028.

4.1.2 Interim targets in relation to the timeline for eradication

Describe the intermediate targets of the eradication programme including at least:
(a) the expected annual decrease of the number o infected establishments;
(b) the expected annual increase of the number of disease-free establishments;
(c) the expected vaccination coverage, where relevant. *(max. 32000 chars) :*

Tables on the intermediate targets of the eradication programme are presented in the Annex in attachment.

For the interim targets for eradication, we did not consider the number of establishments with at least one positive animals (198 in 2021) but the number of establishments with isolation of Brucella (infected holdings). The expected evolution is the following:

Year / Holdings with isolation of Brucella / % infected holding:
-2021 / 28 / 0.06%
- 2022 / 19 / 0.04%
- 2023 / 8 / 0.02%
- 2024 / 0 / 0%

4.2 Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme

Describe the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:
(a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme;
(b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved.

(max. 32000 chars) :

(a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme:

The Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV) is the authority responsible for the control and eradication of infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis as regard kept ov/cap animals and its central service, the Directorate for Animal Protection (DSPA) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the programme.

Five Regional Directorates for Food and Veterinary (DSAVR), decentralized services of DGAV (Norte, Centro, Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, Alentejo and Algarve), are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the various activities under the eradication programme in their area, for the attribution of the health status for the establishments and the implementation of restrictions in positive or infected establishments. DGAV/DSAVR is also responsible for monitoring compliance with the legal requirements arising from the agreements signed with the OPP.

(b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved:

Most field activities of this programme are implemented by private veterinarians from Livestock Producers Organisations (OPPs) which annually submit sanitary programmes to be approved by the official services. The information related to the programme are transmitted to farmers through their OPP vets (at the veterinary visits). Awareness of these veterinarians are carried out with seminars with DGAV; for example, 2022 seminar was carried out at 23.11.2022 and included the presentation of the programme, its results and perspectives. INIAV also participated with the explanation of laboratory testing and sampling quality.
In 2023 , a leaflet will be prepared to be distributed by OPP to farmers. In addition when a new positive holding is identified and during the epidemiologic investigation, farmers are informed not only about the measures but also about the infection routes and risk factors.

The entity that collects the samples is also responsible for submitting them to the laboratory. Sampling during sanitary slaughter is carried out by the official veterinary inspector of the DSAVR.

All laboratories involved in Brucellosis Eradication Programmes are accredited by Portuguese Accreditation Body, named IPAC.

The National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinary Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P., hereinafter - INIAV I.P.) is the national reference laboratory (NRL) for food safety, animal, and plant health. INIAV I.P. is responsible for the coordination and technical supervision of the official laboratories and the harmonization of the testing methods used, following guidelines supplied by European Commission and OIE Manual. There are two delegations of INIAV performing official samples for brucellosis diagnosis. One is located in the Norte (Vila do Conde - Vairão) and the other in Alentejo (Évora). These delegations perform Rose Bengal Test (RBT) and Complement Fixation Test (CFT). Brucella bacteriological examination and typing of Brucella are only performed at NRL at central level and the results are electronically communicated to DGAV.

In the continental territory, there are 6 private official laboratories authorized to carry out RBT and CFT and record the results in PISA.Net:

- SEGALAB (Laboratório de Sanidade Animal e Segurança Alimentar, S.A.) – Póvoa do Varzim - Porto.
- PROLEITE (Cooperativa Agrícola de Produtores de leite, C.R.L.) – Oliveira de Azeméis – Aveiro.
- LMV (Laboratório de Medicina Veterinária, Lda) – Santarém.
- SOCLAB (Polo Litoral Alentejano) – Santiago do Cacém – Setúbal.
- COPRAPEC (Cooperativa Agrícola de Compra e Venda de Montemor-o-Novo, C.R.L) – Montemor-o-Novo – Évora.
- ACOS (Associação de Agricultores do Sul) – Beja.

NRL provides technical training for staff either for initial qualification or for requalification on RBT and CFT techniques. NRL provides official Labs with Positive Control Serum for RBT and CFT techniques.

Operators and traders have the responsibility to provide access and the necessary means to carry out the interventions on the animals, to comply with the rules on identification and animal movement, to allow loading and transport for slaughter of positive animals and to comply with the movement restrictions and depopulation periods imposed, following total slaughter.
Operators have the right to be compensated for the value of their animal's compulsory slaughtered or culled if they fulfill their responsibilities under the applicable legislation.

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

Describe territorial scope with a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative area covered by the eradication programme and the names of the zones and regions, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The eradication programme for Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis in ovine and caprine animal populations will be implemented at the following geographical and administrative areas of the continental territory:

- Directorate for Food and Veterinary of the Norte Region (DSAVRN) – districts of Viana de Castelo, Braga, Bragança, Porto, Vila Real and part of the districts of Aveiro, Viseu and Guarda.
- Directorate for Food and Veterinary of the Centro Region (DSAVRC) – districts of Castelo Branco, and Coimbra and parts of the districts of Aveiro, Leiria, Viseu and Guarda.
- Directorate for Food and Veterinary of Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (DSAVRLVT) – districts of Santarém and Lisboa and parts of the districts of Leiria and Setúbal.
- Directorate for Food and Veterinary of the Alentejo Region (DSAVRALT) – districts of Portalegre,

Évora and Beja and parts of the district of Setúbal.
- Directorate for Food and Veterinary of the Algarve Region (DSAVRAlg) – district of Faro.

As regard the Autonomous Region of Madeira (not cofinanced by the EU):
- Directorate for Food and Veterinary Services of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) – Islands of Madeira and Porto Santo.

4.4 Description of the measures of the programme

A comprehensive description needs to be provided of all measures and detailed reference must be made to Union legislation. The national legislation in which the measures are laid down is mentioned.

4.4.1 Notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

Brucellosis is a notifiable disease since 1953 and listed in the annex of Decree Law No 39:209 of 1953 and its amendments. Disease treatment is strictly prohibited. The veterinarian is responsible for identifying risks and to inform DGAV.
Notification of abortions is compulsory and must give rise to an epidemiological investigation and the collection of material for bacteriological diagnosis. There are procedural rules for collecting and sending material from abortions to the laboratory, drawn up jointly by DGAV and the INIAV I.P., published on the website of both Institutions. INIAV I.P., as NRL, carries out bacteriological diagnostic tests and sends out the results to DGAV. An investigation is conducted on the unit of origin in response to positive results on testing for Brucella.

4.4.2 Target animals and animal population

Describe the epidemiological situation for each zone or region, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme:
(a) the number of establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population by health status (Disease-free, infected or unknown) excluding establishments falling under the derogation to be applied in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 at 31 December;
(b) the number of animals of the targeted animal population kept in the establishments referred to in point (a) by health status;
(c) maps indicating the density of the targeted animal population referred to in point (b) by health status
and
(d) information as regards the epidemiological situation in additional animal populations, where relevant. *(max. 32000 chars) :*

The eradicated programme covers all ovine and caprine animals.
Tables and maps on alineas a), b) and c) are in Annex attached to this form.

Alinea d) information as regards the epidemiological situation in additional animal populations:
- not relevant.

4.4.3 Identification of animals and registration of holdings including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

(max. 32000 chars) :

Measures for the identification, registrationand movement of ovine and caprine are described in national Decree-Law nº 142/2006 of 27 July 2006 with its amendments, setting up the National System for the Identification and Registration of Animals (SNIRA), Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/520.

The system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals comprises the following elements:

a) Means of identification to identify each animal: one conventional eartag and an electronic mean of identification, preferably a ruminal bolus (electronic eartag can be used as an alternative).
b) Movement documents.
c) A central national database (SNIRA) which monitors the issue of the movement documents according to the health status of the establishment concerned.

Each operator of animals must declare to the database the information concerning the origin, identification and the destination of the animals which the operator has owned, kept, transported, marketed or slaughtered.

All animals are identified within six months of birth and, in any case, before the animal leaves the establishment on which it was born. For animals kept in extensive or free-range farming, the time limit may be extended but not exceeding nine months. Therefore, as required by Implementing Regulation 2021/520, all ovine and caprine must be identified before 9 months of age.

Animals of small size or those under six months of age destined to international trade, have to be identified with a kit that consists of a conventional eartag and an electronic tag, both in yelow colour. Animals are thus definitively identified, dispensing a second visit to the holding in a remote area.

For early-vaccinated animals, kit consists of green eartags.

Ovine and caprine animals destined for slaughter in national territory, before 12 months of age directly or through an approved assembly center or fattening establishment may be identified with a single eartag. This eartag must contain the code of the establishment of birth (ME) which is acquired by the operator of the animals and applied to the left ear. Animals that are moved to assembly centers and/or fattening establishment must keep the eartag with the code of the establishment of birth (ME) and being once again marked before living the establishment with its code.

It is mandatory for each operator of animals to:

- carry out annual declaration of existences of their ovine and caprine.
- provide information of the establishment register at the SNIRA).

4.4.4 Qualifications of animals and herds including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

The existing health status as regard infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis for establishments, are in accordance with the requirements of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, and are as follows:

- B4 - establishment with the disease-free status from infection, without vaccination.
- B3 -establishment with the disease-free status from infection, with vaccination.
- B4S - establishment with the suspended disease-free status from infection, without vaccination.
- B3S - establishment with the suspended disease-free status from infection, with vaccination.
- B2 - establishment with the disease-status not free from infection.

In complement, and for the purpose of management of the eradication programme:

- B2.1 - establishments infected (withdraw the disease-free status, when isolation of Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis is officially confirmed, post-mortem or other).

Health status is assigned or amended by the Regional official veterinary services (DSAVR).
The operators of establishment where ov/cap animals are kept, must comply with the general and disease specific requirements ordered by DGAV/DSAVR, to obtain and maintain the disease-free-status of their establishments.
The condition for granting, suspending and withdrawing of status are in accordance with Annex IV, Chapter 1 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and are explained in point 3 of this form.
One extra testing is implementing in holdings with positive/infected animals at 30 days after the removal of positive animals to slaughter and the minimum intervals between negative tests for the requalification are: 30, 60 and 180 days (maximum 365 in this last testing).

The DSAVR may attribute distinct health status to different epidemiological units of the same establishment if there is information from its operator about:

- the different unit established within the establishment to be granted distinct health status prior to any suspicion or confirmation of the disease.
- accessible tracing of the movements of animals and germinal products of ovine and caprine origin, from and between the units.
- the unit has separated by physical, and management means and complies with any risk mitigating measures requested by the DSAVR for that purpose.

4.4.5 Rules of the movement of animals including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Please detail also the rules existing for transhumance and common grazing areas, if any.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Movements are not permitted from establishment if health classification is “non-disease free” (B2.1, B2, B3S and B4S), except for seronegative animals destined for immediate slaughter. Positive animals are marked and set to sanitary slaughter.

Only animals from B3 and B4 establishment may be moved without restrictions. However, movements of vaccinated animals less than 3 years before the vaccination, from B3 to B4 establishment imply the change of classification of B4 into B3.

The updating of health status on PISA.Net is undertaken by the veterinary services and determines the

authorization for movements using an interoperability procedure between SNIRA and PISA.Net.

The movements to pastures for a set period and the transhumance of ovine and caprine are permitted only when these animals come from establishment that are disease free.
Such movement is subject to compliance with the rules set out by the veterinary services, as follows:
- Animals come only from establishment and areas that are not subject to any health restrictions;
- Ovine and caprine animals are identified in accordance with the legislation;
- Animals moved present no evident symptoms of infectious contagious disease;
- When movements are not daily but seasonal it needs to be registered in SNIRA;
- The entire herd shall be tested within 30 days of returning from seasonal staying in common pastures.

Animal movement of establishment under surveillance are always under official control and there are several controls in place, such as:
- Data on field work is entered by OPP on a data base (PISA.Net), allowing DSAVR to control the compliance with the registered checking's and the number of animals present in the establishment;
- Restricted establishments are blocked in the electronic database that issues movement permits, t therefore animals are not authorized to move, except directly to slaughter;
- Systematic trace back is carried out and contact establishment are serological investigated.

Whenever contacts between establishment are regular, they are considered as the same epidemiological unit and all related units are subject to restrictions.

When OPPs visit establishment and check the number of animals, if any irregularities are detected the OPP informs the DSAVR, which initiates the respective official control and if necessary, the health-infringement procedures.

4.4.6 Tests used and sampling and testing schemes including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease (including herd frequency per region, animal coverage in each herd, interpretation rules of the test,...)

For bovine tuberculosis, please detail how the quality/reliability of the skin-testing is ensured/verified (training and supervision of field veterinarians, recheck of some officially-free herds by the official veterinarians, quality insurance system in force if any, etc. ...)
Please detail also how the surveillance of bovine tuberculosis is monitored in slaughter houses (Training of vets, monitoring of the lesions submission rates and positivity rates, link with the field vets in case of positive results, etc. ...)

(max. 32000 chars) :

The serological tests used are Rose Bengal (RBT) and Complement fixation test (CFT) and the methodology to be applied depends on the health status of the establishment. Bacteriology is used to confirm infection. ELISA is used as a complementary test when there are suspitions of non brucellosis-related positive results.

The accreditation status of the laboratories performing the Brucellosis eradication programmes, is published in IPAC (Instituto Português de Acreditação) website and the approved listed laboratories authorized to carried out the tests are published in the DGAV website.
ELISA and bacteriology is only carried out at the NRL.

Annual testing is mandatory for all ovine and caprine over 6 months of age, or 18 months after been vaccinated with Rev1. In addition to the screening, the vaccinated animals are also serologically tested at

the day of vaccination.

Tests used and sampling and testing schemes/ methodology to be applied depends on the health status of the establishment.

SEROLOGICAL TESTING
In line with the objective, serological diagnosis is part of:

- The surveillance activities for maintenance of the health status;
- The eradication measures and validation of absence of infection when applied following detection of a positive animal;
- To clarify risk situations, when applied in contact establishment following an epidemiological investigation;
- Vaccinated animals are serologically tested at the day of vaccination. Vaccination is carried out in certain areas, on animals between 3 and 6 months of age, after blood collection for serology and specific identification of vaccinated animal. Our programme combines vaccination with test and slaughter in a regional basis and both infected and non-infected holdings are subjected to young animals' vaccination. The early identification of positive animals and their immediate removal from the holding is important to prevent any elimination of the agent. Field work is carried out in one visit, therefore young animals are tested and vaccinated. If they are positive, they will be subjected to sanitary slaughter.
  Vaccinated animals will be included in the screening of the establishment 18 months after vaccination. The establishment to be vaccinated must be defined annually by the DSAVR with the OPPs, and any changes must be previously approved by the DSAVR.

- In pre-movement tests (PreMT) or post-movement tests (PosMT) for animals over 6 months of age; during the 30 days prior or after the introduction into a establishment without animals, samples with negative results to RBT and CFT are required. PMT will be also applied to animals entering reproduction establishments to maintain B4-B3 status.

In B3 and B4 establishments, an ov/cap animal is positive if it has simultaneously positive results for RBT and CFT (CFT >=20 IU/ml), serial reading.
However, when there are more than 5% of animals reacting positively only to RBT, CFT is performed also to all RBT negative and, according to the results, those animals which are FCT positive are considered positive.
Also in the holdings where one animal is positive to both RBT and CFT, all RBT negative animals are also tested with CFT.
In pre-movement tests for restocking RBT and CFT are used in parallel.

In non-disease-free establishments, a positive animal is one that has a positive result for RBT or CFT (parallel reading).
The serological testing of infected establishment (B2.1), until they achieve status free B3 or B4 will be carried out in all animals over 6 months of age present in the establishment at the time of sampling.
They must be negative to the following serological tests:

a) First test negative carried out on all animals 30 days after slaughter of the positive/confirmed animal(s). All sera undergo to RBT and CFT.
b) Second negative test will be carried out to all animals not earlier then 60 days later (=3 months after the removal of last confirmed case and the last animal that tested positive); If all the results of the serological test referred above are negative, the establishment will cease to be regarded as infected (B2.1) and will from then on be regarded as non-disease-free status (B2) undergoing

rehabilitation.
c) Third negative test will be carried out on all the animals not earlier than 6 months and not later than 12 months, following the date of above sampling.

If the infection with Brucella suis biovar 2 was confirmed in a single ov/cap animal, the B3/B4 status may be regained after negative testing obtained on the sampling carried out not earlier then 3 months later after the removal of the animal.)

If a false positive serological reaction is suspected in B3 or B4 herds (there is no clinical signs, the epidemiological investigation failed in establishing a probable source of infection and the CFT titles are low in few animals) the classification is suspended and the positive animals will be retested. All seropositive animals (RBT and CFT>=20 IU/ml) in the second test are slaughtered and subjected to bacteriology. If in the second test the animal(s) is(are) negative the suspension is lifted and the establishment is not accounted as positive.

BACTERIOLOGY
A brucellosis "infected animal" is the one with bacteriological isolation.
An infected establishment is the one where Brucella was isolated, either through bacteriological examination of samples from positive animals or from abortions, milk or other samples. An establishment can also be considered infected when the profile of serological tests results and the epidemiological evidence does not allow discarding the presence of brucellosis.

Bacteriology is therefore an important tool to confirm infection and is applied in serological positive animals detected in establishment where brucellosis was not yet confirmed (all non B2.1 establishment). Samples are collected from animals subjected to sanitary slaughter by official veterinarians and tests are performed only in the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). Isolation of Brucella is also followed by typing.

Material for bacteriological examination (limph nodes, organs, milk) is collected by sampling 10% of the animals sent for compulsory slaughter from each establishment with a minimum of 5 animals per unit. If more than 5 animals per holding are subjected to sanitary slaughter, 10% of animals with higher complement fixation titres, are selected to maximise probability of isolation by bacteriology. The Local Services (DAV) send the ID of animals to be sampled to the slaughterhouse inspector of DGAV. It is very rare to have more than 5 positive animals from the same holding to be slaughtered.

4.4.7 Vaccines used and vaccination schemes including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Describe the vaccine(s) to be used and the vaccination scheme, if relevant;

(max. 32000 chars) :

Vaccination in 2023 and up to, at least, 2024, will be applied at the Norte Region: districts of Vila Real and Bragança.

The vaccination of ovine and caprine with the Rev1 strain of Brucella melitensis, will be carried out strictly by the conjunctival route, full doses. Subcutaneous vaccination is prohibited. The decision to proceed with or cease vaccination will always be subject to authorisation from the DGAV.

As a rule, vaccination is carried out in young animals, between 3 and 6 months of age, from infected or non-infected units, that are well developed, shown no evident signs of a debilitating condition (parasitic infestation, excessively thin etc.) or sexual activity, and are serologically negative for brucellosis (blood samples are collected at the same time of vaccination). Vaccination of adult animals is allowed under conditions defined by DGAV.

All vaccinated animals will be subject to electronic identification, which, as an alternative to the classic method (a ruminal bolus and a green eartag) may use a conventional eartag and an electronic one. This electronic identification may optionally be supplemented by a tattoo in the ear or in the left inguinal fold.

In vaccination areas, DGAV may give permission for certain establishment not to be vaccinated on request of the operator and if the epidemiological assessment of the establishment and the biosafety of the establishment does not support vaccination.

4.4.8 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure in place in the holdings involved.

Please detail also the situation as regard to this disease in the wildlife, and explain the surveillance and control measures in wildlife if any, and the coordination between the stakeholders involved (hunters, farmers, official service labs, vets, etc ...)

(max. 32000 chars) :

To prevent the disease from spreading between units a series of measures are taken with the aim of maintaining biosecurity standards. The notification to the operator related to sanitary sequestration, have a series of instructions explained in pont 3. c), namely those related to cleaning and disinfection of the establishment and outbuildings, areas and loading points of the materials or substances from animals or been in contact with them, as well as containers, utensils and other objects used by animals.

During the epidemiological investigations information on the level of biosecurity is collected and the operator are asked a series of questions which, in assessing biosafety and management methods, clarify matters for farmers and are educational.

Structures must exist which permit effective isolation from the introduction of brucellosis into the establishment (e.g.: fences and/or walls, wheel dips, foot baths, appropriate footwear, and clothing, etc). These structures are compulsory under DL 81/2013 – the holding registration regime, for establishments with higher number of animals (REAP Classes 1-3).

It is also advised to comply with strict rules on entry and exit of animals on establishment with compliance with unit health status restrictions – Brucellosis status is verified automatically conditioning the issue of movement permits from the database.

Mixing of units in common pastures is also frequent in certain areas and a group of units can be considered as the same epidemiological unit in certain cases and have the same restrictive measures. Common pastures are registered in SNIRA and associated with the establishment marks using the pastures. Access to these areas are only for negative holdings.

A system is established for the verification of cleaning and disinfection by OPP or the official veterinarian, after the slaughter of positive animals or after total slaughter, prior to reintroduction of animals

4.4.9 Measures in case of a positive result including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

A description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals and detailed reference to the Union legislation provisions (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter. A definition of a suspicion and of a confirmation should be provided, with detailed measures implemented in both situation and how the herd is requalified as free after a positive result. Detailed information should also be provided as regard the epidemiological investigations done, and the additional laboratory tests foreseen (culture, PCR, IFGamma, etc ...). Please mention if national guidelines are available.

(max. 32000 chars) :

A positive animal in a indemne establishment is seen as a suspected case and measures are taken as described in point 3. a) (ii) to confirm or rule out the disease in the event of a suspected case.

When the disease is confirmed, the actions taken are those described in point 3. a) iii. The following measures will be taken by the DSAVR:

- Notifying the operator on the results obtained and the imposition of animal movement restrictions, prohibiting on moving of susceptible animals to and from the establishment.
- Compulsory slaughter of all animals that have tested non-negative, under the official supervision in a designated slaughterhouse and with appropriate compensation for their operators (owners). Animals will be slaughtered no later than 30 days following the official notification of the operator.
- The use of depopulation (total slaughter) of outbreaks, when necessary (*).
- Animals subject to compulsory slaughter are sent to processing industry (not for human consumption). DSAVR enter data on slaughtered animals in PISA.NET and inform the veterinarian of the OPP to assist with the subsequent checks.
- The remaining ov/cap animals over 6 months of age (18 months if vaccinated) present in the establishment at the time of sampling must be tested with RBT and CFT (parallel testing) with negative results to the following serological tests, carried out after the slaughter of the positive animal(s): 30 days, 3 months. A third survey must be carried out at 6 months to 12 months interval, following the date of above sampling. These procedures are set out in a procedure for “Sanitary Classification”.

Operators are also notified of the following requirements:

- milk from confirmed cases shall either be fed only to animals in the same establishment after it has been processed to ensure the inactivation of the disease agent or it shall be disposed of.
- manure, straw, feed or any other matter and substance that have been into contact with a confirmed case or with contaminated material shall be either collected and disposed of as soon as possible, after treatment with officially approved disinfectant solution.
- foetuses, still-born animals, animals which have died from the disease after birth and placenta shall be collected and disposed of.
- the grazing areas where infected animals were kept may not be used within 120 days in winter or 60 days in summer, though it is recommended that the depopulation period should never be less than 120 days.
- cleaning and disinfection with officially approved disinfectants and other measures to prevent the spread of infection, of all parts of the establishments that may have been contaminated after the removal of the confirmed and suspected cases and before repopulation as well as cleaning and

disinfection of all means of transport, containers and equipment after the transport of animals or products from infected establishments.

Operators are committed to perform cleaning and disinfection of establishment and equipments, in accordance with instructions of DSAVR after depopulation and before the entry of new animals. Pastures used by infected animals can not be used before for 120, or 60 days according to weather conditions (winter or summer respectively) however, it is advised that the waiting period should not be less than 120 days. These procedures are supervised by the OPP and validated by the DSAVR. The disease-free status will not be restored or grant again until it considers that this measure has been completed. There is an approved protocol for cleaning and disinfection.

OPP veterinarians are also involved in the epidemiological evaluation of the establishments/unit with the official veterinarians of DSAVR. Further detail regarding epidemiological investigations done in case of outbreak are described at the guidelines for the epidemiological inquiry.
The IE requires the characterization of the establishments/unit, the investigation of possible sources of infection including introduction of animals, contacts at pasture and possible contacts with wildlife. It also investigates all units that have contacts with the unit in question. Non-compliances identified are subjected to penalties.
Following the epidemiological surveys carried out by the DSAVR, any establishments from which animals have been in contact (whether out in the pasture, during milking or under other circumstances) with animals from establishments in which brucellosis has been diagnosed will be treated as suspect andif necessary will undergo serological testing. A similar procedure must be followed in establishments in which abortions have occurred for unknown reasons, together with any symptoms that might lead to infection with brucellosis being suspected.

(*) The use of depopulation (total slaughter) of outbreaks may be determined by DGAV. It is an important strategy for the areas not covered by the special programmes (vaccination). Taken into consideration the financial restrictions, this strategy is analyzed on cost/benefit terms and this measure is taken based on the risk assessment of specific situations, according to the following criteria, set out in a procedure for total slaughter:

- When there is no improvement in the health status of an infected establishment /unit, in the last 12 months.
- When Brucella has been isolated.
- When, in certain epidemiological conditions of a geographical area, it is the most appropriate measure to improve the situation.
- When it is not possible to implement any other prophylactic animal health measure.

The proposal for depopulation, which is a sanitary decision performed by regional veterinary services (DSAVR), is always followed with two documents:

- The epidemiological inquiry (IE).
- An expressed commitment of the operator regarding its compliance with the “waiting period before restocking” and with the expressed conditions for restocking.

If the infection with Brucella suis biovar 2 was confirmed in a single ov/cap animal, the B3/B4 status may be regained after negative testing obtained on the sampling carried out not earlier then 3 months later after the removal of the animal.

4.4.10 Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

The compensation granted is under Order No 205/2000 of 5 April 2005 and is laid down in Joint Order No 530/2000 of 16 May 2000, of the Finance Ministry and the Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Minister.

In the case of ovine and caprine, the amount of the compensation is directly related to the current market values of these species, as follows:

- Base value of 40% of the value quoted in the weekly bulletin issued by the Office of Planning and Policies (GPP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, for the purposes of payment of compensation for slaughter on health grounds.
- An additional compensatory amount based on the health status of the unit – percentage value of the rate in the weekly bulletin issued by the GPP:
- B3 and B4 herds – 50%.
- Others – 25%.

The additional compensatory amount of 25% (referred above) will be withdrawn if there has been no improvement in the health status after 12 months.

- A restocking grant of EUR 29.93 per animal acquired up to 12 months after the compulsory slaughter of the positive animals, limited to the number of animals slaughtered. The DSAVR for the establishment of origin must certify that they are from B3 and B4 and that the legislation in force on the conditions governing the entry of animals into establishment has been observed.

- A self-restocking grant of EUR 14.96, limited to the number of animals slaughtered over the 12 months following compulsory slaughter and provided that the legislation in force has been observed.

- A depopulation grant of EUR 9.98 per animal over 12 months of age present on the establishment on the date of the decision to slaughter all animals.

Before compensation for compulsory slaughter is paid out, the respective DSAVR must confirm that the operator of the slaughtered animals has complied with the legal provisions relating to the eradication programmes and animal movement and the specific animal health measures imposed in the notification. If the check reveals evidence of non-compliance by the operator the DSAVR must immediately initiate the relevant penalty process, and payment of compensation will depend on the final decision in the case.
The compensation procedures must include a declaration issued by the DSAVR of compliance by the operator of the slaughtered animals with the legal provisions relating to the eradication programmes, animal movement and any specific animal health measures imposed in the notification.
Without prejudice to other penalties, compensation for compulsory slaughter on health grounds may not be granted if there is evidence of fraud or failure in compliance with the law.

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

4.4.11 Control on the implementation of the programme and reporting including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Please indicate also when the last FVO audit has taken place and provide a table listing the recommendations and the actions taken by the national authorities to this regard.
Please mention if a Task Force subgroup visit has taken place and the state of play as regards the implementation of the recommendations suggested if any.

(max. 32000 chars) :

CONTROLS:
Globally the activities of the programme are controlled as following:

- Regular controls: data on field work is entered by OPP on the national data base (PISA.Net) – DSAVR control the compliance with annual checking and suspend free status of herds and advise OPP when necessary.
  The access profile and circuits of information are well defined allowing regular monitory and standardization of information.
  All laboratories that are involved in the brucellosis eradication programmes are designated and accredited.
- Positive/Infected herd's controls: repeated checking of positive/infected herds is monitored in what concerns the compliance of intervals between testing after slaughter of positive animals. This is carried out in a continuous way, along the programme, whenever a status is suspended. Furthermore, movements control is carried out through SNIRA and observation of animals during the re-checks.
- Slaughter of positive animals: sanitary slaughter is directly organized by the official vet services which personally marks the animals and organize the schedule of transport to slaughterhouse.
- General movement control: the movement database issues movement permits in accordance with the information obtained through the webservice with sanitary data base (PISA.Net) based on the updated sanitary status of herds.
- Compliance with movement restrictions is assured through the blocking of permissions for issuing of movement permits in the electronic data base. In situ ID checks are regularly performed in 3% of herds comparing existing animals with SNIRA registries.
- Controls of cleaning and disinfection: these controls are routinely applied before restocking in case of total slaughter and following partial slaughter in infected farms. Specific recommendations are issued by the official veterinarians and OPP veterinarians make the verification of compliance with these requests. Lifting of restrictions is conditioned to this control of cleaning and disinfection.

Non-compliances are subject to penalties.

SUPERVISION:

Supervision of OPP by DSAVR, are carried out in several phases:

1. OPP are controlled at the beginning of each annual programme, when the proposal is analysed to verify its compliance to the programmes and the inclusion of all elegible establisment.

2. OPP are controlled during the implementation of the programme through:
- Monitoring the sanitary actions performed and its compliance to the programmes.
- Monitoring the samples sent to the laboratories.
- Monitoring the data inserted in PISA.Net database.

- Official on-the-spot controls to a selected sample of OPP, including checks to their field work

3. OPP are controlled at the end of the year, with the final detailed verification and evaluation of the work carried out by each OPP which needs to justify all the cases where the planned activities have not been carried out, under the penalty being of non-payment of the subsidy.

4. OPP are controlled through measures that envisage compliance with the deadlines for re-inspection in establisment and identifying different degrees of non-compliance and/or improved performance.

Local veterinary services are supervised at central and regional level by monitoring of PISA.Net data and working meetings to evaluate the progress of the programme
The sampling scheme for this supervision is defined in the light of the available resources and is carried out with pre-defined targets, such as compliance with classification rules and with the deadlines for sanitary slaughter, while identifying areas for improvement.
The results of the controls carried out, are reported to the responsible units and entities and, if necessary, corrective measures are requested.

RECCOMENDATION OF AUDITS
Actions proposed to recommendations (Rec) related the audit 2014-7250 of 01 December 2014 were accepted by FVO, (action taken) and were as follow:

"Rec. 1 - To implement on-the-spot verification of quality and completeness of vaccination and movement restrictions and controls to ensure objective evaluation of their effectiveness as required by Articles 4 and 8 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (findings related to the North Region)".

- As regards vaccination:

There was a reinforcement of meetings between the heads of the official veterinary services (DSAVRN/ DAV) and the livestock producers' organisations (OPP) in vaccination areas, in order to discuss all matters related to the programmes, including the need for vaccination rates to be increased. Producers were notified of the need to inform the OPP about animals with age to be vaccinated. The official notice (Edital) concerning vaccination is available at the PISA.net in order to be fullfilled and distributed by the OPP.

- As regards movement of animal:

Requests were sent to all bodies responsible for administering common pastures in order to register in SNIRA database and requests were send to the livestock holders using the common pastures, in order to register its holding as associated to the "baldio".

- Regarding sampling for screening purposes:

Guidelines for the selection of samples for brucellosis screening are sent to the regional services (DSAVR) by the central services of the DGAV, at the beginning of each year and were applied in areas corresponding to at least a parish or group of parishes, a council or group of councils, where 99.8% of the small-ruminant population is brucellosis-free (B3) or brucellosis officially -free (B4). Guidelines were sent out with a file (excell) containing data analysed by local services (DAV) and the classifications used for calculating the percentages. The DSAVR then inform the OPPs (by fax or e-mail) regarding the areas in which random checks can be carried out, drawing attention to the criteria followed in making the selection and to the extreme importance of properly sampling a representative proportion chosen at random, since responsibility for selecting animals on livestock holdings lies with the OPPs.

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

The Sanitary Plan is approved at the beginning of each year and checked to make sure that it covers all eligible holdings. At the end of the year a further check is carried out to verify compliance with the Plan and the OPP justify all the cases in which the planned activities have not been carried out, under the penalty being of non-payment of the subsidy. Checks on the OPPs are carried out locally by sampling. DSAVR carry out on-the-spot risk based official controls, planned with control procedures established in the national Control Programme (PNCPIU) and it requires a minimum of 20% of OPP per Region to be controlled.

"Rec. 2 - To ensure that holdings with animals in which presence of brucellosis has been officially confirmed carry out cleaning and disinfection under official supervision and in accordance with instructions given by the official veterinarian, as required in Article 5 of Council Decision 90/242/EEC."

- Owners are committed to perform cleaning and disinfection of holdings and equipment, in accordance with the instructions of DSAVR after depopulation and before the entry of new animals. These procedures are supervised by the OPP and validated by the DSAVR.

"Rec. 3 - To interpret and use the results of confirmatory diagnostic tests in the decision making process according to the approved programme and Annex C to Council Directive 91/68/EEC."

-The programme has been adjusted accordingly.

"Rec. 4 - To ensure registration and control of all animal movements, including movements to common pastures in order to provide for full traceability of animals for brucellosis control or eradication purposes, according to the approved programme"

-Small ruminants' movements are validated in real time with sanitary information from PISA.NET database which sends the holding health status to SNIRA database from where movement permits are issued. Traditional pasture areas "baldio" are registered in SNIRA and holdings sending animals for staying in "baldios" have their marks associated with the "baldio". The arrival (and exit) to the "baldio" must be confirmed through a communication to the database of the list of individual identification of animals that are transferred.

"Rec 5 - To ensure that all sheep and goat holdings in the country are registered, in order to allow for full implementation of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 as regards checks concerning compliance by keepers with Regulation (EC) No 21/2004."

- When a new herd is created, its registration should be completed before the entrance of the animals coming from a free or officially free holding, with permission of DSAVR. In the eventuality of a non-registered herd is identified, OPP notifies the DSAVR and the registration of the herd is promoted in accordance with the rules in place, in addition to the adoption of penalties for the non-compliance on animal movement. The new herd is subjected to sanitary checks for classification.

TASK FORCE
There was a Task Force subgroup of "bovine, sheep and goats brucellosis" visit to Vila Real, Norte of Portugal, from 15-16 may 2014. As regards the implementation of the recommendations (Rec) state of play on this:

Rec - "Improvement of vaccination coverage"
There was an improvement of the coverage of vaccination, such as in vaccination areas like Trás-os-

Montes, namely:
– extra meetings with the OPPs, to further sensitise to the matter.
– notification to operators that they should inform the OPPs of the animals to be vaccinated.
– distribution of an official notice [Edital] concerning vaccination.
– on-the-spot checks on the OPPs' activities relating to vaccination procedures.
In other areas with outbreaks vaccination programmes were implemented and will be followed in the next years as is the case of LVT.

Rec - "Clear requirements to take the decision to stop vaccination in particular areas"
Vaccination is carried out in certain areas. Vaccination is no longer applied in Alentejo and Algarve Regions and the requirements to stop vaccination was the following.
- No positive herds for the last 3 years.
- No clinical or other sign of Brucella infection

Rec - "Guidelines on management of FPSR harmonized at national level in order to help the manage ment of these cases"
- There is a guideline to investigate FPSR.

Rec - "Guidelines for stamping out of infected herds/herds after reactors removal harmonized at national level"
- There is a guideline.

Rec - "Compulsory application of total depopulation in outbreaks occurring in free area"
Only the island of Açores is free from B. melitensis and there were no outbreaks in these islands. The decision for depopulation has also to take into consideration its social impact and the impact on the genetic heritage of autochthonous breeds.

5. *Benefits of the programme*

A description is provided of the benefits of the programme on the economical and animal and public health points of view. 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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The general objective is to contribute to a high level of health for humans and animals and by eradicating this disease in a medium-term period, ensuring a high level of protection for consumers.

The progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in the previous years is already mentioned in this programme.

In determining cost effectiveness, several factors must be considered as direct losses related to the disease (due to morbidity and reduced production) and indirect losses, which can include barriers to free trade, particularly as regards animals' movement for the purposes of intra-Community trade. Eradication of brucellosis therefore tends to increase productivity (raising the revenue to operators) and avoid costs inherent to the programme and related to trading constraints.

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

The increase in the number of disease-free establisment reduces the costs of successive visits and tests on the animals in establisment, slaughter of animals on health grounds and losses arising from the restriction of movement.
Furthermore, apart from the direct and immediate benefit of the reduction in the amount of compensation paid, a reduction in the number of animals slaughtered brings with it all the benefits of improving the genetic heritage and the socio-economic benefits resulting from the raising of the status of the herds, both at the level of the individual producer and at the level of the various regions of the country.

The incalculable benefits resulting from the reduction in the rates of infection in the animal population and the reduced probability of transmission of the disease to the population also deserve to be mentioned.
In relation to the number of humans cases reported, despite the under reporting that might exist, there are a continuous reduction of the numbers of notified human cases, 11 in 2021 (provisional data).

For these reasons, investment in a programme such as this is extremely positive, even if it is difficult to quantify

7. Targets

The blocks 7.1.1, 7.1.2.1, 7.1.2.2, 7.2, 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 are repeated multiple times in case of first year submission of multiple program.

7.1 Targets related to testing (one table for each year of implementation)

7.1.1 Targets on diagnostic tests for year : **2023**

Region	Type of the test	Target population	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
DSAVR Norte	Rose Bengal test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	376 490	X
DSAVR Centro	Rose Bengal test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	485 290	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo	Rose Bengal test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	182 660	X
DSAVR Alentejo	Rose Bengal test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	1 172 870	X
DSAVR Algarve	Rose Bengal test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	50 130	X
DSAVR Norte	complement fixation test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	65 350	X
DSAVR Centro	complement fixation test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	27 480	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo	complement fixation test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	26 250	X
DSAVR Alentejo	complement fixation test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	40 280	X
DSAVR Algarve	complement fixation test	Sheep and goat	blood	qualification	2 720	X
DSAVR Norte	Elisa test	Sheep and goat	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	3	X
DSAVR Centro	Elisa test	Sheep and goat	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	8	X

DSAVR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo	Elisa test	Sheep and goat	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	2	X
DSAVR Alentejo	Elisa test	Sheep and goat	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	11	X
DSAVR Algarve	Elisa test	Sheep and goat	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	1	X
DSAVR Norte	bacteriological test	Sheep and goat	Organs, linfonodes, foetu	confirmation of suspected cases	14	X
DSAVR Centro	bacteriological test	Sheep and goat	Organs, linfonodes, foetu	confirmation of suspected cases	0	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo	bacteriological test	Sheep and goat	Organs, linfonodes, foetu	confirmation of suspected cases	5	X
DSAVR Alentejo	bacteriological test	Sheep and goat	Organs, linfonodes, foetu	confirmation of suspected cases	0	X
DSAVR Algarve	bacteriological test	Sheep and goat	Organs, linfonodes, foetu	confirmation of suspected cases	0	X
				Total	2 429 564	
				Add a new row		

	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	2 429 564
Rose Bengal test	2 267 440
complement fixation test	162 080
bacteriological test	19
PCR	0

7.1.2 Targets on testing herds and animals

7.1.2.1 Targets on the testing of herds for year : **2023**

									Target indicators			
Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds expected to be checked	Number of expected positive herds	Number of expected new positive herds	Number of herds expected to be depopulated	% positive herds expected to be depopulated	Expected % herd coverage	% positive herds Expected period herd prevalence	% new positive herds Expected herd incidence	
DSAVR Norte	Sheep and goats	13 400	13 400	13 400	7	10	3	42,857	100,000	0,052	0,075	X
DSAVR Centro	Sheep and goats	21 380	21 380	21 380	0	0	0	0,000	100,000	0,000	0,000	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Vale d	Sheep and goats	6 390	6 390	6 390	1	1	1	100,000	100,000	0,016	0,016	X
DSAVR Alentejo	Sheep and goats	8 270	8 270	8 270	0	0	0	0,000	100,000	0,000	0,000	X
DSAVR Algarve	Sheep and goats	940	940	940	0	0	0	0,000	100,000	0,000	0,000	X
Total		50 380	50 380	50 380	8	11	4	50,000	100,000	0,016	0,022	
									Add a new row			

7.1.2.2 Targets on the testing of animals for year : **2023**

							Slaughtering	Target indicators	

Region	Species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals expected to be tested	Number of animals to be tested individually	Number of expected positive animals	Number of animals with positive result expected to be slaughtered or culled	Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered	Expected % coverage at animal level	% positive animals (Expected animal prevalence)	
DSAVR Norte	Sheep and goats	343 390	343 390	309 200	309 200	16	16	90	90,043	0,005	X
DSAVR Centro	Sheep and goats	488 860	488 860	434 800	434 800	0	0	0	88,942	0,000	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Vale do T	Sheep and goats	209 340	209 340	157 100	157 100	5	5	30	75,045	0,003	X
DSAVR Alentejo	Sheep and goats	1 448 550	1 448 550	1 048 750	1 048 750	0	0	0	72,400	0,000	X
DSAVR Algarve	Sheep and goats	55 120	55 120	44 100	44 100	0	0	0	80,007	0,000	X
Total		2 545 260	2 545 260	1 993 950	1 993 950	21	21	120	78,340	0,001	
								Add a new row			

Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered or culled : SHEEP AND GOAT	120
Total number of animals expected to be tested	1 993 950

7 .2 Targets on qualification of herds and animals

7 .2 Targets on qualification of herds and animals for year : **2023**

				Targets on the status of herds and animals under the programme												
						Expected not free or not free from disease										
		Total number of herds and animals under the programme		Expected unknown		Last check positive		Last check negative		Expected free or officialy free from disease status suspended		Expected free from disease		Expected officially free from disease		
Region	Animal species	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	
DSAVR Norte	Sheep and Goat:	13 400	343 390	0	0	5	128	2	51	0	0	4 500	115 318	8 893	227 893	X
DSAVR Centro	Sheep and Goat:	21 380	488 860	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	3 430	21 230	485 430	X
DSAVR Lisboa e Val	Sheep and Goat:	6 390	209 340	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	33	1	33	6 388	209 274	X
DSAVR Alentejo	Sheep and Goat:	8 270	1 448 550	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8 270	1 448 550	X
DSAVR Algarve	Sheep and Goat:	940	55 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	940	55 120	X
Total		50 380	2 545 260	0	0	5	128	2	51	1	33	4 651	118 781	45 721	2 426 267	
												Add a new row				

7 .3 Targets on vaccination or treatment

7.3.1 Targets on vaccination or treatment for year : **2023**

				Targets on vaccination or treatment programme						
Region	Animal species	Total number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Total number of animals in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatmentexpected to be administered	Number of adults expected to be vaccinated	Number of young animals expected to be vaccinated	

DSAVR Norte	Sheep and Goats	4 600	240 000	3 500	3 500	30 000	33 000	0	30 000	X
Total		4 600	240 000	3 500	3 500	30 000	33 000	0	30 000	
							Add a new row			

8.2. Financial informaton

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) :

a) Implementing entities - sampling:
The diagnostic tests on establishment (sampling) are carried out by authorised private veterinarians from the livestock producers' associations (OPP) under the supervision of DGAV. Sampling is paid to the OPP by DGAV and by the operator of the animals.
Material and financial execution of the programme is supported by an animal health and food security fund from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

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) :

b) Implementing entities - testing:
Testing of official samples are performed by public and private regional laboratories and by the national reference laboratory (INIAV.I.P).
The testing costs are paid by DGAV and cofinanced by the European Commission

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) :

c) Implementing entities regarding compensation to operators is paid by a public Institute - IFAP (Financing Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries) at central level of the state veterinary services.

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) :

d) Implementing entities - vaccination:
Vaccine is purchased by DGAV and handed over to the OPP (OPP does not pay for the vaccines).
Vaccination action is paid to the OPP by DGAV and the operator of the animal. It is cofinanced by the European Commission.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

e) Implementing entities - other measures:
Other essentials measures such as sample collection at the slaughterhouse performed by official vets and the transport to the abattoir of positive animals, are paid by DGAV. Animal identification and disinfection of establishment resulting from the slaughter of positive animals are paid by the operators.

Measures includes clinical exam of animals, issuing of certification and movement documents, desinsectization and issuing of the respective certificating documents. These are executed by private veterinarians, most of them from the OPP, paid by the operators.

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:

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.

List of all attachments

		Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_) :	File size
		18937_14645.pdf	18937_14645.pdf	465 kb
		18937_14646.pdf	18937_14646.pdf	288 kb
		ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
			Total size of attachments :	1040 kb