



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex III: Programme for the control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

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Member state : SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA

Disease Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

This program is multi annual :

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

1. Contact data

Name	Phone
Email	Your job type within the CA : <input type="text"/>

Submission Date
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2. Description of the programme

Please give a short description of the programme (max. 32000 chars) :

The Programme for the control and eradication of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) in the Slovak Republic is implemented according to related EU and national legislation, particularly:

- Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No 999/2001 as amended (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001),
- Commission Decision No 2007/453/ES establishing the BSE status of Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk as amended (Decision No 2007/453/ES) and
- Commission Decision No 2009/719/EC authorising certain Member States to revise their annual BSE monitoring programmes as amended (Decision No 2009/719/EC).
- Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care

The following national programmes are widely applied and yearly updated for the respective calendar year:

- National programme of eradication of certain TSEs in SR (Monitoring programme),
- Methodical instruction for the execution of National program of eradication of certain TSEs,
- Breeding program for resistance of sheep to TSE - scrapie in SR (Breeding programme),
- National contingency plan for case of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs (National contingency plan).

These programmes specify rules on the sampling conditions, the administrative procedures, the instructions in the case of a positive sample and control and financing system in relation to the eradication of certain TSEs.

Financial provision of mentioned programmes is ensured based on valid legislation from the state budget of the Slovakia and includes:

- costs associated with sampling, packing and transporting of samples for TSE tests and genotyping
- costs associated with sample analysis for performance of rapid, confirmatory and discriminatory tests and genotyping according to tariff scale of laboratory diagnostics for the respective year.

The target group of bovine animals being tested for BSE according to the Monitoring program is:
"Official samples for BSE laboratory examination (testing) are taken from:

A) all bovine animals suspected of being infected by a BSE regardless of age

An animal suspected of being infected by a TSE is live, culled, slaughtered or dead animal, which show or have shown neurological or behavioural disorders or a progressive deterioration of the general condition linked to impairment of the central nervous system and for which the information gathered on the basis of a clinical examination, response to treatment, a post-mortem examination or an ante or post-mortem laboratory analysis do not allow an alternative diagnosis to be established. BSE shall be suspected in bovine animals which have produced a positive result from a rapid test specifically for BSE.

B) bovine animals killed for human consumption

- above 48 months of age emergency slaughtered in accordance with point 1 of Chapter VI of Section I of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004,
- above 30 months of age slaughtered as healthy, originated from countries, which are not listed in the annex to Commission Decision (EC) No 2009/719 as amended,

C) bovine animals not killed for human consumption above 48 months of age:

- dead or killed (by a person or a predator), with the exception of animals:

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- culled as part of the eradication of other diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, tuberculosis and anthrax,
- mass mortality due to intoxication or natural disasters, e.g. lightning, flood or fire.”

In May 2022, 230 869 bovine animals over 24 months are registered in Slovak central database of livestock - CEHZ. For the purpose of fulfilment the obligation to comply with the minimum requirements for the monitoring of the prevalence of BSE in the SR, as indicated in Annex II of the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and to maintain negligible BSE risk status by applying type B surveillance, the SR is obliged to achieve a value of minimum 23 850 points during the 7-year monitoring period in respect of the BSE monitoring of bovine animals. According to the number of tested bovine animals in past years, we can assume comparable and slightly decreased number of tested animals over 24 months in 2023 and in following years. For this reason, the Slovakia cannot increase the age limit of obligatory monitored cattle from the age over 24 months old to the bovine animals over 48 months old (from the risk groups) with regard to currently low number of bovine animals from these categories of tested animals, whose number has got decreasing tendency.

The target group of ovine and caprine animals being tested for TSE according to the Monitoring program is:

- all ovine and caprine animals suspicious of being infected with TSE regardless of age;
- all fallen and emergency slaughtered ovine and caprine animals over 18 months of age with the exception of animals: killed within eradication of other diseases, such as mouth and foot disease, anthrax, etc. or animals mass mortality due to intoxication and natural disasters (e.g. lightning, flooding); The inspector of Regional Veterinary and Food Administration, who makes an official record on the spot veterinary inspection, documents the given exceptions, when no official samples for BSE are taken.
- all healthy ovine and caprine animals slaughtered for human consumption over 18 months of age originating from holdings infected with classical scrapie.

With regard to the wide extent of TSE monitoring for ovine and caprine animals and the reason that the financial provision of mentioned programmes is mainly covered from the state budget of the Slovak Republic, the financial burden for ensuring TSE monitoring is financially demanding.

Breeding Program is widely applied national programme and it is updated yearly for the respective calendar year.

The aim of the breeding programme is the selecting and breeding of resistant animals of classical scrapie from sheep breeds that are of domestic origin or form a significant population in the territory of the Slovakia. Since 2004, the breeding program has been implemented with a focus on herds of high genetic value and breeding rams involved in mating and ram lambs before inclusion in breeding.

The requirement and the aim of selection based on genotyping is the gradual approximation of the frequency of alleles of prion genes ARR/ARR in sheep for each important breed.

3. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease

Last year's No of cases	Total No	No of classical cases	No of atypical cases	No of undetermined cases
BSE case	0	0	0	0
Scrapie case (ovine)	12	0	12	0
Scrapie case (caprine)	0	0	0	0

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Last case of		date (classical case)	date (atypical case)	date (undetermined case)
BSE		20/05/2010		
Scrapie (ovine)		28/12/2017	21/02/2022	
Scrapie (caprine)				

Comments (if any)

In May 2014, based on the assessment of the development in respect of the epizootological and disease situation in the Slovakia, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recognised the status of Slovakia as country with negligible BSE risk. The Slovak status of negligible BSE risk was officially recognized by Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/732/EU of 20 October 2014 amending Decision No 2007/453/EC. Since 2014, by fulfilling the conditions for BSE surveillance and the results of inspections in accordance with the requirements of the OIE and applicable legislation, Slovakia has maintained its status of negligible BSE risk to the present.

Current epidemiological situation of TSE in Slovakia is summarized in embedded annex.

In 2021, total of 9 106 bovine animals were tested in the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for TSE in Zvolen within the Monitoring programme. In 2021, Slovakia did not confirm any case of BSE. From the year 2001 until December 2021, Slovakia confirmed in total 27 cases of BSE in bovine animals. In 2015, discriminatory tests on historical BSE cases confirmed the classical form of BSE in all positive results. Since 2011 to the present, Slovakia did not confirm any case of BSE in bovine animals.

Table 1. in the attachment shows overview of tested bovine animals for BSE and confirmed cases of BSE in individual years in the Slovakia.

In 2021, total of 12 822 ovine animals and 463 caprine animals were tested in the NRL for TSE in Zvolen within the Monitoring programme.

In 2021, Slovakia confirmed twelve cases of TSE in ovine animals, all of the cases were atypical forms of scrapie.

From the year 2003 until December 2021, Slovakia confirmed in total 190 cases of scrapie in ovine animals (130 cases of the classic form and 60 cases of the atypical form of scrapie) and Slovakia did not confirmed any case of TSE in caprine animals.

Table 2. in the attachment shows overview of tested ovine and caprine animals for TSE and confirmed cases of TSE in individual years in the Slovak Republic.

In 2021, based on the Slovak Breeding programme, in total 1 021 breeding rams were genotyped and no ewes were genotyped due to lack of funds.

In 2021, compared to 2020, the number of rams with a suitable genotype from I., II. and III. risk group (except risk group III*) increase from 99,1% to 99,6%.

Table 3. in the attachment to this Report shows frequency of genotypes of examined rams according to risk groups in 2021

Graph 1. in the attachment to this Report shows distribution of genotypes in risk groups in individual years (2004 - 2021)

4. Measures included in the programme

4.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

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(max. 32000 chars):

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic authorizes national programmes by the based on the proposal of the Chief Veterinary Officer. The State Veterinary and Food Administration of SR (SVFA SR) is central authority competent for supervision and coordination of the authorities responsible for implementation of national programmes. Regional (District) Veterinary and Food Administrations (40 authorities) are responsible for implementation and compliance control of national programmes.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The Monitoring programme is applied evenly throughout whole territory of the Slovak Republic.

4.3 System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars):

The basic condition for the eradication of TSEs is the registration of holdings. This intention is achieved pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health as amended with supporting documents Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2019/2035 as amended and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2021/520 as amended and Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care as amended.

Livestock must be identified and their identification data kept in a central database of livestock (CEHZ). CEHZ contains: animal identification system, a computer database for the central register of livestock, passport data from bovine and equine animals, an individual register kept in each farm and the identification of the owner or keeper of the livestock.

Total number of active registered holdings in CEHZ to 17.05. 2022:
8 717 cattle farms, 4 242 ovine farms, 1 773 caprine farms.

4.4 System in place for the identification of animals

(max. 32000 chars):

The basic condition for the eradication of TSEs is the identification and registration of animals and holdings. This intention is achieved pursuant to:

- Regulation (EU) No 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health as amended,
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2019/2035 as amended,
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2021/520 as amended,
- Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care as amended,

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- Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No 20/2012 laying down the details of the identification and registration of bovine animals as amended and
- Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No 18/2012 of the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals as amended.

Livestock must be identified and their identification data kept in a central database of livestock (CEHZ). In accordance with decrees No 20/2012 and 18/2012, all bovine, ovine and caprine animals are identified by a unique number and registered in the CEHZ. The notification of any changes and movements of animals shall be sent in a verifiable manner to the authorized person (CEHZ operator) within seven days from the date of the change.

Total number of live registered animals in CEHZ regardless of age to 17.05. 2022:
446 271 cattle, 310 570 ovine, 19 466 caprine animals.

4.5 Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars):

The notification system in case of confirmed BSE/scrapie case in Slovakia is governed by:

- Regulation (EC) No 999/2001,
- Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care,
- National contingency plan for cases of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs in Slovakia (National contingency plan), which is being updated annually pursuant to the applicable legislation and
- Regional contingency plans for cases of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs in Slovakia, which is being updated annually pursuant to the National contingency plan.

Based on Act No 39/2007 Coll., an owner, holder, intermediary, importer, recipient, transporter, seller or person empowered to dispose of live animals, and so on, are obliged to:

- report without delay to the veterinary authority any suspicion of a TSE disease, the death of an animal suspected of having such a disease and to allow its investigation,
- comply with the obligations and measures laid down by the veterinary authority in the event of the occurrence or suspicion of the TSE diseases,
- to ensure the prevention, control and eradication of TSE diseases and to prove the results of examinations to the competent authority,

The National Reference Laboratory for TSE Zvolen (NRL for TSE) shall report every dubious or positive result of a rapid TSE test immediately by telephone and mail to the RVPS (local competent authority), that sent the sample and to the SVFA SR (central competent authority). After notification and delivery of a dubious or positive result of the rapid TSE test, the RVPS proceeds according to the National contingency plan.

The chief veterinary officer notifies directly the EU Commission, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as the member states within 24 hours about every confirmed primary source of BSE disease within the territory of SR and about repeal of restrictive measures following the eradication of BSE. In addition to that, on the first business day of each week the chief veterinary officer notifies directly the EU Commission as well as the member states about all confirmed secondary source of BSE, this notification relates to the previous week. Notification are delivered through the last version of the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS). Slovakia informs the EU Commission and other member states on occurrence of TSE other than BSE through the Standing Veterinary Committee.

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4.6 Testing

4.6.1 Rapid tests in bovine animals

Targets for year **2023**

	Age (in months) above which animals are tested	Estimated number of animals to be tested	Estimated number of rapid tests, including rapid tests used for confirmation
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals born in Ms listed in Annex to CD2009/719/EC	0	0	0
Risk animals born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	24	7 500	7 500
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals NOT born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	30	4	4
Risk animals NOT born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	24	4	4
Suspect animals (as referred to in Art 12.2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001)		1	1

4.6.2 Rapid tests on small ruminants

The sampling rules applicable for the monitoring of ovine and caprine animals slaughtered or not for human consumption (described below as healthy slaughtered/dead animals) are in compliance with provisions of Annex III, II, 4 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, in particular:

- Animals are over 18 months of age or have more than two permanent incisors,
- No over-representation of any group (origin, age, breed, production type, etc),
- Sampling representative of each region and season,
- Multiple sampling in the same flock avoided whenever possible,
- A system is in place to ensure that in successive sampling years, all officially registered holdings with more than 100 animals where TSE cases have never been detected are subject to TSE testing,
- A system is in place to check that animals are not being diverted from sampling (except derogation communicated to the Commission):

yes

no

If no please explain.

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4.6.2.1 Rapid tests on ovine animals

Estimated population of adult ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram.

272 730

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number of animals to be tested
Healthy slaughtered ovine animals (a)	0
Dead ovine animals (b)	1 500
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Ovine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	1 000
Ovine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	0
Ovine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals (c)	1
Total number of tests	2 501

(a) Annex III, A, II, 2 of the TSE regulation

(b) Annex III, A, II, 3 of the TSE regulation

(c) Art 12 of the TSE regulation

4.6.2.2 Rapid tests on caprine animals

Estimated population of female goats and female kids mated

17 269

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number of animals to be tested
Healthy slaughtered caprine animals (a)	0
Dead caprine animals (b)	100
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Caprine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	6
Caprine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	0

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Caprine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals (c)	0
Total number of tests	106

(a) Annex III, A, II, 2 of the TSE regulation

(b) Annex III, A, II, 3 of the TSE regulation

(c) Art 12 of the TSE regulation

4.6.3 Confirmatory tests **other than rapid tests** as referred to in Annex X Chapter C of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number of tests
Confirmatory tests in Bovine animals	1
Confirmatory tests in Ovine and Caprine animals	15

4.6.4 Discriminatory tests (Annex X.C point 3.1 (c) and 3.2 (c)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 999(2001)

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number of tests
Primary molecular testing on bovine animals	1
Primary molecular testing on ovine and caprine animals	5
Total	6

4.6.5 Genotyping of positive and randomly selected animals

Adult sheep population

More than 750,000 animals

Less than or equal to 750,000 animals

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number
Genotyping of TSE cases	15
Random genotyping	0

4.7 Eradication

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4.7.1 Measures following confirmation of a TSE case in bovine animals

4.7.1.1 Description

(max. 32000 chars) :

In case of confirmed BSE case in Slovakia, the procedure is followed and measures are ordered according to Art. 13 Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care, National contingency plan and Regional contingency plans for cases of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs in Slovakia.

If the presence of a TSE is officially confirmed in bovine animals, regional competent authority orders the following measures without delay:

- all parts of the positive animal's body are disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; With the exception of material retained for records in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, if the animal has not been destroyed, yet,
- pending the imposition of measures according to the results of the epizootiological investigation, the holding in which the animal was present at the time the TSE was confirmed shall be placed under official control and the total movement of TSE-susceptible animals and products of animal origin coming from/to this holding shall be subject to authorization by the regional competent authority,
- at the slaughterhouse, it is ordered to dispose of all animal products from a confirmed BSE animal and from one animal before and two animals following a positive BSE animal on the processing line, in an approved processing plant; Furthermore, the cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment where animal products from a positive animal have been stored or handled is ordered,
- depending on the circumstances and conditions, the regional competent authority may order other necessary measures.

An epizootiological investigation shall be carried out in accordance with Annex VII of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 to identify source of infection, all animals at risk, animals in the cohort and, in the case of cow, progeny born within two years before or after the clinical onset of the disease.

On the basis of the epizootiological investigation, it is decided which animals will be included in the cohort and subsequently safely killed and disposed of in an approved processing plant in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 in case of eradication of BSE. In Slovakia, we decided not to kill and destroy all bovine animals kept in the holding of origin of the positive animal. In all cases of BSE, all animals from the cohort of the confirmed animal were killed and disposed of, and if the disease was confirmed in a female, her progeny born within two years before or after the clinical onset of the disease were also killed and disposed of.

4.7.1.2 Summary table

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number
Bovine animals culled and destroyed	0

4.7.2 Measures following confirmation of a TSE case in ovine and caprine animals

4.7.2.1 Description

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(max. 32000 chars) :

Slovakia (SK) estimate for the year 2023 one ovine and zero caprine suspect animal, these numbers are based on the zero number of clinical suspect animals for previous years. One estimated suspect ovine animal is also included in estimated confirmatory tests. SK assume that next 14 confirmatory tests (Western-Blott) in ovine and caprine animals will be done after the inconclusive or positive results of rapid tests (ELISA) used for primary screening of target group of ovine and caprine animals according to the Monitoring program.

SK assume 10 of the 15 cases will be atypical cases of scrapie in ovine animals in the following year 2023 (no primary molecular testing needed). Therefore, SK assumed only 5 of the 15 cases will need to do discriminatory tests (primary molecular testing on ovine and caprine animals). SK performs genotyping tests in all samples, which have positive confirmatory test on ovine and caprine animal (estimation of 15 samples for 2023). The number of estimated discriminatory tests refer to samples, which are positive TSE cases, but are not atypical scrapie cases. These discriminatory tests are examined to exclude the presence of BSE, when they come from an index case or from the case which displays characteristics of the BSE.

Lab protocol followed for rapid test:

The sample is subject to confirmatory examination (Western Blott), when the result of rapid test (ELISA) used for primary screening of target group of ovine and caprine animals is inconclusive or positive or it is a clinical suspect animals.

When the result of examination is positive and fulfils definition of atypical scrapie, no further examination is required. If the result of examination does not fulfil definition of atypical scrapie, primary molecular testing is required to exclude the BSE, when it is an index case. If the result of primary molecular testing does not fulfil definition of classical scrapie, is inconclusive or BSE cannot be excluded, sample is referred to EURL for secondary molecular testing.

Scheme:

1 clinical suspect ovine animal + 0 clinical suspect caprine animal

1 clinical suspect ovine animal + 14 inconclusive or positive results of the rapid test of ovine/caprine animals from target group of TSE monitoring = 15 confirmatory tests

15 positive confirmatory tests = 15 genotyping tests

15 positive confirmatory tests = 10 atypical scrapie + 5 non atypical scrapie

10 atypical scrapie = no need of discriminatory tests

5 non atypical scrapie = 5 discriminatory tests (index case)

In case of confirmed TSE case in Slovakia, the procedure is followed and measures are ordered according to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care, National contingency plan for cases of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs in Slovakia and Regional contingency plans for cases of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs in Slovakia.

If the presence of a TSE is officially confirmed in ovine and caprine animals, regional competent authority orders the following measures without delay:

- all parts of the positive animal's body are disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; With the exception of material retained for records in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, if the animal has not been destroyed, yet,

- pending the imposition of measures according to the results of the epizootiological investigation, the holding in which the animal was present at the time the TSE was confirmed shall be placed under official control and the total movement of TSE-susceptible animals and products of animal origin coming from/ to this holding shall be subject to authorization by the regional competent authority,

- at the slaughterhouse, it is ordered to dispose of all animal products from an animal confirmed with

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classical scrapie. Furthermore, the cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment where animal products from a positive animal have been stored or handled is ordered,
- depending on the circumstances and conditions, the regional competent authority may order other necessary measures.

An epizootiological investigation is carried out to identify all animals at risk in accordance with Annex III, VII and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, to identify source of infection, all animals at risk, the parents of the animal in which the TSE was confirmed and, in the case of females, all embryos, ova and the last progeny.

The procedure of the eradication of TSEs in ovine animals is governed in full wording of Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and differs if BSE cannot be ruled out or if the classical scrapie is confirmed or if atypical scrapie is confirmed.

SR, after confirmation of classical scrapie in ovine animals, prefers procedures in scope of the Annex VII, Chapter B, Point 2.2.2., Section c), Option 2, Letter i) of the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, replace killing by total disposal of animals susceptible for scrapie (identified by genotyping) by their slaughtering for human consumption, provided observance of specified provisions: slaughtering these animals at slaughterhouses on the territory of SR and TSE testing of all animals over 18 months old, in compliance with the Annex X.

Killing and complete destruction of identified susceptible animals in the event of confirmation of the classical scrapie is very costly. Due to the low risk of transmitting the disease to humans, the possibility of killing these animals for human consumption is preferred in the SK. In each case of classical scrapie, the risk is assessed based on the epidemiological investigation and if needed the animals are culled and destroyed. Slaughtering of selected animals based on genotype, provided that the conditions of letter i) are met, is sometimes delayed due to the objective reasons (financial relations and slaughterhouse capacity conditions) and of course negative testing. Slovakia has never required from EC co-financing of animals slaughtered for human consumption. Derogation of option 2 is not implemented (3 years of delay for eradication of susceptible animals).

After confirmation of atypical scrapie in ovine animals, inspectors perform an epizootiological investigation in holding of origin of the positive animal and issue measures according to Act No 39/2007 Coll. about veterinary care. The measures do not apply to restrictions on the movement of animals or to increase monitoring in the holdings concerned.

Since Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1176 of 16 July 2021 has been adopted, the 2-year intensified surveillance in case of atypical scrapie is not an obligation anymore (no more official sampling for TSE from all healthy animals slaughtered for human consumption over 18 months of age in case of atypical scrapie).

Official sampling for TSE is carried out in infected holdings according to annually updated National programme of eradication of certain TSEs (Monitoring programme).

In Slovakia, there has been stable low population of caprine animals and by the monitoring of TSE in caprine animals from 2003 until the present day (18.05.2022) in Slovakia there was not confirmed any scrapie in caprine animals. In case of scrapie in caprine animals will be confirmed in the future, Slovakia will proceed according to the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, National contingency plan and Regional contingency plans.

Due to above information, Slovakia would proceed in choosing the options of eradication in caprine animals as follows:

a) upon confirmation of a classical scrapie Slovakia would prefer the procedure according to the Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, Annex VII Chapter B point 2.2.2 letter b) Option 1 with a possible use of the exception as per letter i) and ii),

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b) upon confirmation of an atypical scrapie for eradication Slovakia will proceed as in the case of atypical scrapie in ovine animals.

4.7.2.2 Summary table

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number
Ovine and caprine animals culled and destroyed (due to classical scrapie)	0
Ovine and caprine animals compulsory slaughter (due to classical scrapie)	0
Genotyping tests - monitoring and eradication measures	2 000

4.7.3 Breeding programme for resistance to TSEs in sheep

4.7.3.1 General description

Description of the programme according to the minimum requirements set out in Annex VII, Chapter B of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

(max. 32000 chars) :

Breeding Program for the resistance of sheep to TSE – scrapie in SR (Breeding programme) is widely applied national programme and it is yearly updated for the respective calendar year. The aim of the Breeding programme is the selecting and breeding of resistant animals of classical scrapie from sheep breeds that are of domestic origin or form a significant population in the territory of the Slovakia. Since 2004, the breeding program has been implemented with a focus on herds of high genetic value and breeding rams involved in mating and ram lambs before inclusion in breeding. The central competent authority, in cooperation with the Breeding Services of the SR and the Union of Sheep and Goat Breeders of the SR, annually prepares a list of breeding holdings in which a breeding program is carried out. At the same time, the genotyping and suitable genotype of animals is a condition for the movement of breeding rams to further breeding. This means that all breeding rams must be tested for resistance to scrapie before being moved from holding or reared for breeding and movement is only allowed in accordance with the conditions stated in the breeding programme.

According to genotype, the ovine animals have been included into five risk groups in relation to their resistance to classical scrapie (risk group).

Risk group I: ARR/ARR,

Risk group II: ARR/ARQ, ARR/ARH, ARR/AHQ,

Risk group III: AHQ/AHQ, ARH/ARH, ARH/ARQ, AHQ/ARH, AHQ/ARQ, ARQ/ARQ *,

Risk group IV: ARR/VRQ,

Risk group V: ARQ/VRQ, ARH/VRQ, AHQ/VRQ, VRQ/VRQ.

* The ARQ/ARQ genotype is included in Risk group III, however the Slovakia has evaluated this genotype as risky in our breeds and sheep with this genotype are excluded from breeding because the ARQ allele often occurs in confirmed cases of scrapie in ovine animals.

The requirement and the aim of selection based on genotyping is the gradual approximation of the frequency of alleles of prion genes ARR/ARR in sheep for each important breed.

Each Regional Veterinary and Food Administration, after obtaining the genotyping result of an animal

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with a suitable genotype according to the Breeding program, issues individually for each animal with genotypes I. and II. group, a Certificate of genotyping stating the identification number of the animal, animals genotype, CEHZ number of holding, laboratory test protocol number, test method used and the laboratory that examined the sample (standardized document).

The State Veterinary and Food Administration of SR keep the database containing the following information:

- registration numbers of all flocks included into the breeding programme with indication of a breed and number of animals,
- identification numbers of individual animals from which the sample was taken,
- results of tests for genotyping.

Description of the breeding programme according to the minimum requirements set out in Annex VII, Chapter C of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001:

Specific rules for flocks included into the programme

- all animals, which are to be genotyped, shall be identified in compliance with the valid legislation
- all rams prior to mating shall be examined by the test for genotyping
- all rams with VRQ allele shall be either castrated or slaughtered within 6 months since determination of the genotype, no such animal can be moved, except for movement for slaughter to a slaughterhouse and no animal can be used for breeding
- all female animals, which are carriers of VRQ allele, must not be moved from a holding, except for movement for a slaughter to a slaughterhouse
- other male animals or semen from other male animals, which are not certified within this Breeding programme, must not be used in a flock for mating

In 2021, based on the Breeding programme in total 1 021 breeding rams were genotyped and no ewes were genotyped due to lack of funds.

The frequency of resistant ARR/ARR genotype in examined rams increased from 18,3% in 2004 to 84,2 % in 2021.

Breeding programme include the genotyping of ewes and rams equally and it is financed from the state budget. Since 2004, the Breeding programme is implemented in rams annually. In some of the previous years, we managed to get financial resources also for genotyping of ewes from the selected holdings. Annually, we also plan genotyping of the ewes and try to get funds from the state budget for the samples (and we will do it in the future too). However, in last years we have the funds from the state budget only for genotyping of rams.

4.7.3.2 Summary table

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number
Ewes to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	1 000
Rams to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	1 500
Total	2 500

5. Costs

5.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

(max. 32000 chars):

Financial provision of the Programme for the control and eradication of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in the Slovak Republic is ensured based on valid legislation from the state budget of the Slovakia and includes:

- costs associated with sampling, packing and transporting of samples for TSE tests and genotyping
- costs associated with sample analysis for performance of rapid, confirmatory and discriminatory tests and genotyping according to tariff scale of laboratory diagnostics for the respective year.

The estimated costs for 2023 are shown in the following tables and explained in detail in the text above.

The actual costs incurred from the state budget for the testing of all official samples for TSE monitoring and genotyping at the extent applied according to the National programmes of the Slovak Republic are higher than their co-financing by the EC.

Since January 2014, the Monitoring programme with the application of the wide area (whole Slovakia) has begun testing of sheep and goats from the category of fallen animals older than 18 month of age and thus the burden of drawing the financial means from the state budget increased. In 2021, total of 12 822 ovine animals and 463 caprine animals were tested in the NRL for TSE within the Monitoring programme and samples only of 2 129 ovine animals and 105 caprine animals were co-financed by the EC.

For this reason, the SR would welcome the increase of the financial contribution for the testing of official samples.

5.2 Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

5.3. Financial information

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

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The financial provision of the National programme of eradication of certain TSEs in SR, Breeding program for resistance of sheep to TSE - scrapie in SR and National contingency plan for case of suspicion and occurrence of certain TSEs is realized based on the valid legislation and it is covered from the state budget.

All official samples for TSE monitoring and for genotyping (hereinafter only official samples) are taken by:

- 1) official veterinarians - authorised private veterinarians, who have concluded with the respective District Veterinary and Food Administration (regional competent authority - RVPS) the agreement for the execution of professional veterinary activities for the calendar year,
- 2) veterinary inspectors - state employees of the RVPS.

The costs associated with the sampling (the act of sampling by the official veterinarians and transport to RVPS) are financed from the state budget through the RVPS based on invoices issued by official veterinarians. When veterinary inspectors take samples, the costs are financed within expenses of the RVPS from the state budget.

The sampling kits for samples are provided by the RVPS and the National reference laboratory for TSE in Zvolen (NRL for TSE) and the costs are covered from the state budget.

The transport of samples from the RVPS to the Veterinary and Food Institute in Dolný Kubín and to the NRL for TSE in Zvolen is ensured by these state laboratories and the costs are covered from the state 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):

The testing of all official samples is provided only by the state veterinary laboratories.
Genotyping is provided by the Veterinary and Food Institute in Dolný Kubín and the NRL for TSE in Zvolen. Analysis of samples for TSE are provided only by the NRL for TSE in Zvolen.
The costs associated with the testing of all official samples are according to the tariff scale of laboratory diagnostics for the respective year covered from the state 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 for the animals are realized at the central level and based on veterinary measures ordered by the RVPS in pursuance of the valid legislation through the state organization - Agricultural Paying Agency subject directly to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and are covered from the state budget.

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination (if applicable)** : 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):

NO vaccination is available

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

(max. 32000 chars):

In pursuance of the valid legislation, all the financial means incurred for the realization of the fulfilment of the National TSE programmes are completely covered only from the state budget.

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:

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Attachments

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- 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.
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- 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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	18845_14456.pdf	18845_14456.pdf	288 kb
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