



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

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

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

If encountering difficulties:

- concerning the information requested, please contact HADEA-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu.
- on the technical point of view, please contact SANTE-BI@ec.europa.eu, include in your message a printscreen of the complete window where the problem appears and the version of this pdf:

Protection of Your Personal Data:

For consultation about the processing and the protection of your personal data, please click to follow this link

Instructions to complete the form:

[Privacy Statement](#)

- 1) You can attach documents (.docx, .xlsx, .pdf, etc) to complete your report.
Using the button "Add attachments" on the last page of the form.
- 2) Before submitting this form, please use the button "Verify form"(bottom right of each page).
If needed, complete your pdf document as indicated.
- 3) When you have finished completing this pdf document, save it on your computer.
- 4) Verify that your internet connection is active and then click on the "Submit notification" button and your pdf document will be sent to our server. A submission number will appear on your document.
Save this completed document on your computer for your record.
- 5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : MALTA

Disease Avian Influenza

This program is multi annual :

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

Request year for multiannual programme :

1. Contact data

Name Phone

Email Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

23/05/2022 12:55:19

Submission Number

1653303321269-18261



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

2. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate, Alberttown, Marsa is responsible for the programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory is responsible for testing and dispatch of samples to the EURL. Sampling shall take place between January and December of each year. The targeted population are layer flocks. Samples shall be tested at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Malta using ELISA and any positive samples sent to the EURL for confirmatory testing. Any Confirmed positive holdings will be retrospectively investigated by the Veterinary Regulation Directorate.

2.1.2 Description of System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

here are two Legal notices regulating registration of egg-laying farms. The Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations LN 50 of 1997 requires that any person breeding any poultry is obliged to hold a licence issued by the CA. The Egg Marking Standard Regulations LN 345/2003 , on the other hand, require that all eggs sold at retail level, excluding those sold directly to the consumers on farm, have to be marked by a unique identity number. The unique number that is printed on the eggs is correlated with the farms unique registration number. The unique identity mark for eggs is issued by the competent authority, which is the VRD. Therefore all commercial egg-laying farms have to be registered with the CA for such an identity number to be issued. There is only one central CA and there are no regional offices owing to the size of the territory. Each registered farm is given a unique registration number. The registration number is made up of three or four letters and a three digit number. The letters indicate if it is a layer, broiler or mixed farm in Malta or Gozo eg. PLM stands for Poultry layer Malta, PLG - Poultry Layer Gozo while PBLM stands for Poultry Broiler Layer Malta.

The licence of the registered farms is renewed annually by the CA. If no rearing was carried out on the farm for a period of 12 months, the licence is not renewed. All data relevant to the licensed egg-laying farms are kept on the National Livestock database of the CA. Details of the individual batch code number, number of different batches of birds, the size and date of hatch of each batch. The batch code number also identifies if the birds were hatched locally or brought in as day-olds or as point of lay pullets. As from 2011, details of vaccination (identification of batch, type and batch number of vaccine) are to be included as well with all other farm records

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Surveillance programme are based on a representative sample as outlined in Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

There are no poultry parent stock flocks on the Islands of Malta and Gozo.

There is one registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta. Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997, lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments. Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium.

All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90. The number of egg-laying hatching eggs imported are always on the decline. Day-old chicks and layer pullets are also imported from EU countries , mainly from Italy. In fact the number of layer pullets imported have been increasing. The egg-laying poultry industry has been on the decline these past few years.

The VRD is the CA and hatcheries are legally obliged to report the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold with the details of all the farms, which are the destination of chicks sold. There is no central egg-packing plant.

The farmers can either sell the eggs produced directly to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors, who in turn would deliver to shops / supermarkets. All farmers pack their own egg produce. The majority pack the eggs manually, only a few producers have automation for grading, stamping and packing. Layer farms are registered in terms of the Egg Marketing Standard Regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 -The Product Safety Act . In accordance to this law each individual egg-laying farm is given a unique identity number that has to be printed on all the eggs produced on that farm and sold to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors. This legislation excludes eggs sold directly to the consumer. The CA is responsible for issuing the unique identity number. Egg laying farms are therefore registered with the CA, whereby a unique registration number is given to the farm, following registration then the unique marking number for the eggs is issued. Control at retail level falls under a different Ministry, the Ministry of Health.

Until 2010, operators were requested to send in monthly reports to the CA-Animal Health and Welfare Unit . One of the reports involves details that include the daily production of eggs, number of live birds, number of deaths and quantity of feed consumed. The second report is a sales report where the farmer is declaring the quantity of eggs sold supported by fiscal receipts. Since 2011, all registered holdings have been given an official register with all the data requested as described above which has to be filled in by the operator. The register will be replaced every three years.

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

There are currently (2021) thirty operational layer farms compared to the forty-one operational in 2010.

STRUCTURE OF LAYER FARMS:

To date, there are no free-range farms and all the birds are kept in cages on more than one tier, usually up to a maximum of five tiers. All cage houses have manure belts. The majority of farms operate on a first-in, first-out basis. Malta has a constant problem of space, so it is uncommon to find large houses. The vast majority of holdings are made up of a number of houses having small capacities. The houses are usually in close proximity of one another. The birds kept in one house are considered as an individual epidemiological unit in accordance to the Regulation.

Malta and the smaller sister Island of Gozo are considered as one region for the surveillance and control of disease.

The Competent Authority responsible for the Salmonella Control Programme at farm level, feed level, primary production and manufacturing level excluding retail, falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) under the Animal Health and Welfare Department within Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights.

Registration of Farms: There are no breeding flocks of Broilers in Malta at present. Broiler farms are registered with the CA. The operators book the number of birds or day-olds for the next rearing from the hatcheries who import hatching eggs and day-olds. The farmers do not import any day olds for themselves but all book through the hatcheries. There is no association of poultry breeders and the industry is made up of a quite a number of small farms, all operating individually.

Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997 lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments. Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90. The hatcheries are legally obliged to report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The Animal Health Unit authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold. From this documentation, staff at the Animal Health section record all relevant data on the National Livestock database (Intratrace). A movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the CA. A new movement document for a new batch of birds is only issued after a three-week resting period between rearing of different batches.

Structure of Broiler holdings:

The number of birds reared has been decreasing since 2010. Currently there are 58 holdings, in 2011, there were 74 operational holdings compared to 89 holdings in 2010.

Holdings are family-run and are generally part-time businesses. There are no free-range farms on Malta / Gozo. All broilers are bred in closed houses, kept on bedding. The houses are generally situated very close to each other. A holding with a capacity of 5000 - 6000 can be divided up into three houses (therefore flocks). The slaughter age of the broilers can vary slightly depending on the market demand such as a seasonal request for capons in December, however, on average the animals are slaughtered between 5 – 6 weeks. The general rule is an all-in-all-out system with a three-week resting period between flocks.

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

The operators have individual agreements with the slaughterhouses to whom they sell their birds. There are four slaughter houses all located on the Island of Malta. Generally each slaughter house maintains working relationships with the same number of operators. The slaughterhouses would then sell the produce to retail outlets (butcher shops, supermarkets).

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

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

In Malta and Gozo poultry establishments includes only laying hens and broilers. (Gallus gallus) there are only 30 laying hens holdings and 58 broilers holdings. All the establishments are inspected at least once a year and categorized according to the biosecurity inspections results and animal diseases test results.

Malta is an archipelago. There are two main islands which are Malta and the smaller island of Gozo. Malta is approximately 360 Km² being the largest of the two islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller, has less than half Malta's surface area. Most of the poultry holdings are on the main island of Malta. There are three slaughterhouses that are situated in the main island of Malta

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Surveillance programs are based on criteria and risk factors according to Annex II of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689. Biosecurity inspection shortcomings, animal test disease test results and geographical risk areas are taken in consideration as risk factors.

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

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

2.2 Target populations

Please explain:

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

(max. 32000 chars):

All the laying hens will be sampled. This will be carried out when flocks are sampled for salmonella according to the Salmonella National Control Programme.

There are currently 30 operational holdings with layers on the Maltese islands. On the bases of Annex 1 of Commission Decision 367/2010, point 5 (representative sampling method) , table 1 (Number of poultry holdings to be sampled in each poultry production category) all 30 holdings will be sampled. In line with point 5.2 of Annex 1 of Commission Decision 367/2010, between 10 and 20 samples will be collected from each of the houses. The only Target Populations present in the Maltese Islands as set out in point 3 Annex 1 of Commission Decision 367/2010 are laying hens (a) the other varieties of poultry listed (b to l) are not reared on a commercial level.

The Veterinary Regulation Department, Al bert town, Marsa is responsible for the programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory is responsible for testing and dispatch of samples to the CRL. Sampling shall take place between January and December each year.

The targeted population are local and migratory wild birds. There are several non Government organizations involved in both hunting and conservation, namely The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta (FKNK), Birdlife Malta and Nature trust. The collaboration with hunting associations, bird conservation groups, bird parks and bird sanctuaries will be maintained. This will ensure a continuous supply of samples from migratory wild bird species for active and passive surveillance. In the Maltese Islands there are two establishments that function as a bird park and as a falconry center. Close contact with these centers is maintained as the presence of the captive birds in these establishments may act as an attraction to migrating bird species. There are also two main bird sanctuaries one in Mistra, the Simar reserve, and one in Mellieha, the Ghadira reserve, which are run by local conservation groups where wild birds may aggregate. Samples from these parks are also taken through collaboration with the conservation groups involved. Due to the banning of the spring hunting season the number of bird activity appears to be on the increase in certain areas.

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

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

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

Targets for year **2023**

Category : laying hens

delete this category

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

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
	30	30	10	600	600	ELISA test	X
Total					600		

Add a new row

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

Add a category

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

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total poultry 2023	600	600

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

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

Targets for year **2023**

Category :

delete this category

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

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
							X
Total							
					Add a new row		

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

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

Add a category

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

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

2023

Poultry + Ducks/Geese /farmed game birds	Total number of tests
Grand Total	600
Grand Total ELISA	600
Grand Total agar	0
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	0
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	0
Grand Total Virus Isolation test	0
Grand Total PCR test	0
Grand Total Samplings	600

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The testing period will run from January to December each year. All target populations, that is, laying hens will be sampled. This will be carried out when flocks are sampled for Salmonella.

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

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

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

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

The initial screening of the blood samples will be carried out at the National Veterinary Laboratory of the Animal Health and Welfare Department, using the IDEXX Elisa kits.

Any positive samples to the Elisa screening test will be sent to the Community Reference Laboratory, IZS delle Venezie, Padova, Italy, where further testing using Haemagglutination-inhibition- tests for H4 and H7 antibodies will be carried out.

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

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

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The Veterinary Regulation Department, Al bertown, Marsa is responsible for the programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory is responsible for testing and dispatch of samples to the CRL.

Sampling shall take place between January and December each year.

The targeted population are local and migratory wild birds.

The collaboration between hunting associations, bird conservation groups, bird parks and bird sanctuary will be maintained, this will ensure a continuous supply of samples from migratory wild birds species for active and passive surveillance.

In the Maltese Islands there are two establishments that function as a bird park and as a falconry center. Close contact with these centers is maintained as the presence of the captive birds in these establishments may act as attraction to migrating birds species.

There are also two main bird sanctuaries one in Mistra, the Simar reserve, and one in Mellieha, the Ghadira reserve, which are run by local conservation groups where wild birds may aggregate. Samples from these parks are also taken through collaboration with the conservation group involved. Due to the banning of the spring hunting season the number of bird activity appears to be on the increase in certain areas.

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

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The surveillance programme will apply to the Islands of Malta and Gozo. The two islands are going to be considered as one region.

3.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

From a study carried out by the Wild Bird Regulation Unit it results that 386 species are present in Malta, either frequently or rarely and visitors either summer or winter

Anser albifrons flavirostris

Anser erythropus

Aythya nyroca

Branta leucopsis

Branta ruficollis

Cygnus bewickii (Cygnus columbianus bewickii)

Cygnus cygnus

Cygnus olor

Marmaronetta angustirostris

Mergus albellus (Mergellus albellus)

Oxyura leucocephala

Polysticta stelleri

Tadorna ferruginea

Alectoris barbara

Alectoris graeca

Perdix perdix hispaniensis

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

Perdix perdix italica
Bonasa bonasia
Lagopus mutus helveticus
Lagopus mutus pyrenaicus
Tetrao tetrix tetrix
Tetrao urogallus
Gavia arctica
Gavia immer
Gavia stellata
Podiceps auritus
Bulweria bulwerii
Calonectris diomedea
Pterodroma madeira
Pterodromoa feae
Puffinus assimilis
Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)
Puffinus yelkouan
Hydrobates pelagicus
Oceanodroma castro
Oceanodroma leucorhoa
Pelagodroma marina
Morus bassanus
Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii
Pelecanus crispus
Pelecanus onocrotalus
Phalacrocorax pygmeus
Ardea cinerea
Ardea purpurea
Ardeola ralloides
Botaurus stellaris
Bubulcus ibis
Egretta alba (*Ardea alba*)
Egretta garzetta
Egretta gularis

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

Ixobrychus minutus
Nycticorax nycticorax
Ciconia ciconia
Ciconia nigra
Platalea leucorodia
Plegadis falcinellus
Phoenicopterus ruber
Phoeniconaias minor (*Phoenicopterus minor*)
Phoenicopterus roseus
Accipiter brevipes
Accipiter gentilis
Accipiter gentilis arrigonii
Accipiter nisus
Accipiter nisus granti
Aegypius monachus
Aquila adalberti
Aquila chrysaetos
Aquila clanga
Aquila heliaca
Aquila pomarina
Buteo buteo
Buteo lagopus
Buteo rufinus
Circaetus gallicus
Circus aeruginosus
Circus cyaneus
Circus macrourus
Circus pygargus
Elanus caeruleus
Gypaetus barbatus
Gyps fulvus
Haliaeetus albicilla
Hieraaetus fasciatus
Hieraaetus pennatus (*Aquila pennata*)

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

Milvus migrans
Milvus milvus
Neophron percnopterus
Pernis apivorus
Pandion haliaetus
Falco biarmicus
Falco cherrug
Falco columbarius
Falco concolor
Falco eleonora
Falco naumanni
Falco peregrinus
Falco rusticolus
Falco subbuteo
Falco tinnunculus
Falco vespertinus
Crex crex
Fulica cristata
Porphyrio porphyrio
Porphyrio alleni
Porzana parva
Porzana porzana
Porzana pusilla
Turnix sylvatica
Grus grus
Chlamydotis undulata
Otis tarda
Tetrax tetrax
Haematopus ostralegus
Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta
Burhinus oedicephalus
Cursorius cursor
Glareola pratincola

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

Charadrius alexandrinus
Charadrius morinellus (Eudromias morinellus)
Hoplopterus spinosus
Pluvialis apricaria
Calidris alpina schinzii
Gallinago media
Limosa lapponica
Numenius tenuirostris
Phalaropus lobatus
Philomachus pugnax
Tringa glareola
Xenus cinereus (Tringa cinerea)
Larus audouinii
Larus genei
Larus melanocephalus
Larus minutus
Chlidonias hybridus
Chlidonias niger
Gelochelidon nilotica (Sterna nilotica)
Sterna albifrons (Sternula albifrons)
Sterna caspia
Sterna dougallii
Sterna hirundo
Sterna paradisaea
Sterna sandvicensis
Uria aalge ibericus
Pterocles alchata
Pterocles orientalis
Columba bollii
Columba junoniae
Columba palumbus azorica
Columba trocaz
Tyto alba
Aegolius funereus

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

Asio flammeus
Asio otus
Athene noctua
Bubo bubo
Glaucidium passerinum
Nyctea scandiaca
Otus scops
Strix nebulosa
Strix uralensis
Surnia ulula
Caprimulgus europaeus
Apus caffer
Alcedo atthis
Coracias garrulus
Dendrocopos leucotos
Dendrocopos major canariensis
Dendrocopos major thanneri
Dendrocopos medius
Dendrocopos syriacus
Dryocopus martius
Picoides tridactylus
Picus canus
Calandrella brachydactyla
Chersophilus duponti
Galerida theklae
Lullula arborea
Melanocorypha calandra
Anthus campestris
Troglodytes troglodytes fridariensis
Luscinia svecica
Oenanthe cypriaca
Oenanthe leucura
Oenanthe pleschanka
Saxicola dacotiae

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

Acrocephalus melanopogon
Acrocephalus paludicola
Hippolais olivetorum
Sylvia melanothorax
Sylvia nisoria
Sylvia rueppelli
Sylvia sarda
Sylvia undata
Ficedula albicollis
Ficedula parva
Ficedula semitorquata
Parus ater cypriotes
Sitta krueperi
Sitta whiteheadi
Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae
Lanius collurio
Lanius minor
Lanius nubicus
Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax
Bucanetes githagineus
Fringilla coelebs ombriosa
Fringilla teydea
Loxia scotica
Pyrrhula murina (Pyrrhula pyrrhula murina)
Emberiza caesia
Emberiza cineracea
Emberiza hortulana

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The objectives of the programme are to maintain vigilance for the appearance of strains of Avian Influenza in local and migratory wild bird species through active and passive surveillance. Around 380 species have been recorded in the islands. About 50 are winter visitors, 112 more or less regular migrants and the rest are irregular migrants or vagrants. The presence of birds in summer months is rather low with the peak of activity attained in spring and autumn. Although there is a consistent migration of birds throughout the islands in both seasons, weather conditions greatly affect the numbers of migrants. On some days during migration the islands may experience a large influx of birds, while at other times there may be very little movement in evidence. The migrants include both species that winter south of the Sahara and those that go no further than the Mediterranean basin. During late summer, herons, raptors, waders, hirundines, several warblers and chats are present on the island. These increase dramatically in September and October. In November the migration of trans-Saharan migrants is over and replaced by influxes of the wintering species, some waterfowl and plovers, finches and other passerines. In spring a similar progression, but in reverse order, can be observed between early March and late May. Hoopoes, Marsh Harriers, Grey and Night Herons and Swallows and Martins in transit are amongst the first to appear in Spring. They are followed by small passerines such as Subalpine, Great Reed and Icterine Warblers and later by Golden Orioles, Bee Eaters, Woodchat Shrikes and the occasional Roller. Wild ducks and other migratory birds shall be sampled by means of cloacal swabs, tracheal swabs and/or faecal samples, which shall be sent to the CRL in Weybridge for testing by means of PCR and viral isolation. The collaboration with hunting associations, bird conservation groups, bird parks and bird sanctuaries will be maintained. This will ensure a continuous supply of samples from migratory wild bird species for active and passive surveillance. In the Maltese Islands there are two establishments that function as a bird park and as a falconry center. Close contact with these centers is maintained as the presence of the captive birds in these establishments may act as an attraction to migrating bird species. There are also two main bird sanctuaries one in Mistra, the Simar reserve, and one in Mellieha, the Ghadira reserve, which are run by local conservation groups where wild birds may aggregate. Samples from these parks are also taken through collaboration with the conservation groups involved. Due to the banning of the spring hunting season the number of bird activity appears to be on the increase in certain areas. The VRD also has in place a help line through which the public can notify the division with regards to any wild birds found dead in the countryside or the coastline

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

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

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS focussed on target species

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

Targets for year **2023**

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Total number of wild birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of wild birds to be samples for passive surveillance	Type of test	Number of tests	
	10	10	PCR test	10	X
Total	10	10		10	
Add a new row					

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

	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	10
Total Virus isolation tests	0
Total PCR tests	10
Total Other tests	0
Total number of wild birds to be sampled for passive surveillance	10

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

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

Please also explain which samples are taken from wild birds

max 32000 chars :

Wild ducks and other migratory birds shall be sampled by means of cloacal swab, which shall be sent to the CRL IZS delle Venezie in Italy for testing by means of PCR.

3.4 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used .

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

max 32000 chars :

Virus isolation and PCR on faecal, cloacal and tracheal samples from wild birds shall be carried out by the European Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at IZS delle Venezie, Padova, Italy.

Swabs will be dispatched by express courier to the EURL under suitable conditions to ensure the survival of the virus if this is present in the sample.

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

max 32000 chars :

Surveillance programme 2016

In 2016 the surveillance of poultry flock included laying hens. None of the sample tested in 2016 resulted positive to Avian Influenza.

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

Surveillance programme 2017

In 2017 the surveillance of poultry flocks included laying hens. None of the sample tested in 2017 resulted positive to Avian Influenza.

Surveillance programme in 2018

In 2018 the surveillance of poultry flocks included laying hens. None of the sample tested in 2018 resulted positive to Avian influenza.

Surveillance programme in 2019

In 2019 the surveillance of poultry flock included laying hens holdings. None of the sample tested resulted positive to Avian Influenza

Surveillance in 2020

In 2020 the surveillance of poultry flock included laying hens holding. None of the sample tested resulted positive to Avian Influenza.

Surveillance 2021: the surveillance of poultry flock included laying hens holding. None of the sample tested resulted positive to Avian Influenza

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

(max. 32000 chars):

urveillance programme 2018 no samples were taken

Surveillance programme 2019 no samples were taken

Surveillance programme 2021 ducks and other migratory birds were sampled by means of cloacal swab and /or faecal samples and sent to the EURL at Istituto delle Venezie, Padova, Italy for testing by means of PCR and viral isolation. All samples tested negative.

Surveillance programme 2022 ducks and other migratory birds were sampled by means of cloacal swab and /or faecal samples and sent to the EURL at Istituto delle Venezie, Padova, Italy for testing by means of PCR and viral isolation. All samples tested negative.

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437 Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 18, 19, 35 and 37 and the second and fifth schedule of the Act, lay down Local legislation that deals with the notification of Avian Influenza.

7. *Costs*

7.1 *Detailed analysis of the costs*

7.1.1 *Poultry including ducks, geese and farmed game birds*

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The ELISA tests used for testing of poultry, are purchased from IDEXX. Laboratory personnel has not been included since staff also carries out other duties namely related to the Salmonella control programme.

A number of samples will be sent to the EURL in Italy to be tested by other methods. Any positive ELISA samples will be sent to the EURL in Italy for confirmatory analysis.

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

7.1.2 Wild birds

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Any samples collected from wild birds will be sent to the EURL in Italy to be tested by other methods such as PCR, HI and virus isolation.

7.2 Summary of the annual costs :

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

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

C. Financial information

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

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The program will be under the supervision of the Veterinary Regulation Directorate as the Competent Authority. The National Veterinary Laboratory will have the role of testing the samples. Sampling is carried out by the Official Veterinarian and his auxiliaries. All officers involved in sampling are employed by the Competent Authority and are paid through public funds i.e. from State Budget. All sampling equipment and sampling disposable are purchased and supplied by the NVL and thus paid for from public funds/NVL budget.

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

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):

In the Maltese island there is only one Veterinary Laboratory, this laboratory falls under the responsibility of VRD. The NVL fulfils the role of both National Reference Laboratory and that of testing laboratory. All samples fro Avian Influenza testing regardless of their origin are tested by the NVL All funds for purchase of kits, equipment and personnel are derived from the VRD budget thus are entirely taken from 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):

NA

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):

NA

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

NA

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:

NA

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

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
			Total size of attachments :	