



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

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

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- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : SLOVENIJA

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

27/05/2022 09:44:06

Submission Number

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

2. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection (AFSVSPP) is a body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) and is the Competent Authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme. AFSVSPP is among others competent for:

- preparation and implementation of national surveillance and control programmes;
- implementation of official controls;
- collection of data for the valuation of results, and for the submission of data to the European Commission.

Regional Offices of AFSVSPP (10) are among other tasks responsible for the control of implementation of the national surveillance and control programmes, for the implementation of official sampling, and for the implementation of measures in case of disease outbreaks.

Every year, the minister, responsible for the veterinary sector, issues the Decree on the systematic monitoring of animal health status, disease eradication programmes and vaccinations, which are to be carried out during a particular year. For the implementation of the Decree AFSVSPP prepares the compulsory instructions, laying down the procedures for implementation of certain programmes, operators involved in such programmes and methods of informing and reporting on the progress made in carrying out such programmes.

For the purpose of monitoring and reporting of certain animal diseases, which are included in different surveillance and control programmes, AFSVSPP has set up the information system called CIS VET EPI. The system enables the traceability of samples from the point of sampling to the final assessment of test results. The samples get the unique code at sampling. The person who samples enters the codes and other relevant information (date of collecting, date of sampling, location, type of samples, species or category, etc.) into the system and sends samples to the laboratory. The laboratory returns the results of testing to the system. Through CIS VET EPI, local and central level can monitor the implementation of the programme.

Private veterinarians with concession and pathology experts from National veterinary institute (NVI) take samples (blood, swabs and/or organs) for testing. They are under supervision of regional offices of AFSVSPP. Samples collected for other purposes are used, whenever possible. Testing of samples shall be carried out at NVI, Laboratory for diagnostics of infectious poultry and bird diseases functioning also as National reference laboratory for avian influenza (NRL for AI) of the Republic of Slovenia.

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2.1.2 *Description of System in place for the registration of holdings*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Veterinary compliance criteria act (UL RS No 93/05, 90/12, 23/13, 40/14 and 22/18) lays down that establishments under veterinary control must be registered or reported at AFSVSPP. Legal and natural persons involved in rearing activity are obliged to report any changes to AFSVSPP.

Rules on veterinary conditions for the trade in poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs in the territory of EU and on import from third countries (UL RS No 5/04, 21/04, 31/07 and 42/10) lays down the conditions for approval of pedigree breeding, breeding and rearing establishments, and hatcheries.

Rules on the protection of farm animals (UL RS No 51/10 and 70/10) lays down the conditions for registration of laying hens.

Rules on the register of livestock keepers and the livestock register (UL RS No 87/14, 15/16 and 78/18) lays down conditions for registration of poultry keepers who don't fall under Rules mentioned above regarding the registration of poultry establishments.

Each establishment gets a unique number, that defines the location of establishment.

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) :

Objectives of the surveillance programme in poultry are:

- early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry;
- detection of circulating low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIV) that may easily spread between poultry flocks in particular in areas with a high density of poultry establishments in view of their potential to mutate to HPAI;
- contribution to increased knowledge on HPAI and LPAIV posing a potential zoonotic risk.

In frame of early detection any change in normal production and health parameters (such as mortality rate, feed and water intake and egg production) and any clinical sign or post-mortem lesion suggesting HPAI are subject to investigation.

The surveillance programme in poultry is combination of risk-based and representative sampling. The risk-based surveillance is aimed for the detection of circulating low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIV).

Representative sampling is foreseen for duck keeping establishments to survey the possible contacts of animals with avian influenza viruses.

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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) :

There are approximately 27500 registered establishments with poultry in Slovenia. Majority of them are backyard flocks, many of them with more than one species of poultry. Regarding commercial poultry establishments, the main part represent broiler establishments. Smaller part of commercial poultry establishments represent laying hens and fattening turkeys. There are also chicken breeder establishments, but there are no grandparent flocks in Slovenia. The maps with density of poultry establishments and poultry density are in the attachments.

Poultry production	Number of establishments	Capacity
Broilers	299	5730000
Laying hens	350	1465000
Fattening turkeys	35	150000
Chicken breeders	7	478300

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) :

The risk-based surveillance is aimed for the detection of circulating low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIV) that may easily spread between poultry flocks in particular in areas with a high density of poultry establishments in order to identify possible clusters of infection with LPAIV and to monitor the risk of spread of LPAIV by movements of poultry and by fomites in certain production systems. In Slovenia there are four bigger poultry production companies (breeding flocks, fattening poultry, and/or laying hens) with their own veterinary service which covers the company establishments through the whole territory of Slovenia. Some of the companies have also their own hatcheries, feeding mills, etc., so more or less whole production and supply system.

(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):

The target populations for risk based testing comprise the following categories and species of poultry: fattening turkeys, chicken breeding flocks, laying hens, and game poultry (pheasants, partridges).

1. Fattening turkeys: there are 35 establishments with fattening turkeys. All establishments shall be included in the programme. Ten (10) samples per establishment shall be taken. In the case of several sheds on an establishment, 5 samples shall be taken from each shed.
2. Chicken breeding flocks: all 7 chicken breeding establishments are included in the programme. The number of sheds varies from 2 to 36 per establishments. Most establishments have up to 8 sheds, with the exception of two bigger establishments: one with 36 sheds and the other with 23 sheds. Five (5) samples per shed shall be taken.
3. Laying hens: in the programme, the establishments with more than 50 laying hens are included:
 - indoor laying hens: there are 78 registered establishments. According to the programme, 42 establishments shall be sampled. Ten (10) samples per establishment shall be taken. In the case of several sheds on an establishment, 5 samples shall be taken from each shed;
 - free-range laying hens: there are 67 registered free-range poultry establishments. According to the programme, 42 establishments shall be sampled. Ten (10) samples per establishment shall be taken.
4. Game birds (Galliformes): 4 establishments are included in the programme which also supply game to be released into the wild.

Duck establishments are also included in the programme as part of representative surveillance: there are approximately 3361 establishments with ducks at least 90 establishments shall be selected and 20 samples per establishments shall be taken, if possible.

Early detection for infection with HPAI shall apply to all poultry population, regardless if it is commercial or backyard establishment.

The virological testing shall be performed on the establishments with positive serological results and for early detection (clinical signs suggesting avian influenza, sudden deaths, increased mortality (> 3 times normal mortality rate of the flock), drop in daily feed and water intake (>5%), drop in daily egg production (>5%) or dead birds with possible contacts with wild birds (e.g. ZOO birds)). Cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs and/or tissue/organs shall be taken.

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

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

Targets for year **2023**

Category : 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	
Slovenia	78	42	10	450	450	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	450	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					900		
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.

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

Category : free range 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	
Slovenia	67	42	10	420	420	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	420	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					840		
Add a new row							
<p>(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.</p>							

Category : chicken breeders

delete this category

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

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
Slovenia	7	7	10	425	425	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	425	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					850		

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Add a new row

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

Category : fattening turkeys

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	
Slovenia	35	35	10	380	380	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	380	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					760		

Add a new row

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

Category : farmed game birds (gallinaceous)

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)

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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	
Slovenia	4	4	10	40	40	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	40	HI-test (H7)	X
Total					80		
						Add a new row	
<p>(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.</p>							

Category : Early detection

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	
Slovenia	27 500	150	20	3 000	600	PCR test	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	5	Virus isolation test	X
Total					605		
						Add a new row	
<p>(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.</p>							

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

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total poultry 2023	4 035	4 715

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 : farmed game (waterfowl e.g. mallards)

delete this category

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

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis
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Slovenia	1	1	20	20	40	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	20	HI-test (H7)	X
Slovenia	0	1	40	40	18	PCR test	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	Virus isolation test	X
Total					79		

Add a new row

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

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

Category : Duck establishments

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	
Slovenia	3 361	90	20	1 800	3 600	HI-test (H5)	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1 800	HI-test (H7)	X
Slovenia	0	1	40	40	18	PCR test	X
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	Virus isolation test	X
Total					5 419		

Add a new row

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

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

Add a category

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Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total ducks and geese and farmed game birds 2023	5 498	1 900

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	9 533
Grand Total ELISA	0
Grand Total agar	0
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	5 355
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	3 535
Grand Total Virus Isolation test	7
Grand Total PCR test	636
Grand Total Samplings	6 615

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Based on the Decree on monitoring of animal health status, animal disease eradication programmes and vaccinations of animals, AFSVSPP prepares the monitoring and surveillance programmes for each year.

Private veterinarians with concession take blood samples for serological examination on poultry establishments. Samples collected for other purposes shall be used, whenever possible. Private veterinarians with concession shall also take samples for virological testing on the establishments where serological results were positive.

Private veterinarians with concession or pathology expert from NVI take samples for virological testing for early detection.

Private veterinarians take samples (blood, swabs) on the establishments. Samples from dead animals are taken at the pathology unit of NVI.

Testing of samples is carried out at the NVI, Laboratory for diagnostics of infectious poultry and bird diseases.

In 2023, sampling for serological testing shall be carried out once a year per establishment.

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

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

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

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

Testing of samples carries out the NVI, Laboratory for diagnostics of infectious poultry and bird diseases, functioning as the National reference laboratory for avian influenza (NRL for AI) of the Republic of Slovenia. The NVI collaborates with EURL for Avian influenza and prepares protocols for testing in line with the diagnostic protocols recommended by EURL.

Blood samples shall be tested with haemagglutination-inhibition (HI) test for H5 and H7 subtypes. Blood samples from ducks shall be tested with additional HI test for subtype H5N8.

For each poultry production category, except those of ducks and mallards, the number of poultry establishments to be sampled shall be defined so as to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry establishments where the prevalence of infected poultry establishments is at least 5 %, with a 95 % confidence interval. The number of duck and mallard establishments to be sampled shall be defined to ensure the identification of at least one infected poultry establishments where the prevalence of infected poultry establishments is at least 5 %, with a 99 % confidence interval.

The number of birds to be sampled in the poultry establishments shall be defined so as to ensure 95 % probability of identifying at least one bird that tests sero-positive for avian influenza, if the prevalence of sero-positive birds is ≥ 30 %. Blood samples for serological examination shall be collected from all poultry production categories and poultry species from at least 10 birds (except ducks and mallards) per poultry establishments, and from the different sheds, where more than one shed is present on a establishment. In case of several sheds, samples shall be taken from at least five birds per shed.

The numbers of ducks and mallards to be sampled in the poultry establishments shall be defined so as to ensure 95 % probability of identifying at least one bird that tests sero-positive for avian influenza where the prevalence of sero-positive birds is ≥ 30 %. Twenty blood samples shall be taken for serological testing from each selected poultry establishments.

For serological testing (risk based and representative surveillance), following poultry species are intended for sampling: fattening turkeys, chicken breeding flocks, laying hens, and game poultry (pheasants, partridges, mallards) and ducks.

In case of positive serological results of HI tests, epidemiological investigation and sampling for virological testing shall be performed. For follow-up investigation virological tests recommended by EURL shall be used:

- reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR):

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- detection of M gen of avian influenza viruses (screening method),
- detection of haemagglutinin gene of H5 and H7 avian influenza viruses (confirmation method),
- virus isolation,
- sequencing of cleavage site of H5 and H7 subtypes.

The same tests (virological) shall be used for testing samples in frame of early detection.

At least 5 dead birds and/or at least 20 tracheal/oropharyngeal and 20 cloacal swabs (or from all birds if smaller number of birds is present) shall be taken. Birds showing clinical signs must be targeted. In the case of dealing with strains with a low transmission rate parameter a combination of testing 5 dead birds and 20 sick birds is recommended. The same sort of samples from an establishment can be pooled (e.g. up to 10 cloacal swabs pooled in one sample). Samples shall be tested by M-gene RT-PCR and in case of positive result H5/H7 RT-PCR shall be performed. In case of H5 and/or H7 positive finding analysis of the cleavage site shall be undertaken to determine whether it has a HPAI or a low LPAI motif and also virus isolation test on embrionated eggs shall be performed.

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):

Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection (AFSVSPP) is a body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) and is the Competent Authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme. AFSVSPP is among others competent for:

- preparation and implementation of national surveillance and control programmes;

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- implementation of official controls;
- collection of data for the valuation of results, and for the submission of data to the European Commission.

Regional Offices of AFSVSPP (10) are among other tasks responsible for the control of implementation of the national control programmes, for the implementation of official sampling, and for the implementation of measures in case of disease outbreaks. Central CA carries out monitoring of the programme. AFSVSPP has set up the information system called CIS VET EPI, which enables the traceability of samples from the point of sampling to the final assessment of test results. The samples get the unique code at sampling. The person who samples enters the codes and other relevant information (date of collecting, date of sampling, location, type of samples, species of wild birds, etc.) into the system and sends samples to the laboratory. The laboratory returns the results of the testing to the system. Through CIS VET EPI, local and central level can monitor the implementation of the programme.

Veterinary hygiene service (VHS) of NVI collects dead wild birds found on establishments or public areas, when notified. In notifying such occurrences ornithologists, hunters, and perceptive public participate. In some cases, they bring the carcasses or sick birds directly to NVI. Samples can also be taken from sick and/or injured birds in wild animal rescue centre.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The programme is applied in the whole territory of Slovenia. The territory comprises of 10 Regional Offices for the needs of operations of veterinary inspection services.

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) :

In the attached table are estimated data on the target bird population in Slovenia for nesting period and wintering period.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Objectives of the surveillance programme is early detection of HPAI in wild birds providing for:

- an early warning for possible HPAI introduction into poultry, in particular when viruses enter the Union through migratory movements of wild birds;
- information for the assessment of risks for virus spread following findings of HPAI in wild birds.

To achieve the objectives, samples shall be taken from found dead, injured or sick wild birds, especially if found close to poultry establishments or in high density areas of poultry. Special emphasis shall be given to areas where positive wild birds were found in HPAI outbreaks in previous years. If possible, targeted wild bird species shall be sampled (the list of species is available on the website of the EURL). In addition to targeted wild bird species, other wild bird species shall also be included, especially in suspected episodes of mortality.

If the epidemiological situation for the HPAI virus so requires, surveillance activities shall be enhanced by awareness raising and active searching and monitoring for dead or sick wild birds, in particular for those belonging to targeted wild bird species. This could be triggered by the detection of the HPAI virus in poultry and/or wild birds in neighbouring Member States and third countries or in countries that are linked via the movement of migratory wild birds, in particular those of targeted wild bird species, to Slovenia. In that case the specific migration patterns and wild bird species shall be taken into account.

The mute swan was the most affected bird species in last HPAI outbreaks in 2005/2006, 2006/2017, 2020 and 2021/2022 in Slovenia.

In the study which was done in scope of national project CRP V4 1803 the dispersion of mute swans ringed in Slovenia and the dispersion of ringed birds found abroad in Slovenia were analysed. The data from the database and archives of the Slovenian Center for Ringing Birds in the Natural History Museum of Slovenia collected in period from 1927 to 2018 were included.

The results of study show that the recoveries of swans ringed in Slovenia are scattered abroad in 10 European countries. The most reads of different specimens were in Austria, Hungary and Poland (71.3%). Similar findings were obtained with analysis of recoveries of ringed swans in abroad. They were ringed in 9 European countries and 75.4% of all birds originate from Croatia, Hungary and Poland.

Analyses of local recoveries of ringed mute swans showed communication under the alpine arch east-west or west-east and are supposed to communicate along the Sava, Savinja and Drava river basins. The fastest local recovery is the adult female LA399 (red AUY), which was ringed on 10 February 2018 on Lent in Maribor (eastern part of Slovenia) and read on the same day at Lake Zbilje, 106 km away (western part of Slovenia).

On the base of obtained results, we can conclude that the whole territory of Slovenia should be included in surveillance programme.

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

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS focussed on target species

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

Targets for year

2023

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Total number of wild birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of wild birds to be samples for passive surveillance	Type of test	Number of tests	
Slovenia	350	250	PCR test	800	X
Slovenia	0	0	Virus isolation test	25	X
Total	350	250		825	
Add a new row					
<p>(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</p>					

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	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	825
Total Virus isolation tests	25
Total PCR tests	800
Total Other tests	0
Total number of wild birds to be sampled for passive surveillance	250

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

Please also explain which samples are taken from wild birds

max 32000 chars :

The veterinary experts from NVI and wild animal rescue centre take samples from dead, sick or injured wild birds (passive surveillance) and send them to the laboratory. The samples are cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and tissues/organs (especially in cases when virus transmission through cloaca or oropharynx is low or if it is not possible to take cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs).

In frame of active surveillance the hunters will take cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs from 100 healthy hunted mallards. Costs of active surveillance are not included in the programme.

In 2023, testing of 250 wild birds is foreseen. In case of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds, the number of samples can increase.

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

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max 32000 chars :

Testing of samples carries out the NVI, Laboratory for diagnostics of infectious poultry and bird diseases, functioning as the National reference laboratory for avian influenza (NRL for AI) of the Republic of Slovenia. The NVI collaborates with EURL for Avian influenza and prepares protocols for testing in line with the diagnostic protocols recommended by EURL.

Cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and/or tissues samples are tested for the presence of Influenza A virus using initial screening for M-gene RT-PCR. It is foreseen that up to three samples shall be taken from one wild bird. In case of high mortality up to 5 samples could be pooled (same place, same time and same species). The laboratory subsequently tests positive samples by H5 and H7 RT-PCR. In case of H5 and/or H7 positive finding, the cleavage site is analysed as soon as possible to determine whether it is a HPAI or a LPAI. RT-PCR for N subtypes is performed as well. Virus isolation test on embryonated eggs and determination of virus subtype is also performed.

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

max 32000 chars :

Since 2004, the surveillance programmes for avian influenza are carried out each year. Since 2015, additional HI tests for H5N8 were performed on samples taken from ducks. All the results were negative.

In 2021, HPAI was confirmed for the first time in poultry in Slovenia. HPAI H5N1 was confirmed on 27 December 2021 in a backyard poultry establishment with 113 poultry (hens, geese and ducks). The owner notified increased mortality in hens to the veterinarian. Veterinarian notified the suspicion on avian influenza to the CA, based on the observed mortality, inappetence, depression and ataxia. Measures were implemented in line with EU Regulation 2016/429 (Animal health law) and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. No further outbreaks were detected. The map with the location of HPAI H5N1 outbreak in poultry and HPAI positive cases in wild birds in 2021 is in attachment.

Below are data on results of the surveillance programmes for poultry (serological testing).

Year	Poultry (number of samples)	Results (number of positive H5 or H7)
2021	2975	0
2020	3175	0
2019	3305	0
2018	3270	0

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2017	2930	0
2016	3140	0

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

(max. 32000 chars):

At the end of 2016, 1 mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) was positive for HPAI H5N8. The swan was found dead on the bank of river Drava in the city of Maribor on 30 December 2016 (in the same city where was HPAI H5N1 epidemics in 2006).

The epidemics continued in 2017: from 556 tested wild birds 172 tested positive for HPAI H5 (169 H5N8, 3 H5N5). The most affected species were mute swans. Mass mortalities of wild birds occurred on two locations on the area of the same Regional Office. On first location (Benica) 89 mute swans, 1 greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) and 1 great egret (*Ardea alba*) were collected. HPAI H5N8 was detected in mute swans and greater white-fronted goose. On the second location (Lakoš), 100 mute swans were collected and HPAI H5N8 was confirmed. The map with HPAI positive cases in 2016/2017 is in attachment.

In 2018 and 2019, there were no HPAI outbreaks detected in Slovenia. In 2018, 1 mute swan was positive for LPAI H5N2. In 2019, 1 mute swan was positive for Influenza A subtype which was not determined (not H5 or H7). Some black-headed gulls (which originated from the same place) tested positive for Influenza A; in 1 case subtype H13N6 was determined.

In 2020, HPAI was detected in 6 mute swans (5 cases of HPAI H5N8 and 1 case of HPAI H5N5). All subtypes belong to clade 2.3.4.4B and cluster with the HPAI H5 viruses which have been circulating in Europe since October 2020. Other avian influenza viruses (not H5 or H7) were detected in mute swan, common teal, great cormorant and 2 blackheaded gulls (in one blackheaded gull subtype H16 was confirmed). The map with HPAI positive cases in 2020 is in attachment.

In 2021, 12 wild birds tested positive for HPAI H5N1 (11 mute swans and 1 black-headed gull). In one mallard was determined LPAI H1N1. The map with the location of HPAI H5N1 outbreak in poultry and HPAI positive cases in wild birds in 2021 is in attachment.

Below are data on results of the surveillance programmes for wild birds (virological testing).

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Year	Number of wild birds	Number of HPAI positive	Remarks
2021	323	12	H5N1
2020	270	6	5 H5N8, 1 H5N5
2019	231	0	/
2018	176	0	/
2017	556	172	169 H5N8, 3 H5N5
2016	147	1	H5N8

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):

Notification of Avian Influenza is to be performed in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulations (EU) 2020/687 and 2020/2002, which are directly applicable and in line with national Rules on animal diseases (UL RS, 81/07 and 24/10) which corresponds to the provisions of the EU legislation.

Operator is obliged to report the suspicion or the outbreak of the disease to the veterinary organisation. At the suspicion of Avian Influenza, the veterinary organisation having established the suspicion immediately notifies thereof by telephone and by fax or e-mail on a prescribed form AFSVSPP Headquarters (AFSVSPP HQ) which, in turn, immediately convenes a meeting of the National Disease Control Centre (NDCC) members. The AFSVSPP HQ provides for a 24-hour service line for these purposes. In the event of suspicion of Avian Influenza in an establishment, AFSVSPP immediately conduct an investigation to confirm or rule out the presence of the suspected disease.

The designated laboratory immediately communicates the results of diagnostic investigations by telephone (via the 24-hour service line) and by fax or e-mail to the AFSVSPP HQ.

In case of suspicion or an outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in an establishment, AFSVSPP implements measures, which corresponds to the measures of the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 (measures on the establishment where the disease was suspected or confirmed, establishment of protection and surveillance zones and measures to be implemented in these zones, etc.).

In case of a suspicion or an outbreak of Avian Influenza in wild birds, AFSVSPP may determine the infected zone and implements measures, which corresponds to the measures of the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.

AFSVSPP must notify the outbreak of the disease immediately or no later than within 24 hours to the European Commission, the OIE, and to other

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Member States using ADIS.

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):

Number and costs of tests in frame of the programme

5355 HI test H5 x	€ =	€
3535 HI test H7 x	€ =	€
626 M gene PCR x	€ =	€
5 H5 PCR x	€ =	€
5 H7 PCR x	€ =	€
7 Virus isolation x	€ =	€
Sampling		
6615 samples x	€ =	€
Total costs:	€	

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C. Financial information

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

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

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Samples are taken by private veterinarians with concession or by experts from NVI. Sampling is paid by state budget. Wild bird samples are taken by veterinarian in wild animal rescue centre under the contract with CA.

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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):

Testing in frame of AI surveillance programme is paid by state budget and it is performed by National veterinary institute.

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):

N/A

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

(max. 32000 chars):

N/A

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

(max. 32000 chars):

N/A

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

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

yes

no

3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

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

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

N/A

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

List of all attachments

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