



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex I.a: Programme for the eradication of Rabies

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

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Member state : SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA

Disease Rabies

Species : Foxes and racoon dogs

This program is multi annual :

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

Year for request

Contact data

Name : Phone :

Email : Your job type
within the CA :

Submission Date

14/12/2022

Submission Number

1671142772021-19294

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

A. Technical information

1. Submitted programme

1.1 Provide a concise description of

- the programme with its main objective, overall strategy and timeframe. In case of a long time strategy, interim objectives for each year should be specified.
- target population for vaccination, surveillance and monitoring
- main measures: vaccination scheme, surveillance, monitoring and other measures
- areas of implementation of the programme
- areas you envisage to continue vaccinating from 2020 onwards

(max. 32000 chars) :

The objectives of the programme are

- early detection of rabies occurrence
- the prevention of new cases incidence within the Slovak Republic.

Successful completion of the programme shall

- improve the disease situation with wild and domestic animals
- decrease the risk of rabies transmission to domestic animals and people
- eliminate barriers in movement of carnivores and other susceptible animal species
- minimize government expenditure for prevention and abatement of rabies in the sector of agriculture and health
- prevent rabies entering Slovakia from neighbouring countries

This current programme has been run since 2000 in two campaigns, one in spring, and the other one in autumn. Fix-wing airplane and by hand distributions are used as well. For this programme we have used the vaccine baits containing the virus strain Vnukovo 32/107, titter min. 106,5 TCID₅₀/ml (2000, 2001 and spring 2002), SAD VA-1, titter min. 107 TCID₅₀/ml (autumn 2002 and spring 2003) and SAD Bern, titter min. 1,8x10⁷ PFU (2000, 2001, spring 2002, 2003-2021).

The fox population's density estimated on the number of hunted animals during the programme has been increased from 19.500 to 23.000 foxes in 2001 and begun to grow very in the second half of year 2002 and the first half of year 2003.

The number of hunted foxes in 2002 was 22.251 animals, what encourages us to estimate the number of fox population more than 30.000 animals – 0,57 – 0,61 fox per square kilometre.

This stay of fox population has been related to the comedown of the favourable progress of the rabies situation. The distribution of vaccination baits is planned in two campaigns using by-air and by-hand distribution in spring and autumn.

The effectiveness of the oral vaccination programme is checked and will be evaluated by laboratory examinations of randomly hunted or perished foxes and raccoon dog and foxes, raccoon dog hunted within the target-monitoring period. In case of positive confirmation, an expert group may decide the necessity of emergency vaccination in determined risk area.

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1.2. Benefits of the programme

Describe

- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in the previous years, in line with the objectives and expected results
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs

(max. 32000 chars) :

Since 1994, oral vaccination of foxes has been successfully carried out in Slovakia. In August 2006, a positive case of rabies in fox was confirmed in Slovakia. From August 2006 until 8 January 2013 no positive case of occurrence of rabies was confirmed on the territory of Slovakia. Based on the matter of fulfilment and observance of requirements stated in Article 8.11.2 of the Terrestrial Code 2008, in 2009 Slovakia self-declared itself as a rabies-free country. Seven cases were detected in the year 2013 (near to border with Poland - 4 red foxes, 2 dogs, 1 marten). In the year 2014 no case of rabies was detected. Five cases were detected in the year 2015 (near to border with Poland). In the years 2016-2021, no case of rabies was detected. The Slovak Republic fulfilled the requirements of Article 8.14.3. in all five points of Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2018 and was declared as a rabies-free country. In 2020 Slovakia has fulfilled the requirements as regard self-declaration of the freedom of the country from rabies (OIE self-declarations). The request has been sent to the OIE in 2020 by having positive outcome in 2021. Moreover according the CIR 2021/620, Slovakia is on the list of countries appointed in annex 3/part I – status rabies free countries

The rise of the immunity status of the fox population has increased the fox density. During this fast growth of the fox population the increase of rabies positive foxes in such level at first time since beginning the programme has been recorded (295 positive foxes in 2003). According to evaluation of the rabies situation and applied programme, it was analyzed that the increase of red fox rabies outbreaks was caused also by low efficiency of used SAD VA-1 strain vaccine baits in autumn 2002 and spring 2003. After evaluation of that unfavourable stay, SVFA SR in 2003 has decided to change used vaccine baits for other baits, containing the reliable strain SAD Bern, for the next years. A surveillance system has been in place for the past 24 months and are in accordance with the relevant Chapter 1.4. and Article 8.14.12. stated of the Terrestrial Code OIE

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

Provide the name and surface of the areas where the following activities are implemented (if administrative areas are not used, describe the natural or artificial boundaries used to determine the geographical areas)

- vaccination and monitoring
- surveillance

Attach maps

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(max. 32000 chars) :

Since the Czech Republic and Austria are declared as rabies free countries and because of current favourable situation of rabies in Hungary, vaccination area Slovakia is not applied in the territories of the DVFAs: Bratislava, Senec, Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Trnava, Senica, Komárno, Nové Zámky, Levice, Nitra, Topoľčany, Šaľa, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Trenčín, Prievidza, Púchov, Žiar nad Hronom, Zvolen, Veľký Krtíš, Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Banská Bystrica and Martin. On the territory of DVFA Liptovský Mikuláš only the district of Liptovský Mikuláš will be vaccinated (see the map). Vaccination is done in the remaining districts, corresponding to numbers 24 to 40 in the table and marked in red on the map. The vaccination in the red area is not performed also in the places with the altitude above 1200 metres above sea level, water flows, roads communications, towns and settlements, and places, where Civil aviation authority of the Slovak Republic does not allow to perform this type of vaccination (approx. 13 980 km² (aerial distribution; year 2022) + 208 km² (hand distribution – year 2022)). The areas of the Slovak Republic with an altitude above 1200m are mostly rocky surfaces and without vegetation. The Slovak Hunters Chamber and the National Forest Centre having experts for wild animals, have recorded only a short and random stay of foxes by observation. The foxes come into lower wooded altitudes where they can find enough food and suitable conditions for reproduction. For this reason, based on the mentioned observations, the oral vaccination of foxes in areas with altitude above 1200m would be ineffective.

Moreover – in many cases the territories above 1200 m are national parks with high level of nature protection with strict rules for everybody and there is a ban of using the planes. In High Tatras – in the places – where the occurrence of fox population could be expected we are performing the vaccination vac manual (hand distribution) – for many years without any substantial problem by performing

3. Description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 32 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

3.1. Notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

Rabies is a compulsory notifiable disease. In addition, that reporting of suspicious cases are in accordance with the Chapter 1.1 of the Terrestrial Code. OIE

There have been no cases of indigenous acquired infection in the past 24 months.

In Slovakia, according to Article 37, Section 2, Letter l of the Act No. 39/2007 on Veterinary Care as amended, rabies is subject to compulsory notification (Annex 4, Page 88 of the Act).

The control of animal diseases and disease reporting

1. immediately report to the veterinary administration authority any suspicion of a disease referred to in para 17 and 18 and the diseases listed in Annexes no. 4 and 5, the death of an animal suspected of having these diseases and allow its examination,

Until the current act came into force, compulsory notification was subject to the following Acts in chronological order since the date of constitution of Slovakia on 1.1.1993: Act No. 87/1987 Coll. on Veterinary Care, Act No. 337/1998 and No. 488/2002 on Veterinary Care.

Based on Article 17, Section 2 and Article 37, Section 2, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll., every natural or legal person authorized to dispose of live animals is obliged to notify the veterinary authority

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of any suspicion of any disease and death of animal without any delay, and to allow examination of such animal.

In case of failure of notification of the disease, death of an animal or not allowing examination of such an animal:

- a natural person commits an offence according to Article 48, Section 4, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 300 EUR up to 800 EUR may be imposed on her/him, due to Article 48, Section 5, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 400 EUR up to 1000 EUR may be imposed on her/him

- legal or natural person-entrepreneur commits an administrative offence according to Article 50, Section 2, Letter b) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 2500 EUR up to 40 000 EUR may be imposed on her/him according to Article 50, Section 4, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 10 000 EUR up to 160 000 EUR may be imposed on her/him

Since 2000, the National Rabies Eradication Programme in compliance with WHO criteria (autumn and spring vaccination campaign) has been regularly applied on an annual basis. In this programme, the legal powers, control mechanisms, diagnostics procedures, system of notification and measures upon the disease occurrence and animal movement are laid down. The National Rabies Eradication Programme in Slovakia guarantees monitoring and directs preventive measures that ensures an effective disease control system.

3.2. Target animals and estimation of the animal population

(max. 32000 chars) :

The target animal species of this programme is the wildlife red fox and raccoon dog. The expected number of living wildlife red fox according to hunting bag is up to 35.000 animals (see Figure No. 2 in Annex No.1). The expected number of living raccoon dog is cca1400 animals. In the programme all suspected animals from both vaccinated and non-vaccinated areas (from all species declared as susceptible) are included as well.

3.3. Tests used and sampling schemes

Describe :

- a. the tests used for surveillance and monitoring, when are to be used and in which animals
- b. the sampling schemes in each area of the programme for surveillance and monitoring and details on the collection of dead animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

Serological tests:

ELISA – locally made – blocking system using biotinylated goat polyclonal antibodies for detection anti G protein antibodies

FAVN – modify with immunoperoxidase detection of virus (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

virological tests: FAT – antigen detection on impressions or smears with FITC conjugated antibodies (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

RT PCR:

Confirmation of Rabies field virus:

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Indirect immunoperoxidase technique using monoclonal antibodies: W187.5, W187.6, Z144.88

(purchased from Tübingen)

RFLP – on amplicons of pseudogene using TAQ1 restriction endonuclease (WHO, 1996)

Typing of Rabies virus:

Sequencing and phylogenetic analyses of Slovakian rabies virus field strains

Sequencing analyses using region coding nucleoprotein, phosphoprotein, matrix and glycoprotein

(4890bp) (Campos et al., 2011; Dirbakova, Veterinary Institute Zvolen Slovakia, unpublished) followed by the sequence alignment and phylogenetic analyses using Clustal V method from MegAlign Lasergene of DNASTAR Lasergene ver9 package programme

Other used tests:

- PCR method using Lyssavirus-specific primers (WHO, 1996)
- Virus cultivation on Neuro-2a cell cultures in microtitration plate.
- Visualisation of antigen is performed with indirect immunoperoxidase technique using sheep polyclonal serum (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

Monitoring of vaccination:

TTC marker detection:

Fluorescent microscopy (published by Stöhretal et al., 1990)

Diagnostic tests comply to the specific Chapter relative to rabies virus in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals 2019.

sampling scheme:

☒ all domestic, farm and wild warm-blooded animals suspicious of rabies have to be sent for laboratory examination - the whole carcass up to 50 kg or the head with first two vertebrae in the case of heavier animal

☒ from 45th day following of seasonal oral vaccination campaign the users of hunting grounds carry out the shooting of foxes intended for control of efficiency of seasonal campaign of oral antirabic vaccination of foxes. It is inevitable to submit for laboratory examination at least 1 fox per hunting ground. The needed number of submitted foxes is 4 head per 100 km²/ year from vaccination area.

☒ from 45th day following of seasonal oral vaccination campaign the users of hunting grounds carry out the shooting of foxes intended for control of rabies in wild fox population. Only virological tests shall be carried in suspected foxes from nonvaccinated area (low-risk area).

☒ the date of completion of the control of oral vaccination efficiency is usually on 90th day from the beginning of the control of oral vaccination efficiency

☒ it is necessary to wrap up the hunted fox into two impermeable packings, with an absorbent material between them and to deliver within 48 hours to the DVFA; DVFA delivers the material to the Veterinary Institute Zvolen (VI) for laboratory examination

☒ in case of injury of humans by animals – the samples must be sent by veterinary inspector for testing of presence of virus as soon as possible (or excluding of its presence); veterinary inspector informs SVFA without delay

☒ the principles for work with infection material is necessary to follow by sampling.

☒ the DVFA send to the Veterinary Institute Zvolen (VI) as soon as possible following the the samples of neural tissue from all positive animals for the purpose of confirmation of rabies virus and immediately inform the SVFA

☒ the principles for work with infection material is necessary to follow by sampling.

☒ the evaluation of the results of the vaccination campaign is done after receiving of all laboratory results by advisory body of CVO for rabies

☒ The efficiency tests of vaccination baits are performed only by VI Zvolen

Titre determination of rabies virus amount in vaccines for oral vaccination of foxes includes decimal

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dilution in the cultivation media. Susceptible cell culture BHK-21 is added to the titre vaccine and after 48-72 hour incubation, presence of the virus is visualized by immunoperoxidase staining. Reaction is assessed by an optical microscope. SAD-Bern reference virus strain of the verified batch serves as the control system. After evaluation of the titration of samples and reference virus, titre TCID50/50µl is determined by means of virus Reed-Muench quantification method. Whereas the virus titre in the vaccines is indicated in TCID50 /1ml the final titres are recalculated to this amount.

3.4. Vaccines used and vaccination schemes

Describe

- vaccination of kept animals in the framework of the eradication programme
 - vaccine(s) to be used
 - targeted population
- vaccination of wild animals:
 - definition/demarcation of the vaccination area
 - frequency and expected dates of the vaccination campaigns
 - vaccine bait(s) to be used
 - vaccine bait distribution method and designed vaccine bait density
 - vaccination of stray dogs with the vaccine(s) to be used and the targeted population

(max. 32000 chars) :

Oral vaccination of wildlife red foxes

- vaccines (type, dosage): depending on the tender - Lysvulpen a.u.v.

By air distribution:

26 baits per 1 km² applied in two lines (distance of 500 m) flying height 150 m, flying speed of 150 km/h. At by air distribution the places with the altitude above 1200 metres, water surfaces, road communications, towns and settlements are omitted.

By hand distribution:

20 baits per 1 km² on selected areas (periphery and parks of ten big towns)

- vaccination scheme: the oral vaccination is performed in two seasonal campaigns - in the spring (end of March to beginning of May) and in the autumn (end of September to beginning of November)

Vaccination of domestic animals:

- each domestic carnivore older than three months of age must be vaccinated against rabies with yearly revaccination according to Article 17 (5), (6) of Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations

- vaccines (approved) and vaccination schemes, if recommended:

Biocan R inj. a.u.v. (Biocan LR inj. a.u.v.) - from 12 weeks of age

Canigen DHA2PPi/LR inj. sicc. a.u.v.

Canvac R inj. a.u.v. - since one month of age in the case of animals born to unvaccinated mothers (illegal in SK), in otherwise the vaccination after 3rd month of age is sufficient

Eurican DHPPi2-LR inj. sicc.a.u.v. - from 3 months of age

Nobivac Rabies inj. a.u.v. cats and dogs from 4 weeks of age

Rabigen mono inj. a.u.v. - from 3 months of age

Rabisin inj. a.u.v. - since 4 weeks of age in the case of animals born to unvaccinated mothers, in otherwise from 11th weeks of age.

Biocan DHPPi+LR inj. a.u.v. - from 12 weeks of age

Biocan Novel R inj. a.u.v. - from 12 weeks of age

Biocan Novel DHPPi/L4R inj. a.u.v. - from 8 weeks of age

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Purevax Rabies inj. a.u.v. - from 12 weeks of age (only cats)
Vanguard R - inj. a.u.v. - from 12 weeks of age
Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R inj. a.u.v. - from 8 weeks of age
Versican Plus Pi/L4R inj. a.u.v. - from 6 weeks of age

3.5. Measures in case of a positive result

Please describe the measures taken and if reinforced vaccination, surveillance or monitoring are foreseen.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The measures in case of positive result on rabies are ordered by the DVFAs in compliance with the Article 8(3)(f) and Article 17(3) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll.

The respective DVFA at confirmation of rabies occurrence in domestic animals extends the previous measures for disease control by further measures (see measures taken in the case of suspicion) for disease control and determines to the natural and legal persons the date for their fulfilment by which

a) it defines a rabies outbreak,

b) it orders in that outbreak:

1. marking it with warning signages with wording "CAUTION RABIES!"

2. killing of susceptible animals which came into contact with an animal positive to the presence of rabies antigen,

3. to perform the registration of dogs and cats and protective vaccination of dogs, cats and other carnivore over 3 months of age which have not been vaccinated against rabies so far or since the last antirabies vaccination or re-vaccination period elapsed, provided that they did not come into contact or they did not have the possibility to come into contact with an animal positive to the presence of rabies antigen,

4. to perform protective vaccination of susceptible domestic animals; it will permit to use of the milk and other products obtained from them for the human consumption and feeding purposes only following gained immunity (this period will be stated based on the date of vaccine manufacturer).

After confirmation of rabies occurrence in wildlife, the respective DVFA extends the previous measures for disease control by further measures (see measures taken in the case of suspicion above for disease control and determines to the natural and legal persons the date for their fulfilment. by which

a) it defines a rabies outbreak,

b) it orders in an outbreak the points listed above (points 1,2 and 3) and in addition, it orders:

4. to perform protective vaccination of cattle, sheep and goats in pasture and to stable the animals until gaining the immunity (this period will be stated based on the date of vaccine manufacturer).

The holding or cadastre of the municipality or other geographically defined area, in which the rabid animal was kept, hunted or found, is defined as a rabies outbreak, based on confirmation of rabies occurrence by laboratory diagnostics.

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3.6 Awareness campaigns and other measures

- Awareness campaigns :
 - Please describe the awareness raising campaigns to be implemented
- Other measures :
 - Please describe measures to be implemented to reduce the contact with infected animals
 - Please describe coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, where relevant

(max. 32000 chars) :

The SVFA routinely sends letters to all relevant competent authorities and the neighbouring countries to notify them in advance about the timing of each oral vaccination campaign. Information about rabies and vaccination campaigns of oral vaccination of foxes and raccoon dogs are available on the website of the Slovak state veterinary and food Administration, The public (citizens) are informed via public channels (newspaper, TV, radio, leaflets- also in cooperation with representatives of cities (mayors), meetings with hunters, information for breeders of animals (info from privat veterinarians). awareness raising (AR) activities (awareness campaign) are limited to: (i) purchase of services to print leaflets and posters; (ii) purchase of information road panels; (iii) purchase of production and broadcasting of radio, television and internet spots

B. General information

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

Describe :

- competent authorities (CA) involved in the implementation of the programme and their responsibilities
- other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the programme, their role and their communication channels with the CA.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic - approves eradication programmes (Art. 5(f) and 46 of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. on veterinary care as amended; (hereinafter only "Act No. 39/2007 Coll.")

State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic (SVFA) – drafts eradication programmes (Art. 6(5)(f) and 46 of the Act 39/2007 Coll.) and manages, directs and controls the performance of the state administration by the District Veterinary and Food Administrations (DVFA`s) (Art. 6 (2)(a) of the Act 39/2007 Coll.)

Veterinary authorities (SVFA, DVFA`s) – order measures in the case of suspicion of disease or in the case

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of the outbreak according to drawn up and approved programmes (Art. 17(3) and (4) of the Act 39/2007 Coll.) as well as co-ordinate, control and evaluate the oral vaccination programme.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars):

According to the valid act on veterinary care the dog owner is obliged to ensure permanent identification of the dog bred in Slovakia by a transponder that meets the technical requirements according to a special regulation, before the first change of dog ownership, but no later than 12 weeks of age. The information must be inserted into the database within 24 hours by the private veterinarian, who has provided the identification procedure – the insertion of the data regarding such dog into the database of pet animals.

A pet, which is the subject of the movement, must be identified and accompanied by a pet passport and its identification data must be registered in the central register of pet animals. The computer database for the central register of companion animals is operated by the Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons of Slovakia.

In Slovakia, the Central Register of Pet Animals is created for dogs.

Slovakia applies conditions for movement of companion animals within EU and conditions for import of companion animals and other animals susceptible to rabies from the third countries in compliance with valid EU and national legislation.

3. Historical data on the epidemiological situation, including:

a. a concise description of the following indicators:

- number of confirmed cases by listed animal species (excludes bat cases), during at least the past 5 years
- maps indicating the distribution of confirmed cases referred before per year, during at least the past 5 years
- disease control strategy and results of control measures, during at least the past 5 years
- number of rabies cases in previously (last year) free areas compared to previous year
- % of seroconversion in target species (juveniles/adult separately) compared to previous year
- % of vaccine uptake in target species (juveniles/adult separately) compared to previous year

b. an assessment of the evolution of the indicators along the years is requested as well as obstacles and constraints identified that hamper the progress of eradication.

(max. 32000 chars):

The first oral antirabic fox's vaccination programme started in 1994. This programme ran in two campaigns, one in spring, the other one in autumn. Fix-wing airplane and by hand application were used as well. For this programme the vaccine baits containing the virus strain Vnukovo 32/107 and SAD Bern was used. In consequence of lack of money that programme was stopped after sixth campaign in 1998. After stopping the previous oral vaccination programme the red fox rabies outbreaks rise rapidly on 387 during the year 1999. Pursuant that bad rabies situation it has been decided to start with the new oral vaccination programme against rabies for targeted species – wildlife red fox. The current national programme of rabies eradication, which includes the oral antirabic vaccination programme of wildlife fox, has been set up in the spring 2000. The number of outbreaks of rabies during

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the time of running this programme has been decreased from 375 outbreaks in the beginning on 87 in 2001 or 114 in 2002 and on 48 in 2005 or 4 in 2006 respectively. From August 2006 to December 2012 no case of rabies was detected (see Figure No. 1 in Annex No. 1). In January and April 2013, totally 4 cases of rabies in foxes were confirmed in the vicinity of the border with Poland. In the year 2014 no case of rabies was detected. Five cases were detected in the year 2015 (near to border with Poland - red fox). In the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 a 2021 no case of rabies was detected.

The epidemiological situation of the rabies in wildlife according to established oral vaccination programme was markedly on the mend in 2000 and 2001. Consequently, the rise of the immunity status of the fox population has increased the fox density. During this fast growth of the fox population, the increase of rabies positive foxes in such level at first time since beginning the programme has been recorded (295 positive foxes in 2003). According to evaluation of the rabies situation and applied programme, it was analyzed that the increase of red fox rabies outbreaks was caused also by low efficiency of used SAD VA-1 strain vaccine baits in autumn 2002 and spring 2003. After evaluation of that unfavorable stay SVFA SR in 2003 has decided to change used vaccine baits for other baits, containing the reliable strain SAD Bern, for the next years. During the year 2006 there were reported 4 cases of rabies in the Slovak Republic. The same vaccine baits containing vaccination strain SAD Bern is using also after the completion new tendering for vaccine baits' supplier, according to national legislation. The Slovak Republic was free from rabies from the year 2009 to January 2013 (declared on the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) meeting in June 2009 – and also fulfilled the requirements the OIE freedom requirements (Terrestrial Animal Health Code O.I.E.). In the year 2014 no case of rabies was detected. Five cases were detected in the year 2015 (near to border with Poland - red fox). In the years 2016-2021) no case of rabies was detected.

Slovakia was recognised as a free rabies country as of 01.07.2021 (self – declaration)

<https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/07/2021-07-slovakia-rabies-eng.pdf>

Slovakia is also listed in the annex III (whole country free from rabies virus)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases

EUR-Lex - 32021R0620 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

The Slovak Republic within the co-financed programme examines for the detection of biomarker and seropositivity only foxes with permanent teeth, thus only foxes considered adult. Young foxes are examined only in case of suspicion for rabies (overall change of health status, behaviour changes, neural signs, paralysis and such-like) by the method FAT or in case of positivity also by further laboratory methods. Regarding age structure of the foxes investigated in SR, young foxes with primary teeth are excluded from the monitoring. Therefore young foxes born in April, that are 4 – 5 months old during the spring vaccination campaign are excluded. However, the same still sub-adult animals of the age about 10 – 12 months are included in the monitoring of autumn vaccination campaign carrying out in January and February of the next year, therefore the category “juvenile” is included in the monitoring.

The young fox definitely leaves the maternal lair in the age of 3 – 4 months, primary teeth are changed into permanent teeth in the age of 9 – 10 months. Therefore, sub-adult foxes are the foxes of the age of approximately 4 – 9 months? Such foxes are investigated just in case of the suspicion on rabies (overall change of the health status, behavioural changes, neural signs, paralysis, etc.) by FAT method or in case of positivity also by other investigation methods. The foxes investigated on effectiveness of oral vaccination (TTC, ELISA) are minimum 10 months old. Young foxes, born in spring of the current year, receiving vaccines are considered to be adult even during autumn campaign of the current year (they have permanent teeth) and therefore in the following control of effectiveness they are investigated as

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adults

Oral vaccination is carried out on whole vaccination territory of the Slovak Republic at the same time according to recommendations of vaccine production companies. Depending on both climate conditions and nature of vaccine, it is not possible to change the date of vaccination. Slovakia regularly and in advance informs neighbouring countries (including Poland) about the vaccination. At present, from the side of neighbouring countries there are no obstacles and limitations in realisation of the Programme. Cooperation with the neighbouring countries (Poland, Hungary) consists of information exchange on the time of oral vaccination, while the oral vaccination is carried out approximately at the same time.

The population of foxes and raccoon dogs has been growing steadily since the eradication program began.

The fox population's density estimated on the number of hunted animals during the programme has been increased from 19.500 to 23.000 foxes in 2001 and begun to grow very in the second half of year 2002 and the first half of year 2003.

In 2021, there were already approx. 35,000 foxes and 2,000 raccoon dogs. The number of vaccines, 26 vaccines/km² for aerial distribution and 20 vaccines/km² for manual distribution, is relatively low by taking into account a high density of foxes and a high number of other animals for which vaccines are attractive.

The fox population has been related to the comedown of the favourable progress of the rabies situation. The distribution of vaccination baits is/was planned in two campaigns using by-air and by-hand distribution in spring and autumn.

The effectiveness of the oral vaccination programme is checked and will be evaluated by laboratory examinations of randomly hunted or perished foxes and raccoon dog and foxes, raccoon dog hunted within the target-monitoring period. In case of positive confirmation, an expert group may decide the necessity of emergency vaccination in determined risk area.

The percentage of bait uptake and by raccoon dogs is acceptable and it is also within figures which are presented by many of members of GF-TADs by presenting the results of oral vaccination of foxes
The population of foxes and raccoon dogs has been growing steadily since the eradication program began.

The fox population's density estimated on the number of hunted animals during the programme has been increased from 19.500 to 23.000 foxes in 2001 and begun to grow very in the second half of year 2002 and the first half of year 2003.

In 2021, there were already approx. 35,000 foxes and 2,000 raccoon dogs. The number of vaccines, 26 vaccines/km² for aerial distribution and 20 vaccines/km² for manual distribution, is relatively low by taking into account a high density of foxes and a high number of other animals for which vaccines are attractive.

The fox population has been related to the comedown of the favourable progress of the rabies situation. The distribution of vaccination baits is/was planned in two campaigns using by-air and by-hand distribution in spring and autumn.

The effectiveness of the oral vaccination programme is checked and will be evaluated by laboratory examinations of randomly hunted or perished foxes and raccoon dog and foxes, raccoon dog hunted within the target-monitoring period. In case of positive confirmation, an expert group may decide the necessity of emergency vaccination in determined risk area.

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4. Control on the implementation of the programme and Intermediate targets

4.1 Control on the implementation of the programme

Describe the system to control the implementation of the programme:

- flight tracks
- methods to be used to assess the correct vaccine bait distribution
- strategy to monitor the effectiveness of the vaccination as regards serology and vaccine bait uptake in the targeted animal population, the sampling schemes, with details on the collection of dead animals, and diagnostic methods
- measures to ensure the maintenance of the quality of the vaccine bait before it is distributed particularly as regards titration of the vaccine baits and controls of the cold chain (official controls to be performed on the vaccine)

4.2 Intermediate targets of the eradication programme:

- expected annual decrease of the number of outbreaks
- expected number of confirmed outbreaks in areas with outbreaks during the previous year
- expected percentage of sero-conversion in targeted animal populations
- expected percentage of vaccine uptake in animals of the targeted species

(max. 32000 chars):

The Veterinary Officer of District Veterinary and Food Administration Poprad (DVFA) carry out the

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supervision on by air and by hand application of the vaccine baits. The supplier handed out the vaccine baits on the airport or at the DVFA Office to the DVFA Veterinary Officer, which checks the stay of repair of the vaccine baits, their packaging, check batch number and number of supplied vaccine baits for each supply and may take the sample of the baits. The results of their checks and sampling of the baits (if done) he report next day morning to SVFA by e-mail. The contractor for aerial distribution shall provide the recorded flight route data to the DVFA at the end of each distribution day. Human resources: The Head of the Animal health protection Department at the District Veterinary and Food Administration Poprad will be a professional coordinator of vaccination by air for vaccinated area of the Slovak Republic and professional coordinator of vaccination by hand of the Poprad region. The Heads of the Animal health protection Departments at the District Veterinary and Food Administrations Prešov, Košice – city, Poprad will be the professional coordinators for vaccination by hand. Coordinator ensures specific tasks on the concerned area. In particular, contact with the suppliers company, informing respective authorities at the district level, ensuring control of the delivery of the vaccine, collection of samples of vaccination batches and surveillance upon the way of performance of laying of vaccination baits by means of veterinary inspectors of animal health of the concerned DVFAs and evaluation of the Campaign of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies. The coordinator or the veterinary inspector of DVFA accredited by him, latest in the morning prior beginning of the flights, in frame of the Operational Meeting will evaluate the situation and weather forecast and shall determine on the beginning or interruption of flight laying of the vaccination baits. Suppliers company and SVFA SR shall be informed about it. Vaccination baits can be laid at the temperature of +2°C up to +20°C.

The coordinator shall ensure completion of the Report on the process of vaccination by air of each flying day, concerning:

- Beginning and termination of particular flights (place, date and time),
- Number of flights, /
- Interruption of flights,
- Temperature of air at the beginning and at the end of flight laying of the vaccination baits,
- Number of used vaccination baits,
- Name and batch of used vaccination baits,
- Number of vaccination baits taken and sent for laboratory investigation of virus titer of rabies in the vaccination baits necessary for the control of effectiveness of the vaccination baits and the number of production batch, if the samples were taken,
- Eventually found insufficiencies.

It is necessary to send the Report to the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic on the next working day until 10:00 a.m.

Bioveta SK, spol. s r.o., Nitra shall submit GPS (Global Positioning System) record, from which the area of layed vaccination baits and the area where the vaccination baits were not layed is apparent. These GPS records in map scale 1:200 000 of each flight day from the summary of flight days of airport Poprad and summary of air vaccination of the whole oral vaccination campaign, are daily sent to SVFA SR.

Vaccination baits are in the time of expenditure from the manufacturing corporation, transport to the stocks and in assigned stocks in the frozen state (in the temperature of - 12°C and bellow). It is necessary to lay the vaccine, taken from the freezing stock, into the vaccination area latest until 24 hours. The vaccination bait, under the condition of common manipulation, is harmless for the human. Vaccine contains attenuated strain of rabies virus. If the content of the blister would get in contact with hands, it is necessary to wash hands with soap and water immediately. If the content of the blister would get in contact with the mucous membrane of the mouth, nose or eyes, it is necessary to immediately find out a medical attendance. Protective gloves are indispensable in manipulation with the vaccination bait from the security point of view and in order to prevent the transmission of human scent to the vaccination bait. Used protective gloves and other material in contact with the vaccination bait have to be destroyed by incineration.

Sample of the vaccination baits shall be taken by the coordinator or the competent veterinary inspector, in compliance with a separate methodological letter (Sampling and dispatching of samples of the

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vaccination baits within control of effectiveness of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies (regularly updated) and shall ensure transport of the samples in frozen state to the VI Zvolen. The samples shall be taken also in case of any suspicion of incorrect manipulation with the vaccination baits (in storage, transportation, etc.). All samples of the vaccination baits shall be taken as an official sample.

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C. Targets

1. Tests to be carried out for the monitoring of the vaccination effectiveness

Targets for year : **2023**

Country	Region	Animal Species	Type of test	Test description	Number of tests	Expected number of positive results	% positive	
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	SK	Fox	serological test	ELISA	600	250	42	X
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	SK	Raccoon dogs	serological test	ELISA	25	10	40	X
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	SK	Fox	presence of biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	600	300	50	X
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	SK	Raccoon dogs	presence of biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	25	10	40	X
Totals :					1 250	570		
							Add a new row	
					Total tests Serological (FAVN) in MS	0		
					Total tests Serological (FAVN) in TC	0		
					Total tests Serological (ELISA) in MS	625		
					Total tests Serological (ELISA) in TC	0		
					Total tests Serological (Other) in MS	0		
					Total tests Serological (Other) in TC	0		
					Total tests presence of biomarker (Tetracycline in bones) in MS	625		
					Total tests presence of biomarker (Tetracycline in bones) in TC	0		
					Total tests presence of biomarker (Other) in MS	0		

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Total tests presence of biomarker (Other) in TC

0

2. Surveillance tests to be carried out

Targets for year: **2023**

Country	Region	Animal Species	Category	Test description	Number of tests	Expected number of positive results	
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Fox	Hunted animals (active s	FAT	550	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Fox	Suspect or dead animals	FAT	600	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Raccoon dogs	Hunted animals (active s	FAT	10	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Raccoon dogs	Suspect or dead animals	FAT	15	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Fox	Suspect or dead animals	Virus characterisation test	10	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	Fox	Suspect or dead animals	Virus isolation test	10	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	other	Suspect or dead animals	FAT	500	0	X
SLOVENSKA REPUE	SK	suspected	Suspect or dead animals	PCR tests	200	0	X
				Total	1 895	0	
					Add a new row		
					Total tests FAT in MS	1 675	
					Total tests FAT in TC	0	

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Total PCR tests in MS	200
Total PCR tests in TC	0
Total tests Virus characterisation tests in MS	10
Total tests Virus characterisation tests in TC	0
Total tests Virus isolation tests in MS	10
Total tests Virus isolation tests in TC	0
Total other tests MS	0
Total other tests TC	0

3

Wildlife oral vaccination to be carried out

Targets for year: **2023**

Country	Region / area	Products used	Number of doses	Size of the vaccination area (km ²)	
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	SK	SAD Bern strain	735592	28 376	X
Total			735 592		
				Add a new row	
Oral vaccine and baits made of SAD Bern strain in MS			735 592		
Oral vaccine and baits made of SAG2 strain in MS			0		
Oral vaccine and baits made of SAD B19 strain in MS			0		
Oral vaccine and baits made of SAD Clone attenuated in MS			0		
Oral vaccine and baits made of SPBN GASGAS strain in MS			0		

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Total Vaccines distributed	735 592	
Purchase and distribution of oral vaccine and bait in neighbouring TC	0	

(max. 32000 chars) :

4 Official control of oral vaccines to be carried out

Targets for year: **2023**

Country	Number of batches distributed	Number of batches controlled by the CA	Number of virus titrations performed	
SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA	10	10	10	X
Total	10		10	
			Add a new row	
		Vaccine titration tests in MS	10	
		Vaccine titration tests in TC	0	

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2. 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 samples within the framework are taken by the official veterinarians. Rabies programme will be funded from the budget of the State Veterinary and Food Administration and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. The state laboratory perform the testing of official the

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samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the central veterinary service -State Veterinary and Food Administration (state budget).

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 samples within the framework are taken by the official veterinarians. Rabies programme will be funded from the budget of the State Veterinary and Food Administration and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. The state laboratory (reference laboratory VI Zvolen) perform the testing of official the samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the central veterinary service -State Veterinary and Food Administration (state budget).

c) Implementing entities - **compensation**

(max. 32000 chars):

serological tests: ELISA – home made – blocking system using biotinylated goat polyclonal antibodies for detection anti G protein antibodies
FAVN – modify with immunoperoxidase detection of virus (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

virological tests: FAT – antigen detection on impressions or smears with FITC conjugated antibodies (WHO 1996 OIE 2000)

RT PCR:

Confirmation of Rabies field virus:

Indirect immunoperoxidase technique using monoclonal antibodies: W187.5, W187.6, Z144.88(purchased from Tübingen)

RFLP – on amplicons of pseudogene using TAQ1 restriction endonuclease (WHO, 1996)

Typing of Rabies virus:

Sequencing and phylogenetic analyses of Slovakian rabies virus field strains

Sequencing analyses using region coding nucleoprotein, phosphoprotein, matrix and glycoprotein (4890bp) (Campos et al., 2011; Dirbakova, Veterinary institute Zvolen Slovakia, unpublished) followed by the sequence alignment and phylogenetic analyses using Clustal V method from MegAlign Lasergene of DNASTAR Lasergene ver9 package program

other used tests: PCR method using Lyssavirus-specific primers (WHO, 1996)

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Virus cultivation on Neuro-2a cell cultures in microtitration plate. Visualisation of antigen is performed with indirect immunoperoxidase technique using sheep polyclonal serum (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

monitoring of vaccination:

Serology post vaccination:

ELISA – home made – blocking system using biotinylated goat polyclonal antibodies for detection anti G protein antibodies

FAVN – modify with immunoperoxidase detection of virus (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

TTC marker detection:

Fluorescent microscopy (published by Stöhretal et al., 1990)

Evaluation of bait intake:

3rd, 8th and 14th day following by hand distribution of vaccination baits is evaluated bait intake in selected areas of extent of 1 km² (4 areas)

sampling scheme:

- ☒ all domestic, farm and wild warm-blooded animals suspicious of rabies have to be sent for laboratory examination - the whole carcass up to 50 kg or the head with first two vertebrae in the case of heavier animal
- ☒ from 45th day following of seasonal oral vaccination campaign the users of hunting grounds carry out the shooting of foxes intended for control of efficiency of seasonal campaign of oral antirabic vaccination of foxes. It is inevitable to submit for laboratory examination at least 1 fox per hunting ground. The needed number of submitted foxes is 4 head per 100 km²/ year from vaccination area.
- ☒ from 45th day following of seasonal oral vaccination campaign the users of hunting grounds carry out the shooting of foxes intended for control of rabies in wild fox population. The needed number of submitted foxes is 4 head per 100 km² / year from nonvaccination area (low-risk area). Only virological tests shall be carried in foxes from nonvaccinated area (low-risk area).
- ☒ the date of completion of the control of oral vaccination efficiency is usually on 90th day from the beginning of the control of oral vaccination efficiency
- ☒ it is necessary to wrap up the hunted fox into two impermeable packings, with an absorbent material between them and to deliver within 48 hours to the DVFA; DVFA delivers the material to the respective Veterinary and Food Institute (VFI) for laboratory examination
- ☒ the principles for work with infection material is necessary to follow by sampling.
- ☒ the Veterinary and Food Institutes (VFI) send to the Veterinary Institute Zvolen (VI) within 7 days following the IF testing the samples of neural tissue from all positive animals for the purpose of confirmation of rabies virus and immediately inform the SVFA
- ☒ the VFI send to VI by the end of the first week following ending the monitoring period the samples of Veterinary and Food Institute (VFI) for laboratory examination
- ☒ the principles for work with infection material is necessary to follow by sampling.
- ☒ the Veterinary and Food Institutes (VFI) send to the Veterinary Institute Zvolen (VI) within 7 days following the IF testing the samples of neural tissue from all positive animals for the purpose of confirmation of rabies virus and immediately inform the SVFA
- ☒ the VFI send to VI by the end of the first week following ending the monitoring period the samples of transudate or cruor and part of jaw-bone from all examined animals intended for the control of efficiency of oral antirabic vaccination of foxes
- ☒ the evaluation of the results of the vaccination campaign is done after receiving of all laboratory results by advisory body of CVO for rabies
- ☒ The efficiency tests of vaccination baits are performed only by VI Zvolen

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Titre determination of rabies virus amount in vaccines for oral vaccination of foxes includes decimal dilution in the cultivation media. Susceptible cell culture BHK-21 is added to the titre vaccine and after 48-72 hour incubation, presence of the virus is visualized by immunoperoxidase staining. Reaction is assessed by an optical microscope. SAD-Bern reference virus strain of the verified batch serves as the control system. After evaluation of the titration of samples and reference virus, titre TCID50/50µl is determined by means of virus Reed-Muench quantification method. Whereas the virus titre in the vaccines is indicated in TCID50 /1ml the final titres are recalculated to this amount.

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?

(max. 32000 chars) :

The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic pays lump sum to persons which deliver cadavers of animals for sampling.
The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
– provides subsidies to breeders in compliance with the Act No. 280/2017 Coll. regarding authorities of the state institutions providing support to the agriculture sector and rural development,
– Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic on support of enterprise in agriculture
Insurance companies
– meet losses within insurance contract

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Oral vaccination of wildlife red foxes: vaccines (type, dosage): chosed by the tender - Lysvulpen a.u.v.
By air distribution: chosed by the tender - private firm AERO SLOVAKIA a.s, Aiport Janikovce. 949 07 NITRA. Slovakia.
By hand distribution: official veterinarians and hunters
Rabies programme will be funded from the budget of the State Veterinary and Food Administration and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

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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:

awareness campaign:
purchase of services to
print leaflets and posters;
 purchase of information
road panels;
 purchase of production
and broadcasting of
radio, television,
newspapers/printed
media and internet spots

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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
	Annex 1cofin 2023.doc	Annex1cofin2023.doc	568 kb
	Map of the vaccinated area 2023.doc	Mapofthevaccinatedarea2023.doc	409 kb
	SK rabies vaccination - methodological guidance - example.doc	SKrabiesvaccination-methodologicalguidance-example.doc	370 kb
	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
		Total size of attachments :	1636 kb