



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

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

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member State: GERMANY

Disease Avian Influenza

This program is multi annual: No

Request of Community co-financing for year: 2023

Request year for multiannual programme 2023

1. Contact data

Name

Phones

E-mail

Your job type head of division within the CA:

Submission Date
19/05/2022 14:33:06

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

1.1.1 Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

1.1.2 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):

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) Unit 322, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health), the highest Länder authorities responsible for veterinary matters.

At federal level, veterinary affairs are the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) based in Bonn. The relevant department in the Federal Ministry is Department 3: Food, Food Safety and Animal Health, in particular Division 32: 'Animal health, animal welfare'.

At Land level, the veterinary administration consists of

the Minister/Senator responsible for veterinary matters as the supreme Land veterinary authority, the President of the Government or an authority of the middle/higher authority of the same level

Administrative level as intermediate veterinary authority (this intermediate/higher administrative level does not exist in all Länder);

the district or municipal veterinary office as the lower veterinary authority.

1.1.3 Description of System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars):

Holdings with kept chickens, ducks, geese, pheasants, guinea fowl, partridges, pigeons, turkeys, quails and ratites are registered in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, as amended, and with the Ordinance on protection against the spread of animal diseases in livestock movements (Viehverkehrsverordnung) of 26 May 2020, as amended.

Any changes must be notified immediately. The obligation to notify applies irrespective of the size of the holding or flock and the intended use of the birds.

In addition, all keepers must inform the competent authority whether the poultry are kept in barns or outdoors (Geflügelpest-Verordnung [Avian Influenza Ordinance], in the version published on 15 October 2018 (BGBl. I, pp. 1665, 2664)).

Registration of an establishment:

The competent authority shall assign an individual registration number to each holding and register the establishments in a register; provided that the operator has provided the required information. Under Section 26(2) of the Livestock Transport Regulation, a registration number for a holding is allocated in accordance with the municipality code register. Establishments with kept animals of the species listed above which have already been registered by the competent authority before 21 April 2021 shall be considered as:

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

registered in accordance with Article 279 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

1.1.4 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. So please Refere 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):

This programme aims to generate annual observation data.

- the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (AIV) in wild bird populations in Germany through passive (virological) surveillance; and
- the presence of AIV infection of subtypes H5 or H7 in poultry populations in Germany through active (serological) surveillance.

The data will be used to inform the animal health authorities about the current status of HPAI in the country, thus contributing to the timely establishment of enhanced early detection and appropriate biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of HPAI in poultry holdings. In addition, the data support cross-sectoral cooperation and communication between animal and public health and occupational safety and health. The active poultry programme is designed as a compromise between a representative (all Länder and regions) and a risk-based approach (concentration of sampling intensity in regions with high poultry density). In particular, the programme focuses on historically 'nuralgic' points during the most recent HPAI epidemic in the federal states of Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Brandenburg (puten and ducks management).

Suspect serum samples (positive or doubtful results in initial testing (ELISA)) are first tested for H5 and H7-specific antibodies in a haemagglutination inhibition test (HIT) at the Land test centres before reagents are tested by the Avian Influenza National Reference Laboratory (NRL-AI) at the FLI to confirm the results.

If the NRL-AI confirms H5 or H7 seropositive results, the competent authorities must conduct virological tests on the flocks affected in order to rule out florid infections with notifiable influenza viruses. This involves taking at least 60 (combined oropharyngeal/cloacal) swab samples from the suspect epidemiological units of these flocks and testing them for the presence of AIV.

The results from active, serological monitoring are sent in good time, in an appropriate digital format, by the Länder to the BMEL and the NRL-AI, so that they can be prepared for forwarding to the European Commission and EFSA.

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

In north-western Germany (Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, there is a preponderance of highly integrated commercial poultry holdings of chickens (laying hens, broilers) and turkeys (breeding turkeys and turkeys for fattening) in particular. The poultry population density is very high in these regions. Commercial fattening farms for ducks are widespread in north-east and south-east Germany. Geese are fattened on a

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

small number of larger holdings in various Länder. There are only a few commercial ratite farms scattered across various regions of Germany, But pedigree and ornamental fowl micro-holdings are widespread throughout the country. Figure 1 shows the average poultry density (number of poultry/Land) broken down by species.

The sampling plan was drawn up on the basis of holdings with > 100 birds/flock. The latest census data available by DeStatis date back to 2020. Unfortunately, the census did not stratified according to the size of the holding, i.e. animals per holding. On the basis of direct contacts with the ministries of agriculture in the federal states, it can be assumed that the majority of holdings (> 70 %) are herds with fewer than 100 animals. The census also did not distinguish between fattening farms and farms or free-range farms.

Poultry category	Number of holdings	Number of animals
Laying hens	47.100	60.300.000
Broilers	3.828	111.000.000
Turkeys	1.907	13.200.000
Ducks	4.955	3.000.000
Geese	4.507	570.000

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The measures implementing Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 on the AI-specific surveillance of poultry flocks include clinical parameters for syndromic surveillance and risk-based serological and virological sample testing. The parameters for risk-based sampling are poultry population density (Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia), proximity to areas with a lot of movement of wild waterfowl populations (increased risk of contact between poultry and wild waterfowl: Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) and AIV infection hot spots known from previous tests (Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg). The risk of exposure to AIV from the wild bird population is taken into account by selecting free-range holdings for testing in preference to barn holdings.

(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.

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.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

In accordance with the requirements of the aforementioned EU Delegated Regulation, a serologically based active screening of poultry populations is carried out in Germany. Poultry holdings to be sampled are selected by the Länder in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 2.1.3. The number of holdings to be sampled per Land is laid down in this document (Figure.2, see Annex). The figures presented here proved to be meaningful in previous years and feasible in terms of sampling by the Länder. For the allocation of poultry holdings to be sampled, census data were used as a basis for an estimate by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) for 2016/2017. Holdings were broken down by size, and holdings with > 100 birds/flock were selected.

The sample size in general meets the minimum requirements of a risk-based sampling concept. The minimum examination figures shown for poultry monitoring are to be understood as the compulsory test objective for each Land. All sectors and regions of the poultry industry are sampled. Even though the census data were trimmed as regards the size of flock (> 100 birds/flock), non-commercial holdings with only a few birds can also be sampled. All production-related species of poultry (including commercial ratite farms) are taken into account. In comparison with the previous test programme, the following differences should be noted:

- Sampling expanded to include approximately 10 % more holdings; Particular attention was paid in this connection to Länder which were harder hit by the last HPAI epidemics in 2016/17 and 2020/21.
- Shift of emphasis from turkey holdings to duck and laying hen holdings, in particular free-range holdings. In the recent epidemics, turkey holdings served more as sentinels for acute, clinically manifest infections and were less useful as part of an early-warning system. The number of free-range holdings is increasingly rapidly in Germany; Initial contacts with AI viruses from the wild bird population are therefore more likely to occur in these holdings.
- Reduction of ratite sampling. Sampling these birds is not easy and can also be dangerous. However, in Germany ratites do not yet appear to play a role as sentinels of the possible entry of AIV from wild bird populations or indeed as effectors for the spread of AI viruses.

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

2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS (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	Methodology of laboratory analysis	
Germany	9 457	228	1	0	230	HI-test (H5)	X
Germany	9 457	228	1	0	230	HI-test (H7)	X
Germany	9 457	80	10	800	800	PCR test	X
Germany	9 457	80	10	0	20	Virus isolation test	X
Total					3 560		
						ADD a new row	

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

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
 (b) Refer 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 holding companies of one category of poultry concerned in NUTS2 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	720	720	Methodology of laboratory analysis	E
Germany	2 550	72	1	0	70	HI-test (H5)	X
Germany	2 550	72	1	0	70	HI-test (H7)	X
Germany	2 550	35	10	350	350	PCR test	X
Germany	2 550	72	10	0	30	Virus isolation test	X
Total					1 240		
ADD a new row							

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
 (b) Refer 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 holding companies of one category of poultry concerned in NUTS2 region.

Delete this category

Category: **ratites**

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)

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

NUTS (2) (b)	1 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	Methodology of laboratory analysis	
Germany	57	25	10	250	250	ELISA test	X
Germany	57	25	1	0	25	HI-test (H5)	X
Germany	57	25	1	0	25	HI-test (H7)	X
Germany	57	5	10	50	50	PCR test	X
Germany	57	5	10	0	5	Virus isolation test	X
Fot 1 a					355		
						ADD a new row	

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

(b) Refer 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 holding companies of one category of poultry concerned in NUTS2 region.

ADD category

Totals	5 155	4450

2.2.2 Ducks, GEESE AND FARMED GAME BIRDS (WATERFOWL e.g. Mallard) HOLDINGS (a) to be sampled.

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

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

Targets for year **2023**

Category: **fattening geese**

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 ANC 1 geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of samples	Total number of tests	Methodology of laboratory analysis	
Germany	639	128	20	2 560	2 560	ELISA test	X
Germany	639	128	2	0	250	HI-test (H5)	X
Germany	639	128	2	0	250	HI-test (H7)	X
Germany	639	25	20	500	500	PCR test	X
Germany	639	25	20	0	40	Virus isolation test	X
Total					3 600		
ADD a new row							
<p>(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</p> <p>(b) Reference 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</p>							

Category: **fattening ducks**

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)

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

NUTS (2) (t) >	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	Methodology of laboratory analysis	
Germany	724	177	20	3 200	3 200	ELISA test	X
Germany	724	177	2	0	320	HI-test (H5)	X
Germany	724	177	2	0	320	HI-test (H7)	X
Germany	724	25	20	500	500	PCR test	X
Germany	724	25	20	0	25	Virus isolation test	X
Total					4 365		
ADD a new row							

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

(b) Reference 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 I a categor)

Totals	Total number of tests	Total number of samples
Total ducks and geese and farmed game birds 2023	7 965	6 760

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

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

Grand Total ELISA	9010
Grand Total agar	0
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	895
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	895
Grand Total Virus isolation test	120
Grand Total PCR test	2 200
Grand Total Samplings	11 210

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 specify 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):

Holdings with chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and other captive birds (e.g. ratite holdings, zoos) shall be sampled in accordance with Annex II to the Del. Regulation 2020/689 sampled and tested. The sampling and initial testing (ELISA) of flocks are carried out by the relevant authorities in the Länder (e.g. poultry health services, veterinary offices).

None of the sampling plans are limited to a specific period of the year. The obligation to plan and carry out sampling in accordance with the overall plan submitted was left to the Länder. The Länder are free to adapt sampling to the specific regional structure of poultry production. Sampling of larger lots is facilitated by the taking of individual blood samples during the slaughter process in slaughterhouses. In addition, in the case of poultry on smaller holdings which do not have access to slaughterhouses, blood samples shall be taken through visits to the holding by representatives of the competent authority. If an active serological screening gives indications for infection of subtypes H5 and/or H7, consecutive oropharyngeal and cloacal swab samples shall be taken by the competent authority for follow-up virological follow-up during subsequent visits.

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

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)

All diagnostic tests are based on the provisions of the previous EU Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza (2006/437/EC) in accordance with the lists of authorised diagnostic procedures published by the European Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (EU-RL). For testing all poultry sera, commercially available, indirect or competitive ELISA procedures, approved and batch monitored, indirect or competitive, for the respective poultry species in Germany after testing by the NRL-AI are used (a batch-specific list of diagnostics approved in Germany can be found at [HYPERLINK "http://www.fli.de"www.fli.de](http://www.fli.de)). Sera which test positive in an ELISA are HI tested for specific H5 and H7 antigens recommended and produced by the EU-RL. The NRL-AI forwards aliquots of these antigens for exclusive use, i.e. non-commercial use in the monitoring programme, to the state testing facilities of the Länder. This programme estimates approximately 10 % of worthy ELISA responses for chickens and turkeys and 20 % for ducks and geese. Such conspicuous serum samples are first examined in the HAH test at the provincial testing centres and examined at the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at the FLI (NRL-AI) in order to clarify the results. The quality of tests at all test centres is monitored through national ring tests conducted by the NRL-AI. If the NRL-AI confirms H5 or H7 seropositive results, the Länder conduct compulsory virological tests on the populations affected in order to exclude florid infections. In this case, swab samples (combined oropharyngeal/cloacal swabs) from at least 60 animals must be taken from the conspicuous epidemiological units in these flocks and first tested in pools of samples en 5 for the presence of AIV. Virological tests are then carried out using RT-qPCR. First of all, the presence of AIV must be checked in an approved batch-reviewed and commercial M-Gen-qPCR-specific RT-qPCR after testing by the NRL-AI. The samples intended for virological testing may be “pooled” up to a maximum of 5 samples/pool without fear of a significant loss of sensitivity in terms of qualitative results (positive/negative) (validation of the NRL-AI).

Purification testing of all samples tested positive in the generic RT-qPCR shall be carried out by the NRL-AI. To that end, the Länder send swab fluid and RNA already extracted from the individual sample(s) to the NRL-AI. The detection of notifiable AIV requires the competent veterinary office to carry out follow-up epidemiological investigations.

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

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

3.1.1 Designation of the authorities in Charge of supervising, coordinating, and implementing the Programme and relevant collaborating partners (e.g. epidemiologists, Ornithologists, nature bird Observation and hunter organisations).

Please describe in detail who designs, who Implements, and who monitors the Programme in wild birds.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The programme is planned by the BMEL Unit 322 and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health). Implementation falls within the remit of the highest Land authorities responsible for veterinary matters, and the FLI. Ornithologists, hunters and members of the public report dead wild birds to the competent veterinary authorities, which are responsible for recovering the cadavers. On the basis of the list of species revised by the EU Directive, it is decided on the spot whether the animals are sent to sampling and virological testing in the testing facilities of the Länder.

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

max. 32000 chars):

The monitoring covers wild birds throughout Germany. Intensive sampling is carried out in regions with high migratory boom seals, i.e. mainly close to larger inland waters and the sea coasts, as well as in areas with frequent HPAIV detection in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Birds from a wide range of species are continuously tested throughout the year.

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

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):

Ornithologists record and estimate the incidence of breeding and migratory birds on a regional basis. Germany lies on the East Atlantic Flyway, with a significant increase in autumn in the numbers of migratory birds from Scandinavia and the north-western and northern regions of Russia. The target groups that particularly need to be mentioned in this context are anseriform and charadriiform species. In the spring, Germany is a transit and breeding zone for migratory birds from west and east Africa. The figures are based on a recent estimate by the Federal Institute for Nature Conservation (2016).

Taxonomic group (bird species with largest populations)	Number of birds overwintering in Germany
Wild geese (grey goose, nonnengans, seed goose)	1.700.000
Swans (Höckerschwan Singschwan)	130.000
Start-up lubricants (Stockente, pipe, crickente)	1.200.000
Dipping (series)	530.000
Sea ducks (travelling, eider, iron)	1.920.000
Blower fowl	400.000
Möwen (Silbermöwe, Lachmöwe)	580.000
Limikolen (oyster fishers, alpine strand barrels, fallow birds)	620.000
Birds of prey (Bussard, Turmfalke, Babicht)	250.000

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

(max. 32000 Chors):

Experience from wildbird monitoring since 2003 was pooled in order to determine the wild bird sample size for each region. Germany regularly contributes one of the three largest data collections across the EU to the AI-monitoring of wild birds. In 2021, DE examines by far the largest

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

Number of wild birds in the EU. Regions with high levels of wild bird risk species are welcome. Annex II of the Del. Regulation (EU) 2020/689 was taken into account with higher sample values (e.g. DE1 *, DE2*, DE8*, DE9*). Findings on the occurrence of HPAI viruses of subtype H5Nx in wild birds from 2016/2017 and 2021/2022 were included in the sampling schemes. The plans only provide for sampling for passive monitoring for the detection of HPAIV (pots, moribund animals). Stresses the importance of passive monitoring for the detection of HPAIV; wild-bird monitoring is therefore geared exclusively to the detection of HPAIV. Risk species are welcome and preference is given to the information provided by the EU Directive from the waterbird spectrum and prey birds. Germany also runs one of the EU's biggest, active wild bird monitoring programmes.

(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 completed by a map.

3.2.7 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		Number of tests	
			Type of test		
Germany	1 850	1 850	PCR test	1 850	X
Germany	0	0	Virus isolation test	370	X
Total	1 850	850		2 220	
		ADD a new row			

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

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

	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	2220
Total Virus isolation tests	370
Total PCR tests	1850
Total Other tests	0
Total number of wild birds to be sampled for passive surveillance	1850

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

So please explain which samples are taken from wild birds

max 32000 chars:

It is not possible to draw up an accurate annual sampling plan for passive monitoring. In the case of mass deaths of wild birds such as 2016/17 and 2020/21 and 2021/22 as a result of HPAIV epidemics, the sampling scope may increase significantly. Dead wild birds found by ornithologists or hunters are transported to the competent Land test centres, either directly or through the district veterinary offices; the test centres conduct the sampling and initial testing. Oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs are taken; where appropriate, a pathological-anatomical examination will be also be performed, so that additional organ systems can also be sampled.

3.4 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used.

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

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

max 32000 chars:

All diagnostic tests are based on the provisions of the previous EU Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza (2006/437/EU) in accordance with the lists of authorised diagnostic procedures published by the European Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (EU Directive). An indicative initial test of swab or organ samples from wild birds is carried out using RT-qPCR in the establishments of the Länder. The presence of AIV first has to be checked using an approved, commercial M-gene-specific RT-qPCR assay. These PCRs must be accompanied by inhibition controls.

Samples may be pooled at a maximum of five per pool without risking a significant loss of sensitivity in terms of qualitative (positive/negative) results (validation by NRL-AI). The conditions for pooling should be taken into account, the recommendations of the EU Directive should be taken into account. It should be noted, however, that storage of samples until the quorum of a pool (n=5) is reached is not permitted. In other words, if the required quorum is not reached within a working week, smaller pools or incremental samples shall be examined. It must be ensured that (i) the storage of the material does not result in any loss in the quality of the sample and (ii) there is no urgent suspicion of the presence of AI-infection which is subject to notification or notification. In a pool that tests negative, all samples are classed as negative (in this procedure only one PCR test per five samples is eligible for financial support, however!). It must be noted that sample pool tests are valid only if an accompanying internal check of the PCRs is carried out. This serves to exclude false-negative results from inhibitoric substances from individual samples. If a pool tests positive, all samples in the pool must be re-tested individually.

All swabs or organs that are positive in the M-specific RT-qPCR (Cq value < 39) are transferred to the NRL-AI for clarification purposes and tested there. In the NRL-AI, the subtypes and — for subtypes H5 and H7 — additionally the pathotypes are determined on a molecular basis for confirmed positive samples. Selected positive samples are also examined using virus isolation in hens' eggs, and serological and molecular-virological characterisation of any resulting virus isolates is carried out.

Results are reported continuously via the FLI wild birds database. In doing so, EFSA guidelines are respected; with particular emphasis on the mandatory specification of the species when transmitting the results. Species not to be identified ornithologically cannot be identified retrospectively at the NRL-AI by sequencing mitochondrial DNA of these samples.

The NRL-AI constantly performs confirmation tests and uploads to the databank the results of the subtyping of samples sent in by the Länder. Where the sender Land has not yet compiled a data set, this is created by the NRL-AI.

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

max 32000 chars:

Since 2017, there have been repeated outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). In 2016/2017 and 2020/2021, very strong

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

Registered waves of infections and outbreaks affecting commercial industrialised poultry holdings, small holdings and zoos. The vast majority of the outbreaks could be traced to separate entries of HPAIV from infected wild bird populations. In most cases, it was not possible to establish the specific entry cause (direct or indirect contact with wild birds) with sufficient certainty. However, in some cases the virus also spread horizontally between usually neighbouring poultry flocks. In the HPAI season 2021/2022, the number of outbreaks in kept poultry decreased, despite still very high incidences in the wild bird population. The rapid diagnostic confirmation of suspect cases and the restrictive measures immediately imposed, including the killing of infected flocks and flocks suspected of being infected, resulted at any event in the eradication of the pathogen. To date, there are no indications of endemic, notifiable poultry infections in Germany. Virus entry into Germany via the cross-border trade in poultry is so far negligible.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Since 2017, there have been repeated cases of HPAI in wild birds. In 2016/2017 and 2020/2021, very serious waves of infection were recorded, mainly in winter, between November and April. The source of introduction was in any case infected migratory birds from eastern and north-eastern regions of Europe. The bird species concerned varied, but were essentially anseriform species. In the last season 2021/2022, most of the infections in geese, in particular nonnen geese, were observed. However, waders (knuts, fallow birds) which share the wintering habitat with non-nine geese were also regularly affected.

Carnivorous and prey birds were also frequently affected. Infection was only occasionally found in song birds. Wild bird cases were usually preceded by outbreaks in poultry by several days to weeks. The onset of the breeding season of wild birds in April/May reduced the number of HPAI cases. In 2021, despite the experience of previous years, HPAI infections in wild birds were also detected in the summer months of June and July; an oversummer of the virus cannot be ruled out. However, with the reintroduction of the autumn bird migration, new introductions of HPAIV were observed. Figure 3 shows the HPAI cases in kept and wild birds in Germany since summer 2021 in synopsis.

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

So please explain briefly the measures implemented in case of suspicion or confirmation of the disease

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Animal Health Act in the version published on 21 November 2018 (BGBl. I p. 1938), as last amended by Article 100 of the Act of 20 November 2019 (BGBl. I p. 1626),

Regulation on notifiable epizootic diseases in the version published on 19 July 2011 (BGBl. I, p. 1404), as last amended by Article 4 of the Ordinance of 31 March 2020 (BGBl. I, p. 752),

Regulation on notifiable animal diseases in the version published on 11 February 2011 (BGBl. I p. 522), as last amended by Article 1 of the Regulation of 8 July 2020 (BGBl. I p. 1604),

Avian Influenza Ordinance in the version published on 15 October 2018 (BGBl. I p. 1665,2664),

Viehverkehrsverordnung in the version published on 26 May 2020 (BGBl. I p. 1170), relevant EU regulations, in particular Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 of 7 December 2020.

All actions follow the new EU legal framework for the prevention and control of diseases communicable to animals or humans, which has recently been established. As of 21 April 2021, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('Animal Health Act') will become the overarching legal framework laying down harmonised principles for the whole sector. In addition, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 supplements Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards the rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases and provides for the establishment of protection and surveillance zones in the event of an outbreak of HPAI. In general, the following actions will be implemented:

The killing and safe disposal of poultry from the infected flock is carried out in accordance with the applicable OIE, EU and national animal welfare legislation through CO₂ exposure, electric water bath or euthanasia with injection. The safe disposal of carcasses and all poultry products and eggs produced between the suspected introduction of the disease and depopulation, as well as of all by-products and feedingstuffs present, shall be ensured by the competent rendering plants under the supervision of the local competent authorities.

The cleaning and disinfection of housing, other potentially contaminated premises, buildings, slurry, equipment and vehicles that could spread the virus inside and outside the holding is under the supervision of the veterinary authorities.

Demarcation of the legally required closed areas: A protection zone with a radius of at least 3 km and a surveillance zone with a radius of at least 10 km around the infected establishment shall be established. Strict movement restrictions for poultry and poultry products shall be introduced in all poultry establishments located in the restricted zones. A compulsory confinement of poultry flocks in the restricted areas has also been enforced.

Clinical examinations of all poultry flocks and, where appropriate, sampling in the protection zone and risk-based in the surveillance zone shall be carried out by the veterinary authorities.

Throughout the period in which there was a high risk of virus transmission by migratory waterbirds in 2020/2021, a mandatory housing obligation for poultry was enforced. This concerned the high-risk areas of the North and Baltic coasts, the proximity of lakes, rivers and other wetlands known to attract relevant migratory birds.

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

7. Costs

7 Detailed analysis of the costs

7.1.1 Poultry including ducks, geese and farmed game birds

So please 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 and2.4. Please comment i.e. the cost-efficiency aspects of the Programmes

(max. 32000 chars):

As part of the poultry monitoring, the resulting poultry samples are examined in the ELISA and the further investigation is carried out by means of haemagglutination inhibition test (HI test). The HI test shall also be used in the initial examination of sera of avian species for which no approved ELISA is available.

The maximum compensation for the ELISA test is EUR per test and for the HI test EUR . There is an estimated refund of EUR per PCR for RTqPCR testing (including sample pools). The cost of virus isolation is assumed to be EUR per test.

The cost of sampling poultry is calculated at EUR

7.1.2 Wild birds

So please check the consistency between the numbers mentions in tables 3.2.1,7.2.2 and the information provided in box3.3 and3.4.

(max. 32000 chars):

In wild bird monitoring the samples obtained are examined using real-time RT PCR. The estimated amount per test (including sample pools) is EUR per PCR. The cost of virus isolation is estimated at EUR per test. The cost of sampling is estimated at EUR per wild bird.

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

Totals for Poultry, duck, geese, farmed game birds (7.1.1) + WILD BIRDS (7.1.1) for year:

2023

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 include the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

The implementation of the AI programme is the responsibility of the supreme Land authorities responsible for veterinary matters. The costs incurred are payable from the Länder budgets.

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

- b) Implementing entities — **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

The samples taken by the authorities are examined at state testing facilities. The costs incurred as a result of this are borne by the public authorities.

- 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):

not applicable

- 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 compensate the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars):

not applicable

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

not applicable

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, necessary additional measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

If you introduced these types of measures in this Programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and thus justification of their cost:

not applicable

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

Attachments

IMPORTER:

- 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, Xis, 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 want to 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
	Plan AI 2023 Annex_EU Surveillance_2023.pdf	PlanAI2023Annex_EUSurveillance_2023.pdf	925 kb
	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
		Total size of attachments:	1213 kb

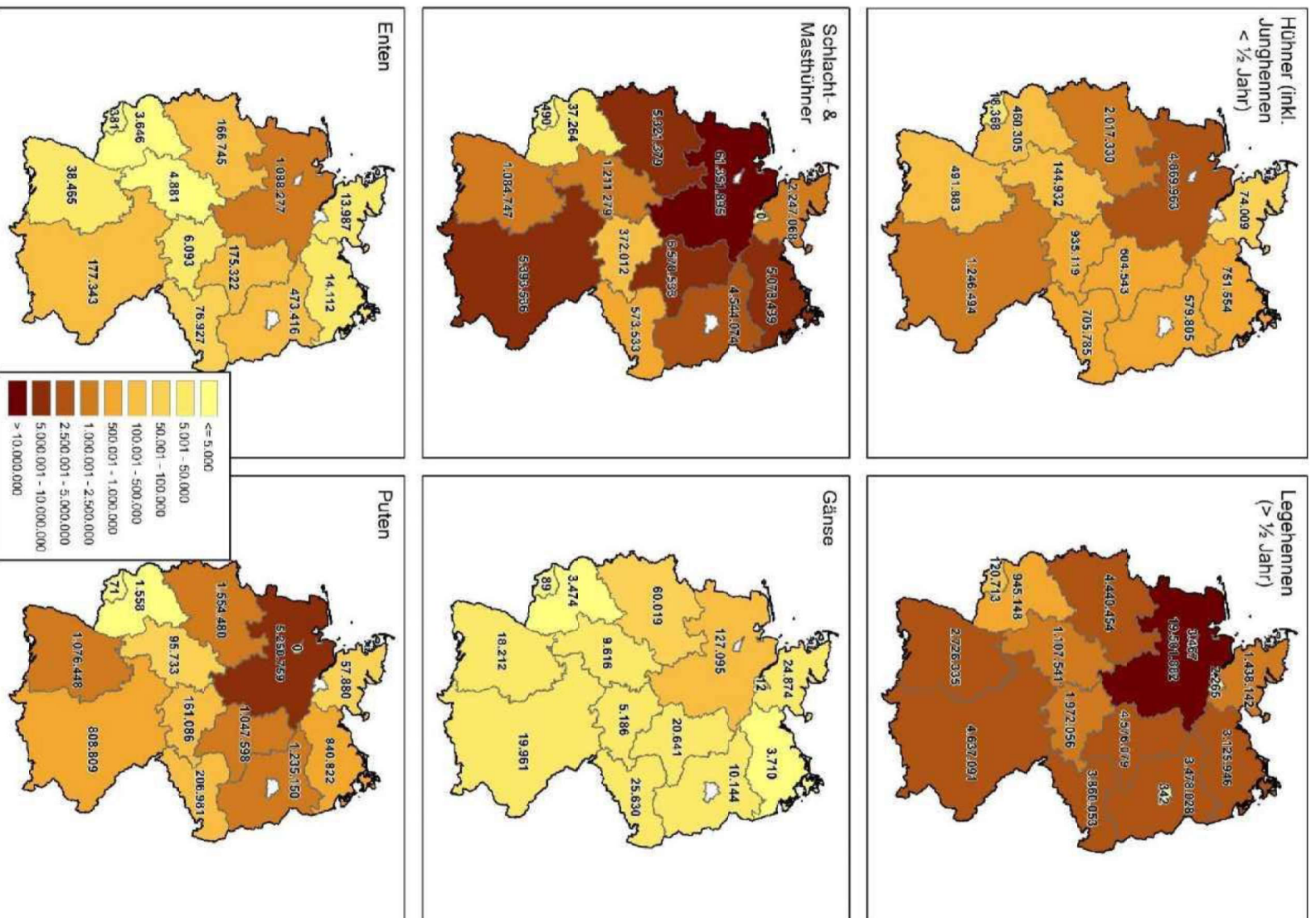


Figure 1. Population density (poultry) of different poultry species or types of use in relation to the federal states.

Country	Chicken		Turkeys		Ducks		Gans		Ratites/zoo	Total/Country	
	Laying hens	Outdoor breeding	Fattening	Breeding	Fattening	Breeding	Fattening	Breeding	Other		
BB	5	10	1	2	0	9	5	6	5	2	45
BE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
BW	1	1	1	3	2	12	0	11	0	2	33
BY	5	10	2	2	0	14	10	6	5	2	56
HB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DB	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	12
HH	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
MV	6	11	2	2	0	15	0	5	0	2	43
NI	26	35	20	20	5	25	15	15	14	2	177
NW	10	16	10	10	5	20	5	13	12	2	103
FP	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	6
SH	5	10	0	1	0	15	0	12	0	0	43
SL	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
SN	2	2	0	5	0	15	0	13	0	2	39
ST	7	12	2	5	5	7	5	2	1	2	48
TA	2	1	0	4	0	3	0	3	1	2	16
Total	77	113	38	55	17	137	40	90	38	25	630
Total	228		72		177		128		25		

Figure 2. Sample size of poultry (number of herds).

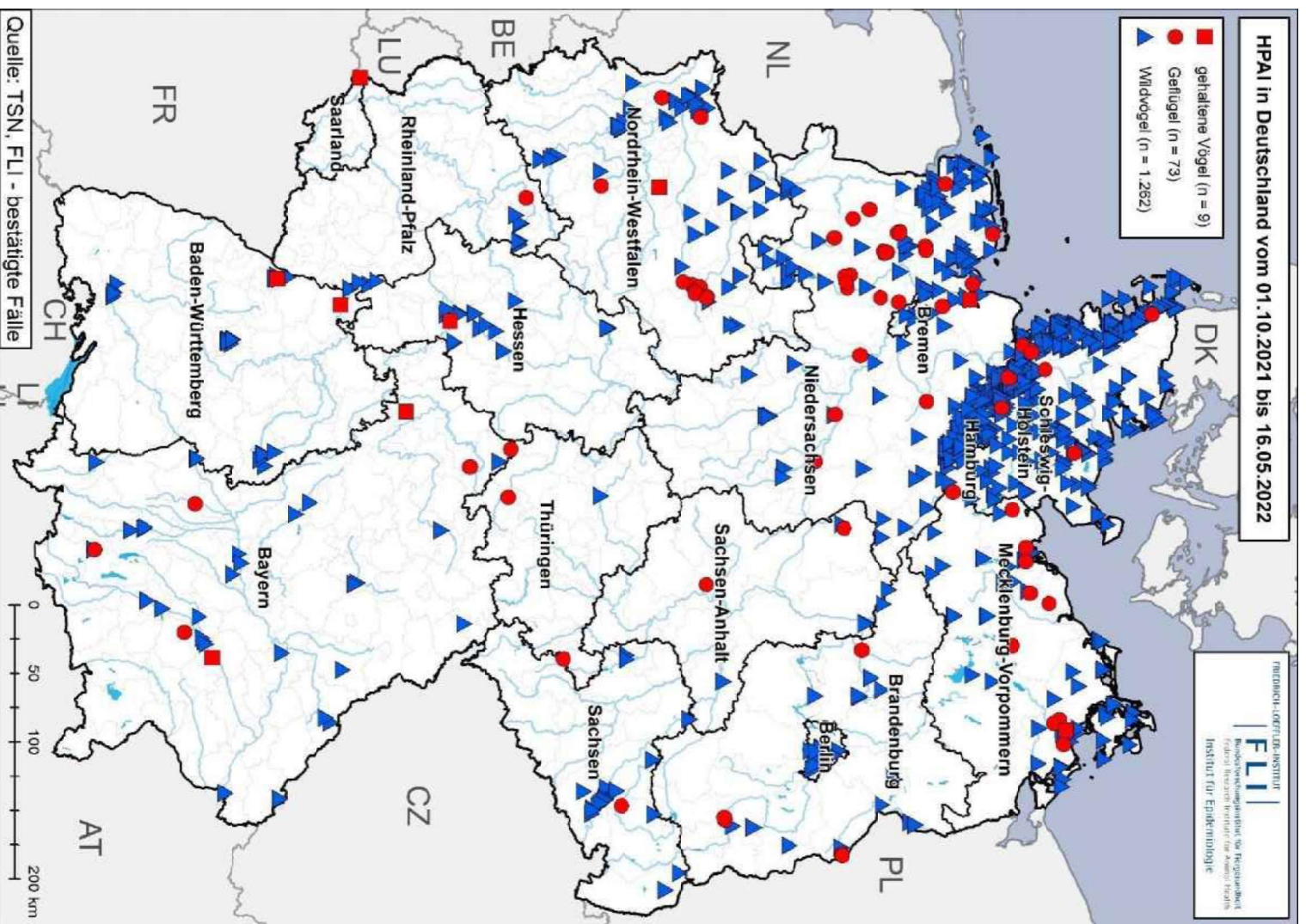


Figure 3. HPAIV Infections in wild birds (blue triangles) and kept Vö (poultry): red circle, zoo/birds: red square) in Germany since October 2021