

#### EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (HaDEA)

Department A Health and Food Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP

Food Programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses

#### submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

## Annex V: Programme for the eradication and surveillance of lumpy skin disease, sheep and goat pox or sheep and goat plague (PPR)

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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- 5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state :	BULGARIA
Disease	Lumpy Skin Disease
Species :	Bovines
This program is	multi annual : no
Request of Unic	on co-financing from beginning : 2023
1. Contact data	
Name	Phone
Email	Your job type within the CA:

**Submission Date** 

**Submission Number** 

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### 2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

Provide a description on the target population (species, number of herds and animals present and under the programme), and the main results in the last 5 years (incidents, prevalence, qualification of herds and animals). The information is given for distinct periods if the measures were substantially modified.

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Bulgaria is the second EU Member country affected by Lumpy skin disease. The first outbreak of LSD in Bulgaria was detected on 13thof April 2016, in two cattle farms located in Haskovo region (80 km far away from the border with Greece and Turkey and one week after recurrence of LSD in Greece) within the framework of the LSD control and surveillance programme which had been implemented in the country since the incursion of LSD in Greece, 2015. Within three months the disease spread rapidly throughout the territory of the country and 217 outbreaks in total were confirmed the National Reference Laboratory on Carpi pox virus by using real time PCR laboratory diagnostic (according to the Chapter 2.14.13, OIE Terrestrial Manual) ovines in the affected herds were 2814 in total and those with clinical signs of LSD were 366. Last outbreak was confirmed on 1st of August 2016.

The highest number of outbreaks was recorded in the regions located in south-western part of the country, bordering with Greece, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and disease affected mainly small farms (backyard type) keeping 1 to 10 cattle with low biosecurity measures in place. For example 114 outbreaks out of 217 were detected in the region of Blagoevgrad, as 81% of these outbreaks were in back yards keeping 1 to 5 cattle.

A subject of immediate notification to OIE and EU the disease was managed according Council Directive 92/119/EEC, followed by Commission Implementing Decisions (EU) 2016/645 and 2016/1183 describing the safeguard measures for LSD in Bulgaria and the vaccination programme as well the national legislation - Bulgarian Veterinary Law and National contingency plan;

Early detection, prompt implementation of the total stamping out policy were implemented in each laboratory confirmed outbreak and the bovines killed were disposed by burial on the spot without any delay.

A movement restriction of bovine including small ruminants in case of mixed farming was applied and enforced. In order to avoid a long distance spread of the LSDV the whole country the transport/movement of susceptible species was subject to official veterinary control.

Enforced biosecurity measures on the farms and intensified clinical surveillance in the entire country were strictly implemented within the fight against LSD.

Besides the treatment against vectors in the bovine farms, by the farmers, the Bulgarian Competent Authority initiated a treatment against vectors of the areas considered at risks -". Dezinsection by air distribution was conducted of about 2 790 125 ha territory along main rivers, valley and paddy fields within 3 months.

A vaccination was used in a combination of the applied control and eradication strategies. A ring vaccination in 20 km zones around the outbreaks plus regions considered at risk was initiated firstly and later extended to a blanket vaccination of the whole bovine population reared in Bulgaria based on the epidemiological situation in the country and evolution of the disease in Balkan Peninsula. The vaccination was completed in three rounds within 2.5 months by using live homologous vaccines. Lumpy Skin Disease Vaccine – Onderstepoort Biological Products, (Neethling strain) – 150 000 doses, delivered from the EU LSD vaccine bank were used for the first ring vaccination, 'Lumpyvax'(SIS type), MSD Animal Health, Intervet, South Africa (275 000 doses) and OBP (Neethling strain) – 350 000 doses

from South Africa were purchased and used respectively for the second and third vaccination rounds Awareness and educating campaigns were also part of the control and preventive strategy against LSD. Since detection of LSD in Greece a number of working groups, seminars, including cascade trainings to the veterinary experts has been conducted and instructions and leaflets were distributed to the farmers. Moreover, a special web link and emergency phone number were created enabling the daily communication with farmers and stakeholders.

### 3. Description of the submitted programme

Provide a concise description of the programme with its main objective(s) (monitoring, control, eradication, qualification of herds and/or regions, reducing prevalence and incidence), the main measures (sampling and testing regimes, eradication measures to be applied, qualification of herds and animals, vaccination schemes), the target animal population, the area(s) of implementation and the definition of a positive case.

#### (max. 32000 chars):

The current programme aims at providing protection of the susceptible animals from the LSDV through vaccination in the entire country in 2021, 2022 and foreseen in 2023.

In addition the programme is expected to provide to ensure early detection of any possible incursion of the virus through a system of passive surveillance and awareness.

"Definition of positive case" - Any confirmed sample taken following suspicion of LSD and confirmed by the NRL by PCR method.

### 4. Measures of the submitted programme

### 4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Duration of the programme: 2023 - 2023
∑ Surveillance
<b>⊠</b> Sampling

Other, please specify

#### 4.1.1 Timeline for the eradication

Provide the timeline foreseen for the eradication with detailed justification (max. 32000 chars):

No LSD outbreaks have been registered in the country since August 2016 due to the timely and effective vaccine coverage of the susceptible population.

A step-wise approach should be followed in order to address the following aspects:

- -risk mitigation of incursion of the LSDV from third countries
- -providing health guarantees currently required prior movement in the EU legislation
- -ensuring smooth transition from blanket vaccination to cessation of the vaccination in order to regain the disease free-status as required in the OIE standards.

Considering the above-mentioned and the fact that vaccination has already taken place in Bulgaria in 2021, 2022 either blanket vaccination or vaccination in high-risk areas close to third neighbouring countries will take place. In 2023 vaccination of calves of vaccination age according to the vaccine manufacturer's instructions, unvaccinated large ruminants imported into holdings from other Member States/third countries as well as vaccination of large ruminants kept in areas bordering Turkey in case of an unfavourable epizootic situation in Turkey.

### 4.1.2 Interim targets in relation to the timeline for eradication

based on herd prevalence and herd incidence at different periods in link with the timeline for eradication (max. 32000 chars):

- Ensuring 75% vaccine coverage on a bovine population level (95% herd level) in 2021;
- Ensuring 75% vaccine coverage on a bovine population level (95% herd level) in 2022 either in the entire country or in the targeted risk areas.
- Ensuring vaccination of calves of vaccination age according to the vaccine manufacturer's instructions, unvaccinated large ruminants imported into holdings from other Member States/third countries in 2023. -Implementation of the targeted number of clinical examinations on bovines in the six bordering regions of Bulgaria (Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Kardzhali, Haskovo, Yambol, Burgas) in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

# 4.2 Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme

Describe the authorities in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme and the different operators involved. Describe the responsabilities of all involved stakeholders. Explain which actions are taken to actively involve the stakeholders in the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars):

The programme is part of the Multiannual National Programme for Eradication, Control, Surveillance and Prevention against Certain Animal Diseases and Zoonoses which is approved by the Council of Ministers (CM) for three years period.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) is the main CA responsible for the design of the current programme, its submission for approval by CM through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MAFF). In the process of approval, the programme is coordinated besides by all ministries, also by the National Reference Laboratories (NRL), Risk Assessment Center (RAC), Bulgarian Veterinary Union (BVU).

The BFSA is the main CA which is in charge for the coordination and the implementation of the programme.

Institutions and stakeholders involved and responsibilities:

#### BFSA

The implementation and the control of the current programme is within the competences of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and its regional directorates (RFSD) who are responsible for the official controls of the vaccination activities, carry out the clinical examinations as part of the active surveillance activities (in the six south bordering regions), implement/supervise disease eradication/control measures.

Registered (private) veterinarians - carry out the vaccination campaigns under the supervision of the official control of the Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSDs).

National Reference Laboratory-Capripoxviruses - performs all the laboratory testing on samples collected under the programme.

Apart of the aforementioned measures, for achieving the aims of the programme, awareness campaigns, training targeting broader groups (private veterinarians, farmers, public) are foreseen.

## 4.3 Description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented

Describe the name and denomination, the administrative boundaries, and the surface of the administrative and geographical areas in which the programme is to be applied. Illustrate with maps.

#### (max. 32000 chars):

Clinical examinations for LSD an FMD on 4248 bovine herds shall be performed in the six bordering regions in the South part of the country as follows: Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Smolyan, Blagoevgrad. The holding shall be considered as a separate epidemiological unit (epi-unit) and will be subject of clinical examinations. A clinical examination will target to inspect a number of bovine farms per region to detect 5 % prevalence with 95% confidence (59 holdings to be visited per month per region). The number of animals to be clinically examined in each will be calculated following the same principle.

All clinical examinations will be performed by official veterinarians. The surveillance activities will be recorded on check-lists developed for this purpose. The data will be also entered into the BFSA's electronic system VetIS. As GIS-coordinates are also available in the operational electronic system, the data could be further geo-spatially analysed, thus allowing identification of possible gaps.

The holdings to be visited will be chosen on a regional level, each month different set of holdings should

The holdings to be visited will be chosen on a regional level, each month different set of holdings should be visited. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- -location of the holding
- -movement history
- -type of farming system
- -biosecurity
- -herd size

Vaccination for LSD will be performed on the territory of all 28 administrative regions of the country.

### 4.4 Description of the measures of the programme

#### 4.4.1 Notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars):

Any LSD occurrence in the country will be notified as required by the EU legislation (Art. 18 and 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, CIR (EU) 2020/2002) and the national legislation - Art. 50 of the Law on the Veterinary Activities: https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer\_public/2021/03/09/zakon za veterinarnomeditsinskata deinost.pdf

### 4.4.2 Target animals and animal population

(max. 32000 chars):

The target animal population are bovines (calves).

## 4.4.3 Identification of animals and registration of holdings including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

(max. 32000 chars):

Pursuant to Article 51, (2), of the LVA the BFSA is the official competent authority for animal identification which maintains a computerized information system for entering data for the identified animals and registered animal holdings. The terms and rules of animal identification, registration of animal holdings and the possibilities for access to the information is regulated by an ordinance of the Minster of Agriculture and Food. (ORDINANCE № 6/08.10.2013 on official identification of animals and maintance of the integrated information system; ORDINANCE № 61/9.05.2006 on the measures and procedures for identification of animals, registration of animal holdings and the availability to access the data base for identified animals and registered animal holdings (Published in SG 47/09.06.2006) − REGULATION 2016/432, REGULATION 2019/2035; REGULATION 2021/520)

Pursuant to same article (51, (1)) of the Law on the veterinary activity the animals are subject to official identification and the animal holdings are subject of obligatory registration. At the official internet page of the BFSA there are registers of animal holdings for large and small ruminants containing the registration number and location of the holdings and the number of animals in

the holdings.

The BFSA maintains computerized information system (VetIS) for entry of data on the identified animals, their owners and registered animal holdings. The modules are elaborated for registration and notifications of movements of animals, health status and veterinary activities and for additional data.

Large ruminants shall be identified until the 20th day of their birth but in any cases identification is performed before the animals leave the animal holding of origin.

Small ruminants shall be indentified until the 6th month of their birth but in any cases identification is performed before the animals leave the animal holding of origin.

The ear tags shall be put by the owner or the registered veterinarian.

Ear tags contain the following information:

For regular ear tags for large ruminants – the BFSA abriviation, followed by the code of the Republic of Bulgaria "BG", 2 digit code and 6-digit individual serial number.

For electronic ear tags for large ruminants - the BFSA abriviation, followed by the code of the Republic of Bulgaria "100", 3 digit code and 9-digit individual serial number. This set for identification contains 1 regular ear tag and 1 electronic ear tag or the combination of 2 regular ear tags and a bullus.

For regular ear tags for small ruminants - the BFSA abriviation, followed by the code of the Republic of Bulgaria "BG", 3 digit code and 9-digit individual serial number. For the electronic set the options are 1 regular and 1 electronic ear tag or 2 regular ear tags and a bollus. For small ruminants (to 12 months of age) that are for slaughter there is an individual green colored ear tag with the BFSA abriviation, followed by the code of the Republic of Bulgaria "BG", 3 digit code and 9-digit serial number.

4.4.4 Rules of the movement of animals including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Please detail also the rules existing for transhumance and common grazing areas, if any.

(max. 32000 chars):

The movements of bovines in relation to LSD will be in line with the requirements of CIR laying down special control measures for a limited period of time related to infection with lumpy skin disease virus.

4.4.5 Tests used and sampling and testing schemes including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease (including herd frequency per region, animal coverage in each herd, interpretation rules of the test,...)

(max. 32000 chars):

PCR tests shall be used to confirm LSDV upon suspicion of occurrence of disease (500 tests are foreseen) as a laboratory preparedness.

The testing of the samples is carried in the National Reference Laboratory for Carpipox viruses. In case of positive results samples will be sent to the EURL for further testing and investigation.

4.4.6 Vaccines used and vaccination schemes including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Explain also how the vaccination coverage is monitored by the official authorities

(max. 32000 chars):

Live attenuated homologous vaccine against the LSDV will be used.

Vaccination of bovine animals against LSD is foreseen as follows:

Revaccination of the entire bovine population vaccinated in the previous year

Vaccination of calves above 4-months of age born from vaccinated cows in the previous year

Vaccination of non-vaccinated bovine subject of international or intra-community trade.

Vaccination is planned to be carried out in period end of February - end of March (aiming to reach immune population at the end of April).

The vaccination activities are recorded by the registered veterinarians in the integrated information system of BFSA- VetIS. The vaccine used shall be recorded in a protocol annexed to the Standard Operating Procedure and sent to the official authrorities.

4.4.7 Measures in case of a positive result including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

A description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals and detailed reference to the Union legislation provisions (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter. A definition of a suspicion and of a confirmation should be provided, with detailed measures implemented in both situation and how the herd is requalified as free after a positive result. Detailed information should also be provided as regard the epidemiological investigations done, and the additional laboratory tests foreseen (culture, PCR, IFGamma, etc...). Please mention if national guidelines are available.

(max. 32000 chars):

In case of a positive result measures in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, LVA and the National Contingency Plan will be implemented.

### 4.4.8 Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

(max. 32000 chars):

Compensations are paid by the State budget in accordance with the provisions of Art. 140-148 of the LVA and the Ordinance on the compensations following outbreak eradication measures

4.4.9 Control on the implementation of the programme and reporting including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Please indicate also when the last FVO audit has taken place and provide a table listing the recommendations and the actions taken by the national authorities to this regard.

Please mention if a Task Force subgroup visit has taken place and the state of play as regards the implementation of the recommendations suggested if any.

(max. 32000 chars):

BFSA and its 28 RFSD is the competent authority for the current programme.

Regulation (EU) 2016/429

Regulation (EU) 2017/625

CDR (EU) 2020/687

CIR (EU) 2020/2002

CIR (EU) laying down special control measures for a limited period of time related to infection

with lumpy skin disease virus

Regulation (EU) 2021/690

## 5. Benefits of the programme

A description is provided of the benefits of the programme on the economical and animal and public health points of view. 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):

- Ensure safe movements in the framework of intracommunity and international trade.
- Prevent the risks of the socio-economic impact of animal contagious diseases occurrence.
- Prevent incursion and further spread of TADs in the EU.

6. Targets

The blocks 7.1.1, 7.1.2.1, 7.1.2.2, 7.2, 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 are repeated multiple times in case of first year submission of multiple program.

- 6.1 Targets related to testing (one table for each year of implementation)
- 6.1.1 Targets on diagnostic tests for year: **2023**

Region	Type of the test	Target population	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests		
BG	PCR	Bovines	blood	confirmation of suspected cases	500	X	
				Total	500		
				Add a new row			

	Total number of tests
ELISA	0
PCR	500

6.1.2 Targets on testing herds and animals

### 6.1.2.1 Targets on the testing of herds for year: **2023**

										Target indicators		
Region	Animal species		Total number of herds under the programme		Number of expected positive herds	Number of expected new positive herds	Number of herds expected to be depopulated	% positive herds expected to be depopulated	Expected % herd coverage	% positive herds Expected period herd prevalence	% new positive herds Expected herd incidence	
BG	Bovines	49 992	49 992	49 992	0	0	0	0,000	100,000	0,000	0,000	Х
Total	'	49 992	49 992	49 992	0	0	0	0,000	100,000	0,000	0,000	
									Add a new row			

6.1.2.2 Targets on the testing of animals for year: **2023** 

	Slaughtering	Target indicators
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Region	Species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme		Number of animals to be tested individually	Number of expected positive animals	Number of animals with positive result expected to be slaughtered or culled	Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered	Expected % coverage at animal level	% positive animals (Expected animal prevalence)	
BG	Bovines	735 749	735 749	500	500	0	0	0	0,068	0,000	X
Total		735 749	735 749	500	500	0	0	0	0,068	0,000	
								Ac	ld a new ro	ow .	
	Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered or culled : BOVINES										

## 6.2 Targets on vaccination or treatment

### 6.2.1 Targets on vaccination or treatment for year: 2023

					Targets on vaccination or treatment programme					
Region	Animal species	Total number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Total number of animals in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatmentexpected to be administered	Number of adults expected to be vaccinated	Number of young animals expected to be vaccinated	
BG	Bovines	49 992	735 749	49 992	49 992	351 850	380 000	0	0	Х
Total		49 992	735 749	49 992	49 992	351 850	380 000	0	0	
							Add a new row			

### 7.2. Financial informaton

7.2.1. 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 official sampling is performed by official veterinarians within the BFSA. The costs are covered by the 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):

All the testing is performed in the NRL. The expenses are covered by the State budget.

- c) Implementing entities compensation: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
- (e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
- or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars):

The compensations are provided by the State budget.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

by the State budget

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

e) Implementing entities - <b>other essential measures</b> : who implements this measure? Who provide the equipment/service? Who pays?
max. 32000 chars) :
n/a
7.2.2. Source of funding of eligible measures
All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.
$\boxtimes yes$
□no
7.2.3. 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:

co-financing rate of 75% is requested for all measures under the current programme, including the vaccination, as essential to the risk mitigation from LSDV incursion and spread within the EU and in line with the provisions of Art. 12, para 5 a) ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690

### **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 <u>SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD</u> 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
ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf		ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
		Total size of attachments :	288 kb