



**Programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses
submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution**

**Annex II: Control programme – Reduction of prevalence of *Salmonella* serotypes
in certain poultry populations**

Member States seeking an EU financial contribution for national programmes of eradication, control and surveillance 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).

Due to the late adoption of the SMP regulation all programmes will be submitted to be approved technically for 2021 and 2022.

Therefore, this document shall also be filled out and submitted after selection of the options:

This programme is multiannual: "YES"

Request for Union cofinancing from beginning 2021 to end of 2022.

If encountering difficulties:

- concerning the information requested, please contact SANTE-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu.

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

Instructions to complete the form:

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

Doc version: 2021 2.1

Member state : ELLADA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

This program is multi annual : yes

Type of submission : New multiannual programme or Modification of already approved multiannual programme

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

2021

To end of

2022

First year of implementation of the programme described in this document:

2021

1. Contact data

Name

██████████

Phone

██████████

Email

██████████

Your job type
within the CA :

██████████

Submission Date

03/11/2021 14:08:50

Submission Number

1635944931464-17957



Laying flocks of *Gallus gallus*

A. Technical information

By submitting this programme, the Member State (MS) attests that the relevant provisions of the EU legislation will be implemented during its entire period of approval, in particular:

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus*,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

As a consequence, the following measures will be implemented during the whole period of the programme:

1. Aim of the programme

It is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (including the serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-) in adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* ('Union target') as follows:

An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 10% where the prevalence in the preceding year was less than 10%.

An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 20% where the prevalence in the preceding year was more than or equal to 10% and less than 20%.

A reduction of the maximum percentage equal to 2% or less of positive flocks of adult laying hens.

The Member States has less than 50 flocks of adult laying hens: the target is to have not more than one adult flock remaining positive.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

The Union target shall be achieved every year based on the monitoring of the previous year.

Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

This salmonella control programme in flocks of laying hens is being implemented in the context of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003, Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain Salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 of 23 October 2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 of 1 August 2006.

The aim of the programme is to reduce the prevalence of the following salmonella serotypes: Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in adult laying flocks of Gallus gallus to 2% or less by 31 December each year.

All references to S. Typhimurium include the monophasic S. Typhimurium (1,4,[5],12:i:-).

A flock is deemed salmonella-positive if the presence of any of the above salmonella serotypes is ascertained in laboratory tests in at least one of the samples.

With a view to achieving its objective, the programme has a duration of one year. The programme will be adapted in line with Community requirements.

In 2020, the number of laying hen holdings Gallus gallus covered by the programme was 689. Number of holdings with more than 1000 birds was 411. These holdings had 197 rearing laying flocks Gallus gallus and 566 adult laying flocks Gallus gallus. In total in 2020 there were 1034 laying flocks with 7975955 birds. The number of laying hen holdings with less than 1000 birds was 314 with 347 flocks.

2. The programme will be implemented on the **whole territory** of the MS.

yes

no

If No, please explain :

Greece is divided into 13 administrative regions and 74 regional units. The salmonella control programme in flocks of laying hens will be implemented in laying hen flocks throughout Greece.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* but does not apply to flocks for private domestic use or leading to the direct supply, by the producer, of small quantities of table eggs to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the eggs to the final consumer. For the latter case (direct supply), national rules are adopted ensuring *Salmonella* control in these flocks. The programme covers also all rearing flocks of future laying hens.

yes

no

If No, please explain :

Derogation laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 under Article 1.3, i.e. eggs produced for private domestic consumption, or where there is direct supply of small quantities of products to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the primary products to the final consumer." has been used and national rules have been adopted.

in particular the above derogation is granted to farmers with laying hen holding that their production is a) either used for private domestic use or b) their production does not exceed 100,000 eggs / year or have fewer than 350 laying hens, provided that they sell their products either directly to the final consumer at the producer's premises or at local public markets of the region or county where the farm is located (local kiosks, markets, bazaars, open-markets) or carry out home delivery (bydoor-to-door) or in small local shops retail outlets, which directly supply the final consumer. The above exemption does not apply when placing their products outside the boundaries of the prefecture, where the farm is located. Poultry farmers who make use of the derogation, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

a. The eggs should be sold to the above mentioned outlets, within a maximum 28 days from the production.

b. they must keep a record supply of small quantities of eggs setting out the weekly number of produced eggs, the total weekly amount of eggs sold directly to end consumers (in a plant in local public market or residence) and the total weekly number of eggs sold in local small retailers as well as the name and addresses of the above mentioned retailers.

c. To accept the official control (and possibly the official sampling) by the competent veterinary authorities.

The possibility of using the derogations is provided at the request of the person concerned to the competent Regional Veterinary Authority, which, after carrying out official control, issue a written confirmation called "Granting a derogation".

In the above statement it should be clearly identified:

a) the place of production / sale and

b) the number of laying hens

The certificate is valid for one year and shall be withdrawn in the event of any failure to observe the above mentioned provisions.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

	Total number of flocks of layers in the MS	Number of flocks covered by the programme	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	197		197	0
Adult flocks	949	913	913	411
Number of holdings with more than 1,000 laying hens				411
Number of flocks in these holdings				687
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>				

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The best estimation available is based on the animal population figures of 2020
 In 2020, the total number of laying hen holdings was 725. Out of the 725 holdings , 314 laying hen holdings had less than 1000 birds. The above gives 411 laying hen holdings with more than 1000 birds. In addition, a small number out of the 725 laying holdings with less than 1000 birds made use of the derogation mentioned under point 3 of this programme.
 The total, number of laying hen flocks in 2020 was 1034. Out of the 1034 flocks, 347 flocks belonged to the holdings with less than 1000 birds. This means that the 411 holdings with more than 1000 birds had 687 flocks.

4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the food business operator and the laboratory performing the analyses.

yes

no

if no, please explain :

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

5. Biosecurity measures

FBOs have to implement measures to prevent the contamination of their flocks.

yes

no

if no, please explain. If yes, please describe the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) (max. 32000 chars) :

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (annex attached to the national decision for the implementation of national salmonella control programme).

Guides are in place and their implementation is linked to compensation. In addition they are regularly assessed by the CA. The CA assess the biosecurity measures each time they perform official control in the context of the NSCP. This assessment is followed by a written report which includes also the results from the biosecurity assessment.

The national decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 on the "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus" and some of the relevant guides can be found at: http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Apofasi_ornithes_ooparagogis2012.pdf (annex I B "B. METPA BIOΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑΣ") and

http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Paroysiaseis_Seminaria/6_salmo_bioasfalia.pdf.

In particular, at least the following biosecurity measures shall apply:

A. HYGIENE MANAGEMENT AT FARM

1. Facilities must be appropriately constructed and surrounded by a fence, which should have a sign at the entrance forbidding entry.
2. Only one species of poultry should be raised at any one facility and if possible the 'all in all out' system should be applied.
3. In holdings containing more than one flock, each one should be treated as a separate entity.
4. Pens and feed storage spaces should be secured to prevent the entry of any wild or harmful animals.
5. All pen surfaces should be constructed of materials allowing for easy cleaning and disinfecting.
6. The area around the pen should preferably be covered by cement or similar material, and in any case, clear of vegetation or rubble. Trees are the exception (unless fruit-bearing) since they protect the building from heat.
7. Suitable protective measures must be taken to prevent the spread of disease at the holding. Changing rooms, and other areas for personal hygiene of both employees and visitors (e.g. shower room) can contribute to the above.
8. After the removal of poultry, droppings must also be removed, after which the area should be cleaned and disinfected. It is recommended that a bacteriological examination be carried out subsequently in order to check the effectiveness of the disinfection.

Biosecurity concerning handling and transportation of eggs

1. Litter in the egg incubators should be kept dry and in good condition. Also nest litter should be clean and of adequate amount.
2. Egg collection should take place regularly, at least twice a day. These eggs should then be placed in clean, disinfected containers.
3. Soiled, broken, cracked and bruised eggs should be collected in different containers.
4. Eggs should be kept in a clean, dust-free place used exclusively for that purpose at a temperature of

Laying flocks of *Gallus gallus*

13-15°C and 70-80% humidity.

5. Eggs should be moved to hatcheries in clean crates which are either disposable or have been disinfected either by fumigation or using a suitable disinfectant fluid.

B. Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms

1. Access by pets to the facilities is prohibited.

2. Rodents and insects must also be dealt with using appropriate programmes for their destruction.

3. Repopulation of pens should take place with salmonella-free poultry.

4. All feed must be confirmed salmonella-free prior to being given to poultry. Feed in pellet form or feed that has undergone another type of processing is recommended as a means of becoming salmonella-free. Feed should then be stored in closed storage spaces.

5. The operator's water supply should come from the mains network. If the water comes from a pump, its suitability for use must be ensured and microbiological tests must be carried out regularly.

6. Diseased and dead birds should be removed as quickly as possible and in the safest and most effective manner.

7. Each operator should keep a file which records the diseases, deaths, treatments and vaccines given.

This file should be made available whenever an official control requires it.

Biosecurity concerning staff and visitors. Staff and visitors must:

1. Wear clean aprons, caps and shoe-covers.

2. Wash their hands with soap and water or disinfectant and dip their shoes in some kind of disinfectant, which will be regularly changed.

3. They must not come into direct contact with poultry or poultry products.

C. HYGIENE IN TRANSPORTING ANIMALS TO AND FROM FARMS

The equipment used for the capture and transportation of poultry must be clean and kept away from dirty equipment.

The vehicles used for the transportation of poultry must be licensed, in accordance with national and Community law and must be disinfected at regular intervals (or cleaned and disinfected before the loading of each poultry batch) and the drivers must be aware of the basic personal hygiene rules and the role that they might have in spreading infections (e.g. through dirty hands, etc.).

Salmonella-infected flocks must be captured and loaded last.

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators (FBO):

Samples at the initiative of the FBOs will be taken and analysed to test for the target *Salmonella* serovars respecting the following minimum sampling requirements:

a. Rearing flocks: day-old chicks, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit

b. Adults laying flocks: every 15 weeks during the laying period

yes

no

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if no, please explain - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples, and, if additional FBO sampling, going beyond the minimum sampling requirements, is performed, please describe what is done.

Comment: Sampling at the initiative of the FBO complies with the minimum sampling requirements laid down in part B of annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 and in point 2 of annex to Reg. (EC) No 517/2011.

FBO samples are collected either by the FBO, or the private veterinarian of the farm. We do not perform any additional sampling above minimum EU requirements.

7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011

yes

no

if no, please explain :

Comment: Samples for both official and sampling at the initiative of the FBO are taken in accordance with the provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 517/2011.

Samples must be taken using properly sterilised instruments; they must be wrapped in appropriate safe packaging to which a label should be attached indicating the type of sample and sample code, and sent to the competent laboratory, accompanied by the appropriate forms.

Where the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium is not detected but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect are it should be accounted for as an infected laying flock for the purpose of the Community target and the appropriate measures should be implemented.

8. Specific requirements laid down in Annex II.D of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 will be complied with where relevant. In particular:

- due to the presence or the suspicion of the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-) in the flock, eggs cannot be used for human consumption unless heat treated;
- eggs from these flocks shall be marked and considered as class B eggs.

yes

no

if no, please explain - Indicate also if prompt depopulation of the infected flocks is compulsory.

The programme complies with the specific requirements laid down in Annex II (D) to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

Pursuant to Article 8(5) of our Decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 on the "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus," through which the salmonella control programme in flocks of laying hens is being implemented in Greece, when positive results for S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium/S. Typhimurium serotypes with antigen type 1,4 [5], 12: i- are

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communicated, the competent veterinary authority of the Region issues a decision for the following measures to be taken:

- a) It describes the flock as "salmonella positive" and takes the following measures with regard to the infected birds and the eggs originating from these birds:
 - b) It prohibits the movement of:
 - i. poultry to and from the holding unless the authority gives its permission for it to be slaughtered or destroyed in controlled conditions or to be slaughtered for human or animal consumption after heat treatment, in accordance with the legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section II) on food hygiene and safety;
 - ii. litter and manure from the holding unless it gives permission in order that they may undergo processing in accordance with the legislation in force;
- c) It requires either the slaughter and destruction of all the poultry in the flock provided that the poultry farmer expressly requests the destruction of the flock in writing pursuant to Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and No 142/2011. That request must be submitted to the competent authority no later than 24 hours after the positive result was notified to the operator of the holding;
- d) or the slaughter and heat treatment of all poultry in the flock provided that the poultry farmer sends the authorities a written request for such an action. That request must be submitted to the competent authority no later than 24 hours after the positive result was notified to the operator of the holding.

Slaughter is undertaken according to the food hygiene legislation in force. Produce from those birds can be sold on the market for human consumption following heat treatment in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force.

- e) Eggs produced from a positive flock:
 - i) shall be marked and considered as B Class eggs, in accordance with the relevant EU legislation regarding marketing standards for eggs;
 - ii) shall carry the B indication as set out in the relevant EU legislation, which should be a circle of at least 12mm in diameter around the letter 'B' at least 5mm high, or an easily visible colour spot of at least 5mm in diameter, prior to their being made available on the market for further processing;
 - iii) are prohibited from entering packing centres unless the competent authority is satisfied with the preventive measures against possible cross-contamination from eggs from other flocks.
 - iv) - are sent, under controlled conditions, to an authorised egg-product processing facility for heat treatment ensuring the elimination of salmonella, in accordance with Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and No 142/2011 and Greek legislation,
- or are sent, under controlled conditions, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, to an authorised egg-product processing facility for heat treatment ensuring the elimination of salmonella, in accordance with Community food-health legislation.

In addition, according to art. 8 of the above mentioned national decision, in every case of isolation of Salmonella spp from a laying hen flock, the flock is qualified as "suspect" and is placed immediately under official supervision. The eggs produced from this suspect flock are stored separately and are not placed on the market as table eggs for the period pending the results of serotyping.

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9.If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant **EU microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g:

Measures implemented by the FBO (farm level)

The above mentioned EU microbiological criteria is not applicable for infected laying hens Gallus gallus because pursuant to Article 8(5) of Greek Decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 on the "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus," the birds originating from infected with SE/ST flocks are either slaughtered and destroyed or slaughtered and heat-treated taking appropriate measures to minimise the risk of spread of salmonella. Slaughter is carried out in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force. Products originating from the birds in question may be placed on the market for human consumption, provided they have undergone heat treatment as set out in food hygiene legislation. If such products are not intended for human consumption, they must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

see above. In addition all flocks going to the slaughterhouse must be accompanied by the FCI. In case of positive for SE/ST flocks logistical slaughter of the infected flock takes place and appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the slaughterhouse follows the slaughter of the infected flock.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

Pursuant to Article 8(5) of our Decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 on the "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus," through which the salmonella control programme in flocks of laying hens is being implemented in Greece, when positive results for S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium/S. Typhimurium serotypes with antigen type 1,4 [5], 12: i:- are communicated, the competent veterinary authority of the Region issues a decision for the following measures to be taken:

a) It describes the flock as "salmonella positive" and takes the following measures with regard to the infected birds :

b) It prohibits the movement of:

- i. poultry to and from the holding unless the authority gives its permission for it to be slaughtered or destroyed in controlled conditions or to be slaughtered for human or animal consumption after heat treatment, in accordance with the legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section II) on food hygiene and safety;
- ii. litter and manure from the holding unless it gives permission in order that they may undergo processing in accordance with the legislation in force;

c) It requires either the slaughter and destruction of all the poultry in the flock provided that the poultry farmer expressly requests the destruction of the flock in writing pursuant to Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and No 142/2011. That request must be submitted to the competent authority no later than 24 hours after the positive result was notified to the operator of the holding;

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d) or the slaughter and heat treatment of all poultry in the flock provided that the poultry farmer sends the authorities a written request for such an action. That request must be submitted to the competent authority no later than 24 hours after the positive result was notified to the operator of the holding.

Slaughter is undertaken according to the food hygiene legislation in force. Produce from those birds can be sold on the market for human consumption following heat treatment in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force.

At the slaughterhouse the OV must check the FCI provided for completeness and contents as a part of ante mortem inspection.

The OV is always entitled to request any additional data from the producer. FCI should also be taken into consideration when post mortem inspection is carried out.

The OV is to:

- Check which Salmonella serotype is detailed on the FCI and ensure that the relevant clean-down procedure is followed (as detailed in the previous sub-topics.)
- check that the procedure has been followed in accordance with the FBO's HACCP-based food safety management system.

10. Laboratories in which samples (official and FBO samples) collected within this programme are analysed are accredited to ISO 17025 standard and the analytical methods for *Salmonella* detection is within the scope of their accreditation.

yes

no

If no, please explain :

Comment: Testing of the official samples collected within the national salmonella control programme in flocks of layers is performed at the following state veterinary laboratories of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food:

Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes, Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory (National Reference Veterinary Laboratory for Salmonella) and Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory.

All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three above mentioned accredited laboratories.

The samples from the own-checks are tested in 29 private laboratories which are designated and supervised by the Department of Zoonoses and the NRL for salmonella and participate in the comparative tests organised by the NRL.

In the case of Salmonella spp. isolates, the above laboratories must send the results to the competent veterinary authority of the Region as well as to the Department of Zoonoses.

Our circular No 920/29816/15-3-2017 (which replaced the previous relevant circular) sets out the participation procedure for private laboratories conducting own-check sample analyses under the National Salmonella Control Programmes (EPES) and the preconditions that laboratories must meet.

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11. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007. *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp. -- Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage*¹.

Serotyping is performed following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

yes

no

If no please explain.

For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO16140 may be used.

yes

no

If no please explain.

With regard to samples taken on the initiative of the food business operator, alternative methods may be used instead of the methods for the preparation of samples, detection methods and serotyping provided for above, if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO 16140. So far we have no such case.

12. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011. In particular, samples examination shall start in the laboratory within 4 days after sampling.

yes

no

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If no, please explain :

Transportation of samples is carried out in accordance with point 3.1 of the annex to Reg. (EU) No 517/2011.

In particular, samples shall preferably be sent by express mail or courier to the state or private laboratories involved in the NSCP's within 24 hours after collection. If not sent within 24 hours, they shall be stored refrigerated. Transportation can be at ambient temperature as long as excessive heat (over 25 °C) and exposure to sunlight are avoided. At the laboratory samples shall be kept refrigerated until examination, which shall be started within 48 hours following receipt and within 96 hours after sampling.

To ensure the above, the lab is contacted by the sampler before each sampling.

Detailed guides have been provided to the samplers with regard to the packaging and transportation of samples.

13. Please describe the **official controls at feed level** (including sampling).

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The following rules apply as regards official controls of feedstuffs for salmonella:

Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down the requirements for feed hygiene provides for the establishment of microbiological criteria on the basis of scientific risk criteria. Therefore, the relevant legislation on control of feed for salmonella will be issued by the competent department of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food as soon as the Commission-level discussions on microbiological criteria in feed are completed.

All feed must meet the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, as well as being confirmed as free of salmonella before being given to poultry. Feed in pellet form or feed that has undergone another type of processing should be indicated as such, as a means of ensuring salmonella-free feed. Feed should then be stored in sealed storage spaces.

14. Official controls at holding, flock and hatchery level

- a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 chars) :

see above point 5 of this programme

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (annex attached to the national decision for the implementation of national salmonella control programme).

Guides are in place. Their implementation is linked to compensation. In addition they are regularly assessed by the CA. The CA assess the biosecurity measures each time they perform official control in the context of the NSCP. This assessment is followed by a written report which includes also the results from the biosecurity assessment. Necessary advice on any corrective actions required are provided to the FBO. In the event of significant deficiencies in the application of biosecurity measures, written

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recommendations with a deadline for their satisfaction are issued . The time horizon of the period varies depending on the nature of the infringement. In case of dissatisfaction, sanctions may be submitted.

The CAs visit 5% of the laying holdings per year to check animal protection. Biosecurity of the farm is also checked during these official visits as closely related to animal welfare and protection.

There is a system in place to select this 5%, which is risk based.

Additionally, the CAs visit on an annual base all the laying holdings with less than 1000 birds in their territory to check biosecurity and the correct implementation of the NSCP. The number of holdings that will be finally checked is related to the available resources.

b. Routine official **sampling scheme**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. official sampling are performed:

- in one flock per year per holding comprising at least 1,000 birds;
- at the age of 24 +/- 2 weeks in laying flocks housed in buildings where the relevant Salmonella was detected in the preceding flock;
- in any case of suspicion of Salmonella infection when investigating food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2003/99/EC or any cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate, using the sampling protocol laid down in point 4(b) of Part D to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003;
- in all other laying flocks on the holding in case Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium is detected in one laying flock on the holding;
- in cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate.

yes

no

If no, please explain. - Indicate also 1)if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed give a description of what is done 2)who is taking the official samples

We confirm that official sampling complies with the minimum sampling requirements as set out in point 2.1 of annex to Regulation (EC) No 517/2011. Official samples are collected by the official veterinarians of the regional veterinary authorities, as part of the official control and they are tested in the 3 state veterinary laboratories which have been designated by the CCA to perform this testing.

c. **Official confirmatory sampling** (in addition to the confirmatory samples at the holding which are systematically performed if FBO or official samples are positive at the hatchery):

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After positive official samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

When official confirmatory sampling is performed, additional samples are taken for checking the presence of antimicrobials:

- Always Sometimes Never

Please insert any comments. Describe the criteria used to determine if confirmatory sampling is performed. Indicate also which samples (if any) are taken to check the presence of antimicrobials.

Where an operator suspects that the positive results were falsely arrived at in the first official sampling, he/she may, following the lodging of an appeal to the competent official authority, request temporary suspension of the measures of this programme together with a confirmatory test carried out by the competent authority. Such an appeal should be accompanied by a detailed report and copy of the holding's file (record), showing the own-checks conducted and their results, vaccines for salmonella and the biosecurity measures implemented (pesticides, insecticides, disinfection, ...). The operator should present the reasons for suspecting that the results are "false-positive".

The official authority:

Firstly, having confirmed that the particular flock does not constitute the source of food-borne infection and

Secondly, having studied the appeal and the holding's attached substantiated report and decided that the operator had justified grounds for the conducting of a confirmatory test (epidemiology of the holding with regard to salmonella, previous positive results -history of the holding, information that a new sampler is performing the sampling etc) is obliged:

- a) to temporarily suspend the measures set out in paragraph 8 of the programme ;
- b) to issue a decision on the suspected case and
- c) to immediately repeat the sampling at the latest within three working days of the date the appeal was lodged, using one of the sampling protocols set out in Annex 1(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 (5 faecal samples and 2 dust samples plus the collection of 1-5 birds for detection of bacterial inhibitors).

During the period from the date of lodging the appeal until the response of the competent official authority or until the notification of the results of the confirmatory test, the flock in question is placed under official supervision, the eggs produced are kept separate from the others, under the responsibility

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

of the operator of the holding and the supervision of the competent authority and restrictive measures are applied to the flock.

In case of positive FBO samples, official confirmation is taking place where there is a suspicion of false positive result due to mistakes in the sampling procedure or due to suspicion for cross-contamination of the samples. Epidemiology of the holding with regard to salmonella will be also taken into consideration. The same strict sampling protocol as mentioned above is followed and the eggs produced are kept separate from the others until the notification of the results of the confirmatory sampling, under the responsibility of the operator of the holding and the supervision of the competent authority.

1	2	3	4
For routine samples taken at the holding	No of flocks positive to SE / ST	Out of the flocks in column 2, No of cases where official confirmatory samples ³ were taken	Out of the cases in column 3, No of cases where confirmatory samples were negative
FBO samples ¹	0	0	0
Official samples ²	2	1	1

¹ Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.1 of the Annex

² Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.2 of the Annex

³ Reg 2160/2003, point II.D.4 of the Annex

What happened to the flocks counted under 4 (re checked for the presence of Salmonella? Checked for the presence of antimicrobials?) (max. 32000 chars):

When confirmatory samples were collected, samples were also collected for the presence of antimicrobials with negative results. Confirmatory samples were also negative for the targeted Salmonella serovars.

- d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sampletaking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

Comments - Describe also if any other measures are implemented(max. 32000 chars) :

The use of antimicrobials is prohibited in the framework of NSCP, except from the cases foreseen in Reg. (EC) No 1177/2006. The treatment of laying hens Gallus gallus with antimicrobial agents during the rearing or production phase to control Salmonella spp. is prohibited.

In order to control the use of antimicrobials the following controls are taking place:

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Official sampling is always part of an official control in order to verify if the FBO complies with the requirements of the NSCP. One of the duties of the official vet during official control is to perform documentary checks on the farm (check the record with the flock treatments) , in order to control the use of antimicrobials. Due to this, documentary checks on the use of antimicrobials are routinely performed during official controls in the framework of NSCP.

In addition to the above mentioned, in cases where there is a suspicion that the use of antimicrobials will cover the presence of salmonella, additional official samples are collected, comprising of at least 1-5 birds from the flock (or a greater number if the CA considers it necessary).

Testing for the use of antimicrobials is carried out on a mixed muscle sample from these birds (muscles from the chest of the birds).

Initial testing for the use of antimicrobials is first carried out in a screening test. The screening method used is an in house method based on the LMV/RMV/BIO/TC/15.AN Version 06/17-10-2006 Guidance of Community Reference Laboratory ANSES for detection of antimicrobial agents (quinolones, cephalosporins, penicillins, macrolides, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, sulfonamides) in meat.

Where necessary, the results are confirmed by the specific tests presented in the attached table 2.

Where the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium is not detected but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effects are detected, the flock shall be considered to be an infected flock of laying hens Gallus gallus for the purpose of the Union target referred to in Article 1 of Reg. (EC) No 517/2011.

15. Salmonella vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

Use of *Salmonella* vaccines is in compliance with provisions of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

yes

no

If no, please explain. - If performed please describe the vaccination scheme (vaccines used, vaccines providers, target flocks, number of doses administered per bird, etc) (max. 32000 chars) :

As regards vaccination, pursuant to Commission Regulation No (EC) 1177/2006 and provided prevalence is over 10%, vaccination programmes against Salmonella Enteritidis reducing the spread and contamination of eggs, should be applied at least during rearing to all laying hens . The competent veterinary authority of the Regional Unit may grant derogation from compulsory vaccination for Salmonella Enteritidis to a holding subsequent to a request from the holding operator if:

- the interested party attaches a copy of the holding's register which shows that biosecurity measures have been properly applied as well as certified copies of all laboratory tests showing that the holding has been salmonella-free for the 12 months prior to the arrival of the day-old chicks;
- confirms, through an on-site check at the holding, the sufficient and proper implementation of

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

biosecurity measures on the holding;

c) confirms, based on the results of official controls, the absence of Salmonella Enteritidis on the laying or rearing holding in the 12-month period up to the arrival of the birds.

The competent veterinary authorities of the Region ascertain, in the context of official controls carried out, if the dispensed vaccines are approved by the National Organisation for Medicines (EOF).

Despite the fact that prevalence of SE was less than 10% in 2020, as well as in the previous years, vaccination against SE is still mandatory in Greece in order to ascertain the achievement of the community target. Vaccination against ST is voluntary but strongly recommended.

Live salmonella vaccines should not be used in the context of national control programmes where the manufacturer does not provide an appropriate method to distinguish bacteriologically wild-type strains of salmonella from vaccine strains.

Live salmonella vaccines should not be used in the framework of national control programmes in laying hens during production unless the safety of use has been demonstrated and they are authorised for such purpose in accordance with Directive 2001/82/EC.

For the time being, only flocks of rearing birds are vaccinated against salmonella

The vaccine used should be authorised by the competent authority (National Organisation for Medicines) and should be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for use.

The vaccine and the vaccine scheme used is determined by the veterinarian of the holding. However, no more than 3 vaccine doses per bird are administered most of the time. Approved vaccines live or inactivated can be used.

FBO's procure prescribed vaccines from retailers of veterinary medicines.

Documents accompanying the sample sent to the veterinary laboratories must indicate whether or not the samples come from a vaccinated flock and the type of vaccine used.

16. System for **compensation to owners** for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Describe the system for compensation to owners. Indicate also how improper implementation of biosecurity measures can affect the payment of compensation (max. 32000 chars) :

Owners of laying hen holdings who are obliged to slaughter or destroy contaminated flocks or destroy contaminated eggs within the framework of this programme are compensated in accordance with the relevant joint ministerial decision on financial aid.

The amount of the compensation is calculated on the basis of value tables drawn up by the sector and validated by the Ministry of Finance.

The valuation/valorisation of birds is defined at central level annually by the issue of an annual Joint Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Rural Development and Food), which is publicly available at official Gazette's web site and Ministry's web site. In the above mentioned Joint Ministerial Decision there is a scale of compensation of birds.

There is a link between compensation and effective biosecurity measures :FBO's that do not comply with the minimum requirements on biosecurity, as set out in the national legislation for the implementation of NSCP , do not take any compensation in case of a positive flock although they are obliged to implement the measures of part D of Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003.

The conditions that must be met by the farmer, the procedure of payment and all required supporting documents are described in details in the above JMD.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

17. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (No of samples, No of tests, samples taken, etc).

(max. 32000 chars) :

Confirmation of the effectiveness of disinfection is conducted by collecting environmental samples from the infected house after cleaning and disinfection procedures have been completed. The verification of the effectiveness of disinfection can be conducted either by the FBO or by the Regional Veterinary Authority.

The sample is obtained after disinfection from drying surfaces in the house.

Sampling should be done in a way to obtain a representative sample.

The parts to be sampled are the walls, the floor, the drinkers, feeders, nests, vent piping, beams, partitions, the conveyor belts, and other surfaces and devices

Large surfaces

Minimum sampling area is 1m²

- Sampling may be done with sterile swabs as gauze or cellulose sponges using disposable gloves or the technique of "overturned bag" (The plastic bag containing the swab is held from the outside so that when inverted to expose the swab and then covering the surface of the bag is inverted again). The surface swabbed until it looks dirty the swab.

- To monitor the effectiveness of disinfection of the floor, bootswabs can be used like in the case of fecal material.

When dry surfaces are sampled, the swabs must be moistened.

After sampling the containers are sealed and marked appropriately.

Small surfaces

The sampling can be done with sterile cotton-rods or any wood or plastic stick with a cotton tip, or synthetic, insisting where cracks, corners, uneven surfaces. Before use, they must be moistened. The rod is removed from the sterile container and the end is immersed into a tube containing a suitable liquid. A new flock is placed in the previously infected house only in case of negative for salmonella results.

B. General information

1. Structure and organisation of the **Competent Authorities** (from the central CA to the local CAs)

Short description and/or reference to a document presenting this description (max. 32000 chars) :

The authorities responsible for implementing the salmonella control programme in laying hens Gallus gallus are:

1. The Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate / General Veterinary Directorate); (Ministry of Rural Development and Food).
2. the regional veterinary authorities;
3. the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes (Ministry of Rural Development and Food) and the

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory (Ministry of Rural Development and Food.).

4. the Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory, which is the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella.

All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three above mentioned accredited laboratories.

Other bodies involved in the implementation of NSCP are:

5. Operators of Laying hen holdings and laying hen rearing units as well as private veterinary laboratories required to carry out own-checks, in accordance with the details set out in Annex I to Decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 on the "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus."

6) The egg-packing centres, which must receive eggs only from laying hen producer holdings which carry out own-checks as set out in Annex I to the above Decision and which originate from flocks that are confirmed as negative for *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*.

1. The central veterinary authority responsible for control and coordination of all the bodies involved in implementing the programme throughout the country is the Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate.

This department is responsible for preparing the programme, collecting the data, statistical processing of the data, evaluating the progress of the programme, and for keeping the European Commission informed. It is also responsible together with the NRL for the designation and supervision of the private labs involved in the NSCP's.

2. The regional veterinary authorities are responsible for:

(i) nominating the person responsible for implementing and monitoring the programme;

(ii) carrying out the official controls. These official controls include controls of the correct implementation of the programme by the operators, taking official samples, adopting the necessary measures and keeping the competent central authority informed;

(iii) evaluating implementation of the programme at prefecture level;

(iv) dispatching the requested statistics for the programme to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate; and

(v) supervising the training of laying hen farm operators to ensure proper application of the sampling protocol;

(vi) cooperating with and notifying all the competent authorities and bodies about the implementation of the programme.

3. The Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory and the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes receive the samples from the veterinary directorates within their jurisdiction and carry out the necessary laboratory tests to detect salmonella. They must also send the salmonella-positive cultures to the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella in Chalkida.

4. The National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella in Chalkida is responsible for:

(i) serotyping salmonella-positive cultures sent to it by the other state veterinary laboratories and the private laboratories and ensuring immediate dispatch of the serotyping results to the senders;

(ii) receiving the samples from the veterinary directorates within its jurisdiction and carrying out the necessary laboratory tests to detect and serotype salmonella;

(iii) submitting the data and results to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate / Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

It is also responsible for:

(iv) cooperating with the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella;

(v) communicating the information provided by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella to the Zoonoses Department and the salmonella diagnosis laboratories;

(vi) providing scientific and technical assistance to the central competent authority with responsibility for implementing coordinated salmonella control programmes;

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

(vii) observing developments in the field of salmonella epidemiology;
(viii) notifying the Community Reference Laboratory on matters concerning strains of the salmonella vaccine and other special control methods on a case-by-case basis;
(ix) coordinating the diagnosis standards and methods implemented by each individual salmonella diagnosis laboratory. To this end it:
- organises at least one ring test per year;
- keeps salmonella isolates for two years and is responsible for optional phagotyping and anti-microbial sensitivity tests on positive samples;
- cooperates with the other national laboratories in Greece responsible for isolating salmonella in humans;
- organises, where necessary, training for the staff of the Greek salmonella diagnosis laboratories.

5. Our circular No 920/29816-15-03-2017 which has replaced the previous No 383/11852/29.01.2013, sets out the participation procedure for private laboratories conducting own-check sample analyses under the National Salmonella Control Programmes (EPES) and the preconditions to be met by laboratories. At present, all the private laboratories carrying out analyses of own-check samples are also accredited.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars):

This salmonella control programme in flocks of laying hens is being implemented in the context of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003, Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain Salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 of 23 October 2007 : trade restrictions on table eggs (amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 of 1 August 2006, Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, Decision (EC) No 2008/798/EC: restriction on intra-Community trade of live poultry / restriction on import of live poultry from third countries
The National Decision for the implementation of the programme is Decision No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 "Salmonella control programme in laying hens of the species Gallus gallus."

3. Give a short summary of the outcome of the **monitoring of the target *Salmonella serovars*** (SE, ST) implemented in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC (evolution of the prevalence values based on the monitoring of animal populations or subpopulations or of the food chain).

(max. 32000 chars):

see attached table 2 for the monitoring of zoonotic salmonella in flocks of laying hens Gallus gallus since 2008. In 2020, in Greece there were 913 adult laying flocks in 689 laying hen holdings under the NSCP and 744 of them were tested for zoonotic salmonella in the context of NSCP. One out of the 744 adult flocks were positive for the targeted serovars (1SE) and 37 were positive for other salmonella serovars. Due to these results, the community target was achieved in 2020.
Information on the surveillance of salmonella in several food and feed categories in Greece can be

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

found at Efsa's annual summary reports on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks, which are published at EFSA's website.

4. System for the registration of holdings and identification of flocks

(max. 32000 chars) :

All laying hen holdings must be approved and registered in accordance with Presidential Decree 216/2003 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 181). There is a national data base with all the registered laying hen holdings.

The decision on the implementing measures No 1209/30007/13.03.2012 stipulates that a file (record) or computerised system must be kept in the laying hen holdings, which should include all information of public health relevance. This file should include a detailed record of the programme data, vaccinations and treatment.

Each flock is identified with a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of birth or date of placement of the flock in the house.

There is no official registration of the laying hen flocks .

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Each case of positive salmonella spp result is notified without delay to the regional veterinary competent authority in order to take measures in case of suspicion and to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, every 6 months , the state veterinary laboratories report the results of official checks performed in the context of NSCP to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-check received in the context of NSCP to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, all the Regional Veterinary Units report 2 times per year to the Department of Zoonoses detailed information for every laying flock of their territory.

This information includes data on the official and own -check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), data on vaccination (number of vaccine doses administered), number of infected birds culled or destroyed, etc

At regional level the monitoring of the implementation of the programme is achieved by the following way:

Each flock is identified with a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of placement of the flock in the house.

Although there is no official registration of the laying flocks Gallus gallus, the FBO's are obliged to forward detailed information for every flock of their holding (date of placement, own-check results, data on vaccination etc) to the competent regional veterinary authority.

Currently, Department of Zoonoses in collaboration with the Directorate of E- Government of the Ministry, have developed an on-line system for the on- line submission of all the information related to sampling and laboratory testing. However, this system is not yet in force.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2021

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	889
Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	35
Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	0

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2022

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	876
Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	34
Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	0

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2021

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)	197	949
No of flocks in the programme	197	913
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	0	411

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	0	432
No of official samples taken	0	1 316
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	2	4
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	2	4
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	57 584	19 932
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	350 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	48 640

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks

(b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited several times.

(c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

(d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST

Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2022

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)	197	949
No of flocks in the programme	197	913
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	0	411
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	0	428
No of official samples taken	0	1 300
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	2	4
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	2	4
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	57 584	19 932
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	350 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	48 640

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

- (a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks
- (b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited several times.
- (c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.
- (d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST
 Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :* **2021**

Type of the test (description)	Target on vaccination
Number of flocks in the Salmonella programme	1 034
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	197
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	5 671 955
Number of doses expected to be administered	11 343 910

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :* **2022**

Type of the test (description)	Target on vaccination
Number of flocks in the Salmonella programme	1 034
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	197
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	5 671 955
Number of doses expected to be administered	11 343 910

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

D.1. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

Costs of the planned activities for year :

2021

1. Testing of official samples								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Testing	Layers: Bacteriological detection test	889	22.16	19700.24	yes	75	14 775,18	X
Testing	Layers: Serotyping	35	49.46	1731.1	yes	75	1 298,33	X
Testing	Layers: Antimicrobial detection test	10	22.11	221.1	no	75	0	X
Testing	Layers: Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection		41.69	0	no	75	0	X
2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.15 and E.1.d)								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Vaccination	Layers: Purchase of vaccine doses	11 343 910	0.085	964,232.35	yes	75	723 174,26	X
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)								
Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Compensation	Layers: Table eggs destroyed	350 000	0.08	28000	yes	75	21 000	X
Compensation	Layers: Animals culled or slaughtered	77 516	3.5	271,306	yes	75	203 479,5	X
4. Cleaning and disinfection								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Cleaning and disinfection	In case of full flock depopulation			0	no	75	0	X
5. Other essential costs								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
	seasonal staff	6	22000	132,000	yes		0	X
				Add a new row				
6. Cost of official sampling								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Sampling	Layers: Official sampling visit	432	9.53	4116.96	yes	75	3 087,72	X
Total with Union funding request (€):				1,421,086.65	including		966,814.99	
Total without Union funding request (€):				221.1			= requested EU contribution in €	

Costs of the planned activities for year :

2022

1. Testing of official samples								
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Testing	Layers: Bacteriological detection test	876	22.16	19412.16	yes	75	14 559,12	X
Testing	Layers: Serotyping	34	49.46	1681.64	yes	75	1 261,23	X
Testing	Layers: Antimicrobial detection test	10	22.11	221.1	no	75	0	X
Testing	Layers: Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection		41.69	0	no	75	0	X

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.15 and E.1.d)

Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Vaccination	Layers: Purchase of vaccine doses	11 343 910	0.085	964,232.35	yes	75	723 174,26	X

3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)

Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Compensation	Layers: Table eggs destroyed	350 000	0.08	28000	yes	75	21 000	X
Compensation	Layers: Animals culled or slaughtered	77 516	3.5	271,306	yes	75	203 479,5	X

4. Cleaning and disinfection

Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Cleaning and disinfection	In case of full flock depopulation			0	no	75	0	X

5. Other essential costs

Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
	seasonal staff	6	22000	132,000	yes		0	X
				Add a new row				

6. Cost of official sampling

Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	Cofinancing rate	Requested Union contribution in EUR	
Sampling	Layers: Official sampling visit	428	9.53	4078.84	yes	75	3 059,13	X

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Total with Union funding request (€):	1,420,710.99	including	966,533.24
Total without Union funding request (€):	221.1		= requested EU contribution in €

E. Financial information

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

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

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

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

The official sampling in the framework of NSCP is performed by the veterinarians of the regional veterinary services and the samples (properly packed and labeled) are sent shortly after collection to the 3 designated state veterinary laboratories, as has already been stated in this programme. The cost for all these procedures (sampling, packing materials, transport costs) are covered by the state budget and co-financed by the EU. In general, national funding is provided by the country's annual budget. To this end, relevant request is submitted to the Greek Ministry of Finance in order to secure all necessary funds for the purposes of animal disease control, surveillance and eradication and other related expenditure. Following a positive reply as regard the total sum to be allocated for the year in question an annual joint Ministerial Decision is drafted covering the costs of the NSCPs. Once issued this Decision is the base for funding of all official animal disease activities included all programmes approved and co-financed by the EU.

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

The official veterinarians working in the 3 designated state veterinary laboratories involved in NSCP, in collaboration with the technical staff perform all the analytical tests. The salaries of the staff are paid by the state budget and are not co-financed by the EU. Finally, the cost of laboratory consumables required for samples' testing is covered by the state budget (Ministry of Finance, Financial Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food in collaboration to the Animal Health Directorate of the same Ministry, according to the joint Ministerial Decision issued each year) and co-financed by the EU.

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)

Culling and heat-treatment or destruction of infected with SE/ST laying hen flocks occur following a decision issued by the competent regional veterinary authority. Then the farmer submit a request for compensation to the regional veterinary service (along with the necessary supplementary documents) and this request is forwarded to the Animal Health Directorate of the Ministry. Then, all these requests derived from different regional units of the country are checked and further approved. After the issuance of a relevant Ministerial Decision, amounts are transferred from the Animal Health Directorate in collaboration with the Directorate of Financial Services of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, to the financial services of the regions or regional units. Then, the beneficiaries (farmers) take the amount corresponding to them, transferred to their personal bank accounts. The legislative frame for this procedure is the joint Ministerial Decision issued each year by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food along with the Ministry of Finance. In this decision, there is analytical report on the amounts to be paid after culling/destruction and the level of compensation is correlated to the animal species and the animal's age. The cost for the compensation is covered by the state budget and co-financed by the EU.

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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)

Regarding the vaccination of laying flocks Gallus gallus against zoonotic salmonella, the FBO is responsible to purchase the prescribed vaccines. Administration of vaccines is performed by the private veterinarian of the holding or by the farmer under the supervision of the private veterinarian. The cost of vaccines (cost for their purchase) is partially covered by the state budget (maximum 0.10/ per vaccine dose) and co-financed partially by the EU. The procedure followed is similar to this described under point c), except from the fact that in this case the regional veterinary unit doesn't need to issue a decision.

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

For 2021 and 2022 we are kindly requesting from you to co-finance the cost for the salaries of 6 veterinarians (seasonal staff) which are going to be used for the implementation of NSCP in flocks of Layers (and other Gallus gallus species as well existing in the regions were they are going to be hired) in order to cover the needs in regions where the existing permanent staff is not sufficient to cover the programme's implementation. This is particularly addressed in regions with high number of layers.

In 2016 and 2017, we hired 3 vets as seasonal staff to contribute in the implementation of the NSCPs in the regional units of West and East Attika. The cost for their salaries was covered by the state budget for 2016 and was co-financed at 75% in 2017.

For the period 2018 to 2020, seasonal staff was recruited in the regional units of Thessaloniki (1 person), Korinth (1 person) and Ioannina (1 person) and the cost for their salaries was co-financed by 75%. We are kindly asking from you to continue the co-financing of this seasonal staff for the period 2021 to 2022. At this point it is important to emphasize that the above-mentioned measure has significantly improved the implementation of the NSCPs in the above-mentioned areas (http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/ekthesi_ethnikon_progr_salmonelos_2017_2019.pdf). The reason is that there is an extreme lack of permanent veterinary staff at all levels, both at central and at regional level, which is the main reason for the programmes' unsatisfactory results in some regions of the country and that official sampling, as well as official control in the framework of NSCPs are both implemented exclusively by state veterinarians in the country. The aforementioned shortage in veterinary staff combined with the high poultry population reared in some regional units and the epizootics that have occurred in Greece the past few years, have resulted in some cases in deficiencies related to the

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implementation of the programmes. At this point it is worth noting that the co-financing of seasonal staff allows the automatic renewal of staff contracts with the result that there are no gaps in the implementation of the NSCPs. Otherwise, national law provides for seasonal staff to be employed for only eight months and the procedure is more bureaucratic, resulting in long delays in the recruitment of seasonal staff.

In view of the above, we believe that the recent decision of the EU Commission not to co-finance the recruitment of seasonal staff for the needs of control and eradication programmes as of 2021, will lead to greater deficiencies regarding the implementation of official controls and supervision of the NSCPs at local level and will not allow the country to comply with the recommendations of the last audit performed in the country (DG(SANTE)2019-6598).

Therefore, we believe that it is essential for the effective implementation of the NSCPs during the period 2021-2022 to accept to co-finance the cost for the salary of the seasonal staff.

2 Co-financing rate (see provisions of applicable Work Programme)

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

Up to 75% for the measures detailed below

Up to 100% for the measures detailed below

Please explain for which measures and why co-financing rate should be increased to 75%

We kindly ask for an increased co-financing rate for the measures described in the Table under point D. The reason is that this programme is very important for Public Health and due to the economical crisis that Greece is currently facing, this increase would be a relief for the economy of the country. Please, take into account that Greece belongs to the group of Member States with a GNI per inhabitant below 90% of the Union average, for which there is the possibility of an increase up to 75% of the co-financing rates for 2021-2022.

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3. 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

4. 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:

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For the period 2018 to 2020, seasonal staff was recruited in the regional units of Thessaloniki (1 person), Korinth (1 person) and Ioannina (1 person) and the cost for their salaries was co-financed by 75%. We are kindly asking from you to continue the co-financing of this seasonal staff for the period 2021 to 2022.

At this point it is important to emphasize that the above-mentioned measure has significantly improved the implementation of the NSCPs in the above-mentioned areas (http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/ekthesi_ethnikon_progr_salmonelos_2017_2019.pdf). The reason is that there is an extreme lack of permanent veterinary staff at all levels, both at central and at regional level, which is the main reason for the programmes' unsatisfactory results in some regions of the country and that official sampling, as well as official control in the framework of NSCPs are both implemented exclusively by state veterinarians in the country. The aforementioned shortage in veterinary staff combined with the high poultry population reared in some regional units and the epizootics that have occurred in Greece the past few years, have resulted in some cases in deficiencies

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In view of the above, we believe that the recent decision of the EU Commission not to co-finance the recruitment of seasonal staff for the needs of control and eradication programmes as of 2021, will lead to greater deficiencies regarding the implementation of official controls and supervision of the NSCPs at local level and will not allow the country to comply with the recommendations of the last audit performed in the country (DG(SANTE) 2019-6598).

Therefore, we believe that it is essential for the effective implementation of the NSCPs during the period 2021-2022 to accept to co-finance the cost for the salary of the seasonal staff.

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

List of all attachments

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