

Eradication: Final report for Rabies 2018

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

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Country code: FI

Reporting period

From: 2018

To: 2018

Year of implementation: 2018

1. Technical implementation of the programme

1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

Finland has been rabies free since 1991. In order to prevent rabies from spreading across the national border, oral rabies vaccination has been carried out annually since 1991. Since 2004, the vaccination was carried out twice a year and in 2011 the vaccination area was increased due to announcement of rabies in Karelia. Since 2014 the vaccination has been carried out once per year, in the autumn, due to the favourable disease situation and to reduce the costs of vaccination. In 2018 the oral vaccination campaign was carried out between 15.9.-14.10.2018 in Finland. The total area was 10 000 km² (9000 km² land area) and the total amount of vaccines delivered was 180 000 by aerial distribution.

Since 2003 rabies vaccine baits have been distributed manually once per year in Russia in the area adjacent to Finland. In 2011 bilateral agreements were signed with the Leningrad region and Republic of Karelia. Both agreements were renewed in 2014. The agreement with the Republic of Karelia was once more renewed in 2018. Rabies vaccination baits were distributed manually in two districts of Karelia close to the Finnish border, Sortavala and Lahdenpohja. In Sortavala 12970 vaccine baits were distributed over an area of 518.8 km² between 17 and 26 December. In Lahdenpohja 18000 vaccine baits were distributed over an area of 720 km² between 16 and 18 December.

In the Leningrad region, 84 000 baits were distributed manually in areas adjacent to Finland. The Leningrad region authorities have confirmed that they are not applying for co-financing of their programme.

No rabies cases have been detected in the Republic of Karelia nor in the Leningrad region in 2018.

1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.

The seroconversion of foxes and raccoon dogs are measured from the vaccination area in Finland as well as biomarker detection and age determination. The aim is to get 4 animals per 100 square kilometres, that is 360 animals in total. The target was not achieved. From the vaccination area, a total of 271 foxes and raccoon dogs were sent to the laboratory. 256 foxes and raccoon dogs were analyzed for rabies (FAT) and 240 for rabies antibodies. 48.3 % (CI 95% 42-57 %) of them were seropositive. Tetracycline samples were taken from 266 animals and 63.2% of the samples were positive. Altogether, 395 animals (excluding bats) were tested for rabies from the whole country. Eligible animals for co-funding are indicator animals (passive surveillance) and foxes and raccoon dogs from vaccination area (active surveillance), 369 in total.

In the Republic of Karelia, Russia, it has been challenging to get sufficient amounts of samples for monitoring and surveillance, in particular from dead animals. The results of the monitoring are not what would be expected.

In the Republic of Karelia, the vaccine distributed was Rabistav, manufactured by FKP Stavropolskaja biofabrika. The manufacturer checked the vaccine in December and it was found to be satisfactory.

1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

The Republic of Karelia has submitted maps which can be submitted separately by e-mail on request.

ANNEX VI TECHNICAL REPORT ON RABIES PROGRAMMES

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

Table A1 - TEST FOR THE MONITORING OF VACCINATION EFFECTIVENESS

Region	Species and age	Type of test	Test description	Number of tests	Number positive	% positive
Vaccination area	Foxes juvenile	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	27	13	48.15 %
Vaccination area	Foxes adult	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	38	20	52.63 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Foxes unknown age	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	2	0	0 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Raccoon dogs juvenile	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	102	36	35.29 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Raccoon dogs adult	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	71	57	80.28 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Foxes juvenile	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	25	18	72 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Foxes adult	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	36	29	80.56 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Foxes unknown age	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	2	1	50 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Raccoon dogs juvenile	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	125	60	48 %
Finland, Vaccination area	Raccoon dogs adult	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	78	60	76.92 %
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Foxes unknown age	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	7	0	0 %
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Raccoon dogs adult	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	4	0	0 %
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Foxes unknown age	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	2	0	0 %
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Foxes unknown age	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	7	1	14.29 %
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Raccoon dogs adult	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	4	0	0 %
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Foxes unknown age	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	2	1	50 %
Total				532	296	55.64 %

Table A2 - SURVEILLANCE TESTS

Region	Animal species	Category	Test description	Number of tests	Number of cases
Finland whole country	Foxes	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	6	0
Finland whole country	Raccoon dogs	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	15	0
Finland whole country	Dogs	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	19	0
Finland whole country	Cats	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	22	0

Finland whole country	Wolves	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	5	0
Finland whole country	Domestic ruminants	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	4	0
Finland whole country	Other wilds carnivores	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	49	0
Finland, Vaccination area	Foxes	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	61	0
Finland, Vaccination area	Raccoon dogs	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	186	0
Finland whole country	Other species	Passive	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	2	0
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Foxes	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	7	0
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Raccoon dogs	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	4	0
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Other wilds carnivores	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	1	0
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Foxes	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	2	0
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Wolves	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	2	0
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Other wilds carnivores	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	2	0
Russia, Karelia, other areas	Foxes	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	1	0
Russia, Karelia, other areas	Wolves	Active	fluorescent antibody test (IF)	9	0
Total				397	0

Number of rabies virus isolates typed for differentiation from vaccine	0
Typing results (please indicate the number of field strains/vaccine strains, and (optional) comment)	-

Table B - WILDLIFE ORAL VACCINATION

Aerial distribution data files:

Downloadable via URL	
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Description of the analysis performed by the Competent Authority on the aerial distribution data and conclusions of the assessment for the quality of the distribution:

Visual inspection of the flight lines. The quality of distribution was as expected. In Russian Karelia Rabistav baits were distributed manually between 16.12. and 26.12.2018.

Start date of First Campaign	14/9/2018	End date of First Campaign	13/10/2018
Start date of Second Campaign		End date of Second Campaign	

Region/Area	Product used	Number of doses	Size of vaccinated area (km ²)	Distribution method
South East Finland	Rabitec (SPBNGASGAS)	180,000	9,000	Aerial
Russia, Karelia, Sortavala	Rabistav	12,970	519	Manual
Russia, Karelia, Lahdenpohja	Rabistav	18,000	720	Manual
Total		210,970	10,239	

Table C - OFFICIAL CONTROL OF ORAL VACCINES BEFORE THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Number of batches distributed	Number of batches controlled by CA	Number of batches rejected
1	1	0

Batch number	Manufacturer	Sampling date	Virus titration result	Outcome of the titration
001/2018	IDT	3/8/2018	9.5TCID50/ml	Acceptable

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

Unfortunately the template does not allow for including monitoring in raccoon dogs of unknown age nor other animals, such as wolves in the Republic of Karelia. The Finnish raccoon dogs of unknown age (3 in the case of serological tests and 4 in the case of biomarker tests of which one was positive in each test) have now been included in the tests on adult raccoon dogs. The wolves tested in Russia could not be included at all.

It also does not allow for the specification of the tests used in Russia. The Russians do not give the tests in the same way as in the EU, may be a problem of translation. The Russian tests have now been changed into the same as used in Finland, because otherwise no information on testing in Russia could have been included.

