



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants
Animal health

**SUBMISSION OF ERADICATION PROGRAMMES FOR CATEGORY B AND C
DISEASES OF TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS BASED ON GRANTING DISEASE-FREE
STATUS AT ESTABLISHMENT LEVEL**

**Template in accordance with Article 10 of
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)
2020/2002**

1. Date of submission

2. Member State:

Bulgaria

3. Name of the disease¹

Brucellosis in small ruminants (ovine and caprine) (B.abortus, B.melitensis, B.suis)

4. Contact details

a. E-mail

AHW@bfsa.bg

b. Responsibility within the competent authority

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency

c. Name:

Anna Zdravkova – Director of Animal Health and Welfare Directorate

Daniel Denev – chief expert, Animal Health and Welfare Directorate

5. Territorial scope with a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas covered by the eradication programme and the names of the zones and regions, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme.

The regional structures of the BFSA correspond to the administrative districts of the country. The Republic of Bulgaria is administratively divided into 28 districts, each

¹ This template is to be used for the submission of the following eradication programmes for the following listed diseases:

Category B-diseases

a) Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*

B) Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex

Category C-diseases

a) Enzootic bovine leukosis

C) Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis

D) Infection with Aujeszky's disease virus

e) Bovine viral diarrhoea

of which will implement the surveillance and control programme for Brucellosis in small ruminants caused by *B.abortus*, *B.melitensis* and *B.suis*.

6. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone or region, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme:

- (a) the number of establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population by health status (Disease-free, infected or unknown) excluding establishments falling under the derogation referred to in point (6)(f) at 31 December;

Total number of herds/establishments of the targeted population in Bulgaria, by regions:

Small ruminants (ovine and caprine)

Blagoevgrad	4 182
Burgas	960
Varna	463
Veliko Tarnovo	5 426
Vidin	421
Vratsa	3 750
Gabrovo	956
Dobrich	3 963
Kardjali	2 100
Kjustendil	3 210
Lovech	305
Montana	5 492
Pazardjik	1 493
Pernik	2 098
Pleven	3 855
Plovdiv	863
Razgrad	4 100
Russe	352
Silistra	6 836
Sliven	3 909
Smolyan	812
Sofia town	93
Sofia-district	7800
Stara Zagora	4 000
Targovishte	1 595
Haskovo	5 200
Shumen	10 000
Yambol	993
Total	85 227

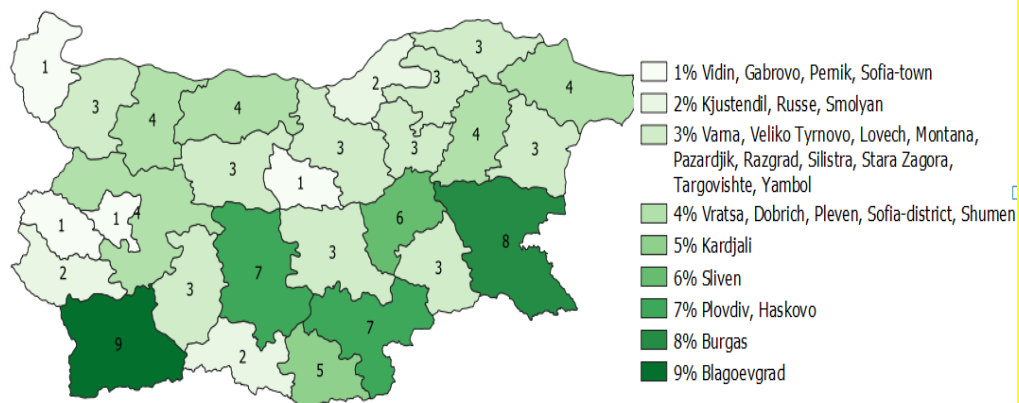
(b) the number of animals of the targeted animal population kept in the establishments referred to in point (a) by health status;

Total number of small ruminants in Bulgaria, by regions:

Blagoevgrad	175580
Burgas	143772
Varna	58048
Veliko Tarnovo	61114
Vidin	16577
Vratsa	72033
Gabrovo	14662
Dobrich	66181
Kardjali	85646
Kjustendil	27181
Lovech	47547
Montana	45517
Pazardjik	55802
Pernik	27062
Pleven	63440
Plovdiv	131726
Razgrad	45597
Russe	28963
Silistra	48683
Sliven	100505
Smolyan	40134
Sofia town	8402
Sofia-district	79144
Stara Zagora	52682
Targovishte	62474
Haskovo	122934
Shumen	76395
Yambol	49780
Total	1 807 581

(c) maps indicating the density of the targeted animal population referred to in point (b) by health status;

map density small ruminants



(d) timeline with prevalence, occurrence data and, where relevant, vaccination history covering at least the past 5 years; and

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blagoevgrad	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
Burgas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veliko Tarnovo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vidin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vratsa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gabrovo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dobrich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kardjali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kjustendil	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	1	0	0
Lovech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pazardjik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pernik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleven	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Plovdiv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Razgrad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silistra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sliven	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Smolyan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sofia town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sofia-district	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stara Zagora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Targovishte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haskovo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shumen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yambol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	11	1	6	1	0	0

(e) information as regards the epidemiological situation in additional animal populations, where relevant.

N/A

7. A description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 16 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 including at least:

(a) the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex IV to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689:

Serological and bacteriological laboratory diagnostic tests shall be determined in accordance with Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases.

(I) for the granting of the disease-free status to establishments and the maintenance of that status;

- ✓ a single serological examination of all ovine and caprine animals aged 6 months or over and kept in a herd;
- ✓ a single serological examination of all non-castrated male breeding animals (ram and he-goat) over six months of age;
- ✓ a single serological test during the compulsory quarantine of all Small Ruminant Animals imported from third countries;
- ✓ entire small ruminants (ovine or caprine animals) over 6 months on two occasions as follows:
 - first test must be carried out on samples taken not earlier than 3 months after the removal of the last confirmed case and of the last animal that tested positive in an immunological test

- second test must be carried out on samples taken not earlier than 6 months and not later than 12 months following the date of sampling;
- ✓ bacteriological examination of all aborted foetuses, placentals or stillbirths;
 - (II) to confirm or rule out the disease in the event of a suspected case;
- ✓ bacteriological examination of all aborted fetuses, placenta or stillborn lambs and kids;
- ✓ serological tests every two months of all bovine, small ruminants, pigs, equidae and dogs in the settlements with confirmed brucellosis;
- ✓ in-depth epidemiological studies in confirmed outbreaks to identify the source of infection;
- ✓ obtaining reliable information on the number of abortions;
- ✓ detection of possible unidentified epizootic outbreaks;
- ✓ eradication of all outbreaks of ovine and caprine brucellosis.
- ✓ ensuring adequate epidemiological control of sheep and goats purchased and moved from neighboring countries.

(B) disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case;

The disease control measures in small ruminants are detailed in Ordinance № 52 of 28.04.2006 on the health requirements for sheep and goats during their movement or transportation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Member States of the European Union, on determining the health status of the sites of origin and the additional health status guarantees of these objects

(C) Biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented;

The biosecurity and risk reduction measures at the detection of the disease in small ruminants are detailed in Ordinance № 52 of 28.04.2006 on the health requirements for sheep and goats during their movement or transportation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Member States of the European Union, on determining the health status of the sites of origin and the additional health status guarantees of these objects

(d) type of vaccine(s) to be used and the vaccination scheme, if relevant;

N/A

(e) measures to be implemented as regards additional animal populations, if relevant;

N/A

(F) derogations to be applied in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, if relevant;

N/A

(g) coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, if relevant.

If positive cases of animals originating in other Member States or third countries are detected, they shall be notified in good time of traceability in the country of origin of the animals.

(h) targeted animal populations and when applicable, additional animal populations

Herds with small ruminants, aged 6 months or over, to be tested under the programme in one calendar year

Region	Number of herds of small ruminants to be tested per calendar year
Blagoevgrad	4 182
Burgas	960
Varna	463
Veliko Tarnovo	5 426
Vidin	421
Vratsa	3 750
Gabrovo	956
Dobrich	3 963
Kardzhali	2 100
Kyustendil	3 210
Lovech	305
Montana	5 492
Pazardzhik	1 493
Pernik	2 098
Pleven	3 855
Plovdiv	863
Razgrad	4 100
Ruse	352
Silistra	6 836
Sliven	3 909
Smolyan	812
Sofia (capital)	93
Sofia district	7800
Stara Zagora	4 000
Targovishte	1 595
Haskovo	5 200
Shumen	10 000
Yambol	993
Total	85 227

8. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:

(a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme;

1. Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
2. The Bulgarian Veterinary Union (Registered Veterinarians)

3. National Reference Laboratory “Brucellosis”, Section “Epizootology and Infectious Animal Diseases” at the NDRVMI in Sofia

(b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved.

1. Bulgarian Food Safety Agency

1.1. **BFSA Headquarters**

- ✓ The BFSA is a central competent authority that monitors the implementation of the control of infectious diseases and their mandatory notification;
- ✓ certifies the status of the country / districts / sites as brucellosis-free at small ruminants;
- ✓ interact with other Member States and ensure the health status of animals and animal products in international trade;
- ✓ certifies to the international institutions the restoration of the status of the individual districts and the country as a whole, as free from brucellosis at small ruminants;

Animal Health and Welfare Directorate:

- ✓ develop a disease control strategy and monitors the implementation of the program;
- ✓ coordinate the actions of all authorities involved in the programme;
- ✓ collect information and prepare reports with the results of the programme;
- ✓ send an annual report to the European Commission on the activities carried out in relation to the disease.

Food Control Directorate:

- ✓ carries out controls on establishments engaged in meat production and processing activities.

1.2. **Regional Food Safety Directorates**

- ✓ monitor the implementation of the programme;
- ✓ control the activities of all registered veterinarians at regional level to ensure the programme and report the data to the Headquarters of BFSA;
- ✓ control the sampling by registered veterinarians;
- ✓ ensure traceability of the samples — return the results of the samples back to the farm;
- ✓ monitor the results of surveillance in the database provided by registered veterinarians;
- ✓ the official veterinarians controlling the meat production establishments shall immediately notify the Director of the RFSDs of suspicion of Brucellosis during the routine slaughter inspection of healthy slaughtered animals.

- ✓ collect data on abortions in small ruminants.
- ✓ send monthly summary information on all municipalities in the district with the results of the implementation of a programme to the Headquarters of the BFSA;

1.3. **Registered veterinarians:**

- ✓ take samples for serological testing under the programme and send them for testing to an official laboratory Article 51(2) of the Law for management of the agro-food chain (LMAFC);
- ✓ send foetuses from aborted animals to an official laboratory under Article 51(2) of the LMAFC for bacteriological examination;
- ✓ enter into the Integrated Information System of the BFSA - VetIS, the identification numbers of the animals from which they have taken samples for testing.

2 National Reference Laboratory “Brucellosis”, Section “Epizootology and Infectious Animal Diseases” at the NDRVMI in Sofia:

- ✓ carry out testing of samples of from small ruminants with serological tests;
- ✓ send samples to the EU Reference Laboratory where further testing is required;
- ✓ participates in the ‘ring’ tests organised by the EU Reference Laboratory;
- ✓ cooperates with the National Reference Laboratories of other Member States on the necessary studies;
- ✓ controls other laboratories carrying out tests for Brucellosis.

9. The estimated duration of the eradication programme.

2022-2024

10. The intermediate targets of the eradication programme including at least:

(a) the expected annual decrease of the number of infected establishments;

Single (sporadic) outbreaks of the disease would be expected to be confirmed.

(b) the expected annual increase of the number of disease-free establishments;

It is expected 100% establishments to be confirmed disease-free.

(c) the expected vaccination coverage, where relevant.

N/A