



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/3902/2008

*Programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain
animal diseases and zoonoses*

Monitoring and eradication programme of TSE, BSE and scrapie

Approved* for 2009 by Commission Decision 2008/897/EC

Lithuania

* in accordance with Commission Decision 90/424/EEC





**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
VALSTYBINĖ MAISTO IR VETERINARIJOS TARNYBA**

STATE FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY FINANCING FOR MONITORING
PROGRAMME OF TSEs IN LITHUANIA FOR 2009**

LITHUANIA, APRIL 2008

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Member State: Lithuanian Republic

Disease: Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Year of implementation: from 1st of January 2009 to 31st December of 2009

Reference of this document:

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2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

The purpose of this programme is as follows:

- monitoring of bovine animals for BSE
- monitoring of ovine and caprine animals for scrapie disease
- genotyping under the framework of breeding programme and compensation for animal culling
- monitoring of chronic waste diseases

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF THE DISEASE

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie disease are compulsory notifiable diseases in Lithuania since 1992. No cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie disease have been recorded in Lithuania yet. New variant of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease among humans has not been laboratory diagnosed in Lithuania either.

The TSEs active surveillance programme has been started in Lithuania since 1st of July 2001. This programme was designed in compliance with the requirements set up in the Commission Decision 98/272/EC. The programme included sampling of dead, emergency slaughtered, cohort group (animals originating from countries with indigenous TSEs and their progenies, animals which have consumed potentially contaminated feedingstuffs) and suspected bovine animals (animals displaying behavioural or neurological signs lasting for at least 15 days and resistant to treatment, moribund animals without signs of infectious or traumatic illness, animals displaying other progressive disease conditions) over 20 months of age, slaughtered for human consumption bovine animals over 30 months of age, dead, emergency slaughtered and suspected for scrapie disease ovine and caprine animals over 12 months of age.

Since 10 October 2002 Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies was implemented.

TSE testing is performed at the NVL, which is the reference laboratory for TSEs in Lithuania. There are no other laboratories for TSEs investigation in Lithuania.

From 1 July, 2001 Lithuania introduced rapid diagnostic test for TSEs (Enfer test). Samples from slaughtered animals are tested by rapid Enfer test and samples from other groups of animals were tested by histopathological examination and Enfer test. Bio-Rad rapid diagnostic test for TSEs also introduced in the National Veterinary laboratory from 2002.

The number of tests done in the year 2001-2006 shown in the table below. .

TSE CONTROL IN LITHUANIA

Animal species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Rapid test							
Cattle	19282	11136	9746	50503	86195	87406	100608
Sheep	18	59	83	234	1028	1826	2986
Goat	2	11	0	4	6	22	80
Total	19302	11206	9829	50741	87229	89254	103679
Genotyping							
Sheep					50	50	50

4. MEASURES OF THE SUBMITTED PROGRAMME

4.1. Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the department responsible for implementing the programme:

The State Food and Veterinary Service (thereafter – SFVS) is the competent authority for animal health control in Republic of Lithuania.

SFVS is under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Director of SFVS, who is the Chief Veterinary Officer, reports directly to the Prime Minister.

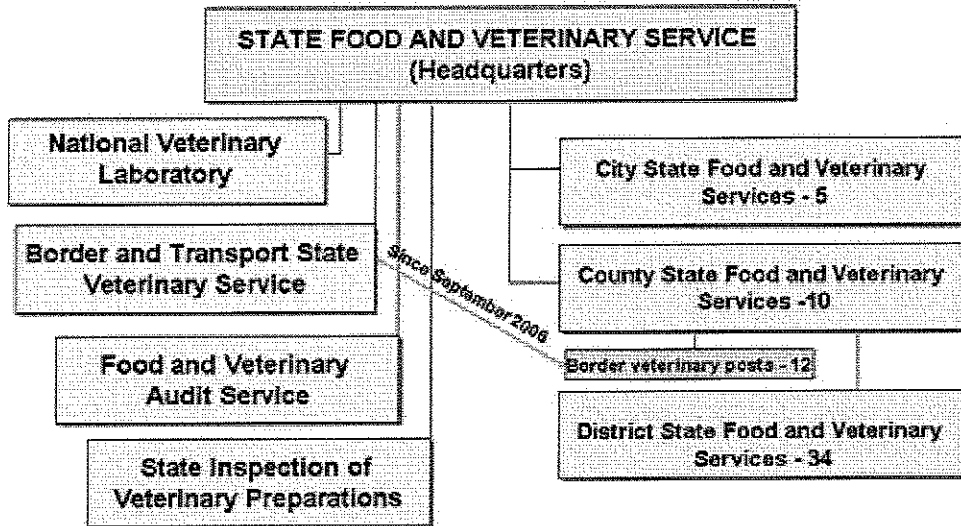
There are 11 departments at SFVS:



Picture 1. Structure of the State Food and Veterinary Service

The structure of the SFVS of Lithuania is based on the principle of a pyramid topped by the headquarters at the national level, county, city and district SFVS – at the regional level and supported by laboratories and border inspection posts.

**STRUCTURE OF THE SFVS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**



Picture 2. State Food and Veterinary Service and subordinated institutions

The institutions that are subordinate to the State Food and Veterinary Service: National Veterinary Laboratory, State Inspection on Veterinary Preparations and State Food and Veterinary Services of 10 counties, 5 cities and 34 districts.

The Animal Health and Welfare Department :

- Carries out risk-based analysis of the epidemiological situation with regard to animal health, prevention, surveillance, monitoring and socially oriented control of animal diseases with a view to eradicate exotic and endemic notifiable diseases
- Organises controls of animal identification and registration and of animal movements, intra-Community trade, import and export of live animals, animal by-products, feedingstuffs and additives, import, distribution and use of veterinary medicinal products
- Develops animal welfare control policy and coordinates the implementation of animal welfare requirements in animal holdings, slaughterhouses, during transportation, etc.
- Operates a free phone line (8-800 404 03) for information related to animal welfare violations received from the population.

4.2. Description and elimination of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented:

The Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies monitoring programme will be applied from 1st of January 2009 to 31st December of 2009 in whole Republic of the Lithuanian

4.3. System in place for the registration of holdings

The animal holding registers is done according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2629/97 of 29 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards ear tags, holding registers and passports in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals

4.4. System in place for the identification of animals

According to the national legislation animal keeper is responsible for registration of animal holding, ear-tagging and registration of animals, keeping and updating of on-farm registers and notifications to the system. The ear-tagging and registration on the national database of the new born calf also movement notifications have to be made within 7 days after the event. Double notification system is required for animal movement recording to the database. The standard notification forms are used to declare movements of animals from one animal keeper to another or to a slaughterhouse.

Corresponding animal movement reports are sent at the beginning and at the end of the movement action to the relevant State Food and Veterinary District office within 7 days. Movement data are recorded in the database at the moment of their first declaration even if the other part of the movement is never transmitted to the database.

4.5. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the notification of the disease

„Requirements on notification of contagious diseases “ approved by Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service by the Order No 497 12 11 2001 implementing EU Directive 82/894/EEC (Official Gazette 2001, No. 96-3411)

4.6. Monitoring

4.6.1. Monitoring in Bovine Animals

	Estimated Number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, points 2.1, 3 and 4.1 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council	5000
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, points 2.2, 4.2 and 4.3 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100 000
Others (specify)	

4.6.2. Monitoring in Ovine animals

	Estimated Number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 2 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	1000
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 3 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	200
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 3 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	
Animals referred to in Annex VIII, points 8 (d) of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	
Others (specify)	

4.6.3. Monitoring in Ovine animals

	Estimated Number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 2 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	100
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 3 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	100
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, points 5 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex VII, point 4(c) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	
Others (specify)	

4.6.4. Discriminatory tests

	Estimated Number of tests
Primary molecular testing referred to in Annex X, Chapter C, point 3.2(c)(i) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0

4.6.5. Genotyping of positive and randomly selected animals

	Estimated Number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8.1 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0

Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8.2 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100
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4.6.6. Survey of Chronical wasting disease in cervids

The population of red deer in the Republic of Lithuania in the beginning of year 2006 was about 14400. About 2200 red deer are hunted annually. There are 18 holdings registered by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania with about 600 animals. About 160 red deers are slaughtered in one approved slaughterhouse.

A survey to detect the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease in the red deer population in the Republic of Lithuania.

This survey will be completed no later than the end of the 2009 hunting season, which is from 1st October to 31st December. The sampling from slaughtered animals will be performed during the year.

Target groups shall be:

Clinical/sick animals	Animals observed showing abnormal behavioural signs and/or locomotor disturbances and/or generally in poor condition
Road-kill	Animals killed by road vehicles for which ante-mortem condition cannot be ascertained
Fallen/Culled stock	Animals found dead on-farm or in the wild and farmed deer culled for health/age reasons
Healthy slaughtered	Farmed animals slaughtered in the slaughterhouse or on farm
Healthy shot	Wild animals shot during the hunting season

	Estimated Number of tests
Wild animals	550
Animals kept on farms	100
Total	650

Sampling procedure

A sample of obex should be collected and tested for each animal in the survey following guidance on methods and protocols laid down the Regulation EC (No) 999/2001, Annex X, Chapter C . Rapid tests used for TSE detection in obex of bovine or small ruminant animals are considered will be used in this survey. In case of positive findings, the protocol as foreseen in Annex X, Chapter C, 3.2, (c)(i) and (ii) shall apply.

Genotyping

The prion protein genotype shall be determined for each positive TSE case in cervids, according to the guidelines of the CRL.

- (a) Immediate report in the event of the discovery of a positive or inconclusive animal;
- (b) The results of the surveillance as set out in Annex IV as part of the annual report for TSE monitoring in bovine, ovine and caprine animals, for 2006 and for 2007 as provided as for in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Article 6(4) .
 - (i) All sampled animals should be over 18 months of age; age shall be estimated on the basis of dentition, obvious signs of maturity, or any other reliable information
 - (ii) In the case of healthy wild animals, male animals should, in particular, be targeted
 - (iii) In the case of healthy farmed animals, older male and female animals should, in particular, be targeted

Measures following testing

1. The traceability of that carcass animal slaughtered for human consumption will be ensured by special sampling and it will not be released for commercial sale until a negative result to the rapid test has been obtained.
2. The hunter, gamekeeper or farmer where known will be informed when samples are submitted and the results of a positive rapid test communicated as soon as possible by sending of the test protocol.
3. All parts of the body of an animal found positive to the rapid test, including the hide, shall be directly disposed of in accordance with Articles 4(2)(a), (b) or (e) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.

Reporting

The results for the sampling of the previous year will be reported in the Annual report, submitted within 3 months of the end of each year of the survey. The 2007 report shall include the final results of the survey, even when some samples have been taken in 2009.

4.7. Eradication

4.7.1. Measures following confirmation of a BSE case:

4.7.1.1. Description:

1. when the presence of a TSE has been officially confirmed, the following measures shall be applied as soon as possible:
 - (a) all parts of the body of the animal shall be completely destroyed in accordance with Annex V apart from material retained for records in accordance with Annex III, Chapter B, III, 2;
 - (b) an inquiry shall be carried out to identify all animals at risk in accordance with Annex VII, point 1;
 - (c) all animals and products of animal origin referred to in Annex VII, point 2, that have been identified as being at risk by the inquiry referred to in (b), shall be killed and completely destroyed in accordance with Annex V, points 3 and 4.

By way of derogation from this paragraph, Member States may apply other measures offering an equivalent level of protection, if those measures have been approved in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 24(2).

2. Pending the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1(b) and (c), the holding on which the animal was present when the presence of a TSE was confirmed shall be placed under official control and all movement of animals susceptible to TSEs and products of animal origin derived from them from or to the holding shall be subject to authorisation by the competent authority, with a view to ensuring immediate tracing and identification of the animals and products of animal origin concerned. If there is evidence that the holding where the affected animal was present when the TSE was confirmed is not likely to be the holding where the animal was exposed to the TSE, the competent authority may decide that both holdings or only the holding of exposure shall be placed under official control.

3. Member States which have implemented a substitute scheme offering equivalent safeguards provided for in the fifth subparagraph of Article 12(1) may, by way of derogation from the requirements of paragraph 1(b) and (c), be exempted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 24(2) from the requirement to apply official restrictions on the movement of animals and from the requirement to kill and destroy animals.

4. Owners shall be compensated without delay for the loss of the animals that have been killed or products of animal origin destroyed in accordance with Article 12(2) and paragraph 1(a) and (c) of this Article.

5. Without prejudice to Directive 82/894/EEC, the confirmed presence of any TSE other than BSE shall be notified to the Commission on an annual basis.

4.7.1.2. Summary table

	Estimated number
Animals to be killed according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(a) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001:	0

4.7.2. Measures following confirmation of a scrapie case:

4.7.2.2. Summary table

	Estimated number
Animals to be killed according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(b) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001:	0
Animals to be genotyped according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(b) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001:	0

4.7.3. Breeding programme for resistance to TSEs in sheep

4.7.3.1. General description :

The breeding programme shall concentrate on flocks of high genetic merit.

2. A database shall be established containing at least the following information:

(a) the identity, breed and number of animals in all flocks participating in the breeding programme;

(b) the identification of the individual animals sampled under the breeding programme;

(c) the results of any genotyping tests.

3. A system of uniform certification shall be established in which the genotype of each animal sampled under the breeding programme is certified by reference to its individual identification number.

4. Sampling shall be carried out by personnel specifically designated for this purpose under the breeding programme.

5. A system for the identification of animals and samples, the processing of samples and the delivery of results shall be established which minimises the possibility of human error. The efficiency of this system shall be subject to regular random checking.

6. Genotyping of blood or other tissues collected for the purposes of the breeding programme shall be carried out in laboratories that have been approved under the scheme.

7. The competent authority of the Member State may assist breed societies who wish to do so, to establish genetic banks consisting of semen, ova and/or embryos representative of prion protein genotypes which are likely to become rare as a result of the breeding programme.

8. Breeding programmes shall be drawn up for each breed, taking account of:

(a) frequencies of the different alleles within the breed;

(b) rarity of the breed;

(c) avoidance of inbreeding or genetic drift.

4.7.3.2. Summary table

	Estimated number
Ewes to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme as established in Commission Decision 2003/100/EC	150
Rams to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme as established in Commission Decision 2003/100/EC	50

5. Costs

5.1. Detailed analysis of the costs:

Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in €	Total amount in €	Community funding requested (yes/no)
1. BSE testing					
1.1. Purchase of rapid test kits	Test: rapid test	100 000	7	700000	yes
	Test: histopathology	5000			
	Test:				
	Test:				
2. Scrapie testing					
2.1. Purchase of rapid test kits	Test: rapid test	1400	7	9800	yes
	Test:				
	Test:				
	Test:				
3. Genotyping					
3.1. Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of the measures laid down by Regulation 999/2001	Method: DNA testing	100	100	10 000	
3.2. Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of breeding programme as established in Commission Decision		200	100	20 000	yes

2003/100/EC								
4. Compulsory Slaughter								
4.1. Compensation for animals to be killed under the requirements to Annex VII, Point 2 (b) of Regulation (EC) 999/2001								
5. Survey of Chiroinical wasting disease in cervids according Commission Decision SANCO/960/2006/Rev6.	650	7	4550	yes				
TOTAL								735350

