



NATIONAL SANITARY VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (NSVFSA)

BTV₄ control strategy in Romania PAFF Committee, 6 May 2015, Brussels



Summary

Historical data on BTV evolution on 2014

Romania's strategy for BTV4 control on 2015

Cost of the eradication program 2015

Conclusions

BTV4 episode in 2014

- First case of BTV4 was confirmed on 23rd of August 2014 in the South-East of Romania, in Buzau county;
- From 23rd of August, to 3rd of December 2014, the disease was confirmed in 34 of 42 counties of Romania.

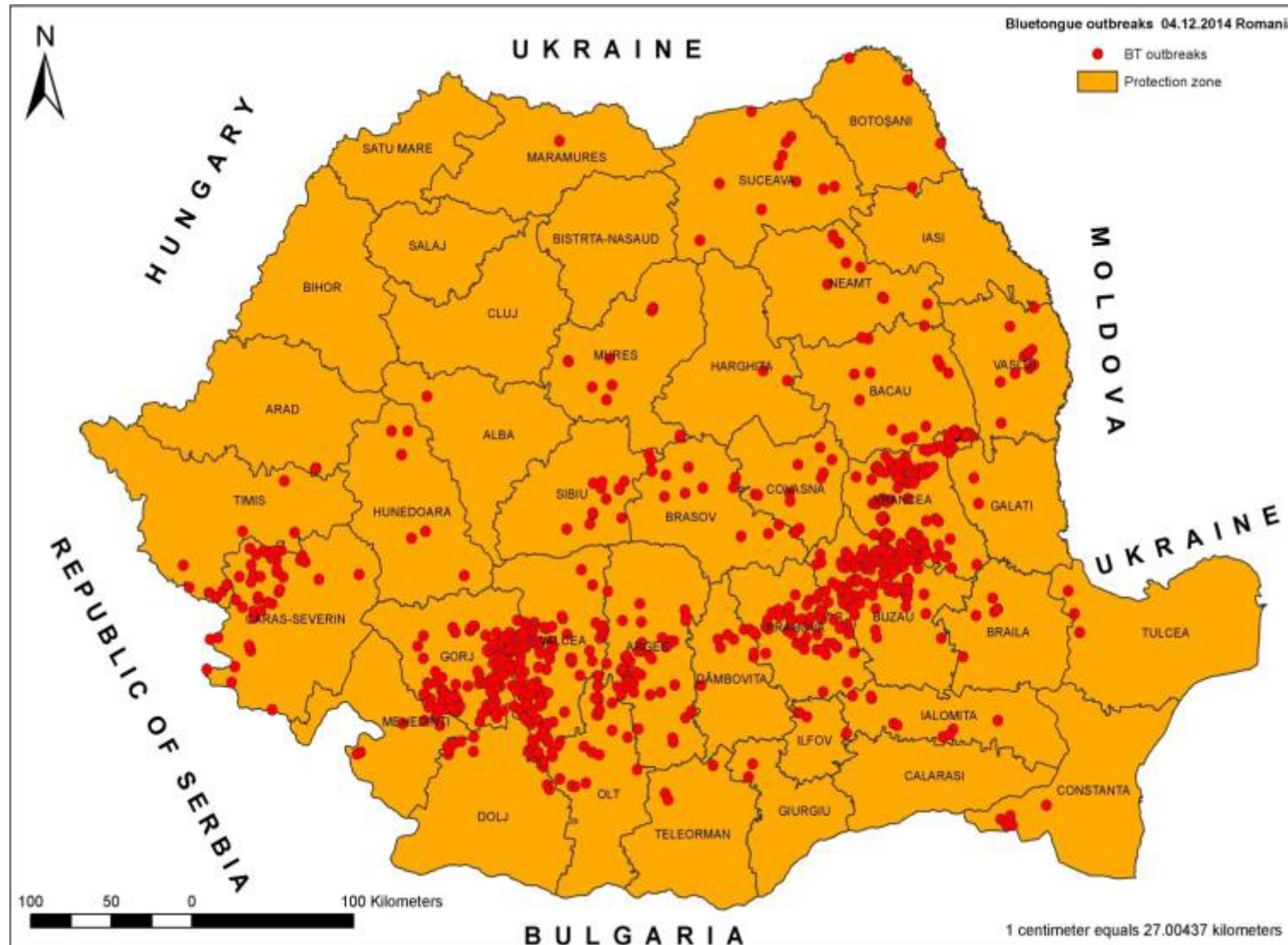
The measures adopted for disease control were accordingly to the provisions of the EU legislation in force:

- Council Directive 2000/75/EC *laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue* and
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 *on implementing rules for Council Directive 2000/75/EC as regards the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue.*

Restriction zones:

- Due to BT evolution, the restriction zones were extended in the end to all Romanian territory
- In order to facilitate the application of the movement control rules, and to avoid the spreading of disease, the zoning system was simplified to: **control zone** (mainly unifying all areas around existing outbreaks), and **protection zone** (all remained country territory).

Map of all 2014 confirmed outbreaks



Evolution of cases from 23rd August, to 3rd of December 2014 (1)

Data on animals	Bovine	Sheep	Goats
Total number of animals in infected counties	2.047.869	1.003.0178	1.721.393
Total number of affected animals	1.020	3.041	13
Total number of dead animals	38	878	4
% of dead from affected	3,7%	29%	30,8 %

Evolution of cases from 23rd of August, to 3rd of December 2014
(2)

Total number of outbreaks in 2014	1128
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Samples tested in suspicions	Total	Positive	Negative
No of samples tested by ELISA	6.122	4.889	1.233
No of samples tested by PCR	2.334	2.002	332

2014-2015 Vector free period

- On 2nd of December 2014 the vector free period was declared
- All the BT outbreaks were closed after 14 days after the vector free period started.

The vector free period ended in 15th of April 2015, accordingly to the following criteria:

- registration for 7 days of temperatures higher than 10 °C and minimum three nights with higher temperature than 0 °C;
- capturing in traps of maximum 5 adult females of the species/complexes: *Culicoides obsoletus*, *Culicoides pulicaris*, *Culicoides dewulfi* and *Culicoides nubeculosus*.

The European Comission was informed about the ending of the vector free period in Romania.

So far, on 2015, there are no suspicion and no confirmed outbreaks on the Romanian territory.

Romania's strategy for BTV4 control on 2015 (1)

The Romanian BT program for 2015 was approved by the Grant Decision approving national programs and associated funding SANTE/VP/2015/RO/SI2.700828

The BTV control program for 2015 comprises 3 sections:

- a. Passive surveillance (monitoring of the documents, and inspection of animals belonging to domesticated or wild species, susceptible to the BT virus, existing on Romanian territory).
- b. Active surveillance: (serological survey to detect the possible trans boundary contamination, and monitoring of culicids vectors, identifying the genus and the species, with mobile or permanent black light traps (South Africa type), on whole territory of country, during the entire year;
- c. Vaccination against BTV of all susceptible animals from the entire territory of Romania with an inactivated vaccine.

Based on the provisions of Reg. 652/2014, Romania hoped that designed program will be co-financed by the EU Commission in a bigger percent and amount.

In Romania, the number of **susceptible ruminants** found at risk for BTV4 in 2015 is **17.086.032 kept in 788.553 holdings**

Many of animals are kept in backyards and that means that the owners might not support the vaccination program, if this involves personal costs;

In order to assure an efficient vaccination, at least 80% from the animals have to be vaccinated.

Crt. No.	Species	No. animals
1	bovines	2,479,497
2	sheep	12,641,943
3	goats	1,942,723
4	buffaloes	21.869
	Total	17,086,032

Romania's strategy for BTV4 control on 2015

(2)

Due to the high costs and the important number of the susceptible animals, Romania faces very serious problems with the implementation of vaccination program.

Reasons:

The cost for the fulfilling of the vaccination program in 2015 is 61.630.261,68 €, including sampling, surveillance tests, cost of purchasing the vaccine and vaccine inoculation ;

Only the cost for purchasing of vaccine for bovines, ovine and goats is 29.338.701 €, and the total co-financed amount approved by the EU Commission for Romania in 2015 is 10.267.000 €. That means that, from all the eligible measures Commission co-finances only approximately one third from the total cost of the vaccine;

The difference which have to be supported by Romania for BTV program implementation is 51.363.262 €, when the total amount allocated for all diseases surveillance and eradication programs in Romania in 2015 is 71.136.364 €. This is a cost that Romania cannot afford alone.

Testing costs as in the BTV4 program sent by Romania for co-financing

Cost related to	Specification	Unit	No. of units	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Union funding request
Cost of analysis	Elisa (serum antibody detection)	Individual animal sample/test	73808	1.69	124 735,52	yes
Cost of analysis	PCR (animal samples)	Individual animal sample/test	10000	25.08	250 800	yes
Cost of sampling	Domestic animals	Individual animal sample/test	83808	0.55	46094,4	yes
Other costs	Packing and transportation	Individual	83808	1	83808	yes

Vaccination costs as in the BTV4 programme sent by Romania for co-financing

Cost related to	Specification	Unit	No. of units	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Union funding request
Purchase of vaccin	Inactivated BTV4 bovines	Vaccine dose	5002696	1,2	6,003,235.2	yes
Purchase of vaccin	Inactivated BTV4 ovine-caprine	Vaccine dose	29169332	0,8	23,335,465.6	yes
Vaccinacion cost (2 inoculations)	Inoculation to bovine and buffaloes	Inoculation	5002696	1,5	7,504,044	yes
Vaccination cost (2 inoculations)	Inoculation to ovine-caprine	Inoculation	29169332	0,78	22,752,078.96	yes
Total amount for vaccination					59.594.824	yes

Estimated budget of the BTV4 program as in Decision SANTE/VP/2015/RO/SI2.700828

Measure	Descriere	No. of units	Co-financing percentage	UE financial contribution
Sampling	Sampling cost from domestic animals	83808	50	3.575,00€
Sampling	Total	83808	50	3.575,00€
Testing	Elisa cost (antibody detection)	73808	50	10.985,00€
Testing	PCR cost	10000	50	50,16€
Testing	Total	83808	50	11.035,16€
Vaccination	Vaccine purchasing (bovine)	5.002.696	50	1.500.808,80€
Vaccination	Vaccine purchasing (ovine/caprine)	29.169.332	50	8.750.799,60€
Vaccination	Total	34.172.028	50	10.251.608,40€
Total	Total (without vaccine inoculation)	34.339.644	<u>50</u>	10.266.218,56€

Identification of the necessary funds for BTV4 vaccination 2015

- Competent authority (NSVFSA) started the procedure for obtaining the necessary funds since autumn 2014.
- Meantime, more meetings of NSVFSA took place with the Romanian Parliament and the Ministry of Finance for explaining the importance of the implementation of the program, but the funds were not approved because of the large amount involved.
- In order to be more convincing, NSVFSA issued a Government Decision for approving the vaccination program, including the motivation for necessary funds; at this moment, it is submitted for approval to the institutions involved, but there are no guarantees that will be approved, and the funds received. Moreover, Ministry of Finance, following the model of the cofinancing by the Commission, intends to approve that only the cost of the vaccine will be covered by the state budget, the inoculation cost to be left at the owners expense This will undermine greatly the certainty of an efficient

Regionalized Vaccination for BTV4 in 2015

Because the program was not implemented from the beginning of 2015 due to the lack of budget and in order to reduce the program costs, on 27rd of February 2015, NSVFSA asked for the support of the Commission for analyzing the possibility for implementing only regional vaccination, instead the vaccination of the entire territory,

It was decided that a regional vaccination program will be applied in 2015, to all the susceptible animals older than 3 months in the region inside the Carpathian arch, starting in centripetal direction from the Hungarian border; for the rest of the Romanian territory, the vaccination is intended only to offsprings.

BTV₄ Voluntary Vaccination

- **In order to control BT, until the national vaccination program becomes possible, NSVFSA approved the voluntary vaccination for bovines and ovine from the commercial farms.**
- **Requests were made for voluntary vaccination of 31.891 bovines but only 9.885 bovines were vaccinated so far.**
- **No vaccination in ovine was reported.**

Surveillance program in place for BTV4

- Even the vaccination program is not implemented, a surveillance program – serological and entomological – is in place, as follows:
- monthly serological surveillance (by ELISA) will be performed from April to November, on samples taken from susceptible animals (bovines or, if not possible, sheep and goats) to detect a prevalence of 5% with 95% confidence. No data available so far, the program just started.
- during the vector activity period, the entomological surveillance is in place, weekly captures in mobile and fixed traps are counted in all the 42 counties;

Conclusions

- It is possible that the program for eradication, control and monitoring for BTV4 in 2015 will not be entirely fulfilled as was sent for co-financing because the funds are not yet available.
- If a national vaccination program will not be possible, NSVFSA approved the voluntarily vaccination with an inactivated vaccine, for bovines and ovine from commercial farms;
- If some funds will be allocated for BTV4 vaccination until the end of the year, Romania would probably apply only the regional vaccination, in all counties found in the interior of Carpathian arch, starting from the border with Hungary; in the rest of counties, only offsprings will be vaccinated;
- Meantime, animal movement take place in respect of the EU legislation;
- The surveillance program is in place.

Thank you for your attention!