



Brussels, 16.10.2014
C(2014) 7437 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.10.2014

**on the adoption of the financing decision for the year 2015 for the implementation of
Union co-funded programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal
diseases and zoonoses**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material¹, and in particular Article 36(1) and (2) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 certain national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses implemented by Member States may benefit from Union funding in the form of grants.
- (2) Pursuant to the transitional rules laid down in the third subparagraph of Article 45(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the Member States introduced their applications for 2015 by 30 April 2014 in accordance with the requirements of Article 27(2) of Decision 2009/470/EC.
- (3) Regulation (EU) 652/2014 entered into force after the deadline for submitting the national programmes to be implemented in 2015. Therefore, the work programme for grants also serving as a financing decision cannot be adopted within the deadline provided in Article 36(3) of Regulation (EU) 652/2014.
- (4) It also cannot be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 36(1) of Regulation (EU) 652/2014. Given the particular transitional situation and in the light of Article 45(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the 2015 work programme should therefore exceptionally be adopted without comitology.
- (5) In order to ensure the financial support by the Union to the implementation by the Member States' competent authorities of the programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses it is necessary to adopt a financing decision for the year 2015. Article 94 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

¹ OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 1.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Union contribution

The maximum contribution for the implementation of the 2015 Union co-funded programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses is set at EUR 168 000 000 and shall be financed from the following line of the general budget of the European Union for 2015:

Budget line 17.04.01: EUR 178 500 000.

The indicative percentages of the overall budget allocated per diseases, as listed in Section 4 of the Annex to this Decision, are the following:

- (a) Group 1: diseases with impact on both animal and human health: 50%;
- (b) Group 2: diseases with main impact on human health: 45%;
- (c) Group 3: diseases with impact on animal health, on trade (with third countries and intra-Union trade), that have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences and which risk to be introduced and /or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries: 5%.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2015 after the adoption of the budget for 2015 by the budgetary authority.

Article 2
Financing decision

This Decision and its annex constitute a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 for actions funded from appropriations of 2015.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in Article 1 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum contribution set out in Article 1 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 16.10.2014

For the Commission
Tonio BORG
Member of the Commission



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COMMISSION

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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

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ANNEX

1. INTRODUCTION

Programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses (hereinafter 'national programmes') have been co-financed by the Union for many years and have unequivocally contributed to the improvement of both animal and human health (as programmes against zoonoses are also covered) within the EU.

The following definitions¹ apply:

- **Eradication programme:**
Programme to result in biological extinction of an animal disease or zoonosis. The final target of an eradication programme shall be to obtain the free or officially free-status of the territory according to Union legislation, where such possibility exists.
- **Control programme:**
Programme to obtain or maintain the prevalence of an animal disease or zoonosis below a sanitarily acceptable level.
- **Surveillance programme:**
Surveillance programme refers to activities to collect and record data on specific diseases in defined populations over a period of time, in order to assess the epidemiological evolution of the diseases and the ability to take targeted measures for control and eradication.

The list of animal diseases which qualify for funding is set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014.

2. LEGAL BASIS

The EU legal basis concerning the co-financing of veterinary programmes is as from 30/06/2014 the Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material.

3. BUDGET LINE

The budget line is: 17.04.01.

4. PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR 2015

The priorities for Union financial support to veterinary programmes are, according to Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014:

- diseases with impact on human health;
- diseases with impact on animal health, taking into consideration their potential spread and the morbidity and mortality rates in animal population;

¹ Definition as in Annex to Commission Decision 2008/341/EC of 25 April 2008 laying down Community criteria for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses.

- diseases and zoonoses which risk to be introduced and / or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries;
- diseases which have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences;
- diseases with impact on trade with third countries and intra-EU trade.

According to these criteria and the current epidemiological situation the diseases that may be co-funded in priority for 2015, have been divided into 3 groups and are the following:

Group 1: diseases with impact on both animal and human health:

- bovine brucellosis;
- bovine tuberculosis;
- ovine and caprine brucellosis.

Group 2: diseases with main impact on human health:

- zoonotic Salmonella;
- rabies;
- bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in ovine and caprine animals.

Group 3: diseases with impact on animal health, on trade (with third countries and intra-EU trade), that have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences and which risk to be introduced and / or re-introduced into the EU territory from third countries:

- bluetongue in endemic or high risk areas;
- classical swine fever;
- avian influenza in poultry and wild birds;
- African swine fever.

In addition SVD may be funded in 2015 for the last year (phasing out).

Taking into account the availability of financial resources, priority will be given to diseases listed under Group 1 and Group 2.

5. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objectives of the national programmes implemented by the Member States aimed at controlling, preventing and eradicating animal diseases and zoonoses are as follows:

The general objective is to contribute to a high level of health for humans and animals along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases, ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment while enhancing the Union food and feed industry's competitiveness and favoring the creation of jobs.

The **specific** objectives are:

- to contribute to a high level of food safety and safety in food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production;
- to contribute to improving the animal health status in the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals.

The **operational** objectives are:

- the reduction of the number of cases of diseases in humans in the Union which are linked to food safety or zoonoses (rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, salmonellosis);
- an overall reduction of disease parameters such as incidence, prevalence and number of outbreaks or cases (bovine tuberculosis, bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis, bluetongue, classical and African swine fever, rabies, swine vesicular disease, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies);
- the increase of the number of Member States or regions thereof which are free from animal diseases for which a financial contribution is granted (bovine tuberculosis, bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis, bluetongue, classical and African swine fever, rabies, swine vesicular disease);
- the prevention of introduction of transboundary diseases in the EU territory (rabies, classical and African swine fever);
- the achievement of targets fixed by the Union legislation as regards the reduction of prevalence of zoonotic Salmonella in certain poultry populations (breeders, layers, broilers of Gallus gallus, breeding and fattening turkeys);
- the increase of the number of Member States with a negligible BSE risk (as defined in Annex II, Chapter C.I of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001);
- the early detection of the presence of high and low pathogenic strains of avian influenza viruses in order to prevent further contamination of domestic poultry populations.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS OF NATIONAL VETERINARY PROGRAMMES

The results, as expected by the Commission by end of 2015 are set up as follows:

- Eradication programmes
Bovine brucellosis;
Bovine tuberculosis;
Ovine and caprine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*): decrease of the herd prevalence and the herd incidence in the MSs with an eradication programme;
Swine vesicular disease: 0 outbreak;
Rabies: decrease of the number of cases in wild animals in the EU.
- Control and eradication programmes
Classical swine fever: 0 outbreak in domestic pigs in the EU;
African Swine Fever: reduced number of outbreaks in domestic pigs in 5 MS;

Classical BSE: less than 5 cases in the EU, 20 MSs with a negligible BSE risk;

Classical scrapie: 16 free MSs;

Bluetongue: 26 free MSs.

- Surveillance programme

Avian Influenza: 0 outbreak of HPAI in domestic birds due to LPAI mutation into HPAI.

- Control programmes

Zoonotic Salmonella in certain poultry populations: no more than eight Member States with no more than one poultry population above EU targets and all other Member States with all poultry populations below EU target.

7. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA

Taking into account their specific nature, the programmes of eradication, control and surveillance will be implemented under the sole responsibility of Competent Authorities of the Member States. As provided for in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 these authorities are considered to be identified beneficiaries for the purposes of Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Therefore the grants will be awarded without prior publication of the call for proposal.

Eligibility criteria for submitted programmes

- Programmes are submitted by the Central Competent Authorities of the Member States that will also supervise and co-ordinate the implementation of these programmes. Only programmes for which the implementation is compulsory in the MS, will be co-funded;
- The programmes are submitted within the deadline set in Article 27(2) of Decision 2009/470/EC in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 45(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (30/04 for programmes to be implemented in 2015);
- Programmes submitted are compliant with the provisions of the relevant Union legislation (Commission Decisions 2008/341/EC and 2008/425/EC (with the amendments of Decision 2012/282/EU), Article 27.2 of Decision 2009/470/EC and Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014);
- Programmes submitted target an animal disease or zoonosis listed in Annex I of Decision 2009/470/EC, and in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014;
- Programmes that deal with the re-occurrence of diseases/or a disease (listed under Section 4) for which an officially free (OF) status has been achieved in previous years and for which there is a risk of losing the OF status or programmes to be implemented to avoid the introduction/re-introduction of a trans-boundary disease. For African Swine Fever, the 2015 co-funding will be limited to Member States which have experienced ASF cases in 2013-2014 and / or which share a border with third countries where ASF cases occurred in 2013-2014;
- Eradication programmes are eligible until eradication is achieved; subsequent programmes aimed at demonstrating the health status of animals intended for trade or at obtaining the status of officially free from a disease are not eligible.

Award criteria for submitted programmes

Award criteria make it possible to approve all programmes that can guarantee compliance with Union objectives and priorities. To this end, each programme presented with a view to obtaining Union co-financing will be individually evaluated based on the following criteria:

- consistency of the submitted programmes with the objectives and expected results;
- overall quality of the submitted programme (relevance of the planned activities in terms of type of measure proposed and quantities);
- compliance of the submitted programme with the requirements of Union veterinary legislation / rules;
- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in previous years, in line with the operational objectives and expected results;
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs.

Given the specific nature of those programmes, each of them has to be evaluated on its own merit and only assessed against the criteria listed above. Therefore, no comparative assessment between submitted programmes needs to be made.

8. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE GRANTS

January 2015.

9. MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

According to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the general rate for grants shall not exceed **50%** of the eligible costs.

Nevertheless higher co-financing rates could be justified for different eligible measures, taking into account the characteristic of the diseases or the situation of the concerned Member State/s.

The maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **75 %** of the eligible costs in respect of:

- (a) Cross-border activities implemented together by two or more Member States in order to control, prevent or eradicate pests or animal diseases.

The potential application of (a) will depend on the programme submitted. How Member States will cooperate should be clearly described in the programme.

- (b) Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90 % of the Union average.

The potential eligible Member States under (b) are currently: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

The maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **100 %** of the eligible costs where the activities benefitting from the Union contribution concern the prevention and control of serious human, plant and animal health risks for the Union, and:

- (a) Are designed to avoid human casualties or major economic disruptions for the Union as a whole;

(b) Are implemented in third countries.

Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 sets out in detail which costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the national programmes may qualify as eligible. According to Commission Decision C(2014) 1035 of 24 February 2014 authorising the use of unit costs under the annual and multiannual programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses the grants may take the form of a combination of reimbursement of actual costs and reimbursement on the basis of unit costs. Unit costs may be used for the costs of sampling and the costs of tests. The detailed values are set out in the Annex to Decision C(2014) 1035.