

## About this dossier

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## Eradication: Final report for Rabies 2019

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.

ID: 20200424-4IAGFJUH

**Country code:** SK

### Reporting period

**From:** 2019

**To:** 2019

**Year of implementation:** 2019

## 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.

The oral vaccination of foxes against rabies has been performed successfully in Slovakia since 1994. In August 2006 in Slovakia there was confirmed one case of fox rabies. Since August 2006 till 8th January 2013 no case of rabies has been reported within the territory of the Slovak Republic. In 2013, after a period of 6 years without any occurrence of rabies, near borders with Poland, there were confirmed 8 new cases of rabies. Due to the contagious situation in connection with the rabies occurrence in neighbouring countries (Poland, Ukraine, Hungary) in Slovakia the oral vaccination of foxes continues to be performed.

Nevertheless, in spite of that, in 2015 there were again confirmed 5 cases of fox rabies near the Polish borders. In years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 no case of rabies was confirmed in the Slovak Republic. In 2019 the Program for Eradication of Rabies was implemented by means of the compulsory vaccination of the domestic carnivores against rabies at the breeders expenses and by means of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies carried out in two seasonal campaigns - spring and autumn 2019, financed by the means of state budget and co-financed by the EU.

1. The coordinator shall provide from each vaccination campaign (spring and autumn) the production of the report on the course of the air distribution from each flight day, in which it shall be indicated:

- commencement and ending of individual flights (place, date, time),
- number of flights,
- flight interruption,

- atmosphere temperature at the commencement and ending of the air distribution of vaccination baits,
- number of the used vaccination baits,
- name and batch of the used vaccination baits,
- number of vaccination baits taken and sent for the laboratory examination of rabies virus titer in vaccination baits necessary for the control of effectiveness of vaccination baits and the production batch number, if the samples were taken,
- possible identified deficiencies.

The report from the course of the air distribution in respect of the oral vaccination of foxes shall be sent electronically on the next working day by 10.00 a.m. to the SVFA SR.

After the ending of the air distribution in respect of the oral vaccination of foxes, the DVFA shall elaborate and send to the SVFA SR the complete report from the whole course of the vaccination campaign. Records on the air distribution, and flight maps of the vaccinated territory from individual days, delivery notes, protocols of sample taking, application form for laboratory examination, official record on veterinary control and laboratory protocols are the part of the report. The report contains also possible deficiencies, that occurred during the campaign and the manner of their solution.

The temperatures of the transported vaccine are monitored and registered by the equipment which is part of a car with freezing unit intended for the transport of vaccines.

2. The coordinators of the hand distribution shall provide the production of the report on the course of the hand distribution in which they shall indicate

- the commencement and ending of the hand distribution of vaccination baits according to the individual suburban parts,
- atmosphere temperatures at the commencement and ending of the hand distribution according to the individual suburban parts,
- number of used vaccination baits,
- name and batch of the used vaccination baits,
- number of vaccination baits taken and sent for the laboratory examination of rabies virus titer in vaccination baits necessary for the control of effectiveness of vaccination baits and the production batch number, if the samples were taken,
- possible identified deficiencies.

The report from the course of the hand distribution in respect of the oral vaccination of foxes shall be sent electronically on the next working day by 10.00 a.m. to the SVFA SR.

Checking of the effectiveness of the oral vaccination: for laboratory examination it is necessary to provide at least one fox of each hunting association, the monitoring does not include species with primary teeth. In the indicated case (clinical signs corresponding to signs of rabies or monitoring of effectiveness of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies) a veterinarian sends the sample of the whole small animal, the head of a carnivorous or small ruminant for IFT laboratory examination. Sample taking as well as samples examination in the indicated case (clinical signs corresponding to signs of rabies) is performed all through the year.

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

From a 1st April - 5th April 2019 (spring campaign) and from 7th - 14th October 2019 (autumn campaign) an aerial vaccination was carried out, laying with density of 25 vaccination doses per 1 km<sup>2</sup> from the height of 50 m above the terrain, at the speed of 150 km/hour, in two aerial lines distant 500 m from each other. The aerial laying skipped areas with altitude of 1 200 m above the sea level, water areas, roads, cities and settlements. A coordinator or a veterinary inspector of the District Veterinary and Food Authority (hereinafter only DVFA) appointed by the coordinator, each morning at the latest, before the start of the flights, at the operational meeting assessed the situation and weather conditions and decided on commencement or interruption of the laying procedure of vaccination baits. He then notified his decision to the supplier as well as the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter only SVFA). The vaccination baits could be only administered at temperature range of +2°C to +20°C. In total the aerial laying carried out from the Poprad airport amounted to 312 500 vaccination baits (spring campaign) and 347 250 vaccination baits (autumn campaign).

Manual laying was performed in selected suburbs of the cities Poprad, Košice and Prešov in the period from 3rd-12th April, 2019 (spring campaign) and in selected suburbs of the cities Poprad, Košice and Prešov from 9th - 13th October 2019 (autumn campaign), with the density of 18 vaccination doses per 1 km<sup>2</sup>. A game manager instructed the persons authorized to distribute the vaccination baits in the field to form pairs and these then distributed the baits over 1 km<sup>2</sup> of a hunting ground in a checkerboard manner. To have a control vaccination area it is necessary to prepare a map on a scale 1:10 000 - 15 000, in which there were accurately designated the localities of the individual vaccination baits so that checking of vaccination intake by foxes could be performed. Checking of the consumed vaccination baits was carried out on the 3rd, 8th as well as 14th day upon the manual laying. The vaccination baits were laid down using protective gloves preventing penetration of human smell onto the vaccination baits as well as in accordance with recommendations of the vaccination baits manufacturer. In total 3900 baits were distributed manually (by hand) per each vaccination campaign. On the 3rd, 8th and 14th day upon the laying, inspection of

consumed baits within the selected areas was carried out; inspection should be understood as checking of the number of missing vaccination baits in comparison to the plan of manually laid vaccination baits as at the date of the laying.

Upon delivery of the vaccination baits the coordinator or relevant DVFA veterinary inspector took a sample of each supplied charge ensuring its transportation in a frozen state to the Veterinary Institute in Zvolen. He was also obliged to take a sample in each case of suspicion of incorrect vaccination bait manipulation (during storing or transportation etc.).

The coordinator provided for elaboration of a report on execution of the aerial vaccination laying of each flight day that included information on: commencement and end of individual flights (place, date and time), number of flights, flights interruptions, air temperature at the start and end of aerial laying of vaccination baits, number of vaccination baits used, name and charge of the used vaccination bait, number of vaccination baits taken and sent for laboratory examination of rabies titre in the vaccination baits necessary for checking of effectiveness of the vaccination baits as well as the ref. no. of the production batch and ascertained irregularities. The coordinators of manual vaccination laying also elaborated reports on the procedure of the laying. The reports were consequently sent to SVFA and make the Annex of the report.

Checking of the effectiveness of the oral vaccination was carried out from 1st January – 28 th February 2017, for checking of the efficiency of the autumn 2016 foxes and racoons oral vaccination campaign against rabies.

Checking of the effectiveness of the oral vaccination was carried out from 1st June – 31st August 2017, for checking of the efficiency of the spring 2017 foxes and racoons oral vaccination campaign against rabies; for laboratory examination it is necessary to provide at least one fox of each hunting association, the monitoring does not include species with primary teeth. In the indicated case (clinical signs corresponding to signs of rabies or monitoring of effectiveness of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies) a veterinarian sends the sample of the whole small animal, the head of a carnivorous or small ruminant for IFT laboratory examination. Sample taking as well as samples examination in the indicated case (clinical signs corresponding to signs of rabies) is performed all through the year.

**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.**

Annexes:

Map of the vaccinated area 2019

Report on execution of the oral vaccination of foxes - spring campaign 2019

Report on execution of the oral vaccination of foxes - autumn campaign 2019

Surveillance tests, serology and tetracycline detection tests broken down by regions

SK flight tracks Spring and Autumn 2019

Delivery notes spring 2019

Delivery notes autumn 2019

**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
Slovak Republic	Foxes adult	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	487	100	20.53 %
Slovak Republic	Racoon dogs adult	Serological	VNT/FAVN/ELISA	14	5	35.71 %
Slovak Republic	Foxes adult	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	488	288	59.02 %
Slovak Republic	Racoon dogs adult	Biomarker	Tetracycline in bones	14	5	35.71 %
<b>Total</b>				1,003	398	39.68 %

**Table A2 - SURVEILLANCE TESTS**

Region	Animal species	Category	Test description	Number of tests	Number of cases
Slovak Republic	Foxes	Active	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	465	0
Slovak Republic	Foxes	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	226	0
Slovak Republic	Racoon dogs	Active	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	13	0
Slovak Republic	Racoon dogs	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	1	0
Slovak Republic	Dogs	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	74	0

Slovak Republic	Cats	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	62	0
Slovak Republic	Domestic ruminants	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	5	0
Slovak Republic	Other wilds carnivores	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	9	0
Slovak Republic	Other species	Passive	Fluorescent antibody test (IF)	22	0
Slovak Republic	Dogs	Passive	PCR	69	0
Slovak Republic	Cats	Passive	PCR	60	0
Slovak Republic	Foxes	Passive	PCR	16	0
Slovak Republic	Other wilds carnivores	Passive	PCR	7	0
Slovak Republic	Domestic ruminants	Passive	PCR	3	0
Slovak Republic	Other species	Passive	PCR	20	0
<b>Total</b>				1,052	0

<b>Number of rabies virus isolates typed for differentiation from vaccine</b>		0
<b>Typing results (please indicate the number of field strains/vaccine strains, and (optional) comment)</b>	no	

## Table B - WILDLIFE ORAL VACCINATION

Aerial distribution data files:

Downloadable via URL	N/A
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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:

The airline company is an established proven experienced company that has implemented the air distribution in Slovakia since 2000, always 2 times a year. During this whole period only minor irregularities were reported which could not have any effect on effectiveness of the oral vaccination. Checks are carried out daily, the flight tracks are defined automatically by GPS system in such a way as to cover the whole vaccination area, at the end of each flight day the records on the flight tracks and number of applied baits delivered to SVFA. The air distribution is implemented always from the altitude of max. 150 meters above the terrain at the speed of max. 150 km/h, in minimum of 2 flight lines maximally 500 m from each other. Air distribution is avoiding areas with altitudes above 1200 meters, water areas, roads, cities, settlements. As regards corrective measures in the event of some problem, these are determined operationally upon any specific problem is identified; solution is always included in the report on the procedure of the procedure on the air distribution of the given flight day.

<b>Start date of First Campaign</b>	1/4/2019	<b>End date of First Campaign</b>	5/4/2019
<b>Start date of Second Campaign</b>	7/10/2019	<b>End date of Second Campaign</b>	14/10/2019

Region/Area	Product used	Number of doses	Size of vaccinated area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Distribution method
Slovak Republic	Lysvulpen	312,500	12,500	Aerial
Slovak Republic	Lysvulpen	3,900	208	Manual
Slovak Republic	Lysvulpen	347,250	208	Aerial
Slovak Republic	Lysvulpen	3,900	13,890	Manual
<b>Total</b>		667,550	26,806	

## Table C - OFFICIAL CONTROL OF ORAL VACCINES BEFORE THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Number of batches distributed	Number of batches controlled by CA	Number of batches rejected
2	3	1

Batch number	Manufacturer	Sampling date	Virus titration result	Outcome of the titration
3925R	Bioveta	1/4/2019	7,3; 6,8; 6,8; 6,97; 6,8	Acceptable
9126R	Bioveta	7/10/2019	6,3; 6,63; 6,3; 6,8; 6,8	Acceptable
3925R	Bioveta	7/10/2019	5,97; 6,3; 5,97; 5,97; 6,3	Non-acceptable

## COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

Due to COVID-19 situation the final collection and evaluation of all relevant data was more difficult AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. For that reason the submitting of final rabies programme SK 2019 is shortly delayed. (force majeure). Please accept this short delay.

