

Mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Hungary

6-8 July 2020

PAFF Committee, 20th October 2020

Context and objectives of the mission

- Emergence of an outbreak of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the foie gras production in Hungary since March 2020
- EUVET mission to provide advices and support to Hungary.
- **ToR** : Experts should provide scientific, technical, managerial, and practical assistance on the spot to apply the **most suitable control and eradication measures for AI under local conditions (especially biosecurity measures in the poultry production sector where ducks and geese are kept for foie gras production).**

Participants



- Eric LE LEU, Referent National Biosécurité, Direction Générale de l'Alimentation



- Malik DRIF, Direction Départementale de la Cohésion Sociale et de la Protection des Populations des Landes



- Sophie LE BOUQUIN-LENEVEU, Unité Epidémiologie, Santé et Bien-Etre, Anses Laboratoire de Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort



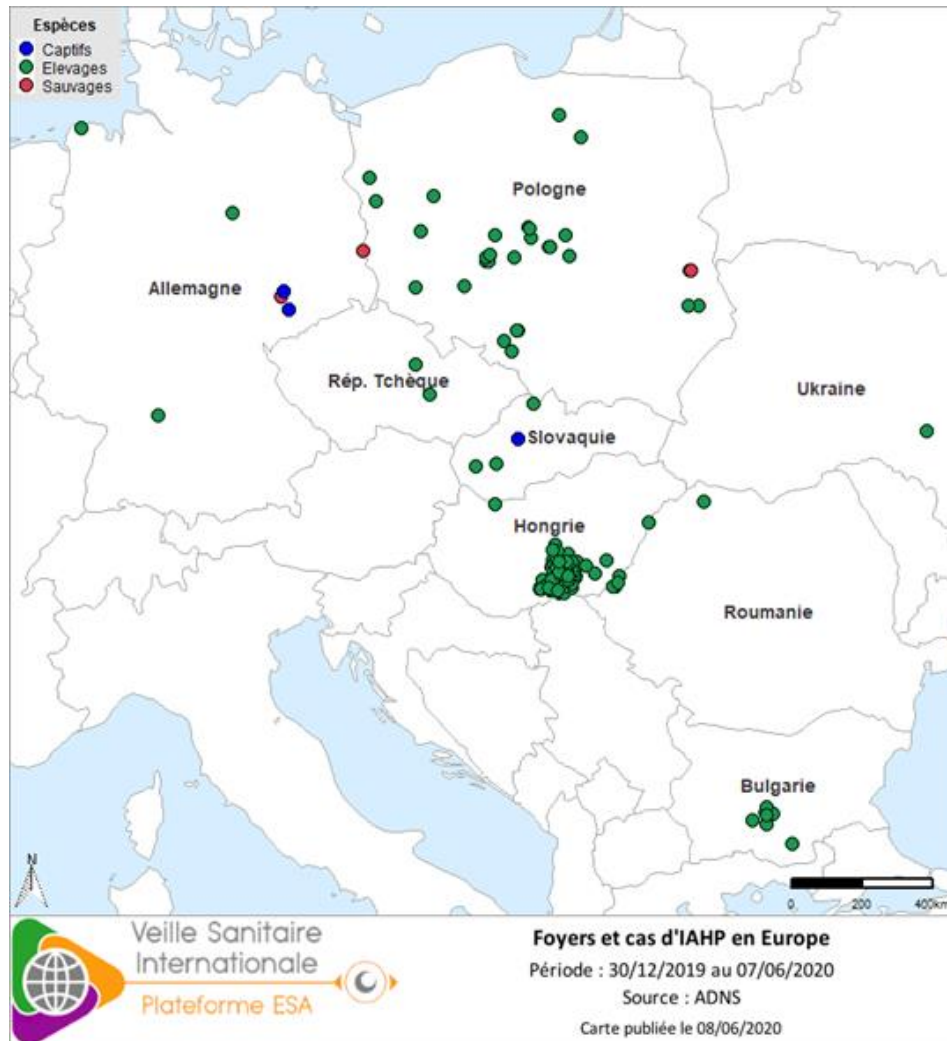
French experts regarding their experience in investigations on eradicating HPAI in similar kind of production system

Agenda

- **6th July:** Presentations on the epidemiological situation, organization of the poultry sector and of the veterinary services in Hungary. Meeting with representatives of the National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) and representatives of the poultry industry sector
- **7th July:** Meeting in the County Government Office with representatives of the sector Kecskemét, **visit** of a geese farm to Foie Gras production and the area where the first outbreak was detected in Bács-Kiskun County
- **8th July:** Meeting with representatives of the National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) and representatives of the poultry industry sector: **Researches and conclusions, sharing of the experience of the French experts**

> Short term mission

Epidemiological situation in Europe

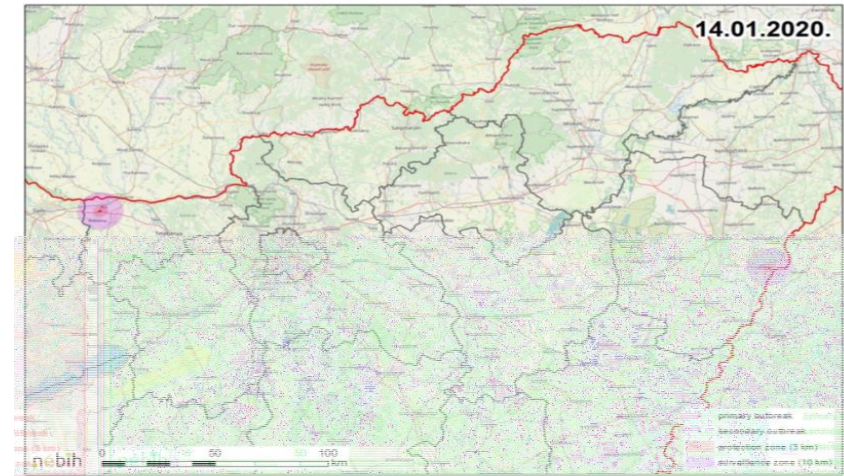


**30 December 2019 – 7
June 2020**

- 334 outbreaks
 - 3 captive birds
 - 3 wild birds
 - 328 domestic birds
(273 in Hungary)
- H5NX HP clade 2.3.4.4b

Epidemiological situation in Hungary : 1st wave

- January 12, 2020 Komárom-Esztergom, in a farm of 53500 turkeys for meat + 2 others outbreaks in the same area
- January 14, 2020 Hajdú-Bihar county in a farm of 115,000 ducks showing clinical signs and mortality

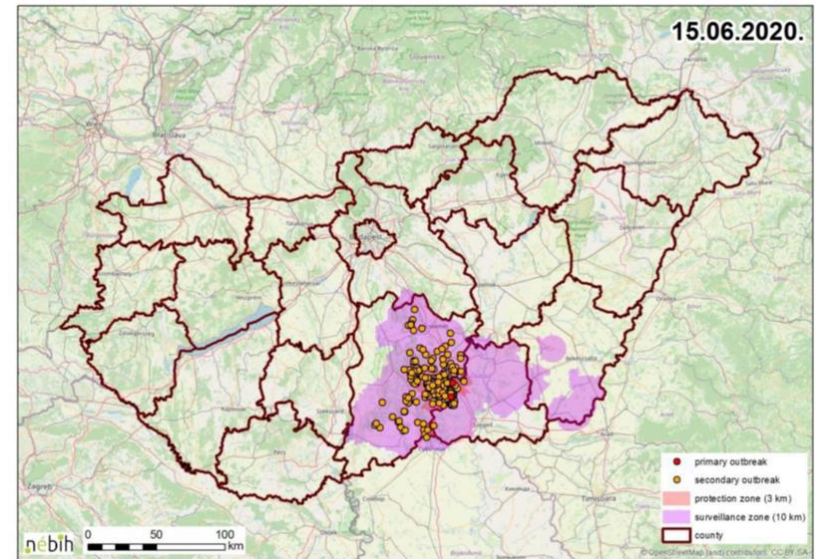


- Probable origin = wild birds (wetlands areas)
- Measures ++ to manage the outbreaks (quick depopulation, obligation to confine poultry,...)
- Low density of farms in these geographical areas

No further secondary outbreaks occurred and on March 2nd of 2020, all the restrictive measures were cancelled on the territory.

Epidemiological situation in Hungary : 2nd wave

- March 25, 2020 in a Bacs-Kiskun county duck farm
- March 27, 2020: 18 more farms (ducks and geese) in the same area
- April-May: Despite quick depopulation, the virus spread to neighboring farms
- June 5, 2020 last 3 outbreaks were confirmed



- 269 outbreaks in 3 counties
- Depopulation of 399 farms
- 4,760,000 birds were killed (1,102,000 preventively).
- All animal production sectors have been affected (geese, ducks, gallus, turkeys, game birds...)

Crisis management feed back

- Recent past experience of several crisis in the same zone. Great knowledge of the disease.
 - Good veterinary network at the district level
 - Clinical symptoms, high mortality : easy to detect
- **Very high reactivity of all the actors in:**
- the depopulation of the first farms (before confirmation)
 - the confirmation of the suspicions (1 designated lab NRL, daily shuttle)
 - the time to slaughter (48h max)
 - Rapid mobilization of extra human and equipment resources
- **despite this, rapid spreading of the disease**
Bács-Kiskun/Csongrad area : 2 primary outbreaks /262 secondary outbreaks



European
Commission

Focus on Bacs-Kiskun area



Findings and Conclusions

- No time to deal with all the aspects of crisis management
 - Very high reactivity in the management of the outbreaks
 - Reform of the veterinary inspection system (2011)
 - Creation of a permanent Centre for Epizootics (NDCC)
 - Hungarian poultry producers' organization (BTT). Contact point for the health authorities
 - CVO Decision No. 3/2017 define minimum rules for poultry keeping.
- Measures taken following the 2016 epizootic disease = Structuring factors for the poultry sector and the fight against AI

Findings and Conclusions

- Hungarian market very dependent on the external market (exports++)
 - Integrated system of production with a strong weight of the economy
 - Favourable economic situation following the 2016 epizootic in Europe > installation of new farmers in an already densely populated area
 - Specific configuration : high density, proximity, common access, multi-age, multi-species, multi-stakeholder, cross contamination
- High density area considered as high risk (both for introduction and diffusion of the disease)

Recommandations and experience sharing

- **Reinforcing sanitary barriers in the Bács-Kiskun area**
 - In the current situation, this zone should be considered as **one single epidemiological unit**
 - It is also necessary **to set up permanent sanitary barriers around the zone**
 - In the long term, consideration should be given **to a better rationalization/organization of this zone** and to be able to limit the number of existing installations.
- **Improving the inventory and mapping of farms, tracing movements**
 - “Better describe to better understand to take the best decisions”*

Recommandations and experience sharing

- **Continuing to improve biosecurity**
 - **Improve C/D capacities and implement routine measures between flocks.**
 - **Make an assessment of the official controls** carried out on biosecurity
 - **Define criteria** based on surveillance (active and passive) of the territory **to justify the decision to confine the birds**
- **Involve and train all the stakeholders**
 - **Key element for the appropriation and proper application** of the control plan
 - Plan **regular meetings with professionals to share** the same information and the same level of knowledge
 - Strengthening **technical and health skills** (farmers, veterinarians, etc.) **in the decision making bodies**
 - **Training farmers in biosecurity**



We wish to thank :

- the European Commission - the Hungarian authorities
For the organization of the mission*
- the translators
For the quality of the communication*

And you for your attention!