



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Unit G5 - Veterinary Programmes

SANCO/10746/2012

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

Survey programme for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)

Approved* for 2012 by Commission Decision 2011/807/EU

Malta

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Standard requirements for the submission of programmes of eradication and monitoring of TSE

version : 2.1

1. Identification of the programme

Member state : MALTA

Disease : Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

Request of co-financing for the year :

2012

1.1 Contact

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2. Description of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

In accordance to EU Directives 999/2001/EC and 1041/2006 screening for TSE's has been carried out since March 2001, using the Enfer[®] test. In October 2002, the Division changed to Bio-Rad TeSeE[®] detection kit. A contract has been signed with the VLA – Weybridge (UK) for the performing of histopathological and immunocyto-chemistry examination of positive samples. Testing is carried out on Bovine, Ovine and Caprine species. Community financial participation is not being requested for the implementation of the breeding programme for the resistance to TSE in Sheep (decision 2003/100/EC).

The objective of the programme includes:

- Achieving harmonization with other EU countries in veterinary control and surveillance programmes;
- The strengthening of veterinary epidemiological surveillance measures in accordance with EU legislation;
- Ensuring the early recognition of TSEs within the local animal population;
- The rapid implementation of investigation protocols with all relevant restrictions on the movement of animals and animal products coming into force until confirmatory results are received.

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3. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

TSE in bovine animals using one of the EU approved rapid tests commenced in March 2001. Ovines and caprines were included in the testing regime as from the year 2002. In that same year the National Veterinary Laboratory shifted from using the Enfer® kit to the BioRad TeSeE® kits since the former was not giving repeatable results. This shift explains a slight decrease in the tests performed during that year. During the successive years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of emergency slaughtered and fallen animals tested.

To date, since the TSE monitoring programme has been running, no positive samples were detected in bovine, ovine or caprine species.

The VAFD laboratory has participated in four ring tests as follows:

- November 2002 organised by IRMM, Belgium; BSE
- November 2004, organised by VLA, Weybridge; BSE
- October 2005, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November 2005, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2006, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November 2006, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2007, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- December 2007, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2008, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November 2008, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- January 2009, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- July 2009, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November, 2009, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- July, 2010, organised by VLA, Weybridge. BSE
- November, 2010, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie

In all the trials the National Veterinary Laboratory achieved very satisfactory results.

4. Measures included in the programme

4.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

- The Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division is the Competent authority based in Malta

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responsible for Veterinary regulation, administration, laboratory testing, sampling and collecting of data in Malta.

- Ministry of Gozo (Veterinary Division): responsible for sampling in Gozo.

4.2 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied

(max. 32000 chars) :

- The surveillance programmes will apply to the Islands of Malta and Gozo (one region);
- There is a lack of extensive grazing land available;
- Average farm size is 0.5 hectares;
- Livestock is reared on farms having a higher stocking density than would apply to an extensive system.

4.3 System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

Veterinary Services Act, section 7
Swine Keeping Regulations S.L. 36.28 section 3
Milking Animals Regulation S.L. 36.32 section 3
Poultry Breeding Stock Regulation S.L. 36.40 section 3

All livestock holdings are registered with the Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries Conservation and Control. Milk producing herds are allotted a unique herd number (churn number), while non milk producing herds are allotted a unique premises number. All the information pertinent to each farm is also kept on the National Herd database. This system covers bovine, ovine and caprine holdings.

4.4 System in place for the identification of animals

(max. 30000 chars) :

European Union Act, Chapter 460 of the laws of Malta, section 3-4
Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council regulation (EC) No 820/97
Council Directive 92/102/EEC of 27 November 1992 on the identification and registration of animals (amended by OJ L 005 09.01.2004 p.8)
Control of marking of animals regulation S.L. 36.17 sections 2-3
Undulant fever (prevention) regulation S.L. 36.04 section 4

All bovine, caprine and ovine animals are tagged and all the information is stored in the National Herd

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database. The transfer or movement of animals from one holding to another can only be done with the authorisation of the competent authority.

4.5 Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437 of the laws of Malta, sections 5 and 6
Prevention Control and Eradication of Certain TSE's, L.N. 58/2004, regulation 11
Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Chapter 36 of the laws of Malta, section 68.

4.6 Monitoring

4.6.1 Monitoring in bovine animals

	Estimated number of tests	
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, point 2.1, 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council	2 000	
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, point 2.2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	4 500	
Other please specify here		X
	Add a new row	

4.6.2 Monitoring in ovine animals

Estimated population of adult ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram

9 368

	Estimated number of tests	
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100	
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100	
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 5 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	
Ovine animals referred to in Annex VII, Chapter A, point 3.4(d) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	
Ovine animals referred to in Annex VII, Chapter A, point 5(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	

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Other please specify here		X
	Add a new row	

4.6.3 Monitoring in caprine animals

Estimated population of female goats and female kids mated

	Estimated number of tests	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 5 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex VII, Chapter A, Part II, point 3.3(c) of Regulation (EC) No 999/	0	
Caprine animals referred to in Annex VII, Chapter A, Part II, point 5(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 999	0	
Other please specify here		X
	ADD A NEW ROW	

4.6.4 Discriminatory tests

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

4.6.5 Genotyping of positive and randomly selected animals

	Estimated number	
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8.1 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8.2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	

4.7 Eradication

4.7.1 Measures following confirmation of a BSE case

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4.7.1.1 Description

(max. 32000 chars):

There have not been any cases of BSE in the Maltese Islands

4.7.1.2 Summary table

	Estimated number	
Animals to be killed under the requirements of Annex VII, Chapter A, point 2.1 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	

4.7.2 Measures following confirmation of a scrapie case

4.7.2.1 Description

(max. 32000 chars):

Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437 of the laws of Malta, sections 5 and 6
Prevention Control and Eradication of Certain TSE's, L.N. 58/2004, regulation 11
Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Chapter 36 of the laws of Malta, section 68.

4.7.2.2 Summary table

	Estimated number	
Animals to be killed under the requirements of Annex VII, Chapter A, point 2.3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	
Animals to be genotyped under the requirements of Annex VII, Chapter A, point 2.3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0	

4.7.3 Breeding programme for resistance to TSEs in sheep

4.7.3.1 General description

Description of the programme according to the minimum requirements set out in Annex VII, Chapter B of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

(max. 32000 chars):

Malta does not have a breeding programme for the Resistance of TSE in sheep

4.7.3.2 Summary table

	Estimated number	
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Ewes to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC)	0	
Rams to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC)	0	

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5. Costs

5.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

(max. 32000 chars) :

Bse testing will be carried out by the National Veterinary Laboratory.

The test used will be the Bio Rad TESE ELISA kit which will be used for both bovine, ovine and caprine animals.

Sampling is carried out by Veterinary auxiliaries who are supervised by an official Veterinarian on the slaughter line. There is no cost involved in sampling and transporting of samples to the National Veterinary Laboratory due to its close proximity to the slaughter house.

It is estimated that a total of 6500 samples will be tested from bovine animals, while it is estimated that 200 samples of ovine and 200 samples from caprines will be tested.

The estimated cost of each ELISA test is estimated at Euro 7.80

Bovine

Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, point 2.1, 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 2000 samples@ Euro 7.80 = Euro 15,600

Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, point 2.2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 4500 samples@ Euro 7.80 = 35,100

Ovine and Caprines

Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 100 samples@ Euro 7.80 = Euro 780

Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 100 samples@ Euro 7.80 = Euro 780

Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 100 samples@ Euro 7.80 = Euro 780

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Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 = 100 samples @ Euro 7.80 = Euro 780

Western Blot

A number of samples (ovine, caprine and bovine) will be tested using the western blot technique. These samples will consist mainly of negative samples previously tested using the ELISA kit.
The cost of this testing will amount to Euro 43.16 per test, 200 bovine, 100 ovine and 100 caprine are planned to be tested. The total amount of this testing is estimated at Euro 17,264.

5.2 Summary of costs

Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
1. BSE testing					
Rapid tests	elisa	6 500	7.8	50700 yes	X
				Add a new row	
Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
2. Scrapie testing					
Rapid tests	elisa	400	7.8	3120 yes	X
				Add a new row	
Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
3. Discriminatory testing					
Primary molecular tests	0	0	0	0 no	X

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Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
4. Genotyping					
4.1 Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of the monitoring and eradication measures laid down by Regulation (EC) No 999/2001		0	0	0 no	X
				Add a new row	
4.2 Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of a breeding programme		0	0	0 no	X
				Add a new row	
5. Compulsory slaughter					
Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
5.1 Compensation for bovine animals to be killed /slaughtered under the requirements of Annex VII, Chapter A, point 2.1 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001		0	0	0 no	X
				Add a new row	
5.2 Compensation for ovine and caprine animals to be killed /slaughtered under the requirements of Annex VII, Chapter A, point 2.3 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001		0	0	0 no	X
				Add a new row	
Total				53 820,00 €	

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