



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Unit G5 - Veterinary Programmes

SANCO/10790/2012

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

Survey programme for Avian Influenza (AI)

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

Slovenia

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza

version : 2.1

1. Identification of the programme

Member state : SLOVENIJA

Disease : avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

Request of Community co-financing from beginning of:

2012

to end of

2012

1.1 Contact

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2. Description of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1 Objectives of surveillance programmes

(max. 32000 chars) :

The objectives of the surveillance programme for avian influenza in poultry are to inform the competent authority of circulating avian influenza virus with a view to controlling the disease in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC by the detection through active surveillance for:

- (a) low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtypes H5 and H7 in gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, pheasants and partridges) and ratites thereby complementing other existing early detection systems;
- (b) LPAI of subtypes H5 and H7 and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic waterfowl (ducks and mallards for re-stocking supplies of game).

2.2 Design, implementation and target population

(max. 32000 chars) :

Sampling and serological testing in poultry holdings shall be carried out in order to detect the presence of antibodies to avian influenza, as defined in Directive 2005/94/EC.

On the basis of annual Decree on carrying out of systematic surveillance of animal diseases and

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vaccination of animals, monitoring and survey programmes for each year are laid down. Blood samples for serological examination shall be taken by private practitioners with concession. Samples collected for other purposes shall be used, whenever possible. Testing of samples shall be carried out at the National Veterinary Institute (NVI), Laboratory for contagious poultry diseases, functioning as the National reference laboratory for avian influenza (NRL for AI) of the Republic of Slovenia.

2.2.1 Risk based surveillance (RBS)

(max. 32000 chars) :

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2.2.2 Surveillance based on Representative Sampling

(max. 32000 chars) :

Surveillance is based on a representative sampling scheme. The number of poultry holdings to be sampled shall at least correspond to those in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex I of Commission Decision 2010/367/EU, depending on the poultry species.

Sampling for serological testing for avian influenza shall be stratified throughout the whole territory of the Republic of Slovenia, so that samples can be considered as representative for the whole country.

3. Target populations

(max. 32000 chars) :

The target populations comprise the following categories and species of poultry: fattening turkeys, chicken breeding flocks, laying hens, ratites and game poultry (pheasants, partridges). Because there are no commercial duck holdings in Slovenia, duck backyard holdings shall be included in the programme.

1. Fattening turkeys: ten (10) samples per holding shall be taken. In the case of several sheds on a holding 5 samples shall be taken from each shed.
2. Chicken breeding flocks: all 10 chicken breeding flocks are included in the survey programme. The number of sheds varies from 2 to 36 sheds per holding. Most holdings have 1 to 8 sheds, with the exception of two bigger holdings: one with 36 sheds and the other with 18 sheds. Five (5) samples per shed shall be taken.
3. Laying hens: there are 138 registered or evidenced holdings with laying hens in Slovenia. Most holdings include 1 to 2 sheds, but few of them include 3, 4, 5, 8, and up to 14 sheds. Ten (10) samples per holding shall be taken. In the case of several sheds on a holding 5 samples shall be taken from each shed.
4. Ratites: There are 9 ostrich holdings evidenced in Slovenia with more than 5 animals. Five (5) samples shall be taken at each holding.

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5. Duck backyard holdings: there are 4.845 holdings with ducks in Slovenia; 90 holdings shall be selected and 20 samples per holding shall be taken.

In the frame of AI surveillance programme for poultry the virological testing shall be performed on the holdings of poultry with positive serological results or other captive birds and/or poultry found dead on the holdings (sudden deaths, increased mortality or dead birds could have contacts with free-living birds (e.g. ZOO birds)). Cloacal and oropharyngeal swabs and/or organs shall be taken and samples shall be tested virologically. There shall be 35 samples tested by M-gene PCR. In case of positive result H5/H7 PCR shall be performed (6 tests). In case of H5 and/or H7 positive finding analysis of the cleavage site shall be undertaken as soon as possible to determine whether or not it has a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) motif (sequencing - 3 tests) and also virus isolation test on embryonated eggs (3 tests) and determination of virus subtype with HI test shall be performed (3 tests for HI test H5/H7 and 3 tests for HI test H1 to H16).

4. Risk-based surveillance (RBS) method

4.1 Criteria and Risk factors

4.1.1 Criteria and risk factors for virus introduction into poultry holdings due to direct or indirect exposure to wild birds in particular those of identified 'target species'

(max. 32000 chars) :

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4.1.2. Criteria and risk factors for virus spread within poultry holdings and between poultry holdings, as well as the consequences (impact) of the spread of avian influenza from poultry to poultry and between poultry holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

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4.2. Targeting of populations at risk

(max. 32000 chars) :

4.3. Targeting of poultry holdings to be sampled

(max. 32000 chars) :

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5. Poultry holdings to be sampled

5.1 Poultry holdings (except ducks, geese and mallard) to be sampled according to table 1 of Annex 1 to Decision 2010/367/EU

Category : fattening turkeys

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	46	46	10	960	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)
Total	46	46		960	
<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>					
Add a new row					

Category : chicken breeders

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	10	10	10	930	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)

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Total	10	10	930	
<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>				

Category : laying hens

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	138	60	10	1 440	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)
Total	138	60		1 440	
<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>					

Category : ratites

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	9	9	5	90	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)
Total	9	9		90	

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<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>	Add a new row
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Category : farmed feathered game

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	7	7	10	140	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)
Total	7	7		140	
Add a new row					

(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.

Category : other captive birds/poultry holdings

delete this category

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of holdings	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
S100	19 422	7	5	41	PCR test
S100	0	0	0	3	Virus isolation test
S100	0	0	0	3	Sequencing

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SI00	0	0	0	0	3 HI test H5/H7	X
SI00	0	0	0	0	3 HI test H1 - 16	X
Total	19 422	7		53		
Add a new row						
<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>						

Add a category

5.2 Ducks, geese and mallard holdings to be sampled according to table 2 of Annex I to Decision 2010/367/EU

NUTS (2) (a)	Total number of duck and geese holdings	Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Method of laboratory analysis
SI00	4 845	90	20	3 600	Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI)
Total	4 845	90		3 600	
Add a new row					
<i>(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.</i>					

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6. Frequency and period for testing

(max. 32000 chars) :

Sampling shall be carried out once a year per holding in the programme from 1 January to 31 December 2012.

7. Laboratory testing

Description of the used serological tests: (max 32000 chars)

Testing of samples shall be carried out at the NVI. In accordance with the avian influenza diagnostic manual (Commission Decision 2006/437/EC) the following tests will be used:

- haemagglutination-inhibition (HI) test for H5 and H7 subtypes
- ELISA

Virological tests:

- PCR, virus isolation, sequencing, HI test H5/H7, HI test H1 - H16

8. Description of the surveillance programme in wild birds

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8.1 Objectives of surveillance

(max 32000 chars)

The objective of the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds is the timely detection of HPAI of the subtype H5N1 in wild birds in order to protect poultry in poultry holdings and safeguard veterinary public health.

8.2 Surveillance design

(max. 32000 chars) :

A risk-based surveillance is implemented as a 'passive' surveillance system with laboratory investigation of sick wild birds or birds found dead. It is focused mainly on water bird species, particularly migratory water birds as target species (TS). Samples will be taken from TS found dead or sick in the water areas (lakes, rivers, sea,...), specially in those close to poultry holdings or in poultry high density areas. Close cooperation with epidemiologists and ornithologists is ensured for the preparation of the surveillance programme. If the epidemiological situation for the HPAI H5N1 virus so requires, surveillance activities shall be enhanced by awareness raising and active searching and monitoring for dead or sick wild birds, in particular for those belonging to TS. This could be triggered by the detection of the HPAI H5N1 virus in poultry and/or wild birds in neighbouring Member States and third countries or in countries which are linked via the movement of migratory wild birds, in particular those of TS, to Slovenia. In that case the specific migration patterns and wild bird species will be taken into account.

8.3 Sampling procedures

max 32000 chars :

Sampling procedures shall be carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual. Cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and/or tissues from wild birds found dead or sick shall be sampled for molecular detection (PCR) and/or virus isolation.

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8.4 Laboratory testing

max 32000 chars :

Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the avian influenza diagnostic manual (Commission Decision 2006/437/EC) laying down the procedures for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of avian influenza. The tests will be done at NVI. All samples shall be tested for the presence of Influenza A virus using initial screening for M-gene PCR as soon as possible. All positive results shall be subsequently tested by H5 and H7 PCR. In case of H5 and/or H7 positive finding, analysis of the cleavage site must be undertaken as soon as possible to determine whether or not it has a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) motif and also virus isolation test on embryonated eggs and determination of virus subtype shall be performed.

8.5. WILD BIRDS - Investigation according to the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds set out in

Annex II to Decision 2010/367/EU

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Wild birds to be sampled water fowl and shore birds and 	Total number of birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of samples to be taken for surveillance	Estimated total number of samples to be taken for passive surveillance
S100	water fowl and shore birds and 	200	0	400 X
Total		200	0	400
Add a new row				

(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.

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9. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in poultry during the last five years

(max 32000 chars):

Avian influenza has never been recorded in poultry in the Republic of Slovenia. The examinations on avian influenza were only carried out at major mortalities of poultry as differential diagnosis. Since 2004, the survey programmes for avian influenza are carried out each year. All the examination results were negative. In Table 1 there are some data on results of the survey programmes for poultry.

Table 1: Number of tests and results (2006 – 2010)

Year	No. of tests (H5/H7)	No. of positive
2006	3.060	0
2007	4.294	0
2008	4.542	0
2009	5.458	0
2010	4.550	0

9.1 Measures included in the programme for surveillance in poultry

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

(max. 32000 chars):

VARS is in charge of the implementation of the programme. Samples shall be taken by the private practitioners with concession and delivered to the NRL for AI where laboratory examinations shall be performed.

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The entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia extends over an area of 20.000 square kilometers and is divided into 10 Regional Offices of VARS for the needs of operations of veterinary inspection services. In the light of the relative smallness of Slovenia, and a relatively small population of animals, the surveillance programme shall be carried out on the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

9.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Veterinary compliance criteria act (Ur. l. RS, No. 93/05) is laying down in Article 7 and 11 that stables under veterinary control must be registered or reported at VARS. Legal and natural persons involved in rearing activity must report any changes regarding animals, facilities or other changes to the nearest veterinary organisation, which is keeping the register of holdings and animals and notify thereof the VARS. The Rules on veterinary conditions for the trade in poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs in the territory of EU and on import from third countries (UL RS No 5/2004 as amended) which transpose Council Directive 90/539/EEC, lays down the conditions for approval of pedigree breeding, breeding and rearing establishments, and hatcheries. The Rules on the protection of farm animals (UL RS No 51/10 and 70/10), which transpose Council Directive 2002/4/EC, lays down the conditions for registration of laying hens.

9.1.3 Data on vaccination carried out

(max. 32000 chars) :

The vaccination against Avian Influenza is not performed in the Republic of Slovenia.

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10. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in wild birds during the last five years

(max. 32000 chars) :

Till 2006 avian influenza has never been recorded in wild birds in the Republic of Slovenia.

The first case of avian influenza in the Republic of Slovenia was mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), which was found on the bank of river Drava north-west from Maribor on 9 February 2006. The swan died during the transport to the wild animal shelter. The samples were taken in the frame of survey programme on avian influenza. On 11 February 2006 the NRL notified the positive result for AI virus subtype H5. (RT-PCR). The HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in CRL, Weybridge and in OIE Reference laboratory for avian influenza in Padova. By the 25 March 2006, when the last positive bird was collected, there were 48 H5 positive wild birds altogether. The 47 positive wild birds were located along river Drava from Maribor to Markovci, only one grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) was found west from Maribor, near Slovenj Gradec. The species of positive birds were: 44 mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), 2 grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), 1 mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and 1 northern pintail (*Anas acuta*).

Beside these cases, there were some samples which were positive in M-gene PCR and negative in H5/H7-gene PCR. Virus isolations were also negative. The species of positive birds were: 1 mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), 8 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 1 wild duck (*Anas sp.*), 1 common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and 1 cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sp.*).

In 2007 there were no positive results for H5 or H7 viruses. However, 19 samples were positive in M-gene. One yellow legged gull (*Larus argentatus cacinans*) was found positive for H13N6 subtype and one mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) was positive for H14 subtype. Beside that, 14 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and 3 mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) were positive for M-gene, but the virus isolations and H5/H7-gene PCR were negative.

In 2008 there were no positive results for AI H5 or H7 viruses. However, 16 samples (15 birds) were positive in M-gene PCR: 11 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 1 mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), 1 white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and 2 yellow-legged gulls (*Larus argentatus cacinans*). One mallard turned out to be positive on PMV-6, at all other samples virus isolation was negative.

In 2009 there was one positive result for LPAI H5 (not N1) in mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and one for LPAI H7N7 in mute swan (*Cygnus olor*). Ten other samples from mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were positive in M-gene PCR: one H2, one H3 and H4, other subtypes were not identified.

In 2010 there were no positive results for H5 or H7 viruses. However, 6 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were positive in M-gene PCR: two H1, two H10 and two subtypes were not identified.

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In Table 2 there are some data on results of the survey programmes for wild birds.

Table 2: Number of tests in wild birds (2006 – 2010)

Year	No. of tested	No. of H5 positive	No. of H7 positive	Total No. of positive
2006	1.038	48	0	606
2007	334	0	0	19
2008	480	0	0	15
2009	412	1	1	12
2010	283	0	0	6

10.1 Measures included in the programme for surveillance in wild birds

(max. 32000 chars) :

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

32max. 32000 chars) :

VARS is in charge of the implementation of the programme. Veterinary hygiene service (VHS) of NVI collects wild birds found dead on holdings or public areas. Samples are taken by NVI experts and delivered to the NVI laboratory where laboratory examinations are performed. Some samples will be taken from the birds in rescue centre for wild animals under the contract with VARS.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia extends over an area of 20.273 square kilometers, and is divided into 10 Regional Offices of VARS for the needs of operations of veterinary inspection services. In the light of the relative smallness of Slovenia, the survey programme for wild birds shall be implemented on the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

Passive surveillance: Veterinary hygiene service (VHS) of NVI shall collect dead wild birds found on holdings or public areas, when notified. In notifying such occurrences ornithologists, hunters and also perceptive public shall participate. Samples will be taken also from sick birds in wild animal rescue centre.

10.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

(max. 32000 chars) :

In Table 3 below there are some data on the bird population in the Republic of Slovenia from winter counting. The data are from the report Božič, L. Monitoring of population of selected target bird species, Winter counting of waterfowl, 2010 in Slovenia.

Table 3: Bird populations during winter counting

COMMON NAME (SCIENTIFIC NAME)	WINTER
Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)	1.278
Grey heron (Ardea cinerea)	1.191
Greater White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons albifrons)	36
Tufted duck (Aythya fuligula)	920
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	21.704
Eurasian coot (Fulica atra)	5.413

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Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)	4.897
Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	2.841
Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	973

11. Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars):

On the basis of the Rules on animal disease (Ur. l. RS, No. 81/07 and 24/10) which are also transposing Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the Community, Avian Influenza is a compulsorily notifiable disease in Slovenia.

When the presence of Avian Influenza is suspected, the veterinary organisation having established the suspicion shall immediately notify thereof by telephone and by fax, on a form which must include the prescribed data, VARS Headquarters (VARS HQ) which, in turn, shall immediately convene a meeting of the National Disease Control Centre (NDCC) members. The VARS HQ provides for a 24-hour service line for these purposes.

The designated laboratory shall immediately communicate the results of diagnostic investigations by telephone (via the 24-hour service line) and by fax to the VARS HQ.

VARS must notify the disease immediately or no later than within 24 hours to the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE), the European Commission, and the competent veterinary authorities of all neighbouring countries. Notification shall include all the information required, and it shall be faxed or mailed or forwarded by the ADNS system.

In case of an outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry, the measures prescribed in the Rules on measures for the detection, prevention and suppression of avian influenza (Ur. l. RS No. 47/07 and 42/10) which are transposing the Council Directive 2005/94/EC shall be implemented.

In case of wild bird the European Commission shall be immediately informed according to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU. If the HPAI H5N1 is confirmed, the measures of Commission Decision 2006/563/EC shall be implemented.

12. Costs

12.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

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12.1.1 Poultry

(max. 32000 chars) :

Costs of tests

HI test H5: 5,18 €

HI test H7: 5,18 €

ELISA: 8,19 €

M gene PCR: 68,92 €

H5 PCR*: 39,06 €

H7 PCR*: 39,06 €

Sequencing*: 67,44 €

Virus isolation: 66,97 €

Determination of virus isolates (HI test for H5 or H7)*: 27,23 €

Determination of virus isolates (HI test for other subtypes)*: 83,82 €

* These tests are under "Other measures to be covered" in the financial table because there is no possibility to add the row for additional methods of laboratory analysis.

12.1.2 Wild birds

(max. 32000 chars) :

Costs of tests

M gene PCR: 68,92 €

H5 PCR: 39,06 €

H7 PCR: 39,06 €

Sequencing*: 67,44 €

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Virus isolation: 66,97 €

Determination of virus isolates (HI test for H5 or H7): 27,23 €

Determination of virus isolates* (HI test for other subtypes): 83,82 €

* These tests are under "Other measures to be covered" in the financial table because there is no possibility to add the row for additional methods of laboratory analysis.

Other costs

Transport medium: 1,71 €

Refund for wild animal rescue centre sampling: 16,00 €

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12.2 Summary of the costs

12.2.1 Poultry surveillance

Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method) in €	Total cost (€)
ELISA test	10	8.19	81.9
agar gel immune diffusion test	0	0	0
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5 (specify number of tests for H5)	3 580	5.18	18544.4
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H7 (specify number of tests for H7)	3 580	5.18	18544.4
Virus isolation test	3	66.97	200.91
PCR test	35	68.92	2412.2
Total	7 208		39 783,81 €
Other measures to be covered			
H5/H7 PCR	6	39.06	234.36
Sequencing	3	67.44	202.32
Laboratory analysis - Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7	3	27.23	81.69

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Laboratory analysis - Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for other subtypes	3	83.82	251.46	X
			Add a new row	
Total	217		769,83 €	

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12.2.2 Wild bird surveillance

Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method) in €	Total cost (€)
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7	5	27.33	136.65
Virus isolation test	20	66.97	1339.4
PCR test	400	68.92	27568
H5/H7 PCR	40	39.06	1562.4
Total	425	163,22 €	30 606,45 €
Other measures to be covered			
Sampling	100	16	1600 X
Transport medium	400	1.71	684 X
Laboratory analysis - Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for other subtypes	5	83.82	419.1 X
Laboratory analysis - sequencing	5	67.44	337.2 X
			Add a new row
Total	510	168,97 €	3 040,30 €

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