



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/12995/2010

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

Eradication programme of Rabies

Approved* for 2011 by Commission Decision 2010/712/EU

Bulgaria

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Program for Eradication : ANNEX 1

Submission Date	Submission Number
23/04/2010	1272024588592-142

1. Identification of the programme		
Member State	Disease	Species
Bulgaria	Rabies	Fox
		Request of Community co-financing from beginning of 2011
		To end of 2011

1.1 Contact

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2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

In our country rabies disease has been spreading mainly in North Bulgaria. The total number of cases confirmed in Bulgaria since the beginning of 1983 up to the end of 2008 is 605, of which 563 cases (93%) are in North Bulgaria (to the north of Stara Planina mountain chain that divides the country into two) and only

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

42 (7%) are the cases identified in South Bulgaria.

Wild predatory animals are the reservoir of rabies virus in our country, and these are mainly foxes and of less rates jackals. Of all the 627 animals found sick of rabies within the time-period 1988 – 2008, 329 are wild animals (52.5%), 288 (87.54%) of which being foxes (see Table 2).

Highest is the number of rabies cases registered in spring and less are the cases registered in autumn-winter seasons, those identified in summer being the lowest (see Table 3). This is due to ecological and biological specifics of the fox populations in our country. The spring pick of the disease is related to the reproduction period of foxes, while the autumn-winter rising trend is due to seeking and demand of living area manifested by young foxes.

The reason for the definitely predominant spread of rabies in North Bulgaria should be linked with geographic specifics of the country. North Bulgaria is separated from the Southern parts of the country through a natural geographic barrier, i.e. the Balkans Chain (Stara Planina mountain chain) and it acts as a natural barrier for the spread of rabies from north to south. The eastern areas of the country are also bordered by a natural geographic barrier, the Black Sea. To the north Bulgaria borders with Rumania through another natural water frontier, the river Danube, but there is also a land border of 130 km length that could enable passage of animals. To the west, Bulgaria's land borders with Yugoslavia and Macedonia are predominantly of mountainous relief, but there are some areas of plane relief (Northwest Bulgaria).

As till now, there is not any individual administrative district (county) in North Bulgaria, where there has not been any rabies case confirmed. Observations show that each year there are rabies cases identified in an average of 6 to 7 of the total of 14 administrative districts of North Bulgaria. Of the total of 627 animals found sick within the aforementioned time-period (1988-2008), 206 (32.85%) are livestock animals (cows, sheep, goats and horses). This high sickness rate among these type of animals is due to specifics of their keeping, since they spend substantial time grazing on pastures where the likelihood of contacts with wild animals is much higher (see Table 2).

The species and numbers of wild predatory animals in North Bulgaria are given in Table 4 (in the Annex attached).

During 2007, the first cases of rabies in South Bulgaria have been found ever since 1997. As by 20 August 2007 there have been 5 cases of Rabies found in the region of Sofia town, and 11 cases in the region of Sofia-district. That is the reason why the four administrative districts /Sofia-town, Sofia-district, administrative district (veterinary region) of Pernik and the municipality of Treklyano (of administrative district of Kyustendil) must be included in the Programme for oral vaccination of foxes to be effected during the spring of 2008.

It was decided that the administrative district of Pernik and the municipality of Treklyano (of administrative district of Kyustendil) will be included into the area subject to vaccination. Thus, the nearest distance between a rabies outbreak, i.e. that in the village of Dragpintsi (Sofia-district), and a border of vaccination area will be 47 km, while the other outbreaks of Sofia-district are 75-80 km away, the distance between the outbreak located in the Sofia-town district and the border of vaccination area being 85 km.

After 2007 the disease spread south of Balkan Range – regions of Sofia town, Sofia district, Pernik, Kjustendil, and in 2009 Burgas.

3. Description of the submitted programme

The objective of this programme is to ensure eradication of rabies on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria. It is foreseen this to be achieved by oral vaccination of foxes on the territory of North Bulgaria and on part of the territory of South Bulgaria (regions of Sofia town, Sofia district, administrative district of Pernik, administrative district of Kyustendil and administrative district of Burgas (municipalities of Pomorie and Ruen). This vaccination is to be performed that territory for a period of at least 5 years, twice per year in spring and autumn (April-May and September-October).

The total size of the afore mentioned territory where vaccination will be provided is 62 995 km² and it comprises territories located within 19 administrative districts (AD), as follows: ADs of Vidin (code No. 05, area of 3 033 km², number of settlements - 147), Montana (code No. 12, area of 3 635 km², number of settlements - 130), Vratsa (code No. 08, area of - 3620 km², number of settlements - 123), Pleven (code No. 15, area of - 4330 km², number of settlements - 133), Lovech (code No. 11, area of - 4129 km², number of settlements - 114), Gabrovo (code No. 07, area of - 2023 km², number of settlements - 309), Veliko Tarnovo (code No. 04, area of - 4682 km², number of settlements - 336), Ruse (code No. 18, area of - 2803 km², number of settlements - 83), Targovishte (code No. 25, area of - 2716 km², number of settlements - 197), Razgrad (code No. 17, area of - 2637 km², number of settlements - 102), Shumen (code No. 27, area of - 3391

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

3. Description of the submitted programme

2, number of settlements - 151); Silistra (code No. 19, area of - 2846 2, number of settlements - 118); Dobrich (code No. 08, area of - 4720 2, number of settlements - 217); Varna (code No. 03, area of - 3820 2, number of settlements - 158); Sofia town (code 23, area of - 1345 2, number of settlements - 38); Soglia district (code 23, area of - 7062 2, number of settlements - 277); Pernik (code 14, area of - 2027 2, number of settlements - 172); Kyustendil (code No. 10, area of 3084 km2 and number of settlements - 182) and Burgas - municipality of Pomorie (413 km2, number of settlements - 17) and municipality of Ruen (690 km2, number of settlements - 42).

The first vaccination is to be performed in the spring of 2011 and will cover the whole territory of North Bulgaria (14 administrative districts), the administrative district of Sofia-town, Sofia-district, Pernik, Kyustendil and Burgas (municipalities of Pomorie and Ruen), the total area being 62 985 km2. On the territory of these 19 ADs there are 3040 settlements (villages and towns) located on an area of 6990 km2. Thus, the area left to be covered by oral vaccination is 55 995 km2.

The second vaccination is to be performed in the autumn of 2011 on the whole of the afore mentioned territory, on which the first vaccination will be performed.

Numbers of vaccination baits needed

Year 2011

First vaccination campaign: - the dose should again be 20 pieces of vaccination baits per 1 km2. The territory for vaccination shall be the whole North Bulgaria of the following regions of: Vidin (No. 05); Montana (No. 12); Vratsa (No. 06); Pleven (No. 15); Lovetch (No. 11); Gabrovo (No. 07); Veliko Tarnovo (No. 04); Ruse (No. 18); Targovishte (No. 25); Razgrad (No. 17); Shumen (No. 19); Silistra (No. 08); Varna (No. 03) and on the territory of 5 districts of South Bulgaria - Sofia town, Sofia district, Pernik (no. 14), Kyustendil (No. 10) and Burgas (No. 02). The total area is 62 985 km2. The number of settlements is 3040 of total area of 6990 km2, which leaves area for vaccination of 55 995 km2. The number of baits needed - 1 119 900 pieces.

Second vaccination campaign: - the dose should be again 20 pieces of vaccination baits per 1 km2. The number of baits needed will again be 1 119 900 pieces.

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Duration of the programme

beginning of 2011 to end of 2011

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First Year :	
Control	X
Testing	X
Slaughter and animals tested positive	
Killing of animals tested positive	X
Vaccination	X
Treatment	
Disposal of products	
Eradication, control or monitoring	X

Last Year :	
Eradication	X
Testing	X
Slaughter of positive animals	
Killing of animals tested positive	
Extended slaughter of killing	
Disposal of products	
Other	

4.2 Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme

The implementation of the whole vaccination Programme on national level is to be steered by the National Veterinary Service of Bulgaria at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and in particular by its 'Animal Health' Directorate at the NVS' Directorate General. All the campaigns are to be organised and performed in close cooperation with:

- Ministry of Health and its district units;
- Ministry of Interior and its district units;
- Ministry of Environment and Waters and its district units;
- National Forestry Administration at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
- Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria and its district and local units.
- Local bodies of the executive authorities – district governors and mayors of municipalities and settlements;

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

4.2 Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme

- Private practicing veterinary practitioners.

On administrative districts' level vaccination campaigns are to be organised and steered by the Regional Veterinary Services (RVSs) in their quality of district units within the organisation structure of the NVS in cooperation with the local units of all the other aforementioned central and local governments' institutions.

Establishing public awareness of the Programme objectives and specifics.

- making all central institutions and organisations involved in its implementation well informed about the Programme for oral vaccination of foxes in Bulgaria;

- making all regional (administrative district) units of the National Veterinary Service well informed and trained in the specifics of the Programme for oral vaccination of foxes in Bulgaria, in order to ensure that these will properly and effectively organise and steer it on the spot;

- making all district and local units of the aforementioned central institutions and organisations involved in its implementation well informed about the Programme for oral vaccination of foxes in Bulgaria;

- creating public awareness in the population through the local media for mass information, the local cable TV networks, radio broadcasting stations and direct meetings with the public;

- preparing awareness brochures, posters and others alike that are to be placed at public places and alongside roads.

4.3 Description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented

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4.4 Description of the measures of the programme

4.4.1 Notification of the disease

Ordinance 23/14.12.2005 for the rules for notification and registration of contagious diseases in animals.

4.4.2 Target animals and animal population

1. Objective of the programme – oral vaccination of foxes against rabies and eradication of the disease.
2. Foxes population – about 40 000 foxes.

4.4.3 Identification of animals and registration of holdings

NA

4.4.4 Qualifications of animals and herds

NA

4.4.5 Rules of the movement of animals

NA

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

4.4.6 Tests used and sampling schemes

1. IFT-test - direct immune-fluorescent test for detecting the presence of the rabies virus;
2. ELISA - immune-enzyme test for proving the presence of antibodies after vaccination and for typing virus isolates;
3. Test for identifying the tetracycline marker.
The strategy of monitoring (surveillance) involves:
 - the reception of vaccination baits by foxes by testing the presence of tetracycline in their bone marrow;
 - the presence of rabies virus antibodies in blood samples taken from vaccinated foxes.

4.4.7 Vaccines used and vaccination schemes

In relation to the scientific opinion of Bulgarian Reference Laboratory for Rabies in Sofia the vaccination strains SAD B19 and SAD P5/88 are considered as more appropriate for use in Bulgaria.
The distribution of vaccine will be carried out by planes, twice per year (spring and autumn), dose – 20 vaccine bites on 1 km2.

4.4.8 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure

NA

4.4.9 Measures in case of a positive result

Ordinance No. 23 of 17.05.2002 on prophylaxis and control of rabies in animals:

- notify the disease;
- together with the local bodies of Ministry of Health (Regional Inspectorate for Control and Protection of Public Health = RICPPH) perform epidemiological and epidemiological inquiry;
- order for killing of the sick animal(s) concerned;
- take sample material for laboratory testing;
- order for destruction/disposal/ together with their hides and skins of all carcasses of the animals killed or dead due to rabies, which must be done in:
 - rendering plant or by burial;
 - order for carrying out mandatory (compulsory) vaccination against rabies of all dogs, cats and domestic animals going to pasture in the settlement affected or in part of it;
 - impose a ban on movement of animals referred to in item 7 to other settlements;

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

4.4.9 Measures in case of a positive result

- together with the RIC/PPH inform through the mass media the public about the case(s) of rabies that have occurred.
- impose a ban on movements of rabies susceptible animals from the settlement affected to any other settlement;
- these restrictive measures may be ceased at least 30 days after the last rabies case confirmed.
- the local body of the National Forestry Administration together with the local units of the Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria shall organise shooting of stray dogs and wild carnivorous animals found in areas around the settlement affected.

4.4.10 Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

NA

4.4.11 Control on the implementation of the programme and reporting

1. Daily control and presence of official veterinarian (during the whole working day) during the application of vaccine bites and filling of protocols for the work done during the day (conditions for transport and storage of vaccines, number of flights, number of bites distributed).
2. The daily information is presented to the HQ at the NYS and is generalized by Animal Health Directorate – the necessary reports are prepared.

6. Benefits of the programme

limitation and eradication of rabies

6. Data on the epidemiological evolution during the last five years

6.1 Evolution of the disease

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

6. Data on the epidemiological evolution during the last five years

6.1 Evolution of the disease

6.1.1 Data on herds for year:

Year	Region	Total Nber of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated	% positive herds depopulated	% herds coverage	% positive herds prevalence	% new positive herds incidence
Sum:											
Total:											

6.1.2 Data on animals for year:

Year	Region	Total number of animals	Number of animals to be tested under the programme	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positives animals	Number of animals with positive result slaughtered or culled	Total number of animals slaughtered	% positive animals prevalence
Sum:								
Total:								

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year :

Year	Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
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Program for Eradication : PDF detail

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests					
6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year :					
Year	Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
2009	whole territory of Bulgaria	other test	FAT	450	59
			Sum:	450	59
2008	whole territory of Bulgaria	other test	FAT	128	28
			Sum:	128	28
2007	whole territory of Bulgaria	other test	FAT	193	40
			Sum:	193	40
2006	whole territory of Bulgaria	other test	FAT	170	10
			Sum:	170	10
2005	domestic and wild animals	other test	FAT	123	12
			Sum:	123	12
			Total:	1,064	149

6.3 Data on Infection for year :			
Year	Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animal infected
2009	Bulgaria	0	59
		Sum:	59
2008	Bulgaria	0	26
		Sum:	26
2007	Bulgaria	0	40
		Sum:	40

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6.3 Data on infection for year:

Year	Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animal infected
2006	Bulgaria	0	9
	Sum:	0	9
2005	Bulgaria	0	11
	Sum:	0	11
Total:		0	145

6.4 Data on the status of herds at the end of year

Year	NUTS Region	Not Free or not officially free from disease									
		Total number of herds and animals under the programme	Unknown	Last check positive	Last check negative	Free or officially free from disease	Officially free from disease				
		Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals
Total:											

6.5 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year

Year	Region	Information on vaccination or treatment programme									
		Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered	Number of adults vaccinated	Number of young animals vaccinated		

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6.5 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year

Year	Region	Information on vaccination or treatment programme							
		Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered	Number of adults vaccinated	Number of young animals vaccinated
Total:									

6.6 Data on wildlife

6.6.1 Estimation of wildlife population for year :

Year	Region	Species	Method of estimation	Estimation of the population
2009	whole territory of Bulgaria	foxes	counting by hunters	41,896
	whole territory of Bulgaria	jackals	counting by hunters	36,304
	whole territory of Bulgaria	stray dogs, out of settlements	counting by hunters	30,169
	whole territory of Bulgaria	wolves	counting by hunters	2,282
Sum:				110,651
Total:				110,651

6.6.2 Monitor of wildlife for year:

Year	Region	Species	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
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6.6.2 Monitor of wildlife for year:

Year	Region	Species	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples

6.6.3 Data on vaccination or treatment of wildlife for year:

Year	Region	Square km	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment to be administered	Number of campaigns	Total number of doses of vaccine or treatment to be administered
Total:					

7. Targets

7.1 Targets related to testing (one table for each year of implementation)

7.1.1 Targets on diagnostic tests for year:

Year	Region	Type of the test	Target population	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests
	Bulgaria	Hystological test for identification of	Fox	teeth	control of vaccination	4,400
	Bulgaria	Immune-enzyme	Fox	blood	control of vaccination	4,400
2011	Bulgaria	Immuno-fluorescent	Fox	brain	surveillance	4,400
Total:						13,200

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

7.1.2 Targets on testing herds and animals

7.1.2.1 Targets on the testing of herds for year :

Year	Region	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds expected to be checked	Number of expected positive herds	Number of expected new positive herds	Number of herds expected to be depopulated	% positive herds expected to be depopulated	Target indicators				
									Expected % herd coverage	% positive herds Expected period herd prevalence	% new positive herds Expected herd incidence	%	
Sum:													
Total:													

7.1.2.2 Targets on the testing of animals for year:

Year	Region	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals expected to be tested	Number of animals to be tested individually	Number of expected positive animals	Number of animals with positive result expected to be slaughtered or culled	Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered	Slaughtering		Target indicators	
									% positive animals (Expected animal prevalence)	%	Expected % coverage at animal level	%
Sum:												
Total:												

7.2 Targets on qualification of herds and animals for year :

Targets on the status of herds and animals under the programme

Expected not free or not free from disease

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7.2 Targets on qualification of herds and animals for year :

		Targets on the status of herds and animals under the programme				Expected not free or not free from disease				Expected free or officially free from disease			
		Expected unknown		Last check positive		Last check negative		Expected free or officially free from disease status suspended		Expected free from disease		Expected free from disease	
Year	Region	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals
	Sum:												
	Total:												

7.3 Targets on vaccination or treatment

7.3.1 Targets on vaccination or treatment for year :

		Targets on vaccination or treatment programme				Targets on vaccination or treatment programme							
		Total number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment expected to be administered	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of adults expected to be vaccinated	Number of young animals expected to be vaccinated			
Year	NUTS Region	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals	Herds	Animals
	Sum:												
	Total:												

7.3.2 Targets on vaccination or treatment of wildlife for year

Targets on vaccination or treatment programme

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7.3.2 Targets on vaccination or treatment of wildlife for year

Year	NUTS Region	Square km	Targets on vaccination or treatment programme		Total number of doses of vaccine or treatment expected to be administered
			Number of doses of vaccine or treatments expected to be administered in the campaign	Expected number of campaigns	
2011	North Bulgaria + Sofia town, Sofia District, Pernik, Kjustendil, Burgas(Pomorie and Ruen)	55,995	1,119,900	2	2,239,800
		Sum:	1,119,900	2	2,239,800
		Total:	1,119,900	2	2,239,800

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year

Year	Cost Category	Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding request		
2,011	1. Testing	Hystological test for identification of tetracycline	Cost of analysis	4,400	20	88,000.00	yes		
			Immune-enzyme (ELISA) test	Cost of analysis	4,400	30	132,000.00	yes	
			Immuno-fluorescent test	Cost of analysis	4,400	15	66,000.00	yes	
			Samples	Cost of sampling	4,400	15	66,000.00	yes	
				Sum:		17,600		352,000.00	
				Administering costs	100	50	5,000.00	no	
				Control costs	500	15	7,500.00	yes	
				Distribution costs	25	200	5,000.00	no	
				Distribution of baits by helicopter	2,239,800	47	1,062,706.00	yes	
	2. Vaccination or treatment								

Program for Eradication : PDF detail

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year

Year	Cost Category	Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding request
2,011	2. Vaccination or treatment	Purchase of vaccine	Purchase of vaccine/treatment of animal products	2,239,800	5	1,119,900.00	yes
	2. Vaccination or treatment		Sum:	4,480,225		2,190,106.00	
	3. Slaughter and destruction	NA	NA	0	0		no
	3. Slaughter and destruction		Sum:	0		0.00	
	4. Cleaning and disinfection	NA	Cleaning and disinfection	100	50	5,000.00	no
	4. Cleaning and disinfection		Sum:	100		5,000.00	
	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	NA	NA	0	0		no
	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)		Sum:	0		0.00	
	6. Consumables and specific equipment	NA	NA	0	0		no
	6. Consumables and specific equipment		Sum:	0		0.00	
	7. Other costs	Bullets for hunters	Bullets for hunters	10,000	5	5,000.00	no
		Printed materials for public awareness	Printed materials for public awareness	20,000	25	5,000.00	no
		Storage of vaccine at -20°C	Storage of vaccine at -20°C	2	1500	3,000.00	yes
7. Other costs		Sum:	30,002		13,000.00		
		Sum:	4,527,927		2,560,106.00		
	Total:		4,527,927		Sum: 2,560,106.00		

RABIES POSITIVE CASES IN BULGARIA IN 2009 - 59

