

## About this dossier

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## Eradication: Final report for Sheep And Goat Brucellosis 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).

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**Country code:** IT

### 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.**

*Brucella melitensis* has been eradicated from most part Italian territory. Out of 19 Regions and 2 Autonomous provinces, 15 of them and 2 Province of the Region Abruzzo and Puglia have been declared Officially *B. melitensis* - Free according to EU legislation (ANNEX 1, maps).

Furthermore the Abruzzo Region and some Province of Puglia Region have presented at the Commission the dossier for the declaration of OBmF, actually under evaluation.

To give to the local veterinary services the instruments to speed up the process of eradication especially in those regions where the disease is still present, the Ministry of Health has extended the Ministerial Ordinance 28 May 2015, in force until 26 June 2020 and applied in all OBmF and not OBmF territories, improving in this way, an uniform eradication and surveillance of the disease in all Italy, that provided in summary the following measures (ANNEX 2, Ministerial Order 28 may 2015):

- 1) Responsibility of the Chief of local Veterinary service on the control of 100% of the herds;
- 2) Registration of pastures;
- 3) Controls of Dealers;
- 4) Control of fattening herds;
- 5) Controls on animals before and after movement;
- 6) Electronic identifications of animals of the outbreak (rumen bolus);

- 7) Electronic identifications of animals subjected to movement;
- 8) Capture and control of animals at pasture that have no owner or that have an owner that does not assure capture and the restraint of animals;
- 9) Guidelines for stamping-out;
- 10) Elaboration, already at the suspect, of the epidemiological investigations, following the guide lines of the Ministry of health (ANNEX 3);
- 11) Compulsory use of the data base, SANAN and SIMAN;
- 12) Sanctions and withdrawal of the status of OTF of the herds in case of fraud;
- 13) Control of the efficacy and efficiency by local and regional veterinary service.

The planned and achievable objective for 2019 was for other Italian provinces and regions to meet (or retain) the requirements to qualify for the officially disease-free status (or disease-free status in case the vaccination could be applied) as regards brucellosis in sheep and goats.

In year 2019, the prevalence recorded for the disease in Italy, calculated on all the herds under control present in the national territory, has been 0,19%, reduced respect the 2018 that was 0,29%.

In the territories not BmF the prevalence recorded in 2019 has been 0,60%, with an incidence of 0,49% reduced respect at the prevalence and incidence recorded in the 2018: respectively 0,88% and 0,73%

The higher prevalence in Italy is reported in Sicily region, with an overall prevalence of 1,68% flocks infected on the controlled and with the Provinces of Messina recording the highest value among all provinces - 3,60%. However is important to underline that these data of prevalence are in reduction respect the 2018 (2,43%) as well as respect at the 2014 (3,40 %).

On 20 August 2019, the Ministry of Health inaugurated the "working table on ovine-caprine brucellosis in Sicily", which was attended by representatives of the: Veterinary Services of the Department of Health of the Sicily Region; IZS Sicily and the National Center of Reference for Brucellosis; Local Veterinary Authorities of Messina, Enna, Catania, Ragusa and Syracuse; representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture; Breeders Associations of Coldiretti and of the Sicily Breeders Union; to discuss the current situation of sheep and goat brucellosis in Sicily.

At the end of the works, the CVO concluded by entrusting the responsible of the veterinary services of the Sicily Region, to elaborate with the collaboration of the colleagues of the Local Veterinary Authorities involved, with the IZS Sicily and the National Reference Center for Brucellosis, a document in which list the difficulties encountered during the application of the brucellosis eradication plans in Sicily and the relative solutions that can be put in place to overcome the identified problems in a definitive way.

To improve the supervision of the eradication plans the Ministry of Health in 2019 have build in the Veterinary Informatic system a DASHBOARD that make possible at, Local, Regional and Central level the control on the application of the brucella melitensis eradication program. Actually their are available and ready to use in VETINFO (the Italian veterinary informatic system).

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

Analysis of the data received from the regions concerning the eradication activities carried out between 2018 and 2019 (ANNEX 4 and 5) has revealed the situation described below.

The sheep and goat national holdings population subject to the program in the year 2019 is decreased (36488), compared with the data of 2018 (37093).

Also the number of controlled holdings is decreased (35032) with respect to 2018 (35449). The number of positive holdings is lower (206), than in 2018 (311). The number of outbreaks stamped-out (7) is lower than in 2018 (17).

The percentage of holdings controlled in 2019 (98.66%) are lower of the percentage of control performed in 2018 (99.22%), and it is less than the figure defined as final objective prescribed in new Ministerial Order of the 28 of May 2015 (100%). Failure to achieve 100% of the checks is due a less controls performed in Calabria Region and in particular in the AASSPP of Reggio Calabria and Vibo Valentia, at cause of a persistent, inadequate organization of the work, as specified in the annual report transmitted by the Regional Veterinary Authority.

The prevalence and incidence Registered in 2019 are lower (0,60% - 0,49%) than the results obtained in 2018 (0,88% - 0,73%).

The expected results indicated in the "WORKING DOCUMENT SANTE/2017/10186 rev 1 Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2018-2020", for the ovi-caprine brucellosis program in Italy has been established as minimum % of reduction compared to 2018 = to 100% Free.

The prevalence recorded for the melitensis in Italy in 2019 calculated on all the herds under control, has been: 0,19% (ANNEX 1).

**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.**

In Italy 4 regions are still not OBmF (Sicilia, Calabria, Basilicata, Campania).

Two Regions still not OBmF have Province OBmF in their territories:

Puglia - Province of Brindisi;

Abruzzo - Province of Pescara. (ANNEX 1).

The Region of Campania ha registered a positive prevalence of 0,16%.

The Abruzzo Region and the Provinces of Puglia: Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani and Taranto have achieved the condition to transmit at the Commission the requests of OBmF, actually under evaluation.

The trends of sheep and goats brucellosis prevalence and incidence in the not OBmF territories are clearly declining during the last five years from 1,21% to 0,60% (ANNEX 1). The absolute number of positive flocks has decreased in the last five years from 465 to 206 (with 143 of them registered only in Sicily Region - ANNEX 4).

As negative point in 2019, has been registered a percentage of controls not of the 100%.

**1.4 Additional epidemiological information (on epidemiological inquiries, abortions, lesions found in abattoir, human cases, etc...)**

Relatively to these points see the annexes: (ANNEX 1 and ANNEX 6).

**2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ON RUMINANT DISEASES 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 A - DATA ON HERDS**

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds to be checked under the programme this year	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated
		% of herds depopulated	% of herds coverage		% of positive herds Period herd prevalence		% of positive herds Herd incidence	
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	5,647	5,611	5,611	5,596	22	21	0
		0 %	99.73 %		0.39 %		0.38 %	
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	8,210	7,690	7,690	7,271	18	18	0
		0 %	94.55 %		0.25 %		0.25 %	
Campania	Sheep and Goats	6,866	6,298	6,298	6,293	10	8	1
		10 %	99.92 %		0.16 %		0.13 %	
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	3,355	3,219	3,219	3,219	11	11	1
		9.09 %	100 %		0.34 %		0.34 %	
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	8,687	8,532	8,532	8,511	143	108	5
		3.5 %	99.75 %		1.68 %		1.27 %	
<b>Total</b>		32,765	31,350	31,350	30,890	204	166	7
		3.43 %	98.53 %		0.66 %		0.54 %	

**Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS**

Region	Animal species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals to be tested under the programme this year	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Number of animals with positive result slaughtered or culled	Number of animals slaughtered
		% coverage at animals level				% positive animals Animal Prevalence			
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	171,045	162,699	162,699	161,748	161,748	46	46	46
		99.42 %				0.03 %			
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	357,394	340,078	340,078	319,909	319,909	209	174	174
		94.07 %				0.07 %			

Puglia	Sheep and Goats	290,632	268,606	268,606	268,606	268,606	102	102	274
						100 %	0.04 %		
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	946,654	891,142	891,142	889,094	889,094	4,257	4,081	4,840
						99.77 %	0.48 %		
Campania	Sheep and Goats	239,966	226,744	226,744	226,582	226,582	38	38	415
						99.93 %	0.02 %		
<b>Total</b>		2,005,691	1,889,269	1,889,269	1,865,939	1,865,939	4,652	4,441	5,749
						98.77 %	0.25 %		

**Table C - DATA ON VACCINATION PROGRAMMES**

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination programme this year	Number of herds vaccinated	Number of animals vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine administered	Number of adults vaccinated	Number of young animals vaccinated	Number of animals with primary vaccination (initial+ booster)
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table D - DATA ON STATUS OF HERDS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD**

	Region	Animal species	Total number of herds and animals under the programme	Unknown	Not free or not officially free from disease		Free of officially free-disease status suspended/withdrawn	Free from disease	Officially free from disease
					Last check positive	Last check negative			
<b>herds</b>	Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	5,611	0	0	18	15	0	5,578
<b>animals</b>	"	"	162,699	0	0	3,618	951	0	158,130
<b>herds</b>	Calabria	Sheep and Goats	7,615	9	5	12	70	0	7,518
<b>animals</b>	"	"	338,112	354	924	1,561	2,516	0	332,757
<b>herds</b>	Campania	Sheep and Goats	6,257	0	3	182	21	0	6,051
<b>animals</b>	"	"	226,798	0	655	3,783	2,849	0	219,511
<b>herds</b>	Puglia	Sheep and Goats	3,219	0	1	12	3	0	3,203
<b>animals</b>	"	"	268,606	0	239	3,090	723	0	264,554
<b>herds</b>	Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	8,414	2	32	147	183	2	8,048
<b>animals</b>	"	"	882,803	255	5,832	22,334	19,616	51	834,715
<b>Total - herds</b>			31,116	11	41	371	292	2	30,398
<b>Total - animals</b>			1,879,018	609	7,650	34,386	26,655	51	1,809,667

**Table E - SUSPENSION/WITHDRAWAL OF THE FREE OR OFFICIALLY FREE STATUS**

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	15
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	4
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	14
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	60
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	33
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	2
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	4
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	3
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	125
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	17
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	1
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Suspended	The disease is suspected	71
<b>Total</b>				349

**Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS**

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
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Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	Rose Bengal test	163,024	163,024	54
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Rose Bengal test	329,685	329,685	225
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Rose Bengal test	227,018	227,018	71
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	Rose Bengal test	297,136	297,136	275
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Rose Bengal test	1,037,853	1,037,853	4,242
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	Complement fixation test	0	15,923	31
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Complement fixation test	0	20,716	161
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Complement fixation test	0	16,248	32
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	Complement fixation test	0	57,922	102
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Complement fixation test	0	320,498	3,971
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	Bacteriological test	51	51	5
Calabria	Sheep and Goats	Bacteriological test	129	129	1
Campania	Sheep and Goats	Bacteriological test	327	327	7
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	Bacteriological test	104	104	4
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	Bacteriological test	2,258	2,258	402
Basilicata	Sheep and Goats	PCR test	0	9	0
Puglia	Sheep and Goats	PCR test	0	22	0
Sicilia	Sheep and Goats	PCR test	0	19	9
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,057,585</b>	<b>2,488,942</b>	<b>9,592</b>
		<b>Methods of laboratory analysis</b>		<b>Total number of tests</b>	
		<b>Total - Bacteriological test</b>		2,869	
		<b>Total - Complement fixation test</b>		431,307	
		<b>Total - PCR test</b>		50	
		<b>Total - Rose Bengal test</b>		2,054,716	

## COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION