Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

PROGRAMME for ERADICATION : ANNEX II - PART A + B

Member States seeking a financial contribution from the Community for national programmes for the control and monitoring of salmonellosis (zoonotic salmonella), shall submit applications containing at least the information set out in this form.

The central data base keeps all submissions. However only the information in the last submission is shown when viewing and used when processing the data.

If encountering difficulties, please contact SANCO-BO@ec.europa.eu, describe the issue and mention the version of this document: 2014 1.19

Instructions to complete the form:

Your current version of Acrobat is: 10.104

1) Be informed that you need to have at least the Adobe Reader version 8.1.3 or higher to fill and submit this form.
2) To verify your data entry while filling your form, you can use the "verify form" button at the top of each page.
3) When you have finished filling the form, verify that your internet connection is active and then click on the submit notification button below. If the form is properly filled, the notification will be submitted to the server and a Submission number will appear in the corresponding field.
4) IMPORTANT: Once you have received the Submission number, save the form on your computer.
5) If the form is not properly filled, an alert box will appear indicating the number of incorrect fields. Please check your form again and try to re-submit it according to steps 3), 4) and 5). Should you still have any difficulties, please contact SANCO-BO@ec.europa.eu.
6) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi annual programmes
7) As mentioned during the Plenary Task Force of 28/2/2014, you are invited to submit your programmes in English.

IMPORTANT: AFTER SUBMITTING THE FORM DO NOT FORGET TO SAVE IT ON YOUR COMPUTER FOR YOUR RECORDS!

Submission Date	Submission Number
Wednesday, May 21, 2014 09:46:00	**1400658364802-3511**

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Identification of the programme

Member state : MALTA

Disease Salmonella

This program is multi annual : no

Request of Union co-financing from beginning of : 2015

ANNEX II - PART A

General requirements for the national salmonella control programmes

(a) State the aim of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

To carry out a monitoring and control programme for Zoonotic Salmonella in Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus in accordance to Council Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation (EC) no 200/2012 ; to achieve a reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium, including monophasic Salmonella typhiurium serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4, [5},12:i, as indicated in article 1 of CR 200/2012:-
" a reduction of maximum annual percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive for Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium equal to 1% or less".

(b) Animal population and phases of production which sampling must cover

Demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the minimum sampling requirements laid down in part B of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 1. indicating the relevant animal population and phases of production which sampling must cover

Animal population Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Food business operators have samples taken and analysed for Salmonella in the following phases of production :

Broilers ☒ Birds leaving for slaughter

(c) Specific requirements

Demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the specific requirements laid down in Parts C, D and E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

(max. 32000 chars) :

The registered and functioning broiler flocks of Gallus gallus reared for meat production on both the Islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by the SNCP irrespective of their capacity.

There are no breeding flocks presently on the Islands.

FLOCKS INFECTED WITH TARGETED SEROVARS (SE/ST):.
The owner of the infected holding or the owner`s representative will be served with a test report issued by the cVO limiting movement of infected flock only for slaughter. There is to be no movement of infected animals between houses and out of the holding until slaughter. The movement document prior to slaughter is issued by the Animal Health Unit of the CA. The entry of vehicles and personnel on the infected holding is to be restricted and strict biosecurity measures (protective clothing, boots, the use of foot baths and disinfection pits for vehicles) have to be respected to avoid spreading of infection out of the holding and between different houses. The relevant slaughterhouse and oV are informed. After slaughter of the infected flock are slaughtered. Cleaning of the house has to be verified by the CA to have been effective , following microbiological analysis. The Animal Health & Welfare Unit of the CA will only issue permit for re-stocking if no salmonella spp. is isolated from official samples taken after disinfection of the infected house / houses.

An SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses and of results from analysis of slaughtered infected flocks, has been compiled to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The birds are caught and placed in clean crates. The crates are provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out. The OV has to record on a checklist that a number of precautions and conditions are in accordance to the SOP and HACCP plan of slaughterhouse. The slaughter batch of infected flock have to be slaughtered or at the end of a slaughter day or on their own, without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered afterwards.
The OV and auxiliaries are responsible for checking the food chain information document supplied by the operator and verify this with the information received from the CA. The OV and auxilliaries will then follow the slaughtering procedure which will be in accordance to Community legislation on food hygiene. Weight readings will be recorded to have a total net live weight of the poultry slaughtered. The total number of birds slaughtered is also recorded. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care .
The slaughterhouse will take samples in accordance to the Annex of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1086/2011. A copy of the result of the analysis have to be submitted immediately to the CA (National Veterinary Laboratory). The animal by products produced are collected in bins, always supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins.
If the poultry carcasses are to be processed, than the processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin. The processing plant has to comply with CR (EU) No. 1086/2011and carry out analysis in accordance to this Regulation. The results of which have to be copied to the CA.

(d) Specification of the following points :

(d)1. General

(d)1.1 A short summary referring to the occurrence of Salmonellosis (Zoonotic Salmonella)

A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis [zoonotic salmonella] in the Member State with specific reference to the results obtained in the framework of monitoring in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 31., particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Malta has been very successful inachieving the Commission target,
2013: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.6%. Other serovars had a seroprevalence of 15%.
2012: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.35%. other serovars had a seroprevalence of 17%.
2011: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (Salmonella enteritidis (SE) and Salmonella typhimurium (ST)) in 2011 was of 0.71%. Out of 567 flocks, 561 were tested. There has been a significant reduction in the prevalence from 2010, where the prevalence was of 4.1%, eventhough Salmonella typhimurium was relatively more frequently isolated. In 2011, four (4) flocks were positive, three with Salmonella Enteritidis and one with Salmonella Typhimurium. Malta has successfully achieved the targets as required by Commission Regulation. There has been an intense and effective control on the local broiler population .
The flock prevalence for other serovars is of 24.1% and therefore has decreased slightly compared to the flock prevalence in 2010 of 29%. The most isolated serovar remains Salmonella Kentucky which is represented by 12.8% of infected flocks, followed by Salmonella Infantis at 2.7% and Salmonella Haifa at 21.4%. This year a larger number of other uncommon serovars were typed such as Salmonella Konongo II, Salmonella Farmingdale and Salmonella Szentes .l

2010: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (Salmonella enteritidis (SE) and Salmonella typhimurium (ST)) in 2010 was of 4.1%.
Out of a total of 798 flocks , 587 were sampled and analysed since in the beginning of 2010 not all houses were being sampled and/or analysed separately. However this is the first close value of the flock prevalence to be taken as a reference point. The vast majority of isolates were ST (21 out of 24).

2009: Prevalence data is incomplete. The SNCP commenced mid-2009 due to lack of human resources. A total of eighty-seven flocks were sampled. Out of the 87 flocks, twenty-seven (27)flocks were positive to Salmonellosis . Two (2) of which were S.typhimurium. The flocks infected with the targeted serovars were culled and destroyed. From the data of 2009, considering that analysis commenced mid-year, the

overall prevalence of Salmonellosis was of 31% with a 2.2% prevalence for the targeted serovars.

The SNCP has been very successful so far, with a significant reduction in the flock prevalence of the targeted serovars and a slight reduction in the flock prevalence of other serovars.

(d)1.2 The structure and organization of the relevant competent authorities.

Please refer to the information flow between bodies involved in the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary and phytosanitary regulation Department under the Ministry for Sustainable Development, The Environment and Climate Change.
The Vetereinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department is made up of two Directorates:
Veterinary Regulation Directorate
Animal Welfare Promotion and services Directorate

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), primarily the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), which falls under this Directorate, is in charge of supervising, coordinating, implementing and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection post and of the office on the smaller Island of Gozo. The office on the Island of Gozo is only responsible of sampling the 6 layer farms on that Island.
The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of four Units:
A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the supervision, management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.
B) The Animal Health & Welfare Unit: which helps in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and /or destruction of infected products.
C) Safety of the Food Chain Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants
D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunitary trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):
(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:
• appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples and organising training session for operators
• in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
• all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
• ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the

programme
•co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates and co-ordinate with private labs, authorised to carry out analysis of unofficial samples in transmission of results.
•carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.
• reporting of all results to the Animal Health section and Official veterinarians at white meat slaughterhouse
• inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain, CVO and slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
• collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:
(ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section is responsible for:
• the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database , the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Section is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
•co-ordination of sampling team. The National Livestock Database is programmed to flag up any broiler flocks at fifteen days of age. This permits officer in charge to print out a list of holdings that have to be sampled. A copy of this list is passed to the NVL, providing a tool for the monitoring of those holdings carrying out own checks.
• collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab .
•collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
• organising on farm investigation, as required.
• collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
• collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

(iii)Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:
• ensuring to follow appropriate training.
• collecting and transporting samples appropriately.
• deliver samples within 24hours from collection to the NVL.
• ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately.

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by –products:
• is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:
• responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Safety of the Food Chain
(vi) Director is responsible for;
• informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.
• OV at slaughterhouses

(vii) OV at white meat slaughterhouse is responsible :
•for checking food chain information submitted by operator and cross-checking SNCP results communicated by NVL .
•careful supervision of slaughtering of infected flocks in accordance to SOP and communicating all relevant data to NVL.
•collecting official samples as may be required in accordance to CR (EC) No 2073/2005.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;
• Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents
• issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

(d)1.3 Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) of the VRD under the Ministry For Sustainable Developement, The Environmrnt and Climate ChangeResources and Rural Affairs is still solely responsible for the analysis of all official but also for the majority of unofficial samples up to biochemical identification collected under the framework of this programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), to date, is not accredited however there is a quality assurance system in place in accordance to the requirements of current EN/ISO standards. The NVL has begun the process of accreditation and has successfully participated in ring-trials organised by the VLA - UK. In 2011 the lab has successfully participated in six ring trials on simulated samples of poultry carcass, faecal, dust, chick-liner and feed. Typing of positive isolates is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory which falls under a different Ministry (the Ministry of Health). The Public Health Laboratory is also the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella and is accredited according to ISO 17025.

In 2010, a training session in sampling techniques, was organised by the CA for business operators under the SNCP. Attendance certificates were issued, however few are those operators who opted to sample their own flocks. The business operator can also choose to send non-official samples to an accredited laboratory approved by the CA. The CA has approved a number of accredited laboratories in Italy and in 2012, one private accredited laboratory in Malta. The operator has to fill in the official sampling sheet provided by the CA with all details relevant to the samples. This has to be signed and submitted to the NVL ,within a few days after sampling together with a culled broiler chick taken from the age group of the flock/ flocks just sampled. Antimicrobial residue screening analysis is carried out by the NVL on muscle tissue muscle tissue sample using the six-plate test. The operator is to bring a copy of the result to the NVL without delay on receipt of results. However, the NVL, in co-ordination with both the local and foreign approved private laboratories, would receive without delay, a copy of any positive result for SE or ST (including monophasic strains).

The slaughter houses , processing plants and feedmills sent the sampling from their HACCP programmes to local private laboratories, which are not yet accredited but have quality assurances systems in place.

The larger of the two hatcheries send samples for analysis of Salmonella to an accredited laboratory in Italy.

(d)1.4 *Methods used in the examination of the samples in the framework of the programme.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

The majority of both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff .
The samples are brought to the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) within a few hours from collection, with the exception of samples from Gozo, which are delivered the next day and till such time kept refrigerated.
The samples are generally always analysed on the day of delivery. If a particular situation arises , at the latest, the samples will be examined within 48 hours from receipt and kept refrigerated until such time.
Analysis of boot swabs and and environmental samples are carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation (EU) 200/2012. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 : "Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs- Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp -Ammendement 1: Annex D; Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production". The National Veterinary Laboratory carries out analysis until biochemical identification of the isolates. The positive isolates are then sent immediately to the Public Health Laboratory (just 15 minutes away) for serotyping.
Serotyping is carried out following the Kaufmann-White- Le Minor scheme by the Public Health laboratory, who send results through e-mail & later by mail to the NVL.
The approved foreign laboratories and the approved local laboratory use the above mentioned recommended method: Annex D of ISO 6579 , while serotyping is according to the Kaufmann-White- Le Minor scheme. The local private lab carries out typing only for Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium. However, the local private laboratory has undertaken to submit any positive isolates of Salmonella spp. to the NVL, for further typing.

(d)1.5 *Official controls (including sampling schemes) at feed, flock and/or herd level.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls at feed -level:
There are six larger feed mills. These import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are then mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries. A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling.
Official visits are carried out on all feed mills and also the home mixers. The large commercial companies have an HACCP programme in place and are visited at least once annually by CA officials.
Documentation regarding auto-control checks are verified during official controls and and an annual sampling programme whereby official samples are collected from all the major feedmills, where at least one sample from each type of poultry feed produced is collected. Annually, random sampling is also carried out on some of the home mixers.
In 2013, there were no positive samples for Salmonella isolation from the samples analysed under the national control programme on commercial feed mills.
Samples of feed are also collected from the all holdings at least once annually as part of the SNCP. The finished feed is sampled direct from farm. In cases when there is a positive isolation of Salmonella, CA officers return to the farm to investigate and re-sample. In cases of home mixing, the different components are sampled.

Official controls at flock-level:
All registered and functioning broiler flocks on both Malta and Gozo are included in the national control programme, irrespective of the capacity.

The CA, to date , has been carrying out the majority of sampling described in point 2.1a & b of the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 200/2012, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of most broiler farms.

Official Samples to be taken
(i) from at least one flock of broilers on 10% of those holdings with more than 5,000 birds.
(ii) environmental samples from house after disinfection, after slaughtering of a positive flock.
(iii) if deemed necessary, on other flocks in a holding where a positive flock was identified , up to six-months prior.
(iii) In case of suspicion of Salmonella infection .

Samples are taken two - three weeks prior to slaughtering. This is around 5 - 6 weeks of age in Malta. Two boot swabs are taken from each house. Each pair of boot swabs is used to cover 50% of the house. The two boot swabs are then pooled together.

All separate houses on the same premises are considered as a separate flock and sampled separately.

(d)2. Food and business covered by the programme

(d)2.1 The structure of the production of the given species and products thereof.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Malta and the smaller sister Island of Gozo are considered as one region for the surveillance and control of disease. The Competent Authority responsible for the Salmonella Control Programme at farm level, feed level, primary production and manufacturing level excluding retail, falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department within Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs –

Registration of Farms:
There are no breeding flocks of Broilers in Malta at present.
Broiler farms are registered with the CA. The operators book the number of birds or day-olds for the next rearing from the hatcheries who import hatching eggs and day-olds. The farmers do not import any day-olds for themselves but all book through the hatcheries. There is no association of poultry breeders and the industry is made up of a quite a number of small farms, all operating individually. The number of birds reared has decreased by about 500,000 between 2010 and 2011. In 2011, there were 74 operational holdings compared to 89 holdings in 2010.

Hatcheries:
There are two registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta. However one of these is responsible for supplying the vast majority of farms and also imports day-olds for the farms.
Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997 lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments.
Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90.
The hatcheries are legally obliged to the report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The Animal Health Unit authority then prints out a “hatch report” which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold. From this documentation, staff at the

Animal Health section record all relevant data on the National Livestock database (Intratrace).
A movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the CA. A new movement document for a new batch of birds is only issued after a three-week resting period between rearing of different batches.

Structure of Broiler holdings:
The number of birds reared has decreased by about 500,000 between 2010 and 2011. In 2011, there were 74 operational holdings compared to 89 holdings in 2010 (798 flocks) . Holdings are family-run and are generally part-time businesses. There are no free-range farms on Malta / Gozo. All broilers are breed in closed houses, kept on bedding. The houses are generally situated very close to each other. A holding with a capacity of 5000 - 6000 can be divided up into three houses (therefore flocks).
The slaughter age of the broilers can vary slightly depending on the market demand such as a seasonal request for capons in December, however, on average the animals are slaughtered between 5 – 6 weeks. The general rule is an all-in-all-out system with a three -week resting period between flocks.

Total amount of birds reared in 2011 was around 2,385,716.

The operators have individual agreements with the slaughterhouses to whom they sell their birds. There are four slaughter houses all located on the Island of Malta. Generally each slaughter house maintains working relationships with the same number of operators. The slaughterhouses would then sell the produce to retail outlets (butcher shops, supermarkets).

(d)2.2 Structure of the production of feed

(max. 32000 chars) :

There are six commercial feed mills and a small number of home mixers. The commercial feed mills import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries.
To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling programme.
Legal notice 374/2005 regulates the responsibility of feed mills.

(d)2.3 Relevant guidelines for good animal husbandry practices or other guidelines (mandatory or voluntary) on biosecurity measures defining at least

(d)2.3.1 Hygiene management at farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Community guidelines have been distributed to the farmers and a seminar was held in May 2010 to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practices. Emphasis was given to the correct use of vehicle disinfection pits. If a vehicle disinfection pit cannot be placed at the farm entrance , pressure washers are used on the wheels of visiting vehicles, especially on the delivery trucks from commercial feed mills. It is difficult for the operator to change clothing if houses are just a few steps apart but the use of pans soaked with disinfectant outside each house is constantly being enforced and reminded by sampling staff which visit the farms on a very regular basis. Pest control (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.

Almost all farms have automatic cleaning belts while few carry out the cleaning manually. Cleaning is usually carried out weekly. The faecal material falls into the pits where it is usually shoveled out into dumpers and taken to the manure clamp by van.
All farms producing manure have to store solid manure in an enclosed place known as the manure clamp, for six months a year (from the 15th October to 15th March). All farms are to have a leak proof cesspit, to collect foul water arising from cleaning etc. The manure clamp is to be connected to the cesspit. The water is kept for 15 days then collected by a bowser. These regulations serve to reduce the environmental pollution and the nitrate level in fields fertilised with manure. However, they may also provide a tool to permit biosecurity measures to limit spread of disease.

The Animal Health Unit within the CA will only issue movement documents for batches of birds if a three-week period is respected between the rearing of different flocks, to permit for appropriate cleaning. This is stated in the LN119 of 2005 " Rearing of Broilers Regulation".
The Animal Health and Welfare Unit, carry out a number of official visits during the year. During these visit, check-lists with welfare but also biosecurity issues are filled in . In case of serious breaches on biosecurity measures , a warning letter would be communicated to the operator.
In case of SE/ST positive flocks, a negative evaluation of biosecurity measures brings about a deduction in the compensation rates of the SNCP.

(d)2.3.2 Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

MEASURES FOR PREVENTING INFECTIONS:
Most holdings have PITS for the disinfection of the vehicles entering or leaving the premises. In the summer months , the pits dry up very quickly but operators have become much more attentive of this since the start of the SNCP. No farm has separate entrances. It is recommended that as much as possible vehicles should not go into a farm. The use of a pressure -washer for the wheels is highly recommended. Upkeep of structures and boundary walls are being maintained. The strong control measures of the SNCP, caused some smaller holdings to close down, especially because of lack of maintenance. The official visits from the Animal Health and Welfare uUit to review welfare and biosecurity issues, contribute to improve such measures.
The FEED is bought fresh from the feed mills, even though there are those farms that also have their own silos. Due to the island's high humidity levels, farmers are not in the habit of storing large quantities of feed to avoid the formation of yeasts and moulds. Feeds are usually kept in their bags within the sheds in a dark, dry corners. Other in-coming vehicles would be from the hatchery and when day-olds are brought in. The farmers have become very conscience of the risk of infection, especially since in the past years positive flocks with the targeted serovars were culled . The CA has it's own control programme on the local feedmills, whereby between 10-12 samples a year are taken from the larger local producing feed mill plants, for analysis of Salmonella spp. All local plans also implement a HACCP system.

The water supply can be direct from the main government supply or from private bore holes. In the latter case, control of the water is purely voluntary; however this is not frequently carried out unless the family uses the water from the bore hole for their own personal use.

A high percentage of farms are small in capacity and are family-run, therefore few people would be responsible for the daily management of the animals. There is no legal obligation for people handling live animals to carry out medical checks. The larger holdings have employees.

PEST CONTROL (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.
USE OF CLEAN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, DISINFECTION PANS: The use of clean protective clothing and disinfection of boots when moving between houses is continuously being reminded by sampling staff. A problem that arises is when there are mixed farms with swine animals also reared on the premises.

The hatchery transports the day-old chicks to the farms. While the slaughterhouse provides the operator with clean crates which are used for transporting the birds to the slaughterhouse. Each operator is responsible for transporting his flock to the slaughterhouse. Cleaning and disinfection of such vehicles is important in avoiding contamination between flocks.

(d)2.3.3 Hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

Birds are usually only transported from the hatchery to the farm and then once again on the day of slaughter. The larger hatchery is responsible for supplying the vast majority of farms, therefore the farmers have become aware of this as a possible source of infection. The correct use and replenishing of the disinfection pit, combined with the use of pressure-washers for the wheels of the vehicles is being observed. The operator is responsible for transporting the flock to the slaughter house. The distances are very short. Cleaning and disinfection of crates (which are shared through the slaughterhouse) and of vehicles is highly recommended and noted by the OV at the slaughterhouse as part of the checklist and routine report. If there are grave deficiencies, this would be noted in the report. The vast majority of operators use pressure-washers for the cleaning of such vehicles.

(d)2.4 Routine veterinary supervision of farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

Routine veterinary inspection on farm
According to national legislation, "The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437 of 2001, article 35 (f) states that "the owner, the keeper , the dealer or the importer, the consignee, the carrier , the retailer or any other person authorised under the provisions of this Act shall notify the veterinary services of any suspicion of zoonosis or other diseases or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health." The Animal Welfare Act 439 regulates welfare issues.
Local farms being generally small in capacity, do not have their own private veterinarian visiting on a regular basis but only in case of necessity. One of the largest local feed mills provides free technical support. A lot of the farmers buying their feed from this feed mill make regular use of the technical personnel. If there is any cause for suspicion, the company`s veterinarian is then called out. There is no delegation of official control of poultry in Malta.
Since the SNCP has been implemented, the majority of sampling under the framework of the legislation to date has been carried by the CA. Any official control is carried out by auxilliaries under the supervision of the OV, when the OV cannot perform himself the official control. The officers conduct an animal welfare check list at least once annually per registered farm. The check-list holds information regarding not only animal welfare issues but also some details about biosecurity measures. Since 2012, an individual checklist has been implemented and filled in annually for every farm. Every check-list is a control document. The AFRD has just completed a recruitment session, and new OV's will be employed.

Thereby the increase in staff would allow official controls to be carried out by the OV on local poultry holdings.

A private veterinarian who would have carried out an ante-mortem inspection on farm prior to the flock leaving the holding. If the farmer does not present an ante-mortem inspection, therefore the official veterinarian carries out the ante-mortem at the slaughterhouse.

(d)2.5 Registration of farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

Legal notice 441/2010 under chapter 36 of the national legislation enforces registration of all farms having more than 20 broilers with the CA. The CA is always the VRD under the AFRD. There is only one central CA and no regional offices.

Each registered farm is given a licence number by the CA. This number is unique and not re-issued if the farm ceases to operate. The number is made up of letters and numbers. The letters indicate if the farm has an exclusive licence for broiler rearing or also for rearing layers. The rearing of both categories is not permitted simultaneously. PB stands for poultry broiler, while PBL stands for poultry broiler and layer unit . The last letter is either M or G indicating the territory of Malta or Gozo. After the letters a series of numbers follow. These have been conferred consecutively. To date the registration is made up of a three-digit number. The licence is re-issued annually. If no broilers are reared in a 12-month period the licence is not renewed. The CA (VRD) keeps all relevant information of the registered holding on the national livestock database system which is managed by the Animal Health section. All information relative to different flocks reared on the holding eg. number of birds , date of hatch, batch number of birds,slaughter date/dates and results of the SNCP are accessible to all authorised personnel. The same batch of birds bought from the hatchery may be split up in different houses and therefore will be considered as different flocks, however these flocks would have the same batch code.

(d)2.6 Record keeping at farm

(max. 32000 chars) :

In accordance to point 5 of the Schedule to the Farm Animals(Protection) Regulations of 2003 (Legal Notice 266 of 2003), and point 16 of Schedule B of LN 119 of 2005 " Rearing of Broilers Regulations"; owners or keepers shall maintain a record for
each unit of an establishment of the -

- Number and origin of chickens brought in;
-daily mortality
- feed consumption
- temperature
- Number of chickens sent for slaughter;
- The number of culls with reason for cull, leg culls shall be specifically identified;
- Medicine and vaccine administration records, these records shall include the prescription, duration of treatment, dosage and signature of the veterinary surgeon.

All this information has to be kept on an official register known as the herdbook. This book is presented to the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse.

The records shall be retained for a period of at least three years and shall be made available to the competent authority when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested.

The result of the SNCP are also sent by post and the operator is requested to keep the result for up to three years.

(d)2.7 Documents to accompany animals when dispatched

(max. 32000 chars) :

The capacity of local operators is too small and currently no operator holds the licence to rear poultry for breeding purposes. If the case arises Malta issues the ITAHC in accordance to EU Directive 2009/158 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 article 9.1.

Issuing of all ITAHC falls under the responsibility of the CA, being the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) and as stated before, there is only one central office and no district offices. All activities under the responsibility of the CA are carried out at the same premises, with the exception of the BIP.

Hatching eggs and live birds are imported from EU countries, as already detailed in paragraph 2.1. All importations into Malta are accompanied by documentation/certification in accordance to Directive 2009/158 .

(d)2.8 Other relevant measures to ensure the tracebility of animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

OWNERS/KEEPERS of commercial broiler flocks (having more than 20 birds) are legally obliged in accordance to point 5 of the Schedule to the Farm Animals(Protection) Regulations of 2003 (Legal Notice 266 of 2003), and LN 441 of 2010 " Rearing of Broilers Regulations"; to maintain records as already

elaborated in point 2.6.

(i) Document accompanying birds from hatchery to holding:
The farmer has to obtain an authorization form from the competent authority (copy attached - authorisation document) to be able to buy the day-old chicks from the hatchery. This document is presented to the CA for authorisation. The CA has all commercial farms on the iNtratrace system. This system controls the time lapse that should exist between the rearing of one flock and the next . The Intratrace ihas been created in such a way that between one batch of broilers and the next in the same house, a time frame of 6 weeks + 3 weeks has to pass. The 6 weeks is the normal rearing period in Mlata and three weeks is the rest period the farmer has to respect. When the CA issues an authorisation form to a farmer, the date from when the farmer has authorisation is written on the document. The farmer presents this document to the hatchery which is obliged to respect this indicated date. In this way , broiler flocks respect an all in all out system.

(ii) Documents accompanying birds from holding to slaughterhouse.
On the information held in the hatch report, a movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the operator. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the competent authority

HATCHERIES:
Hatching Regulation LN 48 of 1997 lays down the provision regulating hatcheries. Amongst the provisions there are also legal obligation for the maintenance of records,eg. registration number of establishment of origin of hatching eggs or day-olds, Number of eggs or day-olds imported, date on import, batch ID code, number of eggs hatched , list of recipient farms , date of delivery of day-olds. The hatchery are obliged to submit a copy of all import and trade documents to the CA (Animal Health and Welfare Unit). The CA issues a hatch report on the trade documents submitted, on hatching of eggs the hatchery fills in details regarding number of eggs hatched and amount sold to each farm and Batch code. The CA generates a movement document with an individual batch code number given to each batch of day-olds sold to each individual farm. This batch number follows the birds up to slaughter. Records are to be kept for three years.

PRODUCTS:
The batches of birds at the slaughter house continue to carry the identification code number conferred to them as day -olds by the CA. This number is reproduced on the label of the generated products.

TRACES, also falls under the responsibility of the CA. It is localized at the Border Inspection Post and the authorised officials at the BIP have access to it. The BIP is the only office of the CA localized in a different area.

ANNEX II - PART B

1. Identification of the programme

Disease Salmonella

Animal population : Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Request of Union co-financing for the period : *From* 2 015 *To* 2 015

1.1 Contact

Name : Susan Chircop

Phone : +35622925304

Fax. : +35621238105

Email : susan.chircop@gov.mt

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

A concise description is given with data on the target population (species, number of herds and animals present and under the programme), the main measures (testing, testing and slaughter, testing and killing, qualification of herds and animals). The information is given for distinct periods if the measures were substantially modified. The information is documented by relevant summary epidemiological tables, graphs or maps.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The targeted population are broiler commercial flocks. There has been an onward tendency over the past years towards a decline in the number of birds reared. This is due to competition from imported meat at lower cost, the increase in cost of feed(no primary local source) and the the control measures of the SNCP.
Broiler population: The population has gone down from approximately 3,200,000 in 2009 to approximately two and a half million. The number of operational farms has gone down from 89 to 73 farms with a total of 581 flocks.

2009

The SNCP commenced in mid-2009. Prior to this time there was no control programme for Salmonellosis in broiler flocks. The first available data is from a study carried out on broiler carcasses in 2004. A total of 418 carcasses were sampled and analysed. The prevalence of Salmonellosis in carcasses was found to be 26.8%, Salmonella entritidis and Salmonella typhimurium were represented at 4.3%. In 2008, Malta carried out the baseline study on broiler carcasses for Salmonella spp. and Campylobacter according to Commission Decision 2007/516/EC. A total of 367 samples were analysed and 77 were positive to Salmonella spp. isolation. Out of 94 farms from which carcasses had been collected, 42 were positive. When the programme commenced mid-2009, there was no data available on flock prevalence.
The main measures were testing, killing and disposal of products and waste.. This strategy has brought about a successful decrease in the flock prevalence.

2010
The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars for 2010 was of 4.1%. Salmonella typhimurium (21flocks out of 24) was the most frequently isolated while 3 flocks were positive for Salmonella enteritidis.

2011
The flock prevalence for 2011 was of 0.71%.
0ther serovars:
The flock prevalence for other serovars is of 24.1% and therefore has decreased slightly compared to the flock prevalence in 2010 of 29%. The most isolated serovar remains Salmonella Kentucky which is represented by 12.8% of infected flocks, followed by Salmonella Infantis at 2.7% and Salmonella Haifa at 2.14%. This year a larger number of other uncommon serovars were typed such as Salmonella Konongo II, Salmonella Farmingdale and Salmonella Szentes

2012 The flock prevalence was of 0.35%.

2013 the flock prevalence was of 0.6%.

3. *Description of the submitted programme*

A concise description of the programme is given with the main objective(s) (monitoring, control, eradication, qualification of herds and/or regions, reducing prevalence and incidence), the main measures (testing, testing and slaughter, testing and killing, qualification of herds and animals, vaccination), the target animal population and the area(s) of implementation and the definition of a positive case.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The main objectives of this programme is to monitor,control and reduce the prevalence of SE/ST in all broiler flocks of Gallus gallus in Malta and Gozo, in accordance to Commission Regulation 2160/2003 for Zoonotic Salmonella spp., in order to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of these serotypes in the national flock, as indicated in Commission Regulation ("EU)No. 200/2012:- " reduction of maximum percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium (including monophasic serotypes) equal to 1% or less. The main measures being testing and slaughtering. Re-population will only be permitted once effective disinfection has been conducted after depopulation of the infected flock. No salmonella spp. has to be isolated from environmental samples taken after disinfection.

The target population are all broiler flocks of Gallus gallus.
Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region.
All registered and functioning farms will be tested. Total population of approximately 2,500,000 birds.
The testing scheme would be to analyse all houses on a holding by sampling 2 pairs of boot swabs per house.

Targeted age-group :
Broilers: 2 weeks prior to slaughter (i.e between 2-3 weeks of age)

OFFICIAL SAMPLES:
The collection of official samples will be carried out by the CA. Samples are transported to the laboratory within a few hours from collection, with the exception of the few farms on Gozo. In the latter case the samples arrive after 24 hours and are kept refrigerated. Analyses of samples will be carried out by the NVL and typing will be carried out at the Public Health Lab.
Boot swabs taken from one same house will be pooled together.
Analysis of the boot swabs and environmental samples will be carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation 200/2012. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 (2002): "Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production". Modified semi-solid Rappaport-Vassiliadis medium (MSRV) will be used as a single selective medium. Serotyping will be carried following the Kaufmann-White-Le Minor scheme.

The competent authority is also responsible for the national residue plan.
Each farm will be tested for antibiotic-residue during the sampling for the salmonella control programme. One animal from one flock amongst those of the same age-group being tested, is analysed using the six-plate test. This is carried out even on occassions of unofficial sampling.

NON-OFFICIAL SAMPLES:
To date, most of the non-official samples are still collected and analysed by the CA.
However, operators wishing to carry out own sampling, were trained in 2010 and some have been sending their samples to accredited private laboratories approved by the CA. In 2011 the labpratories were located in Italy. In 2012 a local private laboratory had also been approved. The operator has to fill in the official sampling sheet provided by the CA with all details relevant to the samples. This has to be signed and submitted to the NVL , together with a culled broiler chick taken from the age group of the flock/ flock just sampled. Antimicrobial residue screening analysis is carried out by the NVL on muscle tissue muscle tissue sample using the six-plate test. The operator is to bring a copy of the result to the NVL without delay on receipt of results. However, the NVL, in co-ordination with both local and foreign approved private laboratories, would receive without delay, a copy of any positive result for SE or ST (including monophasic strains).
CA officials will also be carrying out spot-checks on a certain percentage of holdings to verify sampling techniques and all documentation relative to the integrity of samples and time lapse during transport and analyses.

DEFINITION OF POSITIVE CASE:

(i) When one isolate is serotyped as Salmonella enteritidis, Salmonella typhimurium and monophasic Salmonella typhimurium, serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i, from an official or non-official sample.
(ii) When the illegal use of antimicrobials is asserted and no Salmonella spp. was isolated.

Re-stocking in a house were a positive flock was reared, is permitted once environmental samples taken after all infected birds have been slaughtered, result negative.

4. *Measures of the submitted programme*

Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of Salmonella spp. have been detected, in particular to protect public health, and any preventive measures taken, such as vaccination.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Commission Regulations are directly applicable . The provisions of the implementing legislation , CommissionDecision no 2008/425/EC and Commission Regulations (EC) No. 1177/2006, No: 200/2012 and No 1086/2011 are implemented.

MEASURES TAKEN ON POSITIVE FLOCKS (SE/ST)(official / non-official samples)
- The CVO issues a letter imposing restrictive measures. The person in charge of the flock, shall have to ensure that there will be no movement of infected animals between flocks on the same holding . There is to be no movement out of the holding of poultry or poultry meat. The control of vehicles and strengthening of biosecurity measures is important to prevent spread of infection, such as foot baths and correct maintenance of disinfection pits.

Movement of flock is permitted on day /days programmed for slaughter. The relevant slaughterhouse and OV would have been promptly informed of the out come of the result by the NVL (CA). The restriction measures are lifted after all the infected flock are slaughtered and cleaning of the house has been verified by the CA to have been effective , following microbiological analysis. The Animal Health & Welfare Unit of the CA will only issue permit for re-stocking once if no salmonella spp. is isolated from official samples taken after disinfection of the infected house / houses.

Slaughtering of infected flocks.
An SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses and of results from analysis of slaughtered infected flocks, has been compiled to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The birds are caught and placed in clean crates. The crates are provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out. The slaughter batch of infected

flock have reach the slaughterhouse without any stops along the way. Slaughtering of an infected flock is programmed at the end of a slaughter day or without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered on that particular day.
The OV and auxiliaries are responsible for checking the food chain information document supplied by the operator and verify this with the information received from the CA. The OV and auxilliaries will then follow the slaughtering procedure which will be in accordance to Community legislation on food hygiene. Weight readings will be recorded to have a total net live weight of the poultry slaughtered. The total number of birds slaughtered is also recorded. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care .
The slaughterhouse will take samples in accordance to the Annex of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1086/2011. A copy of the result of the analysis have to be submitted immediately to the CA (National Veterinary Laboratory). The animal by products produced are collected in bins, always supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins.
If the poultry carcasses are to be processed, than the processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin. The processing plant has to comply with CR (EU) No. 1086/2011and carry out analysis in accordance to this Regulation. The results of which have to be copied to the CA.

Vaccination: is only to be used as a preventive measure and not as an alternative to the requirements in Annex II.C of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003.

Antimicrobial treatment may not be used for the control of Salmonella within the framework of the NCP, except within the limits set by Commission regulation (EC) No. 1177/2006.

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Period of implementation of the programme : 2015 - 2015

Measures

- ☒ Control
- ☒ Testing
- ☒ Slaughter of animals tested positive
- ☐ Killing of animals tested positive
- ☐ Vaccination
- ☐ Treatment of animal products
- ☐ Disposal of products
- ☐ Monitoring or surveillance

Other, please specify

control of antimicrobial administration

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

Describe the authorities in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme and the different operators involved. Descrive the responsabilities of all involved.

(max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary Regulation and Phytosanitary Department, which is made up of two Directorates:

Veterinary Regulation Directorate
Animal Welfare and Promotion Services Directorate

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), primarily the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), which falls under this Directorate, is in charge of supervising, coordinating, implementing and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection post and of the office on the smaller Island of Gozo. The office on the Island of Gozo is only responsible of sampling the 6 layer farms on that Island.
The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of four Units:
A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the supervision, management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.
B) The Animal Health & Welfare Unit: which helps in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in

carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and /or destruction of infected products.
C) Safety of the Food Chain Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants
D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunitary trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):
(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:
• appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples and organising training session for operators
• in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
• all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
• ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
•co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates and co-ordinate with private labs, authorised to carry out analysis of unofficial samples in transmission of results.
•carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.
• reporting of all results to the Animal Health section and Official veterinarians at white meat slaughterhouse
• inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain, CVO and slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
• collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:
(ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section is responsible for:
• the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database , the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Section is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
•co-ordination of sampling team. The National Livestock Database is programmed to flag up any broiler flocks at fifteen days of age. This permits officer in charge to print out a list of holdings that have to be sampled. A copy of this list is passed to the NVL, providing a tool for the monitoring of those holdings carrying out own checks.
• collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab .
•collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
• organising on farm investigation, as required.
• collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
• collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

(iii)Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:
• ensuring to follow appropriate training.
• collecting and transporting samples appropriately.
• deliver samples within 24hours from collection to the NVL.
• ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately.

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by –products:
• is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:
• responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Safety of the Food Chain
(vi) Director is responsible for;
• informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.
• OV at slaughterhouses
(vii) OV at white meat slaughterhouse is responsible :
•for checking food chain information submitted by operator and cross-checking SNCP results communicated by NVL .
•careful supervision of slaughtering of infected flocks in accordance to SOP and communicating all relevant data to NVL.
•collecting official samples as may be required in accordance to CR (EC) No 2073/2005.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;
• Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents
• issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

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

Describe the name and denomination, the administrative boundaries, and the surface of the administrative and geographical areas in which the programme is to be applied. Illustrate with maps.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by this programme and are considered as one region. The VRD under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Diirectorate administers the whole region.

Malta is approximately 360Km2 being the larger of the two Islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller at less than half Malta`s surface area.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme

Where appropriate Community legislation is mentioned. Otherwise the national legislation is mentioned.

4.4.1 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

Legal notice 441/20105 under chapter 36 of the national legislation enforces registration of all farms having more than 20 broilers.
Measures:
The hatcheries are obliged to the report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a “hatch report” which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold.
A movement document (pink form - attached) is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered.

4.4.2 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the identification of animals

Not applicable for poultry

(max. 32000 chars) :

see point 4.4.1

4.4.3 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 35.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonoses or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health.

4.4.4 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result

A short description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter

(max. 32000 chars) :

Commission Regulations are directly applicable . The provisions of the implementing legislation , CommissionDecision no 2008/425/EC and Commission Regulations (EC) No. 1177/2006, No: 200/2012 and No 1086/2011 are implemented.

MEASURES TAKEN ON POSITIVE FLOCKS (SE/ST)(official / non-official samples)
- The CVO issues a letter imposing restrictive measures. The person in charge shall have to ensure that there will be no movement of infected animals between flocks on the same holding or out of the holding of poultry or poultry meat.The control of vehicles and strengthening of biosecurity measures is important to prevent spread of infection, such as foot baths and correct maintainence of disinfection pits.

- Movement of flock is permitted on day /days programmed for slaughter. The relevant slaughterhouse and OV would have been promptly informed of the out come of the result by the NVL (CA).

Slaughtering of infected flocks.
An SOP to outline movement, slaughter procedures and management of such positive flocks and of results from analysis of slaughtered infected flocks, has been compiled to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The birds are caught and placed in clean crates. The crates are provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out. The slaughter batch of infected flock have reach the slaughterhouse without any stops along the way. Slaughtering of an infected flock is programmed at the end of a slaughter day or without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered on that particular day.
The OV and auxiliaries are responsible for checking the food chain information document supplied by the operator and verify this with the information received from the CA. The OV and auxiliaries will then follow the slaughtering procedure which will be in accordance to Community legislation on food hygiene. Weight readings will be recorded to have a total net live weight of the poultry slaughtered. The total number of birds slaughtered is also recorded. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care .
The slaughterhouse has to have an integrated HACCP plan and SOP to have an appropriate procedure in place when dealing with infected flocks, to avoid and prevent spreading of disease. The slaughterhouse will take samples in accordance to the Annex of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1086/2011. A copy of the result of the analysis have to be submitted immediately to the CA (National Veterinary Laboratory) on receipt. The animal by products produced are collected in bins, always supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins.

If the poultry carcasses are to be processed, than the processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin. The processing plant has to comply with CR (EU) No. 1086/2011and carry out analysis in accordance to this Regulation. The results of which have to be copied to the CA.

Disinfection of houses and restocking:
In the manual of good management, disinfection protocols were included. The operator has to guarantee proper cleaning and disinfection of infected houses. The restriction measures are lifted after all the infected flock are slaughtered and cleaning of the house has been verified by the CA to have been effective , following microbiological analysis. The Animal Health & Welfare Unit of the CA will only issue permit for re-stocking once if no salmonella spp. is isolated from official samples taken after disinfection of the infected house / houses.

4.4.5 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the different qualifications of animals and herds

(max. 32000 chars) :

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 200/2012 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1237/2007 are directly applicable.
A.) Salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium infected flock:
1 Isolation of Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium serotyped from one isolate from official and non-official samples.
2.The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials was used as preventive measure and no Salmonella spp. isolated from samples taken from that flock.

B.) Flock considered not infected by targeted serovars.
1. Flocks whereby no salmonella spp. isolated from all samples taken from the flock.
2. Salmonella spp. isolated from one or more of the samples taken from that flock but not Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium.

4.4.6 Control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas concerned

A short description of the control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas is provided

(max. 32000 chars) :

Control procedures.
When restriction measures are applicable to a holding:
• The official i/c of poultry from the Animal Unit of the CA, will carry out an investigation on the farm and conduct a census to verify and update information held on the database of the CA regarding the different batches of birds present on the premises and the quantities of birds. The level of biosecurity is also assessed since it also effect the rate of compensation.

• No poultry, poultry meat, animal feed, material or waste may leave the infected house , as directed on the letter issued by the CVO inflicting restrictive measures on the infeceted flock. The only movement permitted is on the days of slaughter.

- The operator is to ensure the following conditions:
Persons not directly involved in taking care of the animals are not permitted to enter buildings where infected flocks are kept.

• Appropriate means of disinfection, using a disinfectant officially approved as effective against Salmonella spp., is to be used at the entrances and exits of the building housing poultry and of the holding itself.

• Vehicles and equipment used for transport of animals or products have to be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant effective against Salmonella spp. immediately after the movement.

4.4.7 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the control (testing, vaccination, …) of the disease

National legislation relevant to the implementation of the programmes, including any national provisions concerning the activities set out in the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Council Regulation 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation 646/2007 are directly applicable and followed in setting up the sampling scheme, testing regime and setting of targets.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 on the requirements for use of antimicrobials and vaccines in control programmes for poultry will be adhered to. Malta does not permit the use of antimicrobials as preventive measures in any Salmonella control programme. A sample for antimicrobial testing is lifted during every official sampling session but also from most of the non-official sampling. One chicken is taken randomly from one of the flocks on the premises, and tested at the NVL for presence of

antimicrobial agents. A screening test is run using the six-plate test.

To date vaccination is not used in Broiler flocks.

4.4.8 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

Any financial assistance provided to food and feed businesses in the context of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Legal notice under the Veterinary Services Act Chapter 437: titled "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations, 2012" concerns compensation rates for 2012. Another legal notice needs to be issued with revised rates.

4.4.9 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure in place in the flocks/holdings involved

(max. 32000 chars) :

Guidelines were distributed to operators at a seminar held in May 2010. This seminar was held to to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practices on farm. A veterinarian employed on contract with the Ministry had carried out on site-visits, soon after, on all poultry farms in order to explain clearly and individually biosecurity measures and improvements.
During the beginning of the SNCP, especially on the positve farms, the CA took the decision to destroy the infected flock. This strong line of action served as a filtering system. In fact a certain number of farms closed down and these were generally small-capacity holdings that had lack of resources . Other positive farms were motivated to enforce and review their biosecurity measures. The success Malta has had in decreasing the prevalence of the targeted Salmonella serovars is also because of rigid measures that have motivated owners to review their infrastructires and biosecurity procedures.

OV`s and auxilliaries carrying out any official controls, making use of checklists in accordance to the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) no: 882/2004
CA officials carry out a checklist for animal welfare issues annually on all registered farms. Some biosecurity measures are also integrated in this checklist. Since last year an individual biosecurity checklist was created and is being implemented on poultry farms (attached). This checklist is filled in once annually for every farm.
When a farm is found to be infected with one of the targeted serovars, the OV or auxilliary staff carry out a census on farm and also verify biosecurity measures. The result of such verification is not only important in prevention of spreading of disease but also affects compensation. The checlist also serves as a grading system when compensation is calculated under the Salmonella control programme.

5. General description of the costs and benefits of the programme

A description is provided of all costs for the authorities and society and the benefits for farmers and society in general

(max. 32000 chars) :

The costs to the poultry industry is very high especially since the local poultry industry often splits up one batch of birds in a number of small houses in very close proximity. These, according to EU legislation, have to be considered as separate flocks and therefore the costs are very high for the small producer.. The programme is very costly and is a heavy burden on the local poultry industry for other reasons, like having to send samples abroad, if the operator would like to use a private lab. Even if a better quality product should increase sales , considering the capacity of the local market, the competition is very tough in comparison to other imported poultry products.
The SNCP has been very successful in reducing the flock prevalence of the targeted serovars in local broiler flocks, in accordance to Commission targets. In 2012 and 2013, the Public Health sector noted a downward trend in reported human cases of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium, that are indicative of a realistic positive effect of the SNCP on human cases.

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

Data already submitted via the online system for the years 2009 - 2012 : yes

The data on the evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis are provided according to the tables where appropriate

6.1 Evolution of the zoonotic Salmonella

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic Salmonella for year : **2013**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype (c)	Number of positive flocks	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	Number of eggs destroyed	Number of eggs channelled to egg product	
malta	Broiler flocks of G	567	2 385 7	567	2 385 7	561	Any targeted serotype	4	13	23 012	0	0	X
Total		567	2 385 716	567	2 385 716	561		4	13	23 012	0	0	

ADD A NEW ROW

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the porgramme for the presence of Salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) Salmonella Enteritidis = SE Salmonella Typhimurium = ST Salmonella Hadar = SH Salmonella Infantis = SI Salmonella Virchow = SV

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : **2013**

As per EU regulation No.200/2010, article 1.

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples	
Malta /Gozo	disinfection efficacy test	**microbiology ISO 6579**	45	2	X
Malta /Gozo	bacteriological test	**microbiology SO 6579**	20	2	X
Malta /Gozo	serotyping test	**kaufmann-white**	10	3	X
Malta /Gozo	antimicrobian detection test	**six-plate**	20	0	X
Total			95	7	
			ADD A NEW ROW		

6.3 Data on infection for year : 2013

Region	Number of flocks infected	Number of animals infected	
Mlata/Gozo	4	10 695	X
Total	4	10 695	
		Add a new row	

6.4 Data on vaccination programmes for year : 2013

Region	Total number of flocks	Total number of animals	Number of flocks in vaccination programme	Number of flocks vaccinated	Number of animals vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine administered	
malta /Gozo	567	2 385 716	0	0	0	0	X
Total	567	2 385 716	0	0	0	0	
					Add a new row		

7. Targets

7.1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

7.1.1 Targets on laboratory tests for year : **2015**

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
Malta& Gozo	Antimicrobial detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	environmental sample	surveillance	12	X
Malta& Gozo	Bacteriological detection test in frame of official samplir	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	environmental	qualification	35	X
Malta& Gozo	Serotyping in frame of official sampling	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	isolates	surveillance	10	X
Malta& Gozo	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	control	10	X
				Total	67	
				Total Antimicrobial detection test	12	
				Total Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	10	
				Total BACTERIOLOGICAL DETECTION TEST IN FRAME OF OFFICIAL SAMPLING	35	
				Total SEROTYPING IN THE FRAME OF OFFICIAL SAMPLING	10	
				Add a new row		

7.1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year : 2015

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in to the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flocks where official samples taken (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta& Gozo	Broiler flocks of	520	520	520	520	8	SE+ST	4	4	12 000	0	0	X
Total		520	520	520	520	8		4	4	12 000	0	0	

Add a new row

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the porgramme for the presence of Salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis +Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted

7.2 Targets on vaccination

7.2.1 Targets on vaccination for year : 2015

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

			Targets on vaccination or treatment programme				
NUTS Region	Total number of flocks in vaccination programme	Total number of animals in vaccination programme	Number of herds or flocks in vaccination programme	Number of herds or flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta& Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	
					Add a new row		

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

8.1 Costs of the planned activities for year : **2015**

1. Testing

Cost related to	Specification	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	12	3.43	41.16	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test in frame of official samplin	35	18.19	636.65	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Serotyping in frame of official sampling	10	38.38	383.8	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	10	16.72	167.2	yes	X
				Add a new row		

2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in 6.4 and 7.2)

Cost related to	Specification	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Vaccination	Purchase of vaccine doses	0	0	0	no	X
				Add a new row		

3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)

Cost related to	Compensation of	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Compensation of animals	0	0	0	no	X

Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	12 000	0	0	no	X
				Add a new row		

4.Cleaning and disinfection

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
CLEANING/DESINFECTION	cleaning of houses & disinfectants	4	150	600	yes	X
				Add a new row		

5.Other costs

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Other costs	lab personnel	1	12637.4	12637.4	yes	X
				Add a new row		

6. Cost of official sampling

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of official sampling	Cost of official sampling	520	5.97	3104.4	yes	X
				Add a new row		
	Total	592		17570.61		

8.2 Co-financing rate:

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Common Financial Framework, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

- (●) Up to 75% for the measures detailed below
- ( ) Up to 100% for the measures detailed below
- ( ) Not applicable

Please explain for which measures and why co-financing rate should be increased (max 32000 characters)

the gross national income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the European Average.

8.3 Source of national funding

Please specify the source of the national funding:

☒ *public funds*
☐ *food business operators participation*
☐ *other*

Please provide details on the source of national funding (max 32000 characters)

The national veterinary Laboratory is funded by the Central Government. Funds are allocated annually and approved by Parliament for the implementation of the testing and surveillance programmes.

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.
3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
4) IT CAN TAKE ***SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD*** *ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!*
5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

		Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_) :	File size
			Total size of attachments :	No attachmen

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

PROGRAMME for ERADICATION : ANNEX II - PART A + B

Member States seeking a financial contribution from the Community for national programmes for the control and monitoring of salmonellosis (zoonotic salmonella), shall submit applications containing at least the information set out in this form.

The central data base keeps all submissions. However only the information in the last submission is shown when viewing and used when processing the data.

If encountering difficulties, please contact SANCO-BO@ec.europa.eu, describe the issue and mention the version of this document: 2014 1.19

Instructions to complete the form:

Your current version of Acrobat is: 10.104

1) Be informed that you need to have at least the Adobe Reader version 8.1.3 or higher to fill and submit this form.
2) To verify your data entry while filling your form, you can use the "verify form" button at the top of each page.
3) When you have finished filling the form, verify that your internet connection is active and then click on the submit notification button below. If the form is properly filled, the notification will be submitted to the server and a Submission number will appear in the corresponding field.
4) IMPORTANT: Once you have received the Submission number, save the form on your computer.
5) If the form is not properly filled, an alert box will appear indicating the number of incorrect fields. Please check your form again and try to re-submit it according to steps 3), 4) and 5). Should you still have any difficulties, please contact SANCO-BO@ec.europa.eu.
6) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi annual programmes
7) As mentioned during the Plenary Task Force of 28/2/2014, you are invited to submit your programmes in English.

IMPORTANT: AFTER SUBMITTING THE FORM DO NOT FORGET TO SAVE IT ON YOUR COMPUTER FOR YOUR RECORDS!

Submission Date	Submission Number
Wednesday, May 21, 2014 09:43:12	**1400658195928-3509**

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Identification of the programme

Member state : MALTA

Disease Salmonella

This program is multi annual : no

Request of Union co-financing from beginning of : 2015

ANNEX II - PART A

General requirements for the national salmonella control programmes

(a) State the aim of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

To carry out a monitoring and control programme for Zoonotic Salmonella in laying flocks of Gallus gallus in accordance to Council Regulation 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation (EU) 517/2011; to achieve a reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium (including monophasic Salmonella typhimurium serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4, [5],12:i.).

The flock prevalence in 2013 for the targeted serovars (Salmonella enteritidis/Salmonella typhimurium) was of 1.2%. The flock prevalence , has to reduce in the adult laying hens, in accordance to article 1 of the above mentioned Regulation.

(b) Animal population and phases of production which sampling must cover

Demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the minimum sampling requirements laid down in part B of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 1. indicating the relevant animal population and phases of production which sampling must cover

Animal population Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Food business operators have samples taken and analysed for Salmonella in the following phases of production :

rearing flocks

☒ day-old chicks

☒ pullets two weeks before moving to laying phase or unit

laying flocks

☒ every 15 weeks during the laying phase

(c) Specific requirements

Demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the specific requirements laid down in Parts C, D and E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

(max. 32000 chars) :

All those commercial egg-laying flocks of Gallus gallus registered with the competent authority as described in the Salmonella National Control Programme fall under the Regulation (EC) 2160/2003. Malta and Gozo are considered as one region for the purpose of the Salmonella Control Programme.

The total number of operational holdings to date is thirty- three (33). These include holdings having less than 1000 birds.
Number of flocks: Currently there are eighty-five (85) kept on commercial egg-laying holdings. The number of houses in use can fluctuate.

Flocks found to be positively infected with the targeted serovars are placed under official restrictions and no eggs, poultry or poultry meat will be permitted to be moved from the infected house without authorisation from the CA. A census is carried out within three days from official restriction on the holding by officials from the CA, to verify the size of the infected flock/s.

Destination of products:
Eggs originating from positive flocks are not sold as fresh eggs but have to be either destroyed or heat-treated. Officials from the Competent Authority (CA) are to carry out regular (generally daily) on-site checks to verify the number of Class B eggs produced and that biosecurity measures are respected. All records of this census are kept at the CA. If the operator chooses to go for heat-treatment. The eggs are generally sent to Italy to a heat-treating facility since there is no heat-treating facility on the Island. The eggs are stored over a few days at the holding and not permitted to be moved from the premises. When the eggs are dispatched, an Intra-trade document is issued by the CA and signed by the Official Veterinarian.
If the operator decides to destroy the eggs, they are placed in approved leak-proof bins and transported in approved vehicles to the only Thermal facility Unit present on the Island for incineration. Loading into the bins and transport/arrival to the Thermal facility is carried out under the supervision of officials from the CA. Records from the Thermal facility are also kept by the CA and verified with the records obtained from the checks carried out on-farm.

Destination of infected flocks:
The infected positive flocks are culled. Officials from the CA would have carried out a census after restrictions placed on a flock found to be infected with one of the targeted serovars. Once culled, the birds are loaded in leak-proof bins and the same procedure as detailed above for the eggs is followed. The whole procedure is carried out under the supervision of the CA. All birds from an infected flock, when culled , are sent for incineration. The same procedure as for the destruction of eggs is observed for the culling of infected flocks. Officials from the CA are responsible for supervising transport and

incineration and recording of relevant data.

(d) Specification of the following points :

(d)1. General

(d)1.1 A short summary referring to the occurrence of Salmonellosis (Zoonotic Salmonella)

A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis [zoonotic salmonella] in the Member State with specific reference to the results obtained in the framework of monitoring in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 31., particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Malta has been very successful in achieving the commission targets. The reduction of flocks and hens reared, between 2011 and 2012 , also played a part in the reduction of the seroprevalence. The reduction in laying hen population came about because of the upgrading of holdings to enriched cages. The SNCP started mid-2009.
Prior to 2009, there was very limited and incomparable data on the prevalence of Salmonellosis in layer flocks.
In 2009 the Salmonella Control programme on production flocks of laying hens commenced. The programme could only start being implemented in mid-2009, owing to lack of human resources. All farms were tested twice until the end of the year. The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis was around 25.6%; Salmonella Kentucky being by far the most commonly isolated serovar.
However by the end of 2009 there were no positive flocks for the targeted serovars.

In 2010, all flocks were tested repeatedly throughout the year. The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 13.22%. This was the starting point for Malta to assess progress in the reduction of the prevalence of the targeted serovars. There were 53% of flocks infected with other Salmonella serovars.

In 2011, the flock prevalence for the targeted serovars went down to 9%, while the flock prevalence of other serovars remained at 53% (54 positive out of 102 flocks).

In 2012, the flock prevalence for the targeted serovars continued to decrease steadily to 6% (4 flocks positive out of 66) , while the flock prevalence of the other serovars is of 53%.

In 2013, the flock prevalence for the targeted serovars is at 1.2% (posititve out of 85 flocks).

(d)1.2 The structure and organization of the relevant competent authorities.

Please refer to the information flow between bodies involved in the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department (VPRD) under the Ministry for Sustainable Development, The Environment and Climate Change.
The Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department is made up of two Directorates:
Veterinary Regulation Directorate
Animal Welfare Promotion and Services Directorate

The National Veterinary Laboratory(NVL), which falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), is responsible for the coordination, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection Post and the Veterinary office on the smaller Island of Gozo. The office on the Island of Gozo is only responsible for the sampling the few layer farms on that Island.
The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of four Unit:
A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.
B) The Animal Health Unit: which helps in the supervision and also in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and /or destruction of infected products.
C) Safety of the Food Chain Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants
D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunitary trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):
(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge is responsible for:
• appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples
and organising training session for operators
• in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
• all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
• ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
•co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates. Co-ordinate transmission of results of unofficial samples with private labs, authorised to carry out such analysis .
•carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 517/2011.

• reporting of all results to the Animal Health Unit.
• inform Director and CVO of any infected flocks.
• collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health Unit:
(ii) Veterinary support staff in charge of the poultry section is responsible for:
• the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database , the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Unit is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
•co-ordination of sampling team. A list of all registered farms with batch identification and age is routinely printed out, providing a tool, not only, in organising and monitoring sampling programme but also assists in monitoring those holdings carrying out own sampling.
• collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab .
•collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
• organising on-farm investigation, as required. Conduct checklist for biosecurity and welfare measures. • collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
• collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

(iii)Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:
• ensuring to follow appropriate training.
• collecting and transporting samples appropriately.
• deliver samples within 24hours from collection to the NVL.
• ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately.

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by –products:
• is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:
• responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Safety of the Food Chain
(vi) Director is responsible for;
• informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;
• Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents

• issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

(d)1.3 Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) of the VRD under the Ministry for Sustainable Development, The Environment and Climate Change, is still solely responsible for the analysis of all official but also for the majority of unofficial samples up to biochemical identification collected under the framework of this programme. The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), is currently undergoing accreditation procedures and the first audit visit by the accreditation body will be conducted in the next few months. The NVL is working towards ISO 17025 accreditation and the isolation of Salmonella according to ISO 6579 (2002) is included in the accreditation scope. The NVL has successfully participated in ring-trials organised by the VLA - UK, on simulated samples of poultry carcass, faecal, dust, chick-liner and feed. Typing of positive isolates was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory which falls under a different Ministry (the Ministry of Health). The Public Health Laboratory is also the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella and is accredited according to ISO 17025.

In 2010, a training session in sampling techniques, was organised by the CA for business operators under the SNCP. Attendance certificates were issued, however few are those operators who opted to sample their own flocks. The business operator can also choose to send non-official samples to an accredited laboratory approved by the CA. The CA has approved a number of accredited laboratories in Italy and in 2012, one private accredited laboratory in Malta. The operator has to fill in the official sampling sheet provided by the CA with all details relevant to the samples. This has to be signed and submitted to the NVL ,within a few days after sampling together with a culled layer hen taken from one of the houses just sampled. Antimicrobial residue screening analysis is carried out by the NVL on muscle tissue sample using the six-plate test. This way the CA can cross-check the information supplied with the Intratrace. The operator to bring a copy of the laboratory test report to the NVL without delay on receipt of results.

The slaughter houses , processing plants and feedmills sconduct HACCP programmes. Samples under these programmes are also taken for Salmonella and submitted to local private laboratories, which are not yet accredited but have quality assurances systems in place.

The larger of the two hatcheries send samples for analysis of Salmonella to an accredited laboratory in Italy.

(d)1.4 Methods used in the examination of the samples in the framework of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The majority of both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff .
The samples are brought to the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) within a few hours from collection, with the exception of samples from Gozo, which are delivered the next day and till such time kept refrigerated.
The samples are generally always analysed on the day of delivery. If a particular situation arises , at the latest, the samples will be examined within 48 hours from receipt and kept refrigerated until such time.
Analysis of faecal, dust samples, boot swabs, chick liners and environmental samples are carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation (EU) 517/2011. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 : "Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs- Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp -Amendment 1: Annex D; Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production". The National Veterinary Laboratory carries out analysis until biochemical identification of the isolates. The positive isolates are then sent immediately to the Public Health Laboratory (just 15 minutes away) for serotyping.
Serotyping is carried out following the Kaufmann-White- Le Minor scheme by the Public Health laboratory. Results are then sent through e-mail & later by mail to the NVL.
The approved foreign laboratories and the approved local laboratory use the above mentioned recommended method: Annex D of ISO 6579 , while serotyping is according to the Kaufmann-White- Le Minor scheme. The local private lab carries out typing only for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium. However, the local private laboratory has undertaken to submit any positive isolates of Salmonella spp. to the NVL, for further typing.

(d)1.5 Official controls (including sampling schemes) at feed, flock and/or herd level.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls at feed -level:
There are six larger feed mills. These import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms.
The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are then mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries.
A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling.
Official visits are carried out on all feed mills and also the home mixers. The large commercial companies have an HACCP programme in place and are visited at least once annually by CA officials.
Documentation regarding auto-control checks are verified during official controls. The CA also runs an annual sampling programme on feeds, whereby official samples are collected from all the major

feedmills. At least one sample from each type of poultry feed produced is collected. Annually, random sampling, is also carried out on some of the home mixers.
In 2013, there were no positive samples for Salmonella isolation from the samples analysed under the national control programme on commercial feed mills.
Samples of feed are also collected from the all layer holdings at least once annually as part of the SNCP. The finished feed is sampled direct from farm. In cases when there is a positive isolation of Salmonella, CA officers return to the farm to investigate and re-sample. In cases of home mixing, the different components are sampled.

Official controls at flock-level:
All registered and functioning layer flocks as described in the NCP, on both Malta and Gozo , are sampled.

The CA, to date , has been carrying out the majority of sampling described in point 2.1 of the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2011, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of most layer farms. Official Samples to be taken are in accordance to Annex point 2.1 (a) to (e) of CR No. 517/2011.

Targeted age-groups:

Official Samples to be taken
(i) Day-olds (when available since operators are preferring to get point-of-lay flocks). These are generally sampled at the BIP.
(ii) Pullets
2 weeks prior to caged laying flocks:
Pullets usually enter into laying around 20 weeks, therefore the birds will be sampled around 18 weeks.

2x150g of naturally pooled faeces from belts
2 dust samples: (100g in 250ml) or 1 dust + 1sample of 150g naturally pooled faeces.
1bird from one house is tested for antibiotic residue

(ii) Laying hens: once during the laying period (on all flocks having at least 1,000 birds)and all other flocks on a holding were Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium were isolated:

2x150g of naturally pooled faeces from belts
2 dust samples: (100g in 250ml) or 1 dust + 1 naturally pooled faeces
1 bird tested for antibiotic residues

(d)2. Food and business covered by the programme

(d)2.1 The structure of the production of the given species and products thereof.

(max. 32000 chars) :

LOCAL SITUATION:
There are no parent stock flocks on the Islands of Malta and Gozo.
There are two registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta.
Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997, lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments.
Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 158/2009. The number of egg-laying hatching eggs imported are always on the decline. Day-old chicks and layer pullets are also imported from EU countries , mainly from Italy. In fact the number of layer pullets imported have been increasing. The egg-laying poultry industry has been on the decline these past few years. A number of holdings have closed down since the SNCP commenced. Another issue that is affecting the industry is the introduction of enriched cages which is a heavy financial burden for the smaller holdings.

The VRD is the CA and hatcheries are legally obliged to the report the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold with the details of all the farms, which are the destination of chicks sold.
There is no central egg-packing plant. The farmers can either sell the eggs produced directly to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors, who in turn would deliver to shops / supermarkets. All farmers pack their own egg produce. The majority pack the eggs manually, only a few producers have automation for grading, stamping and packing.
Layer farms are registered in terms of the Egg Marketing Standard Regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 -The Product Safety Act . In accordance to this law each individual egg-laying farm is given a unique identity number that has to be printed on all the eggs produced on that farm and sold to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors. This legislation excludes eggs sold directly to the consumer. The CA is responsible for issuing the unique identity number. Egg laying farms are therefore registered with the CA, whereby a unique registration number is given to the farm, following registration then the unique

marking number for the eggs is issued.
Control at retail level falls under a different Ministry, the Ministry of Health.

Until 2010, operators were requested to send in monthly reports to the CA-Animal Health and Welfare Unit . One of the reports involves details that include the daily production of eggs, number of live birds, number of deaths and quantity of feed consumed. The second report is a sales report where the farmer is declaring the quantity of eggs sold supported by fiscal receipts. Since 2011, all registered holdings have been given an official register with all the data requested as described above which has to be filled in by the operator. The register will be replaced every three years.

There are currently thirty-three (33) operational layer farms compared to the 38 operational in 2011. In 2013, the total number of animals was 327,299.

STRUCTURE OF LAYER FARMS:
To date, there are no free-range farms and most birds are kept in cages on more than one tier, usually up to a maximum of five tiers. All cage houses have manure belts. There a just a few barn-type layer houses.
The majority of farms operate on a first –in, first-out basis. Malta has a constant problem of space, so it is uncommon to find large houses. The vast majority of holdings are made up of a number of houses having small capacities. The houses are usually in close proximity of one another. The birds kept in one house are considered as an individual epidemiological unit in accordance to the Regulation.

NUMBER OF FLOCKS:
The number of houses that are used may vary slightly. In 2013 there were 33 holdings, taking in account the different houses; this amounts to a total of 85 flocks on the Islands.

(d)2.2 Structure of the production of feed

(max. 32000 chars) :

There are six commercial feed mills and a small number of home mixers. The commercial feed mills import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries.
To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling programme.
Legal notice 374/2005 regulates the responsibility of feed mills.

(d)2.3 Relevant guidelines for good animal husbandry practices or other guidelines (mandatory or voluntary) on biosecurity measures defining at least

(d)2.3.1 Hygiene management at farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Community guidelines have been distributed to the farmers and a seminar was held in May 2010 to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practice. Emphasis was given to the correct use of vehicle disinfection pits. If a vehicle disinfection pit cannot be placed at the farm entrance , pressure washers are used on the wheels of visiting vehicles, especially the delivery trucks from feed mills.
It is difficult for the operator to change clothing if houses are just a few steps apart but the use of pans soaked with disinfectant outside each house is constantly being enforced and reminded by sampling staff which visit the farms on a very regular basis. Pest control (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.

Almost all farms have automatic cleaning belts while few carry out the cleaning manually. Cleaning is usually carried out weekly. The faecal material falls into the pits where it is usually shoveled out into dumpers and taken to the manure clamp by van.
All farms producing manure have to store solid manure in an enclosed place known as the manure clamp, for six months a year (from the 15th October to 15th March). All farms are to have a leak proof cesspit, to collect foul water arising from cleaning etc. The manure clamp is to be connected to the cesspit. The water is kept for 15 days then collected by a bowser. These regulations serve to reduce the environmental pollution and the nitrate level in fields fertilised with manure. However, they may also provide a tool to permit biosecurity measures to limit spread of disease.

Since sampling is generally carried out by the CA officials, holdings are visited more than once annually. During such a visit, once a year, officials fill out check-lists regarding the biosecurity and welfare management of the holding. The hygiene management is also assessed following a positive isolation of SE or ST (monopasic ST) from a flock. A negative evaluation of biosecurity measures brings about a deduction in the compensation rates of the SNCP.

(d)2.3.2 Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

MEASURES FOR PREVENTING INFECTIONS:
Most holdings have PITS for the disinfection of the vehicles entering or leaving the premises. In the summer months , the pits dry up very quickly but operators have become much more attentive of this since the start of the SNCP. No farm has separate entrances. It is recommended that as much as possible vehicles should not go into a farm. The use of a pressure -washer for the wheels is highly recommended. Upkeep of structures and boundary walls are being maintained. The strong control measures of the SNCP, caused some smaller holdings to close down, especially because of lack of maintenance.

The FEED is bought fresh from the feed mills, even though there are those farms that also have their own silos. Due to the island's high humidity levels, farmers are not in the habit of storing large quantities of feed to avoid the formation of yeasts and moulds. Feeds are usually kept in their bags within the sheds in a dark, dry corners. Other in-coming vehicles would be from the hatchery and when day-olds are brought in. The farmers have become very conscience of the risk of infection.
The CA has it's own control programme on the local feedmills, whereby between 10-12 samples a year are taken from the larger local producing feed mill plants, for analysis of Salmonella spp. All local plans also implement a HACCP system

The water supply can be direct from the main government supply or from private bore holes. In the latter case, control of the water is purely voluntary; however this is not frequently carried out unless the family uses the water from the bore hole for their own personal use.

A high percentage of farms are small in capacity and are family-run, therefore few people would be responsible for the daily management of the animals. There is no legal obligation for people handling live animals to carry out medical checks. The larger holdings have employees.
PEST CONTROL (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.
USE OF CLEAN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, DISINFECTION PANS: The use of clean protective clothing and disinfection of boots when moving between houses is continuously being reminded to FBO by sampling staff. A problem that arises is when there are mixed farms with swine animals also reared on the premises. There are not many of these farms. In fact , already out of the 33 commercial egg-layer holdings , around 15 have less than 350 birds. that means that only half of local egg-laying farms have a capacity over 350. There are a few that have other species on the holding and in the past years since the SNCP started, three of these mixed farms had positive flocks for the targeted serovars. The owners have become motivated and are very conscious of the importance to respect biosecurity measures. One of these farms bought adjacent land to restructure the houses and create efficient barriers.
Notwithstanding, the success of the SNCP in Malta, sustains the fact that there have been effective changes even in biosecurity mesures that have contributed to a rapid reduction in the prevalence.

Eggs are packed on farm, manually or automatically. The majority of business operators personally distribute the eggs to shops, supermarkets etc.; however there are a few who sell to third parties, who in turn distribute the produce.

(d)2.3.3 Hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

In the layer industry,there is very little movement of animals. There are no breeder flocks on the Islands and operators do not sell any live animals between themselves. Operators are aware of the risk of spread of infection via vehicles and are careful to disinfect their own vehicles, especially when going to places where other operators go.
The main source of movement of animals to farms is when day-old chicks and pullets are brought to the farm . The vast majority are supplied by the larger of the two hatcheries and therefore the farmers have become aware of this problem as being a very possible source of infection. The correct use and replenishing of the disinfection pit, combined with the use of pressure-washers for the wheels of the vehicles is being observed.
In Malta, spent hens are not yet being slaughtered and utilised by the industry in any way. Spent birds are culled and destroyed. The farmers transport the spent hens to the Thermal facility in approved leak-proof bins .

(d)2.4 Routine veterinary supervision of farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

Routine veterinary inspection on farms:
According to national legislation, "The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437 of 2001, article 35 (f) states that "the owner, the keeper , the dealer or the importer, the consignee, the carrier , the retailer or any other person authorised under the provisions of this Act shall notify the veterinary services of any suspicion of zoonosis or other diseases or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health." The Animal Welfare Act 439 regulates welfare issues.
Local farms being generally small in capacity, do not have their own private veterinarian visiting on a regular basis but only in case of necessity. One of the largest local feed mills provides free technical support. A lot of the farmers buying their feed from this feed mill make regular use of the technical personnel. If there is any cause for suspicion, the company`s veterinarian is then called out. There is no delegation of official control of poultry in Malta.

Since the SNCP has been implemented, the vast majority of sampling under the framework of the legislation has been carried by the CA. Any official control is carried out by auxilliaries under the supervision of the OV, when the OV cannot perform himself the official control. From the beginning of the programme, the officers conduct an animal welfare check list at least once annually per registered farm. A biosecurity check-list, common to all commercial flocks is also filled in once annually. Every check-list is a control document.

(d)2.5 Registration of farms

(max. 32000 chars) :

There are two Legal notices regulating registration of egg-laying farms.
The Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations LN 50 of 1997requires that any person breeding any poultry is obliged to hold a licence issued by the CA. The Egg Marking Standard Regulations LN 345/2003 , on the other hand, require that all eggs sold at retail level, excluding those sold directly to the consumers on farm, have to be marked by a unique identity number. The unique number that is printed on the eggs is correlated with the farms unique registration number. The unique identity mark for eggs is issued by the competent authority, which is the VRD. Therefore all commercial egg-laying farms have to be registered with the CA for such an identity number to be issued. There is only one central CA and there are no regional offices owing to the size of the territory. Each registered farm is given a unique registration number. The registration number is made up of three or four letters and a three digit number. The letters indicate if it is a layer, broiler or mixed farm in Malta or Gozo eg. PLM stands for Poultry layer Malta, PLG - Poultry Layer Gozo while PBLM stands for Poultry Broiler Layer Malta. The licence of the registered farms is renewed annually by the CA. If no rearing was carried out on the farm for a period of 12 months, the licence is not renewed. All data relevant to the licensed egg-laying farms are kept on the National Livestock database of the CA. Details of the individual batch code number, number of different batches of birds, the size and date of hatch of each batch, results of the SNCP are all kept on the database. The batch code number also identifies if the birds were hatched locally or brought in as day-olds or as point of lay pullets. As from 2011, details of vaccination (identification of batch, type and batch number of vaccine) can be included as well with all other farm records.

(d)2.6 Record keeping at farm

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Egg Marketing Standard Regulation LN 345 of 2003 requires the licenced egg-laying business operators to keep a register with certain detils regarding the flocks and production. This is tied up to the fact that the competent authority requests that each registered farm submits two monthly reports. One sheet holds all details of the production on farm. This report details the daily production of eggs, number of birds, number of deaths, quantity of feed used. The second report is a sales report were the farmer is declaring the quantity of eggs sold with proof of fiscal receipts. As stated in the LN , these records are to be kept for three years. Until 2010, the operator kept a book that was hand-filled. The CA has now issued a printed register with all the details that need to be filled in already printed on the top of each page. There is a page per month for a total of three years. This register is numbered. The Veterinary Service Act Cap.437 requires that records of medicinals and vaccination carried out also be kept on farm. When the sampling officers from the CA collect samples the operator signs the sampling record sheet that is then submitted to the laboratory. The results of samples taken under the frame work of the SNCP are sent to the operators. The operator is being asked to also keep such results for a period of three years.

(d)2.7 Documents to accompany animals when dispatched

(max. 32000 chars) :

The capacity of local operators is too small and currently no operator holds the licence to rear poultry for breeding purposes. Export of birds or hatching eggs to any EU Member State is very rare, however, the ITAHC would be issued in accordance to EU Directive 2009/158 and Commission Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 article 9.1.
Issuing of all ITAHC falls under the responsibility of the CA, being the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) and as stated before, there is only one central office and no district offices. All activities under the responsibility of the CA are carried out at the same premises, with the exception of the BIP.
Hatching eggs and live birds are imported from EU countries, as already detailed in paragraph 2.1. All importations into Malta are accompanied by documentation/certification in accordance to Directive 2009/158 .

(d)2.8 Other relevant measures to ensure the tracebility of animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

Local legislation requires that the any company importing hatching eggs or live birds to be sold to commercial flocks is to submit submit a copy of the ITAHC to the poultry section of the CA. In the case

of live birds (day-olds or point -to - lay pullets), the importer has to provide the list of farms where the birds were sold. The CA therefore has a record of the origin of hatching eggs and live birds with details of the establishment of origin, date of hatch and quantity. The CA issues a unique batch code number for the batch .The unique batch code no is made up of letters and numbers. The letters would indicate if the batch is point of lay (POL), day-olds (DOL) or hatched locally(PL). Then according to the number of farms where the birds are distributed, further numbers are added so that each batch received by an individual farm has a unique batch number that follows the birds till slaughter or culling. The letters and first numbers making up the batch code are tied up to the original batch number of birds hatched locally or imported. The CA issues a movement document for each group of the day-olds and pullets imported, sold to each individual farmer. In the case of imported hatching eggs, the CA issues a "hatch report" for each batch of eggs imported which is given to the hatchery. The hatchery then fills in the information and returns the hatch report to the competent authority once eggs are hatched. This "hatch report" includes, the batch code, the list of farms which are the destination of the chicks and quantities. On the hatch report received, the competent authority then issues a movement document with all relevant details which is given to the individual farm which has received the day-olds. As for the imported birds, a unique batch number is given by the CA to each single group of day-olds sold to each individual farm. This number is written on the movement document together with other details such as origin, date of hatch and quantities. This unique number ensures traceability. In 2011, vaccination was mandatory , the vaccination of live pullets imported had to be sustained with proof of vaccination with the approved vaccines according to the recommended procedure of the producer. In 2012, vaccination was no longer mandatory and most operators were importing point-to-lay pullets already vaccinated.
To date, spent hens are not used by the industry. The spent hens are therefore delivered to the Thermal Facility and recorded in line with procedures laid down for all animal by-products. A document is issued by the Thermal Unit, which includes details of the registered farm delivering the spent hens, unique batch number and the weight of carcasses. A copy of this document is passed on to the competent authority by the farmer, together with the original movement document on which the farmer records the final number of spent hens of that particular batch. The CA then records the date of culling of that particular batch on the National Livestock Database.
The farmer is legally obliged to keep all records for three years.

TRACES, also falls under the responsibility of the CA. It is localized at the Border Inspection Post and the authorised officials at the BIP have access to it. The BIP is the only office of the CA localized in a different area.

ANNEX II - PART B

1. Identification of the programme

Disease Salmonella

Animal population :

Request of Union co-financing for the period : *From* 2 015 *To* 2 015

1.1 Contact

Name : Susan Chircop

Phone : +35622925304

Fax. : _356.21238105

Email : susan.chircop@gov.mt

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

A concise description is given with data on the target population (species, number of herds and animals present and under the programme), the main measures (testing, testing and slaughter, testing and killing, qualification of herds and animals). The information is given for distinct periods if the measures were substantially modified. The information is documented by relevant summary epidemiological tables, graphs or maps.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The target population are all registered commercial egg-laying flocks in Malta and Gozo, as described in the National Control Programme.
Species: Gallus gallus

The first partial data on the occurence of zoonotic salmonellosis in local egg-laying flocks comes from the baseline study carried out between October 2004 and September 2005. All farms registered and functioning within that period were sampled in accordance to the legislative requirements.
The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis in the national layer farms was of 43.85%. Twenty-five (25) farms

resulted positive out of a total of fifty-seven (57) farms. However the isolates were not typed and therefore there was no available information regarding the prevalence values of Salmonella serovars, primarily Salmonella typhimurium and Salmonella enteritidis.

Main Measures:
Testing and killing and disposal of products

2009:
102 flocks
283666 animals
overall prevalence of Salmonella spp. is of 25.6%
No targeted serovars isolated
Until 2009, no monitoring or control was carried out on the local industry. In 2009 the Salmonella Control programme on production flocks of laying hens commenced. The programme could only start being implemented in mid-2009, owing to lack of human resources. All farms were tested twice until the end of the year. The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis was around 25.6%; Salmonella kentucky being by far the most commonly isolated serovar. By the end of 2009 there were no positive flocks for the targeted serovars.

2010
Flock prevalence 13.22 %
382,897 animals
Overall prevalence of other salmonella serovars is of 53%
2010, is the first year that a complete , regular and intense (all flocks tested irrespective of capacity) control programme has been carried out.
The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 13.22%. This is the starting point for Malta to assess progress in the reduction of the prevalence of the targeted serovars. In 2010 all flocks were tested repeatedly throughout the year. There were 53% of flocks infected with other Salmonella serovars. The data available previously was incomplete and therefore not comparable.

2011
Flock prevalence 9%
255,292 animals
38 operational holdings
102 flocks
Overall prevalence of other salmonella serovars is of 53%.
The reduction in the prevalence of targeted serovars was significant. This was possible due to the intensive control and culling of flocks and destruction of eggs. Eventhough the prevalence of other serovars has remained the same at 53%. This is most probably due to the continuous cycle of first in ,first out. If the cycle is not broken and a house is depopulated and disinfectant, the prevalence of salmonella spp. will remained unaltered .

2012
Flock prevalence 6.1%
196,141 animals
33 operational holdings
66flocks
Overall prevalence of other salmonella serovars is of 53%.
The further reduction in the prevalence of targeted serovars was significant. This was possible due to the intensive control and culling of flocks and destruction of eggs. Even though the prevalence of other serovars has remained the same at 53%. This is most probably due to the continuous cycle of first in ,first out.

2013
Flock prevalence 1.2%
327,299 animals
33 operational holdings
85 flocks
Overall prevalence of other salmonella serovars is of 48%.

3. Description of the submitted programme

A concise description of the programme is given with the main objective(s) (monitoring, control, eradication, qualification of herds and/or regions, reducing prevalence and incidence), the main measures (testing, testing and slaughter, testing and killing, qualification of herds and animals, vaccination), the target animal population and the area(s) of implementation and the definition of a positive case.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The main objectives of this programme is to monitor and control all egg-laying flocks of Gallus gallus in Malta and Gozo, in accordance to Commission Regulation 2160/2003 for Zoonotic Salmonella spp. Flocks found infected with Salmonella typhimurium and Salmonella enteritidis will be put under restriction until eradicated and their products heat-treated or destroyed to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of these serotypes in the national flock, as indicated in Commission Regulation 517/2011. The prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in 2013 was of 1.2%.

The target population would be all registered egg-laying flocks of Gallus gallus.
Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region.
The target population would be all registered egg-laying flocks of Gallus gallus as described in the NCP.
Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region.
There are currently 33 holdings operational farms which are functioning.

Sampling / Testing:
The sampling scheme as elaborated in point d(1.5) includes both the official and operators programme, to date the CA is still responsible for the majority of non-official samples and of official samples, as laid down in Commission Regulation 517/2011. Few business operators have opted to carry out self-sampling and to send samples to private laboratories .

The competent authority is also responsible for the national residue plan. If the results are positive to antimicrobial residue analysis without veterinary authorisation ; the flock will be considered suspect of infection with Salmonella enteritidis/ Salmonella typhimurium, and an official investigation will be conducted.

Main Measures: Testing and Killing

Definition of positive case;
1. Isolation of Salmonella Enteritidis and / or Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium) from both faecal and /or dust sample.
However, the CA may exclude false-positive according to Part D, art.4 b of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007. Confirmatory sampling is carried out in line with the Regulation, never in cases where the flock was suspected as a cause of human cases and respecting the sampling modalities.

2.The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials as preventive measure.

Salmonella Enteritidis / S. Typhimurium positive flocks:
Restriction measures are imposed through an official letter by the CVO (no movement of birds & intensified biosecurity).
Eggs have to be heat-treated or destroyed.
Infected flock eventually culled .
Once a house is empty , thorough cleaning and disinfection has to be carried out.
Restrictions lifted and re-stocking permitted only if environmental tests of house result negative for Salmonella spp.
Re-population in enriched cages with a vaccinated flock or to be vaccinated with the approved vaccines.

Compensation : The Legal notice 255 of 2012- "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations " dictates compensation rates for 2012. The rates would have to be reviewed and a new legal notice is still pending.

Other Salmonella positive herds:
biosecurity measures reviewed.
eggs fit for human consumption.
Re-population in enriched cages .

Vaccination:
The CA is also responsible of the registration of veterinary drugs and vaccines. Only those live vaccines that can be bacteriologically detected from the live strain, will be permitted to be registered. From 2011, vaccination of new flocks was mandatory. The CA has approved the use of two live vaccines that have to be used in accordance to the recommendations of the producer. Any point-of-lay pullets imported had to be certified as vaccinated with live vaccines approved by the CA.
The vaccination has to be carried out under veterinary supervision and only those flocks with a

veterinary certificate will be recorded.
vaccination was not mandatory since 2012 once the seroprevalence was under 10%.

4. Measures of the submitted programme

Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of Salmonella spp. have been detected, in particular to protect public health, and any preventive measures taken, such as vaccination.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Council Regulation 2160/2003, Commission Regulation 517/2011 , Commission Regulation 1237/2007 and Commission Regulation 1177/2006 are directly applicable. Only those poultry flocks and their products found to be infected with Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) and Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium) (ST), will be considered unfit for human consumption.

FLOCK DEFINITION in programme:
All houses on a holding are sampled separately and are considered as an individual flock and are reported as an individual epidemiological unit.
In the frame of the SCP laying flocks of Gallus gallus the provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 (frequency of sampling) 4 (results and reporting) of Annex of Commission regulation (EC) No 517/2011(particularly provisions on exceptional cases) are implemented.

CONFIRMATORY SAMPLING is carried out in accordance to CR 1237/2007 Annex 1 D.

(I) MEASURES TAKEN IN CASES OF SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM (including monophasic) AND SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS POSITIVE FLOCKS:
• Official restriction notice issued by CVO to business operator.
Biosecurity measures will be strengthened to ensure that the infection does not spread between the different houses (if it is the case) and other holdings; such as, no movement of live animals, external disinfection of vehicles transporting products out of farm and proper disinfection of equipment used.
• The holding will be under constant vigilance of the competent authority and official sampling would be repeated every ten-twelve weeks from any flocks not infected on the holding until not more than four months after the last infected flock is culled.
Eggs from infected flocks cannot be sold as fresh eggs, the eggs are either destroyed or sent for heat-

treatment abroad. The Class B eggs have to be stored on the premises. CA officials carry out regular on-farm checks on the quantity of Class B eggs stored.

Culling of infected flocks and /or destruction of eggs.
CA officials supervise transport of carcasses to thermal unit . Records from thermal unit are double checked for weight reference according to census records of CA. Carcasses/products are transported in leak-proof bins and only by approved vehicles.

Lifting of restrictions and re-population permitted only once environmental samples result negative to Salmonella spp. isolation, after thorough cleaning and disinfection.

Official samples from new flocks housed where previously an SE/ST flock was kept will continue to be taken in accordance to CR (EC) 517/2011for two sampling sessions, after re-population.

VACCINATION
From 2011, vaccination of new flocks was mandatory. However, vaccination is no longer mandatory. The CA has approved the use of two live vaccines that have to be used in accordance to the recommendations of the producer. Any point-of-lay pullets imported and declared as vaccinated must be certified as vaccinated with live vaccines approved by the CA.

(II) IN CASES WHERE OTHER SALMONELLA SPP. ARE ISOLATED:

Operator is informed in writing.
• There will be no restrictions on the use of eggs.
• However, operator will be encouraged to review and strengthened biosecurity measures .
After the infected flock has reached end of production and has been slaughtered, thorough cleaning and disinfection procedures will be carried out , if the house is emptied. Re-population will be permitted on the holding or in a particular house only when environmental samples result negative to Salmonella spp. isolation.

Vaccination: is only to be used as a preventive measure and not as an alternative to the requirements in Annex II.C of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003.

Antimicrobial treatment may not be used for the control of Salmonella within the framework of the NCP, except within the limits set by Commission regulation (EC) No. 1177/2006.

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Period of implementation of the programme : 2015 - 2015

Measures

- ☒ Control
- ☒ Testing
- ☐ Slaughter of animals tested positive
- ☒ Killing of animals tested positive
- ☒ Vaccination
- ☒ Treatment of animal products
- ☒ Disposal of products
- ☐ Monitoring or surveillance

Other, please specify

antimicrobial residue testing

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

Describe the authorities in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme and the different operators involved. Descrive the responsabilities of all involved.

(max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department (VPRD) under the Ministry for Sustainable Development, The Environment and Climate Change.
The Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department is made up of two Directorates:

Veterinary Regulation Directorate
Animal Welfare Promotion and Services Directorate

The National Veterinary Laboratory(NVL), which falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), is responsible for the coordination, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices

are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection Post and the Veterinary office on the smaller Island of Gozo. The office on the Island of Gozo is only responsible for the sampling the few layer farms on that Island.
The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of four Units:
A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.
B) The Animal Health Unit: which helps in the supervision and also in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and /or destruction of infected products.
C) Safety of the Food Chain Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants
D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunitary trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):
(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge is responsible for:
• appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples and organising training session for operators
• in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
• all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
• ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
•co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates. Co-ordinate transmission of results of unofficial samples with private labs, authorised to carry out such analysis .
•carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 517/2011.
• reporting of all results to the Animal Health Unit.
• inform Director , CVO, OV's and slaughterhouse of any infected flocks.
• collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health Unit:
(ii) Veterinary support staff in charge of the poultry section is responsible for:
• the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database , the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Unit is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
•co-ordination of sampling team. A list of all registered farms with batch identification and age is routinely printed out, providing a tool, not only, in organising and monitoring sampling programme but also assists in monitoring those holdings carrying out own sampling.
• collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab .
•collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
• organising on-farm investigation, as required. Conduct checklist for biosecurity and welfare measures. • collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
• collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

(iii)Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:
• ensuring to follow appropriate training.
• collecting and transporting samples appropriately.
• deliver samples within 24 hours from collection to the NVL.
• ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately.

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by –products:
• is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:
• responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Safety of the Food Chain
(vi) Director is responsible for;
• informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;
• Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents
• issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

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

Describe the name and denomination, the administrative boundaries, and the surface of the administrative and geographical areas in which the programme is to be applied. Illustrate with maps.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by this programme and are considered as one region. The CA administers the whole region.

Malta is approximately 360Km2 being the larger of the two Islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller, at less than half Malta`s surface area.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme

Where appropriate Community legislation is mentioned. Otherwise the national legislation is mentioned.

4.4.1 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Egg marketing Standard Regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 -The Product Safety Act. and the Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations LN 50 of 1997 regulate the registration of layer holdings.
Refer to Part A point 2.5

4.4.2 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the identification of animals

Not applicable for poultry

(max. 32000 chars) :

N/A

4.4.3 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 35.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonosis or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health.

4.4.4 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

A short description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter

(max. 32000 chars) :

The provisions of the implementing legislation , Commission Regulation (EC) no: 517/2011, in particular paragraph 1 and 2 (frequency and status of sampling) of the Annex will be observed, as explained previously. However, owing to the particular situation in Malta, very few farmers carry out self-checks. The CA carries out all status of sampling as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the Annex.
The provisions on confirmatory sampling according to Annex 1 Part D, art.4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 will be implemented.
The provisions in paragraph 4 of the annex ((results and reporting) are implemented. Reporting will be done of the flock numbers of the different status of sampling.

SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS AND SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM (including monophasic strains) POSITIVE FLOCKS:

Restrictive/preventive measures will apply immediately on positive flocks, even when self-checks result positive .

• The owner of the infected holding or the owner's representative will be served with an official notice in writing issued by the CVO. The operator has 24 hours to communicate his decision , whether to cull infected flocks immediately or heat-treat eggs abroad for a certain period of time.
Restrictions measures will apply with immediate effect. There is to be no movement of animals. The control of vehicles and strengthening of biosecurity measures is important of prevent spread of infection

The valuation of the animals on the holding will be carried out before they are killed. Mobile enclosed trailers or containers can be transported on site. Killing of the birds will be supervised by officials from the CA and the OV responsible for animal welfare has to ensure that welfare provisions are respected. All personnel involved in culling are required to wear protective clothing, gloves and nose/mouth masks.

• the carcasses and / or eggs will be disposed of through incineration at the Thermal Unit. There is only one public incinerator which falls under the administration of the Waste Serv. Ltd. The carcasses have to be transported in leak-proof containers supplied by Waste Serv and transported drip-proof in vehicles that must be disinfected externally before leaving the holding. Officials from the competent authority supervise the arrival of the containers and keep records of the weight

• Class B eggs have to be sent abroad for heat-treatment or destroyed. Eggs are stored on the premises and CA officials carry out generally daily census to verify amounts, which are recorded.

• Feeds will also be considered contaminated and once the flock is culled , any remaining feed has to be destroyed .

Cleaning and disinfection commences as soon as the animals have been killed and removed from the shed. Detailed procedures have been laid down in the guidelines distributed. Attention should be given to areas and equipment difficult to reach. Fans, drains, slats etc should not be neglected. After thorough cleaning (steam cleaning is recommended) fumigation is carried out.

• Environmental samples are taken and re-population will be permitted and all restriction bans lifted when there is a negative result to isolation of salmonella spp.

Re-population will only be permitted in enriched cages and with vaccinated pullets, if this is the case.

4.4.5 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the different qualifications of animals and herds

(max. 32000 chars) :

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1168/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1237/2007 are directly applicable.
A.) Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic) infected flock:
1 Isolation of Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium from one of the samples taken from that flock
2.The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials was used as preventive measure and no Salmonella spp. isolated from samples taken from that flock.

4.4.6 Control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas concerned

A short description of the control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas is provided

(max. 32000 chars) :

Control procedures.
When restriction measures are applicable to a holding:
• The official i/c poultry together with veterinary support officer/s from the poultry section of animal health will carry out an investigation on the farm and conduct a census to verify and update information held on the databse of the CA regarding the different batches of birds present on the premises and the quantities of birds.

• No eggs, poultry carcasses, animal feed, material or waste may leave the holding without a written

authorisation issued by an official veterinarian.

A census is carried out practically daily of the quantity of Class B eggs stored on the premises. These eggs may be destined for destruction or heat-treatment.

• Persons not directly involved in taking care of the animals are not permitted to enter buildings where infected flocks are kept.

• Appropriate means of disinfection, using a disinfectant officially approved as effective against Salmonella spp., is to be used at the entrances and exits of the building housing poultry and of the holding itself.

• Vehicles and equipment used for transport of animals or products have to be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant effective against Salmonella spp. immediately after the movement.

Disposal of manure from infected flock is carried out through incineration.

When different flocks on the same holding are not infected, an intense and rigid application of biosecurity measures must be implemented.
Such as: different clothing, foot baths and separate water and feed systems .
Sampling of these flocks is carried out at a between an eight - ten week interval, to ensure free-status from infection of the targeted serovars.

4.4.7 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the control (testing, vaccination, …) of the disease

National legislation relevant to the implementation of the programmes, including any national provisions concerning the activities set out in the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 on the requirements for use of antimicrobials and vaccines in control programmes for poultry is directly applicable and is implemented.
Use of antimicrobials is not permitted as a preventive measure in controlling Salmonella infection. A sample for antimicrobial testing is lifted during every sampling session. One hen is taken from one of the flocks on the premises, chosen at random and tested at the NVL for presence of antimicrobial agents. A screening test is run using the six-plate test.
The CA has authorised the use of live vaccines that can be distinguished from the wild strain. By the end of 2010, vaccination on local flocks started. Previously vaccination against Salmonella was not conducted. Vaccination was mandatory until 2012. According to local legislation, vaccines are prescription drugs.

The use of vaccines administered will be integrated into the national livestock database of the CA. This database is managed by the Animal Health Unit of the Veterinary Regulation Directorate. In accordance to local legislation the operators are obliged to keep records of vaccination programmes.
Three courses of ES and ST live vaccines are generally given per flock .The first dose as day-olds, the second around 6 weeks and the third between 12-13 weeks of age. Vaccination is no longer mandatory but the vast majority of farmers have vaccinated flocks. The flocks are generally imported from EU countries as pullets already under a vaccination prigramme. Currently , there are few farmers that start from day-olds and therefore purchase doses of Salmonella vaccine.

4.4.8 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

Any financial assistance provided to food and feed businesses in the context of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

he Legal notice under the Veterinary Services Act Chapter 437: titled "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations, 2012" has the compensation rates applicable for 2012. New rates would have to be calculated and a new legal notice had to be issued with revised rates. To date a new legal notice has not been passed.

4.4.9 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure in place in the flocks/holdings involved

(max. 32000 chars) :

Guidelines were distributed to operators at a seminar held in May 2010. This seminar was held to to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practices on farm. A veterinarian employed on contract with the Ministry had carried out on site-visits, soon after, on all poultry farms in order to explain clearly and individually biosecurity measures and improvements.

OV`s and auxilliaries carrying out any official controls, making use of checklists in accordance to the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) no: 882/2004
CA officials carry out a checklist for animal welfare issues annually on all registered farms. Some biosecurity measures are also integrated in this checklist. However since 2012 year a specifically dedicated biosecurity checklist has been created and is filled in once annually for every farm (attached). When a farm is found to be infected with one of the targeted serovars, the OV or auxilliary staff carry out a census on farm and also verify biosecurity measures. The result of such verification is not only important in prevention of spreading of disease but also affects compensation.
The number of commercial holdings has decreased since the begining of the SNCP. The control programme toether with the change to enriched cages brought about the closing of the small-capacity

farms or where the owner did not find it cost-effect to carry out structural changes. There has been a marked improvement in biosecurity measures and implementation of such measures. In fact Malta has been very successful in decreasing the prevalence in accordance to Commission Regulation; this is also due to the fact that in the legal notice controlling Salmonella compensation, a negative biosecurity report affects negatively on the amount of compensation due.

5. General description of the costs and benefits of the programme

A description is provided of all costs for the authorities and society and the benefits for farmers and society in general

(max. 32000 chars) :

The poultry industry is quite heavily burdened by analysis. in consideration that most holdings are made up of a number of small houses, the number of samples collected will be greater than a larger farm with one or few houses having a much larger capacity. therefore even though locally holdings are small the economic impact of analysis is greater felt. The cost of analysis for the size of the local production is disproportionate . The smaller farms are already being discouraged , even because they are currently faced with having to upgrade to an enriched cage system. Eventually, in the long run, for the larger holdings that are able to take on the economic impact of the SNCP and also current welfare issues; the farmer will benefit from a reduction in costs of medicinals and farm management. They will see an increase in production and financial return also from the overall positive impact consumer confidence in local produce.
The costs on the authorities, apart from the sampling and testing, there is also an increase in waste material.
The cost of local produce will also increase.

In 2012, the Public Health sector noted a significant downward trend in reported human cases of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium, that are indicative of a realistic positive effect of the SNCP on human cases.

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

Data already submitted via the online system for the years 2009 - 2012 : yes

The data on the evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis are provided according to the tables where appropriate

6.1 Evolution of the zoonotic Salmonella

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic Salmonella for year : **2013**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype (c)	Number of positive flocks	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	Number of eggs destroyed	Number of eggs channelled to egg product	
Malta 7 Gozo	Laying flocks of C	85	330 00	85	330 000	85	Any targeted serotype	4	4	6 000	34 000	0	x
Total		85	330 000	85	330 000	85		4	4	6 000	34 000	0	

ADD A NEW ROW

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the porgramme for the presence of Salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) Salmonella Enteritidis = SE Salmonella Typhimurium = ST Salmonella Hadar = SH Salmonella Infantis = SI Salmonella Virchow = SV

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : **2013**

As per EU regulation No.200/2010, article 1.

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples	
Malta&Gozo	disinfection efficacy test	**microbiology ISO 6579**	35	5	X
Malta&Gozo	bacteriological test	**microbiology ISO 6579**	70	2	X
Malta&Gozo	antimicrobian detection test	**six-plate test**	15	0	X
Malta&Gozo	serotyping test	**White-Kaufmann le-minor**	15	10	X
Total			135	17	
			ADD A NEW ROW		

6.3 Data on infection for year : 2013

Region	Number of flocks infected	Number of animals infected	
Malta&Gozo	4	6 000	X
Total	4	6 000	
		Add a new row	

6.4 Data on vaccination programmes for year : 2013

Region	Total number of flocks	Total number of animals	Number of flocks in vaccination programme	Number of flocks vaccinated	Number of animals vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine administered	
malta&Gozo	85	330 000	68	12	20 000	60 000	X
Total	85	330 000	68	12	20 000	60 000	
					Add a new row		

7. Targets

7.1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

7.1.1 Targets on laboratory tests for year : **2015**

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
Malta and Gozo	Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine test	20	X
Malta and Gozo	Bacteriological detection test in frame of official samplir	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	environmental sample	routine sampling	110	X
Malta and Gozo	Serotyping in frame of official sampling	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	isolates	routine	30	X
Malta and Gozo	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	environmental sample	verify cleaning	35	X
				Total	195	
				Total Antimicrobial detection test	20	
				Total Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	35	
				Total BACTERIOLOGICAL DETECTION TEST IN FRAME OF OFFICIAL SAMPLING	110	
				Total SEROTYPING IN THE FRAME OF OFFICIAL SAMPLING	30	
				Add a new row		

7.1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year : 2015

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in to the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flocks where official samples taken (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta and Gozo	Laying flocks of	85	85	85	27	165	SE+ST	4	4	8 000	40 000	0	X
Total		85	85	85	27	165		4	4	8 000	40 000	0	

Add a new row

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the porgramme for the presence of Salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis +Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted

7.2 Targets on vaccination

7.2.1 Targets on vaccination for year : 2015

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

			Targets on vaccination or treatment programme				
NUTS Region	Total number of flocks in vaccination programme	Total number of animals in vaccination programme	Number of herds or flocks in vaccination programme	Number of herds or flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta and Gozo	18	55 000	18	15	45 000	135 000	X
Malta and Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Malta and Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Total	18	55 000	18	15	45 000	135 000	
					Add a new row		

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

8.1 Costs of the planned activities for year : **2015**

1. Testing

Cost related to	Specification	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	35	16.72	585.2	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	20	3.43	68.6	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test in frame of official samplin	110	18.19	2000.9	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Serotyping in frame of official sampling	30	38.38	1151.4	yes	X
				Add a new row		

2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in 6.4 and 7.2)

Cost related to	Specification	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Vaccination	Purchase of vaccine doses	135 000	0.05	6750	yes	X
				Add a new row		

3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)

Cost related to	Compensation of	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	8 000	2.2	17600	yes	X

Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	40 000	0.07	2800	yes	X
				Add a new row		

4.Cleaning and disinfection

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
CLEANING/DESINFECTION	Microbiology	35	35	1225	yes	X
				Add a new row		

5.Other costs

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Other costs	lab personnel	1	12637.4	12637.4	yes	X
				Add a new row		

6. Cost of official sampling

Cost related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of official sampling	Official sampling of poultry flocks	27	5.97	161.19	yes	X
				Add a new row		
	Total	135 258		24579.69		

8.2 Co-financing rate:

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Common Financial Framework, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

- (●) Up to 75% for the measures detailed below
- ( ) Up to 100% for the measures detailed below
- ( ) Not applicable

Please explain for which measures and why co-financing rate should be increased (max 32000 characters)

Malta is requesting co-financing at a rate of 75% as provided in the common Financial Framework on the basis that the gross national income per habitant is less than 90% of the European average.

8.3 Source of national funding

Please specify the source of the national funding:

☒ *public funds*
☐ *food business operators participation*
☐ *other*

Please provide details on the source of national funding (max 32000 characters)

The National veterinary Laboratory is fubnded by the Central Government. Funds are allocated annually and approved by the Parliament for the implementation and surveillance programmes.

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.
3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
4) IT CAN TAKE ***SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD*** *ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!*
5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

		Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_) :	File size
			Total size of attachments :	No attachmen