

## About this dossier

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## Eradication: Final report for Bluetongue 2019

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

ID: 20200323-711Y245K

**Country code:** AT

### Reporting period

**From:** 2019

**To:** 2019

**Year of implementation:** 2019

## 1. Technical implementation of the programme

### 1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

Target population (2019)

1.899,538 cattle in 57,852 holdings

464,084 sheep in 16,993 holdings

113,527 goats in 10,150 holdings

Due to the massive spread of BTV-4 in South-/East-Europe during 2014, the surveillance programme in Austria has been adapted in 2015 in order to ensure early detection of any cases.

In November/December 2015, 4 outbreaks of BTV-4 (6 cases) and in 2016, 2 additional outbreaks occurred in the eastern part of Austria. In December 2016, one further outbreak was confirmed in a free territory in the south of Austria (Kärnten). In all cases, a restriction zone has been established and trade restrictions according to EU-legislation have been ordered. As cases have been found in the frame of the surveillance programme - none of the positive animals had clinical signs.

Vaccination is possible on a voluntary basis. Currently no vaccination campaign is planned by the Central Veterinary Authority; voluntary vaccinations are possible but not organized or financed by the Federal Ministry of Health.

Cases BTV-8 in Austria:

2008: 11

2009: 17

2010 - 2014: 0

Cases BTV-4 in Austria:

2015: 4

2016: 3

2017: 0

2018: 0

2019: 0

2020 (Jan - March): 0

After regaining freedom from BTV-8 in 2011, surveillance was based on four regional units. Actually, after the BTV-4 outbreaks, again 28 reference units have been installed taking into account geographical, epidemiological, climatical and political parameters as well as trade policies. 60 samples of cattle per regional unit have been taken and investigated quarterly. Within restriction zones, sampling was performed risk-based in Autumn only.

From 2017 on, sampling in all regional units is performed on a quarterly basis.

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

main objectives/main measures:

### 1. Monitoring

The whole susceptible population is covered by active and passive surveillance. They are carried out in order to ensure early detection of BT cases (as described in Regulation (EU) No. 1266/2007) and to identify the serotypes present. Requirements of Regulation (EU) No. 1266/2007 concerning necessary numbers of samples to regain disease free status are already considered within the calculation of the sampling plan. The last restriction zone was lifted two years after the last BTV-4 case on 22.12.2018.

Austria declared its BT-freedom as of 5th February 2019 to the World Organisation for Animal Health:

[https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal\\_Health\\_in\\_the\\_World/docs/pdf/Self-declarations/2019\\_07\\_Austria\\_Bluetongue\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/Self-declarations/2019_07_Austria_Bluetongue_ENG.pdf)

### 2. Eradication

In case of confirmed outbreaks these measures take place:

- demarcation/adaptation of restriction zones
- further epidemiological investigation and sampling in holdings and relevant surrounding area
- options in case of positive results: slaughter, treatment under quarantine (no compensation)
- killing of infected animals only in case of animal welfare necessity (compensation paid)

### 3. Sampling

Austria is divided into 28 regional units. Per unit, 60 samples are taken four times a year. The targeted prevalence is 5 %.

According to the Ministry's decree concerning BT surveillance, the sampling has to fulfill the following criteria:

- target species: cattle
- animals intended for sampling have never been vaccinated against BT-V
- age: born between 2014 and 2017
- animals stay within the regional unit of sampling at least for 60 days
- a maximum of 6 animals per farm
- no vector proofed premises
- animals are not intended for purchase or slaughter in the near future - a follow-up investigation must be possible.

All samples have to be recorded within the electronic database VIS - veterinary information system.

The selection of farms and animals to be sampled is carried out by the Federal Provinces.

An entomological surveillance programme has been re-installed in order to define vector-free periods; vector-free periods are published on the homepage of the Ministry and communicated to the EC.

The Austrian Bluetongue-programme aims to identify new outbreaks as soon as possible and to detect other serotypes (i.g. reoccurrence of BTV-8).

BTV-8 occurs in Switzerland, Germany, and Italy (+ BTV-4); this could lead to a re-introduction of BTV-infections in Austria.

Please note, that like in the last years the Austrian programme also includes laboratory tests that are not organized or financed by the CVA. Results of all BT-tests carried out by the NRL - including those not part of

the surveillance programme - are also considered in the statistics and tables provided (= routine tests). These tests provide a comprehensive overview of the BT-situation and any unexplainable positive result trigger measures by the veterinary authorities.

However, reimbursement is exclusively requested only for tests carried out within the official active and passive surveillance programme!

BT-vaccination is voluntary but neither organized nor financed by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

### 1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

Please find a map of investigations as attached file.

## 2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ON BLUETONGUE PROGRAMMES

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

### Table A - DATA ON HERDS

Table A is not to be filled in for Bluetongue

### Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS

Region	Animal species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals to be tested under the programme	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Number of outbreaks
Austria	Sheep	464,084	464,084	20	620	620	0	0
Austria	Goats	113,527	113,527	10	1,096	1,096	0	0
Austria	Cattle	1,899,538	1,899,538	6,720	13,047	13,047	0	0
<b>Total</b>		2,477,149	2,477,149	6,750	14,763	14,763	0	0

### Table C - DATA ON VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

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

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

Table D is not to be filled in for Bluetongue

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

Table E is not to be filled in for Bluetongue

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

Region	Animal species	Number of samples	Test type	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
Austria	Cattle	6,861	Elisa test	6,917	0
Austria	Cattle	75	PCR test	79	0
Austria	Sheep	3	Elisa test	6	0
Austria	Sheep	3	PCR test	3	0
Austria	Goats	3	PCR test	3	0
<b>Total</b>		6,945		7,008	0
			<b>Methods of laboratory analysis</b>	<b>Total number of tests</b>	
			<b>Total - Elisa test</b>	6,923	
			<b>Total - PCR test</b>	85	

## COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

In the Frame of the Programme, a total number of 6,861 cattle have been tested. Additionally, 6,183 cattle have been tested for other reasons (e.g. Export). So the number of 13,047 tested cattle can be explained.

Remark: the unit cost for PCR (€ [REDACTED]) seems to be very low and identical with the unit cost for ELISA (software mistake??)