



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/12949/2010

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

**Survey programme for Avian Influenza in
poultry and wild birds**

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

Lithuania

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Program for Eradication : ANNEX 4

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Submission number | 1272623264677-340 |
| Submission date | 30/04/2010 12:27:45 |
| Country Geographical English Name | Lithuania |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Identification of the programme | |
| Country Geographical English Name | Lithuania |
| Disease | avian influenza in poultry and wild birds |
| Request co-financing from | 2011 |
| Request co-financing to | 2011 |
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2. Description of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria

Objectives, general requirements and criteria for surveys in poultry:

- 1) Detecting subclinical infections with LPAI of subtypes H5 and H7 complementing early detection systems and preventing mutations of the viruses to HPAI;
- 2) Detecting infections of LPAI H5 and H7 subtypes in specifically targeted poultry populations at specific risk for infection due to their husbandry system or specific susceptibility species;
- 3) Provide for that the country is free of infection within the framework of intra-Community and international trade according to OIE rules.

Objectives, general requirements and criteria for avian influenza in wild birds:

- 1) continuation of the surveys of different species of free living migratory birds. Waterfowl and shorebirds are the main sampling targets to assess if they carry LPAI viruses of H5 and H7 subtypes;
- 2) investigation of sick and dead wild birds and increased mortalities, in particular in selected higher risk species;
- 3) investigation of dead and living wild birds of other bird species in areas epidemiologically linked to cases of Asian lineage HPAI H5N1 to identify asymptomatic carriers and investigation of the risk that these species in close contact with domestic poultry holdings might function as bridge species.

Avian influenza are compulsory notifiable diseases in Lithuania.

No cases of Avian influenza have been recorded in Lithuania yet.

2.2 Design and implementation

2.2 Design and implementation

In Lithuania the State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS) is the Central Competent Authority with overall responsibilities in relation to food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare.

The Centre for Contingencies and Contagious Diseases is responsible for the coordination and control of all District State Food and Veterinary Services involved in the implementation of this program. This department collects the data, performs statistical analysis and evaluation of the surveillance program and informs the relevant authorities in European Union about the progress of the control and surveillance program.

The State Food and Veterinary Service (Headquarters) consists of Administration and 11 Departments. Administration is comprised of the Director and 3 his deputies. The director is also Chief Veterinary Inspector of the State. Deputy directors are responsible for particular sectors: Animal Health and Welfare, International relations, Border control, Veterinary Public Health, Food of Non-Animal origin and Finance.

There are 11 Departments in the SFVS: Animal Health and Welfare; Veterinary Sanitary and Food; International Affairs; Law and personal; Information and Informatics; Finances and budget; Centre (department) for Contingencies and Contagious Diseases; Strategic Planning and Quality Assessment; Internal Audit Department General. The departments are headed by the Head of Department, who subordinates to the Director.

The institutions that are subordinate to the State Food and Veterinary Service: National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute; Food and Veterinary Audit Department and State Food and Veterinary Services of 10 counties, 5 cities and 34 districts.

The structure of the SFVS of Lithuania is based on the principle of a pyramid topped by the headquarters at the national level, county, city and district SFVS – at the regional level and supported by laboratories and border inspection posts

2.2.1 Poultry holdings (except ducks and geese) to be sampled

| Category | NUTS (2) (a) | Total number of holdings | Total number of holdings to be sampled | Number of samples per holding | Total number of tests to be performed per method | Method of laboratory analysis |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| laying hens | Lithuania | 29 | 29 | 4 | 116 | ELISA test |
| | Lithuania | 29 | 29 | 4 | 116 | |
| chicken breeders | Lithuania | 15 | 15 | 4 | 60 | ELISA test |
| | Lithuania | 15 | 15 | 4 | 60 | |
| fattening turkeys | Lithuania | 13 | 13 | 4 | 52 | ELISA test |
| | Lithuania | 13 | 13 | 4 | 52 | |
| free range laying hens | Lithuania | 5 | 5 | 4 | 20 | ELISA test |
| | Lithuania | 5 | 5 | 4 | 20 | |
| | Total | 62 | 62 | 16 | 248 | |

2.2.2 Duck and geese holdings to be sampled according to point C of Annex I to Decision 2007/268/EC Serological investigation

| NUTS (2) (a) | Total number of duck and geese holdings | Total number of duck and geese holdings to be sampled | Number of samples per holding | Total number of tests to be performed per method | Method of laboratory analysis |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

2.3 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used

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Serological testing

The State Food and Veterinary Service has had a serological monitoring programme for avian influenza in place since 1999. The programme is part of the Animal Health Programme, and monitors commercial breeding poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese) just before they come into lay, and when they move between sites. In addition blood samples from poultry are screened, as are commercial laying flocks prior to export.

The serological test will be the HI test, carried out in accordance with Council Directive 92/40/EC.

Virus isolation testing

Virus isolation testing is carried out on all suspicious cases. All viruses isolated will be sent to the CRL, where H5 and H7 subtypes will be subjected to characterisation (IVPI and nucleotide sequencing). The CRL will provide the protocol for sending isolates to the CRL, and the reporting tables for collection of survey data.

3. Description of the surveillance programme in wild birds

3.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria

A total of 600 samples will be taken from birds in wildlife sanctuaries of international interest and game clubs. Migrating birds will be sampled during the early spring/early summer and autumn/early winter and will target mallard ducks and "first year" birds, where possible.

Active surveillance on living or hunted birds shall target the population of wild bird species identified as presenting a higher risk.

Passive surveillance on wild birds found dead shall primarily target the occurrence of abnormal mortality or significant disease outbreaks in wild birds species identified as presenting a higher risk and other wild birds living in contact with them.

The occurrence of mortality in several species at the same site shall be an additional factor to be considered.

3.2 Design and implementation

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS - Investigation according to the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds set out in Annex II to Decision 2007/268/EC

| NUTS (2) code/region (a) | Wild birds to be sampled | Total number of birds to be sampled | Estimated total number of samples to be taken for active surveillance | Estimated total number of samples to be taken for passive surveillance |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithuania | 700 | 700 | 600 | 100 |
| Total | #SYNTAX | 700 | 600 | 100 |

3.3 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used

Testing of samples shall be carried out at National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute, based at Kairiukščio 10, Vilnius, is the reference laboratory for avian and mammalian influenza. It also has the capacity and expertise for serological identification of antibodies to these viruses in the different species. All positive serological findings shall be confirmed by the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute by a haemagglutination-inhibition test.

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

No cases of Avian influenza have been recorded in Lithuania during the last five years.

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

The Centre for Contingencies and Contagious Diseases is responsible for the coordination and control of all District State Food and Veterinary Services involved in the implementation of this program.

4.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

4.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

The animal holding registers is done according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2629/97 of 29 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as holding registers.

4.1.3 Data on vaccination carried out

No vaccination against AI has been carried out.

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

No cases of Avian influenza have been recorded in Lithuania

5.1 Measures included in the programme for surveillance in wild birds

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

The Centre for Contingencies and Contagious Diseases is responsible for the coordination and control of all District State Food and Veterinary Services involved in the implementation of this program.

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

Avian influenza programme will be implemented in whole territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

5.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

The avifauna of Lithuania includes a total of 342 species, of which 2 have been introduced by humans, and 23 are rare or accidental. 8 species are globally threatened. Number of the population of the following bird species in Lithuania: Vanellus vanellus – 70000, Anas platyrhynchos – 50000, Clangula hyemalis – 50000, Anas querguedula – 20000, Larus canus – 16000, Fulica atra – 15000, Calidris alpina alpina – 14000, Anas penelope – 12500, Anas acuta – 12000, Pluvialis apricaria – 10000, Aythya fuligula – 10000, Melanitta fusca – 10000, Anser albifrons – 6000, Sterna hirundo – 6000, Larus marinus – 4800, Anas crecca – 4000, Aythya ferina – 3500, Calidris canutus – 3500, Limosa limosa – 3500, Numenius arquata – 3500, Anser fabalis rossicus – 3000, Philomachus pugnax – 3000, Bucephala clangula – 3000, Podiceps cristatus – 3000, Cygnus olor – 2400, Anser anser – 2000, Mergus merganser – 1800, Tringa nebularia – 1800, Branta leucopsis – 1760, Pluvialis squatarola – 1700, Chlidonias niger – 1700, Tringa totanus – 1500, Gavia arctica – 1200, Limosa lapponica – 1000, Anser fabalis fabalis – 800, Gavia stellata – 750, Grus grus – 600, Anas clypeata – 400, Cygnus cygnus – 300, Anas strepera – 300, Mergus albellus – 250, Ciconia nigra – 200, Cygnus columbianus – 170, Egretta alba – 120, Alca torda – 100.

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

„Requirements on notification of contagious diseases “ approved by Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service by the Order No 497 12 11 2001 implementing EU Directive 82/894/EEC (Official Gazette 2001, No. 96-3411).

7. Costs

7.1.1 Poultry

Sampling shall cover a period appropriate to production periods for each poultry category. Broilers will not be included in this survey, as their short life means that they are unlikely to sero-convert before they are slaughtered. Samplers will be asked to take 8 samples from 57 house (ELISA 248x2EUR). All positive ELISA shall be confirmed by the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute by a for virus isolation and molecular detection test (PCR) PCR and a haemagglutination-inhibition test. Sampling costs per farm 20 EUR (248 x20 EUR).

7.1.2 Wild birds

7.1.2 Wild birds

100 dead birds will be investigated under the programme of passive surveillance and 600 birds will be hunted and investigated under the programme of active surveillance in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. A total of 700 samples will be taken from birds in wildlife sanctuaries of international interest and game clubs. Migrating birds will be sampled during the early spring/early summer and autumn/early winter and will target mallard ducks and "first year" birds, where possible. The occurrence of mortality in several species at the same site shall be an additional factor to be considered. Wild birds found dead or shot shall be sampled for virus isolation, molecular detection (PCR 700 samples x 20EUR) and HI test for H5/H7 1152 X 12 EUR (double HI) will be applied. Sampling costs 700x20 eur.

7.2 Summary of the costs

7.2.1 Poultry surveillance

| Methods of laboratory analysis | Number of tests to perform per method | Unitary test cost (per method) in € | Total cost (€) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ELISA test | 248 | 2.00 | 496.00 |
| agar gel immune diffusion test | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5 (specify number of tests for H5) | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H7 (specify number of tests for H7) | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Virus isolation test | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| PCR test | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Sampling | 248 | 20.00 | 4,960.00 |
| Total | 496 | 22.00 | 5,456.00 |

7.2.2 Wild bird surveillance

| Methods of laboratory analysis | Number of tests to perform per method | Unitary test cost (per method) in € | Total cost (€) |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7 | 150 | 12.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Virus isolation test | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| PCR test | 700 | 20.00 | 14,000.00 |
| Other please specify here | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Sampling | 700 | 20.00 | 14,000.00 |
| Total | 1,550 | 52.00 | 29,800.00 |