

Eradication: Final report for Salmonella 2018

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

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Reporting period

From: 2017

To: 2018

Year of implementation: 2018

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.

The NSCP's are implemented in the whole territory of Greece and comply with the requirements laid down in Regulations: Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003, Reg. (EC) No 200/2010, Reg. (EC) No 517/2011, Reg. (EC) No 200/2012, Reg. (EC) No 1190/2012, Reg. (EC) No 1177/2006, Reg. (EC) No 1237/2007 and Reg. (EC) 2073/2005.

The bodies responsible for implementing the NSCP's are:

1. The Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate / Sustainable Animal Production and Veterinary Services Directorate General) /Ministry of Rural development and Food.

2. the regional veterinary authorities;

3.the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes (Ministry of Rural development and Food) and the Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory (Ministry of Rural development and Food).

4. the Halkida Veterinary Laboratory, which is the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella.

All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three accredited laboratories, i.e. the Veterinary Laboratories of Ioannina and Halkida and the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes .

5. the operators of the Turkeys and Gallus gallus poultry farms;

6. the private laboratories carrying out analyses on own-check samples as part of the NSCP's.

In order the NSCP's to be applied in a uniform way across the country, the CCA has published a number of

ministerial decisions and circulars and has created manuals with detailed instructions related to the programmes procedures.

All the national decisions and some of the relevant guides can be found at:

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/animal-production/ptina/astheneiesptinon-menu/459-salmonelosi> and

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/animal-production/ptina/astheneiesptinon-menu/1468-paroyssemin>

The Key points of the NSCP's in order to achieve their objectives (reduction of the relevant salmonella serotypes at least to the level set by the EU regulations in the relevant poultry populations) are:

1. the implementation of controls (official and own-check controls during which official and sampling at the initiative of the FBOs is carried out following at least the minimum sampling requirements described under the relevant EU Regulations .

2.the implementation of measures (restrictive or other measures are placed on the infected flocks and on their products,) in case of suspect (detection of salmonella spp) and positive results (detection of the targeted salmonella serovars)

3.the implementation of vaccination (obligatory in flocks of laying hens Gallus gallus and voluntary in flocks of breeding hens Gallus gallus)

4.the Implementation of strict biosecurity measures.

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programmes (annex attached to the national decisions for the implementation of national salmonella control programmes). Guides are in place and their implementation is linked to compensation. In addition they are regularly assessed by the CA. The CA assesses the biosecurity measures each time they perform official control for the NSCP. This assessment is followed by a written report which includes also the results from the biosecurity assessment.

5. the existence of a mandatory notification system and of a system to monitor the implementation of the NSCPs at central and at regional level

Each case of positive salmonella spp result is notified without delay to the regional veterinary competent authority in order to take measures in case of suspicion and to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, every 6 months, state veterinary laboratories report the results of officials checks performed in the context of NSCP to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-check received in the context of NSCP to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.

In addition, all the Regional Veterinary Units report 2 times per year to the Department of Zoonoses detailed information for all the relevant poultry flocks of their territory.

This information includes data on the official and own -check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), data on vaccination (number of vaccine doses administered), number of infected birds culled or destroyed, etc

At regional level the monitoring of the implementation of the programme is achieved by the following way: Each flock is identified with a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of placement of the flock in the house.

During official control official veterinarian records all the information regarding the flock (date of placement, own-check results, data on vaccination etc).

Currently, Department of Zoonoses in collaboration with the Directorate of E- Government of the Ministry, have developed an on-line system for the on- line submission of all the information related to sampling and laboratory testing. This system is still not operational.

6. The existence of a system for the compensation of the owners for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Owners of breeding hen, laying hen and breeding turkeys who are obliged to slaughter or destroy contaminated flocks or destroy contaminated eggs within the framework of NSCPs are compensated in accordance with the relevant joint ministerial decision on financial aid.

The amount of the compensation is calculated on the basis of value tables drawn up by the sector and validated by the Ministry of Finance.

The valuation/valorisation of birds is defined at central level annually by the issue of an annual Joint Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Rural Development and Food), which is publicly available at official Gazette's web site and Ministry's web site. In the above mentioned Joint Ministerial Decision there is a scale of compensation of birds.

There is a link between compensation and effective biosecurity measures: FBO's that do not comply with the minimum requirements on biosecurity, as set out in the national legislation for the implementation of NSCP, do not take any compensation in case of a positive flock although they are obliged to implement the measures of part C , D and E of Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003.

The conditions that must be met by the farmer, the procedure of payment and all required supporting documents are described in details in the above JMD.

Evaluation of NSCP's implementation

The attached epidemiological tables provide information on the coverage and implementation of the NSCP's in the different regions of the country, the isolation of positive flocks for Salmonella spp and for the targeted salmonella serotypes, as well as for the flocks slaughtered or destroyed.

From the above one can notice that the implementation of the NSCP's in 2018 was in general satisfactory.

There were, in some counties, some difficulties and deficiencies in implementing the programmes (ie not maintaining the frequency for self-monitoring and official sampling).

At this point we must emphasize that there is an extreme lack of permanent veterinary staff at all levels, both at central and at regional level, which is to blame mostly for the unsatisfactory results, as official sampling, as well as official control in the framework of NSCPs is implemented by state veterinarians.

The above mentioned shortage in veterinary staff combined with the high poultry population reared in some regional units and the epizooties that have struck Greece the latest years, have resulted in some cases in deficiencies related to the implementation of the programme.

Particularly, regarding the implementation of the program in laying hens, the number of official visits for taking official samples within the framework of NSCP was smaller, in the past, than it should be. This was mainly due to the fact that in Western Attica, which has about half of the laying hen flocks, only a small number of official samplings were conducted in the past. This situation has significantly improved in 2016 (85% coverage) due to the appointment of 2 veterinarians as seasonal staff in this area. In 2017 the coverage of the program in the same area was at a level of 82,54%. Unfortunately, in 2018 the coverage fell to 37% despite the availability of the seasonal staff since the beginning of 2018 due to bureaucratic and technical reasons (lack of driver and courier). In addition, the two seasonal staff in Western Attica left their positions early in November 2018 and the vacant positions were not immediately replenished.

In particular, the central authority, after prioritising the problems, the risk and taking into consideration the economical crisis and the limitations that comes from this crisis, started the procedure for the appointment of seasonal veterinary staff in the regional units of West and East Attika, in order to improve at least the implementation of NSCP in layers. This was decided after taking into consideration the big laying hens' population of West Attika. This seasonal staff has been hired since July 2016 and the implementation of the NSCPs at these regions has been improved. In 2018, five veterinarians were recruited as seasonal staff in the regional units of West and East Attica, Thessaloniki and Korinthos, in order to support NSCPs' implementation. However the staff was recruited in August 2018 in Thessaloniki and October 2018 in Korinthos due to bureaucratic reasons.

In addition with regard to breeding turkeys, most of the time day old chicks or rearing birds are sold to the villages for domestic use.

Achievement of EU targets

Except from the breeding hens *Gallus gallus* that the target was slightly above the EU target (1.07%) , the EU targets were achieved in layers (0.83%), broilers (0%) , breeding turkeys (0%) and fattening turkeys (1 positive flock out of 69 tested)

With regard to breeders, we noticed a relatively high number of positive *S. Livingstone* cases in samples taken at the hatchery in the Regional Unit of Ioannina. The same was observed in the past despite the epidemiological investigation and measures put in place.

For 2018, EU targets were achieved in laying hens, broilers, breeding and fattening turkeys. Regarding breeding hens the prevalence in target serovars was 1.07 %, slightly higher than the EU target. A number of problems were observed during the evaluation of the NSCP's implementation in breeding hens in 2018, The main problems were the difficulties in keeping the frequency of self-checks and official controls and the failure to apply official sampling in individual cases.

The implementation of the NSCPs in 2018 in different poultry populations, details on the implementation of NSCP's and the evolution of the disease in the different poultry populations are presented in the attached tables.

We consider that in general the programmes were cost-effective.

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

See attached excel tables: Implementation of NSCP in breeders, layers, broilers, breeding and fattening turkeys.

The implementation of the NSCP's for 2018 was in general satisfactory. There were, in some counties, some difficulties in implementing the programmes (ie not maintaining the frequency for self-monitoring and official sampling).

Failure of the competent veterinary authorities to meet the requirements with regard to the frequency of official sampling observed in some cases is due to the acute shortage of veterinary services in the country in veterinary staff.

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.

See attached word documents with tables for the implementation of the programme in breeders, layers, broilers and fattening turkeys.

2. Tables for Salmonella monitoring outcome of the year

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

	Number of adults flocks checked	Number of these flocks infected by a target serovar	Incidence
Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	219	3	1.37 %
Laying hen flocks	598	5	0.84 %
Broiler flocks	8,002	0	0 %
Breeding flocks of turkeys	7	0	0 %
Fattening flocks of turkeys	69	1	1.45 %

Table A - BREEDING FLOCKS OF GALLUS GALLUS

No of flocks with more than 250 adult breeders of Gallus gallus	337
No of flocks covered by the programme - Rearing flocks	146
No of flocks covered by the programme - Adults	220
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Adults	233
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Rearing flocks	146
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Adults	219
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (holding)	278
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (hatchery)	342
No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	1
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks - Adults	2
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	3
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of birds concerned - Adults	10,031
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of eggs - Heat treated	25,350
Positive flocks (SE,ST,SH,SI,SV) - No of eggs - Destroyed	102,290

Table B - FLOCKS OF LAYING HENS

No of holdings with more than 1,000 adult laying hens	361
No of flocks in these holdings - Rearing flocks	169
No of flocks in these holdings - Adults	615
No of holdings covered by the programme	610
No of holdings covered by the programme - Rearing flocks	169
No of holdings covered by the programme - Adults	899
Official checks - No of holdings with adult flocks checked	204
Official checks - No of adult flocks checked in these holdings	230
Official checks - No of pullet flocks checked in these holdings	0
FBO checks - No of holdings checked	430
FBO checks - No of adult flocks checked in these holdings	546
FBO checks - No of pullet flocks checked in these holdings	169
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	245
No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	2
No of official visits to take samples - Specific samples	0
No of official visits to take samples - Competent authority samples	0
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0

Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Adults	5
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	5
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Adults	37,289
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Destroyed	0

Table C - BROILER FLOCKS

No of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	1,023
No of flocks produced in these holdings	8,163
No of holdings covered by the programme	1,067
No of flocks produced in these holdings	8,600
No of flocks checked (official checks)	132
No of flocks checked (FBO checks)	8,002
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	129
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
No of positive flocks (SE,ST)	0

Table D - BREEDING FLOCKS OF TURKEY

No of flocks with more than 250 adult breeding turkeys	9
No of flocks with elite, great grand parent, grand parents	0
No of flocks covered by the programme - Rearing flocks	1
No of flocks covered by the programme - Adults	7
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Rearing flocks	0
No of flocks checked by the Competent Authorities - Adults	2
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Rearing flocks	1
No of flocks checked by the FBO - Adults	7
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (holding)	0
No of official visits to take samples - Routine (hatchery)	2
No of official visits to take samples - Confirmatory sampling	0
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of positive flocks depopulated - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Rearing flocks	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of birds concerned - Adults	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Heat treated	0
Positive flocks (SE,ST) - No of eggs - Destroyed	0

Table E - FLOCKS OF FATTENING TURKEYS

No of holdings with more than 500 fattening turkeys	40
No of flocks produced in these holdings	74
No of holdings covered by the programme	44
No of flocks produced in these holdings	79
No of flocks checked (official checks)	6
No of flocks checked (FBO checks)	69
No of official visits to take samples - Routine	6
No of official visits to take samples - Efficacy of disinfection	0
No of positive flocks (SE,ST)	1

Table F - LABORATORY TESTS

Laboratory tests on official samples	Nb of tests					
	Breeding flocks	Laying flocks	Broiler flocks	Breeding turkey flocks	Fattening turkey flocks	TOTAL
Microbiological tests	963	484	134	4	6	1,591
Serotyping tests	22	64	23	0	0	109
Disinfection efficacy tests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antimicrobial detection tests	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table G - VACCINATION

	No of flocks in the vaccination programme	No of flocks vaccinated	No of birds vaccinated	No of doses administered
Breeders	335	336	2,067,356	3,191,928
Layers	941	920	6,866,673	6,950,464
Breeding turkeys	0	0	0	0
	1,276	1,256	8,934,029	10,142,392

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

1. Eggs produced by the positive laying hens were heat- treated and therefore we state that zero eggs were destroyed.
2. There is a difference between the number of vaccine doses used and the number of vaccine doses we ask for reimbursement under the financial data section since we ask for reimbursement only for those vaccine doses for which a claim was submitted to our service and have already been paid.
3. For the same reasons we do not ask for reimbursement for all the positive flocks, although measures were taken in all cases there was a positive result.