

About this dossier

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Eradication: Final report for Lumpy Skin Disease 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: 20200318-CYVG7CFS

Country code: HR

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.

Following two years' vaccination campaign in 2016 and 2017 of entire bovine population in Croatia, comprehensive surveillance programme was conducted in 2018. The aim of the programme was to regain freedom from LSD infection and to prove absence of LSDV circulation on the Croatian territory.

Based on the results it was proven that LSDV was not circulating in Croatia among bovine population. Considering LSD epidemiological situation in the neighbouring countries, in 2019 surveillance programme was focused on maintenance of LSD free status and early detection of the LSDV incursion. For the purpose of early detection, a risk area was designated: Konavle municipality in Dubrovnik Neretva County due to vicinity with Albanian border where last cases were reported in 2018.

For the purpose of maintenance of LSD free status, serological surveillance was performed on 1000 randomly selected non vaccinated bovine animals during autumn. The number of samples was calculated based on test sensitivity and specificity knowing that ELISA test was not perfect. Therefore, higher confidence rate – 99% was used for the sample size calculation. Such approach was also examined and suggested on the EFSA LSD Expert group.

Passive surveillance was in place in the entire Croatian territory as mandatory for each case of clinical signs suspect on LSD.

Targeted surveillance in risk areas comprised of monthly clinical surveillance during the high risk period, from June to October.

For active surveillance serological testing of non vaccinated animals was performed. 1000 non vaccinated bovines were randomly selected, representing the entire bovine population in the country. Bovines suitable for testing was selected among non vaccinated female animals born after Jan 1 2018, older than 4 months. Female animals were preferred due to higher chance of presence at the farm in the time of sampling. To increase representativity, all bovines (46) in the same category in Dubrovnik Neretva County (Konavle municipality) were included for sampling. In case of positive serological results, animals was retested on ELISA/VNT and tested on LSD virus presence using PCR. Sampling and testing was conducted in autumn starting from October 2019.

The surveillance results proved absence of LSDV from Croatian bovine population.

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

Due to possibility that some of the randomly selected bovines will not be present at the farm in the time of sampling, higher number of bovines - 1144 were selected for sampling. Also, veterinarians have had possibility to select replacement non vaccinated bovine animal from the same age category. Number of tested bovines was higher than 1000, which is considered as fulfilment of the set up targets. 36 bovines were tested in Konavle municipality.

14 bovine animals were tested positive on ELISA test. Positive bovines were further tested with VN test or/and PCR. Not all seropositive bovines were tested on PCR, however three bovines that were tested positive on VNT, were tested negative on PCR. In total 1099 serological tests were performed. Veterinarians and laboratory were contacted for not sampling and testing of seropositive animals as planned. In most of the cases, bovines were not available for re-sampling, while in one sample not tested on VNT it was a problem with sera quantity, but the animal was tested on PCR with negative result. Still, clinical examination was performed in all herds with seropositive bovines and no clinical signs were observed. All animals tested positive on ELISA tests will be included in surveillance in the 2020 depending on their status (live or slaughtered).

Tables A and B were filled accordingly with no positive herds and animals entered in the tables; because infection was excluded.

In 2019 one suspicion on LSD was notified. LSD was suspected during ante mortem examination based on clinical signs in one bovine intended for slaughter originated from Hungary. Blood samples were taken and tested on ELISA and PCR with negative results.

Regarding seropositive bovine animals, it was concluded that it is possibility for false positive ELISA results as well as maternal passive immunity. Out of 14 bovines, 12 were born by mothers vaccinated twice. It is possible that maternal immunity at certain number of animals lasts longer than claimed in the vaccine specification. Mothers were not vaccinated during pregnancy, so vaccinal strain presence was not possible. Neither in seropositive bovines, neither in herds with positive bovines, clinical signs were observed.

In total 1,3 % of tested bovines were seropositive. The age of seropositive bovines and dates of vaccination of their mothers are shown in the table attached to this report. In addition, testing results are shown in the table. Only 4 seropositive bovines were older than 6 months at the time of sampling, while 5 were younger than 6 months. This supports conclusion that seropositivity can be result of maternal immunity. Still, false positive results of ELISA testing cannot be excluded having in mind several false positive results of bulls testing reported in 2018.

Clinical examinations were performed in Konavle municipality in Dubrovnik-neretva county, starting from June/July until October. Herds were visited on a monthly basis and up to three animals per herd were examined.

359 clinical examinations were performed in total and no clinical signs were observed.

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.

N/A

2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ON RUMINANT DISEASES PROGRAMMES

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

Table A - DATA ON HERDS

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under the programme	Number of herds to be checked under the programme this year	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated
		% of herds depopulated	% of herds coverage		% of positive herds Period herd prevalence		% of positive herds Herd incidence	

Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS

Region	Animal species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals to be tested under the programme this year	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Number of animals with positive result slaughtered or culled	Number of animals slaughtered
		% coverage at animals level				% positive animals Animal Prevalence			
Croatia	Cattle	419,670	419,670	1,144	1,081	1,081	0	0	0
		94.49 %				0 %			
Total		419,670	419,670	1,144	1,081	1,081	0	0	0
		94.49 %				0 %			

Table C - DATA ON VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

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

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

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds and animals under the programme	Unknown	Not free or not officially free from disease		Free of officially free-disease status suspended/ withdrawn	Free from disease	Officially free from disease
				Last check positive	Last check negative			
Total - herds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - animals		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
Total				0

Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
Croatia	Cattle	ELISA test	1,086	1,099	17
Croatia	Cattle	PCR test	10	10	0
Total			1,096	1,109	17
			Methods of laboratory analysis	Total number of tests	
			Total - ELISA test	1,099	
			Total - PCR test	10	

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

European Central Bank exchange rate on July 31 2020 - 7.4815