



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/10376/2009

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

Monitoring and eradication programme of TSE, BSE and scrapie

Approved* for 2010 by Commission Decision 2009/883/EC

Malta

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY FINANCING FOR
PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION, MONITORING AND
CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES**

Commission Decision 90/424/EC as amended by Commission Decision
10034/2007/EC

Member state MALTA

**Disease TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM
ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE's)**

Year 2010

1. Identification of the programme

Member state	Malta
Disease	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE's)
Year of implementation	2010
Reference of this document	MTTSE10
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Date sent to the Commission	28 th April 2009

2. Description of the programme

In accordance to EU Directives 999/2001/EC and 1041/2006 screening for TSE's has been carried out since March 2001, using the Enfer® test. In October 2002, the Division changed to Bio-Rad TeSeE® detection kit. A contract has been signed with the VLA – Weybridge (UK) for the performing of histopathological and immunocyto-chemistry examination of positive samples. Testing is carried out on Bovine, Ovine and Caprine species. Community financial participation is not being requested for the implementation of the breeding programme for the resistance to TSE in Sheep (decision 2003/100/EC).

The objective of the programme includes:

- Achieving harmonization with other EU countries in veterinary control and surveillance programmes;
- The strengthening of veterinary epidemiological surveillance measures in accordance with EU legislation;
- Ensuring the early recognition of TSEs within the local animal population;
- The rapid implementation of investigation protocols with all relevant restrictions on the movement of animals and animal products coming into force until confirmatory results are received.

3. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease

TSE in bovine animals using one of the EU approved rapid tests commenced in March 2001. Ovines and caprines were included in the testing regime as from the year 2002. In that same year the National Veterinary Laboratory shifted from using the Enfer® kit to the BioRad TeSeE® kits since the former was not giving repeatable results. This shift explains a slight decrease in the tests performed during that year. During the successive years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of emergency slaughtered and fallen animals tested.

To date, since the TSE monitoring programme has been running, no positive samples were detected in bovine, ovine or caprine species.

The VAFD laboratory has participated in the following ring tests :

- November 2002 organised by IRMM, Belgium; BSE
- November 2004, organised by VLA, Weybridge; BSE
- October 2005, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November 2005, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2006, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- November 2006, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2007, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- December 2007, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie
- October 2008, organised by VLA – Weybridge; BSE
- December 2008, organised by VLA, Weybridge. Scrapie

In all trials the National Veterinary Laboratory achieved very satisfactory results.

4. Measures included in the programme

4.1 Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

- Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries Conservation and Control is the Competent authority based in Malta responsible for Veterinary regulation, administration, laboratory testing, sampling and collecting of data in Malta.
- Ministry of Gozo (Veterinary Division): responsible for sampling in Gozo.

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

- The surveillance programmes will apply to the Islands of Malta and Gozo (one region);
- There is a lack of extensive grazing land available;
- Average farm size is 0.5 hectares;
- Livestock is reared on farms having a higher stocking density than would apply to an extensive system.

4.3 System in place for the registration of holdings

Veterinary Services Act, section 7

Swine Keeping Regulations S.L. 36.28 section 3

Milking Animals Regulation S.L. 36.32 section 3

Poultry Breeding Stock Regulation S.L. 36.40 section 3

All livestock holdings are registered with the Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries Conservation and Control. Milk producing herds are allotted a unique herd number (churn number), while non milk producing herds are allotted a unique premises number. All the information pertinent to each farm is also kept on the National Herd database. This system covers bovine, ovine and caprine holdings.

4.4 System in place for the identification of animals

European Union Act, Chapter 460 of the laws of Malta, section 3-4

Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council regulation (EC) No 820/97

Council Directive 92/102/EEC of 27 November 1992 on the identification and registration of animals (amended by OJ L 005 09.01.2004 p.8)

Control of marking of animals regulation S.L. 36.17 sections 2-3

Undulant fever (prevention) regulation S.L. 36.04 section 4

All bovine, caprine and ovine animals are tagged and all the information is stored in the National Herd database. The transfer or movement of animals from one holding to another can only be done with the authorisation of the competent authority.

4.5 Measures in place as regards the notification of disease

Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437 of the laws of Malta, sections 5 and 6
 Prevention Control and Eradication of Certain TSE's, L.N. 58/2004, regulation 11
 Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Chapter 36 of the laws of Malta, section 68.

4.6 Monitoring

4.6.1 *Monitoring in bovine animals*

	Estimated number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, points 2.1, 3 and 4.1 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	1500
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part I, points 2.2, 4.2 and 4.3 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	4000
Others (specify)	Na

4.6.2 *Monitoring in ovine animals*

	Estimated number of tests
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100
Ovine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 5 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	NA
Ovine animals referred to in Annex VII, point 8(d) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na
Others (specify)	Na

4.6.3 *Monitoring in caprine animals*

	Estimated number of tests
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 2 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 3 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	100
Caprine animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 5 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na
Caprine animals referred to in Annex VII, point 8(d) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na
Others (specify)	Na

4.6.4 Discriminatory tests

	Estimated number of tests
Primary molecular testing referred to in Annex X, Chapter C, point 3.2(c)(i) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na

4.6.5 Genotyping of positive and randomly selected animals

	Estimated number of tests
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8,1 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na
Animals referred to in Annex III, Chapter A, Part II, point 8,2 to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na

4.7 Eradication

There have not been any cases of BSE in the Maltese Islands

4.7.1 Measures following the confirmation of a BSE case

4.7.1.1 Description

Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437 of the laws of Malta, sections 5 and 6
Prevention Control and Eradication of Certain TSE's, L.N. 58/2004, regulation 11
Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Chapter 36 of the laws of Malta, section 68.

4.7.1.2 Summary table

	Estimated number
Animals to be killed according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(a) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	Na

4.7.2 Measures following confirmation of a Scrapie case

4.7.2.1 Description

Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437 of the laws of Malta, sections articles 5 and 6
Prevention Control and Eradication of Certain TSE's, L.N. 58/2004, regulation 11
Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Chapter 36 of the laws of Malta, section 68.

4.7.2.2 Summary table

	Estimated number
Animals to be killed according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(b) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	NA
Animals to be genotyped according to the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(b) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	NA

4.7.3 Breeding programme for the resistance of TSE's in sheep

Malta does not have a breeding programme for the Resistance of TSE in sheep

4.7.3.1 General description

N/A

4.7.3.2 Summary table

	Estimated number
Ewes to be genotyped within the framework of a breeding programme as established in Commission Decision 2003/100/EC	NA
Rams to be genotyped within the framework of a breeding programme as established in Commission Decision 2003/100/EC	NA

5. Costs

5.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

5.2 Summary of the costs

Costs related to	Specification	Number of units	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Community funding requested (yes/no)
1. BSE testing					
1.1 Rapid tests	Bio Rad	5500	28	154,000	yes
	Western Blot	200	84	16,800	yes
2. Scrapie testing					
2.1 Rapid tests	Bio Rad	400	28	11,200	yes
	Western Blot	120	84	10,080	yes
3. Discriminatory testing					
3.1 Primary molecular tests					
Total			192,080 Euro		

4. Genotyping							
4.1 Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of the measures laid down by Regulation (EC) No 999/2001							
4.2 Determination of genotype of animals in the framework of a breeding programme as established in Decision 2003/100/EC							
5. Compulsory slaughter							
5.1 Compensation for bovine animals to be killed under the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(a) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001							
5.2 Compensation for ovine and caprine animals to be killed under the requirements of Annex VII, point 2(b) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001							