



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director General

SANCO/10259/2013

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

Survey programme for Avian Influenza

The Netherlands

Approved* for 2013 by Commission Decision 2012/761/EU

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza

version : 2.1

1. Identification of the programme

Member state : NEDERLAND

Disease : avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

Request of Community co-financing from beginning of :

2013

to end of

2013

1.1 Contact

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2. Description of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1 Objectives of surveillance programmes

(max. 32000 chars) :

The objectives of the surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry are to inform the competent authority of circulating avian influenza virus with a view to controlling the disease in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC by the annual detection through active surveillance for:

- (a) low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtypes H5 and H7 in gallinaceous birds (namely chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, pheasants, partridges and quails) and ratites thereby complementing other existing early detection systems;
- (b) LPAI of subtypes H5 and H7 and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic waterfowl (namely ducks, geese and mallards for re-stocking supplies of game);

2.2 Design, implementation and target population

(max. 32000 chars) :

Sampling and serological testing in poultry holdings is carried out in order to detect the presence of antibodies to avian influenza, as defined in Directive 2005/94/EC.

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That active surveillance complements the early detection systems already in place in The Netherlands, as provided for in Decision 2005/734/EC and in Chapter II of the Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza approved by Commission Decision 2006/437/EC (the Diagnostic Manual); in particular those implemented in poultry holdings that are deemed at being at a higher risk for avian influenza introduction.

The Netherlands will use a risk-based surveillance.

The monitoring is coordinated by the Product Board for Livestock, Meat and Eggs (on authority of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation). For holdings that do not comply with the monitoring the Product Board for Livestock, Meat and Eggs has disciplinary jurisdiction.

Sampling shall be carried out from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013. Sampling is carried out by, or under control of, a veterinarian. Testing of poultry samples is carried out at the Dutch Animal Health Service (GD), authorised by the competent authorities and under control of the NRL: the Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR (CVI). The confirmation tests are carried out at the Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR (CVI). Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual which lays down the procedures for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of avian influenza.

2.2.1 Risk based surveillance (RBS)

(max. 32000 chars) :

A large percentage of poultry holdings in The Netherlands is located in areas with a high density of poultry holdings (see also 4.1.2) and/or high density of migratory wild water birds (see also 4.1.1) and/or have intensive trade patterns. A lot of our poultry and poultry products are exported to other Member States. To assure our poultry holdings are free from Avian Influenza H5/H7 it has been decided (in close consultation with our poultry sector) to set up an intensive monitoring programme that complements the early detection systems.

This monitoring programme is already several years in place and goes far beyond the monitoring prescribed in case of representative sampling: AI monitoring is mandatory in the Netherlands for all commercial poultry holdings. All commercial poultry holdings in the Netherlands, including all commercial broiler holdings, should be sampled and serologically tested at least once a year. Holdings that have increased risk factors for introduction (free range poultry) or are more susceptible (turkey holdings) are sampled more frequently. Turkey holdings are sampled 3 times a year. Holdings with free-range layings are sampled 4 times a year.

In case a poultry holder wants to transport poultry to another holding the animals have to be sampled and the test results should be available prior to the transportation.

Above our complete monitoring programme is described. However, in accordance with 2010/367/EU: The costs of sampling and testing prior to transport are not included in paragraph 12.2. Also the costs of sampling and testing of broilers is not included in paragraph 12.2.

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2.2.2 Surveillance based on Representative Sampling

(max. 32000 chars) :

-

3. Target populations

(max. 32000 chars) :

The sampling of the following poultry species and production categories is included in the surveillance programme (only if they are commercially kept in The Netherlands):

- (a) laying hens;
- (b) free range laying hens;
- (c) chicken breeders;
- (d) turkey breeders;
- (e) duck breeders;
- (f) geese breeders
- (g) fattening turkeys;
- (h) fattening ducks;
- (i) fattening geese;
- (j) farmed game birds (gallinaceous) focusing on adult birds such as breeding birds;
- (k) farmed game birds (waterfowl);
- (l) ratites.
- (m) broilers

Hobby/backyard flocks are not included in the active surveillance for avian influenza in poultry. These flocks are considered to play a minor role in virus circulation and spread. This has also been confirmed by a model study evaluating the role of hobby/backyard flocks in het 2003 HPAI outbreak in The Netherlands.

4. Risk-based surveillance (RBS) method

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4.1 Criteria and Risk factors

4.1.1 Criteria and risk factors for virus introduction into poultry holdings due to direct or indirect exposure to wild birds in particular those of identified 'target species'

(max. 32000 chars) :

- (a) The location of the poultry holding in proximity to wet areas, ponds, swamps, lakes, rivers or sea shores where migratory wild water birds may gather.
- (b) The location of the poultry holding in areas with a high density of migratory wild birds, in particular of those birds that are characterised as 'target species' (TS) for HPAI H5N1 detection and listed in Part 2 of Annex II.
- (c) The location of poultry holding in proximity to resting and breeding places of migratory wild water birds, in particular where these areas are linked through migratory birds' movements to areas where HPAI H5N1 is known to occur in wild birds or poultry.
- (d) Poultry holdings with free range production, or poultry holdings where poultry or other captive birds are kept in the open-air in any premises in which contact with wild birds cannot be sufficiently prevented.

Holdings that have increased risk factors for introduction (free range poultry) are sampled more frequently, namely 4 times a year.

In Annex IV and Annex III an overview is given of the wild water bird density and poultry density. Especially the western and northern part of The Netherlands are areas of high wild water bird density.

4.1.2. Criteria and risk factors for virus spread within poultry holdings and between poultry holdings, as well as the consequences (impact) of the spread of avian influenza from poultry to poultry and between poultry holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

- (b) The type of poultry production
Turkeys are more sensitive for AI (lower dose can already be infectious). Therefore turkey holdings are sampled more frequently, namely 3 times a year (every production round).
- (c) The location of the poultry holding in areas with high densities of poultry holdings.
In Annex III an overview is given of the poultry density in The Netherlands. Especially the eastern part of The Netherlands has a high poultry density (up to 12.400 animals per km²)

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(e) The presence of long lived poultry categories and multi-age groups of poultry on the holding (such as layers).

Multi-age groups are especially present on holdings with fattening turkeys and large holdings with (possibly free range) laying hens.

A large percentage of poultry holdings in The Netherlands is located in areas with a high density of poultry holdings and/or high density of migratory wild water birds and/or have intensive trade patterns. To keep the monitoring programme plain and simple it has therefore been decided to make monitoring for AI mandatory for all commercial poultry holdings in The Netherlands.

(d) Trade patterns, including imports and related intensity of movements, both direct and indirect, of poultry and other factors including vehicles, equipment and persons.

In case a poultry holder wants to transport poultry to another holding the animals have to be sampled and tested. The test results should be available prior to the transportation. As a result most holdings with chicken breeders are tested several times a year. Sampling and testing prior to transport is excluded from the costs shown in paragraph 12.2.

4.2. Targeting of populations at risk

(max. 32000 chars) :

Additional to the mandatory monitoring for all poultry holdings, in rare cases extra monitoring might be targeted at specific holdings:

In case the poultry on a holding is tested serologically positive for Avian Influenza H5 or H7, nearby holdings or direct contacts might have been infected. Therefore (even if no live virus is found but only positive serology) the poultry on the surrounding or contact holdings might be sampled and serologically tested to investigate whether the virus has spread. Not in all cases extra serological monitoring will be usefull. The decision whether or not to sample and test these holdings will be based on several risk factors:

- poultry density of the area
- whether positive serology was found on one holding or was recently found on multiple holdings in the area.
- whether the positive serology was found on a closed holding or on a holding with free-range laying hens
- whether the surrounding holdings have free-range laying hens

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4.3. Targeting of poultry holdings to be sampled

(max. 32000 chars) :

AI monitoring is mandatory in the Netherlands for all commercial poultry holdings.

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5. Poultry holdings to be sampled

5.1 Poultry holdings (except ducks, geese and mallard) to be sampled according to table 1 of Annex 1 to Decision 2010/367/EU

Category : all categories (see annex I for details)

delete this 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
The Netherlands (see annex I for details)	1 801	2 607	30	78 210	ELISA test
The Netherlands (see 4.2 for details)	40	40	30	1 200	ELISA test
The Netherlands (broilers - see annex I for de	661	661	30	19 830	AGP test
Total	2 502	3 308		99 240	
Add a new row					

(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.

Add a category

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5.2 Ducks, geese and mallard holdings to be sampled according to table 2 of Annex I to Decision 2010/367/EU

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
The Netherlands (see annex I for details)	63	63	40	2 520	ELISA test
Total	63	63		2 520	
Add a new row					

(a) Refers to the location of the holding origin. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, coordinates (longitude/latitude) are requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.

6. Frequency and period for testing

(max. 32000 chars) :

The time period for sampling in the poultry holding shall coincide with seasonal production for each poultry production category and sampling may also be performed at the slaughterhouse. This sampling practice must not compromise the risk targeted approach according to the criteria and risk factors

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listed in Section 4.1.

In order to optimise efficiency and also to avoid the unnecessary entry of persons onto poultry holdings, sampling shall, whenever possible, be combined with sampling for other purposes, such as within the framework of Salmonella, Mycoplasma and Newcastle disease vaccination control. However, such combining must not compromise the requirements for risk based surveillance.

7. Laboratory testing

Description of the used serological tests : (max 4000 chars)

Sampling for virological testing for avian influenza shall not be used as an alternative to serological testing and must be performed solely within the framework of investigations to follow-up serological positive testing results for avian influenza.

Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual which lays down the procedures for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of avian influenza.

However, if a Member State wishes to use laboratory tests not laid down in the Diagnostic Manual, nor described in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), those tests must first be deemed fit for that purpose by the EURL, based on validated data, before being used.

All positive serological findings must be followed up at the poultry holding by epidemiological investigations and further sampling for testing by virological methods in order to determine, if active infection of avian influenza virus is present on the poultry holding. The conclusions of all those investigations shall be reported to the Commission.

All avian influenza virus isolates shall be submitted to the EURL in accordance with Union legislation according to the functions and the duties of the national reference laboratories as laid down in Annex VIII to Directive 2005/94/EC, unless a derogation has been granted as provided for in paragraph 4(d) of Chapter V of the Diagnostic Manual. Viruses of the H5/H7 subtype shall be submitted to the EURL without delay and shall be subjected to the standard characterisation tests (nucleotide sequencing/IVPI) according to the Diagnostic Manual.

The specific protocols provided by the EURL for the submission of samples and diagnostic material shall be used. The competent authorities shall ensure that there is a good exchange of information between the EURL and the NRL.

The following laboratory test are used in The Netherlands:

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Dutch Animal Health Service (GD):

- * Serological pre-screening: Influenza A ELISA
- * Serological pre-screening broilers: AGP test

Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR (CVI):

- * Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5 and H7 (confirmation test)
 - For H5: A/Ost/Den/72420/96-H5N2 and A/Mallard/Den/75-6465/03 H5N7
 - For H7: A/Parrot/North Ire/vr7367/73 H7N1 and A/Ch/Neth/03009942/03 H7N7
- * In case the HI-test gives a positive result, samples (swabs) are taken to determine whether the AI-virus is still present in the flock.
 - RT-PCR (MA and H5/H7)
 - Sequencing
 - Virus isolation and IVPI

8. Description of the surveillance programme in wild birds

8.1 Objectives of surveillance

(max 32000 chars)

The objective of the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds is the timely detection of HPAI of the subtype H5N1 in wild birds in order to protect poultry in poultry holdings and safeguard veterinary public health.

8.2 Surveillance design

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(max. 32000 chars) :

- (a) A risk-based surveillance (RBS) shall be implemented as a 'passive' surveillance system by laboratory investigation of moribund wild birds or birds found dead and it shall be specifically directed towards water bird species.
- (b) Wild birds, in particular migratory water birds, that have been shown to be at a higher risk of becoming infected with, and transmitting the HPAI H5N1 virus, the 'target species' (TS), shall be specifically targeted.
- (c) Areas close to the sea, lakes and waterways where birds were found dead; and in particular when these areas are in close proximity to poultry holdings, especially in areas where there is a high density of poultry holdings, shall be targeted.
- (d) Close cooperation with epidemiologists and ornithologists and the competent authority for nature conservation shall be ensured in the preparation of the surveillance programme, assisting in species identification and optimising sampling adapted to the national situation.
- (e) If the epidemiological situation for the HPAI H5N1 virus so requires, surveillance activities shall be enhanced by awareness raising and active searching and monitoring for dead or moribund wild birds, in particular for those belonging to TS. This could be triggered by the detection of the HPAI H5N1 virus in poultry and/or wild birds in neighbouring Member States and third countries which are linked via the movement of migratory wild birds, in particular those of TS, to the Member State concerned. In that case the specific migration patterns and wild bird species, which may vary in different Member States shall be taken into account.
- (g) SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology and The Food Consumer Product Safety Authority are contracted to coordinate the detection and collection of sick/dead birds throughout the Netherlands, by bird watchers, bird ringers etc. and civilians.
- (h) Testing of the birds and their samples is carried out at the Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR (CVI).

Currently there is also an active surveillance programme in place. According to 2010/367/EU active monitoring will no longer be eligible for community financial support. Active monitoring has therefore not been included in this submission for the 2013 surveillance programme. The Netherlands will probably continue with the active monitoring, although this is still to be decided.

8.3 Sampling procedures

max 32000 chars :

- (a) Sampling procedures shall be carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual.

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- (b) Cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and/or tissues from wild birds found dead or moribund shall be sampled for molecular detection (PCR) and/or virus isolation.
- (c) Specific care must be taken for the storage and transport of samples in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Chapter IV of the Diagnostic Manual. All avian influenza virus isolates of cases in wild birds shall be submitted to the EURL, unless a derogation has been granted as provided for in paragraph 4(d) of Chapter V of the Diagnostic Manual. Viruses of the H5/H7 subtype shall be submitted to the EURL without delay and shall be subjected to the standard characterisation tests (nucleotide sequencing/IVPI) according to the Diagnostic Manual.
- (d) Sampling shall not extend beyond 31 December of the year of implementation of the surveillance programme.

8.4 Laboratory testing

max 32000 chars :

Laboratory tests shall be carried out in accordance with the Diagnostic Manual.

The testing of samples shall be carried out at the NRL in Member States or by other laboratories authorised by the competent authorities and under the control of the NRL.

If the Netherlands wishes to use laboratory tests not laid down in the Diagnostic Manual nor described in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE, those tests must first be deemed fit for purpose by the EURL, based on validated data, before being used.

Initial screening using M gene PCR shall be carried out, followed by rapid testing of positive findings for H5 which shall be carried out within a period of not more than 2 weeks. In case of a positive finding for H5, an analysis of the cleavage site shall be undertaken as soon as possible to determine whether or not it has a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or a low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) motif. Where H5 HPAI is confirmed, further analysis to determine the N type must be done rapidly, even though this can only provide evidence to eliminate N1.

Passive surveillance (sick or dead wild birds) (Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen)

- post mortem
- PCR test cloaca
- PCR test trachea
- RT-PCR H5/H7 on PCR positive samples
- Virus isolation test on PCR positive samples.

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8.5. WILD BIRDS - Investigation according to the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds set out in Annex II to Decision 2010/367/EU

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	
NL 11 Groningen	diverse ('target species' describe )	75	0	150	X
NL 12 Friesland	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 13 Drenthe	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 21 Overijssel	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 22 Gelderland	diverse ('target species' describe )	50	0	100	X
NL 23 Flevoland	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 31 Utrecht	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 32 Noord-Holland	diverse ('target species' describe )	225	0	450	X
NL 33 Zuid Holland	diverse ('target species' describe )	50	0	100	X
NL 34 Zeeland	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 41 Noord-Brabant	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
NL 42 Limburg	diverse ('target species' describe )	25	0	50	X
Total		600	0	1 200	

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(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested. Please fill-in these values directly in the field.

Add a new row

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

max 4000 chars :

The Netherlands is free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

In the spring of 2010 an outbreak of LPAI H7 was found on a holding in the province Noord-Brabant (NUTS 41). In the spring of 2011 three separate outbreaks of LPAI H7 were found on free-range poultry holdings in respectively the provinces Zeeland (NUTS 34), Gelderland (NUTS 22) and Flevoland (NUTS 23). In fall 2011 and winter 2012 an H5 outbreak was found in swans on a non-poultry holding in the province of Overijssel (NUTS 21). In spring 2012 an isolated outbreak of H5 was found on a turkey holding in Limburg (NUTS 42). All outbreaks were discovered through the Early Warning system, monitoring or testing prior to export. Intensive screening of surrounding (3-km) and contact holdings proved all outbreaks to be isolated cases, only exception being the outbreak in Flevoland where a nearby turkey holding turned out to be infected as well.

9.1 Measures included in the programme for surveillance in poultry

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation; Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department.

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9.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 4000 chars) :

Registration system is in place in accordance with 90/539/EC article 6.

9.1.3 Data on vaccination carried out

(max. 4000 chars) :

Vaccination against Avian Influenza is carried out according tot 2007/598/EG (zoos) and 2007/590/EG (poultry). It was allowed to vaccinate commercial free-range poultry and hobby poultry in the Netherlands against Avian Influenza until August 1st 2009. This was a voluntary program, which was not extended after August 1st 2009. Vaccination of birds in zoos is still allowed.

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

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(max. 4000 chars) :

HPAI virus was never isolated from wild birds sampled in the Netherlands.

10.1 Measures included in the programme for surveillance in wild birds

(max. 4000 chars) :

-

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation: Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department.

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

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(max. 4000 chars) :

There is a passive (and an active) surveillance system in place in the whole of The Netherlands. The geographical and administrative areas are the NUTS-2 codes.

10.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

(max. 4000 chars) :

See annex IV: map with risk areas in The Netherlands

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

All positive and negative results of both serological and virological laboratory investigations obtained during surveillance are reported to the Commission conform Commission Decision 2010/367/EU. Notification of signs of HPAI and LPAI in poultry is mandatory for poultry owners, veterinarians and laboratories. This is laid down in article 15 of the Dutch Animal Health and Welfare Act.

12. Costs

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12.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

12.1.1 Poultry

(max. 4000 chars) :

details are given in annex II

12.1.2 Wild birds

(max. 4000 chars) :

details are given in annex II

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12.2 Summary of the costs

12.2.1 Poultry surveillance

Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method) in €	Total cost (€)
ELISA test	81 930	3.77	308,876.1
agar gel immune diffusion test	0	0	0
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5 (specify number of tests for H5)	819	12.02	9844.38
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H7 (specify number of tests for H7)	819	12.02	9844.38
Virus isolation test	50	104.06	5203
PCR test	200	34.97	6994
Total	83 818		340 761,86 €
Other measures to be covered			
-Sampling and logistics (number of birds sampled)	81 930	0.5	40965
			Add a new row
Total	0		40 965,00 €

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12.2.2 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	0	0	0
Virus isolation test	30	104.06	3121.8
PCR test	1 200	34.97	41964
Other please specify here	0	0	0
Total	1 230	139,03 €	45 085,80 €
Other measures to be covered			
Sampling and logistics (number of birds sampled)	600	5	3000
			Add a new row
Total	600	5,00 €	3 000,00 €

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Attachments

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- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : .zip, .jpg, .jpeg, .tiff, .tif, .xls, .doc, .bmp, .pna.
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