



Annex IV : Programme for the surveillance of Avian Influenza in poultry and wild birds submitted for obtaining EU cofinancing

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- 8) As mentioned during the Plenary Task Force of 28/2/2014, you are invited to submit your programmes in **English**.

Submission Date

Thursday, August 13, 2015 13:33:16

Submission Number

1439465595009-6293

ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

1. Identification of the programme

Member state: BELGIQUE-BELGIE

Disease avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

This program is multi annual :

no

Request of Union co-financing
from beginning of:

2016

ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

1.1 Contact

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2. Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in poultry

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The central authority responsible for the implementation of the monitoring program for avian influenza is the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC), and more specifically its crisis prevention and management unit and its directorate general for control.

2.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

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(max. 32000 chars) :

Farms keeping more than 200 poultry at any given moment of the year must all register in the national electronic database (SANITEL). This registration is performed by either DGZ or ARSIA, the 2 regional associations for identification and registration of animals and holdings in Belgium. SANITEL is the official central identification and registration database for farms and animals in Belgium. It comprises information regarding the major farmed species: cattle, small ruminants, deer, pigs, poultry and ratites. Sanitel is supervised by the FASFC and exploited/managed both by the FAFSC and the regional laboratories DGZ and ARSIA.

Each year, all registered farms have to complete a questionnaire in which they specify what species they keep, what capacity they have for each species, what type of housing is used and what arrangements in terms of biosecurity are put into place. This questionnaire is used to update the data in Sanitel and is also used as a basis for determining the sampling objectives of the AI surveillance programme in poultry.

The tables in this document thus reflect the data registered in Sanitel at the end of March 2015 and the figures provided in the questionnaires received at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. These data and figures will most likely have changed by 2016 when the AI surveillance programme will effectively be launched:

- currently registered holdings will not necessarily still be active in 2016,
- new holdings might have registered in the meantime,
- the species currently present in a registered holding may no longer be the same in 2016.

2.1.3 *Design (risk based surveillance or surveillance based on representative sampling taking into account criteria in Annex I of Commission Decision 2010/367/EC)*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Since 2010, the FASFC has opted for a risk-based surveillance to determine the sampling objectives of the annual AI programme. This risk analysis was conducted by the Belgian animal health reference centre VAR (Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, CODA-CERVA), more particularly by its AI reference laboratory and its epidemiological unit.

The type of analysis used is a "scenario tree" as described by Martin et al. (Martin P.A., Cameron A.R., Greiner M., 2007; Demonstrating freedom from disease using multiple complex data sources, 1. a new methodology based on scenario trees; Prev. Vet. Med. 79, 71-97).

2.1.3.1 *Short description of predominant poultry population and types of poultry production*

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(max. 32000 chars) :

The Belgian poultry population is very diverse. Nevertheless, the main species kept is chicken, consisting in breeding hens (both for broilers and laying hens, about 4 millions birds), laying hens (about 13 millions birds) and broilers (about 28.5 millions birds).

Other species are much more marginal and comprise:

- geese (mainly breeding animals), about 4,000 birds;
- ducks (mainly fattening animals), about 72,000 birds;
- turkeys (mainly fattening animals), about 204,000 birds;
- pigeons (mainly fattening animals), about 6,000 birds;
- partridges (mainly fattening animals), about 102,000 birds;
- guinea fowl (mainly fattening animals), about 15,000 birds;
- pheasants (mainly fattening animals), about 185,000 birds;
- ratites (mainly fattening animals), about 2,000 birds.

The majority of poultry is kept indoors. Only about 15% of the holdings keep animals outdoors.

2.1.3.2 Criteria and risk factors for risk based surveillance⁽¹⁾

(max. 32000 chars) :

The following main criteria were taken into account in the risk analysis:

- The density of poultry and poultry holdings and the distance between farms have been used to divide the country into 5 regions. The provinces of East Flanders, West Flanders and Antwerp are each considered as separate regions because of the high density observed. The others 7 provinces have been divided into two lower risk regions. A map showing the 5 regions is attached.
- Rearing in open-air is considered as a high risk factor since it allows contact with wild birds.
- Farms localised in so-called high risk areas are considered to be at higher risk. These high risk areas are lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and other water surfaces that are frequented by wild waterfowl and migratory birds (see also point 3.1.2). The high risk areas are listed and mapped on the FASFC website (http://www.favv.be/ai-ia/ai-city/zones_fr.asp).
- Holdings keeping ducks, geese or turkeys are considered to be at higher risk, ducks and geese because of their role as natural reservoir for AI and turkeys because of their higher sensitivity to AI.

(1) Including maps showing target sampling sites identified as being particularly at risk for the introduction of avian influenza virus, taking into account criteria set out in point 4 of Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EC.

2.2 Target populations (2)

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(max. 32000 chars) :

The various species of poultry included in the AI surveillance programme are split up into 4 sampling categories with decreasing risk:

- category 1: ducks and geese,
- category 2: turkeys,
- category 3: breeding hens and laying hens,
- category 4: fattening pigeons, pheasants, partridges and guinea fowl.

Broilers are excluded from this program because of their short life cycle (max. 7 weeks of age).

(2) including MS specific exceptional circumstances as described in Annex I point 3 of Commission Decision 2010/367/EU)

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2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS (a) (except ducks, geese and farmed game birds (waterfowl e.g. mallards) to be sampled

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year

2016

Category : laying hens

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis
BE21	43	16	10	160	ELISA test
BE22	20	7	10	70	ELISA test
BE23	26	10	10	100	ELISA test
BE24	1	1	10	10	ELISA test
BE25	43	16	10	160	ELISA test
BE31	2	1	10	10	ELISA test
BE32	5	2	10	20	ELISA test
BE33	11	4	10	40	ELISA test

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BE34	4	2	10	20	ELISA test	X
BE35	3	1	10	10	ELISA test	X
Belgium	158	60	10	600	Sampling	X
Total				1 200		
Add a new row						

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Category : free range laying hens

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE21	15	10	10	100	ELISA test	X
BE22	7	4	10	40	ELISA test	X
BE23	6	4	10	40	ELISA test	X
BE24	4	3	10	30	ELISA test	X
BE25	13	9	10	90	ELISA test	X
BE31	1	1	10	10	ELISA test	X
BE32	13	9	10	90	ELISA test	X
BE33	4	3	10	30	ELISA test	X

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BE34	9	6	10	60	ELISA test	X
BE35	16	11	10	110	ELISA test	X
Belgium	88	60	10	600	Sampling	X
Total				1 200		
Add a new row						

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Category : chicken breeders

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE21	59	19	10	190	ELISA test	X
BE22	7	2	10	20	ELISA test	X
BE23	27	8	10	80	ELISA test	X
BE25	74	23	10	230	ELISA test	X
BE31	2	1	10	10	ELISA test	X
BE32	11	3	10	30	ELISA test	X
BE33	5	2	10	20	ELISA test	X
BE34	1	1	10	10	ELISA test	X

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BE35	4	1	10	10	ELISA test	X
Belgium	190	60	10	600	Sampling	X
Total				1 200		
Add a new row						

(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*

(b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested*

(c) *Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.*

Category : fattening turkeys

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE21	1	2	10	20	ELISA test	X
BE23	9	18	10	180	ELISA test	X
BE24	1	2	10	20	ELISA test	X
BE25	29	58	10	580	ELISA test	X
BE32	4	8	10	80	ELISA test	X
BE33	3	6	10	60	ELISA test	X
Belgium	47	94	10	940	Sampling	X
Total				1 880		
Add a new row						

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(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.

Category : farmed game birds (gallinaceous)

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE21	2	4	10	40	HI-test (H5)	X
BE22	5	10	10	100	HI-test (H5)	X
BE23	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H5)	X
BE25	4	8	10	80	HI-test (H5)	X
BE31	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H5)	X
BE32	2	4	10	40	HI-test (H5)	X
BE21	2	4	10	40	HI-test (H7)	X
BE22	5	10	10	100	HI-test (H7)	X
BE23	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H7)	X
BE25	4	8	10	80	HI-test (H7)	X
BE31	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H7)	X
BE32	2	4	10	40	HI-test (H7)	X
Belgium	15	30	10	300	Sampling	X
Total				900		

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Add a new row
<p>(a) <i>Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.</i></p>

Category : pigeons and guinea fowl

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE25	3	4	10	40	HI-test (H5)	X
BE33	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H5)	X
BE34	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H5)	X
BE35	2	2	10	20	HI-test (H5)	X
BE25	3	4	10	40	HI-test (H7)	X
BE33	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H7)	X
BE34	1	2	10	20	HI-test (H7)	X
BE35	2	2	10	20	HI-test (H7)	X
Belgium	7	10	10	100	Sampling	X
Total				300		
Add a new row						

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(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*

(b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested*

(c) *Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.*

Category : retesting seropositive poultry holdings

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	Total number of holdings(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests	Method of laboratory analysis	
Belgium	505	15	2	30	HI-test (H5)	X
Belgium	505	15	2	30	HI-test (H7)	X
Belgium	505	1	60	20	PCR test	X
Belgium	505	1	60	2	Virus isolation test	X
Total				82		
Add a new row						

(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*
 (b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member States is requested*
 (c) *Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 2 region.*

Add a category

Totals	Total number of tests
Total poultry 2016	6 762

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2.2.2 DUCKS ,GEESE AND FARMED GAME BIRDS (WATERFOWL e.g. MALLARD) HOLDINGS (a) to be sampled.

Serological investigation according to Annex I to Commission Decision 2010/367/EU

Targets for year

2016

Category : fattening ducks

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	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	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE21	4	8	50	400	ELISA test	X
BE22	2	4	50	200	ELISA test	X
BE23	4	8	50	400	ELISA test	X
BE24	1	2	50	100	ELISA test	X
BE25	3	6	50	300	ELISA test	X
BE31	2	4	50	200	ELISA test	X
BE32	4	8	50	400	ELISA test	X

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BE3	4	8	50	400	ELISA test	X
BE34	1	2	50	100	ELISA test	X
BE35	3	6	50	300	ELISA test	X
Belgium	28	56	50	2 800	Sampling	X
Total				5 600		
Add a new row						

(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*

(b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested*

Category : geese breeders

delete this category

NUTS (2) (b)	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	Method of laboratory analysis	
BE22	1	2	50	100	ELISA test	X
BE23	2	4	50	200	ELISA test	X
BE25	1	2	50	100	ELISA test	X
Belgium	4	8	50	400	Sampling	X
Total				800		
Add a new row						

(a) *Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.*

(b) *Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (2) code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested*

Category : retesting seropositive ducks and geese holdings

delete this category

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Poultry + Ducks/Geese /farmed game birds	Total number of tests
Grand Total	16 550
Grand Total ELISA	5 940
Grand Total agar	0
Grand Total HI tests (H5)	2 630
Grand Total HI tests (H7)	1 530
Grand Total Virus Isolation test	10
Grand Total PCR test	100
Grand Total Other test	0
Grand Total Samplings	6 340

2.3 Sampling procedures, sampling periods and frequency of testing taking into account criteria set out in Annex I of Commission Decision 2010/367/EC

(max. 32000 chars) :

The sampling of the selected farms will take place between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016. The sampling will be performed by veterinarians of the FASFC and, in the case of holdings of breeding hens, by technicians of DGZ and ARSIA .

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The number of samples taken per farm will depend on the sampling category:

- category 1 (ducks and geese): 50 samples;
- categories 2, 3 and 4 (turkeys , hens, pheasants, pigeons, partridge and guinea fowl): 10 samples.

The size of the sampling was determined by a risk evaluation conducted by the epidemiological department of the national animal health reference centre CODA-CERVA. This risk evaluation is a “scenario tree” based evaluation as described by Martin et al (Martin P.A., Cameron A.R., Greiner M., 2007. Demonstrating freedom from disease using multiple complex data sources 1: a new methodology based on scenario trees. Prev. Vet. Med. 79, 71 -97). It takes into account a lesser sensitivity and a higher infection risk in ducks and geese in Belgium.

The samples will be randomly distributed within the group of birds belonging to the category sampled.

When several sampling categories are present on the same farm, only the category with the highest risk (cat.1 > cat.2 > cat.3 > cat.4) will be sampled, on the condition that a sufficient number of animals is present in this category.

Farms with ducks, geese or turkeys, farms that are located in higher risk areas and farms that rear free-range birds will be sampled twice, spaced by three months at least. Other farms will only be sampled once.

In case of unfavourable serological results, additional sampling of the holding will be performed, consisting in a further samples of 60 animals for a virological analysis and possibly a serological analysis.

2.4. Laboratory testing : description of the laboratory tests used and follow up investigations taking into account criteria set out in the Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza (Common Decision 2006/437/EC)

Description of the used serological tests : (max 32000 chars)

As requested by the Decision 2010/367/CE, all analysis will be performed by the AI national reference laboratory. All testing will be concluded before 31 January 2017.

Sera from chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese will be subjected to a first-line ELISA assay and a confirmatory haemagglutinin inhibition (HI) assay for H5 and H7 strains when the ELISA assay is non-compliant.

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Based on what has been observed in the previous years, generally a confirmatory HI test will have to be performed in about 1% of the chicken samples and about 35% of goose and duck samples.

Sera from pheasant, partridge, guinea fowl and pigeons are directly subjected to HI assays for H5 and H7.

The following strains, provided by the EU Reference Laboratory, are used in the HI assays:

- a) for the H5 subtype:
 - i) initial screening with the Teal/England/7894/06 strain (H5N3);
 - ii) positives are retested with the Chicken/Scotland/59 (H5N1) to eliminate cross-reactive antibodies for N3;
- b) for H7 subtype:
 - i) initial screening with the Turkey/England/647/77 strain (H7N7);
 - ii) positives are tested with the African Starling/983/79 strain (H7N1) to eliminate cross-reactive antibodies for N7.

For ducks and geese only, the H5N8 antigen is now included in confirmatory haemagglutinin inhibition (HI) assay in addition to the current used H5N3 strain. The use of this new antigen follows the recommendation of the EU Reference Laboratory after the detection of H5N8 outbreaks in poultry holdings and H5N8 cases in wild birds in the EU.

In case of unfavourable serological results indicating the potential presence of H5 or H7 viruses, the additional samples taken in the holding involved will be analysed using the RT-PCR and/or virus isolation assays and possibly the ELISA and/or haemagglutinin inhibition assays. Where possible, these samples are pooled.

3. *Description and implementation of the surveillance programme in wild birds*

ANNEX 4 : Standard requirements for the submission of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds

3.1.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme and relevant collaborating partners (e.g. epidemiologists, ornithologists, nature bird observation and hunter organisations).

(max. 32000 chars):

The central authority responsible for the implementation of the monitoring program for avian influenza is the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC), and more specifically its crisis prevention and management unit and its directorate general for control.

The collect of dead wild birds is performed either by ornithologists of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (in case of refuge centres and the sampling of live birds) or the regional authorities (in case of suspicious mortality in wild birds).

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

(max. 32000 chars):

The whole country is included in the surveillance programme, but the high risk areas mentioned in point 2.1.3.2 are targeted specifically. These high risk areas are lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and other water surfaces that are frequented by wild waterfowl and migratory birds as listed in the decision 2010/367/CE. The high risk area as such consists in the water surface surrounded by a supplementary zone with a radius of 1 km. The selected sites are those where pluriannual birds counts have shown the presence of at least 0.1% of the average winter population of wild water birds. These higher risk areas are listed and mapped on the FASFC website (http://www.faw.be/ai-ia/ai-city/zones_fr.asp).

3.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

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(max. 32000 chars) :

The population of wild birds in Belgium is regularly counted by ornithologist from different official institutes, wildlife authorities and networks of volunteers. The size of migratory birds is estimated at around 600.000 in winter. Different species are involved, including water fowl. Due to the layout of the country and the high density housing development in Belgium, suitable wintering environment for larger troops of water birds is scarce. Therefore, most migratory birds reside in a limited number of locations. These locations with high concentrations of migratory water fowl correspond to the so-called “sensitive natural areas” that are targeted in the Belgian monitoring programme for wild birds.

3.2 *Design, criteria, risk factors and target population* (3)

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Belgian surveillance plan is based on the specific surveillance of abnormal mortality in wild birds (passive monitoring). The targetted species were selected by Belgian ornithologists and virologists based on particular local species and species mentioned in Annex II of Decision 2010/367/CE. These experts also defined for each species the thresholds for an "abnormal" mortality. These thresholds avoid congestion of the national reference laboratory with irrelevant cases of mortality.

The notification of mortality is mainly made by collaborators of public institutions and regional authorities, hunters, ornithologists, wild bird refuges. In addition, the network is also accessible to the general public through a specific hotline for wild bird mortality. Where abnormal mortality is effectively observed, collaborators of the competent regional authorities for nature conservancy are will collect the carcasses and will send them to the AI national reference laboratory. At the maximum, 400 cases of mortality are expected to be sent to the laboratory.

In addition to the passive surveillance, an active surveillance consisting in the sampling (cloaca and/or pharynx swab) of live birds caught at ringing activities is performed by ornithologists of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. In this active surveillance, some 3,000 birds are sampled. This part of the programme is not presented for cofinancing by the EC.

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(3) *Areas at risk (wetlands in particular where links with high density poultry populations), previous positive findings as referred to in point 2 of Part 1 of Annex II to Commission Decision 2010/367/EC should be taken into account and if possible complemented by a map.*

3.2.1 WILD BIRDS focused on target species

Investigations according to the surveillance programme set out in conformity with Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2010/367/EC

Targets for year **2016**

NUTS (2) code/region (a)	Total number of birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of samples to be taken for passive surveillance	Type of test	Number of tests
Belgium	400	400	PCR test	400
Belgium	400	400	necropsy	400
Total				
Add a new row				

(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.*

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	Total number of tests
Total number of tests	800
Total Virus isolation tests	0
Total PCR tests	400
Total Other tests	400

3.3 Sampling procedures and sampling periods

max 32000 chars :

The surveillance in wild birds will take place from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Based on the numbers recorded from 2006 to 2014, it is estimated that the number of cases of abnormal mortality will be 400 at the maximum. This projection is only valid if the epidemiological situation for AI will not change in the coming year and a half.

3.4 Laboratory testing : description of the laboratory tests used taking into account criteria set out in the *Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza (Commission Decision 2006/437/EC)*

max 32000 chars :

Birds collected in the context of the passive surveillance are routinely autopsied. Tissue samples taken at necropsy will be subjected to a PCR analysis. In case of unfavourable results, a virus isolation test on embryonated egg will be realised provided that the quality of the sample permits this.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Since 2004, surveillance programmes have been conducted in poultry on an annual base. Consistently, the results shows traces of the occasional introduction of low pathogenic H5 and H7 viruses in the poultry population. Neither the "classical" H5/H7 HPAI viruses nor the H5N1 HPAI virus have been detected in these programmes.

The following findings were recorded in the last five years:

- In 2010, antibodies against H5 were revealed in a duck farm. No H5/H7 virus could be isolated.
- In 2011, antibodies against H5 or H7 were found in 3 farms. No H5/H7 virus could be isolated.
- In 2012, antibodies against H5 (2 farms) were revealed in duck flocks. No H5/H7 virus could be isolated.
- In 2013, antibodies against H5 (3 farms) and H7 (1 farm) were found in 3 duck flocks and 1 chicken flock. No H5/H7 virus could be isolated.
- In 2014, antibodies against H5 were found in 6 duck flocks and 1 free range laying hens flock. No H5/H7 virus could be isolated.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

Since September 2005, an active and passive monitoring programme is carried out each year in wild birds in Belgium. Consistently, this programme has revealed the presence of different strains of LPAI virus in the wild bird population. The species involved were mainly ducks, geese, shorebirds, terns and gulls.

The following findings were recorded in the last five years:

- In 2010, 4,021 samples collected in 3,040 live birds and 48 cases of abnormal mortality revealed the presence of LPAI viruses of the types H1 , H2 , H5 , H6 , H7 and H12.
- In 2011, 4,254 samples collected in 3,397 live birds and 84 cases of abnormal mortality revealed the presence of LPAI viruses of the types H2, H3, H4, H6,

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H9, and H10.

- In 2012, 4,529 samples collected in 3,220 live birds and 355 cases of abnormal mortality revealed the presence of LPAI viruses of the types H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H9 and H10.
- In 2013, 4,001 samples collected in 3,179 live birds and 175 cases of abnormal mortality revealed the presence of LPAI viruses of the types H2, H3, H4, H5 and H12.
- In 2014, 3,791 samples collected in 3,036 live birds and 203 cases of abnormal mortality revealed the presence of LPAI viruses of the types H1, H2 and H3.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

1. Poultry

A poultry holder who observes disease or abnormal mortality in his poultry flock, must have the birds immediately examined by his farm veterinarian. If the veterinarian cannot exclude AI, he has to notify the FASFC immediately.

A poultry holder who observes:

- a reduction in normal water and food consumption by more than 20 %,
 - a mortality rate of over 3% per week,
 - an egg drop of more than 5 % for more than two days,
 - clinical signs or lesions indicative of avian influenza,
- cannot have a therapeutic treatment established unless samples are taken and sent to the laboratory for an AI diagnostic.

2. Wild birds

Suspicious mortality in wild birds can be reported to the competent authorities through a hotline free of charge.

Mortality in wild birds is considered abnormal/suspect if the two following conditions are met simultaneously:

- the dead birds respond to specific criteria regarding species and numbers:
 - swans (including mute swan): at least 1 animal found dead ;

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- gulls, storks and starlings: at least 20 animals found dead;
- other species (including ducks): at least 5 animals found dead;
- the dead birds are found in the same place and in the same time period.

7. Costs

7.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

7.1.1 Poultry including ducks, geese and farmed game birds

(max. 32000 chars):

The cost of the analysis given below is based on the actual prices of the 2015 programme. It should be noted that the real 2016 prices will very likely be subject to a slight raise compared to the 2015 laboratory prices.

The samples of chicken, ducks and geese will be analyzed with the ELISA at a cost of € 3.3 per analysis.

The samples of other species will be analyzed with haemagglutinin inhibition (HI) assays for H5 and H7 at a cost of € 3.3 € per HI.

In addition, confirmatory HI assays will have to be performed for positive ELISA test results. Based on the observations of the previous years, it will probably be necessary to perform confirmatory HI assays in about 1% of chicken samples and about 35% of goose and duck samples. In 2016, an estimated 1130 samples will have to be reanalysed using the HI assays.

The cost of the analysis of the 60 supplementary samples taken on (on average) each of the 5 holdings showing an unfavourable result in the HI assays, will lead to an estimated additional 100 RT-PCR and 10 virus isolation assays.

In total, the cost of the analyses of the 6,340 samples collected in poultry will amount to € 40,832(€ 19,602 for 5,940 ELISA; € 2,640 for 800 HI first line

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assays; € 11,088 for 3,360 confirmatory HI assays; € 6,820 for 100 RT-PCR assays; € 682 for 10 virus isolation assays).

In addition to these analysis costs, a amount of € 29,481 has to be added for the collection of 6,340 poultry samples (€ 4.65 per animal sampled).

According to these estimates, the costs of the surveillance in poultry will amount to € 70,313.

7.1.2 Wild birds

(max. 32000 chars) :

The cost of the analysis given below is based on the actual prices of the 2015 programme. It should be noted that the real 2016 prices will very likely be subject to a slight raise compared to the 2015 laboratory prices.

The costs of the analysis performed in the framework of abnormal mortality in wild birds will amount to the sum of € 41,960.

This sum is calculated based on the laboratory cost of € 104.9 per case (€ 68.2 for RT-PCR/viral isolation assays and € 36.7 for necropsy) for the 400 birds expected at the maximum.

In addition to these analysis costs, a fixed amount of € 4,000 has to be added for the collection of the 400 wild bird cases (€ 10.0 per animal sampled).

According to these estimates, the costs of the passive surveillance in wild birds will amount to € 45,960.

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7.2.2 Wild bird surveillance

Detail analysis of the cost of the programme - wild birds

Targets for year **2016**

Laboratory testing				
Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests	Unitary test cost (per method) in € (*)	Total cost (€)	
Virus isolation test	0	37.88	0	
PCR test	400	19.74	7896	
Other cost	400	0	0	
Delivery of wild animals				
	No of wild birds	Eligible cost in € (*)	Total cost (€)	
Delivery of wild animals	400	10	4000	
Other measures				
	Number	Unitary cost in €	Total cost (€)	

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NA	0	0	0	X
			Add a new row	
Total wild birds Testing + Delivery + Other measures			11 896,00 €	

(*) as per cofinancing decision for 2014 programmes

TOTALS for Poultry, duck, geese, farmed game birds (7.2.1) + WILD BIRDS (7.2.2) for year :

2016

Grand Total Poultry, Ducks/Geese/Farmed game birds + WILD BIRDS	Total Cost
	103 196,6

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C. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who perform the official sampling? Who pays? (e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

(max. 32000 chars):

The sampling of poultry holdings is performed by veterinarians of the FASFC and, in the case of holdings of breeding hens, by technicians of DGZ and ARSIA .

The sampling of wild birds is performed either by ornithologists of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (in case of refuge centres and the sampling of live birds for the active surveillance) or the regional authorities (in case of suspicious mortality in wild birds for the passive surveillance).

The costs of these samplings are entirely supported by the FASFC.

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- b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars) :

All official samples are tested by the AI national reference laboratory (CODA-CERVA). The cost of the analyses is entirely supported by the FASFC.

- c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars) :

No compensation is paid in the framework of the surveillance programme. If a seropositive holding has to be culled, the compensation for the birds killed is paid by the Belgian Sanitary Fund, based on data (species, number, type, age, weight, etc.) collected by the FASFC.

- d) Implementing entities - **vaccination** : who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars) :

Vaccination is not a standard control measure in Belgium. If ever vaccination would be used, the FASFC will be responsible for all operational aspects of

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the vaccination campaign, including the purchase of the vaccine. If vaccination is performed by the farm veterinarian, the Belgian Sanitary Fund will pay a fee to the veterinarian.

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implement this measure? Who provide the equipment/service? Who pays?

(max. 32000 chars):

Operational decisions and measures with regard to AI are always taken by the FASFC. With regard to culling, the services of an external company that will perform the killing of the birds are used. All operational costs, including the cleaning and disinfection of culled premises, are covered by the FASFC.

2 Co-financing rate (see provisions of applicable Work Programme)

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

Up to 75% for the measures detailed below

Up to 100% for the measures detailed below

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3. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

- 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 : **jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.**
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2.500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) **IT CAN TAKE SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!**
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

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	6293_4005.ocx	6293_4005.ocx	421 kb
		Total size of attachments :	421 kb

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