

**PROGRAM
OF CONTROL, PREVENTION, AVERTING AND ERADICATION
OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Introduction

For the purpose of preventing of appearance, for detection, averting and eradication of avian influenza, the Program of Control, Prevention, Averting and Eradication of Avian Influenza in the Republic of Serbia is being adopted (in further text: the Program).

Depending on the degree of spreading and distribution of avian influenza in the world and the region, as well as the degree of danger in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the Program is divided into five phases:

Favorable epizootic situation

Phase 0.

Absence of avian influenza in the region (neighboring countries, Balkan countries and countries of Central Europe).

Unfavorable epizootic situation

Phase 1.

Direct danger for the Republic of Serbia from avian influenza because of placing of a suspicion in, or of confirmed presence of avian influenza in the region.

Phase 2.

Existence of a suspicion that avian influenza has appeared in the Republic of Serbia.

Phase 3.

Confirmed presence of avian influenza in the Republic of Serbia.

Phase 4.

Prevention of spreading, averting and eradication of avian influenza in the Republic of Serbia.

Legal basis for adoption of the Program

Primary legal regulations:

- 1) Law on Veterinary Medicine ("Official Gazette of RS", number 91/05);
- 2) Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 33/97, 31/01);
- 3) Law on Police ("Official Gazette of RS", number 101/05);
- 4) Law on Defense ("Official Gazette of FRY", no. 43/94, 11/95, 28/96, 44/99, 3/2002);
- 5) Law on Protection against Natural and Other Large Disasters ("Official Gazette of RS" no. 53/93, 48/94, 101/2005);
- 6) Law on Protection of Inhabitants against Contagious Diseases ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 125/04);
- 7) Customs Law ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 73/2003, 61/2005, 85/2005, 62/2006);
- 8) Regulations for the List of Especially Dangerous Contagious Animal Diseases and the List of animal diseases which must be reported, as well as the manner of reporting of their outbreak and cessation ("Official Gazette of RS", number 49/06);
- 9) Order on undertaking of measures for prevention of bringing in, appearance, spreading and averting of the contagious disease of avian influenza in the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS", number 28/06);

The Law on Veterinary Medicine prescribes the measure of mandatory reporting of all suspicions concerning outbreaks of contagious animal diseases in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Regulations for the List of Especially Dangerous Contagious Animal Diseases and the List of contagious animal diseases which must be reported, as well as the manner of reporting of their outbreak and cessation, regulates closely the manner of reporting of outbreaks and cessations of contagious diseases.

Apart from the measure of mandatory reporting, the Law on Veterinary Medicine also prescribes measures for protection of animals against contagious animal diseases, measures for mandatory diagnostics of contagious animal diseases, surveillance, averting, as well as special programs of control and other forms of protection of animals against contagious animal diseases.

Article 51, paragraph 3, of the Law on Veterinary Medicine and Article 6 of the Law on Health Protection of Inhabitants from Contagious Diseases, prescribes that in case of appearance of a disease which may pass from animals to people, jobs of securing of protection of people against a disease which may be passed from animals to people are organized and implemented in cooperation with bodies of governmental administration, other organizations and institutions competent for health jobs. Obligation of informing and reporting of all cases of appearance of contagious animal diseases which may pass to people, to the Ministry of Health, organizations and institutions competent for health jobs, derives in connection with the same article.

Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Law of Protection of Inhabitants against Contagious Diseases prescribes the obligation of veterinary institutions that in case of appearance of a disease which may pass from animals to people they must inform the Institute, i.e., Bureau for Health Protection and the administrative body competent for jobs of sanitary supervision in the territory in which the contagious disease was confirmed. The same article, in paragraph 1, defines the obligation of the Institute, i.e., Bureau for Health Protection, which confirms the disease from the group of zoonosis in people, to inform the competent veterinary institutions and the republican veterinary inspection about the existence of zoonosis in people.

The Law of Veterinary Medicine defines manners for securing of funds for the needs of health protection of animals, manners of funding the implementation of measures of health protection of animals, while articles 69, 70 and 71 define manners for compensation of damages arisen during implementation of measures for averting of contagious animal diseases.

Regulations for the program of measures of health protection of animals in the Republic of Serbia for the current year closely regulate manners of implementation of measures for detection of contagious animal diseases in the Republic, deadlines for execution, manners of funding and subjects which shall implement measures of health protection of animals.

In case of a need, and based on article 3 of the Law on Police, as well as article 267 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure, it was determined that the veterinary inspection, in the procedure of averting of a contagious disease, may ask for police help.

The Law of Veterinary Medicine prescribes that emergency veterinary-sanitary measures shall be undertaken in case of appearance of an especially contagious animal disease. For realization of these measures, depending on the intensity of the

disease and the degree of its spreading, the following bodies shall be engaged: subjects of veterinary activity, public institutions, Army of Serbia, Police and other governmental bodies.

Article 129 of the Law on Veterinary Medicine, as well as the Customs Law, define terms and manners of trade of animals, products of animal origin, animal food, and other objects through which the agent of avian influenza may be passed across the state border.

In accordance with the said laws and by-laws, legal basis was created for implementation of the following measures, significant for prevention of appearance of avian influenza and, in case of appearance, also for averting of this disease:

1) in the aim of prevention of appearance and detection of the especially dangerous contagious disease of avian influenza, surveillance of the epizootic situation is mandatory, as well as diagnostic examination and determination of cases of dying of poultry. Keeper or owner of animals is obliged to immediately report all suspicions of existence of the disease to the nearest veterinarian who performs jobs of health protection of animals. The veterinarian to whom suspicions are reported shall immediately inform the competent republican veterinary inspector of the existence of the suspicion;

2) in case of existence of suspicions that avian influenza has appeared, implementation shall be ordered of epizootic investigation and sampling shall be performed of the material, or diagnostic examination by the republican veterinary inspection and the competent veterinary scientific or specialist institute. Owners of animals, or persons authorized by animal owners, are obliged to enable, immediately and without delay, access to the facility or place where animals are kept, and to provide all necessary help to officials. Animal owners or other persons responsible for establishment or keeping of animals are obliged, upon request of an official, to enable the official to collect all relevant information significant for epizootic survey;

3) samples shall be sent for laboratory testing in laboratories authorized by the Ministry for performing of laboratory diagnostics of avian influenza. After obtaining of positive results in authorized laboratories in the country, samples shall be sent on to an international referent laboratory for the purpose of obtaining of official confirmation of the disease of avian influenza;

4) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management (in further text: the Ministry), in case of placing of suspicions and confirming of the presence of avian influenza, shall inform other ministries – participants in realization of the Program, as well as the public, on the developed situation;

5) upon obtaining of confirmation that avian influenza has outbroken, the following bodies shall be informed about the results: International organization for contagious animal diseases (OIE), EU Commission, veterinary services of neighboring countries and trade partners;

6) after obtaining of confirmed results on the existence of avian influenza in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, measures shall be implemented for prevention of spreading, averting and eradication of avian influenza prescribed by the Program. These measures include defining of hot-beds of the disease, defining of the infected, endangered zone (protected zone and zone under surveillance), and other protected zones, closing of infected animals in establishments (farms and facilities) in which the contagious disease was confirmed, banning of trade and movement of animals, products, raw materials and waste of animal origin, as well as other objects which may pass on the agent of the contagious disease. In case of a need, in the aim of preventing of further spreading of the disease through a susceptible animal population, the measure of limitation of movement of people shall also be introduced;

7) animals in infected establishments shall be destroyed in a humane and professional manner, while cadavers shall be removed in a sanitary manner which prevents spread of the infection. As a preventive measure, animals in other establishments in the infected or endangered zone, which, based on epizootic analysis, could be infected, or were in direct or indirect contact with the diseased animals or the virus of avian influenza, must be destroyed in a sanitary manner. Contaminated food, beds and feces, as well as food which in any way could come in contact with the agent of avian influenza must be destroyed in a sanitary manner;

8) susceptible animal species shall be destroyed in a sanitary manner which does not expose the animals to unnecessary suffering greater than that which is inevitable, and the cadavers shall be removed in a sanitary manner by burning, burying or in any other adequate way which excludes the possibility of passing the agent of the disease through secondary sources of infection. Upon finishing of these activities detailed mechanical cleaning shall be performed, washing, current and finishing disinfection of the whole area;

9) prophylactic vaccination of animals against avian influenza in the Republic of Serbia is forbidden. The Ministry may organize import, use, keeping and distributing of vaccines for possible performing of urgent vaccination. Decision on implementation of urgent vaccination may be passed if appearance of avian influenza is confirmed and if it was decided that with urgent vaccination further spread of the virus may be prevented in case of epizooty or epidemics. About this decision the following bodies shall be informed: OIE, European Commission, veterinary services of neighboring countries and countries with which foreign trade of poultry and products of poultry origin is performed;

10) damages are paid to owners of destroyed animals, as well as compensation for objects damaged or destroyed because of execution of ordered measures in the aim of averting of the contagious disease. The amount of damages paid is determined according to the market value which the destroyed animals, i.e., damaged or destroyed objects would have at the moment of implementation of measures;

11) in case of deliberate cover-up of the existence of a suspicion that animals are sick with avian influenza, not reporting of the suspicion on existence of the disease, not implementing of measures or not allowing implementation of the measures, responsible persons shall be punished in accordance with criminal provisions of the Law on Veterinary Medicine;

Making of the program is harmonized with the Directive 2005/94/EC, and the Decision of the Commission 2006/563 EC of the European Union on measures to be undertaken in case of appearance of avian influenza.

Funding of implementation of measures

1) Usual expenses of the work of veterinary services

In accordance with the annual plan of diagnostic examination of contagious animal diseases, funds are ensured in the budget of the Republic of Serbia. The budget provides funds for implementation of measures in case of appearance of epizooty of contagious animal diseases of a smaller scope.

2) Additional expenses in case of an outbreak of epizooty of the disease of avian influenza of larger scope

Funds necessary for urgent averting and eradication of epizooty of avian influenza of larger scope shall be secured from the funds of the budget reserves of the Republic of Serbia.

Nature of expenses

Usual and additional expenses are used for:

- 1) procurement of equipment for protection of people engaged in implementation of the Program, vaccination of personnel and other forms of preventive protection;
- 2) procurement of disposable materials;
- 3) destruction of animals and sanitary removal of cadavers;
- 4) disinfection and destruction of contaminated material;
- 5) cleaning and disinfection of buildings, equipment and vehicles;
- 6) funding of expenses of health protection of animals;
- 7) paying of damages for killed animals as well as damages for objects damaged or destroyed during execution of ordered measures;
- 8) making of the informative-educational material;
- 9) training and education of personnel;
- 10) paying for the work of the Expert team and general preparedness for the case of appearance of epizooty;
- 11) paying of damages for the work and compensation of expenses to legal and physical entities participating in averting of avian influenza, which are engaged outside the Ministry;

12) funding of daily allowances to employees of the Ministry operatively engaged in jobs of averting of avian influenza.

Chain of command

The Minister of agriculture, forestry and water resources management (in further text: the Minister) is responsible for preventing of appearance, detection, averting and eradication of avian influenza.

Director of the Directorate for Veterinary Medicine is responsible for preparedness of the veterinary service in the sense of: possession of necessary equipment, good organization and efficiency of veterinary service. He is responsible for necessary material resources, and having well-trained and well-educated members of the veterinary service. Director of the Directorate is responsible for creating of the state strategy for fighting contagious animal diseases. He informs OIE, EU Commission and veterinary services of neighboring countries about the existence of suspicion and appearance of the disease and the undertaken measures, distributes and places people on functions in the Republican Center.

During work, the Minister and Director of the Directorate for Veterinary Medicine are provided expert help by the Council for Veterinary Medicine and the Expert group for avian influenza. Making of decisions is in competence of the Minister, i.e., Director of the Directorate. The team for decision making consists of: Director of the Directorate, Head of Health Protection, Head of the Center for Control and Prevention of Especially Dangerous Contagious Animal Diseases.

	MINISTER	
	DIRECTOR	
Expert group	CENTER FOR CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS CONTAGIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES (Republican Center for control, prevention, averting and eradication of avian influenza)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterinary specialist institute "Kraljevo" - Scientific institute for veterinary medicine of Serbia – Belgrade - Scientific institute for veterinary medicine Novi Sad
	Republican veterinary inspection in districts (25 Local centers)	Veterinary specialist institutes

	Republican veterinary inspection for protection of animals with head offices in municipalities	
	VETERINARY STATIONS	

Forming and personnel of the Republican Center for Control, Prevention, Averting and Eradication of Avian Influenza

For the purpose of implementation of the Program, in accordance with regulations regulating internal arrangement and systematization of jobs in ministries, special organizations and services of the Government, Republican Center shall be formed for control, prevention, averting and eradication of avian influenza (in further text: Republican Center) with head office in the Directorate for Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade. Members of the Republican Center shall be representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Defense Ministry and Ministry for State Administration and Local Self-Management. At the same time, head of the Republican Center shall be appointed. Head of the Republican Center manages the work of the Center and is responsible for coordination of work among the Republican Center and local centers.

Appointed members of the Republican Center must be trained for procedures in situations of emergency and implementation of measures for prevention of appearance, detection, averting and eradication of avian influenza.

For the purpose of securing of constant availability of members of the Republican Center, a list of members of the Republican Center must be prepared with the necessary data of all members and for the needs of establishing of urgent communication necessary equipment as well, written instructions and work protocols. The list of persons who are planned for membership in the Republican Center, Expert group and local centers, must contain the following data:

- 1) name and surname;
- 2) role and obligations during implementation of measures, averting and eradication of epizooty for each of the members;
- 3) telephone numbers at work;
- 4) e-mail address at work and at home;
- 5) mobile phone number;
- 6) home phone number.

Coordinator shall be appointed of the Republican Center. The coordinator of the Republican Center is responsible for updating of the Program and local programs. During updating of the Program it is necessary to take care of the following data:

- 1) change of personnel of the Republican Center and change of personal data of the members;
- 2) changes in the poultry industry;
- 3) scientific-expert development;
- 4) changes within the framework of legal regulations;
- 5) experience of other countries in averting of epizooty;
- 6) development of information technologies.

Equipment of the Republic Center

For the needs of the Republic Center, a separate room must be provided to accommodate the Republican Center.

The Republican Center must be equipped with the following equipment:

- 1) communication means (telephones, mobile and static, facsimile machine, Internet access);
- 2) computers, connected with the veterinary office network, local centers, scientific and specialist veterinary institutes as well as other institutions important for operation and functioning of the Republican Center;
- 3) printers;
- 4) photocopy machines;
- 5) maps of 1:50,000 and 1:10,000 proportions;
- 6) lists of registered establishments such are: poultry farms, slaughterhouses, cattle markets and other organizations and associations that may be endangered and which must be notified about confirmed report of influenza with poultry;
- 7) list of public institutions, veterinary and other organizations that may be engaged in activities of averting of avian influenza and provision of help in irregular circumstances. The list should contain the data on types of trainings and beforehand experiences in activities of averting of diseases from the former List A of OIE.

All important events that are in relation with the infection outbreak will be chronologically recorded in the form of a diary.

For the needs of the Republican Center, a conference room for meetings with the media, poultry industry representatives and other institutions and organizations must be provided.

For the needs of the Republican Center, a direct telephone line, reserved for provision of information about the modes of the disease control and other important information must be provided.

The Republican Center, as well as the local centers, have a direct access to the equipment and the premises with the purpose of obtaining efficient control and averting of avian influenza. Some parts of the equipment are kept within regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories in order to be used without delay. Part of the equipment is obtained on the basis of contracts with organizations that can provide help or from other state bodies.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Republican Center

The Republican Center organizes and is responsible for realization of the following activities:

- 1) coordination of application of decisions made by the decision making team;
- 2) defines infected and endangered zone;
- 3) decides on the need to close certain border crossings;
- 4) manages and supervises activities of the local centers, including evaluation of all data and advancement in control and eradication of the disease so that the strategy may be changed at any moment and be adjusted to the circumstances in the field;
- 5) defines actions and measures that must be undertaken and supervises their prompt and efficient implementation on the part of local centers;
- 6) appoints personnel on duties in local centers and provides other resources necessary in local centers;
- 7) if the decision on vaccination as exceptional and urgent measure is made, defines zones in which susceptible animals will be vaccinated;
- 8) in case of vaccination approval in cooperation with local centers, organizes the campaign of vaccination;
- 9) cooperates with the national referent laboratoty in Belgrade and laboratories in Kraljevo and Novi Sad;
- 10) cooperates and maintains contacts with the media, including regular and irregular press releases, if necessary;
- 11) cooperates with Interior and Defence Ministries with the aim of providing certain measures implementation (prohibition of traffic and control of people and vehicles movement);
- 12) cooperates with the Finance Ministry with the aim of providing the funds exceeding the amount defined by the budget;
- 13) gather information related to meteorological circumstances in the region from the Republican Meteorology Office and forwards it to the local centers;
- 14) in case of a need, also cooperates with other state bodis that take part in the realization of the Program.

Forming of the local centers for control, prevention, averting and eradication of avian influenza

On the whole territory of the country, locations have been identified that are suitable for accommodation of the local centers. A local center practically must be put into operation within 48 hours from the moment of making the decision about its

activation. Total number of active local centers will depend on the estimation of the Republican Center, the intensity and distribution of the disease across the country and the addresses, telephone numbers as well as the map with exact locations of the local centers will be completed after the estimation.

The local centers will be located in Belgrade and in the capitals of 24 districts, in bigger towns in which normally there are centers of regional veterinary inspections. If the situation requires so, additional local centers could be formed. Also, subcenters can be formed as mobile sanitary units in the vicinity of hot-beds with the aim of reduction of disease spread risk.

The program of forming of a local center includes details of organization, personnel, accommodation, rooms and equipment, the systems of management and communication.

The local centers are managed by the head of district veterinary inspection department. After the local center has been formed, he manages the center and is directly responsible to the Republican Center. Each subcenter will be managed by a veterinarian who is directly responsible to the head of the Republican Center.

For the needs of the local centers, room to accommodate people and equipment must be provided. Local centers must be supplied with equipment necessary for provision of appropriate application of health care measures that are related to: epizootological testing, implementation and control of health care measures in the supervised zone.

Equipment of the local centers

Equipment planned for operation of the local centers is accommodated in cities in which there are regional veterinary scientific and specialist institutes or in other available premises. From these warehouses, after receiving confirmation of existence of avian influenza, necessary equipment, clothes and other material means must be delivered to the veterinary and other services engaged in activities of averting and eradication of avian influenza within 3 to 4 hours.

Local centers must be supplied with the following equipment:

- 1) means of communication (telephones, mobile and fixed);
- 2) computers connected to the network of veterinary service, the Republican Center, with the possibility of the Internet access;
- 3) printers;
- 4) photocopy machine;
- 5) maps of 1:50,000 proportion in endangered zones and those of 1:10,000 proportion in infected ones;
- 6) lists of persons and organizations in the zone of responsibility of the local center that may be endangered by the avian influenza or are in any way interested to be notified about the existence of the disease.

List of persons that must be notified about the existence of the avian influenza includes:

- 1) police;
- 2) border services and customs;
- 3) other services that professionally pay visits to companies or infected locations;
- 4) cattle markets and cattle traders;
- 5) private practice veterinarians;
- 6) local associations, veterinarians, transport organizations that carry animals and products of animal origin;
- 7) entrepreneurs that deal in production and traffic of poultry;
- 8) deliverers and producers of animal food;
- 9) hunters' organizations;
- 10) companies dealing in deratization;
- 11) slaughterhouses and meat industry;
- 12) farmers' associations;
- 13) authorized epidemiological services of the Bureau for Health Protection;
- 14) center for supervision and information, phone: 985

For the local centers' needs, it is necessary to obtain direct telephone lines with the aim of enabling communication of the local centers with the Republican Center. Persons working in the field must have mobile telephones. Personnel of the local center consists of at least three veterinarians, one of them being head of the regional veterinarian inspection office, three technicians to obtain help during the activities in the field and two administration officers. The number of people engaged in the local center will be increased, if necessary. Extended team of a local center includes representatives of the local authorities, Ministry of Internal Affairs, epidemiological services and, if necessary, persons of other professional profiles as well.

Personnel to be added to the local center includes: veterinarians trained in recognizing clinical symptoms and diagnosing avian influenza, implementing movement and traffic control, measures and procedures in infected fields including destruction, harmless removal of bodies, cleaning and disinfection.

In the course of a local center's operation, all data about implemented procedures and activities important for epizooty will be chronologically recorded in the form of a diary.

All accidents among the personnel included in operation of a local center will be registered and immediately reported to the Republican Center and the local epidemiological services (standby epidemiologist of the Bureau for Health Protection). All security accidents must be immediately reported to the Republican Center. In case of a need, appropriate measures will be put into procedure.

Due to necessity of acting in compliance with stringent hygienic measures, showers and rooms for changing of employees' clothes and visitors must also be obtained. These rooms must be divided to those intended for persons coming from farms and establishments for which it is assumed that they are not contaminated and those intended for persons who were in contact with infected establishments or animals suspicious or confirmed to be sick. Equipment will be treated in the same way (cleaning, decontamination), both that used in "clean" establishments and that used in suspicious or confirmedly infected establishments.

In case of a need, separated rooms or objects will be provided in mobile zoosanitary units which in the organizational sense represent subcenters in relation to the local centers. These units will be used for the needs of personnel visiting infected establishments with the aim of complete decontamination necessary in the following cases: packing and dispatching of material for laboratory testing, cleaning and disinfecting of an infected establishment. These units are necessary in order to decrease the risk of further spread of the avian influenza as much as possible.

Within such a local center, there is a warehouse for keeping necessary material means, equipment and goods in the quantities sufficient for several days of control and eradication of avian influenza.

Duties and responsibilities of a local center

Duties and responsibilities of a local center for avian influenza control are as follows:

- 1) to organize and implement testing of suspicious cases on avian influenza in the zone of their responsibility;
- 2) to organize as urgent as possible transportation of samples to the authorized laboratory;
- 3) in case of suspicion of avian influenza outbreak, to order prohibition of traffic of susceptible animals, products of animal origin, food and waste of animal origin in establishments where there is suspicion that the disease has broken, and if necessary, of people also;
- 4) in case of suspicion of avian influenza outbreak in the territory that they cover, to notify authorized epidemiological service of the Bureau for Health Protection that there is such suspicion. After final results have been obtained, the local center notifies epidemiological services about rejection of the suspicion or about confirmation of existence of the avian influenza on a certain establishment;
- 5) to announce objects, establishments or locations on which there are susceptible animals infected on the basis of laboratory results and other data after consulting the Republican Center;
- 6) to send necessary number of personnel and equipment to the contaminated establishment or zone;

- 7) to order destruction of susceptible animals in infected establishments and objects or if epizootological circumstances require so. At the same time, local centers organize commission assessment of the poultry value;
- 8) to organize and effect visits to all locations on which there are susceptible animals in an infected zone as well as to those that are in endangered zone and for which there is a risk of avian influenza outbreak and those marked by the Expert Group and the Republican Center;
- 9) to organize destruction of animals in an infected establishment within 24 hours from confirmation of avian influenza and to organize destruction of all animals that were in contact with the sick ones within 48 hours from confirmation of avian influenza. Local center also organizes harmless removal of cadavers;
- 10) to organize and supervise cleaning and disinfection of emptied objects including cleaning and decontamination of equipment, material and vehicles;
- 11) to cooperate with the Republican Center in defining of contaminated and endangered zones and to counsel the Republican Center with regard to specific and particular measures that are necessary in a certain zone;
- 12) in case of a need, to restrict movement of people in infected, endangered and protected zones;
- 13) to supervise and control implementation of measures of complete prohibition of movement and traffic of susceptible animals, food, products and waste of animal origin, and if necessary, of people also;
- 14) to make sure that farmers are financially compensated within agreed period of time;
- 15) to organize and implement the procedures of epizootic testing;
- 16) in case of urgent vaccination decision, to form teams that will perform vaccination and to supervise their advance;
- 17) to ensure appropriate implementation of measures of prohibition and restriction referring to establishments, objects and locations as well as to ban restrictions if there is no longer any danger of disease spread;
- 18) to supervise moving in the establishments or objects if prohibition measures have been banned;
- 19) to cooperate closely with local authorities, agriculture and trade organizations, veterinarians, farmers and the local media with the aim of offering information about avian influenza in the field;
- 20) to ensure supervision of all movements to and from the zone of supervision, obligatory destruction of animals, harmless removal of cadavers, cleaning and disinfection;
- 21) local centers are also responsible for supervision of implementation of the vaccination campaign if such a measure is accepted;
- 22) to maintain daily contact with the Republican Center and to report, at least once a day, on advance in control and eradication of avian influenza in the region;
- 23) daily report should contain data on:
 - (1) new cases of infection;
 - (2) activities upon visits in the field;
 - (3) suspicious cases;
 - (4) estimation of the epizootic status;

- (5) harmless destruction of animals;
- (6) harmless removal of cadavers;
- (7) cleaning and disinfection;
- (8) information about personnel in the local center;
- (9) personnel accommodation;
- (10) vaccination of susceptible animals;
- (11) contacts with the media;
- (12) problems.

Duties of particular members of the local center

Certain members of the local center have specific duties defined by the head of the district veterinary department. In the beginning, as well as as long as the number of hot-beds is small, duties that may be divided among personnel of the local center may be related to the job of veterinarians, veterinary technicians and administrative officials as follows:

- 1) destruction and harmless disposal of cadavers;
- 2) inspection of the terrain;
- 3) contacts with the media and preparation of briefings and reports;
- 4) support of veterinarians and procurement of equipment and material;
- 5) cleaning and disinfection;
- 6) personnel management;
- 7) management of the local center administration and information of the Republican Center.

Expert Group

It is established in accordance with regulations by which interior relations and systematization of jobs are arranged in ministries, special organizations and government services. Its members are in permanent standby status. Membership in the Expert Group is permanent and if the situation requires so, number of its members may change.

Members of the Expert Group are chosen on the basis of their personal experience and their knowledge of epizootiology as well as other knowledge significant for control and averting of the avian influenza. The Expert Group also includes experts in virology and laboratory diagnostics. Apart from veterinarians, there are experts in other sciences: medicine, ornithology as well as representatives of poultry industry.

Responsibilities and duties of the Expert Group

In the case of epizooty absence on the territory of the country, duties of the Expert Group are the following:

- 1) to cooperate with the veterinarian services and to help them in planning activities in the course of epizooty;
- 2) to counsel the director of the Office and the head officer of the Center for monitoring of contagious diseases with the aim of planning of control and eradication of avian influenza;
- 3) to counsel and help in development and advance of the Program, to anticipate various scenarios with the aim of planning and training as well as to extend the Manual for the Program fulfillment;
- 4) to develop and adjust models for collection and analysis of epizootic data, based on scientific rules and their own knowledge, in order to help the Team in decision making;
- 5) to perform the assessment of risk and give particular proposals of control and prevention of the disease;
- 6) to propose programs of training of the veterinarian personnel in the field of clinical pathology, epizootology and control and averting of avian influenza;
- 7) to propose and anticipate scenarios of veterinarian services exercises in activities of avian influenza averting. These trainings should be adjusted to veterinarians, technicians and administrative officers.

At the very moment of appearance of suspicion of avian influenza, Expert Group is notified by the Republican Center. At the same time, the Expert Group starts operating in the circumstances of appearance of epizooty. The Expert Group will be notified by all reports from the field. At the moment the presence of the avian influenza virus has been confirmed, the Expert Group is notified.

Duties of the Expert Group in the course of epizooty:

- 1) to perform estimation of the clinical picture, to perform evaluation of an establishment, object or location that are at the biggest risk of direct or indirect contact, using electronic information system, to estimate and foresee the paths of the avian influenza virus spread;
- 2) to make reports for the director of the Office and to the Republic Center and to counsel in relation to the issues of the epizooty monitoring, to compose and propose programs of serological monitoring and the terrain prospection, number of samples, to propose the strategy of the avian influenza averting;
- 3) to supervise and direct the epizootic research;
- 4) to complete the epizootic data with the meteorological, geographic and other available data;
- 5) during the course of the epizooty, to evaluate and analyse daily data obtained from the field and to give estimation of the stream and spread of the epizooty, with regard to options and various scenarios outcomes of particular decisions;
- 6) bearing in mind that at any moment there may arise a need to intensify measures in the field, the Expert Group should estimate the right moment to intensify the measures and to notify the decision making team and the Republican Center accordingly;

- 7) to foresee the number of animals that must be harmlessly destroyed, to assess the risk and to define the number of animals that must be preventively destroyed;
- 8) factors that may affect the course of epizooty:
 - density of animal population;
 - geographical arrangement of establishments;
 - movement of susceptible and potentially infected animals;
 - meteorological circumstances;
- 9) to counsel and propose the most appropriate way of destroying animals, cadavers disposal and decontamination of establishments and objects;
- 10) to make plans on disposal of larger number of cadavers outside the establishments, especially if massive burning or burying of cadaveres is needed.

On the basis of epizootic research, the Expert Group will compose an epizootic report about the number of infected animals and first cases of disease which must contain the following elements:

- 1) general state of the establishment, in the object or location where susceptible animals are accommodated;
- 2) number and kind of susceptible animals as well as other animals;
- 3) technology of animal growing;
- 4) number of animals showing clinical symptoms of the disease;
- 5) size and location of the establishment as well as its position in relation to other establishments, roads, etc.;
- 6) movements and traffic of susceptible animals, food, people and possibly contaminated materials from infected establishments and objects or to infected objects and establishments in the last 21 days.

Laboratories for avian influenza diagnostics

Laboratory diagnostics of avian influenza is performed in the Scientific Institute for Veterinary of Serbia «Belgrade» in Belgrade, in the Scientific Institute for Veterinary «Novi Sad» in Novi Sad and in the Veterinary Specialist Institute «Kraljevo» in Kraljevo.

The national referent laboratory for avian influenza of the Veterinary Specialist Institute «Kraljevo» will, on the basis of written permit of the Ministry, in case of obtaining a suspicious or positive result on avian influenza, deliver the samples of all types of avian influenza, including subtypes X5 and X7, to the EU referent laboratory for avian influenza (Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, UK) with the purpose of obtaining a confirming result.

Participants in the Program realization

Apart from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management of the Republic of Serbia, within the Program on the level of the Republic, there are other participants: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Defense Ministry and Ministry for State Administration and Local Self-Management, Ministry of Sciences and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Finance – Customs Services and Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Services.

Depending of epizootic estimation of the situation and the degree of threat for the country, in cases of announcement of contagious disease of avian influenza and intensive spread of the disease (phase 3 of the Program), with the aim of its averting and eradication (phase 4 of the Program) Government of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the estimation of the situation, may also engage the Army of Serbia.

In case of a need, bodies of the internal affairs (the police) will help in control of traffic of people and animals, control and security of infected establishments and objects and, extremely, in case of epizooty of larger scale, the Army of Serbia may also be engaged.

Bodies of local self-management, Civil Defense and the Army of Serbia, if the situation requires so, obtain additional material funds and personnel for engagement in activities of harmless cadavers disposal, cleaning and disinfection of objects, equipment and terrain.

The Customs Services, in accordance with their legal authority, is responsible, apart from the border veterinary service, for control of traffic over the state border of animals, products of animal origin, animal food and other objects by which the agent of avian influenza may be passed. Also, the Customs Service, in accordance with its authority, performs control of traffic of people and vehicles over the state border.

Herewith I certify, with my hand and seal, that the above is a true and correct translation into English of the original document in Serbian language presented to me.

Belgrade, February 26, 2007
Ref. no. 19/2007

Nevena Španović-Vitošević
Court Interpreter
with the Belgrade District Court