RO presentation

29 June – 1 July 2009
Istanbul, Turkey
Country’s experience with HPAI

The evolution of AI subtype H5N1 in Romania had 2 waves in the period **October 2005 – June 2006**, such as:

- in the first wave / 7 October 2005 – 21 April 2006 evolved 52 outbreaks in domestic birds from backyards placed in 9 counties near to the Black Sea and the Danube River;
- in the second wave/12 May – 7 of June, 2006 evolved 127 outbreaks in domestic birds from backyards and 5 commercial farms placed in 18 counties (you will see the map from the next slide)

In 15 wild birds (especially swans and coots) were isolated HPAI viruses subtype H5N1, besides the diagnosticated outbreaks in domestic birds.

There were not human contaminations cases.

The wild birds represented the origin of the disease (the direct and indirect contact between domestic and wild birds).
Country’s experience with HPAI

Besides the cases diagnosticated in the period 2005-2006 evolved 2 outbreaks:

- November – December 2007, H5N1 HPAI in domestic birds from a backyard placed in Tulcea county.
- February - March 2009 was confirmed an LPAI case subtype H5N3 in 19 sentinel domestic birds, placed by Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate Tulcea, in wildlife, into the Danube Delta – Condura channel.
Country’s experience with HPAI

- Now, in Romania there are not AI outbreaks.

Annually, are unrolled AI surveillance programmes by laboratory testing in domestic and wild birds; these programmes are established by the Central Veterinary Authority based on a risk analyse and they are approved and co-financed by the European Commission (European Decision 897/2008)
Inter-ministerial cooperation: HPAI surveillance in poultry/wild birds

• **Is there a Inter-ministerial committee or Task force for HPAI preparedness and control in your country?**
  An the central level there is The National Centre for Disease Eradication managed by the Prime Minister and in the field there are Local Centres for Disease Eradication managed by the prefects of the counties.

• **Which Ministries are involved?**
  There are involved all the ministries within the Government.

• **Who is chairing it?**
  It is chairing by the Prime Minister.

• **What are their roles and responsibilities regarding HPAI (list 3 main roles)?**
  Central Decision Unit, Central Operational Unit, Central Support Unit.

• **Are there special funds allocated to all involved?**
  Yes, there are allocated National Centres for Urgent Situations’ funds.
AI surveillance in poultry/wild birds: past and future

- **Is HPAI surveillance in poultry carried out? If yes, when and by whom? Is surveillance in wild birds carried out?**
  Yes, there is an annual programme, established by The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, approved and co-financed by the European Commission.

- **Is there a designated national HPAI diagnostic laboratory in your country?**
  Yes, there is the National Reference Laboratory for AI within Institute of Diagnostic and Animal Health; the specialists of this laboratory participate annually at the interlaboratory tests organised by the Community Reference Laboratory.

- **Which laboratory methods are used?** (serological, PCR, virus isolation)
  There are used serological methods, like Hemmagglutination Inhibition Reaction and are used virological methods, like RT-PCR and virus isolation, inclusively the tipisation and establishing of the patogenity.
Waterfowl hunting and AI

- In Romania there are 169 hunting associations with 70 000 of hunters. Most waterfowl hunting tourists come from Italy, Spain, Greece. The trend for waterfowl harvest for the last 5 years is stable.

- For example, starting with October 2005, according to Emergency Ordinance, hunting was prohibited in the Danube Delta and in the areas where the virus was discovered, followed by a new Emergency Ordinance in February 2006 through which hunting was prohibited throughout the country.

- The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority upon request, with the approval of the administrator (Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development) managers (hunting associations) are obliged to issue authorizations for sampling.
Implementation of surveillance

• The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority is responsible for the implementation of surveillance.
• The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority who is reporting directly to the Prime Minister – Government of Romania
• Romania is responsabile for annual submitting of an active and passive surveillance in domestic and wild birds programme to the European Comission.
Implementation of surveillance

• Surveillance by laboratory testing of AI in domestic and wild birds is made in accordance with the Decision 437/2006/E.C:

• Serological surveillance is carried out by counties Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Laboratories (in which county there are 41 budgetary counties Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Laboratories);

• Serological positive samples are sent to National Reference Laboratory to be examined from point of virological view (RT-PCR and virus isolates);

• Virus isolates are obligatory sent to the Community Reference Laboratory.
Implementation of surveillance

- The active and passive surveillance is made in domestic and also, in wild birds.
- The positive and also, negative results of the A.I. surveillance are quarterly submitted to the European Commission in on-line system. For example, in 2008, there were tested 1013 wild birds for active surveillance and 2979 wild birds for passive surveillance, in accordance with the Final Technical Report for 2008 which was sent to the European Commission.
- The active surveillance is intensified in the migration periods and in wild birds areas very close to the commercial poultry farms.
THANK YOU!