

IO2.2. Collection of best practices on zoonoses interventions

University of Zagreb Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Croatia

Type of practice	guideline/ case study/ project/ intervention programme / testing/ guidance tools / articles
Best practice title	Program for determining the prevalence of West Nile fever in Republic of Croatia
Period of implementation	Seven years
Location	All Croatian counties included with focus on counties with confirmed acute infection in horses and human clinical cases and locations with confirmed high seroprevalence in horses
Geographical coverage	Croatia - National
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Link	<p>University of Zagreb Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases with Clinic. Laboratory of virology. Heinzelova 55, 10000 Zagreb</p> <p>www.vef.unizg.hr</p>
Target audience	<p>Residents of vulnerable areas. People professionally exposed to infection with West Nile virus (veterinarians, hunters, fishermen, farmers, owners and breeders of birds forest workers...)</p> <p>People who frequently stay in nature (hikers, mountaineers, athletes...)</p>
Objectives	The objectives of this program are:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The aim of the program is to gather timely information on the degree of viral activity in the whole territory of Croatia with the purpose of establishing an alert system for the occurrence of diseases in animals and humans - Categorization of different areas of Croatia according to the degree of risk for the occurrence of diseases in animals and humans - This will enable targeted anti-epidemic measures in areas with proven viral activity to reduce the risk of human and animal disease
<p>Short description</p>	<p>During several years of implementation the program will enable to determine the frequency of infections in horse and domestic and wild birds and determine areas where disease occurs endemic. Based on these results, risk factors for people will be identified, which will ensure the application of quality biosecurity measures for people exposed to infection.</p>
<p>Activities/Action plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samples collection and determination of infection frequency in sentinel animals-horses and fowls 2. Searching and examination for horses with clinical signs of central nervous system disorders 3. Search of dead birds of the risky species 4. Vector surveillance. 5. Determination of counties with an increased degree of risk and counties with a reduced degree of risk 6. Investigation and identification of risk factors which lead to an increased occurrence of disease in the major host 7. Ensure the application of quality biosecurity measures for people exposed to infection.
<p>Resources/Products</p>	<p><u>Resources:</u></p> <p>1. Material :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gathering and serological testing of 4020 serum samples of horses and 1320 fowls during 2017 b) Collection and examination of carcasses of dead migratory wild birds and dead birds from the <i>Corvidae</i> family c) Collection and examination of vectors (mosquito) <p>2. Methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Serological testing of serum samples of horses with ELISA test b) Molecular testing of carcasses and mosquitos

	<p><u>Products:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing epizootiological and epidemiological situation of disease in Croatia 2. Determining risk factors for people exposed to West Nile virus 3. Application of quality biosecurity measures for people exposed to tularemia.
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Continuous monitoring of epizootiological and epidemiological situation of West Nile fever in Croatia, will enable the application of quality and timely preventive measures for protection of animal and human health.</p>
<p>Key words</p>	<p>West Nile fever, West Nile virus, epizootiology, epidemiology, prevention</p>