



**First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary  
Services on  
animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries  
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**Country Report: ROMANIA  
Emergency preparedness of the Veterinary Services  
for natural disasters**

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# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



In Romania, according to the specific legislation, the **National Emergency Situation Management System** is organized by the authorities of the public administration and consists of:

<b>Emergency Committees</b>	<b>DECISION-MAKING ELEMENTS</b>
General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations	<b>OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS</b>
Professional/voluntary community public emergency services	
Operative centers	
Action commander	

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Emergency Situation Committees :

- National Committee for Special Emergency Situations - Interministerial Body;
- Ministerial committees and other central public institutions for emergency situations;
- Bucharest city Committee for Emergency Situations;
- County committees for emergency situations;
- Local committees for emergency situations.

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### The National Committee for Special Emergency Situations :

#### Purpose:

- The achievement of the European and international disaster reduction strategy objectives;
- The adoption of policies and strategies for the emergency situation knowledge, prevention and management;
- The coordination of emergency situations;
- The evaluation of risks, threats and vulnerabilities.

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Ministerial Committees for Emergency Situations :

- Inform the National Committee about events that may lead to emergency situations and their iminence;
- Elaborate the regulation regarding the emergency situation management of the specific risks in their area of responsibility;
- Evaluate the emergency situation from their area of responsibility;
- Propose the declaration of the state of alert and the establishment of the state of emergency;
- Analyze and check own plans in order for ensuring the resources necessary for emergency situation management.

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### County Committees/Bucharest city committee for Emergency Situations:

- Inform the National Committee about events that may lead to emergency situations and their iminence;
- Evaluate emergency situations that occur in their administrative-territorial units, establish measures and specific actions to manage emergency situations and supervise their implementation;
- Declare, with the approval of the Minister for Internal Affairs, the state of alert for the county or for an area inside the county and proposes the establishment of the state of emergency;
- Analyze and check the county plans for ensuring the resources necessary for emergency situation management.

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Local Committees for Emergency Situations:

- Inform the County Committee about events that may lead to emergency situations and their imminence;
- Evaluate the emergency situations that occur in their responsibility areas, establish measures and specific actions to manage emergency situations and supervise their fulfillment;
- Declare, with the approval of the prefect, the state of alert for the area of responsibility;
- Analyze and check the local plans for ensuring the resources necessary for emergency situation management.

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### **General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations - main duties:**

- Acts as the permanent technical secretariat of the National Committee;
- Performs the unitary and permanent coordination of the emergency prevention and management activities
- Establishes and manages the emergency situations database;
- Coordinates the progress of national training programs in the field of defense against disasters;
- Sends and follows-up on the implementation of National Committee decisions;
- Is responsible with the technical and specialized coordination of the operational and operative centers and permanently maintains the information flow with them



# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Professional Community Public Emergency Services

-deconcentrated services, functioning as county inspectorates;

#### Main duties:

- Coordinate, offer guidance and control the emergency prevention and management activities in the areas of competence at county level;
- Monitor (through the operational centers) the evolution of emergency situations and informs the prefects and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations;
- Manage the emergency situations database in the areas of competence

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Action commander:

- **Unique coordination** of all forces involved in the intervention action;
- **Named** at national, county or Bucharest city level, depending on the nature and severity of the event and the number of forces involved;
- **Assisted** by one or more intervention commanders from the exceptional event, operative group and advanced operative command center;

# Competent authorities

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SITUATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**Operative centers** are set up within the ministries and central/local public institutions

- With permanent activity – within the ministries and central public institutions having complex duties and functions in the prevention and management of the emergency situations;
- With temporary activity – only established when an alert status is declared.

**Operative centers** deal with the monitoring, evaluation, notification, pre-alarming, alerting and operational technical coordination of interventions in emergency situations in the areas of competence of the relevant ministries and central public institutions

# Competent authorities – veterinary services

## **National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA)**

- The regulatory and control authority in the veterinary and food safety field;
- Specialized central public administration institution, with legal personality, subordinated to the Romanian Government;
- Has responsibilities related to the operation of the entire unique veterinary and food safety system (from a technical point of view);
- Has in its subordination 42 Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety County Directorates (local competent authorities).

# Competent authorities – veterinary services

The Emergency Situations Committee and its organization and operation are established at the level of **NSVFSA**, by order of the **NSVFSA** president

- **Committee membership:** persons with decision-making authority, experts, specialists from among the **NSVFSA** staff and from the units subordinated to **NSVFSA**
- **The technical secretariat** of the ES Committee is ensured by the ES Operative Center, a structure with permanent activity, directly subordinated to the **NSVFSA** president
- **The duties and responsibilities** of the ES Operative Center are set out in the **NSVFSA** Organization and Functioning Regulation, approved by order of the president.

# Competent authorities – veterinary services

In accordance with the specific legislation (Government Decision (HG) 557/2016 on the management of risk types) **NSVFSA** is the responsible authority with a main role **only** in the event of epizootic diseases/zoonoses

- Establishes the action plan for outbreak intervention and the implementation of the disease combatting activities
- Establishes the action plan for the prevention of the spread of pathogens to humans, in the case of zoonoses (together with the Ministry of Health)
- Participates in the setting-up and surveillance of vehicle disinfection points on public roads
- Participates in the installation of signals and warning boards on access ways in protection and surveillance areas and around farms/yards where the disease has been confirmed
- Ensures the performance of the operations for the neutralization of infectious risk material represented by the bodies of animals when the alternative on-site incineration method is used
- Ensures the transport of mobile incinerators from the depot to the epizootic disease outbreaks development site
- Ensures the transport of risk materials

# Competent authorities – veterinary services

**NSVFSA** – responsible authority with a main role in the management of epizootic diseases/zoonoses

According to the national legislation, *“ if the epizootic disease poses a significant danger for public health and the national economy, the National Center for the Combatting of Diseases is established within the National Committee for Emergency Situations, under the direct management of the Minister for Internal Affairs and under the coordination of the prime minister.”*

*The organization and functioning of the NCCD* (an interministerial management body within the National Committee for Emergency Situations), as well as of the Local Center for the Combatting of Animal Diseases (organized at county level) are established by specific regulation

# Competent authorities – veterinary services

NSVFSA offers support to other responsible authorities with a main role by carrying out specific activities in the context of the functions allocated to it

SUPPORT FUNCTION	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
Provision of information, warnings and alarms	Sending warnings and notifications regarding public health and biological hazards
Population protection	Verification of the water and animal feed
Neutralization of hazardous/explosive/radioactive materials	Surveillance of the degree of contamination, assessment of effects on animals and humans
Depollution and decontamination	Decontamination of plant and animal products
Reestablishment of the temporary state of normality	Provision of specialized technical support



# Competent authorities - plans, guidelines and instructions

In the field of **food and feed safety**

- contingency (intervention) plan – the management of food-related crises;
- contingency (intervention) plan – the management of feed-related crises.

In the field of **animal health**

- contingency plans and operational manuals for the following diseases:  
ASF, CSF, BTM, BSE, Newcastle disease, avian influenza and foot-and mouth disease.

# Competent authorities - plans, guidelines and instructions

In its capacity as authority providing support functions for other responsible authorities with a main role in the management of emergency situations, NSVFSA drew up instructions that were communicated to those involved

**EXTREME WEATHER PHENOMENA:** - instructions intended for animal breeders;  
- instructions intended for transporters.

**FLOODS:** Instructions to the county SVFSDs:

- moving the animals into safe areas
- immunoprophylaxy where necessary due to increased risk of diseases
- coordinating the collection of animal bodies and directing them to the rendering facilities
- controlling the potability of water sources
- disinfection of areas where animal bodies were collected after the flood water receded

Instructions to the animal keepers:

- have resources available, consider finding potable water sources – cooperation with neighbours who might have their own wells
- treat the animals if they've already drank potentially contaminated flood water
- prevent dehydration and give priority to the young, pregnant and lactating animals
- if no water resource available, consider transporting animals to other areas

# Cooperation with private actors and non-governmental organisations

- **Advisory Council** – within NSVFSA. It is composed of representatives of ministries, other public administration authorities, representatives of unions, agri-food business operators and representatives of the civil society. Two working groups operate in this framework: the communication group and the information technology group. It provides advice regarding general issues of NSVFSA and facilitates the exchange of information between the authority and the civil society.
- NSVFSA cooperates with the **Romanian College of Veterinarians** – NGO – regulation and management of the activity of all private veterinary practitioners, including empowered private veterinary practitioners. It comprises approximately 9000 veterinarians working in various areas. Also, member of the Advisory Council.
- The authorities nominated to carry out support activities (as provided for in the specific legislation, depending on the risk)

# Experience of natural disasters – most frequent types of disasters(1)

## Floods

- One of the most frequent disasters in Romania are floods. In recent years, floods caused high material losses. Galati and Tulcea may be among the areas most affected by floods, but Bacau, Vrancea, Vaslui, Teleorman, Olt and Dolj may also be in similar situations.

## Forest fires

- Forest fires remain one of the most frequent risk, but with a rather low level of impact, compared with other types of risks. Judging by the area affected by a single fire event, effects on the population, the economic and social aftermath, the impact might be considered lower than for other risks.
- Forest fires occur mostly during dry periods, especially in the forests in the hilly Sub-Carpathian area. As regards the time and location of the fires, it has been found that most are recorded in the spring season (51%), followed by summer (25%), fall (18%) and winter (6%).

# Experience of natural disasters – most frequent types of disasters(2)

## Landslides

- Large areas of Romania are at relatively high landslide risk. There are numerous economical losses associated with landslide occurrences, but not as many human victims. There are many locations on the Romanian territory affected by landslides. Between 2005 and 2015, landslide events had the greatest spatial extent especially during spring and summer. In certain parts of the country, significant amounts of precipitation and substantial positive deviations from the climatologically normal conditions (1981-2010) have been recorded. This led to a rise in the number of landslides, the total area affected by this risk being estimated at 900,000 hectares (34 municipalities, 78 small towns, 875 communities on 7 watercourses)

## Droughts

- Large areas of the national territory are facing a rather medium risk of drought. Climate data recorded over the last decades have shown a progressive warming of the atmosphere, as well as a higher frequency of extreme events, the rapid alternations of severe heat waves, droughty periods and heavy precipitation being more and more apparent.

## Earthquakes

- The Romanian seismicity level is determined by several sources: Vrancea area and other 13 seismic sources situated on the Romanian territory but also on the territories of Bugaria, Serbia and Hungary. From these 14 sources, the Vrancea area is the most active, influencing two thirds of the Romanian territory, but also parts of Moldova and Bulgaria. During the last century these sources determined seismic events of over 6 degree magnitude. 5 events were above 6,5 magnitude

# Experience of natural disasters - most frequent types of disasters(3)

## Interventions in floods, forest fires and landslides

Year	Type of intervention		
	Floods	Forestfires	Landslides
2003	297	311	0
2004	945	46	4
2005	6.196	109	35
2006	1.614	102	69
2007	999	116	12
2008	1.865	213	17
2009	1.498	150	12
2010	4.718	42	56
2011	757	155	12
2012	1.359	328	13
2013	2.205	59	14
2014	3.766	33	21
2015	1.315	102	35
2016	5.955	78	136
2017	1.768	127	63
2018 (01.01 - 31.10.2018)	4.986	69	106

# Experience of natural disasters



## Rescued animals/birds

Year	Rescues		
	Big animals	Small animals	Birds
2003	900	2.145	29.886
2004	1.354	1.648	1.712
2005	1.346	4.890	2.700
2006	1.124	2.994	4.798
2007	1.828	6.548	1.763
2008	2.575	6.417	28.038
2009	1.661	3.652	4.959
2010	2.991	9.254	43.416
2011	2.949	7.230	4.022
2012	2.812	8.721	64.132
2013	2.885	7.887	45.369
2014	2.219	7.553	53.772
2015	3.030	6.139	31.265
2016	2.465	7.902	8.312
2017	2.658	6.730	54.379
2018 (01.01 - 31.10.2018)	10.331	8.818	50.044





# Training and simulation exercises

NSVFSA organized 5 epizootic disease simulation exercises in which, in addition to the persons responsible from within the local competent authorities in the sanitary veterinary field, representatives of IGSU, ISU and of the CNSSU member ministries also participated:

## Simulation Exercises

- 2009 – Foot-and-mouth disease simulation exercise (Suceava)
- 2012 – A desk simulation exercise was conducted at CNCB level – practicing UCD decision-making, in strict relation with the exercise carried out in 2009
- 2013 – African swine fever simulation exercise (Bistrita Nasaud)
- 2014 – African swine fever and classical swine fever in wild boars simulation exercise (Iasi)
- 2015 – Bluetongue disease simulation exercise (Dambovita)





# Training and simulation exercises

## Training within the Better Training for Safer Food Programme:

- NSVFSA specialists participated in the *Animal disease preparedness, including early warning, contingency planning and animal disease control trainings*
- As far as natural disasters are concerned, between 11 and 13 December 2018, Romania will participate in the first training on veterinary preparedness for natural disasters

# Training and simulation exercises

## Trainings of the specialists from General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and County Inspectorates for Emergency Situations:

- With the aim to achieve the training objectives, GIES and the subordinated structures carry out daytime and nighttime exercises at international/regional, national and internal level.
  - training at national level - theoretical and practical meetings (including field visits and exercises)
  - international trainings and exercises - Joint Emergency Rescue Units – JERU SWIFT, EUROMODEX 2017, AUTMODEX 2017, EU MOLDEX 2017, CZECH MODEX 17, URBAN WATER AID PROJECT etc
- Each year, within the specialized training centers of GIES, the following courses (addressing the flood risk management) are organized:
  - Training course for high civil servants
  - initial training course for the head of voluntary emergency services;
  - initial and advanced training courses "civil protection inspector";
  - a training course in the field of emergency situations of the representatives of the prefect institutions and the personnel with leading positions and attributions in the field of emergency situations from the local public administration, decentralized and deconcentrated services.



**Thank you for your attention!**