



# Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) related activities at EU level

Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease  
in Europe (SGE LSD) under the GF-TADs umbrella  
Thirteenth Meeting (SGE LSD13)

*Online Meeting, 21 February 2024*

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Directorate General for Health and Food Safety  
G2 – Animal Health*

- **Current LSD epidemiological situation in South East Europe.**
- **Overview of LSD management in South-East Europe.**
  - **LSD vaccination**
  - **LSD surveillance**
- **EU support for surveillance/control measures against Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).**
- **Concluding remarks**

**LSD outbreaks in South-East Europe [ 2015 - 2024(Feb) ]**

COUNTRY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (until 20 Feb)	Total
ALBANIA		250	494								<b>744</b>
BULGARIA		217									<b>217</b>
GREECE	117	104	2								<b>223</b>
KOSOVO*		46									<b>46</b>
MONTENEGRO		64									<b>64</b>
NORTH MACEDONIA		117	4								<b>121</b>
SERBIA		225									<b>225</b>
TURKIYE	487	106	14	46	180	5	1				<b>839</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2479</b>

**Since 2017, no LSD outbreaks reported in South-Eastern Europe.  
Last outbreak in Turkiye on 2021 (March). Data from Animal Disease Information System (ADIS).**

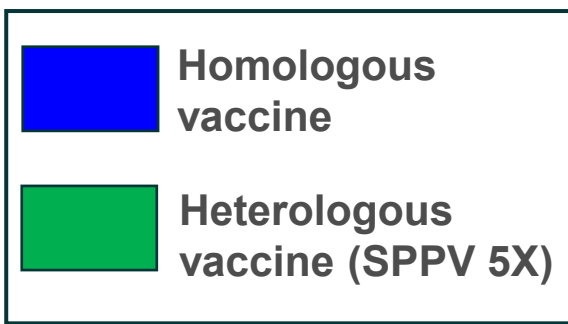
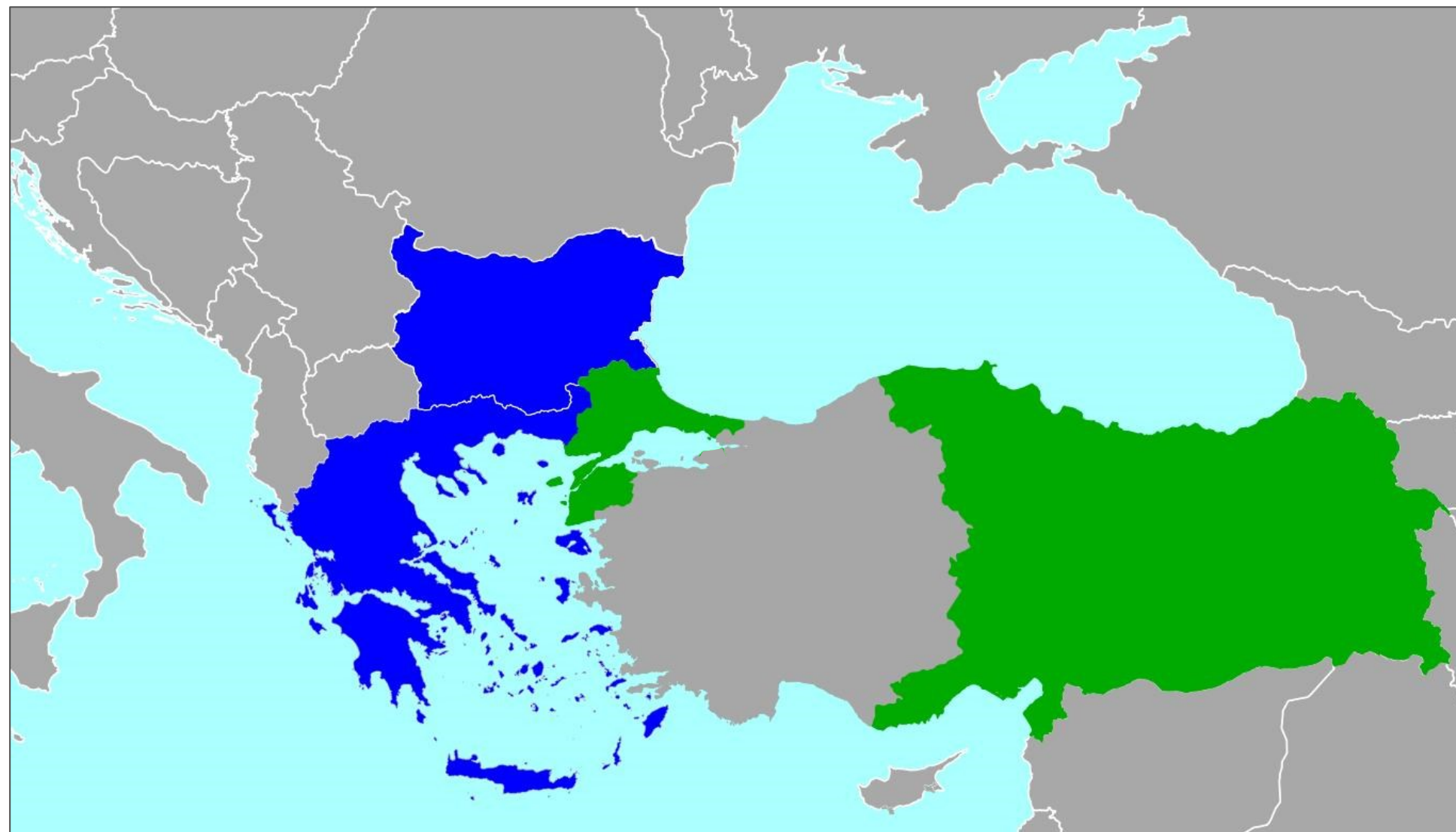
(\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence).

## Epidemiological situation in South-East Europe

### LSD VACCINATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

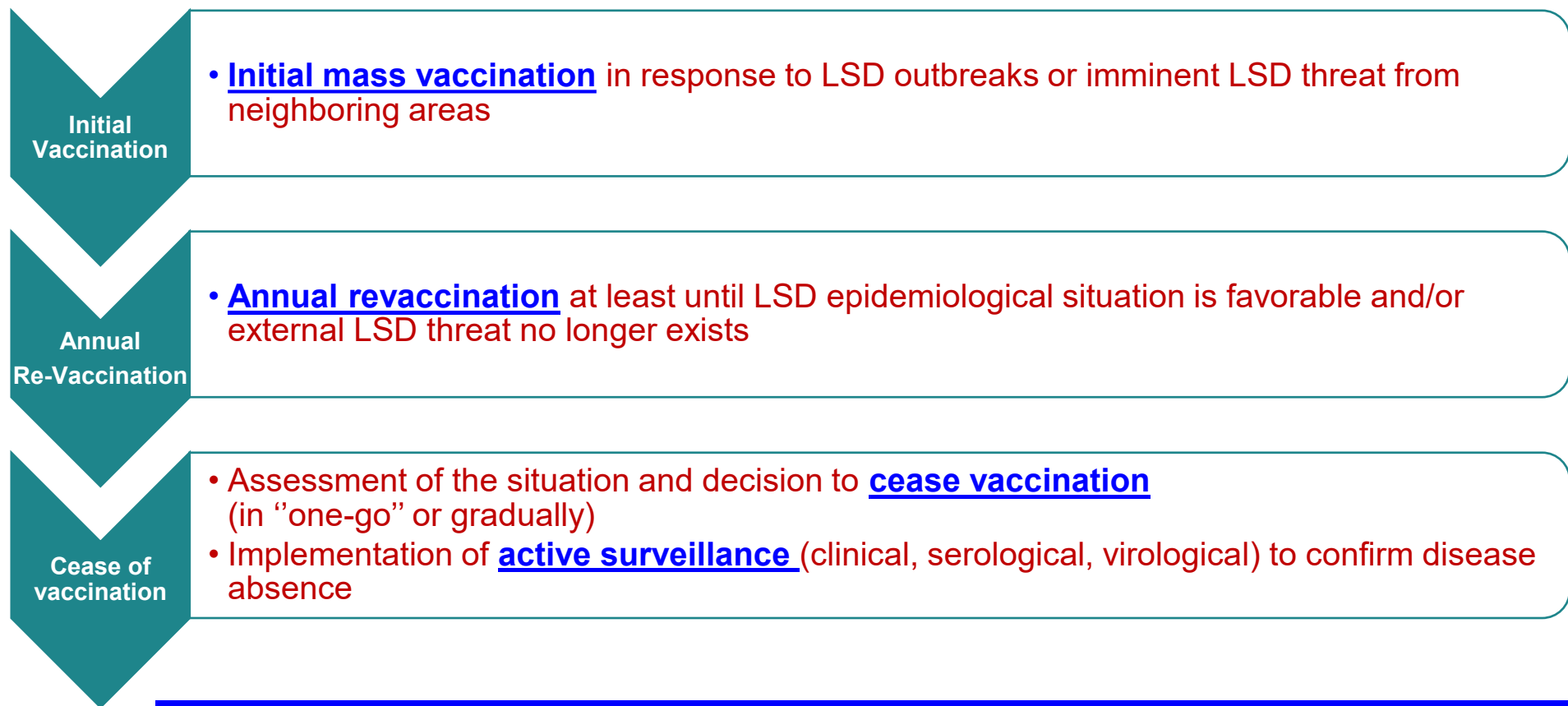
YEAR	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Greece	Kosovo*	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia	Turkiye <i>(ongoing since 2013 with heterologous vaccine)</i>
2015					X					X
2016	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2018	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
2019	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
2020	X		X		X				X <i>(calves/imported)</i>	X <i>(homologous vaccine in Turkish Thrace, heterologous in Anatolia)</i>
2021	X <i>(ceased 1st quarter)</i>		X		X				X <i>(calves/imported)</i>	X <i>(homologous vaccine in Turkish Thrace, heterologous in Anatolia)</i>
2022			X		X					X <i>(homologous vaccine in Turkish Thrace, heterologous in Anatolia)</i>
2023			X		X					X <i>(Heterologous vaccine in Turkish Thrace and East Anatolia)</i>

LSD VACCINATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE in 2023



*Source: Country reports,  
GF TADs SGE LSD 12 (Feb 2023)*

## Exit strategy



**As of 2024 Bulgaria and Greece have ceased vaccination too and switched to active LSD surveillance**

### Countries/areas with ongoing LSD vaccination

- **Passive surveillance** (*for early detection of possible new outbreaks, e.g. in areas of low vaccine coverage or non-immune animals*).

### Countries/areas where LSD mass vaccination has stopped (or replaced by partial vaccination)

- **Passive surveillance** (early detection of possible outbreaks)
- **Active surveillance** (to demonstrate disease absence)
  - Focus on the high-risk period for LSD in SE Europe (April–October)
  - Clinical inspections of selected holdings (ideally every 5 weeks according to EFSA).
  - Serological testing of non vaccinated animals (supplemented with virological testing)
  - Surveillance supplemented by other systematic clinical examinations for LSD (e.g. live animal markets, pre-movement clinical checks , ante-mortem examinations on animals to be slaughtered).
  - Activities often combined with other programmes on the cattle population in place in the same country/region.

### ➤ EU support for LSD vaccination

- ✓ *Donations from EU LSD vaccine bank*
- ✓ *Reimbursement for the cost of LSD vaccines*
- ✓ *Co-financing of LSD vaccination programmes (2023 - Bulgaria, Greece - last year of vaccination)*

### ➤ EU support for LSD surveillance after cease of vaccination

- ✓ *Co-financing of LSD surveillance programmes (2024 : Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo\*)*

### ➤ EU Support for Regional Coordination – GF TADs LSD group meetings

*Support for the organisation of GF TADs and other international meetings on LSD*

### ➤ EU LSD Scientific – Technical support

- ✓ *EFSA Opinions- Reports on LSD (3 opinions & 4 reports published to date).*  
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/lumpy-skin-disease>
- ✓ *EUVET expert missions (on-the-spot technical support upon country request)*
- ✓ *EU Reference Laboratory for LSD (technical support for National LSD Laboratories)*  
*National Reference Laboratories Annual Workshops and Proficiency Tests*

### ➤ EU LSD training activities

*Sustained Technical Missions – STMs (each time in a specific country)*

*BTSF training workshops on LSD (for officers of multiple countries)*



**European Union Lumpy Skin Disease Vaccine Bank Grants (2016-2022)**

Year	Country	Doses granted
2016	Bulgaria, Greece , North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo*, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia	625,000
2017	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, Albania, Kosovo*	325,000
2018	North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Greece, Albania, Georgia	876,000
2019	North Macedonia	150,000
	Kosovo*	190,000
	Montenegro	80,000
	Albania	250,000
2020	Albania	228,000
	Georgia	200,000
	Taiwan	10,000
2021	Turkey	250,000
2022	Bulgaria	50,000

**3.324.000 doses of LSD vaccine (live-homologous) granted to date to 12 countries (EU + non EU MS)**

## Concluding remarks

- LSD effectively controlled in SE Europe since the 2015 incursion thanks to coordinated vaccination campaigns using effective vaccines (live homologous ones)
- Regional cooperation and coordination is the key to successful LSD control
- Mass vaccination of bovines uniformly implemented, in large areas using efficient vaccines, remains the most important control policy against LSD.
- Availability of sufficient vaccine doses is a key factor for the successful implementation of vaccination programmes.
- Countries at risk, should enhance preparedness and ensure efficient & timely procurement of sufficient vaccine doses for the implementation of vaccination programmes as and when needed.
- We should all continue to follow the LSD epidemiological situation and remain vigilant, ready to take action, should the disease reaches us again.

# Thank you



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