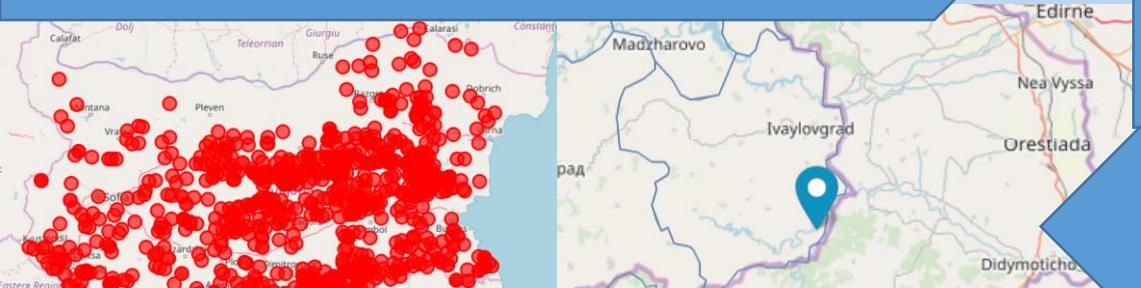


BTV challenges in Bulgaria in 2025

More than 2300 outbreaks of BTV 4 in 2014. All of the administrative districts in Bulgaria were affected.



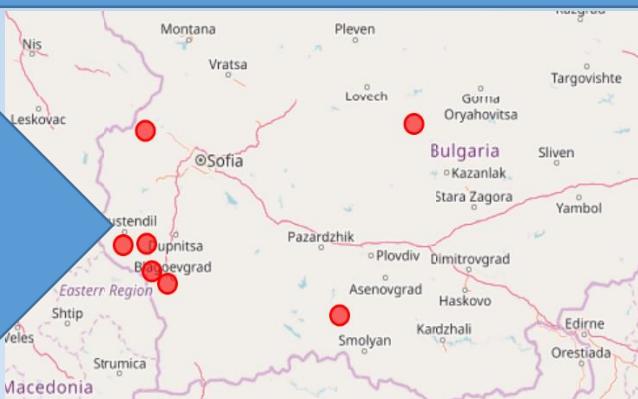
7 outbreaks of BTV-8 in domestic animals in 2025.

The first outbreak occurred in the east of the country near the border with North Macedonia Kyustendil region. The affected animals were 25 sheep. The second outbreak was in a farm located in region of Smolyan, 1 sheep was affected, it recovered 2 weeks later.

The following outbreaks were in Sofia region, Gabrovo and Blagoevgrad. BTV-8 is detected in all of the outbreaks in the domestic animals.

Vaccination campaign from 2015.
Vaccination is mandatory for all of the sheep and cattle.

The location of the first outbreak in 2014.
By the end of Sept - BTV-4 was confirmed in all 28 administrative districts.

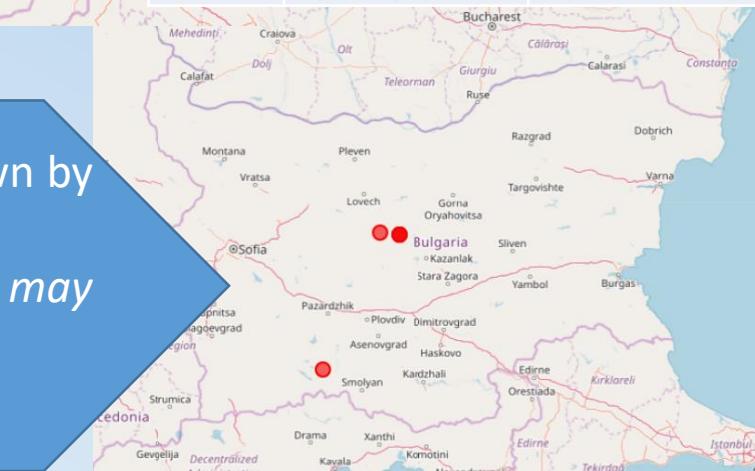


5 cases of BTV 4 and 8 in wild animals. (2 BTV-4 and 3 BTV-8) The animals were shot down by hunters, the affected animals were red deers, mouflons.

**In the event of an complicated epizootic situation and depending on the situation, BFSA may distribute the collection of blood and organ samples from wild susceptible animals.*

Number of outbreaks since 2015

Year	Outbreaks in domestic animals	Outbreaks in wild animals
2015	0	0
2016	0	0
2017	0	0
2018	0	0
2019	0	0
2020	0	14(BTV-4)
2021	1(cattle) BTV-4	1(BTV-4)
2022	0	0
2023	0	0
2024	0	0
2025	7(BTV-8)	5 (BTV-4; BTV-8)



Vector surveillance.

Vectors are collected from March until November.

To carry out entomological surveillance, the territory of the country is divided into quadrants measuring 100x100 km. Culicoid collection is carried out in two settlements from each quadrant

Active and passive surveillance

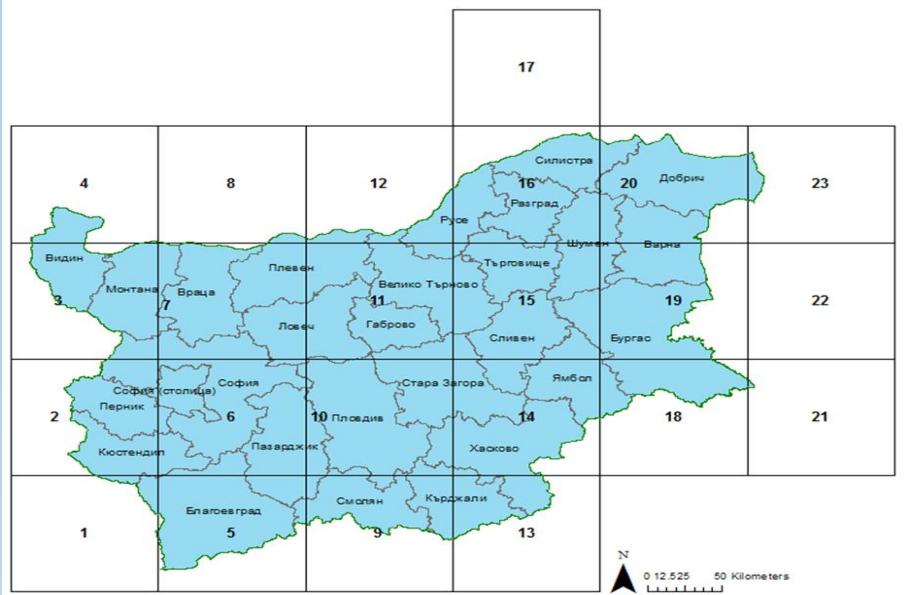
Blood samples for serological surveillance are taken annually from 01.04 - 30.11 for each calendar year from sentinel animals in the country.

Passive surveillance of the health status (clinical examinations) of animals susceptible to the disease is carried out during the whole year throughout the country, during regular activities carried out by official and registered veterinarians, in order to detect clinical signs of the disease.

Current situation with Bluetongue disease in Bulgaria

With the decrease in temperatures and the winter season closing in, a decline in the population of Culicoides is observed.

No recent outbreaks in domestic animals.



Conclusions and Future Measures

- The disease is still circulating at a low level.
- Continuous vector and serological surveillance is crucial.
- Vaccination remains the key preventive measure.
- Cooperation between veterinary authorities, farmers and hunters is essential.
- Strengthening of the surveillance in border areas.
- Improving public awareness among farmers.
- Expanding monitoring in wild ruminants.