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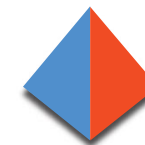


Funded by
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Directorate of Veterinary Policies

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Republic of Albania



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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Republic of Albania



Republic of Albania is a small Southeastern European country located in the Western Balkans, with a diverse landscape ranging from coastal zones along the Adriatic and Ionian seas to mountainous inland regions. It has a surface area of **28,748 km²**.



The total population of small ruminants in Albania is **1,879,959**. Population of goats is **625,965** and the population of sheep is **1,253,994**.

Legal framework

- Law No. 10 465, dated on 29.09.2011 “*On Veterinary Service in Republic of Albania*”, as amended;
- Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 802, dated on 9.10.2024 “*On the approval of contingency plan for Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)*”;

PPR Contingency Plan – Overview

- Approximated with **EU Regulation 2020/687**
- Key element for the **prevention and control** of emergency PPR cases

The Plan Defines:

- Procedure in case of suspicion or confirmation of PPR;
- Description of veterinary structures involved in implementing control and eradication measures;
- Competencies, responsibilities, and roles of different actors in the treatment of the disease.

Objectives and Purpose of the Plan:

- Enable efficient and effective implementation of protective and control measures for goat and sheep populations;
- Enable rapid assessment to limit the impact;
- Eliminate the risk of introduction and spread of the virus.

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First confirmed case

- First confirmed case: **Domen Village, Shkodër (4.6.2025)**
- No. of affected animals: **18** goats;
- Died animals: **2** goats
- Killed animals: **16** goats
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia



Measures Taken for the First PPR Case:

Disease reported in the ADIS System (Animal Disease Information System) on 5.6.2025

Ministerial Order No. 562, dated 04.06.2025:

- Establishment of the National Crisis Center for PPR;
- Identification of villages within affected zones;
- Definition of a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infection area;

Ministerial Order No. 561, dated 04.06.2025:

- Introduction of restrictive measures for prevention and control

Operational and Control Actions

- Establishment of 7 working groups to manage the outbreak;
- Actions carried out in accordance with official control protocols;
- Elimination and safe disposal of 16 infected goats at a rendering plant;
- Complete disinfection of the affected farm, in line with biosecurity protocols;
- Institutional announcements issued to inform stakeholders;
- Collection of 13 samples (blood, crusts, organs) for laboratory testing;
- All farmers in the affected zone informed about preventive measures and economic risks of the disease;
- Daily farm monitoring initiated in the protection and surveillance zones.



Confirmed cases in the Republic of Albania

Local Authority Unit (LAU)	Type	Submitted on	Administrative division level 1	Administrative division level 2	Administrative division level 3	Location	Species	Susceptible	Cases	Dead	Killed	Slaughtered	Vaccinated	Suspicion/ Start date	Confirmation date	Date of completion of prelim. C&D	End date	Status Continuing /Resolved
Korce (AL00007)	Secondary	2025-07-09	Korçë	Devollit	Progër	Progër	Sheep/goats (mixed herd)	81	13	11	70	0	0	2025-07-03	2025-07-03	2025-07-10	2025-08-01	Resolved
Shkoder (AL00010)	Primary	2025-07-09	Elbasan	Elbasanit	Labinot Mal	Labinot Mal	Goats	40	32	8	32	0	0	2025-06-29	2025-06-30	2025-08-06	2025-08-28	Resolved
Shkoder (AL00010)	Primary	2025-06-27	Shkodër	Malësi e Madhe	Shkrel	Shkrel	Goats	318	28	15	303	0	0	2025-06-24	2025-06-26	2025-07-01	2025-07-28	Resolved
Berat (AL00001)	Secondary	2025-06-25	Berat	Skraparit	Qendër	Qendër	Goats	71	13	0	71	0	0	2025-06-12	2025-06-13	2025-06-17	2025-07-06	Resolved
Diber (AL00003)	Secondary	2025-06-25	Dibër	Matit	Martanesh	Martanesh	Sheep	119	3	0	119	0	0	2025-06-11	2025-06-13	2025-06-18	2025-07-08	Resolved
Durres (AL00002)	Primary	2025-06-24	Durrës	Krujës	Kodër Thumanë	Sukth-Vendas	Sheep	86	10	2	84	0	0	2025-06-21	2025-06-23	2025-06-27	2025-07-17	Resolved
Korce (AL00007)	Primary	2025-06-24	Korçë	Korçës	Libonik	Libonik	Sheep/goats (mixed herd)	15	5	4	11	0	0	2025-06-23	2025-06-23	2025-06-30	2025-07-20	Resolved
Shkoder (AL00010)	Primary	2025-06-19	Shkodër	Shkodrës	Berdicë	Trush	Sheep	180	24	6	174	0	0	2025-06-17	2025-06-18	2025-06-24	2025-07-15	Resolved
Tirane (AL00011)	Primary	2025-06-19	Tiranë	Tiranës	Zall Bastar	Zall Bastar	Sheep	347	107	0	347	0	0	2025-06-13	2025-06-13	2025-06-19	2025-07-10	Resolved
Korce (AL00007)	Primary	2025-06-13	Korçë	Devollit	Progër	Progër	Sheep/goats (mixed herd)	185	19	13	172	0	0	2025-06-11	2025-06-12	2025-06-15	2025-06-15	Resolved
Berat (AL00001)	Primary	2025-06-13	Berat	Skraparit	Qendër	Qendër	Goats	193	14	2	191	0	0	2025-06-10	2025-06-11	2025-06-17	2025-07-08	Resolved
Diber (AL00003)	Primary	2025-06-10	Dibër	Matit	Martanesh	Martanesh	Goats	365	110	20	345	0	0	2025-06-08	2025-06-09	2025-06-15	2025-07-05	Resolved
Diber (AL00003)	Primary	2025-06-05	Dibër	Dibrës	Kastriot	Kastriot	Goats	200	66	66	134	0	0	2025-06-04	2025-06-05	2025-06-11	2025-07-02	Resolved
Shkoder (AL00010)	Primary	2025-06-05	Shkodër	Shkodrës	Postribë	Postribë	Goats	18	2	2	16	0	0	2025-06-03	2025-06-04	2025-06-04	2025-06-25	Resolved

Total			
Susceptible	Cases	Dead	Killed
2218	446	149	2069

Activities in the Protection and Surveillance Zone

- Disposal and burial of diseased animals and carcasses, waste, feed, manure, etc., at the farm level;
- Clinical examination of all small ruminant farms by authorized veterinary experts who keep a record of the inspections performed and the data collected;
- Collection of samples for laboratory testing in accordance with the PPR disease diagnostic manual, to test for potential viral spread in animals from farms located within the protection zone;
- Daily clinical examinations and sample collection from susceptible species on non-affected small ruminant farms;
- Small ruminants must be kept in enclosed buildings that meet their health management requirements, isolated from other animals on the farm, with restricted contact with other animals;
- Immediate burial of animal carcasses;
- Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and equipment;
- Prohibition of the movement of animals and other livestock species within the farm;
- Any increase in morbidity, mortality, or drop in production must be reported to the official veterinarian, who will collect samples for laboratory testing in accordance with the diagnostic manual;
- People may enter or exit the farm only if biosecurity measures are followed;
- Farm owners must keep a record of all entries and exits of persons from the farm, and present this information to the Regional Veterinary Service upon request;
- Animal shows, fairs, markets, or other gatherings are also prohibited;

Measures for PPR Prevention and Control in the whole country

- **Ban** of movement of small ruminants in live animal markets, fairs, farm-to-farm and gatherings, with Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 575, dated on 9.6.2025 “On the temporary ban on the movement of live sheep and goats in the territory of the Republic of Albania”.

- **Prohibition** of movement of small ruminants and other farmed species **on affected farms**.

- **Intensified surveillance** of small ruminant populations.

- **Strengthening of biosecurity measures** in small ruminant farms.

- Small ruminants were:

- **Isolated** from other animals on the farm

- **Contact with other species was limited**

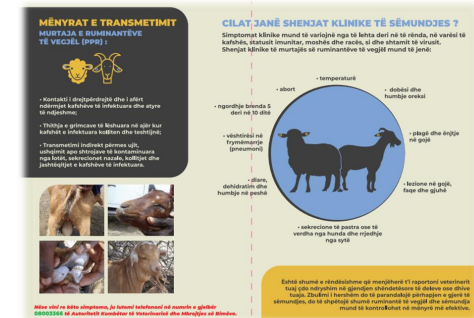
- For each new outbreak, a Ministerial Order was issued establishing 3 km Protection and 10 km Surveillance Zones around the infection site.

- **Awareness campaigns** intensified for:

- Farmers
- Animal transporters
- Private veterinarians
- State veterinary services

- **Increased veterinary controls** on small ruminant farms and live animal markets **across Albania**

- **Testing with RT-PCR** every farm in the restricted zones 3 km for every outbreak. Testing was carried out 3 times every 10 days.



National Laboratory of Reference

Diagnostic

- Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary – Animal Health Department;
- Molecular Biology Laboratory (Real Time RT-PCR);
- Serology Laboratory (Competitive ELISA) Accredited SOP-s;
- Sequencing of PPRV carried out at EURL CIRAD.
- Results showed that PPRV isolated in Albania belongs to Lineage IV, identical to the sequence obtained for PPR virus at the origin of the emergence in Europe.

Methods and tests

- Real Time RT-PCR
- Conventional PCR
- Competitive ELISA
- Reference methods EURL and WOAH

Experience with EURL

- PT Participation (EURL-CIRAD) since 2019;
- Laboratory members training from CIRAD;
- Yearly Participation on annual meeting organized by EURL;
- Re-confirmation of first positive samples;
- Sequencing PPRV (Lineage IV, identical to the sequence obtained for PPR virus at the origin of the emergence in Europe).

Situation in Republic of Albania

- Number of total farms clinically monitored: **8,384**;
- Number of small ruminants clinically monitored: **1,042,610**;
- In total **5033** samples has been tested in **1581** farms,
- The total ban on the movement of small ruminants remained in force until 26 November 2025.
- After the measures were lifted, no suspected cases have been reported; however, all veterinary services and farmers are fully aware of the importance of the disease and the damage it can cause.

Main Challenges

➤ **Early detection & reporting**

- Difficulty in recognizing the disease early due to similarities with other small ruminant diseases;
- Delays in reporting by farmers due to lack of awareness or fear of movement restrictions.

➤ **Epidemiological control**

- High mobility of small ruminants (seasonal migration, trade, informal movements);
- Presence of mixed flocks (sheep & goats) which facilitates faster spread.

➤ **Farmer awareness & compliance**

- Low knowledge among farmers about PPR clinical signs and transmission;
- Reluctance to cooperate due to fear of culling, loss of income, or lack of compensation.

➤ **Veterinary service capacity**

- Limited resources (personnel, funding, transport).



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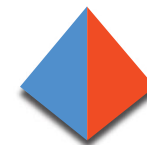
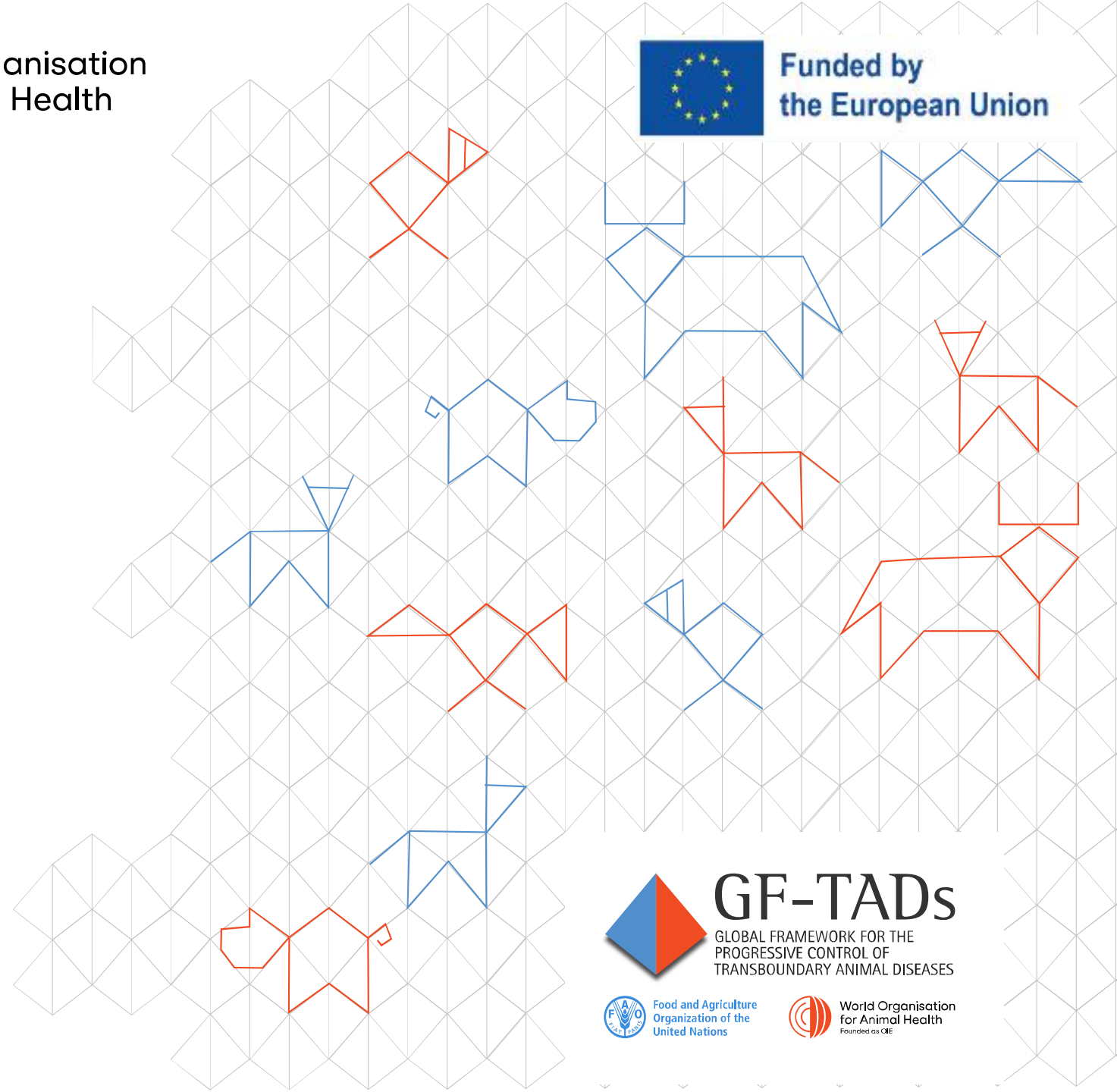


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