Current situation and Lessons Learned from PPR Preparedness and Response in Republic of Albania

Dr. Keti Margariti - Head of Animal Health and Welfare Sector

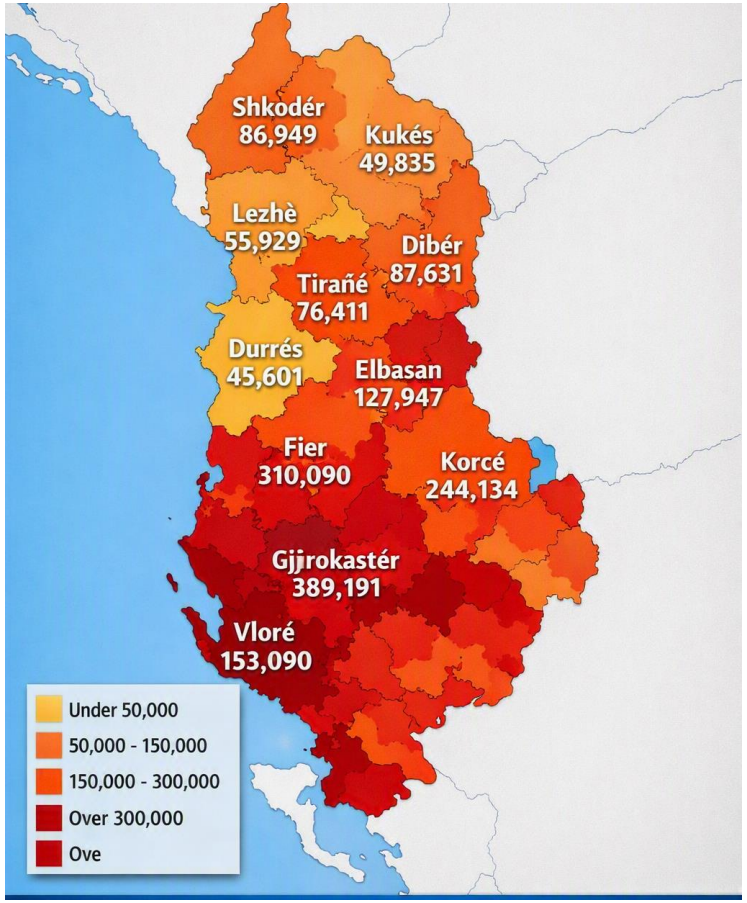
Dr. Ali Lilo - Head of Epidemiology, Identification and Registration of Animals

23.09.2026 Riga, Latvia

World Organisation for Animal Health

Small Ruminant Population in Republic of Albania

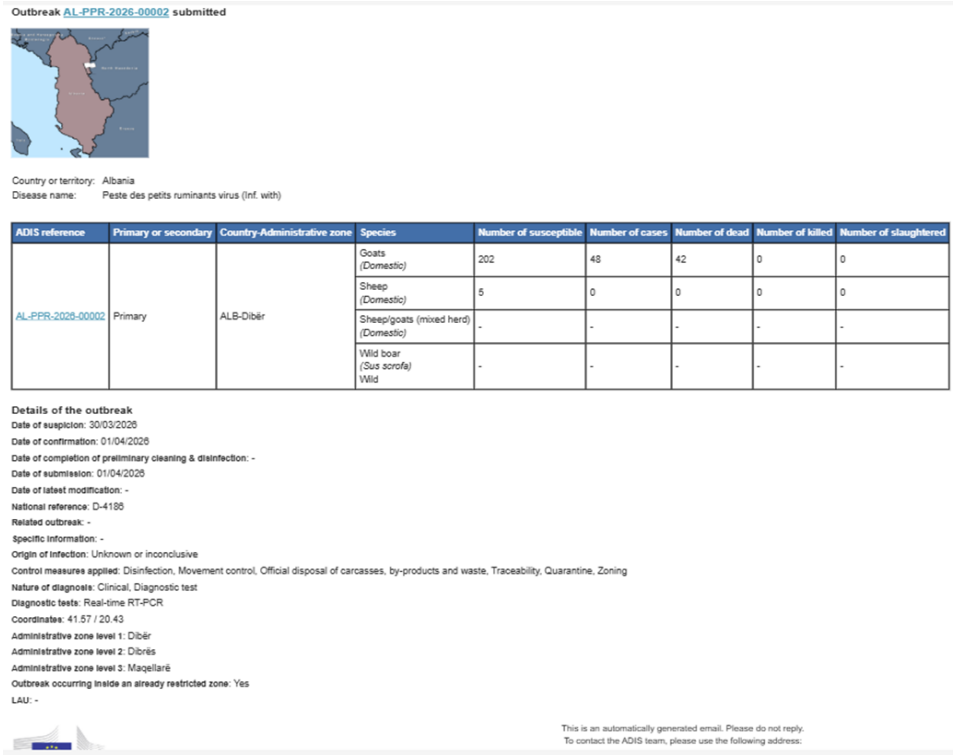
- Albania has an estimated **1.77 million small ruminants**, distributed across **31,991 farms**.
- The small ruminant population is **unevenly distributed across the country**, with significant concentrations in the southern and southeastern regions.
- **Vlora** has the largest small ruminant population, with approximately **448,360 animals**, followed by **Gjirokastër (281,958 animals)** and **Korçë (201,134 animals)**.
- Other important concentrations are recorded in **Elbasan (159,430 animals)**, **Fier (153,090 animals)** and **Berat (127,947 animals)**.
- Together, **Vlora, Gjirokastër and Korçë account for approximately 52% of the total small ruminant population** in Albania, highlighting their particular importance for the national sheep and goat sector.
- The geographical distribution of the population reflects the **significant role of small ruminant farming in Albania's livestock sector**, particularly in areas where extensive and semi-extensive farming systems are predominant.



Current situation for 2026

First confirmed case

- First confirmed case: **Shupenzë** Village, Bulqizë, Dibër **(01.04.2026)**
- No. of susceptible animals: **207**, **202** goats and **5** sheeps;
- No. of cases: **75** goats;
- No of dead: **42** goats
- No. of killed: **160** goats and **5** sheeps
- No. of disposed: **207**, **202** goats and **5** sheeps;
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia



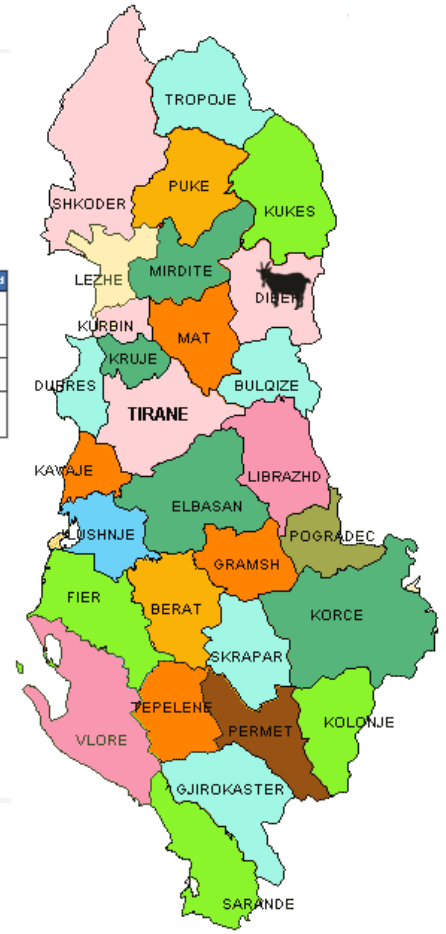
Outbreak AL-PPR-2026-00002 submitted

Country or territory: Albania
Disease name: Peste des petits ruminants virus (Inf. with)

ADIS reference	Primary or secondary	Country-Administrative zone	Species	Number of susceptible	Number of cases	Number of dead	Number of killed	Number of slaughtered
AL-PPR-2026-00002	Primary	ALB-Dibër	Goats (Domestic)	202	48	42	0	0
			Sheep (Domestic)	5	0	0	0	0
			Sheep/goats (mixed herd) (Domestic)	-	-	-	-	-
			Wild boar (Sus scrofa) Wild	-	-	-	-	-

Details of the outbreak
Date of suspicion: 30/03/2026
Date of confirmation: 01/04/2026
Date of completion of preliminary cleaning & disinfection: -
Date of submission: 01/04/2026
Date of latest modification: -
National reference: D-4186
Related outbreak: -
Specific information: -
Origin of infection: Unknown or inconclusive
Control measures applied: Disinfection, Movement control, Official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste, Traceability, Quarantine, Zoning
Nature of diagnosis: Clinical, Diagnostic test
Diagnostic tests: Real-time RT-PCR
Coordinates: 41.57 / 20.43
Administrative zone level 1: Dibër
Administrative zone level 2: Dibrës
Administrative zone level 3: Maqellarë
Outbreak occurring inside an already restricted zone: Yes
LAU: -

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Current situation for 2026

Second confirmed case

- Second confirmed case: **Bregas** Village, Peqin, Elbasan **(22.05.2026)**
- No. of susceptible animals: **97** sheeps;
- No. of cases: **8** sheeps;
- No of dead: **1** sheep;
- No. of killed: **96** sheeps;
- No. of disposed: **97** sheeps;
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia

Outbreak AL-PPR-2026-00003 submitted



Country or territory: Albania
Disease name: Peste des petits ruminants virus (Inf. with)

ADIS reference	Primary or secondary	Country-Administrative zone	Species	Number of susceptible	Number of cases	Number of dead	Number of killed	Number of slaughtered
AL-PPR-2026-00003	Primary	ALB-Elbasan	Goats *(Domestic)*	-	-	-	-	-
			Sheep *(Domestic)*	97	8	1	96	0

Details of the outbreak
Date of suspicion: 20/05/2026
Date of confirmation: 22/05/2026
Date of completion of preliminary cleaning & disinfection: -
Date of submission: 25/05/2026
Date of latest modification: -
National reference: D-4309-26
Related outbreak: -
Specific information: -
Origin of infection: Unknown or inconclusive
Control measures applied: Quarantine, Traceability, Disinfection, Movement control, Official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste, Zoning
Nature of diagnosis: Clinical, Diagnostic test
Diagnostic tests: Real-time RT-PCR
Coordinates: 41.05 / 19.69
Administrative zone level 1: Elbasan
Administrative zone level 2: Peqinit
Administrative zone level 3: Gjocaj
Outbreak occurring inside an already restricted zone: No
LAU: Elbasan (AL00004)

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Current situation for 2026

Third confirmed case

- Third confirmed case: **Dajç** Village, Shkodër **(22.05.2026)**
- No. of susceptible animals: **32** sheeps;
- No. of cases: **13** sheeps;
- No of dead: **8** sheep;
- No. of killed: **24** sheeps;
- No. of disposed: **32** sheeps.
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia

Outbreak AL-PPR-2026-00004 submitted



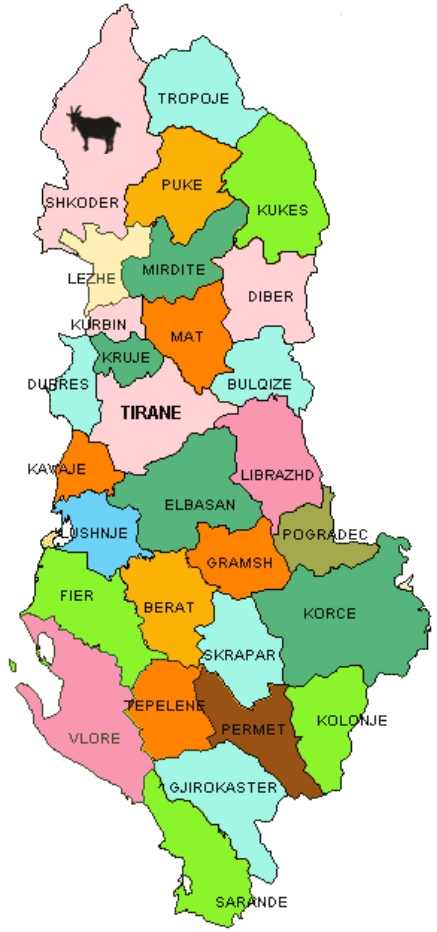
Country or territory: Albania
Disease name: Peste des petits ruminants virus (Inf. with)

ADIS reference	Primary or secondary	Country-Administrative zone	Species	Number of susceptible	Number of cases	Number of dead	Number of killed	Number of slaughtered
AL-PPR-2026-00004	Primary	ALB-Shkodër	Goats (Domestic)	-	-	-	-	-
			Sheep (Domestic)	32	13	8	24	0

Details of the outbreak

Date of suspicion: 21/05/2026
Date of confirmation: 22/05/2026
Date of completion of preliminary cleaning & disinfection: -
Date of submission: 25/05/2026
Date of latest modification: -
National reference: -
Related outbreak: -
Specific information: -
Origin of infection: Unknown or inconclusive
Control measures applied: Quarantine, Traceability, Disinfection, Movement control, Official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste, Zoning
Nature of diagnosis: Clinical, Diagnostic test
Diagnostic tests: Real-time RT-PCR
Coordinates: 41.96 / 19.4
Administrative zone level 1: Shkodër
Administrative zone level 2: Shkodrës
Administrative zone level 3: Dajç
Outbreak occurring inside an already restricted zone: No
LAU: Shkoder (AL00010)

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Current situation for 2026

Fourth confirmed case (secondary)

- Fourth confirmed case: **Dajç** Village, Shkodër **(25.05.2026)**
- No. of susceptible animals: **80** sheeps;
- No. of cases: **21** sheeps;
- No of dead: **13** sheep;
- No. of killed: **67** sheeps;
- No. of disposed: **80** sheeps;
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia

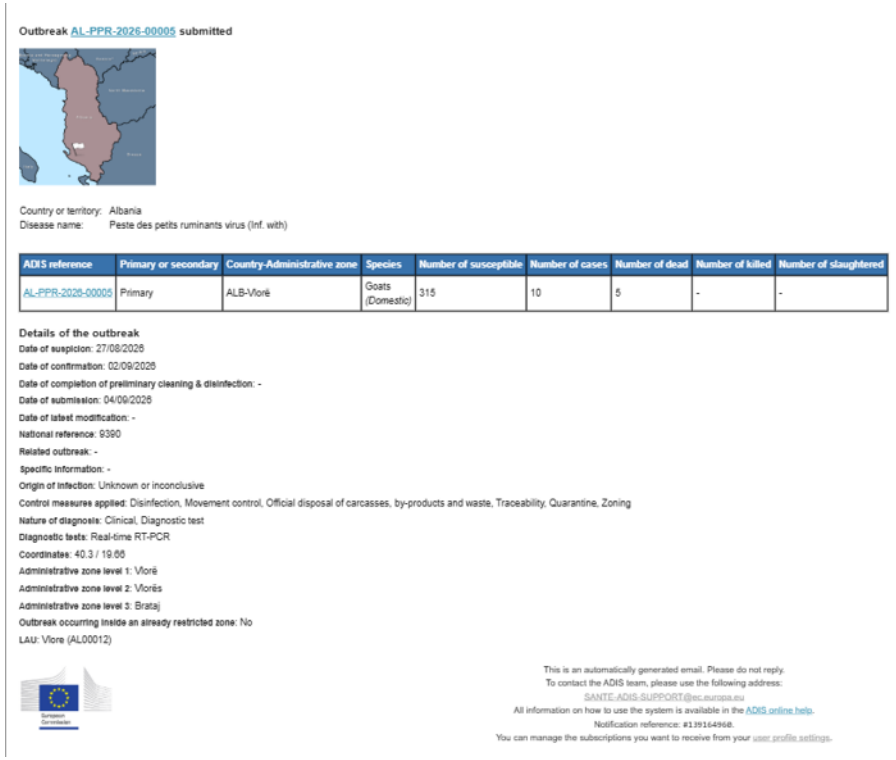




Current situation for 2026

Fifth confirmed case

- Fourth primary confirmed case: **Brataj** Village, Vlorë **(04.09.2026)**
- No. of susceptible animals: **315** goats;
- No. of cases: **10** goats;
- No of dead: **5** goats;
- No. of killed: **310** goats;
- No. of disposed: **315** goats;
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia



Outbreak AL-PPR-2026-00005 submitted

Country or territory: Albania
Disease name: Peste des petits ruminants virus (Inf. with)

ADIS reference	Primary or secondary	Country-Administrative zone	Species	Number of susceptible	Number of cases	Number of dead	Number of killed	Number of slaughtered
AL-PPR-2026-00005	Primary	ALB-Vlorë	Goats (Domestic)	315	10	5	-	-

Details of the outbreak
Date of suspicion: 27/08/2026
Date of confirmation: 02/09/2026
Date of completion of preliminary cleaning & disinfection: -
Date of submission: 04/09/2026
Date of latest modification: -
National reference: 9390
Related outbreak: -
Specific information: -
Origin of infection: Unknown or inconclusive
Control measures applied: Disinfection, Movement control, Official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste, Traceability, Quarantine, Zoning
Nature of diagnosis: Clinical, Diagnostic test
Diagnostic tests: Real-time RT-PCR
Coordinates: 40.3 / 19.66
Administrative zone level 1: Vlorë
Administrative zone level 2: Vlorës
Administrative zone level 3: Brataj
Outbreak occurring inside an already restricted zone: No
LAU: Vlore (AL00012)

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Current situation for 2026

Measures Taken for the First PPR Case in 2026:

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

Order No. 359, dated 01.04.2026, "*On the Establishment of the National Crisis Centre for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)*";

- 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;

Order No. 360, dated 01.04.2026, *"On the Implementation of Restrictive Measures for the Prevention and Control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)"*;

- Introduction of restrictive measures for prevention and control



Operational and Control Actions

- Establishment of working groups to manage the outbreak;
- Actions carried out in accordance with official control protocols;
- Elimination and safe disposal of 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 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.

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;

Current situation for 2026

Overview of Positive PPR Cases – 2026

Positive PPR Cases – 2026

No.	Outbreaks	Region	District	Administrative Unit	Village	Sampling Date	Result Date	Species	Test Report	Susceptible	Cases	Dead	Culled	Disposed
1	Outbreak 1	Dibër	Bulqizë	Shupenzë	Okshatinë	31.03.2026	01.04.2026	Goat	D-4186	207	75	42	165	207
2	Outbreak 2	Elbasan	Peqin	Gjocaj	Bregas	21.05.2026	22.05.2026	Sheep	D-4309	97	8	1	96	97
3	Outbreak 3	Shkodër	Shkodër	Dajç	Mali i Gjumit	21.05.2026	22.05.2026	Sheep	D-4345	32	13	8	24	32
4		Shkodër	Shkodër	Dajç	Mali i Gjumit	24.05.2026	25.05.2026	Sheep	D-4355	80	21	13	67	80
5	Outbreak 4	Vlorë	Vlorë	Brataj	Lepenicë	27.08.2026	02.09.2026	Goat	D-9390	315	10	5	310	315
Total	**4**									**731**	**127**	**69**	**662**	**731**

PPR Surveillance Programme Overview

The Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Surveillance Programme for 2026 aims to demonstrate the presence and spread of PPR virusin the small ruminant population (sheep and goats), or absence of PPR virus in the Republic of Albania. The programme establishes the methods and activities required for the early detection, confirmation, and monitoring of the disease throughout the national territory.

The programme combines passive, clinical, and active surveillance activities. Passive surveillance relies on the mandatory reporting of suspected cases by farmers, private veterinarians, and other stakeholders. Clinical surveillance includes regular health inspections and epidemiological investigations, while active surveillance consists of planned sampling and laboratory testing throughout the country.

For 2026, a total of 708 farms are scheduled to be sampled nationwide, with 10,213 samples planned for laboratory testing. Serological screening will be performed using ELISA, and all positive samples will be confirmed by RT-PCR testing, with the aim of detecting the presence of active virus in small-ruminant herds.

The long-term objective of the programme is to support Albania in obtaining the official status of a “PPR-free country” from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), thereby strengthening animal health protection, safeguarding livestock production, and facilitating national and international trade.



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E BUJQËSISË DHE ZHVILLIMIT RURAL
MINISTRI

Nr. 3496/1 prot. Tiranë, më 06.05.2026

U R DH Ë R

Nr. 490, datë 06.05.2026

PËR
MIRATIMIN E PROGRAMIT TË MBIKËQYRJES TË SËMUNDJES SË MURTAJËS SË RUMINANTËVE TË VEGJËL (PPR)

Në mbështetje të nenit 102, pika 4 e Kushtetutës dhe nenit 16, pika 2 e Ligjit nr. 10465, datë 29.9.2011 *"Për shërbimin veterinar në Republikën e Shqipërisë"*, të ndryshuar,

U R DH Ë R O J:

1. Miratohet Programi i Mbikëqyrjes së Sëmundjes së Murtajës së Ruminantëve të Vegjël (PPR), sipas tekstit bashkëlidhur këtij urdhri, së bashku me shtojcën nr. 1, e cila është pjesë përbërëse e tij.
2. Ngarkohen për zbatimin e këtij urdhri, Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Zhvillimit në Fushën e Sigurisë Ushqimore, Veterinarisë, Mbrojtjes së Bimëve dhe Peshkimit, Autoriteti Kombëtar i Veterinarisë dhe Mbrojtjes së Bimëve, Autoriteti Kombëtar i Ushqimit dhe Instituti i Sigurisë Ushqimore dhe Veterinarisë.

Ky urdhër hyn në fuqi menjëherë.

MINISTËR
Andis Salla

Adresa: Bulevardi "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Nr. 2, Tiranë; Tel/Fax: 04 2226 911; Web: www.bujqesia.gov.al

PPR active surveillance program for year 2026

Calculation of Farms and Samples for Active Surveillance of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)														
County	*Farms with 1–19 animals*	*Samples*	*Farms with 20–49 animals*	*Samples*	*Farms with 50–69 animals*	*Samples*	*Farms with 70–99 animals*	*Samples*	*Farms with 100–299 animals*	*Samples*	*Farms with more than 300 animals*	*Samples*	*Total Farms*	*Total Samples*
BERAT	44	220	7	154	1	24	1	25	5	135	1	29	59	587
DIBËR	37	296	10	220	2	48	1	25	7	189	2	58	59	836
DURRËS	36	216	10	220	2	48	1	25	8	216	2	58	59	783
ELBASAN	47	282	5	110	2	48	1	25	2	54	2	58	59	577
FIER	37	259	9	198	2	48	1	25	8	216	2	58	59	804
GJIROKASTËR	20	160	7	154	3	72	1	25	21	567	7	203	59	1,181
KORÇË	26	182	8	176	3	72	2	50	18	486	2	58	59	1,024
KUKËS	21	147	11	242	3	72	2	50	20	540	2	58	59	1,109
LEZHË	36	252	12	264	3	72	2	50	5	135	1	29	59	802
SHKODËR	39	312	11	242	2	48	1	25	5	135	1	29	59	791
TIRANË	43	215	6	132	1	24	1	25	7	189	1	29	59	614
VLORË	23	184	10	220	3	72	2	50	15	405	6	174	59	1,105
TOTAL	**409**	**2,725**	**106**	**2,332**	**27**	**648**	**16**	**400**	**121**	**3,267**	**29**	**841**	**708**	**10,213**

Current situation for 2026

NUMBER OF FARMS AND SAMPLES IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PPR SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR 2026						
Region	**No. of Farms tested**	**No. of farms pozitive with ELISA**	**No. of Samples Collected**	**No. of ELISA Positive Samples**	**Clinical controls on April - August 2026**	
					No. of farms	**No. of animals**
BERAT	60	4	599	6	508	45458
DIBËR	60	8	822	68	635	88,214
DURRËS	59	10	783	137	507	52,111
ELBASAN	59	1	592	2	689	91,224
FIER	59	8	804	38	634	68,452
GJIROKASTËR	59	1	1,181	8	738	176,793
KORÇË	59	15	1,004	181	598	96,025
KUKËS	60	6	855	53	501	44,226
LEZHË	59	10	802	86	511	52,028
SHKODËR	62	4	859	29	607	86,324
TIRANË	59	3	614	54	503	48,557
VLORË	59	9	1,107	38	801	155,241
TOTAL	**714**	**79**	**10,022**	**700**	**7,232**	**1,004,653**

Measures for PPR Prevention and Control in the whole country

•**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**

•**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**

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

Current situation for 2026

Awareness campaigns

- **Posters**
- **Website**
- **Social media Information**

Links:

- *https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DoCzUyUJ1/*
- *https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CJWRRLBMD/*



Current situation for 2026

Awareness campaigns







Link:
https://akvmb.gov.al/informacion-mbi-ppr/



Lesson Learned for PPR

- Preparedness before the outbreak is more important than response after the outbreak.
- Clinical surveillance remains a fundamental component of the surveillance system; however, changes in the characteristics of the disease and the occurrence of cases without clinical signs make it insufficient as the sole tool for the effective detection and monitoring of the disease.
- Biosecurity and farmer reporting remain decisive.
- Continuous awareness of farmers and private veterinarians significantly improves early detection.
- Strong cooperation between central and regional veterinary services accelerates outbreak management and implementation of control measures.
- Cross-border collaboration and timely exchange of information are crucial, particularly in regions with shared pastures and frequent animal movements.
- Biosecurity practices in small ruminant holdings need further strengthening to reduce the risk of disease introduction and transmission.
- Simulation exercises and emergency preparedness training should be conducted regularly to maintain response capacity.

Vaccination strategies should be assessed and prepared in advance as part of contingency planning.
Vaccination should remain a risk-management tool for preventing and limiting the spread of the disease and may be considered when epidemiological circumstances require additional control measures.

Thank you!

World Organisation
for Animal Health