

# **Romanian Experience During the Avian Crisis 2005-2006**



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# Context

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**In Romania, the Avian Influenza occurred in two distinct waves:**

- **October 2005- April 2006: 53 outbreaks located in 9 counties**  
**Cause: migratory wild birds.**
- **May 2006: 127 outbreaks located in 18 counties as well as the Bucharest area**  
**Cause: the lack of biosecurity measures in farms and illegal trade with chicken in the disease development period**



# **Our Objective**

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**The objective of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development was:**

**Avoiding of the pandemic risk by:**

- **bird flue epidemic outbreak under control**
- **prevent human contamination with the avian influenza virus**



# **Responsible Authorities**

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**Central and Local Antiepzootic Headquarters  
composed of representatives of:**

- **The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Transports, Construction and Tourism**
- **Ministry of Administration and Interior**

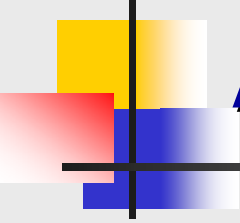


# The epizootic effects of avian influenza

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## The social-economic impact of the avian influenza:

- About 1,2 million **birds** have been **culled**
- The compensations paid to bird owners were estimated to cost about 5,6 million dollars
- Important amount of money (about 12 mil euro) were spent for laboratory tests, diagnostic sets, cremation and euthanasia of birds
- Other losses: for poultry breeding due to the sales decrease and export ban, moreover for tourism in the avian influenza affected area.



# **Modality of fighting against Avian Influenza**

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- **Inter-institutional cooperation**
- **Coordination of actions and decisional levels**
- **Accountability of the population**
- **Communication**



# Cooperation and collaboration

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Inter-institutional cooperation and collaboration at the local and central level meant:

- Establishing the responsibilities and duties of the state institutions;
- Decisions taken together and applied separately on diverse levels
- Supporting specialists– veterinaries for eradicating the outbreaks
- Setting up a task-force for facilitating the crises management



# **Population Accountability**

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- **Accountability measures for the bird owners**
- **Accountability measures for the farm bird breeders**
- **Compensation measures of the affected population**
- **Communication and information measures**



# Compensation of Losses

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- Owners of the culled birds were compensated
- The funds derived from the state budget
- The amount paid for each bird was established by an Assessment Commission
- In order to be paid, the owners had to:
  - Register the birds
  - Hand in the requested documents



# **The results of crisis management**

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- **No person was contaminated with Human Avian Influenza**
- **The legislation was improved**
- **All the public administration level's were responsible for the management of Human Avian Influenza**
- **The population was well informed and trained . The educational level was improved.**



# What we have learned

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- **It is important to manage well the birds illness cases, in order to prevent this way the human illness**
- **Total costs for preventing and stopping AI can be very high**
- **It is essential to properly inform the population**
- **The cooperation and collaboration between institutions at central and local level are indispensable.**
- **Mass-media interest can be overwhelming, and the excessive mediation can have negative effects.**
- **The authorities need funds to manage this kind of crises.**



# Conclusions

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- **Avian Influenza has spread all over the world. The Romanian authorities are not the only ones who fight with the virus.**
- **The virus source is the wild environment and therefore always exists the possibility to appear new centres of contagion of AI.**
- **Romania is the country where it has been registered the most outbreaks centres of AI, but not one single case of human sickness.**  
**This demonstrates the efficiency of the measures that were taken by the authorities.**

# Projects

*Romania is recognised in the whole world for the biodiversity of the bird species, especially in the Danube Delta – region with a high risk of epizootic diseases.*

*Avian flu crisis has demonstrated, once again, how fragile is the natural balance we want to keep in the environment. But our mission is to protect people against these sort of diseases.*





**Thank you for your attention!**

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**Questions?**