

The prioritisation of animal diseases and zoonoses in the Republic of North Macedonia in context of EU Animal Health Regulation

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INTRODUCTION

Animal diseases and zoonoses have a different impact on public health, determined by geographical and socio-economic factors, which requires their prevention and control prioritisation to be performed at the national level. Prioritisation of zoonoses is a mechanism used in policy-making, primarily in allocating available resources. The aim of the paper was to review the actual epidemiological situation regarding animal diseases and zoonosis in North Macedonia in context and according principles of EU Animal Health Regulation.

METHODOLOGY

Authors used a standardised semi-quantitative method based on the OIE Methodological Manual (List and Categorisation of priority diseases in animals including those transmitted to humans). The methodology is officially adopted by the Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia.

RESULTS

A total of 52 diseases in animal were subject to prioritisation. The first 5 ranked diseases are Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever and Lumpy Skin Disease. The first 5 ranked zoonosis are: Bovine brucellosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Salmonellosis, Avian influenza and West Nile fever.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the prioritisation in this document is to identify the zoonosis of the greatest importance in the Republic of North Macedonia. The results provide an appropriate framework for the allocation of financial and human resources of the state, as well as the regulation of the appropriate legislative-regulatory framework, national surveillance and risk assessment programmes. The medical and socio-economic impact, as well as the burden on public health are largely conditioned by the geography and time period of occurrence, and do not always correspond with current EU policy, which consequently has an additional negative impact regarding financial and human resources of national veterinary services.