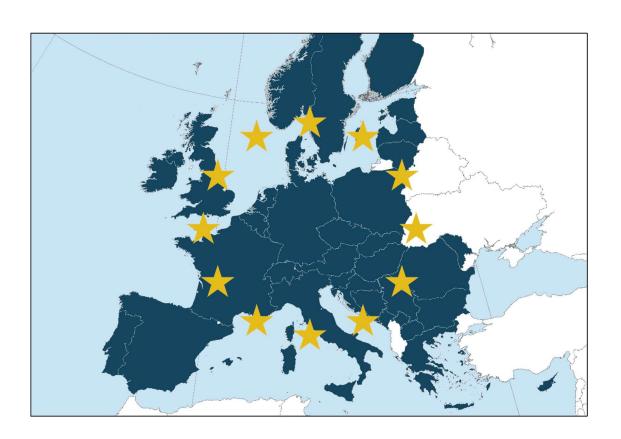


European Union Reference Laboratory for Rabies European Union Reference Institute for Rabies Serology WHO Collaborating
Centre
for Research and
Management

OIE
Reference
Laboratory
for Rabies



# DIAGNOSIS AND FOLLOW-UP OF ORAL VACCINATION PERFORMED IN NRLS IN 2019



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August 2020

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An annual activity online questionnaire was submitted to all National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) on last February 2020 to collect and collate data on methods used and results of tests carried out in the European Union in the frame of rabies control programmes (Commission regulations (EU) N° 737/2008 and N°415/2013).

This document reviews the 2019 analysis performed in 27 European Union member states and in 8 third countries involved in a rabies control programme.

# 1 GENERAL DATA

In 2019, the European Union National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) network for Rabies included 28 member states. Twenty-seven NRLs participated in the investigation. To ensure a better overview, some third countries of interest or involved in Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) programmes were invited to take part in the study. Nine laboratories (from Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldavia, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, 2 laboratories from Serbia, Switzerland and Norway) were added in the dataset. Finally, the survey enrolled 36 laboratories (Figure 1).

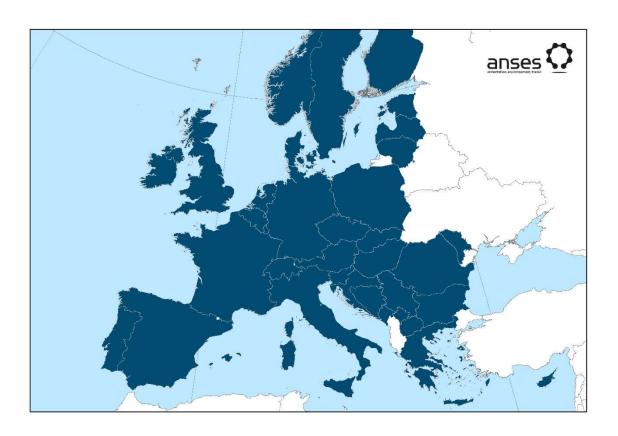


Figure 1: Map of the participating countries in the 2019 review

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE** 2

In 2019, 33 on 36 laboratories (92%) of which 26/27 EU NRLs were accredited according to the ISO EN 17025 standards.

Each laboratory is accredited for various combinations of techniques. The most widely used techniques under quality assurance system management are the FAT (75% of laboratories accredited), the FAVN test (50%) and the RTCIT (50%) (Figure 2).

Thirty-nine percent (14/36) participating national laboratories and 13/27 EU laboratories (48%) are working in BSL3 facilities.

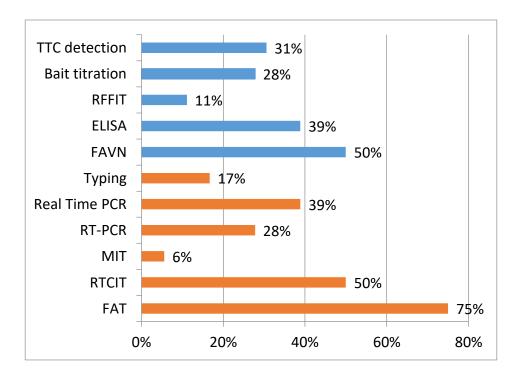


Figure 2: Percentage of laboratories accredited for the different techniques related to rabies field (diagnosis techniques in orange and monitoring techniques in blue).

### RABIES LABORATORY NETWORK AND DIAGNOSIS DECISION TREE 3

Among participating laboratories, 12/36 (33%) laboratories are heading a regional laboratory network where rabies diagnosis analysis are also implemented. In two countries (France and Serbia), rabies diagnosis in animals is performed in a different laboratory in case of animal involving a human exposure.

The conclusions given by the laboratories for a rabies diagnosis test are either positive (the animal was infected) either negative (the animal was not infected). Among the participants, 47% of laboratories (17/36) have an additional result, i.e. consider the status 'inconclusive' for the results (FAT and/or RTCIT and/or RT-PCR and/or Real Time RT-PCR) in rabies diagnosis tests in their NRL and in regional laboratories (2/10).

Confirmatory tests are more commonly used in case of inconclusive result or in certain circumstances (imported animals, animals for which there was a human exposure, the OIE indeed recommends to confirm any primary positive result on samples at the origin of a human exposure). In case with human exposure, three laboratories did not perform a confirmatory test in their laboratory. In cases without human exposure, seven laboratories did not perform a confirmatory test.

According to the result survey, most of the confirmatory tests are molecular biology tools. First test assessed is generally the FAT (24/31), the Real Time RT-PCR tests is commonly used as first confirmatory test (13/28) while the second confirmatory test is more commonly the conventional RT-PCR (8/18). The third confirmatory test, when used, is most commonly the RTCIT (2/6).

Globally, the chain of diagnosis tests used by laboratories of this review vary widely. As example, for the diagnosis of a sample enrolled in human exposure, no less than 21 different chains of tests have been announced (Table 1) showing that a high disparity of rabies diagnosis decision trees coexists within the network.

Table 1: Successive confirmatory tests used by participating laboratories in case of human exposure

| Chain of tests | First test       | Second test         | Third test            | Fourth test      | N laboratories |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1              | FAT              | Real Time RT-PCR    | Conventional RT-PCR   | RTCIT            | 2              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 2              | FAT              | Real Time RT-PCR    | MIT                   | RTCIT            | 1              |
| 3              | FAT              | Real Time RT-PCR    | Conventional RT-PCR   |                  | 3              |
| 3              | IAI              | Real Time RT-FCR    | Conventional K1-FCK   |                  | 3              |
| 4              | FAT              | Real Time RT-PCR    | RTCIT                 |                  | 3              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 5              | FAT              | Real Time RT-PCR    |                       |                  | 3              |
|                | FAT              | Conventional RT-PCR | DTCIT                 | MIT              | 1              |
| 6              | rai              | Conventional K1-PCK | RTCIT                 | IVII I           | 1              |
| 7              | FAT              | Conventional RT-PCR | RTCIT                 | Real Time RT-PCR | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 8              | FAT              | Conventional RT-PCR | ,                     |                  | 1              |
|                |                  | 2707                | D 17: DT 000          |                  |                |
| 9              | FAT              | RTCIT               | Real Time RT-PCR      |                  | 2              |
| 10             | FAT              | RTCIT               | Conventional RT-PCR   |                  | 1              |
| 10             |                  | Kien                | Conventional IVI Tell |                  | _              |
| 11             | FAT              | RTCIT               | Conventional RT-PCR   | Real Time RT-PCR | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 12             | FAT              | RTCIT               |                       |                  | 1              |
| 13             | FAT              | MIT                 |                       |                  | 3              |
| 13             | IAI              | IVIII               |                       |                  | 3              |
| 14             | FAT              |                     |                       |                  | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 15             | Real Time RT-PCR | Real Time RT-PCR    | Conventional RT-PCR   | FAT              | 1              |
| 16             | Deal Time DT DCD | Canada and DT DCD   |                       |                  |                |
| 16             | Real Time RT-PCR | Conventional RT-PCR |                       |                  | 1              |
| 17             | Real Time RT-PCR | RTCIT               |                       |                  | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 18             | Real Time RT-PCR |                     |                       |                  | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |
| 19             | RTCIT            | Conventional RT-PCR | Real Time RT-PCR      |                  | 1              |
| 20             | RTCIT            | Real Time RT-PCR    |                       |                  | 1              |
|                | N. C.T           | Near Time III Felt  |                       |                  |                |
| 21             | RTCIT            | <u> </u>            | <u>'</u>              | <u> </u>         | 1              |
|                |                  |                     |                       |                  |                |

# RABIES DIAGNOSIS IN THE FRAME OF RABIES SURVEILLANCE IN MAMMALS EXCLUDING BATS (PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE ONLY)

The FAT (OIE, 2018; WHO; 2018a) remains the most commonly used technique (representing 81% of the total amount of diagnostic tests performed during the year and used by 86% of laboratories) (Table 2 for all mammals excluding bats, Table 3 for wildlife excluding bats, Table 4 for domestic animals).

The Real Time is the second technique of choice used by laboratories (54% of laboratories and 4% of the total amount of diagnosis tests performed during the year) while RTCIT still represent the second most used technique when considering the total number of analysis (9%) (Table 2). Still 11% of laboratories (n=4) are using the MIT in their rabies diagnosis process, although, for ethical reasons, it is recommended whenever possible to replace MIT by another confirmatory technique (OIE, 2018).

Number of animals analysed in the frame of rabies surveillance programme (bats excluded) varied from 0 to 4 876 samples at country level. Nine positive cases in EU (including three cases of human imported rabies and one dog imported rabies case) and 97 (including one case of human imported rabies) out of EU were identified for a total of 27 578 FAT (0.004%).

<u>Table 2</u>: Number of tests performed per country (NRL and regional laboratories data) in 2019 in the frame of rabies diagnosis (**mammals excluding bats and passive surveillance only**) (Green box: number of tests; red box: number of positive cases; ND: No data; \*: imported case). For number of cases in Romania: 1 case detected in the frame of the monitoring of ORV.

| Country                   | FAT   | RTCIT | MIT  | RT-PCR | RealTime | Typing | n cases           |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------|--------|----------|--------|-------------------|
| Austria                   | 247   | 33    | 0    | 34     | 34       | 0      |                   |
| Belgium                   | 44    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 20    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Bulgaria                  | 902   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Croatia                   | 488   | 0     | 0    | 44     | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Cyprus                    | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Czechia                   | 3193  | 0     | 0    | 189    | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Denmark                   | 5     | 1     | 0    | 0      | 7        | 0      |                   |
| Estonia                   | 237   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 28       | 0      |                   |
| Finland                   | 181   | 76    | 0    | 0      | 45       | 0      |                   |
| France                    | 3422  | 3     | 9    | 8      | 8        | 6      |                   |
| Germany                   | 3835  | 0     | 0    | 0      | 120      | 0      |                   |
| Greece                    | 789   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 157      | 0      |                   |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 115   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Hungary                   | 1077  | 0     | 492  | 0      | 424      | 0      |                   |
| Ireland                   | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Italy                     | 4876  | 755   | 0    | 604    | 39       | 35     | 1 human*          |
| Republic of Kosovo        | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Latvia                    | 1131  | 48    | 0    | 0      | 80       | 0      | 1 human*          |
| Lithuania                 | 245   | 77    | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Montenegro                | 11    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| North Macedonia           | 17    | 2     | 0    | 0      | 2        | 0      |                   |
| Norway                    | 1     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 20       | 0      | 1 human*          |
| Poland                    | 3240  | 1787  | 0    | 11     | 12       | 1      | 1                 |
| Portugal                  | 0     | 0     | 0    | 6      | 6        | 0      |                   |
| Republic of Moldova       | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      | 96                |
| Republic of Serbia        | 132   | 0     | 54   | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Romania                   | 888   | 10    | 547  | 3      | 0        | 3      | 4                 |
| Slovakia                  | 374   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 176      | 0      |                   |
| Slovenia                  | 1377  | 35    | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| Spain                     | 126   | 0     | 0    | 122    | 118      | 4      | 1 human* + 1 dog* |
| Sweden                    | 3     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 39       | 0      |                   |
| Switzerland               | 123   | 92    | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0      |                   |
| The Netherlands           | 8     | 0     | 0    | 0      | 8        | 0      |                   |
| United Kingdom            | 471   | 7     | 0    | 4      | 203      | 4      |                   |
| Total (n analysis)        | 27578 | 2926  | 1102 | 1025   | 1526     | 53     |                   |
| Total (% analysis)        | 81%   | 9%    | 3%   | 3%     | 4%       | 0%     |                   |
| Total (n laboratories)    | 30    | 13    | 4    | 10     | 19       | 6      |                   |
| Total (% laboratories)    | 86%   | 37%   | 11%  | 29%    | 54%      | 17%    |                   |

Table 3: Number of tests performed per country (NRL and regional laboratories data) in 2019 in the frame of rabies diagnosis (wild animals excluding bats and passive surveillance only) (Green box: number of tests; red box: number of positive cases; ND: No data; \*: vaccine induced case)

| Country                   | FAT   | RTCIT | MIT | RT-PCR | RealTime | Typing | n cases |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-----|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Austria                   | 196   | 5     | 0   | 6      | 6        | 0      |         |
| Belgium                   | 13    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 3     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Bulgaria                  | 887   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Croatia                   | 374   | 0     | 0   | 5      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Cyprus                    | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Czechia                   | 3043  | 0     | 0   | 39     | 0        | 0      |         |
| Denmark                   | 2     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 2        | 0      |         |
| Estonia                   | 207   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 28       | 0      |         |
| Finland                   | 90    | 20    | 0   | 0      | 45       | 0      |         |
| France                    | 2066  | 0     | 0   | 8      | 8        | 6      |         |
| Germany                   | 3735  | 0     | 0   | 0      | 71       | 0      |         |
| Greece                    | 757   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 138      | 0      |         |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 112   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Hungary                   | 451   | 0     | 84  | 0      | 98       | 0      |         |
| Ireland                   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Italy                     | 4146  | 221   | 0   | 137    | 6        | 0      |         |
| Republic of Kosovo        | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Latvia                    | 1096  | 26    | 0   | 0      | 53       | 0      |         |
| Lithuania                 | 200   | 41    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Montenegro                | 4     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| North Macedonia           | 15    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Norway                    | 1     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 17       | 0      |         |
| Poland                    | 1682  | 321   | 0   | 7      | 4        | 1      | 1       |
| Portugal                  | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Republic of Moldova       | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      | 58      |
| Republic of Serbia        | 49    | 0     | 6   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Romania                   | 392   | 1     | 254 | 2      | 0        | 2      | 3       |
| Slovakia                  | 229   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 38       | 0      |         |
| Slovenia                  | 1313  | 7     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Spain                     | 45    | 0     | 0   | 42     | 40       | 3      |         |
| Sweden                    | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 2        | 0      |         |
| Switzerland               | 41    | 10    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| The Netherlands           | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| United Kingdom            | 466   | 7     | 0   | 4      | 201      | 4      |         |
| Total                     | 21615 | 659   | 344 | 250    | 757      | 16     | 62      |

<u>Table 4</u>: Number of tests performed per country (NRL and regional laboratories data) in 2019 in the frame of rabies diagnosis (**domestic animals**) (Green box: number of tests; red box: number of positive cases; ND: No data; \*: vaccine induced case)

| Country                   | FAT  | RTCIT | MIT | RT-PCR | RealTime | Typing | n cases |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-----|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Austria                   | 51   | 28    | 0   | 28     | 28       | 0      |         |
| Belgium                   | 31   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 17   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Bulgaria                  | 15   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Croatia                   | 114  | 0     | 0   | 39     | 0        | 0      |         |
| Cyprus                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Czechia                   | 150  | 0     | 0   | 150    | 0        | 0      |         |
| Denmark                   | 3    | 1     | 0   | 0      | 5        | 0      |         |
| Estonia                   | 30   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Finland                   | 91   | 56    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| France                    | 1356 | 3     | 9   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Germany                   | 100  | 0     | 0   | 0      | 49       | 0      |         |
| Greece                    | 32   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 19       | 0      |         |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 3    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Hungary                   | 626  | 0     | 408 | 0      | 326      | 0      |         |
| Ireland                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Italy                     | 730  | 534   | 0   | 467    | 33       | 35     |         |
| Republic of Kosovo        | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Latvia                    | 35   | 22    | 0   | 0      | 27       | 0      |         |
| Lithuania                 | 45   | 36    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Montenegro                | 7    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| North Macedonia           | 2    | 2     | 0   | 0      | 2        | 0      |         |
| Norway                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 3        | 0      |         |
| Poland                    | 1558 | 1466  | 0   | 4      | 8        | 0      |         |
| Portugal                  | 0    | 0     | 0   | 6      | 6        | 0      |         |
| Republic of Moldova       | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      | 38      |
| Republic of Serbia        | 83   | 0     | 48  | 0      |          | 0      |         |
| Romania                   | 496  | 9     | 293 | 1      | 0        | 1      | 1       |
| Slovakia                  | 145  | 0     | 0   | 0      | 138      | 0      |         |
| Slovenia                  | 64   | 28    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Spain                     | 81   | 0     | 0   | 80     | 78       | 1      |         |
| Sweden                    | 3    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 37       | 0      |         |
| Switzerland               | 82   | 82    | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| The Netherlands           | 8    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 8        | 0      |         |
| United Kingdom            | 5    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 2        | 0      |         |
| Total                     | 5963 | 2267  | 758 | 775    | 769      | 37     | 39      |

Sampling effort in the frame of rabies surveillance has been estimated by dividing the number of FAT tests (wildlife and domestic animals separately) by the total area (km²) of the country multiplied by 100. This provided a surveillance indicator of the number of samples analysed for 100 km² in each country (for wildlife excepted bats and for domestic animals). As the surveillance system depends upon the epidemiological situation in the country, we divided countries in four groups according to the rabies situation or implementation or not of oral vaccination programme (Table 5).

<u>Table 5</u>: Number of FAT tests performed in the frame of rabies surveillance programmes (mammals excluding bats and passive surveillance only) per country for 100 km² in wildlife (excluding bats) and in domestic animals. Countries are classified in groups according to their rabies situation or implementation of oral vaccination programmes or not.

Wildlife

Domestic Animals

| Country                   | Sampling wildlife | Groupe | Country                   | Sampling domestic | Groupe |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|
|                           | Wilding           |        |                           | animals           |        |
| Latvia                    | 1.70              | Α      | Poland                    | 0.50              | Α      |
| Poland                    | 0.54              | Α      | Romania                   | 0.21              | Α      |
| Romania                   | 0.17              | Α      | Republic of Serbia        | 0.09              | Α      |
| Republic of Serbia        | 0.06              | Α      | Latvia                    | 0.05              | Α      |
| Republic of Moldova       | 0.00              | Α      | Republic of Moldova       | 0.00              | Α      |
| Bulgaria                  | 0.80              | В      | Hungary                   | 0.67              | В      |
| Croatia                   | 0.66              | В      | Croatia                   | 0.20              | В      |
| Greece                    | 0.57              | В      | Lithuania                 | 0.20              | В      |
| Hungary                   | 0.48              | В      | Estonia                   | 0.07              | В      |
| Estonia                   | 0.46              | В      | Finland                   | 0.07              | В      |
| Lithuania                 | 0.40              | В      | Greece                    | 0.03              | В      |
| North Macedonia           | 0.06              | В      | Bulgaria                  | 0.02              | В      |
| Finland                   | 0.08              | В      | North Macedonia           | 0.01              | В      |
| Republic of Kosovo        |                   | В      |                           |                   |        |
| Republic of Rosovo        | 0.00              | В      | Republic of Kosovo        | 0.00              | В      |
| Slovenia                  | 6.48              | С      | Slovenia                  | 0.32              | С      |
| Slovakia                  | 0.47              | С      | Slovakia                  | 0.30              | С      |
| Montenegro                | 0.03              | С      | Montenegro                | 0.05              | С      |
|                           |                   |        |                           |                   |        |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 0.01              | D      | Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 0.03              | D      |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 4.33              | E      | Italy                     | 0.24              | E      |
| Czechia                   | 3.86              | Е      | France                    | 0.21              | E      |
| Italy                     | 1.38              | Е      | Switzerland               | 0.20              | Е      |
| Germany                   | 1.05              | Е      | Czechia                   | 0.19              | Е      |
| France                    | 0.32              | E      | Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 0.12              | Е      |
| Austria                   | 0.23              | Е      | Belgium                   | 0.10              | E      |
| UK                        | 0.19              | Е      | Austria                   | 0.06              | Е      |
| Switzerland               | 0.10              | Е      | Germany                   | 0.03              | Е      |
| Belgium                   | 0.04              | E      | The Netherlands           | 0.02              | Е      |
| Spain                     | 0.01              | Е      | Spain                     | 0.02              | E      |
| Denmark                   | 0.00              | E      | Denmark                   | 0.01              | Е      |
| Norway                    | 0.00              | Е      | UK                        | 0.00              | Е      |
| Cyprus                    | 0.00              | Е      | Sweden                    | 0.00              | Е      |
| Ireland                   | 0.00              | E      | Cyprus                    | 0.00              | Е      |
| Portugal                  | 0.00              | Е      | Ireland                   | 0.00              | Е      |
| Sweden                    | 0.00              | Е      | Norway                    | 0.00              | Е      |
| The Netherlands           | 0.00              | Е      | Portugal                  | 0.00              | Е      |

## The groups are the following:

- Group A: Countries with at least one positive case in the year n-1 (2018).
- Group B: Countries excluded from group A (no positive case in the year n<sup>-1</sup>) with at least one positive case in a bordering country in the year n<sup>-1</sup> (2018) and conducting ORV in 2019.
- Group C: Countries excluded from group A and B (with no positive case in a bordering country in the year n<sup>-1</sup>) but conducting ORV in 2019.
- Group D: Countries excluded from group A, B, C with at least one positive case in a bordering country in the year n<sup>-1</sup> (2018) and not conducting ORV in 2019.
- Group E: Countries excluded from groups A, B, C, D and E, not involved in ORV programmes.

## 5 RABIES CASES IN MAMMALS EXCLUDING BATS

In 2019, 3 of the 35 (9%) participating countries identified at least a positive endemic case (Figure 3). The number of detected cases within the European Union reached the lowest reported annual figures never observed. Eight endemic animal cases and one human imported case were indeed recorded in 2018 in the EU while 5 endemic animal cases and 5 imported cases were recorded in 2019 (four human and one dog cases).

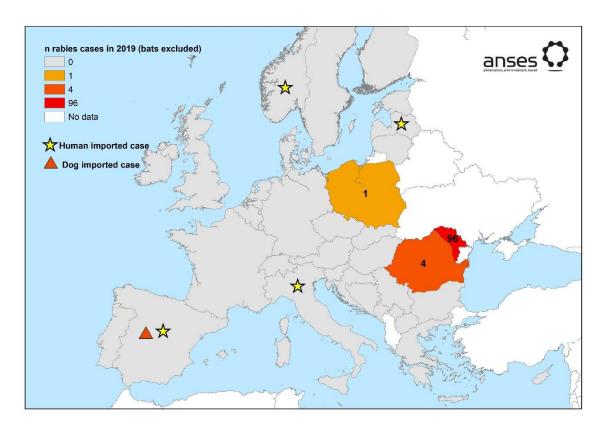


Figure 3: Number of reported rabies cases per country in mammals excluding bats in 2019.

### **6 RABIES CASES IN BATS**

Twenty countries (55%) performed rabies diagnosis on bats (Figure 4 and Table 6). The number of samples tested by FAT throughout 2019 varied from 1 to 663 tests within the year according to the country. The most implicated countries in rabies surveillance in bats are principally located in Western Europe where a total of 39 bat cases were detected.

Rabies diagnosis technique commonly used to identify a positive case is the FAT while some countries used molecular biology techniques as primary diagnostic test (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden).

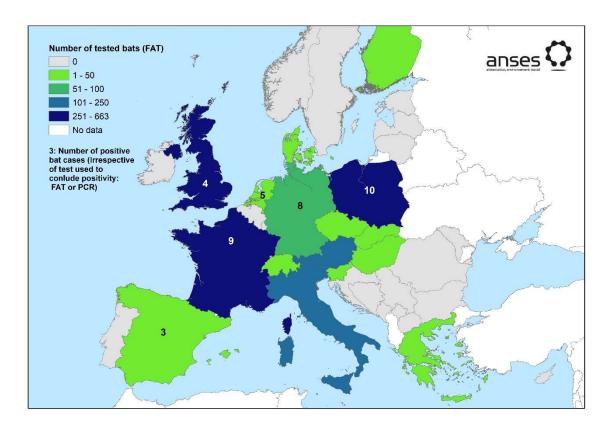


Figure 4: Number of bats tested by FAT per country in 2019 in the frame of passive surveillance programme and number of associated positive cases.

Table 6: Number of tests performed per country (NRLs and regional laboratories data) in 2019 in the frame of passive surveillance on bats (Green box: number of tests; red box: number of positive cases)

| Country                   | FAT  | RTCIT | MIT | RT-PCR | RealTime | Typing | n cases |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-----|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Austria                   | 112  | 3     | 0   | 3      | 3        | 0      |         |
| Belgium                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 30       | 0      |         |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Bulgaria                  | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Croatia                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Cyprus                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Czechia                   | 14   | 0     | 0   | 6      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Denmark                   | 1    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 11       | 0      |         |
| Estonia                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Finland                   | 40   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 40       | 0      |         |
| France                    | 663  | 8     | 0   | 8      | 8        | 7      | 9       |
| Germany                   | 75   | 8     | 0   | 0      | 450      | 16     | 8       |
| Greece                    | 1    | 0     | 0   | 1      | 1        | 0      |         |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Hungary                   | 16   | 0     | 6   | 0      | 16       | 0      |         |
| Ireland                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Italy                     | 192  | 42    | 0   | 157    | 0        | 57     |         |
| Republic of Kosovo        | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Latvia                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Lithuania                 | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Montenegro                | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| North Macedonia           | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Norway                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 5        | 0      |         |
| Poland                    | 298  | 105   | 0   | 11     | 8        | 10     | 10      |
| Portugal                  | 0    | 0     | 0   | 66     | 0        | 0      |         |
| Republic of Moldova       | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Republic of Serbia        | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Romania                   | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| Slovakia                  | 1    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 1        | 0      |         |
| Slovenia                  | 1    | 0     | 0   | 2      | 2        | 0      |         |
| Spain                     | 29   | 0     | 0   | 29     | 27       | 3      | 3       |
| Sweden                    | 0    | 0     | 0   | 0      | 3        | 0      |         |
| Switzerland               | 18   | 4     | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0      |         |
| The Netherlands           | 12   | 0     | 0   | 0      | 59       | 0      | 5       |
| United Kingdom            | 466  | 7     | 0   | 4      | 201      | 4      | 4       |
| Total                     | 1939 | 177   | 6   | 287    | 865      | 97     | 39      |

## 7 ORAL VACCINATION MONITORING

### 7.1 Oral Vaccination

Sixteen countries implemented oral vaccination campaigns in 2019 (Table 7 and Figure 5). All countries performed two ORV campaigns within the year (one in spring and one in autumn) except Finland and Kosovo (one campaign). In 2019, a total of 34 909 984 baits were distributed over 1 408 278 km² (708 188 km² in autumn and 700 090 km² in spring). The total vaccinated area represented 14% of the territory of participating countries of this review. Bait titration of vaccine batches before their release in the field was carried out by 13 countries (in their own or in another laboratory), three laboratories did not provided data. All the virus titres of the 94 batches were found satisfactory. Eighty two percent (13/16) of countries used Lysvulpen oral vaccines. No vaccine-induced cases were detected in 2019.

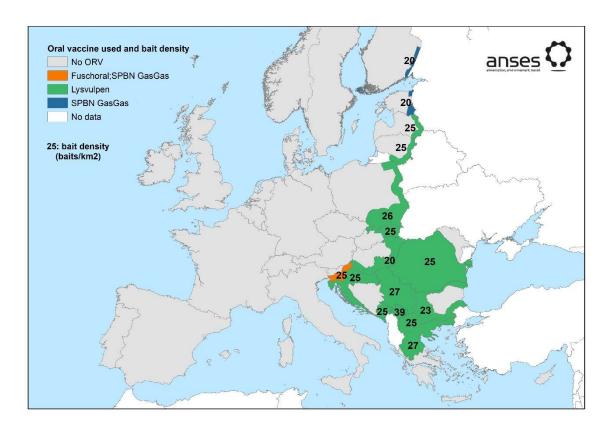


Figure 5: Oral vaccines used in the oral rabies vaccination and corresponding overall bait density per country. ORV area limitation kindly provided by the European Commission.

Table 7: Oral vaccination campaigns performed in European countries and number of oral vaccine batches analysed for titration in NRLs. ND: no data

| Country  | Number of campaign | Vaccine Bait used       | Total<br>vaccinated<br>area (km²)<br>(spring +<br>autumn) | Total number<br>of baits<br>distributed<br>(spring +<br>autumn) | Bait density<br>(baits/km²) | N batches<br>analysed |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Austria  |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Belgium  |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                     |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Bulgaria   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 122,295   | 2,852,000   | 23                          | ND                    |
| Croatia  | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 106,588   | 2,665,850   | 25                          | 7                     |
| Cyprus<br>Czechia<br>Denmark                               |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Estonia  | 2                  | SPBN GasGas             | 12,200  | 244,800   | 20                          | ND                    |
| Finland  | 1                  | SPBN GasGas             | 9,000   | 180,000   | 20                          | 1                     |
| France<br>Germany  |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Greece   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 109,483   | 2,983,316   | 27                          | 9                     |
| Grand Duchy of Luxembo                                     | urg                |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Hungary  | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 83,940  | 1,678,800   | 20                          | 6                     |
| Ireland<br>Italy   |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Republic of Kosovo   | 1                  | Lysvulpen               | 7,700   | 300,000   | 39                          | ND                    |
| Latvia   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 38,490  | 961,800   | 25                          | 5                     |
| Lithuania  | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 40,800  | 1,010,000   | 25                          | 4                     |
| Montenegro   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 27,000  | 550,000   | 20                          | 2                     |
| North Macedonia  | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 50,000  | 1,000,000   | 20                          | 5                     |
| Norway   |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Poland   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 195,984   | 5,045,868   | 26                          | 11                    |
| Portugal<br>Republic of Moldova                            |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Republic of Serbia   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 121,992   | 3,342,000   | 27                          | 9                     |
| Romania  | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 426,000   | 10,668,000  | 25                          | 26                    |
| Slovakia   | 2                  | Lysvulpen               | 26,806  | 667,550   | 25                          | 2                     |
| Slovenia   | 2                  | Fuschoral + SPBN GasGas | 30,000  | 760,000   | 25                          | 7                     |
| Spain  |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Sweden<br>Switzerland<br>The Netherlands<br>United Kingdom |                    |                         |   |   |                             |                       |
| Total  | 30                 |                         | 1,408,278   | 34,909,984  | 25                          | 94                    |

### 7.2 Percentage of seroconversion in the target population

Percentages of seroconversion ranged from 14% to 54% with a median of 37% (Figure 6). As in 2018, such data suggest that none of the countries reached the minimum 70% recommended vaccination coverage of the WHO (2018b).

Various tests are used for the serological analysis of wildlife within Europe: 13/15 laboratories (87%) used an ELISA commercial kit (10 laboratories used the BioPro kit, 3 used the Bio-Rad kit). In laboratory group not using ELISA commercial kits, Croatia used an mFAVN test and Slovakia used a "home made" ELISA test.

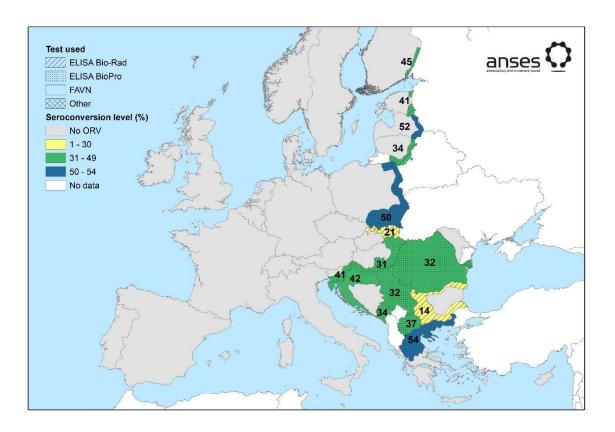


Figure 6: Proportion of sero-conversion in the target population and type of test used in 2019. ORV area limitation kindly provided by the European Commission.

# 7.3 Percentage of tetracycline presence in target population

The proportion of animals identified positive for the presence of tetracycline in teeth (bait uptake level) ranged from 58% to 90% with a median of 74% (Figure 7). 10/15 countries (Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia) reported a bait uptake that exceeded 70%, which is in accordance with the minimum 70% recommended vaccination coverage of the WHO (2018b).

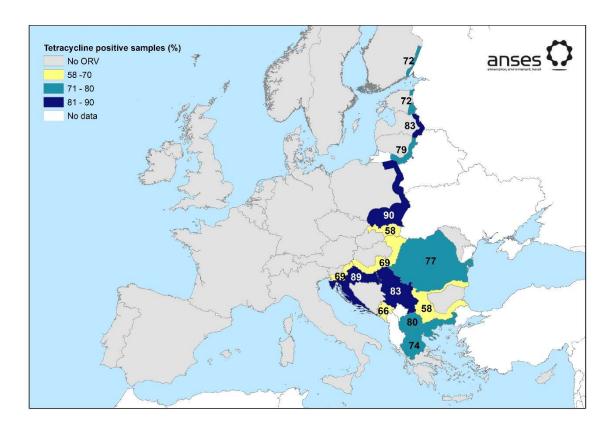


Figure 7: Proportion of positive samples for tetracycline presence in the target population in 2019.

ORV area limitation kindly provided by the European Commission

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to thank all the participants in this review for kindly providing the data of the analysis performed in their laboratory and in regional laboratories of their own network.

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