



# **Rabies subgroup of the Task Force on the eradication of animal diseases**

**Animal Health  
Advisory Committee,  
Brussels, 19 June 2015**

# Task force for monitoring disease eradication

- *„White Paper on Food Safety“*
  - animal health was recognised as an important factor
  - Aimed at a more coordinated and integrated approach to the organisation of food safety
  - And with a view to achieving the highest possible level of health protection

# Task force for monitoring disease eradication

- *Action plan*
  - **Action N° 29**
    - an increase of budgetary allocation for actions provided for in Council Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field
  - **Objectives**
    - To enable actions necessary to improve animal disease eradication (brucellosis, tuberculosis etc.)
    - To create a Task Force for monitoring disease eradication in the Member States.
  - **The Task Force as foreseen in the White Paper on Food Safety was created by the EC in March 2000**

# Task force for monitoring disease eradication

- *Objectives of the TF*
  - To improve animal disease eradication and
  - To improve the cost-benefit-ratio of animal disease eradication programmes co-financed by the Community
- *Composition*
  - representatives of all MSs and the Commission
  - A Plenary Task Force meeting is held annually in Brussels.

# TF subgroups

- Subgroups
  - **support the Task Force**
  - **give tailored technical assistance to EU countries for some diseases**
    - Bovine tuberculosis
    - Brucellosis („Bovine“ and „Sheep and Goats“)
    - **Rabies**
    - Classical Swine Fever
    - Salmonella
  - **support MSs in development and implementation of optimal disease eradication measures**

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Established in 2004*
- *The first meeting was held in Klagenfurt, Austria*
- *Members*
  - **Representatives of MSs with an approved rabies eradication programme**
  - **Private experts (EURL, OIE RL)**
  - **Commission**

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Meetings are held*
  - **in a country with an approved rabies eradication programme**
  - **in areas with particular problems**
- *This allows for the on-spot evaluation of the situation, field visits and evaluation of ORV campaigns, discussions with local staff, if necessary visits to laboratories, vet services, etc.*

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- List of missions*

Country	Year
Austria	2004
Lithuania	2005, 2009
Poland	2006, 2012
Slovenia	2006
Slovak Republic	2007
Estonia	2010
Russia	2011
Bulgaria	2011
Croatia	2012

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Aim of the visits*
  - To review the programmes and measures, to evaluate the strategies and measures for eradication of the disease
  - To evaluate the implementation activities and to detect good practices and weaknesses of measures or implementation
  - to share information and experience of the experts
  - to give technical support

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Conclusions*
  - **Reflects the situation in general**
  - **Point out good practices and weak points**
  - **Elaborated in the report**
- *Reccomendations*
  - **Related to the concluded shortcommings and based on the evaluation of the situation and information given by the host country**
  - **Given for improvement of the programme and its implementation**

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Reports of TF Rabies Subgroup with conclusions and recommendations are published at the EC website:*
  - [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_food-safety/funding/cff/animal\\_health/vet\\_progs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/funding/cff/animal_health/vet_progs_en.htm)

## TF Rabies Subgroup

- *From its creation until 2010, the work of TF and its subgroup has been limited only to the EU MSs*
    - **The objectives of TF have been achieved**
    - **The need of further developments and strengthen of animal disease eradication in the EU and in the neighbouring TC**
- ↓
- **Assistance to MSs with a view to the preparation of the programmes**
  - **Assistance and involvement of the neighbouring TC**

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Since 2010, the mandate of the TF has been extended to the neighbouring third countries, candidate countries, potential candidate countries and acceding countries*
- *the eradication of rabies in MSs has increased the need of trans boundary cooperation with non-EU countries*
- *TF Rabies Subgroup was splitted in two groups*
  - **Northern – to involve Russia, Belarus and Ukraine**
  - **Southern – to involve Western Balkan countries**

# TF Rabies Subgroup

- *Based on the experience and 10-year-work of TF Rabies subgroup*
  - Guidance document „**Guidelines to design an EU co-financed programme on eradication and control of Rabies in wildlife**“
    - Introduction
    - Requirements for rabies programmes
    - Enhancing the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes
    - Conclusions
    - Recommendations
  - **Available at EC website:**
    - [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_food-safety/funding/cff/docs/animal\\_vet-progs\\_guidance\\_rabies.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/funding/cff/docs/animal_vet-progs_guidance_rabies.pdf)

# Requirements for rabies programmes

- *Design, implementation and duration of ORV campaigns*
- *Vaccines*
- *Quality Control of vaccines*
- *Regular ORV campaigns, ORV buffer zones in rabies free areas, Emergency ORV campaigns*
- *Rabies surveillance*
- *Monitoring of ORV*
- *Vaccination of other animals*
- *EU reference laboratory for rabies*

# Enhancing the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes

- *The need for an instrument at EU level that supports long-term planning and allows to secure the necessary budget at national level.*
- *Increased cooperation and collaboration on ORV implementation with neighbouring countries including non-EU countries.*

# Enhancing the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes

- *Organisation*
  - **Rabies eradication requires a long term planning including allocation of financial resources for the whole duration of the programme.**
  - **Actions taken by the EU to secure the necessary budget**
    - Multi-annual programming;
    - The increase of the level of co-financing of the measures up to 75 % of eligible costs
    - Introduction of 100% co-financing for organization of ORV campaigns in third countries bordering EU
    - Additional measures

# Enhancing the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes

- Epidemiological analyses
  - **Epidemiological analysis are a fundament for proper planning, implementation and evaluation of ORV programmes**
  - **It helps decision makers to check the success of interventions and to take corrective actions, if necessary.**

# Enhancing the effectiveness of rabies eradication programmes

- *Training and disease awareness*
  -
- *Collaboration and cooperation between MSs and TC*

# CONCLUSIONS

- *An important step towards rabies elimination in the EU was made with the general implementation of ORV programmes in the infected MSs and neighbouring third countries*
  - **Increased rate of co-financing at the level of 75%**
  - **up to of 100%, in the neighbouring TC countries.**
- *This has led to a more favourable rabies situation in the EU.*

# CONCLUSIONS

- *Competent authorities have established solid legal frameworks for the control of rabies and good collaboration*
  - **Within the countries**
  - **Between MSs**
  - **Between neighbouring TC**
- *The system of rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring has been implemented and improved.*

# CONCLUSIONS

- *Quality criteria and quality assurance for oral rabies virus vaccines have been defined and implemented , respectively to prevent potential vaccine based deficiencies due to inappropriate storage, transportation and distribution.*
- *EU-RL and the subgroup rabies of the task force are playing a crucial role in improving the quality of the ORV campaigns and related activities.*

# CONCLUSIONS

- *NRLs for rabies have generally appropriate facilities, trained staff and are adequately equipped. They work in close cooperation with CAs, regional labs and established WHO/OIE recommended standard laboratory techniques for rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring. When necessary, additional trainings for staff were provided by EURL.*



# CONCLUSIONS

- *The NRLs participates in international proficiency testing and inter-laboratory comparison tests as organized by the EU-RL for rabies. Furthermore, the NRLs have established good collaboration with WHO Collaborating Centres and OIE-Reference Laboratories for rabies as well with NRLs of neighbouring countries.*

# CONCLUSIONS

- *A lot of resources have been allocated in establishing communication and education systems to ensure high disease awareness and thus, full involvement and collaboration between all authorities and stakeholders, necessary for the progress of rabies eradication.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- *The ORV programmes should be conducted*
  - **Large scale**
  - **Long term**
    - at least six years
    - and ceased not earlier than two years after the last confirmed case of rabies
- *An area should not be considered as free of rabies unless robust surveillance data indicates the absence of the disease.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Special attention should be given to maintain the sufficient sample size (wild and domestic) submitted for rabies surveillance (suspect cases, indicator animals) to be able to adequately assess the rabies situation.*
- *Measures should be taken to maximize sample collection in all target species for monitoring of ORV*
  - **bait-uptake and seroconversion in healthy hunted animals to get the adequate assessment of the efficiency and efficacy of ORV.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Epidemiological analysis of rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring data should be given high priority.*
- *Virus titer of all batches of rabies vaccine baits should be monitored before and during ORV campaigns*
- *Manual distribution of vaccine baits should be considered only in areas where aerial distribution is difficult or not feasible.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Education and frequent exchange of information with hunters is crucial to obtain their cooperation.*
- *To continue/enforce the good collaboration with MSs and neighbouring TC on ORV activities*
- *To establish or reinforce cooperation and/or partnership on rabies with the neighbouring TC not yet involved in ORV campaigns.*
- **With the aim of creating a vaccination belt along the borders for mutual benefit so that the risk of disease spread or reintroduction is minimized.**

# Rabies programmes

Country	Annual/ Multiannual	Period	Co – financing rate
Bulgaria	A	2015	75 %
Slovakia	A	2015	75 %
Italy	M	2015 - 2016	50 %
Romania	M	2015 - 2017	75 %
Greece	M	2014 - 2015	75 %
Croatia	M	2014 – 2018	75 %
Slovenia	M	2014 - 2019	75 %

# Rabies programmes

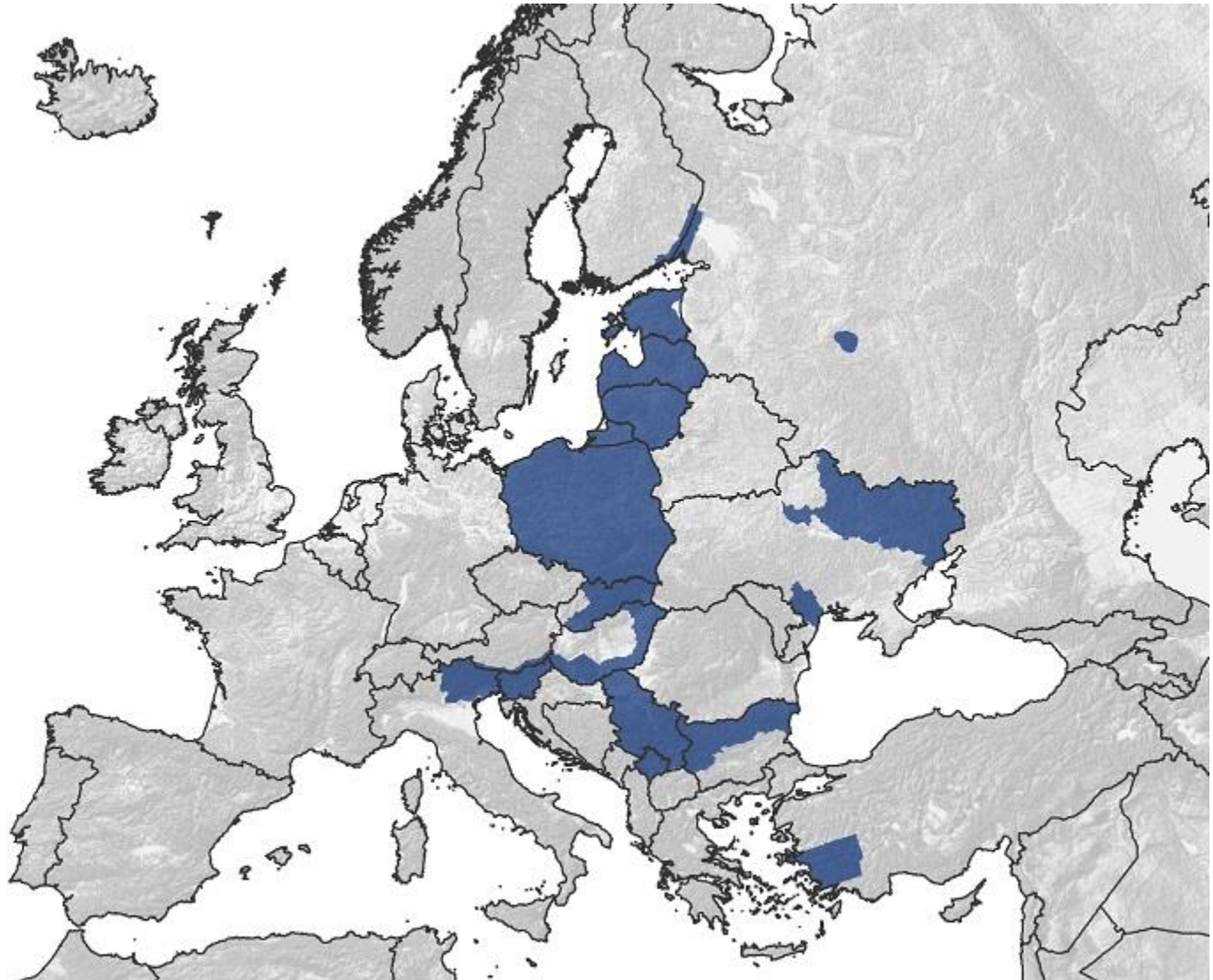
Country	Annual/ Multiannual	Period	TC	Co – financing rate
Poland	A	2015	Ukraine, Belarus	75%, 100%
Hungary	M	2015 - 2016	Ukraine	75%, 100%
Estonia	M	2015 - 2017	Russian Federation	75%, 100%
Lithuania	M	2015 - 2017	Belarus	75%, 100%
Latvia	M	2014 – 2016	Belarus	75%, 100%
Finland	M	2014 – 2016	RF	50%; 100%

# Results

- *Co-ordinated and „harmonised“ approach together with expert (TF) and financial support has led to the implementation and/or improvement of ORV programmes in the infected MSs and neighbouring non-EU countries*

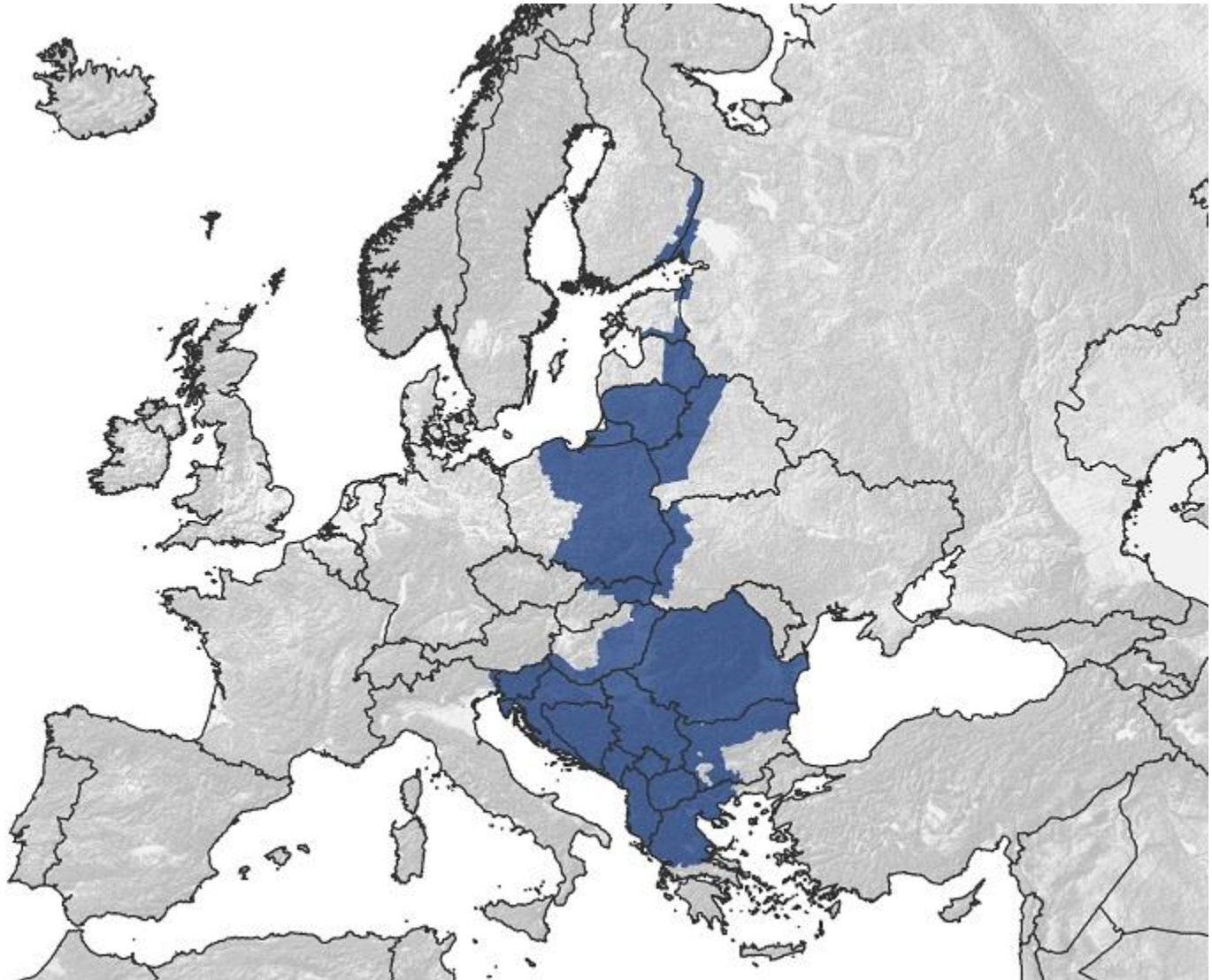


- 2010





- 2014



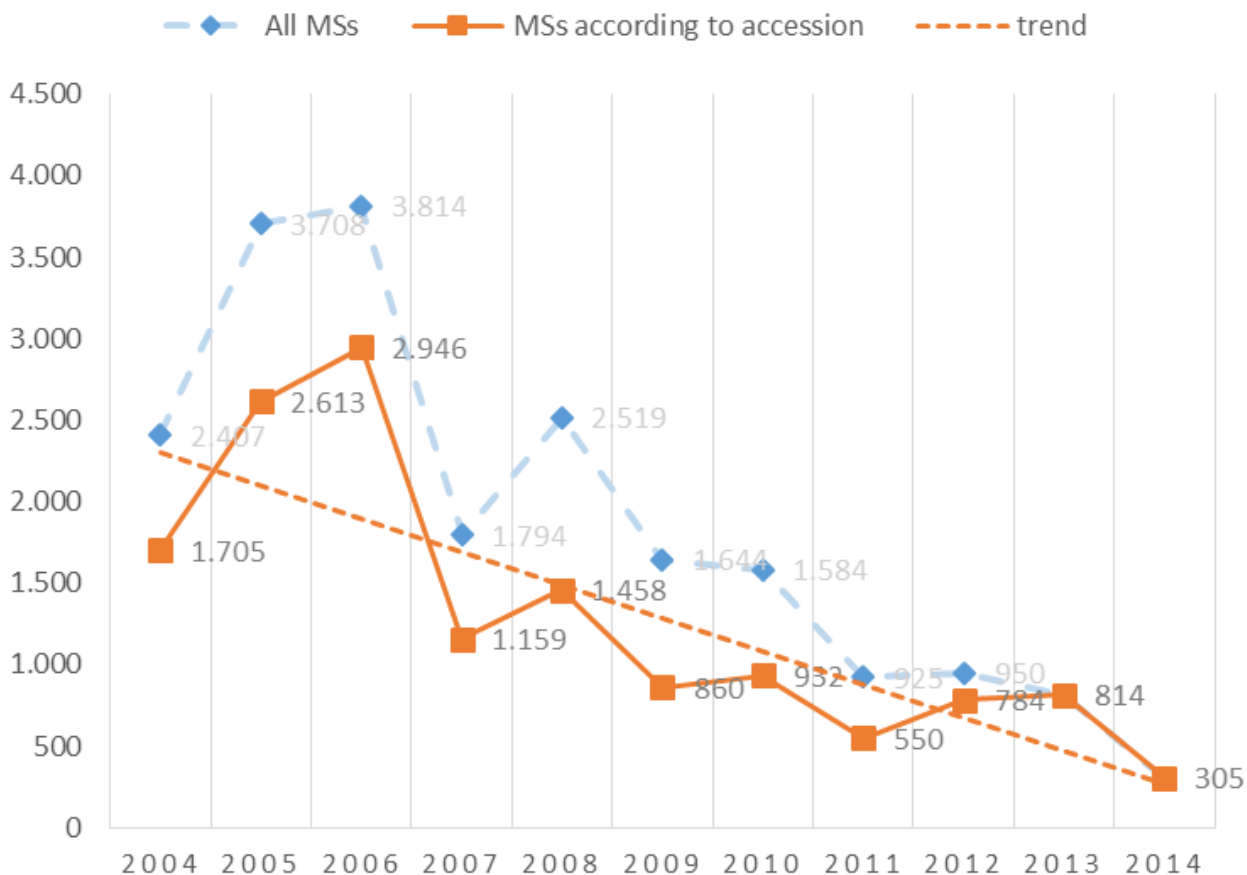
# Results

- *The total number of rabies cases at EU level in the past decade has significantly decreased and the rabies was confined to the east borders of the EU.*



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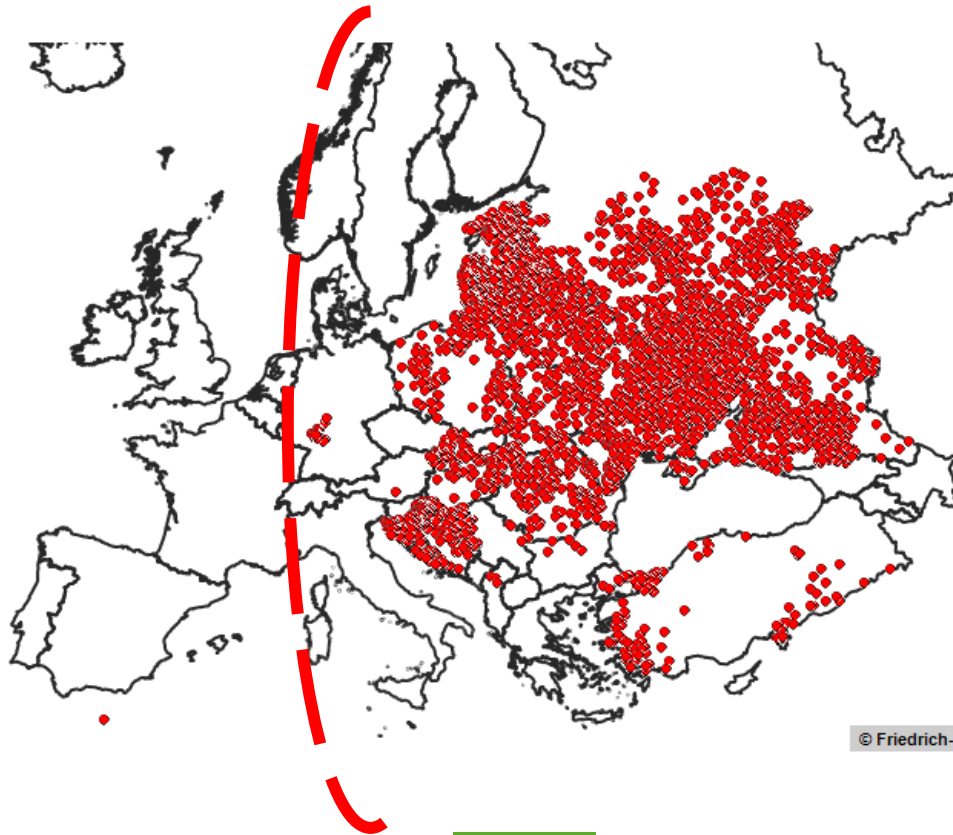
## RABIES CASES 2004 - 2014





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# 2004



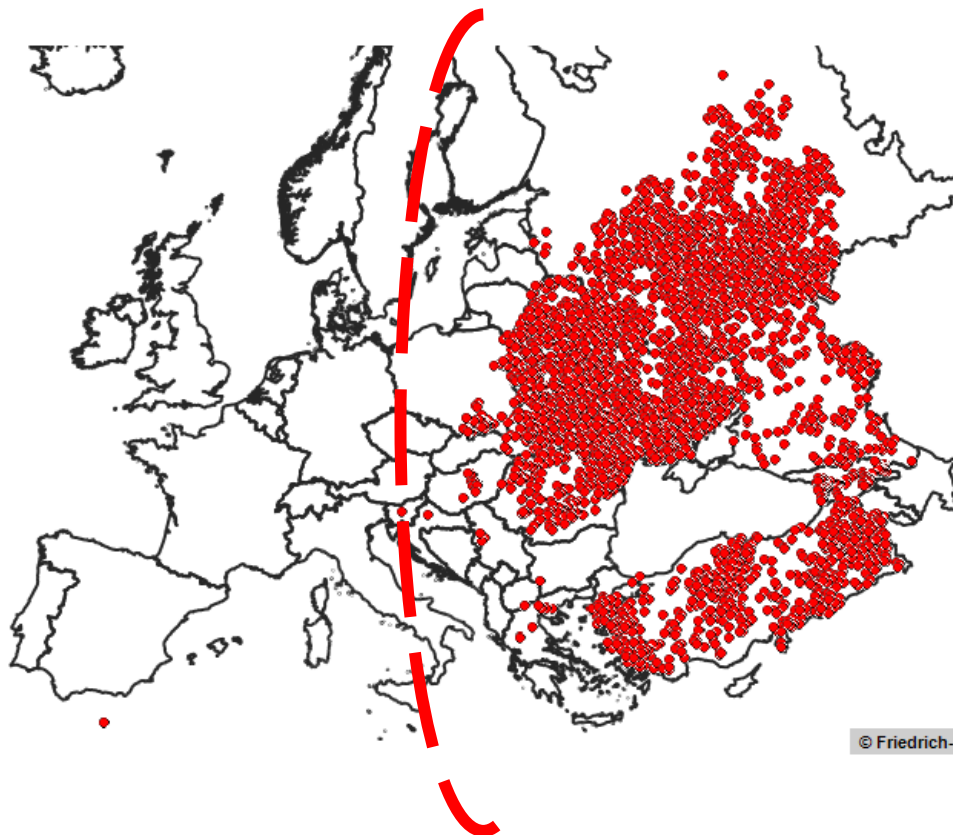
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# 2014



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# Conclusions

- *Thus, the elimination of rabies from the EU became realistic.*



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- *Thank you for your attention!*