



GREECE
Programme for the Eradication of
Rabies

Directorate General Veterinary Medicine
Animal Health Directorate

Department of Zoonoses

Epidemiological situation

- 9 May 2014:** Detection of the last rabies case in a fox in the Regional Unit of Pella

- No further cases have been identified

Rabies Cases 2012–today

**FAT & PCR
Positive : 48**



40



5



1



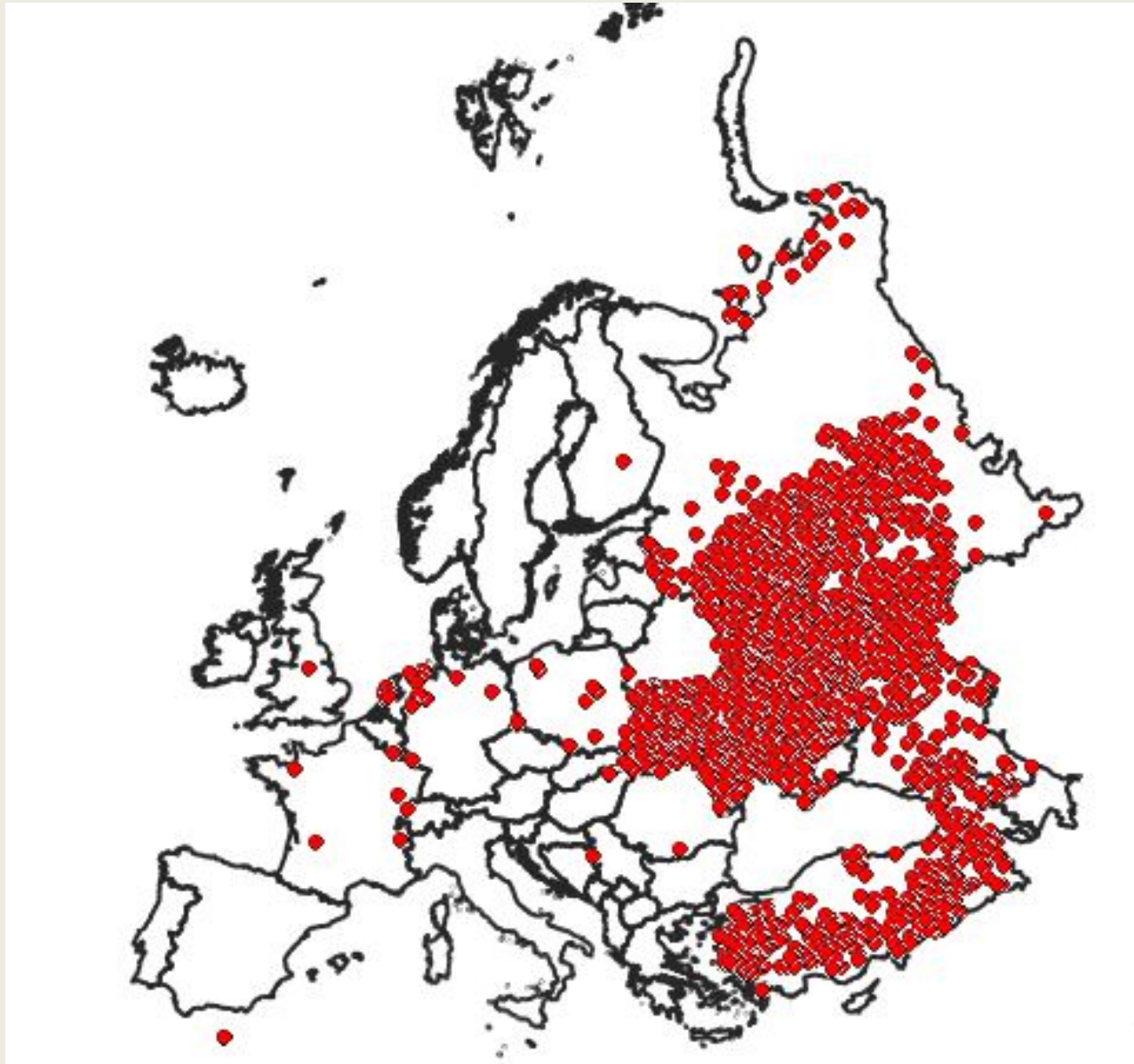
2

2014

Regional Unit	Animal Rabies Cases
Kilkis**	18
Pella*	10
Serres*	1
Thessaloniki*	10
Kozani	2
Trikala*	5
Larisa*	1
Kastoria*	1

* Domestic animal
** Livestock
In all prefectures foxes were involved too

2017



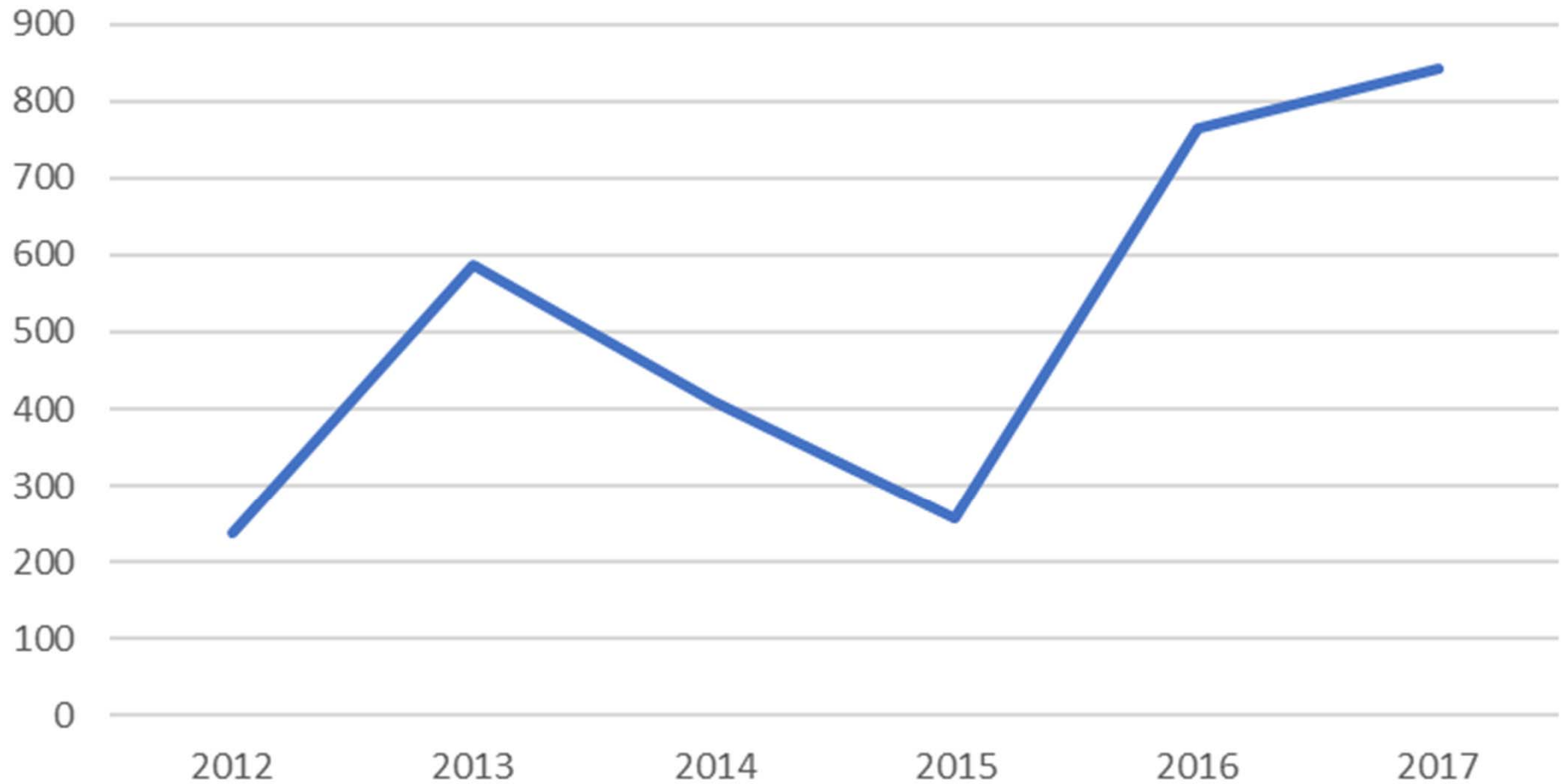
<http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/Queries/Maps.aspx>

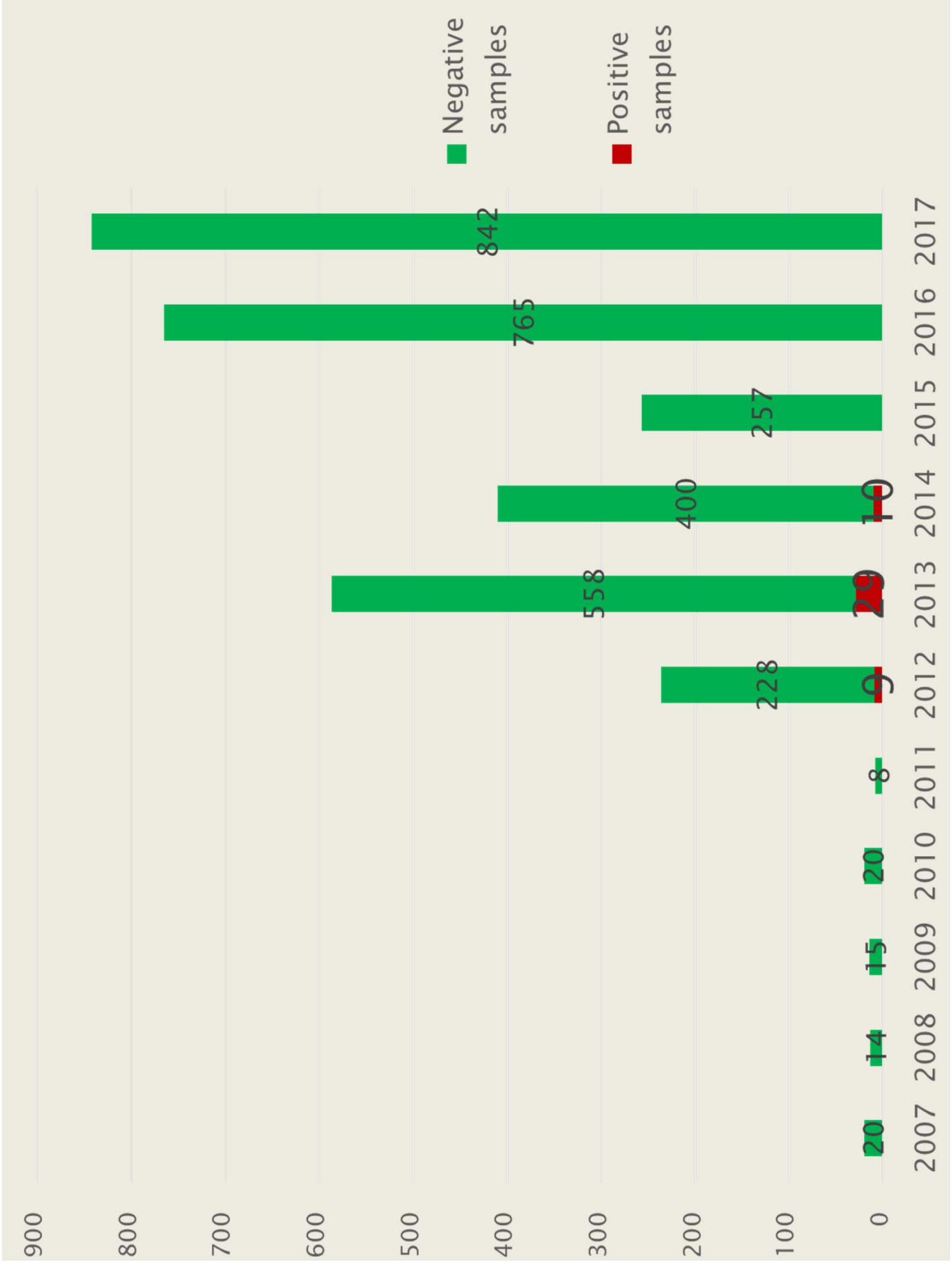
Passive Surveillance data 2012– 2017

YEAR	Number of samples tested (all dead animals, rabies suspect animals, animals involved in possible human exposure)
2012	237
2013	587
2014	410
2015	257
2016	765
2017	842

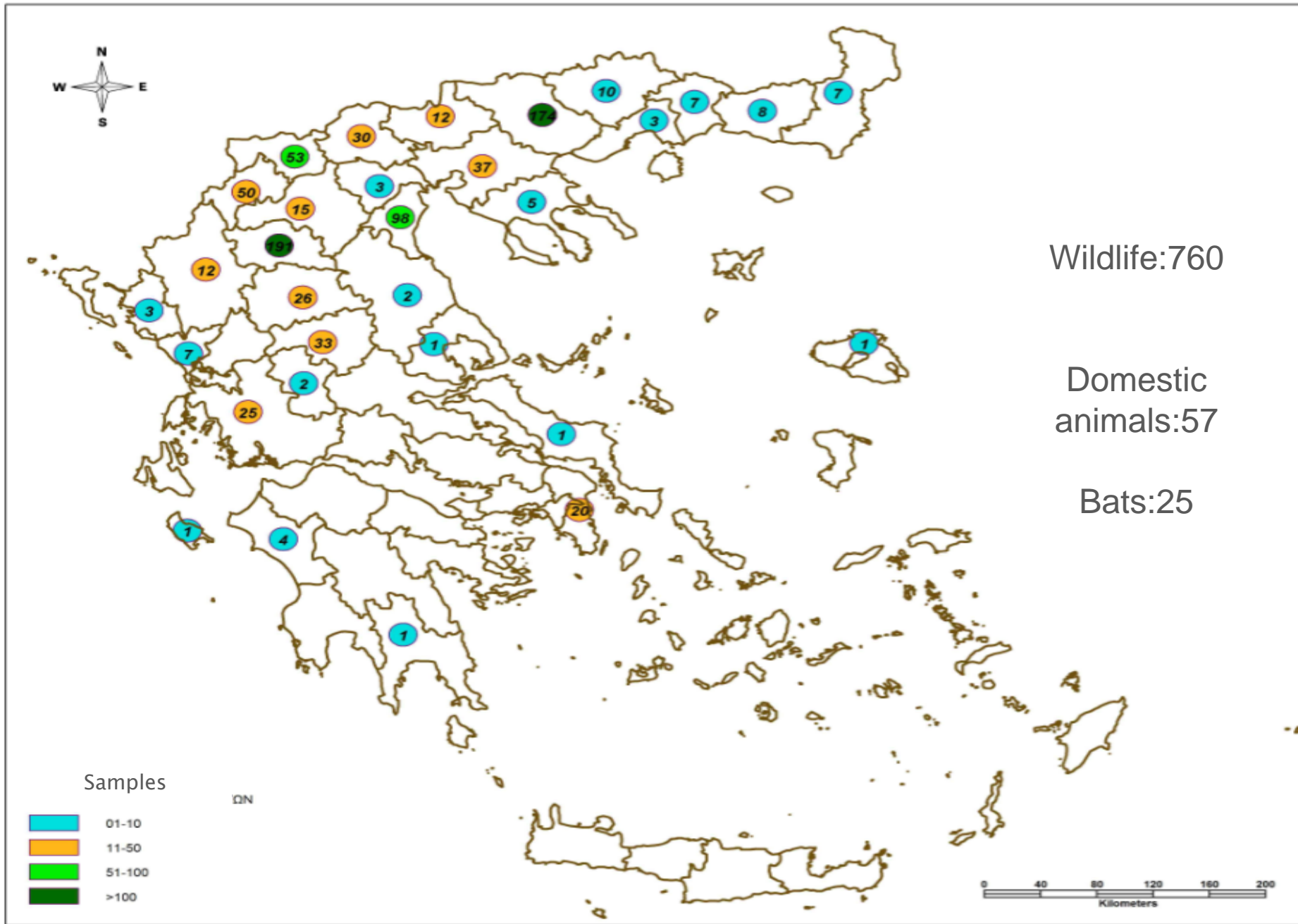
Passive Surveillance data 2012– 2017

Number of samples tested

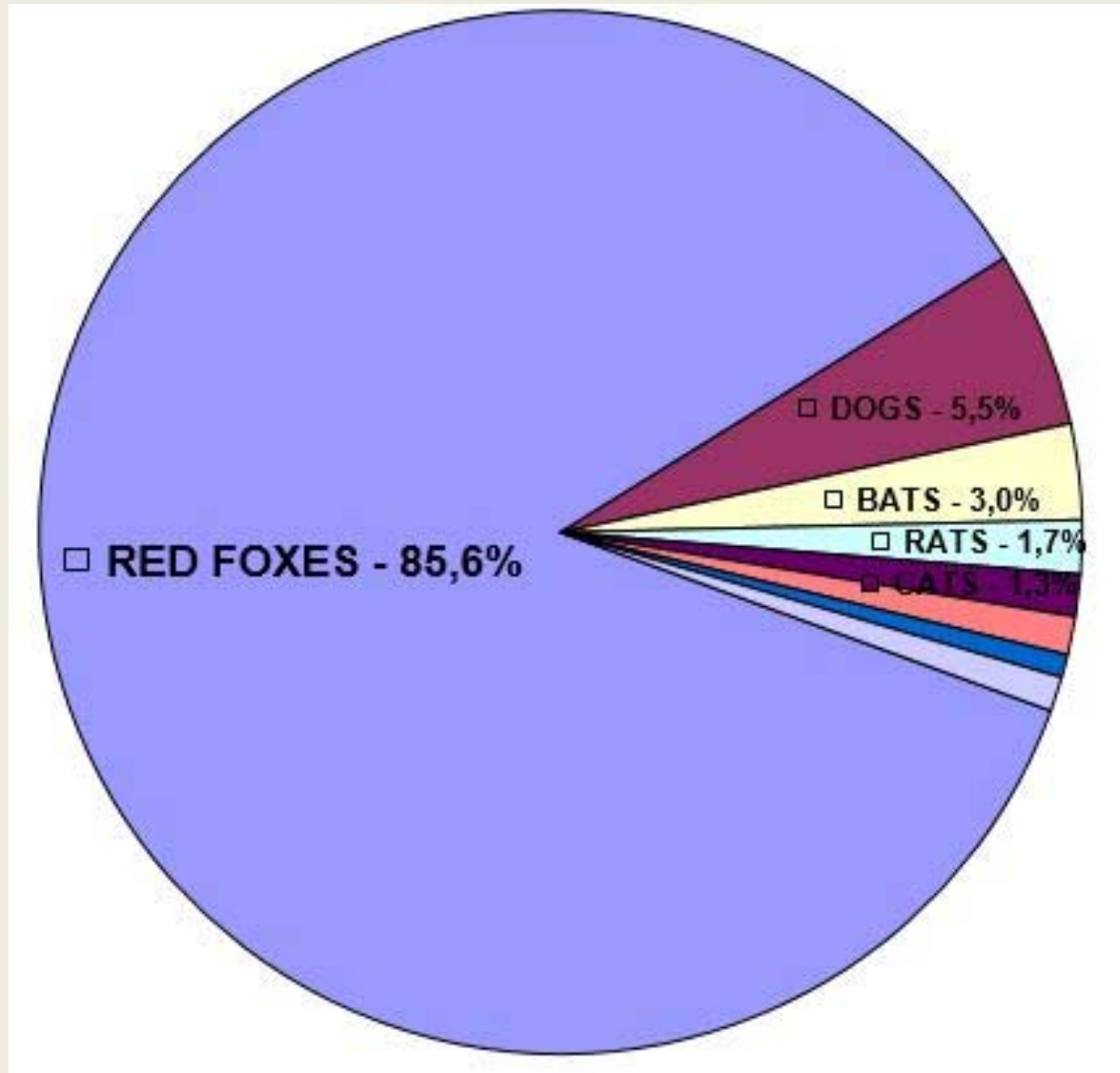




Passive Surveillance (total) – 2017



Animal species collected- 2017



Oral Red Foxes Vaccination campaigns

1st campaign: October–November 2013

2nd campaign : November 2014 – January 2015

3rd campaign: November– December 2015

4th campaign: April–May 2016

5th campaign: October–November 2016

6th campaign: April–May 2017

7th campaign: October–November 2017

8th campaign: April 2018

ORV campaigns 2017

- Spring campaign
 - 1.488.150 vaccines
 - Size of vaccination area: 54610 Km²
- Autumn campaign
 - 1.490.270 vaccines
 - Size of vaccination area: 54555 Km²
- Density of 20–25 baits/km²

Vaccine

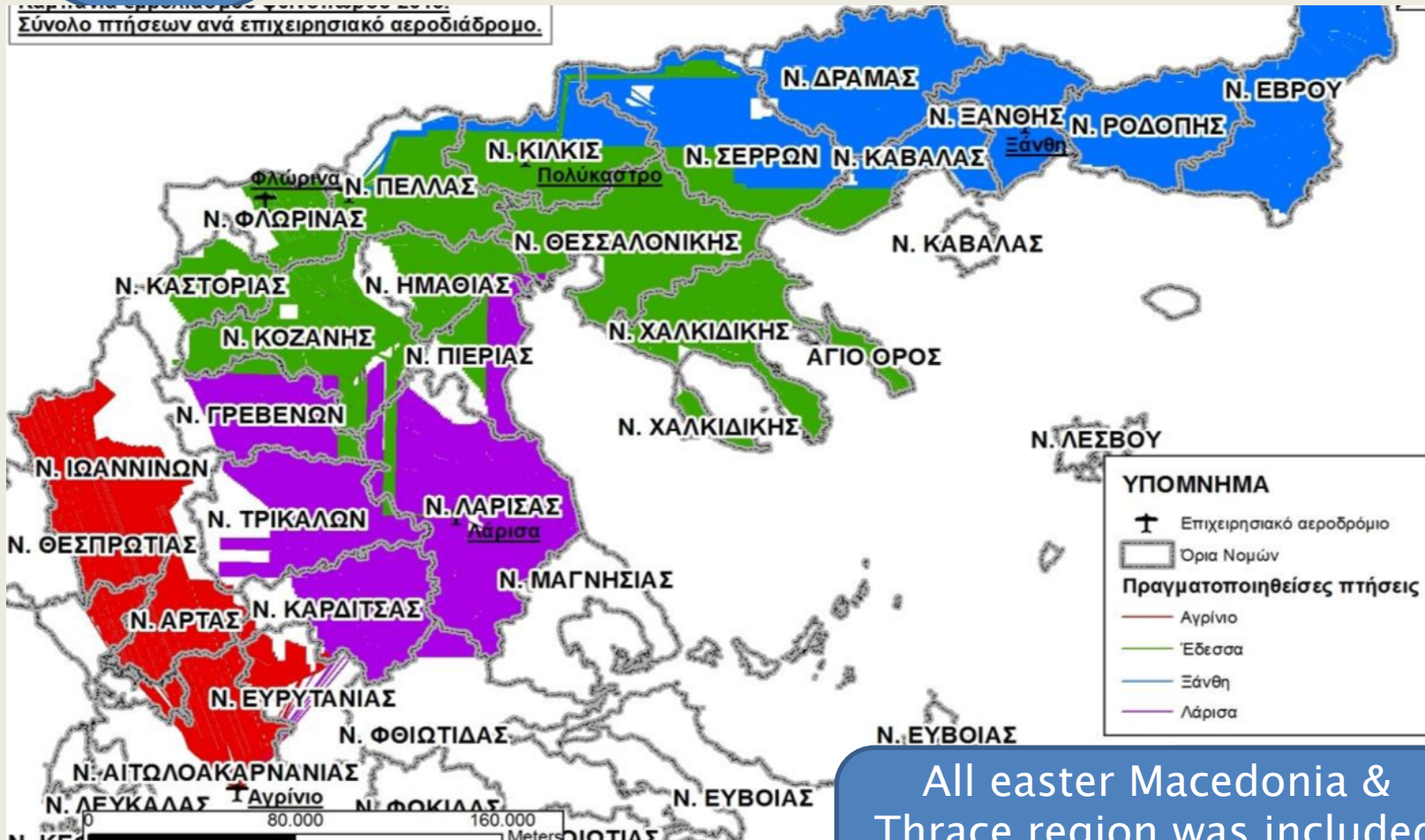
Modified live attenuated rabies virus
vaccine (RABIGEN® SAG2)



Qualitative control of
the vaccine before
its distribution
Vaccines remained in
the field were also
tested

1.488.150
vaccines

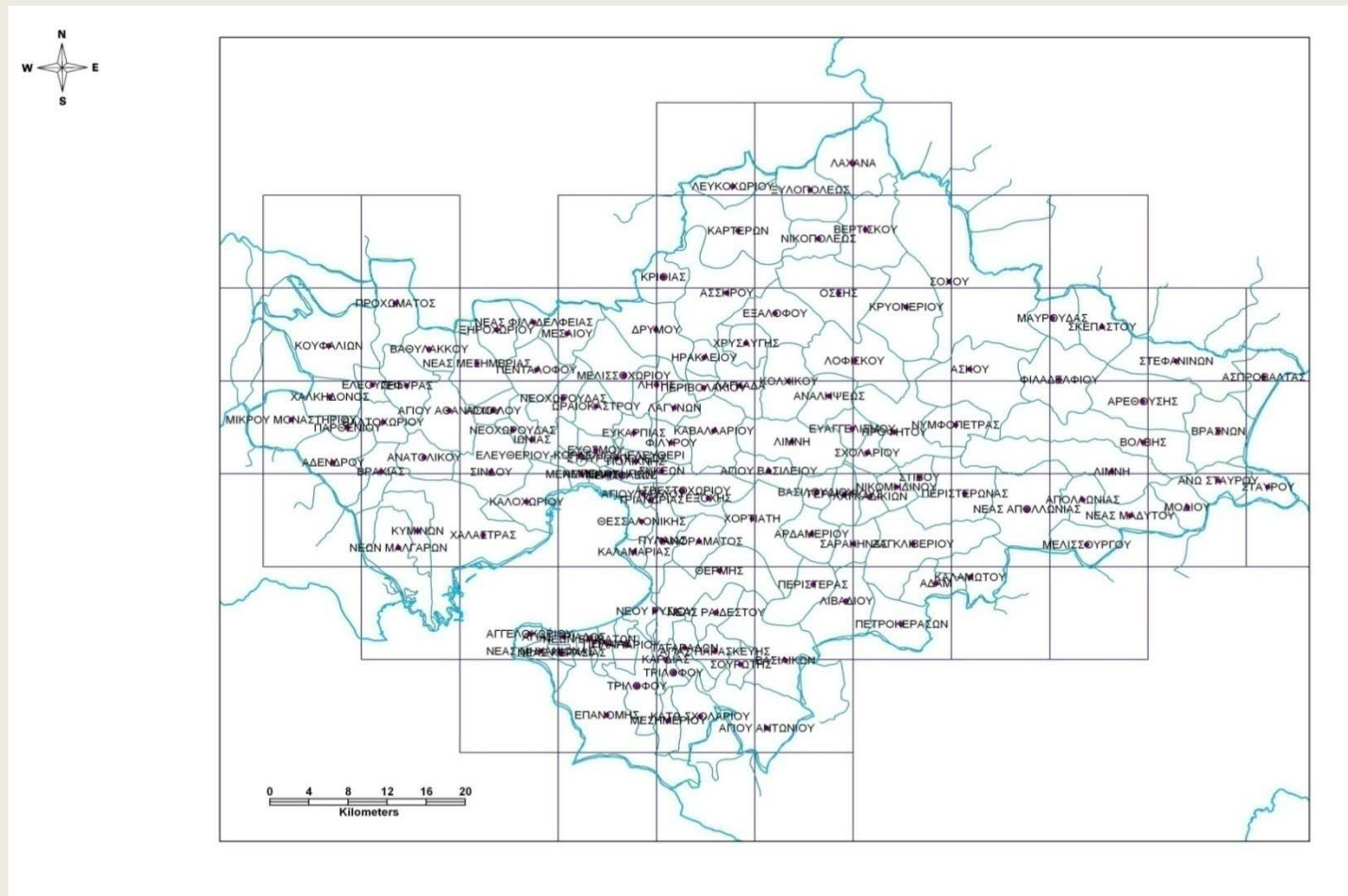
ORV spring 2017 Vaccination area



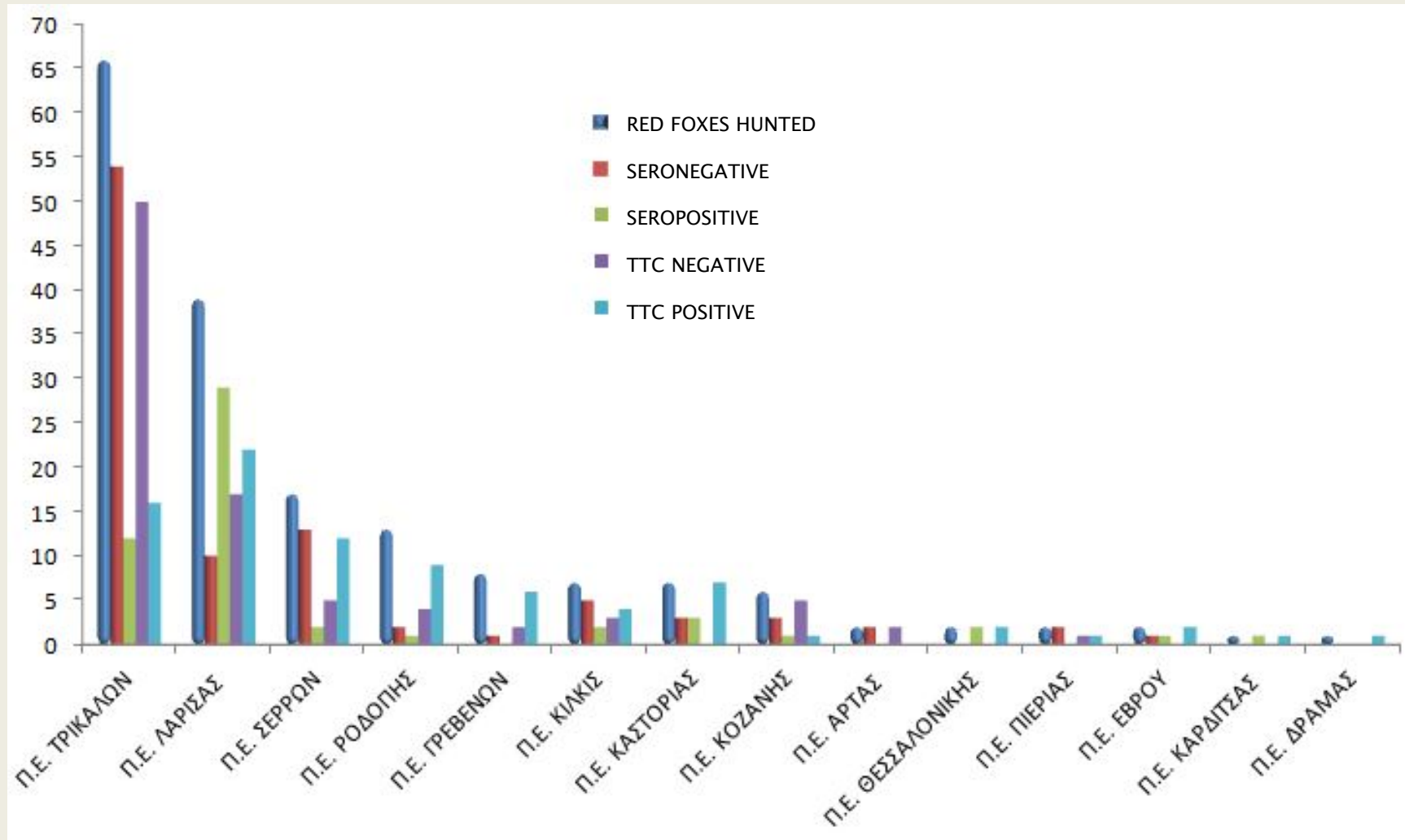
All eastern Macedonia &
Thrace region was included
due to its close proximity to
Turkey

Monitoring the effectiveness of ORV – guidelines distributed to the competent services and parties

10 kmX 10 km squares
Target = 2 foxes sampled per square/per campaign



Foxes hunted and results per Regional Unit –ORV spring 2017



Results

ORV spring 2017 campaign

□ 173 red foxes hunted

➤ Antibody detection

- samples derived by juveniles, 21 out of 103 blood samples tested, were seropositive (20.39%)
- samples derived by adult animals, 33 out of 48 blood samples (68.75%) were seropositive

➤ TTC detection

- 40 out of 115 teeth samples by juveniles (34.78%) were positive
- 56 out of 58 teeth samples by adults (96.55%) were positive

Results

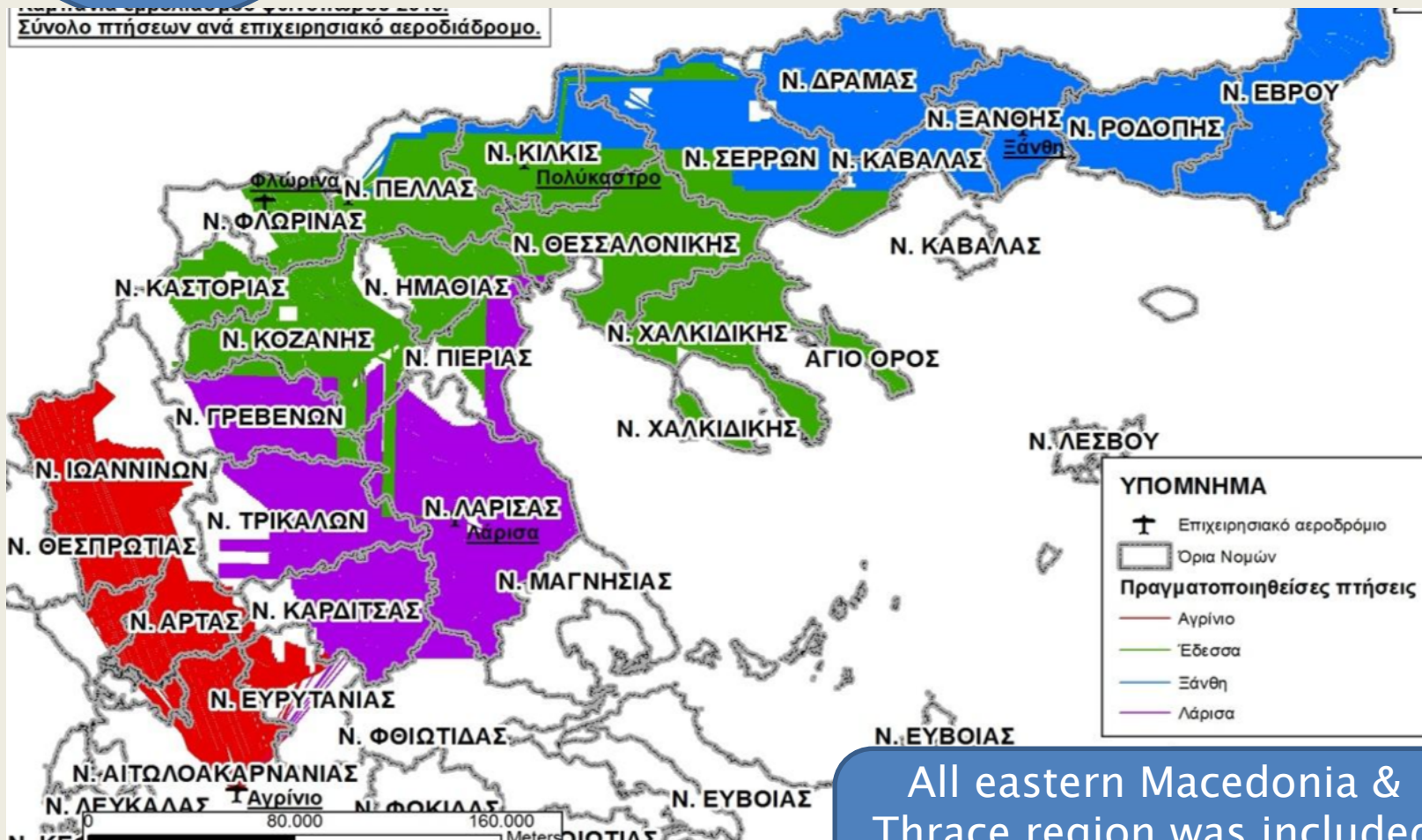
ORV spring 2017 campaign

- **Low** seropositivity rates and **low** TTC uptake
- 115 out of 173 samples examined derived by young foxes while 58 samples derived by adult animals

ORV autumn 2017

Vaccination area

1.490.270
vaccines

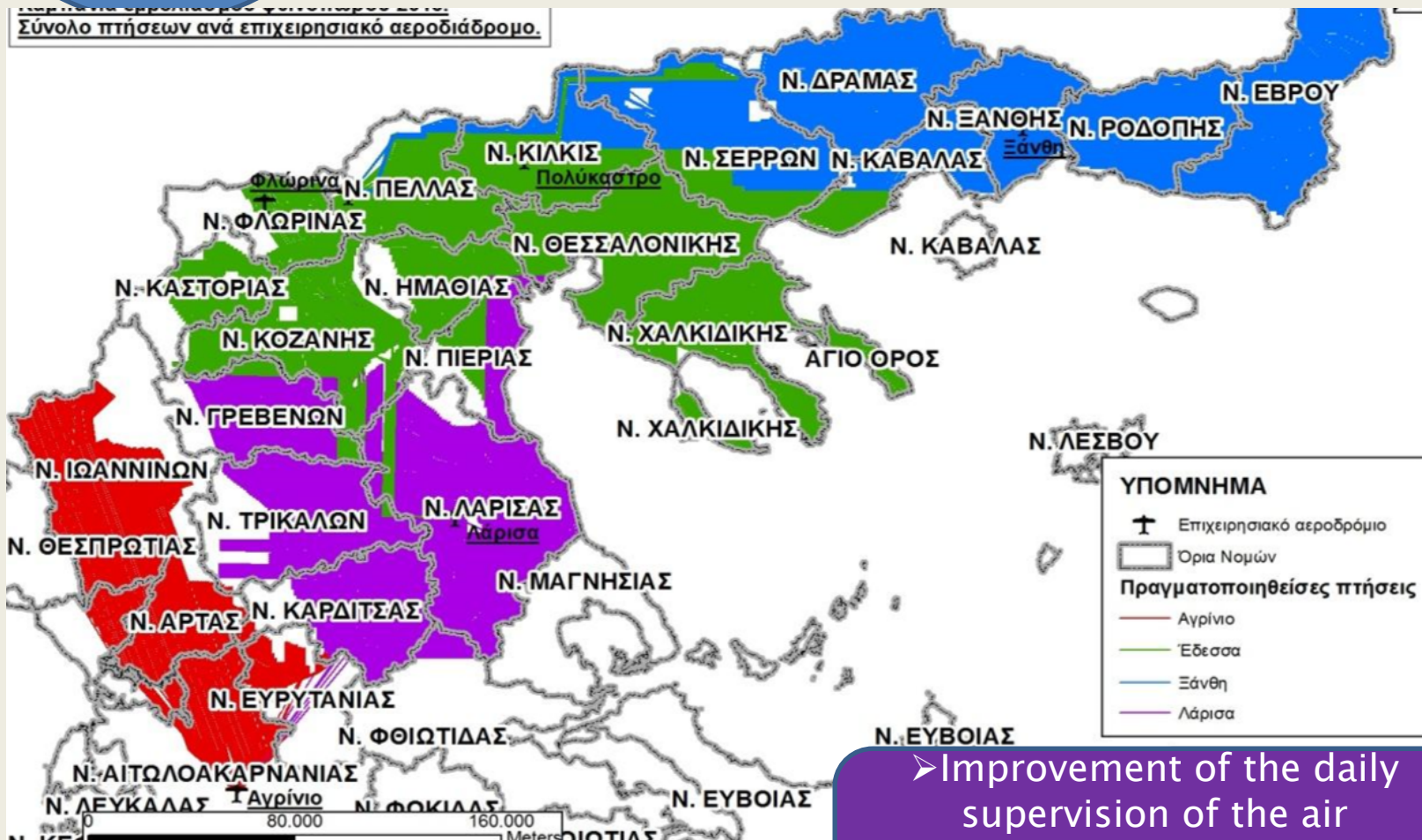


All eastern Macedonia & Thrace region was included due to its close proximity to Turkey

ORV autumn 2017

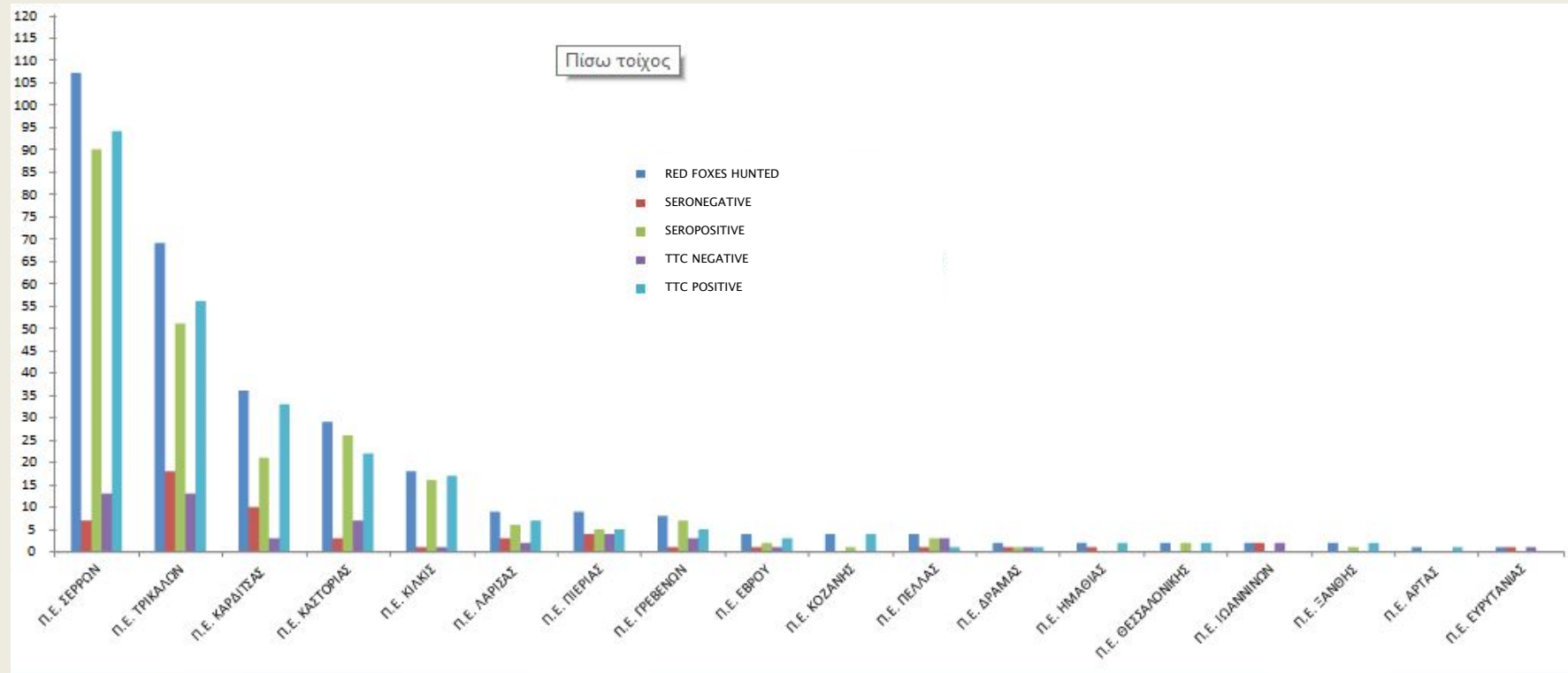
Vaccination area

1.490.270
vaccines



- Improvement of the daily supervision of the air distribution
- (New tool): Real time observation of the flight tracks

Foxes hunted and results per Regional Unit -ORV autumn 2017



Results

ORV autumn 2017 campaign

□ 309 red foxes hunted

Highest number for any campaign

- High seropositivity 81,1%
- High TTC uptake 83% (7th campaign)
- 90% (TTC detection at any ORV)
- Adults mostly (187), juveniles (122)

Monitoring following the 7 ORV campaigns completed in Greece



Evaluation of the results–Passive surveillance

- Improved passive surveillance as compared to the previous years
- Remuneration of hunters /game keepers as well as the large scale awareness campaign contributed to this increase
- However the passive surveillance must be increased in some areas

Monitoring the effectiveness of ORV remains **low**

- Lack of experience for hunting foxes or lack of interest (despite the remuneration provided)
- Geographic relief in Greece
- Monitoring process in time where hunting for hunters is not permitted – missions performed only in groups

Actions to enhance the surveillance– monitoring

- Extension of the monitoring period
- Remuneration of the hunters/game keepers delivering samples for 50euros
- Possible New tv spot for raising awareness
- Circular (summer 2017) to game keepers, hunters, forestry officers, regional veterinary authorities underlying the importance of collecting adult animals instead of juveniles

New leaflets and posters produced in 2017



Πρόγραμμα Επιτήρησης και Καταπολέμησης της Λύσσας στην Ελλάδα

ΦΙΛΕ ΚΥΝΗΓΕ, ΦΙΛΕ ΘΗΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΑ,
συνέχισε να είσαι συμμετοχος
στην Καταπολέμηση της Λύσσας στην Ελλάδα!

Δικαιούσαι αποζημίωση

50 €

για κάθε αλεπού που θα προσκομίζεις
για τα Προγράμματα Παθητικής και Ενεργητικής Επιτήρησης της Λύσσας!

Προσοχή! Υποχρεωτικά θα ακολουθούνται οι οδηγίες
που έχουν δοθεί από τις κτηνιατρικές υπηρεσίες
για τον τρόπο που θα συλλέγονται και θα συσκευάζονται τα νεκρά ζώα
και για το πώς θα υποβάλεις το αίτημα αποζημίωσης.

Προστασία από τη Λύσσα,
Προστασία της Δημόσιας Υγείας και της Υγείας των Ζώων
www.minagric.gr (Πολίτης; Νοσήματα που μεταδίδονται από τα ζώα στον άνθρωπο; Λύσσα)

No new rabies cases since 2014

Success of ORV campaigns

Increased surveillance in 2016 and 2017!
Need for high surveillance rates in 2018!

Rabies free status 2019???

Reduction of the vaccination area???

Control of the disease in neighboring countries

New campaigns

- The spring 2018 campaign has been completed (April)
 - Monitoring processing will be extended up to the end of September (before the initiation of the autumn 2018 campaign) in order to increase the possibility of collecting samples
- New vaccine for 2018 campaigns
- ☐ [Lysvulpen, BIOVETA, A.S. \(Czech Republic\)](#)

Contact

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NRL for Rabies in animals

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