



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

Prevention is better than cure

Animal Health Law Visits





Moving from curative to preventive veterinary advisory systems

**Our goal: preventive veterinary
medicines for all!**

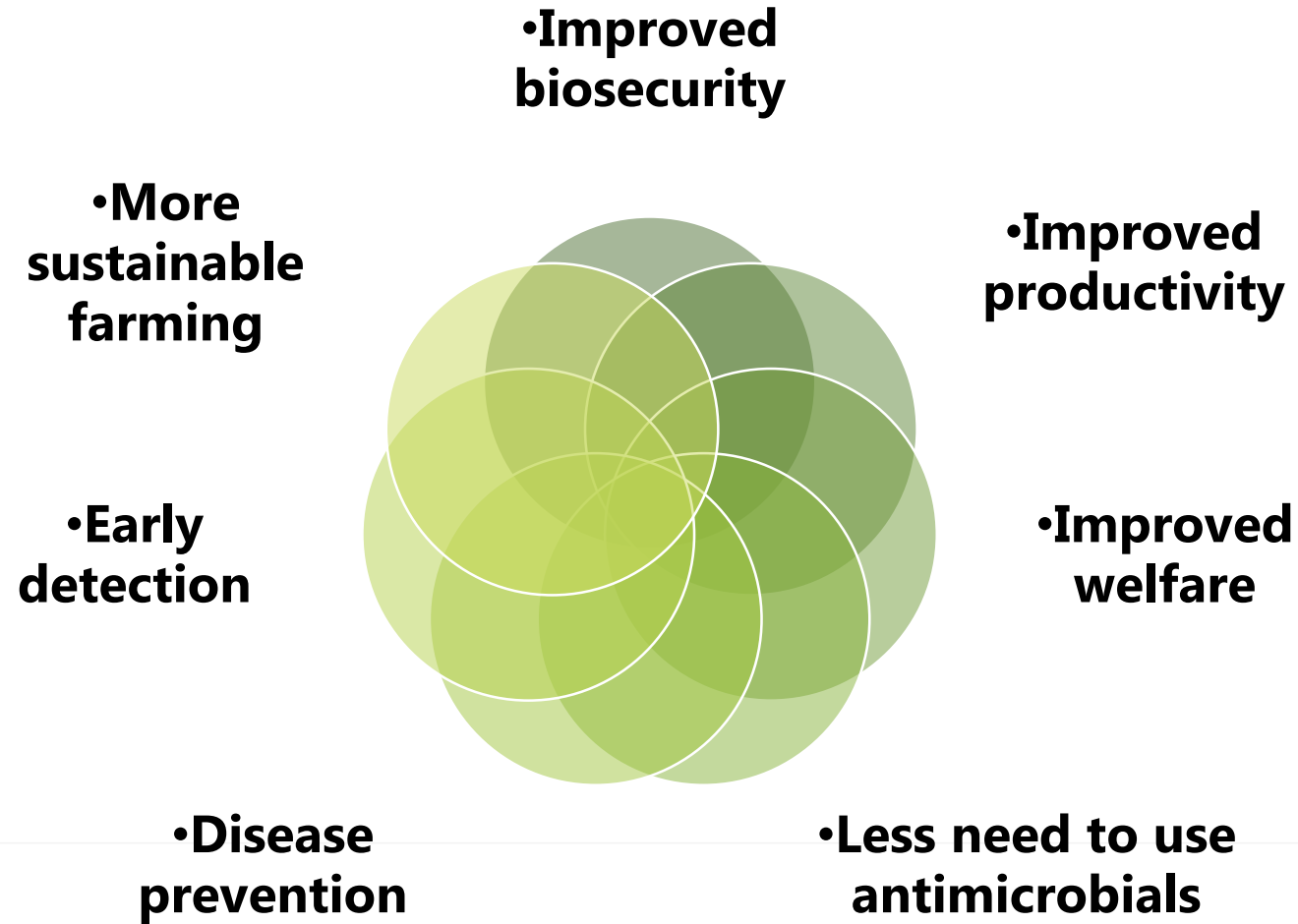


A new **Animal Health Strategy**
for the European Union (2007-2013) where
“**Prevention is better than cure**”





Output of visits





Research underpins benefit of prevention versus cure

Farmers who participated in Veterinary Herd Health Management had a higher milk production per cow per year (+336 kg), a higher number of inseminations per cow (+0.09 inseminations), a higher percentage of cows culled per year (+1.05%), a lower mean SCC ($-8.340 \times 1,000$ cells/mL) and a lower age at culling (-68.77 d) than nonparticipants. [Derks M, van Werven T, Hogeveen H, Kremer WD. Associations between farmer participation in veterinary herd health management programs and farm performance. *J Dairy Sci.* (2014)]

Participation in a VHHM program is related to a higher milk production (kg/cow/year) of farms. Even when the net return was corrected for the costs of the VHHM program, the benefit to cost ratio was positive: 4.2 euros per euro spent for the cost of the program which makes it cost efficient. [V. I. Ifende et al, 2014, *Financial aspects of veterinary herd health management programmes*]



What's new – Animal Health visits

Recital 63

To ensure **close collaboration** and exchange of information between operators and veterinarians(...) establishments should, as appropriate (...), be subject **to animal health visits.** (...)

Article 25

Operators shall ensure that establishments under their responsibility receive **animal health visits** from a veterinarian (...) for the **purpose of disease prevention** through

- Provision of advice to the operator concerned on **biosecurity** and other animal health matters
- Detection of, and information on, **signs indicative** of the occurrence of listed diseases or *emerging diseases*

Risk-based animal health visits

Art. 25 requires operators to make sure that establishments receive **risk-based animal health visits** from a veterinarian:

- Type of establishment
- Animal species and categories kept
- Epidemiological situation
- Other relevant surveillance, or official controls

→ **Frequencies that are proportionate to the risks**





FVE position paper: Prevention is better than cure: regular animal health visits make this happen

- Task Force with national experts
- Wide consultation including with species sections
- Unanimously adopted by the FVE members
- FVE advocates to communicate these new rules in a practical, understandable and targeted way to all the different actors involved!



FVE CALLED UPON THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE A DETAILED IMPLEMENTING ACT WITH THE DETAILS AND ALL COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT THE CRUCIAL ARTICLE 25



1st FVE survey on regular animal health visits in 2017

Many European livestock farms had already preventive visits in 2017, but there was a huge spread of coverage between farms and countries

Different types of visits (from mandatory to voluntary) were organised **by multiple parties** and with different topics covered.

Private veterinarians were indicated as one of the main sources to deliver information to the farmers - regarding management, biosecurity, responsible use of medicines, disease monitoring and prevention

Developing recommendations for preventive animal health farm visits in the EU

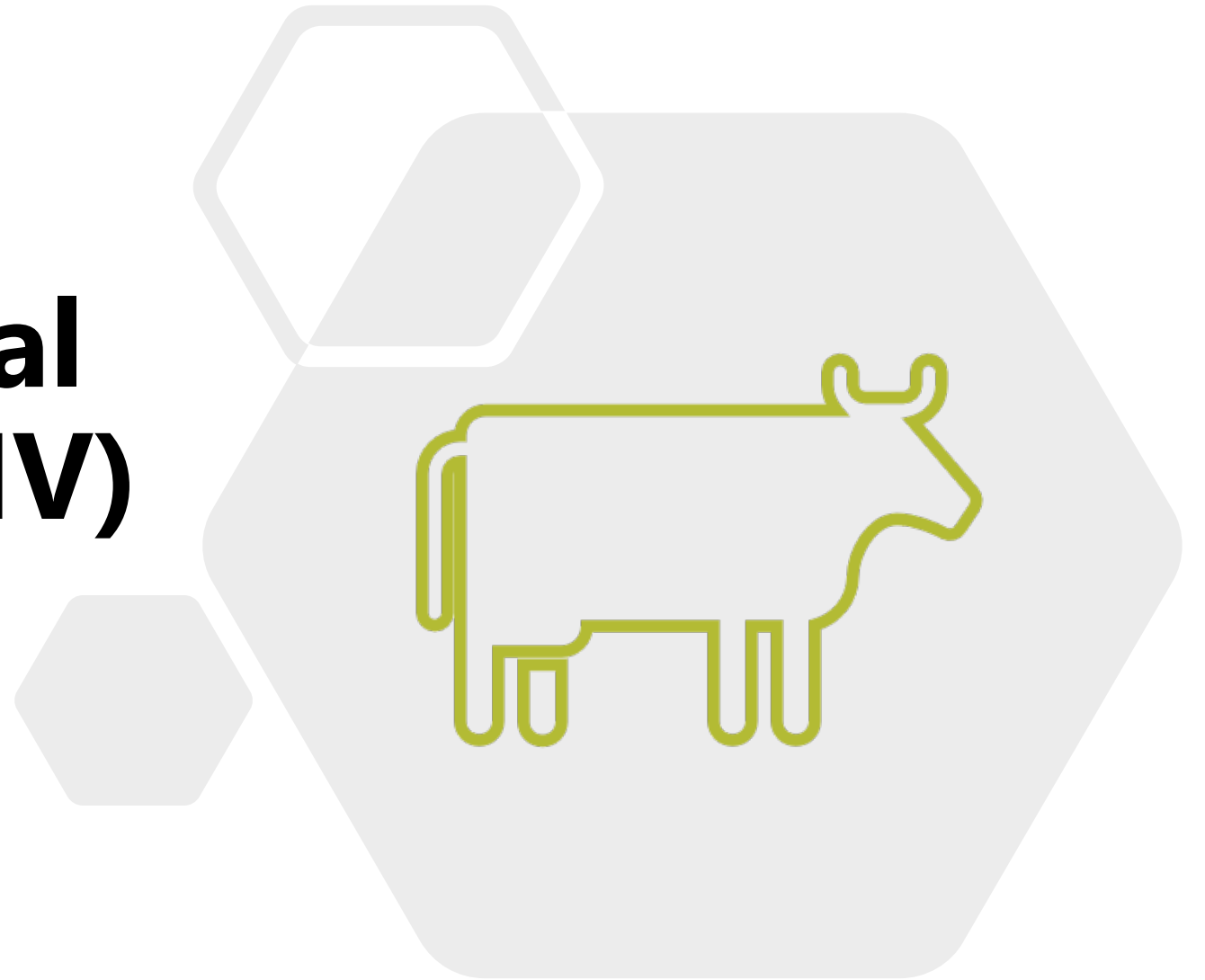
Cattle, pigs, small ruminants and poultry

E. Nijhof and N. De Brieke (supervisor)

October '17



2nd FVE survey on regular animal health visits (AHV) in 2022





Collected all information & created a checklist

- **Are the AHV performed by a private veterinary practitioner?**
- **Are the AHV mandatory?**
- **Which type of holdings are included in the Visitation scheme?**
- **How is the coverage of total holdings?**
- **Which subjects are covered in the Animal Health Visitation scheme?**
- **Is Visitation scheme covering all production types (intensive to extensive) with a high enough frequency (risk-based)?**

BASED ON FVE POSITION PAPER

Example: BELGIUM



Belgium already implemented regular visits in various forms for commercial and private establishments having **all** kinds of animals.

The FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain) demands that all livestock farmers should have epidemic surveillance on the farm done by a veterinarian who must check, stamp and sign the medication register on the farm every three months. The visits are performed by a **private practitioner** who has a **one-to-one** contract.

Moreover, poultry and pig farmers must subscribe to a health surveillance programme (by the private organisation [Belpork](#) and [Belplume](#)). Therefore, visits are 'demanded' at least six visits per year (or more, if or breeding cycle is shorter). In addition, during the visits the veterinarian shall check the medication register of the farm and sign it (even if he didn't administrate the treatment). As well poultry and pig farms have, additionally to the mandatory AH visits, private contracts including specifications where AH visits are foreseen on a regular basis such as quality assurance schemes, which are existing for practically all livestock species.

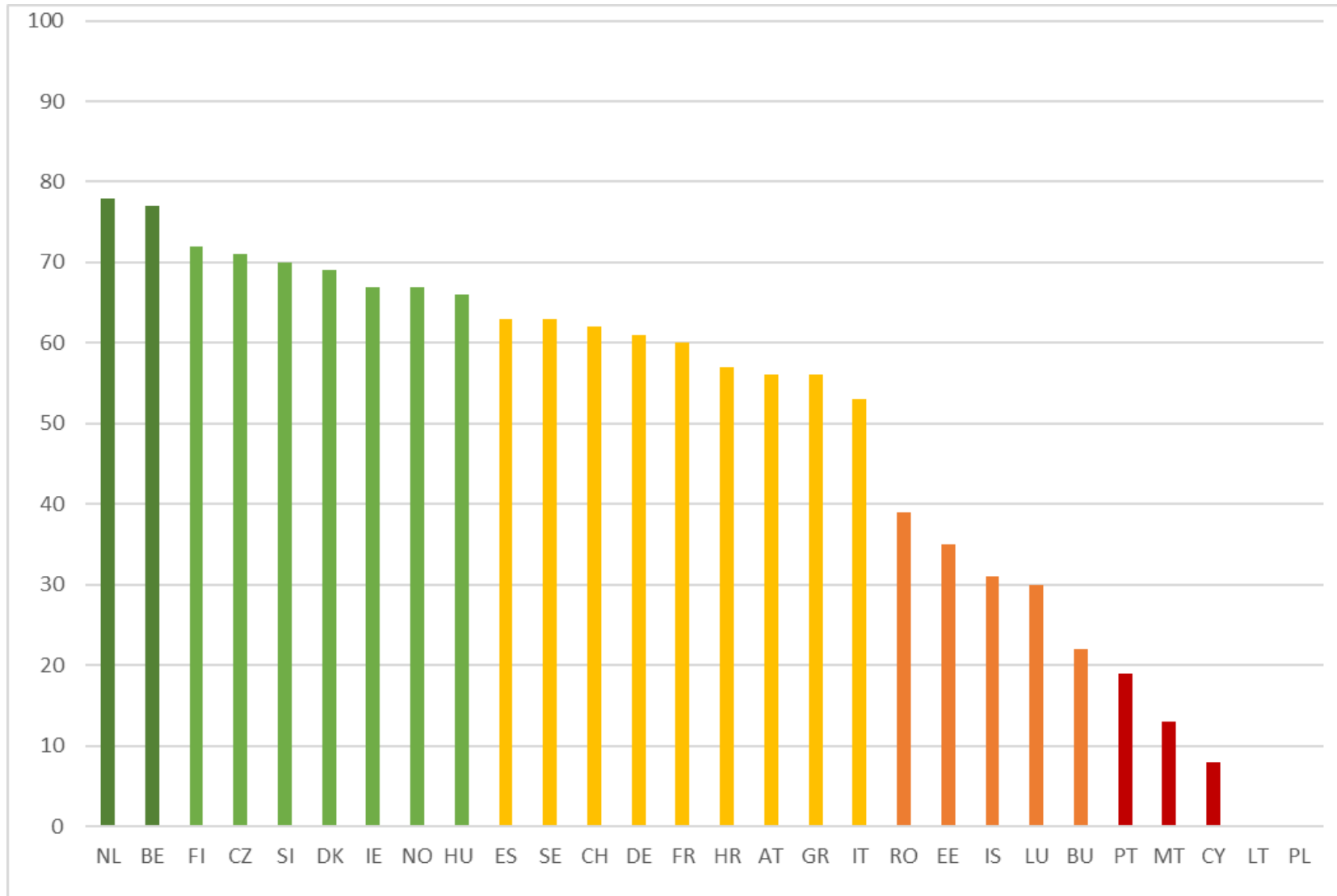
On regional level in the Walloon part, a detention permit will soon require a presentation of a certificate from the municipality of the adopter in order to be able to acquire a companion animals. This certificate will certify that the owner is not subject to any forfeiture of the license to keep an animal.

However, there is **no specific implementation** of the art. 25 but **plans** are made for further work on national level.

| | Implementation | Establishments | Content | Coverage Frequency |
|---------------------|---|---|---|--|
| High score elements | Private practitioner with a one-to-one relationship Extensive report available to the CA/OV Mandatory | Commercial and non-commercial animal holdings | Wide range of subjects, incl. biosecurity | Very high coverage for livestock species |
| Low score elements | | | Animal welfare is not covered | Low frequency for some poultry species |

Annex 3 - Benchmarking scores per country

| Checklist for regular AHV | | | Mx. Points | A | B | B | C | H | C | C | D | D | E | E | F | F | G | H | I | I | I | L | L | M | N | N | P | P | R | S | S | |
|--|--|---|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | T | E | U | H | R | Y | Z | E | K | S | E | I | R | R | U | S | E | T | T | U | T | L | O | L | T | O | E | I | |
| Relation and organisation | Are the AHV performed by a private veterinary practitioner? | Yes, with a one-to-one relationship/contract | 10 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | | Yes, with additional education | 10 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | | No, by a quality assurance veterinarian | 5 | | | | | | | | | 5 | | 5 | | 5 | | | 5 | | | | | | | 5 | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | |
| | | No, by an official veterinarian | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | There are no preventive AHV in my country | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | | | | | |
| | Are the AHV mandatory? | Yes, they are mandatory | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | No, they are voluntary | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | Do the AHV result in a report of the visit summarising key findings? | Yes, including useful advice and feasible recommendations | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Yes, including useful advice and feasible recommendations and results influence frequency | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| | | Yes, including useful advice and feasible recommendations and results influence frequency and they are available to the CA/OV | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | | | | 3 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| | Which type of holdings are included in the | Commercial livestock farms | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | | Commercial and private livestock farms | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| Commercial establishments having animals | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

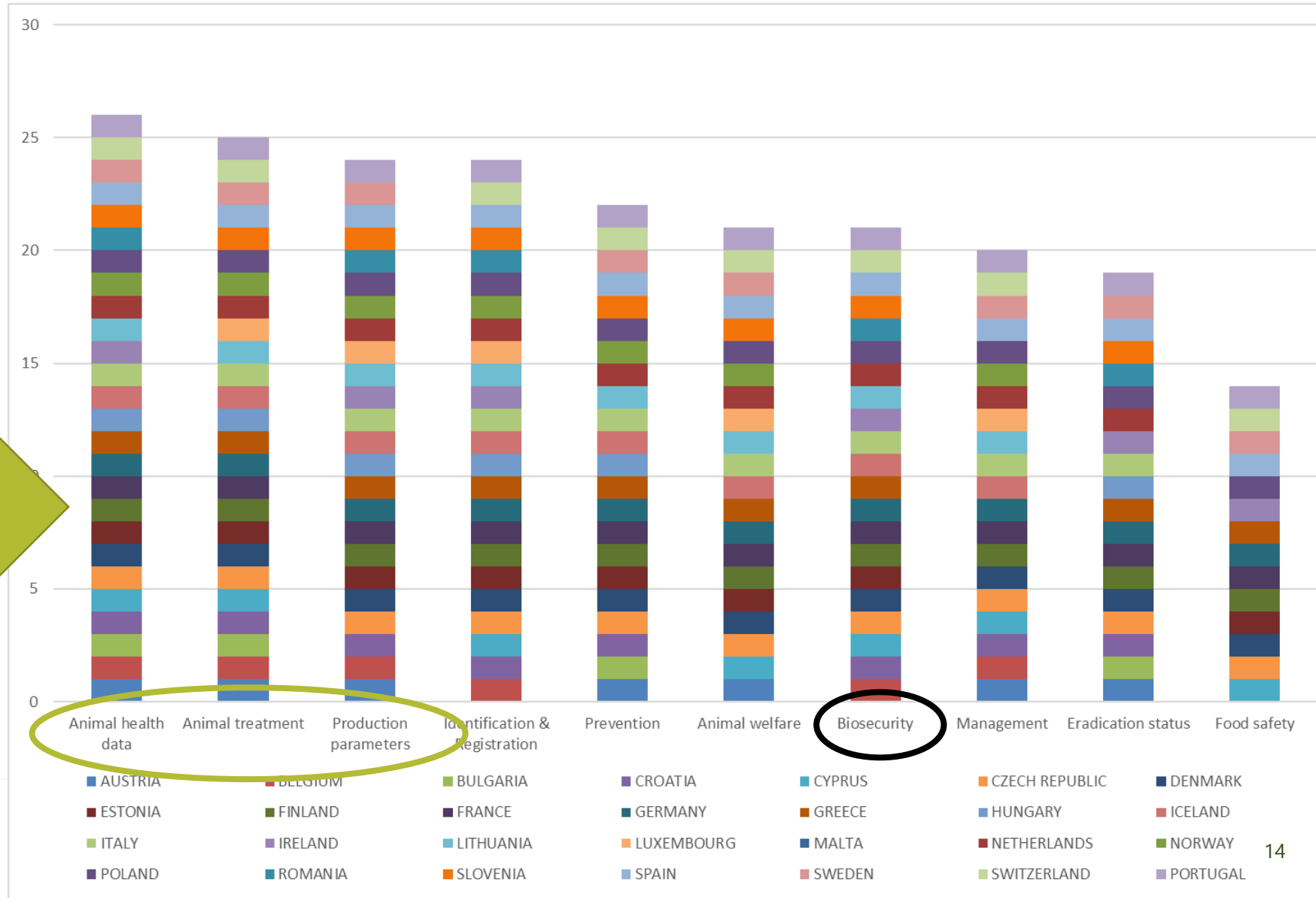


**Benchmarking (base
on FVE position pap**



Objectives of the visits

Biosecurity, while specifically mentioned in Art 25, was only included in 21 countries



***Based on combined data from 2017 and 2022**



Conclusions 2nd Survey

- The majority of countries (*and more than in 2017*) already had animal health visits, but many were restricted to
 - Specific production animals (e.g. Germany, Norway, Spain and Sweden),
 - Official controls by authorised and state veterinarians (e.g. Switzerland)
 - Only covering specific aspects (e.g. medicines control)
- The plethora of national requirements *continued* and indicates a crucial need for harmonisation on community level.
- Some countries have not yet implemented Art 25



Recommendations

→ FVE calls upon Member States to further ensure proper implementation of Art 25

→ FVE calls upon the EC to look into implementation and to give further guidance to ensure proper and consistent application of article 25 (eg via unit F2 or IA)

GRAPH 1. Four specific objectives of the F2F Strategy



Source: European Commission



Disclaimer

- FVE through its members collected as much information as possible, but seeing the complexity of this topic, no responsibility or liability for errors or omissions can be guaranteed.
- All information is provided 'as is', with no guarantee of completeness
- This is a living document on a fast-moving topic, so we will continuously update our report.



Animal health visits: prevention is better than cure

REGULAR VETERINARY VISITS ENHANCE TRUST BETWEEN FARMERS, VETERINARIANS AND CONSUMERS



Animal health visits: prevention is better than cure

REGULAR ANIMAL HEALTH VISITS LOWER THE DISEASE BURDEN AND REDUCE THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS



Animal health visits: prevention is better than cure

VETERINARIAN REGULARLY VISITING ANIMAL HOLDINGS CAN FOSTER PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ANIMALS



Animal health visits: prevention is better than cure

ANIMAL HEALTH VISITS IMPROVE ANIMAL HEALTH & BIOSECURITY

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