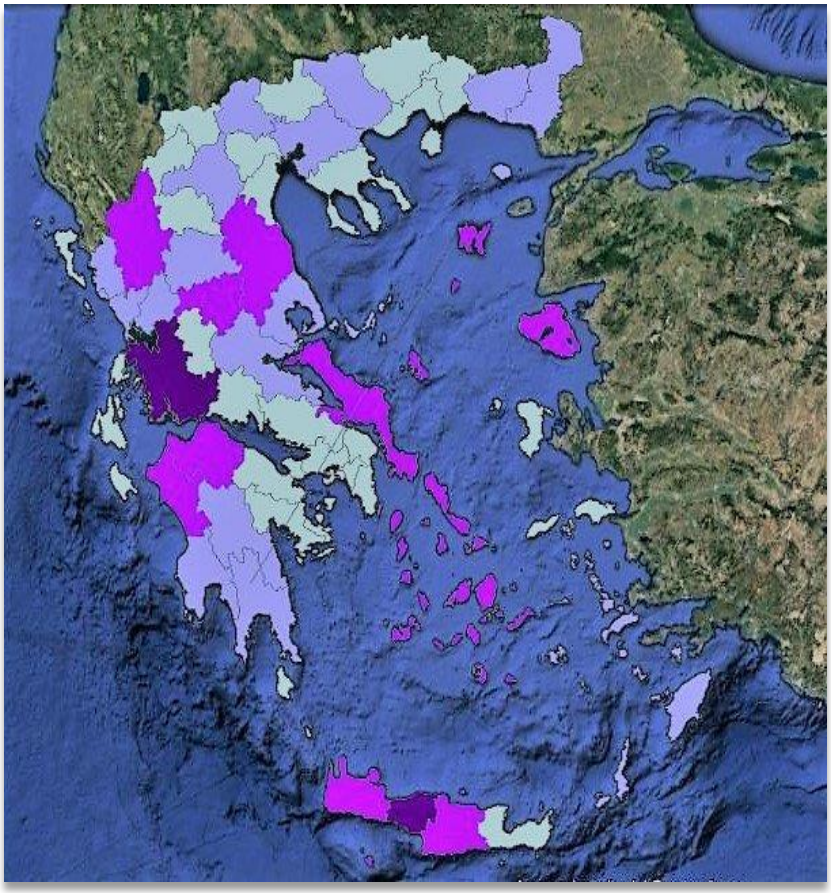
Ovine and caprine brucellosis control programme, Greece, 2018

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Rural Development
and Food

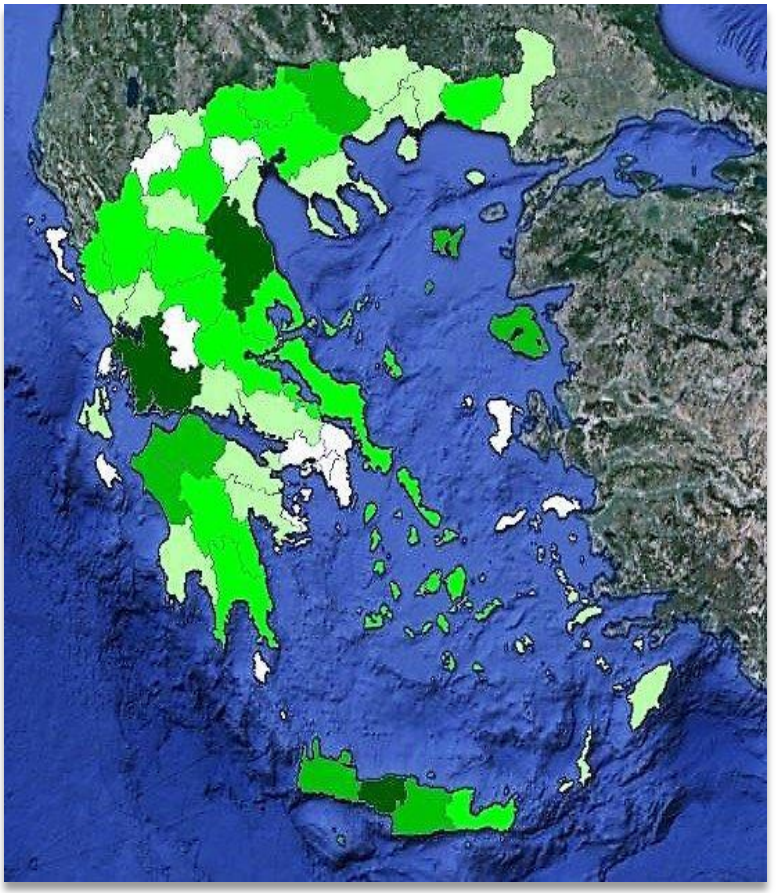
Outline

- Herds and animal population
- Vaccination - Eradication programme
- Human cases
- Conclusions - problems
- Next steps

Herds and animal population



≈77.000 herds



≈ 14.500.000 animals

385 official veterinarians **& 480** private vets

Implementation of brucellosis control programme

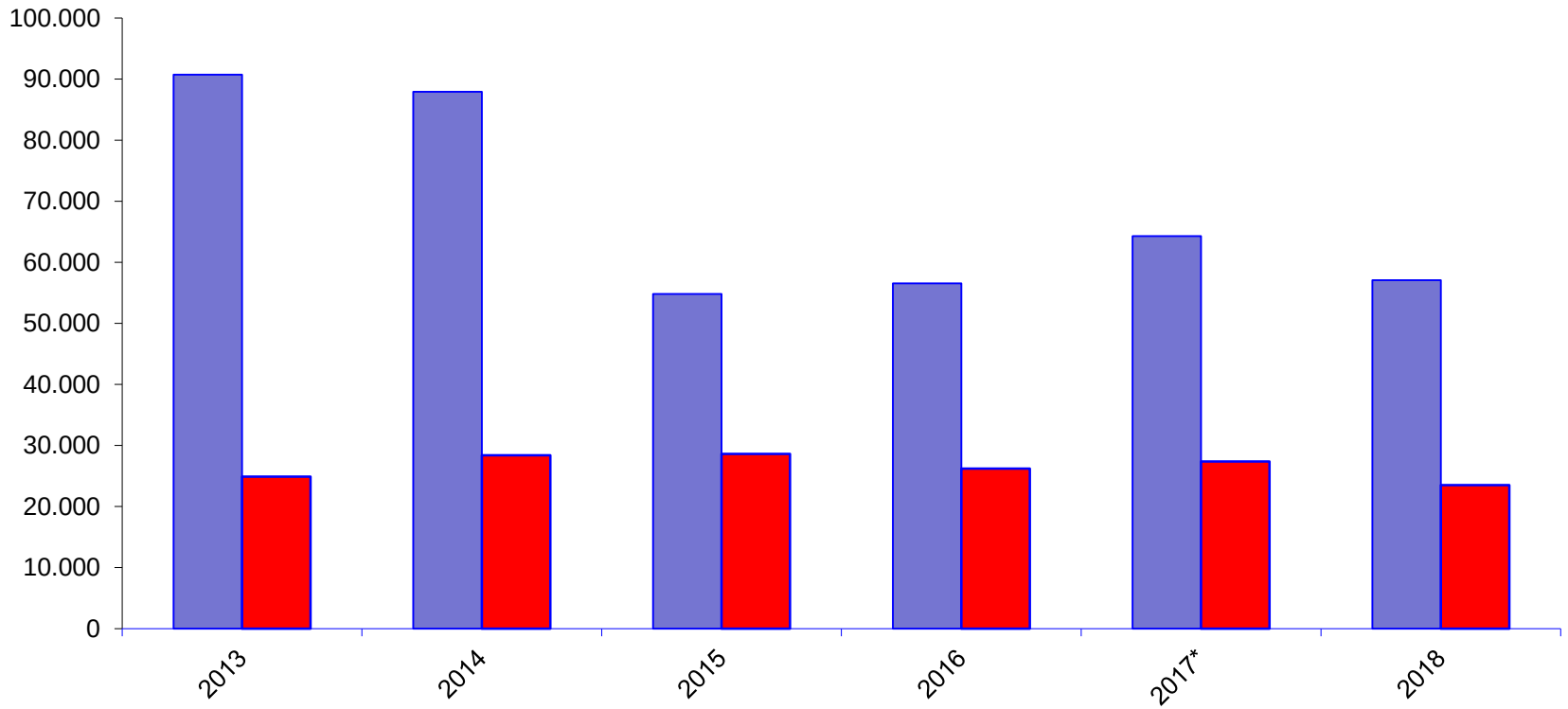
Vaccination Zone

Eradication Zone

MD 3339/117339 (GG 3589Β΄/04-11-2016) "*Control & eradication programme of ovine and caprine brucellosis*"

Vaccination coverage (Herds)

Vaccination zone

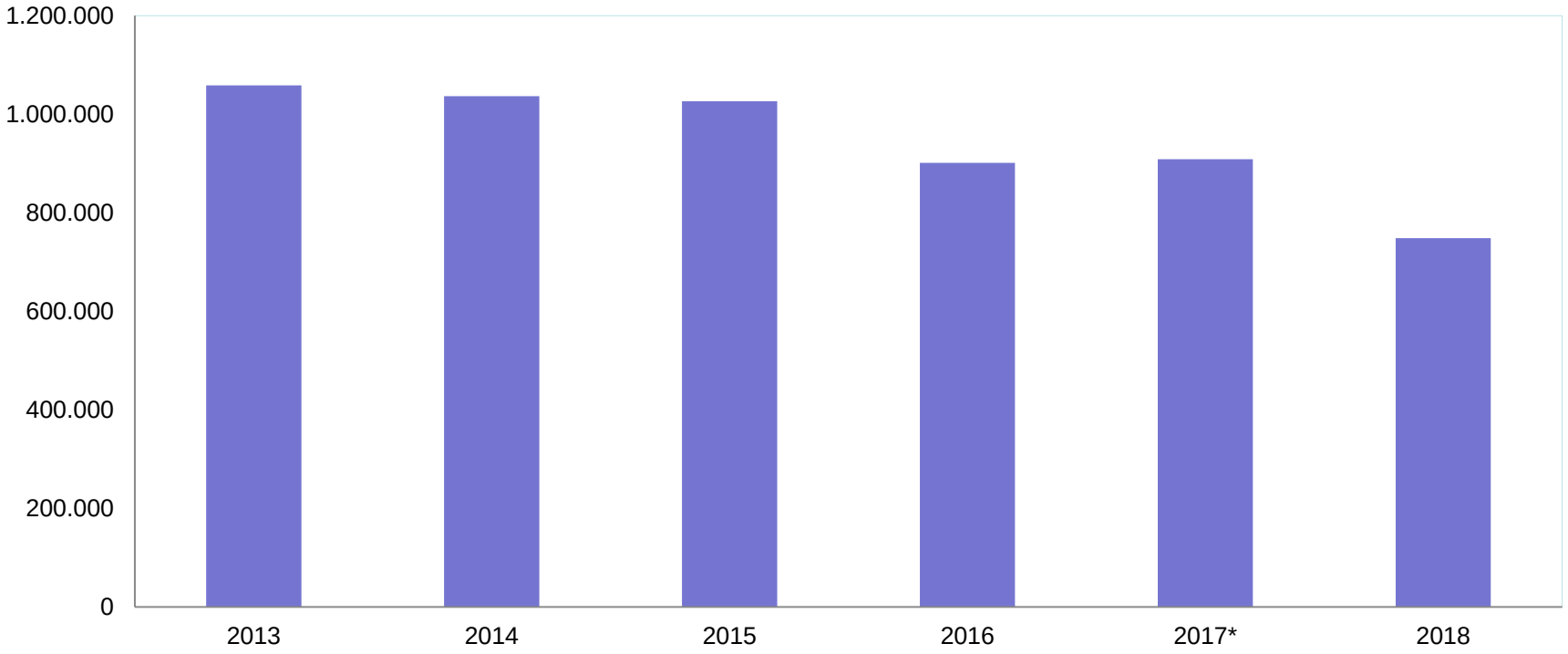


2018 target ⇨ 45.000/57.000 vaccinated herds

23.500 herds were vaccinated- VC was 42%

Vaccination coverage (animals)

Vaccination zone



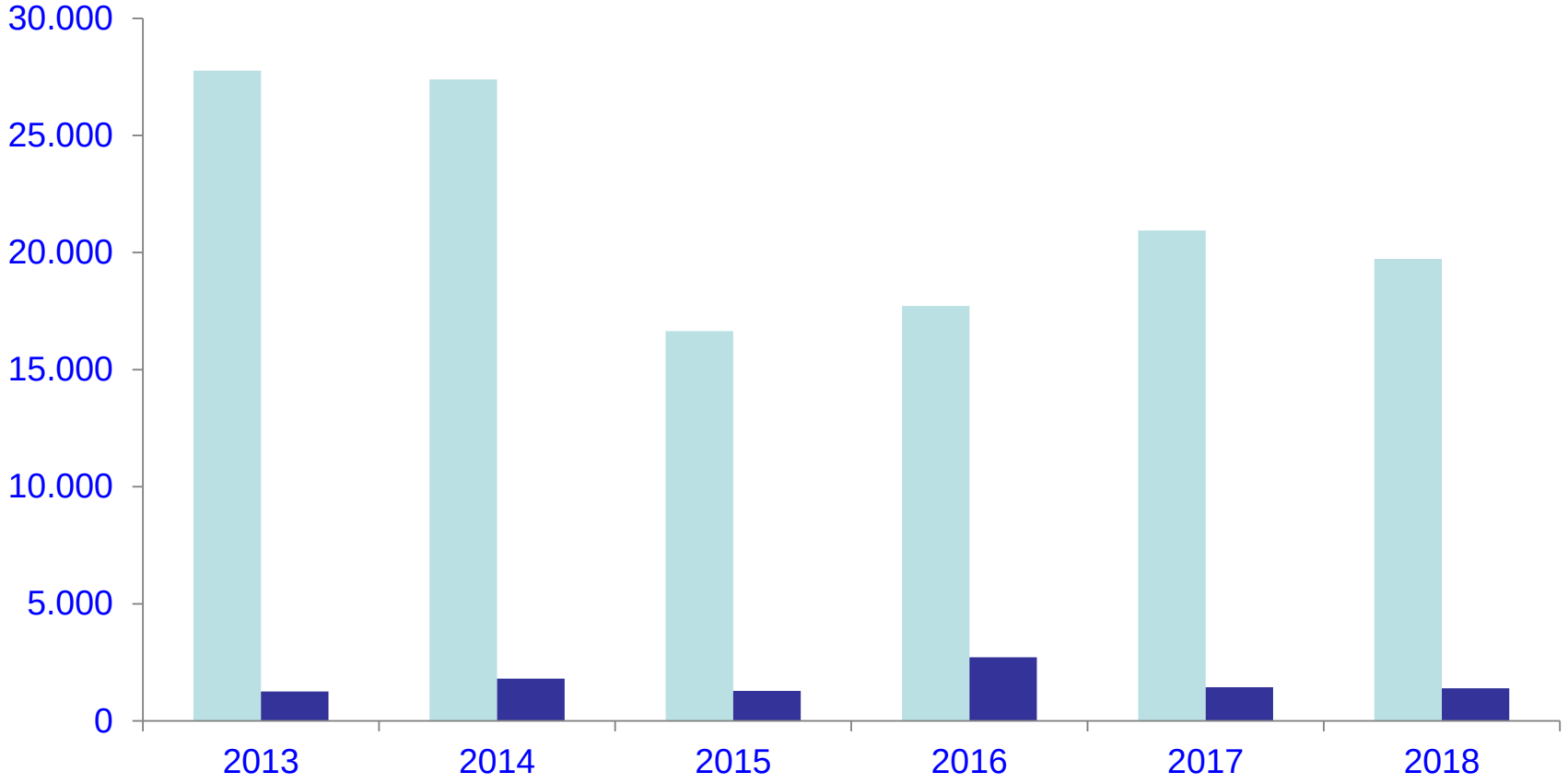
2018 target 2,000,000 vaccinated animals

≈750,000 animals were vaccinated- VC was 38%

1.595 positive animals in 701 herds

Blood testing coverage (herds)

Eradication zone

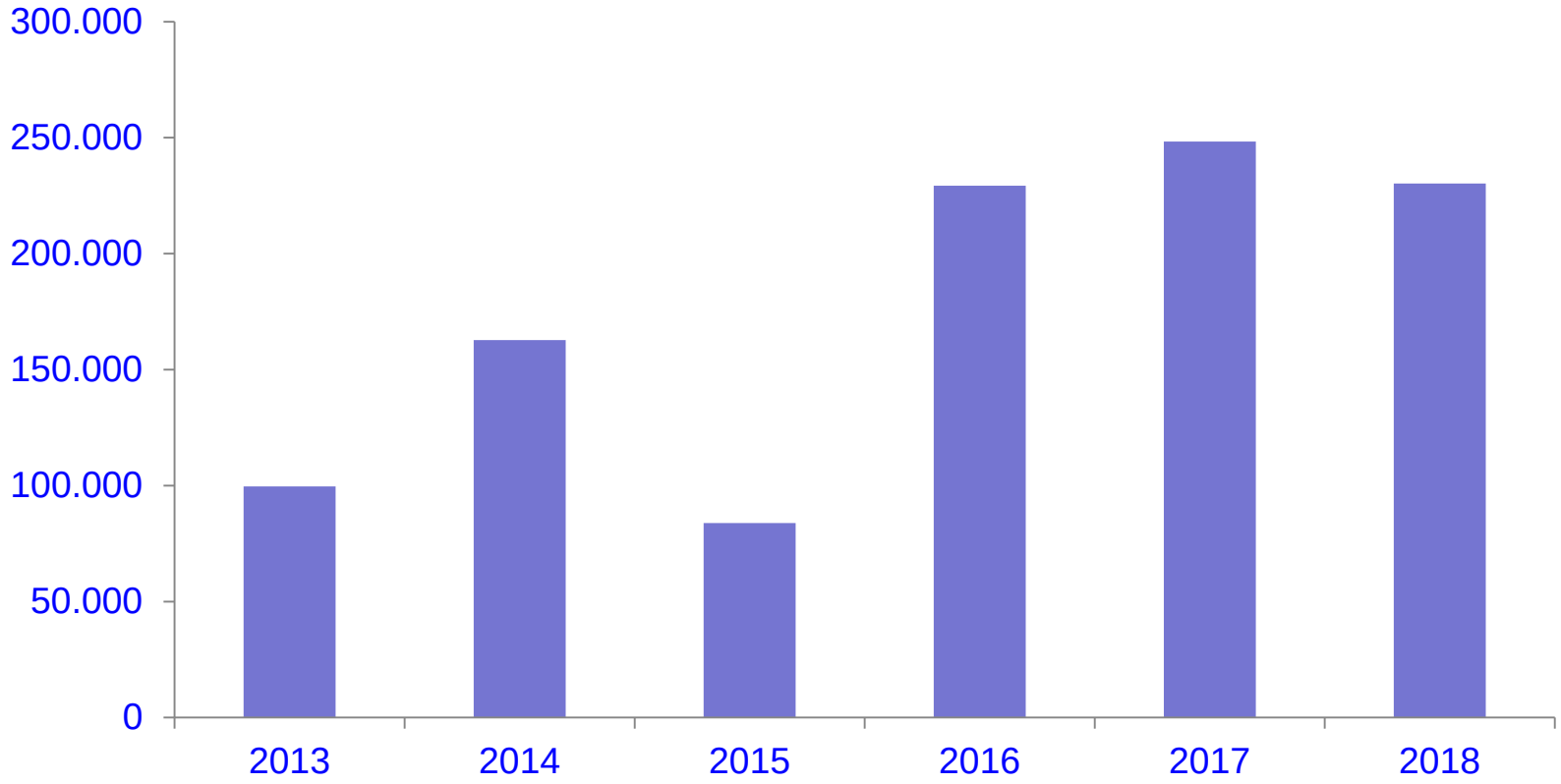


2018 target 15,000 tested herds

≈1,390 herds were tested

Blood testing coverage (animals)

Eradication zone



2018 target 4,000,000 sampled animals

≈230,000 animals were sampled

Prevalence and incidence

Eradication zone

Prevalence: 2.6%

Incidence: 0.6%

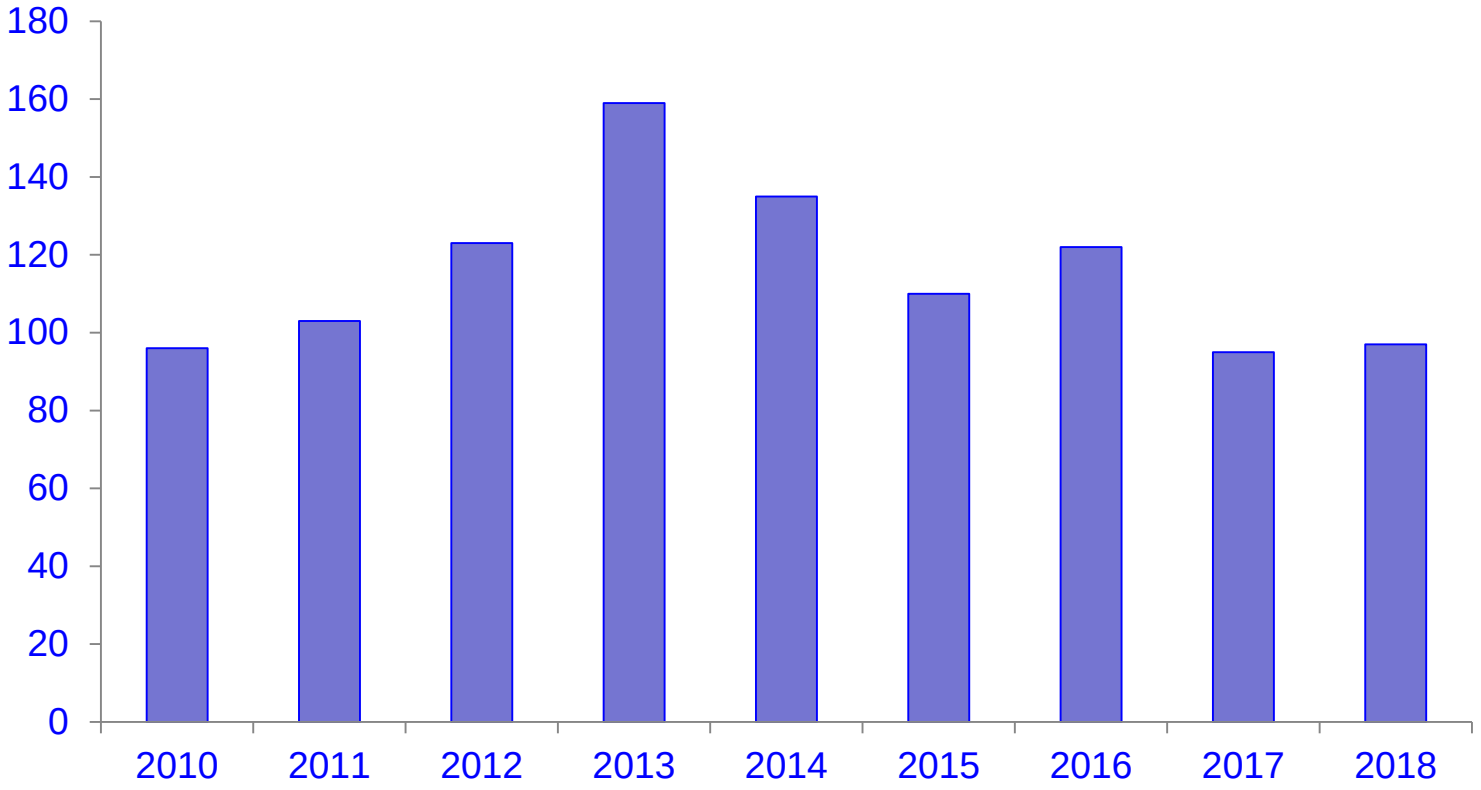
At least one positive animal AB testing

Estimated in herds tested (10%)

Collocation overestimates incidence/prevalence

Under testing overestimates the prevalence

Human brucellosis cases



2018: **97** cases (including work related cases)

Source: Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Conclusions

- Vaccination coverage the **same** level although
  - Official veterinary staff has been further decreased
  - Financial resources have been limited
  - Legal framework was problematic for private vets
- **Legal framework**- clarified / Active involvement of private veterinarians
- Dissemination activities- stakeholders
- Frequent **training** of official veterinary surgeons
- All involved **labs** are **accredited** in RBT, NRVL has already started testing **aborted embryos**

Conclusions

- **Supervision** in the **central** level improved
  - Data quality, timeliness, quantity, validation
- **Cooperation** with **regional** level authorities improved
- **Pilot project in progress** together with the School of Veterinary Medicine – *estimation of the true incidence of the disease*
- Cooperation with other institutes (NAGREF) molecular typing of the isolated strains- vaccine associated brucellosis

Problems

- **Other animal disease emergencies:**
  - **Rabies, BT, Sheep Pox, Lumpy Skin Disease, Avian Influenza**
- **Administrative issues:**
  - **Delays in the tender for the procurement of vaccines**
- **Other issues:**
  - **capital controls**
  - **massive retirements of official vets** >50% during the last 10 years
  - **shortage of resources**

To summarize:

The coverage of the programme for both Vaccination & Eradication Zone

remains at low level

What to do next…

1. **Plan a study** for programme evaluation
2. **Re-estimate** nominators and denominators regarding the numbers of animals and the numbers of the herds
3. Estimate the **true incidence** (wild strain)
4. Set **feasible targets** for vaccinations and blood testing according to validated data
5. **Active involvement of the Private vets** under the new legal frame
6. **Place resources** in line with the evaluation report

Thank you for your attention!