

# EU Platform on Animal Welfare

## Health & Welfare of Pets (dogs) in trade

---

### Voluntary Initiative Group

Léon Arnts, Sr. Policy Officer Animal Welfare international  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands

Voluntary initiative on improving health & welfare of pets (dogs) in trade

## Members

- **9 seats for Member States**

(13 involved: Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Netherlands)

- **3 NGOs** (RSPCA, Vier Pforten, Eurogroup for Animals)

- **1 Business Organisation** (FVE)

- **1 Independent expert** (University of Milano)

# Objectives (extract)

- Exchange of good practices on enforcement, Identification and Registration,
- Improving communication & cooperation between Member States with regard to pet trade,
- Greater exchangeability of data from I&R systems,
- Development of guides/guidelines,
- Improving the use of the TRACES system.

# 1st outcome

## Dogs in TRACES

- Identification of deficiencies
- Development of recommendations
- Concluded document forwarded to EC IMSOC team



### 1. The limited access to TRACES for national authorities

TRACES records for any individual animal movement is only accessible to the competent authorities of the countries of origin, transit and destination, due to data protection concerns. This restriction means that authorities of a Member State investigating a regular animal exporter will not have access to TRACES reports of animal movements by that exporter in other Member States. This also impedes the "tracing" of an animal if its intra-EU movement has been registered twice. Breaking the movement in two stages may facilitate falsifying the animal's real origin, as authorities have no way of seeing the first movement.

#### Recommendations:

- Access to TRACES records on individual journeys should – to the extent allowed by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – be expanded to all Competent Authorities so that it is no longer limited to the countries of origin, transit and destination.
- Increased access to TRACES records should be, at least, granted to Member States when conducting a search for a specific animal (by transponder and/or passport number, when required) or looking for traders/breeders, transporters, consignors or consignees.

### 2. The absence of verification of the validity of the animal identification number

With regard to dogs, cats and ferrets, TRACES does not include a system for controlling the compliance of animal identification numbers (transponder codes) with the unique identification code set up by ISO standards 11784 and 11785. Since the TRACES reform of 10 March 2015 (version 6.21) a Deep Validation Control (DVC, already been developed for free by Planet ID). This is in place for bovine but not for pets. Such a system would help to automatically reject animals registered with impossible or false codes, and alert the relevant authorities.<sup>1</sup>

#### Recommendation:

- An integrated and consistent control system to check the validity of transponder codes (DVC) to be implemented.

### 3. The absence of verification of the registration or approval numbers of organisations

TRACES requests a registration or approval number for any person or entity moving animals to another Member State ( type "Other species location"), but its validity and existence in national databases of the Member States is not checked by TRACES. Investigations showed unregistered breeders using TRACES by entering fake registration numbers, which the system did not check.

<sup>1</sup> Such a system was, for example, set up in Ireland

# 2nd outcome (I)

Our group mapped all national legislation in respect to:

- Identification and registration;
- Categories and requirements for breeders;
- Selling of dogs; etc.



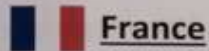
---

## MAPPING SURVEY ON IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF DOGS & REGISTRATION OF BREEDERS AND SELLERS

---

1. Austria (info not received yet)
2. [Belgium](#)
3. [Bulgaria](#)
4. [Croatia](#)
5. Cyprus (info not received yet)
6. [Czech Republic](#)
7. [Denmark](#)
8. [Estonia](#)
9. [Finland](#)
10. [France](#)
11. [Germany](#)
12. [Greece](#)
13. [Hungary](#)
14. [Ireland](#)
15. [Italy](#)
16. [Latvia](#)
17. [Lithuania](#)
18. Luxembourg
19. Malta (info not received yet)
20. [Poland](#)
21. [Portugal](#)
22. [Romania](#)
23. [Slovakia](#)
24. [Slovenia](#)
25. [Spain](#)
26. [Sweden](#)
27. [The Netherlands](#)
28. [United Kingdom](#)

**25 countries  
mapped so far**



## France

### PART 1: Identification and Registration of dogs (I&R)

In France, since 1999, it is mandatory to identify dogs before they are given away for free or sold. Tattoo as a way of identification is still allowed. Identification is always linked with registration in the French national database ICAD. The data are analysed by the central administration for: behaviour evaluations of dogs, statistics about importations and statistics about dog pounds (number of entries, number of adoptions, etc.).

#### Law

##### Identification

Article L212-10 of the Rural Code

##### Registration

The ministerial decree of 01/08/2012 specifies that any change of address and also the death of the animal has to be declared to the I&R database (ICAD) by the owner. If the dog is sold, the transferor gives part A of the identification certificate to the buyer and sends part B to ICAD. Then within 8 days ICAD has to send a new card to the new owner. Furthermore, ICAD has developed a new software tool to be able to get back data from the vets data base i.e. ICAD extracts data from the vets clinical software so death of the animals is automatically registered in the I&R database. 60 % of the vet's software are connected and the generalisation to all of them is in progress.

##### Code structure

Arrêté du 1er août 2012 relatif à l'identification des carnivores domestiques et fixant les modalités de mise en œuvre du fichier national d'identification des carnivores domestiques (JORF n°0183 du 8 août 2012 page 12998, texte n° 45).

### Structure of the Code

The code is formed with the country code, a code designating the species and a homologation code.

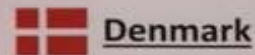
Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Chip number	2	5	0	2	6	R	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Type of data	Country code of France			Species code*			Homologation code			AN	AN	AN	AN	AN	AN

\* In France, code 26 is the species code for dogs, cats and ferrets.

France employs a homologation/approval code instead of the manufacturer code. This homologation/approval code is issued by the French competent authority after the manufacturer has passed a test conducted by the National Certification Agency (CETIM laboratory). The homologation procedure is mandatory not only for French producers, but also for foreigner producers who want to sell their products in France. The homologation/approval code is then inserted directly into the transponder number (positions 6 and 7).

#### Transponder Code

The transponder code is used in all vets clinical database. It is also used by insurance companies to be sure that it is the right animal. It is also used in connected objects (cat's tray and pet door for example)



## Denmark

### PART 1: Identification and Registration of dogs (I&R)

In Denmark, identification of dogs is mandatory since 1993. Lawful registration can be by both chip and tattoo, but only a few dogs get tattoos. The registration is outsourced to the private entity Dansk Hunderegister, which is an association compiled by the Danish Veterinary Association, the Danish Kennel Club and three animal welfare organisations. The database is not used for analysis purposes, however there has been applications from scientists to use the database for other research.

#### Law

##### Identification

Lov om hunde (Danish Act on Dogs), consolidated act no. 1373 of 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 and Bekendtgørelse om mærkning og registrering af hunde (Executive order on identification and registration of dogs) executive order no. 1044 of 10<sup>th</sup> of august 2018.

##### Registration

In Denmark dogs are removed from the database 25 years (until recently 18 years) after the registered date of birth. Possessors of dogs can report the death of the dog, but is not obligated to do so. Thus, dogs that are deceased are not removed systematically. Non-compliance with the rules of registration of dogs is mostly punishable by fine. Furthermore, if a dog is not registered at all, the police can register the dog at the expense of the possessor.

##### Code structure

In accordance with national law Dansk Hunderegister can choose what code structure to use, provided that The Danish Food and Veterinary Administration approves the structure.

### Structure of the Code

In Denmark, a complex system is used to generate a transponder number, called "Wismans system". It includes the country code + the manufacturer code, but the originality of this system is that the code of the manufacturer is calculated by subtracting the ICAR manufacturer code from the number 991. In addition, the number 2 is always prefixed to the code obtained by the above subtraction, to show that it is a control system with delegation of responsibility to the manufacturer. Although it might seem a little complex, this is an excellent system because it allows not only the uniqueness of codes but also the traceability of the manufacturer.

For example, the manufacturer code of the manufacturer "Planet ID" as registered in ICAR is 972. We subtract 972 from 991, which makes 19 [991 - 972 = 19]. With the prefixing of the '2', the Planet ID manufacturer code in Denmark becomes 219.

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Chip number	2	0	R	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Type of data	Country code of Denmark			Extra 2	Planet ID manufacturer code after subtraction			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

#### Transponder code :

## PART 1: Identification and Registration of dogs (I&R)

In Denmark, identification of dogs is mandatory since 1993. Lawful registration can be by both chip and tattoo, but only a few dogs get tattoos. The registration is outsourced to the private entity Dansk Hunderegister, which is an association compiled by the Danish Veterinary Association, the Danish Kennel Club and three animal welfare organisations. The database is not used for analysis purposes, however there has been applications from scientists to use the database for other research.

### Law

#### Identification

Lov om hunde (Danish Act on Dogs), consolidated act no. 1373 of 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 and Bekendtgørelse om mærkning og registrering af hunde (Executive order on identification and registration of dogs) executive order no. 1044 of 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

#### Registration

In Denmark dogs are removed from the database 25 years (until recently 18 years) after the registered date of birth. Possessors of dogs can report the death of the dog, but is not obligated to do so. Thus, dogs that are deceased are not removed systematically. Non-compliance with the rules of registration of dogs is mostly punishable by fine. Furthermore, if a dog is not registered at all, the police can register the dog at the expense of the possessor.

#### Code structure

In accordance with national law Dansk Hunderegister can choose what code structure to use, provided that The Danish Food and Veterinary Administration approves the structure.

### Structure of the Code

In Denmark, a complex system is used to generate a transponder number, called "Wismans system". It includes the country code + the manufacturer code, but the originality of this system is that the code of the manufacturer is calculated by subtracting the ICAR manufacturer code from the number 991. In addition, the number 2 is always prefixed to the code obtained by the above subtraction, to show that it is a control system with delegation of responsibility to the manufacturer. Although it might seem a little complex, this is an excellent system because it allows not only the uniqueness of codes but also the traceability of the manufacturer.

For example, the manufacturer code of the manufacturer "Planet ID" as registered in ICAR is 972. We subtract 972 from 991, which makes 19 (991 - 972 = 19). With the prefixing of the '2', the Planet ID manufacturer code in Denmark becomes 219.

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Chip number	2	0	8	2	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Type of data	Country code of Denmark			Extra 2	Planet ID manufacturer code after subtraction		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
							N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Transponder code :

Anyone keeping dogs professionally has to keep a protocol of the entry and dispatch of dogs to and from the premises of the business. The business must use the identification number of each dog as basis for this protocol. It is not necessary to register dogs by their code on other areas, though such registration presumably happens on voluntary grounds, e.g. for breeding, insurance or treatment.

### Competent authority

Ministry of Environment and Food

## PART 1 (2): Additional questions regarding the identification code control

### Relation between the dog and the breeder

The information about the dog is only deleted when it is registered a decease or 25 years after its birth. Hence, when there is a change in the dog's owner, the former owner is still part of the registered dog information. However, the first possessor does not necessarily be the breeder, which imply that the information regarding the breeder is not always registered.

### Uniqueness of the code

The fifth and sixth digits of the Danish number system refer to the producer of chips, thus making it unlikely for two producers to generate the same number.

### Transponder implants

Any person can implant a transponder, as long as they have registered themselves.

### Movement to other countries

Any possessor is registered by address, but foreign addresses are not registered. They are merely registered as "exported". Normally, address changes are not checked.

### Country code

The country code is not set in national law, but it is up to the Register, which in Denmark is private, to choose a valid number of series.

## PART 2: Registration of breeders and sellers of pets

### Breeders categories

National law concerns professional breeders defined as breeders who breed three or more litters using three or more bitches a year. Such breeders need to have a permission for this activity. Breeders falling under the limit are considered private dog owners.

### Registration

Only certain breeders must register. The professional breeders undergo control by the authorities, and the businesses go on a public list with where the latest reports of controls are published.

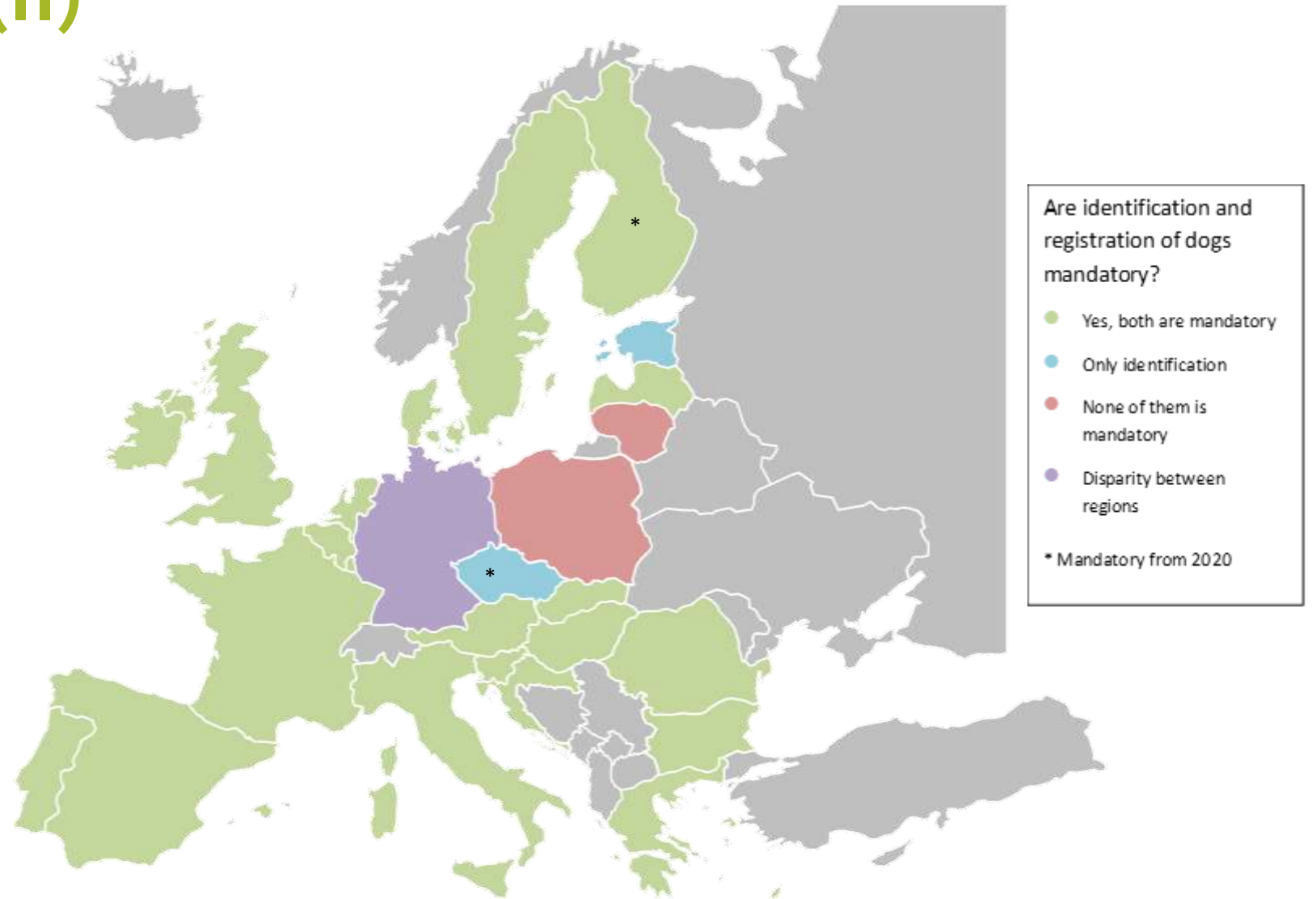
### Pet shops

It is allowed to sell pets in shops. The requirements for keeping particularly dogs in pet shops are considered too comprehensive to be realistically fulfilled. Furthermore, there is no tradition in Denmark for keeping and selling dogs and cats from pet shops.

# 2nd outcome (II)

Results overview:

- Mandatory I&R of dogs

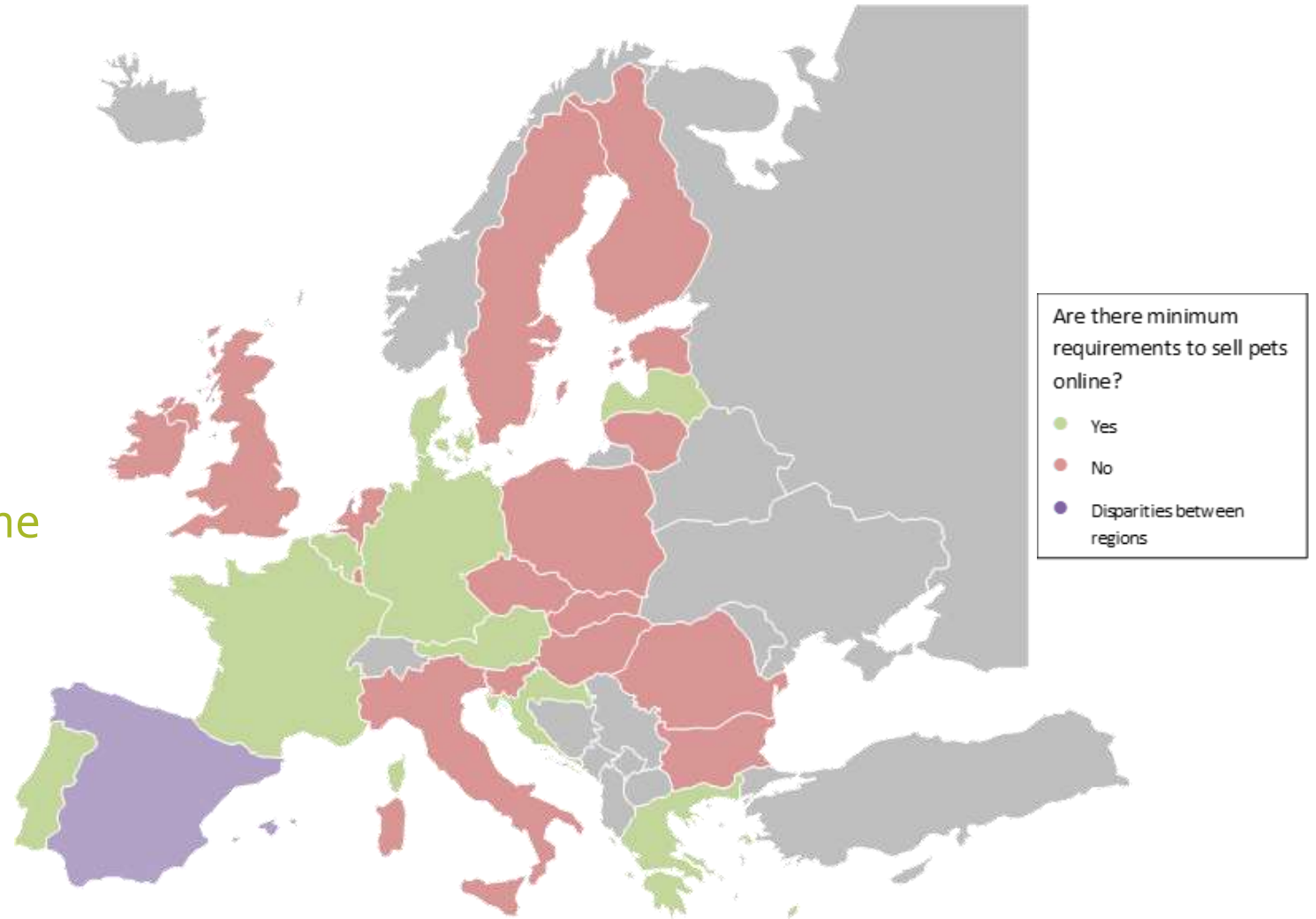




## 2nd outcome (III)

Results overview:

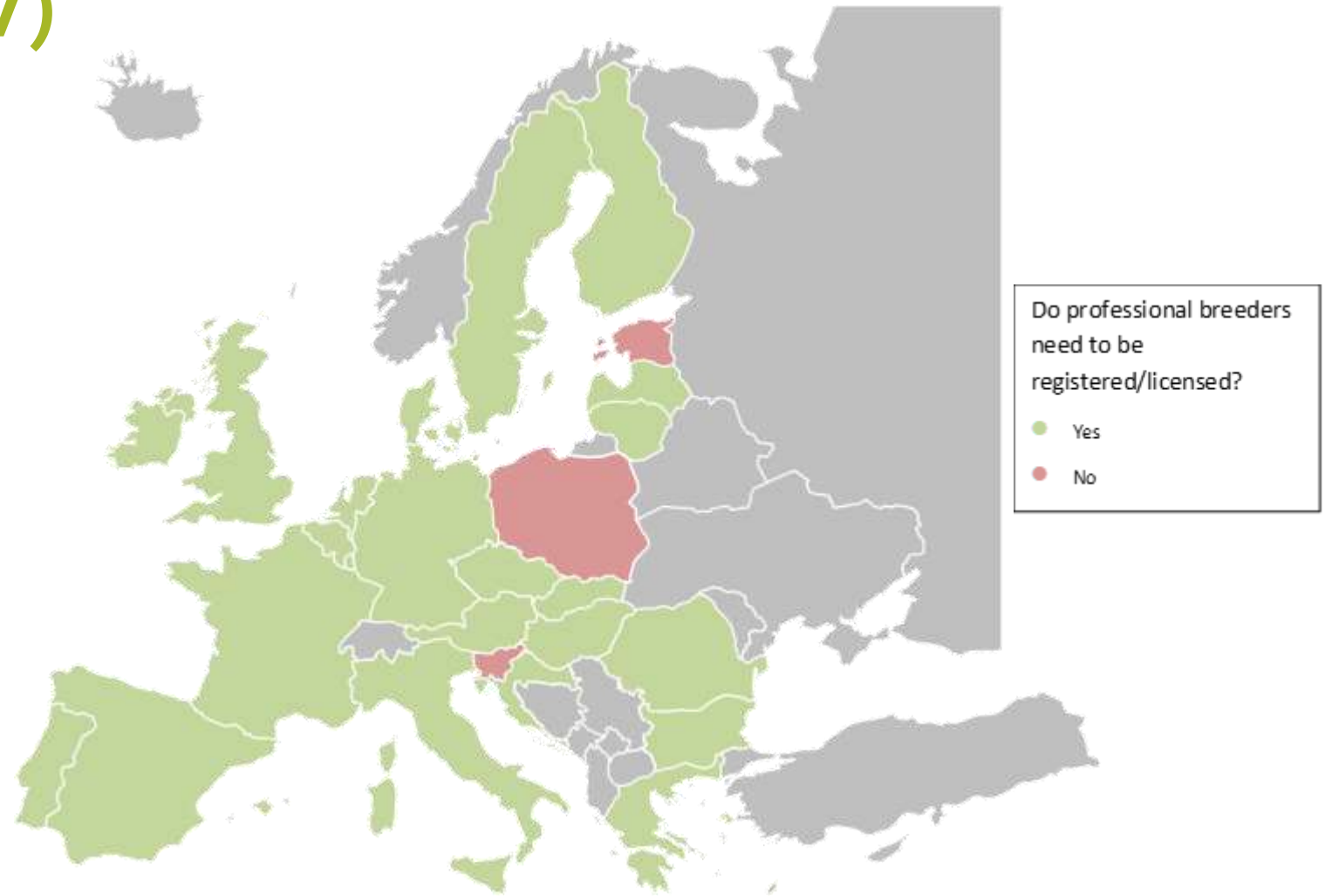
- Minimum requirement to online pet sell



# 2nd outcome (IV)

Results overview:

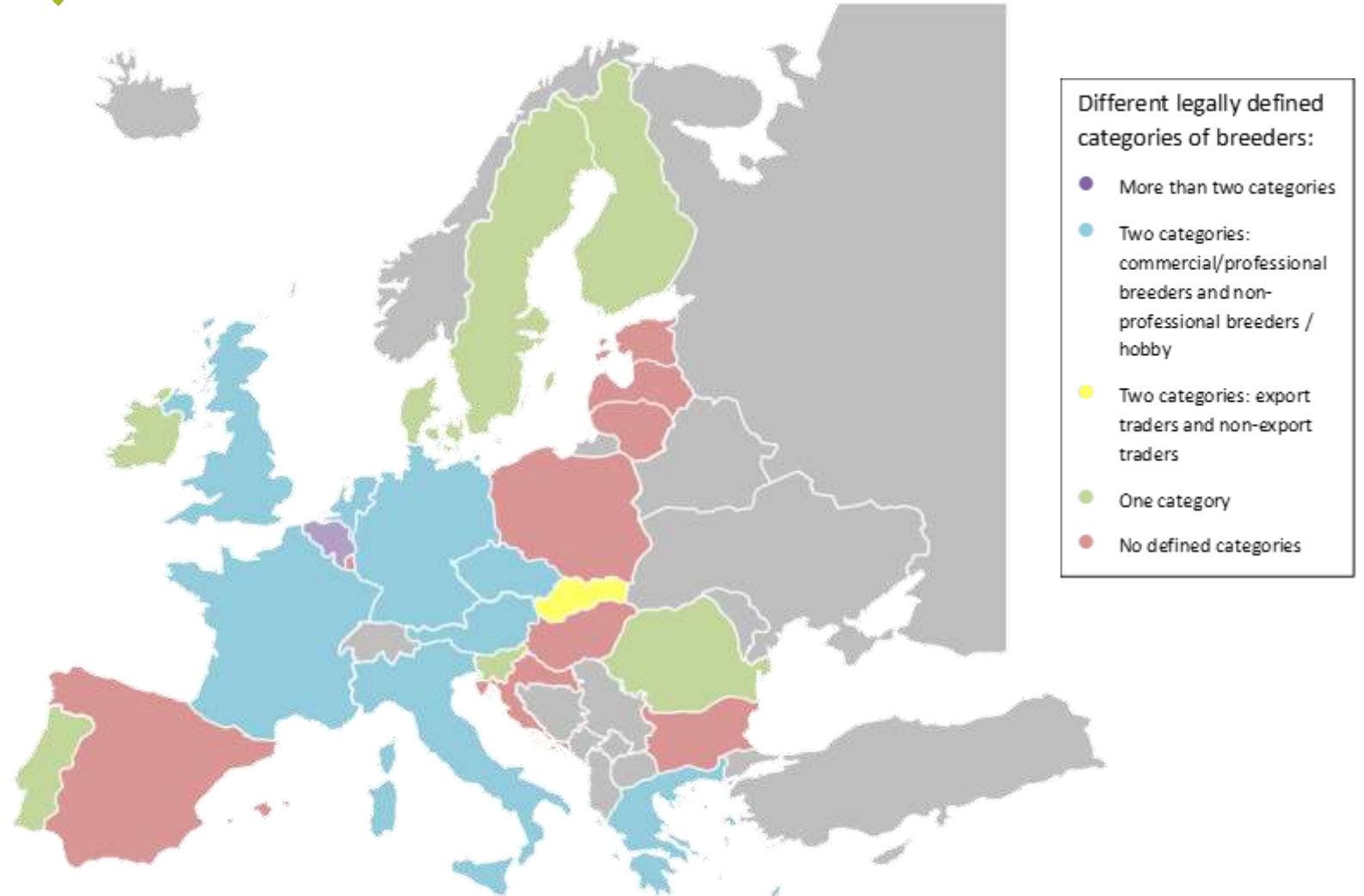
- Breeders registration



# 2nd outcome (V)

Results overview:

- Categories of breeders



# Further/future 'Outcomes'

- Recommendations document regarding the outcomes of the Mapping on I&R of dogs and breeders in all Member States.
- Development of guidelines /guides:
  - Transport: road transport of dogs and cats.
  - Online dog sale: advertisement of dogs.
  - Breeders (dogs, cats; including chapter on dog socialization).

# Health & Welfare of Pets (dogs) in trade

## VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE GROUP

