

# **Wildlife rabies in Italy: Epidemiological situation and response strategies**

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS,  
FOOD AND FEED

Animal Health and Welfare

Brussels, 6-7 October 2014



## Epidemiological situation 2013

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The last rabid fox was detected on 14 February 2011.  
No further cases were identified during the surveillance  
program for rabies in the wildlife in 2 years

### **Italy re-gained the rabies-free status as of 14 February 2013**

according to Article 8.10.2 of Chapter 8.10. of the OIE Terrestrial  
Animal Health Code

“Self-declaration from Italy on the recovery of its rabies-free  
status”

OIE bulletin 2013 No 2

(<http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=86>)

## 2013 – Passive surveillance

### Wild animals found dead or showing symptoms

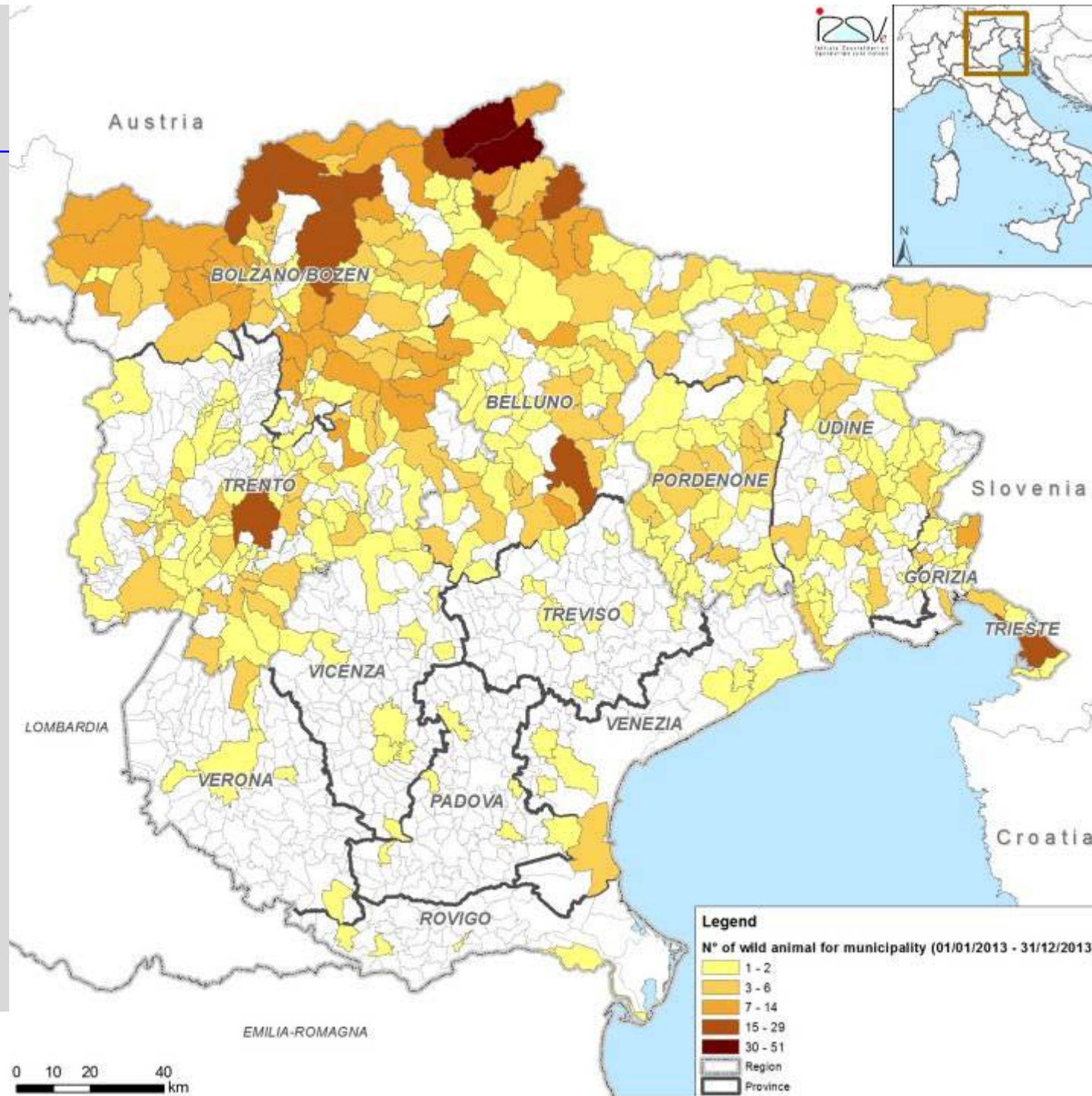
Region	Total wild animal tested	Red foxes	% Red foxes
Friuli Venezia Giulia	286	209	73.08%
P.A. Bolzano	680	296	43.53%
P.A. Trento	227	150	66.08%
Veneto	191	126	65.97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>56.43%</b>



# 2013

## Passive surveillance

Wild animals found dead or showing symptoms



0 10 20 40 km

## 2014 – Passive surveillance (Updated to 30/09/2014)

### Wild animals found dead or showing symptoms

Region	Total wild animal tested	Red foxes	% Red foxes
Friuli Venezia Giulia	151	113	74.83%
P.A. Bolzano	550	228	41.45%
P.A. Trento	95	68	71.58%
Veneto	94	59	62.77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>52.58%</b>

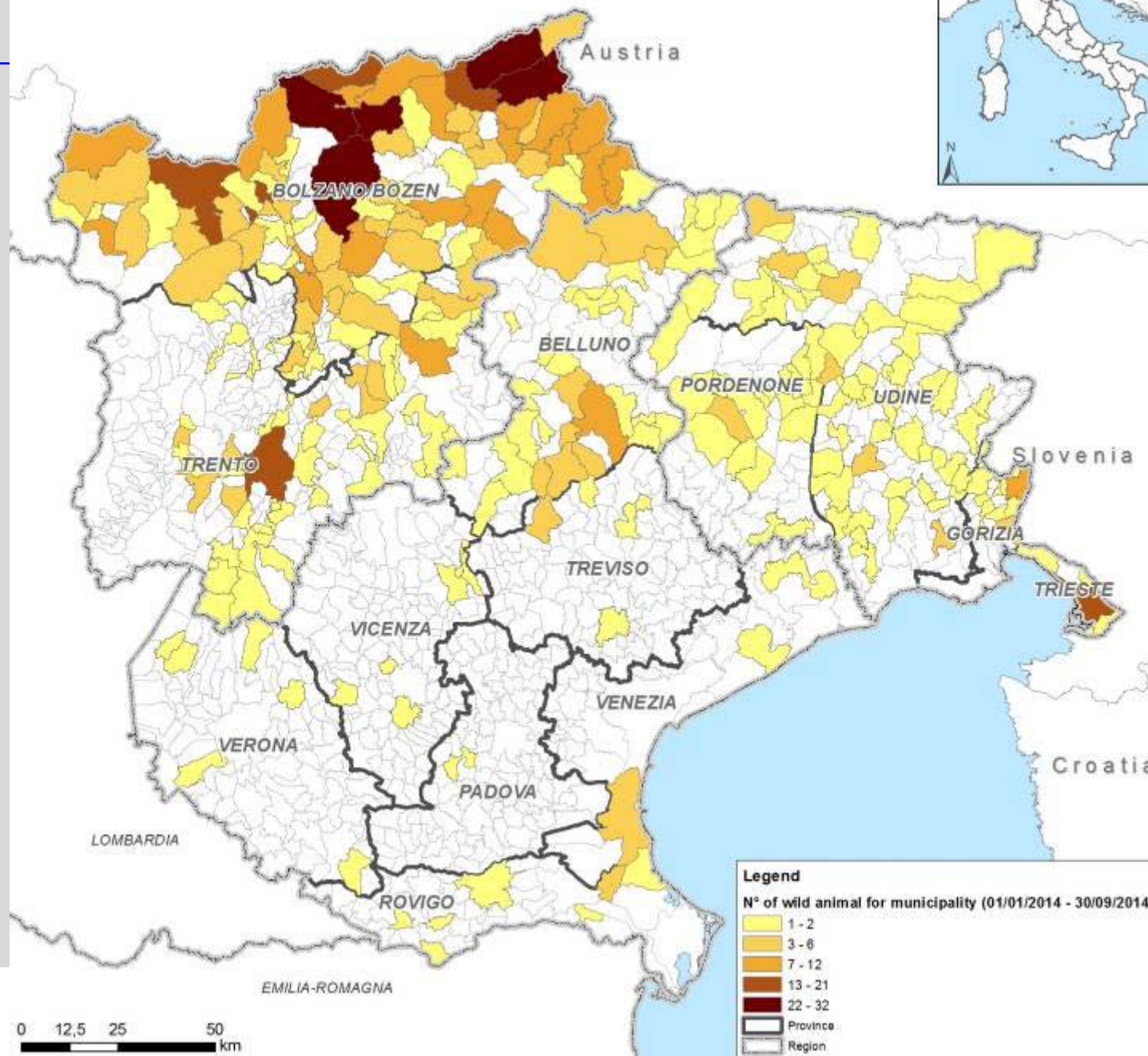


# 2014

## Passive surveillance

Updated to 30/06/2014

Wild animals found dead or showing symptoms





# Oral Foxes Vaccination (OFV) campaigns

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*AERIAL*  
FOLLOWED BY

*MANUAL*  
DISTRIBUTION

## PREVENTIVE OFV

- MAY 2013
- NOV 2013
- APR 2014
- NOV 2014



# OFV – Preventive campaign

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- Rabies cases were identified in Balkan area
- **Preventive Campaigns**
  - Co-founded by EU (Decision 2012/761/EC)
  - Carried out twice a year (**Spring and Fall**) for two years (**2013 – 2014**)
    - Requested extension also for 2015-2016
  - Vaccination area: 20 km belt on the Italian-Slovenian border

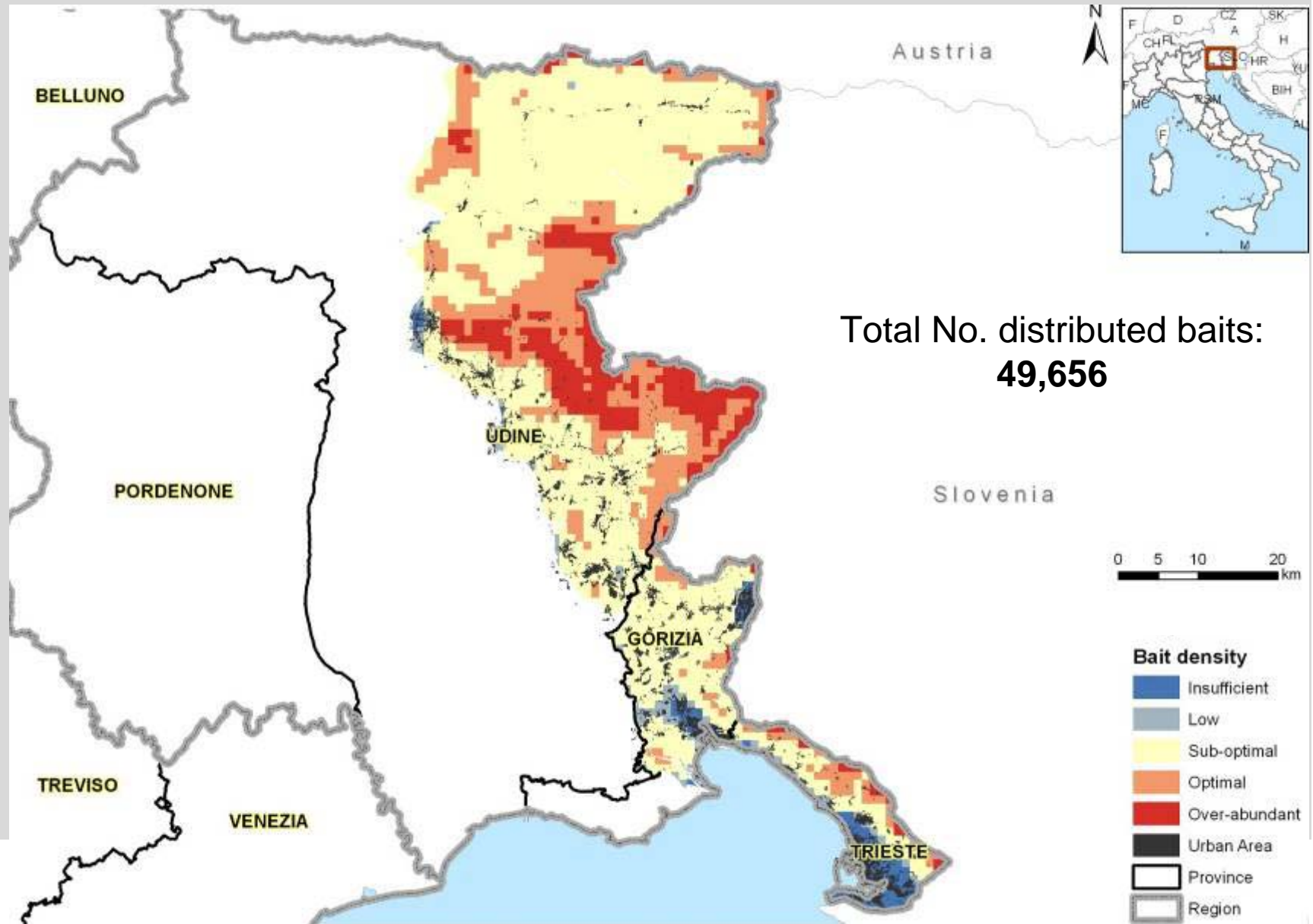
First Preventive campaign carried out in May 2013



# OFV – Preventive campaign May 2013



# OFV – Preventive campaign May 2013



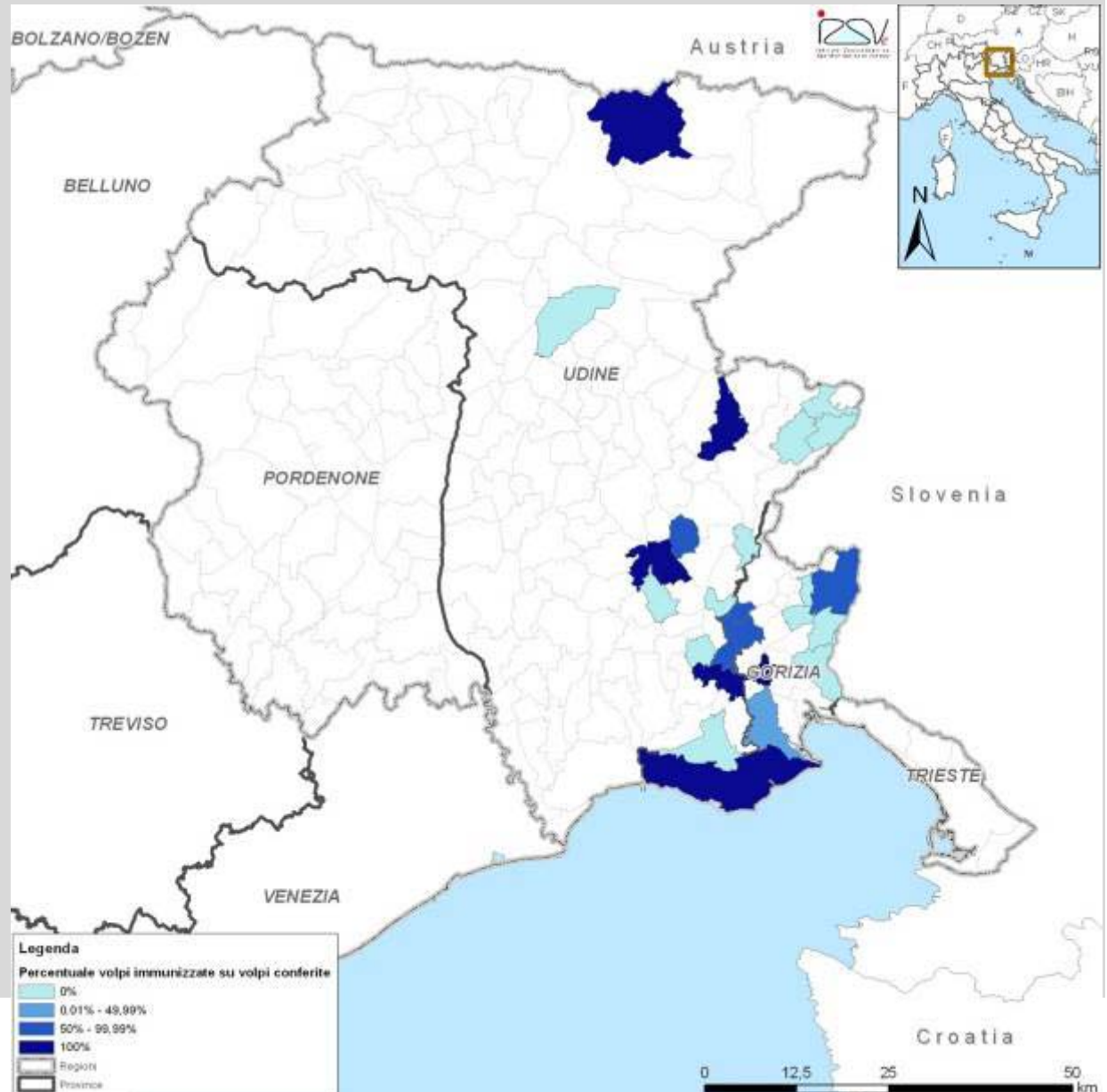


# OFV – Preventive campaign May 2013

## May 2013

### OFV Efficacy

% Protected foxes  
(Ab >0.5 UI)  
per municipality



# OFV – Preventive campaign May 2013

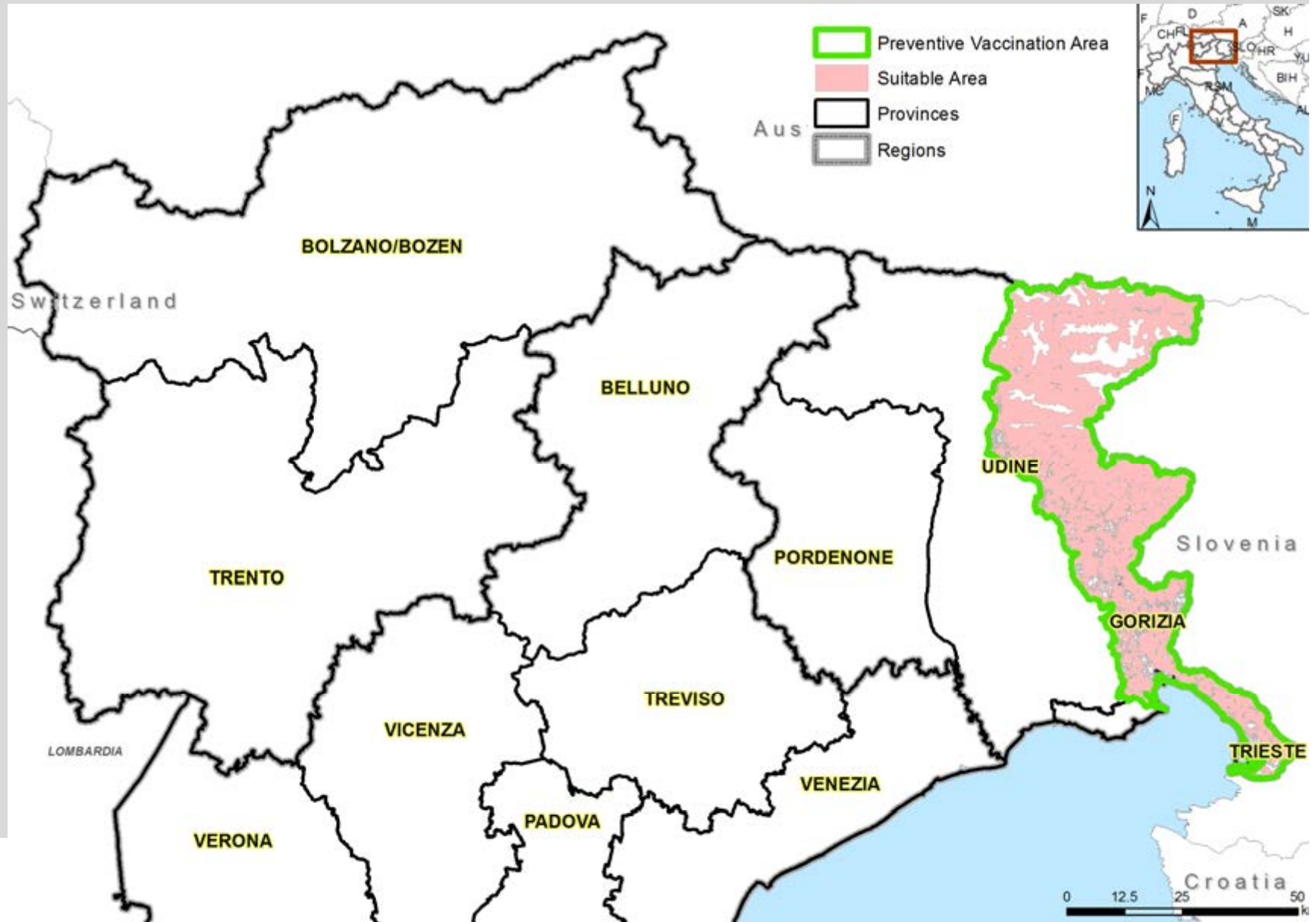
## % Seroconversion in foxes

Province	Tested foxes	Protected foxes (Ab >0.5 UI)	% Protected foxes
Friuli Venezia Giulia	15	6	40.00%
Trieste	0	-	-
Udine	23	7	30.43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34.21%</b>

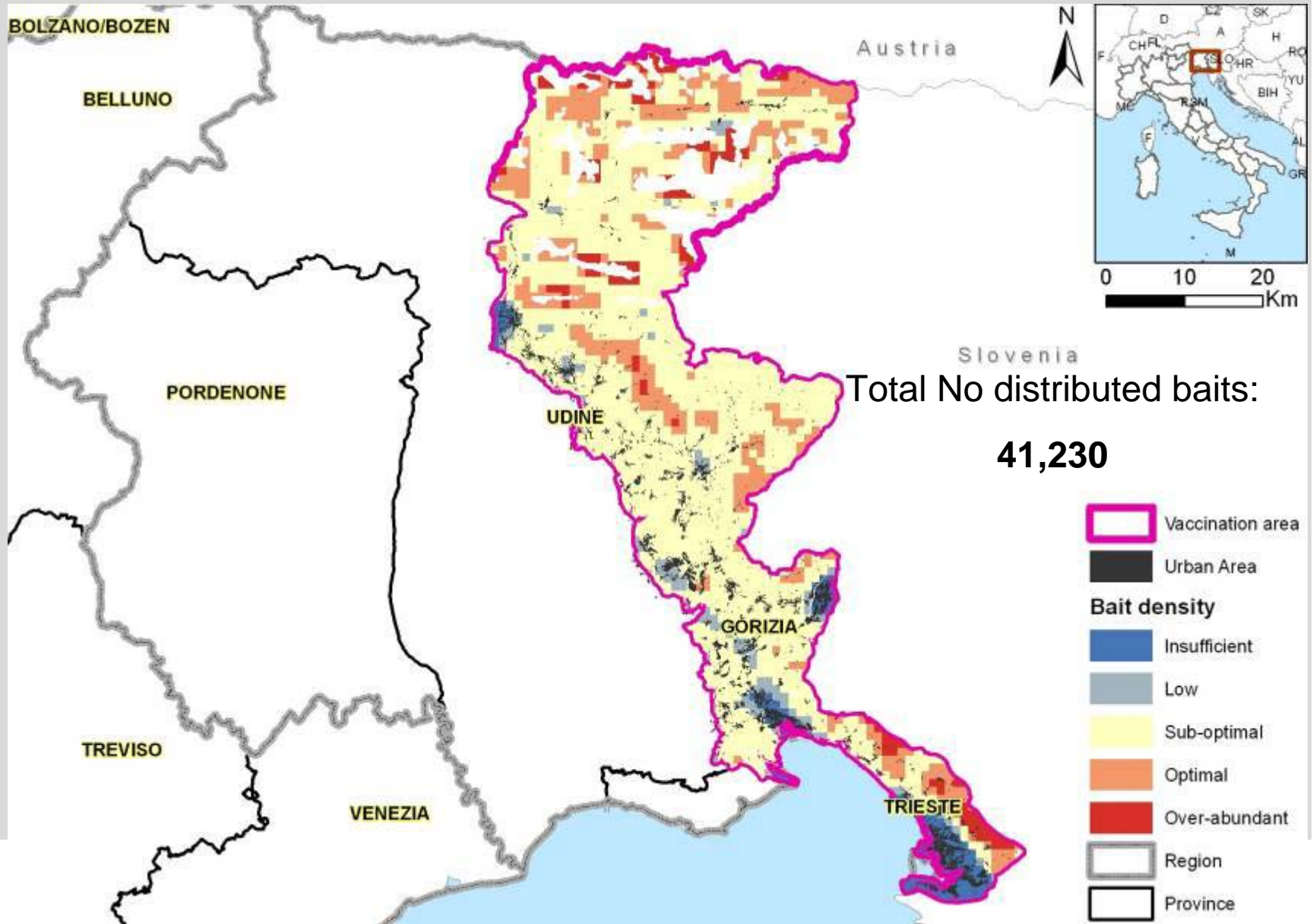
## Bait uptake – biomarker

Region	Tested foxes	Biomarker in jawbone	%
Friuli Venezia Giulia	46	30	65.2%

# OFV – Preventive campaign November 2013



# OFV – Preventive campaign November 2013



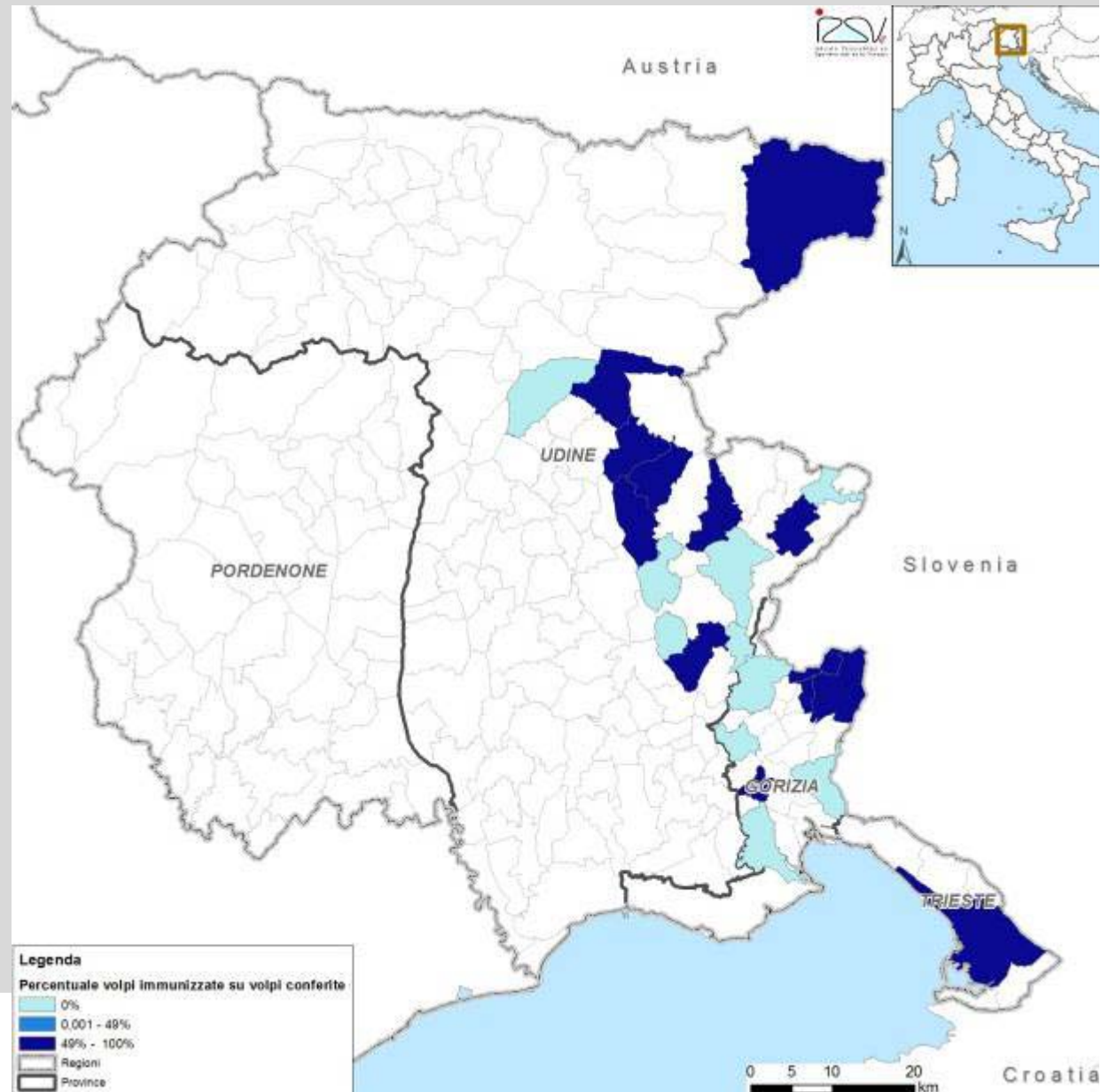


# OFV – Preventive campaign November 2013

## November 2013

### OFV Efficacy

% Protected foxes  
(Ab >0.5 UI)  
per municipality



# OFV – Preventive campaign November 2013

## % Seroconversion in foxes

Province		Tested foxes	Protected foxes (Ab > 0.5 UI)	% Protected foxes
Friuli	Gorizia	11	4	36.36%
Venezia	Trieste	3	2	66.67%
Giulia	Udine	23	13	56.52%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51.35%</b>

## Bait uptake – biomarker

Region	Tested foxes	Biomarker in Jawbone	%
Friuli Venezia Giulia	37	32	86.49%





## Final Remarks

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Due to recurrent rabies finding in the Balkan Region, requests have been made to EU for funding further preventive campaigns also in 2015-2016, to be held on the border with Slovenia.



thanks for your attention