



# **Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team in Montenegro in relation to bluetongue situation**

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**PAFF Committee, Brussels**  
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# Terms of Reference

*To provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot aspects required for the development and refinement of the control strategy for bluetongue (BT) under local conditions taking into account sound scientific basis. A particular attention should be given to use of vaccination as a control measure.*





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# Montenegro

- ✓ Surface: 13.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Population: 660.000 citizens
- ✓ Distance to Italy: 250 km
- ✓ Animal population:
  - ✓ Bovine: 98.000 / 25.000 holdings
  - ✓ Ovine: 190.000
  - ✓ Goat: 26.0005.400 holdings
- ✓ No animal exports





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# Montenegro: Orography

3 main areas:

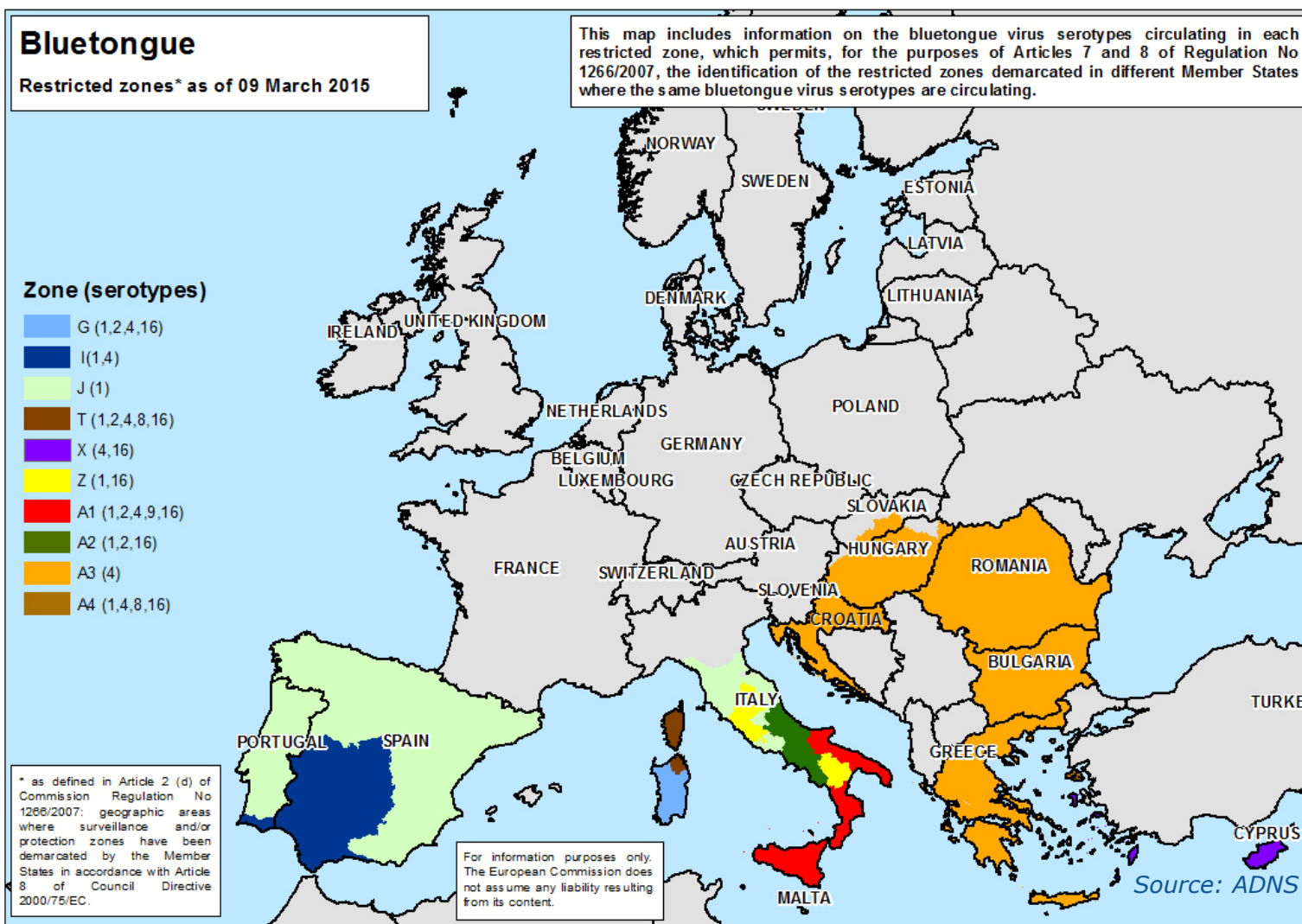
- Coastal region: West
- Plain region: Southwest
- Highlands: Northeast





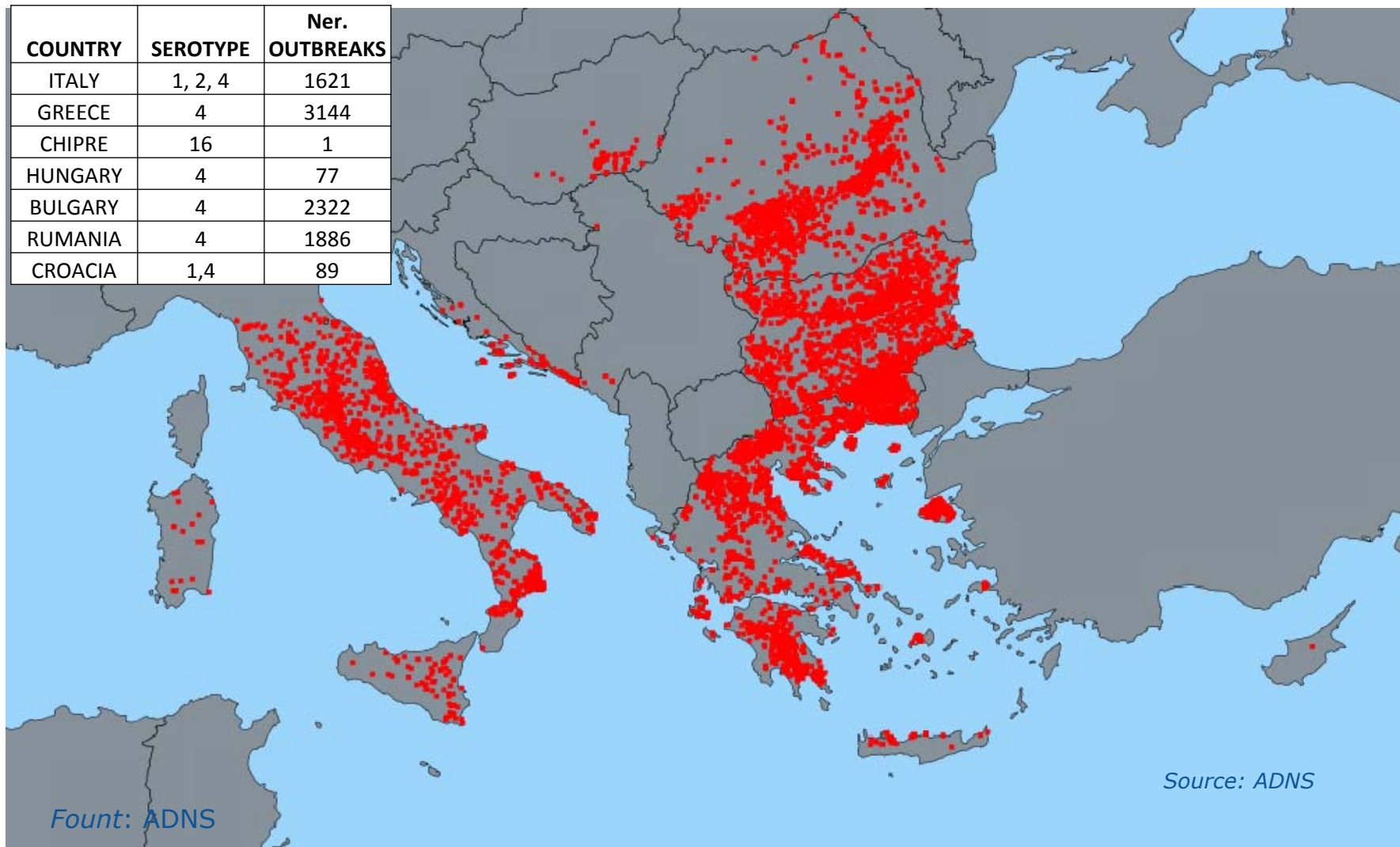
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# Bluetongue situation in EU



# BTV epidemiological situation 2014-2015

COUNTRY	SEROTYPE	Ner. OUTBREAKS
ITALY	1, 2, 4	1621
GREECE	4	3144
CHIPRE	16	1
HUNGARY	4	77
BULGARY	4	2322
RUMANIA	4	1886
CROACIA	1,4	89



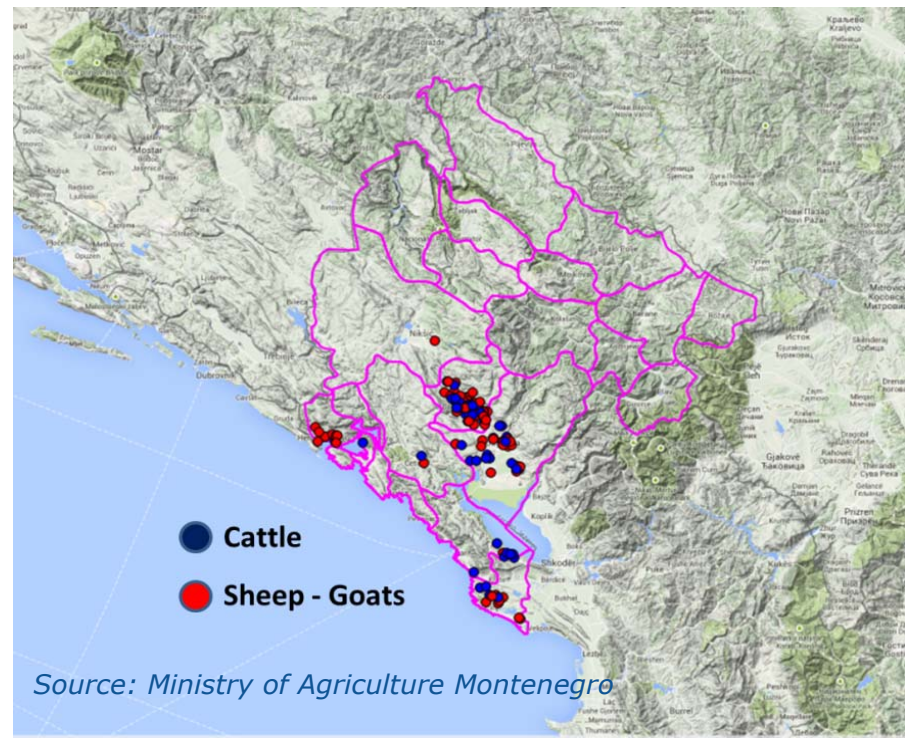
Fount: ADNS

Source: ADNS



## Montenegro: BTV situation 2014

*BTV serological surveillance in place: 2000 samples/year*  
*17<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 first serological positive sample*  
*BTV-4: Pirbright*



# Epidemiological data BTV outbreaks 2014

Species	Number of outbreaks	No. of animals in the outbreaks	No. of sick animals	Morbidity %	No. of dead animals	Mortality %
Cattle	58	450	70	15,6	7	1,56
Sheep	76	3.900	160	4,1	69	1,78
Goats	1	9	6	66,0	1	11,1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>4359</b>	<b>236</b>		<b>77</b>	





## BTV control measures



*Although all the country is considered BTV4 restricted zone, all the movements of susceptible animals from affected municipalities to unaffected areas are banned*

*Animals seriously affected by the disease were euthanized and disinsectization was applied in the outbreaks.*

*Farmers are compensated for dead and culled animals*





## Montenegro: BTV situation 2015

*3 outbreaks detected in February 2015 in cattle: clinical suspicious + PCR positive results in cattle, but no information about vector activity (?)*





## Laboratory capability

*Serological test: c-ELISA*

*Virological test: RT-PCR generic for all BTV serotypes*

*IZSL Teramo will provide protocols and primers for BTV1 and BTV4 specific RT-PCR, VN as well as entomological expertise for Culicoides spp.*

*identification: Strengthening Veterinary Services IPA 2011 EU Project*



## Conclusions

- *The main impact of BT infection in Montenegro is related to the direct losses due to animal mortality and farmers' losses due to the disease*
- *Considering the characteristics of BTV infection and the expected low levels of animal population immunity, it is very likely that, due to the lack of a vaccination strategy, a major BTV4 epidemic will occur in 2015*



## Conclusions

- *Only the vaccination of susceptible animals can be considered an effective control tool for this disease*
- *There is a high risk of BTV1 incursion in Montenegro from Croatia or Italy*



## Recommendations

- *It is strongly recommended to proceed toward the compulsory vaccination of all susceptible domestic ruminants in the country before the next vector season*
- *The vaccinations should cover at least 80% of susceptible animals in a multiannual program and it should be carried out under a regional strategy in Balkan area*
- *BTV surveillance system should be implemented in all the country, including passive, active and entomological surveillance*



# Acknowledgements

*The CVET would like to express their thanks to all colleagues from Montenegro for their hospitality, great cooperation and assistance during the mission.*





**Questions?**

*Thanks for your attention*

