



Annual Report 2017

TRACES

TRAdE Control and Expert System

FOREWORD

In 2017, TRACES has maintained its steady double-digit annual growth in terms of the number of active users and documents managed in the system.

A clear inflexion of the strategy has been initiated to move towards serious discussions with the largest trading partners of the European Union (EU) with a view to activate electronic data exchanges between their SPS certification platform and TRACES, together with the activation of the electronic signature capacity to support paperless SPS certification enabling the simplification of transaction processes and thus facilitating trade.

The migration of the TRACES Classic platform to the TRACES New Technology (TRACES-NT) platform is still ongoing and should allow coping with the enlargement of the scope of TRACES established by the Official Control Regulation [OCR - Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council]. The OCR has indeed created a single framework for official controls along the entire agri-food chain and required the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, to set up and manage a computerised Information Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC) to manage, handle and automatically exchange data, information and documents in relation to official controls. The OCR provides that TRACES be integrated in the IMSOC by mid-December 2019 and requires operators to use entry documents in TRACES for the notification to the competent authority at EU border of arrival of consignments of all goods and animals covered by the OCR.

In parallel, the Plant Health Law [PHL - Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council] provides that TRACES should play a central role in the issuance of the electronic phytosanitary certificates, especially in the context of electronic exchange.

The TRACES development team is actively preparing for this huge challenge and has started offering to interested third countries and Member States the capacity to use TRACES-NT for the issuance of electronic phytosanitary certificates and related entry documents on a voluntary basis, well ahead of the legal deadline.

The same capacity will be made available for autumn/winter 2018 for entry documents covering food and feed of non-animal origin and before summer 2019, for animal health certificates for imports of animals and animal products and related entry documents.

The capacity to use TRACES-NT for intra-Union trade certificates will be provided in 2020, one year in advance of the date of application of the Animal Health Law [AHL - Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council]. However an electronic signature capacity will be made available for these certificates in TRACES Classic by the first quarter of 2019.

To help handle the migration challenge for TRACES users, the TRACES support team has been substantially reinforced and its methods modernised. In addition, in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Commission's initiative, a careful and accurate cooperation with external contractors is ongoing with a view to prioritise and maximise the training capacities on TRACES-NT for the full benefit of TRACES users.

The first feedback of TRACES users regarding the new TRACES-NT platform, and in particular the new user-friendly functionalities offered by the platform, is very positive and the migration to TRACES-NT went smoothly for the 11 Member States which use the TRACES Classic platform since some years now.

Finally, a change in the scope of the statistics provided for in this annual report is proposed for the year 2017. While in previous publications statistics mainly focused on the use of TRACES by EU trading partners from third countries, this report primarily highlights the activities of the EU Border Inspection Posts in providing the number of entry documents produced (and the related quantity managed) that makes this report a very useful tool and reference on imports of animal, animal products, feed and food of non-animal origin and plants into the EU as well as on the intra-Union trade in animals.



Bernard Van Goethem
Directorate-General for
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Director Unit G

WHAT IS TRACES?

TRACES is a multilingual online management tool which notifies, certifies and monitors trade in animals, products of animal origin and feed and food of non-animal origin, as well as of plants, seeds and propagating material.

TRACES is an e-government system, following the requirements of the EU Digital Agenda towards dematerialisation of health documents.

TRACES is an efficient tool to ensure:

- traceability (monitoring movements, both within the EU and from non-EU countries);
- information exchange (enabling trade partners and competent authorities to easily obtain information on the movements of their consignments, and speeding up administrative procedures);
- risk management (reacting rapidly to health threats by tracing the movements of consignments and facilitating the risk management of rejected consignments).

TRACES aims to strengthen cooperation with EU partners, facilitate trade, accelerate administrative procedures and improve the risk management of health threats, while combating fraud and enhancing the safety of the food chain and animal health, and in the future, of plant health.

Origins

Following the outbreak in Europe of classic swine fever in 1997, a report of the Court of Auditors (No 1/2000) prompted a resolution from the European Parliament (A5-396/2000) inviting the EU Commission to improve the traceability of animal movements within the single market.

As a consequence, Commission Decision 2003/24/EC of 30 December 2002 concerning the development of an integrated computerised veterinary system anticipated the elaboration of a new ICT system, followed by Commission Decision 2003/623/EC of 19 August 2003 concerning the development of an integrated computerised veterinary system known as TRACES. Commission Decision 2004/292/EC on the introduction of the TRACES system and amending Decision 92/486/EEC made the system compulsory for all Member States from 1 January 2005.

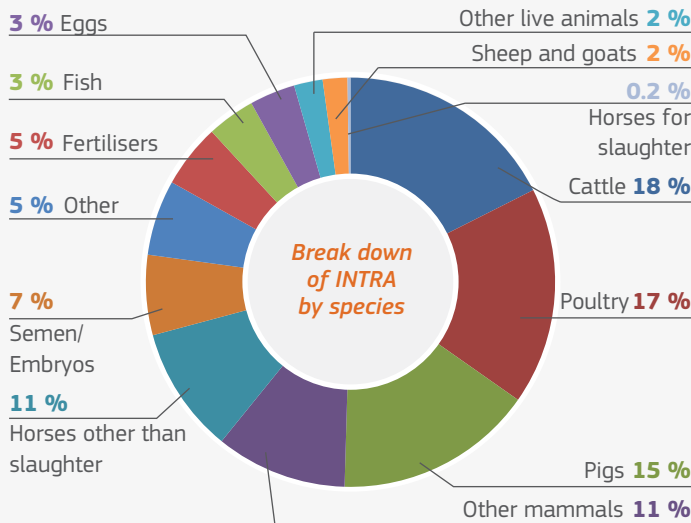
THE SINGLE MARKET

Intra-EU trade health certificates (INTRAs)

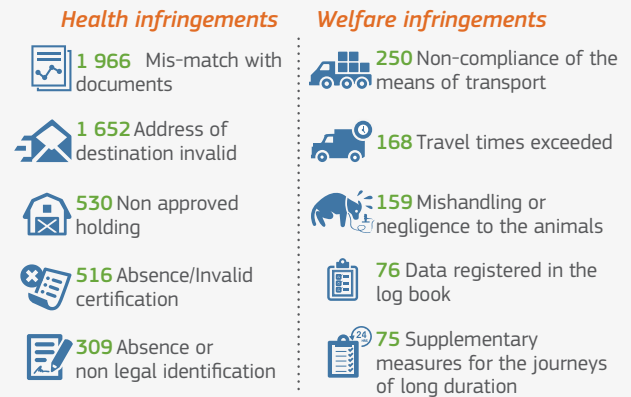
Some 1 505 local competent authorities (52 of which were EFTA Members), issued 792 815 intra-EU trade health certificates: of these, 32 303 were issued for export purposes while transiting through a Member State. About 50 % of INTRAs are issued for the trade of bovine, poultry and porcine species, each category representing roughly one third of the total. The number of INTRAs for registered horses is not comprehensive, because the

issuance of an INTRA for this animal species is not compulsory. Trade of untreated manure represents 5 % of all INTRAs.

103 278 consignments have been controlled. 8 057 consignments were discovered to have violations relating to animal health and 1 487 relating to welfare.

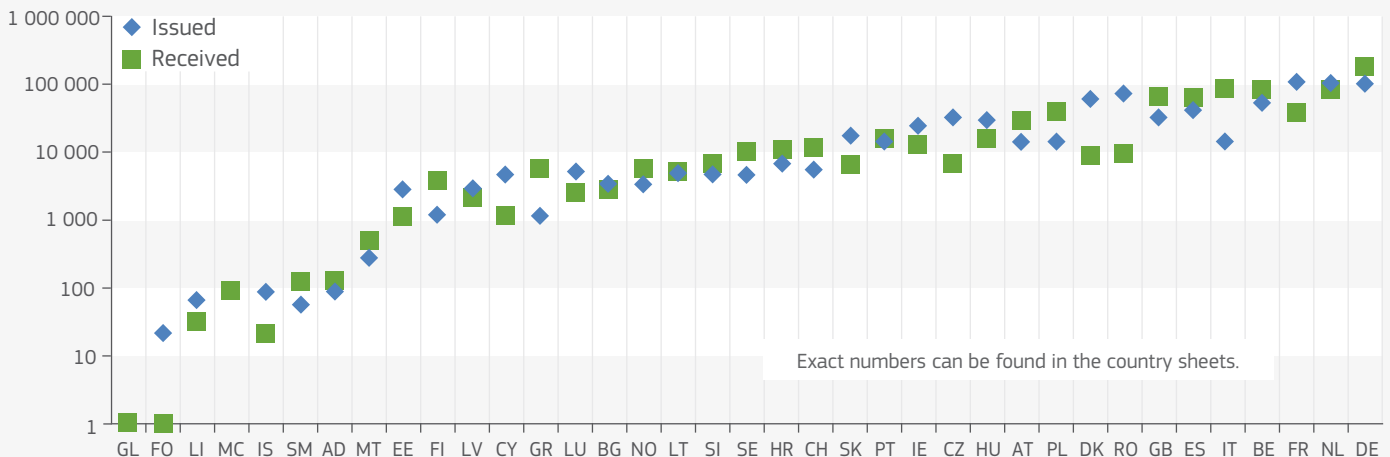


Reason for refusal / Number of rejections of INTRA issued and received



About 4 million heads of cattle, 34 million pigs, 3 million sheep and 1.3 billion poultry were exchanged between the Member States of EU and EFTA, in more than 390 000 movements.

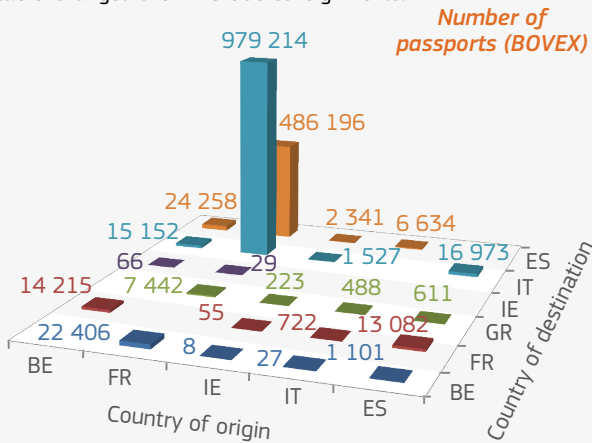
Number of INTRA issued and received



THE SINGLE MARKET

Bovine Exchange (BOVEX)

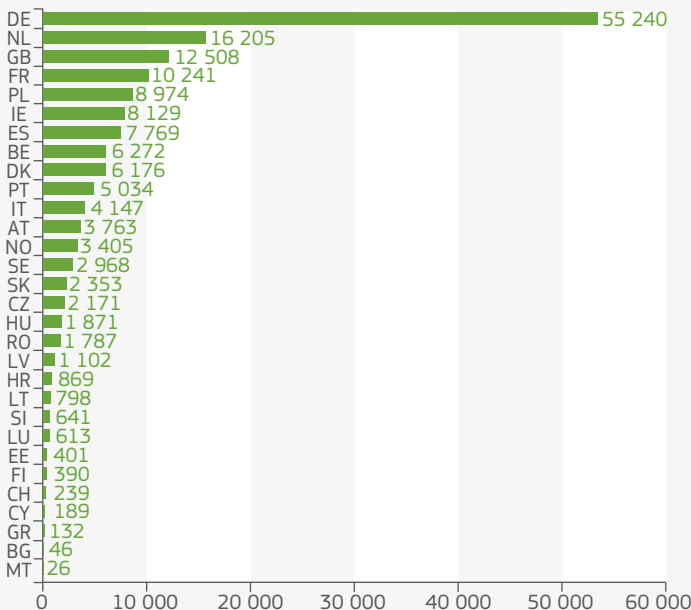
BOVEX is a specific interface linked to TRACES, so as to allow automatic exchange of bovine identification data across relevant national databases. The objective is to digitise bovine passports, save time and avoid errors while introducing passport data into national databases upon reception of cattle. In March 2015 the requirement to list, in the health certificate, all passport numbers of marketed cattle was introduced to improve the quality of exchanged data. In 2017, Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain have exchanged more than 1.7 million head of cattle in more than 56 000 consignments and more than 1 592 000 passports were automatically integrated via BOVEX in national databases, which makes 92 % of the shipments. Although these six pilot countries account for 41 % of all exchanged passports the challenge ahead is enormous, with approximately 4.3 million head of cattle exchanged over 129 000 consignments.



Commercial document for intra-EU exchanges of animal by-products (DOCOM)

To fulfil the obligation of Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption (regarding EU trade of animal by-products), the notification for the validation of a commercial document (DOCOM) was implemented in May 2012 in TRACES. The economic operator can prepare and validate this DOCOM directly; the competent authorities at the place of origin and destination are notified of the by-product movements. The competent authority at the place of destination must acknowledge receipt of the commodity. When necessary, as with untreated manure, a link is automatically implemented in TRACES between the DOCOM and the intra-EU trade health certificate. In 2017, 164 459 DOCOMs were issued by Member States of the EU and EFTA countries.

Number of DOCOM by issuing country



BORDER CONTROL

Customs Single Windows and digitisation

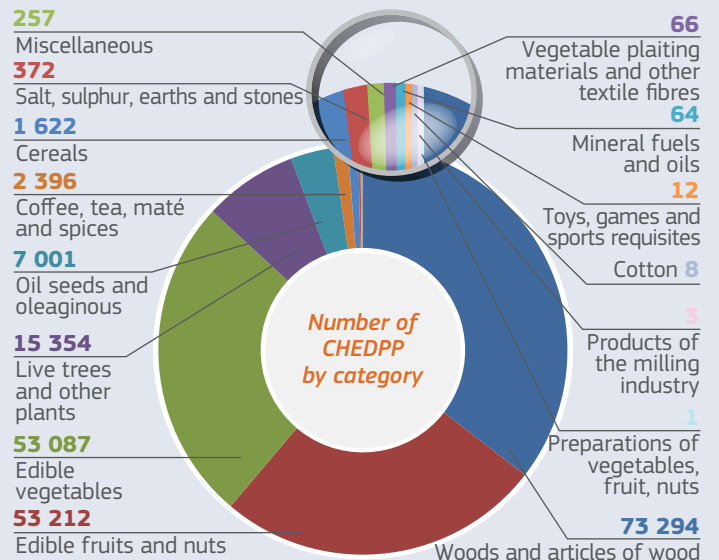
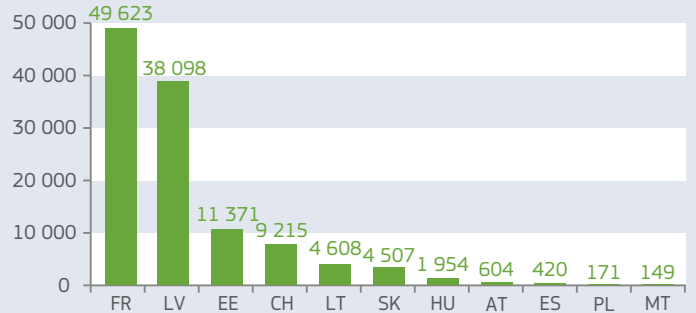
The interconnection of TRACES with customs systems is ongoing as part of the set-up of a Single Window for Customs Administrations. The objective is to automate the integration of health documents developed in TRACES into their customs systems in order to completely digitize the border control procedures. France (2009), Spain (2012), the United Kingdom and Italy (2014) have implemented their own system. Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland and Cyprus joined the Czech Republic, Ireland, Slovenia and Latvia and implemented the generic interface CERTEX (Certificates exchange; e-SPEED 2) developed in collaboration with DG Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD).



Common Health Entry Document for Plants and Plant protection (CHEDPP)

This module launched on 22 April 2013 and connected to EUROPHYT on 21 October 2014 has been installed in November 2017 on the new TNT platform together with the import certification module in the EU. In December 2016, the control of invasive alien species was integrated. There is a total of 10 Member States and Switzerland who have used this module in 2017 to produce 120 720 CHEDPP. This means an augmentation of 6 % compared to 2016.

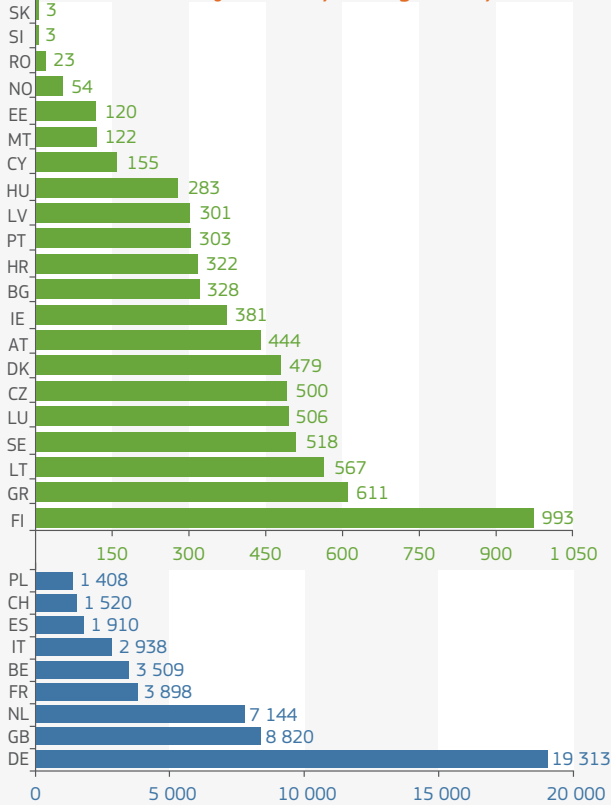
Number of CHEDPP by issuing country



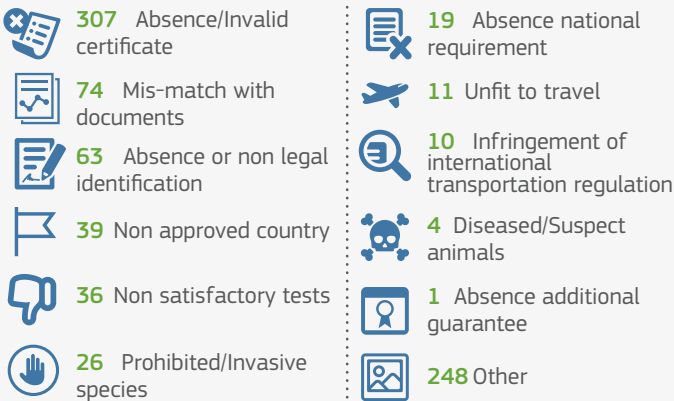
Common Veterinary Entry Document for Animals (CVEDA)

Of the 57 476 CVEDAs issued, 567 were rejected. This represented 1 % of the total number of consignments. The principal reason for rejection was an invalid certificate or the absence of a certificate. In December 2016, the control of invasive alien species was integrated in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 for both animal and plants.

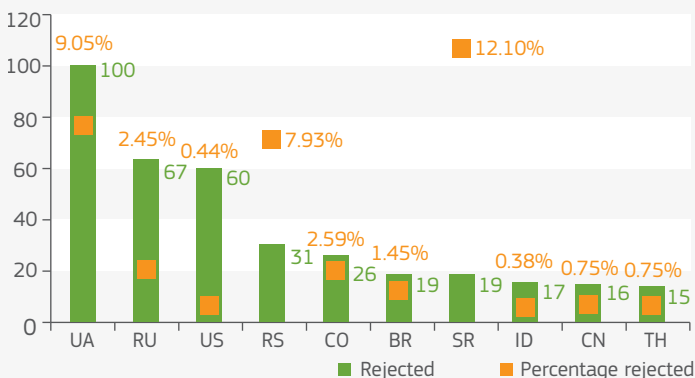
Number of CVEDA by issuing country



Reason for refusal / Number of rejections



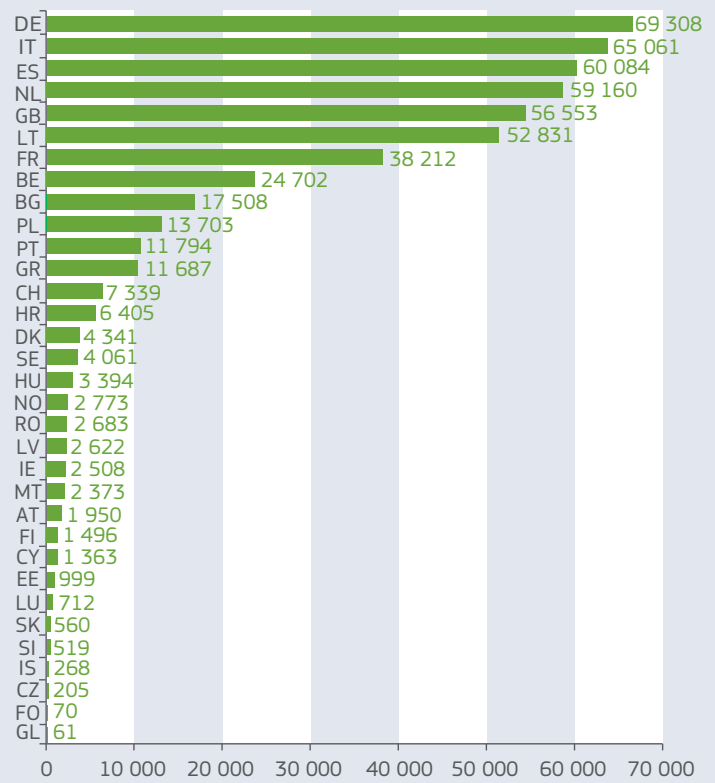
Top 10 of origin countries (rejection)



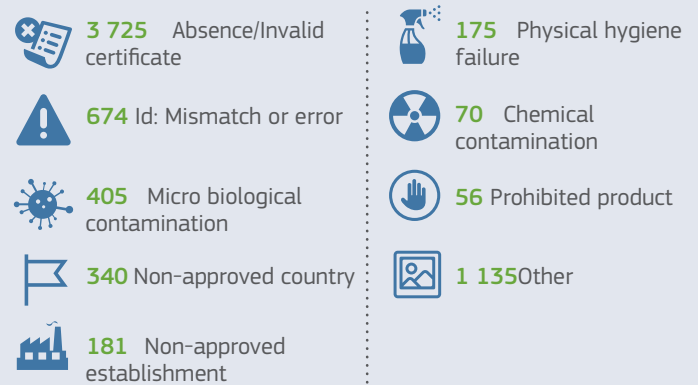
Common Veterinary Entry Document for products of animal origin (CVEDP)

Of the 526 906 CVEDPs issued, 5 761 were rejected. This represented 1.1 % of the total number of consignments. More than half of these were rejected due to an invalid certificate or the absence of a certificate. About 17 % of the total were issued for transiting purposes. Amongst these 91 212 consignments in transit, 19 780 headed for American military bases located in, Germany (11), Italy (4), Spain (2) and Greece (1).

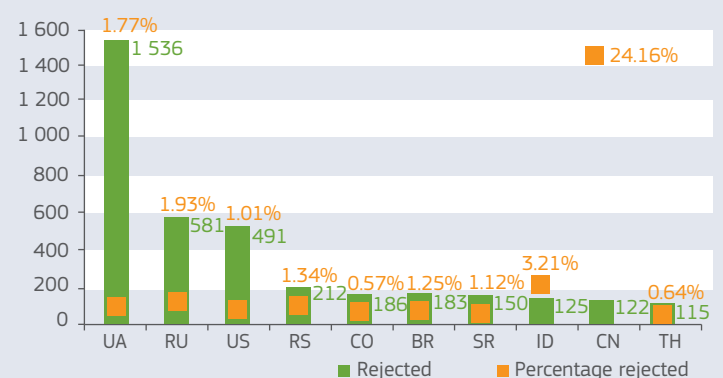
Number of CVEDP by issuing country



Reason for refusal / Number of rejections



Top 10 of origin countries (rejection)



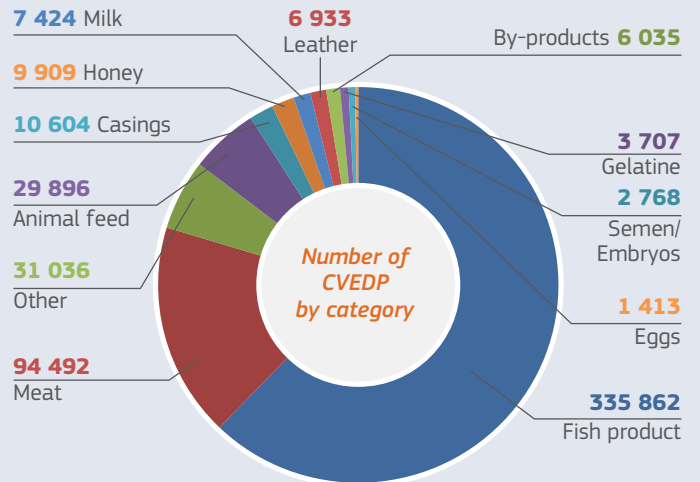
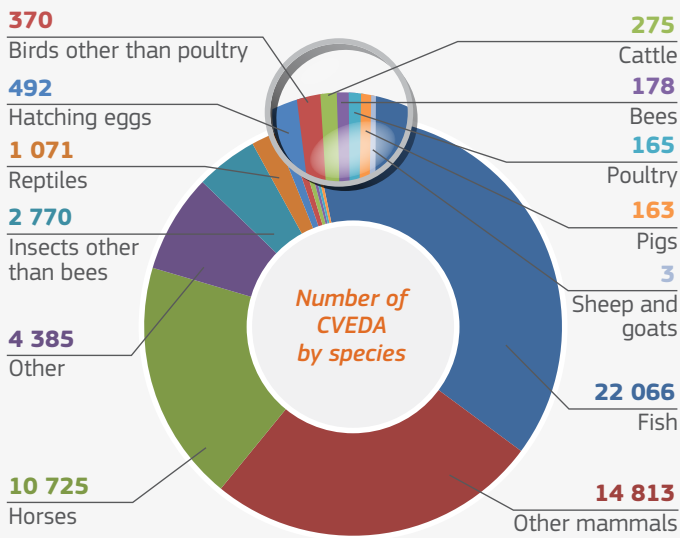
Electronic certificate of inspection for imported organic products (COI)

This module, launched on 19 April 2016, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 on imports of organic products, and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1842 which appoints TRACES as electronic certification system of inspection, is integrated in the action plan for future organic production in the EU. The mandatory use of TRACES came into effect from 19 October 2017.

About 21 267 COI certificates were issued in 2017.

FLEGT licensing (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade)

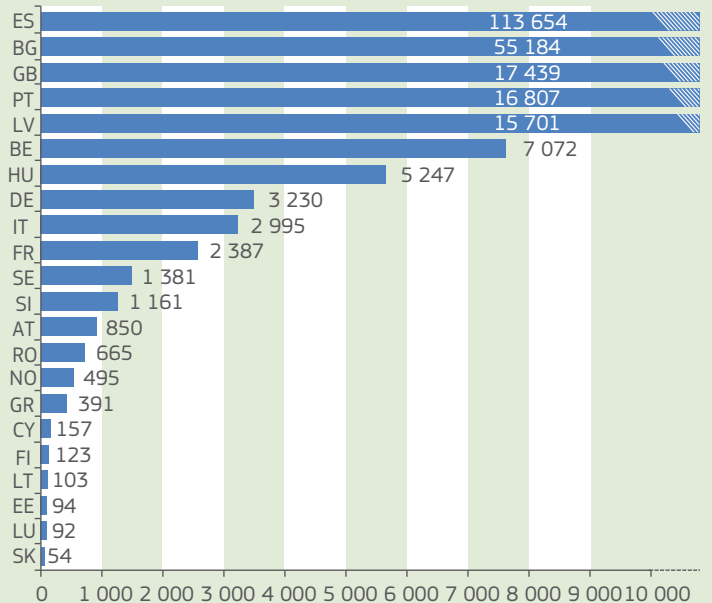
This module was launched on 15 November 2016 for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1024/2008 on imports of timber into the EU, under the EU environmental policy for forest protection. 9 405 licences were recorded in TRACES and checked by customs. It covers timber only from Indonesia, the sole country meeting the requirements to issue licences.



Common Entry Document for products of non-animal origin (CED)

The CED module is used on a voluntary basis by 21 EU Member States (Cyprus joined the 20 voluntary Member States in 2017) plus Norway; 245 282 documents were issued of which 1 110 were rejected. The module was introduced in TRACES in June 2011 to give Member States the option to implement Commission Regulation (CE) No 669/2009 as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 884/2014 imposing special conditions governing the import of certain feed and food from certain non-EU countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins. Some Member States are using this module to declare other commodities not related to the above regulations, for example food contact material.

Number of CED by issuing country



Re-enforced checks (REC) and link to Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

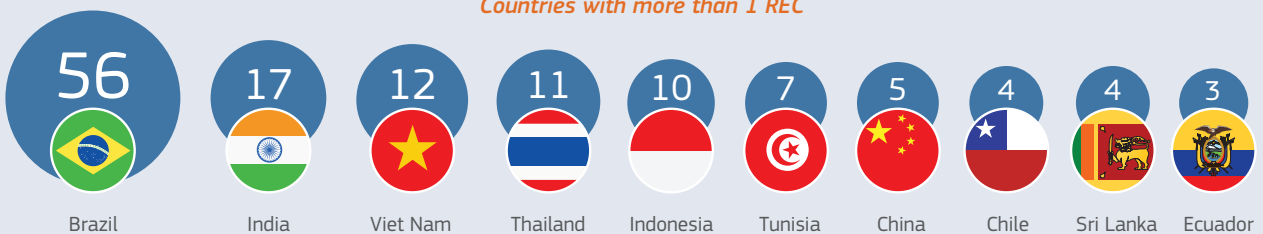
Since September 2008, a link has been created between RASFF and TRACES, to obviate the need to resubmit data in RASFF which has already been logged in TRACES. This link makes it possible, wherever necessary, to supplement the pre-completed RASFF declaration form, to notify the national contact point and to inform the EU Commission.

In January 2012 the module of REC, defined in Article 24 of Directive 97/78/EC laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from non-EU countries was implemented in TRACES. This module enables the control on EU level 10 consecutive consignments originating from the same targeted establishment, instead of country or border inspection post level.

A total of 1 450 RASFF notifications were made through TRACES, 152 of which were notifications

for REC procedures. Fish products represent 51 % of the REC, followed by minced meat 23 % and meat preparations representing 15 %. Microbiological (46 %) and chemical (45 %) contaminants are the main reason for REC procedures. A total of 15 non-EU countries had to deal with RECs, predominantly Brazil (37 %), India (11 %), Viet-nam (8 %), Thailand (7 %) and Indonesia (7 %).

Countries with more than 1 REC



REC category

Salmonella	59
Heavy metals	42
Antibiotics	20
Other bacteria	7
Histamine	5
Sulphites	4
Dyes	3

REC category

Other	3
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	3
Unauthorised ingredient	2
Carbon monoxide	2
Antiparasitics	1
Salicylic acid	1

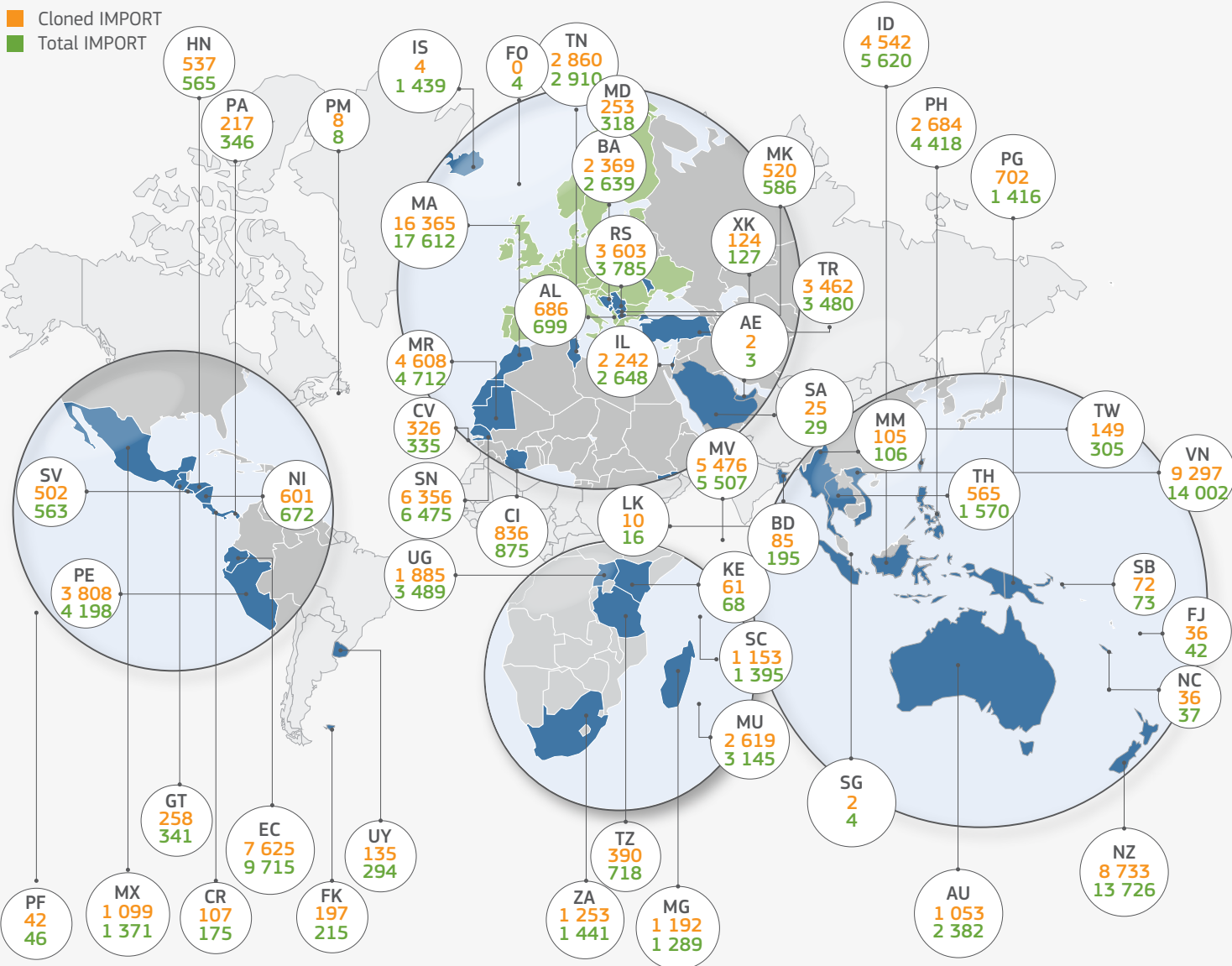
Total 152

COOPERATION WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES

Certificates for importation into EU (IMPORT)

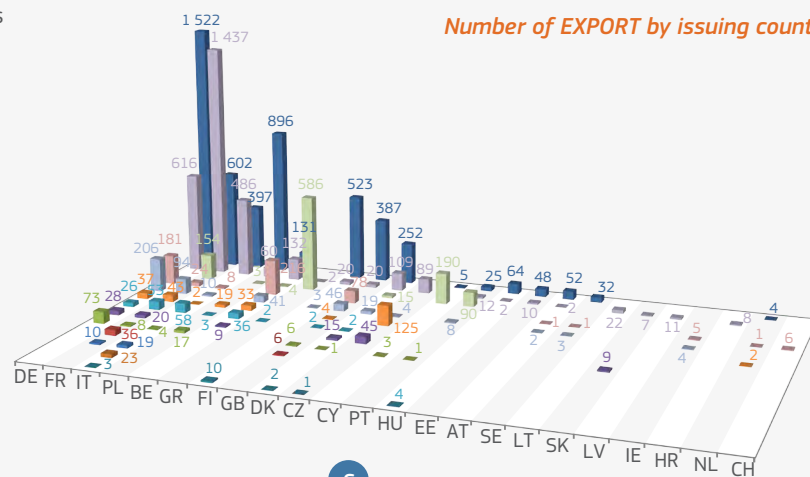
Created in 2006, this module was launched in 2008 to facilitate trade with non-EU countries by providing them with all the updated and consolidated export certificates to the EU, translated into all the EU official languages, and giving them access to the feedback of decisions taken by the border inspection posts. In 2017, 54 non-EU countries and overseas territories issued 128 149 certificates. United Arab Emirates, Albania, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Thailand started using TRACES in 2017 through its interface, while New Zealand and Australia have their electronic certification systems connected to TRACES. About 79.5 80% of the IMPORT certificates are used by border inspection posts to automatically generate the first part of a CVED, speeding up the administrative process at the border.

Worldwide presence



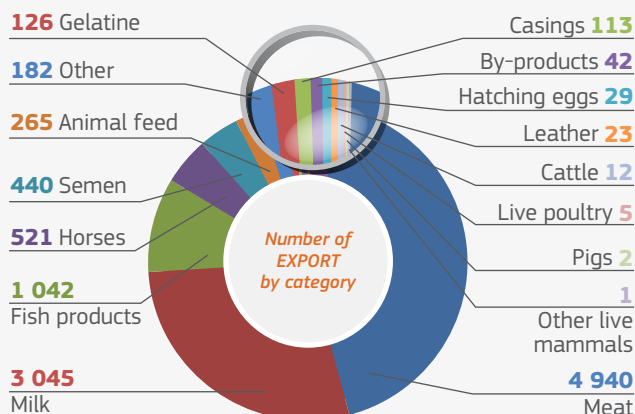
Number of EXPORT by issuing country

- Live animals other than horses
- Leather
- Hatching eggs
- By-products
- Casings
- Gelatine
- Other
- Animal feed
- Semen
- Horses
- Fish products
- Milk
- Meat



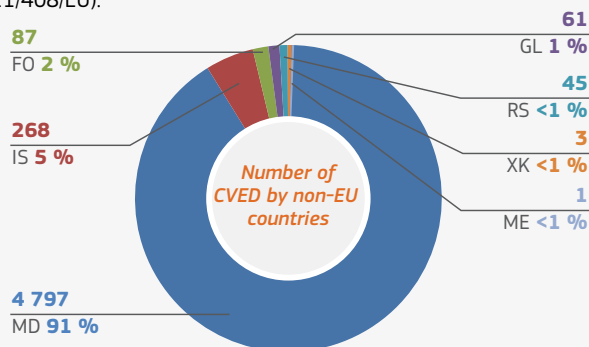
Certificates for exportation from EU (EXPORT)

Created in 2009, this module was put to use in 2011. In 2017, 22 EU-Member States, Switzerland and Customs union issued 10 788 export certificates with one of the 76 harmonised certificates negotiated with Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, United States, Ukraine and Russia since 2017 October 2016. 46 % of all these certificates concerned meat, 28 % milk, 10 % fish products, 5 % registered horses and 4 % semen.



Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)

This module concerns the use by a non-EU country of the border control certification module for its own imports, with the candidate countries gaining experience in the real-life environment of TRACES in view to their EU accession. The mechanism of the CVED module is identical to that foreseen for Member States, without a business check upon countries or establishments authorised to export. In total, 5 262 CVEDs were issued by 6 countries (Faroe Islands, Iceland, Kosovo ⁽¹⁾, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia) and one overseas territory (Greenland under Council Decision 2011/408/EU).



TRAINING

Member States

Under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' (BTSF) programme, seven sessions were organised for the Member States in 2017 (two for CVED, one for CED, two for INTRA, one for CHEDPP/PHYTO and one for COI). About 180 persons were trained on how to use the different modules of TRACES.

Under the internal budget of DG SANTE, four training sessions were organised for EU-Member States in 2017: one for FLEGT (Greece and Cyprus), two for COI (France and Germany) and

one for PHYTO (Germany).

Non-EU countries

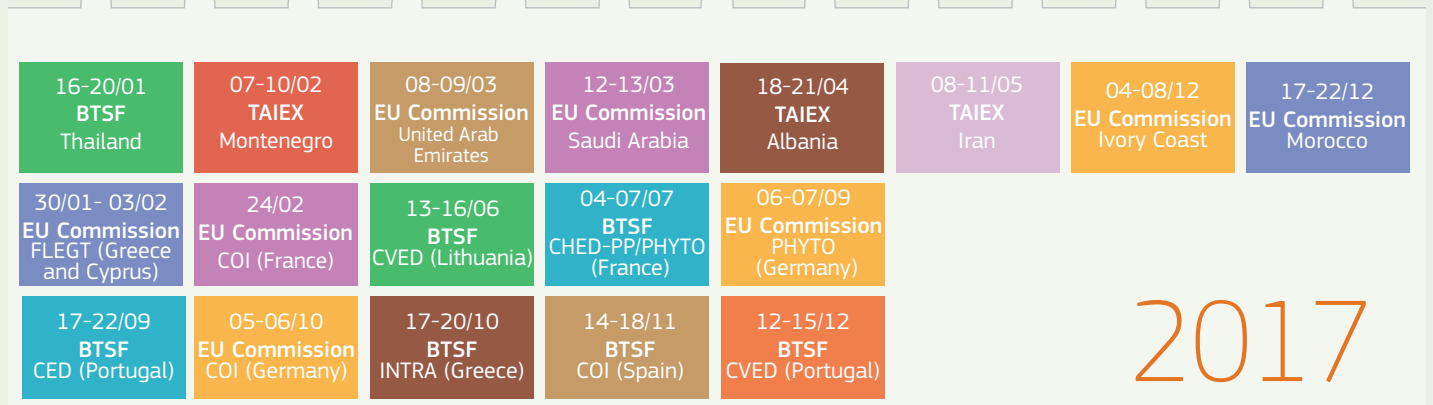
Under the BTSF World programme, one sustained training mission was organised in Thailand (January). This training was successful with Thailand who started using TRACES in March 2017.

Under the instrument Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), two training sessions were organised for countries that fall under the neighbouring policy: in Montenegro (February) and in Albania (April). Albania joined

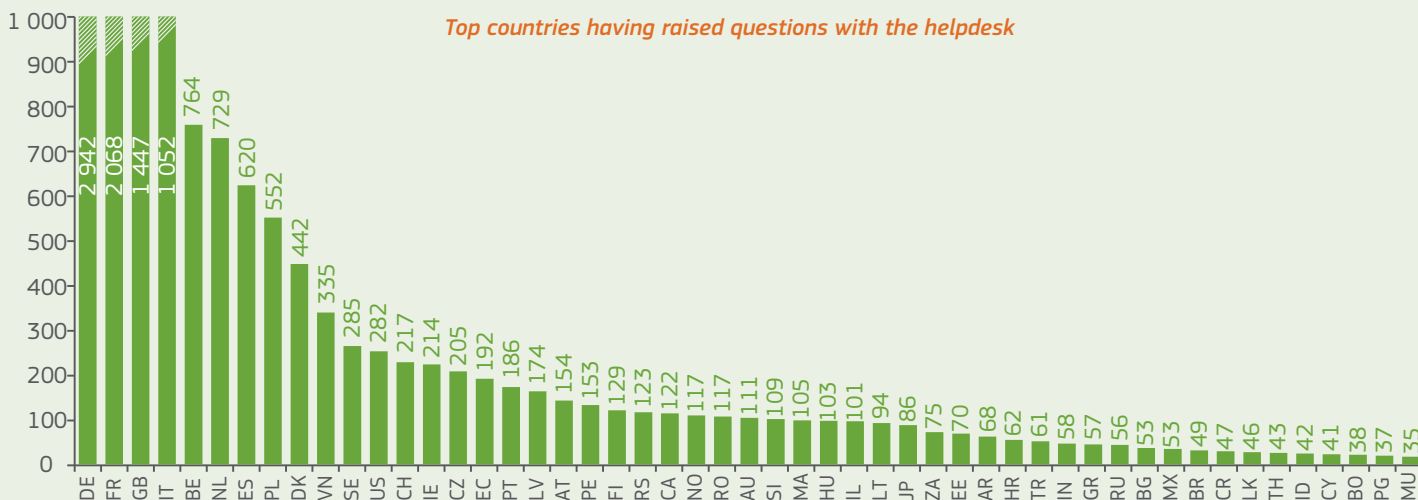
the countries that are using TRACES in April 2017.

Along with the lifting of the sanctions in Iran, a training session was held in May under TAIEX. This training was organised in order to have a better follow-up of the importations from Iran, in the framework of the normalization of the relations with the EU.

Under the internal budget of DG SANTE, four training sessions were organized for non-EU countries: in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (both in March), in Côte d'Ivoire and in Morocco (both in December).



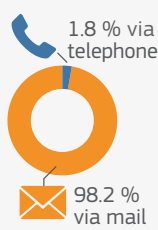
2017



⁽¹⁾ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

USER SUPPORT

16 011 calls were made in 2017



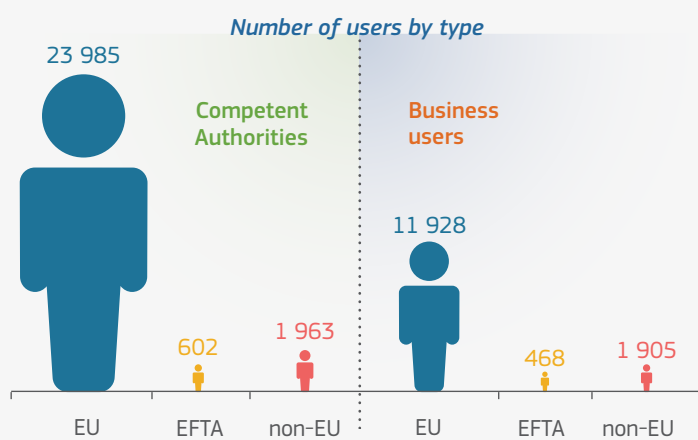
FACTS AND FIGURES

Multilinguism

TRACES is a multilingual online management tool with a user interface translated in 39 languages: 23 EU official languages plus Albanian, Bengali, Bosnian, Chinese, Icelandic, Indonesian, Korean, Macedonian, Norwegian, Russian, Serbian, Turkish, Vietnamese and in 2017 Farsi, Montenegrin and Ukrainian. The multilingual aspect of TRACES reduces the risk of error when issuing certificates in your native language, while complying with the obligation to produce certificates in the relevant languages, following Annex VI of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

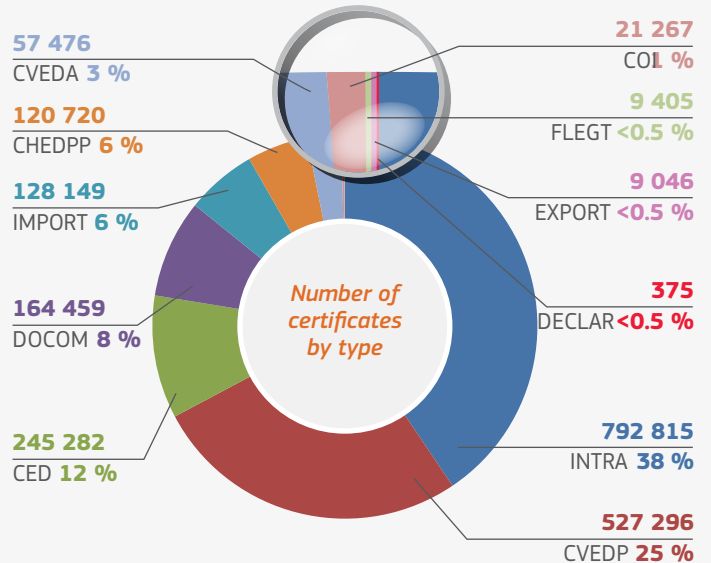
Users

In 2017, 40 851 active users were registered: of these, 65 % are originating from competent authorities and 35 % from the private sector.



Certificates and documents

Total: 2 076 290



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 Presentation: <http://www.prezi.com/user/TRACES>
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