



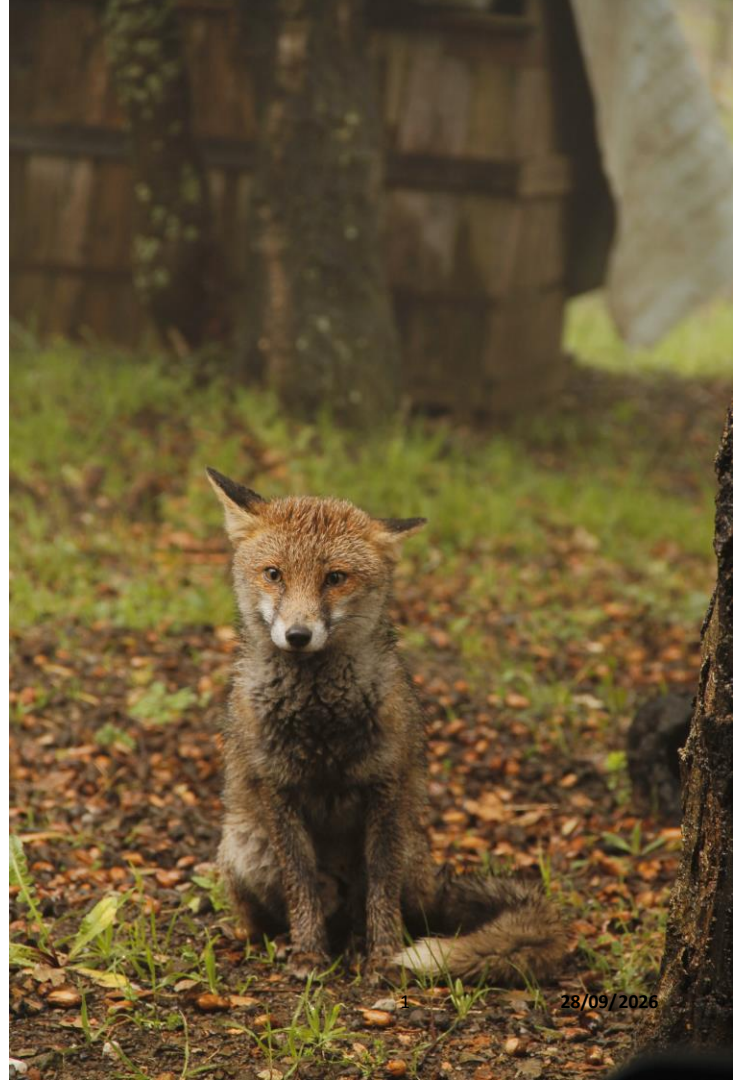
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UPDATE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE CIRCULATION OF RABIES PHYLOGROUPS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



8th meeting (SGE RAB8), 28-29 September 2026, Brussels, BELGIUM



Overview of the rabies situation during previous years



Tropical Medicine and
Infectious Disease



Review

Zero Endemic Cases of Wildlife Rabies (Classical Rabies Virus, RABV) in the European Union by 2020: An Achievable Goal

Emmanuelle Robardet ^{1,*}, Dean Bosnjak ², Lena Englund ², Panayiotis Demetriou ², Pedro Rosado Martín ² and Florence Cliquet ¹

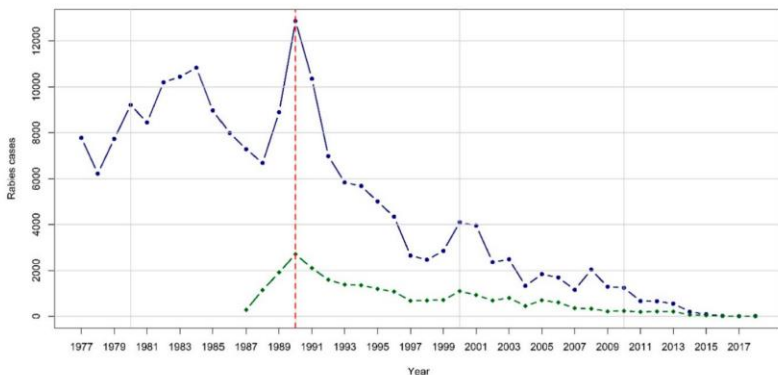
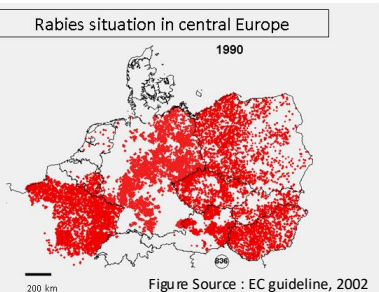
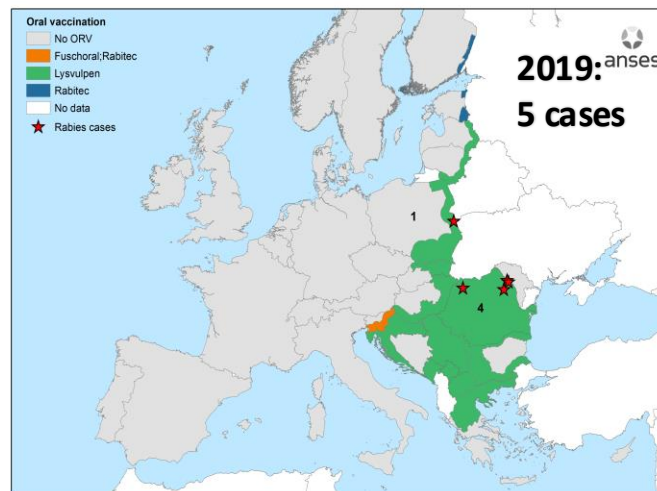
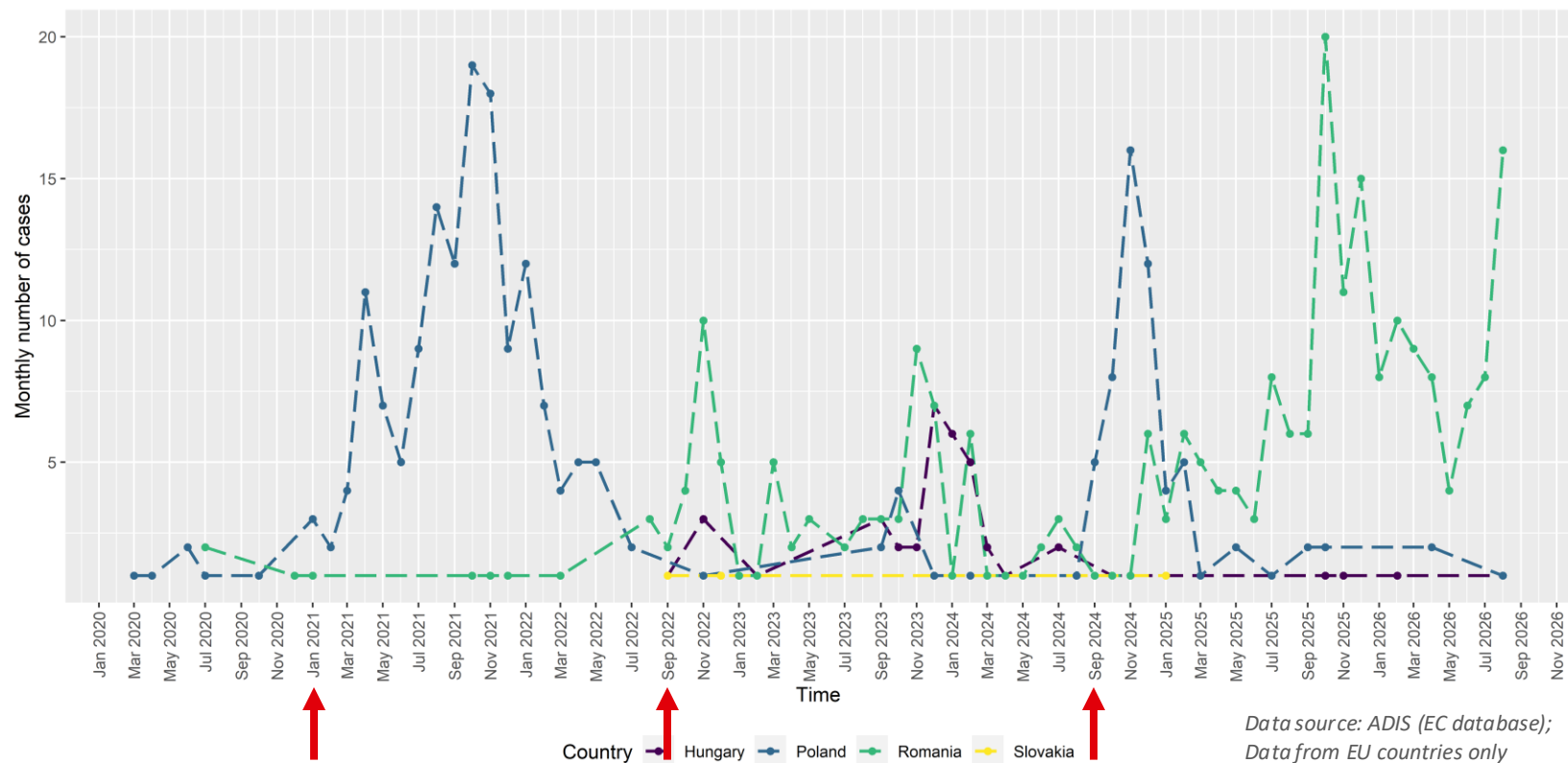


Figure 2. Evolution of fox cases in the 28 EU countries (data source: Rabies Bulletin Europe, Rabies Information System of the WHO Collaboration Centre for Rabies Surveillance and Research; <http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/Queries/Default.aspx>). Red dashed line: 1989, start of European Commission co-funding and large scale ORV programs; Blue line: fox cases; Green line: domestic cases.

Update on the Rabies phylogroups circulating in the EU

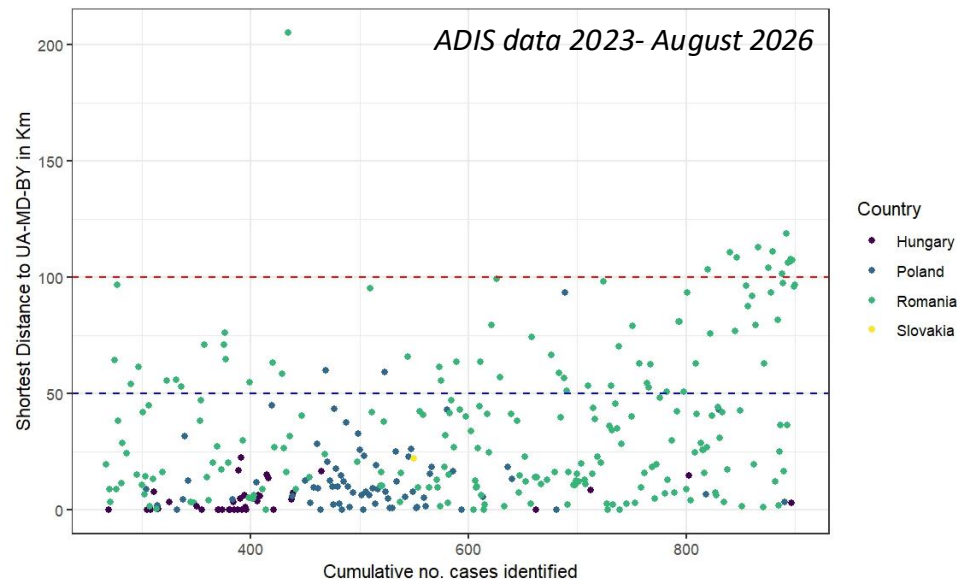
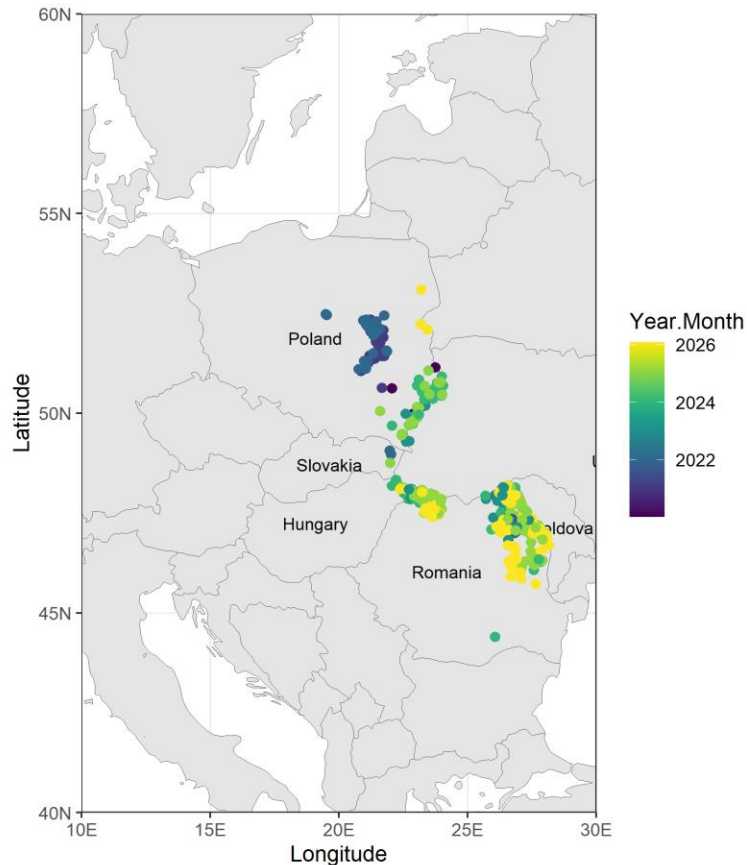


Overview of the rabies situation during previous months



Data source: ADIS (EC database);
Data from EU countries only
until August 2026 inclusive

Geographic distribution of cases (2020-2026)



Phylogenetic study of the cases (2021-2025): Method

Molecular analysis:

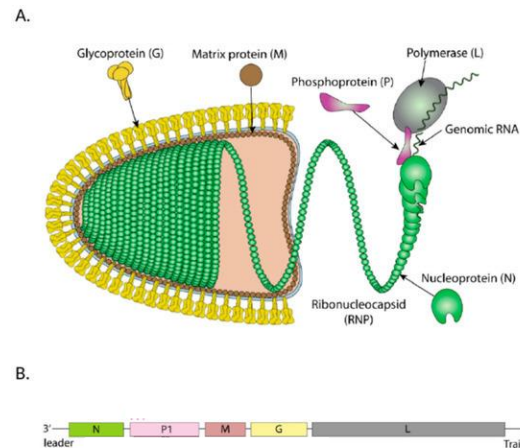
- Full N gene (1353-bp)
- hnRT-PCR-pan Lyssavirus primers (WHO Laboratory techniques in rabies, 2018)
- SANGER sequencing

Sequences included in the analysis:

- Representative of the 5 European phylogroups (Gen Bank)
- Representative of infected countries (Gen Bank)
- 2021-2024 strains from infected countries
- Ukrainian and Moldavian strains from 2021-2024

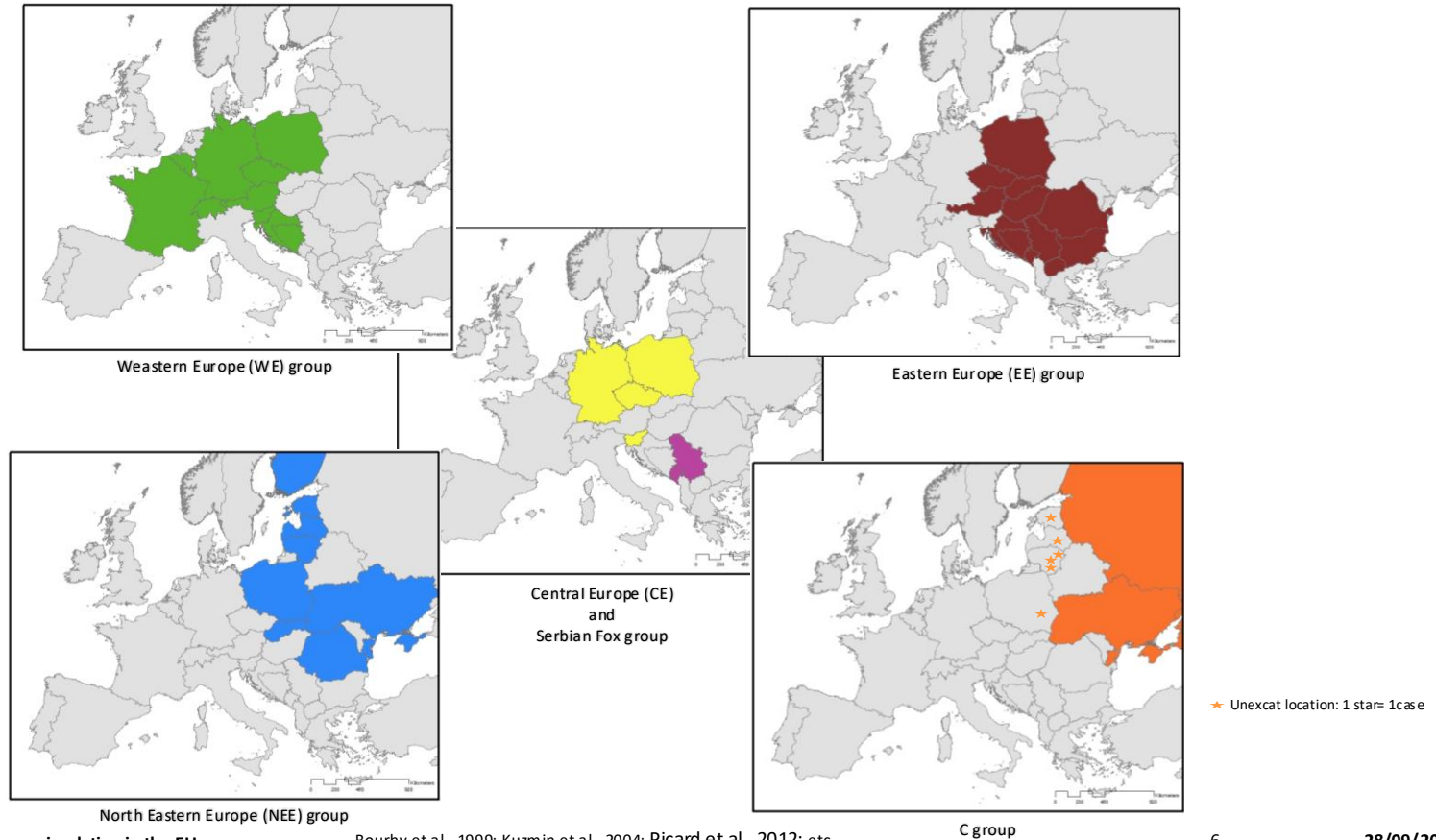


NRL collaborations

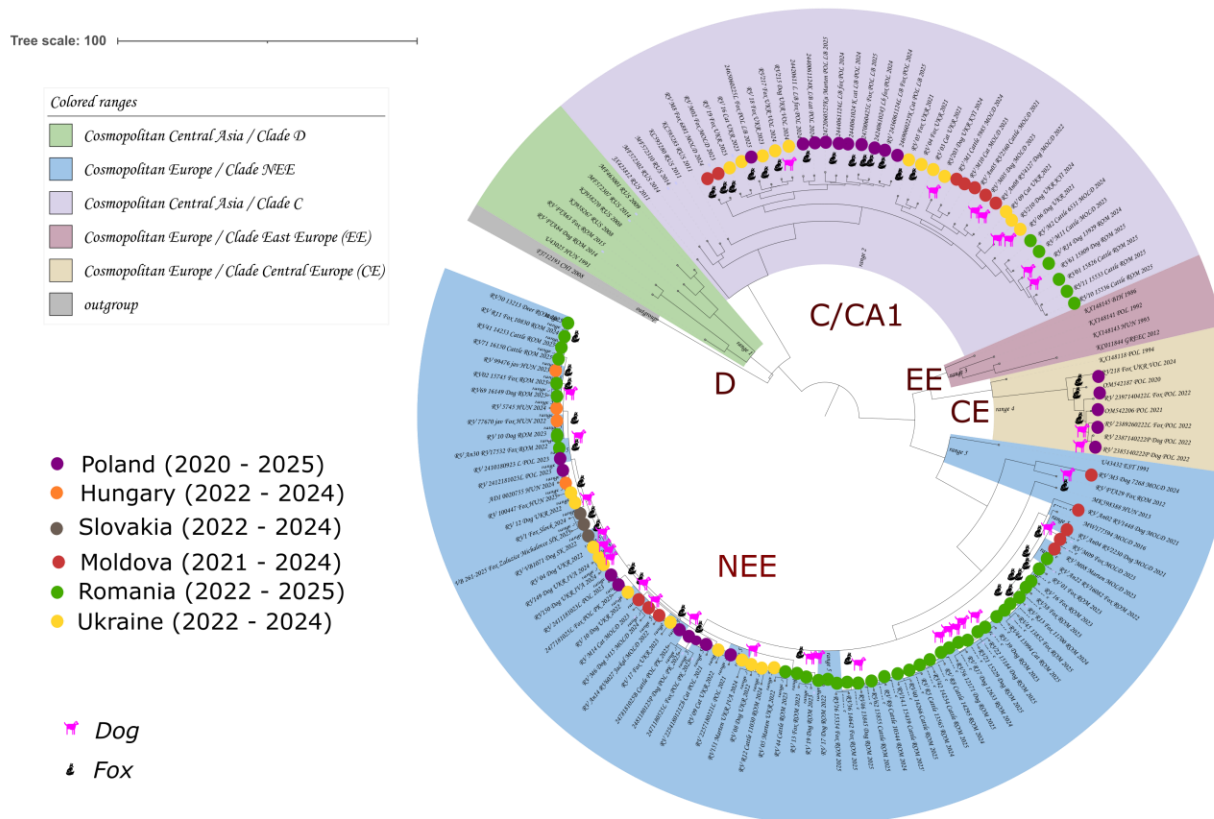


Source: Philippe Le Mercier, SB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

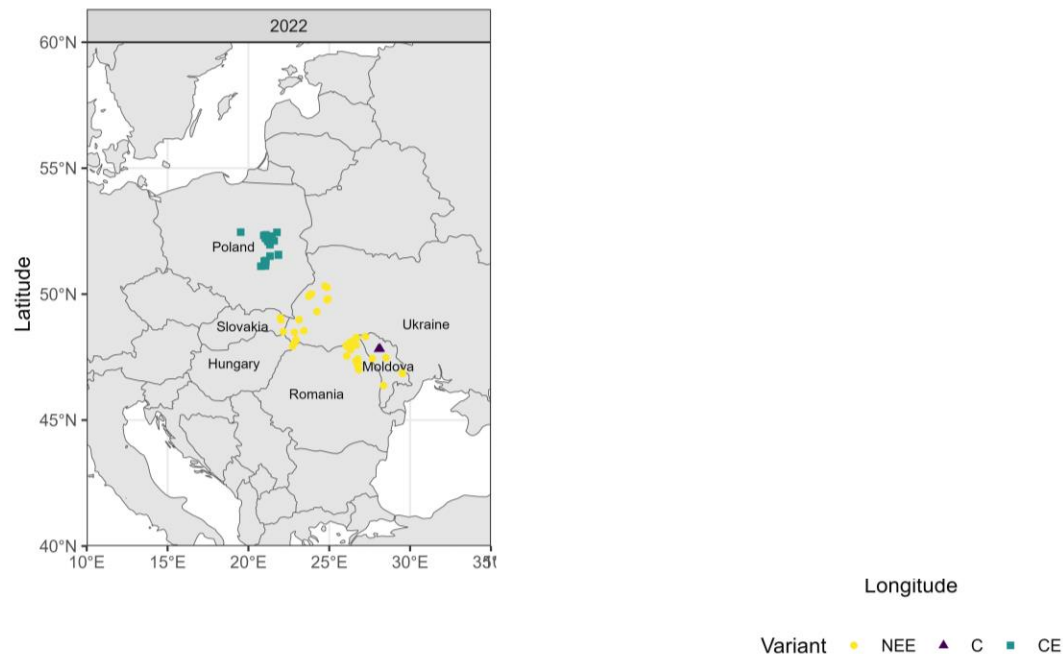
Historical geographic distribution of detected phylogroups



Phylogenetic study of the cases (2021-2025): Results



Phylogenetic study of the cases (2021-2025): Results



2024: Extended sampling on large part of Ukraine

Last Event in Poland (2026)



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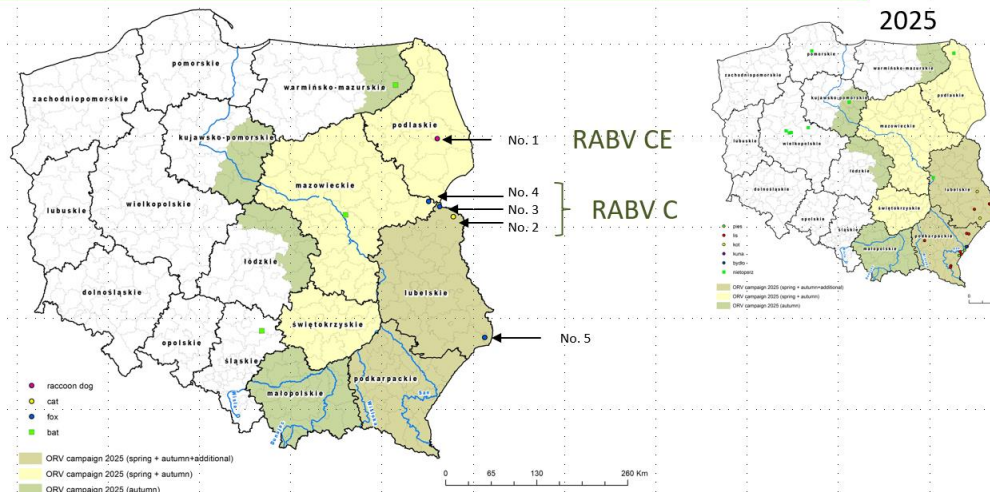
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Rabies in Poland – update (2026)



Courtesy of the
Polish NRL for Rabies,
Dr. Orlowska,
Dr. Smreczak
Update of
Workshop for Rabies,
Padua, June 2026



No. 1 – cat, 13/04/2026	No. 2 – raccoon dog, 23/04/2026	No. 3 – red fox, 16/08/2026	No. 4 - red fox 8 month old, 2/09/2026	No. 5 - red fox, 6 month old, 16/09/2026
Nowosiółki, Biała Podlaska	Białystok, Kuronia street	Janów Podlaski	Płosków Kolonia, Łosice	Telatyn, Tomaszów Lubelski
~ 10 km from the border crossing with Belarus ~ 12 km to the Belarus (straight line)	~ 44 km from Belarusian border	~ 5 km from Belarusian border	~ 20 km from Belarusian border	~ 17 km from Ukrainian border
RABV C	RABV CE	RABV C	RABV C	under sequencing

Conclusion

- The rabies situation is deteriorating (cases increasing and expanding in Romania).
- Infection pressure observed in the Eastern part of EU through the movement of the C phylogroup.
- Pressure of the C phylogroup also observed in other countries:

Phylogenetic Characterization of Rabies Virus Field Isolates Collected from Animals in European Russian Regions in 2009–2022

by Sergei A. Chupin ^{1,*} , Alexandr V. Sprygin ² , Nikolay G. Zinyakov ³ , Nelly A. Guseva ³ ,
Sergey V. Shcherbinin ⁴ , Fedor I. Korennoy ⁴ , Renat V. Adelshin ^{5,6} , Ali Mazloun ² ,
Andrey Y. Sukharkov ¹ and Victoria V. Nevzorova ⁷

« The possibility of the contribution of local bat species to the distribution of RABVs was discussed. Interestingly, over the years, the fraction of group D isolates has been constantly decreasing compared with that of group C isolates. »

- Cases detected 0-100Km far from the border with Ukraine/Belarus in countries with ORV.
50km wide immune belt in UE considered the standard;
added by 50-100km wide in certain bordering third countries in the past.
- **Regular ORV and cooperation : It is the only effective means of controlling Rabies .**



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THANK YOU! COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?



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