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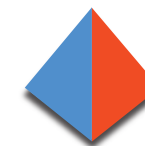
8th Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe

GF-TADs SGE RAB8

Report by Greece

28-29 September 2026

Brussels, Belgium



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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Rabies epidemiological situation

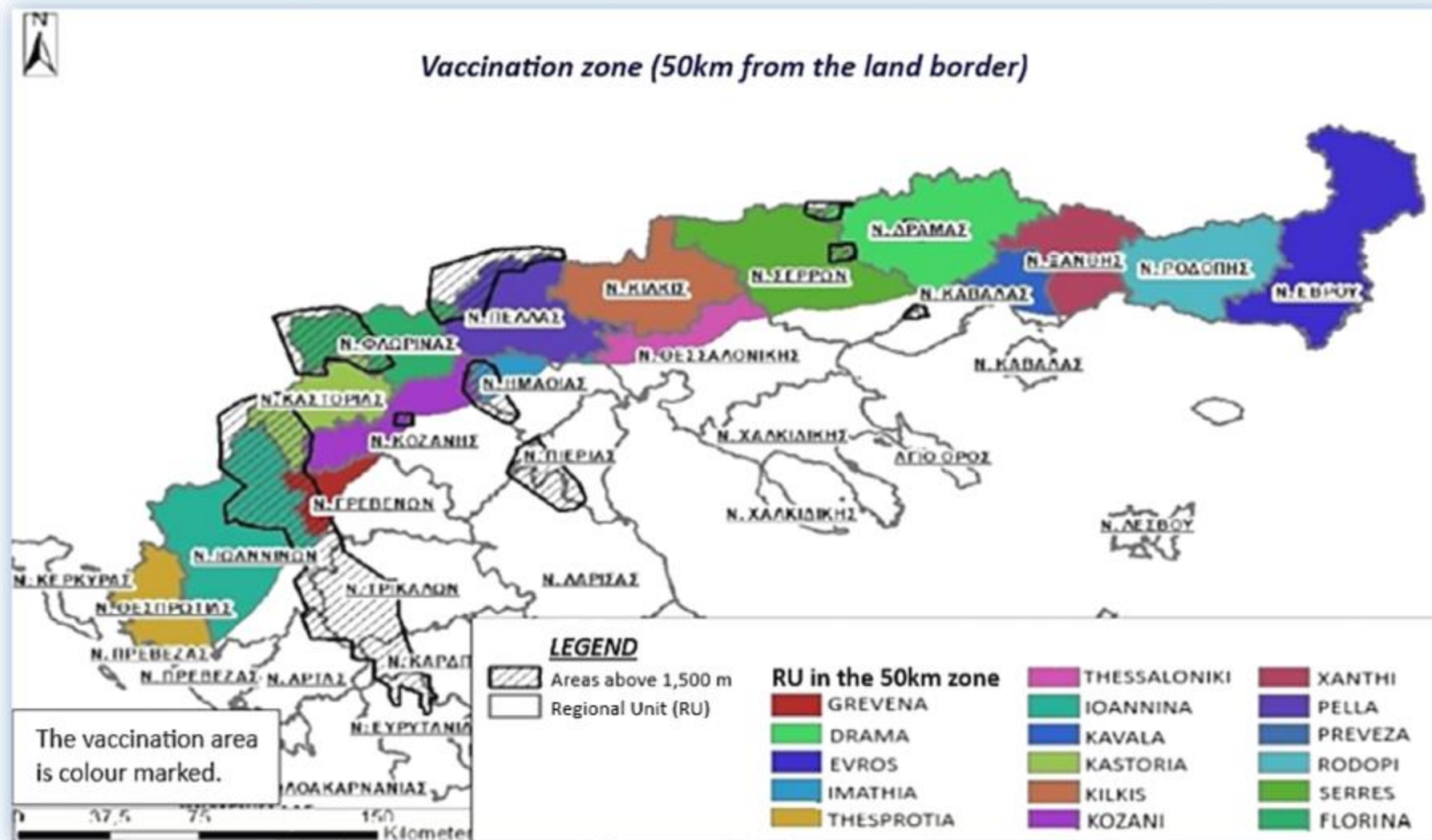
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in domestic animals: 2014, involving two (2) canine cases in the Larissa and Thessaloniki Regional Units (RUs).
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in wildlife: 2014, with eight (8) reported cases in red foxes across the RUs of Kilikis, Thessaloniki, Trikala, and Pella.
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in humans: 1970, involving a single case.
- Last year of occurrence of imported Rabies cases:
 - In animals : None recorded
 - In humans : None recorded

Oral Rabies Vaccination

Year	Spring campaign*		Autumn campaign*		Area covered (please mark with X as appropriate)		Financing (EU/ National/other)
	Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date	Whole country	Other (please describe)	
2024	10.04.2024	26.04.2024	02.10.2024	17.10.2024	-	X (29,284km ² spring campaign & 29,265km ² autumn campaign)	
2025	20.03.2025	11.04.2025	10.10.2025	01.11.2025	-	X (29,283km ² spring campaign & 29,291km ² autumn campaign)	
2026	29.04.2026	18.05.206	omitted	omitted	-	X (29,331km ² spring campaign)	

***No ORV campaign: complete with "not planned"/ ORV Planned but not implemented: "omitted"**

Map of the last vaccination area



Surveillance

(Detection of rabies virus)

Year	Number of tested animals- Passive surveillance			Number of tested animals- Active surveillance					
	<i>Detection of rabies virus (FAT) in the framework of passive surveillance</i>			<i>Detection of rabies virus (FAT) in the framework of monitoring programme - active surveillance</i>		<i>Bait uptake (biomarker)</i>		<i>Seroconversion (antibodies to rabies virus)</i>	
	Total number WILDLIFE	Total number DOMESTIC	No of positive cases	Total number of FAT tested	No of positive cases	Total number of foxes tested	Number of biomarker positive samples	Total number of foxes tested	Number of foxes positive for antibodies to rabies virus
2023	721	18	0	298	0	300	190	225	109
2024	821	19	0	332	0	237	116	282	76
2025	761	11	0	223	0	-	-	129	88
2026 (up to 30.06.2026)	28	6	0	2	0	-	-	-	-

- **Passive surveillance:** tests performed in suspect and dead wild animals (FAT/RT-PCR). **If available**, different **species** or **categories** can be specified (companion, livestock; more detailed if available: dogs, cattle, cats, golden jackal, etc)
- **Active surveillance:** tests performed in healthy hunted animals in the frame of the monitoring programme to verify effectiveness of oral rabies vaccination in WILDLIFE. If no active surveillance: **N/A**

Plans for 2027

VACCINATION	YES*	NO	STILL TO BE DECIDED	YES* UNDER CONDITIONS <i>(please describe)</i>	Area (border/whole territory)	Period /dates	Comments
ORV Spring campaign 2027	X				Approximately 30,000km ²	April-May 2027	
ORV Autumn campaign 2027	X				Approximately 30,000km ²	October-November 2027	
SURVEILLANCE							
Passive surveillance	X				Whole country	01.01.2027 - 31.12.2027	
Active surveillance <i>(like the one accompanying all ORV)</i>	X				Coverage: 17 RUs (full & partial) - Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace: Evros (excl. Samothrace), Rhodope, Xanthi, Drama, Kavala (part) - Region of Central Macedonia: Thessaloniki (part), Imathia (part), Kilkis, Pella, Serres (part) - Region of Western Macedonia: Grevena (part), Kozani (part), Kastoria, Florina - Region of Epirus: Preveza (part), Thesprotia, Ioannina (part)	ORV Campaign Effectiveness Monitoring - Start: 1 month post-campaign completion - Standard Duration: ~2 months - Extension: Permitted until the start of the next campaign.	
Other type of active surveillance <i>(please describe)</i>							

Rabies Control Overview in Greece

- **Rabies control additional relevant activities**

To strengthen surveillance, Greece introduced a €25 financial reward for reporting dead foxes for the first time in the summer of 2024, while increasing the incentive to €75 for hunters and gamekeepers who deliver them starting January 1, 2026. Coupled with continuous multi-channel communication campaigns (radio, TV and updated digital/printed materials). Furthermore, ORV campaigns are systematically supported by targeted missions organized with forestry services to optimize carcass collection and sample testing.

- **Main challenges identified for rabies control in your country**

Regarding passive surveillance, the primary operational challenges stem from severe understaffing in local veterinary authorities and national reference laboratories due to overlapping epizootic crises (PPR, Sheep/Goat Pox, FMD), alongside low active surveillance sample collection outside the official hunting season. Regarding active surveillance, fox hunting is not a traditional habit in Greece; thus, expected responsiveness from hunters is low. Additionally, geographical heterogeneity in hunter engagement, strict legal/geomorphological constraints on fox hunting and livestock movement restrictions further impede nationwide sample collection.



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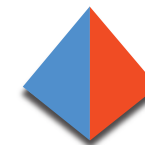
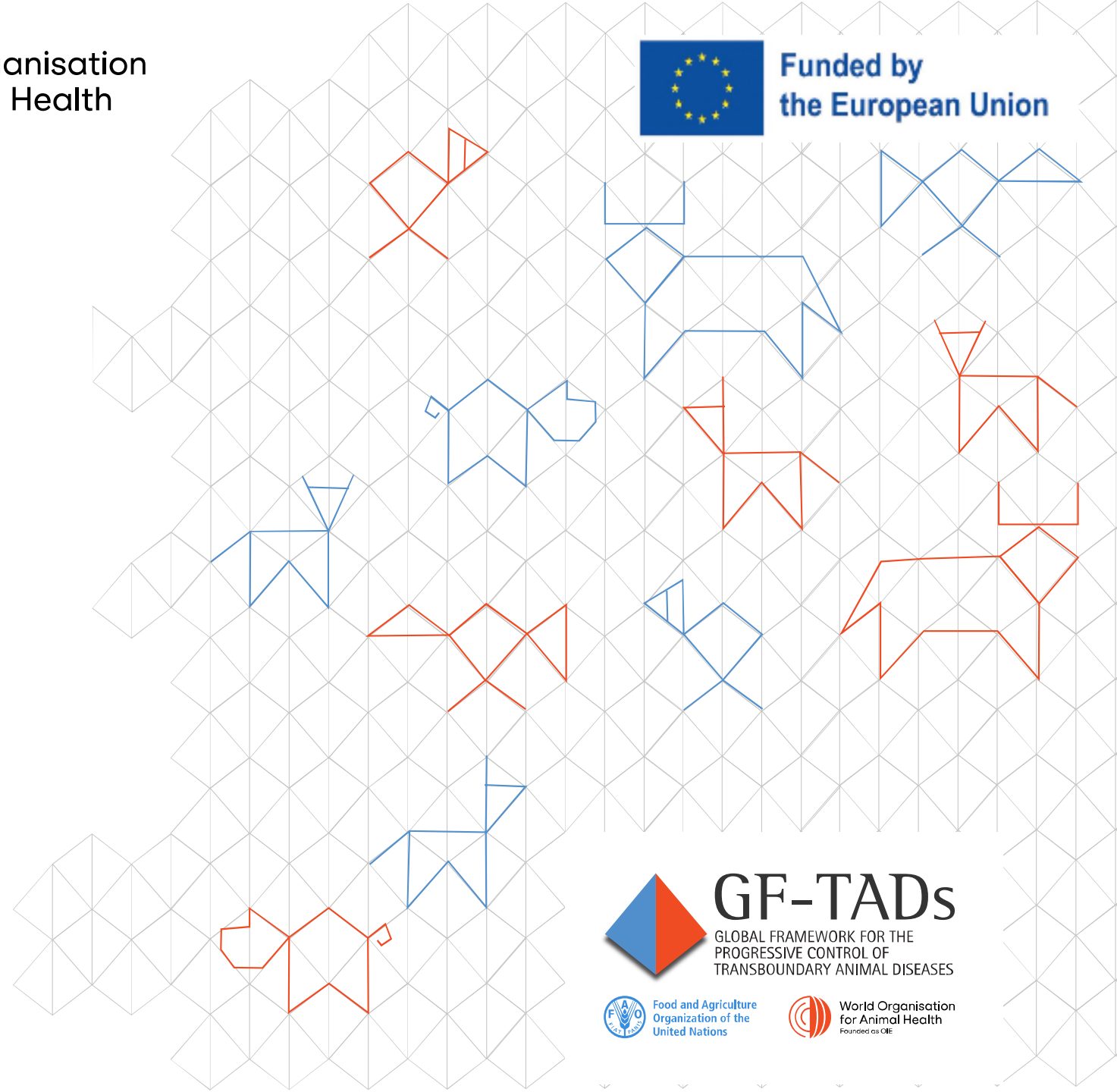


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Thank you!



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