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Organization of the
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World Organisation
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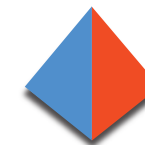
8th Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe

GF-TADs SGE RAB8

Report by North Macedonia



**28 - 29 September 2026,
Brussels, Belgium**



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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Epidemiological Situation – 2025 & First Half of 2026

Last year of occurrence in domestic animals: 2012, cat in Jargulica, Radovich

Last year of occurrence in wildlife: 2012, wolf in Glavovica, Kocani

Last year of occurrence in humans: 1976, 1 person in Debar.

Overall surveillance

- Active and passive rabies surveillance implemented throughout the reporting period.
- Surveillance intensity in **First Half of 2026 was reduced** due to the interruption of contracted laboratory services

Active Surveillance: 83 animals sampled

- 78 foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) – 61 adults, 17 juveniles
- 2 jackals (*Canis aureus*)
- 1 marten (*Martes foina*)
- **77 samples suitable for testing**
- **FAT: all negative**

Epidemiological Situation – 2025 & First Half of 2026

Passive Surveillance: 8 animals sampled

- 4 foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*)
 - 2 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*)
 - 1 jackal (*Canis aureus*)
 - 1 lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
-
- **8 samples suitable for testing**
 - **FAT: all negative**

Key message:

- **No rabies-positive animals detected during 2025 and H1 2026.**

Oral Vaccination campaigns in North Macedonia



Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) – 2025

- First ORV campaign:
 - Started on 15 September 2025 – Finished on 30 September 2025 (postponed from spring)
- Second ORV campaign:
 - Started on 7 – Finished on 19 December 2025

Two campaigns were implemented following an interruption of more than two years since January 2023.



Oral Vaccination campaigns in North Macedonia

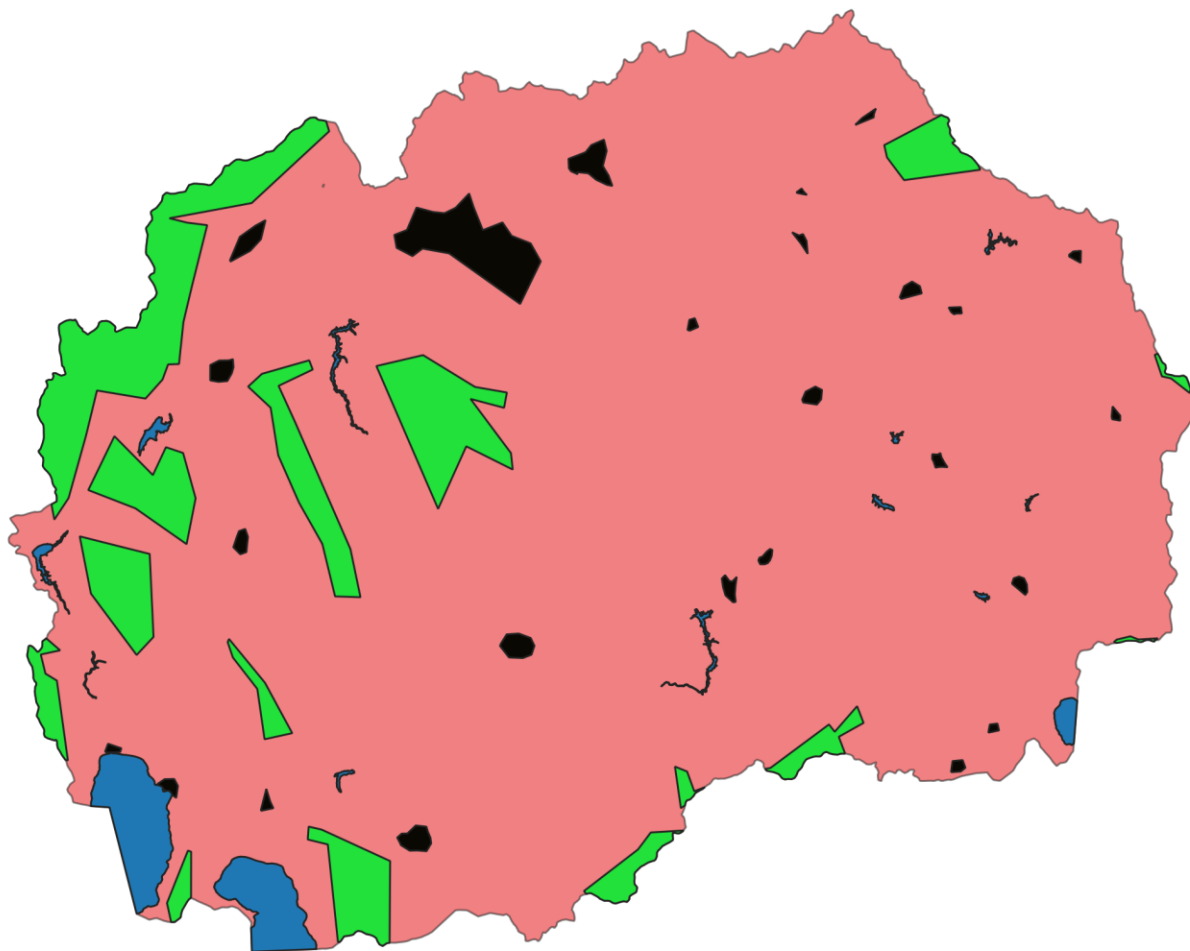


- **900,000 baits** used in total → ~450,000 baits/campaign
- **86.42% of national territory covered**
- **13.58% excluded** according to predefined criteria

Distribution & Coverage

- September: **448,232 baits recorded**
- December: **448,397 baits recorded**
- Recording discrepancies: **0.39% and 0.36%**
- Average bait density:
 - September: **20.38 baits/km²**
 - December: **20.39 baits/km²**
- Distribution met the **recommended density and coverage standards**

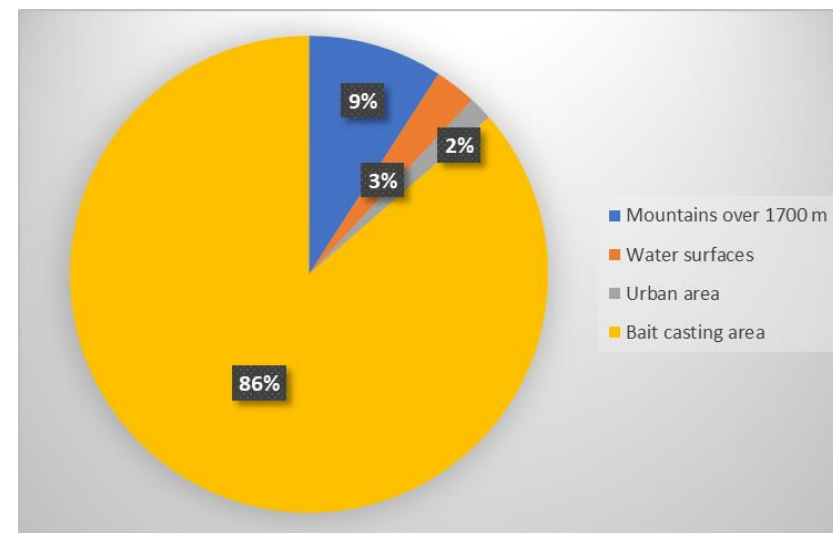
Territory covered with vaccination campaign – September 2026



- Mountains over 1700 m – green
- Water surfaces – blue
- Urban area - black

- **86.42% of national territory covered**
- **13.58% excluded**

	km2	%
Mountains over 1700 m	2321,486	9,13%
Water surfaces	721,151	2,84%
Urban area	412,323	1,62%
Bait casting area	21981,892	86,42%

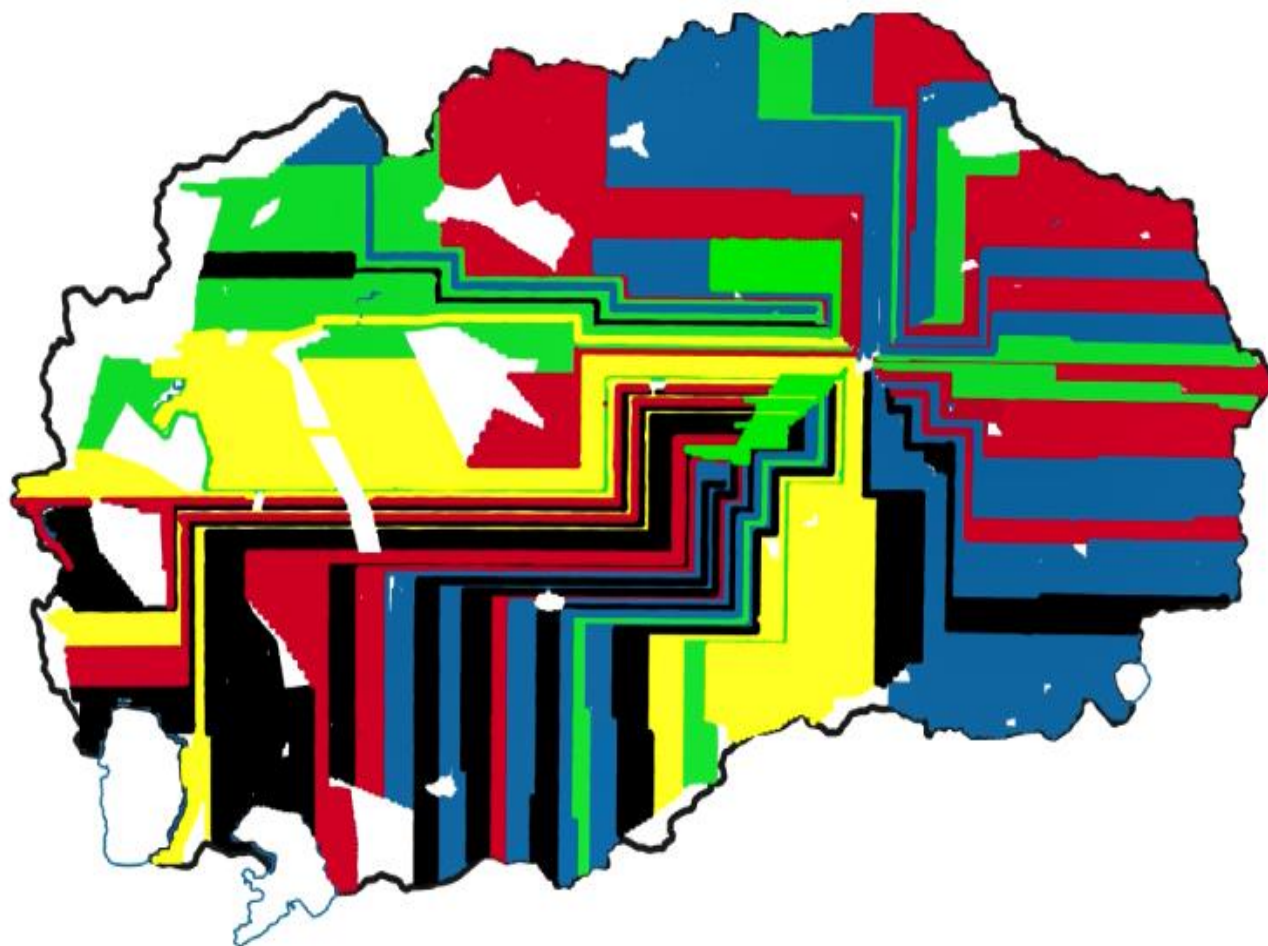


Territory covered with vaccination campaign – September 2026



- **86.42% of national territory covered**
- **13.58% excluded** according to predefined criteria
- September: **448,232 baits recorded**
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- Average bait density: **20.38 baits/km²**

Territory covered with vaccination campaign – December 2026

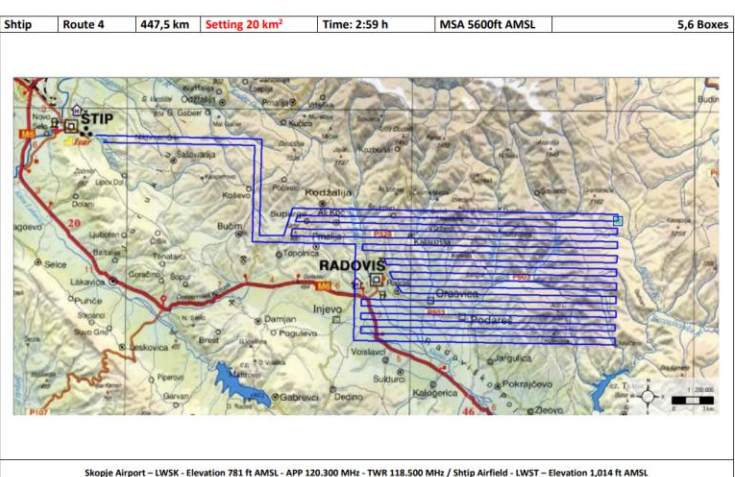
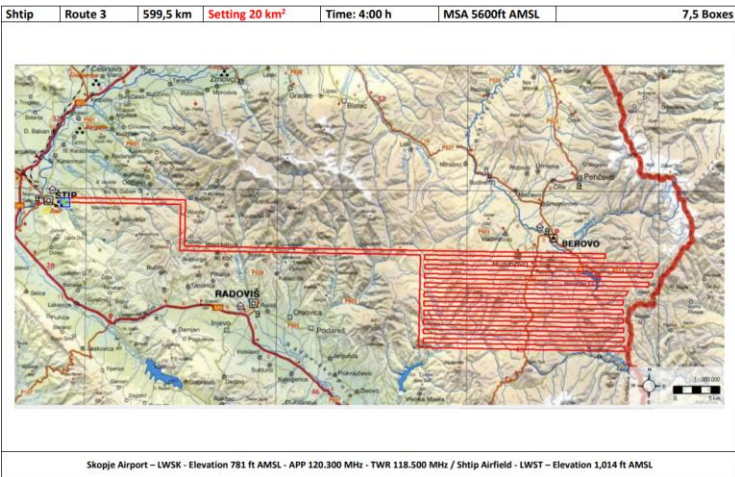
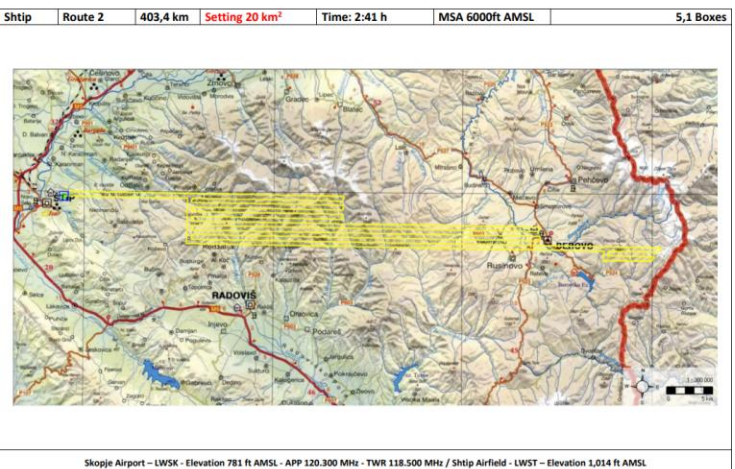
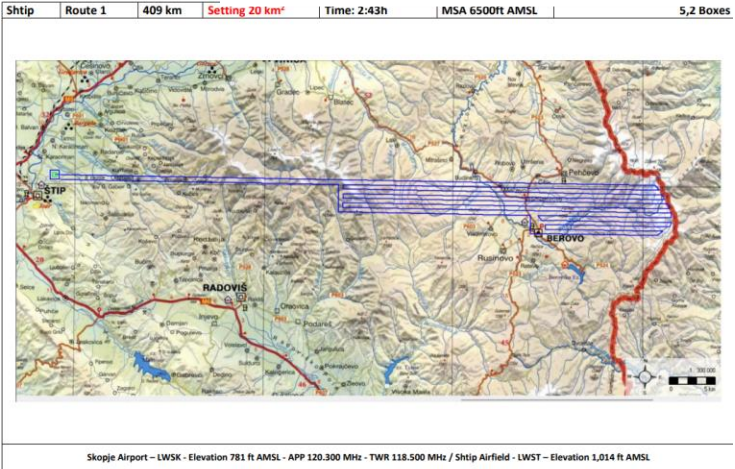


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- December: **448,397 baits recorded**
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- Average bait density: **20.39 baits/km²**

Oral Vaccination campaigns in North Macedonia



 **Distribution baits for ORV**
84 flight routes covered/450000 vaccine baits distributed per campaign



Oral Vaccination campaigns in North Macedonia



Two ORV campaigns are planned for 2026

Spring Campaign – Planned; Postponed for September (administrative procedure).

September 2026 – On – going campaign

Started on 13 September 2026 – Plan for finish 2 October 2026 (postponed from spring)

December 2026 – Planned campaign

The second campaign is planned for **December 2026**, in accordance with the established ORV schedule.

Two ORV campaigns are planned for 2027

April 2027 (whole territory)

September 2027 (whole territory)

Serological Surveillance and Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Programme – 2025



- Serological surveillance was conducted to assess evidence of vaccine-induced antibody response.
- TTC biomarker monitoring was used as complementary evidence of bait uptake.
- A total of 14 serum samples were collected during 2025:
 - 10 valid samples suitable for serological testing
 - 4 unsuitable samples, excluded from seropositivity calculations
 - 2 positive / 8 negative among valid samples
 - Overall seropositivity: 20.0% (2/10)

Surveillance period	Sampling period	Total serum samples	Valid samples	Positive	Negative	Unsuitable
Pre-ORV 2025	17 Feb.–4 April 2025	5	3	1	2	2
Post-1st ORV campaign / pre-2nd campaign	3 Oct.–17 Dec. 2025	9	7	1	6	2
Total	17 Feb.–17 Dec. 2025	14	10	2	8	4

Serological Surveillance and Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Programme – 2025



- Among the valid samples, seropositivity was 33.3% (1/3) before the first 2025 ORV campaign and 14.3% (1/7) after the September campaign and before/during the December campaign. The overall seropositivity was 20.0% (2/10).

Period	Valid samples	Positive	Negative	Positivity
17 Feb–4 Apr 2025	3	1	2	33.3%
3 Oct–17 Dec 2025	7	1	6	14.3%
Overall	10	2	8	20.0%

Region	Valid samples	Positive	Negative	Seropositivity
Southeast	0	0	0	0%
Southwest	7	2	5	28.6%
Vardar	2	0	2	0%
East	0	0	0	0%
Pelagonia	1	0	1	0%
Polog	0	0	0	0%
Northeast	0	0	0	0%
Skopje	0	0	0	0%
Total	10	2	8	20.0%

TTC Biomarker Monitoring – 2025



➤ **35 samples with valid TTC results** were submitted between **3 October and 19 December 2025**

- **20/35 (57.1%) TTC-positive**
- **15/35 (42.9%) TTC-negative**

- TTC-positive animals were recorded in **five regions** (Southeast, Southwest, Vardar, East and Pelagonia)
- The highest numbers of positive samples were recorded in:

- **Southeast: 7/11 (63.6%)**
- **Southwest: 7/11 (63.6%)**

Region	TTC samples with valid result	TTC positive	TTC negative	TTC positivity
Southeast	11	7	4	63.6%
Southwest	11	7	4	63.6%
Vardar	5	2	3	40.0%
East	3	2	1	66.7%
Pelagonia	3	2	1	66.7%
Polog	1	0	1	0%
Northeast	1	0	1	0%
Skopje	0	0	0	–
Total	35	20	15	57.1%

Summary of Serological and TTC Monitoring Results – 2025



- **Serology:** Antibody-positive animals were detected both before and after the resumption of ORV.
- Both seropositive animals were **adult foxes from the Southwest region**.
- **TTC:** Evidence of bait uptake was recorded in **five regions**, with the highest positivity in East and Pelagonia (66.7%), followed by Southeast and Southwest (63.6%).
- The results provide **complementary evidence of vaccine uptake and immune response** following the ORV campaigns.
- **TTC positivity provides an indication of vaccine-bait uptake. Continued monitoring is needed to strengthen the assessment of ORV programme effectiveness.**
- Interpretation is limited by the **small sample size, non-longitudinal sampling design, timing of sampling in relation to the two ORV campaigns, and interruption of laboratory services.**
- Therefore, serological and TTC results should be interpreted together with **epidemiological and other ORV monitoring data.**

Indicator	Samples	Positive	Positivity (%)
Serology (FAVN)	10 valid	2	20.0%
TTC biomarker	35 valid	20	57.1%

Awareness campaign planed for second half of 2026



- Radio informative spots on both languages Macedonian and Albanian
- Posters and Leaflets New poster in final stage of preparation
- Organizing meeting with stakeholder

БЕСНИЛОТО УБИВА



>од 59000 луѓе годишно 1 лице на секои 9 минути



НАЈГОЛЕМ БРОЈ ДЕЦА Беснило е присутно во 2/3 од земјите во светот

СЕПАК, БЕСНИЛОТО 100% МОЖЕ ДА СЕ СПРЕЧИ



99% ОД СЛУЧАЈИТЕ КАЈ ЛУЉЕТО СЕ ПРЕДИЗВИКАНИ ОД КАС-НУЌАЊЕ ОД КУЧЕ ЗАБОЛЕНО ОД БЕСНИЛО

ДА НЕ ДОЗВОЛИМЕ ПОВЕЌЕ СМРТНИ СЛУЧАЈИ ОД БЕСНИЛО!

ВАКЦИНИРАЈТЕ ГИ КУЧИЌАТА!

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
www.fva.gov.mk
АГЕНЦИЈА ЗА ЗДРАВЈЕ И БЕЗБЕДНОСТ НА ЖИВОТНИТЕ

HOW TO PREVENT

(Name of the country), with support from the European Union, has been implementing and rabies vaccination since 1998. This is the only proven method to eliminate rabies in wild reservoir animals and humans. Thanks to this approach, most of European countries have successfully eradicated rabies, and it has also been highly effective in controlling the disease in our country. The most important prevention action in domestic animals is the compulsory vaccination of dogs. All dogs must be regularly vaccinated against rabies. Particular attention should be given to dogs that are closely connected to the natural environment, such as shepherd dogs, hunting dogs and dogs living in rural areas. Free-roaming dogs also play an important role in the rabies transmission cycle. In (Name of the country), municipalities are responsible for organizing the vaccination of free-roaming dogs and for the effective management of the dog population. Together, we can minimize risk from rabies!

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a **dangerous viral disease** that affects all mammals, including humans. It attacks the central nervous system, and once clinical symptoms appear, it is always fatal. However, **rabies is 100% preventable** in humans, even after contact with infected animal. Rabies has not been detected in (Country) for the past XX years. The next step is to prove disease absence through strong passive surveillance and to maintain that freedom with effective preventive measures in animals.

WHERE IS RABIES?

Rabies was affecting people and animals for millennia, reaching nearly every part of the Globe. However, most of European countries have officially declared freedom from rabies, while the disease remains a serious problem in parts of Asia, Africa and South America. In recent years, rabies has re-emerged in parts of Eastern Europe, spreading rapidly and reminding us that freedom from rabies is not permanent.

WHO CAN GET INFECTED?

All mammals - including humans - can get rabies. In Europe, wild animals like foxes are the main reservoirs of the virus. They are spread rabies to domestic animals, especially dogs and cats, but also to livestock. Any infected animal, wild or domestic, can transmit the virus to people.

HOW THE FREEDOM OF A COUNTRY MAY BE DEMONSTRATED

An animal that is restless, hyperactive, and overly sensitive to light, sound and noise.

Animals with unusual behavior, aggression, difficulty in swallowing, restlessness and disorientation.

Distinct changes in barking or howling.

Dead animal, or animal killed on the road.

REPORT TO YOUR VETERINARIAN IF YOU NOTICE ANY OF THESE SIGNS

A wild animal seen wandering during the day and showing an unusual lack of fear or increased aggression to other animals or humans.

Unusual aggression in domestic animals.

Lack of coordination, paralysis, coma, or death.

If you see any of these symptoms in domestic or wild animals, please tell the nearest **VETERINARIAN** or **RAPIST**. Veterinarians will test these suspected cases to confirm whether rabies is present. Absence of positive cases will help us demonstrate that our country is rabies-free. Your role is vital!



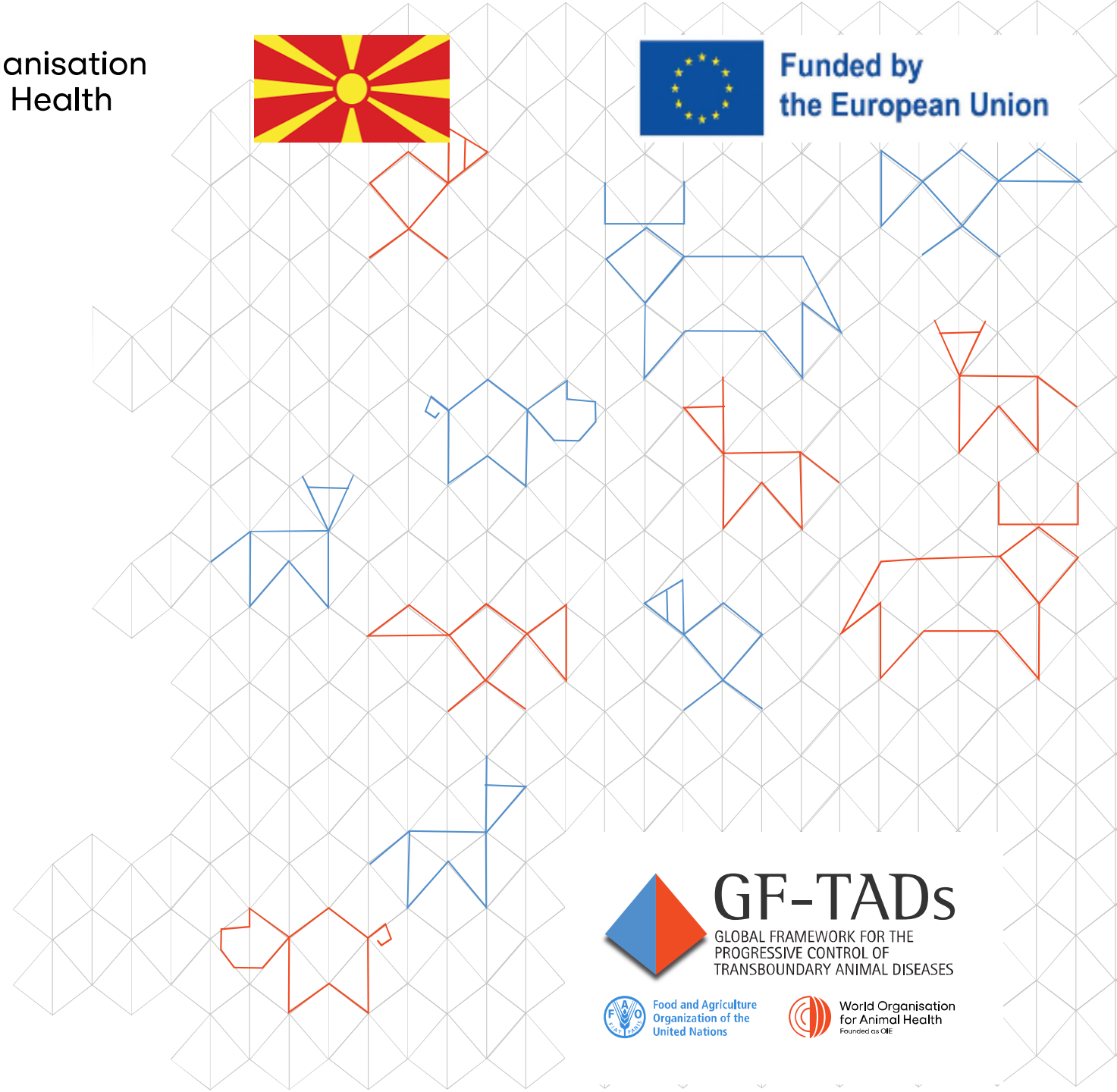
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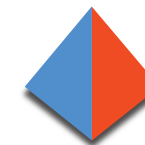
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THANK YOU



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