



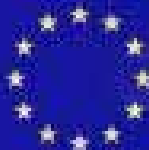
Risk of rabies introduction by non-commercial movement of pets

Case study:

ROMANIA

**Regulation (EC) No [998/2003](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals**

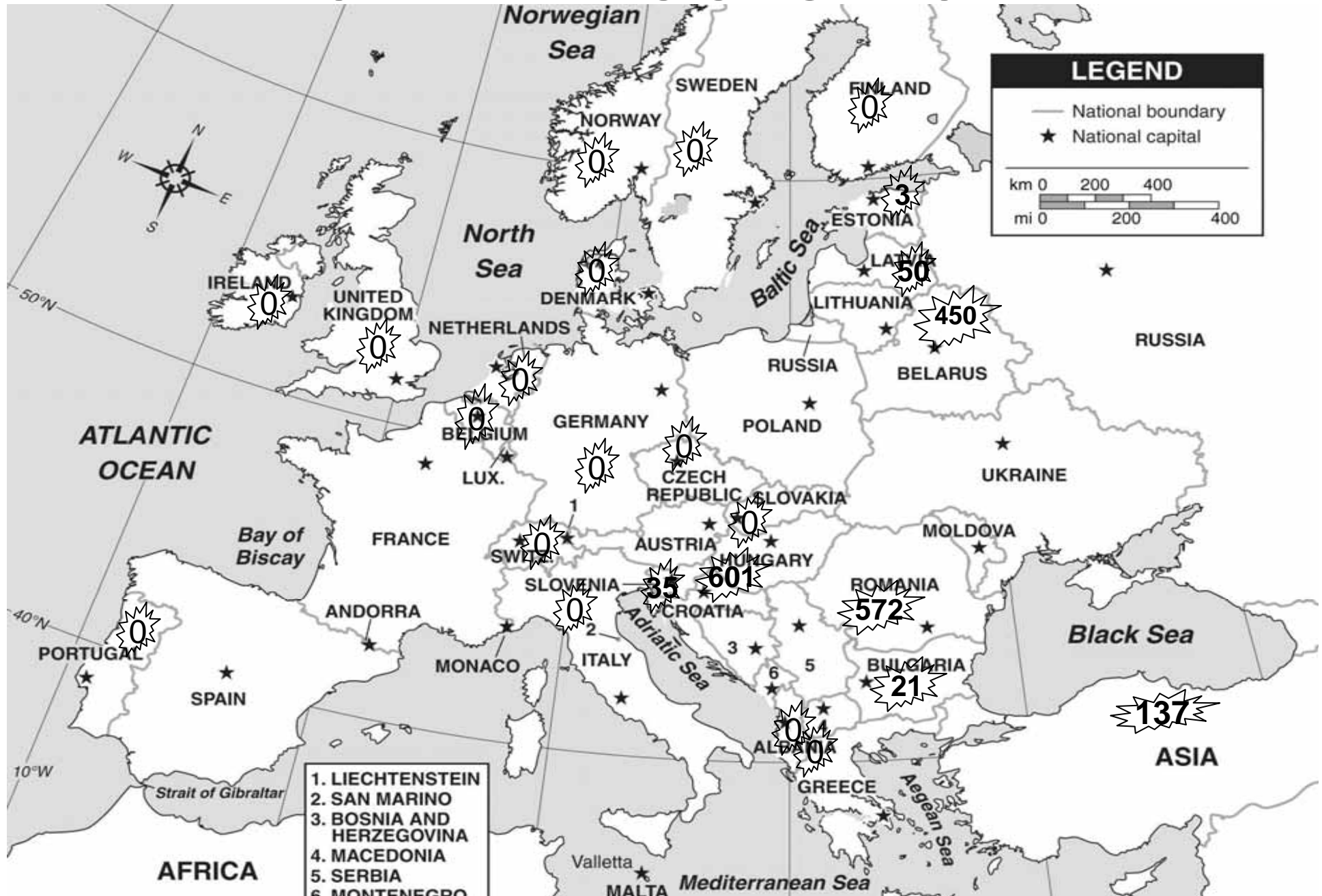
- Animals from Member States *must be accompanied by a passport issued by a veterinarian* authorised by the competent authority of their state of origin.
  - This passport must certify the conformity of the animal with the health rules of this regulation or, in the case of Ireland, Malta, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the health rules of these countries.
- Animals from third countries must be accompanied by a certificate issued by an official veterinarian, certifying compliance with the health rules of this regulation or, in the case of Ireland, Malta, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the health rules of these countries.
- If the controls, notably those carried out at the EU entry points, reveal that the animal does not satisfy the requirements laid down in this regulation, the competent authority may decide to:
  - return the animal to its country of origin,
  - isolate the animal under official control for the time necessary for it to meet the health requirements
  - put the animal down, where its return or isolation in quarantine cannot be envisaged.



**TAIEX**

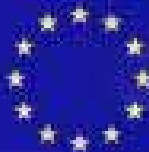


# OIE - RABIES SITUATION



# Romanian situation

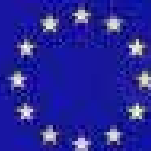
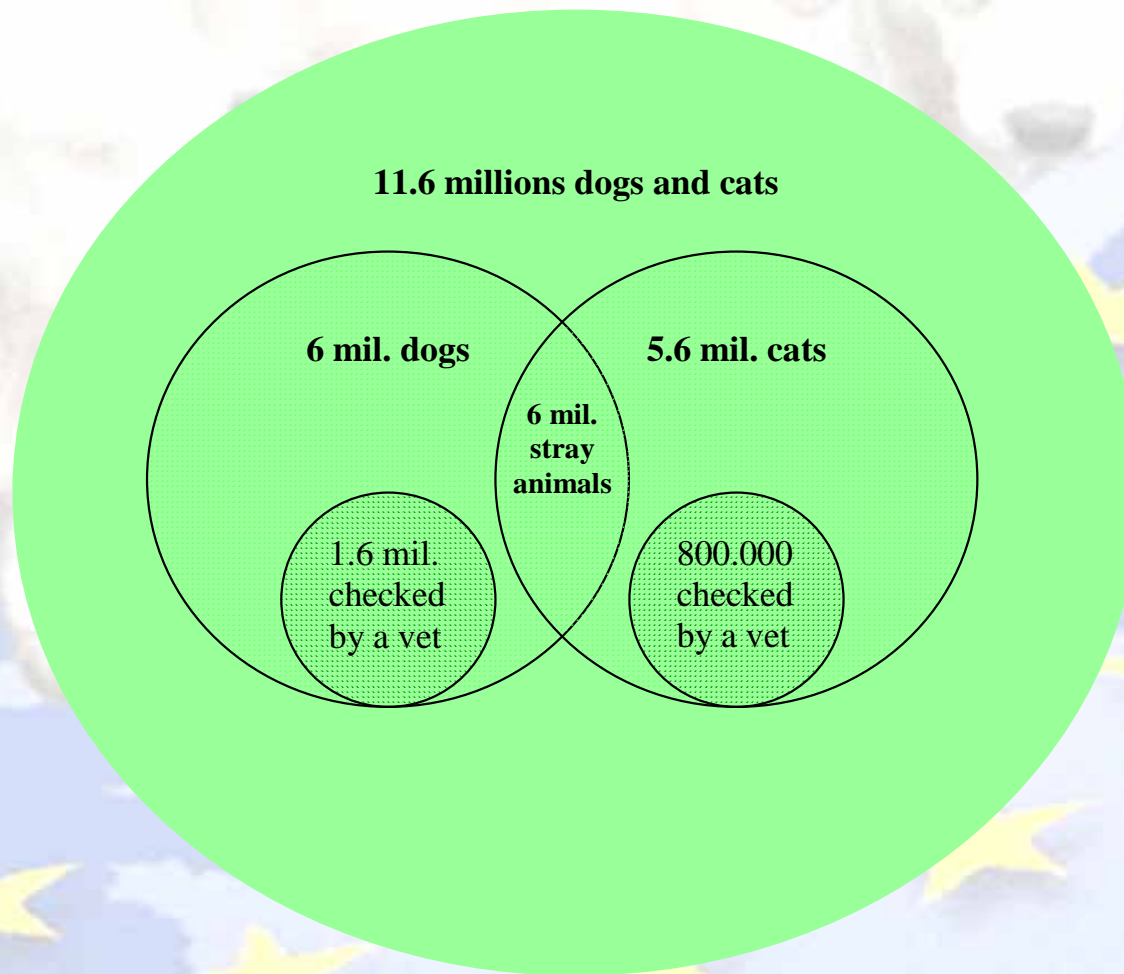
- In Romania, there are 654 rabies outbreaks only in 2008
- Rabies is present for 55% of fox population and anti-rabies prophylaxis covers only 78% of pet animals' population and almost no wild fox population. Thus, Romania has the “capacity” to export rabies.
- Pet animals are identified and registered in a low percentage
- Since 2007 (after EU accession), 15.892 pet animals left the country, declared as non-commercial movements.



**TAIEX**



# Dogs and cats population in Romania

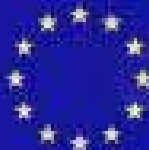


**TAIEX**



# Romanian situation

- The national reference laboratory has many responsibilities regarding rabies monitoring:
  - Validates the diagnosis methods for rabies and draws up the documentation for their accreditation;
  - Prepares the annual supervision plan for rabies and supervises its implementation;
  - Takes part in the elaboration of the national supervision plan for rabies
- Between 1.01.2008 - 30.06.2008 the regional veterinary laboratories have tested 2.598 samples for rabies, from different species, out of which 654 were found positive.



**TAIEX**



# RABIES OUTBREAKS (JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2008)



EPIDEMIOLOGIC SERVICE

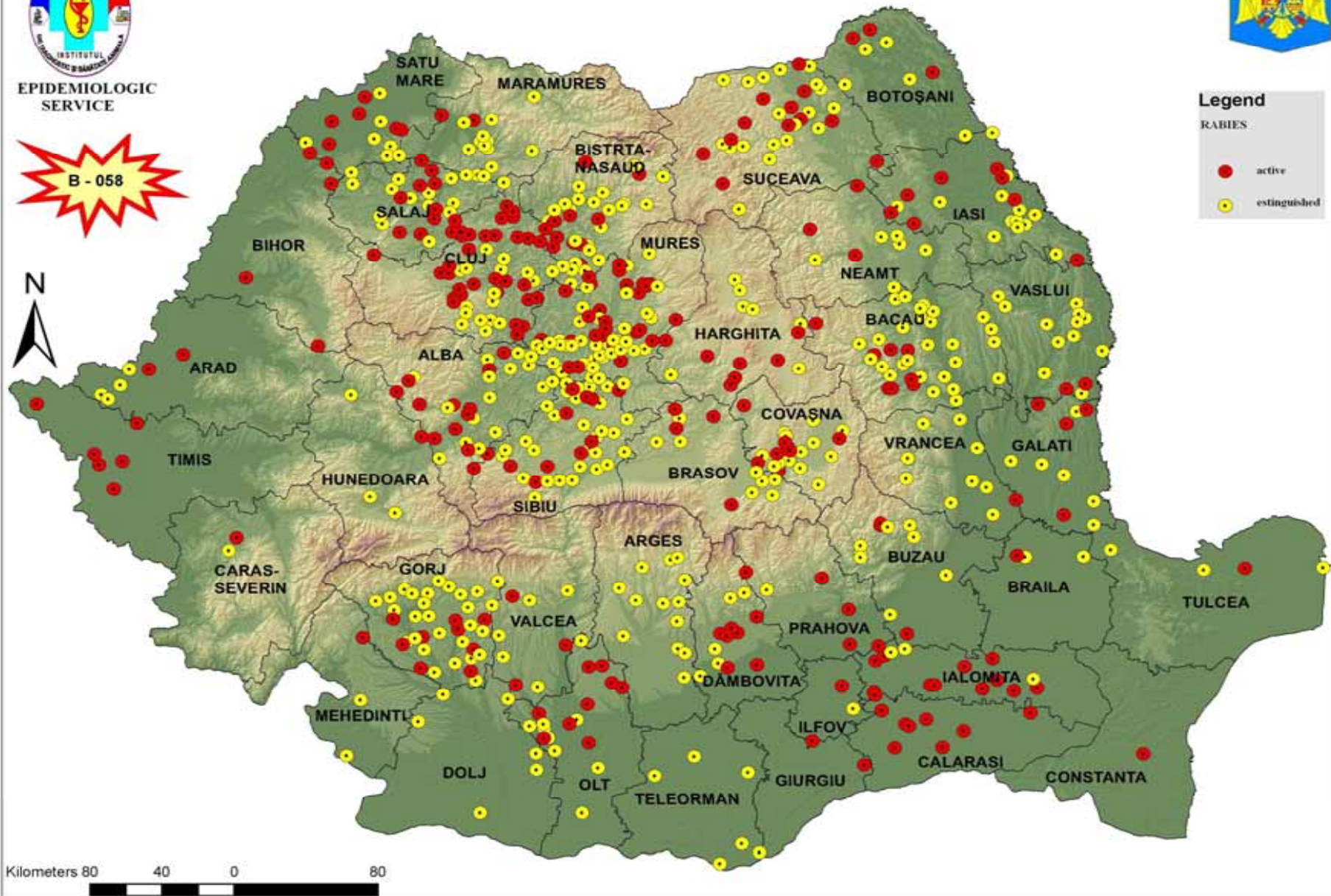


## Legend

RABIES

● active

● estingished

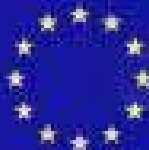


Kilometers 80 40 0 80

# SWOT analysis for rabies eradication

## STRENGTHS:

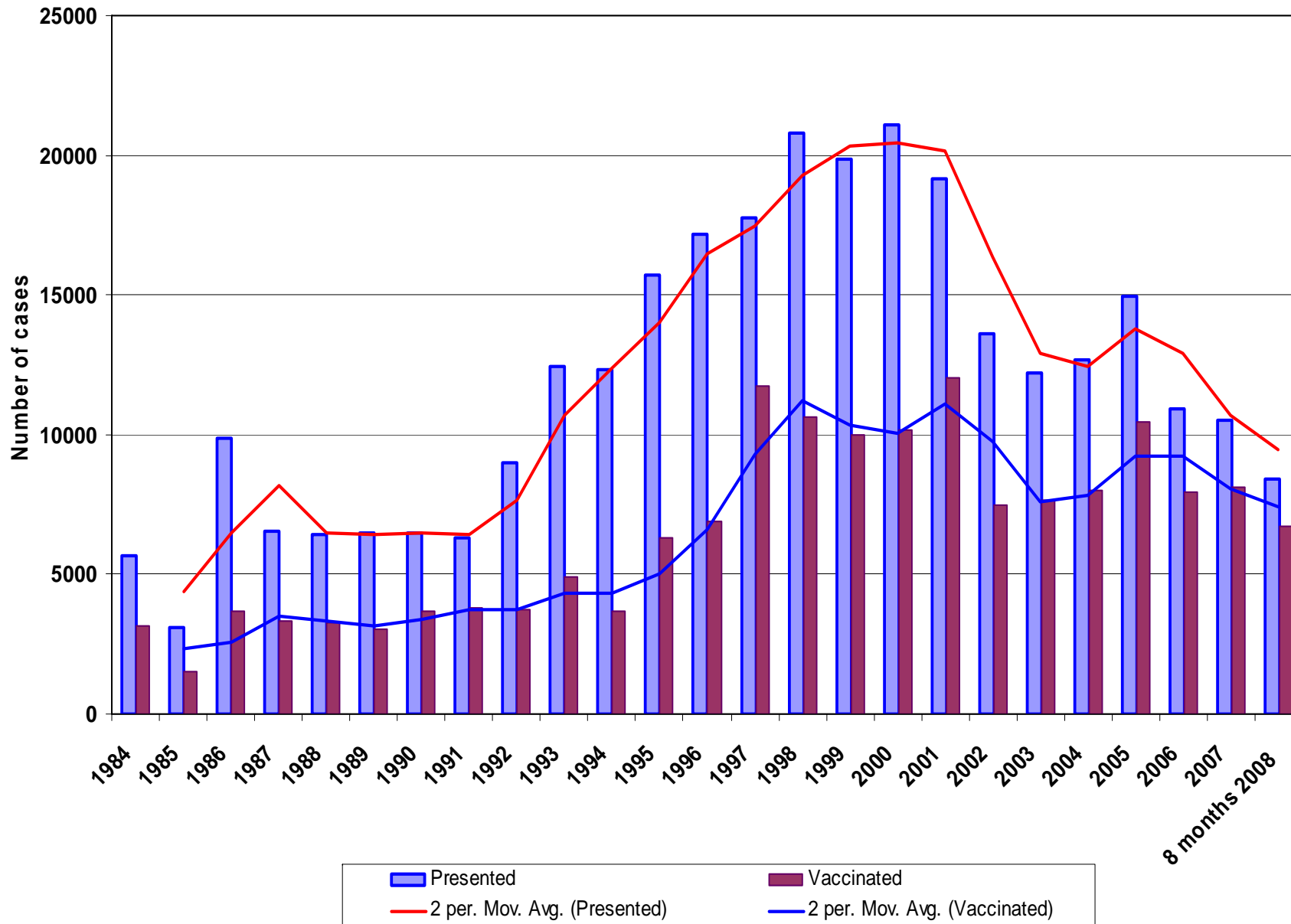
- Legislation in force (European legislation transposed into national legislation)
- Contingency programs and rabies eradication program adopted by Government Decision
- Programs for stray animals control of reproduction
- Compulsory anti-rabies prophylaxis for all pet animals older than 3 months
- Rabies strategy included in the “National strategic program for prophylaxis and control of transmissible diseases from animals to animals and from animals to humans”
- Obligatorily examination of all foxes bodies (accidentally dead or hunted)
- Existing reference laboratory at the Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health, for antibodies determination following the anti-rabies vaccination
- Disease confirmation through laboratory examination in all 41 regional laboratories in the country
- Very well organized human anti-rabies section in the Infectious Disease Hospital Matei Bals



**TAIEX**



POPULATION PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUT FOR  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
"MATEI BALS" - ANTIRABIES CENTER (1984 - 31.08.2008)

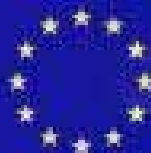


8 months 2008

# SWOT analysis for rabies eradication

## **WEAKNESSES:**

- Administrative incapacity to enforce and control the legislative measures for rabies
- Incapacity to implement the programs for the stray animals management
- Lack of the national education programs and non-governmental programs for rabies prophylaxis
- Forest rabies is spreading by foxes and expands because of the inefficient management of rabies prophylaxis for wild animals.
- Insufficient oral immunisation of wild foxes population
- Border inspection posts approach the non commercial movement of pet animals as an insignificant strategy
- Non-legal hunting (poaching) and inadequate handling of wild foxes bodies
- Poor communication between veterinary and forestry authorities
- Stray dogs roaming near the forests, as a potential vector for rabies circulation between wild animals and farm animals
- Lack of authorisations for dog breeders



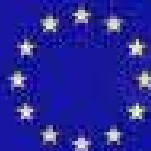
**TAIEX**



# SWOT analysis for rabies eradication

## **OPPORTUNITIES:**

- The existing private vets network, having a good covering of the territory, responsible for the enforcement of the anti-rabies prophylaxis
- Control of reproduction for stray animals
- Rabies educational programs financed from European funds
- Environmental protection programs linked with the rabies eradication strategy
- Animal protection NGO's involvement in educational programs regarding rabies threats



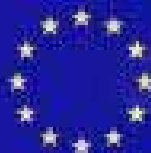
**TAIEX**



# SWOT analysis for rabies eradication

## THREATS:

- Increased number of rabies cases in humans and animals
- Higher costs allocated to Health Ministry
- Higher costs for rabies outbreaks eradication
- Non-commercial movement of pets might involve spreading rabies outside Romanian borders
- Population might lose confidence in veterinary authorities if the number of rabies cases is increasing

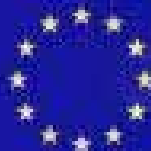


**TAIEX**



# Conclusions

- Coherent national program for rabies eradication, that includes prevention and control measures:
  - Evaluation of rabies exposure level
  - Human rabies prevention
  - Compulsory electronic identification, registering and vaccination of all dogs and cats (owned or stray) and implementing an unique national data base, under veterinary authority, for a strict control of animal movement (even using GPRS system)
  - Rabies control in wildlife (assigning the responsibility to the forestry authorities and hunting association)
  - Laboratory rabies surveillance, diagnosis and serology (laboratory network linked to the identification and registration data base)
- Authorization of all dog and cat breeders
- Strengthening the border control for non-commercial movement of pets from third countries
- All communities should incorporate stray animal control and training of personnel in their programs
- Consolidate the intervention capacity in case of rabies outbreaks



**TAIEX**



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!

6.12.2008  
Antalya

