

Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 13th March 2017

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Source: Data updated on 12/03/2017 (included) ADNS/FAO/OIE, DGAL (General Directorate of Food – French Ministry of Agriculture)

A new highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus of H5N6 subtype, related to the H5N8 virus currently circulating in Europe, has been detected in Greece in a poultry farm (species not mentioned) (see report from 6th March – [link](#)). This outbreak was initially declared as H5N8 on 16th February, and laboratory confirmation of H5N6 subtype was done on 2nd March.

Three HPAI viruses – H5N8, H5N5 and H5N6 – are currently circulating in Europe. The ADNS tool is not adapted to the notification of new subtypes like H5N8, H5N5 or H5N6, leading countries to report the outbreaks as “H5Nx” with the possibility of mentioning the subtype in the comments section, which some countries do. Taking into account these comments, the ADNS notifications are as follows: H5Nx (n=416), H5N5 (n=19), H5N8 (n=1,954), combined H5N5/H5N8 (n=1), and H5N6 (n=1). The HPAI viruses in general will be analyzed in this report. This analysis takes into account modifications following first notifications that are sometimes brought to ADNS notifications, which for example might specify the subtype for some H5Nx outbreaks (which might be later notified as H5N5, H5N8 or H5N6).

Since the last situation report on 27th Feb 2017 (two weeks ago), 411 new HPAI outbreaks were reported in Europe (European Union – EU – and Switzerland), mainly in Germany (181 new H5N8 outbreaks in wild birds, 9 in poultry farms and 1 in captive birds) and in France (70 new H5N8 outbreaks in poultry farms, 9 in wild birds and 1 in captive birds). The total number of outbreaks and cases reported in Europe continues to increase and is now 2,390 among which 1,343 were wild birds (76 species affected), 1,005 in poultry farms, and 42 in captive birds (Tables 1 & 2-5).

A new country is now affected by HP H5N8 virus: Lithuania has notified three H5N8 outbreaks in mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) since 27th February 2017. In addition, the HP H5N8 virus is now affecting poultry farms in Spain with four outbreaks reported in duck farms (see report from 6th March – [link](#)). Finally, Bosnia Herzegovina has notified its first case in captive birds (species not mentioned) on 10th March 2017 following direct contact with wild birds.

Several countries have detected an HPAI H5N5 virus in wild birds (1 case in Germany, 1 in Montenegro, 2 in Italy, 1 in Croatia, 1 in Greece, 2 in Poland, 3 in Slovenia, 1 case in Hungary, and since the last report, 1 case in Austria), in poultry farms (3 outbreaks in Germany), and in captive birds (1 case in Italy, 1 case in Czech Republic). In addition, the Netherlands reported a case of co-infection with H5N8/H5N5 in wild birds in November 2016. On 1st March 2017, Serbia reported a first case of H5N5 in a mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) found dead in the North of the country (source: FAO Empres-i). However, all HPAI H5 outbreaks in Serbia are reported to ADNS as “H5Nx” with no details regarding subtype. Therefore, the H5N5 outbreak in Serbia is not shown in the maps or the tables.

The HPAI situation in France is detailed in the website of the ESA Platform in reports published every two weeks (last report from 10th March - [link](#)).

An interactive application enables visualization of the evolution of outbreaks and cases of HPAI in Europe through an interactive map and an interactive time series, and allows users to select specific data using options and a time cursor ([link](#)).

The HP H5N8 virus is also present beyond Europe in the following countries: Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Nigeria, South Korea, Chinese Taipei (commonly known as Taiwan), Uganda, Cameroon, India, Nepal, China, Koweit, and Kazakhstan (source: OIE/FAO). A situation report of the HPAI situation in Africa as of 21st Feb 2017 is available – in French – on the ESA Platform ([link](#)).

Table 1: Evolution of number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI in the European Union and Switzerland and number of countries affected (in brackets) reported from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL)

Date of report	Nb of outbreaks Captive birds (nb of countries)	Nb of outbreaks Farms (nb of countries)	Nb of outbreaks Wild birds (nb of countries)
10 Nov	0	1 (1)	5 (5)
14 Nov	0	10 (3)	9 (8)
17 Nov	1 (1)	11 (3)	40 (8)
22 Nov	2 (2)	16 (5)	76 (8)
28 Nov	3 (2)	36 (6)	127 (11)
05 Dec	6 (3)	70 (8)	194 (12)
12 Dec	7 (4)	156 (8)	244 (13)
19 Dec	7 (4)	259 (10)	292 (13)
26 Dec	7 (4)	315 (11)	345 (17)
02 Jan	8 (5)	364 (12)	351 (18)
09 Jan	13 (6)	428 (15)	368 (21)
16 Jan	15 (6)	514 (16)	433 (23)
23 Jan	16 (7)	542 (16)	525 (23)
08 Feb	29 (11)	654 (17)	704 (23)
21 Feb	37 (13)	777 (20)	965 (24)
27 Feb	37 (13)	861 (20)	1,081 (24)
13 Mar	42 (15)	1,005 (20)	1,343 (25)

Figure 1 shows the evolution of weekly notifications in Europe. The aggregated data for Europe (including Switzerland and Ukraine), with individual country situations varying according to surveillance and epidemiology, shows global trends. At the macroscopic scale, it is interesting to note that the “farm” and “wild” curves show similar trends, globally parallel, with a slight delay of 2 weeks, the “wild” curve preceding the “farm” curve. This same delay between outbreaks in wild birds and in farms is observed in the cumulated graph of the number of newly affected countries declaring their first outbreak/case of HPAI (Figure 2).

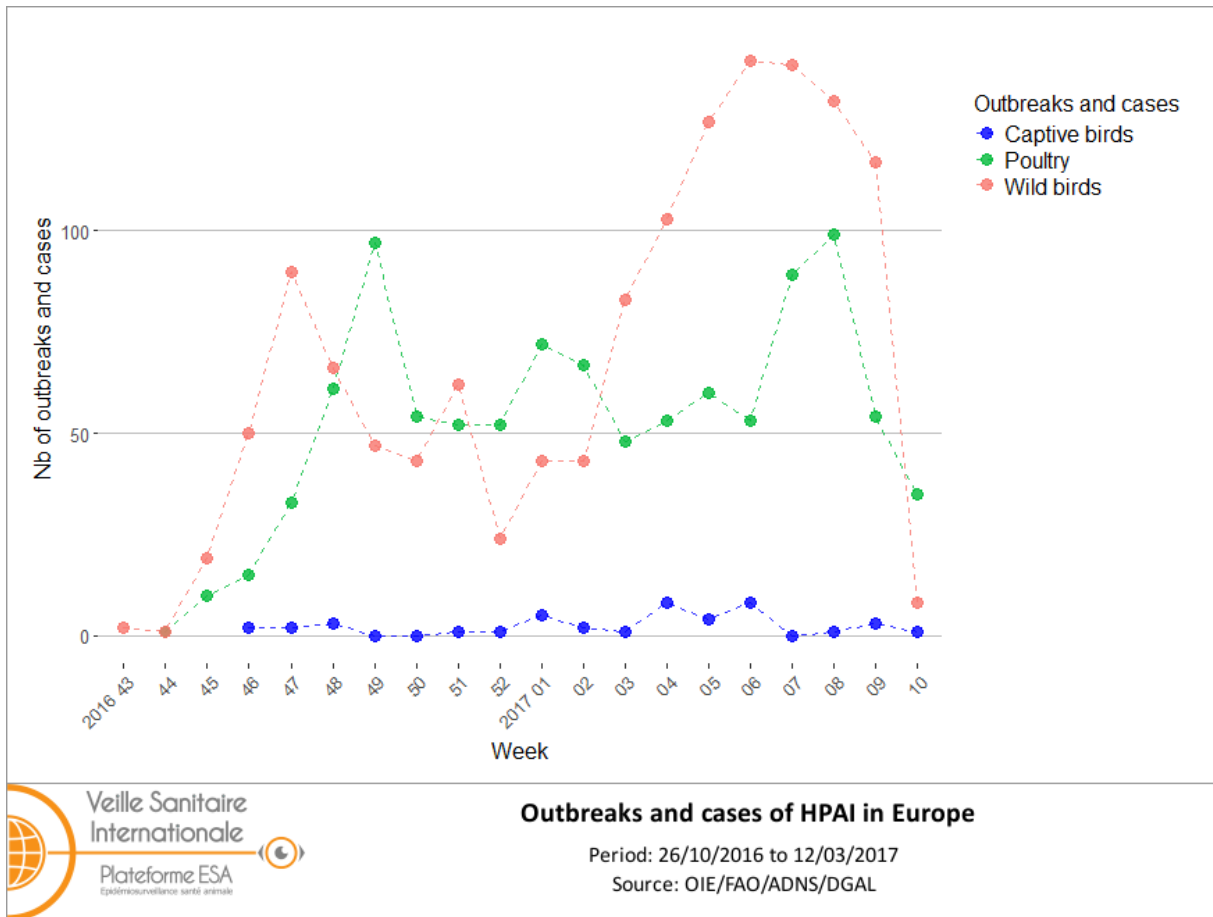


Figure 1: Number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI in Europe (EU, Switzerland) per week from 26 October 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: ADNS/OIE/DGAL)

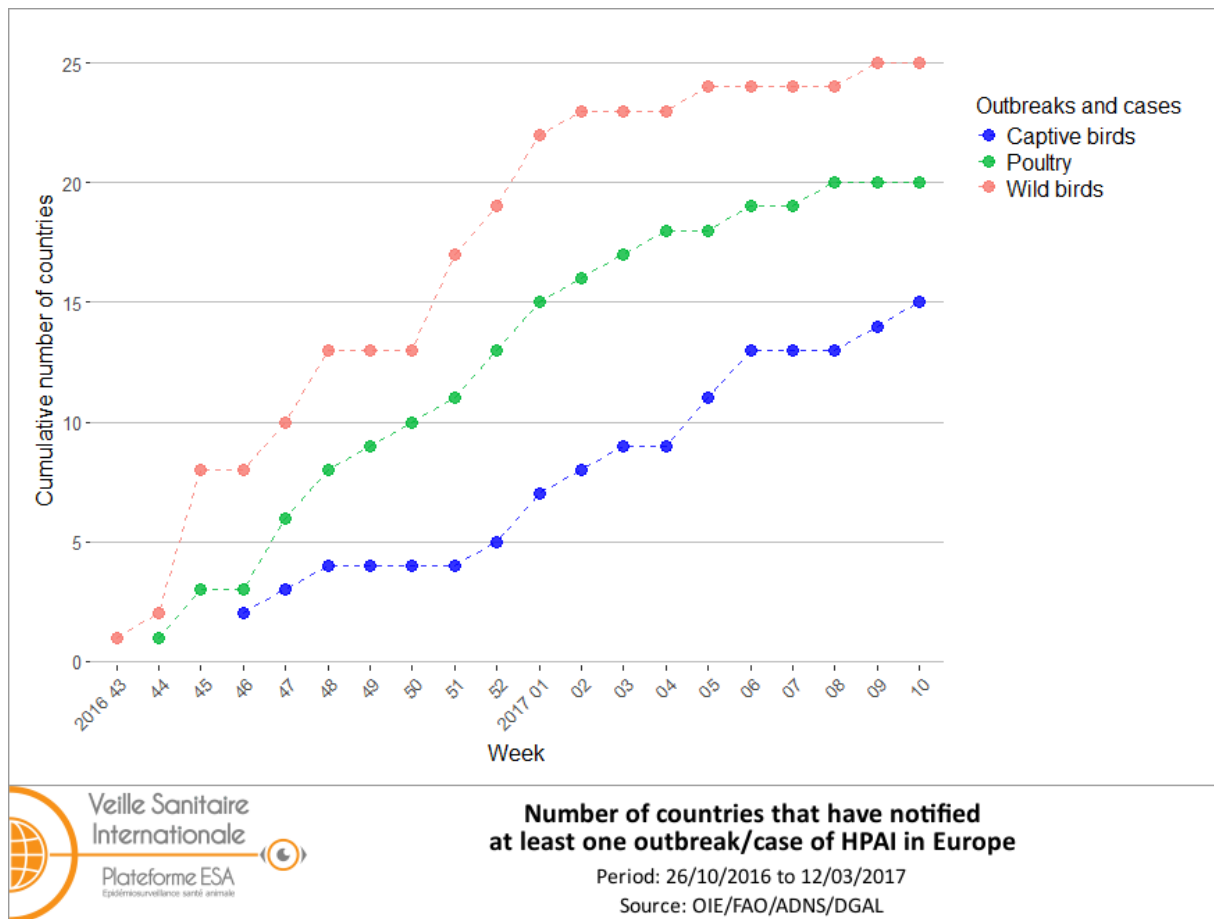


Figure 2: Cumulated weekly number of countries that have notified at least one outbreak/case of HPAI in Europe (EU, Switzerland) from 26 October 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: ADNS/OIE/DGAL)

The evolution of these curves is coherent with a contamination of poultry farms by wild birds and seems to suggest an absence of a major evolution of the epizooty in farms, in general in the European continent (which does not exclude particular situations where there could be important localized secondary spread between farms). However, this interpretation should be nuanced as some variations could be due, on one hand, to differences in surveillance pressure depending on bird populations and, on the other, to differences among countries (as for Hungary and France which have notified a high number of outbreaks in poultry farms and much less in wild birds, compared to Germany and Switzerland which have notified a great amount of cases in wild birds but only a few outbreaks in poultry farms). It should be noted that conclusions should not be drawn based on data from the last week due to delays in declarations.

The mortality reported in farms is variable depending on the species, but also for a given species, and is calculated based on a limited number of outbreaks. For mono-species farms, the mortality varied from 0.06 to 33% in *Gallus gallus* farms, around 20% in turkey farms (but with a 100% mortality rate reported in an outbreak in France), and from 0 to 70% in palmipeds. Although the data must be carefully interpreted (as time of intervention in relation to infection varied, some farms are epidemiologically linked, the

beginning of infection is unknown, etc.), it should be noted that this strain appears to have an unusual virulence in breeding palmipeds.

The 76 different species of birds infected in the avifauna in Europe, with their families, are:

- **Accipitridae:** Eagle spp, Eurasian Buzzard, Harris's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk, White-tailed Eagle

- **Anatidae:** Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Goldeneye, Mallard, Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Whooper Swan, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Greylag Goose, Bean Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose, White-fronted Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Greater Scaup, Dark-bellied Brant, Canada Goose, Barnacle Goose, Red-breasted Goose, Egyptian Goose, Black Swan, Common Shelduck, Common Eider, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Common Merganser, Swan Goose, Muscovy Duck

- **Ardeidae:** Eurasian Bittern, Grey Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret

- **Ciconiidae:** White Stork

- **Colombidae:** Collared Dove, Common Wood Pigeon

- **Corvidae:** Eurasian Magpie, Hooded Crow, Common Raven, Carrion Crow

- **Dromaiidae:** Emu

- **Falconidae:** Peregrine Falcon, Saker Falcon, Common Kestrel

- **Laridae:** Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Mew Gull, Great black-backed Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Common Tern

- **Pelecanidae:** Great white Pelican

- **Phalacrocoracidae:** Great Cormorant, Pygmy Cormorant

- **Podicipedidae:** Great-crested Grebe, Little Grebe

- **Psittacidae:** African grey Parrot

- **Rallidae:** Common Moorhen, Crested Coot, Eurasian Coot

- **Scolopacidae:** Curlew spp, Green Sandpiper

- **Strigidae:** Eagle Owl, Ural Owl

- **Turdidae:** Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Fieldfare

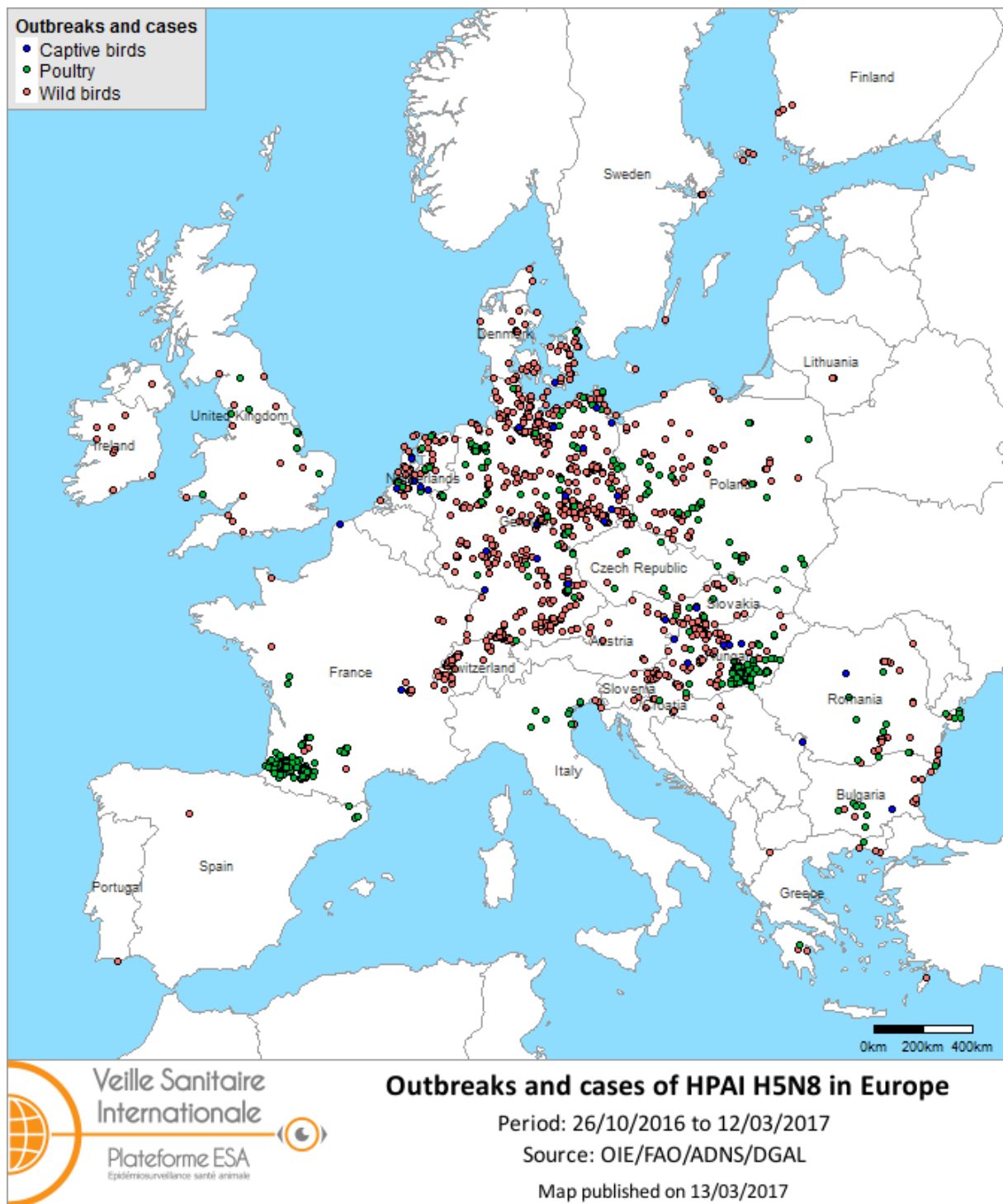


Figure 3: Map of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N8 reported in the European Union and Switzerland from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL).



Figure 4: Map of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N5 reported in Europe from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL).



Figure 5: Map of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N6 reported in Europe from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS).

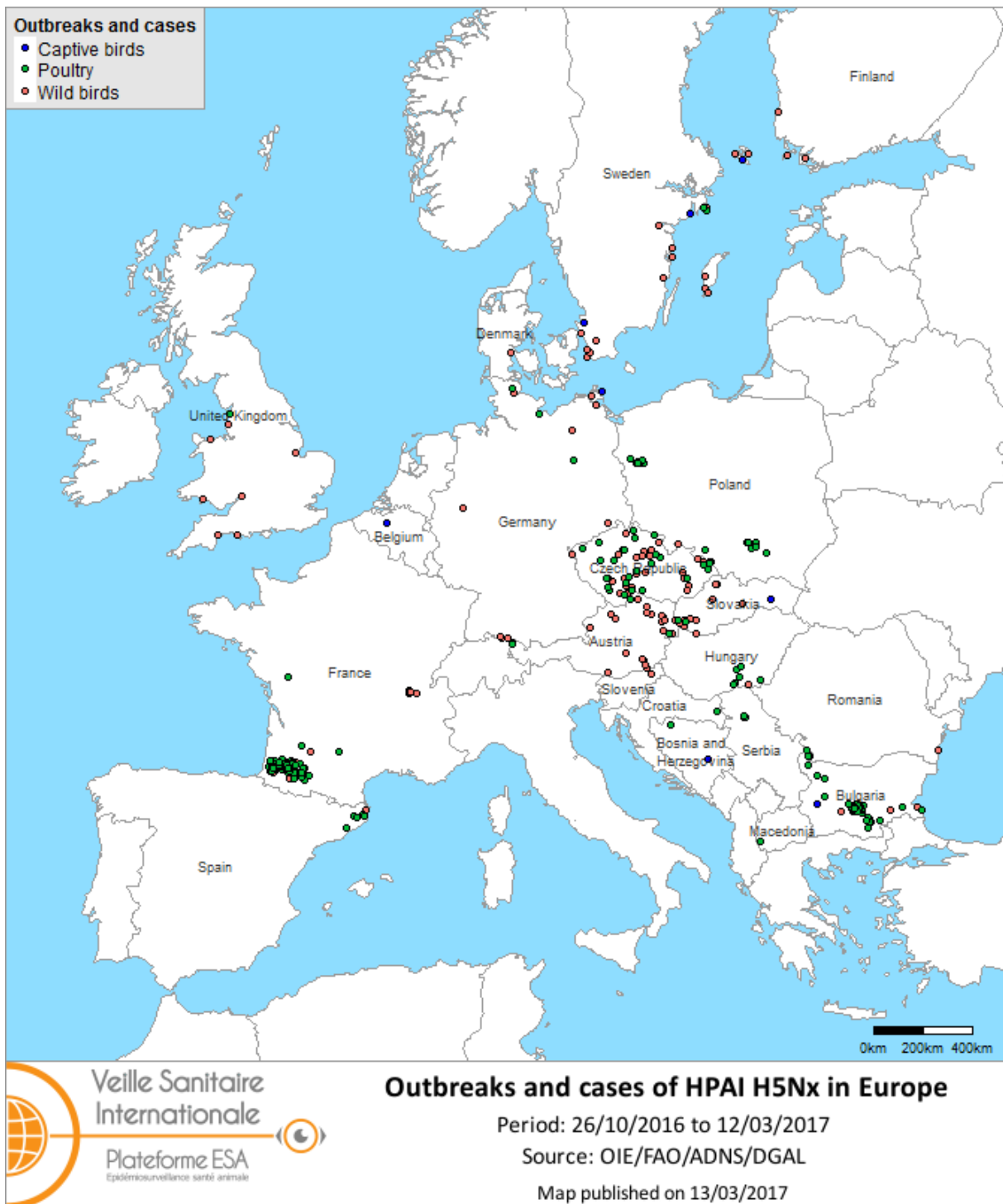


Figure 6: Map of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5Nx reported in Europe from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL).

Table 2: Number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N8 in domestic, wild and captive birds per country and subtype in the European Union and Switzerland from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL)

COUNTRIES	H5N8		
	captive	domestic	wild
Germany	14	68	604
Austria	1	1	18
Bulgaria	1	7	9
Croatia		2	11
Denmark	1	1	42
Spain		4	1
Finland			7
France	2	316	32
Greece		4	8
Hungary	5	226	58
Ireland			10
Italy		9	3
Lithuania			3
The Netherlands	5	9	46
Poland		42	66
Portugal			1
Czech Republic		6	5
Romania	2	16	79
United Kingdom		8	15
Slovakia	1	6	47
Slovenia			36
Sweden		1	8
Switzerland			87
TOTAL	32	726	1196

Table 3: Number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N5 in domestic, wild and captive birds per country and subtype in the European Union from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL)

COUNTRIES	H5N5		
	captive	domestic	wild
Germany		3	1
Austria			1
Croatia			1
Greece			1
Hungary			1
Italy	1		2
Montenegro			1
Netherlands			1
Poland			2
Czech Republic	1		
Slovenia			3
TOTAL	2	3	14

Table 4: Number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5N6 in domestic, wild and captive birds per country and subtype in the European Union from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL)

COUNTY	H5N6
	domestic
Greece	1
TOTAL	1

Table 5: Number of outbreaks and cases of HPAI H5Nx in domestic, wild and captive birds per country and subtype in the European Union and Switzerland from 26 Oct 2016 to 12 March 2017 (included) (sources: OIE/ADNS/DGAL)

COUNTRIES	H5Nx		
	captive	domestic	wild
Germany	1	2	10
Austria		2	28
Belgium	1		
Bosnia Herzegovina	1	1	
Bulgaria	1	61	3
Croatia		5	
Denmark			1
Spain		6	1
Finland	1		6
France		129	18
Hungary		8	1
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)		1	
Poland		22	
Czech Republic		29	30
Romania			1
United Kingdom		2	7
Serbia		3	1
Slovakia	1	2	10
Slovenia			1
Sweden	2	2	15
TOTAL	8	275	133

References:

- The Global Consortium for H5N8 and Related Influenza Viruses 2016. Role for migratory wild birds in the global spread of avian influenza H5N8, *Science*, 14 Oct 2016:Vol. 354, Issue 6309, pp. 213-217. DOI: 10.1126/science.aaf8852
- H5N8 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of clade 2.3.4.4 detected through surveillance of wild migratory birds in the Tyva Republic, the Russian Federation – potential for international spread, *Empreswatch* septembre 2016
- EFSA, 2014. Highly pathogenic avian influenza A subtype H5N8. *EFSA Journal* 2014;12(12):3941, 32 pp. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3941

Previous reports:

- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 27th February 2017” from 07 March 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 20th February 2017” from 22 Feb 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 8th February 2017” from 13 Feb 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 16th January 2017” from 20 Jan 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 9th January 2017” from 11 Jan 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI H5 in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 2nd January 2017” from 04 Jan 2017 ([link](#))
- “Epidemiological situation of HPAI H5N8 in Europe since October 2016: situation as of 19th Dec 2016” from 21 Dec 2016 ([link](#))