



# Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

**APRIL 2022**

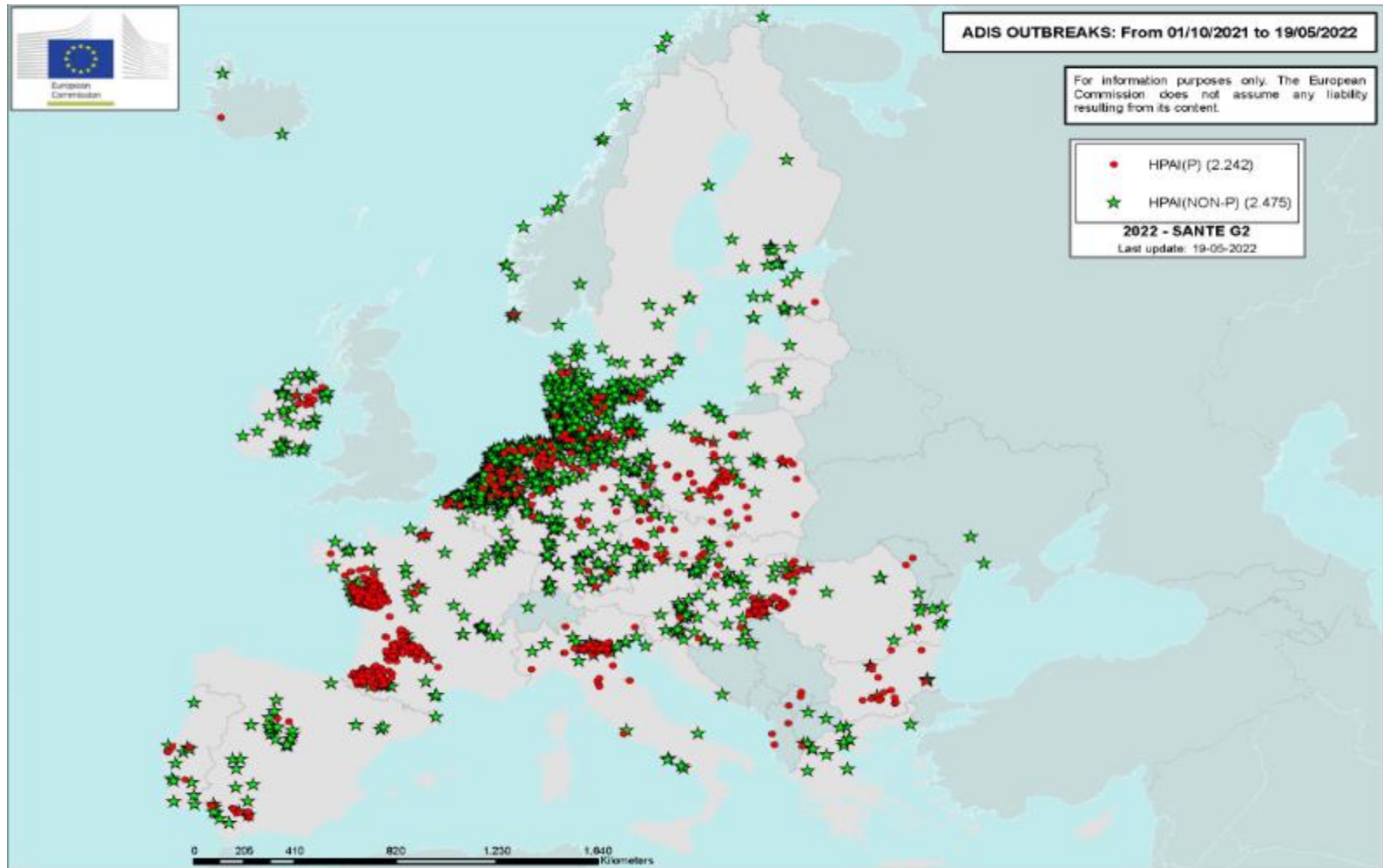
**DG Health and Food Safety  
Unit G2 – Animal Health**

# OUTLINE

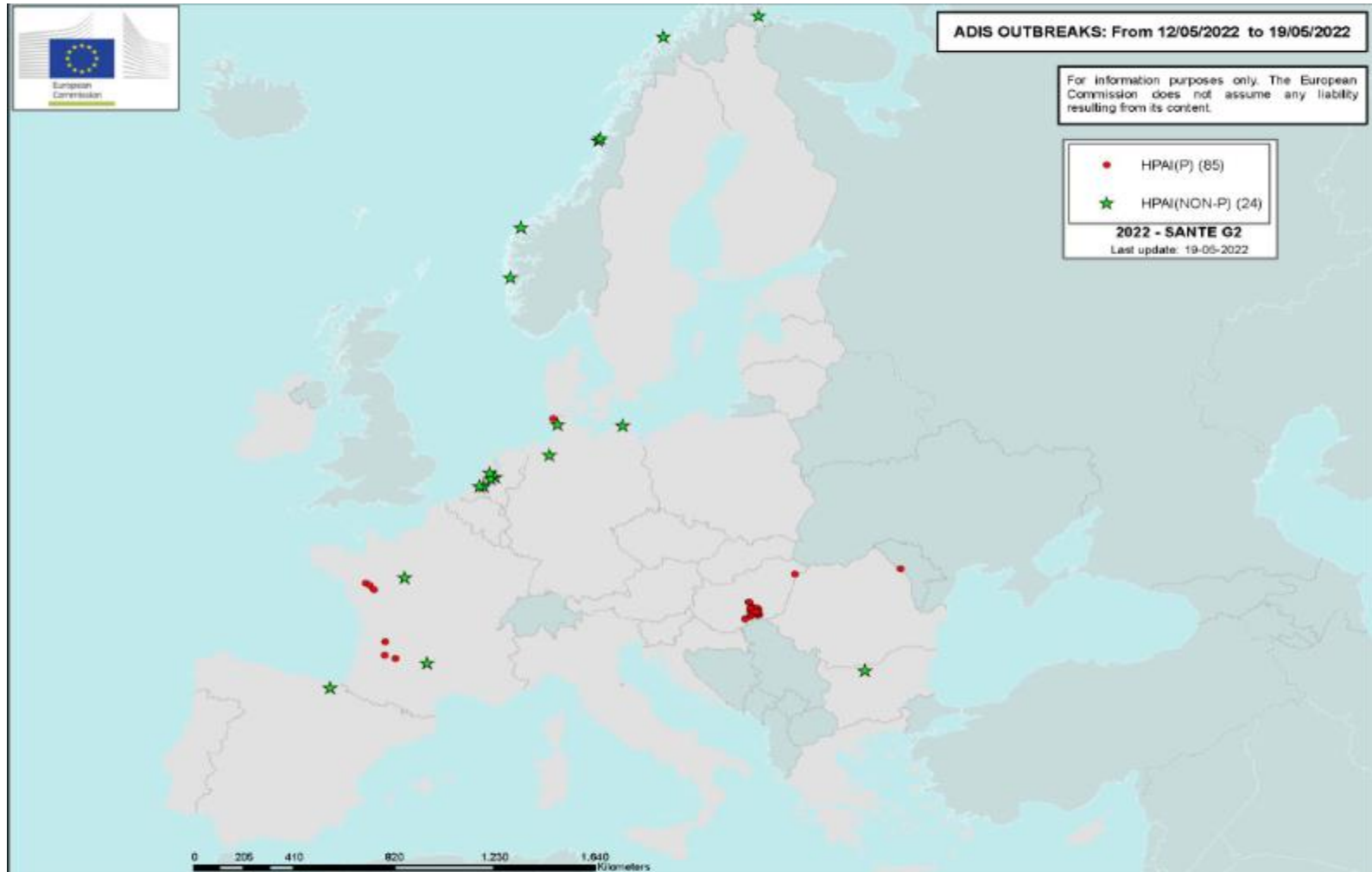
1. Current epidemiological situation
2. Summary of HPAI epidemic seasons
3. State of play of the EU rules on vaccination against HPAI

# Current epidemiological situation

# EU situation Oct. 2021 – May 2022

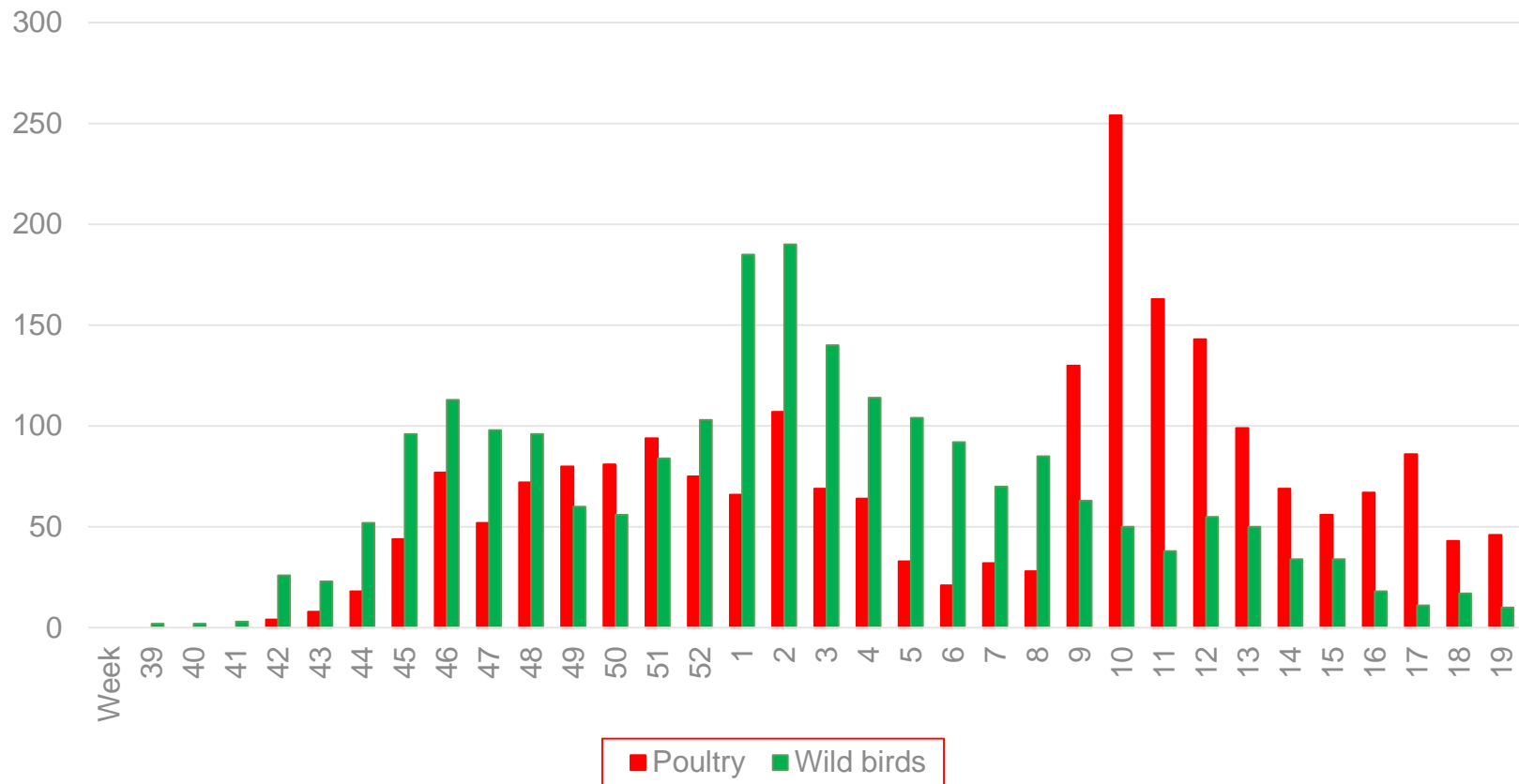


# EU situation last week



# HPAI outbreaks per week

## 2021-2022 epidemic season

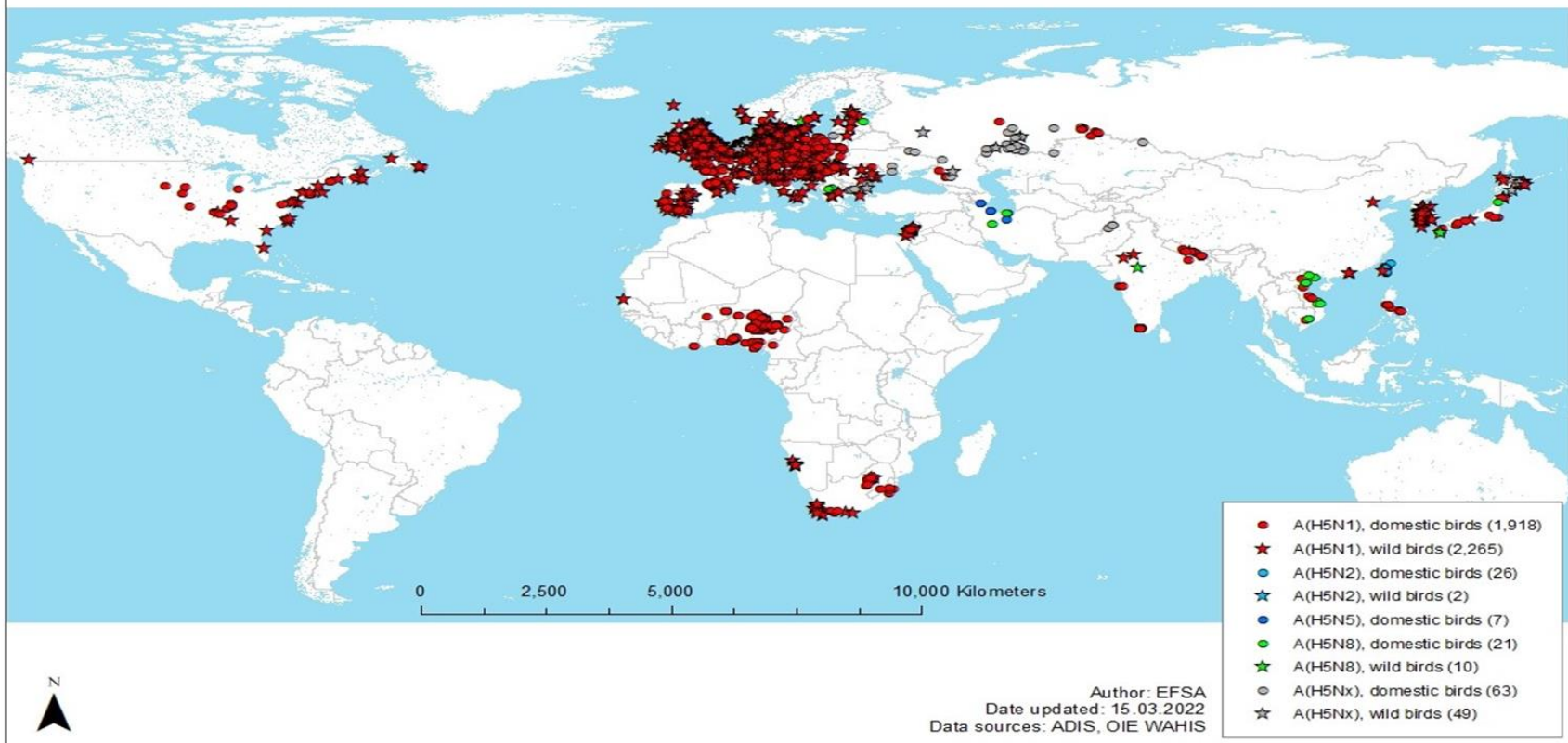


# Worldwide situation

HPAI detections in domestic and wild birds from July to September 2021 (191)



HPAI detections in domestic and wild birds from October 2021 to March 2022 (4,361)

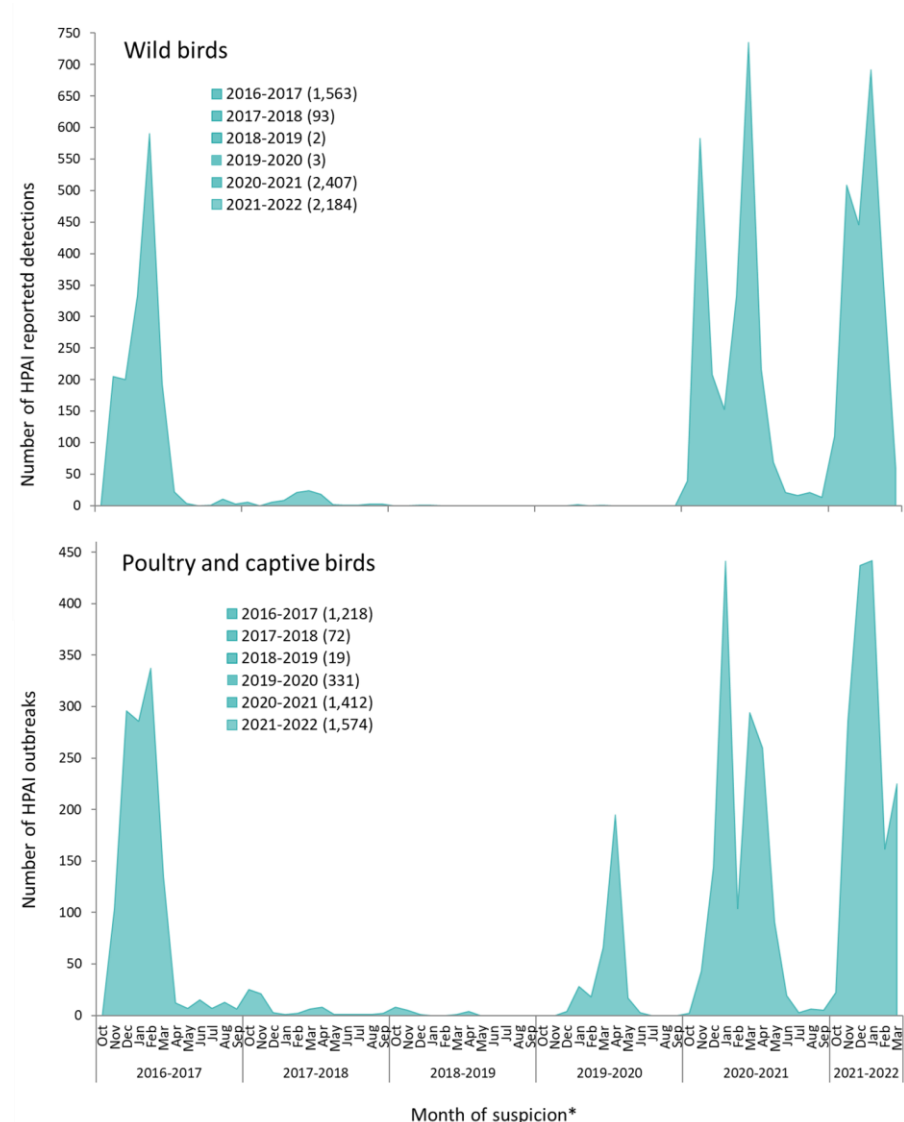


# Summary of HPAI epidemic seasons



# HPAI in Europe in birds 2016 - 2022

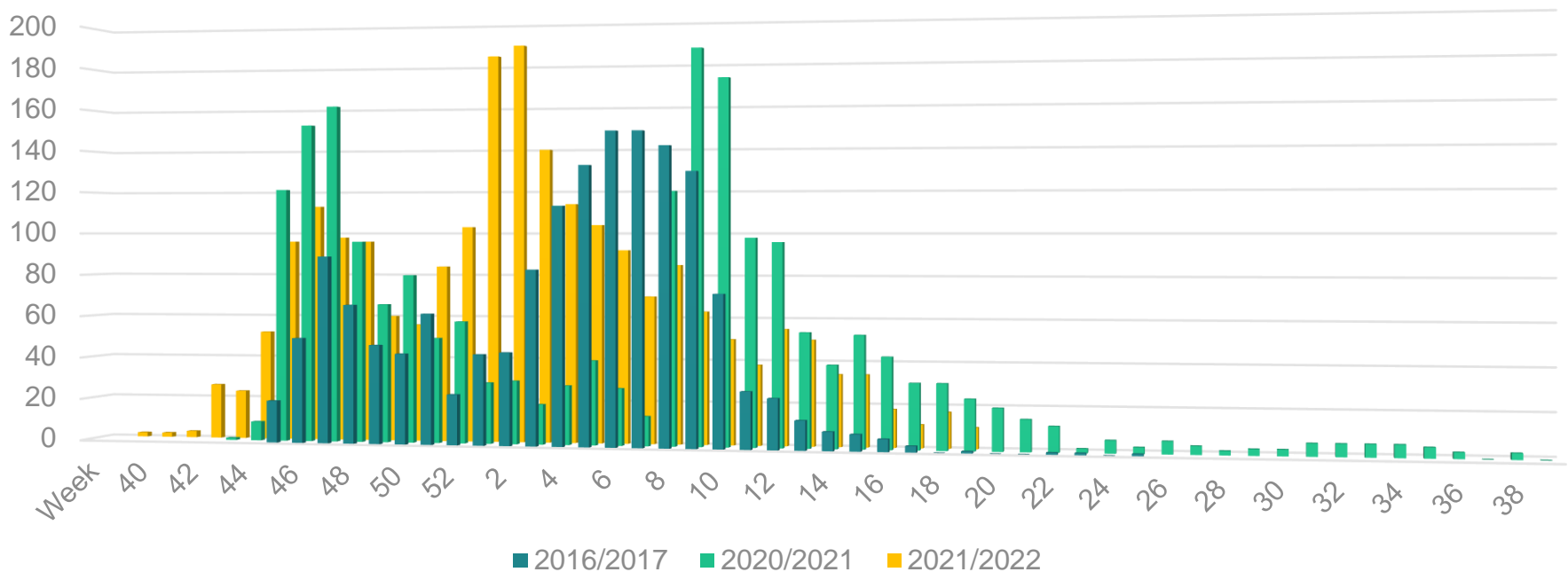
- Distribution of HPAI virus detections reported in EU/EEA and the UK by epidemic seasons and month of suspicion
- 1 Oct 2016 – 15 Mar 2022 (10,878)



\*When the date of suspicion is not available then the date of confirmation is used to assign the month of suspicion.

Source: EFSA/ECDC/EURL avian influenza reports [https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1831-4732.avianinfluenza](https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1831-4732.avianinfluenza)

# HPAI detections in wild birds/ week in different epidemic seasons



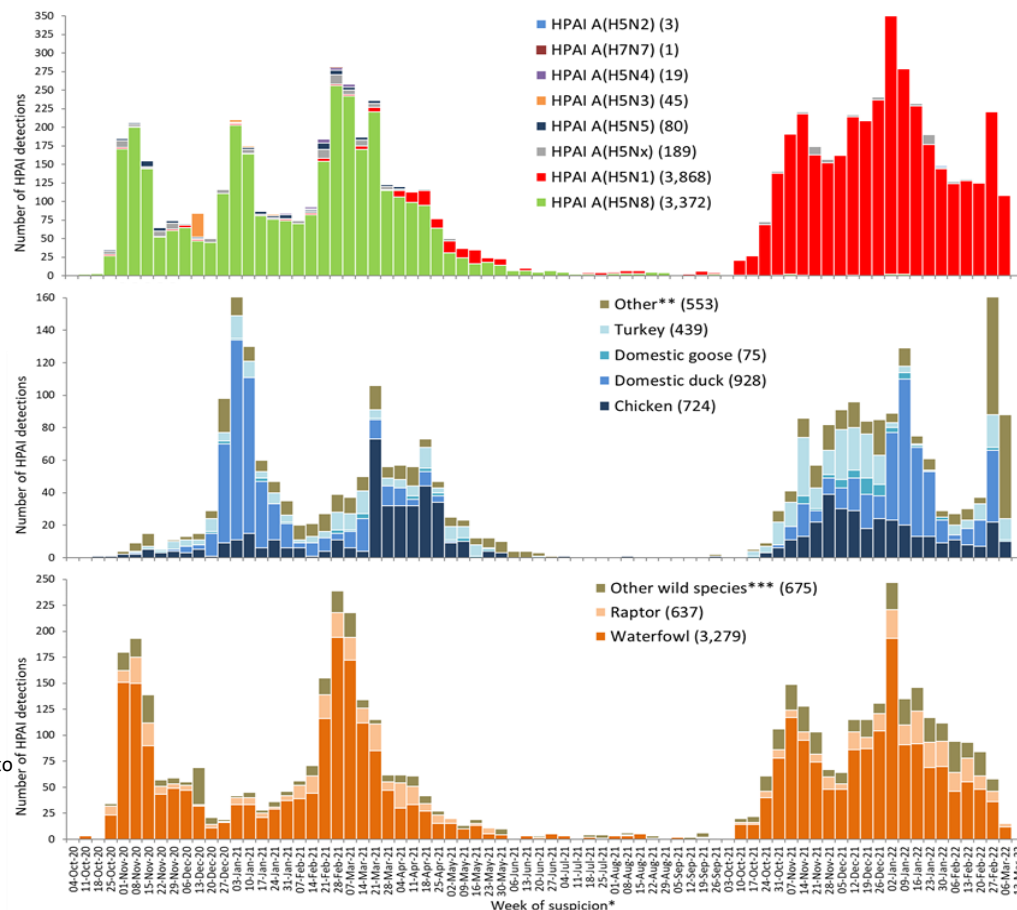
# HPAI detections 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Distribution of total number of HPAI virus detections reported in Europe by week of suspicion (dates indicate the first day of the week) and

- A. virus **subtype** (4,647)
- B. affected **poultry** categories (1,614)
- C. affected **wild bird** categories (2,920)

5 Oct 2020 – 15 Mar 2022

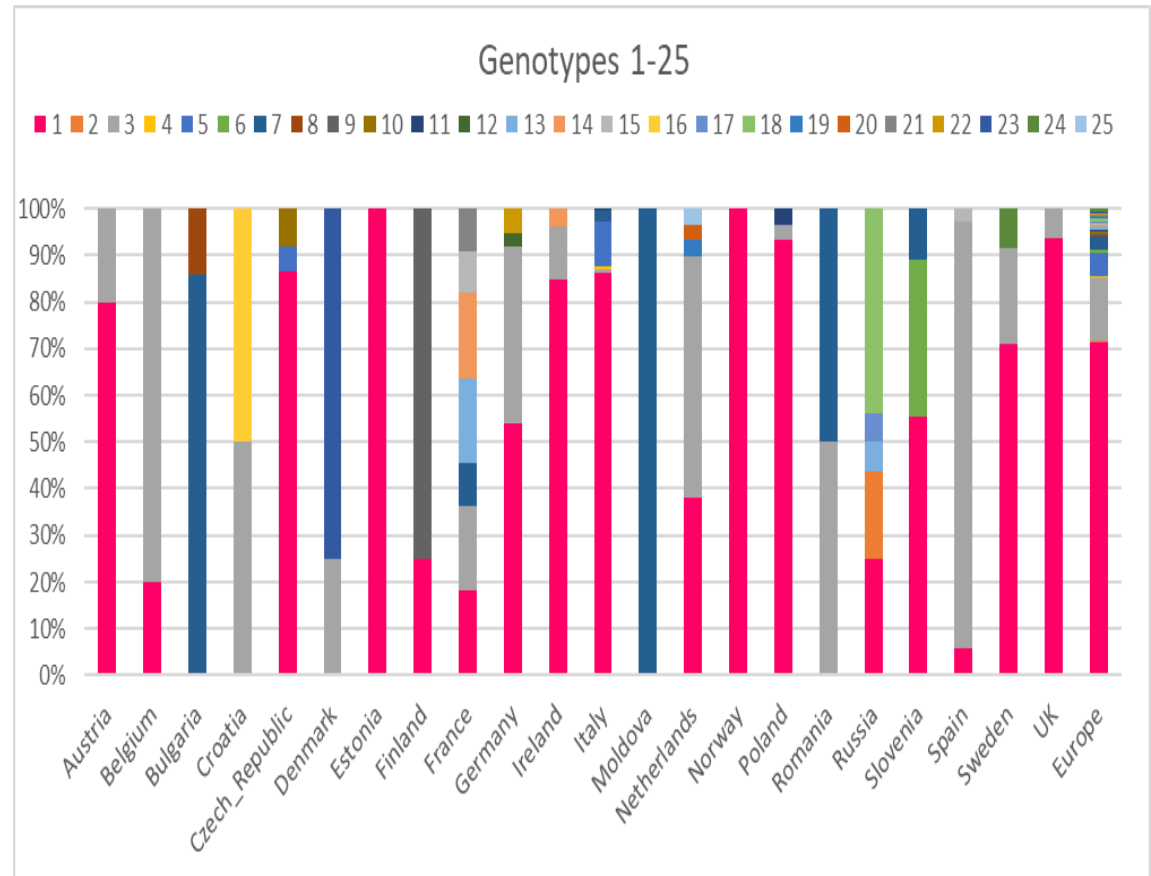
\* When the date of suspicion is not available then the date of confirmation is used to assign the week of suspicion. \*\* 'Other domestic species' category contains mixed, unknown bird species, or categories different from those displayed (i.e guinea fowl, peacock, pheasant and quail). \*\*\* 'Other wild species' category contains mixed, unknown bird species, or categories different from those displayed



Source: EFSA/ECDC/EURL avian influenza reports <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/9989>

# HPAI viruses in 2021/2022 epidemic season

- **H5N1 (predominant)**, H5N2, H5N3 and H5N8
- a **persistent circulation of the genotype A(H5N1)** from previous epidemic season
- **21 new A(H5N1), one A(H5N2) and one A(H5N3) genotypes emerged in EU** starting from mid-November 2021 by multiple inter- and intra-subtype reassortment events
- **no zoonotic potential so far** but mutations associated with increased potential to infect and replicate in mammalian cells were detected



# HPAI epidemics in EU, in figures

Epidemic season	Number of Member States where HPAI detected in wild birds and or poultry	HPAI virus serotypes	Wild birds detections	Poultry outbreaks	Number of poultry affected in outbreaks
2016/2017	22	H5N5, H5N6, <b>H5N8</b>	1563	1132	~ 9 million
2020/2021	24	H5N1, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, <b>H5N8</b>	2330	1241	> 23 million
<b>2021/2022*</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>H5N1</b> , H5N2, H5N3, H5N8	<b>2475</b>	<b>2242**</b>	<b>&gt; 43.5 million</b>

- Until 3 March 2022
- \*\* Of which 1323 in FR



# Conclusions

- 2021 - 2022 the **worst ever HPAI epidemic in poultry in EU**
- **increase in genetic diversity of the virus** as result of multiple reassortant events
- recurrent clusters in areas with high density of certain poultry sectors with risky practices during production: fattening ducks for foie gras and fattening turkeys

**Risk period is not yet over**, infected wild birds continue to be detected almost in all parts of EU.

# State of play of the EU rules on vaccination against HPAI

# Future initiatives for vaccination against HPAI

- The **AHL** changes the paradigm and **allows for vaccination** of animals as a
  - ✓ Preventive
  - ✓ Emergency vaccination (as a reaction to an outbreak)
  - The Commission is working on the delegated act to provide stable legal framework for MSs to use such possibility
  
- **Gaps of the scientific knowledge** identified and discussed with MSs
  - The Commission to send mandate to EFSA for a new scientific opinion



# Areas covered by the future rules for vaccination against HPAI

- Vaccination **strategies**
- Type of **vaccine** to be used
- Movement **restrictions** and **other risk mitigation** measures
- Reinforced **surveillance** to support disease free status
- **Recovery** period

# Provisional Timeline

## for availability of the rules vaccination against HPAI

### Consultation with Member States

**Eight Expert Group meetings** between 2020-2022, latest one on 5 May 2022

### Internal COMM Consultations

March-May 2022 (**completed**)

### Next steps

- **Public feedback:** May-June 2022
- **Translation:** June-August 2022
- **Adoption by the COMM:** August-September 2022
- **EP and Council objection period:** September-October 2022
- **OJ Publication:** November-December 2022

# Thank you for your attention



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