

# Monitoring illegal poisoning incidents in Hungary

IKB workshop

19/09/2022

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# PannonEagle Life+ project (LIFE15 NAT/HU000902)

Project duration: 2016.10.01-2022.03.31

Total budget: 3 583 577 € (75% EU contribution)

Coordinating beneficiary:  
BirdLife Hungary (MME)

Associated beneficiaries:

Kiskunsági National Park Directorate, Hungary

Hortobágyi National Park Directorate, Hungary

Vychodoslovenská distribučná a.s (VSD), Slovakia

Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Slovakia

Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO) – Czech Republic

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic - Czech Republic

BirdLife Österreich – Austria

WWF Österreich - Austria

Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia – Serbia

Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province - Serbia

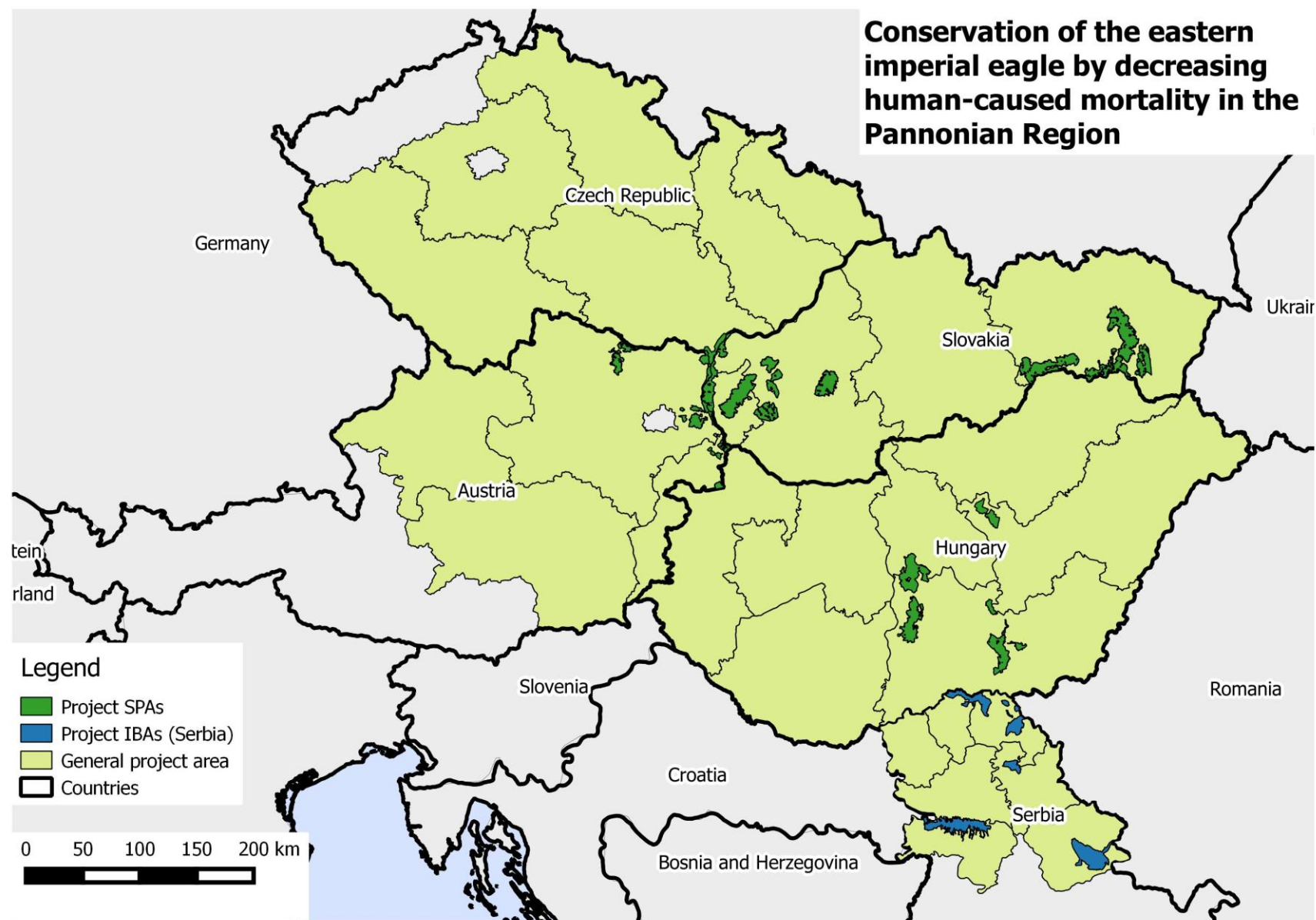


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# PannonEagle Life+ project area

**Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region**



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# Establishment of specialized dog-units in three countries

- altogether four units with 6 search dogs were established: Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia
- Cooperation with conservation dogs in Austria
- Sniffing the carcasses and the most-used pesticides
- field searches – according to the national protocol – data records collected to PannonEagle bird crime database



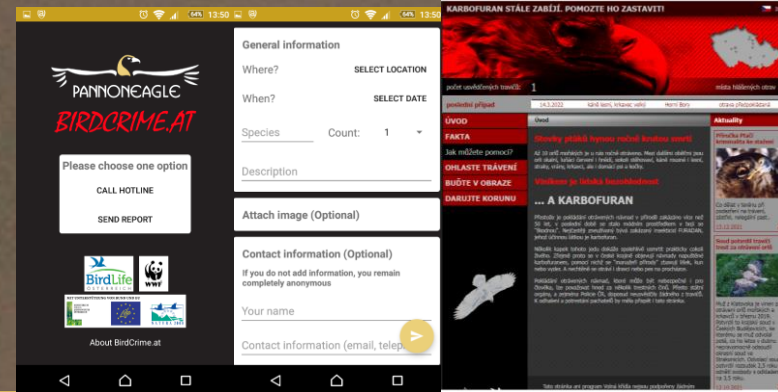
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# Establish stakeholder network and best-practice protocols

## National reporting surfaces

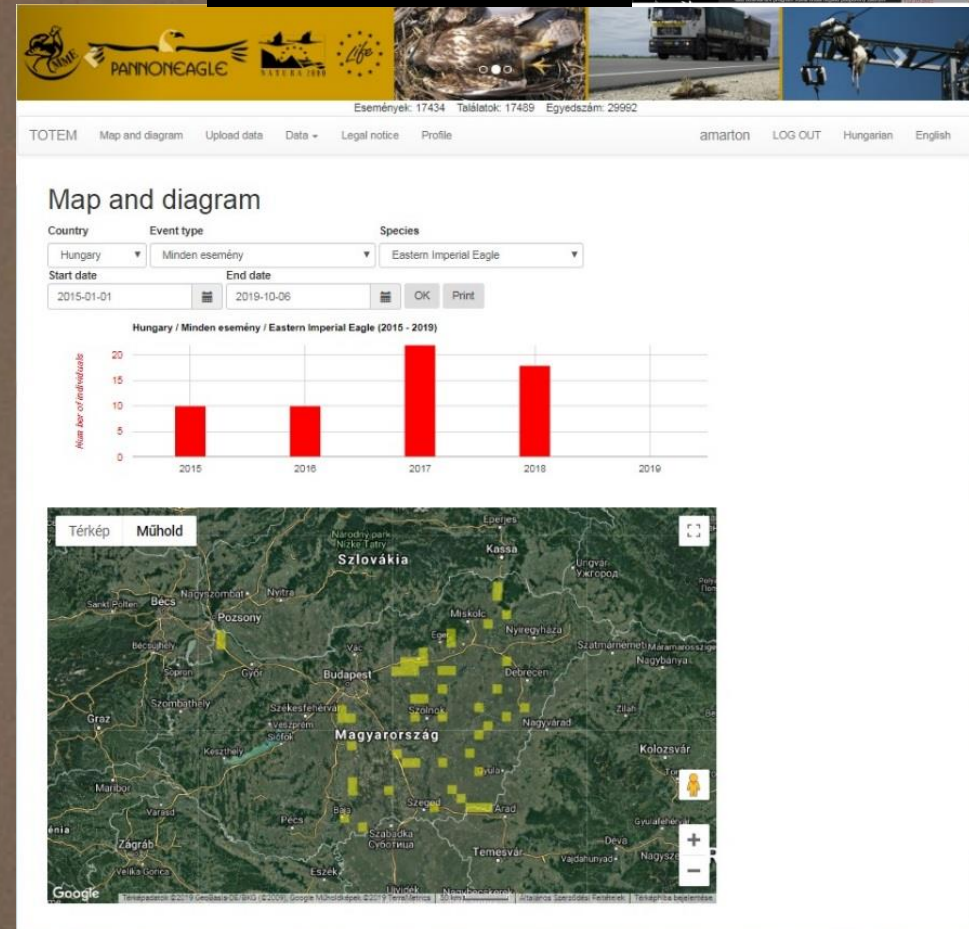
- Birdcrime App produced in Austria
- Reporting hotlines
- <https://www.karbofuran.cz/>
- Cooperation with national/regional laboratories



## Regional bird crime database TOTEM

<https://totem.mme.hu/>

- PannonEagle data is focused on bird poisoning and imperial eagle
- 498 cases from the Pannonian region (from 2016-2019)
- **339** poisoning or suspected poisoning
- 33 imperial eagle, 52 WTE
- 229 police case



# Establishment of dog unit in Hungary

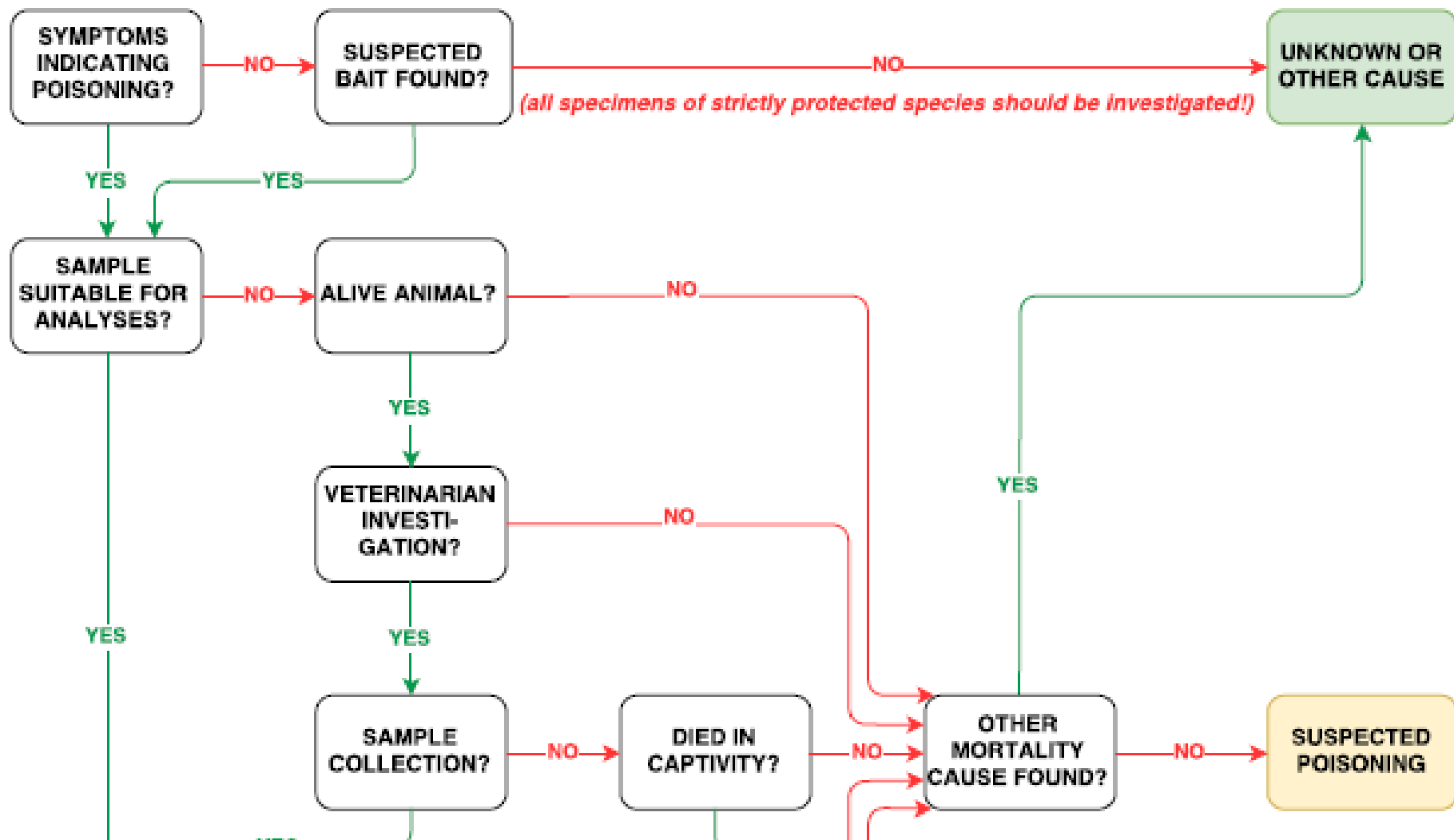
2013 – **Helicon Life+ project**  
- First training of a search dog (Falco) and handler (Gábor Deák) for finding both the carcasses and the most used poison (carbofuran phorate) at the Police Training Department

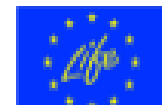
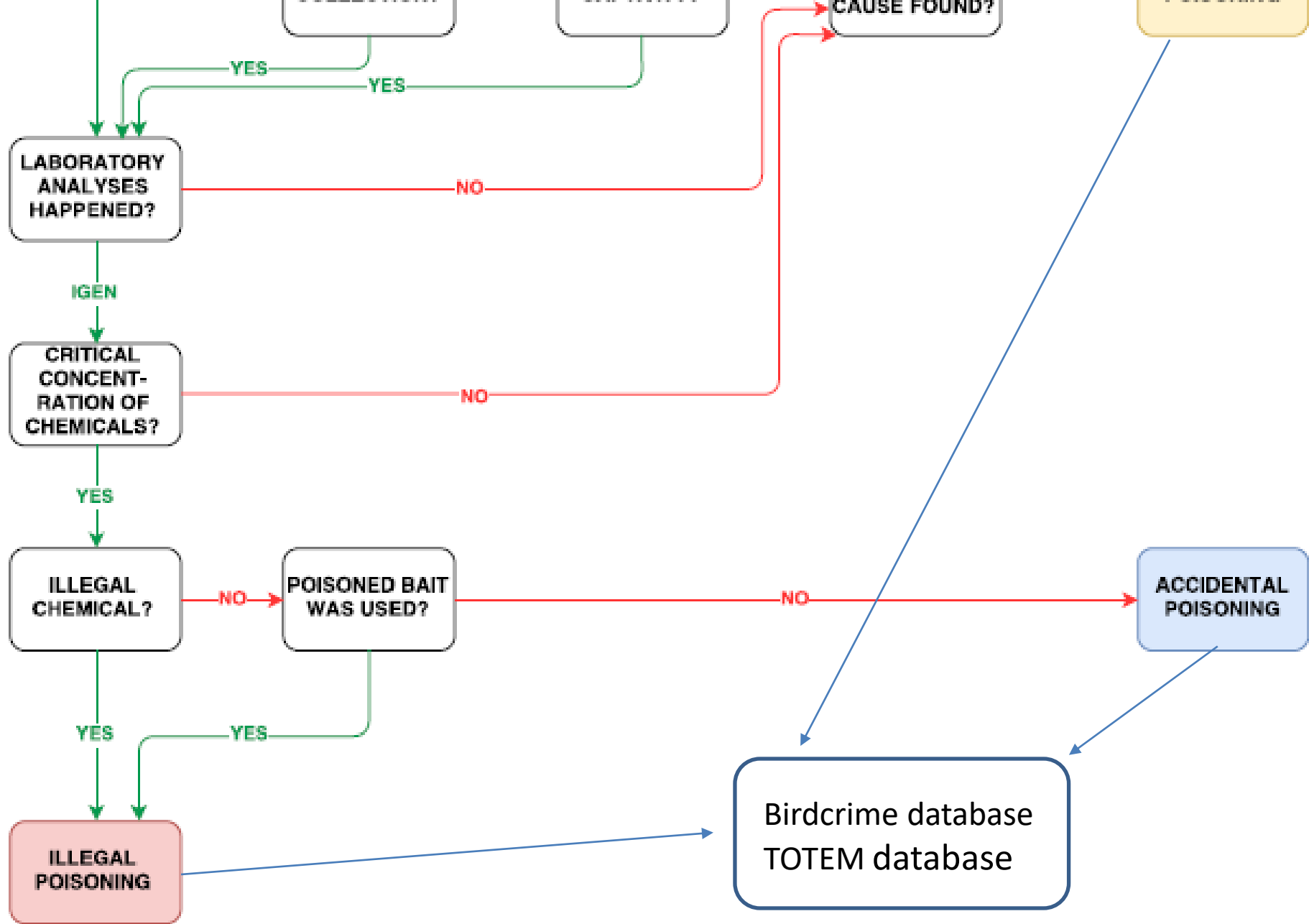
2016 – **PannonEagle Life+**  
second dog, (Carlo)  
third dog (Hella)



# Poisoning field protocol for Hungary

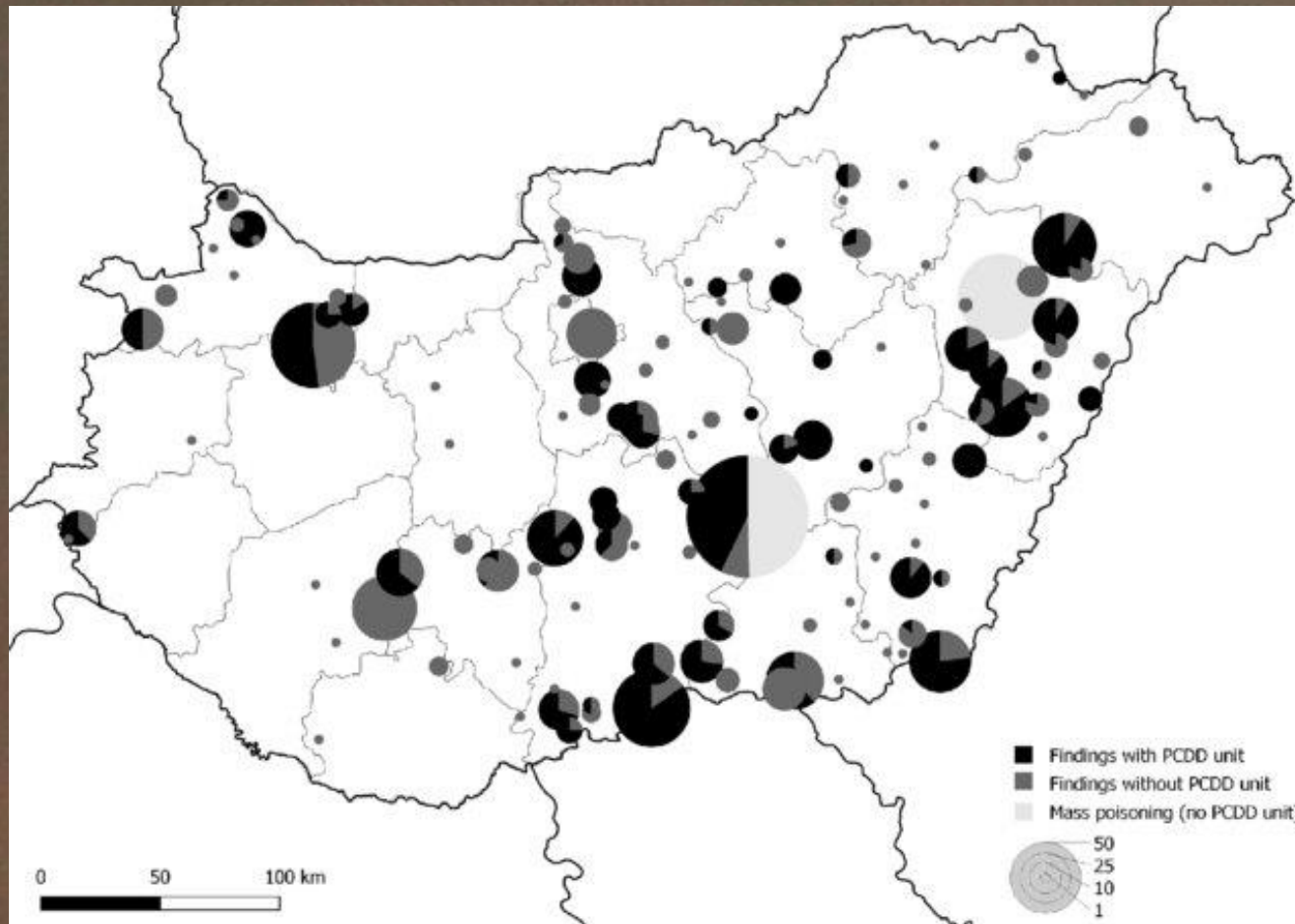
## Suggested protocols and definitions in case of suspected wildlife poisoning (working version, February 2017)







# Pesticide poisoning findings in Hungary



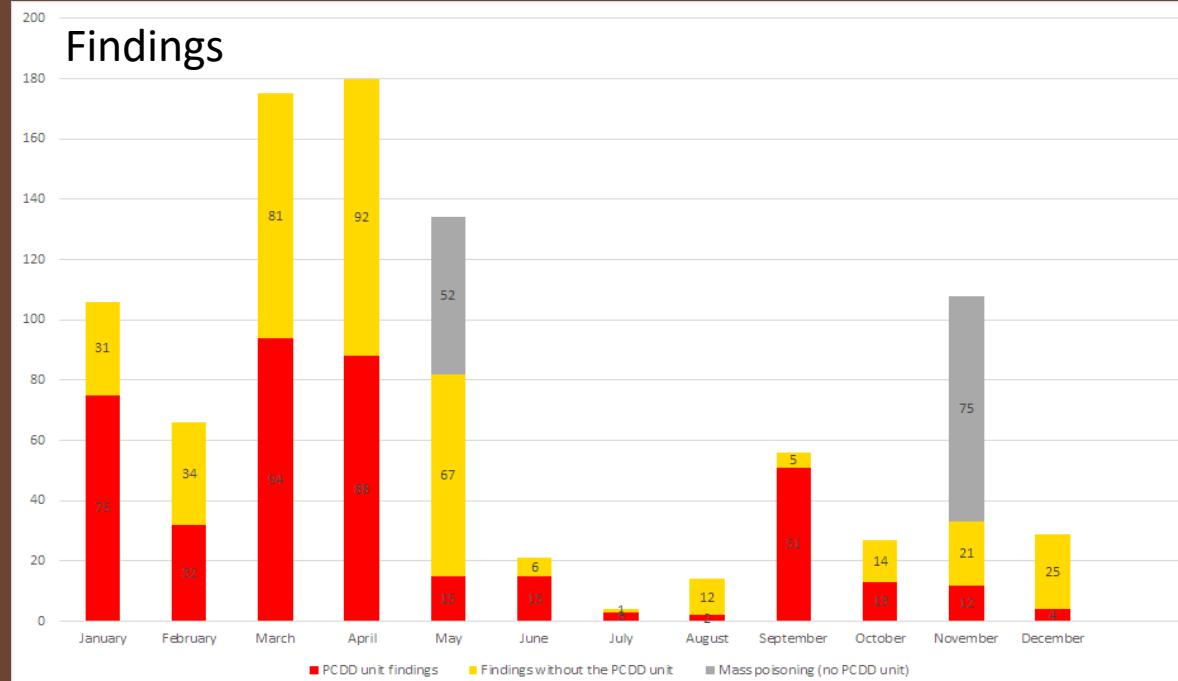
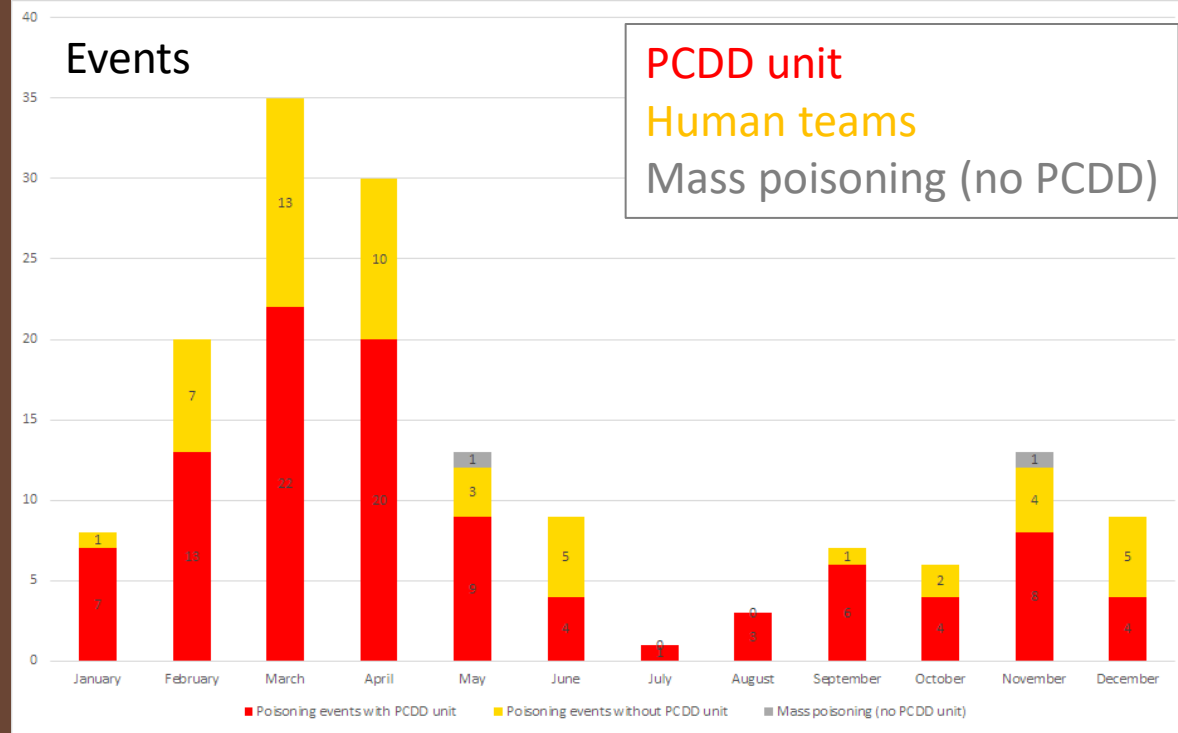
Distribution of pesticide poisoning findings with and without the PCDD unit in Hungary between August 2013 and August 2020 (n = 917).  
[Gábor DEÁK, Márton ÁRVAY and Márton HORVÁTH. Using detection dogs to reveal illegal pesticide poisoning of raptors in Hungary J. Vertebr. Biol. 2020, 69\(3\): 20110 DOI:10.25225/jvb.20110](#)

# Seasonality

- February-April peak
- Coincide with predator control activities by hunters



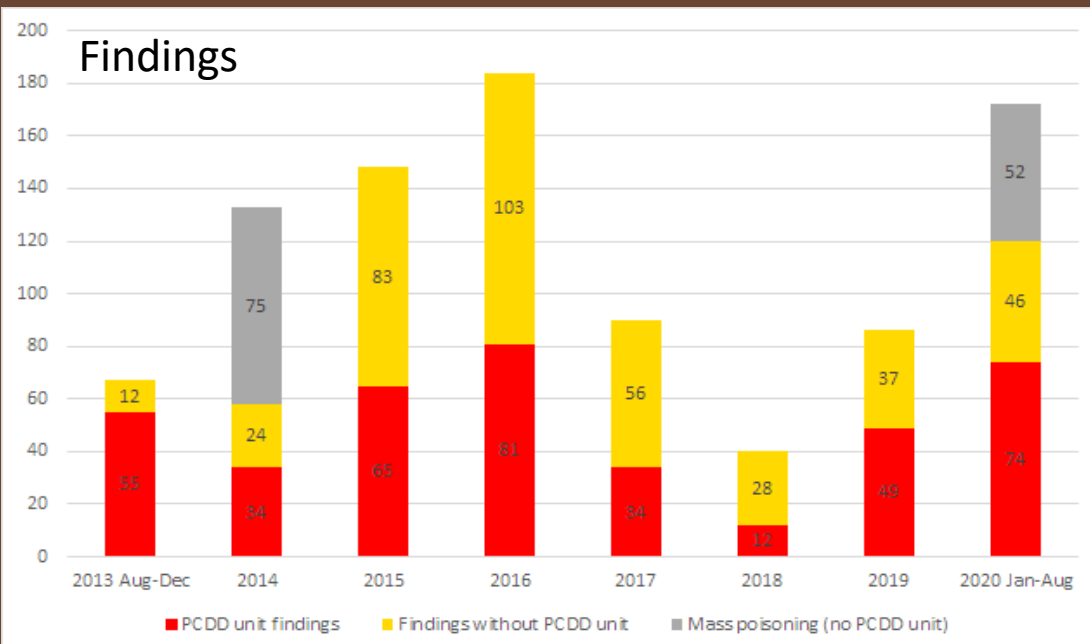
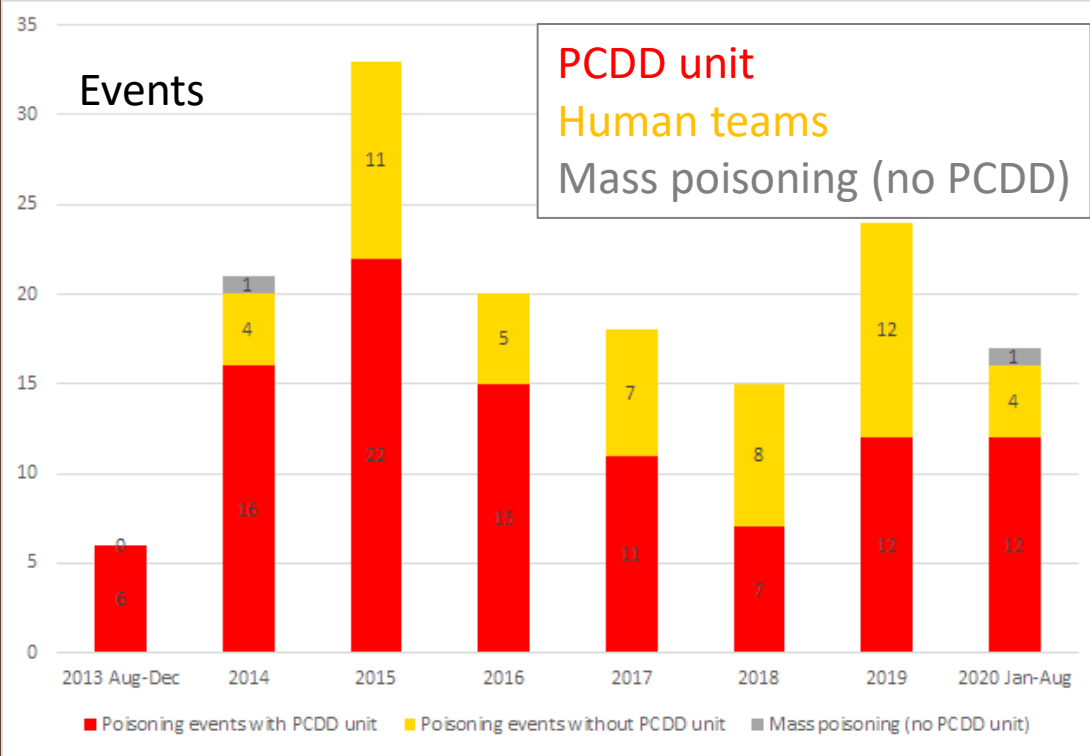
© Gábor Deák



# Annual trend

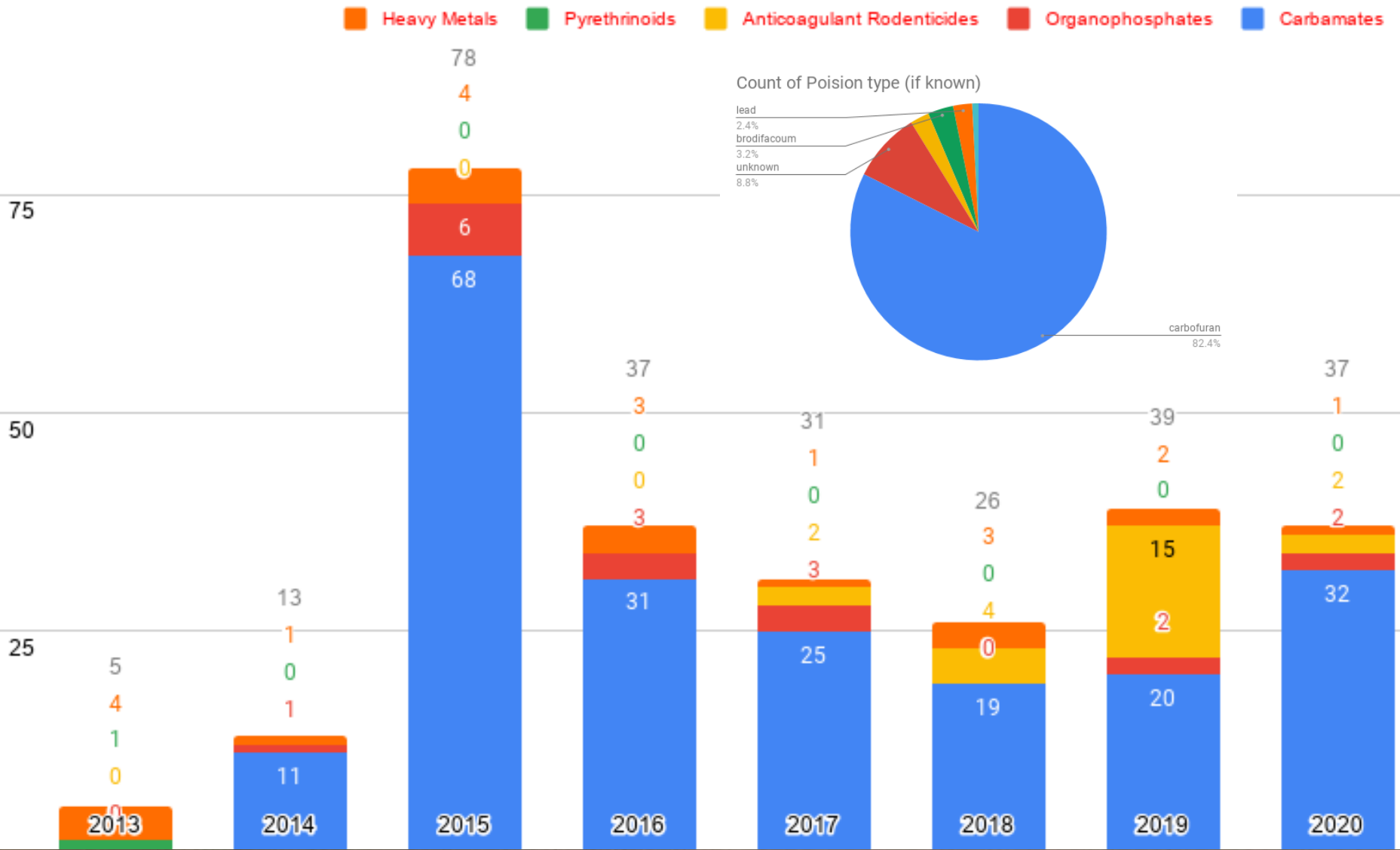


© Ádám Tamás



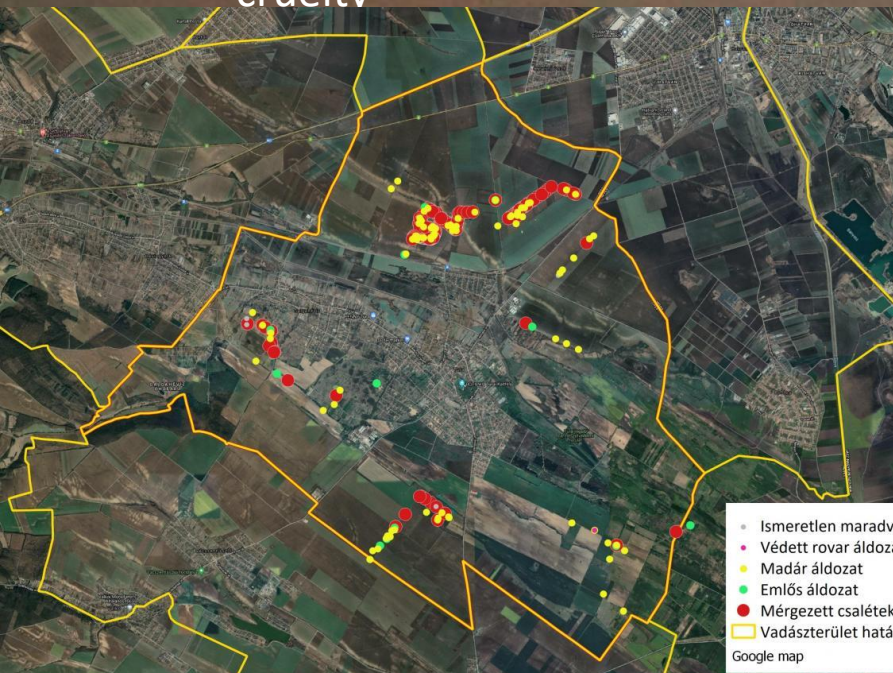
# Pesticide poisoning findings in Hungary

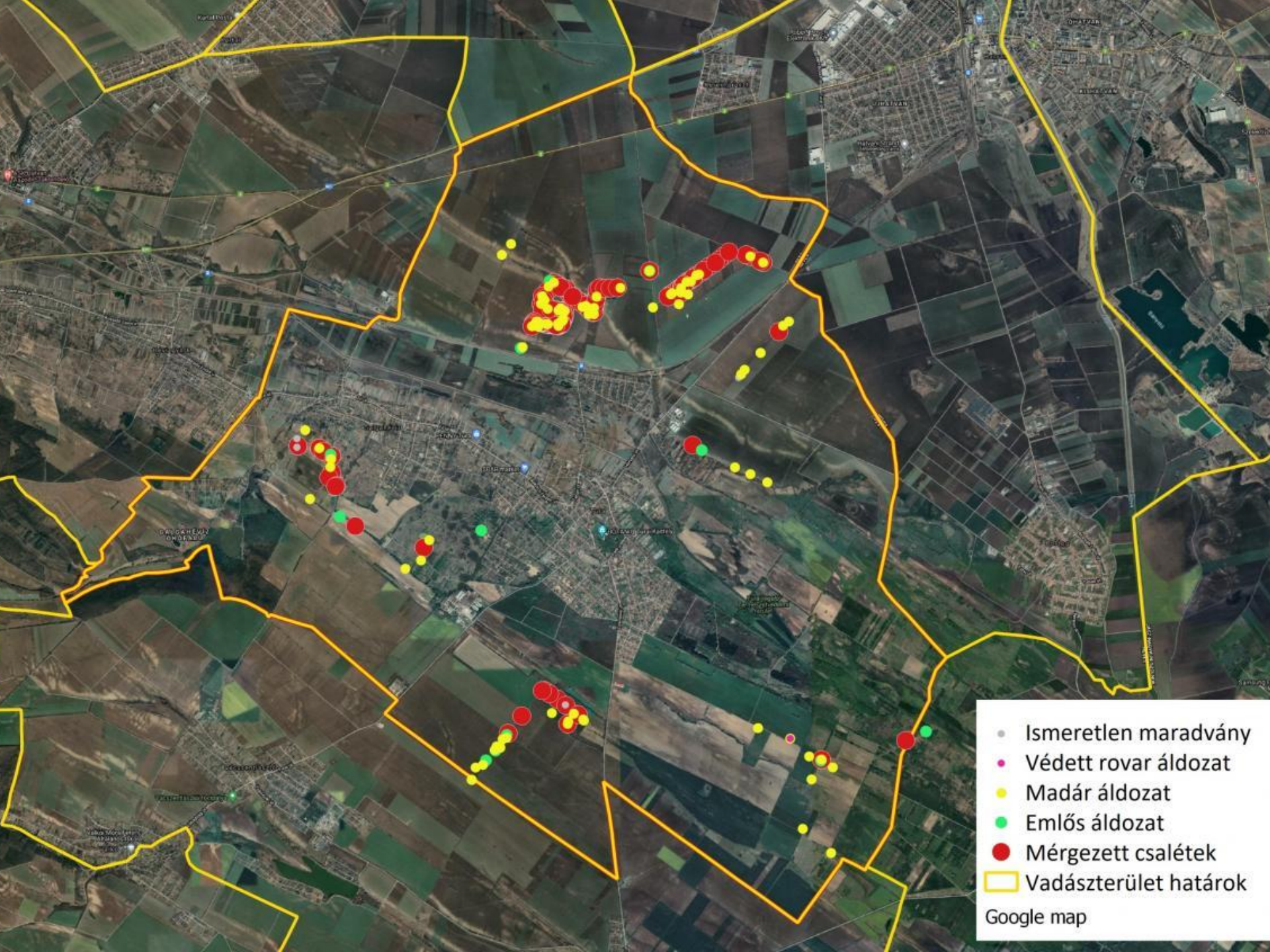
Carbofuran is still the most-used poison against predators 2013-2020



# Case studies – Tura - worst ever poisoning case in Hungary

- Territory of Szent András Dombi Hunting Association
- 77 marsh harriers, 7 common buzzards, 3 ravens, 3 tree pipits, 2 strictly protected black kite and 1 Montagu's harrier, 1 white tailed eagle, 141 baits and 24 additional animal
- The laboratory results also showed record carbamate concentration in the baits (6000 mg/kg!)
- Police investigation is in progress for nature destruction, animal cruelty, poaching, illegal possession of poison.
- Large media fuss, multiple press releases - > 2022 law modification on animals cruelty





- Ismeretlen maradvány
  - Védett rovar áldozat
  - Madár áldozat
  - Emlős áldozat
  - Mérgezett csalétek
  - ▭ Vadászterület határok
- Google map

# Thank you for your attention!

<https://imperialeagle.eu/>

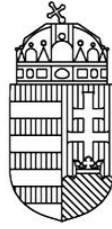
<https://www.facebook.com/PannonEagleLIFE/>

<https://totem.mme.hu/>



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AGRÁRMINISZTERIUM

# Data collection for Scoreboard reporting under the Rome Strategic Plan

András Schmidt

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Head of Natura 2000 Unit, Department for Nature Conservation,  
Ministry of Agriculture

*Methodology for monitoring Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of  
Birds*

19 September 2022





# Scoreboard reporting data sources

- BirdLife Hungary database
- Additional information from National Bureau of Investigation (Riot Police) and hunting authorities

New forum for discussing reporting:

- National Environmental Security Task Force established, led by National Bureau of Investigation (Riot Police)
- Scoreboard questions:
  1. What is the quality of national data about IKB?
  2. How many birds and in which season are estimated to be illegally killed, trapped or traded every year in your country?  
What is the trend?
  3. Are data on the status and scale of IKB cases available?

# BirdLife Hungary database

- Format: Excel
- Data types (field investigation)

Incident identifier number

Year

Month

Day

Coordinates

Incident type (e.g. poisoning, shooting)

Poison type (e.g. carbofuran)

Poison concentration

Species affected

Protection status

Number of individuals affected, by species

Final outcome of field investigation (e.g. found dead, sent to rescue station)

Remarks

# BirdLife Hungary database

- Data types (continued, procedures after field investigation)

Registration number by the national park directorate

Registration number by veterinary

Veterinary institution

Veterinary diagnosis

Name of finder

Name of person to report to police

Police station

Police investigation outcome

Name of court

Verdict

# Scoreboard questions

1. What is the quality of national data about IKB?

Good for poisoning, trapping and shooting incidents, with focus on raptors

2. How many birds and in which season are estimated to be illegally killed, trapped or traded every year in your country?

What is the trend?

Trend for the above cases can be calculated at least from 2013 (2007)

3. Are data on the status and scale of IKB cases available?

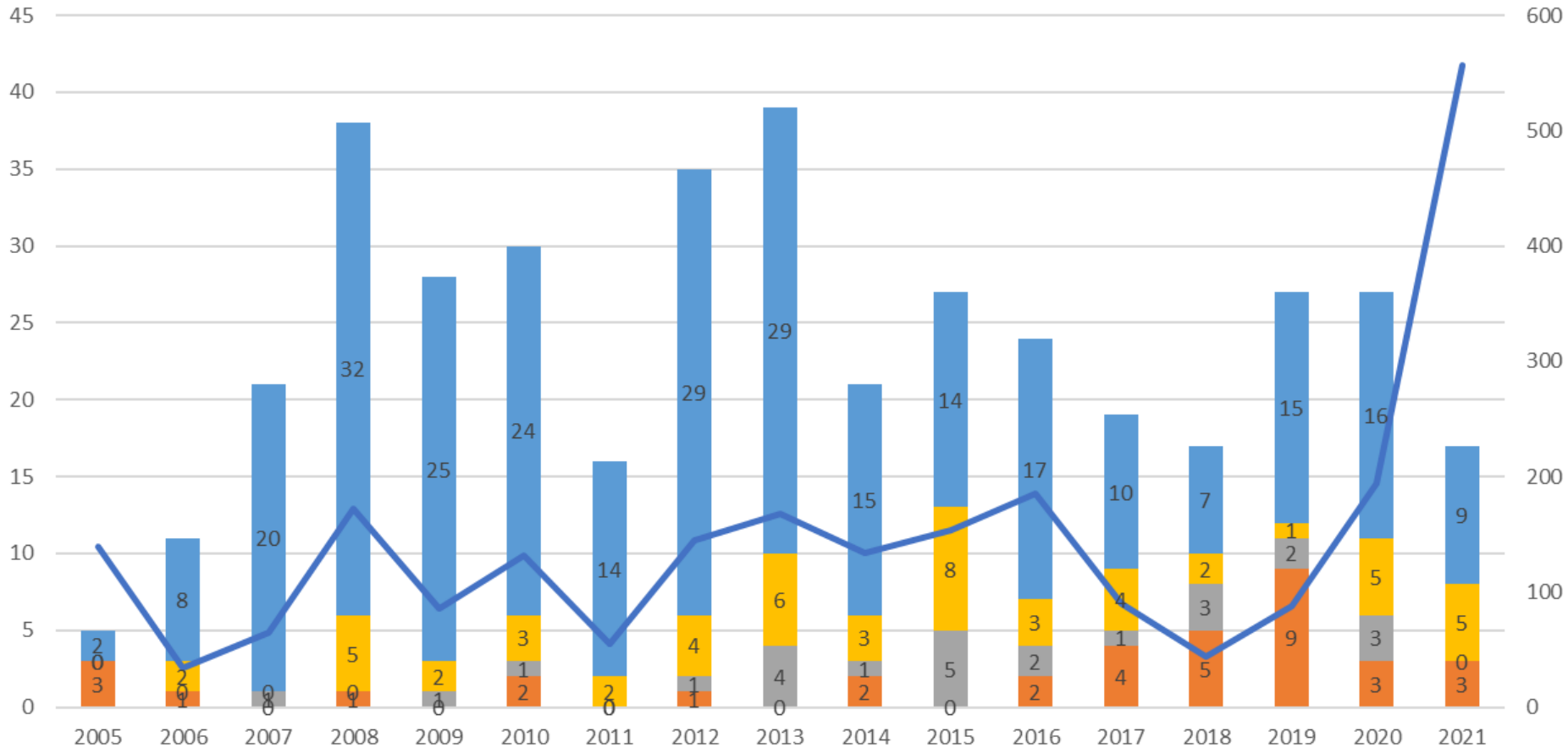
Data on judiciary procedures is deficient; overall scale of IKB is unknown, only cases that have come to light are known



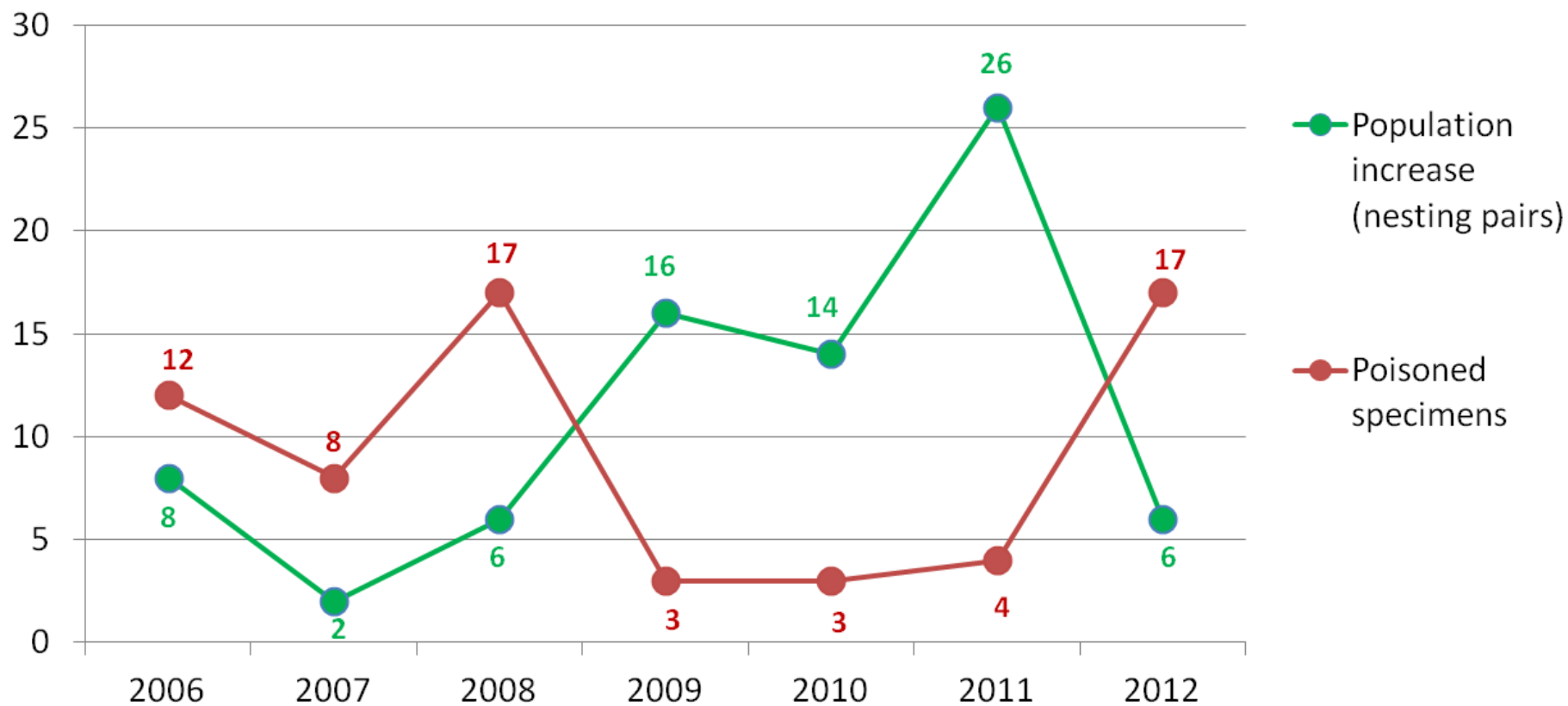
parlagisas.hu  
imperialeagle.hu

# Number of poisoning cases 2005-2021 (n=402)

- Raptor poisoning
- Unknown source
- Accidental poisoning
- Poisoning by farmer
- Number of specimens poisoned



## Changes in the number of poisoned and breeding imperial eagles in Hungary (2005-2012)



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

