

# Managing data on illegal killing of birds

## An example of the Hungarian Bird Crime Database



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# Background

- >70 *eastern imperial eagles* and >90 *white-tailed eagles* have been poisoned in Hungary between 2005 and 2014 (in 2013: ~160 bp, 154 chicks, 10 poisoned IE)
- MME and 8 partner organisations started a LIFE project to manage the problems between 2012 and 2016





# 1.1 Gathering data: Public

- Hot Line: +36-20-251-4404
- Online: [www.imperialeagle.hu](http://www.imperialeagle.hu)
- E-mail: [mergezes@mme.hu](mailto:mergezes@mme.hu)



For an eagle-friendly Hungary!  
A Sasbarát Magyarorszáért!

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Results of the 12th National Eagle Census

Wed, 28/01/2015 - 12:25

The 12th National Eagle Census was organized by MME/Birdlife in collaboration with Directorates of National Parks and other NGOs.

Read more

ESET  
BEJELENTÉS

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BIRDCRIME

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# 1.2 Gathering data: Conservation community

Hungarian Raptor Conservation Council

Anti-Poisoning Working Group

Standardized protocol for 25 organizations

250 rangers & employees, 300 volunteers





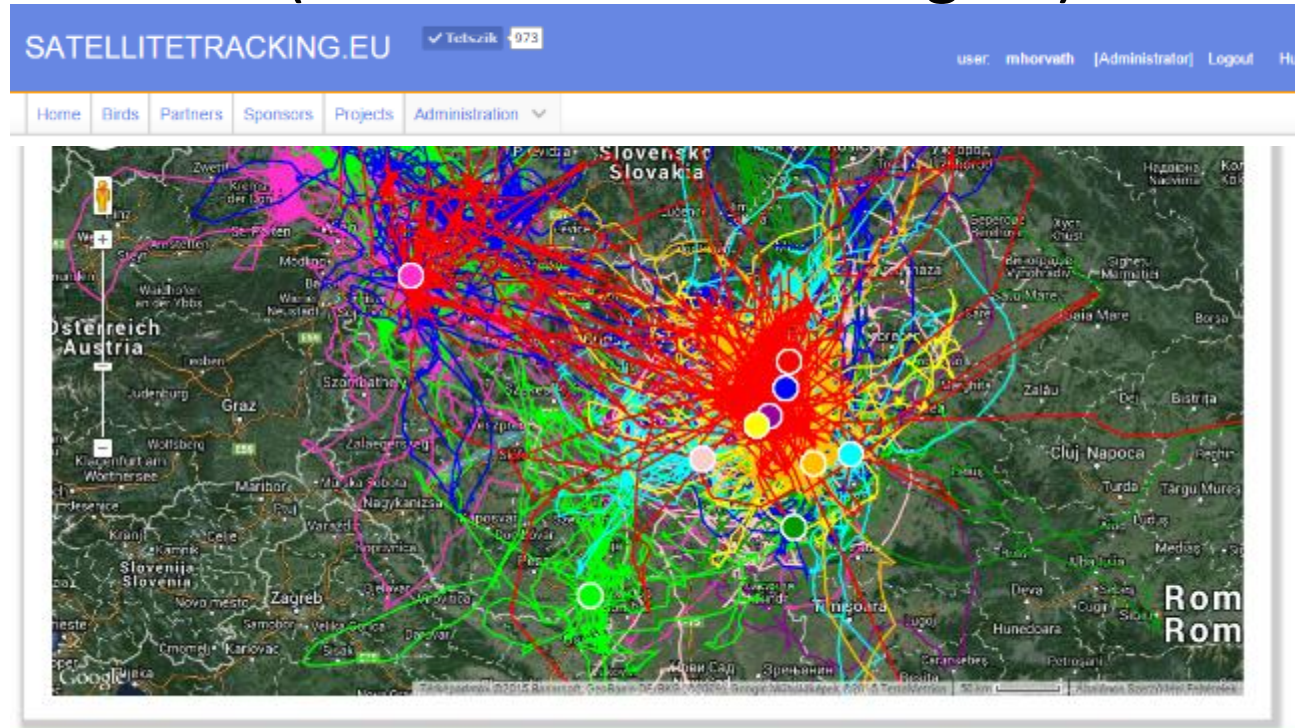
# 1.3 Gathering data: Satellite tagging

40 imperial eagles and further 60 raptors tagged

Continuous monitoring (usually 3 times a day)

Urgent reaction in case of suspicion

More than 400,000 records ([www.satellitetracking.eu](http://www.satellitetracking.eu))



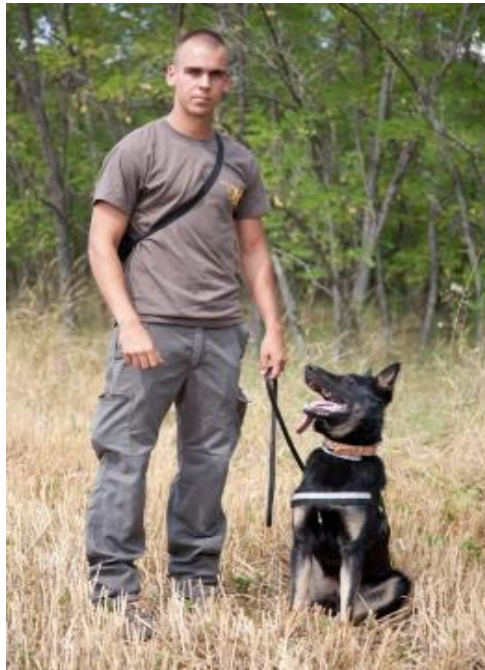
# 1.4 Gathering data: Dog unit

Anti-Poisoning Dog Unit formed in 2013 („Falco”)

All reported poisoning cases are investigated

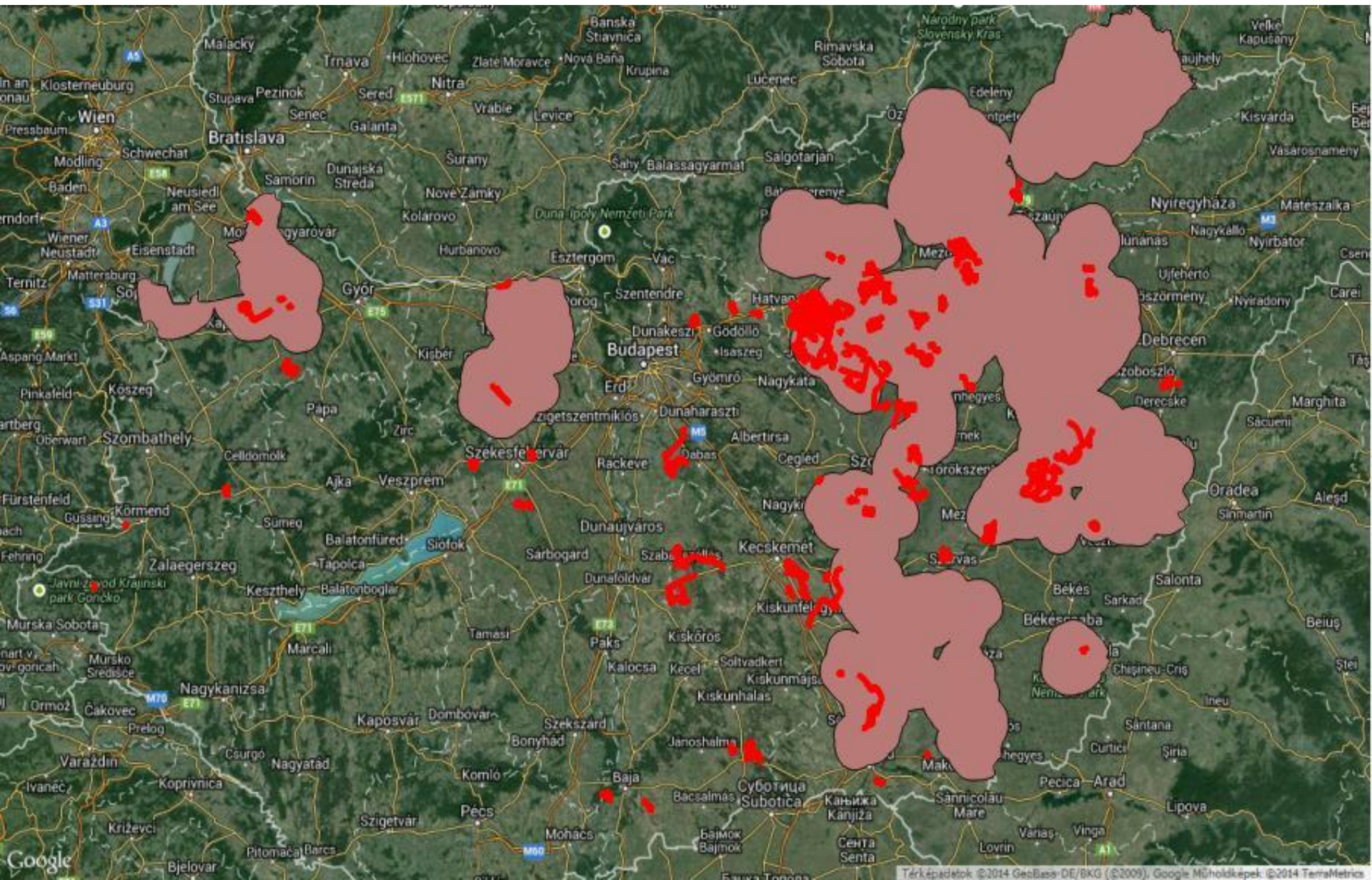
Regular monitoring of 20 project SPAs (3 days a week)

All tracklogs recorded

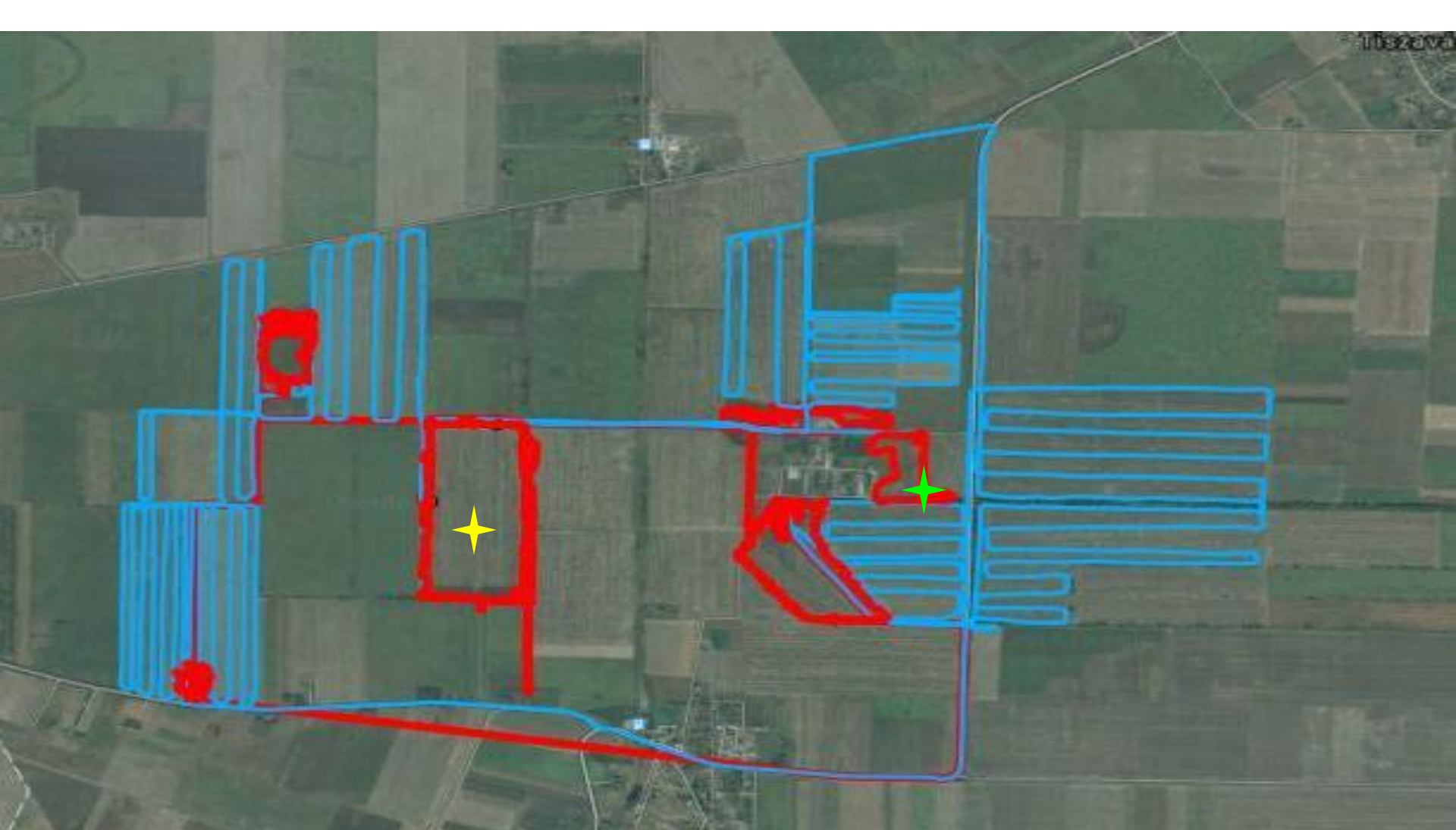




# Dog unit surveys of project SPAs



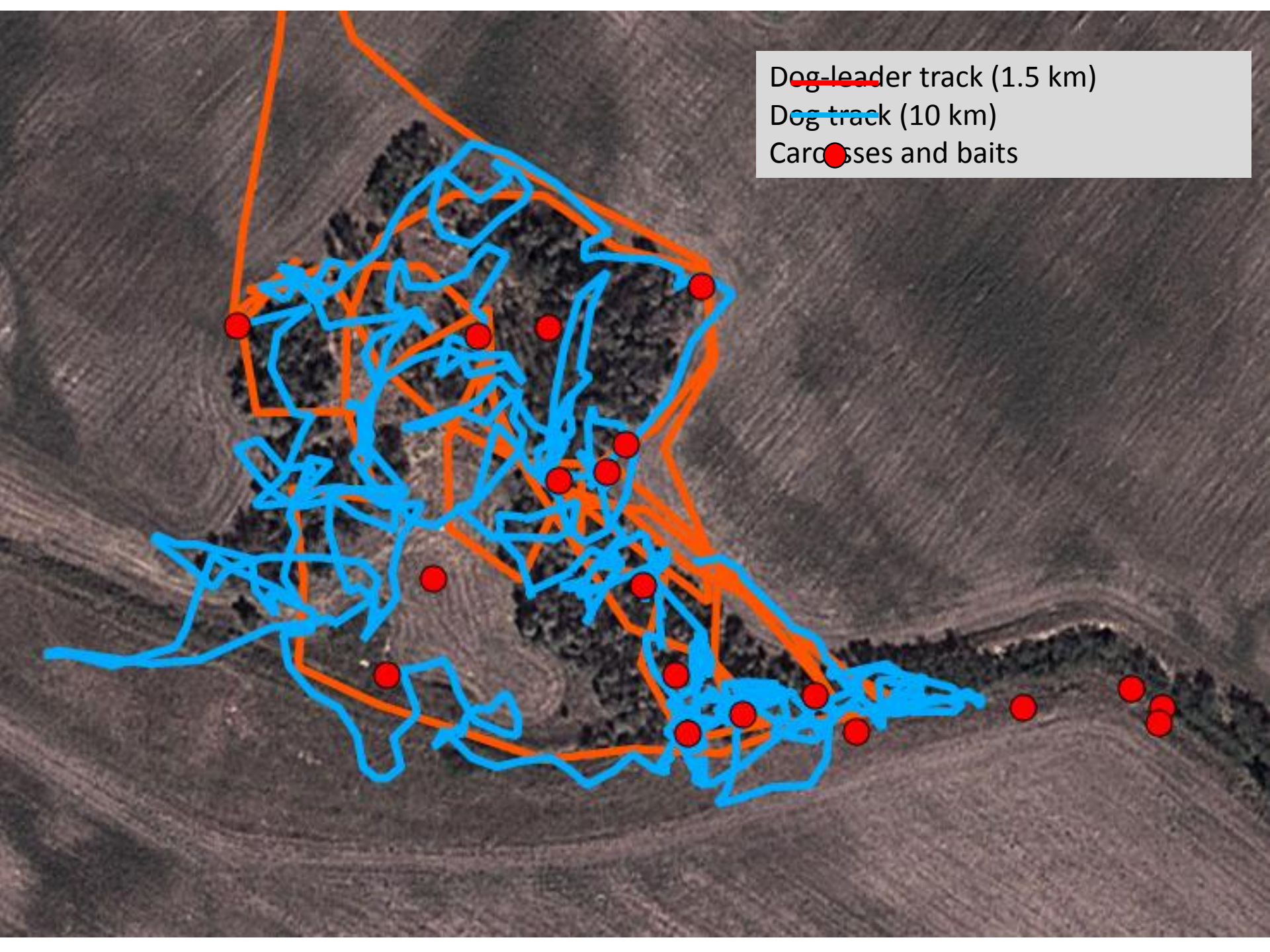




Car survey		
Dog survey		
Poisoned IE		
Poisoned Harrier	bait and	Marsh



Dog-leader track (1.5 km)  
Dog track (10 km)  
Carcasses and baits





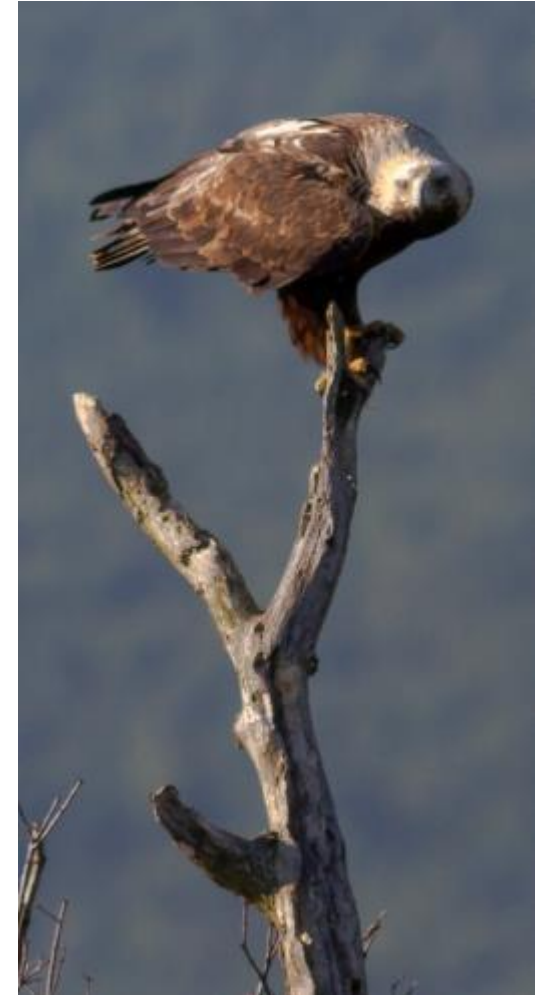
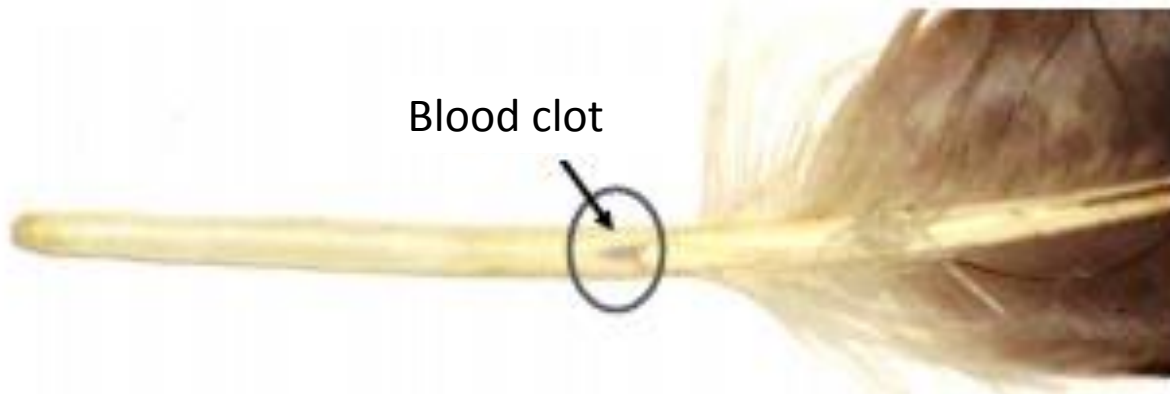
- Rangers found 4 marsh harriers and 3 poisoned eggs
- Dog-unit found further 13 marsh harriers, 1 buzzards and 3 saker falcons underground, and >10 poisoned eggs





# 1.5 Gathering data: Genetic monitoring

- Shed feathers of adults collected since 1997 (covering annually 30-70% of the population)
- DNA fingerprinting of individuals
- Annual turnover calculated
- 2011/2012 and 2012/2013: 12%  
(at Spanish IE, Golden E is only 6-8%)



# 2. Managing data



- All data on detected cases gathered in one national Bird Crime database operated by MME:
  - Field data (date, time, reporter & observers data, species, specimens, baits, GPS coordinates etc.)
  - Veterinarian data (pathology, treatment)
  - National Park Directorate data (field reports, prosecution details)
  - Police data (investigation ID and results)
  - Photos
  - Reports (pdf copies)
- All known bird crimes, but mostly poisoning and shooting
- Recently 650 records (mostly from 2000 onwards)



1650 specimens of 45 species and poisoned baits

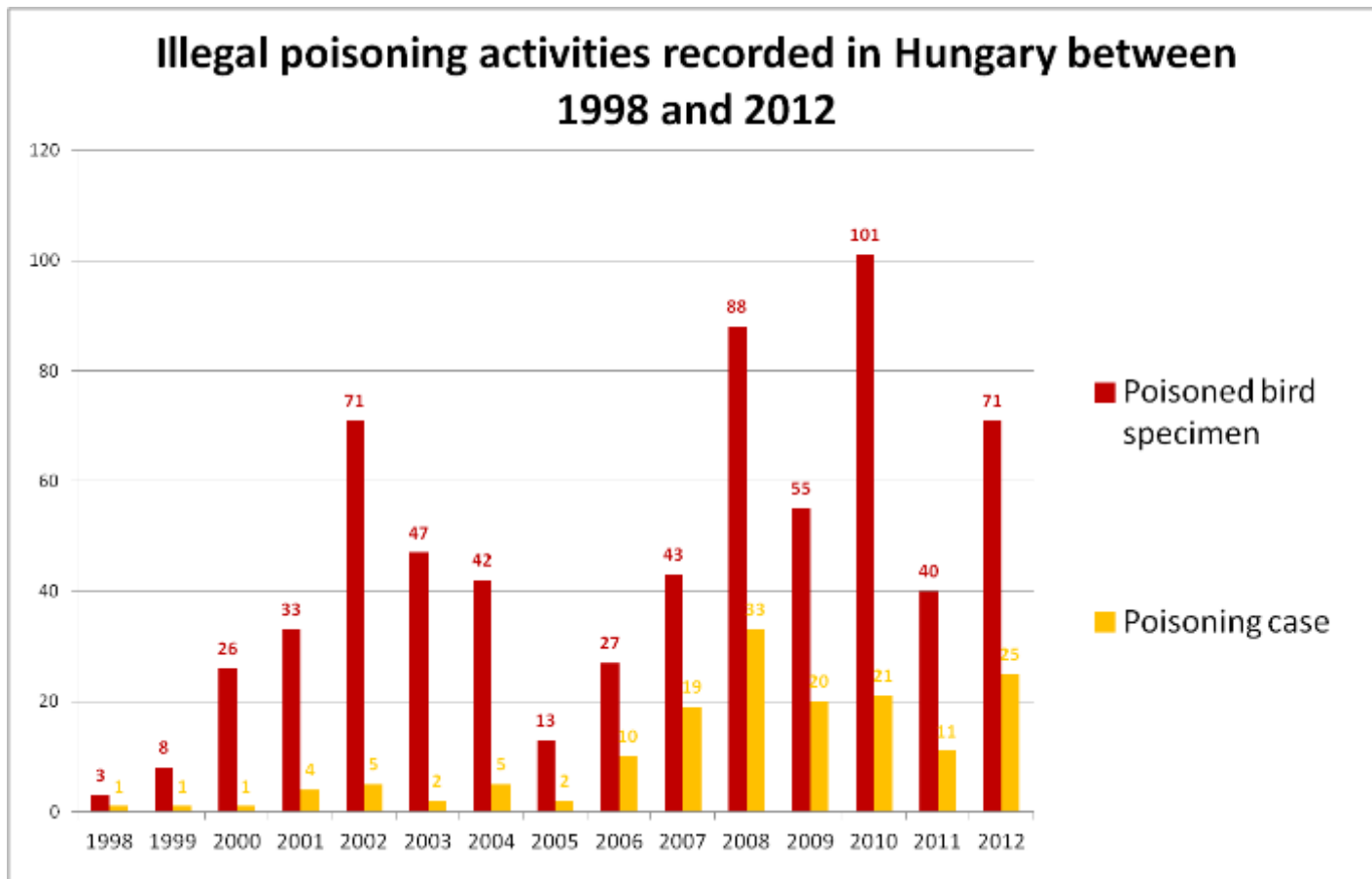


- One person responsible for maintenance (the same as operating the Hot Line and the Dog Unit)
- Only one active version of the database! (archives stored)
- Access for key participants via Cloud (project manager, police coordinator, national park coordinators, veterinarian coordinator)

The image displays a screenshot of a spreadsheet application, likely Microsoft Excel, showing a large data table. The table has numerous columns and rows, with some cells highlighted in yellow. The interface includes a menu bar at the top with options like 'FAJOK', 'TELEPÜLÉSEK', 'LISTÁK', 'TELEP\_Kimut.', 'SAS-ÉV\_kimut2', 'SAS-ÉV\_kimut', and 'ESET-ÉV\_Kimut2'. The bottom status bar shows 'ESETEK' and a progress indicator at 30%.

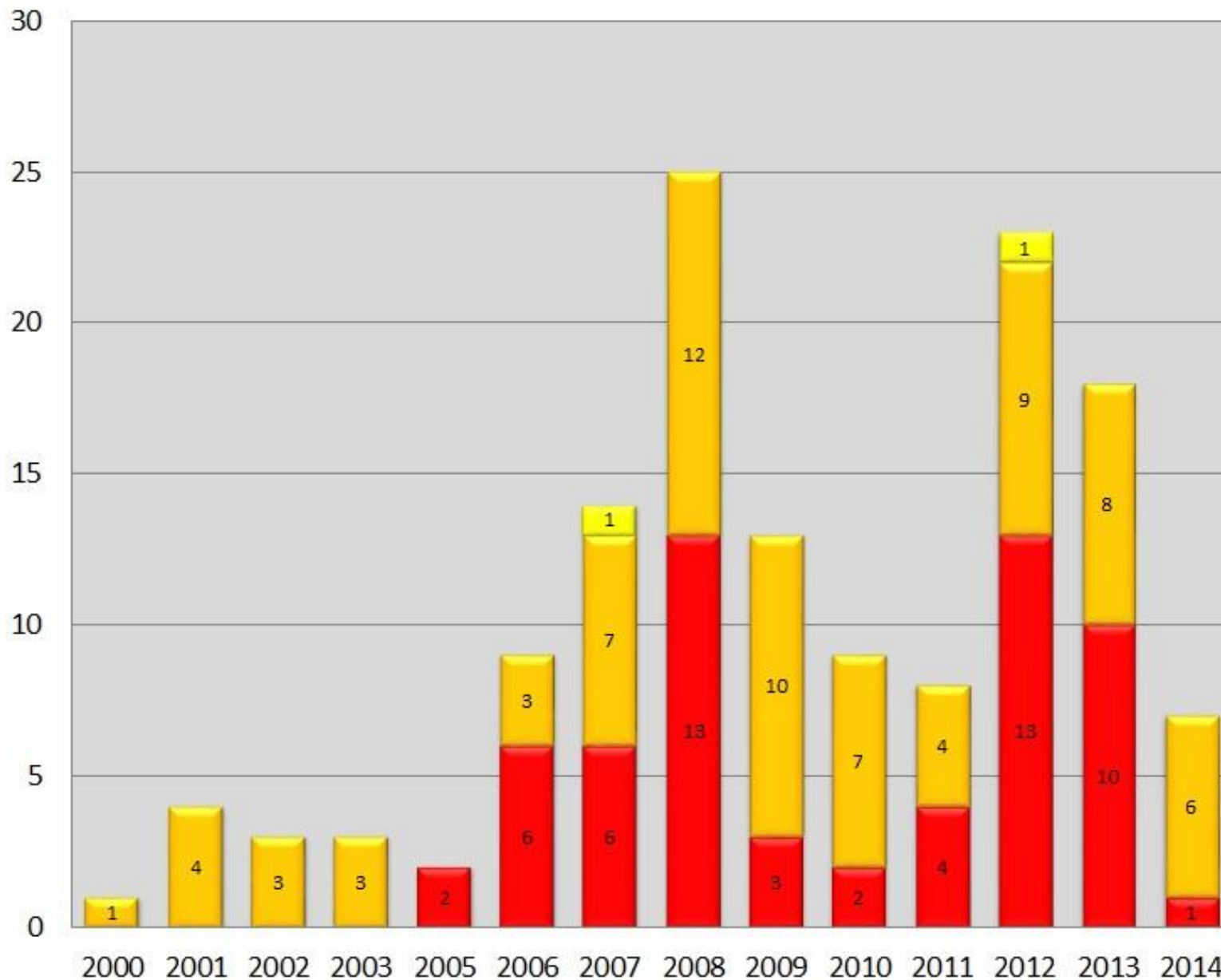
# 3. Presenting data

- Data are presented for the public (annually refreshed) and stakeholders (for query)
- Diagrams, figures, maps





# Eagles found due to intentional predator poisoning



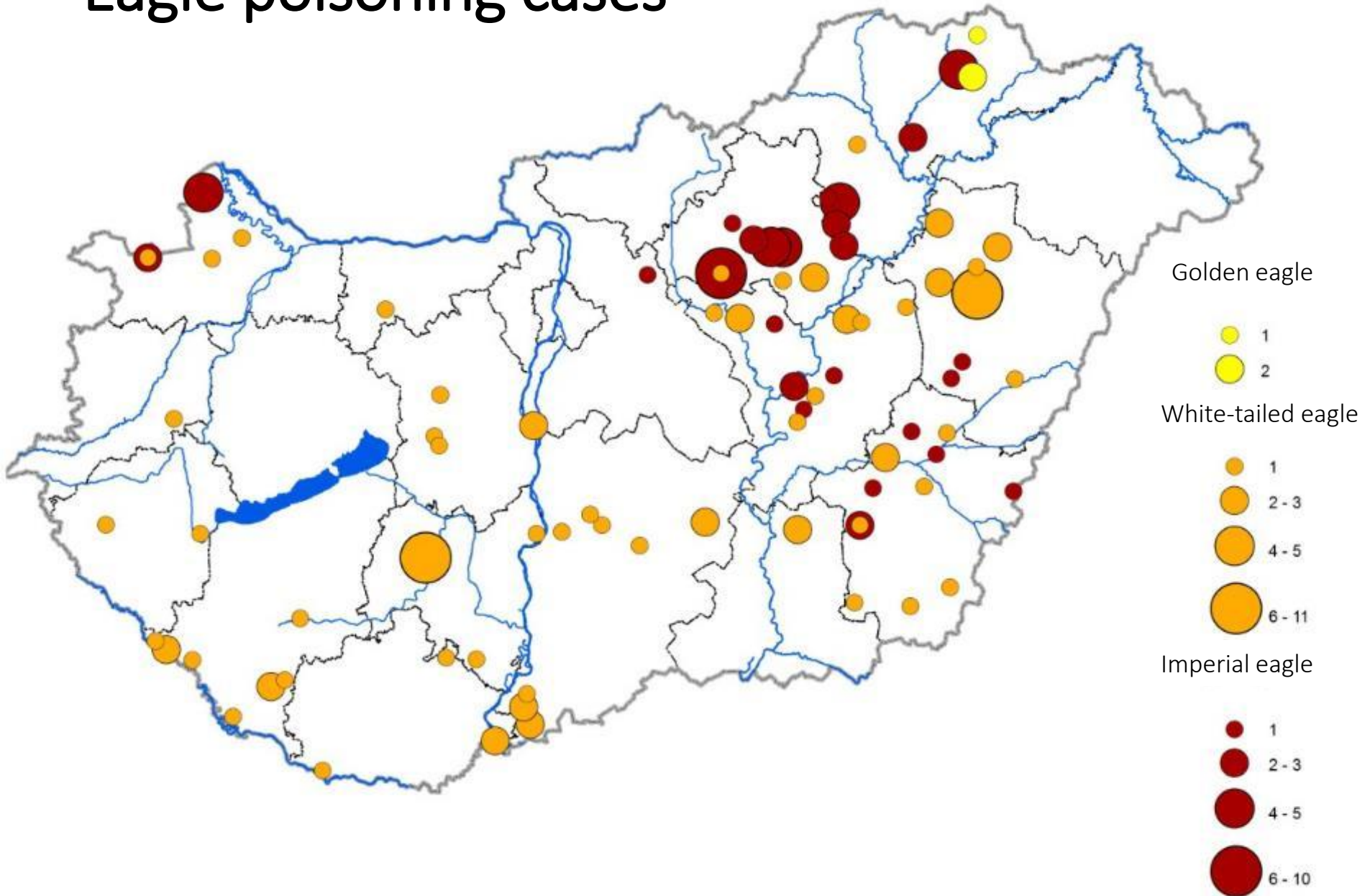
[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)

GE

WTE

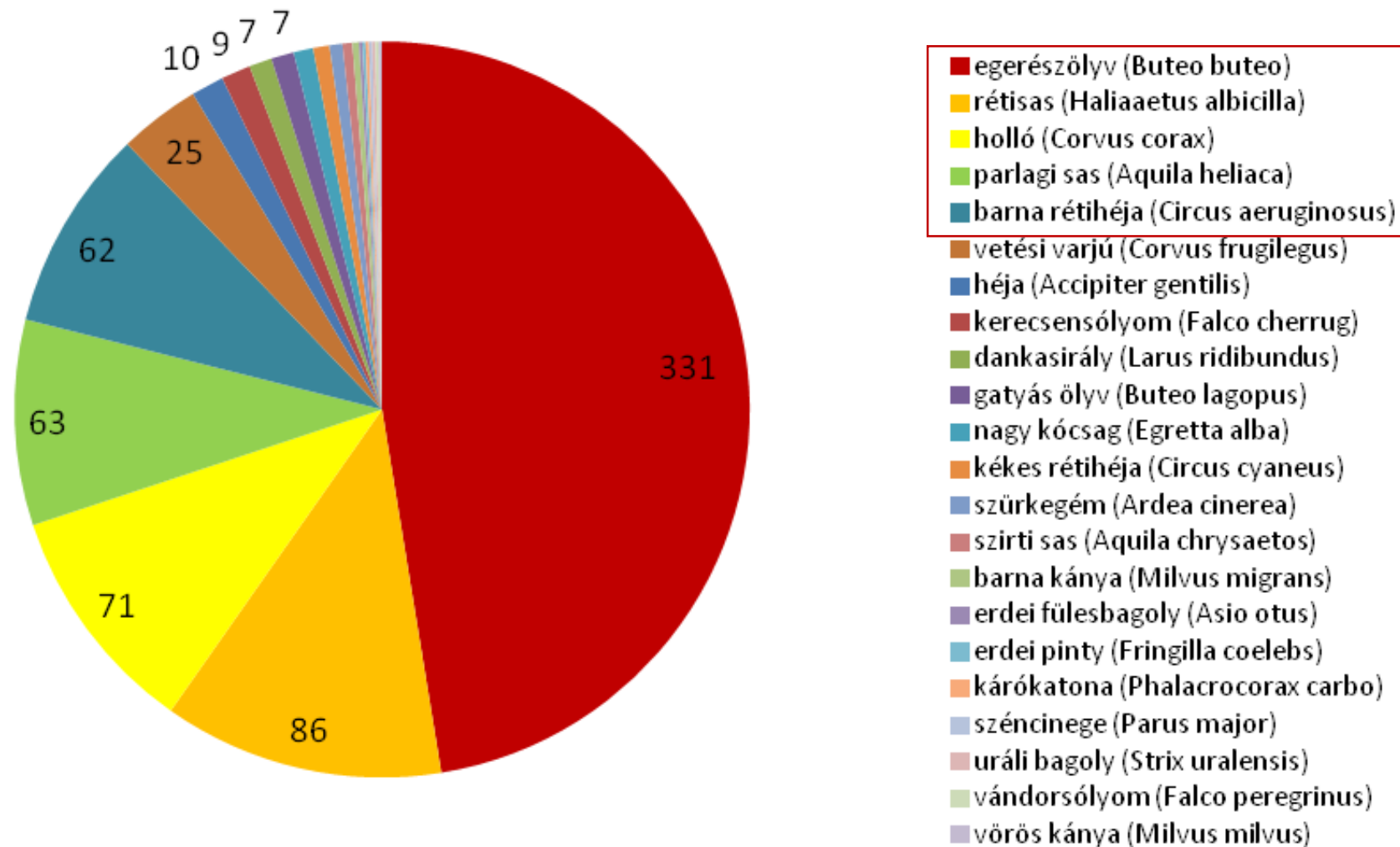
EIE

# Eagle poisoning cases

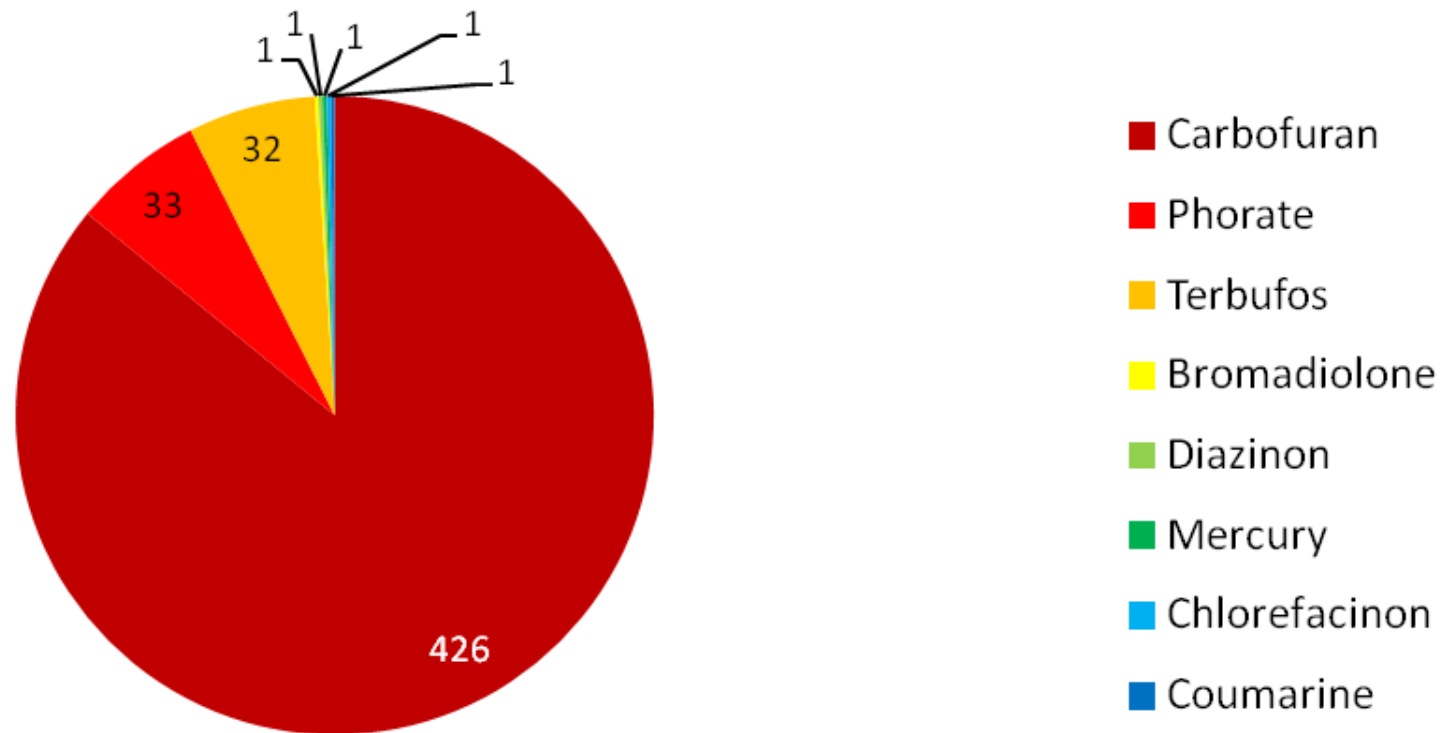




# Poisoned protected and strictly protected bird species in Hungary



## Chemicals used in predator poisoning cases when deliberateness is proved or probable (number of affected specimens)

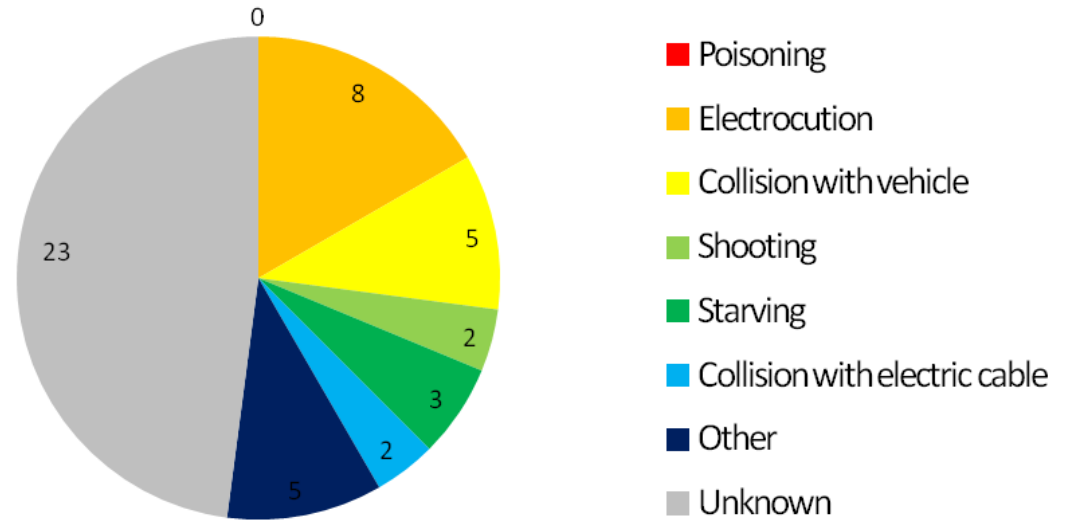




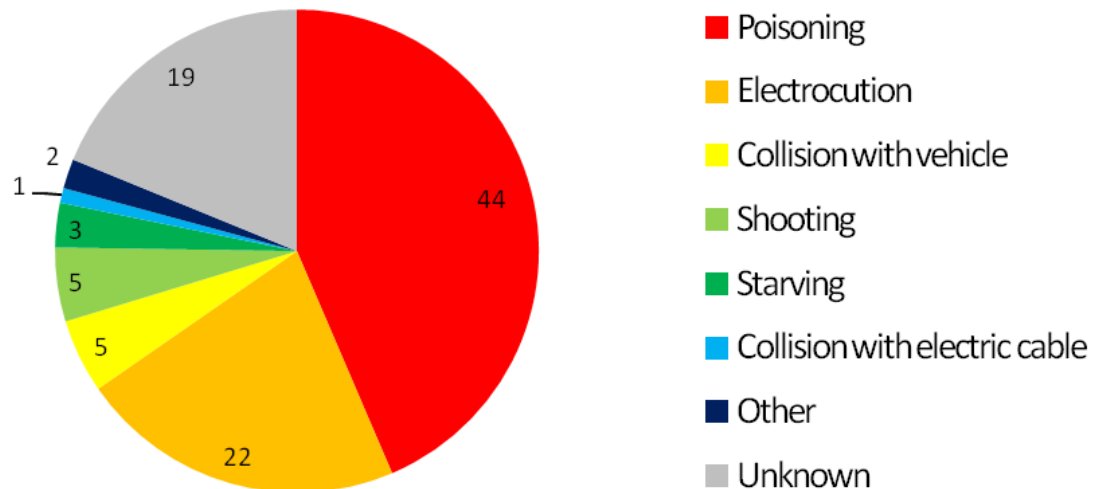
# Changes in the causes of mortality of imperial eagles



1980-2004 (n=48)



2005-2012 (n=101)



# FUTURE

- Continue the programme in Hungary
- Sharing the experience with colleagues in neighbouring countries --> 'PANNONEAGLE' joint proposal for LIFE funding to expand the programme to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Serbia





See you in Hungary in October 2016 for an international conference against illegal poisoning!



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