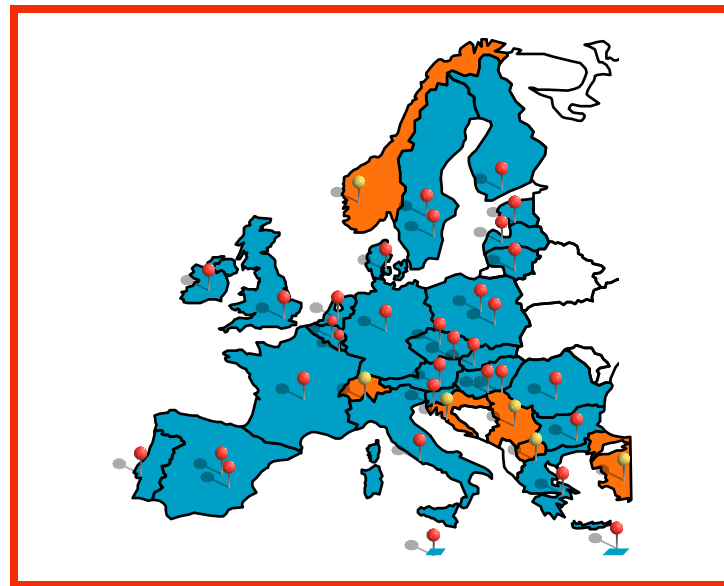




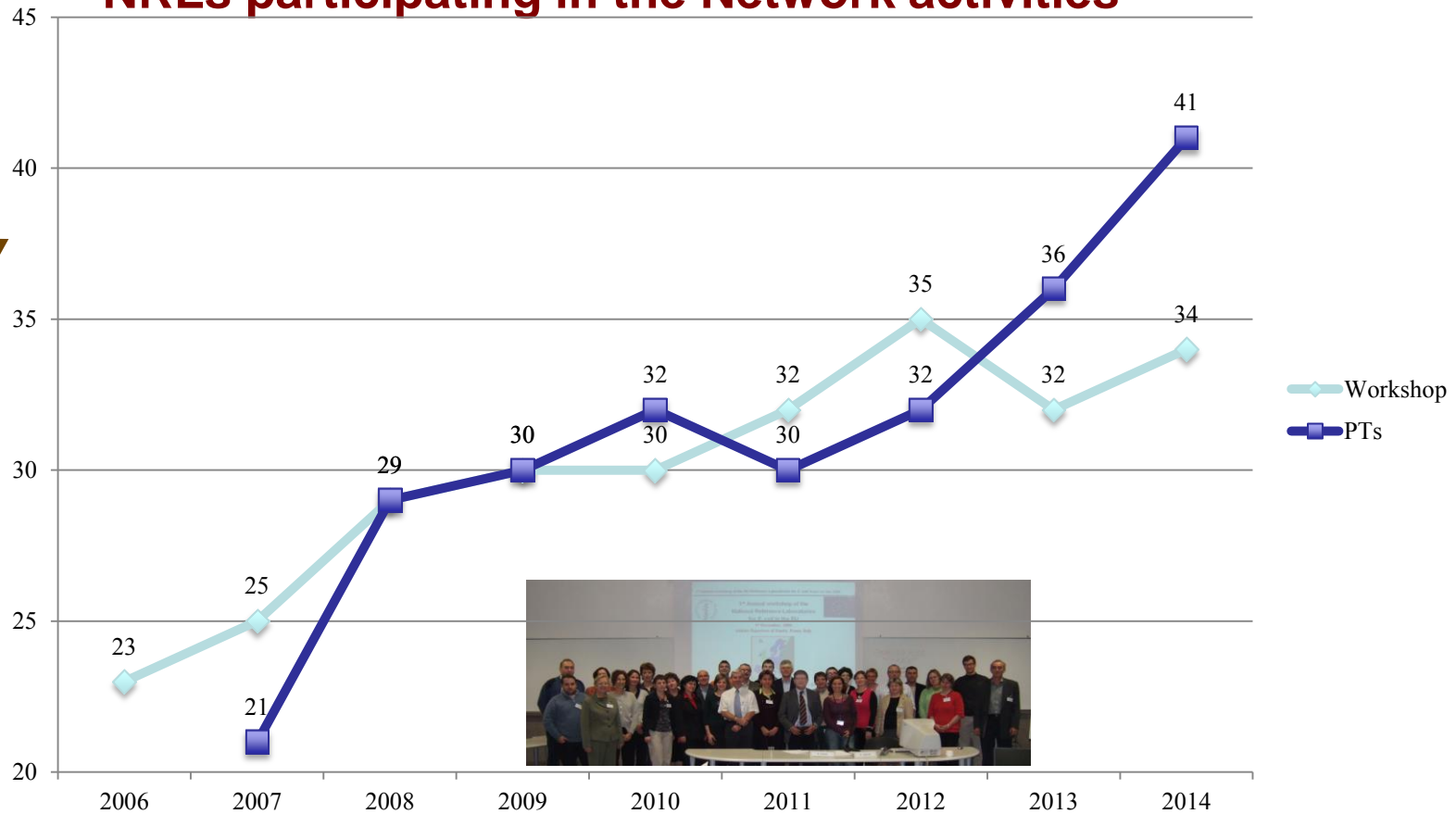
Summary of the Workshop



Aim of the Annual Workshops

To establish and consolidate the Team of EU Reference Labs

NRLs participating in the Network activities



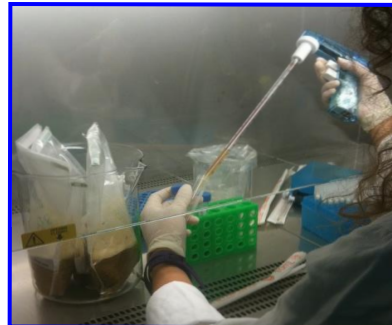
To establish and consolidate the Team of EU Reference Labs

PREPAREDNESS

- ✓ Outbreaks continue to occur
- ✓ New VTEC types continue to emerge
- ✓ Increased controls (and disputes) on food (beef and not only
- ✓ Needs of further characterization of VTEC detected in food ?



Increased request of VTEC testing



PREPAREDNESS – VTEC TYPING

PT 13 results

- ✓ Increase in the number of participating Labs
- ✓ Good performance in the detection of the VTEC target genes
- ✓ Good performance in the detection of the “new” target genes of Enteroaggregative *E. coli*
- ✓ Improvement in serotyping results (broader range of O serogroups)
- ✓ Increased rate of adoption of EU-RL methods: 82% of the NRLs used the SOP for molecular serotyping

PREPAREDNESS – Detection of VTEC in food

- ✓ 80% of the NRLs are also able to detect other *E.coli* pathogroups
- ✓ PT12 results indicate that nearly all the European NRLs are now able to perform the standard method ISO/TS 13136:2012 for VTEC
- ✓ The method has been or will be accredited in 63% of the EU NRLs
- ✓ The accreditation rate is expected to be even lower among the Official labs !
- ✓ NRLs should play a leading role in building the OL capacity in their own countries (Training, Ref. Materials, PT organization ...)

Proficiency Testing (PT) in 2015

- ✓ PT on the detection of VTEC in sprouts (Reg. 209/2013)
- ✓ PT on the identification and typing of pathogenic *E. coli* (VTEC and others)
- ✓ A 4th PT round for PFGE typing

Detection of VTEC in food

VTEC isolation will likely be needed for taking measures !!



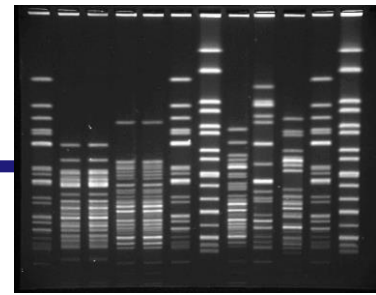
How to increase our rate of VTEC isolation from PCR-positive samples

???

Basic knowledge on VTEC

- ✓ **VTEC genomics:**
 - ✓ *Many initiatives*
 - ✓ *Public health applications*
 - ✓ *Practical use in typing still needs refining*
- ✓ **Unusual VTEC:**
 - ✓ *Different routes of transmission ?*
 - ✓ *Role of global food trade and food handlers ??*

Molecular typing data bases



- ✓ The joint (ECDC – EFSA) project on a data bases for molecular typing of foodborne pathogens is going ahead
- ✓ EFSA is concluding the preparative work and the data collection system will start soon
- ✓ Training and EQA provided by the EU-RL to the NRLs represent a robust basis for data collection
- ✓ Major role of the NRL network in molecular surveillance