



# Materials Methods Limitations

Malta  
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**EUROHEP.NET**

Surveillance and Prevention of  
Vaccine Preventable **Hepatitis**



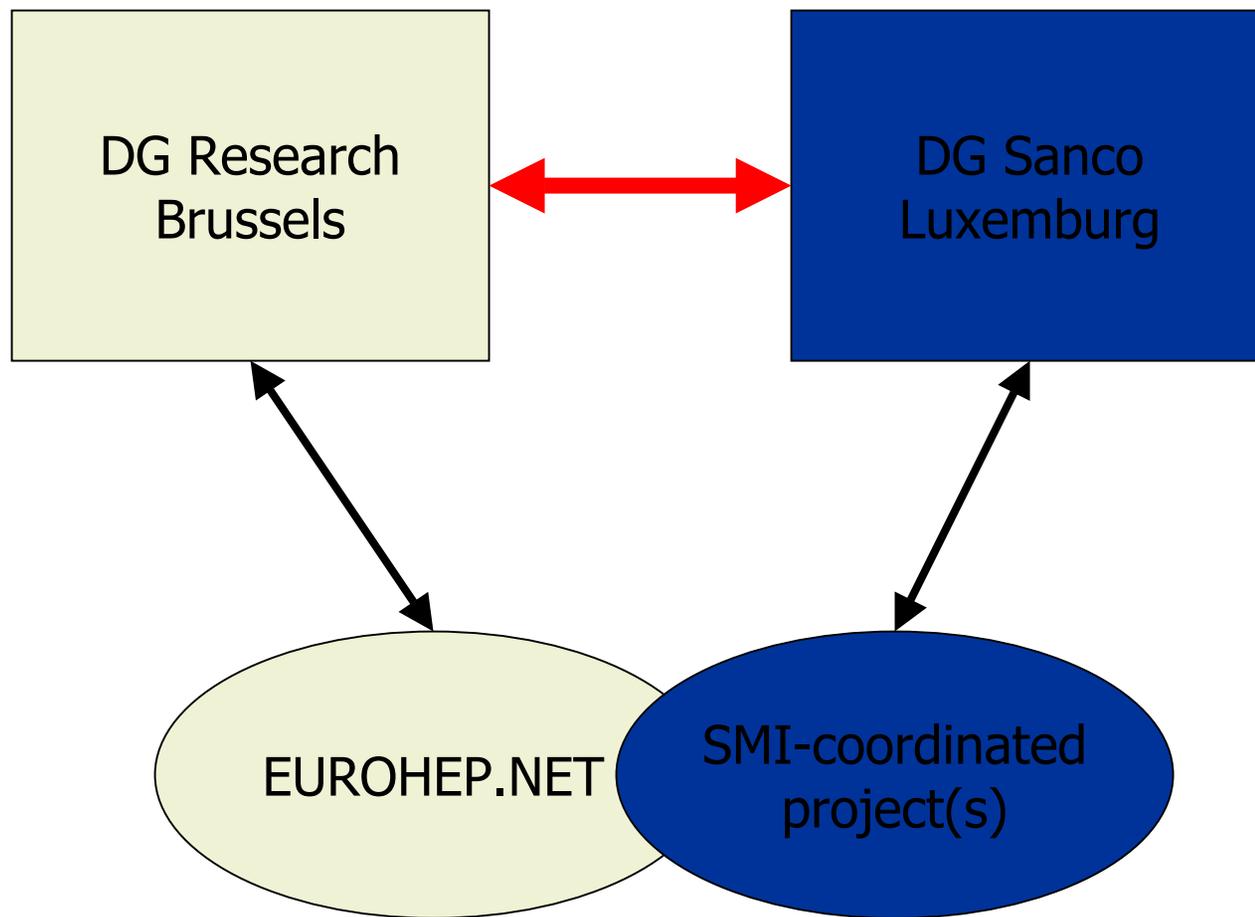
# EUROHEP.NET survey

- Dec. 2002: Website [www.eurohep.net](http://www.eurohep.net) online
  - Online survey on hepatitis A and B
    - Surveillance
    - Epidemiology
    - Burden of disease
    - Prevention/vaccination programmes
- 28 countries targeted and invited (see map)
  - 20 completed survey
    - 8 countries did not complete survey, mainly due to
      - Shortage of personnel
      - Ongoing content related projects



# Related projects

- EUROHEP.NET
  - Feasibility study
    - Submitted to DG research
  - Vaccine-preventable hepatitis (incl. hepB)
    - Feasibility of a network
    - Harmonisation of materials and methods
  - EU + Associated States + Israel
  - Started 09/2002
- SMI-coordinated project(s)
  - Network
    - Submitted to DG Sanco
  - Hepatitis A
    - Monthly data collection
    - Take stock of lab capacities
  - EU + EFTA
  - Started few months before EUROHEP.NET (long after our submission)





# Timing of the online survey (1)

- Preparation
  - Pre-filled information
    - From University of Antwerp surveys to EPI managers in WHO-EURO region
      - Hepatitis B, 2000
      - Hepatitis A, 2002
    - From SMI survey
- Survey open for participants
  - December 2002 – June 2003
    - Type answers and/or complete/update pre-filled information
      - Surveillance, Burden of Disease, Vaccination: current status
      - Epidemiology: data 1990-2001
    - Reminders sent at mid-term
    - Filled on paper and sent by fax for some countries



# Timing of the online survey (2)

- Survey closed for analysis
  - 2nd half 2003
    - EUROHEP.NET partners looked for
      - Incomplete answers
      - Inconsistencies
    - Countries were asked for (if required)
      - Additional information
      - Clarification of correct interpretation

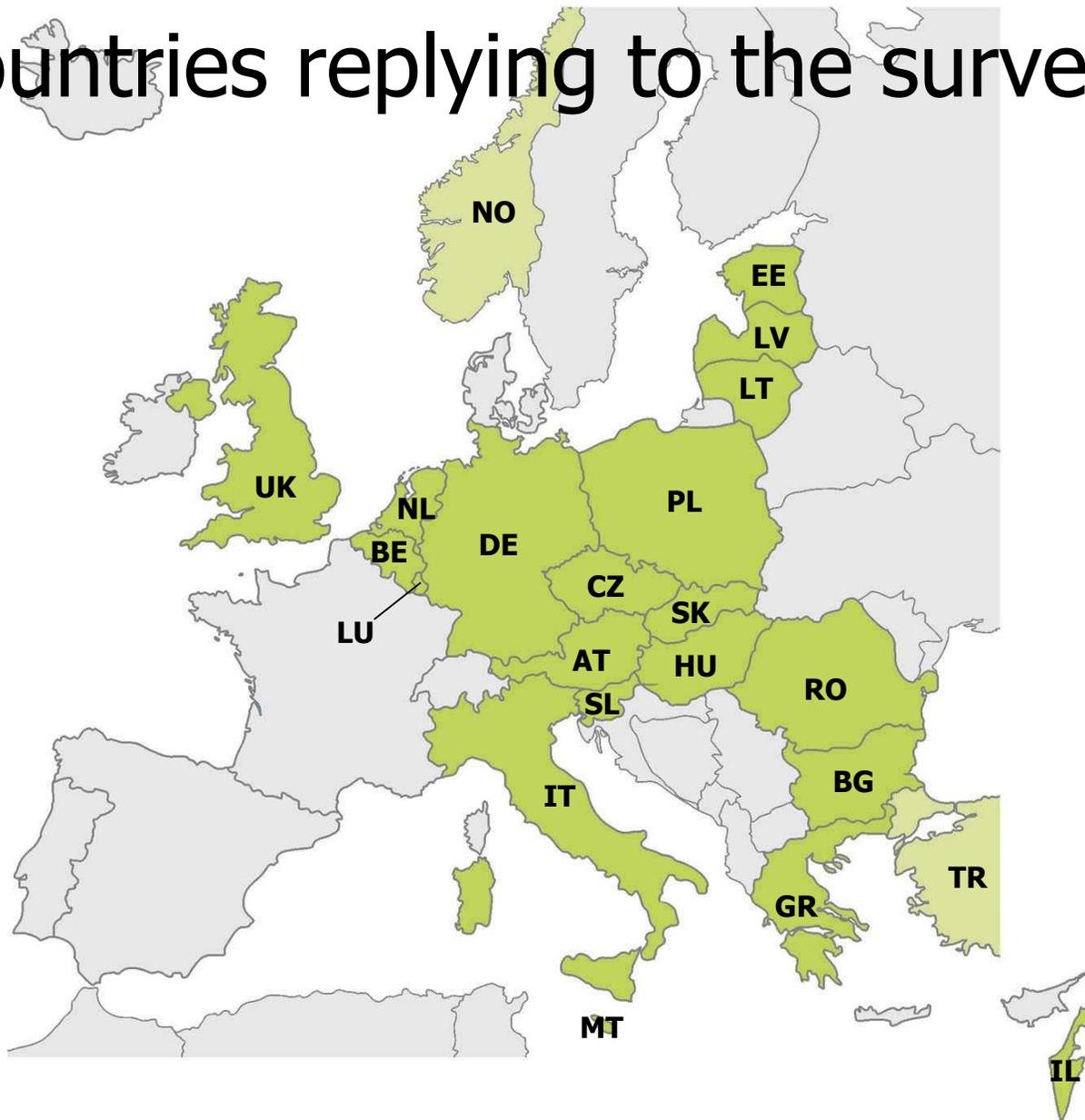


# Presentation of survey results

- 1st half 2004
  - Standardised presentation of selected information
    - 1 page hepA, 1 page hepB per country (n=22)
      - country contact persons
        - » reviewed the “posters”
        - » agreed to publish the results
    - overviews per topic (n=19-20)
  - 2 additional countries asked to join in
    - Norway, Turkey, [Netherlands for hepA part]
      - NOT included in overview pages



# Countries replying to the survey





# Limitations (1)

- Availability of the data
  - Not all respondents answered all questions
    - Data are not available, not traceable or not applicable at the time of the survey
- No additional validation of the data
  - Standardised presentations were validated by country representatives
  - Overview pages had no additional validation
    - Not with country representatives
    - No overall «external» validation with literature, reports, WHO, other projects, ...



## Limitations (2)

- Standardised layout for country-specific information
  - Aim: uniformity of data presentation
    - For topics selected by the EUROHEP.NET team
    - Additional info and comments are put in footnotes
  - Limitation: only selected information shown
    - Some countries have much more information
    - Sometimes selected info was not available, while other data might exist (though not shown)
    - No data available = blank graph/table shown



# Summary

- Thanks to the efforts of 22 countries
- We can present selected information
  - At an overview level
  - Specific per country
- This booklet brings together data from a large number of European countries
  - Including the new Member States and Associated States
  - Even if we know this is no Bible of Viral Hepatitis in Europe