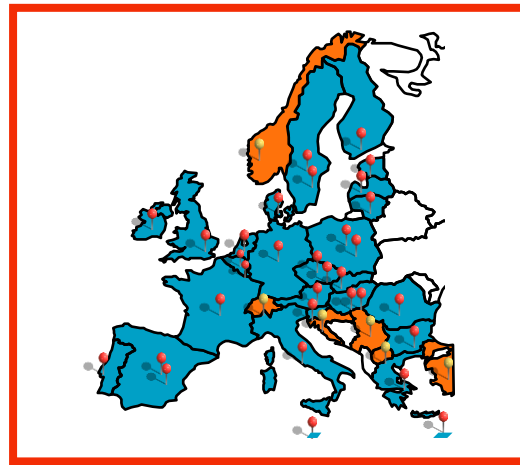
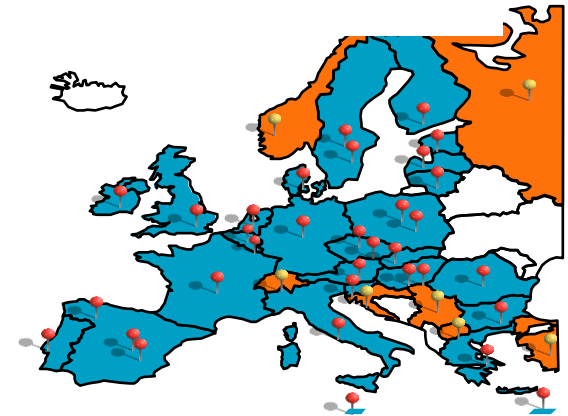


PTs on VTEC detection and typing: results of a 6-years experience and management of the underperformance EU-RL VTEC



Proficiency tests (PT) on *E.coli* organized by the EU-RL

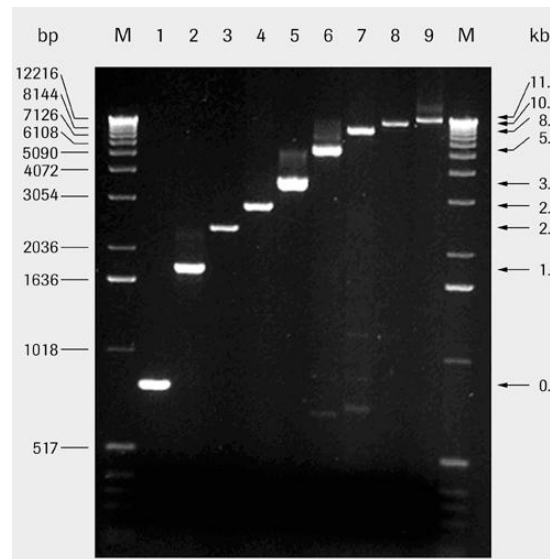
- **Involvement of 41 NRLs designated by:**
 - **28 EU Member States**
 - **7 other European and extra European Countries**
- **Two main types of PT:**
 - **Strain identification and typing**
 - **Detection in food matrices**



Proficiency tests (PT) on *E.coli* organized by the EU-RL

Period: 2007 – 2013

6 PTs on Identification and typing of *E. coli* 2 jointly with the ECDC-FWD Network



Detection of virulence genes in VTEC strains

Participation and proficiency of the NRLs

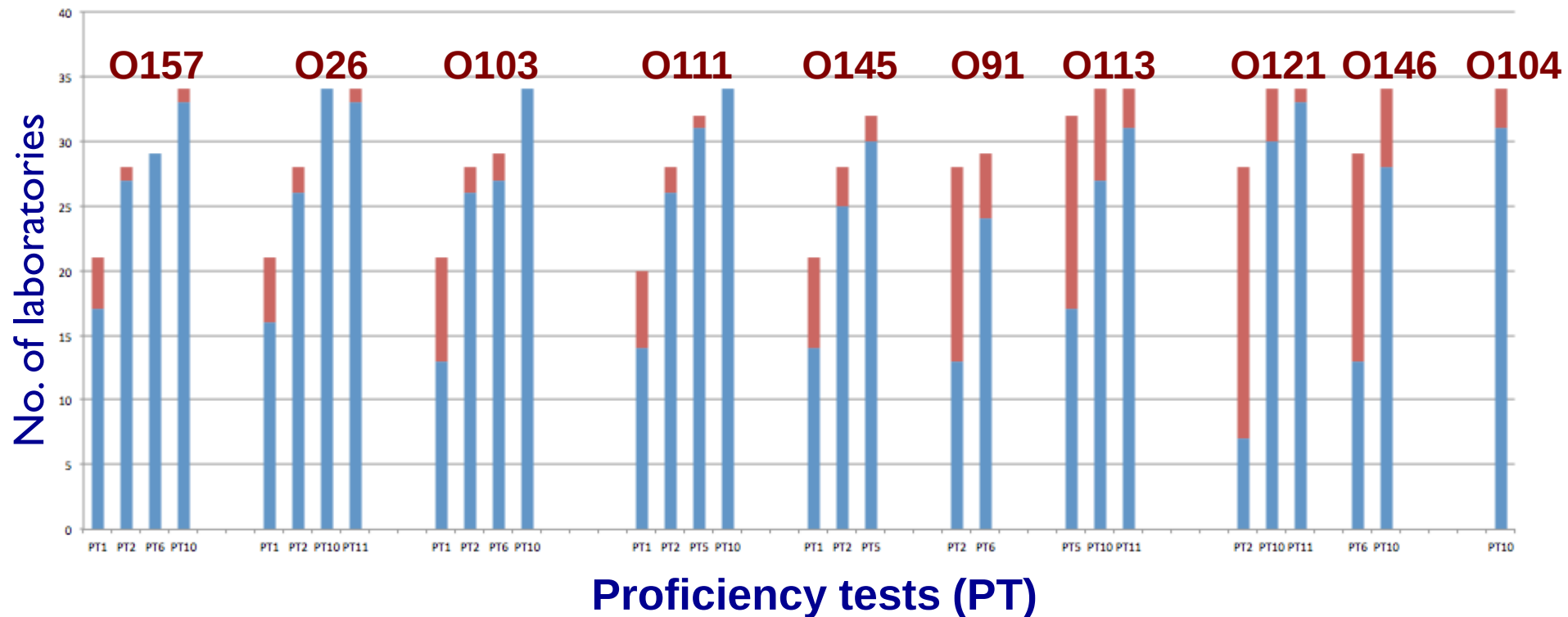


Detection of O-groups in VTEC strains (pheno-genotyping)

Participation and proficiency of the NRLs

Correct results

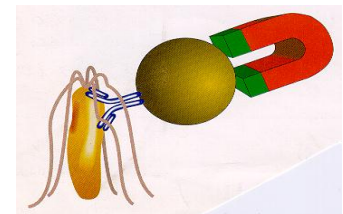
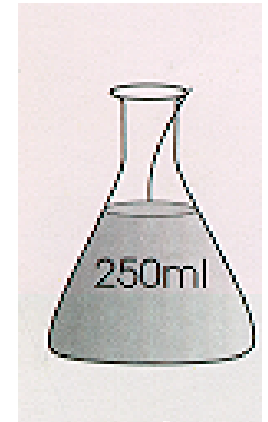
Wrong results



Proficiency tests (PT) on *E.coli* organized by the EU-RL

Period: 2009 – 2012

5 PTs on Detection of VTEC in matrices



Detection of VTEC in food by ISO/TS 13136

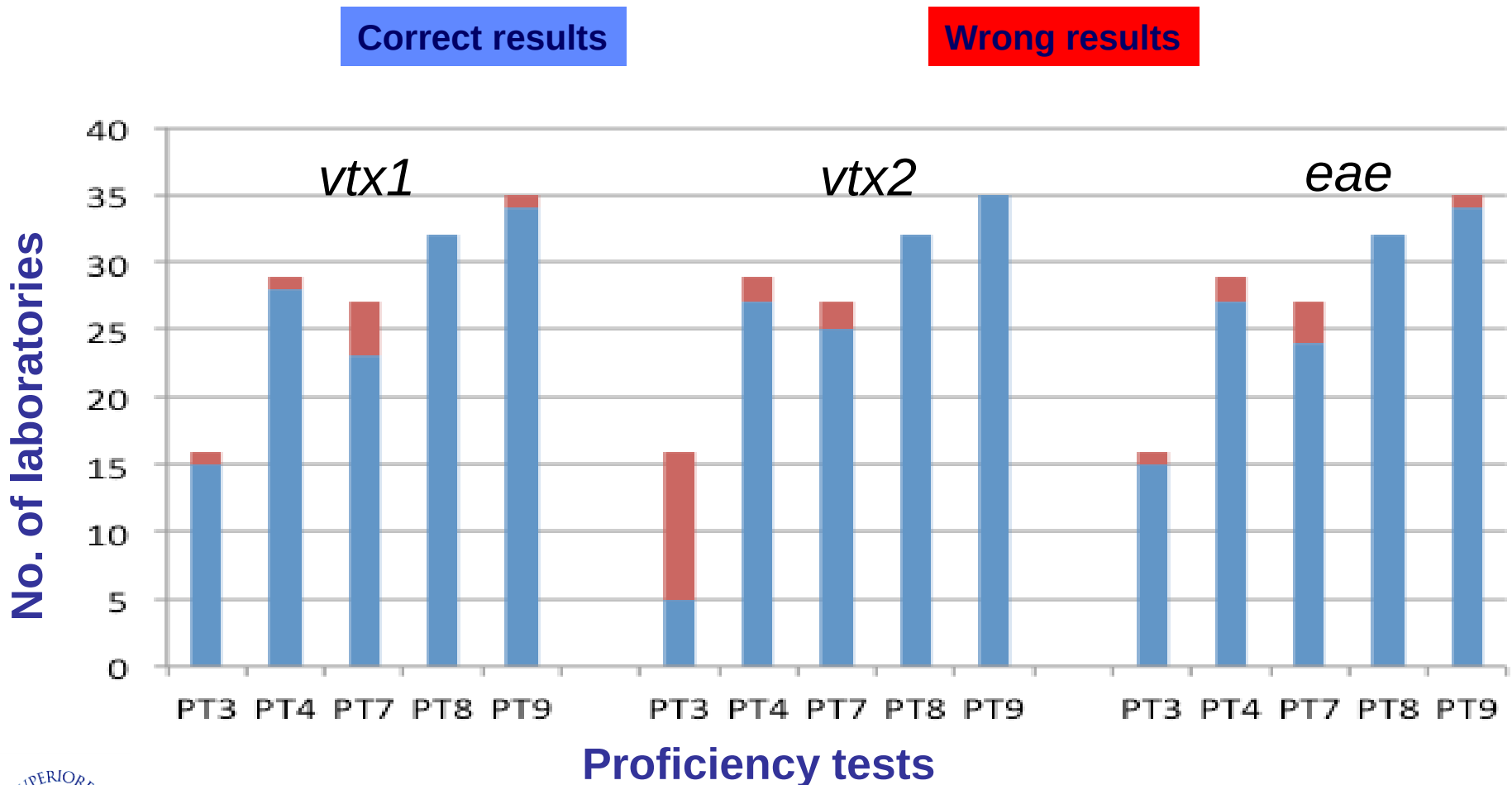
Proficiency tests organized by the EU-RL VTEC

- 2009: Carcass swabs - O157 and O26
- 2010: Milk – O103
- 2011: Vegetables (spinach) – O157 and O145
- 2012: Water samples – O157
- 2012: Seeds – O157
- 2013: Sprouts (ongoing) - ?????



Proficiency testing: Detection of VTEC by ISO/TS 13136

Real Time PCR screening step: virulence genes

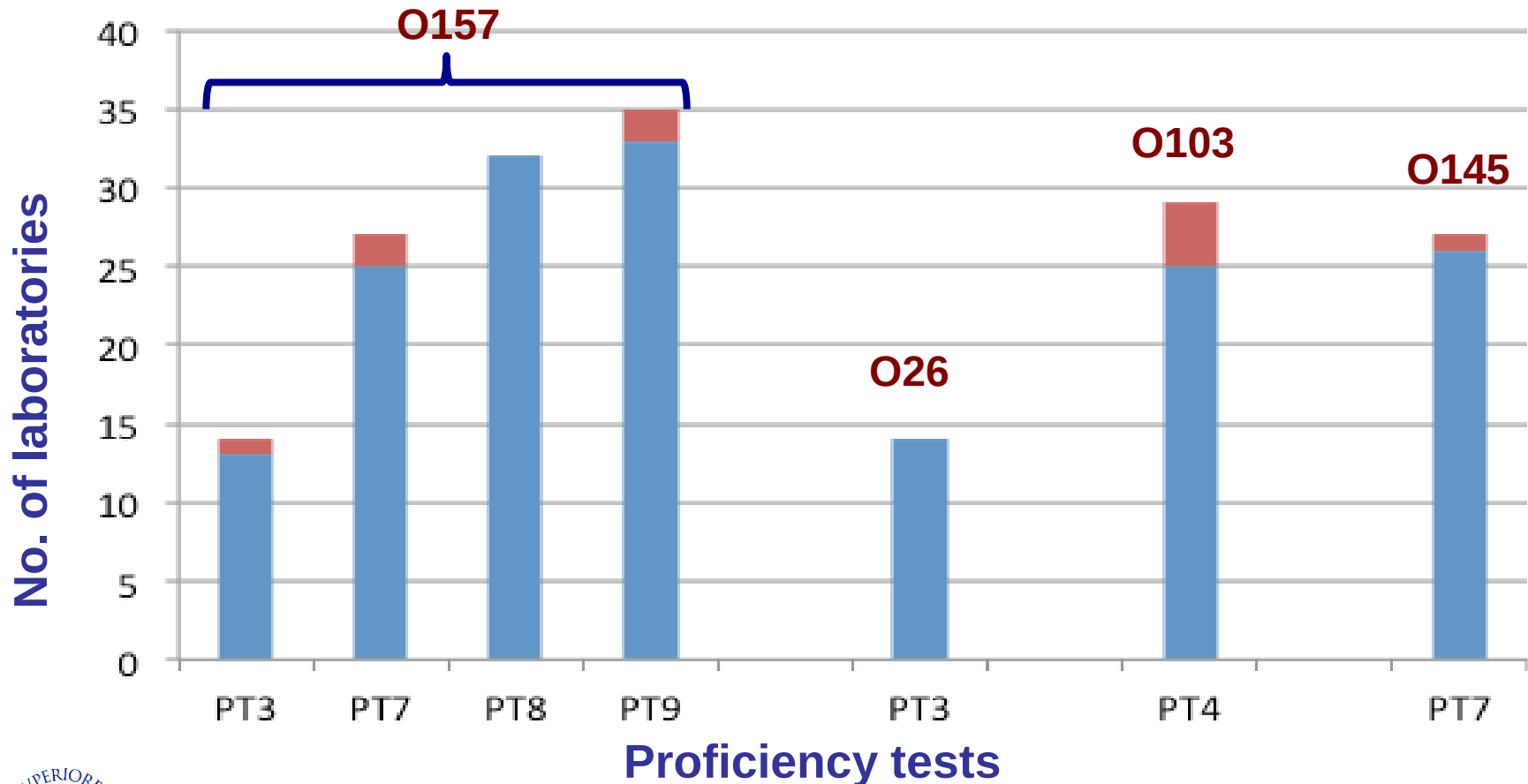


Proficiency testing: Detection of VTEC by ISO/TS 13136

Real Time PCR screening step: O serogroup genes

Correct results

Wrong results

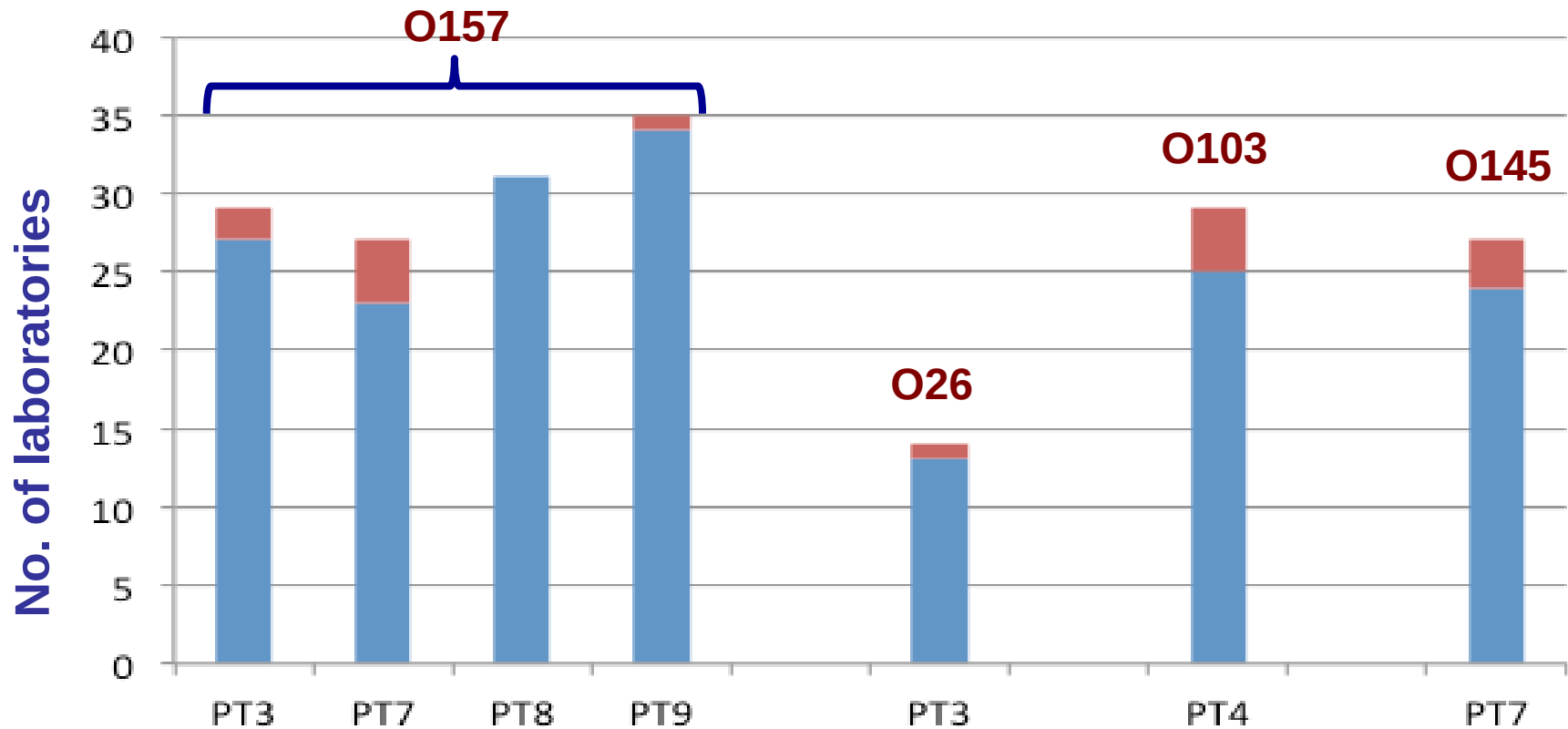


Proficiency testing: Detection of VTEC by ISO/TS 13136

Isolation step

Correct results

Wrong results



Proficiency tests

Technical management of the under- performance

- Discussion of the possible causes by telephone or email
- Development of specific training stages for the staff
- Visit to the NRL (on-site technical advice/training)
- Prioritization of *ad hoc* visits to those NRLs who under-performed or did not participate in two consecutive PT rounds