

**Inventory of the Proficiency Tests (PT) on VTEC  
detection, identification and typing organized  
by the NRLs for E. coli in Europe**



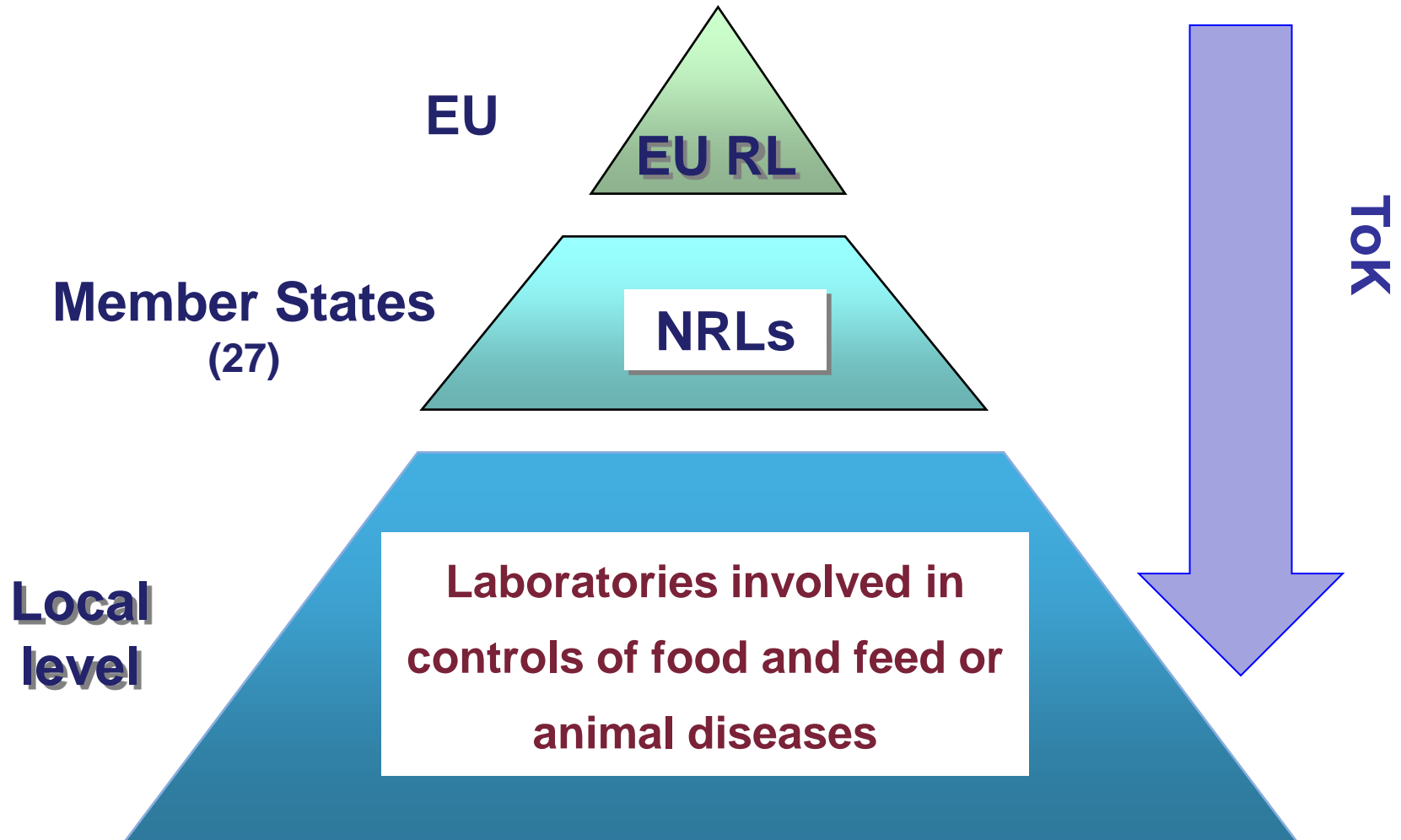
[www.iss.it/vtec](http://www.iss.it/vtec)

# Functions and duties of EU-RLs (882/2004, Art. 32)

- ✓ To provide NRLs with analytical reference methods
- ✓ To produce and distribute reference materials
- ✓ To organise comparative testing (Proficiency Tests)
- ✓ To conduct training for NRLs, (annual workshop, courses, visits to EU-RL)
- ✓ To provide scientific and technical assistance to the

## Commission

# The Network of EU Reference Laboratories (Reg. EC 882/2004)



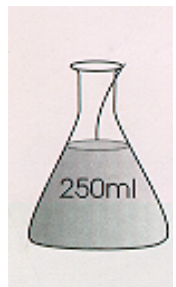
# PT organized by the EU-RL VTEC

Period 2007 - 2012

## 10 rounds of PT organized by the EU-RL VTEC

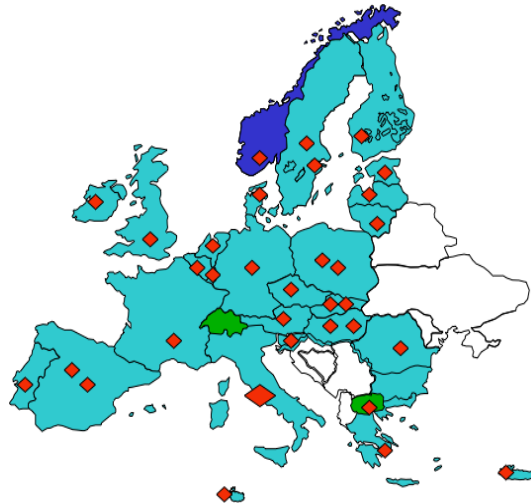
5 PTs on  
identification and typing  
of bacterial cultures

5 PTs on  
detection of VTEC in  
various matrices.



# PT on VTEC organized by the NRLs in Europe

- ✓ Questionnaire sent to **34** NRLs of the EU MS and other **5** non-EU countries
- ✓ Reply from **30** NRLs of **25** MS plus Croatia, Egypt, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey



# PT on VTEC organized by the NRLs in Europe

- ✓ **Period: 2010 – 2012**
- ✓ **PTs on VTEC organized by 14 NRLs (10 MS + Switzerland and Turkey)**
- ✓ **A total of 28 PTs organized:**
  - ✓ **14 only on VTEC O157**
  - ✓ **14 on any VTEC**

## 28 PTs on VTEC organized by 14 NRLs in Europe

Matrix	Number of PTs on:	
	VTEC O157	Any VTEC
Bacterial cultures or lysates	4	5
Minced meat	4	3
Milk	2	2
Vegetables	1	2
Swabs	2	-
Feed	1	-
Seeds for sprouting	-	1
Water	-	1
Any matrix	14	14
Average No. of OLs / PT	5 <sup>a</sup>	10 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 3 PTs still open at the moment of the collection of data

<sup>b</sup> 1 PT still open at the moment of the collection of data

# CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ **Transfer of knowledge (ToK) is a pivotal activity within networks**
- ✓ **PT organization is a key index of ToK in Ref labs networks**
- ✓ **The VTEC network is implementing PT organization at MS level**
- ✓ **The number of NRLs organizing PTs must increase**
- ✓ **Implementation of specific training programs (ISO17043)**
- ✓ **Encouragement during the visits to NRLs**