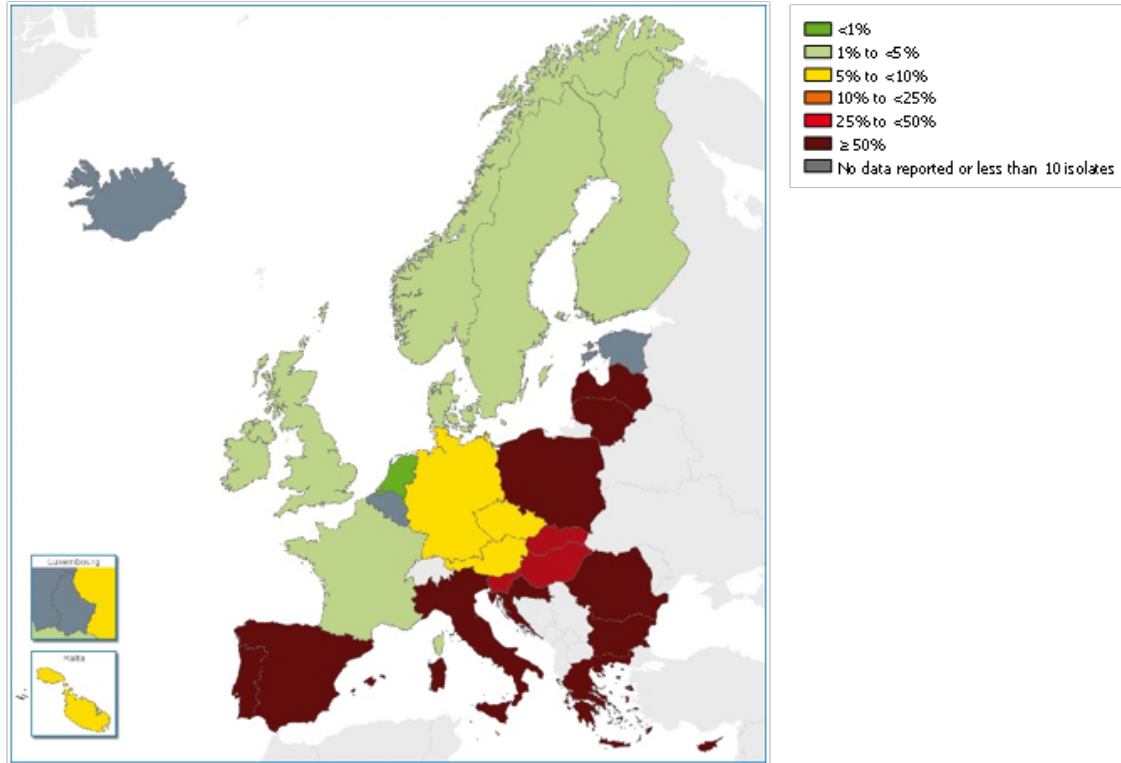


# **Efforts needed to stop the spread of carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii***

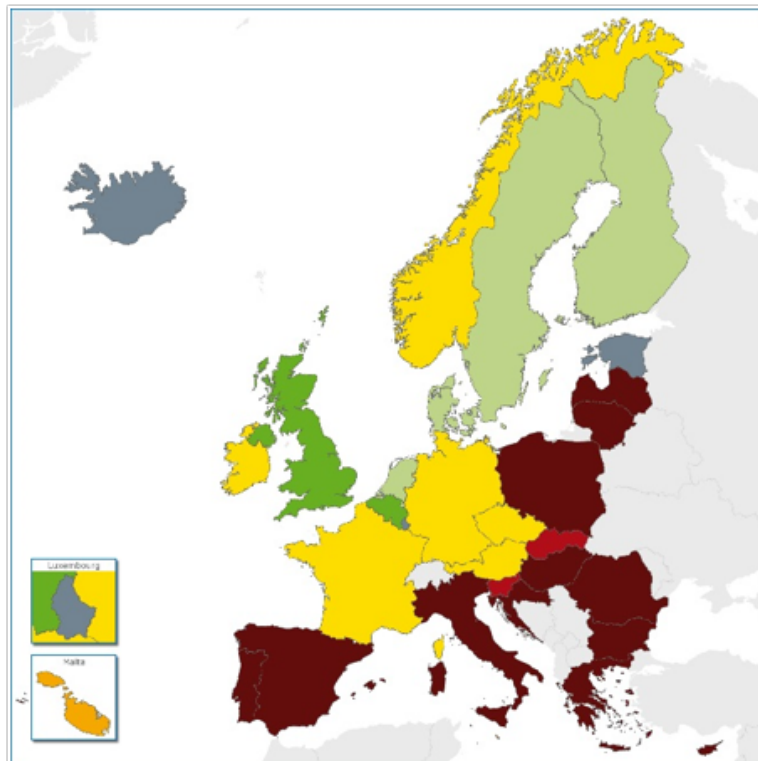
December 14 2016

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A



B



Percentage (%) of invasive *Acinetobacter* spp. isolates with resistance to carbapenems, bycountry, EU/EEA countries, 2014 (A) and 2015 (B). Credit:

ECDC's latest risk assessment highlights the need of increased efforts to face this significant threat to patients and healthcare systems in all EU/EEA countries and outlines options to reduce risks through clinical management, prevention of transmission in hospitals and other health-care settings, prevention of cross-border transmission, and improvement of preparedness of EU/EEA countries.

*Acinetobacter baumannii* is the cause of difficult-to-treat infections in healthcare settings in Europe due to its increasing resistance to antimicrobial agents, in particular the carbapenems. Outbreaks of carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* in healthcare facilities have been reported in Europe and worldwide.

Infections with carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* occur in patients with severe underlying diseases, mainly in intensive care units, and are often related to invasive procedures or indwelling devices. However, such infections are increasingly being reported in patients admitted to conventional medical and surgical wards. *A. baumannii* is difficult to eradicate once it has become endemic.

Recent ECDC data from the European survey on carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (EuSCAPE) project and from the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) confirmed that although there is already a high resistance baseline in some countries, there has been an overall increase of carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* in Europe.

These data confirm an already alarming situation that continues to worsen in many EU/EEA countries. While carbapenems traditionally

were the antibiotics of choice for treatment of *A. baumannii* infections, resistance to these drugs has led to increased use of colistin as last-line treatment. Although still rare, resistance to colistin in *A. baumannii* is also increasingly being reported in Europe.

ECDC's [risk assessment](#) highlights the need of increased efforts to face this significant threat to patients and healthcare systems in all EU/EEA countries and outlines options to reduce risks through [clinical management](#), prevention of transmission in hospitals and other [healthcare settings](#), prevention of cross-border transmission, and improvement of preparedness of EU/EEA [countries](#).

Provided by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

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