The European Surveillance System (TESSy) monitored measles in Europe for the period 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2018. During this period, 30 EU/EEA Member States reported 12,790 cases of measles, 8,949 (70%) of which were laboratory-confirmed. Only Iceland reported no measles cases.

The highest number of cases were reported by France (2,921), Greece (2,634), Italy (2,548), Romania (1,346) and United Kingdom (984), accounting for 23%, 21%, 20%, 10% and 8% of all cases, respectively. However, highest notification rates per million population were reported by Greece (244.6), Slovakia (96.6), Romania (68.5), France (43.6) and Italy (42.0); the EU/EEA average notification rate was 24.7 per million population. For Romania, the sustained outbreak in the country has caused delays in case-based reporting to TESSy, so it is likely that the number of measles cases reported to TESSy may be an underestimation.

The highest notification rates were in children under one year (280.8 cases per million) and aged 1–4 years (112.5 cases per million).

Of 11,438 cases (89% of all cases) with known age and vaccination status, 9,128 (80%) were unvaccinated, 1,275 (11%) were vaccinated with one dose of measles-containing vaccine, 814 (7%) were vaccinated with two or more doses and 221 (2%) were vaccinated with an unknown number of doses.

During the 12-month period, 35 deaths attributable to measles were reported to TESSy in Romania (23), Italy (7), France (3) and Greece (2).

Vaccination coverage against measles continues to be suboptimal in many countries; this represents the main cause of the persistent spread of measles across Europe. At least 95% vaccination coverage for both doses of measles-containing vaccine in 2017 was achieved only by 4 countries in Europe, namely Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden.

As reported by WHO, sustained vaccination coverage of at least 95% for both the first and second doses must be achieved to interrupt measles circulation.