

**MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
ADMINISTRATIONS OF
AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, HUNGARY,
ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVENIA**

**on the frequency plan of VHF Band III, covering the frequency range
of 174 - 230 MHz**

1. Preamble

This document is the multilateral framework agreement (hereinafter: Framework Agreement) between parties as declared in the signing paragraph. It expresses the convergence-of-will and commitment between parties, indicating an intended common course of action in order to re-plan and improve present Geneva 2006 Plan (hereinafter: GE06 Plan) within the coordination group, while the agreement on detailed technical parameters of the assignments is to be agreed bilaterally.

2. Introduction

The Administrations of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia (hereinafter: Administrations) established a group with the main objective to facilitate the rearrangement of parts of the GE06 Plan, in order to enable the optimisation of the current and future use of 174-230 MHz band for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting networks (Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (hereinafter: T-DAB) and Digital Terrestrial Television (hereinafter: DTT)).

3. Principles and objectives

Having regard to:

- the equitable access to the frequency spectrum,
- the efficient use of the 174-230 MHz band (re-planning of original GE06 Plan)
- different quantitative and qualitative requirements on the future T-DAB and DTT use in the frequency band 174-230 MHz,
- the possibility of harmful interference,
- the technical and other challenges,

the Administrations successfully facilitated the multi-country frequency coordination activities in order to implement the relevant broadcasting spectrum reallocation, with a view to:

- achieve efficient use and mutual compatibility of spectrum resources to be used in the VHF band III;
- facilitate any consequential modifications to the GE06 Plan.

The Administrations recognize that:

- this document has been produced by technical investigation of the current and potential alternative usage of the 174-230 MHz band in the future, based on national needs;
- the countries have their own sovereign rights in the bilateral and multilateral negotiation process.

The Administrations confirm that the parties have agreed on a framework to rearrange GE06 Plan in the 174-230 MHz band.

4. Working method

The negotiations were held via web-meetings on multilateral and bilateral levels. On multilateral level Administrations presented their national requirements and plans regarding the VHF Band III. The presentation of the requirements was followed by the completion of a questionnaire in order to comprehend the form of usage and the detailed criteria intended to be applied by each Administration. The development of a common frequency plan was initiated by the analysis of compatibility, done by all Administrations using compatibility matrices.

Aiming to evaluate the most feasible solution, the development of a common plan has been an iterative process, reflected in the Minutes of the group meetings:

- the modifications to the proposals were evaluated in light of the national requirements,
- external coordination areas and the updated process of external coordination groups were also considered to the extent possible.

5. Results, applicable statements and procedures of the Framework Agreement

5.1. Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas

Administrations of this coordination group have agreed on a frequency plan in the coordination area which is illustrated by the Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas depicted as channel distribution maps (Annex of this Framework Agreement).

Administrations state that the frequency plan is flexible, therefore it can be modified and developed according to the GE06 Agreement with the agreement of the affected Administrations, as frequency coordination activity shall be expected outside the scope of this coordination group. In any possible case of modification that relates externally to this coordination group, Signatory Administrations shall consider the current Framework Agreement to be primary and shall aim to preserve its integrity to the extent possible. In case of an inevitable change induced by external coordination activity, which would have significant impact on the agreed frequency plan, Signatory Administrations shall hold discussions to evaluate the effect of a change on the current Framework Agreement.

The Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas, serve as an illustration of the frequency distribution of the proposed assignments and their coverage areas.

The compatibility assessment of the Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas using the Reference Networks and the Reference Planning Configurations as defined for allotments in the GE06 Plan were not carried out in the planning process.

As a result of the above mentioned there is a possibility of such cases where the Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas in the Annex of this Framework Agreement using the appropriate Reference Network of the GE06 Agreement have higher interference levels than the assignments, which were used in the planning process.

Therefore, the Administrations agreed on the following statements:

- The Single Frequency Network (SFN) Areas of this Framework Agreement shall be submitted to the ITU GE06 Plan using the allotment format without linked assignments as defined in the ITU and shall not be rejected by the Signatory Administrations,
- The original GE06 allotments which do not fit into the frequency plan according to this Framework Agreement will be adjusted accordingly,
- This Framework Agreement and future bilateral agreements state that, upon modifying the GE06 Plan, the remarks field of the allotment data sheet notification sent to ITU shall contain the following: "Regulated by Multilateral Framework Agreement, Budapest 2023" noting that this Framework Agreement contains the appropriate rights of these allotments.

Remark: In cases where the Reference Network of a recorded allotment, stemming from a Single Frequency Network (SFN) Area from the Annex of this Framework Agreement, exceeds the outgoing interference of the bilaterally agreed assignments according to GE06 Plan, the conversion rule cannot be applied automatically and additional planned assignments, associated with these allotments, shall be coordinated between the affected Administrations, which are part of this Framework Agreement, according to Article 4 of the GE06 Agreement.

5.2. Assignments

Discussions were held on bilateral and multilateral level over assignment parameters. Administrations agreed on the following:

- The technical parameters of assignments in the coordination area were exchanged and most of them agreed among Signatory Administrations.
- The technical parameters of assignments and further specific details will be given within bilateral agreements between the involved Administrations.
- Administrations agreed that they will not object notification requests of assignments - which are in line with bilateral agreements between Administrations concerned - submitted to the ITU as standalone Assignments, linked SFNs or stemming from conversion of GE06 allotments as appropriate in the application of the Article 4 of GE06 Agreement.
- After the T-DAB assignments derived from DTT GE06 allotments/assignments have successfully entered the GE06 Plan, the original DTT allotments/assignments in the GE06 Plan shall be sent to the ITU for withdrawal within a 3-month period.
- The original GE06 T-DAB assignments which do not fit into the frequency plan according to this Framework Agreement will be adjusted accordingly

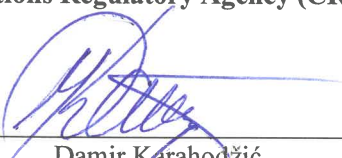
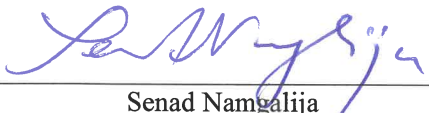
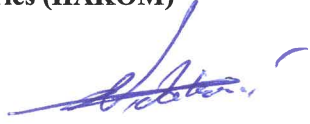
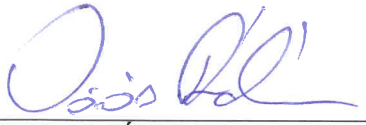
6. Language of the Framework Agreement

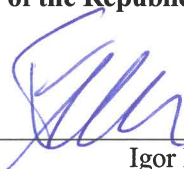
This Framework Agreement is prepared in English in a number of originals equal to the number of Signatory Administrations. Each Administration holds one original.

7. Revision or abrogation of the Framework Agreement

A revision or an abrogation of this Framework Agreement needs the agreement of all Signatory Administrations.

Budapest, 13 June 2023

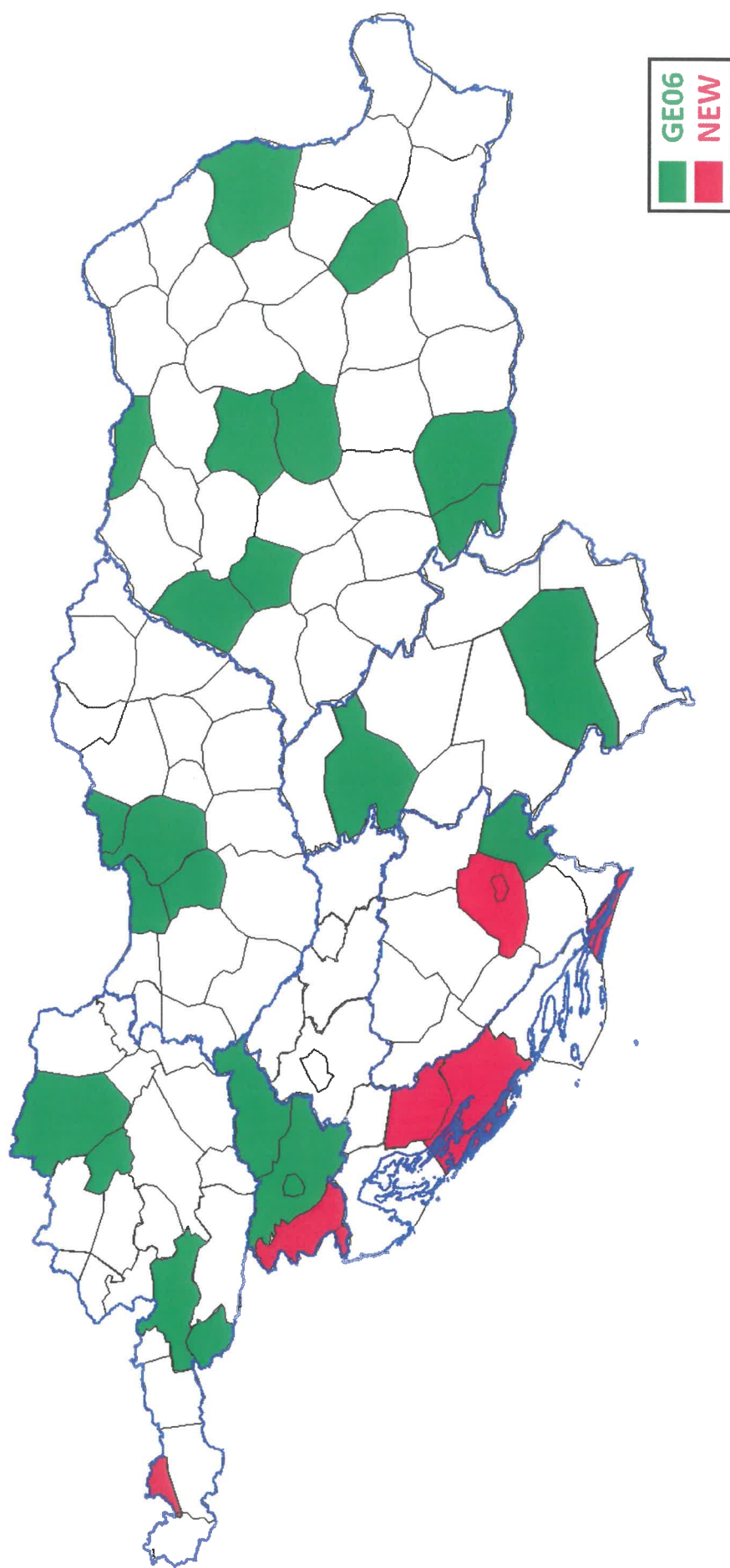
For the administration of Austria: Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR- GmbH)  Peter Reindl Head of Frequency Management for Broadcasting Department	For the administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA)  Damir Karahodžić Head of Spectrum Management Department  Senad Namgalija Head of Television Broadcasting Department
For the administration of Croatia: Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)  Danijel Vidaković Head of Spectrum Management Department	For the administration of Hungary: National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)  Péter Vári PhD. Deputy Director-General  Ádám Vörös Head of Frequency Planning and Coordination Unit

For the administration of Romania: National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM)  Liliana Andrei Director Spectrum Management Division  Lăurențiu Tănase Head of Broadcasting Unit	For the administration of Serbia: Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RATEL)  Natalija Varagić Coordinator of Radio Broadcasting Group
For the administration of Slovenia: Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS)  Igor Funa Sectoral undersecretary	

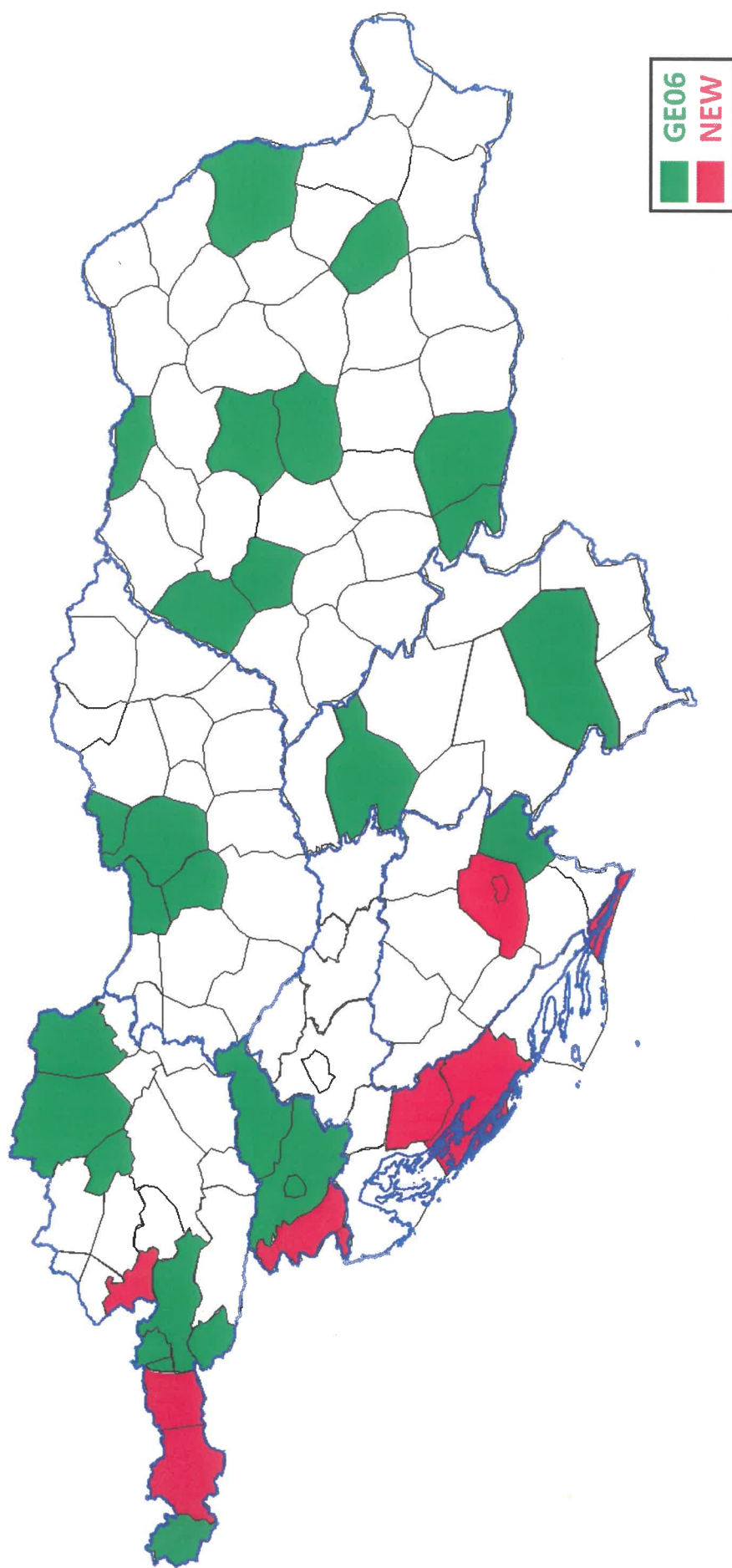
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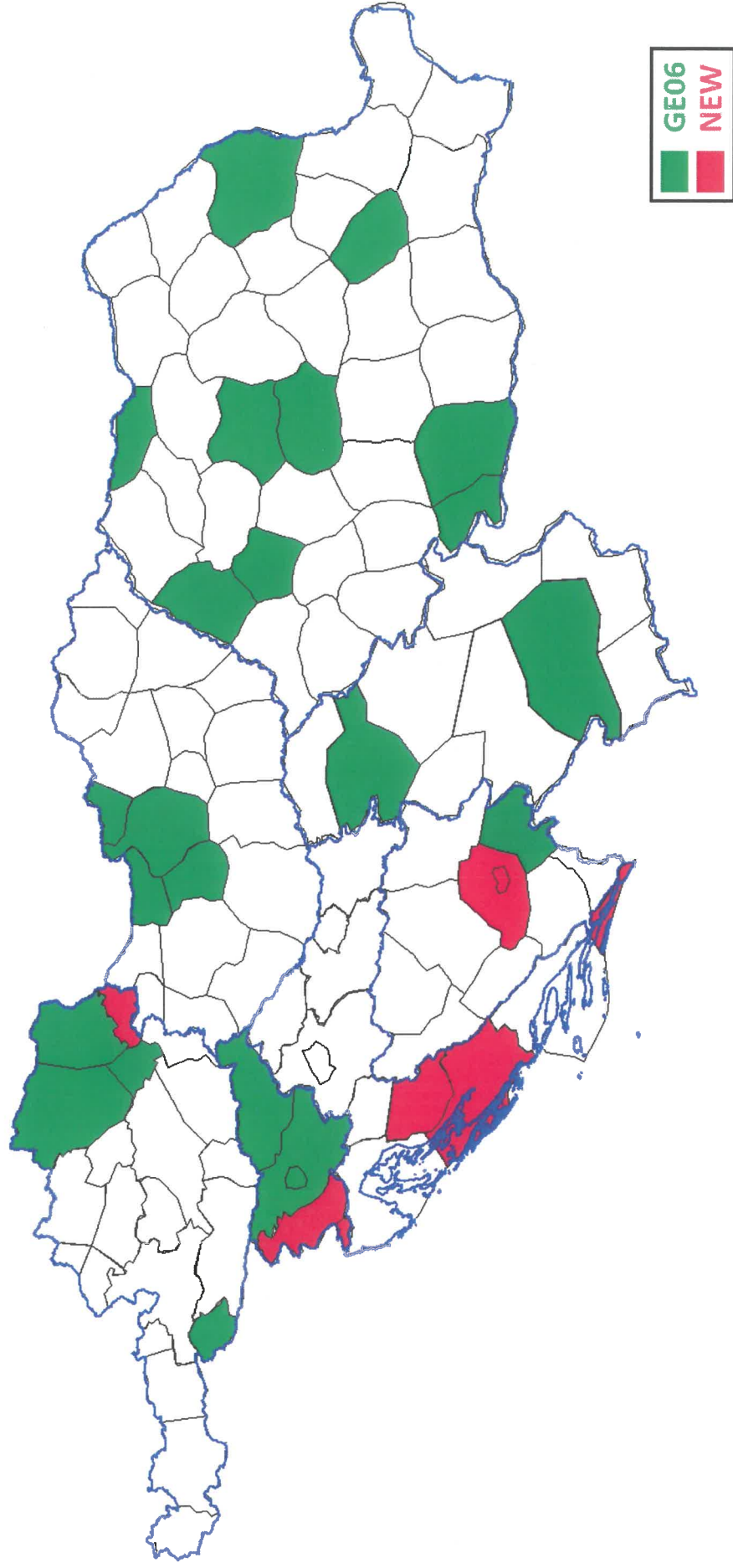
- Channel distribution allotment maps in the coordination area of the group

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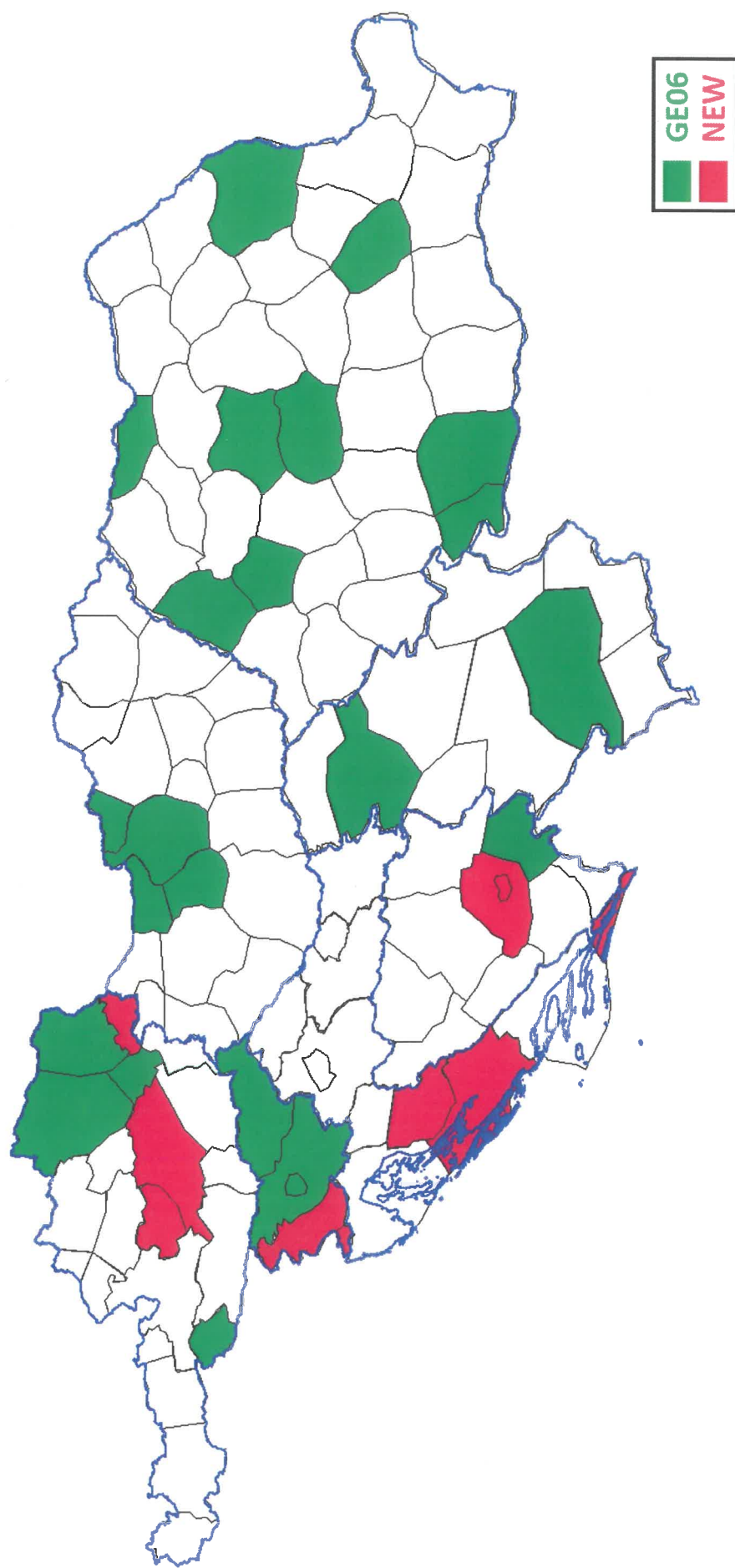


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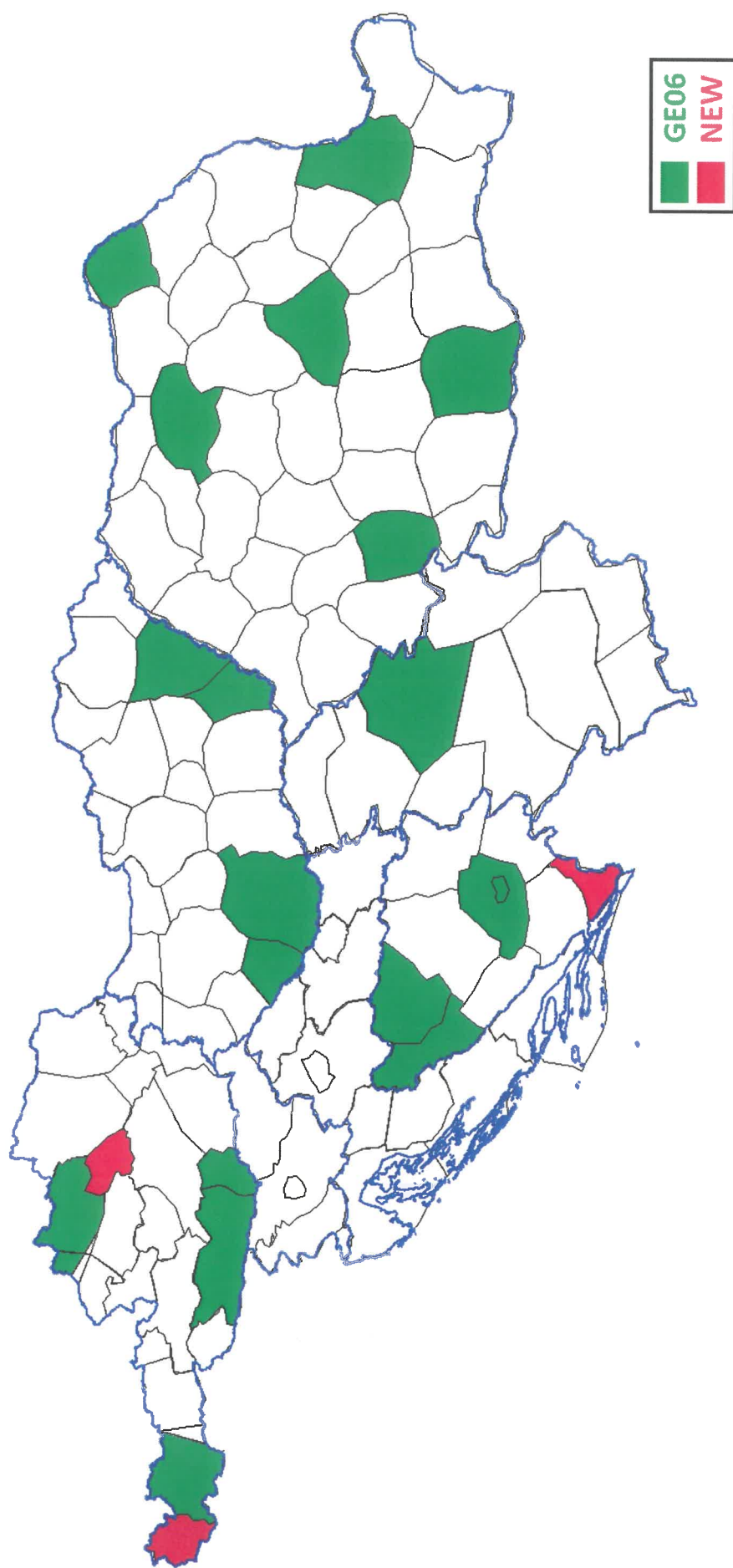




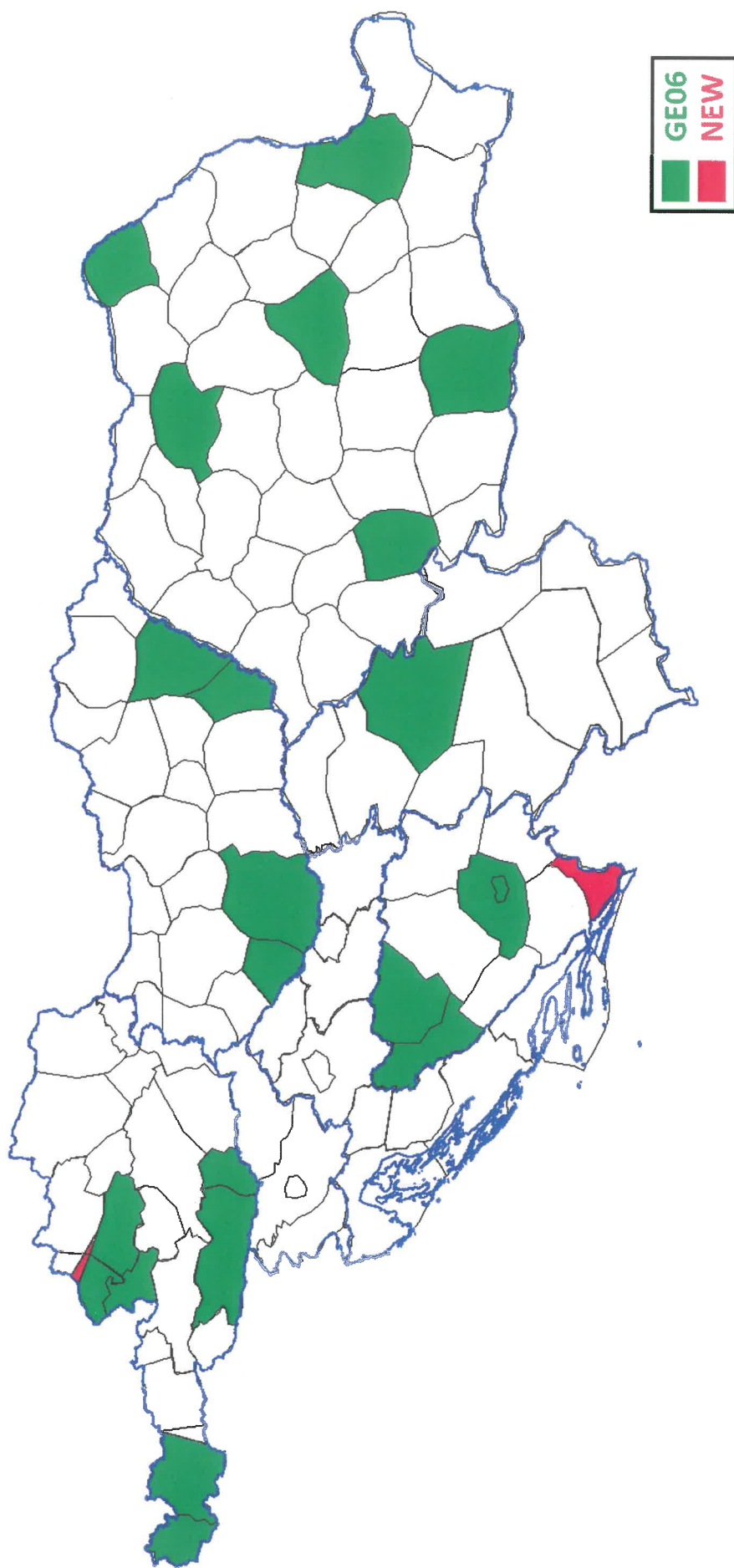
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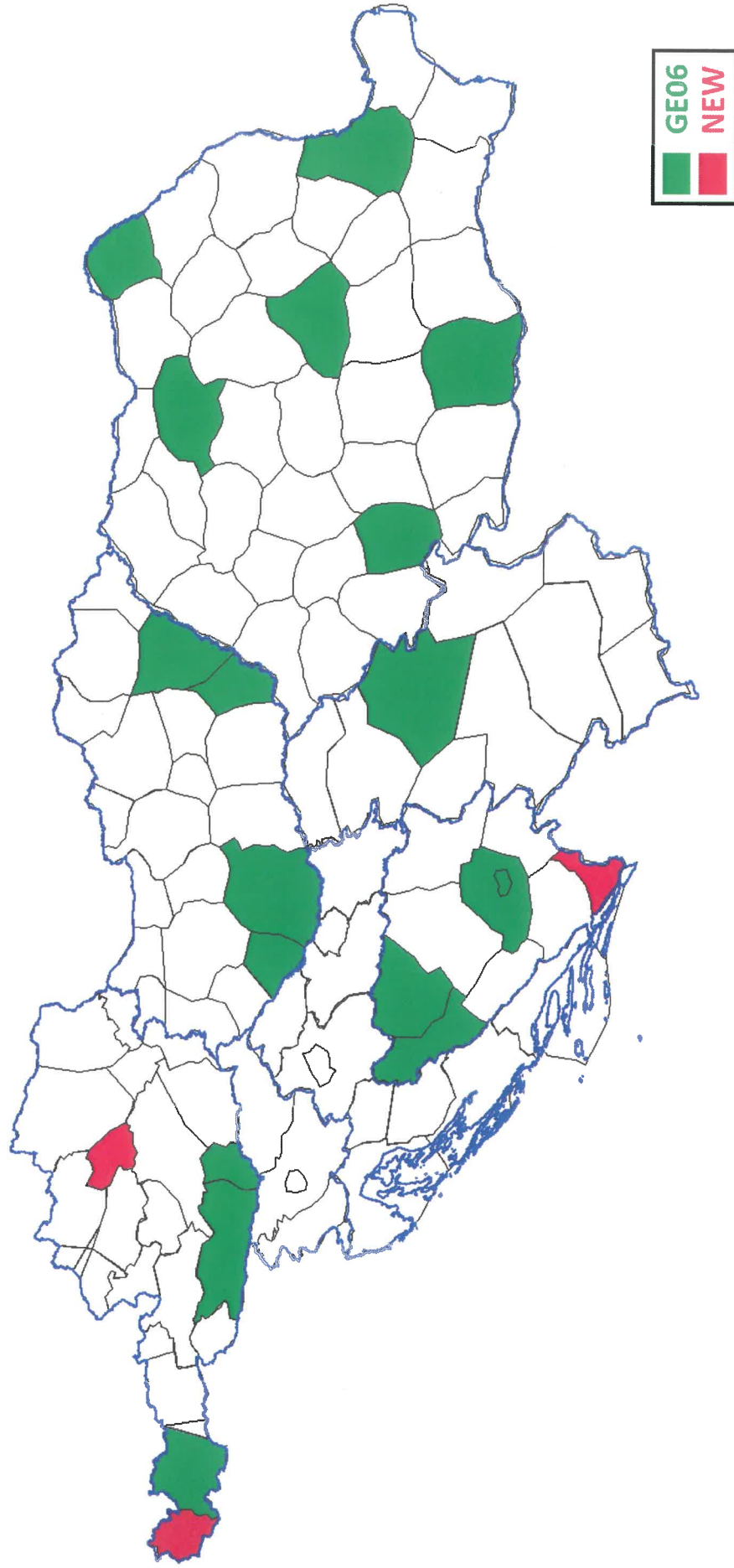
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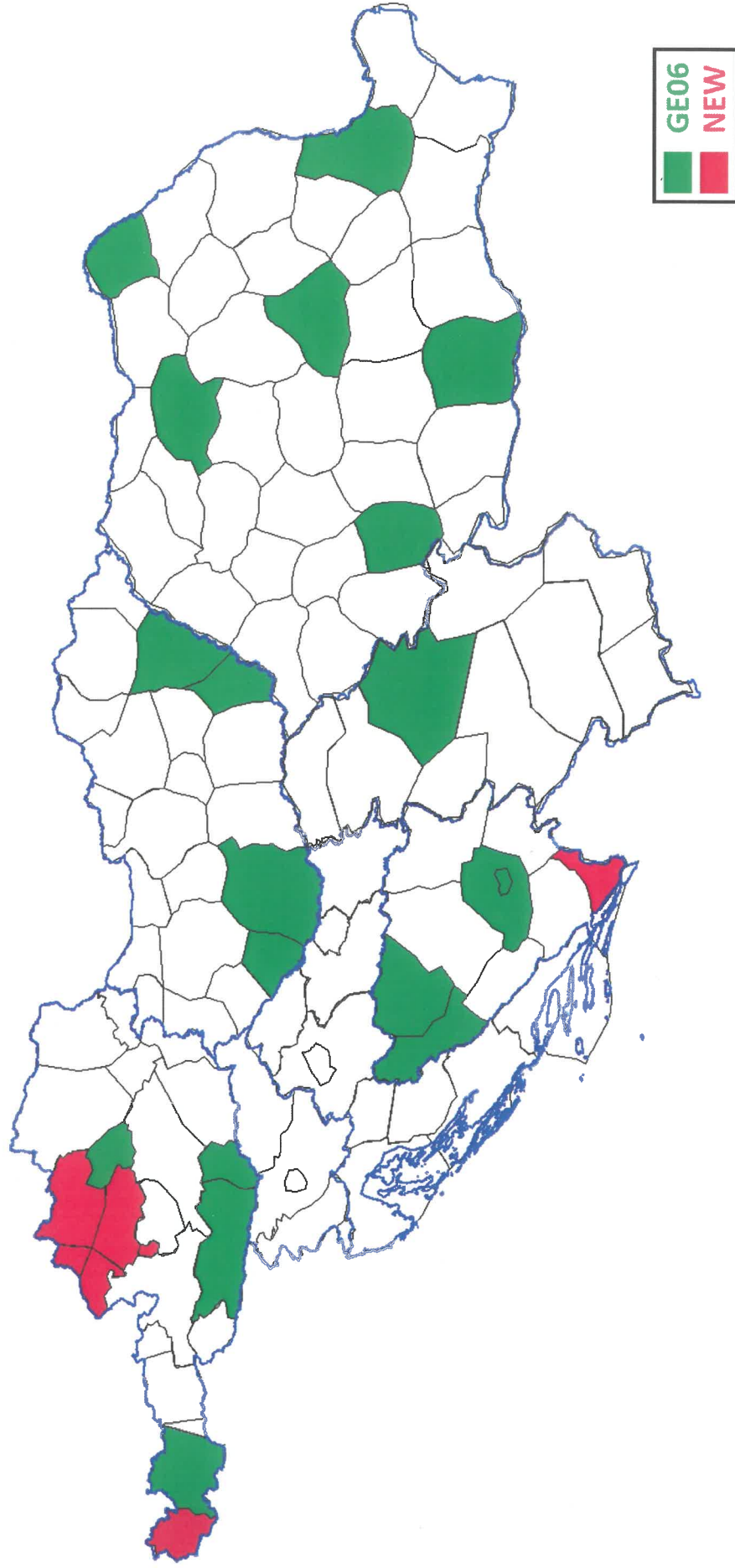
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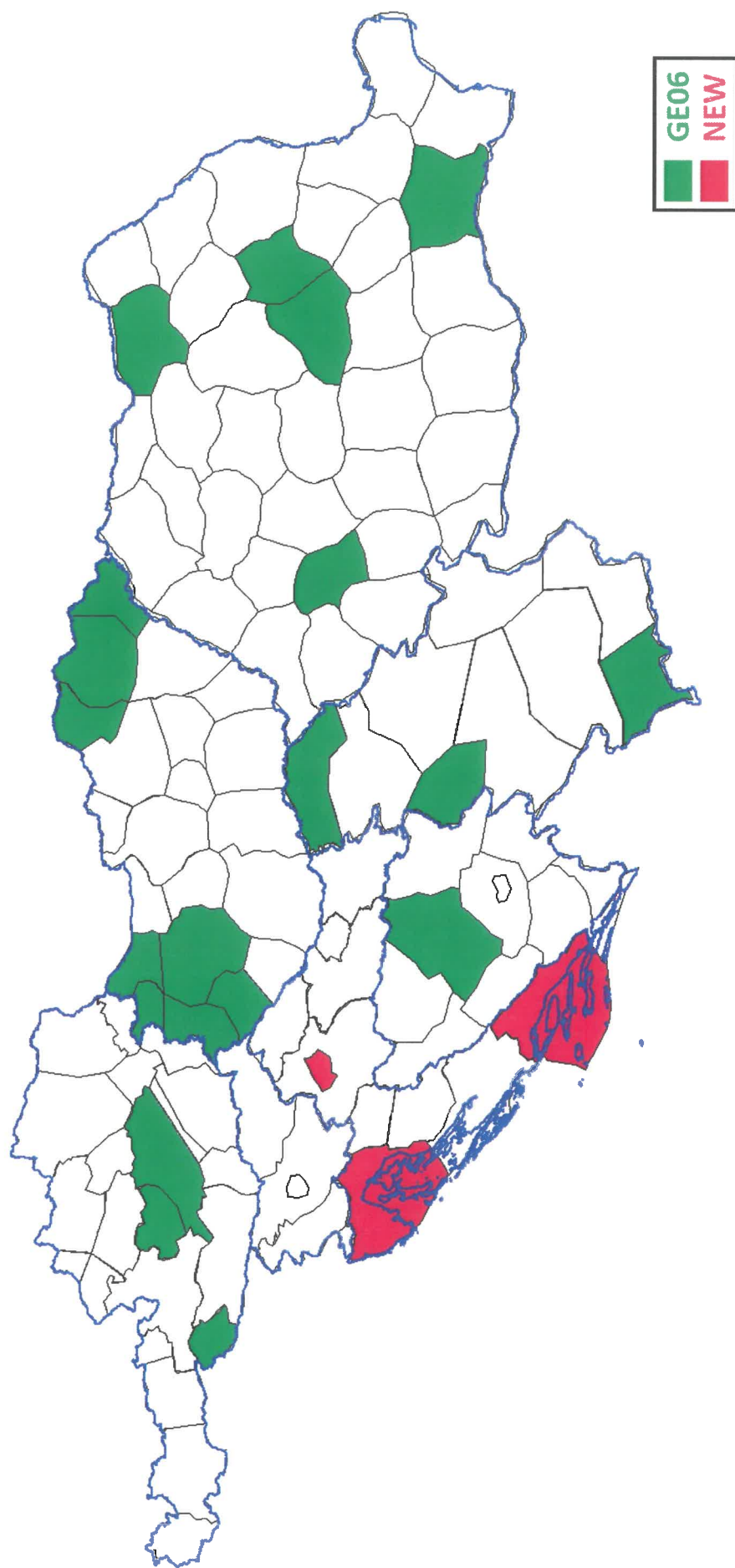
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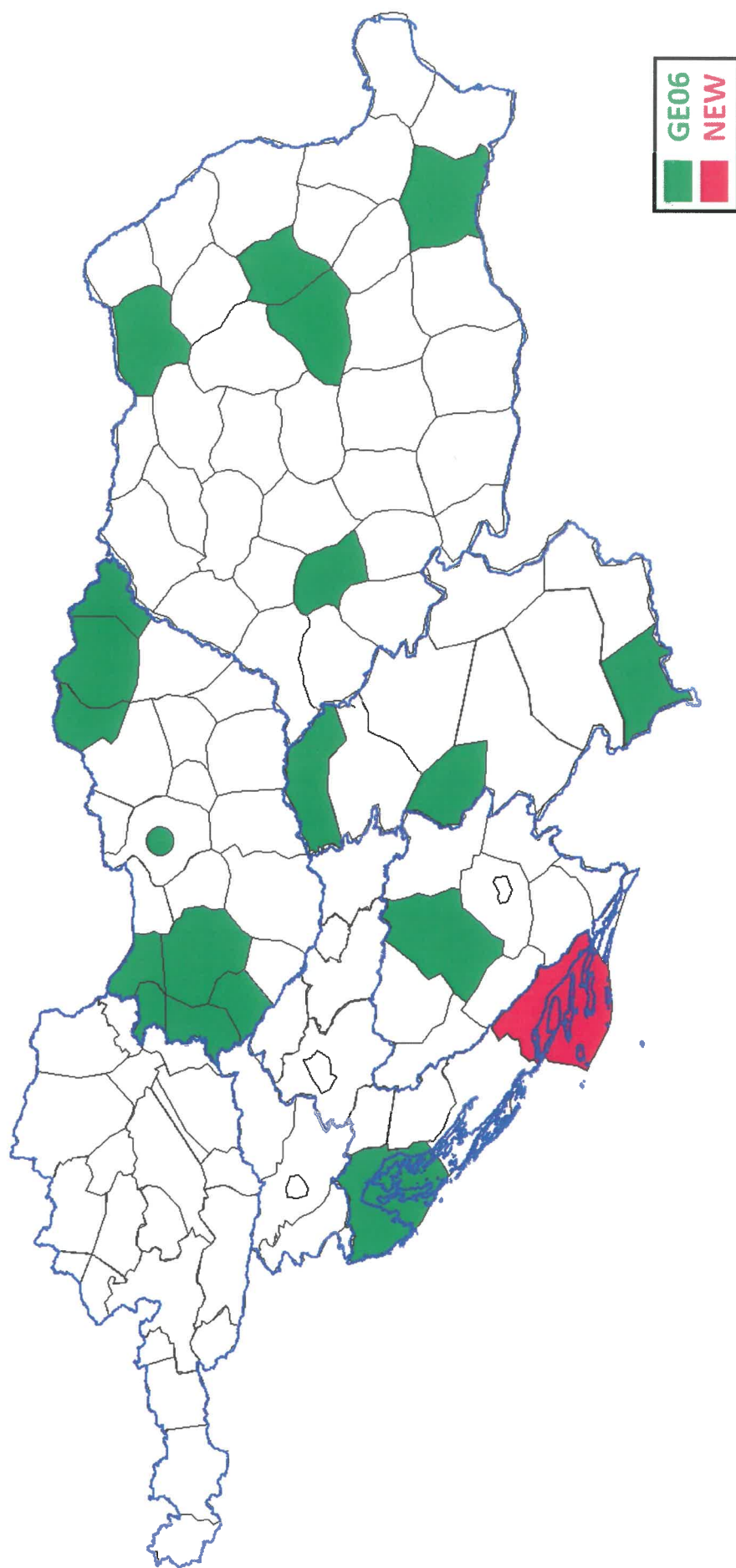
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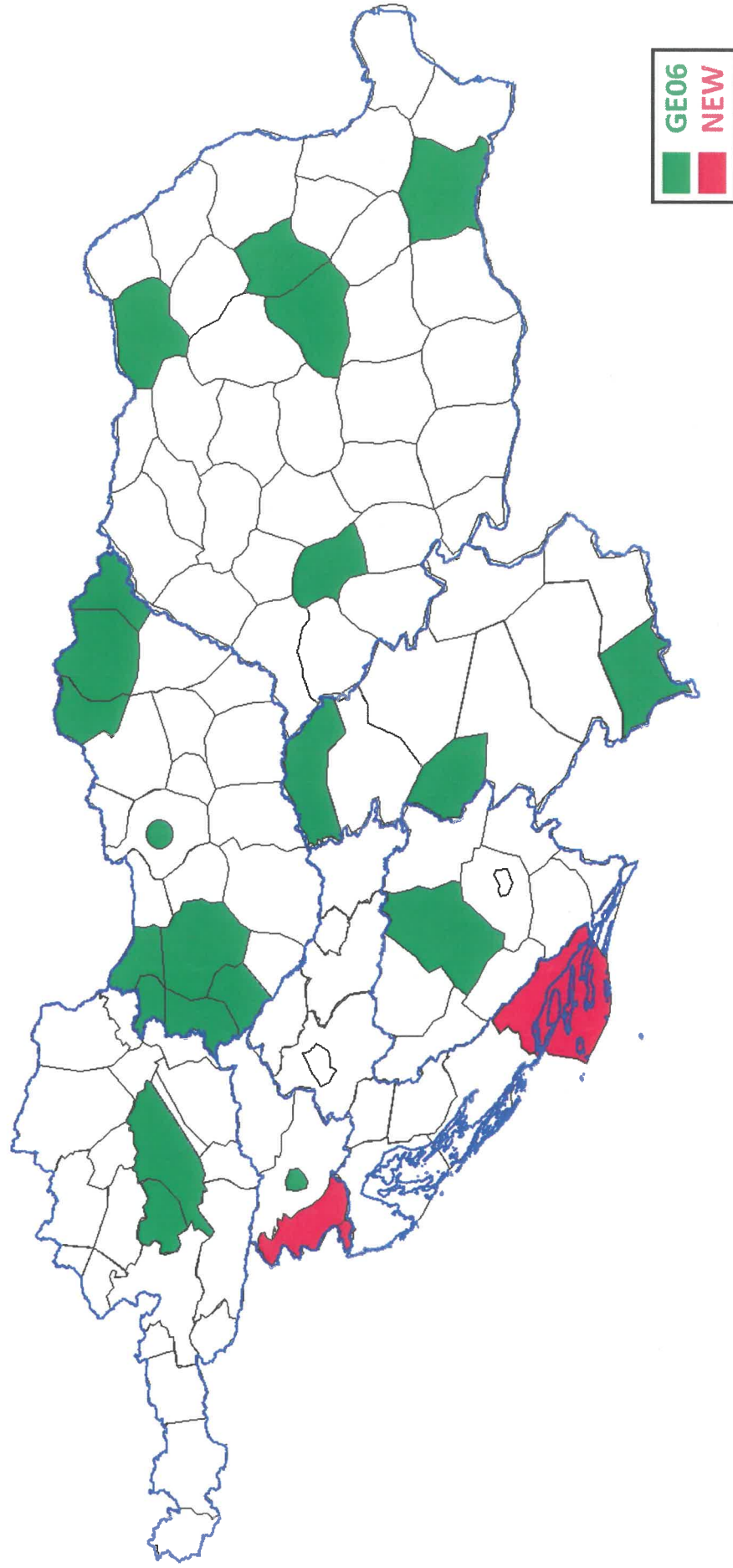
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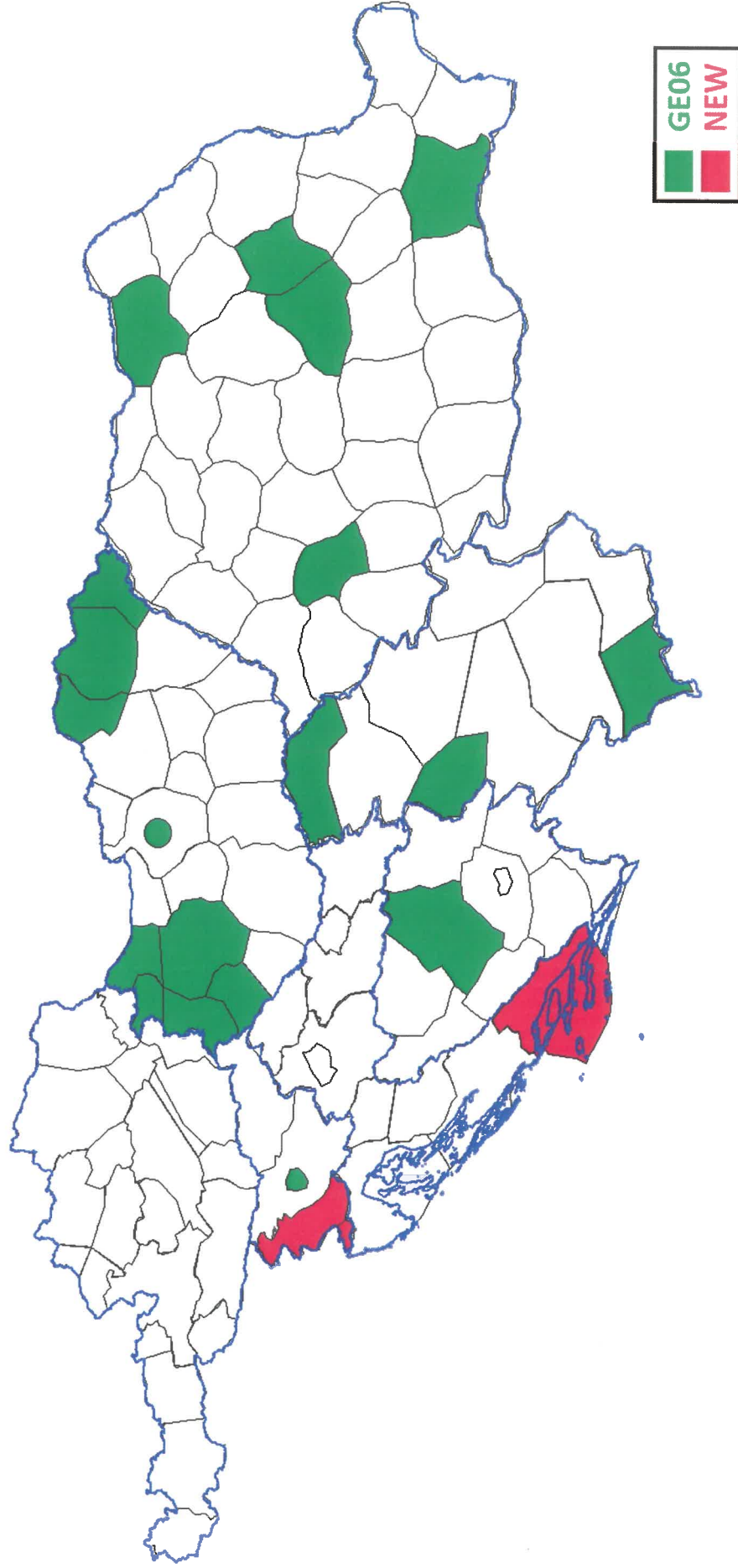
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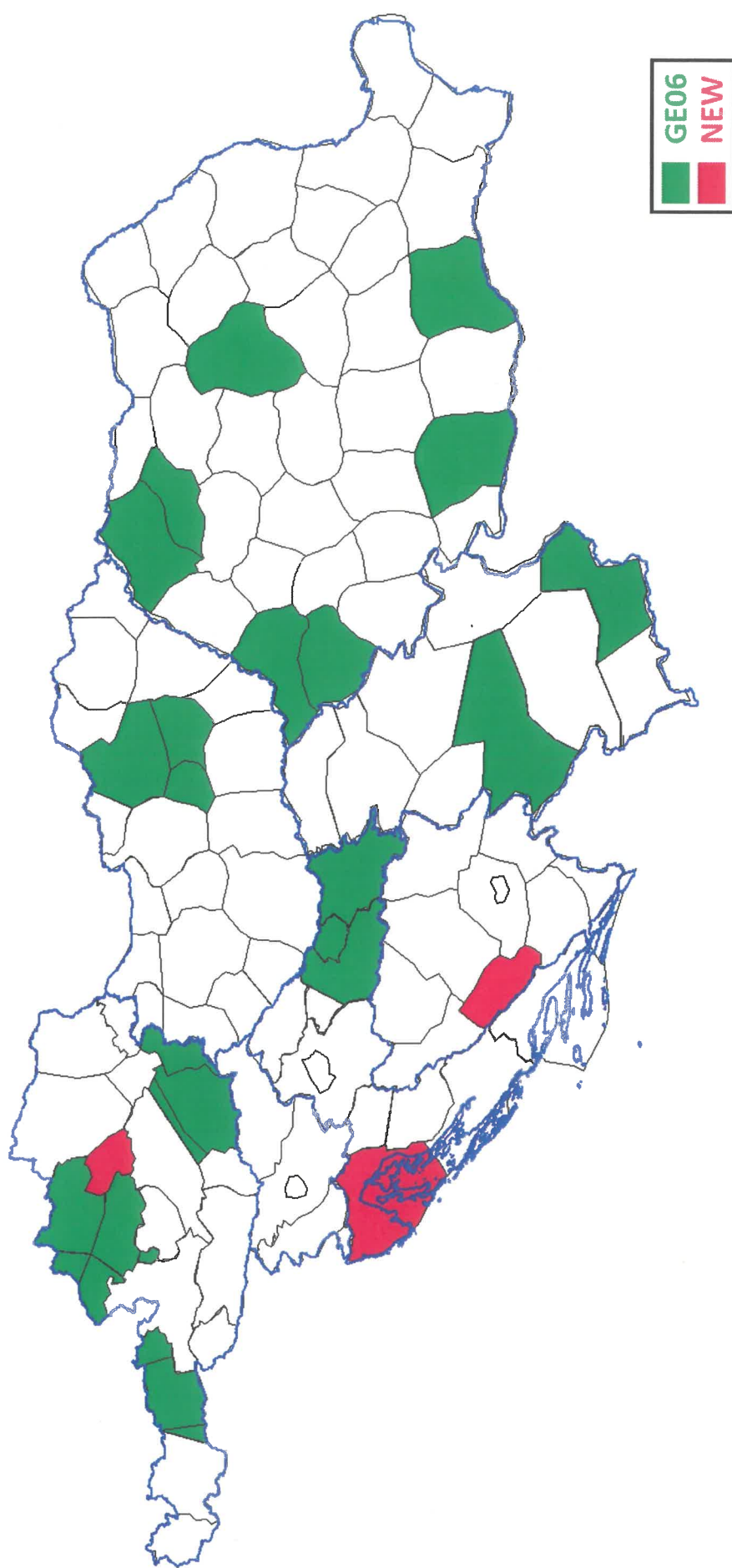
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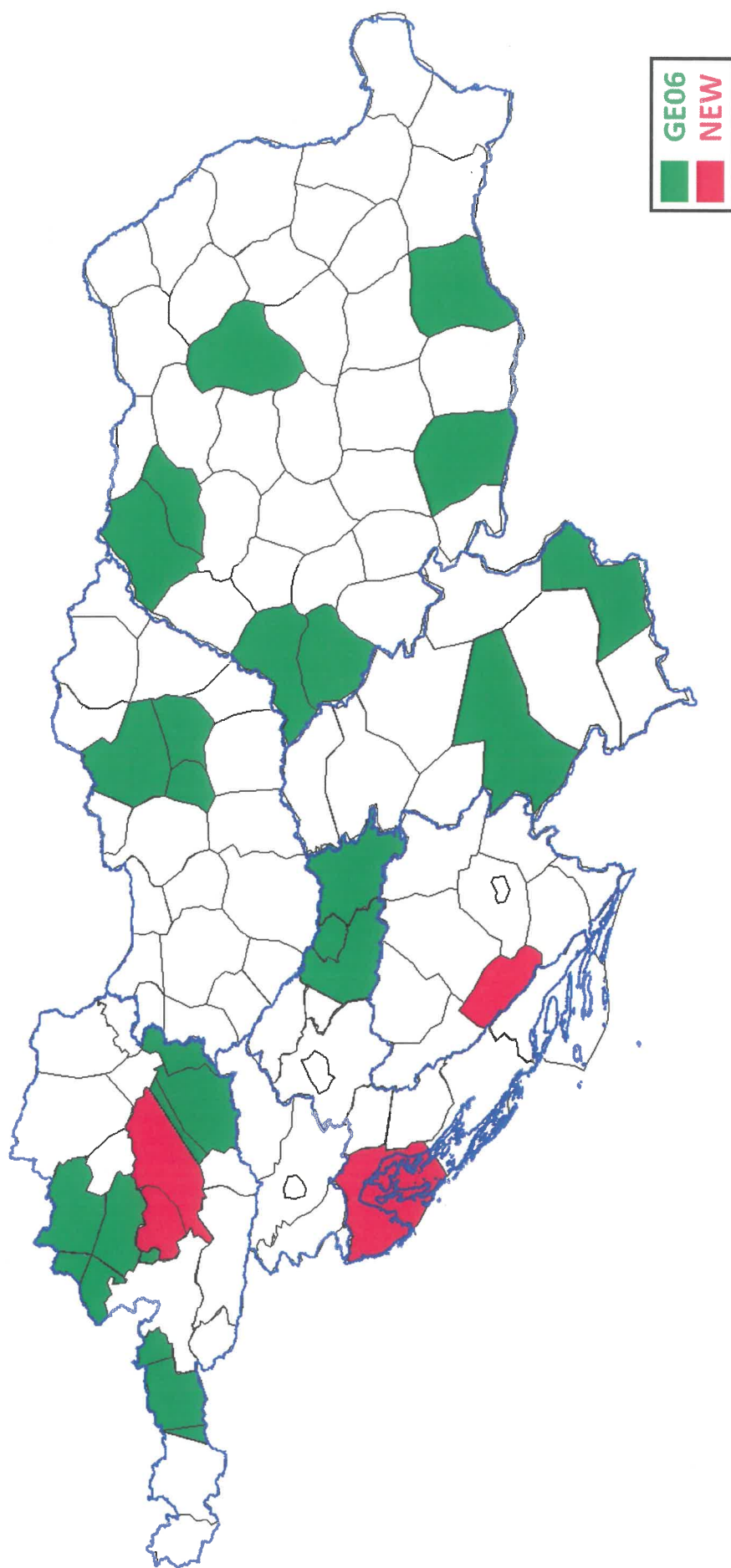
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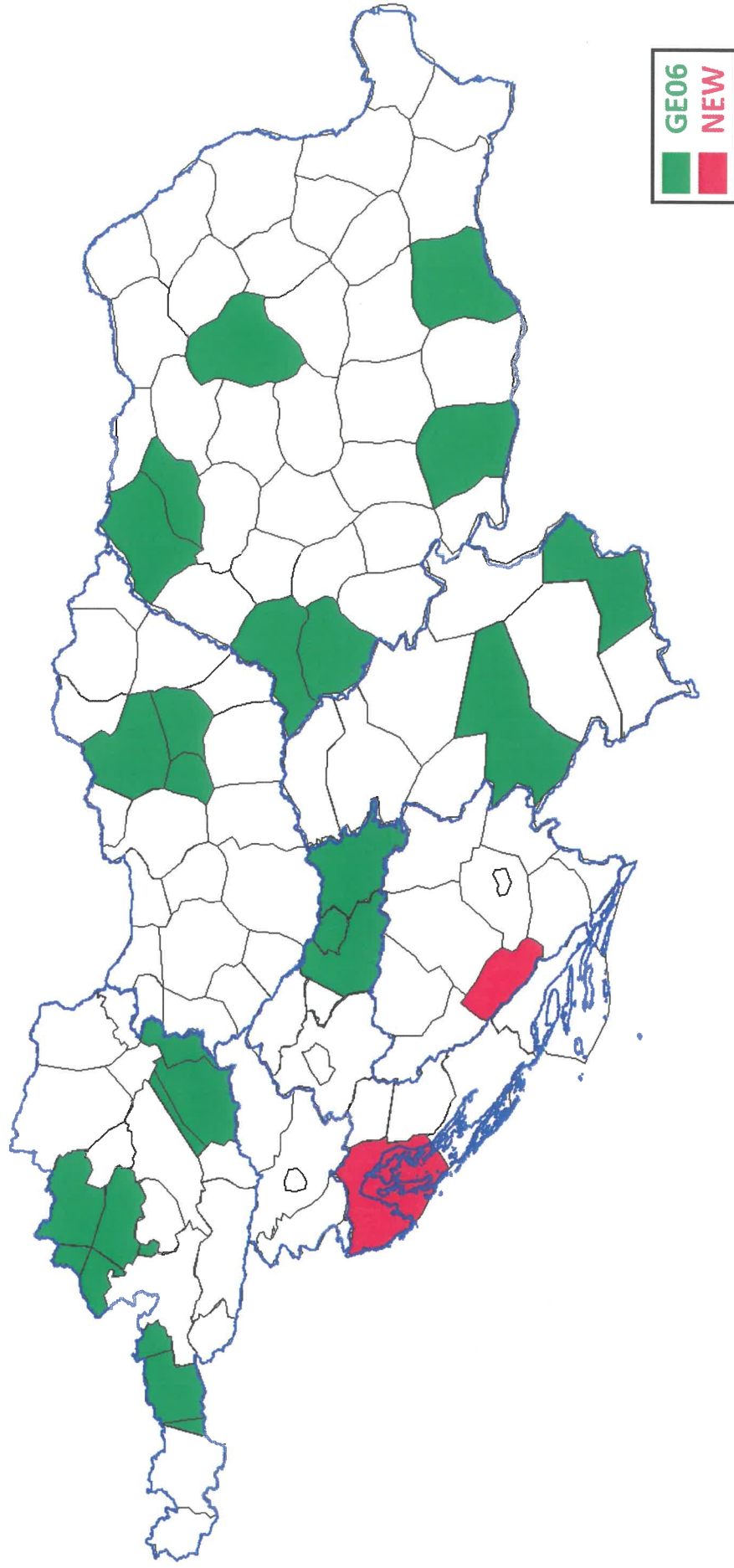


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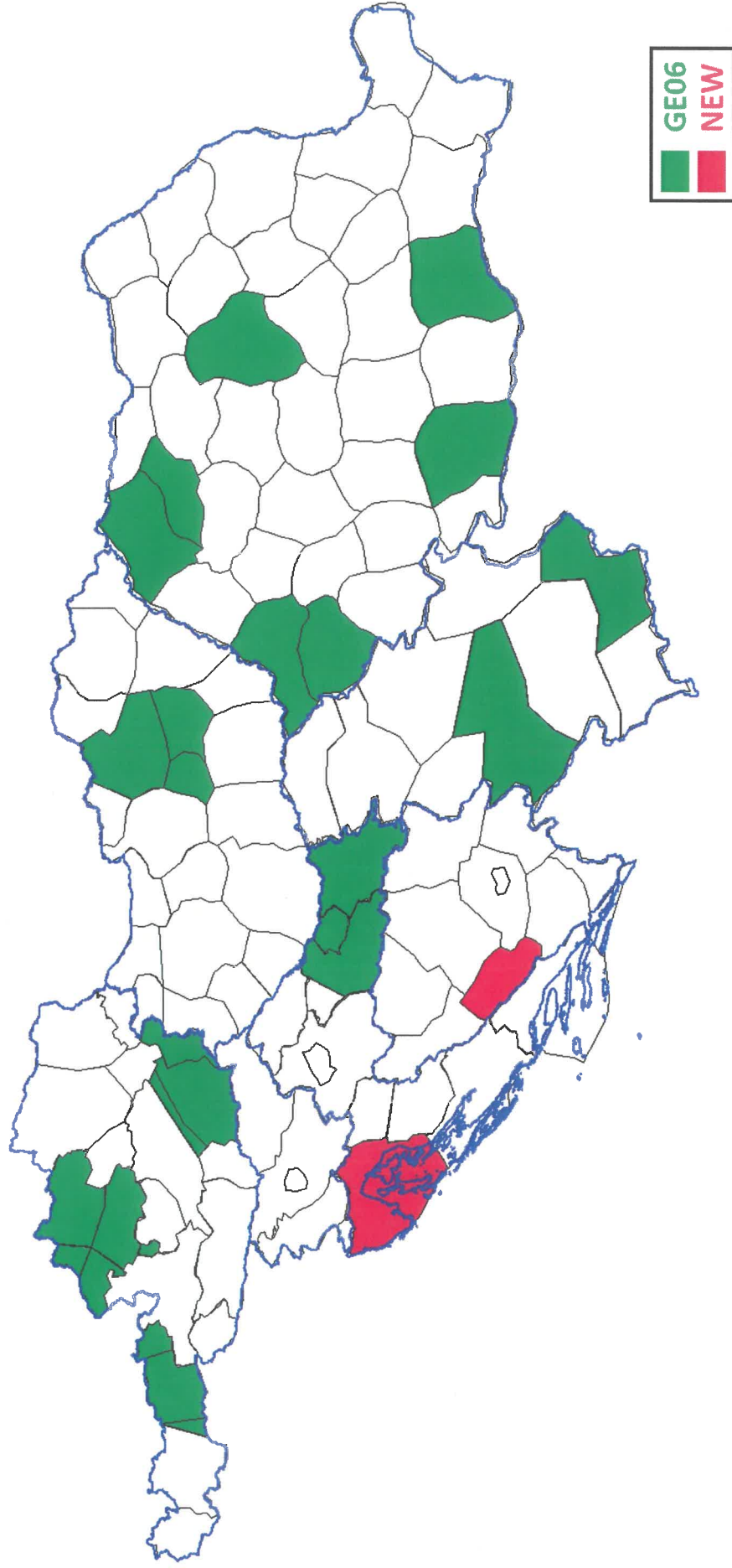


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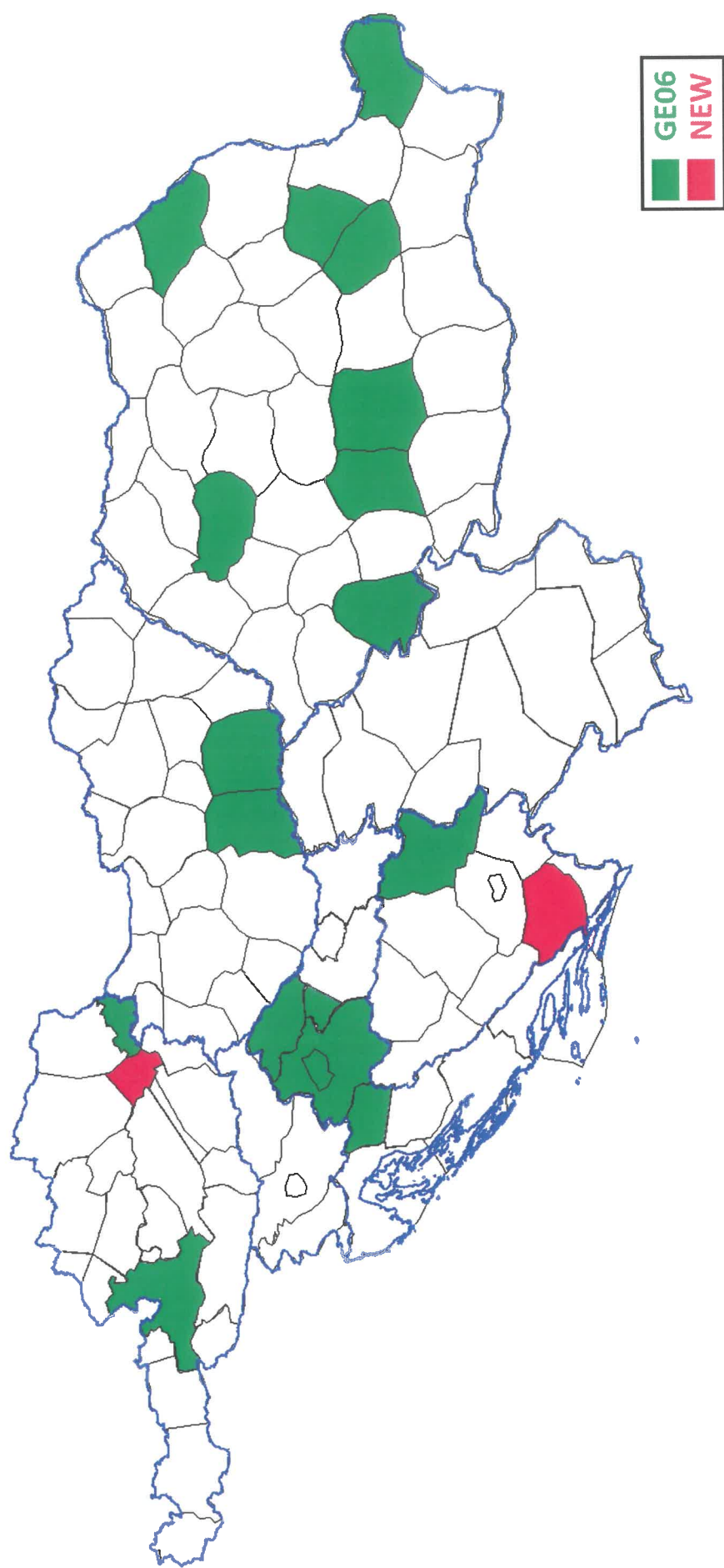




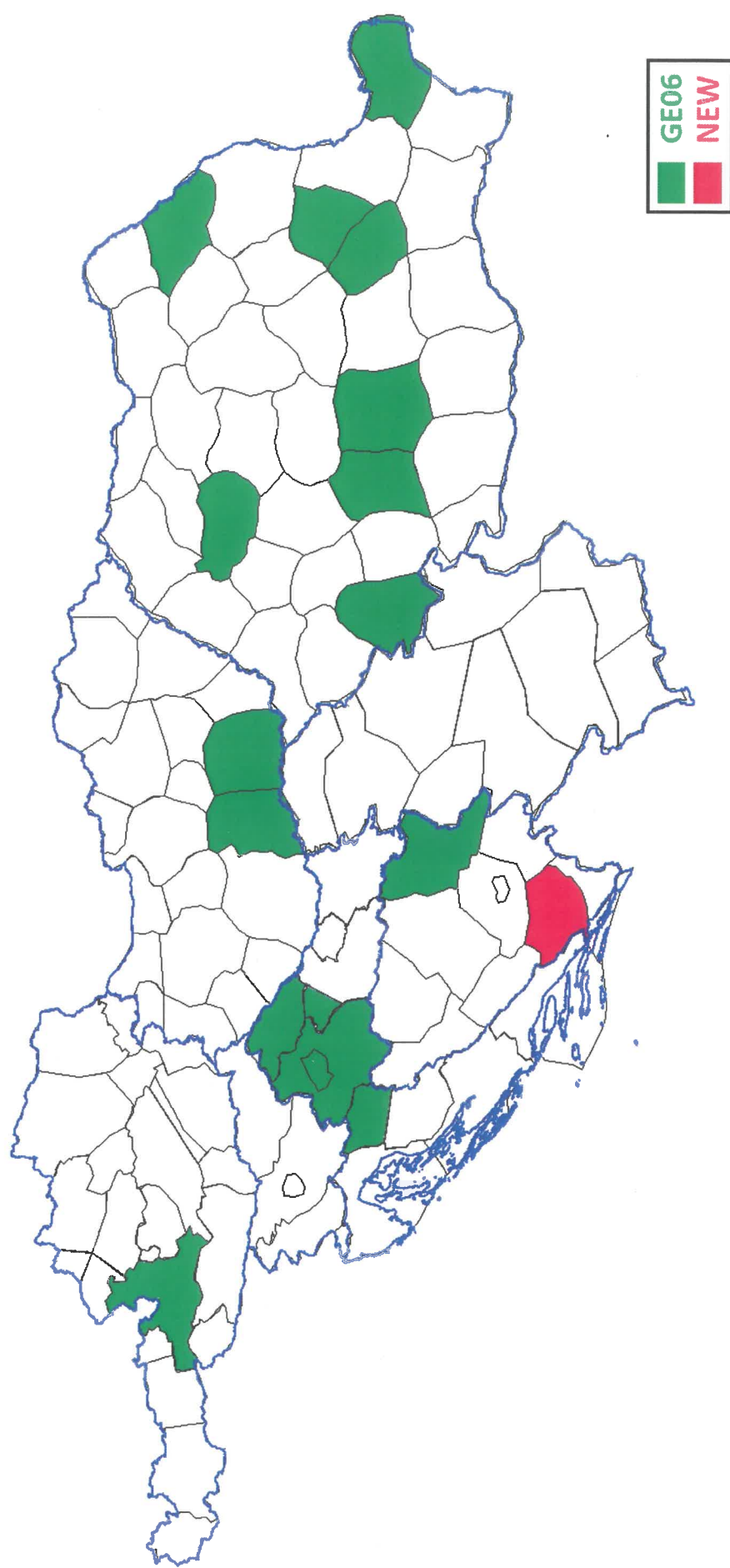
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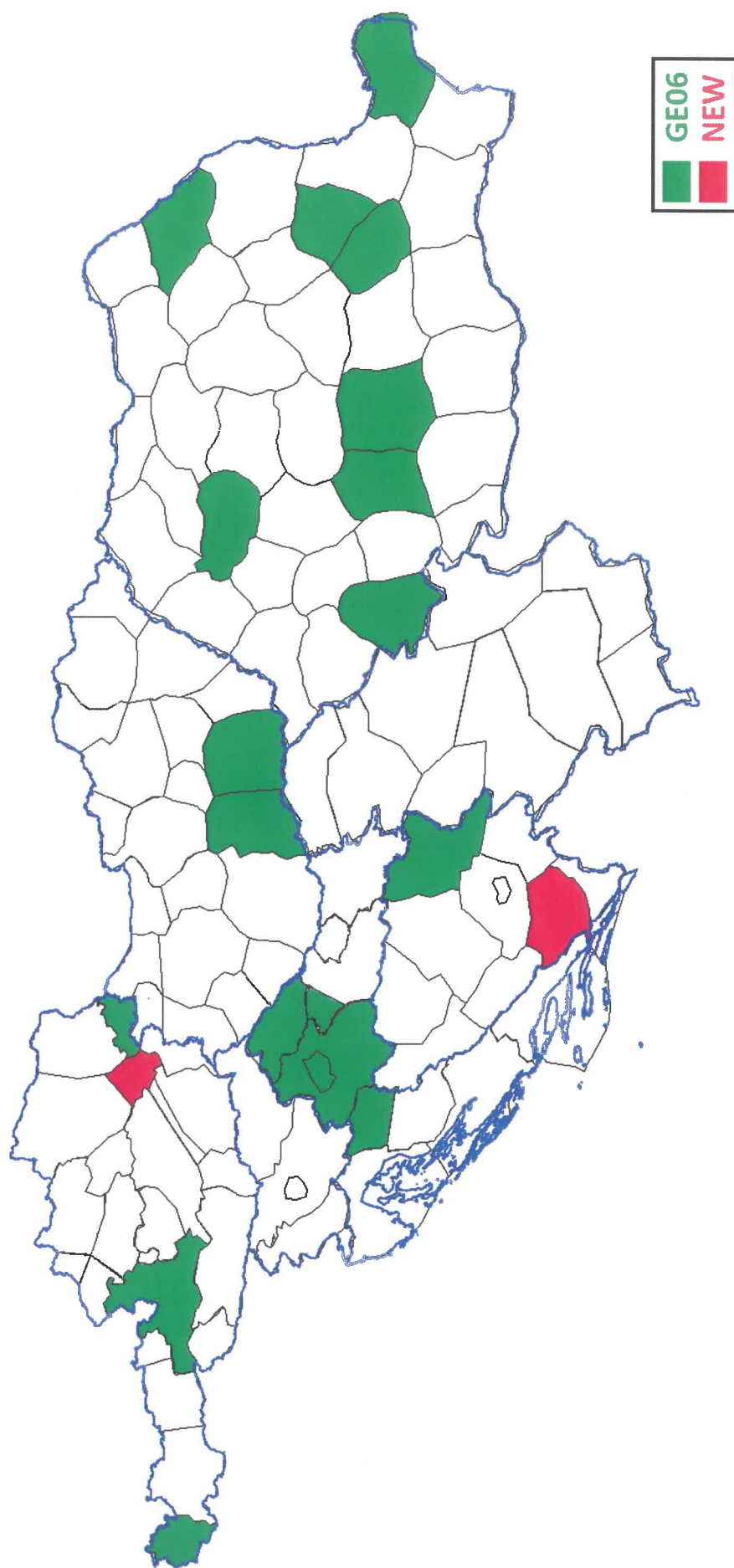


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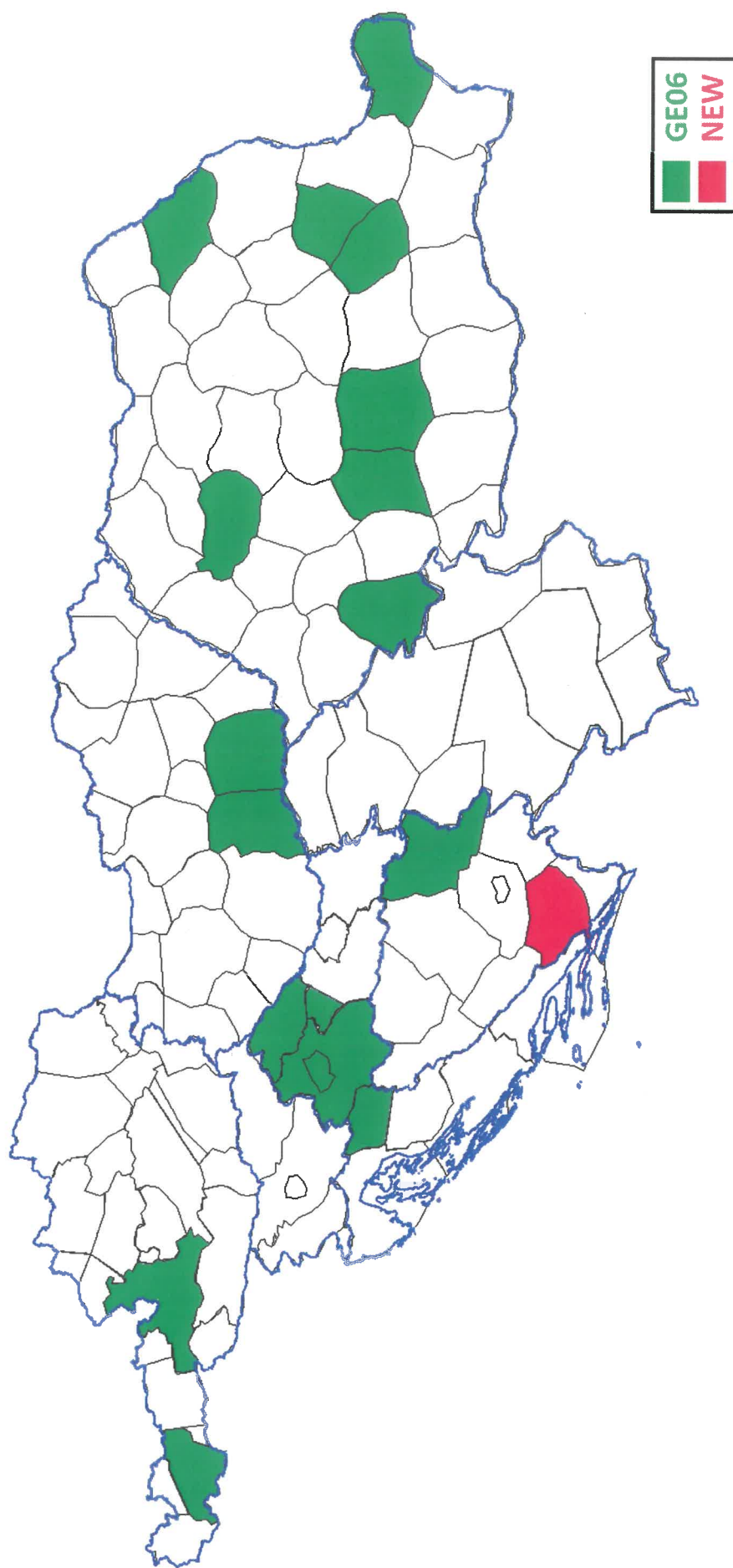


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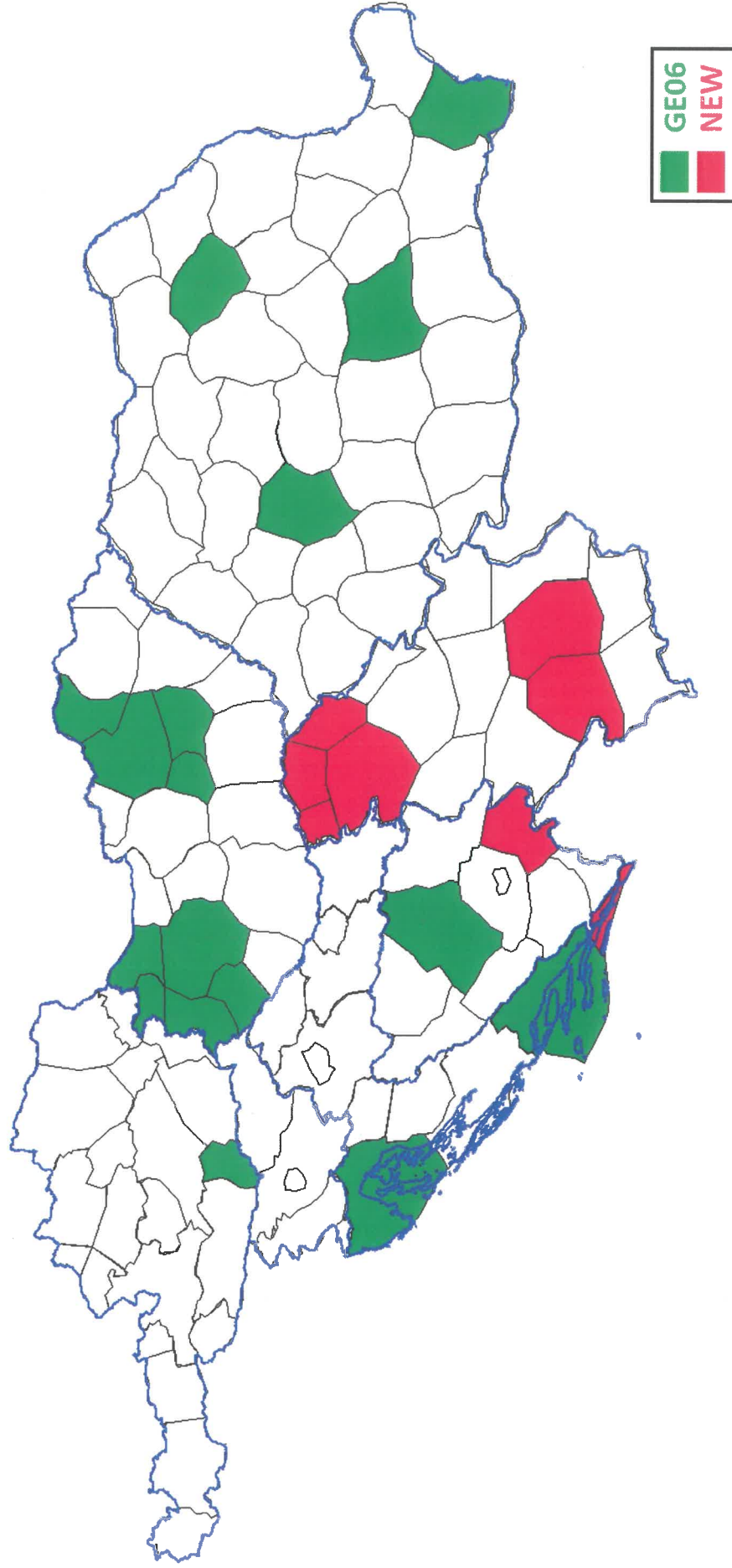




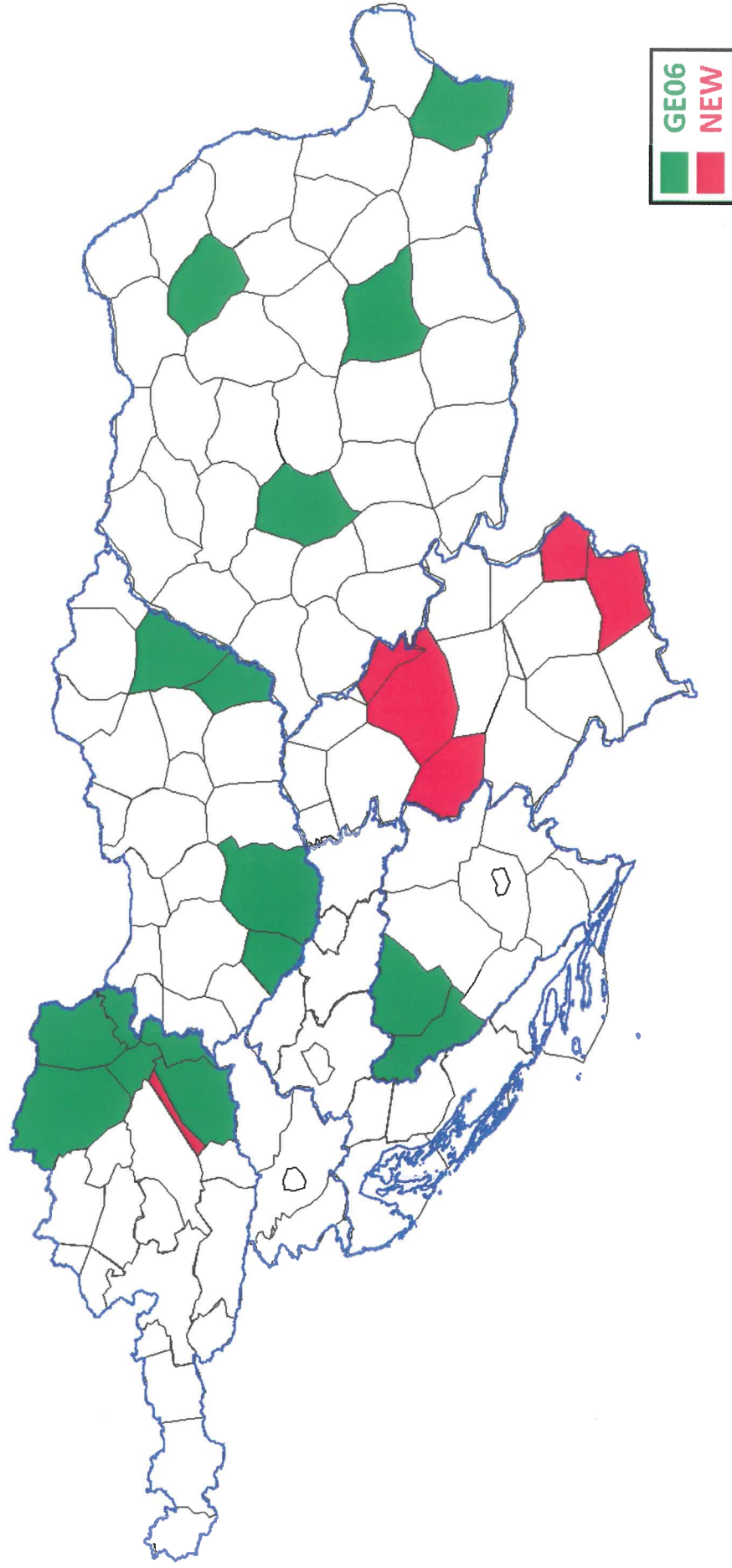
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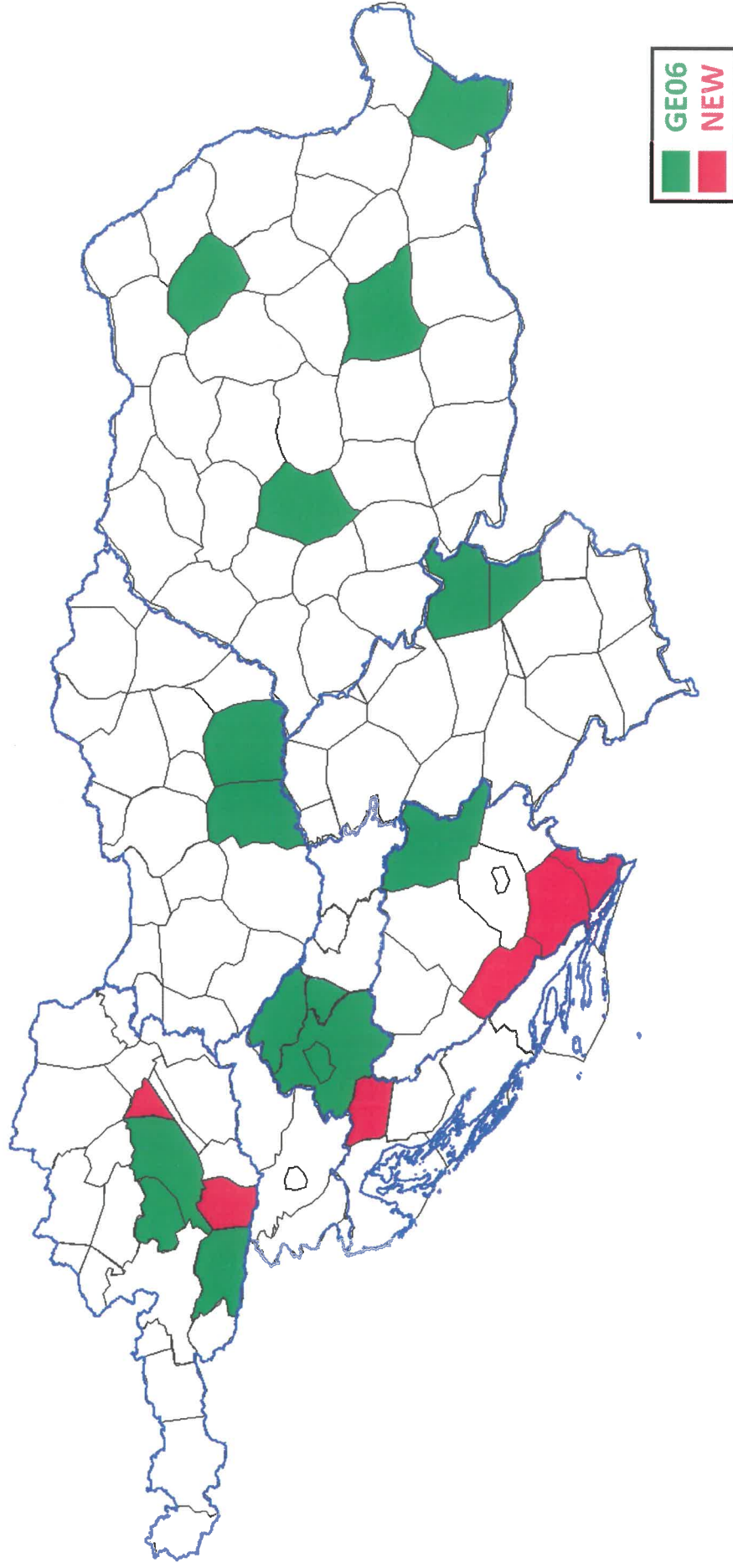
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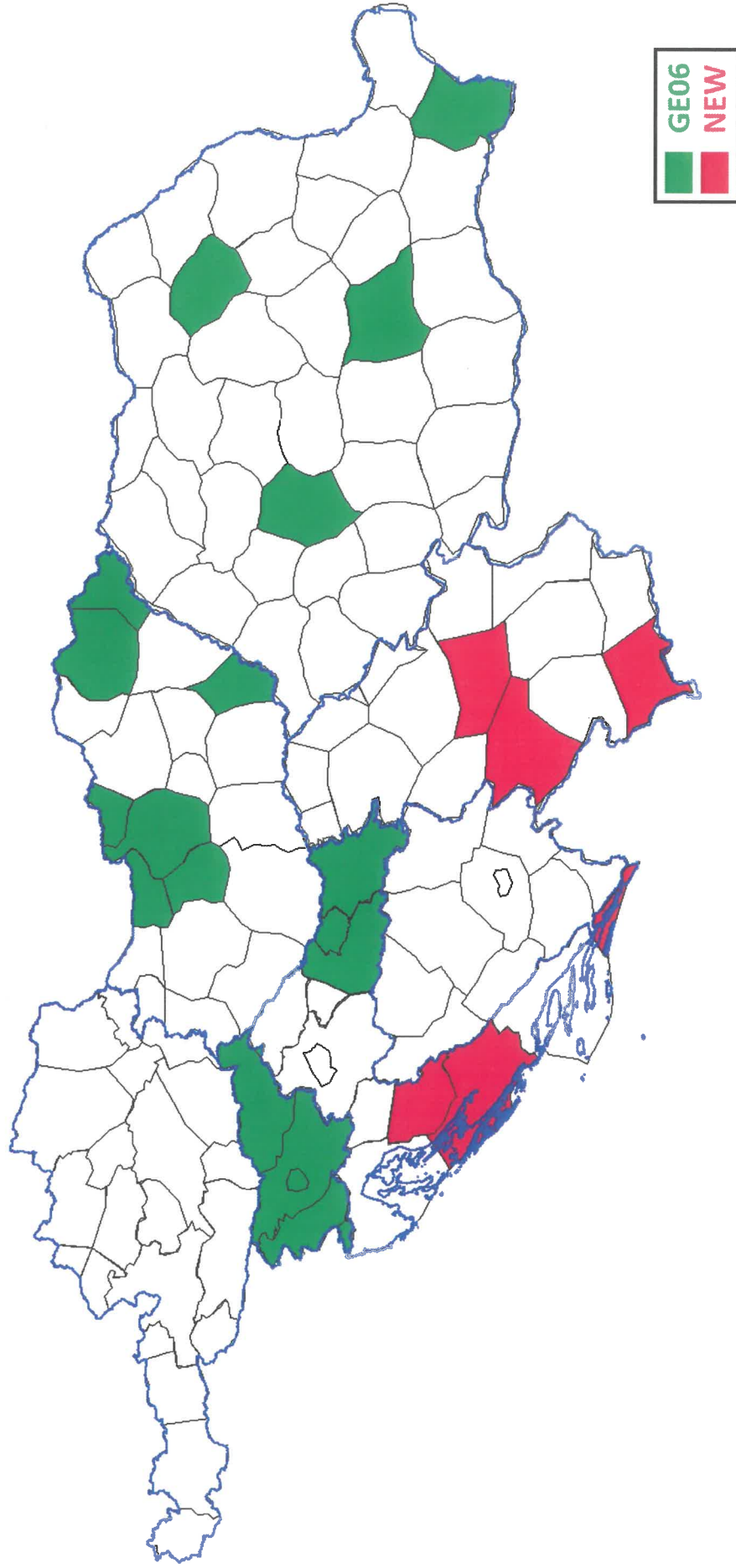
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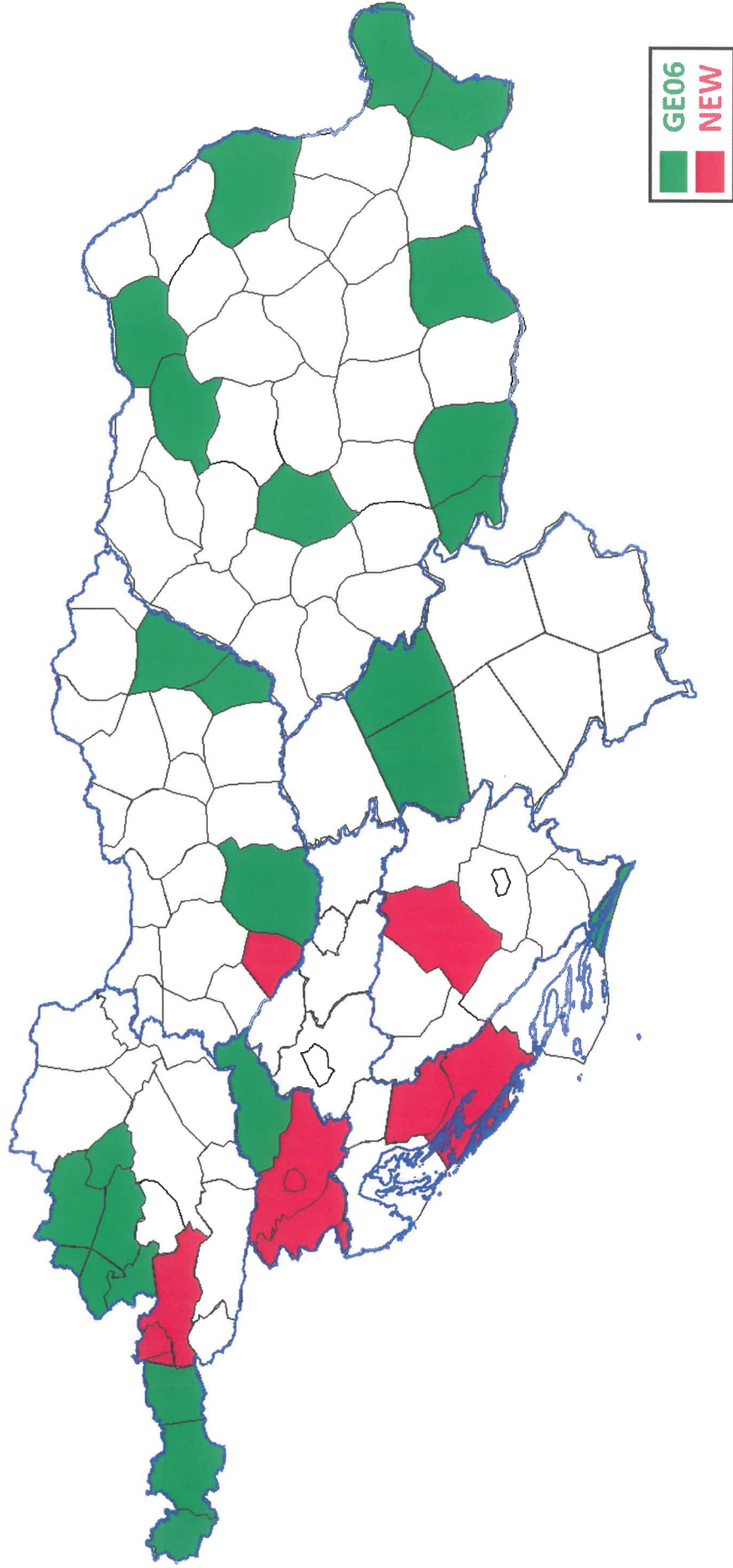
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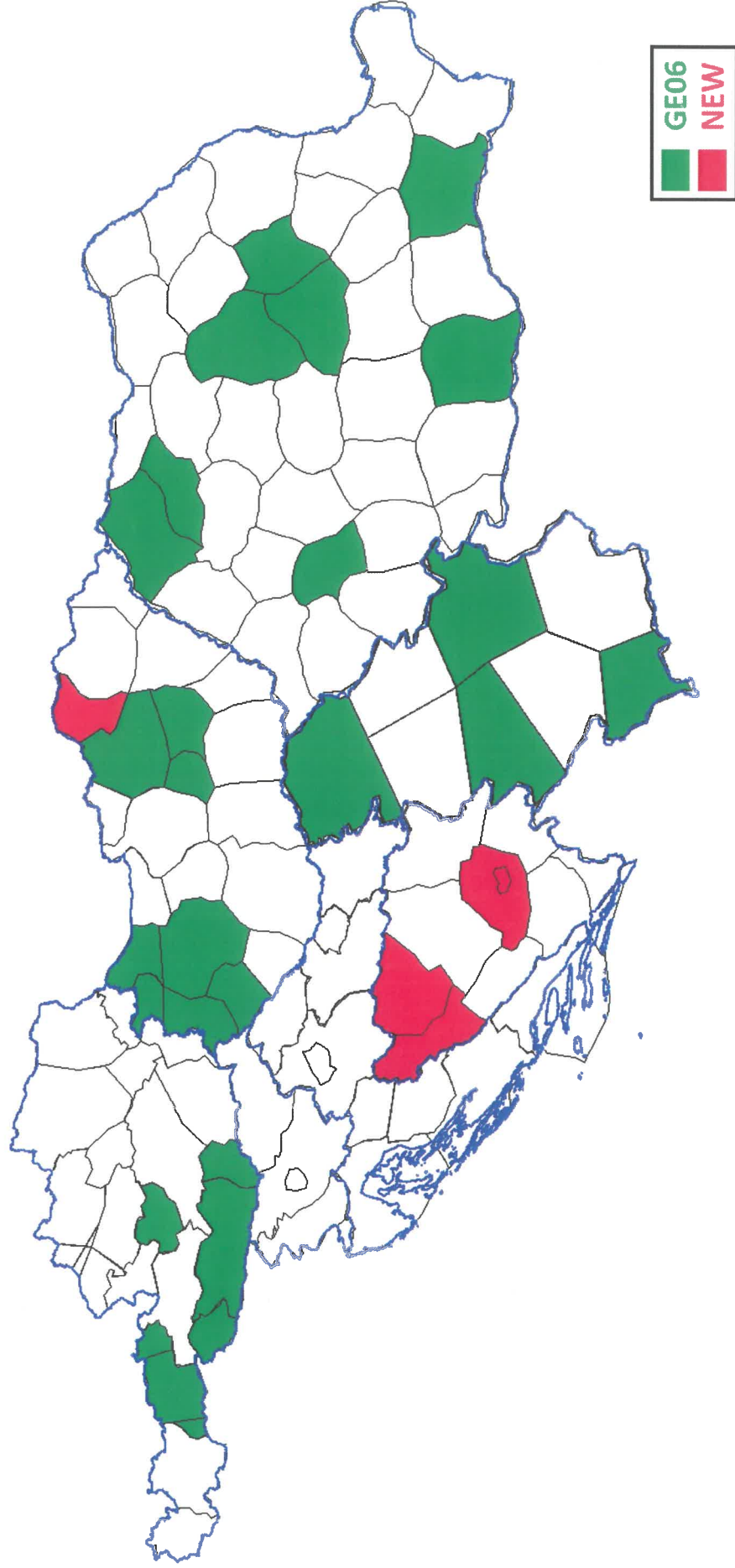
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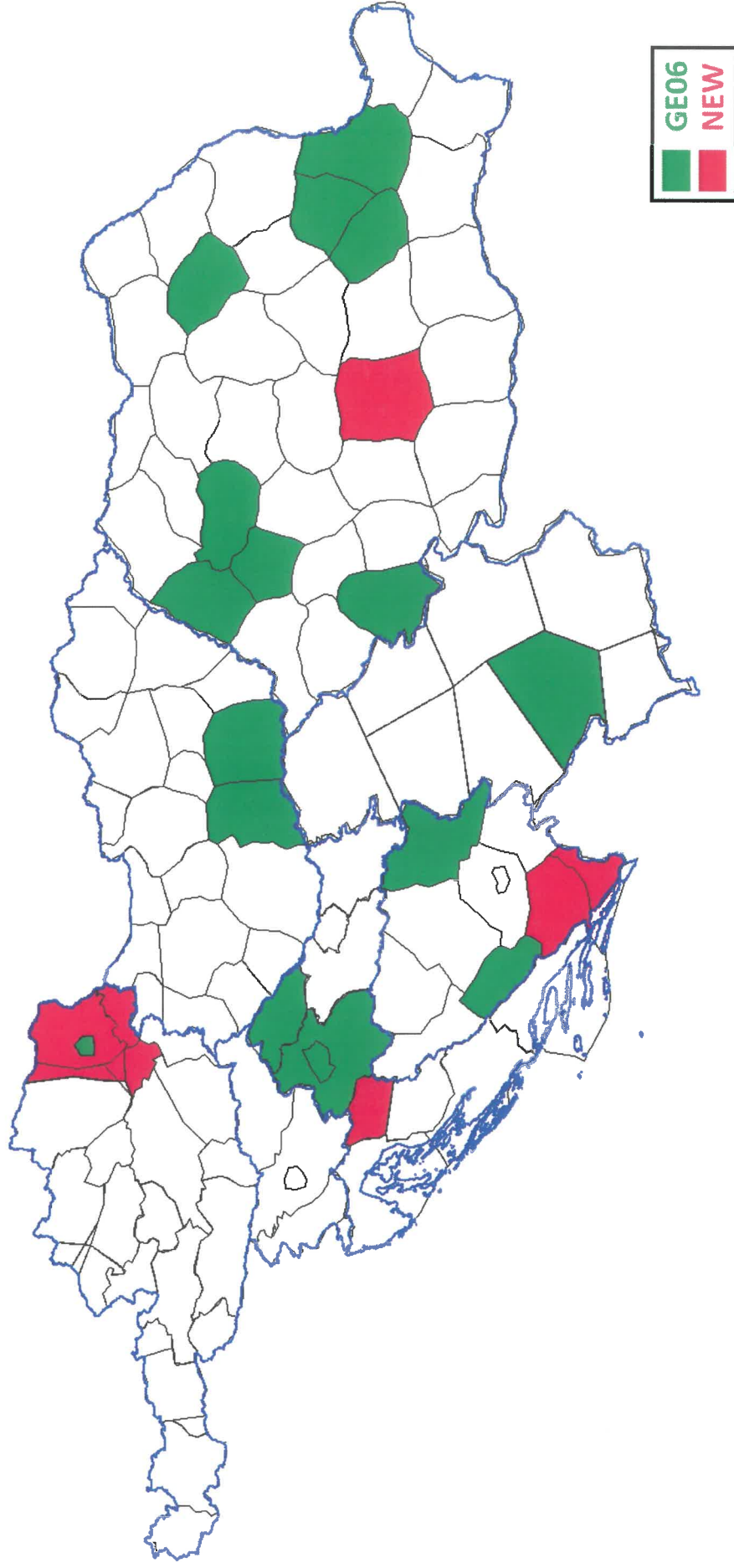
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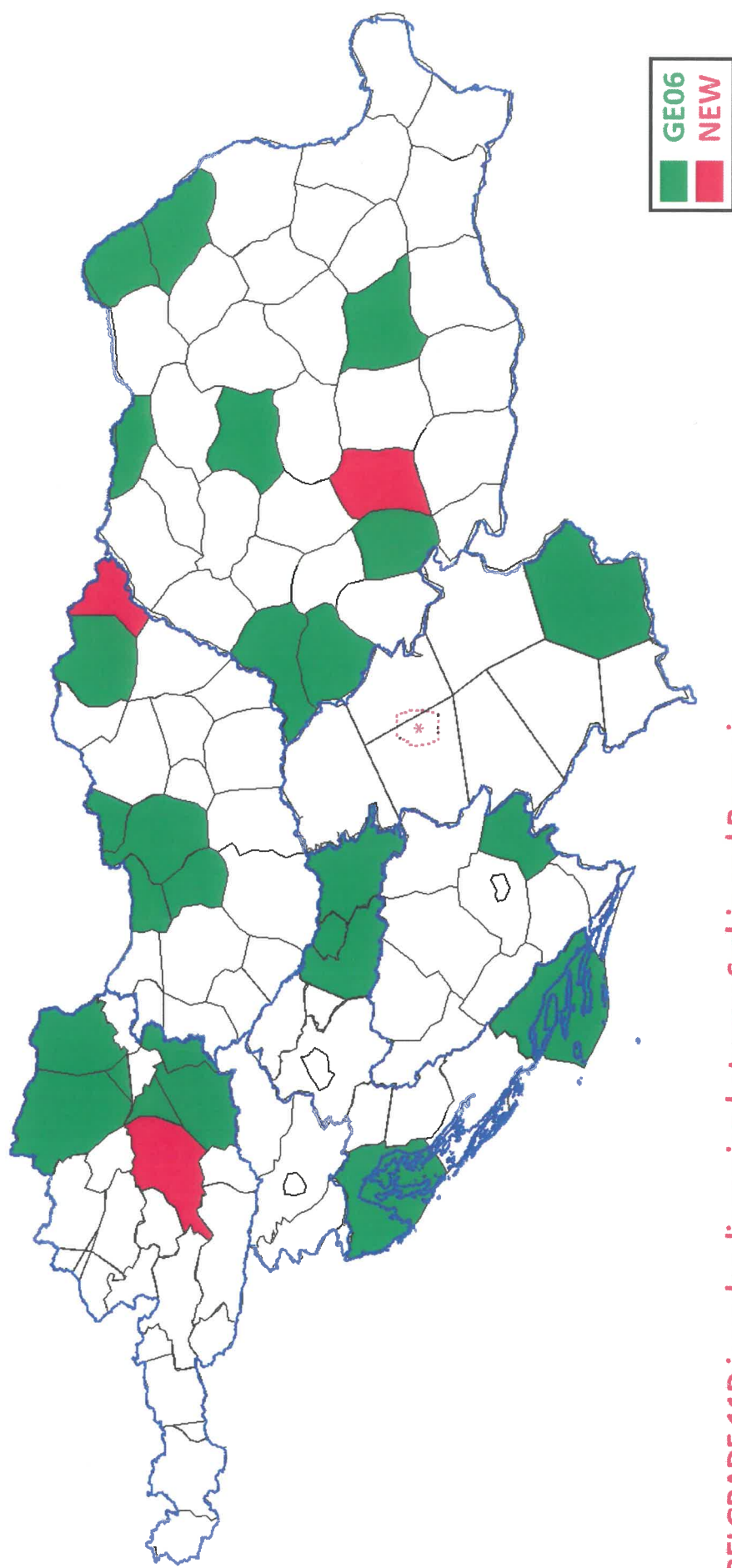
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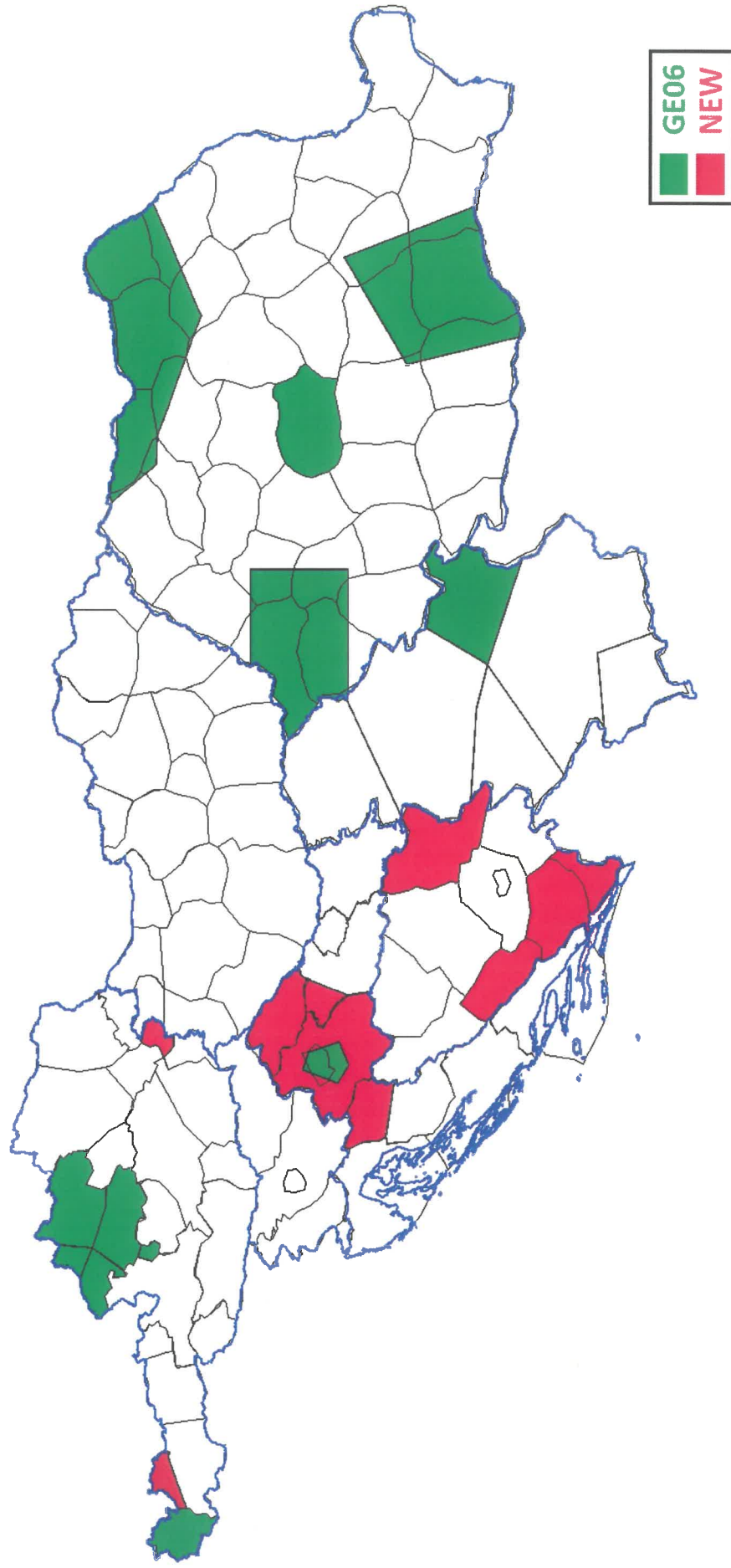


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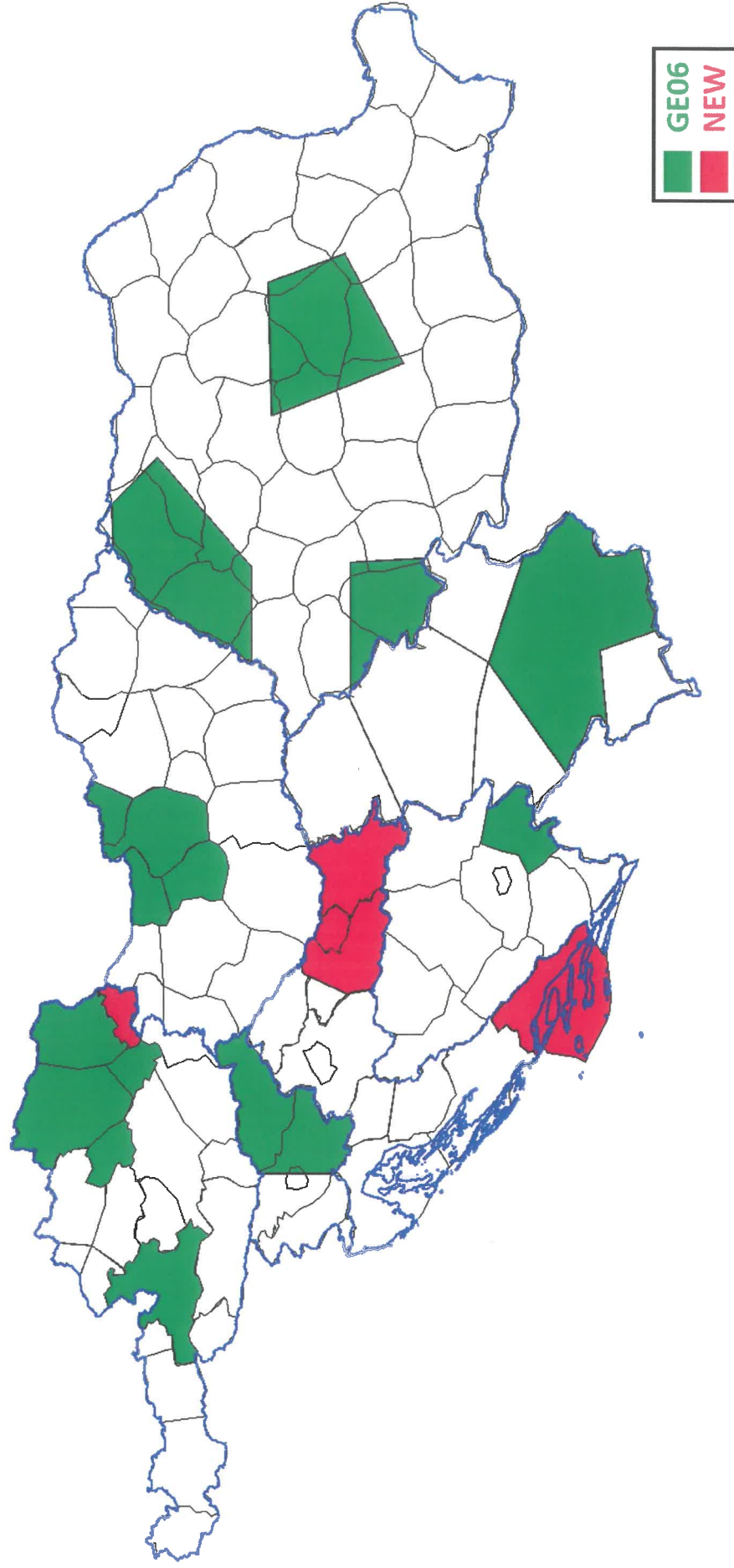


***BELGRADE 11D is under discussion between Serbia and Romania**

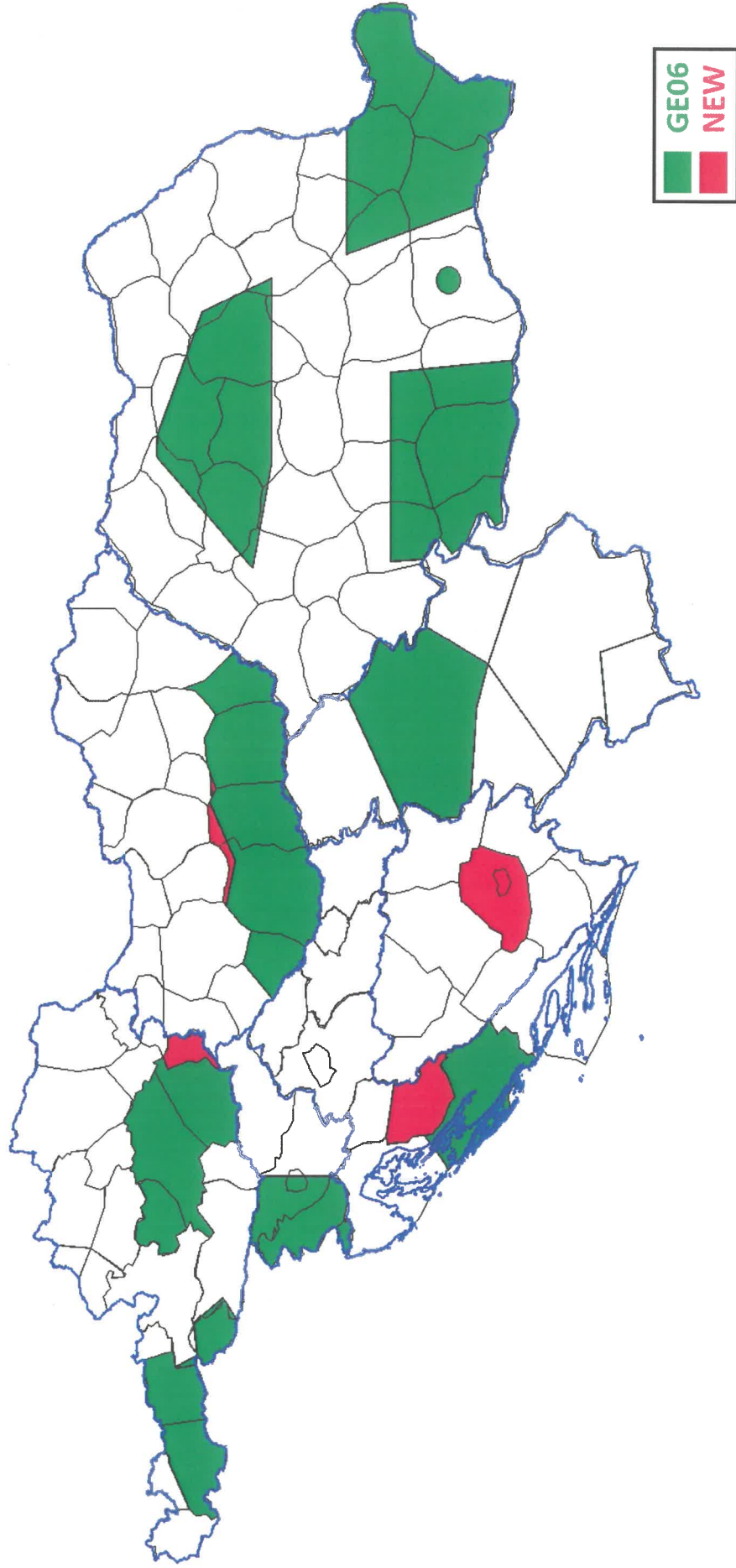
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