Despite improvements in diagnostics and treatment, alveolar echinococcosis has a high morbidity and mortality in several European countries. Since the 1990s, extensive epidemiological studies have revealed that the known central-European endemic area of *Echinococcus multilocularis* is much larger than previously thought, including regions in the north and east (WHO 2001, Romig et al., 2006, Sikó et al., 2011, Vuitton et al., 2015). The parasite has been reported for the first time in Poland (Malczewski et al., 1995), Belarus (Shimalov and Shimalov, 2001), Lithuania (Mažeika et al., 2003), Estonia (Moks et al., 2005) and Latvia (Bagrade et al., 2008) and it causes increasing public health concern (Marcinkutė et al., 2015). The number of registered human cases of alveolar echinococcosis have increased in Lithuania and Latvia, while remaining at relatively low levels in Belarus and Estonia. Observations from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania indicate that the distribution of this parasite is wider in the region than previously expected (Laurimaa et al., 2015, Marcinkutė et al., 2015). Recent epidemiological data from the Baltic countries and adjacent regions on the infection in animals and humans is discussed. The data reveal a worrisome situation especially in Lithuania.