



FAO activities on ASF in Europe

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*Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on
African swine fever in Europe (SGE ASF17)*

4 June 2021



Emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Project on ASF preparedness in the Balkans

- **Target countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia + parallel project with same objectives in Kosovo*
- **Objective:** Increase prevention and preparedness
- **Timeline:** November 2018-October 2021

Flexibility: ASF dynamics and COVID-19

Regular coordination meetings (June 2020, [October 2020](#), [February 2021](#))

* As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244



Online Multi-country simulation exercise

Online simulation exercise using crisis simulation platform and video communication tool

- **Dates:** 23-24 February 2021
- **Countries:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia
- **Participants:** 10 per country (central and local level official and private veterinarians)
- **Diseases covered:** ASF and FMD

Day 1: Test first steps when facing an outbreak, i.e. international and internal communication, clinical recognition and outbreak investigation.

Day 2: Stamping out operations in a commercial pig farm (morning) and simulate measures upon ASF-confirmation in wild boar (afternoon)





Online ASF Preparedness course

- Certified, GF-TADs-labelled, 4-week tutored
- [Pilot](#) (Nov 2019), [English for Europe](#) (April 2020), & [Serbian for the Balkans](#) (July 2020)
- **1,013 participants from 37 countries**
- Adapted for Asia, Latin America (Summer 2020) and for Southern Africa (upcoming)

Current and upcoming activities

- Russian course (Nov 2021)
- Stand-alone 2-hour course (2nd half of 2021)
- Post-survey evaluation (sent out in June 2021)
- Adaptation to face-to-face materials
- Stamping out online course (2022)

MODULES

Introduction to ASF
(Module 1)

Clinical diagnosis
(Module 2)

Sampling and Laboratory
Diagnosis (Module 3)

Outbreak Investigation
(Module 4)

Response and Control
Measures (Module 5)

Prevention and Biosecurity
(Module 6)

ASF in wild boar
(Module 7)



Training for hunters

- Half day, hands-on, certified training on ASF and hunting biosecurity
- Targets hunting ground managers
- Involving various local partners in the Balkan region
- Translated/implemented in Albania, Macedonian and Serbian

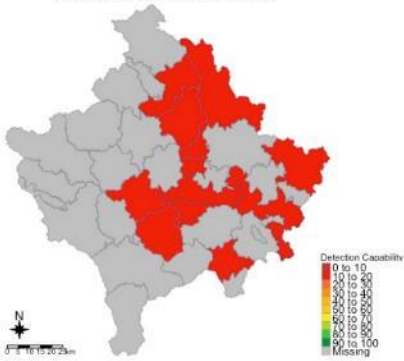
Planned Dates	Location	# of trainings	# of hunters to be trained
June-August	Serbia	10	200-220
July-August	Kosovo*	2-3	40-60
July-September	North Macedonia	10-12	200-250
September-October	Montenegro	3-4	60-80



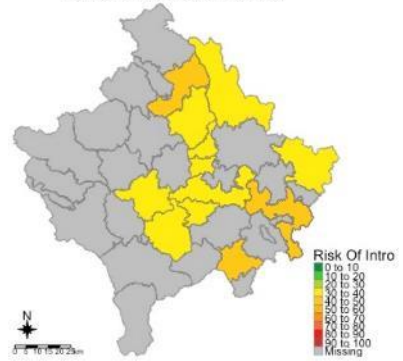
Assessment of ASF risk in hunting grounds

- Develop a survey to determine hunting biosecurity and capacity to detect ASF by interviewing hunting ground managers (*epicollect5*)
- Estimate the risk involved for each biosecurity gap: risk of introduction, risk of spread and capacity of detection
 - Through an Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) with 33 experts identified through a snowballing exercise (Q1 of 2021)
- Calculate the risk of each hunting ground for each risk
- Map the risk based on a 0-100 scale

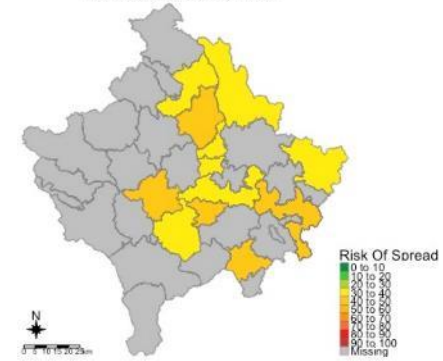
Detection Capability of ASF



Risk of Introduction for ASF



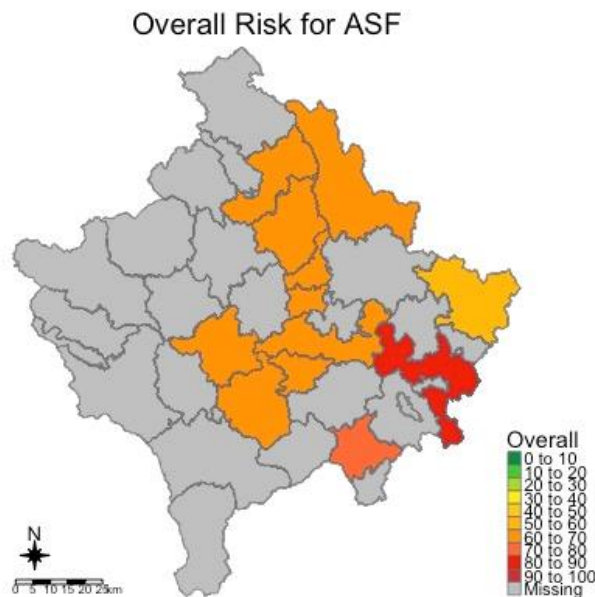
Risk of Spread for ASF





Assessment of ASF risk in hunting grounds

- Overall risk map for ASF (merging 3 risks)
- The tool identifies:
 - Big picture, i.e. HG biosecurity at national level
 - Gaps and solutions for specific hunting grounds
- **Feasibility study** - Additional survey with HG managers to assess how feasible it is to change their current practices → to determine how the level of risk would decrease if changes were implemented.
- So far, conducted in Kosovo*
(Q4 of 2020, 16/32 HGs surveyed)
- Similar approach to follow in Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro.

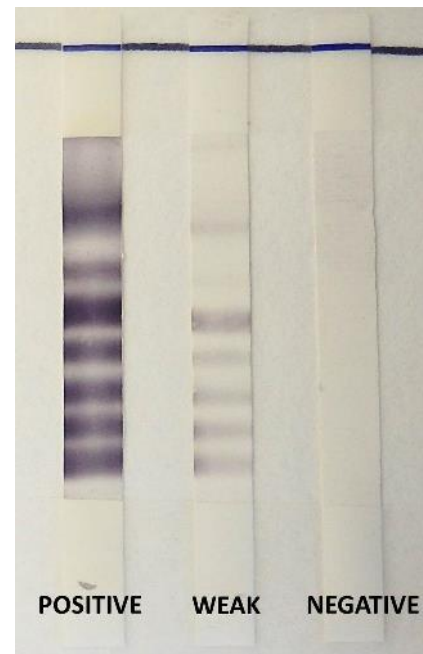




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Other activities

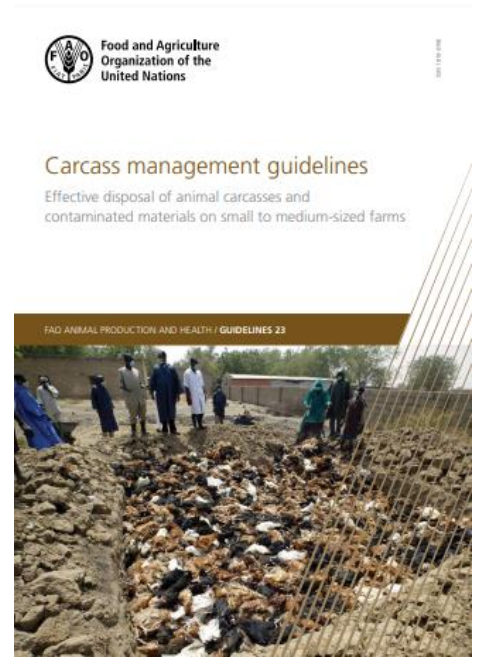
- Procurement of captive bolts and training on how to use them (Kosovo* - June 2021)
- Participation of Kosovo* in the interlaboratory proficiency testing conducted by the FAO/EU Ref Lab (CISA-INIA) (ongoing)





Ongoing and upcoming activities

- Translation of the *Carcass Management Guidelines* into Albanian, Serbian and Macedonian – already available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Russian](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Cost-benefit analysis tool (for the cost of ASF outbreaks and alternative control strategies)
- Modelling the factors that determine where and when to find ASF-positive carcasses





Relevant activities at global level

Events:

- The GF-TADs event «African swine fever: An unprecedented global threat» (26-30 October 2020). Report available [online](#)
- [Stop ASF: Public and private partnering for success](#) (21-28 Jun 2021)
- ASF Global Pool of Expertise (GPE): epi & surveillance; control interventions; biosecurity; lab diagnosis; socio-economics, community engagement and private sector engagement.

Resources:

- Updated the [ASF Resources page](#) with all relevant publications
- Alert to countries on the increased risk of ASF due to Lunar New Year and probable novel variant (5 February)
- Animation video on farm biosecurity ([Be a champion farmer](#))



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Thank you