

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare – Subgroup on African Swine Fever (ASF) 1st meeting



18 March 2024

14:00-17:00

Minutes agreed on 02 April 2024

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Name
Croatia	MoA Ministry of Agriculture
Czech Republic	State Veterinary Administration of Czech republic State Veterinary Administration
Denmark	UCPH, University of Copenhagen
Estonia	Estonian Agriculture and Food Board
France	ENVT
Germany	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI)
Hungary	National Food Chain Safety Office
Italy	National Reference Laboratory for Swine Fevers
Latvia	Food and Veterinary Service
Poland	National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI / PIWet) in Pulawy
Romania	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority of Romania
Slovak Republic	State Veterinary and Food Institute, Veterinary Institute in Zvolen
Sweden	Swedish Veterinary Agency (SVA)

- Observers:
 - Kosovo:** Food and veterinary Agency
 - Serbia:** Veterinary Directorate
 - North Macedonia:** Faculty of veterinary medicine
- European Commission/Other EU Agencies representatives:
 - European Union Reference Laboratory for African swine fever
- EFSA:
 - BIOHAW:**
 - CATTANEO Eleonora
 - GOUDJIHOUNDE Sonagnon Martin
 - MUR Lina (Chair)
 - TAMPACH Stefania
 - MESE:**
 - CORTIÑAS ABRAHANTES José
 - IDATA:**
 - PAPANIKOLAOU Alexandra



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Network objectives and working plan for ASF in EFSA

As it was the first meeting of the subgroup on ASF, the objectives of the subgroup, the roles of the participants and observers, and the proposed working plan were presented by the chair. The mandate received from EC on ASF was presented to the subgroup, together with the report's deadlines until 2028. The expected contribution of the subgroup in the ASF annual epidemiological reports was explained in detail. Network members agreed on opening the possibility for countries that request it, to have data providers and data validators from different organisations of the same country. For the countries selecting this option, the data validators will have the possibility to have access to see the data submitted by another organisation of their country and to confirm the data for use in EFSA outputs.

4. ASF annual epidemiological report work plan

The work plan for the 'Annual epidemiological report on ASF during 2023' was presented, highlighting the dates in which the network will be consulted to provide input on the report.

5. ASF report 2023 – Discussion of main results and comments provided by the countries

The draft of the 'Annual epidemiological report on ASF during 2023' was presented to the subgroup highlighting the main results of each section. In addition, all the comments previously provided by the subgroup were addressed during the meeting. Main comments are listed below:

Some details of the data reported in the summary table of surveillance activities in domestic pigs were discussed by some Member States (eg. categorization of active vs passive surveillance). Similarly, the categories used to report the wild boar surveillance results were also discussed. Additional insights about the outbreaks affecting big size farms were provided by some affected countries and will be included in the report.

Additional information was provided by several countries about the location of the outbreaks in relation with previously affected areas, as well as the biosecurity and characteristics of the affected establishments. This valuable contextual information will be incorporated in the next version report.

Further clarifications were provided by several countries about their responses of the questionnaire sent by EFSA to collect information on surveillance strategies,



management of wild boar populations, wild boar carcasses searching methods and typing methods, among others.

The estimates used for calculating the number of pigs lost due to ASF, based on ADIS data, were discussed. Considering that all countries included in the report have a stamping out policy, the subgroup agreed on using the number of susceptible animals as an estimation of the number of domestic pigs dead or culled due to ASF. This figure will be updated in the report.

Finally, the subgroup participants and observers were thanked for their contributions and reminded of the following actions.