

# 2nd AHAW subgroup on Animal Health data reporting on diseases (African Swine Fever) Network meeting

03/12/2024

09:30-12:30

Minutes agreed on 11 December 2024

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Network Participants:

Country	Organisation
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety</li></ul>
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain</li></ul>
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</li></ul>
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Danish Veterinary and food Administration</li></ul>
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Centre for Laboratory Research and Risk Assessment</li><li>• Estonian Agriculture and Food Board</li></ul>
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finnish Food Authority</li></ul>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI)</li></ul>
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Rural Development and Food</li></ul>
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Food Chain Safety Office</li></ul>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Umbria e Marche NRL African Swine Fever</li></ul>
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food and Veterinary Service</li></ul>
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Food and Veterinary Service</li></ul>
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Netherlands Food Consumer Product Safety Authority</li></ul>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Norwegian Veterinary Institute</li></ul>
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Veterinary Research Institute</li></ul>
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Directorate for Food and Veterinary</li></ul>
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety</li></ul>
Slovak Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Veterinary and Food Institute, Veterinary Institute in Zvolen</li></ul>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</li></ul>
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swedish Veterinary Authority</li></ul>

- **Observers:**

Food and Veterinary Agency (North Macedonia); Veterinary Directorate (Serbia)

- **Hearing Experts:**

BOKLUND Anette Ella; VERGNE Timothée



- **EFSA:**

BIOHAW Team Animal Health: MUR Lina, PAPALEO Stella

IDATA Team Data Gateway and Outreach:

AMINALRAGIA-GIAMINI Roxani, FU Linqing

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. Objectives and EFSA work on ASF**

The objectives of the subgroup were shortly recapped by the chair, as for some of the members this was the first ASF subgroup Network meeting. The mandate received by EFSA from the European Commission on ASF was presented to the participants, including the outputs to be produced on yearly basis (epidemiological report) and every two years (Risk factor analysis report).

Additional work performed by EFSA on ASF was also presented. This included two projects to fill gaps of knowledge on ASF (i.e. ASFV survival in different matrices and case control study in commercial farms), work on wildlife through ENETWILD project, and communication activities.

During the questions, clarifications were provided that only ASF affected countries need to report data for the epidemiological report.

## **4. Report of risk and protective factors for ASF and mitigation measures for wild boar**

The highlights of the first Risk factor analysis report produced this year (approved in October and published the 4<sup>th</sup> December) were presented. The process for the elaboration of the Risk factor report was presented, starting from the identification of the mandate elements. The risk and protective factors in domestic pigs obtained via systematic literature review and statistical analysis of the data from a case control study in commercial farms were explained. Similarly, the risk and protective factors for ASF in wild boar were analysed through systematic literature review, statistical and mathematical models that analysed the role of wild boar density in the occurrence, persistence and spread. The results of these models were presented along with the conclusions and the recommendations.

After the presentation of domestic and wild boar risk factors, the floor was opened for questions and comments. Several countries made questions about the interpretation of the results obtained on those models, that were answered by the



chair and Timothée Vergne (member of Working Group on ASF). Some ideas were discussed about future potential studies to clarify the role of wild boar density in different settings. In relation with this, some participants raised their concerns about the differences between the wild boar density maps and the situation in their countries. EFSA took note of those comments and will organise something to collect their feedback to help the improvement of those density models.

The presentation continued with the review of the role of biological vector (*Ornithodoros erraticus*) in ASF epidemiology in the last 10 years in the EU, and the surveillance efforts done in that area. The role of mechanical vectors was also reviewed and discussed, for which there is still uncertainty due to the lack of data. The results of the analysis of barriers efficacy for controlling wild boar movements done via literature review and questionnaires was also presented. This chapter includes also practical details of the fences implemented in some ASF affected countries. Finally, the results of the literature review update on the use of immunocontraception for controlling wild boar populations were presented.

## **5. ASF epidemiological report – key facts and how data is used**

The role of the ASF subgroup members from ASF affected countries in the annual epidemiological report was explained, highlighting the steps where they need to provide contributions. Afterwards, the structure of the the epidemiological report was briefly presented, showing examples of the the maps and plots that are included in each section of the report.

## **6. ASF – epidemiological report – timeline data collection and changes**

Roxani Aminalragia-Giamini presented the ASF data collection steps, the responsibilities of each type of users and tools available to facilitate data submission and validation. She also presented the dates and important deadlines associated with the data collection process (i.e. 31 January close of data collection, re-open for corrections from 10-20 February and data acceptance deadline on the 25 February).

She also presented few minor changes in the data model of pig populations, that resulted from the harmonization with the poultry population data model for Avian Influenza.

## **7. ASF surveillance in affected countries (round table discussion)**

To stimulate the discussion, the plots and maps of the laboratory analysis for ASF surveillance in domestic pigs and wild boar during 2023 were initially shown. Different surveillance strategies are implemented in the affected countries for the laboratory analysis of ASF in hunted wild boar populations (e.g. PCR and/or ELISA, all or a proportion of samples...). Following this introduction, some Member States provided



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additional information on their surveillance plans, with special focus on hunted wild boar, any changes done recently, and the outcomes of those changes.

## **8. Final wrap up and next steps**

All the subgroup network participants and observers were thanked for their contributions and reminded of the following actions that they will be part of.