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Implementation of the
GF-TADs Action plan in the region and Activities of
Standing groups of experts (SGE) on ASF, LSD, Rabies

9th Meeting of the GF TAD Regional Steering Committee



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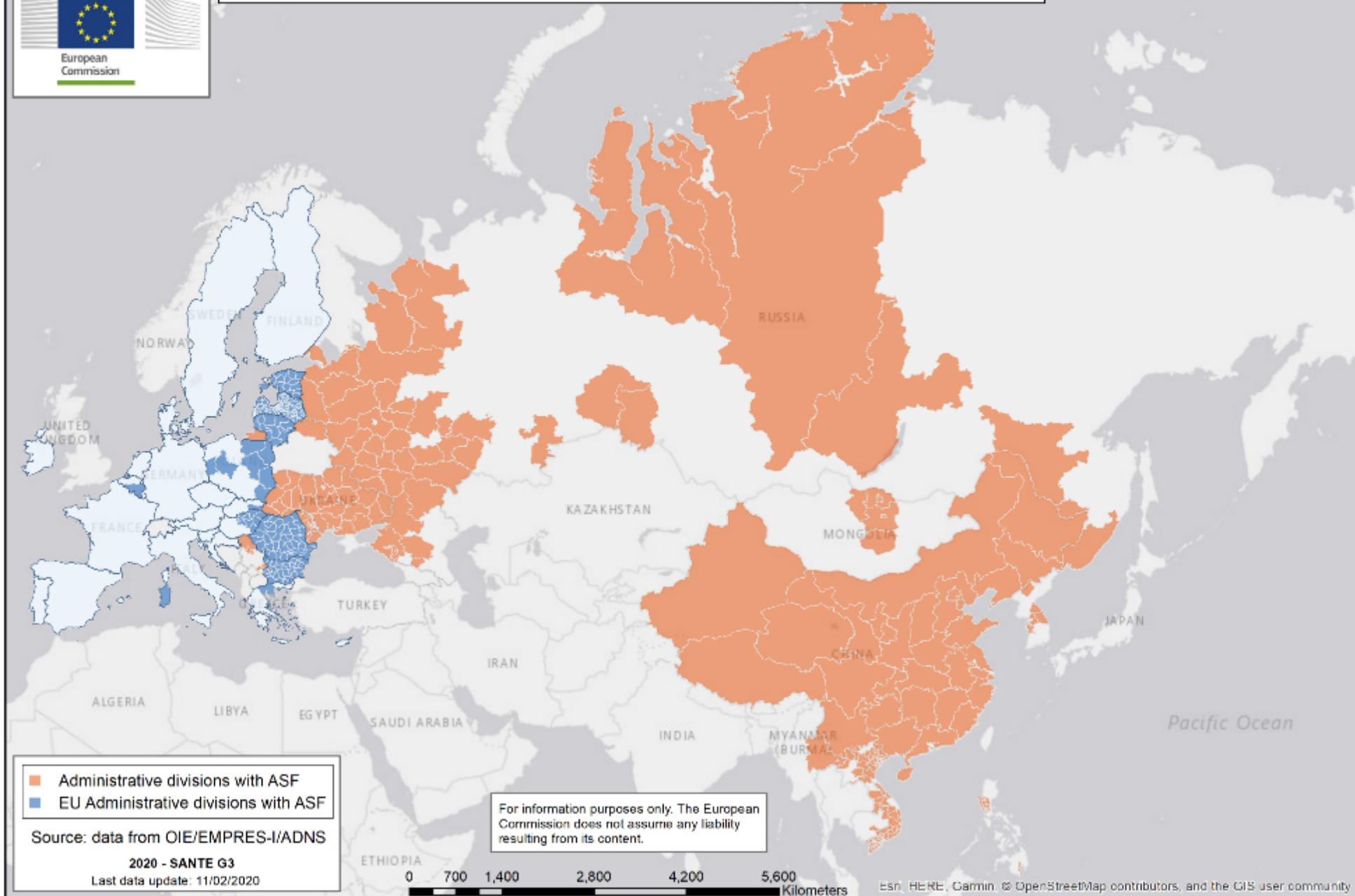
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African Swine Fever by administrative divisions affected in the period 2014-2020

February 2020



Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe (SGE ASF)



- **The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe (SGE ASF)** set up in 2014, under the GF-TADs umbrella. It aims at building up a closer cooperation among countries affected by ASF and thereby, addressing the disease in a more collaborative and harmonized manner across Europe.
- **Members of the SGE ASF (as of May 2020)**
 - Countries: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine
 - Organisations: European Commission – OIE – FAO
 - Secretariat: OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (rsr.bruxelles@oie.int)

Trust – transparency – technical guidance – improved preparedness and control capacity of countries
best practises – sharing of knowledge, success stories and exchanges with other regions worldwide

Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe (SGE ASF)



- **15 meetings of the SGE ASF in Europe since 2014**
 - The most recent (remote) meeting: May 2020 (*Update on the countries' situation and ASF management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis*)
 - The next (remote) meeting: 23 November 2020 (to update on countries' situation and early reaction and emergency control measures in case of ASF detection in wild boar and domestic pigs)
- **12 field visits** by experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Belgium
- **e-depository of the SGE ASF** access to many resources on ASF, including ASF Awareness Material and the “GF-TADs Handbook on African Swine Fever in wild boar and biosecurity during hunting”

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Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe (SGE LSD)



- **The Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe (SGE LSD)** was launched in July 2016, under the GF-TADs umbrella. It aims at building up a closer cooperation among countries affected by Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and thereby addressing the disease in a more collaborative and harmonised manner across the region.
- **Members of the SGE LSD (as of October 2019)**
 - Countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine
 - Organisations: European Commission – OIE – FAO
 - Secretariat: OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (rsr.bruxelles@oie.int)

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

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Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe (SGE LSD)



- 10 meetings of the SGE LSD since 2016
 - The most recent (videoconference) meeting: February 2020
 - Meeting objective was to confirm that vaccination will continue in several countries in 2020 (in line with the recommendations of GF TADS SGE LSD9 - Athens, 16 October 2019).
 - The next (videoconference) meeting: January 2021
 - Meeting objective: to update on countries' disease situation, on the status of implementation of the 2020 LSD vaccination and surveillance programmes by the member countries and decide on the 2021 LSD strategy for the region.

Trust – transparency – technical guidance – improved preparedness and control capacity of countries
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Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe (SGE RAB)



- **The Standing Group of Experts on rabies for Europe (SGE RAB)** was set up in 2019, under the GF-TADs umbrella. It aims at coordinating the oral rabies vaccination activities in wild carnivores with the overall goal to accelerate the final eradication of rabies. It is focused on the Balkan area.
- **Members of the SGE ASF (as of May 2020)**
 - Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia
 - Organisations: European Commission – OIE – FAO
 - Secretariat: OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (rsr.bruxelles@oie.int)

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Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe (SGE RAB)



- 3 meetings of the SGE rabies for Europe since 2019 (two full meeting and one side session)
 - The most recent (videoconference) meeting: July 2020
 - The meeting objective was to verify the possibility to phase out oral rabies vaccination of wild carnivores in the region
 - Following transparent discussions on the way forward, the consequent recommendations imply that vaccination is still required in view of the recent outbreaks and of the insufficient passive surveillance.

Trust – transparency – technical guidance – improved preparedness and control capacity of countries
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Background

- GF-TADS for Europe Eighth Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC8) Tbilisi, 19 September 2018
- The success of the vaccination strategy against LSD was particularly emphasized
- RSC approved a recommendation regarding the governance mechanism of GF-TADs for Europe, including an update of its formal composition.



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- Eleventh Meeting (SGE ASF11) 24- 25 September 2018, Warsaw, Poland
- Twelfth meeting (SGE ASF12) 11-12 March 2019 ,Prague, Czech Republic,
- Thirteenth meeting (SGE ASF13) - Paris, France, 29 May 2019
- Fourteenth meeting (SGE ASF14) - Sofia, Bulgaria, 10-11 September 2019
- Fifteenth meeting (SGE ASF15) - 6 May 2020 (teleconference)
- Sixteenth meeting (SGE ASF16) - 23 November 2020 (teleconference-upcoming)

▪ Focus and Achievements

- The proper management of wild boars in infected or not yet infected areas.
- A combined GF-TADs / BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) event “Technical training on eradicating ASF: focus on the Czech Republic experience”.
- Country updates and reporting including success stories
- Large Countries participation (including other continents), high political level with ministerial statement calling for the Balkan to significantly raise the level of awareness on ASF

- Sixth meeting (SGE ASF6) – Paris, France, 28 May 2018
- Seventh meeting (SGE ASF7) – Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia 18-19 October 2018
- Eight meeting (SGE ASF8) – Paris, France, 28 May 2019
- Ninth LSD meeting (SGE LSD) Athens, Greece, 16-17 October 2019
- Tenth LSD meeting (SGE LSD) 14 January 2021(teleconference-upcoming)

▪ Focus and Achievements

- Vaccination Programmes co financed by the EU Commission and Vaccination Strategy
- Diagnostic tools available
- Focus now on West Eurasia and secretariat in Nur Sultan from 2021
- Several Teleconferences for assessing the vaccination progress and strategy



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- The GF-TADs for Europe has expanded its activities in 2019, with the creation of a new Standing Group of Experts on Rabies (SGE RAB).
- First meeting (SGERAB 1) – 13 February 2019 Brussels,
- Belgium Second meeting (SGERAB 2) – 13 July 2020 Teleconference



▪ Focus and Achievements

- The main objective of this new Standing Group of Experts is to coordinate the oral rabies vaccination activities in wild carnivores with the overall goal to accelerate the final eradication of rabies, primarily in the Balkan sub-region
- Vaccination is still required in view of the recent outbreaks and of the insufficient passive surveillance.
- The actions of several countries depend on the insufficient funding available. The European Commission is willing to continue to provide adequate help
- Lot of interaction also from non SGE members
- New Secretariat RR Moscow (2021)



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Thank you for your attention!



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