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# Results of the Regional Balkan project on ASF preparedness

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## 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:** 1 Nov 2018 - 30 Nov 2021

**Flexibility:** ASF dynamics and COVID-19

Regular coordination meetings (June 2020, [Oct 2020](#), [Feb 2021](#))

\* As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244





## Summary of the ASF project outputs

### **Project outputs:**

1. Regulatory and general preparedness
2. Regional and national training on ASF
3. Risk assessment and analysis
4. Awareness on ASF among stakeholders
5. Coordination





## Output 1: Regulatory and general preparedness

### ASF Assessment missions (FLI-led)

- Serbia, 8-9 May 2019;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19-20 June 2019;
- Montenegro, 10-11 Sep 2019;
- Kosovo\*, 18 Sep 2019;
- North Macedonia, 14-15 Oct 2019.

### Simulation exercises, led by Mark Hovari

- [North Macedonia 27-28 Nov 2019, face-to-face](#)
- [Kosovo\\* 26-27 Feb 2020](#)
- [Multi-country SimEx \(B&H, Serbia & Croatia\) 23-24 Feb 2021, online](#)
- [Montenegro 18 – 19 Aug 2021, face-to-face](#)

### Procurement of captive bolts for stamping out





## Output 1: Regulatory and general preparedness

### Feedback on output 1:

- Countries have the required regulatory environment to detect and respond to ASF in domestic pigs (EU legislation and norms)
- Response plans and procedures are in place
- Where simulation exercise were carried out, SOPs were overall fit for purpose, but there is room for some improvements
- Detection and response to ASF in wild boar remains a challenging topic





## Output 2: Regional and national training on ASF

### Regional events

- [Regional ASF Wild Boar Management Workshop, Belgrade, Serbia, 21 – 23 May 2019](#)
- [Risk Communication and Outbreak Management Workshop: killing, disposal and stakeholder collaboration Budapest, Hungary, 10 - 13 December 2019](#)
- Regional ASF Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Workshops
  - 18 June 2019 (10 core trainers from Bosnia, Serbia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
  - 17 September (12 core trainers from Albania, Kosovo\* and North Macedonia)

*\* During ToT workshops ASF template presentations and handouts were created and handed out both in Serbian and in Albanian.*



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## Output 2: Regional and national training on ASF

### National events on wild boar management and hunting biosecurity, led by Marius Masiulis

- Serbia, 24 May 2019
- Montenegro, 10-11 Sep 2019
- Kosovo\*, 26-27 Sept 2019
- North Macedonia, 17-18 Oct 2019

Lab training for Kosovo\* diagnosticians at CISA-INIA, Madrid, Nov 2019

**Biosecurity workshops with farmers led by FLI**

### Online training

- ASF online training course was developed and piloted Dec 2019
- ASF online training course in Serbian (July-Aug 2020; 277 participants, course coordination by Blagojcho Tabakovski and Milan Pandurovic).





## Trainings for hunters in wild boar and hunting biosecurity

- Half day, hands-on, certified training on ASF and hunting biosecurity
- Targets hunting ground managers
- Translated/implemented in Albania, Macedonian and Serbian
- In collaboration with local hunting associations



Dates	Location	# of trainings	# of hunters trained
July-Aug 2021	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	10	200-220
July-Aug 2021	Kosovo*	2	40-60
Aug-Oct 2021	North Macedonia	12	200-250
Oct 2021	Montenegro	3	60-80





## Output 3: Risk assessment and analysis

**ASF risk assessment.** During assessment missions.

**OUTCOST (OUTbreak COSTing)** Tool developed with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

- to evaluate the cost of swine epidemics and their control
- used in North Macedonia. Also tested in other continents

**Spatial and temporal analysis on where to find dead wild boar** with UAB.

- *Targeting the search of ASF-infected wild boar carcasses: A tool for early detection (Allepuz et al. 2021)*

**[Imammalia mobile application](#)** to report dead wild boar

- in collaboration with MammalNet
- Translated into Serbian and North Macedonian





## Output 3: Risk assessment and analysis

### **Pig sector survey** in North Macedonia (2020).

- Data collection by Veterinary Chamber of North Macedonia; Data analysis by UC Davis
- *O'Hara et al. 2021. [Descriptive and multivariate analysis of the pig sector in North Macedonia and its implications for ASF](#)*
- *Network analysis of disease spread modelling, end of this year.*

### **Hunting ground survey** completed in Kosovo and Montenegro (2020-2021).

- Data collection by Hunting Association of Montenegro. Data analysis by Utrecht University (M. Orrico)
- Risk scoring exercise based on inputs from several international experts
- Data collection on hunting grounds in North Macedonia and Serbia is pending

### **Wild boar carcass composting experiment.**

- Collaboration with USA, Lithuania and FLI
- A field experiment to test if composting inactivates ASFV in wild boar carcasses. Ongoing



## Output 4: Awareness on ASF among stakeholders

### Awareness raising materials

- FAO-OIE ASF Posters for [General public](#), [farmers](#) and [veterinarians](#) have been translated to local languages
- These are in the process of being printed

### Technical materials

- [African swine fever: detection and diagnosis – A manual for veterinarians](#) (translated into Albanian, Serbian and Macedonian)
- [Carcass management guidelines](#) (translated into Russian, Serbian, Albanian and Macedonian)
- **Upcoming:** Guide on Humane Killing for disease control purposes
- **Upcoming:** Template for Eradication plan for ASF in wild boar

AFRIČKA KUGA SVINJA

**Vi možete sprečiti širenje AKS**

Afrička kuga svinja (AKS) je smrtonosna bolest domaćih i divljih svinja, za koju ne postoji efikasna vakcina niti lečenje. AKS ne predstavlja opasnost po zdravlje ljudi, ali može dovesti do katastrofalnih društveno-ekonomskih posledica po sektor proizvodnje svinja.

Kao veterinar, Vi imate ključnu ulogu u zaštiti sistema proizvodnje svinja od ove razorne bolesti.

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**KAKO PREPOZNATI AKS**

Klinički znaci bolesti uključuju:

**AKS može klinički podsecati na**

- Klasičnu kugu svinja
- Reprodukivno-respiratorni sindrom svinja (PRRS)
- Crveni vešar
- Salmonelozu (i druge bakterijske sepsikemije)
- Aujeskvjuv bolest
- Pasterelozu
- Trovanja
- Sindrom dermatitisa i netropatije svinja (PDNS)

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**POTVRDITE VAŠU DIJAGNOZU LABORATORIJSKIM TESTOM**

Preporučeni uzorci: krv ili krvni serum, organi tkiva (slezina, limfni čvorovi, tonzile, pluća, bubrezi ili koštana srž). Prilikom rukovanja sa uzorcima pratite pravila najbolje prakse:

Spovedite uzorkovanje aseptično, a pre i nakon uzorkovanja operite Vaše ruke

Daljnjim rukuje sa uzorkom kako biste izbegli njegovu degradaciju, kontaminaciju ili proširivanje

Prema laboratorijskim smernicama obeležite i zapakujte uzorke

Dostavite uzorke što je pre moguće u laboratoriju

**ŠTA TREBA URADITI U SLUČAJU POSTAVLJANJA SUMNJE ILI POTVRĐIVANJA AKS NA FARMI/GAZDINSTVU**

- ✓ **PRIJAVITE** slučaj veterinarskoj inspekciji bez oklevanja
- ✓ **PRIKUPITE** ključne epizootiološke informacije o farmi/gazdinstvu i životinjama
- ✓ **UVEDITE KARANTIN** na zaraženoj ili sumnjivoj farmi
- ✓ **UZBUNITE** farme/gazdinstava u okruženju
- ✓ **IZBEGAVAJTE POSETE** drugim farmama/gazdinstvima najmanje 48 h

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WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

U okviru zajedničkog FAO-OIE globalnog projekta progresivne kontrole prelazne bolesti životinja - the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD)

Summary of achievements

SGE ASF 18





## Output 5: Coordination

### Regional Coordination

- [Inception workshop of the project, Belgrade, Serbia, 18-21 Feb 2019](#)
- [Online African Swine Fever Balkan Project Coordination Meeting \(2020 and 2021\)](#)
- [Project Closing Workshop, online, 16 Nov 2021](#)

### **Follow-up:**

- EBRD-funded project implemented by FAO's Investment Centre (CFI)





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- Hunting Association of Montenegro
- Hunting Federation Macedonia
- Veterinary Chamber of North Macedonia
- Vojvodinašume Serbia

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- Jovan Mirceta
- Blagojcho Tabakovski

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- Jeton Muhaxhiri
- Milan Pandurovic

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- Mark Hovari

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Thanks