



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



ASF: FAO activities in Europe

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Virtual Learning Center for Europe and Central Asia (VLC REU)

[The Virtual Learning Centers \(VLCs\)](#) provide the platform and infrastructure to develop and deliver tutored and open access virtual learning courses. Aim to integrate courses into national CPDs.

VLC for Europe and Central Asia is active in supporting virtual training on ASF and related topics.

- [ASF preparedness courses](#)
- [African Swine Fever Introductory Course](#)
- [Course on stamping out](#)

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Virtual Learning Center for Europe and Central Asia (VLC REU)

Over 1,000 veterinarians will be trained on ASF this year via the ASF preparedness courses in the region!

Spain I. February – March 2023. 487 participants. 72% completed.

Europe. May – June 2023. 206 participants. 70% completed.

Romanian. last quarter 2023. Expected 400 participants.

Spain II. last quarter 2023. Expected 500 participants.



African Swine Fever Preparedness Course

This course was initially developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), together with the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, and has been adapted, translated and delivered in multiple FAO regions.

COURSE LENGTH	15 hours (4 WEEKS)
PARTICIPANTS	400 (MAX)
FORMAT	TUTORED – a mix of online webinars, self-paced interactive modules, discussion forum and additional resources

What does the course involve?

The course is studied entirely online and will take approximately 15 hours to complete. Around 400 participants can take the course at the same time, and it is open for four weeks. The course opens with a live interactive webinar, where trainees meet their trainers, and are introduced to the course. Trainees then progress through seven interactive online modules, enriched with photographs, videos, exercises and self-test questions. During the course, expert trainers are available through a discussion forum to answer questions from the trainees, and to lead interactive discussions. Towards the end of the course, there will be a second live interactive webinar, to discuss topics raised during the course in more detail. All trainees must complete a comprehensive assessment and finish all the coursework. Successful trainees are provided with a certificate.

Who is the course for?

The primary audience of the course is official and private practice veterinarians who may be involved in diagnosing, investigating and responding to an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF). However, the course is also suitable for swine industry personnel who may also be engaged in response activities.

What will you learn?

- Impact and importance of ASF
- Clinical diagnosis
- Laboratory diagnosis
- ASF outbreak investigation
- Control measures
- Biosecurity
- ASF in wild boar in Europe





Latest materials on ASF



Template for a control and eradication plan for African swine fever in wild boar



Template for a control and eradication plan for African swine fever in wild boar

Upcoming translations: Russian and Serbian



What hunters need to know about African swine fever and biosecurity measures during hunting

What is African swine fever?

- African swine fever (ASF) is a viral, lethal, infectious disease of pigs that kills both domestic pigs and wild boar.
- Animals of all ages and sexes can be affected.
- The disease is not transmissible to humans.
- The clinical signs in infected live wild boar are rarely seen because infected animals hide and only their carcasses are found.

Why is African swine fever an important disease for wild boar?

- The disease causes large economic losses to the hunting sector and to pig production.
- Over 90 percent of infected animals die.
- Because of the disease, wild boar populations can significantly decline or almost disappear.
- There is no effective vaccine or treatment for ASF.
- The virus is very resistant and survives in wild boar carcasses for a long time.

What are the most important sources and routes of African swine fever transmission in wild boar?

- The ASF virus can survive in the meat and offal of infected wild boar and pigs for a long time. Also in their carcasses. All fluids of an infected animal contain the virus, particularly the blood.
- The disease is transmitted mostly through direct contact of healthy animals with infected or dead pigs and/or wild boar.
- If wild boar eat food leftovers that contain pork or other products from infected animals, they can contract ASF.
- The disease can also spread through objects, clothing, footwear, equipment, and vehicles contaminated with blood, faeces, or other secretions from infected animals.

What hunters need to know about African swine fever and biosecurity measures during hunting

Upcoming translations: Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and Serbian



ECA Regional : FAO/EBRD Cooperation

Animal Health and Food Safety programme in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia

Animal Health, Food Safety and Quality programme in Moldova and Ukraine

Activities relates to ASF:

- Simulation exercises in Serbia and Moldova
- Workshops on ASF in wild boar and Workshop in Biosecurity in Moldova
- Biosecurity audit of commercial pig farms: Serbia and Romania
- OUTbreak COSTing Tool ([OutCosT](#)) implemented in Bulgaria (completed) and in Romania (ongoing)





ASF Simulation exercises

Serbia: 8 , 9 and 12 May 2023

Cities: Niš, Kraljevo and Novi Sad

Participants: 100 veterinarians in total



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Moldova: 24-25 May 2023

Cities: Chişinău

Participants: 20 private and official vets



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Biosecurity audits and other events

Biosecurity audits of commercial pig farms

Field visit and use of [Biocheck.Ugent](#) followed by specific recommendations for three commercial pig farms:

- April 2023, Romania
- June 2023, Romania
- July 2023, Serbia

Workshops:

ASF in wild boar, 23 May 2023, Chişinău Moldova

Biosecurity, 26 May 2023, Chişinău Moldova





TCPE: Emergency Response to ASF outbreak in the Western Balkans (TCP/RER/3907)

Following the ASF outbreaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina an Emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCPE) was launched.

Target countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Other Western Balkan countries are eligible for certain activities.

Planned impact: Improved and protected livelihoods against ASF in targeted countries of the Western Balkans.

Timeline: August 2023 – January 2025

Parallel project with same objectives in Kosovo¹ is in the pipeline

¹ As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244





Summary of the ASF project outputs

Building on the lessons learnt:

1. Better **prevention** against ASF in the Western Balkan countries.
2. Strengthening **knowledge** of the pig sector on impact of ASF.
3. Capacity of the first responders on **control** against ASF improved.
4. Capacity for ASF detection and control in **wild boar** in the focus countries improved.
5. Regional **coordination** of ASF prevention and control strengthened in the WB countries



Better prevention against ASF in the Western Balkan countries

1.1 Improved border control – in country missions.

1.2 Improve commercial farm biosecurity
– using previous concepts and [Biocheck.Ugent](#).

1.3 Improve backyard farm biosecurity – targeted pilots.

1.4 Improve awareness – posters / leaflets , translations.

MURTAJA AFRIKANE E DERRAVE

Veprimet e thjeshta mund të parandalojnë MAD

Murtaja afrikane e derrave (MAD) është sëmundje fatale për derrat. Përhapja e kësaj sëmundjeje në të gjithë globin shkakton humbje të mëdha në derra dhe pasoja të rënda socio-ekonomike. Industria e prodhimit të derrave ka risk për sigurinë ushqimore dhe jetesën e miliona njerëzve. Ne të gjithë luajmë një rol të rëndësishëm për t'i mbrojtur ata.

SI PËRHAPET MAD

SA MË SHUMË INFORMACION TË KEMI, AQ MË SHUMË MUND TË KONTRIBUOJMË NË PËRHAPJEN E SËMUNDJES

SHËNDETI juaj nuk është i kërcënuar nga MAD

Njerëzit nuk sëmurën nga MAD. Sëmundja nuk mund të transmetohet tek njerëzit përmes kontaktit me derrat ose duke konsumuar produkte me origjinë shtazore nga kafshët e llojit derra.

Ju mund të bëheni BARTËS i virusit të MAD

Virusi MAD-vë është shumë rezistent. Ju mund ta mbartni atë në veshje, këpucë, pajisje dhe automjete nëse keni vizituar një zonë të infektuar ose nëse ju merrni, sillni produkte me origjinë shtazore nga kafshët e llojit derra apo produkte me mish derra.

Ju mund të **NDIHMONI** në parandalimin e përhapjes së sëmundjes së MAD

- Shmangni transportin e produkteve me origjinë shtazore nga kafshët e llojit derra kur udhëtoni ose i deklaroni ato tek autoritetet përkatëse
- Qëndroni larg fermave të derrave dhe derrave të egër, përveç rasteve kur është e domosdoshme
- Mos i ushqeni derrat me mbeturina ushqimore ose mbetje të kuzhinës që përmbajnë produkte mishi
- Hidhni mbeturinat ushqimore që përmbajnë produkte me origjinë shtazore nga kafshët e llojit derra në konteiner të sigurt
- Raportoni rastet e derrave të sëmurë ose të ngordhur duke përfshirë edhe derrat e egër tek veterineri privat/zyrtar ose shërbimi veterinar më i afërt.



Strengthening knowledge of the pig sector on impact of ASF



2.1 Assess impediments to improve biosecurity – [FAO-PMP-TAB](#)

2.2 Pig sector survey - Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey to understand the pig value chain.
Previous surveys: [North Macedonia](#).

2.3 OutCosT ([OUTbreak COSTing Tool](#)) - Estimate the cost of outbreaks and potential spread within the country.



Capacity of the first responders on control against ASF improved

3.1 Assessment missions - Review and, if needed, revise surveillance and control strategies in domestic pigs and wild boar.

3.2 Simulation Exercises – based on the diseases status and needs of the country.

3.3 Improve epidemiological understanding – Virtual training on epidemiology and outbreak investigation.

3.4. Support with Virtual Learning – needs based.





Capacity for ASF detection and control in wild boar in the focus countries improved



4.1 Organize training of hunters on ASF and hunting biosecurity - a well established training based on previous project.

4.2 Assess biosecurity of hunting grounds – based on [tool developed by FAO](#) and applied in Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo ¹.

4.3 Improve detection of ASF in wild boar - Advocate for improved search for dead wild boar.



Regional coordination of ASF prevention and control strengthened in the WB countries

5.1 Inception workshop –held virtually in last quarter of 2023.

5.2 Quarterly coordination meetings – involving national project coordinators and relevant parties.

5.3 Advocate through various events for multi-sectoral coordination.

5.4. Closing workshop – at the end of the project.





Thank you for your attention!