



# Overview of ASF in the EU and European Commission Activities

22<sup>nd</sup> Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever

8-9 April 2024

*Simona Forcella*

*Unit G2 – Animal Health*

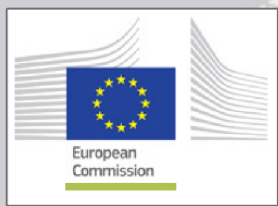
*Directorate G*

*Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants*

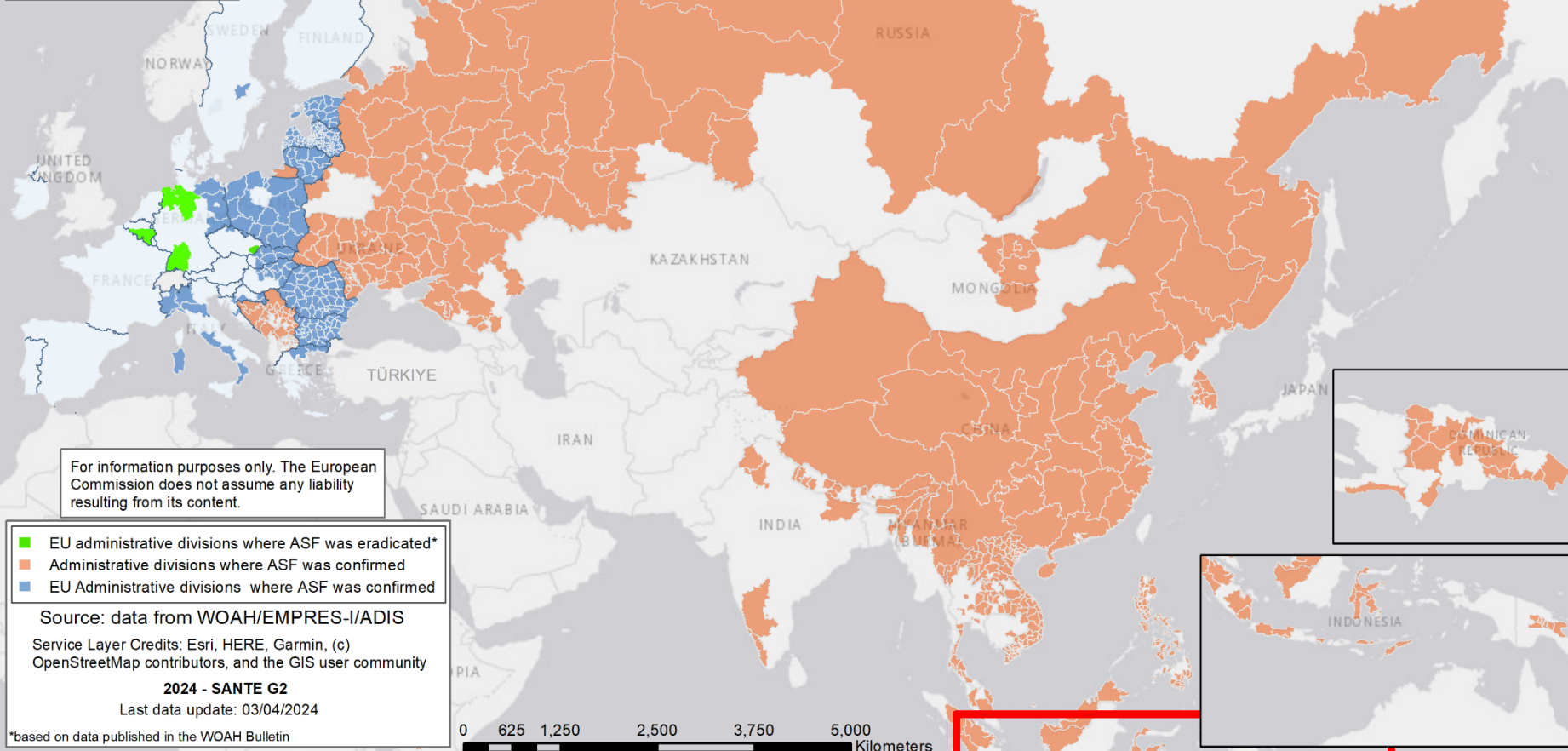
*DG SANTE, European Commission*

## ASF in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas

April 2024



African swine fever by administrative divisions affected in 2013-2024 in Europe, Asia, Oceania and Americas

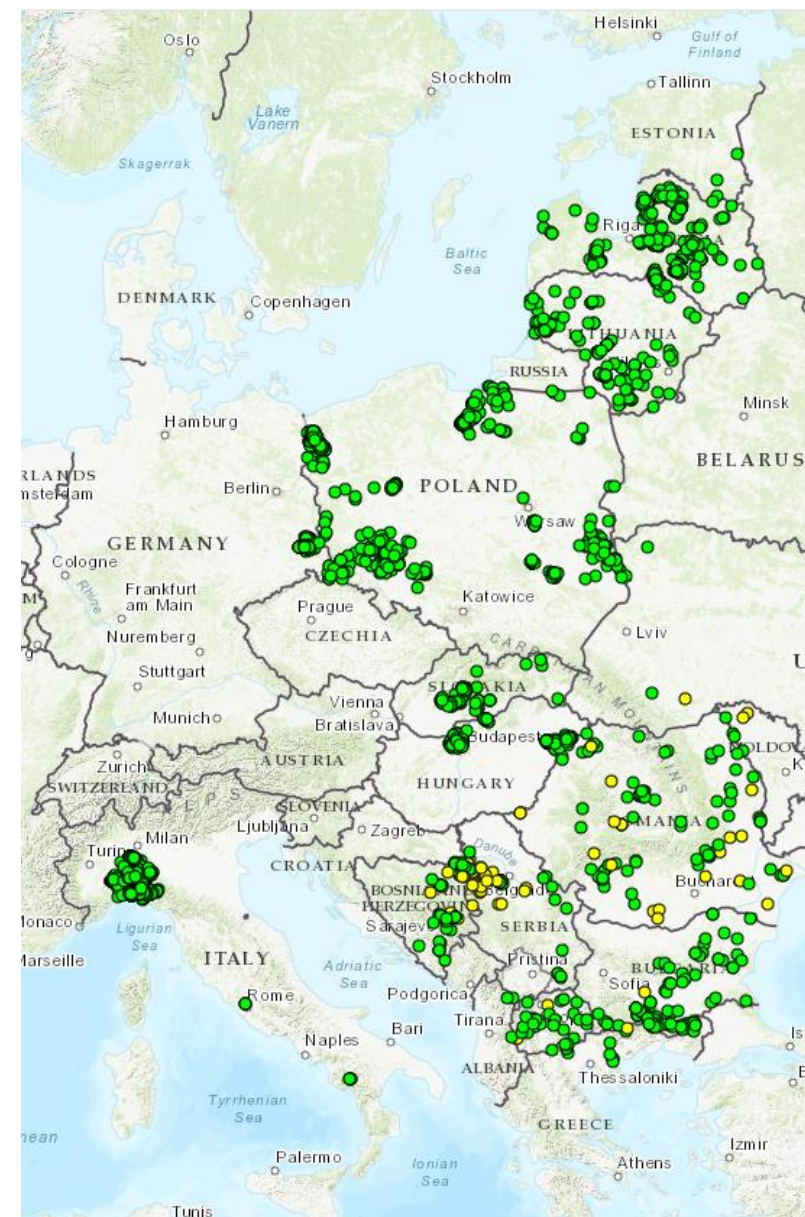


1. China (Aug 2018)
2. Mongolia (Jan 2019)
3. Vietnam (Feb 2019)
4. Cambodia (March 2019)
5. Hong Kong (May 2019)
6. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (May 2019)
7. Lao People's Democratic Republic (Jun 2019)
8. Myanmar (Aug 2019)
9. The Philippines (Jul 2019)
10. Republic of Korea (Sep 2019)
11. Timor-Leste (Sep 2019)
12. Indonesia (Nov 2019)
13. Papua New Guinea (Mar 2020)
14. India (May 2020)
15. Malaysia (Feb 2021)
16. Bhutan (May 2021)
17. Dominican Republic (July 2021).
18. Haiti (September 2021).
19. Thailand (January 2022).
20. Nepal (March 2022).
21. Singapore (February 2023).
22. Bangladesh (November 2023)

# ASF in the EU in 2014-2024

No	MS	1 <sup>st</sup> ASF detection	Wild boar	Pigs	Remarks on the ASF situation from 1 October 2023 to 3 April 2024 after the last SGE on ASF
1.	LT	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
2.	PL	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>3 outbreaks in pigs in the period</b>
3.	LV	6/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
4.	EE	7/2015	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
5.	CZ	6/2017	+		ASF <b>eradicated in 2019</b> ; <b>new cases in wild boar</b> at the border with PL (since 12/2022)
6.	RO	7/2017	+	+	in wild boar; <b>59 outbreaks in pigs in the period</b>
7.	HU	4/2018	+		in wild boar only
8.	BG	6/2018	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>1 outbreak in pigs in 2024</b>
	BE	9/2018	+		free from ASF since 11/2020
9.	SK	7/2019	+	+	mainly in wild boar
10.	EL	2/2020	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>2 outbreaks in pigs in 2024</b>
11.	DE	9/2020	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
12.	IT	1/2022	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
13.	HR	6/2023	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>215 outbreaks in pigs in the period</b>
14.	SE	9/2023	+		In wild boar

ASF in the EU and WB in 2024 (up to 3/4/2024)



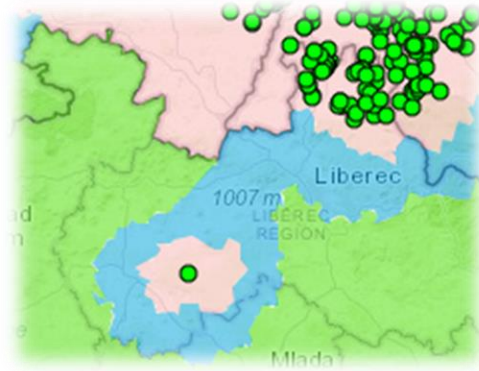
**ASF outbreaks in wild boar**  
**ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs**

# ASF in the Czech Republic and Greece

2023- 2024 developments

## ASF in the Czech Republic – wild boar

- ASF re-occurrence **after more than 4 years**
- Confirmed at the **border with Poland** (a completely different location from the 2017)
- Natural movement of wild boar
- **After one year the disease remains confined at the border**

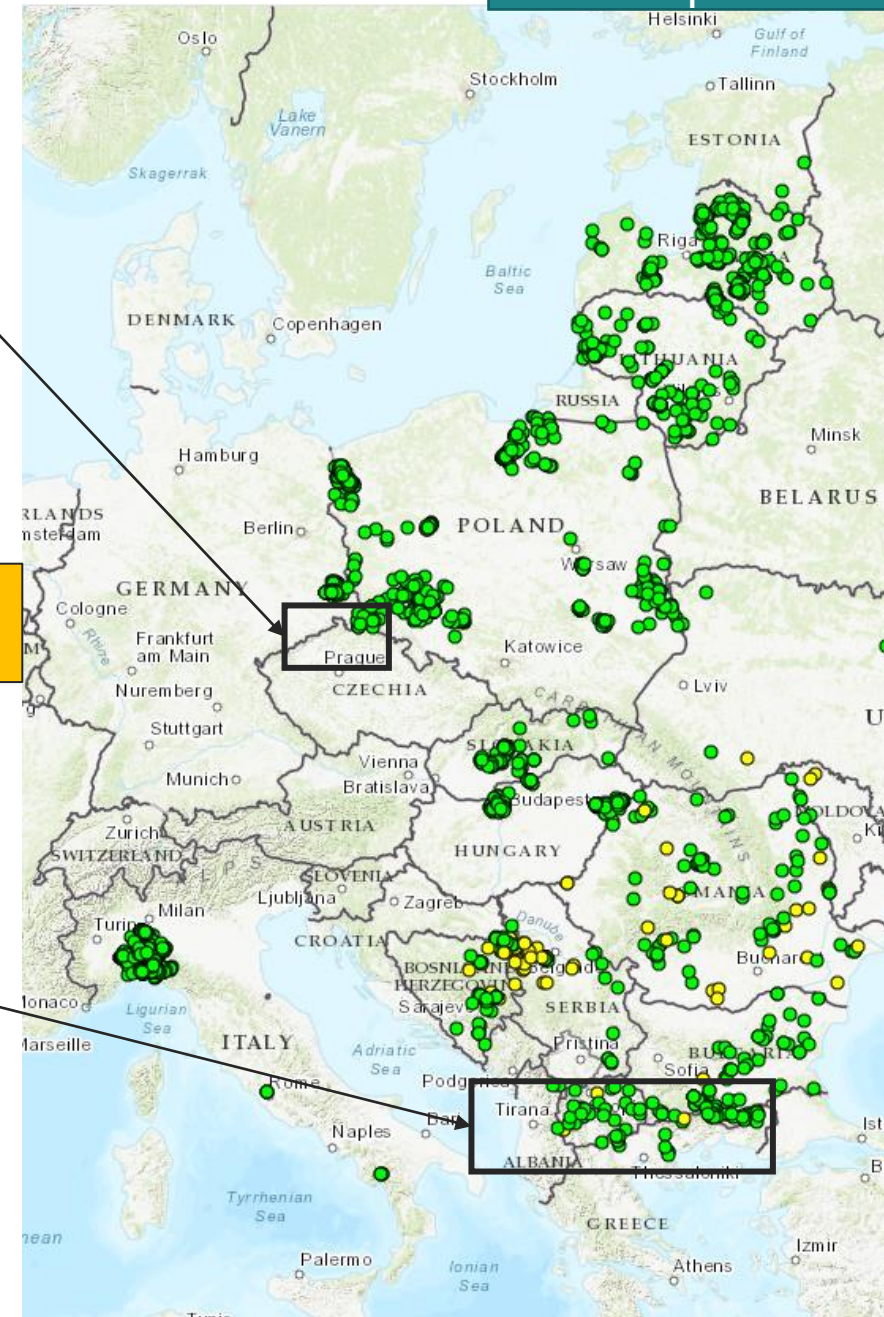
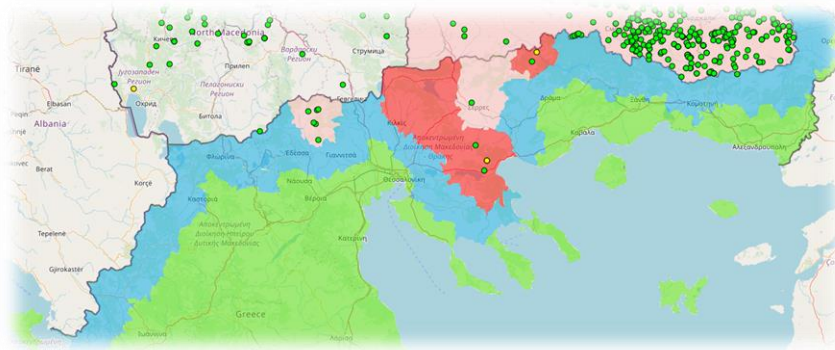


## ASF in Greece – domestic pigs and wild boar at the border with Bulgaria and North Macedonia + movement southward

October 2023 – April 2024  
Outbreaks in domestic pigs  
and wild boar

**Restricted zone I and II  
at the borders**

2024  
Two Outbreaks in domestic

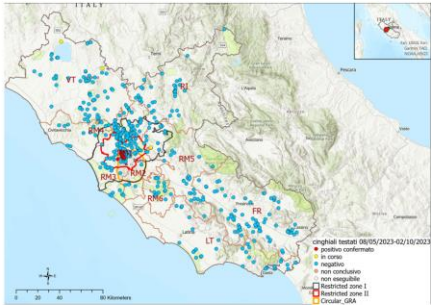


# ASF in Italy

2023-2024 developments

1. Center - Sud  
ASF in **wild boar**, sporadic outbreaks in domestic pigs

## Lazio - Rome



- Stable situation
- Passive surveillance in the whole region and active search of carcasses in Rome area are ongoing.
- Last positive carcass was confirmed on 3 August

## Campania – Salerno Province

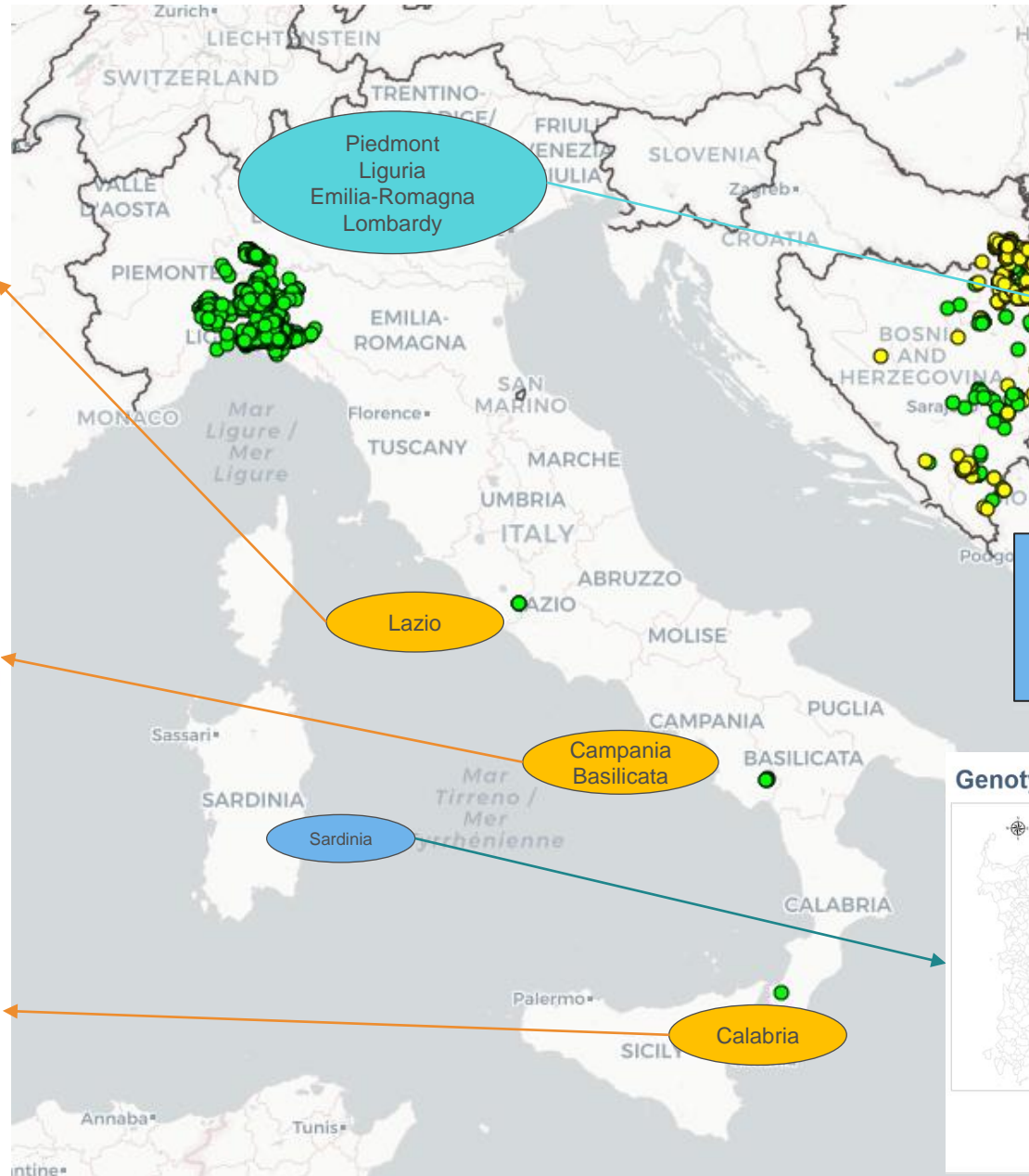
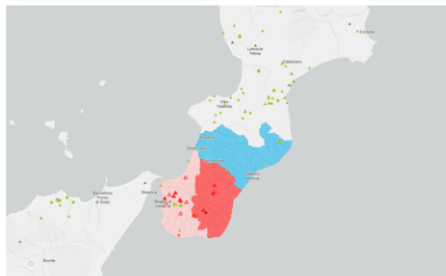


26 positive wild boars until 13/09 – Last positive was confirmed on 6 July

Amendment Annex I of Implementing Regulation 2023/594 – proposal of restriction zones I and II in Campania (Salerno Province) and Basilicata (Potenza Province)

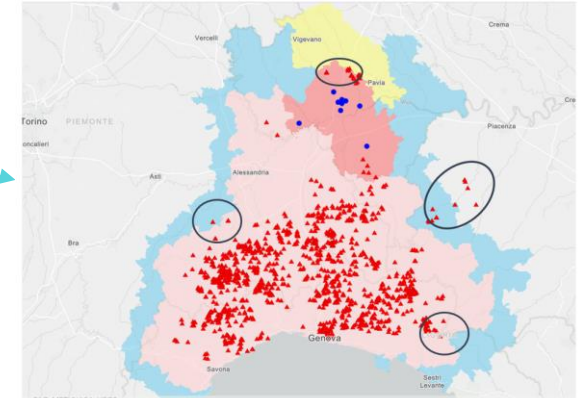
## Calabria

- 16 wild boars – last positive confirmed on 13 July
- 6 outbreaks, in backyard or small farms, confirmed between May and June



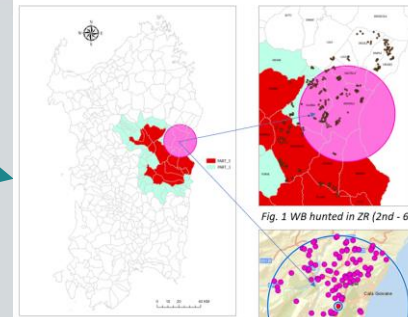
2. North  
ASF in **wild boar and domestic pigs**

## Northern Italy cluster



3. Sardinia  
*Genotype I* since 70'  
*Genotype II*: 1 single outbreaking domestic pigs in 2023, eradicated

## Genotype II – outbreak IT-ASF-2023-00807



- Small closed-cycle breeding farm with 16 pigs in Dorgali Municipality (Nuoro Province).
- Confirmation on 20 September.
- Protection and Surveillance zones immediately established and application of all measure in accordance to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 and Ordinance n.2/2023.
- All farms contained in 15 km radius from the outbreaks were checked and tested from official veterinarian.
- Enhanced passive surveillance to monitor the possible introduction of the virus into the surrounding environment

# ASF in Croatia (1) – domestic pigs – first occurrence

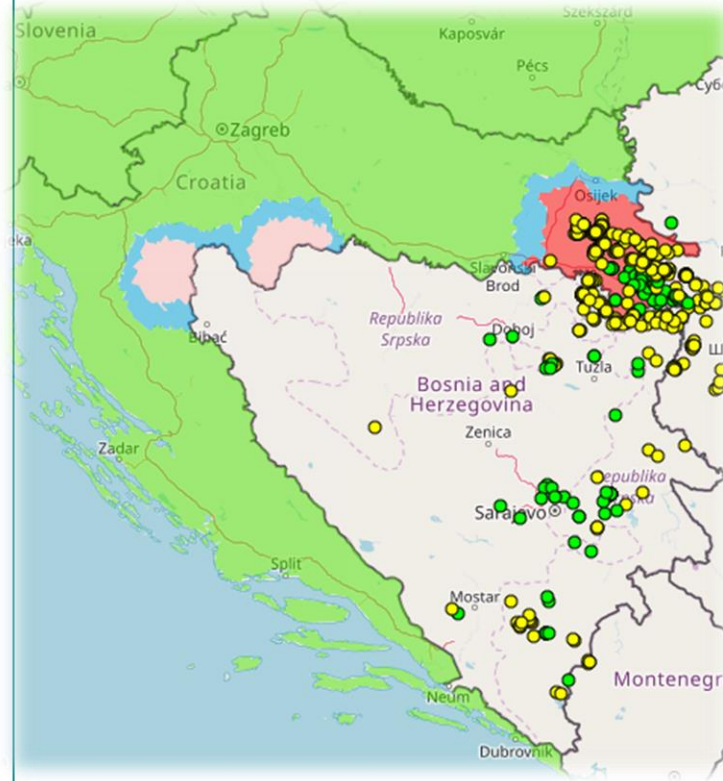
Developments  
in 2023

## (1) up to October 2023

At the border with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

215 outbreaks in the period

- October - outbreaks in domestic pigs in a County with largest concentration of pig farms/centre for the production of pig semen supplying 85% of Croatian pig producers/largest fattening pig establishments
- Prohibition to use meat from pigs from the restricted zones zone
- Impairment of supply of Croatian markets with fresh meat has been significantly impaired



## (2) November-December 2023

Decline in the number of outbreaks and ASF confined in the eastern part of Croatia

improvement attributable to

- (i) Implementation of **strict control measures** (e.g. census and the closure- depopulation of unregistered/illegal farms)
- (ii) Development, with the support of the **EUVET**, an action plan

## (3) December 2023

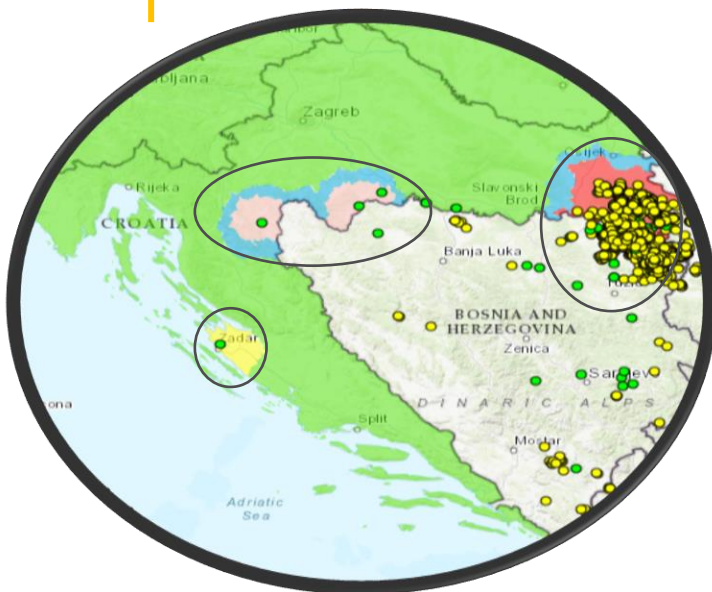
Revision of regionalization (PAFF Committee) published on the OJ in December 2023 **enabled the authorities to make use of certain derogations (under very strict conditions)**

## (4) 2024 to date

Lifting infected zone in Zadar and disease notified in wild boar only

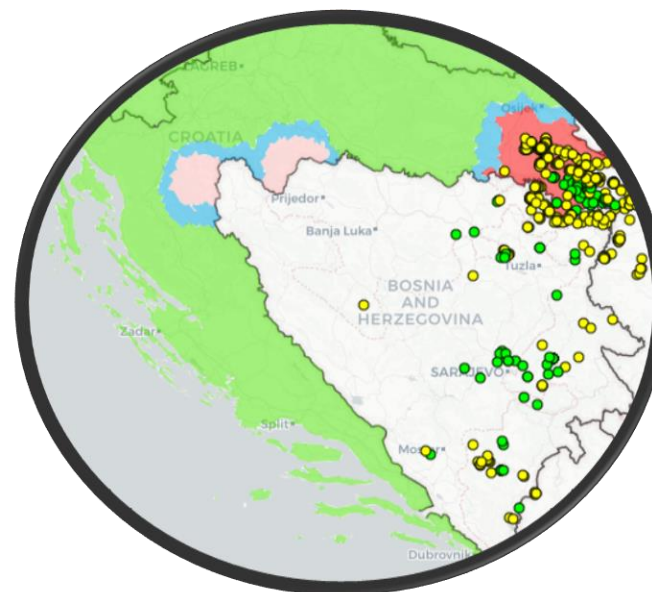
# ASF in Croatia (2) – wild boar– first occurrence

Developments in  
2023



**First confirmation on 5 July - Vukovarsko-Srijemska Region**

Wild boar in four Regions :Vukovarsko-Srijemska - in the restricted area for domestic pigs; Karlovačka - **at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina**; Sisacko-Moslavačka - **at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina**; Zadarska – jump, wild boar hit by a car.



**39 ASF cases in wild boar in the reporting period in the Vukovarsko-Srijemska Region**

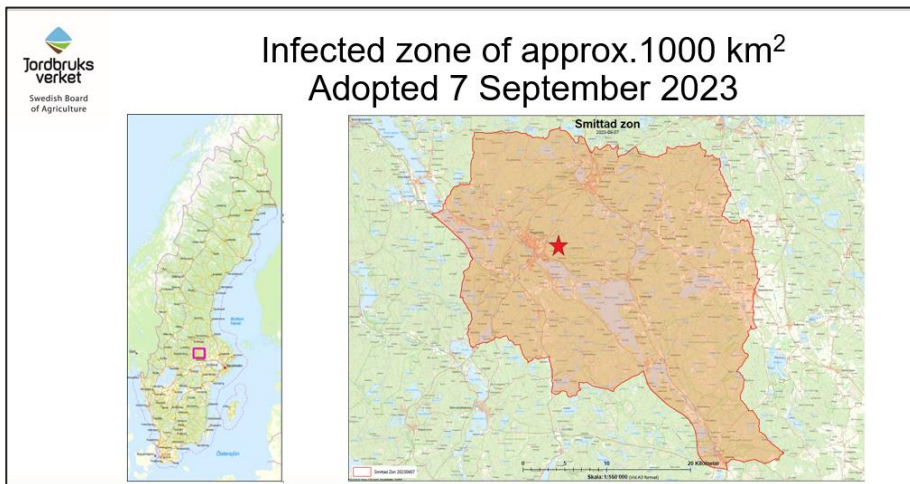
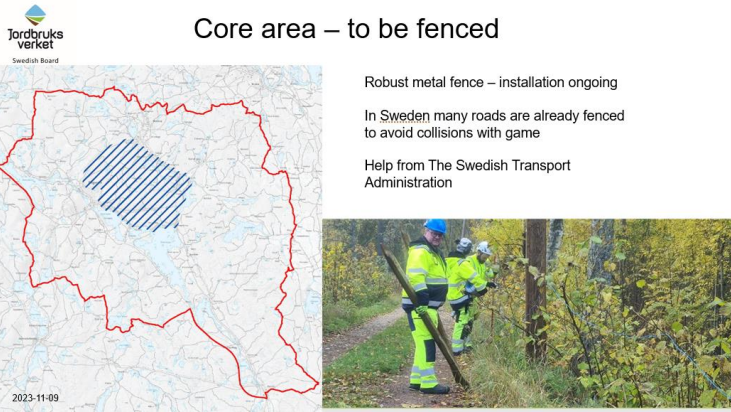
Zadarska – **Restrictions lifted in February 2024**

# ASF in Sweden – wild boar – first occurrence

Developments in 2023

## Control measures

- First confirmation on 6 September (60 ASF cases to date)
- Case detected as part of passive surveillance of wild boars found dead
  - EUVET mission:
    - 20 - 22 September 2023
- EU regionalisation in place



- Establishment of **infected zone**: (art 63-65, Commission delegated regulation (EU) 2020/687)
- Ban on hunting** and all other activities off-road
- Local hunters engaged in **search for dead wild boars**
- Pig farms identified and visited by official veterinarians
- Decision to **depopulate all pig farms** in infected zone
- Center for **test & removal of carcasses** established in Fagersta
- Restriction on movements of pigs** and animal products, feed and bedding materials.
- Mandatory cleaning and disinfection** of machines for agriculture and forestry
- Strategic fencing** of the core area and infected zone



# Main EU initiatives on ASF

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice (EFSA)
- Network of labs (+ EURL)
- Research
- EU Legislation (horizontal + specific)
- EU Guidelines
- Zoning (Regionalization)
- Border controls
- Audits
- Financial support
- Training (BTSF)
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention (EU VET)
- International cooperation

• GF-TADS



**CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EU**  
The key role of hunters

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, usually deadly, infectious disease of pigs and wild boar for which no vaccine exists.

The consequences of the disease are:

- Farms and the economy:**
  - economic losses for EU farmers are aggravated by a complete ban on export of animals and meat
  - economic losses for the farmers
- Wildlife and hunting:**
  - loss of income for hunters and a decrease in the number of hunters
  - hunting may be restricted or even banned in some areas, which may lead to a reduction of hunters and poachers

Hunters can make the difference – for better or worse – as they may increase or reduce the spread of the disease.

European Commission/FACE Conference  
**PREPARING EUROPEAN HUNTERS TO ERADICATE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

Introduction EV DE  
Erasmus-Programm

30 January 2019, 10:00-16:00  
Kongresszentrum, Westfalenstraße, 58103 Bielefeld  
Warten Sie nicht! Die Zeit drängt!

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL PORK PRODUCTION UNDER THE THREAT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**  
17th January 2020

**AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

**HARMONISED RULES**

efsa  
European Food Safety Authority

For more information consult ASF topic page and story map on EFSA website <https://goo.gl/u3EdD>

**TRAVELLERS MUST SURRENDER THESE PRODUCTS FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS\***

Products of animal origin may carry pathogens that cause infectious diseases in animals. There are strict procedures and veterinary controls on the introduction of products of animal origin into the European Union.

**Achtung!**  
Die Bundesminister für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland informieren...

**Warning!**  
The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany hereby gives notice that highly contagious African Swine Fever has been spreading through Europe since 2018 and is now a threat to the stability of agriculture in the EU.

**Pozor!**  
Speciálně informujeme pro veřejnost a zemědělství...  
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**Atentie!**  
Ministerul Federal de Agricultură și Silvicultură al Republicii Federaale Germania informează că boala foarte contagioasă și mortală a porcinilor, febra aftoasă, este în prezent răspândită în Europa și reprezintă o amenințare pentru siguranța alimentară și stabilitatea agriculturii în Uniunea Europeană.

**Uwaga!**  
Informacje Ministerstwa Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej i Wymiarstwa Krajowego...  
Informacje Ministerstwa Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej i Wymiarstwa Krajowego...

**Main initiatives of the EU on ASF**

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice
- Network of labs
- Research
- EU Legislation
- EU Guidelines
- Zoning
- Border controls
- Audits
- Financial support
- Training
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention
- International cooperation

**Uwaga!**

# EU regionalisation measures for ASF



## Regulation (EU) 2023/594:

- **Restricted zone I** ('an additional further restricted zone') – zone, bordering zone II or III, where relevant (no ASF)
- **Restricted zone II** ('an infected zone') – ASF in wild boar
- **Restricted zone III** ('a further restricted zone', in addition to PZ/SZ) – ASF in domestic pigs (with or without ASF in wild boar)

## NEW guidelines!!!!

### Commission Notice on the guidelines on the prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever in the Union ('ASF guidelines') :

- developed on the basis of previous working documents and updated considering the most recent legislation and the latest scientific knowledge on ASF;
- Provide information on best practices on the management of ASF, advice on specific measures on ASF prevention, control and eradication in the Union and for the principles and criteria for geographically defining ASF regionalization in the EU.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1504/oj>

## Online interactive map:

<https://santegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=45cdd657542a437c84bfc9cf1846ae8c>

# EU direct financial support concerning ASF

- Since 2014, more than 230 million € have been granted from the EU budget directly through **veterinary programs** and **emergency measures** to support in the fight against this challenging disease:
  - the Member States and
  - neighboring third countries:
    - Ukraine, Moldova, Western Balkans.



# ASF vaccine?

**Challenge: safety, efficacy, genetic stability of any candidate ASF vaccine!**

There is no safe and effective ASF vaccine worldwide

The Commission has been supporting research on ASF for decades

## (1) projects supported before ASF entered the EU

ASFRISK: EU contribution – ~3 mln €)

ASFORCE: EU contribution – ~5 mln €)

## (2) two research projects under **Horizon 2020** (EU support ~15 mln. € in total):

**Defend** DEFEND: ASF and LSD (epidemiology & vaccinology) novel diagnostics tools and vaccines; Vaccination strategies.



**VACDIVA**: for a safe and effective live attenuated ASF vaccine (3 candidate vaccines). **Still on-going**



## (3) two new research projects under **Horizon Europe (kick-off 2024)**

ASFaVIP: EU contribution – ~6 mln €

VAX4ASF: EU contribution – ~6 mln €



**NO rules are currently available in the EU legislation to enable the use of any ASF vaccines**

# Best practises in the EU (1): ASF eradication

## The Czech Republic



June 2017 – February 2019

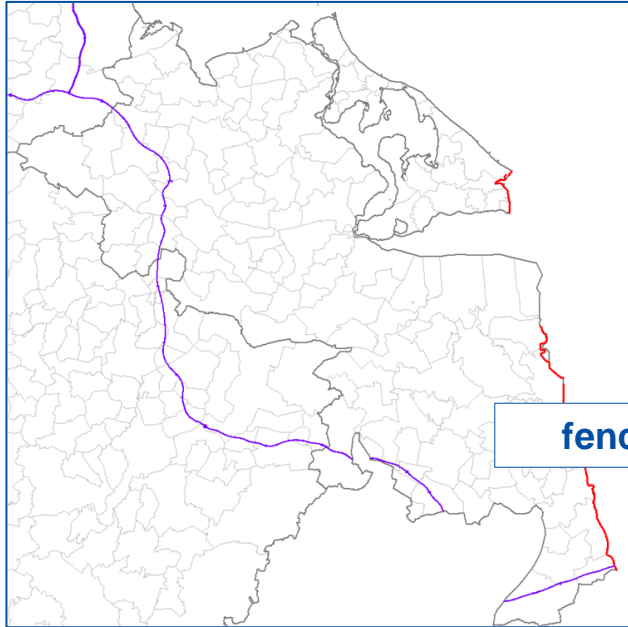
Urgent response  
EU regionalisation  
EU VET  
Active search of carcasses  
Strategic fencing  
Tailor made hunting  
Trapping  
Coordination and close cooperation at all levels  
EU financial support

## Belgium



September 2018 – October 2020

# Best practises in the EU (2): Germany (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – ASF in wild boar – eradicated!) 2023



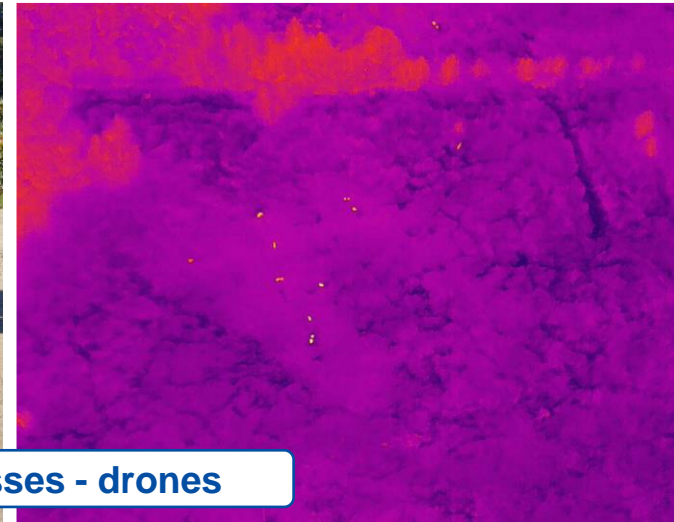
fencing



Urgent response



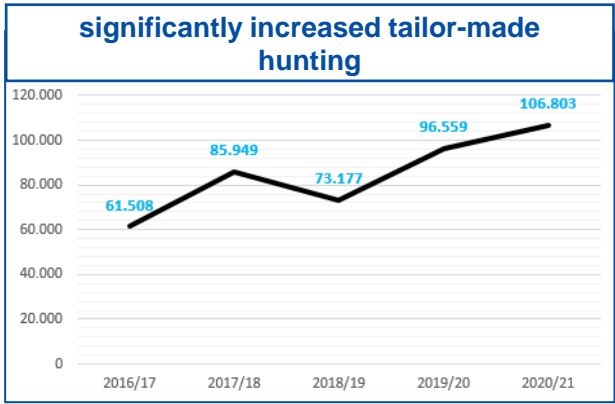
Search for wild boar carcasses - drones



Trapping and culling wild boar in restricted zones - traps



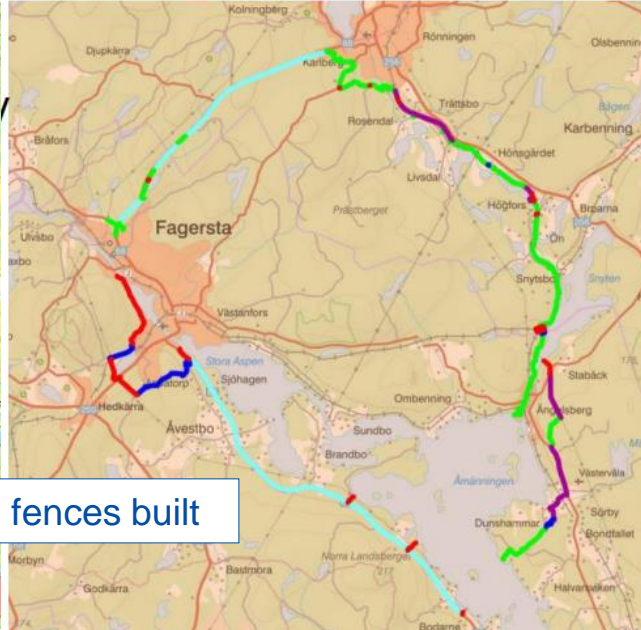
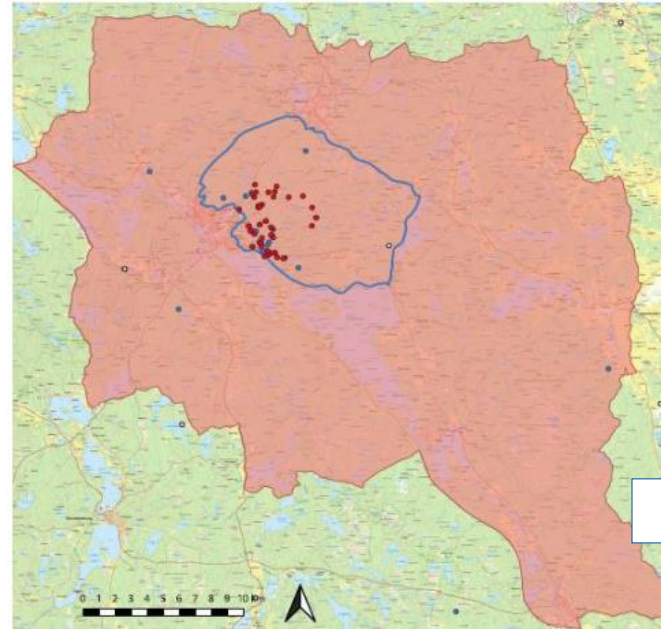
awareness



Quelle: Bilder: Gleich

Quelle: Bilder: Baieri

# Best practises in the EU (3): Sweden (next success??)



fences built



Carcasses search



biosecurity



awareness

Coordination and cooperation



traps



EUVET

# Conclusions

in the EU (since 2014) ASF has been kept under control (no rapid spread)

It remains a challenge in certain limited areas of some MS (zoning applied!):

- **Small - scale (backyard) farms with poor biosecurity**
- **ASF control and eradication in wild boar in wide areas**
- **Long distance 'jumps' – human factor!**

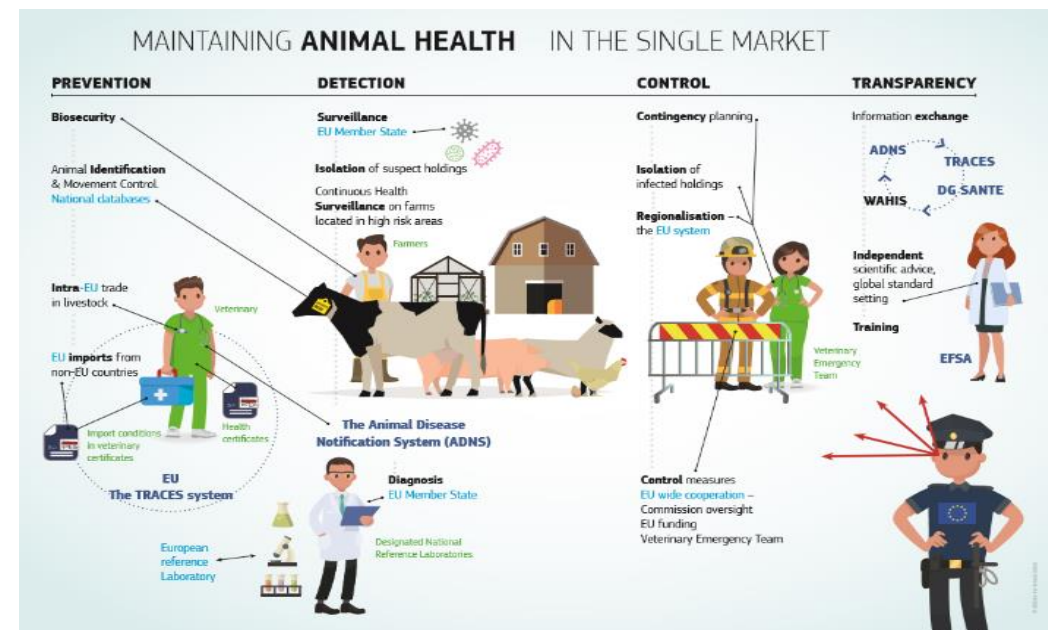
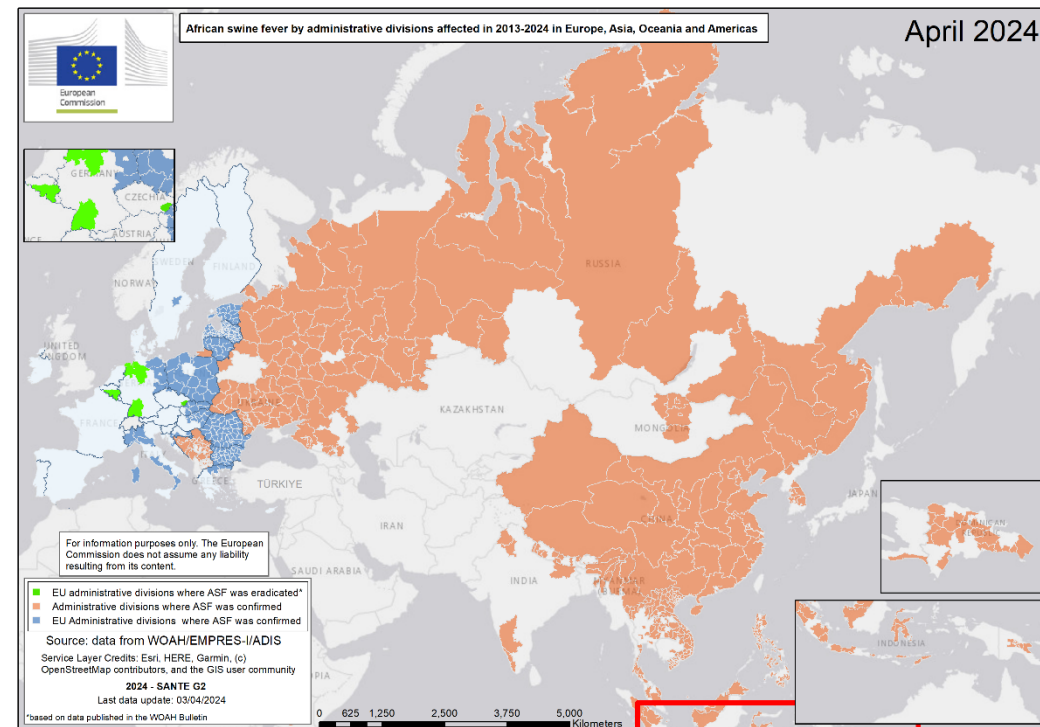
EU has a knowledge and expertise to prevent, control and eradicate ASF

- in wild boar in limited areas: ASF has been eradicated from CZ, BE and certain zones in DE
- in domestic pigs: good examples exist in the EU

Overarching EU animal health control = guaranty for safe trade

EU regionalization approach: proved to be effective

- **no outbreaks of diseases caused through (legal) trade (intra-EU or to other trading partners)!**
- **ASF eradicated in several areas of different Member States!!**





# Thank you



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