



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)

**Spain II.** Q4 2023. 500 participants.

**Romanian.** Starting next week. Expected >350 participants from Moldova and Romania



### 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

*Translated into Russian*



### 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

*Translated in Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and Serbian*



## Videos on ASF field surveillance operations

- Sampling of live domestic pigs
- Clinical examination of live domestic pigs
- Packaging of ASF suspect samples for national transport
- Sampling of dead pig in the field to rule out ASF

*(to be translated into languages from the region)*

### Equipment required for sampling a pig:

- Sampling equipment in the box including the paper data collection form (laboratory submission form);

Ethanol or isopropyl alcohol for disinfection of skin at sample site; Vacutainer needles. Recommended: 21 gauges diameter (0.514 mm) and 1.5 inches long (3.8 cm);

Cotton round; Container for used needles;

Cooler with ice packs; Biohazard waste bag;

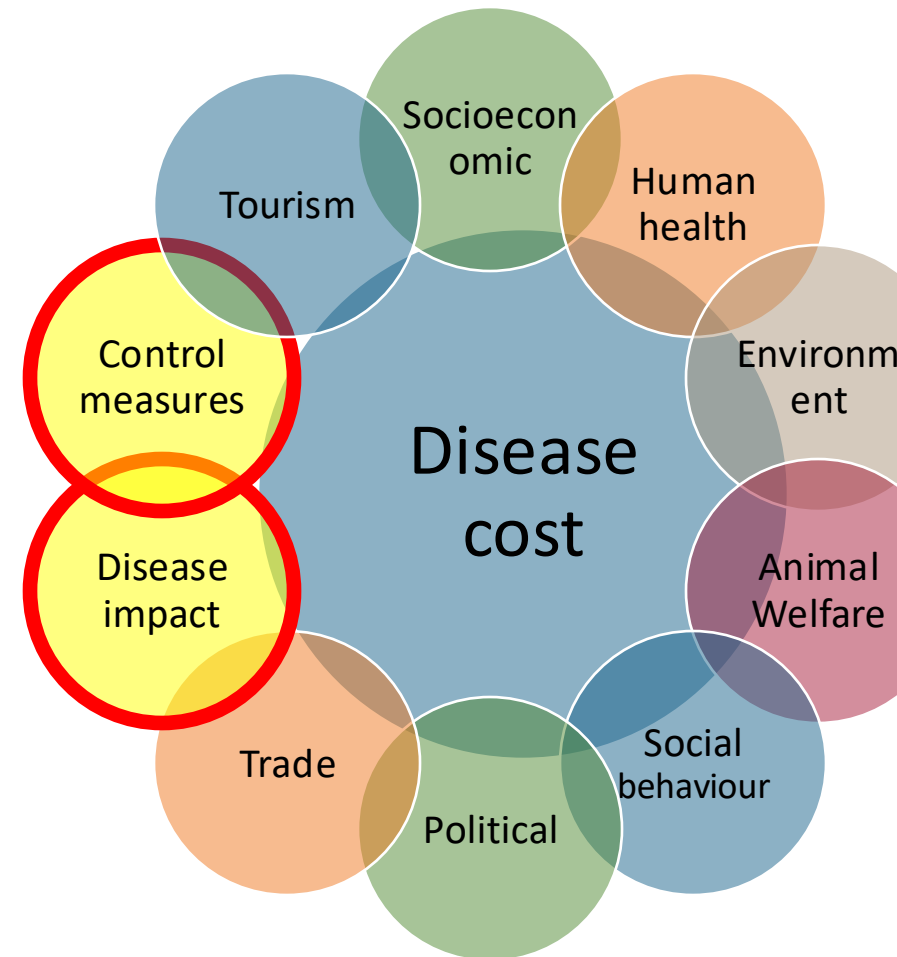
Vacutainer holder; 10ml. syringes;





## Outbreak Costing Tool – OutCosT

- Joint effort with the Autonomous University of Barcelona
- Launched in April 2022 as a new FAO corporate tool
- Excel-based
- Livestock species-specific
- Dynamic tool in continuous development
- Actual epidemics or hypothetical scenarios
- Validated with real outbreak data
- Allows also a simple qualitative assessment of indirect costs
- Available [online](#)
- Completed in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia in Q4 2023 and Q1 2024





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

**Target countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. *To be extended to North Macedonia and Serbia*

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

**Timeline:** August 2023 – February 2025

Parallel project with same objectives in Kosovo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244





## OUTPUT 1 - Better prevention against ASF in the Western Balkan countries

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Activity 1.1 Improve commercial farm biosecurity | Assessing the level of biosecurity of key commercial farms and provision of recommendations.   |
| Activity 1.2 Improve backyard farm biosecurity   | Improve awareness on biosecurity among backyard and family farms, as well as traders/middlemen through participatory approaches and trainings. |
| Activity 1.3 Improve awareness                   | Conduct awareness campaign for ASF for domestic pig and/or wild boar (videos, printing of leaflets, posters, etc.).                            |







## OUTPUT 2 - Strengthening knowledge of the pig sector on impact of ASF

Activity 2.1 Conduct  
Biosecurity survey

Assesses impediments for farmers to improve biosecurity (behavioral and financial) and suggest financial solutions (better access to credit, etc.).

2.2 Conduct cost  
assessment

Estimate the cost of outbreaks and potential spread within the country using alternative control strategies.





## OUTPUT 3 - Capacity of the first responders on control against ASF improved

Activity 3.1 Organize trainings on ASF control

Organize half-a-day trainings to improve ASF control in ASF infected countries with demonstration of the usage of the necessary equipment.

*Plus purchase of stamping out equipment, e.g., captive bolts*

Activity 3.2. Improve epidemiological understanding

Organize a regional training for veterinarians on outbreak investigation and training on epidemiology and epidemiological analysis of outbreak data.

Activity 3.3 Virtual learning

Support with virtual learning initiatives, based on the countries' needs.





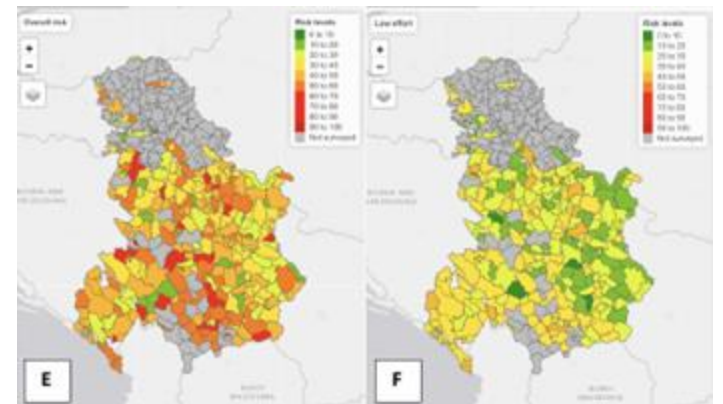
## OUTPUT 4 - Capacity for ASF detection and control in wild boar in the focus countries improved

Activity 4.1 Organize training for hunters

Train hunters on ASF recognition, hunting biosecurity and reporting of dead wild boar carcasses through a field training on hunting ground level.

Activity 4.2 Assess biosecurity of hunting grounds

Assess the biosecurity of hunting grounds with the aim to understand the risk of introduction, risk of spread and probability of detection  
*(based on [tool developed by FAO](#))*





## OUTPUT 5 - Regional coordination of ASF prevention and control strengthened in the WB countries

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Activity 5.1. Organize regular regional coordination meetings</p> | <p>Organize quarterly virtual meetings with National Project Coordinators and other interested parties to share progress along the project and to harmonize on-going activities.</p>   |
| <p>5.2. Improve in-country information sharing</p>                   | <p>Advocate through various events for better collaboration, coordination and information sharing between the different Governing's structures and ensure multi-sectoral coordination.</p>   |
| <p>5.3 Organize Final workshop (virtual)</p>                         | <p>To 1) present project results to donors, international institutions; 2) discuss potential follow-up, if needed; 3) coordinate the implementation of prevention and control actions; and 4) provide a forum for discussions and exchange of ideas.</p> |





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Thanks for your  
attention