



Food and Agriculture
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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.

Several courses are accredited by the Veterinary Continuing Education in Europe (VetCEE) thus part of CPD programs.

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

- [ASF preparedness courses](#) (EN) (RS) (RU) (SP) (RO)
- African Swine Fever Introductory Course ([EN](#)), ([FR](#)) and (RS coming soon)
- [Course on stamping out](#) (EN) (RU)

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English (en) ↕ 🔍

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ASF Preparedness course in Romanian language April – May 2024

Curs de Pregătire pentru Peste Porcină Africană în Limba Română

- Supported under FAO/EBRD project
- Participants from Romania and Moldova
- Both official and private veterinarians
- 144 participants completed the course (132 Romania and 14 Moldova)



Curs de pregătire pentru pesta porcină africană

Acest curs dezvoltat inițial de Biroul Regional FAO pentru Europa și Asia Centrală (REU), împreună cu Institutul Friedrich Löffler, a fost adaptat, tradus și livrat în mai multe regiuni FAO.

CÂND	8 aprilie - 10 mai 2024
DURATA CURSULUI	15 ore (4 SĂPTĂMÂNI)
PARTICIPANȚII	400 (MAXIM)
FORMAT	HYBRID – un mix de sesiuni de instruire online facilitate, exerciții în ritm propriu și resurse utile.

Pentru cine este cursul?

Publicul principal pentru curs este medicii veterinari oficiali și privați care pot fi implicați în diagnosticarea, investigarea și răspunsul la un focar de ASF. Cu toate acestea, cursul este, de asemenea, potrivit pentru personalul din industria porcinelor care poate fi, de asemenea, implicat în activități de răspuns.

Ce vei învăța?

- Impactul și importanța peștei porcine africane Diagnostic clinic
- Diagnosticul de laborator
- Ancheta focarului PPA
- Măsurile de control
- Biosecuritate
- PPA la mistreți în Europa

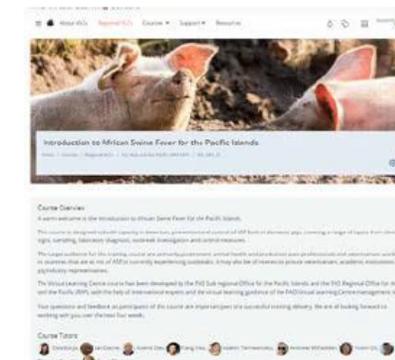
Ce presupune cursul

Cursul este integral online, în limba română și va dura aproximativ 15 ore. Aproximativ 400 de participanți pot urma cursul în același timp și este deschis timp de patru săptămâni.

Cursul se deschide cu un webinar interactiv live, unde cursanții își întâlnesc formatorii și sunt introduși în curs. Stagiarii progesează apoi prin șapte module interactive online, îmbogățite cu fotografii, videoclipuri, exerciții și întrebări de auto-testare.

În timpul cursului, formatorii experți sunt disponibili prin intermediul unui forum de discuții pentru a răspunde la întrebările cursanților și pentru a conduce discuții interactive.

Spre sfârșitul cursului, va exista un al doilea webinar interactiv live, pentru a discuta mai detaliat subiectele ridicate în timpul cursului. Toți cursanții trebuie să completeze o evaluare cuprinzătoare și să completeze toate cursurile. Stagiarii de succes primesc un certificat.





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. **On-going: Albanian and Macedonian***



Educational videos on ASF field surveillance operations

Already available on FAO's YouTube channel:

- [Sampling of live domestic pigs](#)
- [Clinical examination of live domestic pigs](#)
- [Packaging of ASF suspect samples for national transport](#)

Available soon:

- Sampling of dead pig in the field to rule out ASF
- Currently subtitling to Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Albanian, Macedonian and Russian are in the pipeline.

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;





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

Target countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, 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 SFERA project with similar objectives in Kosovo¹

¹ As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244





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

Community ASF Biosecurity Interventions (CABI) in Western Balkans

- Piloted in the Philippines by FAO RAP
- Focuses on backyard / small-producers using participatory approach to improve ASF knowledge and farm biosecurity
- Protocol for Western Balkans is ready. Will be shared with National Project Coordinators.

Key features of implementation phase:

- Individual farm level assessments
- Community trainings
- Biosecurity intervention packages for backyards / smallholders
- Monitoring changes / progress



Community African swine fever Biosecurity Interventions

Helping smallholder farmers and communities fight ASF

Fight against African swine fever

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly fatal infectious disease affecting domestic and wild pigs of all breeds and ages. Although humans are not infected by the virus, it poses significant risks to food security and the livelihoods of farmers.

At least 60 percent of the global pig production is concentrated in East and Southeast Asia, with the majority of pigs kept in low-biosecurity smallholder farms with minimal resilience to disease incursion.

As the disease becomes endemic in the region and expands into new areas, it is crucial to constantly adjust preparedness and control activities to the situation in the field.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity involves physical measures to mitigate the risk of introducing, maintaining, and spreading diseases among animal populations.

Implementing biosecurity practices is essential for maintaining the health and well-being of animals.

Be a champion farmer with biosecurity practices

Restrict movements

No swill feeding

Report unusual events



Wash hands with soap

Disinfect frequently

Clean farm regularly

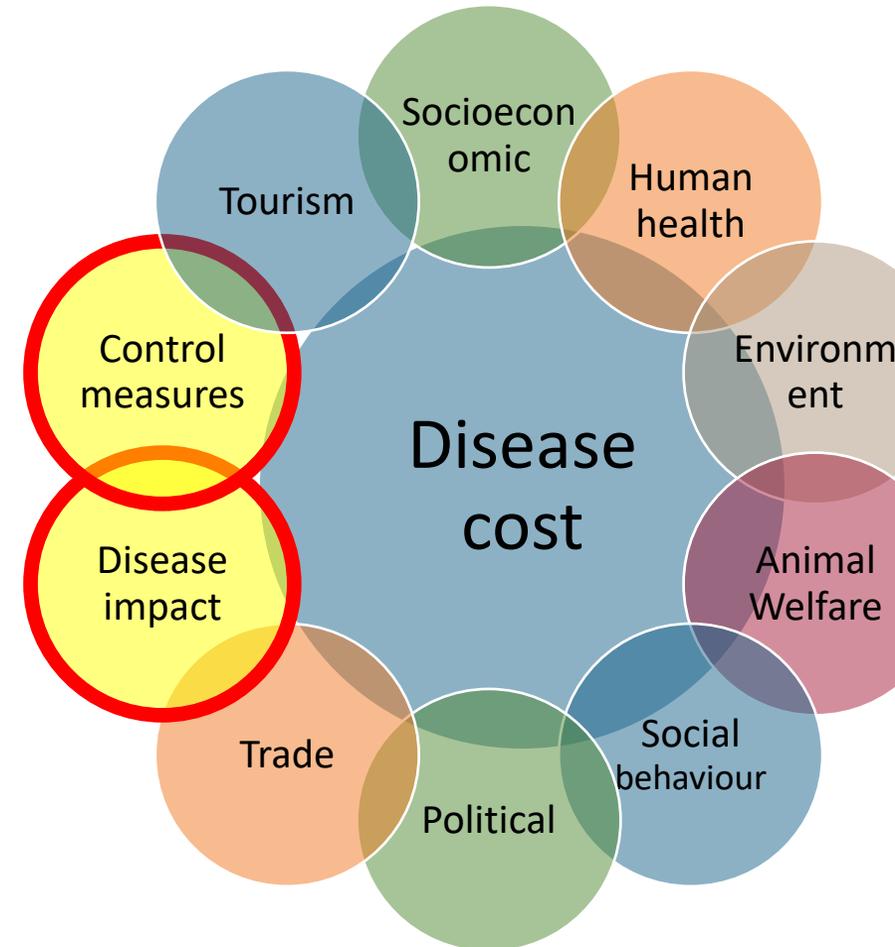
Biosecurity is a key to stop ASF.
Be a champion farmer and keep your pigs free from ASF!



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

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
- Starting with Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia





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

Regional Workshop on Outbreak Investigation for ASF and Basic Applied Epidemiology

- Held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 21 – 24 May 2024
- Attended by 18 participants from the region
- Learning objectives focused on risk factors for ASF, surveillance strategy, outbreak investigation and data analysis
- Training was well received. Potential for further work.

Trainings on ASF control and improve control capacity

- Training focuses on improving capacity in stamping out of pig farms based on previous trainings delivered.
- Prioritizing: Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo¹
- In addition, support with equipment (procurement ongoing)

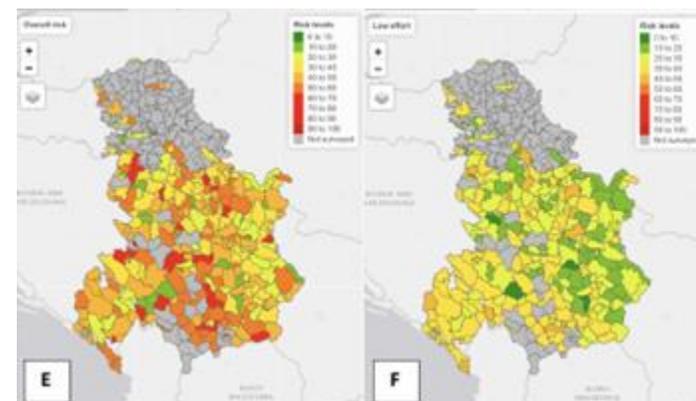




TCPE - OUTPUT 4 - Capacity for ASF detection and control in wild boar in the focus countries improved

Training of Hunters on ASF and hunting biosecurity

- **Three one-day** trainings were organized between 10 – 16 July 2024 in **Kosovo**¹, attended by 71 hunters and hunting ground managers
- **Five on-day trainings are planned** between October – December 2024 in **Serbia** for hunting ground managers and hunters on ASF in wild boar and hunting biosecurity. A total of 100 participants are expected.
- Results of the hunting ground biosecurity assessments ([tool developed by FAO](#)) will be highlighted to stakeholders.





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

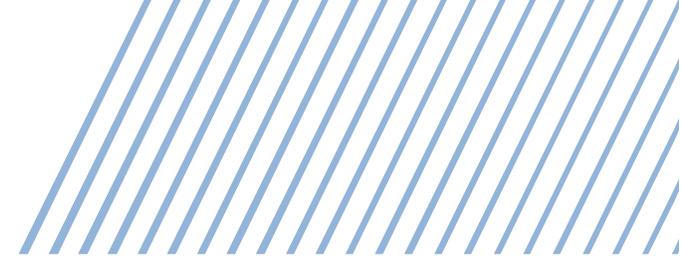
Coordination

- Coordination with National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and liaisons
- Participation at Global and Regional events related to ASF and output topics
- Meetings with ADWEB II project members and other institution working in the Balkans





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Thank you for your attention!