

# African Swine Fever in wild boars, biosecurity management and practice: an eLearning module for the European Region

Vittorio Guberti

Veterinary epidemiologist

Webinar on African Swine Fever in wild boars: Building  
Competencies for Improved Biosecurity Practices



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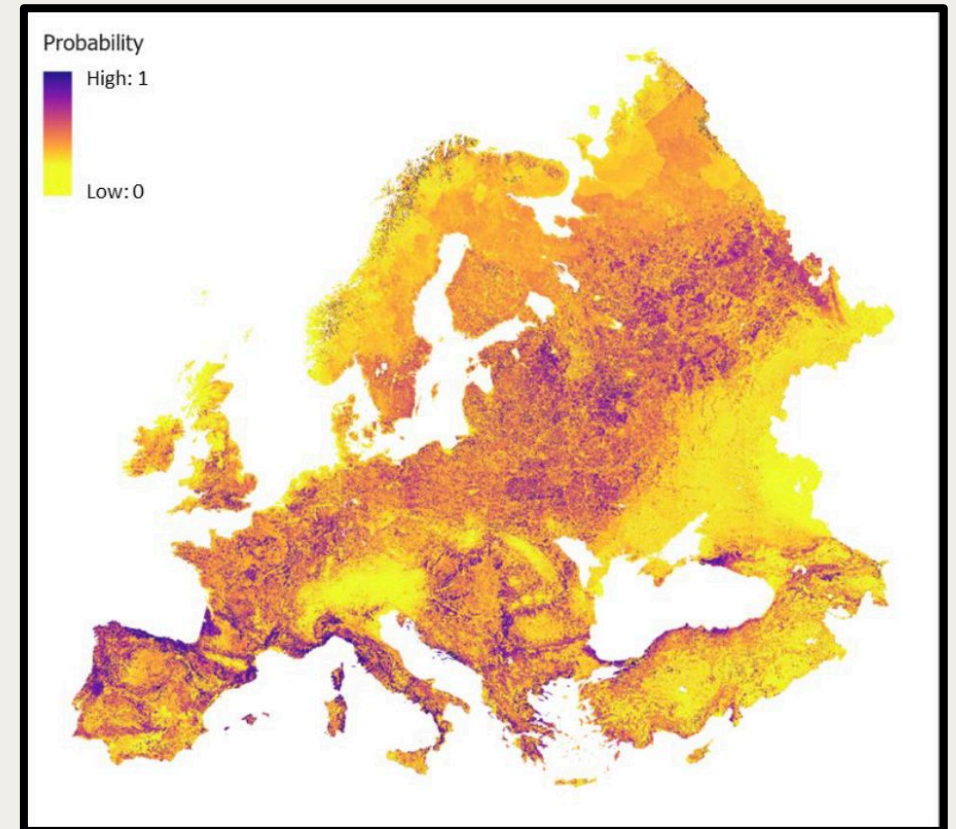
## A module on ASF in the wild boar: why?

In large parts of Europe, we have and are facing an infection of an African virus in the most widespread wild species on the continent and of great management interest.

The information present is up-to-date, but most importantly it condenses experiences drawn from all European countries that have or are still dealing with the virus in wild boar;

The eLearning has a practical approach, and the information offered is never unrelated to the practical needs necessary to manage the infection in the daily life of Veterinary Services.

The desire is that, wherever in Europe, people will say, **“I don't know how this can be done, let's see if WOAH's eLearning on ASF gives me some suggestions.”**



Wild boar habitat suitability  
(EFSA supporting publication, 2024)



## A module on ASF in wild boar: addressed to whom?

The module is primarily aimed at **Veterinary Services**, however it is well known that the management of ASF in wild boar requires a **cross-cutting approach**;

Consequently, the structure and writing of the eLearning was designed to also address all stakeholders involved in the management of the infection in the wild, including foresters, hunters, forest visitors, and loggers;

Policy makers will have the technical knowledge to make informed decisions;

Ordinary citizens will better understand the complexity of the problem;

**A tool for all**





## A technical scientific approach available everywhere

The core idea of the project is to allow every person involved in the control of ASF in wild boar to have access to the most up-to-date technical scientific information available;

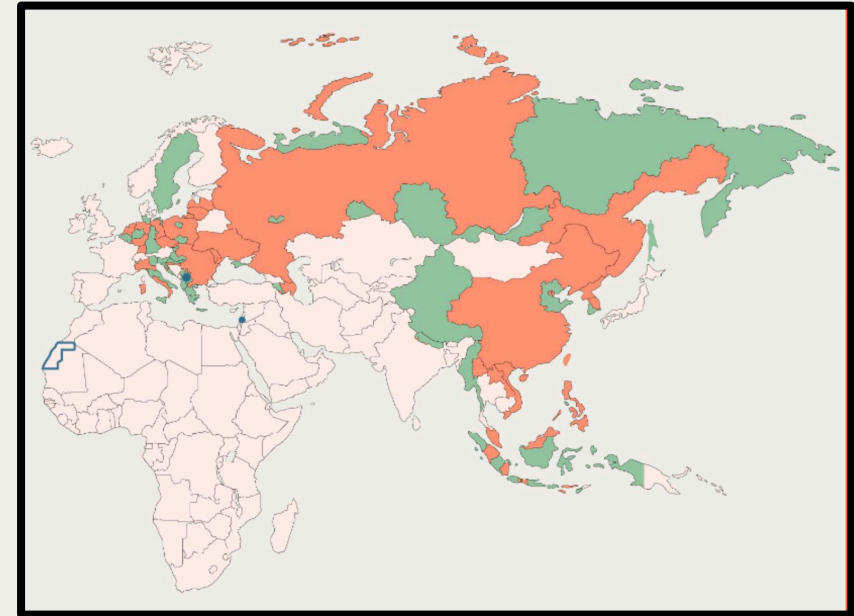
eLearning thus allows anyone with **an internet connection** to explore the many aspects of the infection including the scientific literature made available for each of the Units of which the module is composed;



## ASF: 24 different genotypes, but only Genotype II is addressed

The module is specifically targeted at genotype II, the one prevalent in Europe;

The specific characteristics of genotype II when infecting wild boar such as the absence of chronic carriers, the role of homologous immunity, and lethality were presented based on scientific research and field experiences **accumulated in the 16 years** since the virus was introduced in Georgia (2007);



ASF in wild boar and wild suidae  
WHAIS accessed 17° July 2024



As the basis of eLearning WOAHA indicated the use of the manual: African swine fever in wild boar Ecology and biosecurity

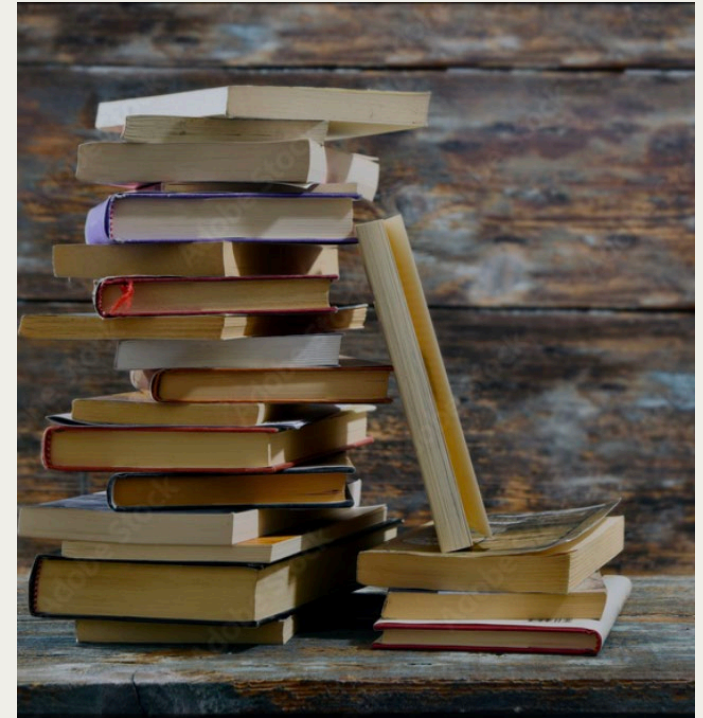
**We went well beyond the manual**





## A lot more

- Mechanisms explaining the relatively **low spread** of the virus;
- Patterns of **virus persistence** in endemic areas; and
- Strategies and techniques for virus **containment and eradication**.
- A brief **guideline** for active search for carcasses, including the **number of carcasses expected** during both peak epidemic and endemic persistence phases;
- Schemes and plans for establishing **carcass collection centers**;
- The **tracing** of hunted animals;
- **Disinfection** techniques for virus-contaminated premises and tools;
- The introduction of specific **indicators** to reauthorize the use of dressing in hunting houses;





## Finally

An effort was directed to the last unit, that of **communication** with stakeholders and in particular hunters.

The different points of view of all stakeholders were listed and described together with possible responses to improve acceptance of often controversial restrictive measures





# Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France  
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49  
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.int  
www.woah.org

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