



Twinning project: “EU support to capacity building and gradual Union acquis alignment in the veterinary sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina”

Strengthening the veterinary system in BiH towards the management of African swine fever

EU Twinning Partnership:

Austria, Agency for Health and Food Safety

France, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Croatia, Ministry of Agriculture

BiH Beneficiary administration:

Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with competent authorities of the entities and Brčko District of BiH

Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella

Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe

(SGE ASF-24)

Biosecurity, particularly in backyard farms in the control of African Swine Fever

Bosna and Hercegovina, Sarajevo, 03 -04 April 2025

Project objective: Aligning BiH legal acts with EU acquis and raising capacities for its efficient implementation



- **Component 1:** *Legislative framework in animal health management strengthened and further aligned with the Union acquis*
- **Component 2:** *Legislative framework in the area of animal welfare strengthened and further aligned with the Union acquis*
- **Component 3:** *Animal Waste/Animal By-Product management further strengthened*

Gap Analysis Reports

Gap analysis on Animal Health Legislation in relation to ASF and its alignment with EU Regulation 2016/429

1. **Role of NRL:** No designated NRL for ASF in BiH (no finance for reference material, no international proficiency testing, no uniform methodology, lack of data management).
2. **Strategy to detect ASF:** poor control of wild/domestic pig population (poor implementation of identification, registration, traceability, active/passive surveillance – not risk based).
3. **To ensure regular trainings and clear/visible information for public.**
4. **Strategy to control ASF:** improve clear instructions for zoning, movement control, resources, safe destruction of carcasses.

Evaluation report on biosafety standards in laboratory within the onsite STE evaluation:

- **Safety and hygiene** – Good cleaning practices exist, to improve PPE use and biohazard signage.
- **Lab capacity** – Limited storage and workspace affect disease surveillance.
- **Air filtration** – HEPA filters require regular testing for safety.
- **Future improvements** – BSL3 lab plans exist but require modernization.

Updated/drafted legal acts in line with EU acquis



Draft and ToC (Table of correspondence) **Animal Health Law BiH** and its alignment with EU Regulation 2016/429 (**incomplete**)



ToC (Table of correspondence) **Legal acts on official controls** for veterinary sector of BiH and its alignment with EU Regulation 2017/625 (**incomplete**).



Draft Rulebook on **animal disease notification and reporting**. (**draft completed**)



Draft Rulebook on regulating the **Reference laboratories** in BiH. Draft prepared by BC, the project analysed it and updated according to the EU Regulation 2017/625. (**update completed**)



Update of the **generic contingency plan for disease control** in BiH, namely “Protection and rescue plan of the Veterinary office of BiH” in line with EU Regulation 2016/429 (**draft completed**)

Conclusion: BiH to ensure, as acquis aligned, the completion of those incomplete drafted documents (where lacking the authorities' inputs), their adoption, together with those drafts that are completed, and due application for practicing EU aligned animal health controls and standards.

ASF- Updating/drafting relevant programmes and other supporting documents

- **Programme for the surveillance of ASF and CSF in BiH**
- **Operational Manual for ASF** (supports field professionals, veterinary inspectors, competent authorities, and laboratory personnel in effectively implementing national regulations for outbreak management, in alignment with EU and WOAH standards)
- **Raising awareness material** (Leaflet – Attention! ASF – Information for Hunters)



Biosecurity Guidelines

Target: Farmers

Aim: Farm biosecurity measures to prevent disease spread



Biosecurity Checklist

Target: Farms (Indoor/Outdoor) with more than 5 sows/boars or 30+ fattening animals

Aim: Minimum farm biosecurity compliance



Checklist for entering/exiting ASF-infected holdings

Target: Veterinarians/Veterinary Inspectors

Aim: Proper control and educational purpose



Education



- **ASF Outbreak management and control**
 - 5 sessions on 5 locations in BiH; 147 participants (Veterinarians, Veterinary Inspectors)
 - Improved participants understanding on biosecurity measures, epidemiology, aetiology, outbreak containment strategies.
- **The Role of hunters in ASF control**
 - 5 sessions on 5 locations in BiH; 115 participants (Hunters and hunting organizations)
 - Increased hunters awareness of ASF transmission risks, inform them on handling potential ASF suspected cases during hunting activities.
- **Infectious disease diagnostic methods (Including ASF)**
 - 2 sessions in two BiH ASF diagnostic laboratories; 11 participants (Diagnostic laboratories)
 - Strengthening diagnostic laboratory capabilities for detecting ASF and other infectious diseases. Improving diagnostic accuracy.
- **Disease reporting and notification**
 - 3 sessions 3 locations in BiH; 71 participants (Veterinary inspectors, Veterinarians, Laboratories and competent authorities)
 - Importance of early disease recognition and timely reporting through system, discussion of real life examples and how to handle them.

Study visits

Study Visit – ASF outbreak management (Austria)

- 13 participants (BC Competent authorities)
- Participants observed and learn from Austria's response strategies, including coordinated efforts between veterinary services, environmental agencies, and hunters.
- Installed regular CA meetings.
- Updated instructions, procedures.

Study Visit – Infectious Disease Diagnostics (Including ASF) (Austria)

- 6 participants (of 4 BiH diagnostic laboratories)
- Participants visited Austrian NRL diagnostic laboratories in AGES and hands-on training on how ASF is detected and monitored, protocols, data management, and the use of modern diagnostic tools.
- Updated SOPs in home lab.



Simulation exercise on example of A category disease – PPR



Target: BC competent
authorities,
veterinarians, veterinary
inspectors, laboratories

29 participants



Aim: real case scenario of an infectious
viral disease outbreak in the country was
simulated



Scope: on PPR example
outbreak response in
case of Category A list
diseases was practised

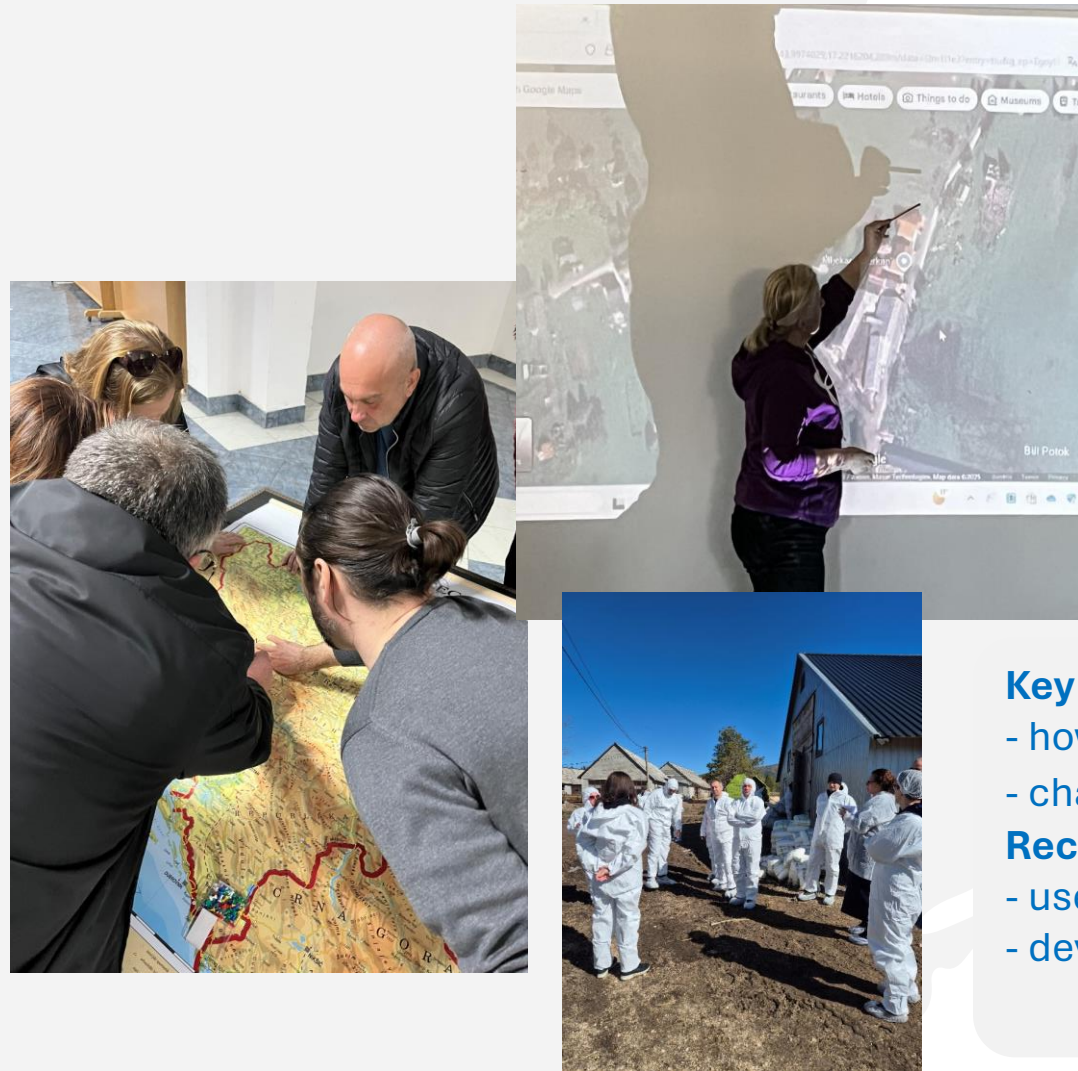
ASF was also
discussed during
this exercise.

Key issues identified: lack of preparedness:

- how to apply existing rules in the field,
- chain of command and clearcut responsibilities not applied.

Recommendations:

- use motivation of professionals to perform regular exercises,
- develop a culture of trainings for stakeholders.



ABP Disposal

Derogatory disposal when rendering is unavailable.

- **Rendering plant:**

- rendering facilities are unavailable or unaffordable for certain ABP categories.
- the use of derogatory disposal methods (e.g., on-site burial).

- **Key concerns discussed**

- **Legal & traceability issues:**

- Lack of clear BiH rules and traceability protocols for direct disposal.
- Need for documented agreements between CA and CAL (local level) to manage disposal safely.

- **Environmental & health safeguards:**

- Ensuring that disposal methods protect animal, human, and environmental health.
- Involving environmental CAL for advice on safe confinement and traceability.

- **Recommendations:**

- Compulsorily implement derogatory disposal nationwide as a temporary measure.
- Develop and enforce clear technical and legal guidelines to ensure consistency and safety.



Thank you!
Hvala!

