



Results of the Regional Balkan project on ASF preparedness

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Emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Project on ASF preparedness in the Balkans

Target countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia + parallel project with same objectives in Kosovo*

Objective: Increase prevention and preparedness

Timeline: 1 Nov 2018 - 30 Nov 2021

Flexibility: ASF dynamics and COVID-19

Regular coordination meetings (June 2020, Oct 2020, Feb 2021)



^{*} As per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244



Summary of the ASF project outputs

Project outputs:

- 1. Regulatory and general preparedness
- 2. Regional and national training on ASF
- 3. Risk assessment and analysis
- 4. Awareness on ASF among stakeholders
- 5. Coordination



Output 1: Regulatory and general preparedness

ASF Assessment missions (FLI-led)

- Serbia, 8-9 May 2019;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19-20 June 2019;
- Montenegro, 10-11 Sep 2019;
- Kosovo*, 18 Sep 2019;
- North Macedonia, 14-15 Oct 2019.

Simulation exercises, led by Mark Hovari

- North Macedonia 27-28 Nov 2019, face-to-face
- Kosovo* 26-27 Feb 2020
- Multi-country SimEx (B&H, Serbia & Croatia) 23-24 Feb 2021, online
- Montenegro 18 19 Aug 2021, face-to-face

Procurement of captive bolts for stamping out







Output 1: Regulatory and general preparedness

Feedback on output 1:

- Countries have the required regulatory environment to detect and respond to ASF in domestic pigs (EU legislation and norms)
- Response plans and procedures are in place
- Where simulation exercise were carried out, SOPs were overall fit for purpose, but there is room for some improvements
- Detection and response to ASF in wild boar remains a challenging topic





Output 2: Regional and national training on ASF

Regional events

- Regional ASF Wild Boar Management Workshop, Belgrade,
 Serbia, 21 23 May 2019
- Risk Communication and Outbreak Management Workshop: killing, disposal and stakeholder collaboration Budapest, Hungary, 10 - 13 December 2019
- Regional ASF Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Workshops
 - 18 June 2019 (10 core trainers from Bosnia, Serbia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
 - 17 September (12 core trainers from Albania, Kosovo* and North Macedonia)
 - * During ToT workshops ASF template presentations and handouts were created and handed out both in Serbian and in Albanian.





Output 2: Regional and national training on ASF

National events on wild boar management and hunting biosecurity, led by Marius Masiulis

- Serbia, 24 May 2019
- Montenegro, 10-11 Sep 2019
- Kosovo*, 26-27 Sept 2019
- North Macedonia, 17-18 Oct 2019

Lab training for Kosovo* diagnosticians at CISA-INIA, Madrid, Nov 2019

Biosecurity workshops with farmers led by FLI

Online training

- ASF online training course was developed and piloted Dec 2019
- ASF online training course in Serbian (July-Aug 2020; 277 participants, course coordination by Blagojcho Tabakovski and Milan Pandurovic).





Trainings for hunters in wild boar and hunting biosecurity

- Half day, hands-on, certified training on ASF and hunting biosecurity
- Targets hunting ground managers
- Translated/implemented in Albania,
 Macedonian and Serbian
- In collaboration with local hunting associations



Dates	Location	# of trainings	# of hunters trained
July-Aug 2021	<u>Serbia</u>	10	200-220
July-Aug 2021	Kosovo*	2	40-60
Aug-Oct 2021	North Macedonia	12	200-250
Oct 2021	Montenegro	3	60-80



Output 3: Risk assessment and analysis

ASF risk assessment. During assessment missions.

OUTCOST (OUTbreak COSting) Tool developed with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

- to evaluate the cost of swine epidemics and their control
- used in North Macedonia. Also tested in other continents

Spatial and temporal analysis on where to find dead wild boar with UAB.

• Targeting the search of ASF-infected wild boar carcasses: A tool for early detection (Allepuz et al. 2021)

Imammalia mobile application to report dead wild boar

- in collaboration with MammalNet
- Translated into Serbian and North Macedonian





Output 3: Risk assessment and analysis

Pig sector survey in North Macedonia (2020).

- Data collection by Veterinary Chamber of North Macedonia; Data analysis by UC Davis
- O'Hara et al. 2021. <u>Descriptive and multivariate analysis of the pig sector in North Macedonia and its implications</u> for ASF
- Network analysis of disease spread modelling, end of this year.

Hunting ground survey completed in Kosovo and Montenegro (2020-2021).

- Data collection by Hunting Association of Montenegro. Data analysis by Utrecht University (M. Orrico)
- Risk scoring exercise based on inputs from several international experts
- Data collection on hunting grounds in North Macedonia and Serbia is pending

Wild boar carcass composting experiment.

- Collaboration with USA, Lithuania and FLI
- A field experiment to test if composting inactivates ASFV in wild boar carcasses. Ongoing



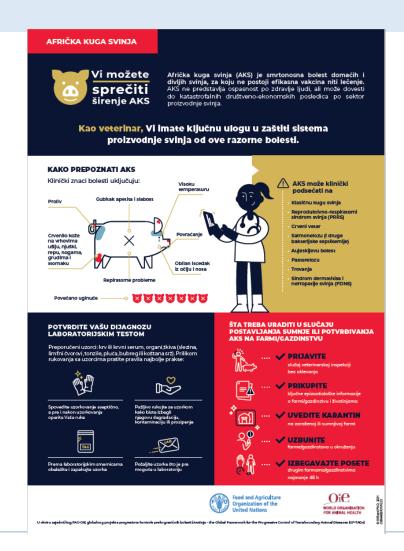
Output 4: Awareness on ASF among stakeholders

Awareness raising materials

- FAO-OIE ASF Posters for <u>General public</u>, <u>farmers</u> and <u>veterinarians</u> have been translated to local languages
- These are in the process of being printed

Technical materials

- African swine fever: detection and diagnosis A manual for veterinarians (translated into Albanian, Serbian and Macedonian)
- <u>Carcass management guidelines</u> (translated into Russian, Serbian, Albanian and Macedonian)
- Upcoming: Guide on Humane Killing for disease control purposes
- Upcoming: Template for Eradication plan for ASF in wild boar





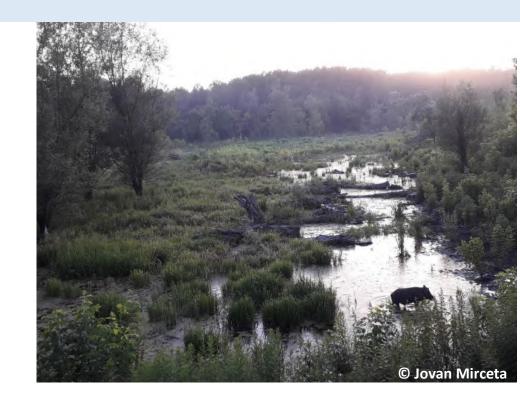
Output 5: Coordination

Regional Coordination

- Inception workshop of the project, Belgrade, Serbia, 18-21 Feb 2019
- Online African Swine Fever Balkan Project Coordination Meeting (2020 and 2021)
- Project Closing Workshop, online, 16 Nov 2021

Follow-up:

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