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Management of African swine fever in wild boars – experience of European Union

Webinar on ASF for South East Asia - Wildlife

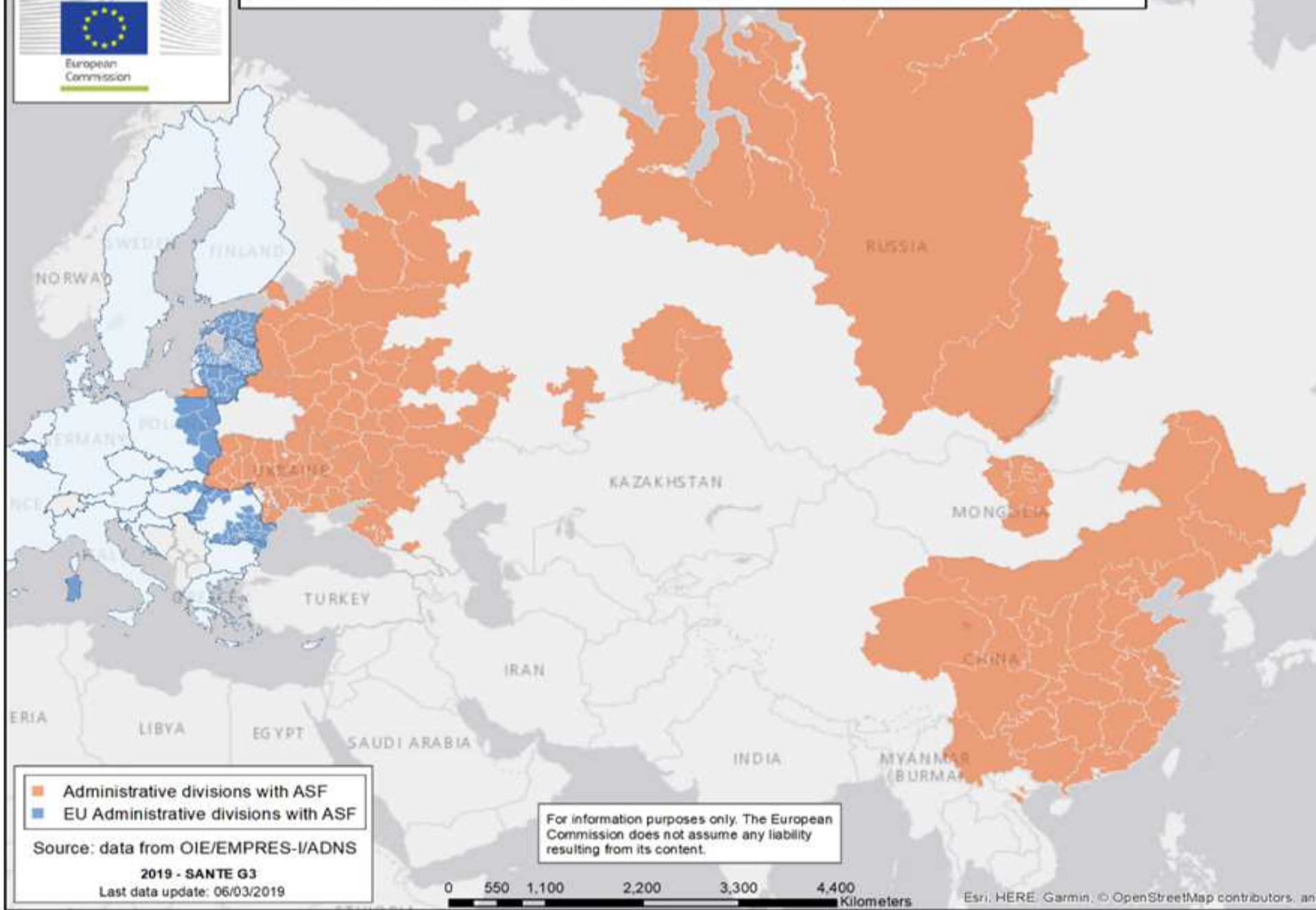


WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

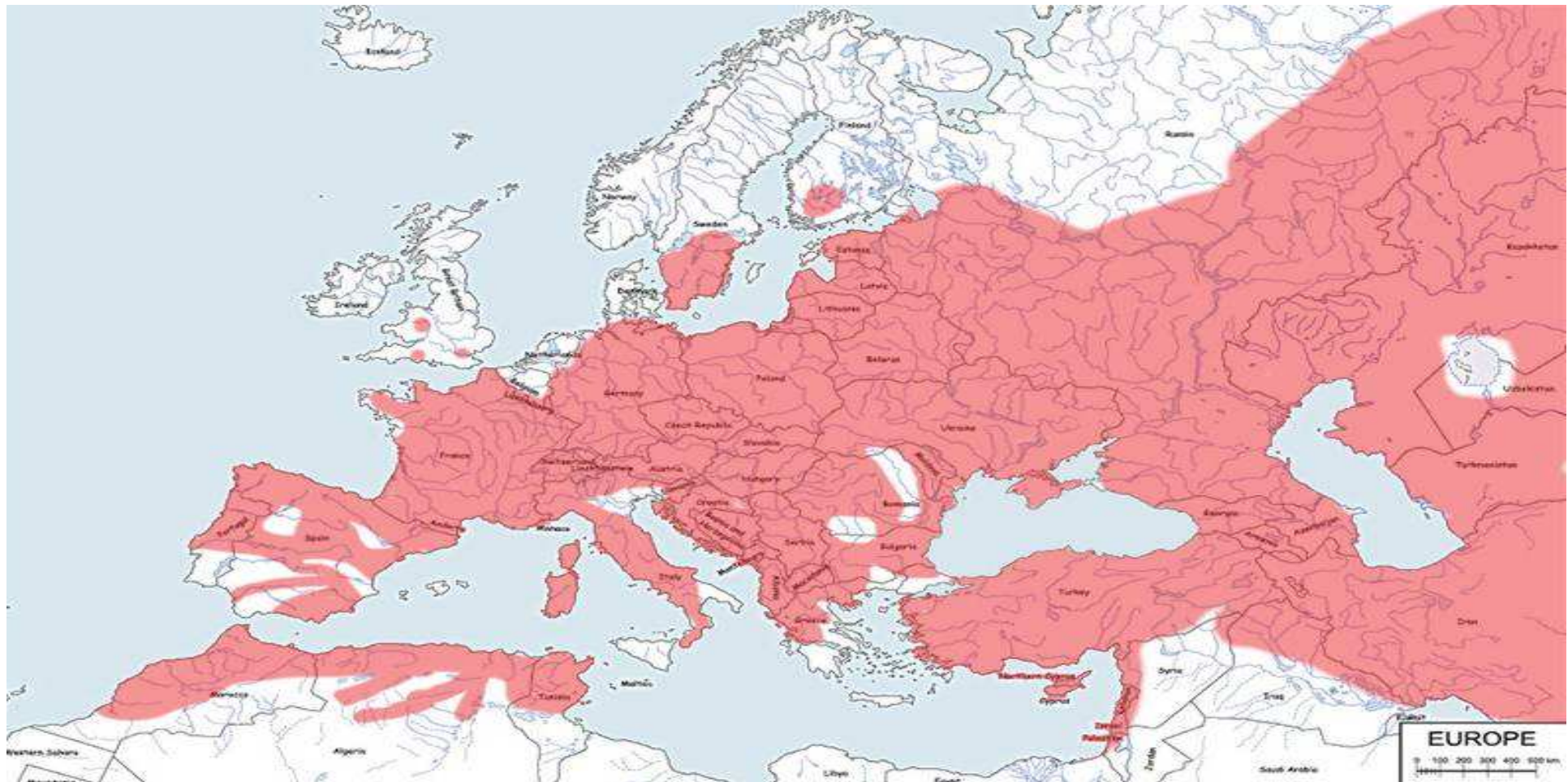


African Swine Fever by administrative divisions affected in the period 2014-2019



Wild Boar

The wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), also known as the wild swine or Eurasian wild pig, is a suid native to much of Eurasia, North Africa, and the Greater Sunda Islands.



African swine fever in wild boar

- *African swine fever cannot be managed directly:*
- *No treatment and*
- *No vaccine available...*

Following the detection of ASF cases in wild boars:

- *Definition of the infected area;*
- **Protection of the domestic pig population (census and biosecurity);**
- *Management of the infected wild boar population.*

National control plan for ASF in Lithuania

■ Back yard farms

- Biosecurity!!!!
- Movement control!
- Surveillance!

■ Commercial farms

- Biosecurity;
- Movement and trade control;
- Surveillance.

■ Hunters and hunting

- Surveillance (active and passive);
- Wild boar management strategy;
- Biosafety requirements for hunting grounds.

• Information campaign

- Back yard and commercial farms;
- Private veterinarians;
- Animal insemination specialists;
- Hunters and forest workers.

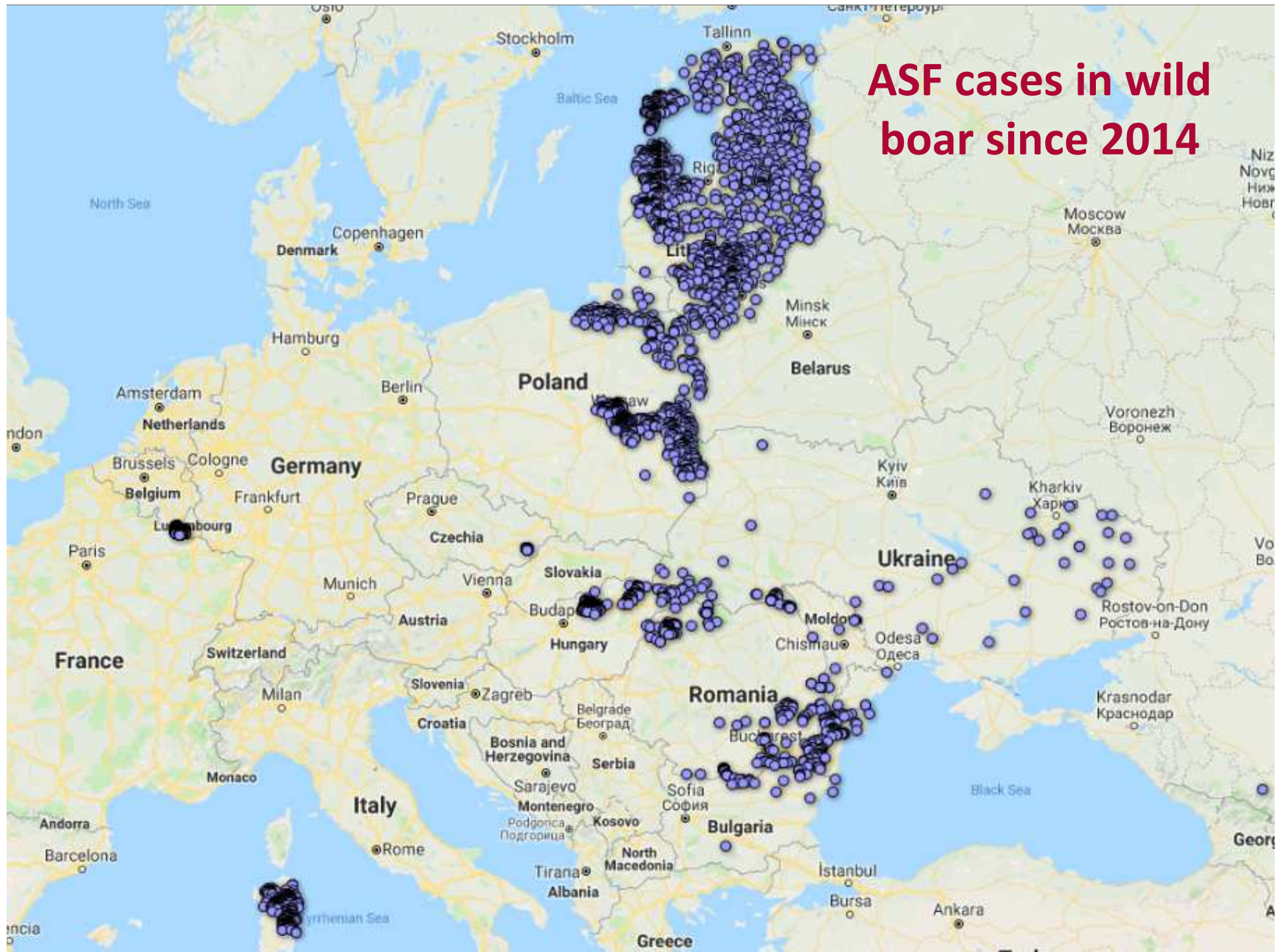
• Border control (personal luggage)

• Compensation (back yard farms, commercial farms(...))

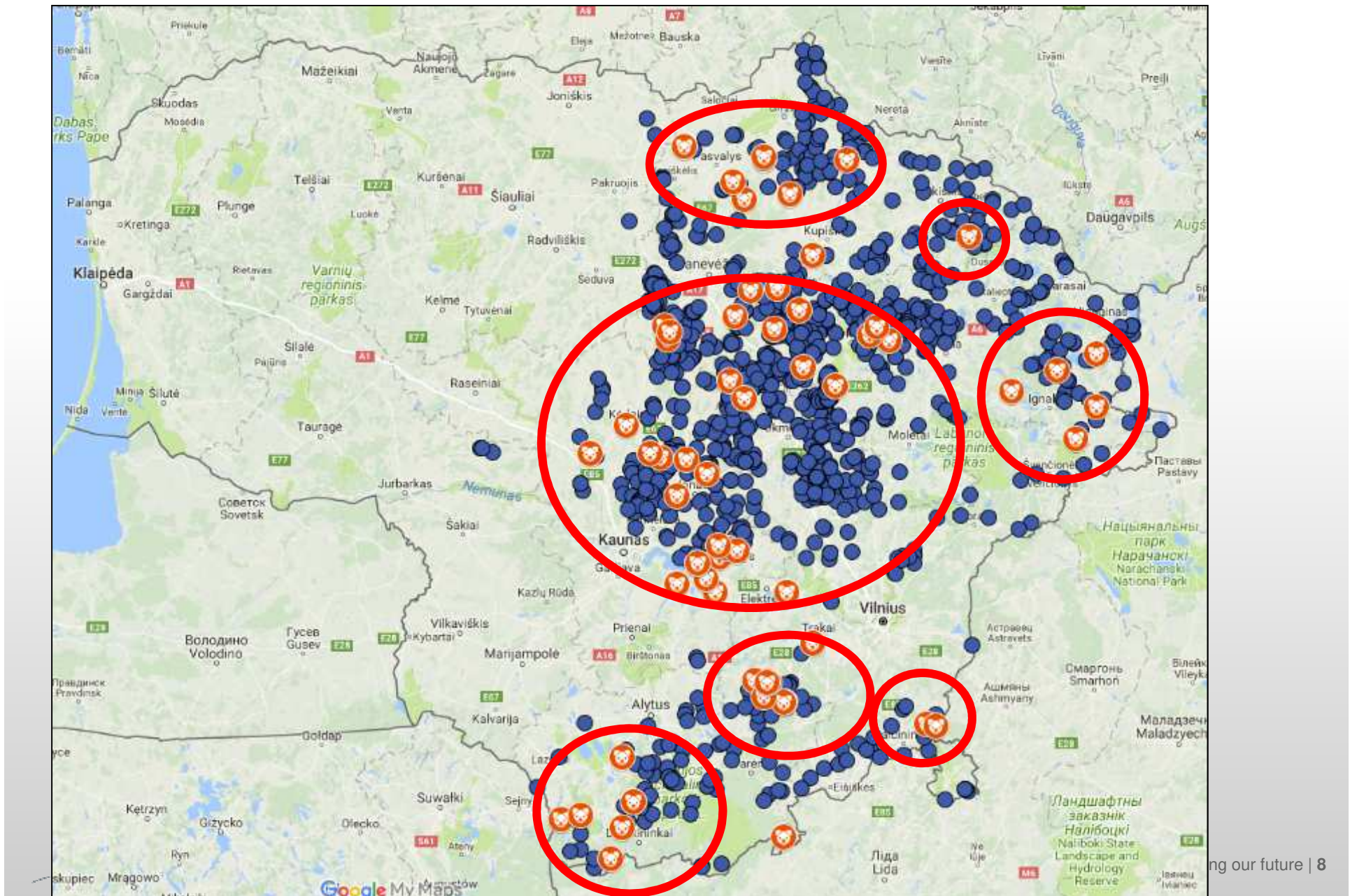
• Emergency measures



ASF cases in wild boar since 2014

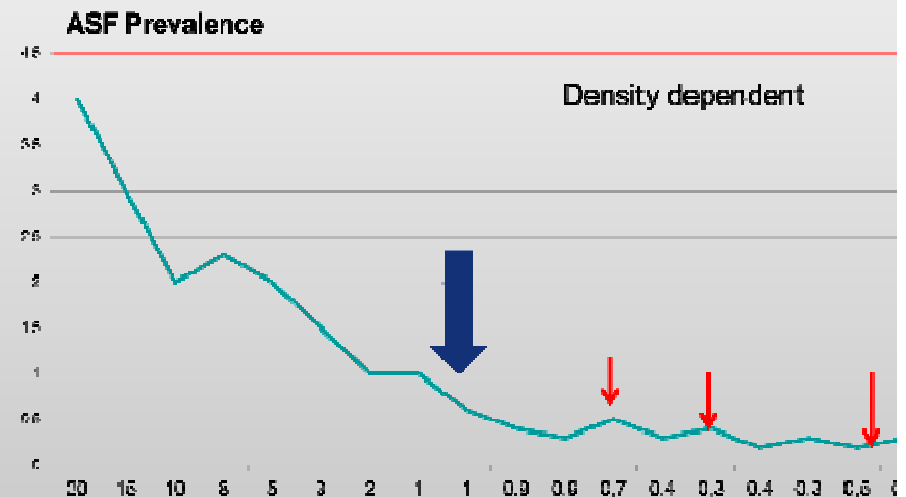


ASF outbreak / case dependence



The wild boar challenge

- ASF is not a truly density dependent infection: the last tail of the infection is determined by persistence of infected carcasses;
- Therefore problem then is not purely addressed by reducing the wild boar density but reducing viral load of the environment;
- Reducing wild boar density is ancillary...



Risk of spread after introduction of the ASF virus in to wild boar population

- Delayed diagnosis;
- Wild boar population size and density;
- Inappropriate hunting methodologies;
- Lack of biosecurity measures applied during hunting;
- Infected wild boar carcasses available for healthy wild boars;
- **Poaching, uncontrolled hunting...**

EU main activities for disease control

- EU-fully harmonized veterinary legislation;
- Specific disease control Directives;
- Regionalization/zoning policy;
- Contingency plans;
- The EU Reference Laboratory network and diagnostic manuals;
- The EU Financial support co-financed eradication;
- Enforcement – audits;
- Training: Better training for safer food – BTSF;
- Scientific advice: European Food Safety Authority – EFSA;
- International cooperation – OIE/FAO GF-TADSs;
- EU research projects – Horizon 2020.

ASF Strategy for the EU

The ASF Strategy for the EU has been developed with the aim of establishing harmonised measures in response to the epidemiological situation with regard to ASF situation in EU.

The measures pertaining to wild boar management are intended for all EU member states for a coherent approach to the management of wild boar.

Even in the absence of ASF a long term planning is required to control the wild boar metapopulation and ensure good cooperation with national resources involved.

The EU ASF Strategy in a nutshell

Wild boar management: long term

- Passive surveillance for early detection
- Sophisticated hunting: selective, adult females
- Feeding ban: in risk areas
- Carcass removal and safe disposal: fast

Human factor: short term

- Awareness for passive surveillance
- Enforcement swill feeding ban
- Biosecurity strengthened
- Hunter vs farming: behaviour risks

Role of hunters dealing with ASF

Each hunter in the area at risk or in the infected area must be well trained:

- - to recognize clinical symptoms of ASF in wild boar (even hunted)...
- - to know what kind of samples to take;
- - how to take samples;
- - to notify the suspicion (to whom, when?);
- - disposal of carcass (how?);
- - **basic biosecurity requirements;**
- - **hunting hygiene.**

Biosecurity during hunting?

- When dealing with ASF in wild boar the main task is to **REDUCE** the virus load in the environment (!)
- It means to **reduce as much as possible the presence of the virus** and thus **reducing the probabilities of further spread in both wild boar and in domestic pigs.**



The challenge for a country

The procedures should be in place on biosecurity during and after the hunt, including measures:

- - how to take samples;
- - how to / where to keep the (entire) carcass until lab results are available (could be 2-3 days, could be much more...)
- - how to keep the hunted wild boar;
- - how to dispose of offal's;
- - how to dispose of entire carcass in a positive to ASF case;
- - how to dispose the found dead wild boar;
- - cleaning and disinfection procedures.

ASF Strategy

- Minimum biosecurity requirements for the hunters should be foreseen by the competent authority; at least these aspects should be included:
 - dedicated authorised dressing facility should be available in each hunting ground;
 - inside each hunting ground a facility/premise should be equipped with refrigerator;
 - hunted wild boar should remain in the premises of the hunting ground until tested;

Transport of hunted animals

Each hunted wild boar has to be considered as ASF positive in the infected country.
Transport of hunted animals to the dressing facility should be carried out using dedicated vehicles.





Transport of hunted animals



Transport of hunted animals



Closed and open air dressing area





HUNTED WILD BOAR

- ✓ All hunted wild boars within infected area should be subjected to **laboratory tests** for ASF by ELISA and PCR;
- ✓ It should be forbidden to use the meat of hunted wild boars and to move the meat from the hunting place within the infected area **before the results of ASF testing** have been obtained from the laboratory;
- ✓ Till the laboratory results of ASF testing are obtained, **the carcasses of wild boars should be stored isolated** or in places authorised by CA.







Preparation for the sampling



Sampling for ASF





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№ 1

05 03 2018



GENERAL RULE

Hunted wild boar should never leave the hunting area unless tested for ASF and the carcasses released only when resulted negative to ASF!



ASF Strategy

- Offal from hunted wild boar should not be removed from the animal in the field!!!
- Shot wild boar should be brought to dedicated authorised dressing facilities limiting loss of body fluids (including blood).
- After dressing the wild boar, the place and equipment used (including transport vehicles) should be washed and disinfected with authorized disinfectants.
- Animal by products should be collected and processed by burn, burial or rendering.

Biosafety

Hunters should **process hunted wild boars** in special designated places and all ABP's should not be moved outside but kept in special tightly closed animal waste pits or containers and further should be disposed according to the legislation.



Disposal of offal, animal by-products or dead wild boars in the infected area



Disposal of carcasses

Carcasses of wild boars found dead shall be processed under official supervision and tested! Carcasses should be collected and processed - by burning, burial or disposal in the rendering plant.



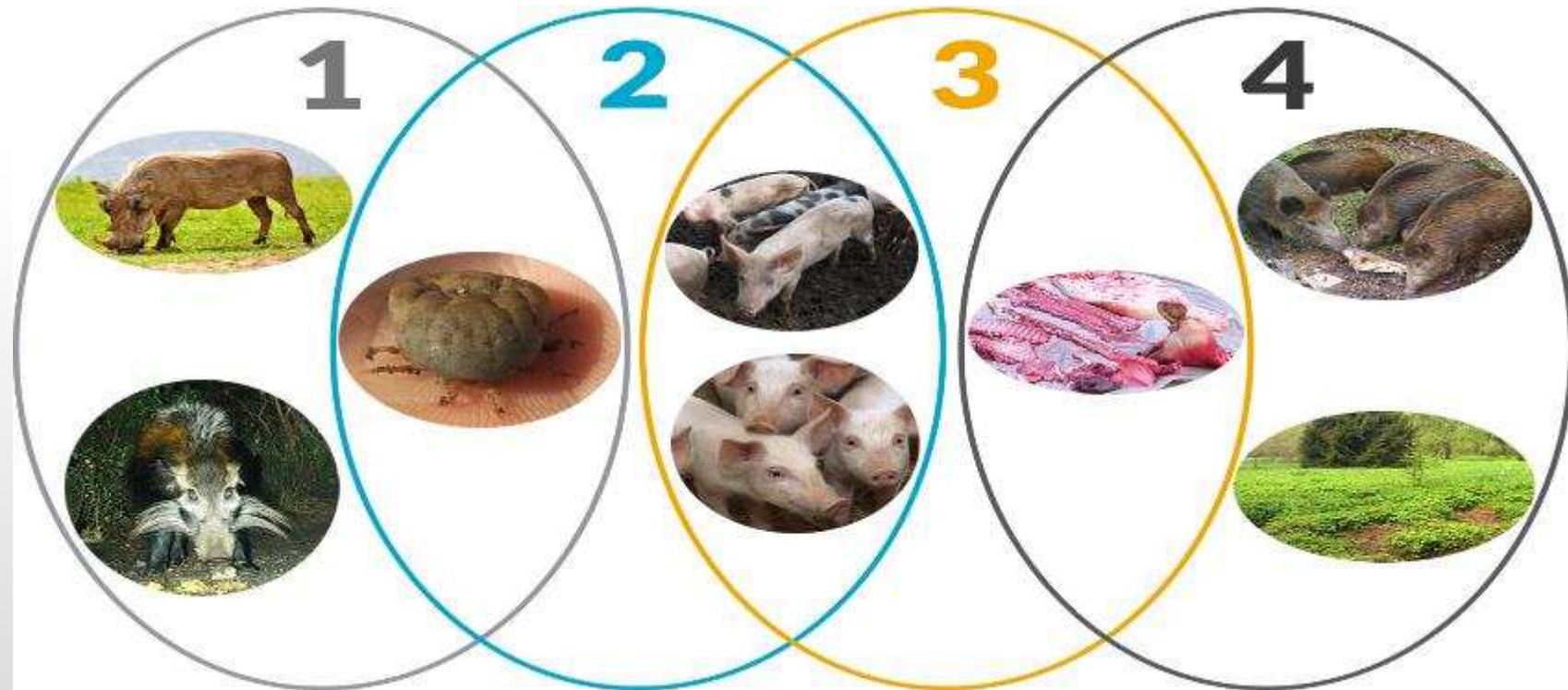




How to make the hunters / forest workers/ rangers involved?

- Communication and collaboration;
- Legislation (including contingency plan);
- Motivation (including financial - for activities carried out by hunters);
- Regular training.

Handbook on ASF in wild boar and biosecurity measures during hunting



[https://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/eng/Regprog/docs/docs/GF-TADs%20Handbook ASF WILDBOAR%20version%202018-12-19.pdf](https://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/eng/Regprog/docs/docs/GF-TADs%20Handbook%20ASF%20WILDBOAR%20version%202018-12-19.pdf)

Handbook on ASF in wild boar and biosecurity measures during hunting

Chapter 1 - Epidemiology of ASF in wild boar populations;

Chapter 2 – Some aspects of wild boar biology and demography relevant to control of ASF;

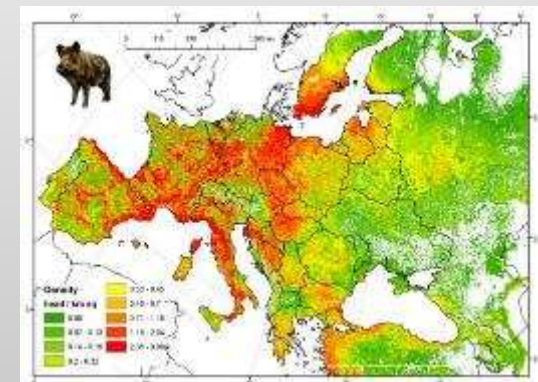
Chapter 3 -Approaches to wild boar population management in the areas affected by ASF;

Chapter 4 – Biosecurity in infected forests;

Chapter 5 - Biosecurity during hunting;

Chapter 6 - Data collection;

Chapter 7 -Effective Communications between Veterinary Services and hunters.



Handbook on ASF in wild boar and biosecurity measures during hunting

This publication aims at **informing hunting management officials, hunting associations and general hunting community** about epidemiology of ASF in wild boar.

It offers a simple and feasible set of practical biosecurity measures to be applied during wild boar hunting.

It is **expected that better awareness** of the ways to mitigate risk **during hunting and while dealing with infected animals** will help in preventing both the local and long distance spread of the virus.

Thank you for your attention!

