

# OIE Reference Laboratories Network: African swine fever

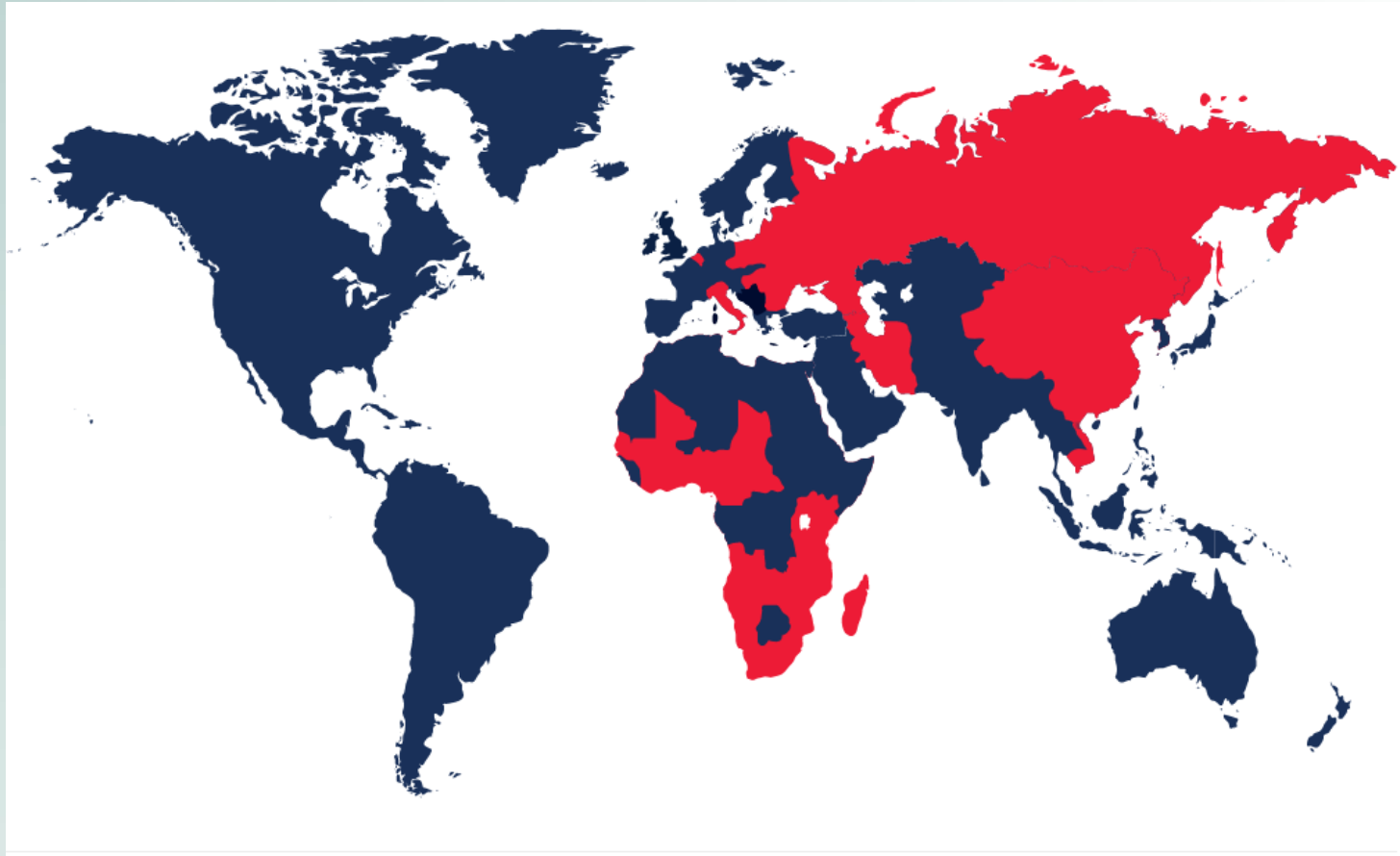
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OIE Subregional  
meeting: SEA

# Global Distribution of ASF

More than 50 countries are now affected by the disease.



# Reference Laboratories Network

- Rapid and accurate diagnosis remain a critical component of ASF control programmes.
- Cross-border has spread emphasised the need for global cooperation to fight this disease.
- Collaboration between reference laboratories should be encouraged.

# Reference Laboratories Network

- The aim of the network is to facility collaboration between the OIE Reference Laboratories, national reference laboratories and laboratories in low- and middle-income countries that are actively involved in efforts to control or eradicate ASF.

# Key objectives of the Network

- To harmonize, standardize and validate ASF diagnostic assays, including assays that are not currently describe in the OIE Manual.
- To facilitate the exchange reference material to be used for internal verification of ASF diagnostic assays.
- To contributing to a worldwide data bank on ASFV genomic data, including the curation of complete genome sequences.



# Key objectives of the Network

- To provide expertise and training to OIE and OIE Member Countries in relation to ASF diagnosis, surveillance and control.
- To support national reference laboratories in relation to ASFV diagnostics by providing scientific and technical expertise.
- To collect, analyse and disseminate epidemiological on ASF global occurrence and spread, ASF genetic characterization.

# Key Criteria for Membership

- OIE Reference Laboratory, Regional Reference Laboratory or a National Reference Laboratory.
- Laboratories should actively conduct ASF diagnostics for one or more of the following purposes:
  - Confirmation of suspected cases of ASF,
  - ASF surveillance (active or passive),
  - ASF Control.
  - Export Certification for trade in animals or animal products
- Comply with the OIE Standard for laboratories conducting tests for infectious diseases.

# Current Activities

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- Laboratory diagnosis and surveillance of African swine fever virus: Addressing novel emergent variants
  - Develop and Harmonize diagnostic assays for the detection of novel variants.
  - Develop and Harmonize diagnostic assays to detect the use of vaccines
  - Update case definitions to accommodate changes in the epidemiology of ASFV due to the possible emergence variants with reduced virulence /vaccines.
- Establishment of an Open Access Information Sharing Platform for the dissemination ASF epidemiological and sequence information.
  - Collate the most complete repository of high-quality ASFV genetic data;
  - Facilitate the rapid sharing of virus information during ongoing outbreaks;
  - Provide a set of harmonized sequencing and bioinformatics workflows for assembly and annotation of whole-genome sequences;
  - Support the identification and tracking of natural and vaccine-derived variants.
- Development of an website.



# Collaborators

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Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



**STAR-IDAZ**  
Global Network for Animal Disease Research



Global African Swine Fever  
**Research Alliance**



**EVAg**  
European Virus Archive Global



# Thank you.