



ASF mission of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Germany (Neuzelle area)

(22-24 September 2020)



- **ToR:** The experts should provide scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on the spot on the refinement of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African swine fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards preparedness, surveillance and coordination efforts.
- **Expert:** Vittorio Guberti (Italy); Alain Licoppe (Belgium)

Epidemiological situation

European
Commission

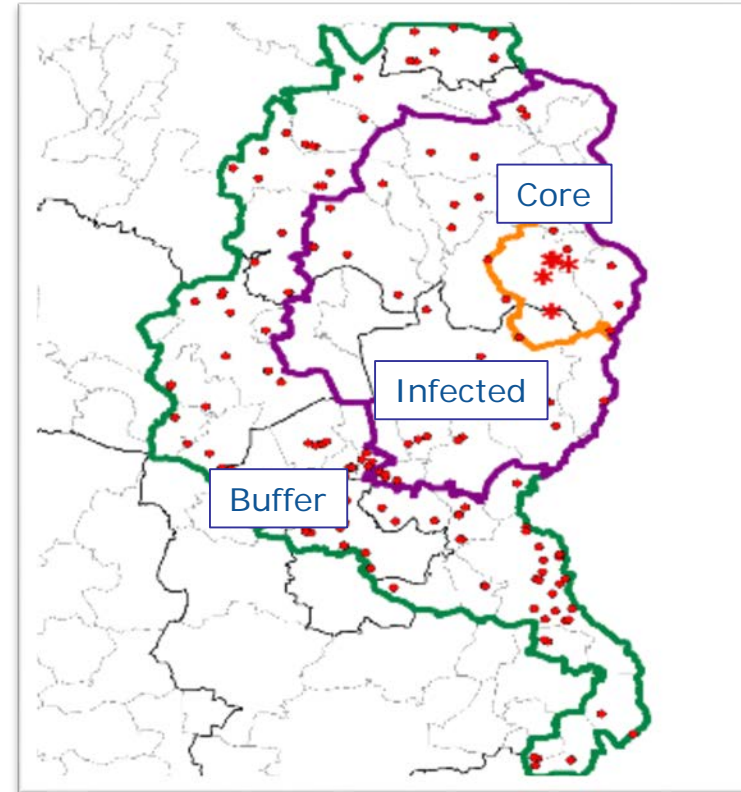
Germany built (already January 2020) an electric fence along the river ODER (border with PL);

The very first found dead wild boar was detected on 7th September at about 7 km from the border with Poland. (notified on 10th September);

The ASF positive animal was a female 2 years dead 2-4 weeks before (mid-August);

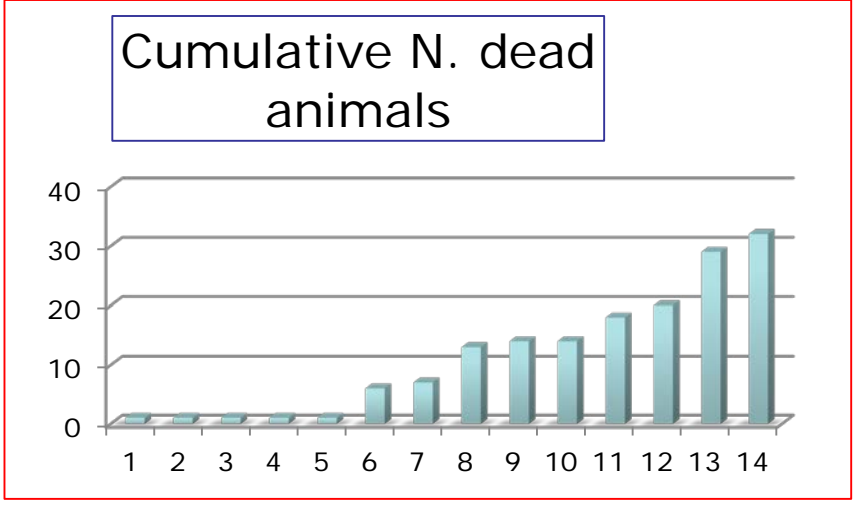
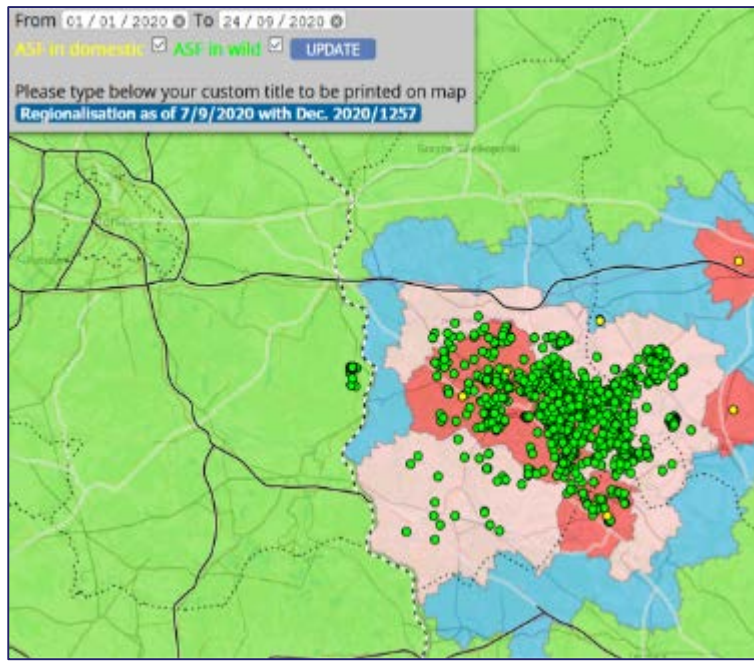
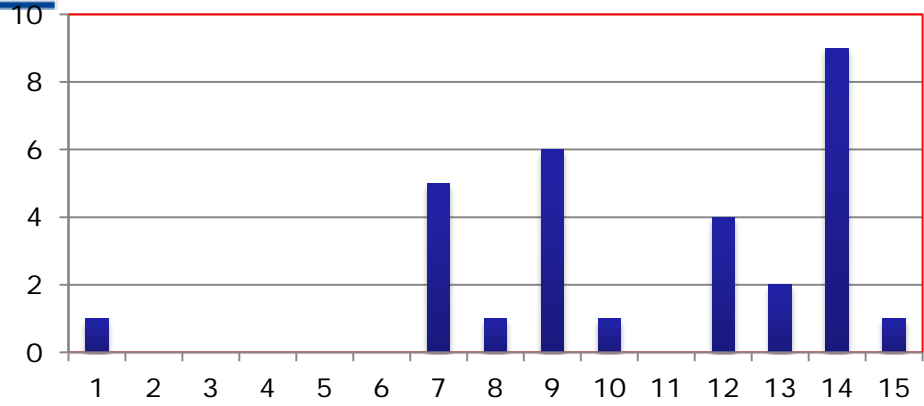
The infected area (Part II) is about 1000 km² whereas the virus has been detected in a smaller Core area of about 150 km²;

The Core area was electrically fenced while waiting a wire fenced.



N. dead/day from 1st case notification

Notification	no of cases
10.09.2020	1
16.09.2020	5
17.09.2020	1
18.09.2020	6
19.09.2020	1
21.09.2020	4
22.09.2020	2
23.09.2020	9
24.09.2020	3
Total:	32





Passive Surveillance

Passive surveillance is carried out in **hot spots** to optimize the dead wild boar discovery (e.g. usual resting places like tree thickets or reeves around wetlands).

Difficult Habitats: **time and energy** consuming; and passive surveillance is organized in order to cover almost **every m²** of the targeted zone; a very **limited surface** is explored (less than a single wild boar home range)

The searching strategy should be covering as **many hectares** as possible in a **short period** of time and then focussing the searching effort around the detected positive carcasses.

Searching effort is conducted through all the infected area that covers three different districts whereas search activities should focus specific risk zones in the direct vicinity of the core area identified at Land level.



Current ASF management

Defining the epidemiological situation;

No interventions on the infected population till epi-situation is defined;

The **sampling methodology** is established from the field to the lab;

Carcass management is in place with several collection points inside the infected areas;

Carcasses are safely **disposed** at a rendering plant in the infected area (12 km).



Domestic pigs

The Census of domestic pig holdings and animals has been carried out;

The biosecurity measures have been checked again despite they were already assessed and improved during the preparedness phase;

Animal owners 'awareness has been boosted;



Stakeholders awareness and acceptance of the control measures

The level of awareness is high as well as the acceptance of the measures in place;

There is a general concern regarding the harvesting of cereals and agricultural works.

Hunters are willing to collaborate and agreed on the control/eradication strategy proposed by the Land.

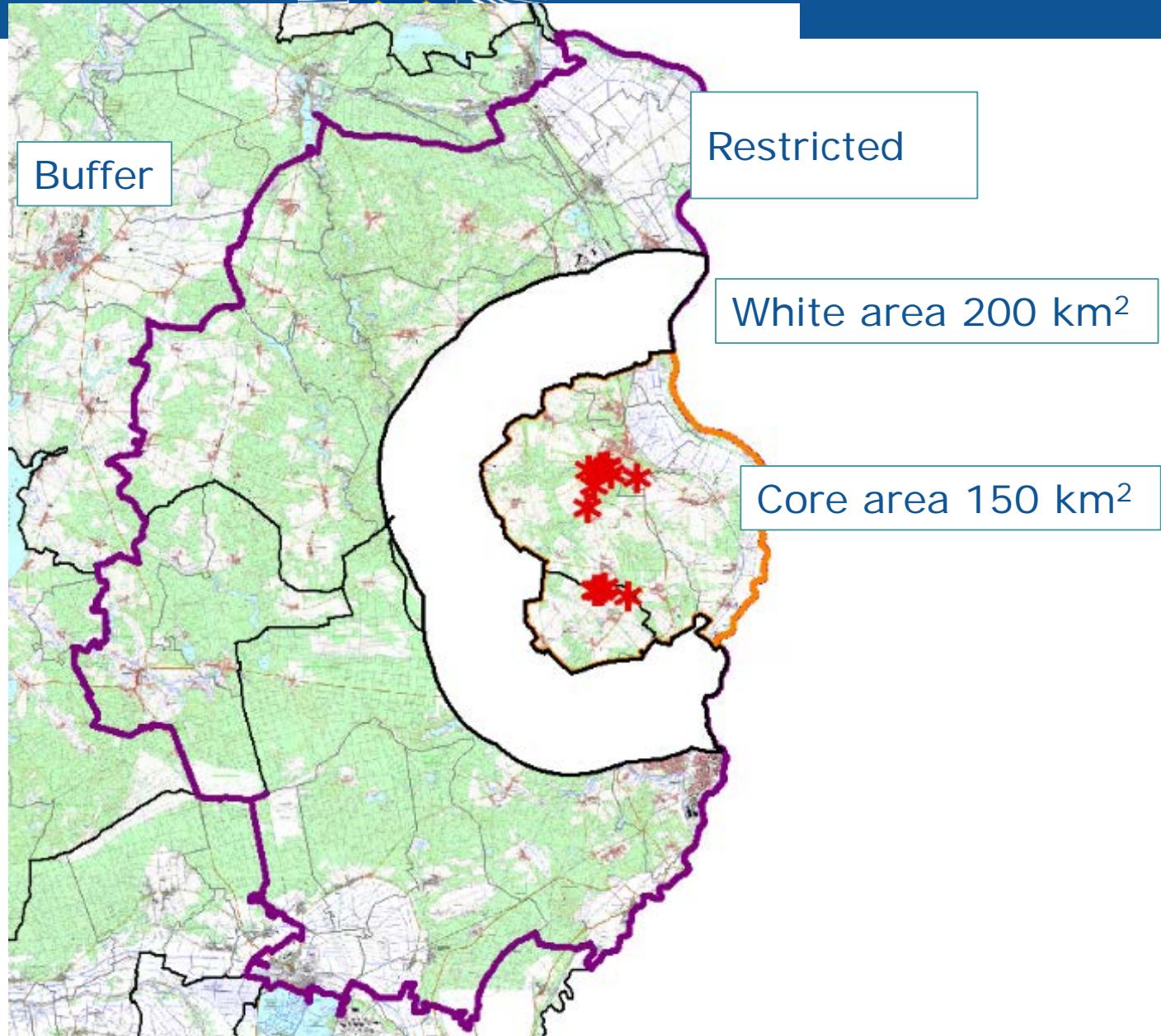
CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

The following areas are considered :

CORE AREA: the one where there is currently animals tested ASF positive; the size of the area is about 150 km²; minimum N. wild boar \approx 350

WHITE AREA: an area delimited by 5 km buffer around the CORE AREA; the size of the white area is approximately 200 km²; minimum N. of wild boar \approx 550

RESTRICTED AREA: corresponds to PART II excluding CORE and WHITE AREAS; approximately 650 km²; N. wild boar \approx 2500;



Buffer

Restricted

White area 200 km²

Core area 150 km²

Halt the probable spread of the virus westward; Germany to Germany eradication

Core and White Areas:

hunting and feeding ban;

agricultural activities (including crop harvesting and forest logging)

ban/reduced;

Permanent wire fence along the western/external **border of the White area**;

Permanent wire fence surrounding the **Core Area** while maintaining the current electric fence

Passive surveillance and carcass removal in both the **Core and White areas**

WHITE AREA:

Passive surveillance covering the whole area in **3 weeks**; if the area is ASF free about **8 negative carcasses** are expected ;

When fences are completed: **wild boar depopulation** (individual culling and trapping), animals tested and disposed;

Culling continues even when ASF will be detected in the White area;

New fences can be built inside the White Area to contain new positive cases;

Enlarging the White Area by constructing **further fences is not a failure** since the virus will escape.



Restricted area

(infected — core and white areas)

Trapping can be implemented.

Hunting, agricultural and forest activities **carried out** if passive surveillance will confirm ASF absence with **5 negative/month dead wild boar** evenly distributed (this number includes car accidents).

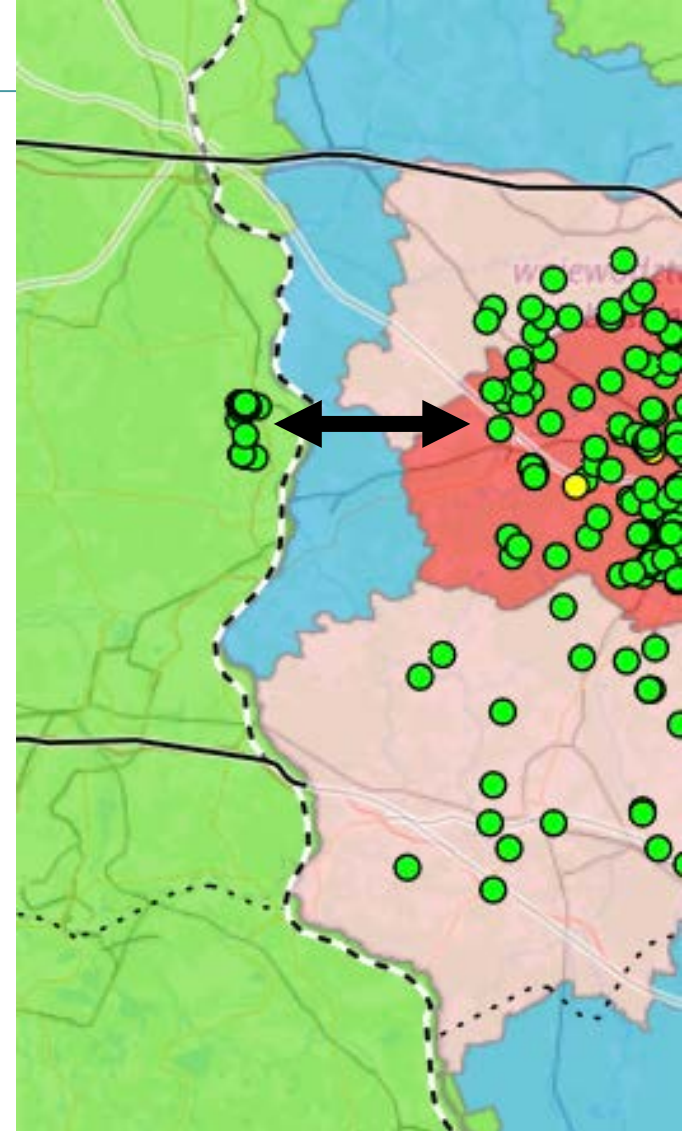
Passive surveillance centrifugally organised from the external border of the white area to the external border of the restricted area;

Prevent the possible further virus introductions form neighbouring infected areas

There is a belt (25-30 km) without ASF detection;

ASF introduction by wild boar or humans activities:
epidemiological investigation

If wild boar introduced the virus:
construction of a wire fence at
the east border of Germany.



IN GENERAL

Most urgent: fence white area to halt the westward spread of the virus where forest connectivity favours spread;

Collaboration with Poland (data and wild boar management strategies);

Better **coordination among districts** through a **unique decision point** (i.e. active searches) overtaking **administratively bounded activities** especially for passive surveillance;

Maps including both positive and negative cases into a **single GIS**.



Passive surveillance:

Reduce accuracy of the search but **increase size**;

Actively search in **forests** (80% carcasses detected in forests);

State services (e.g. Forest Services) involved in activities, **rather than** relying **solely on volunteers**;

5-7 searchers should cover **80-100 ha** a day;

UAVs or helicopters in **open areas** (maize fields, etc.).



Thank you for your attention!

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Germany gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission. The EUVET rapporteurs wish to thank all colleagues for their support and help given during the whole mission.