



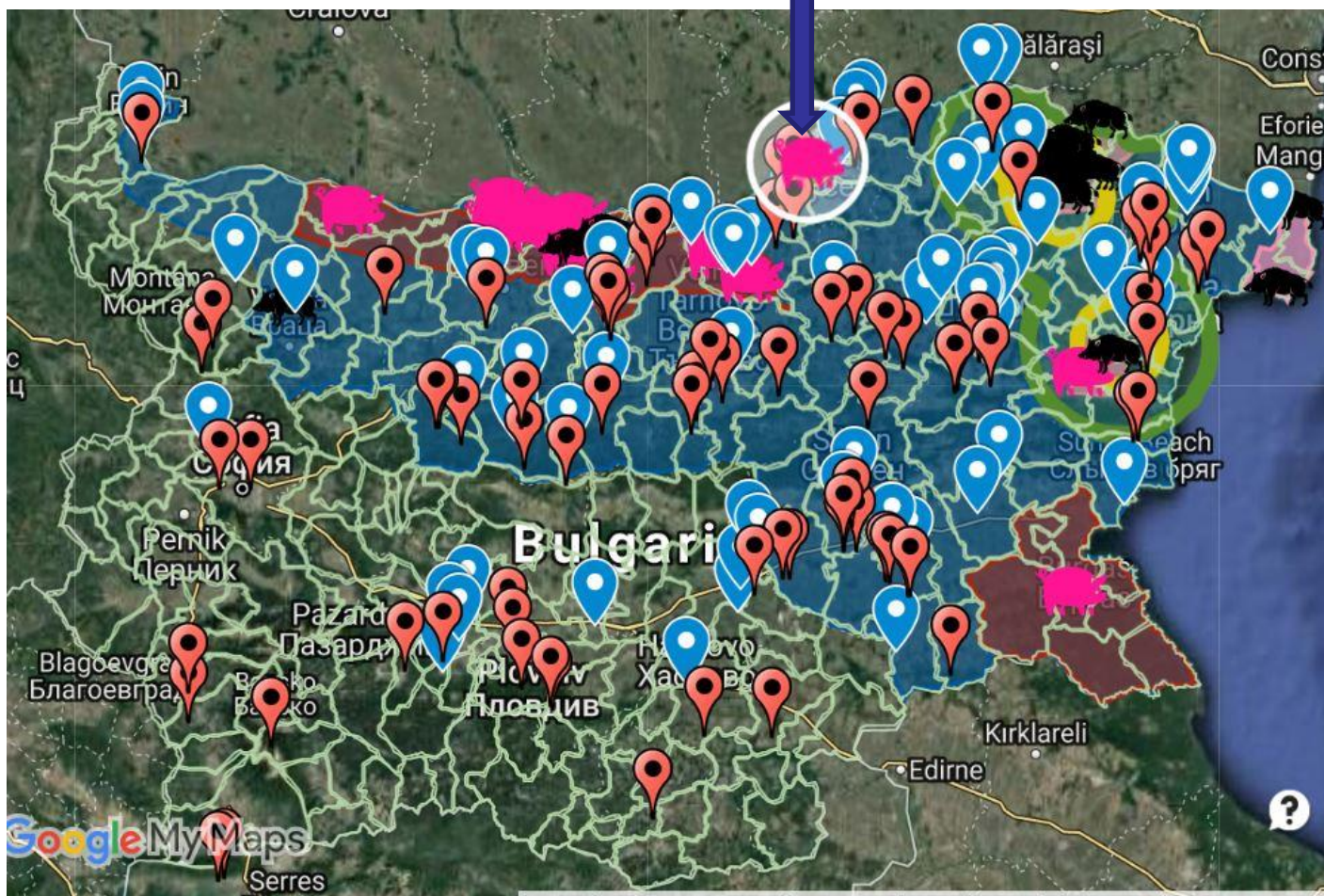
# Mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team (EU VET) to Bulgaria

(23 -24 July 2019)

# Objective

- **Reason:** provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the refinement of the most suitable eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards epidemiological investigations, registration of holdings and management of the restricted areas.
- **Expert:** Petr Šatrán (CZ) team leader, Klaus Depner (DE)

## Background



- **Cases in WB**
- **Outbreaks in domestic pigs**
- Regionalization according to the Annex of CID 2014/709 (**Part I, Part II, Part III**)
- **Industrial Farms**
- Active WB searching in **Zones 2-20 km** and **Zones 20-40 km** around WB cases

# Agenda

**1<sup>st</sup> day 23. 7. 2019**

## **Meeting with Minister of Agriculture Mrs. Desislava Taneva**

The Minister said that the situation is very serious.

In BG there is a **great tradition in a backyard pig's production**. These backyards holdings are not registered and are not compensated if the disease is confirmed.

## **Meeting with BG Veterinary service at central level**

The BG Veterinary Administration presented the epidemiological situation and the measures taken in the domestic pig sector. Methods of surveillance system, reporting of diseases, compensations, preventive measures, demarcation of zones, determination of infected area, culling of positive holdings, feeding stuff safety etc. were discussed.

# Agenda

**1<sup>st</sup> day 23. 7. 2019**

## **Meeting with BG Forest agency at central level**

In BG a great **tradition of driven hunt**. The feral pig population is determined by census.

Two biosecurity **hunters were trained** from each hunting association. ASF samples are mainly taken from shot feral pigs.

**Wolves and jackals are considered spreaders** of the disease and therefore financial support is paid for their hunting.

The aim is to reduce the feral pig population. **The hunting is paid a higher amount (150 leva)** for the wild boar shot than for the found dead wild boar (50 leva).

# Agenda

**2<sup>nd</sup> day 24. 7. 2019**

## **Meeting with BG Veterinary service at regional level – Pleven Region**

In the eradication of the disease, the main measure is **depopulation of domestic pigs within a radius of 3 km from the outbreak.**

After the first case of ASF in domestic pigs, the infection was confirmed in 2 found dead feral pigs. No negative wild boars were found death recently in the region.

## **Pig holding visit – Breeding farm**

The EU VET team visited the breeding farm of one of the biggest BG pig's producers.

The company was surrounded by a cornfield, well fenced and surrounded by a concrete wall. Breeding farm was monitored by cameras and the farmer placed great emphasis on biosecurity at entry into the breeding, including measures in relation to sanitation services, feed companies, rendering plant etc.

**All dead pigs are necropsied and tested only if suspected for ASF.**

# Agenda

**2<sup>nd</sup> day 24. 7. 2019**

## **Hunting ground visit**

The EU VET team visited the hunting ground in the Pleven region. Each hunting ground is equipped with a 2 m deep pit for offal and skin. **In the area it is not easy to find a dead wild boar and traffic accidents with wild boars in the area are not recorded.**

In the area this year 11 reports has been done, none from the hunter.

## **Meeting with Minister of Agriculture Mrs. Desislava Taneva - Sofia**

The EU VET team presented and discussed with the Minister its findings and recommendations.



# Findings and Conclusions

## DOMESTIC PIG

System of early detection based on **passive surveillance has been introduced** for domestic pigs. Better communication of the sampling strategy is needed. Sampling always should be done based on epidemiological unit.

**Preventing culling in 3 km** area is carry out around an outbreak. Culling should be based on the concept of epidemiological units. (eg. Village as an epi unit).

**Unregistered farms “backyards”** is still huge drawback in fighting the disease. Such a farms should be taken on the board by better collaboration and data exchange between municipality and vet services.

Adequate and **timely compensation to all infected farms** (commercial and backyard) is crucial point for efficient disease control and eradication. Clear and transparent system for compensation should be established as soon as possible.



# Findings and Conclusions

## WILD BOAR

The concept of passive surveillance (searching for carcasses) has been introduced already, however, implementation appears to be difficult and contra productive. **Passive surveillance** should be improved with the scope to clearly identified and define wild boar infected areas.

Passive surveillance should be based on good collaboration with hunters association which is the key point of success. It is recommended to increase the incentives, **paying more for find carcasses than for hunting animals.**

For facilitating and improving early detection it is recommended to **train hunters to take samples** for ASF from carcasses.

# Findings and Conclusions

## WILD BOAR

Once a positive case is found infected area should set up according to wild boar home range area an artificial and nature barriers. The size should not be less than 200 km<sup>2</sup>. **The infected area should be set up in collaboration** among veterinary service, forestry agency and local municipality.

If infected areas are set up based of cases of wild boar, the **domestic pigs within the areas**, particularly backyard's, have to be also included in to surveillance system and measures. (Feeding, movement, biosecurity, free range etc.). This approach request better coordination between services. (Vet service, Forest agency, Municipality).

**The EU VET team wish to thank all colleagues from Bulgaria for their support and help given.**

**The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Bulgaria gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission.**