



Remote ASF mission of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Germany (Saxony, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg Western Pomerania)

(9-10 Dcember 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); Edvins (Latvia)

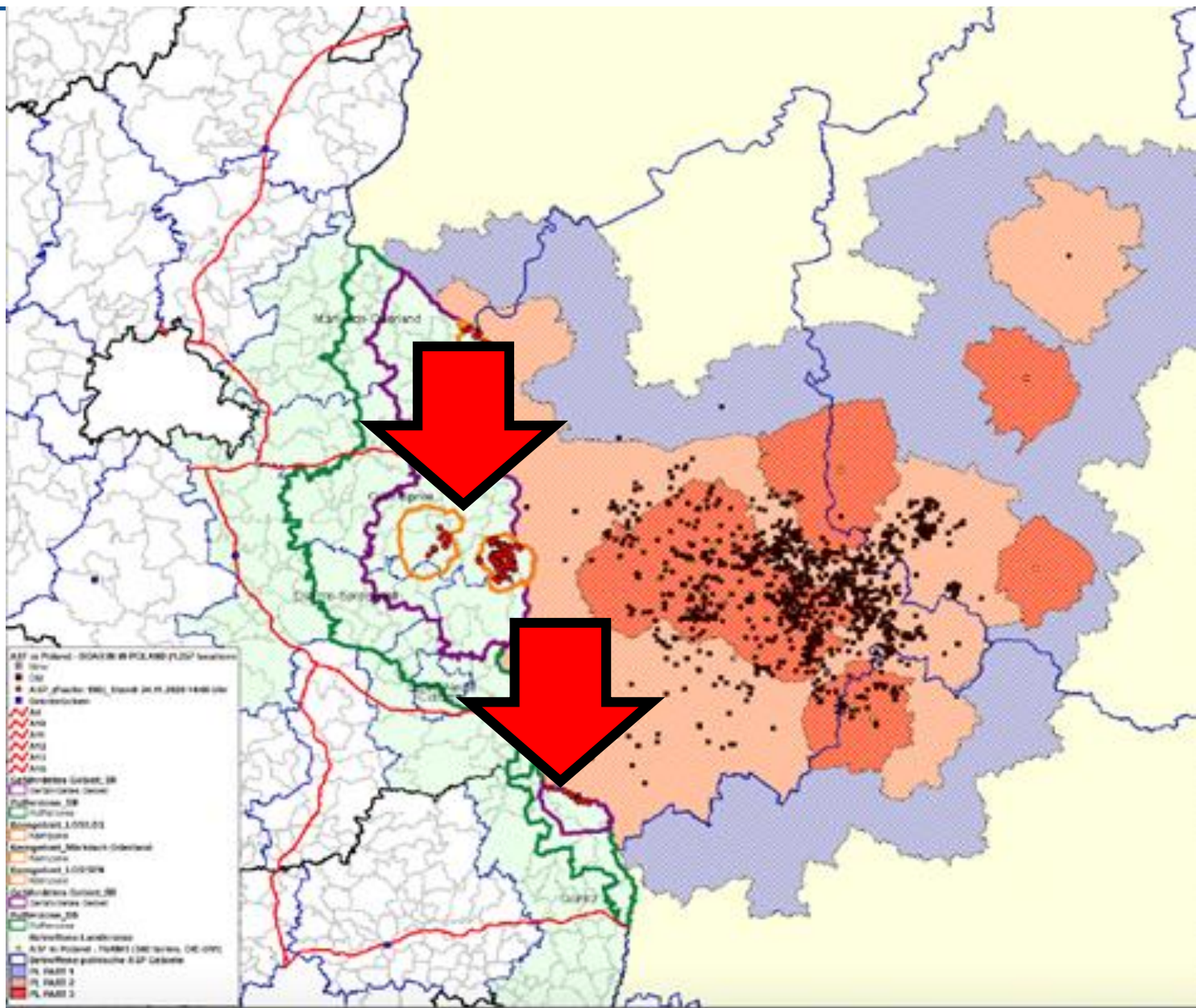
- Due to the **Covid-19** epidemics the mission took place remotely during 2 days

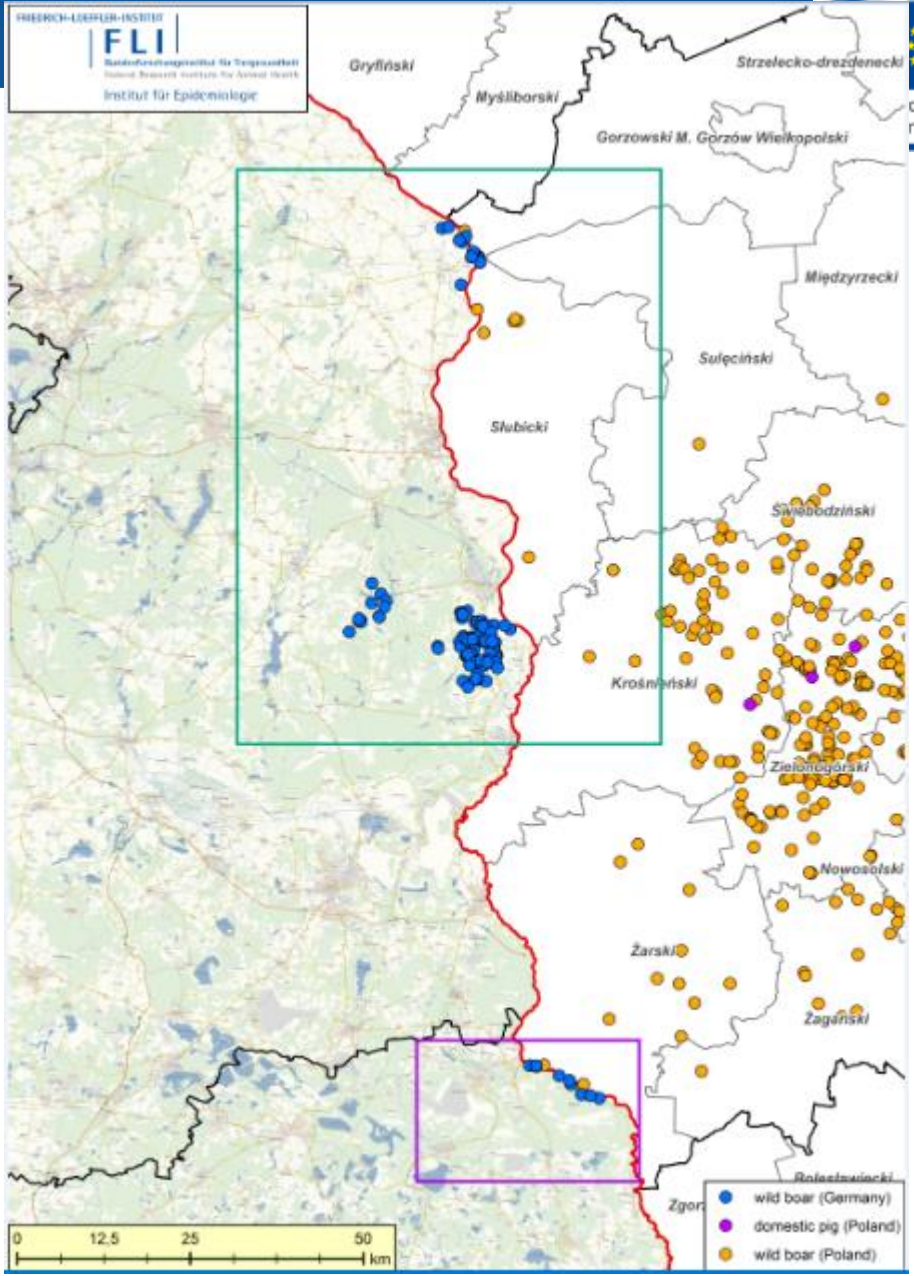
Epidemiological situation 26-27 November 2020

ASF virus
incursions 2020

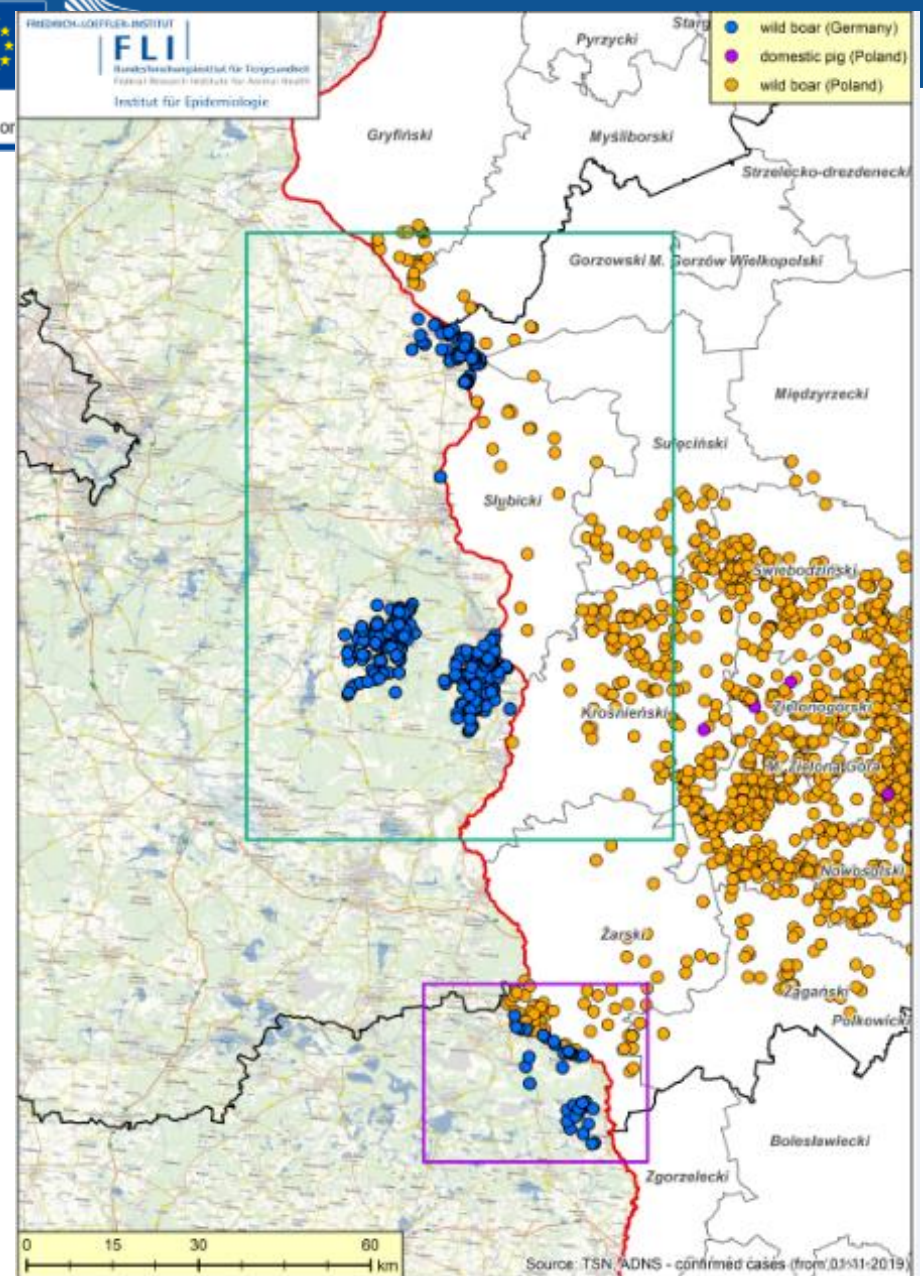
Brandenburg
(10th of September
2020)

and Saxony
(31st of October
2020)





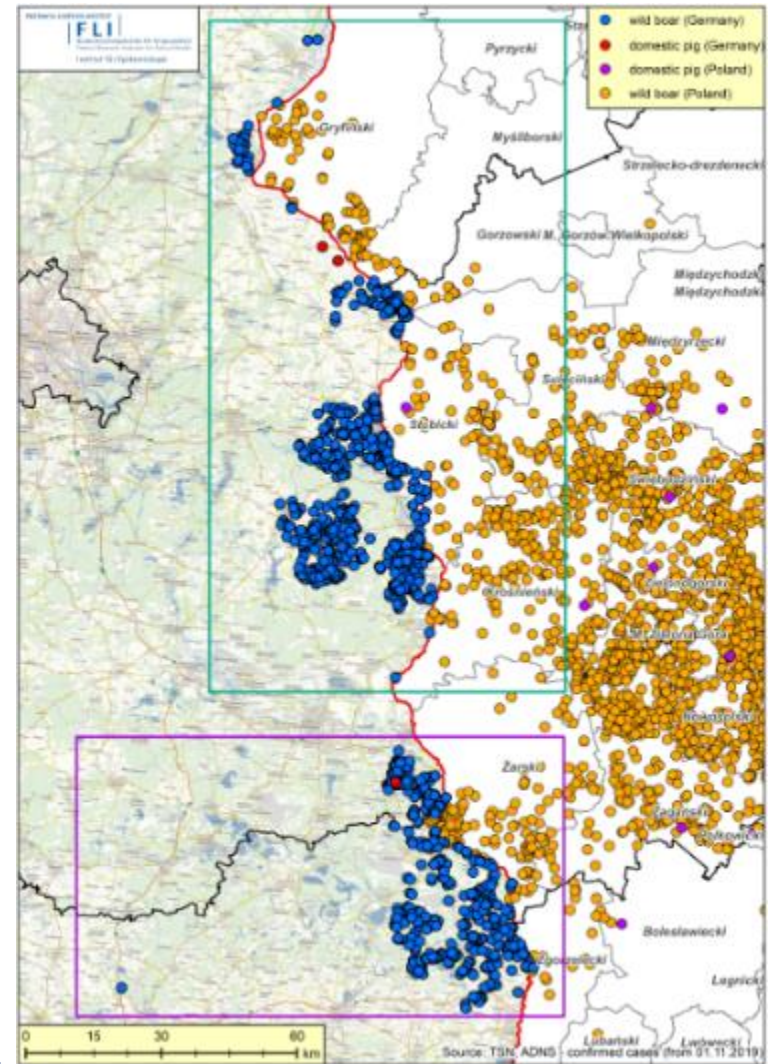
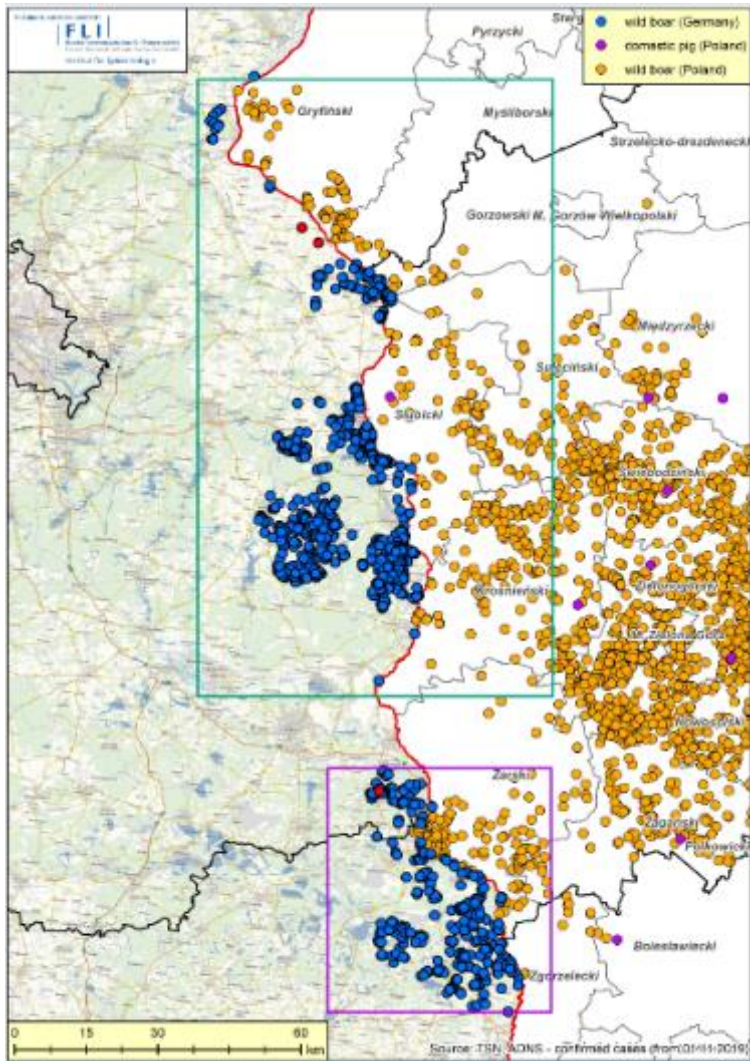
- wild boar (Germany)
- domestic pig (Poland)
- wild boar (Poland)



- wild boar (Germany)
- domestic pig (Poland)
- wild boar (Poland)



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In total, 2905 cases in wild boar 3 Federal States

Barnim	59
Bautzen	2
Dahme-Spreewald	82
Frankfurt (Oder), Stadt	525
Görlitz	678
Ludwigslust-Parchim	7
Märkisch-Oderland	300
Meißen	10
Oder-Spree	920
Spree-Neiße	309
Uckermark	13

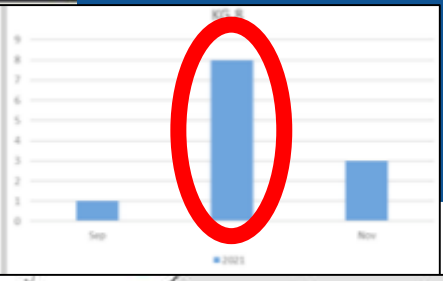
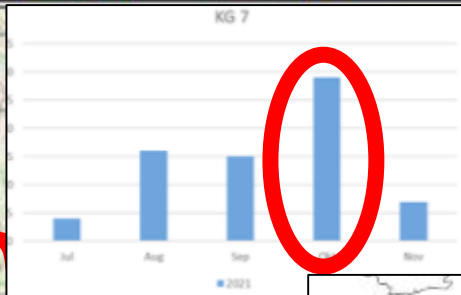
4 outbreaks in domestic pigs

2 commercial farms

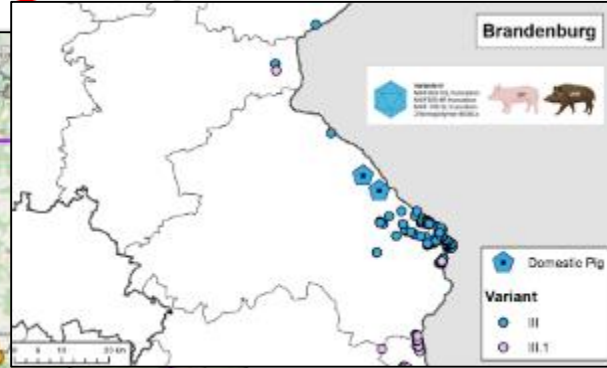
2 backyard holdings (2 and 4 pigs)

No further spread in domestic pigs

16 November 2021

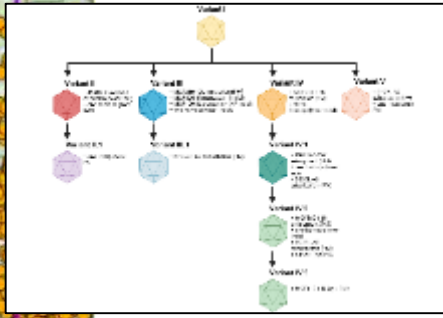
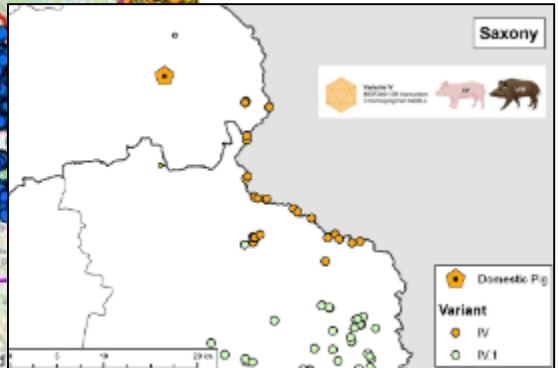


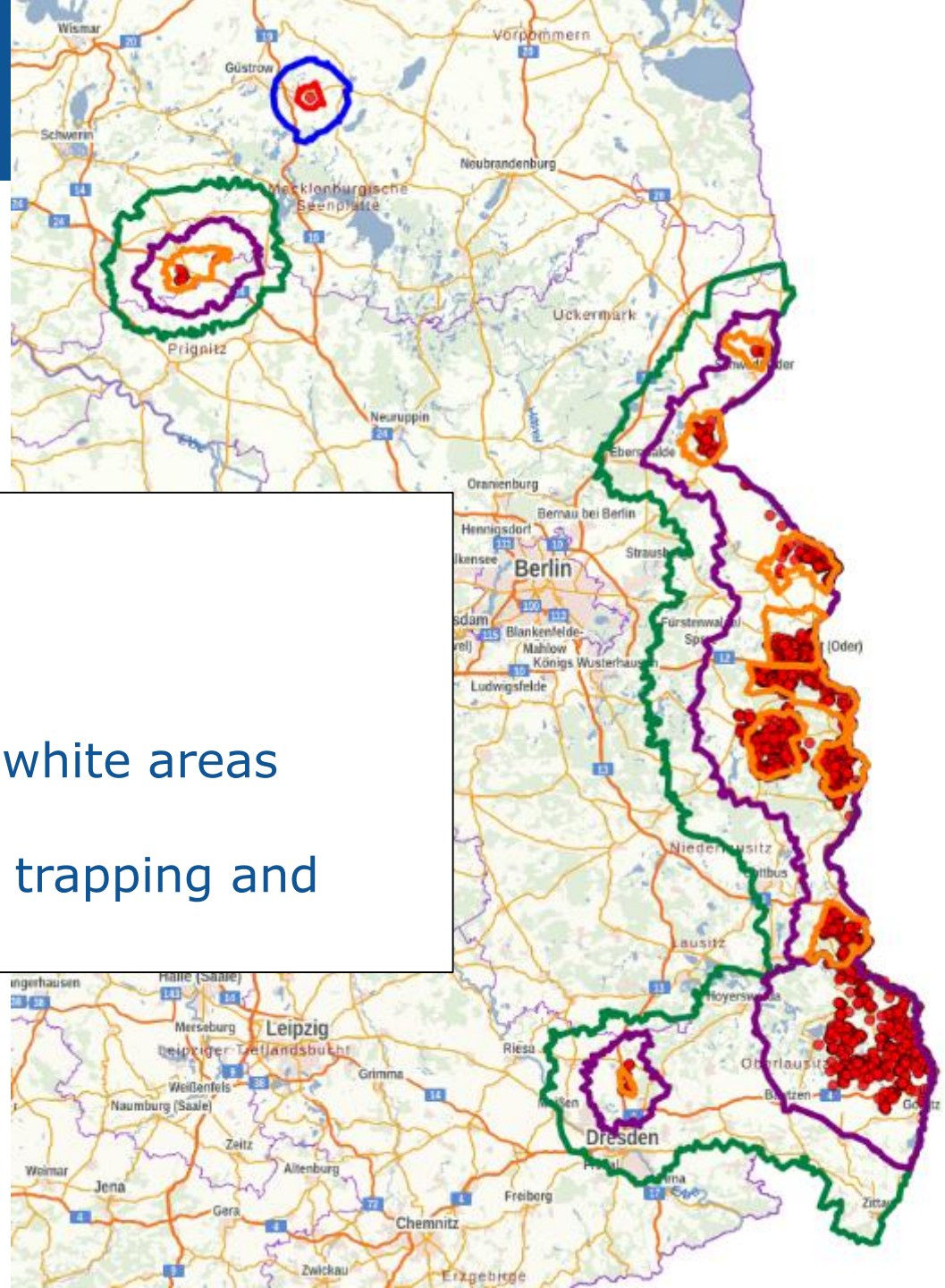
25 November 2021



Three incursions of the virus outside restricted areas in a relatively short period

20 October 2021





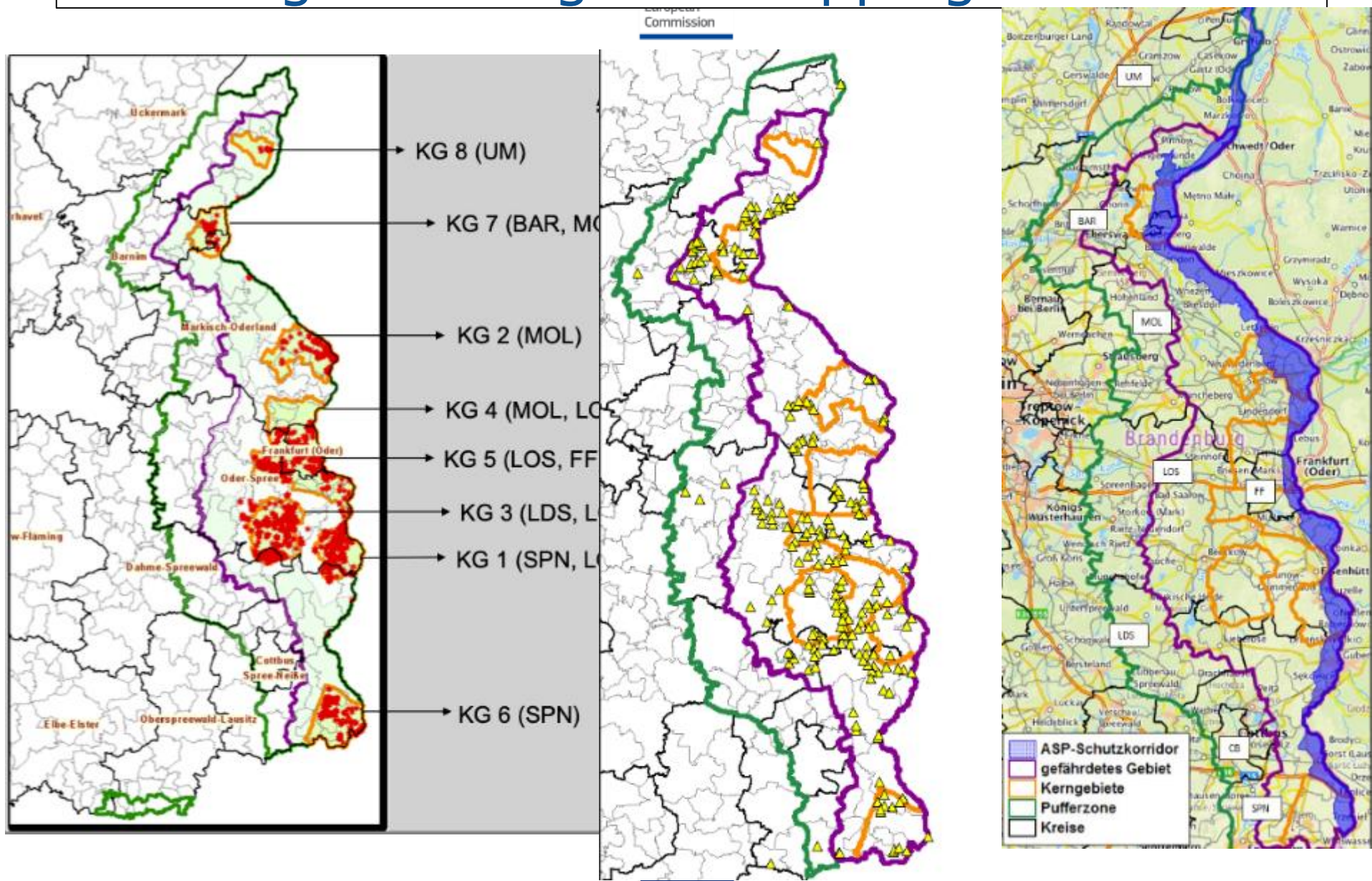
Strategies

a. Still to be fine tuned

b. Fenced areas including white areas

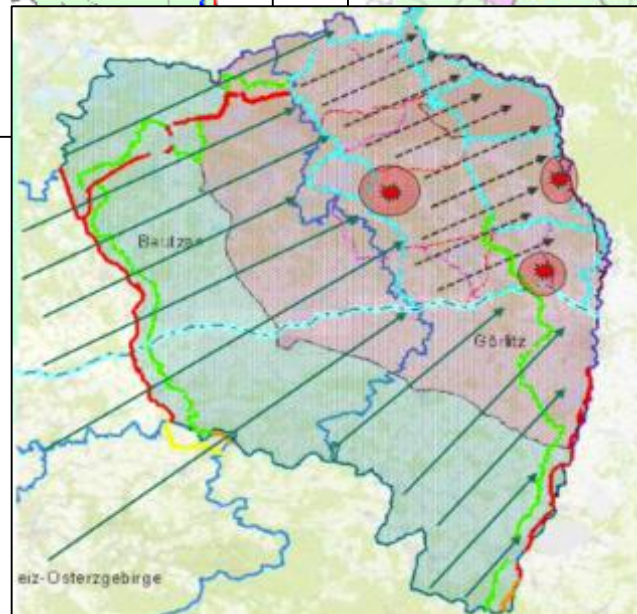
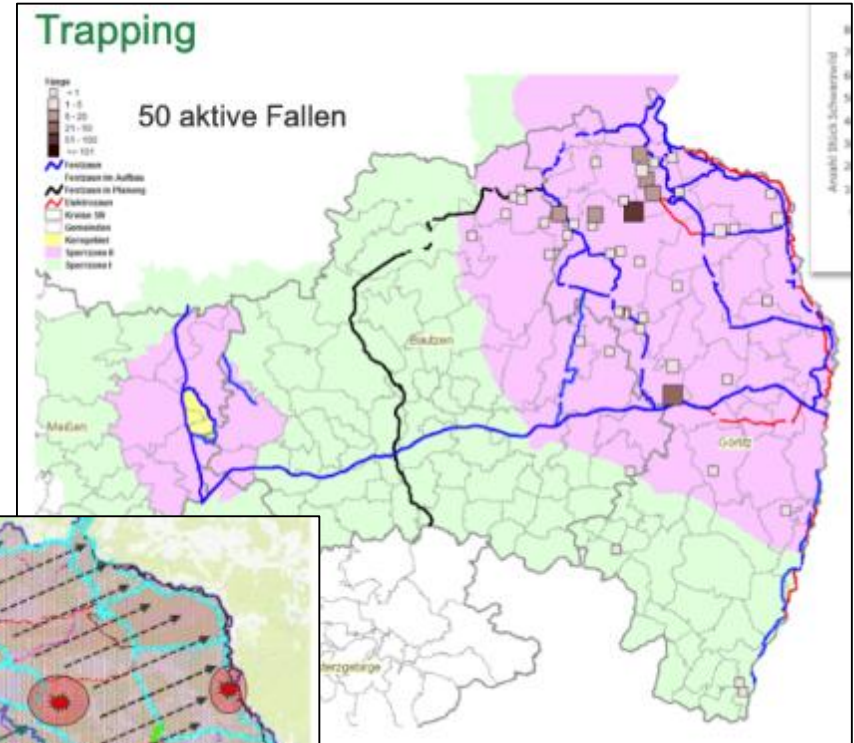
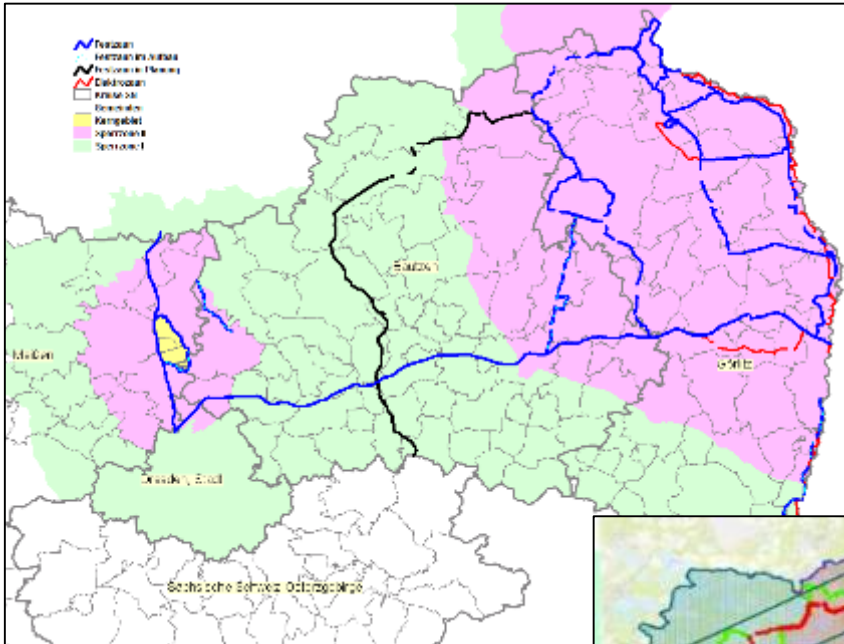
c. System of fenced areas trapping and hunting

Wild boar depopulation in white area(s) through hunting and trapping



Fenced areas (without white areas) trapping and hunting strategies

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Challenges declared by the German Authorities

Huge wild boar densities: massive interventions needed (fencing, hunting without spreading ASF, trapping, culling);

Co-operation with hunters (under the 'command' of veterinary authorities);

Large number of needed personnel (veterinarians, hunters, etc.);

Risk of continuous introductions from Poland;



RECCOMANDATIONS

1. Complete **standstill** (including hunting) in Part II (Sperrzone II)
2. Define a **core area** using a buffer of **+4 km around the infected polygon(s)**
3. **E-fence** the core area that will be defined by dead –positive- animals
4. Once e-fence installed, **mechanically feed wild boar** inside the core area to limit escape risk
5. Search for **carcasses outside the core area** (adapt the way of searching according to the landscape)
6. Creation of a **WHITE AREA** using metallic fences posed at +- 4 km away from the e-fence (i.e. $4+4=8 \Rightarrow 200 \text{ km}^2$)
7. **Replace the e-fence** by a metallic one (after adaptation of the perimeter according to the epidemiological situation)
8. **Cull in the white zone** (combine night shooting, trapping, single hunts to optimize), test and dispose, keep standstill only in core area
9. Stop logging in core area reduce as much as possible agricultural works

As a general rules

- Avoid to fence areas larger than 200 km², if required sub-divide, use the motorways as barriers to fragment wild boar population distribution;
- Organized search of carcasses must be conducted continuously to check the limits of the core area (7-10 days interval between two searches in the same area); search effort should be based on finding 2 wild boar for each one detected the previous week ($R_0=2$);
- Carry out passive and active surveillance (PCR and serology) in high risk areas (e.g. free corridors connecting core areas) to gather more information (jumps or continuous infected areas?);
- Hunting as much as possible buffer zone (part 1 mainly) but save energy considering the next 2 years



Data management and cooperation

In outbreak management serology could help in better define the date of virus introduction;

Carefully collect data accordingly: core areas, white areas and part I; comparison with previous hunting seasons; test results divided for found dead animals, trapped, culled etc. etc. aimed at highlighting epidemiological trends;

Surveillance and early detection of ASF in domestic pig farms, especially in small / backyard pig farms in areas newly infected by wild boar and areas surrounding them should be strengthened. Therefore, targeted awareness campaigns are recommended.

Common Germany (Federal) strategy / approach is recommended to coordinate the implementation of ASF control measures in the affected Landers but also to approach ASF further – possible –

Organize the sharing (mapping) of the data among Länder

Collaborate with Poland authorities to coordinate ASF control measures at the border areas as well as exchange of ASFV isolates for further genetic analysis (NGS);



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Thank you for your attention!

The working atmosphere during the remote 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 remote mission.