



African swine fever in the EU – best practices

The Bulgarian experience

CVO meeting, ASF in the Western Balkan Countries, 31.08.2023

Preparedness before the ASF incursion

Contingency plan for ASF in place
Participation on expert groups and training

Coordination with other governmental and non-governmental institution (central and regional level)



2009

2012

2016

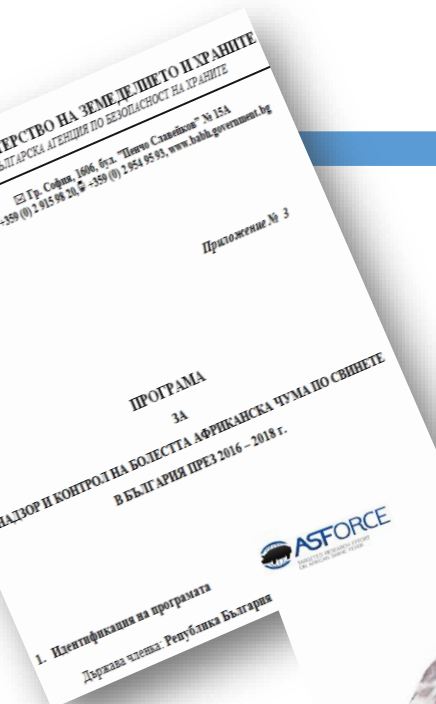
2017-2018

Research activities, surveillance
Informational campaigns, brochures, videos, scientific articles

First National ASF Strategy

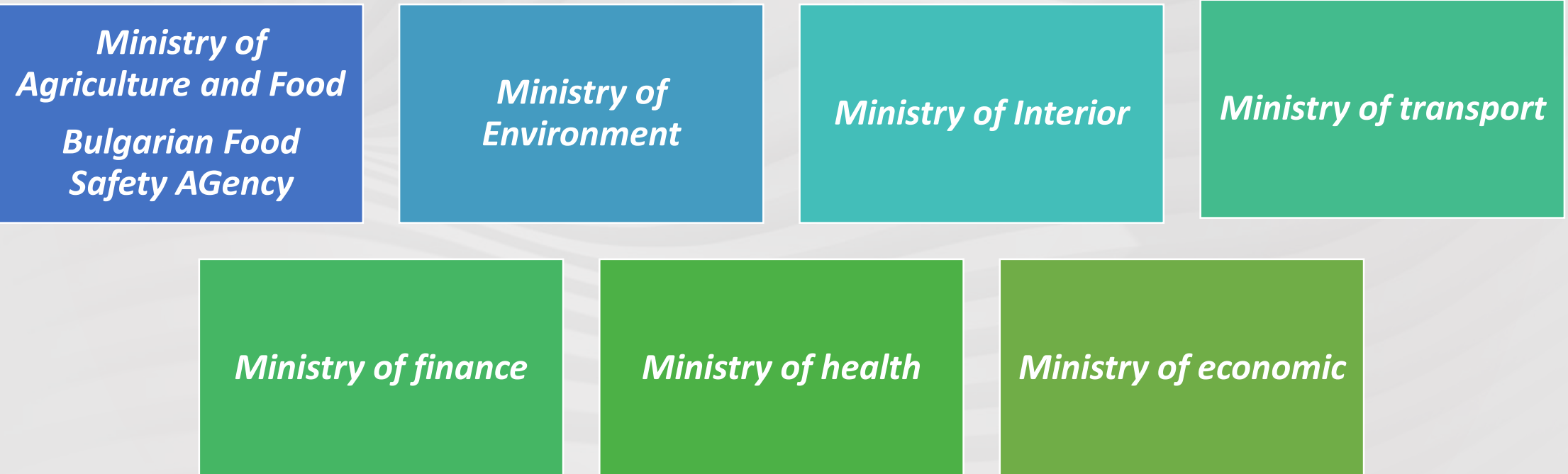
- Enhanced capacity for surveillance and diagnostic
- Strengthen cooperation with the Police and Border Controls
- Inventory of pig holdings and WB surveillance
- ASF trainings for the veterinary service, hunters, forestry agency, private vets industry

Border control of personal baggage, information materials, trainings, reduction of WB population



Preparedness before the ASF incursion

Central epizootic council at the Ministry of Council
established in 2018



Evolution of the ASF and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

2018

- First introduction
- Total stamping out at village level;
- C&D , feed control.
- sampling and testing of approx. 90% of the pig population in the 10km zone
- Restriction zone at regional level :
- Movement control
- Hunting ban

2019

- Total stamping out at village level(backyards)
- Movement control
- Enhanced official control in the pig farms
- Preventive slaughtering and killing in back yards (more than 30000 backyards , financial support for C&D)

2020

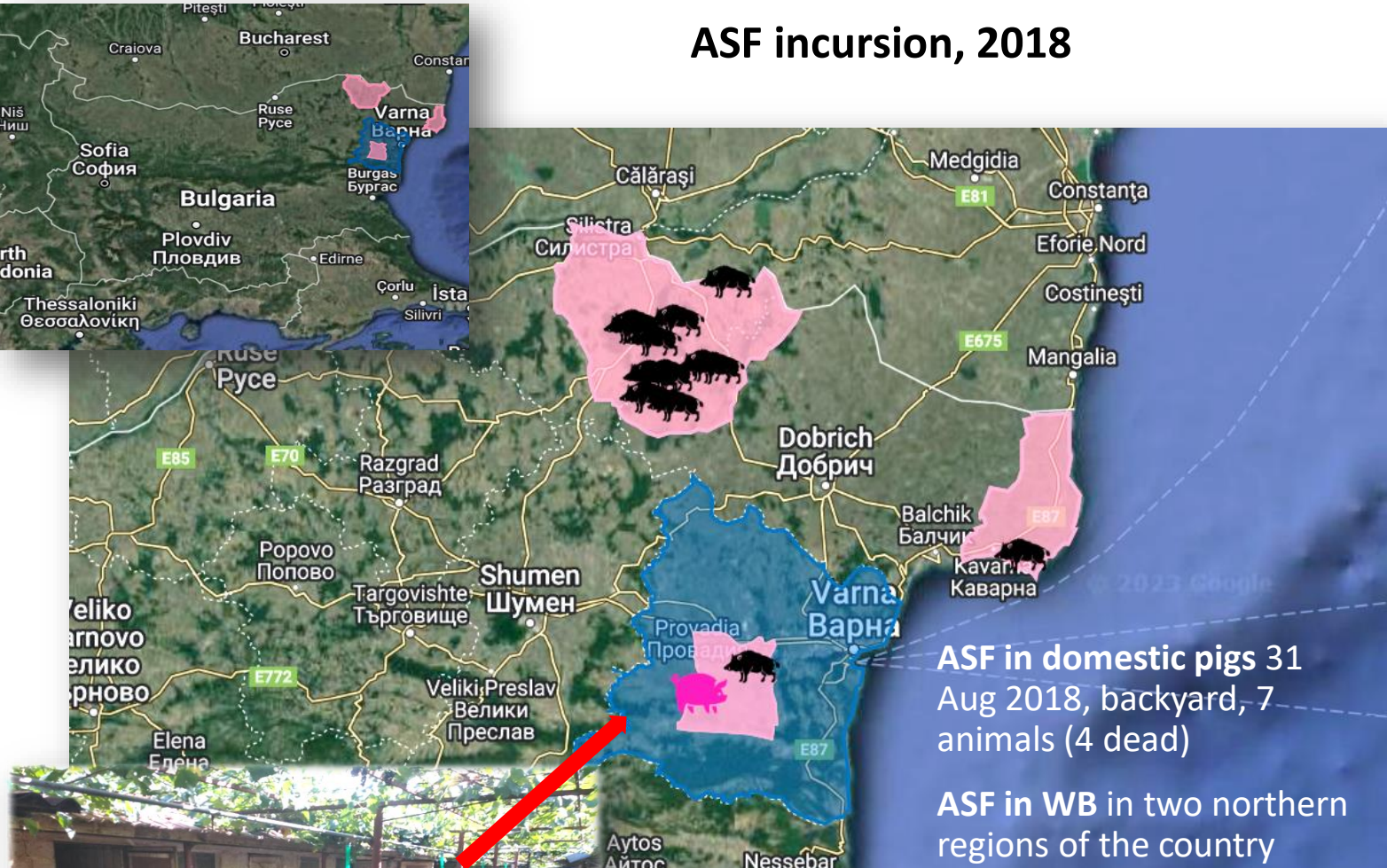
- New measures enforced
 - Legislative
 - Operational
 - Strategic measures

2021-2023

- Control of the measures imposed
- Amendment of the regionalization

Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

ASF incursion, 2018



2018	2019	2020	2021-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First introduction • Total stamping out at village level; C&D, feed control. • sampling and testing of approx. 90% of the pig population in the 10km zone • Restriction zone at regional level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movement control - Hunting ban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total stamping out at village level(backyards) • Movement control • Enhanced official control in the pig farms • Preventive slaughtering and killing in backyards (more than 30000 backyards, financial support for C&D) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New measures enforced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative - Operational - Strategic measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of the measures imposed • Amendment of the regionalization

- Total stamping out of the pigs at the village;
- Sampling and testing of approx. 90% of the pig population in the 10km zone;
- Restriction zone at regional level;
- C&D , feed control;
- Movement control;
- Hunting ban;



Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

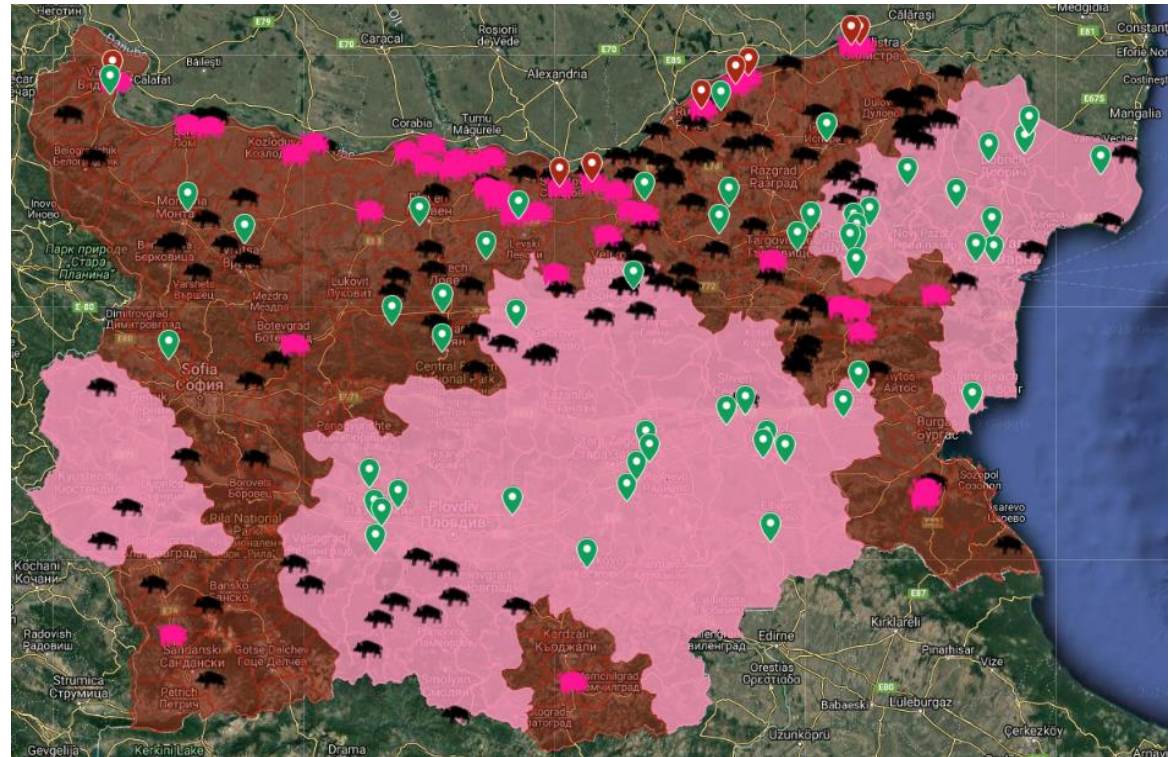
2018

2019

2020

2021-2023

- Total stamping out at village level (backyards) and in 3 km zone
- Movement control;
- Enhanced official control in the pig farms;
- Preventive slaughtering and killing in back yards (more than 30000 backyards , financial support for C&D).



Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

2018

2019

2020

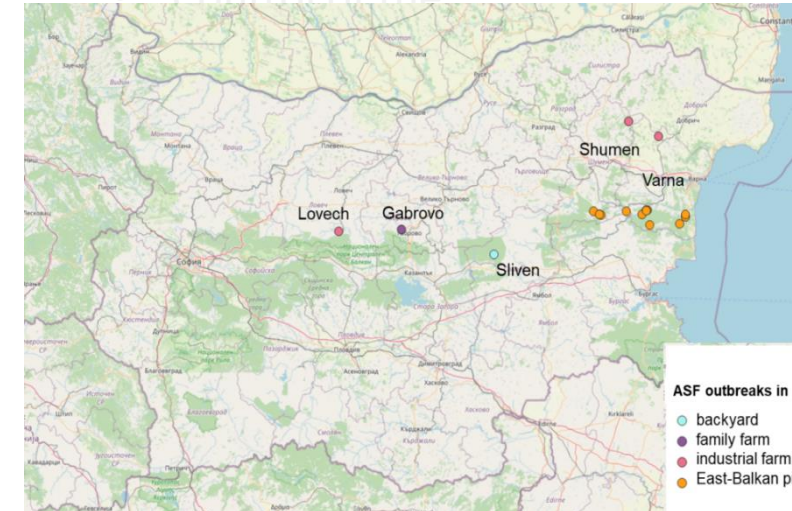
2021-2023

Legislative:

- Amendment of the Law on Veterinary Activities
- easier registration for backyards and better veterinary supervision (by private vets)
- strengthening the local cooperation with institutions
- new compensation rules.
- Amendment of the Ordinance on expenditure related to epizootic risks - Deduction and refusal of compensations when biosec/IDR/AH requirements are not implemented

Operational:

- National standstill in the beginning of 2020, gradually lifted over time
- Permanent Official vet presence in all industrial farms
- New SOPs for repopulation of holdings and on official controls in holdings
- Follow-up checks in depopulated backyards
- Registration of backyards in accordance with the new legislation
- Intensified search parties for WB around industrial farms

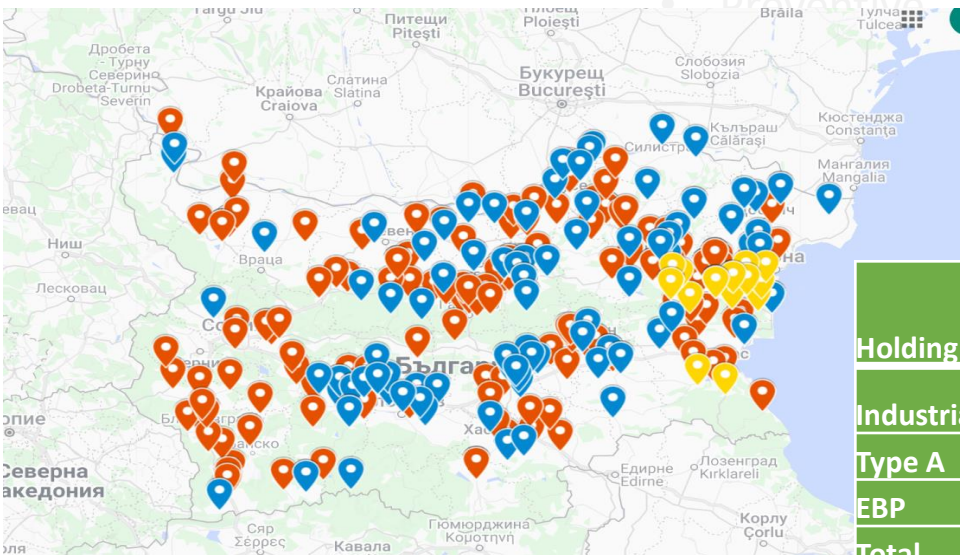


Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023



Legislative:

- Amendment of the Ordinance on the requirements for animal holdings
 - Maximum number of pigs in backyards and family farms;
 - strengthening the biosecurity requirements
 - Individual biosecurity plans for holdings/Individual CP for holdings



Holding category	Farms, n	Pigs, n
Industrial farms		98
Type A	199	7859
EBP	29	517
Total	326	561410

ВСЯКА СГРАДА С МЯСТО ЗА СМЯНА НА РАБОТНОТО ОБЛЕКЛО И ДЕЗИНФЕКЦИЯ



Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

2018

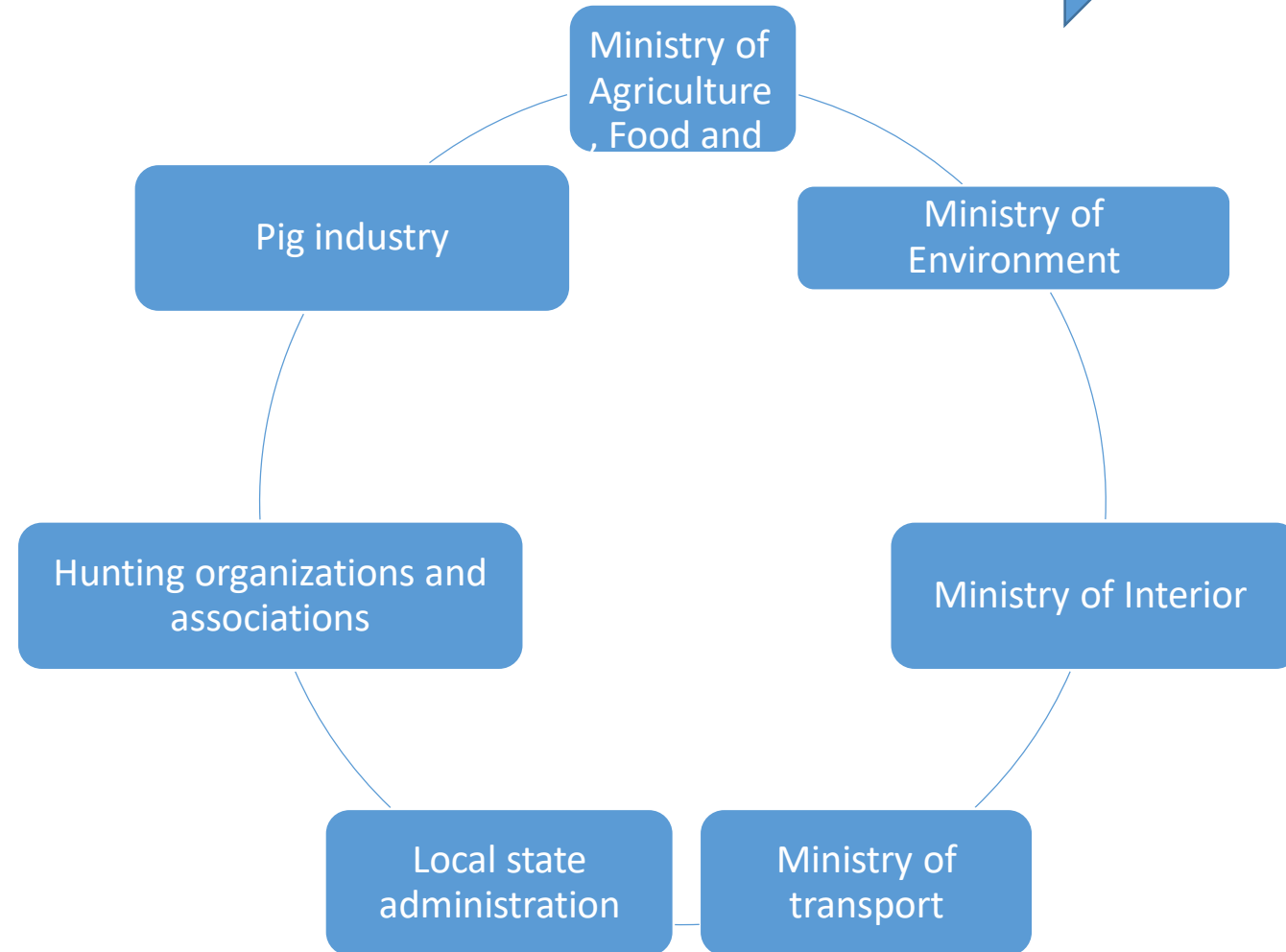
2019

2020

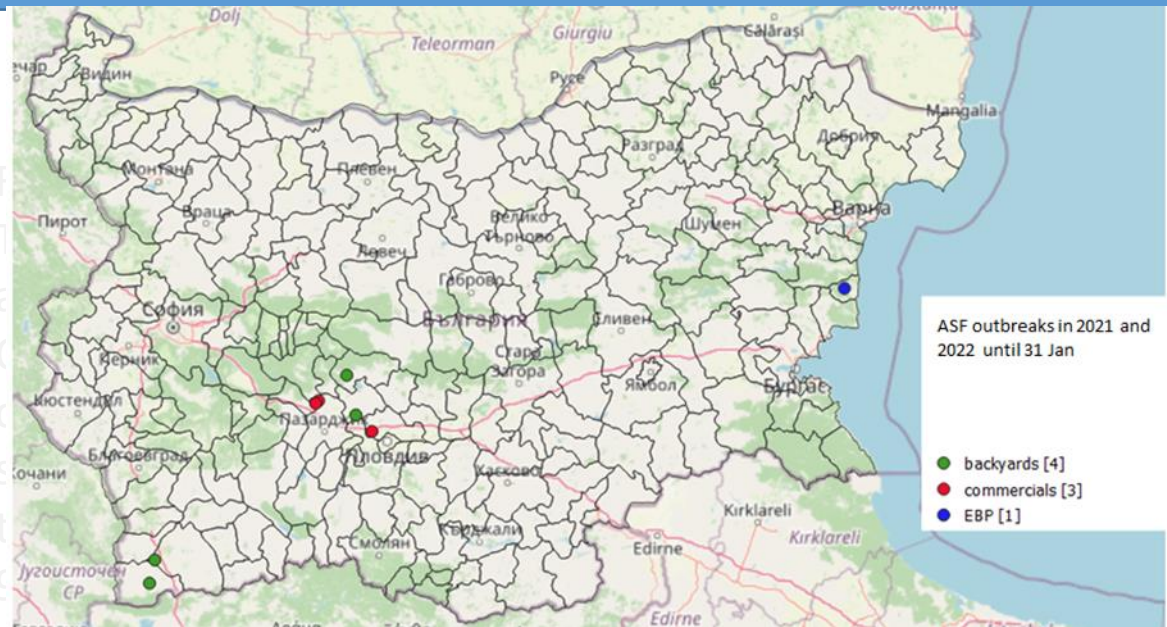
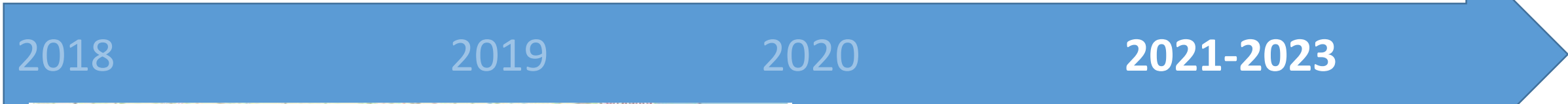
2021-2023

Strategic:

- **Multi-institutional plan for control and prevention against ASF adopted by the Council of Ministers**
 - Epizootic Committee on ministerial level – coordination body for the ASF measures applied
 - Additional budget foreseen for the purposes of ASF control;
 - Involvement of regional governors, regional administrations and law-enforcement bodies in the control measures;
 - Financial support measures *"Support for investment in preventive measures aimed at mitigating the effects of likely natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events"*; *"Investments in agricultural holdings"*.

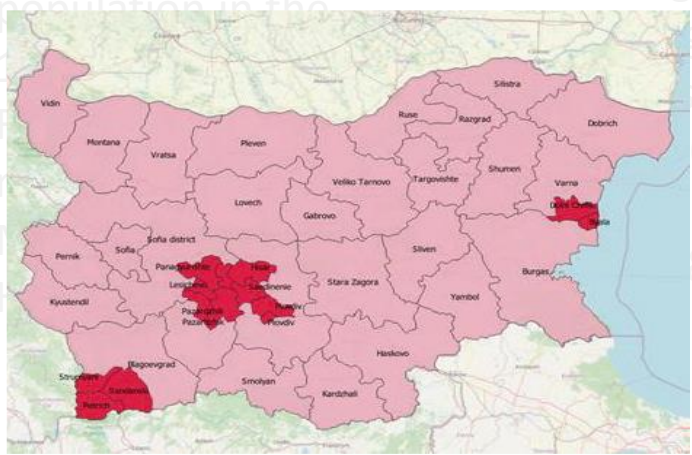


Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

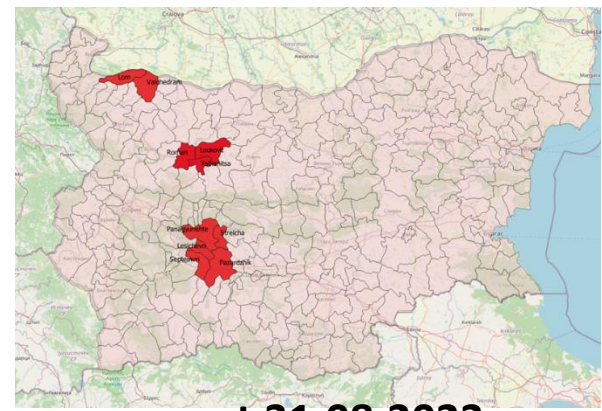
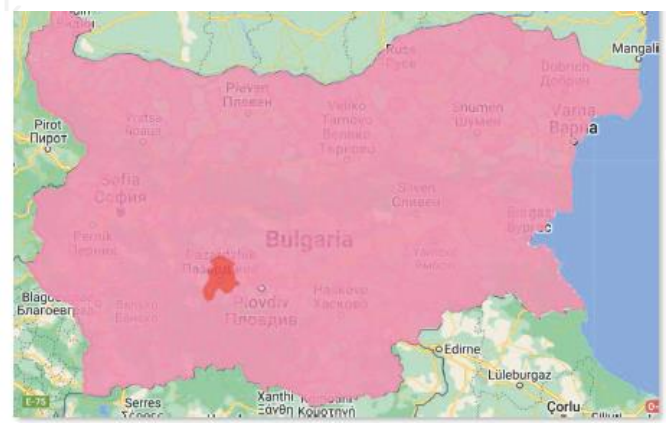


- Control of the measures imposed;
- Amendment of the regionalization

- Reintroduction of ASF in domestic pigs



2021-2022



as at 31.08.2023

Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023



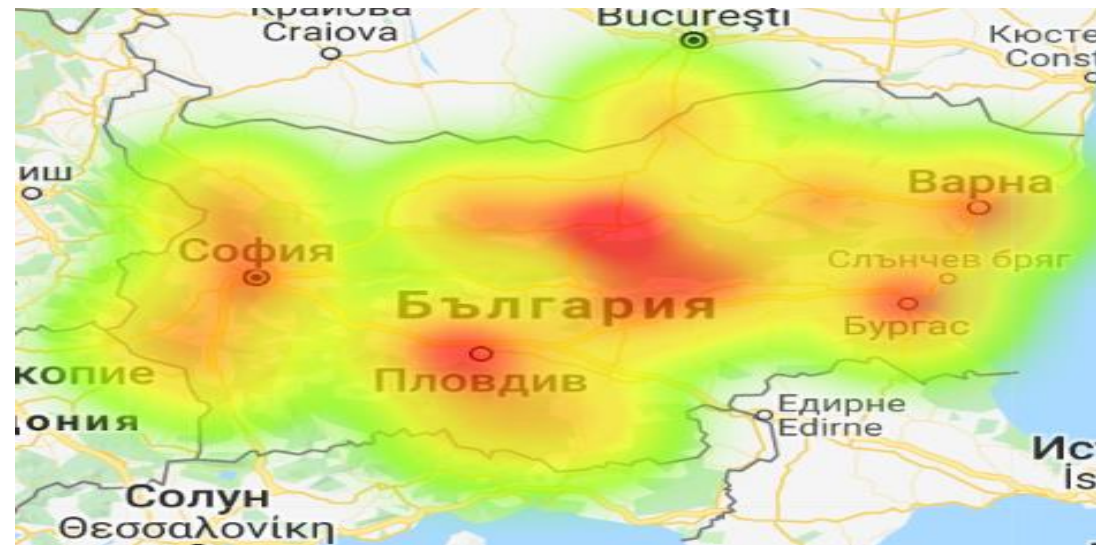
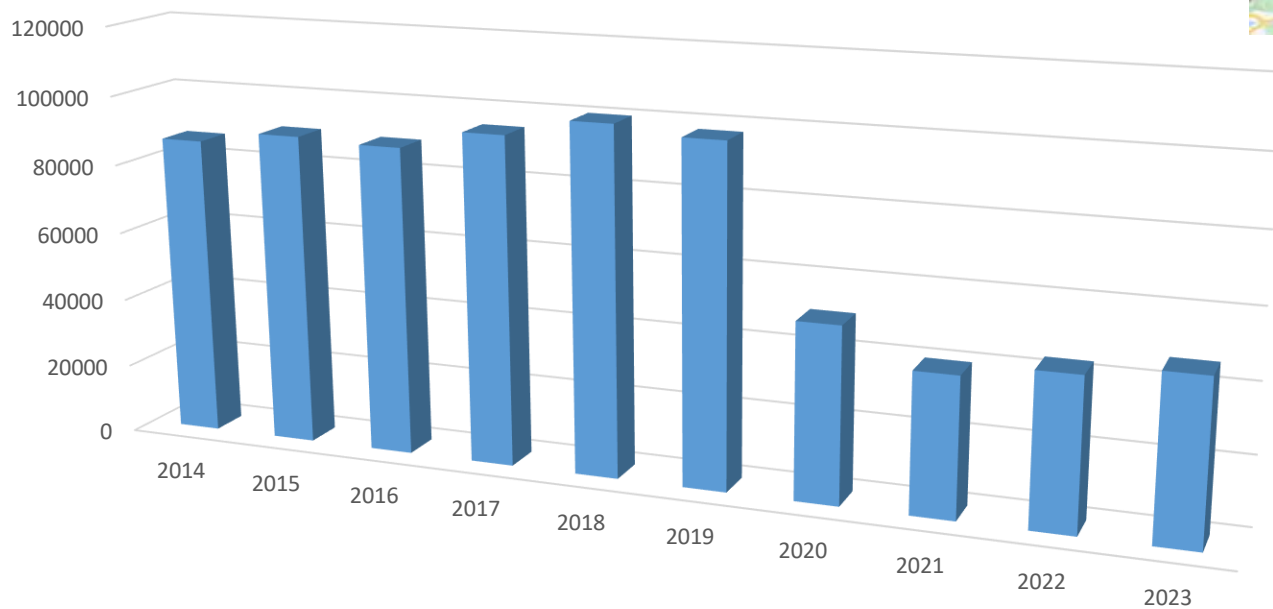
Specific objective		Specific action	Timeframe
1	Ensuring all backyard holdings are registered and recorded in the BFSA system and comply with the biosecurity rules.	registration and population procedure	Short term/continuous/ongoing
		pig holdings inventory three times per year	Short-term/continuous
		checks on backyards depopulated in 2019 which have not resumed activity	Mid-term/continuous
2	Providing enhanced surveillance on the health status of the backyard pigs	clinical examinations/biosecurity checks by registered veterinarians four times per year and submission of the results/finding of the examinations/checks in a dedicated application	Long-term/continuous
		biosecurity checks by official veterinarian once per year	Long-term/continuous
3	Ensuring better control on the pig movement and prevention from illegal practices	targeted controls on the pig movements through the VetIS system	Short-term/ongoing/continuous
		Cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs for illegal movements of pigs	Short-term/continuous
		monthly checks for online illegal trade with pigs	Short-term/continuous
4	Providing awareness on ASF and biosecurity for the backyard owners	awareness materials to backyard pig owners	Short-term/continuous

**Since 2021 –
Action plan for backyard
holdings in Bulgaria**

Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

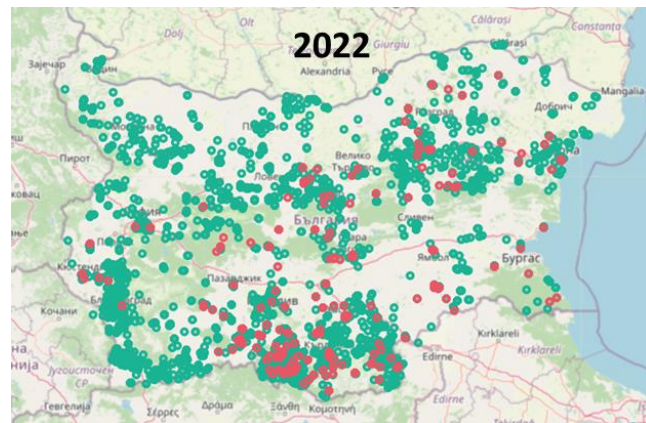
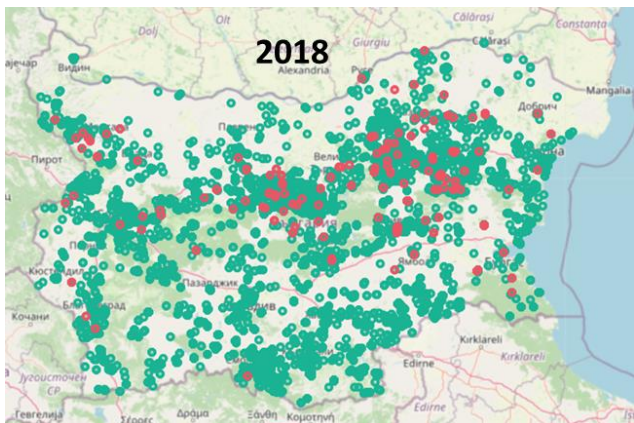


WB population

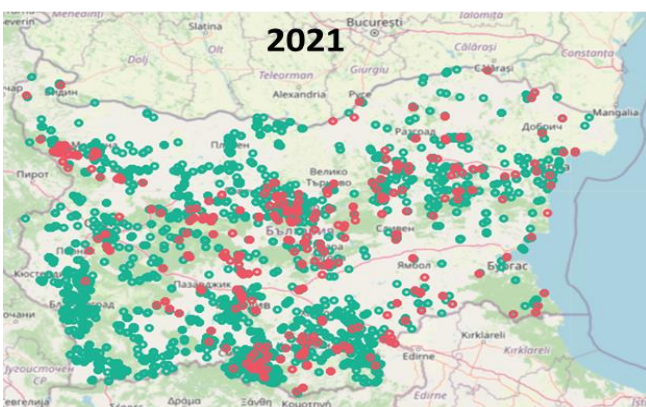
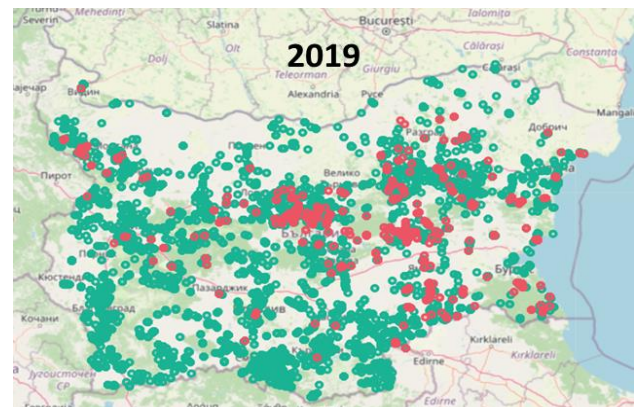
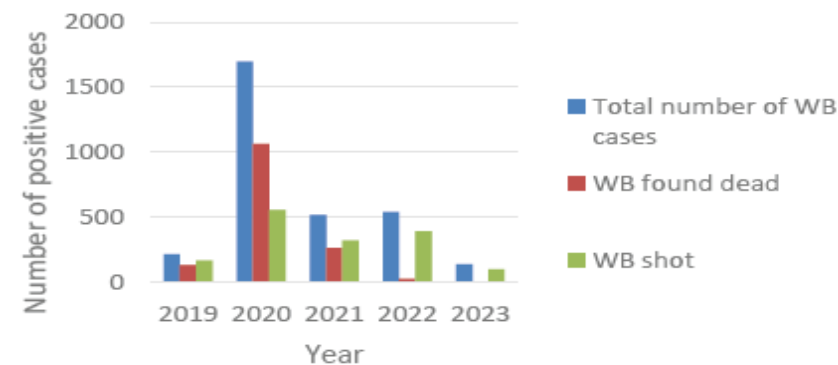


Region	Size	2018	2021-2023
Berkovitsa	2 370,67	2,49	0,2
Lovech	2 162,95	2,84	0,2
Veliko Tarnovo	2 290,03	3,96	0,5
Ruse	1 773,94	2,49	0,1
Shumen	1 900,77	2,79	0,3
Varna	1 878,65	3,15	0,2
Burgas	3 297,85	3,49	0,3
Kardzhali	4 036,57	1,90	0,5
Sliven	2 062,56	2,73	0,3
Stara Zagora	1 693,58	2,46	0,3
Plovdiv	1 987,59	2,55	0,6
Smolyan	2 402,75	1,53	0,8
Pazardzhik	2 638,06	1,71	0,6
Blagoevgrad	3 401,98	1,67	0,6
Kystendil	2 327,52	1,82	0,6
Sofia	3 842,53	2,84	0,7
Total	40 067,99	2,49	0,4

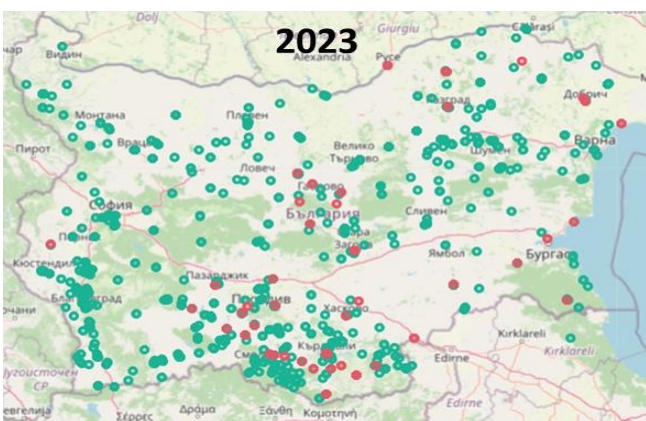
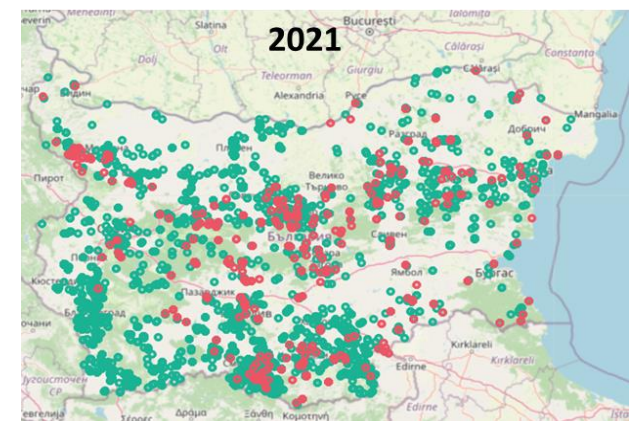
Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023



Dynamics of the ASF cases in wild boar (2019 - Jan 2023)



Region	Sampled WB, n			ASFV pos/PCR				ASFV pos/ELISA			
	Shot/Hunted	Found dead	Total, n	Shot/Hunted	Found dead	Total, n	%	Shot/Hunted	Found dead	Total, n	%
Oct 2019 - Sept 2020	29067	1071	30138	504	954	1458	4,84%				
Oct 2020 - 19 Feb 2021	9904	191	10095	172	169	341	3,38%				
20 Feb 2021 - 31 Jan 2022	11364	154	11518	262	136	398	3,46%	337	0	337	2,93%
Febr-Oct 2022	3963	30	3993	17	19	36	90,00%	176	1	177	4,4
Oct-March 2023	5432	32	9427	18	19	37	46,00%	395	1	396	4,2



- 17 affected regions currently
- Movement of cases to South and Southeast Bulgaria
- Increase of the ELISA positive WB

Control measures in WB, Bulgaria, 2018-2023

Special order of the MAF on the WB hunting activities, since 2019

- Notification regimen
- Testing of each WB shot/found dead
- Biosecurity during and after hunt
- Ban of sustainable feeding
- Ban on evisceration and skinning
- Carcass keeping until negative result for ASF
- Destruction of ASF positives
- Building of dedicated pits for WB carcasses and ABPs disposal in hunting grounds
- Ban on trade of wild boar into the territory of Bulgaria
- Incentives



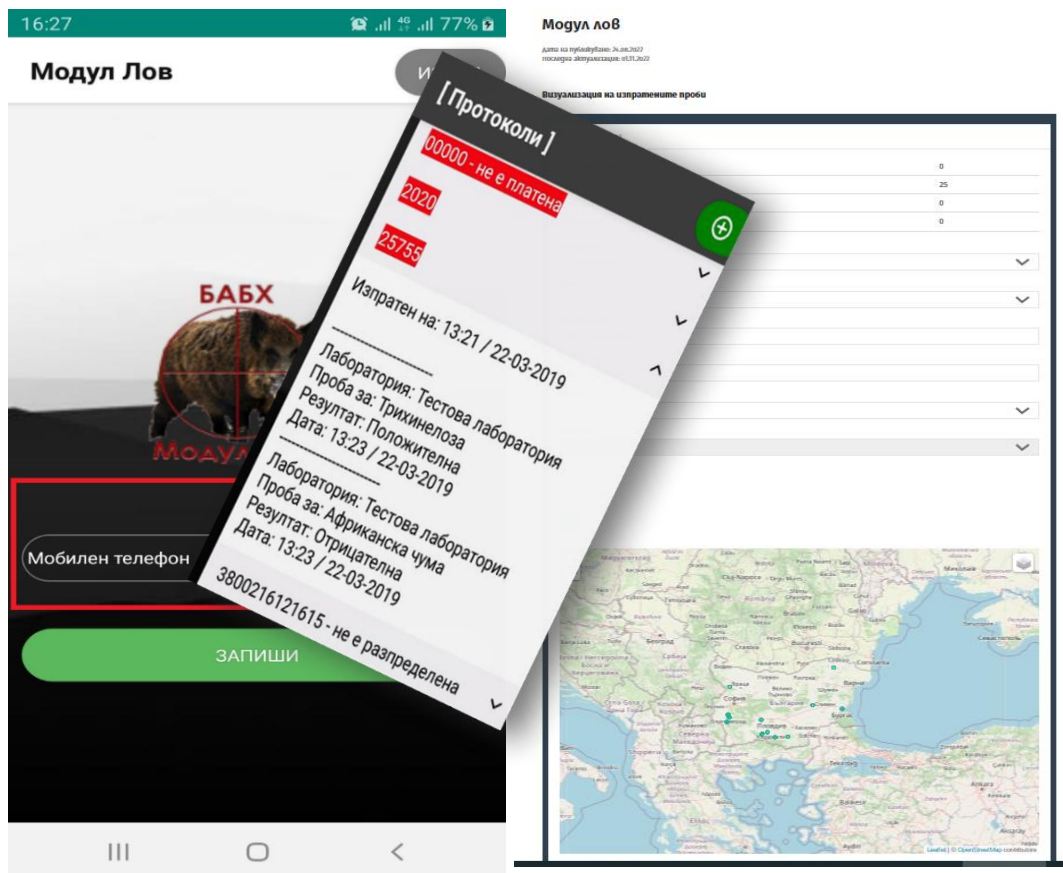
Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

- Development of mobile application for WB samples submission

https://www.bfsa.bg/bg/Page/asf_map/index/asf_map/%D0%92%D0%B8%D0%B7%D1%83%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%86



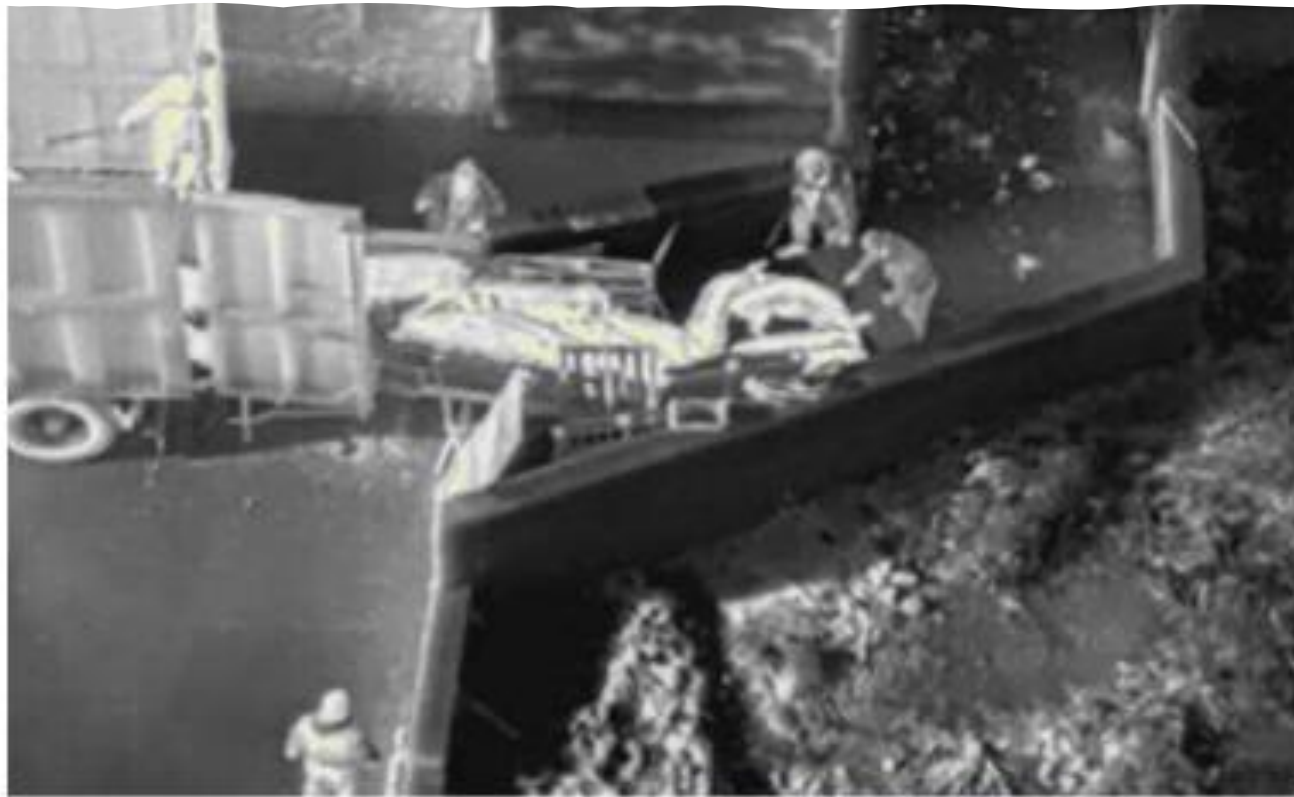
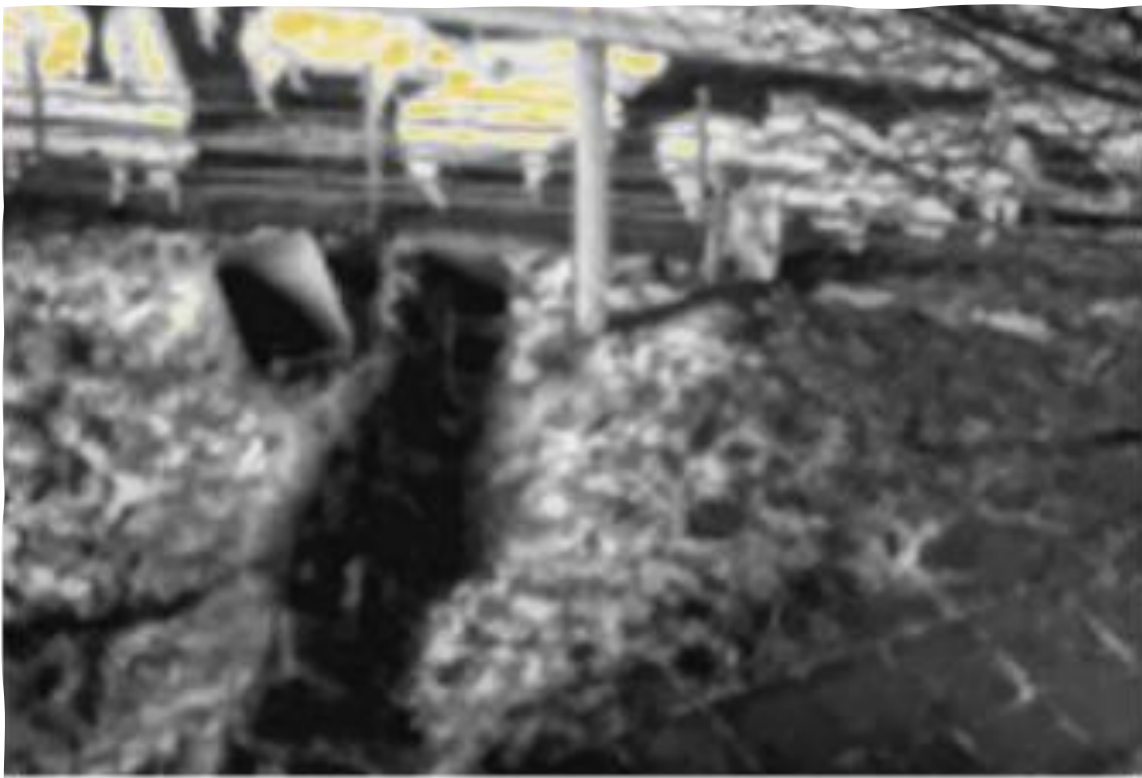
- Searching parties in the zones around industrial farms (47647 searches in 2022)



Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

Searching parties in the zones around industrial farms







Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023



- Regular meetings with stakeholders (Executive Agency for Forestry (EAF), hunting organizations and associations, pig industry) on regional and central level;
- Trainings of hunters on epidemiology, sampling and enhanced biosecurity measures

Evolution of the ASF outbreaks and control measures in Bulgaria, 2018-2023

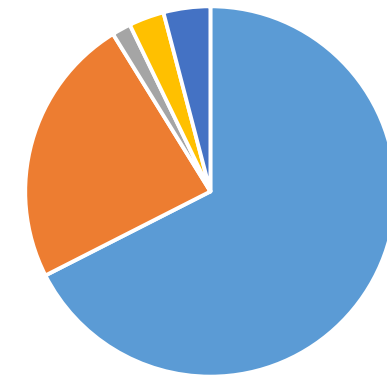
- Inspections for illegal movements and police posts
- Prohibitions on markets and exhibitions for pigs
- Conducting permanent epic commissions in the areas
- Stricter movement control of people, animals and animal origin foods/products coming from countries with ASF;
- Disinfection of vehicles at the border
- Disposal of leftovers from air and maritime vehicles traveling from ASF affected countries;



Direct costs incurred for emergency measures against ASF



ASF costs per categories 2018-2021



- Compensation for animals
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Transport and destruction of feed
- Transport and destruction of carcasses
- Compensation for meat

Costs	2018-2019, EUR	2020, EUR	2021, EUR
Compensation for animals	17170518	8012022	65349.25
Cleaning and disinfection	8273110	402319	176888.79
Transport and destruction of feed	403361	189964	24225.13
Transport and destruction of carcasses	473042	655720	25073.82
Compensation for meat	974333	553609	
Total	27 294 364	9 813 634	307370,12

The conclusions/lessons

- The underestimation of biosecurity and the human factor are main drivers of the virus introduction
- Capacity of the Veterinary authority to detect and strict apply the disease control method, to established and maintain strong surveillance system (in particular passive surveillance system) in the farms are a key factors
- Engagement and coordination between the sectors involved.
- Education and awareness-raising programs for all relevant parties. *To build a sustainable pig farming industry, it is important to improve identified weaknesses.*
- Backyard sector, disease control and keeping good level of knowledge and perception of the public on the disease are still a huge challenge to be faced by the VSs.



Thank you!

