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“Capacity building of veterinary and plant health services in the Western Balkans - Lot 1 - Animal Health” - **ADEWB II**
SANTE/2022/EA-OP/0001

Chief veterinary Officers (CVOs) meeting on African swine fever in the Western Balkan Countries

31 August 2023
Online

Content



- ADEWB II Project background information
- ADEWB II activities relevant to ASF
- ASF (and CSF) surveillance programmes in WB

Basic information

- **Project Title:** “Capacity building of veterinary and plant health services in the Western Balkans - Lot 1 - Animal Health” - **ADEWB II**
- **Continuation:** Regional Action On Animal Disease Eradication In The Western Balkans – **ADEWB (2020 – 2022)**
- **Financing and Contracting Authority:** European Union / EC – DG SANTE and DG NEAR
- **Contractor:** Agriconsulting Europe SA (AESA) in consortium with Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM Teramo)



Basic information

➤ Project stakeholders

- Veterinary competent authorities
- Farmers, traders and other stakeholders involved in animal production and trade


➤ **Start date: 19.07.2023**

➤ **Duration: 36 months**

Beneficiary
countries







ADEWB II Project activities – Results

- **Result 1:** Ensure that the Western Balkan countries are ready for accession to the EU from a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) perspective.
 - **Result 2:** Ensure capacity building of the veterinary services including the laboratories of the relevant IPA III beneficiary countries.
 - **Result 3:** Ensure that it possible to become approved for export of certain commodities to the EU.
 - **Result 4:** Ensure that it becomes possible to achieve official disease-free status for certain animal diseases recognized by the WOA. H.
 - **Result 5:** Ensure that the region has developed a closely integrated cooperation with their neighbouring countries, both in the Western Balkans and with EU Member States.
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Design procedure for collection and transport of samples to laboratory

- SOPs for ASF prepared
- Workshop organised
- SOPs adopted by some countries

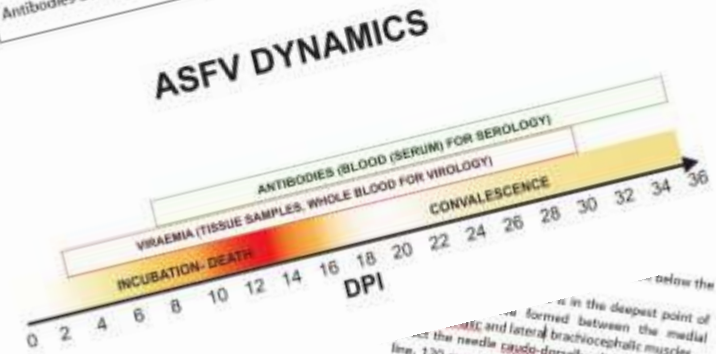
Sample collection

REASON FOR SAMPLING	SAMPLE	SAMPLE VOLUME AND QUANTITY (from single animal)	PRIMARY RECAPTACLE	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE SAMPLED	STORAGE AND TRANSPORT TEMPERATURE	DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUE
Clinical suspicion (live animal)	Serum	2-5 ml of blood		Min 3 animals with clinical signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-8°C if transport is in less than 5 days. - If more than 5 days, the clot should be removed and samples stored at -20°C. 	Ab ELISA
	Whole blood	2-5 ml of blood		or According to the National veterinary authority recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-6°C (if the shipment is within 48 hours) - If more than 48 hours, keep at -20°C 	qPCR PCR FAT Ag EUSA Virus isolation
Clinical suspicion (dead animal)	Priority: • Tonsils • Spleen • Kidney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whole tonsils - 5x5 cm spleen tissue - 5x5 cm kidney tissue 		Min 3 animals with clinical signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-8°C if transport is in less than 5 days. - If more than 5 days, the clot should be removed and samples stored at -20°C. 	qPCR PCR FAT Ag EUSA Virus isolation
	Optional: • Lung • Pharyngeal and mesenteric lymph nodes • Long bone or the sternum in the case of autolysed carcasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5x5 cm lung tissue - 2 lymph nodes - entire long bone or the sternum 		or According to the National veterinary authority recommendations		

 Potassium EDTA tube
  Serum separation tube
 Sterile tube with screwcap
  Sealable/zip lock plastic bag

INFECTION WITH BACILLUS CEREUS

SAMPLES OF CHOICE:	ASFV Dynamics	
	BLOOD	TISSUE
Virus detection	7 - 14 dpi - lifelong (until death)	2 dpi to several weeks
Antibodies detection		



... follow the ... in the deepest point of ... and lateral brachiocephalic muscles. ... the needle caudo-dorsally, slightly to the mid ... 120 mm above the point of the shoulder (see ... photo).

- Insert the needle in its full length. If you have missed the vein, you can carefully reposition the needle until to three attempts should be made at a time to minimize distress to the animal and potential damage to the vein.
- In case of larger pigs, the adipose tissue above the vein must be compressed.
- Stabilize needle and push the vacutainer tube into hub.
- It is sufficient to take about 5 ml of blood.

NOTE: When using vacutainers, do not pull the needle out of the skin with a vacutainer tube attached, as this will cause the vacuum to be lost.



Correct point of venipuncture. Needle shall be positioned 120 mm above the point of the shoulder and 25 to 40 mm below the skin



Blood runs in to the tube after correct position. With courtesy of Bioscience <https://www.bioscience.gov.au/education/2015/01/15/ASFV-dynamics-creating-a-lab-bleed-out>

Harmonization the collection of animal health data in WB

- Concept for common model platform prepared, workshop for users organised
- Activity continue with ADEWB II to prepare the platform (application development, dashboard, training and support)

Figure 1: Conceptual structure of the ADEWB system comprising entities, attributes and catalogues.



AN	farmedwild	M	Indicates whether the affected animals are part of a domestic or wild species	farmedwild	String
AN	species	M	Host species name for the disease (domestic/wild/species)	ADIS_DISEASE_SPECIES	String
AN	measuringUnit	M	Animals by default for terrestrial. Colonies for bees. For aquatic species, indicates whether the entered values should be saved as the number of animals, kilograms or tonnes.	ADIS_MEASURING_UNIT	String
AN	susceptible	M	Total number of animals present in the outbreak at the beginning of the period covered by the report.		Number
AN	cases	M	Total number of affected animals, according to the specific case definition provided by the law, plus animals that died from the disease since the beginning of the outbreak		Number
AN	dead	O	Total number of animals that died from the disease since the beginning of the outbreak		Number
AN	killed	O	Total number of animals killed and destroyed for disease control purposes since the beginning of the outbreak. The products of these animals are destroyed and not used for consumption or other purposes.		Number
AN	slaughtered	O	Total number of animals killed for disease control purposes since the beginning of the outbreak, with no restriction on the use of		Number

Figure 2. Geographical area bordering Serbia and North Macedonia



Figure 3. Spatial distribution of pig farms in Serbia and North Macedonia



Legislation

- Actions plans for transposition of AHL (and OCR) prepared
- Technical support to beneficiary countries
- Activity continue with ADEWB II
- WB Regional expert group of experts established and supported



Emergency preparedness

- General contingency plan prepared
- SOPs for field actions prepared
- Simulation exercises implemented (AI and PPR)
- Activity continue with ADEWB II



Regional cooperation

- Western Balkan CVO Forum established and supported
- 4 WB CVO Forum meetings
- Activity continue with ADEWB II

First WB CVO Forum Sarajevo BiH



ADEWB II Project activities – Complete overview

- Legislation (EU AHL and OCR):
- Organization of the competent authorities (general action plan for establishment of quality check system in the area of official controls)
- ID/Traceability (animal IR and movement)
- Disease surveillance
- Animal health emergency preparedness (national CP, SOPs and simulation exercises)
- ABP system (pre-evaluate designated areas where carcasses could be buried during a large outbreak)
- Information management systems (transparent sharing of data)
- Laboratories (lab simulation exercises)
- Cross border cooperation (WB CVO Forum)
- Disease statuses (WOAH)



ASF surveillance in WB

All 6 countries visited to familiarize with the current situation and surveillance in place (Apr-May 2023):

- Significant differences between countries free from ASF and countries affected by ASF
- Passive surveillance: needs improvement in all WB countries.
- Active surveillance: not effective for early detection of ASF, however some countries still apply it.
- Awareness among pig keepers / hunters and veterinarians should be raised.



ASF surveillance programmes

- Some of ASF affected countries have approved program, however it does not include all EU principles.
- In 3 countries surveillance programs are elaborated in a frame of other projects but not approved and/or implemented
- One country have only the initial draft of the program
- Most of WB countries apply for EU co-financed ASF surveillance / control programs

Workshop on surveillance programmes: 4-5 September 2023, Podgorica – Montenegro



ASF biosecurity (Edvins)

- Based on the relevant EU legislation and other working documents, good practices and EFSA scientific advice, propose a set of biosecurity requirements for different type of pig farms and system to control the implementation of those biosecurity requirements at farm level





Thank you for your attention

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