



ASF mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to HUNGARY

(28-30 January 2020)

Objective

- **Reason:** To support the country to control African swine fever in wild boar with a higher commitment of hunters.
- **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 epidemiological investigations, comprehensive management of the restricted areas and control of wild boar populations.
- **Expert:** Team leader- Tsviatko Alexandrov (Bulgaria);
Paulius Bušauskas (Lithuania)



Agenda

Meetings and field visits were organized by Ministry, Central and Local veterinary authority as follows:

- ***Initial and final meetings*** – representatives from the National disease control centre, National expert group, Ministry of the Agriculture; National reference laboratory (National Food Chain Safety Office);
- ***Budakeszi, Pest county*** (field visit): meeting with the representatives from State forest services and District Veterinary Services, Local disease control center.

Epidemiological situation

Since the first ASF case in wild boar in April 2018 till end of January 2020 in total 3136 cases in wild boar have been confirmed

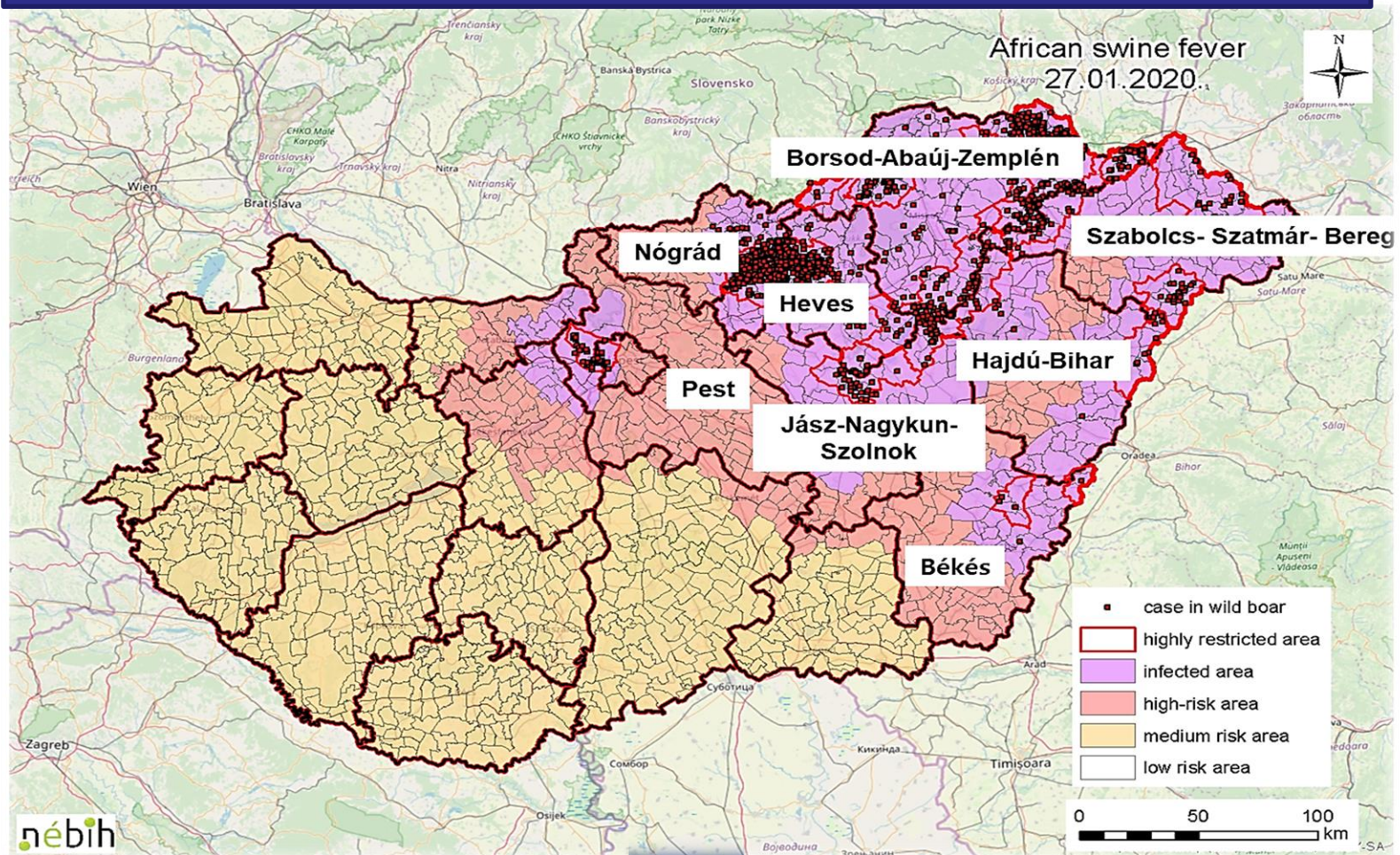
County (in order of infection)	Date of first confirmation	ASF cases in wild boar, Apr 2018 – Feb 2019, n	ASF cases in wild boar, Apr 2018 – Jan 2020, n
Heves	21 April 2018	481	1046
Szabolcs- Szatmár- Bereg	17 May 2018	28	133
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	02 October 2018	99	1460
Nógrád	28 October 2018	53	222
Hajdú-Bihar	20 April 2018	-	48
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	09 September 2019	-	88
Pest	28 September 2019	-	121
Békés	09 December 2019	-	18
Total		661	3136



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Epidemiological situation

Cases of ASF in wild boar and zones based on risk assessment



Wild boar population, management and hunting practices

*In Hungary approximately **150 000** wild boar were hunted during the last hunting season 2018/2019*

Number of wild boar according to spring counting and number of hunted wild boar during hunting seasons

Hunting season	Wild boar according to spring counting, n	Hunted wild boar, n
2016/2017	102 600	143 081
2017/2018	105 196	158 079
2018/2019	95 850	148 044

Wild boar population, management and hunting practices

In the framework of ASF the CVO has the power to ban, allow and regulate all hunting activities

There is high tradition in group driven hunt, usually carried out in the autumn and winter.



150 wild boar trapped with this trap during 1 year

Trapping of wild boar is well developed and practiced particularly near settlements.

The trapped animals are usually moved to fenced wild gardens for the purpose of hunting tourism.

Wild boar population, management and hunting practices

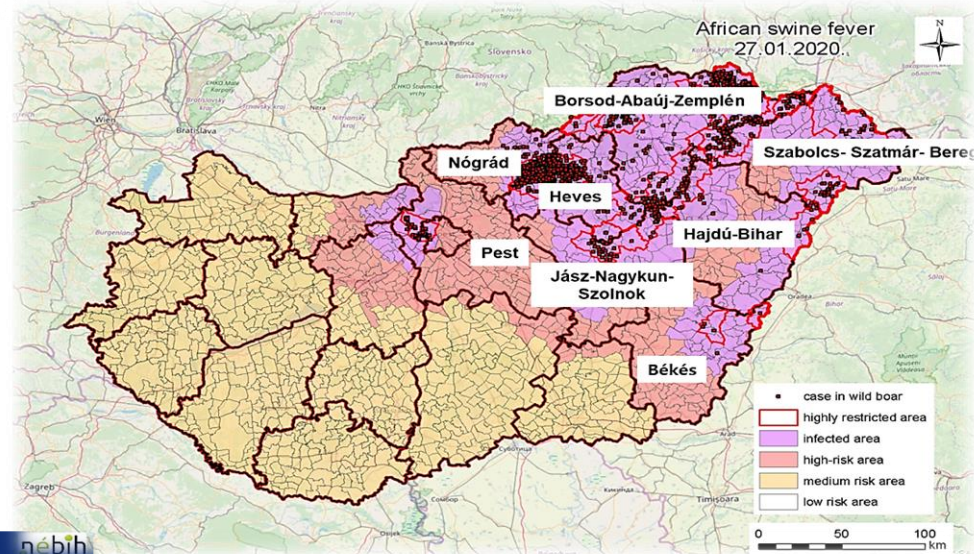
Outside the open areas wild boar are also managed and maintained in so called wild gardens and wild farms.

All around the country there are 122 wild gardens registered by the forestry services. 60 in infected areas.

In Hungary there are 395 wild farms for wild boar registered and controlled by the competent veterinary authorities. 181 in infected areas.

The differences between the areas

- All National ASF control measures is based on risk assessment and foreseen in ASF eradication plan (2/2019).
- The country is divided in 4 different risk areas: medium risk, high risk, infected and strictly restricted area.
- In strictly restricted and infected areas hunting of wild boars is banned.
- Diagnostic culling can be performed in combination with disposal of the carcasses.
- Under certain conditions meat can be used locally, but always after negative PCR test for ASF.
- In high risk area diagnostic hunting is performed while group hunting can be allowed only with permission.
- In the medium risk area there is no restrictions for hunting and neither biosecurity requirements during hunting.



Measures regarding control of ASF in wild boar

- Passive surveillance is highly encouraged in the infected and high risk areas.
- Sampling of all reported dead wild boar is performed by veterinarians or other qualified persons appointed by the County Government Office.
- Active surveillance is performed via diagnostic shooting of healthy wild boars in the infected area.
- Active searching of dead wild boars, must be carried out once a week in all subunits described in the decision for zoning, but from 1 May to 30 September the subunits should be checked twice a week and is paid:
 - for searching time (250 HUF/1 hour);
 - after finding (23250 HUF/WB).

In the strictly restricted, infected and high risk area there is a ban in force for supplementary feeding of wild boar. Baiting, for diagnostic shooting (or trapping) is allowed up to an amount 10 kg feed/km²/month.

There is no ban for supplementary feeding in Medium risk area.

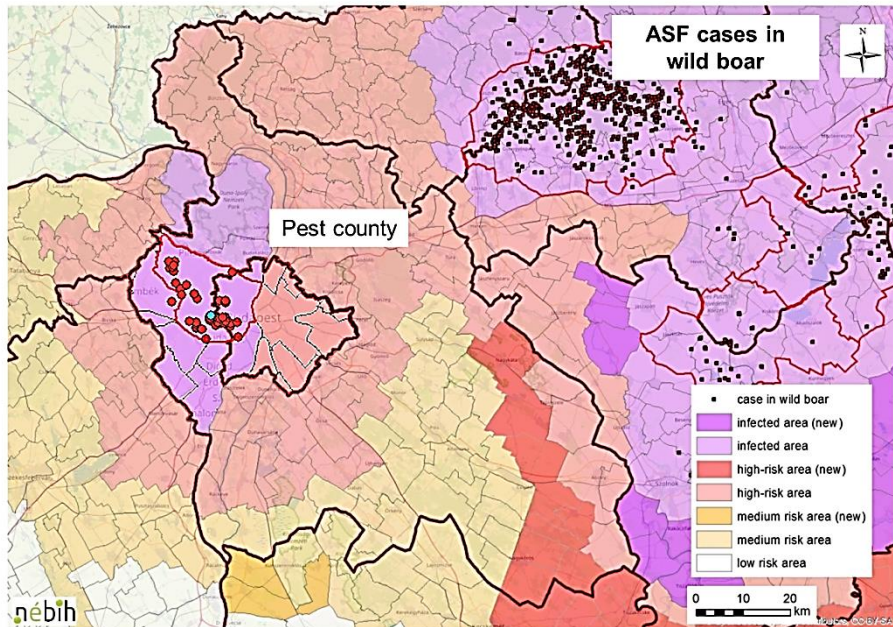
Measures regarding control of ASF in wild boar

In the **infected and high risk areas** the carcasses and/or ABP from wild boar are collected in dedicated collection points (containers) and from there sent for disposal as category 1 material to rendering plant.



Visit in Pest county wild game garden

- It is a state owned double fenced 9200 Hectares forestry area.
- 1200 large game, $\frac{3}{4}$ of them wild boar are hunted annually in the fenced area.
- The first case of ASF was detected there in September 2019.
- After 2 months the disease was found outside the fence.
- In September the wild game garden was overpopulated, the density was very high more than 10 WB/km²
- According to the competent veterinary authorities the disease was introduced by tourists.





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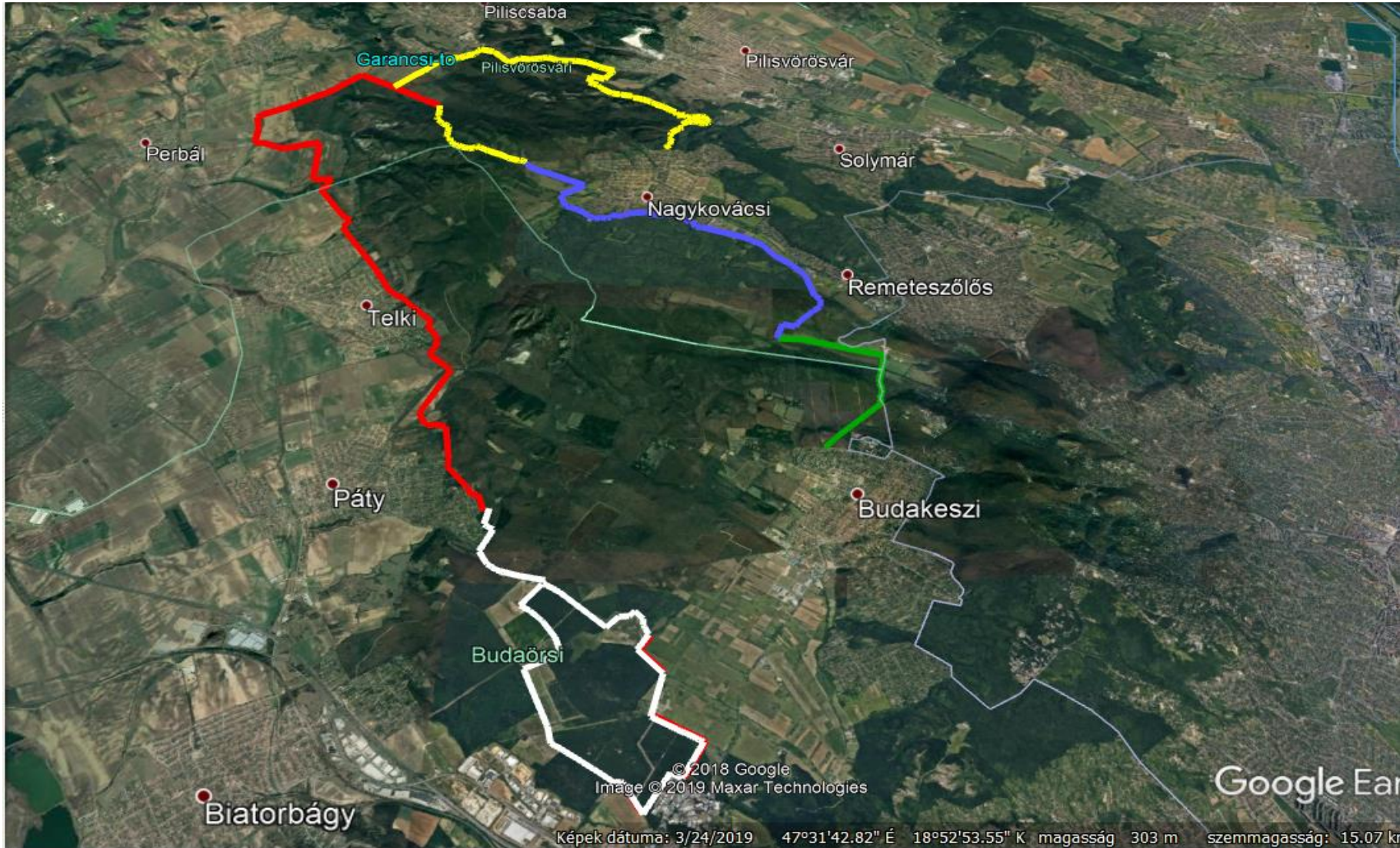
Visit in Pest county wild garden

Old fence



Repaired fence





Visit in Pest county wild garden

- 40 traps in combination with individual shooting were used to depopulate wild garden and the buffer zone around.
- It is estimated that only up to 5 wild boar have left in the garden and very few outside in the buffer zone.
- The disposal of all carcasses of the found dead and culled wild boar in the wild garden was carried out by burial inside the fence .



Domestic pigs

In Hungary there are 2.7 millions of domestic pigs kept in around 30 000 farms. Out of them:

- 3.5% are large scale commercial farms with 94% of the pig population;*
- 31.5 % are small scale commercial farms with 3.3 % of the pig population;*
- The remaining 65 % are small scale non-commercial farm with 2.7% of the pig population.*

Recommendations as regards wild boar

Reduction of wild boar population:

Continuous strong reduction of the wild boar population is highly recommended all over the country. All methods with proven efficiency for reduction of the wild boar population are recommended to be applied. When planning culling activities disturbance and chasing of wild boar from infected and high risk areas must be avoided.

It is advisable to use additional technical equipment for hunting and National legislation should be revised.

Trapping:

Trapping has proven to be very effective in Hungary and encouraged for the purposed of reduction of the wild boar density. Main advantage is that with this method wild boar are not disturbed and chased to other territories comparing with the traditional and emotional driven hunt.

Recommendations as regards wild boar

Biosecurity:

The minimum biosecurity measures during hunting, searching for wild boar carcasses and collection and disposals of ABP to be required for the whole territory of the country in compliance with the Strategic approach to the management of ASF for the EU (SANTE/7113/2015 - Rev 11).

Feeding ban:

The reduction of the wild boar density needs to be coupled by a complete ban of feeding including the medium risk area as well.

Recommendations as regards wild boar

Passive surveillance:

- To continue wild boar passive surveillance in the medium risk area;

Awarenes:

Follow-up the areas with different information signs for the public with basic information about ASF.

Continue communication with hunters and bodies responsible for wild fauna control.

Recommendations as regards domestic pigs

Biosecurity:

Biosecurity measures implemented in the domestic pig farms have to be reinforced and verified regularly directly by the competent veterinary authorities.

Contingency plan:

Individual contingency plan is recommended for every large scale commercial farm including all the procedures for culling and safe disposal of carcasses and potentially contaminated materials.

Official control:

Appropriate strategy for reduction and official control of the low-biosecurity non-commercial pig farms to be adopted and put in force as soon as possible.

Cooperation:

Cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries on any aspects of ASF is strongly encouraged.

Thank you for your attention!

The EUVET team wish to thank all colleagues from Hungary for their support and help given.

*The working atmosphere during the mission was very **friendly.***

