



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE GENERAL
<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr>

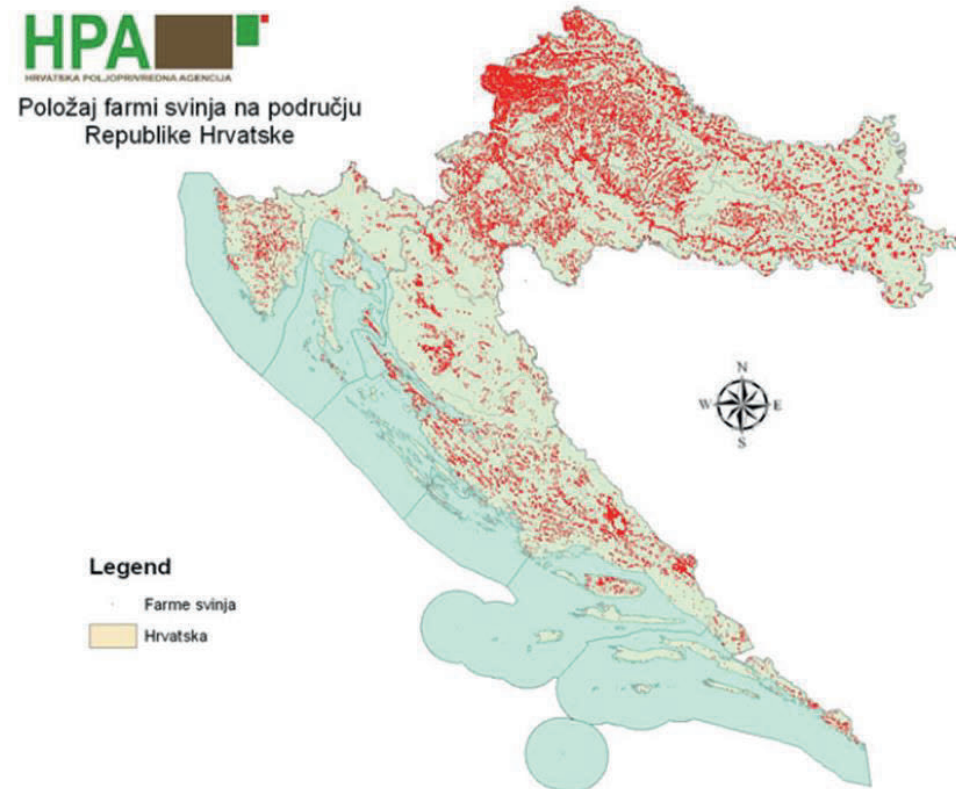
FIRST OCCURENCE OF ASF IN CROATIA

July 13, 2023

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Distribution of establishment keeping pigs

County	No. of establishments	No. of pigs
Bjelovarsko-bilogorska	5119	83660
Brodsko-posavska	4896	117064
Dubrovačko-neretvanska	7	32
Grad Zagreb	882	8985
Istarska	1455	7634
Karlovačka	3670	22897
Koprivničko-križevačka	4632	82161
Krapinsko-zagorska	8043	37052
Ličko-senjska	577	2570
Međimurska	2404	38652
Osječko-baranjska	8030	348402
Požeško-slavonska	2545	37629
Primorsko-goranska	87	740
Sisačko-moslavačka	5885	59075
Splitsko-dalmatinska	851	6889
Šibensko-kninska	93	1373
Varaždinska	5739	57553
Virovitičko-podravska	3868	40622
Vukovarsko-srijemska	6567	199472
Zadarska	187	1903
Zagrebačka	7579	110189
Total	73116	1264554



Wild boar hunting bag

CRO	HUNTING BAG
2018/19	38.702
2019/20	44.570
2020/21	41.120
2021/22	52.464
2022/23	48.893

Wild boar population density (PD) in Vukovar-Srijem County

Parent fund plus yearly increment
PD cca 0,65 per km²

Hunting ground (HG)	HG number	Area (km ²)	Parent fund-planned (PFP)	Parent fund-realized (PFR)	PD planned (PFP / km ²)	PD realized (PFR / km ²)
UKUPNO (km ²)		2.479,32	1.319,00	810,00	0,532001	0,326702

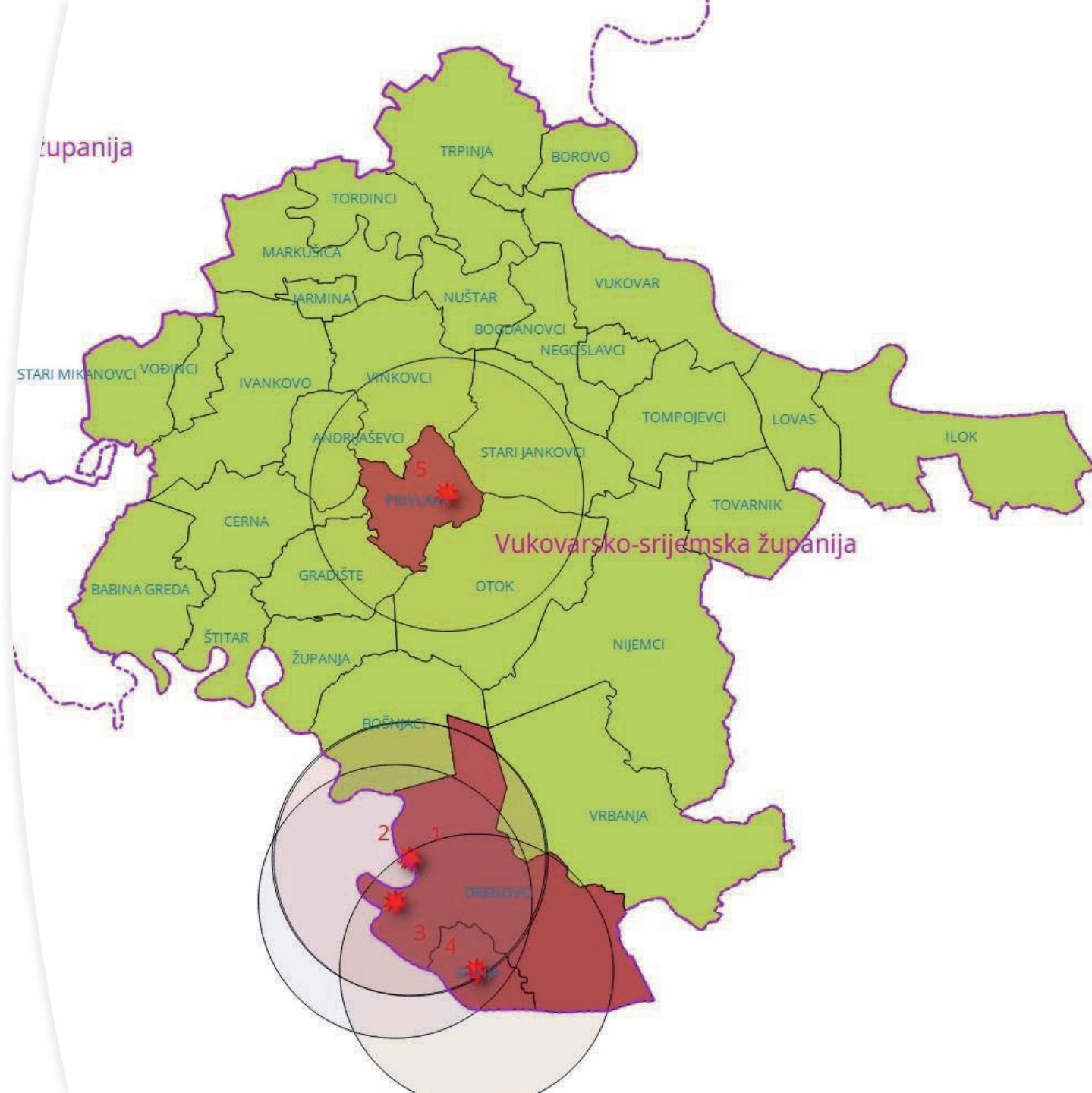
Chronology

- First suspicion notified on June 23
 - Two establishments with outdoor pig keeping system in village Posavski Podgajci, on the border with BiH
 - Veterinarians took blood and spleen samples and veterinary inspector
- ordered preliminary control measures
 - Confirmation on June 26
 - ASF virus confirmed in all blood and spleen samples
 - Culling and preliminary disinfection on June 26



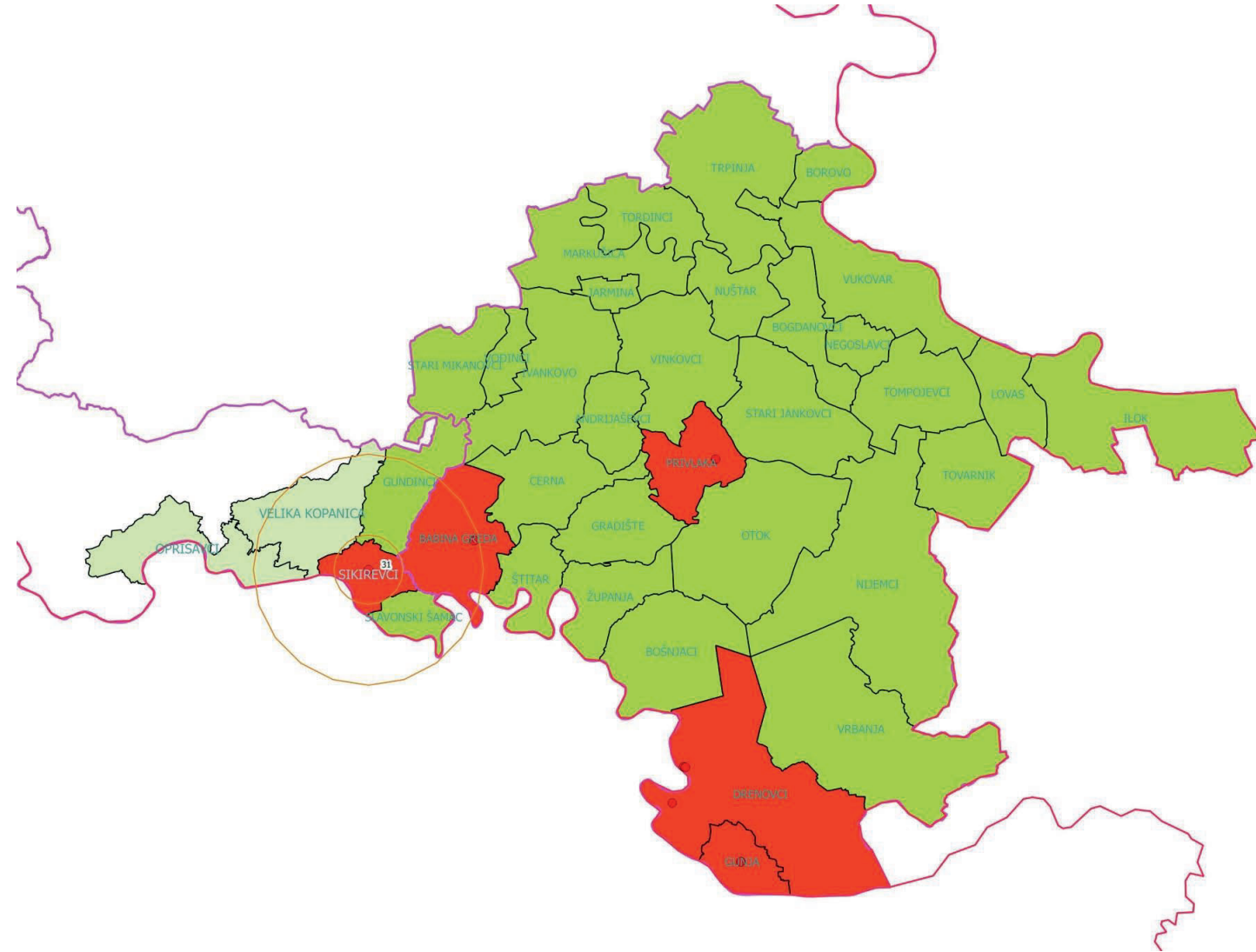
Chronology

- Suspicion on 3 new establishments notified on June 26
 - Gunja, Rajevo Selo and Privlaka
- Confirmation on June 26
- Preliminary measures ordered on June 26
- Restricted zones established on June 28
- Protection zones: municipalities Gunja, Drenovci and Privlaka
- Surveillance zone: remaining territory of Vukovar-Srijem County



Chronology

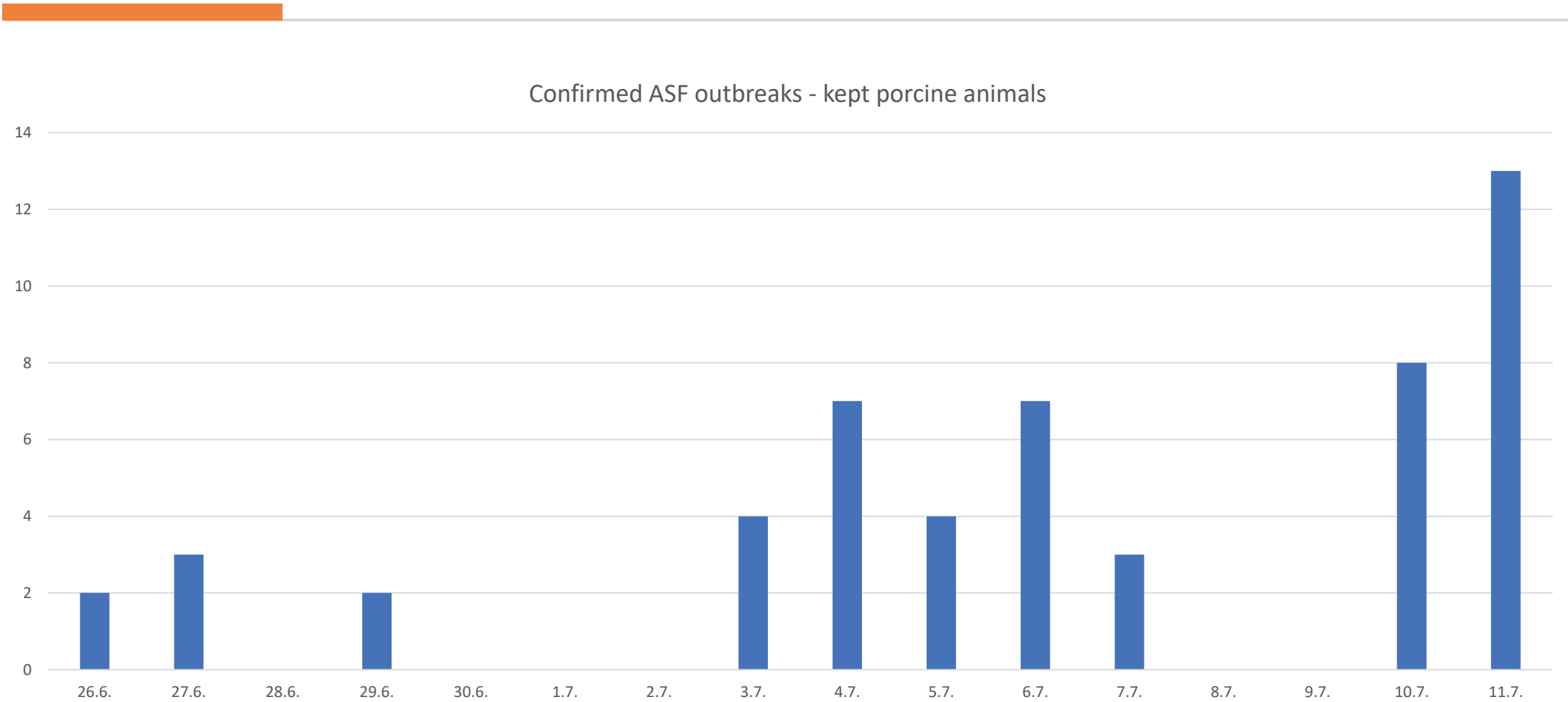
- Up to 30 June - 7 new ASF outbreaks confirmed – all in protection zone
- NDCC – first meeting 30 June in Županja
- On 4 July ASF confirmed on establishment in Babina Greda (surveillance zone)
- Extension of RZ to Brod-Posavina county
- On 5 June first confirmation in wild boar – hunting ground located in Gunja (PZ)
- On June 7, ASF confirmed on establishment in Brod-Posavina county
- Extension of RZ in additional 2 municipalities in Brod-Posavina County on June 7



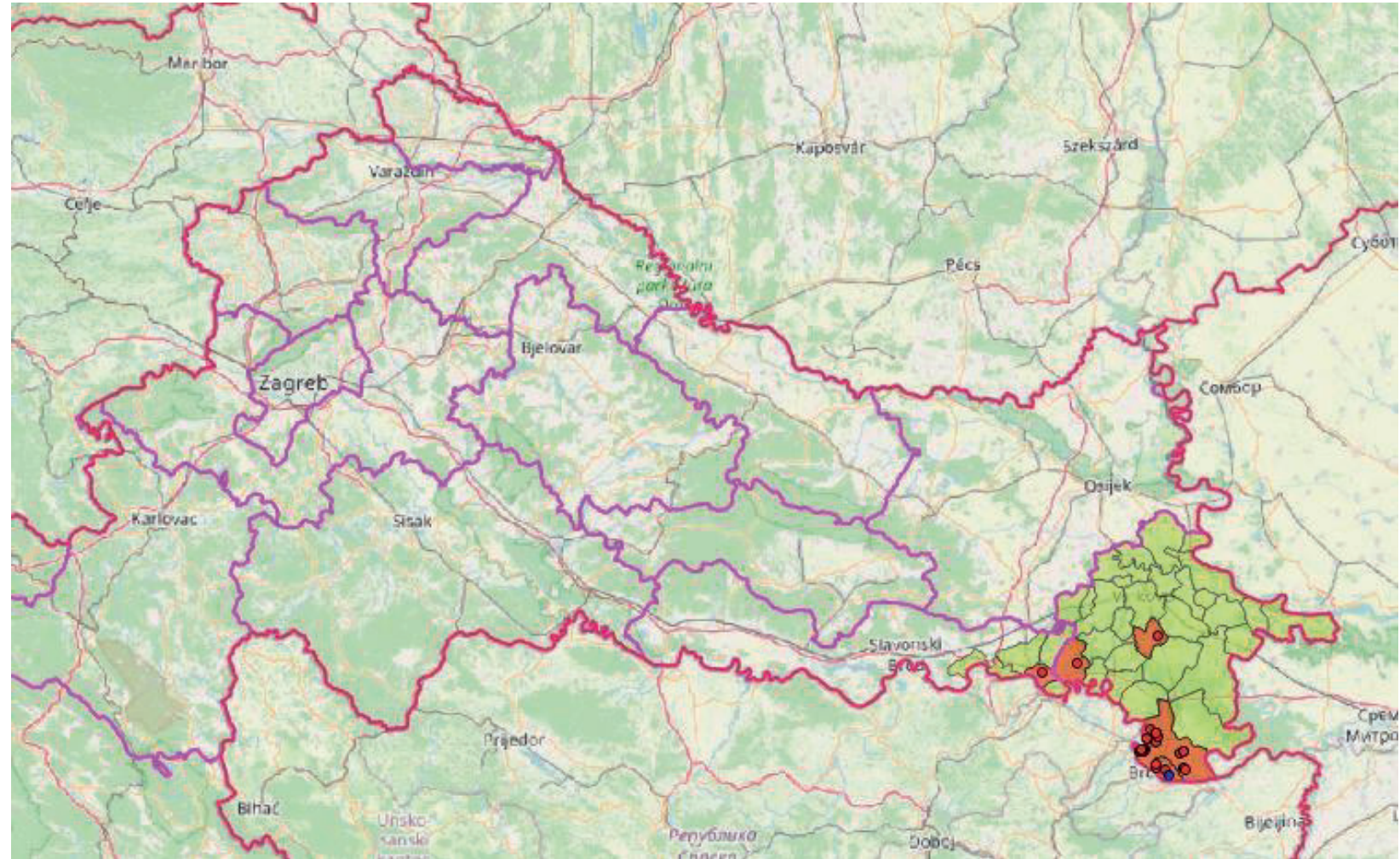
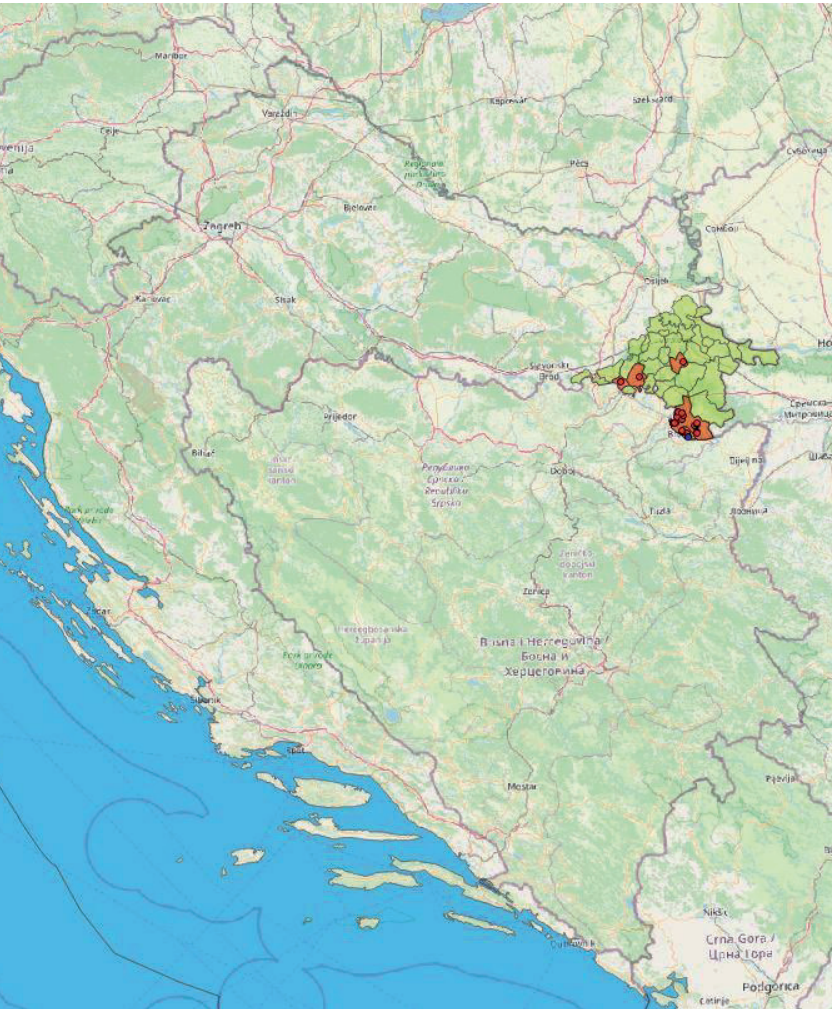
Summary of ASF situation on 11 July 2023

County	Municipality	Village	Establishments	Pigs	Confirmed establishments
Vukovar-Srijem	Drenovci	Drenovci	131	2896	3
		Đurići	30	821	3
		Posavski Podgajci	74	1443	20
		Rajevo Selo	39	525	15
	Gunja	Gunja	54	949	4
	Privlaka	Privlaka	182	2007	1
	Županja	Županja	90	988	2
	Nijemci	Lipovac	62	689	1
	Otok	Otok	341	4818	1
	Vrbanja	Vrbanja	133	1316	1
	Babina Greda	Babina Greda	315	8265	1
Brod-Posavina	Sikirevci	Sikirevci	167	4277	1
TOTAL			1618	28994	53

Timeline



Location of ASF positive establishments and restricted zones



Rajevo Selo 13 ASF positive establishments on July 7



ASF testing in period June 1 – July 10 2023



Passive surveillance kept pigs June 1 - July 10		
County	No of samples tested negative	No of samples tested positive
Vukovar Srijem	239	188
Brodsko-Posavska	184	2
Other counties	792	0

Passive surveillance wild boar June 1 - July 10		
County	No of samples tested negative	No of samples tested positive
Vukovar Srijem	5	1
Brodsko-Posavska	1	0
Other counties	20	0

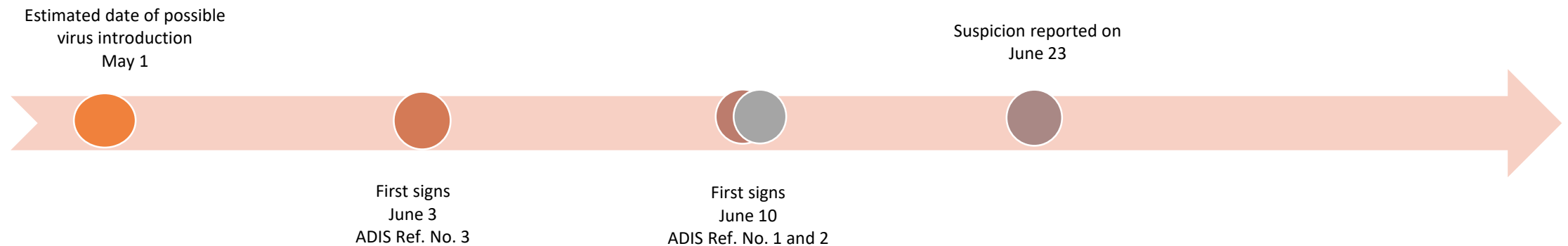
Active surveillance wild boar June 1 - July 10		
County	No of samples tested negative	No of samples tested positive
Vukovar Srijem	58	0
Brodsko-Posavska	64	0
Other counties	193	0

Epidemiological investigation

- Where did the virus come from and how?
- Is there a connection to the epidemic area at the border with BiH?
- When did the virus entered (duration of the high risk period)?
- Identification of the possible primary/index case?
- What are the most immediate and urgent measures based on the current epidemiological situation?

Preliminary results of epidemiological investigation in kept pigs

- According to preliminary results no evidence of ASF positive establishment in period before 1 June
- Index case - one of the first 3 outbreak (prob. primary case outbreak No. 2 or 3)
- Estimation of high risk period - since May 1 (15+15)



Main hypotheses about virus introduction

1. By wild boar (migration from BiH) – ASF in wild boar undetected
2. By human factor – contact with infected area in BiH: operators, visitors, relatives, forest workers, veterinarians
3. Illegal movement of animals and products
4. Indirect transmission: personal vehicles, trucks

Hypothesis No. 1

- No evidence of ASF in wild boar before virus was detected in kept pigs
- First positive WB on July 5 – sanitary hunting of one sick WB (animal was sick not longer than 10 days before hunting)
- No evidence of wild boar presence in the vicinity of affected establishments
- Lack of information about ASF in WB population in BiH

Hypothesis No. 2

- High probability for virus introduction from affected region in BiH
- First two outbreaks in the vicinity of BiH border
- Outbreak No. 2 – forest worker from BiH that live in the BiH region affected by ASF
- Numerous indirect contact with BiH by vehicles and humans on most of affected establishments

Hypothesis No. 3

- No evidence of illegal movement of animals (pigs)
- Illegal movement of animal products cannot be excluded

Hypothesis No. 4

- High probability, most likely in combination with human transmission (Hypothesis No. 2)

Further spreading in the affected region –critical points

- Long period between first signs and suspicion – more than 20 days for outbreak No. 3
- Burial of dead pigs during high risk period (HRP)
- Slaughter of pigs for own consumption
- Numerous direct and indirect contacts during HRP
- Critical contacts: veterinarians and vehicles for collection of dead animals during HRP
- Very low biosecurity in all establishments in the affected region
- Very low ASF awareness (conspiracy theories, irresponsible and ignorant behaviour)

Control measures and activities

- Control measures on affected establishments – Art. 12 Reg. (EU) 2020/687
- Control measures on suspect establishments – Art. 7 Reg. (EU) 2020/687
- In protection zone on each suspect establishment where ASF clinical signs were noticed – preventive culling and sampling was performed
- National and local crisis centre established

Control measures in restricted zone

Order on measures for the control of African swine fever in the Republic of Croatia (OG 70/23) issued on June 28

Prohibitions in the restricted zones

- Movement ban for pigs into, within and outside restricted zone
- Pig slaughter (both in slaughterhouse and on a household)
- Outdoor keeping of pigs, including grazing, except for category 4 establishment
- Natural mating and artificial insemination
- Movement outside the restriction zones of germinal products obtained from pigs kept within the restriction zones
- Movement outside the restriction zones of animal by-products obtained from pigs kept in the restriction zones
- Movement outside the restriction zones of fresh meat and meat products, including casings
- Prohibition of entry of unauthorized persons into establishments, including areas and dwellings where pigs are kept, except for members of the household or staff and authorized veterinarians and inspectors for the purpose of clinical examination and sampling
- Removal of solid manure, slurry and waste water from establishments where pigs are kept
- Feeding pigs with fresh grass and hay collected from agricultural areas in restricted zones
- Use of litter and straw collected from agricultural areas in restriction zones
- Leaving the establishments in protective clothing and shoes and taking them out
- Bringing in and taking out accessories, tools or equipment from pig establishments
- Introduction of food, especially pork and pork-derived products, into pig establishments
- Livestock markets, exhibitions, sports competitions and all other gatherings of animals
- Participation in wild boar hunting or performing any activity related to live or dead (dead or shot) wild boar for all household members and staff at pig establishments

Control measures in restricted zone

Order on measures for the control of African swine fever in the Republic of Croatia (OG 70/23) issued on June 28

Prohibitions in the restricted zones related to wild boar

- Wild boar hunting is prohibited in hunting areas covered by restricted zones
- Hunting authorities in hunting grounds covered by restricted zones must ensure active search for dead wild boars with mandatory reporting to the authorized veterinary organization of found carcasses for the purpose of taking samples and safe disposal
- Sanitary culling of wild pigs showing signs of illness or unusual behavior and mandatory reporting to the authorized veterinary organization for the purpose of taking samples and safe disposal
- Hunters who enter the area of restricted zones are obliged to use protective equipment and carry out disinfection of footwear, equipment and vehicles

Control measures in restricted zone

Order on measures for the control of African swine fever in the Republic of Croatia (OG 70/23) issued on June 28

Mandatory in restricted zone:

- Notification of each dead and sick pig and wild boar
- Increased biosecurity measures
- Establishments with 10 breeding pigs or 100 pigs – mandatory biosecurity plan
- Outside restricted zone preventive measures continue to apply

Derogations

Order on measures for the control of African swine fever in the Republic of Croatia (OG 70/23)

- germinal products obtained from pigs kept within restricted zones, fresh meat and meat products, including casings, obtained from pigs kept within restricted zones and animal by-products obtained from pigs kept within restricted zones may be moved outside restricted zones only for the purpose of safe disposal under the supervision of the veterinary inspection

Amandment of Order on measures for the control of African swine fever in the Republic of Croatia (OG 73/23)

- artificial insemination of pigs is allowed on category 3 establishments located within restricted zones, provided that artificial insemination is carried out by an operator or an employee, with pig semen originating from an approved semen collection establishment
- on category 3 establishments, it is allowed to bring in and take out accessories, tools or equipment for farm maintenance, provided that they are washed, cleaned and disinfected in accordance with technological requirements after and before each use
- Derogations are allowed only on establishments where control measures have not been in place due to suspicion or confirmation of African swine fever

Additional measures and activities

Meeting of Expert committee held on July 6 - conclusions

- Considering the epidemiological situation, the pig keeping tradition, extremely poor biosecurity conditions preventive culling of all kept pigs on unregistered establishments and on establishments category 0, 1 and 2 in protection zones is considered
- Systematical approach of preventive culling of pigs on all epidemiologically linked establishments (direct and indirect links) without prior confirmation of the disease, with the aim of accelerating the removal of the source of infection for other establishments
- Strengthen of control of animal and animal products consignments on the territory of the entire Republic of Croatia
- Awareness campaign should be strengthened directed to operators and public about the disease itself, the socioeconomic consequences it causes due to strict restrictions, importance of disease prevention measures, biosecurity

Preliminary conclusions

The most probable date of introduction of the virus into the Republic of Croatia is between May 1 and May 15 by human factor connected to ASF in BiH

- corresponds with the first notification of ASF in BiH
- corresponds to the development of the disease and first clinical signs detected in first outbreaks
- corresponds to the results of laboratory tests carried out on pigs at first ASF positive establishments (all positive samples)
- corresponds to the detection of the disease in wild boars that was shoot alive with clinical signs, no wild boars found dead and all other laboratory results were negative

Further spreading could be expected depending on the preventive culling dynamic and enforcement of control measures

EUVET mission

- EUVET mission is ongoing
- We thank Commission for organising this mission which will be very helpful for us

Thank you for your attention!