

Foot-and-Mouth Disease EUVET mission to Hungary



(9-12 March 2025)

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Providing on-the-spot assistance

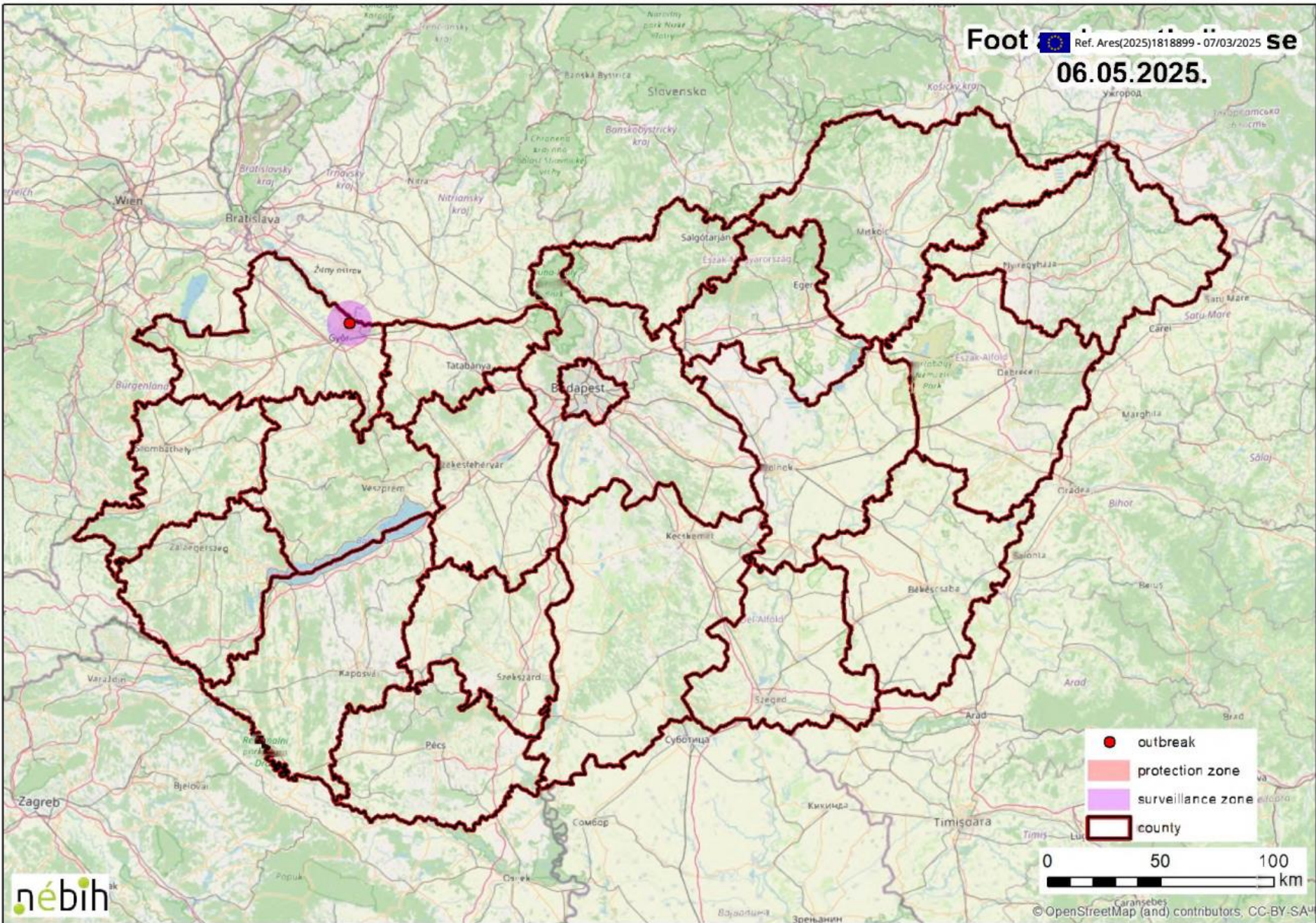
- most suitable FMD eradication measures
- scientific, technical, managerial aspects
- preparedness and surveillance in domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals

- Are the FMD control measures in place in Hungary adequate and effective
- Are the FMD control measures being applied in the County (Komitat) Győr-Moson-Sopron sufficient to prevent spread of FMD within and outside the restricted zones, including biosecurity measures
- Which additional measures are necessary to detect possible further infected premises or to detect possible infection in susceptible wild animals, including surveillance and testing of hunted animals
- Are biosecurity measures applied adequately to protect establishments keeping listed species within the restriction zones
- [GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS BIOLOGICAL EVENTS](https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/Guidelines_Investigation_Suspicious_Biological_Events.pdf)
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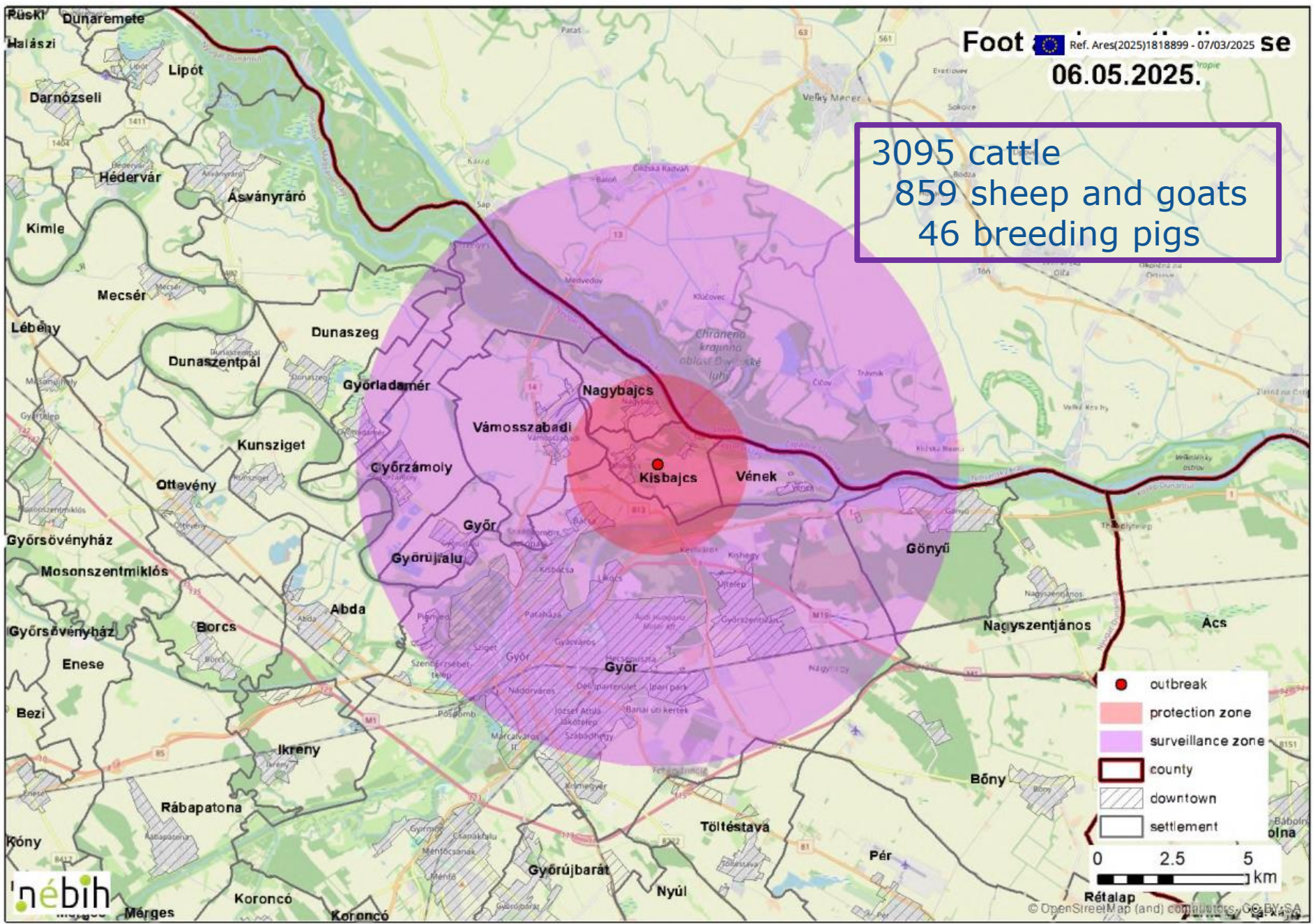
Administrative Division of Hungary



06.05.2025.



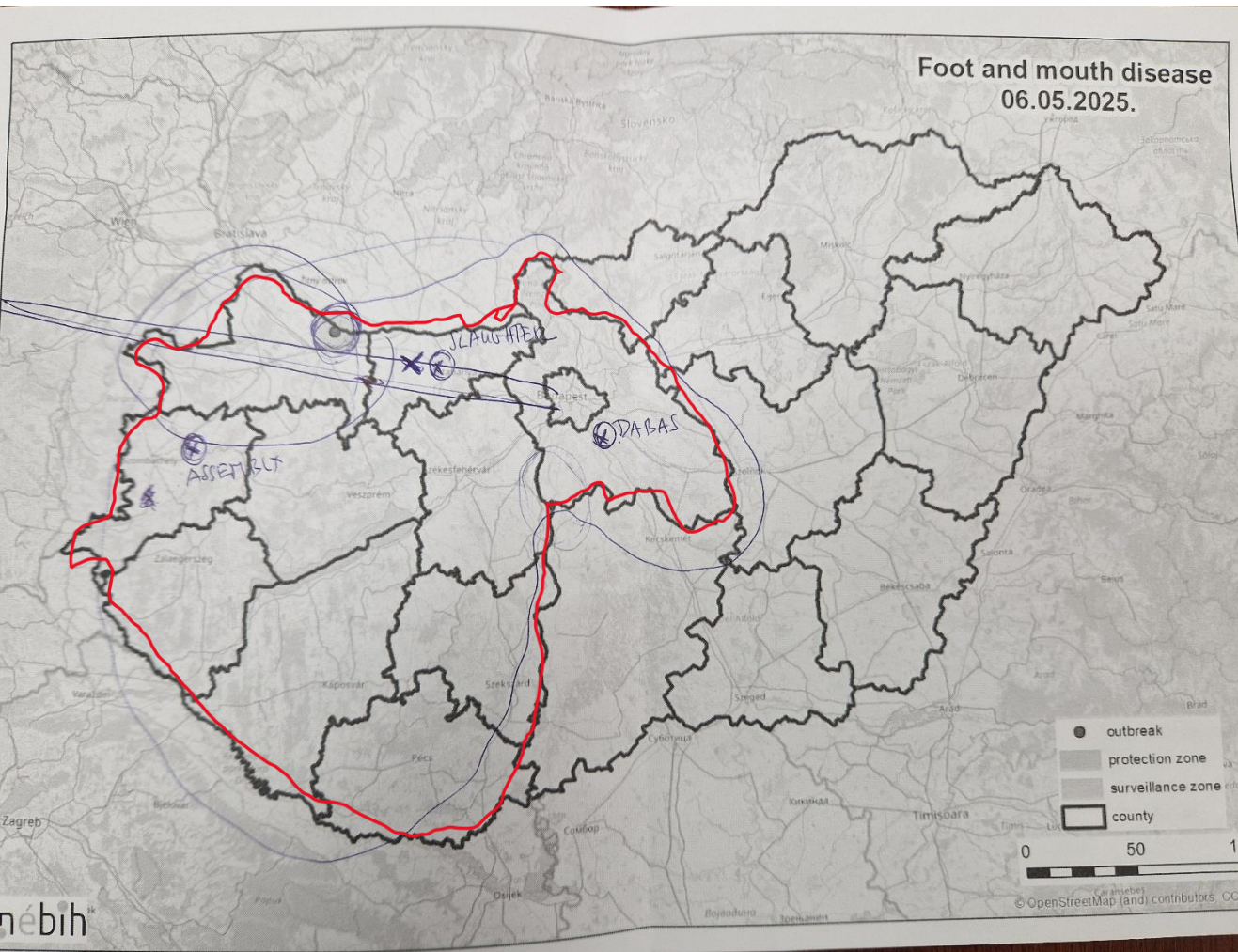
3095 cattle
859 sheep and goats
46 breeding pigs



-  outbreak
-  protection zone
-  surveillance zone
-  county
-  downtown
-  settlement

0 2.5 5 km

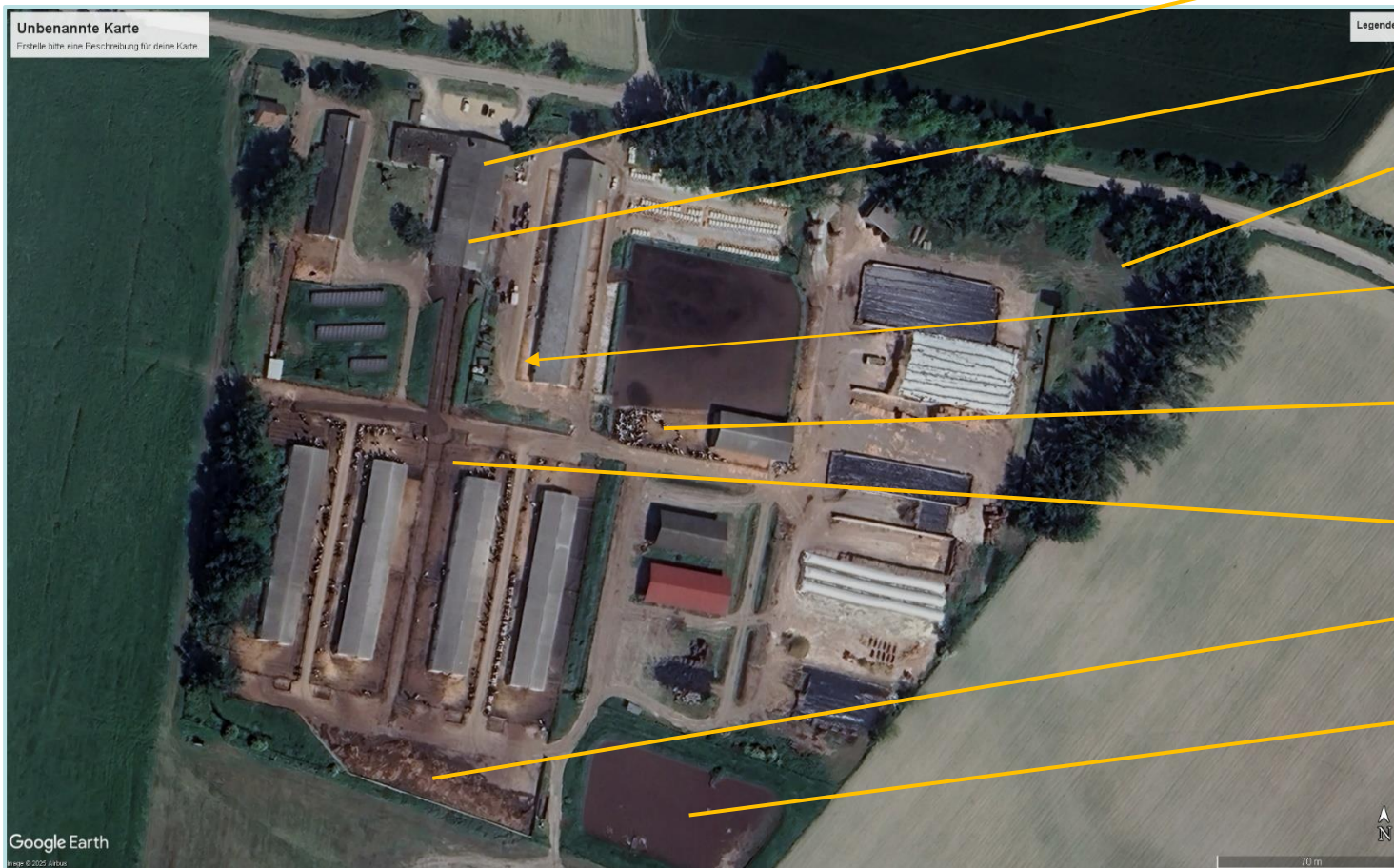
Movement ban



— movement ban



Dairy Farm Kisbajcs



Calving

Milking

Carcas
collection

Calves up to 6
months

Heifers
First Clinical
Signs

Milking Cows

Solid Manure

Liquid Manure

Fattening Unit in Nagybajcs



Chronology

- 3.3.2025 – unspecific signs in heifers (loss of appetite, fever), call vet practitioner, suspect mild fever
- 4.3.2025 – change in fever
- 6.3.2025 – typical clinical signs, call official vet, samples taken, official suspicion, restrictions imposed on holding and labour, confirmation by lab
- 6.3.2025 – official outbreak confirmation, movement ban 72 h, establishment of restriction zones, appearance of clinical signs also in milking cows
- 8.3.2025 – killing 300 animals in fattening Unit, preliminary C&D, continued tracing back (1.2.2025) and forward
- 10.3.2025 – killing of calves up to 6 months (observed)
- 15.3.2025 – estimated end of killing, start preliminary disinfection on dairy farm

Virological and serological investigations (situation 9.3.2025)

Blood and tissue samples were taken from 25 heifers of a group of 90 heifers of which about 80 animals showed clinical signs of FMD. Results:

- 15 samples virus positive NSP negative
 - 6 animals tissue and blood (apparently visible lesions)
 - 9 animals only blood (apparently no visible lesions)
 - 2 samples from heifers moved on 27.2. from fattening Unit
- 10 samples virus negative
 - 1 sample positive in NSP antibody test

Estimated date of first infection: 27-28 February 2025

Further measures taken

- No fairs no markets in country until 17.3.2025
- Closing of public display of animals
- Cooperation with disaster prevention services in preparation of cleansing and disinfection
- Ban on hunting in 10 km zone
- Tracing of milk tank vehicles (13 contact holdings)
- Tracing of rendering plant vehicles (34 contact holdings)
- Tracing of manure – all stored onside
- Tracing of semen used on the farm – all comes from approved AI centres

Investigation of an international movement

- On 27.2.2025 a cattle trader moved a bull from the fattening Unit to an assembly centre in Vas county (see slide 6)
- On 27.2. 2025 the bull was transported to a slaughterhouse in Austria and was slaughtered on 3.3.2025
 - **This bull has undergone two official inspections without signs of FMD having been detected**
- Tracing of the movements of the trader identified 3 contact holdings in Győr-Moson-Sopron County and 1 in Vas County, which are now investigated

Main conclusions and recommendations

Overall disease control strategy

- The mission team did not identify major shortcomings in the overall disease control strategy in the Győr-Moson-Sopron County of Hungary;
- The team noted a close cooperation between the district veterinary services and the veterinary services of the County, and although a local disease control centre has been set up according to the applicable legislation, due to the limited number of personnel at the regional and local level, there's no dedicated staff for local coordination apart from the county and district chief veterinary officer;
- The competent authorities are sufficiently equipped but appeared to be understaffed
- The team observed delays in gathering and a systematic processing of important epidemiological information (e.g. follow up on tracing results, linking lab results with epidemiological inquiry etc)
- The team noted the valuable assistance provided by the National Reference Laboratory in Budapest, which has all the capacities to carry out the necessary testing and may invoke, in case of need, two more regional labs.

Main conclusions and recommendations

- According to available information there is no indication that the virus was introduced into the establishment through movements of animals or semen, and at lesser certainty equipment or vehicles. Role of people carrying virus onto the farm remains unclear.
- While hunting is prohibited in the 10 km restriction zone, efforts should be made to obtain as many as possible samples from wild cloven hoofed animals, taking into account hunting rules. Samples obtained from wildboar, shot and found dead should also be tested for FMD.
- Kept animals of listed species should be protected by adequate and reinforced biosecurity measures with particular emphasis on outdoor holdings, possible contact to wildlife and with respect to agroterrorism.
- There is an urgent need to speed up the gathering, processing and mapping of information on surveillance carried out in restricted areas and on tracing back and forward
- All the restriction measures should be applied not only in line with EU legislation but also with the view to a possible recovery of the WOAHP FMD freedom
- Close cooperation with Slovakia is necessary, in particular in respect of information on scheduled disease control activities.

Main conclusions and recommendations

Surveillance

- Due to the peculiarities of the causative virus and the undetermined origin of the infection and the ways of introduction, and taking into account possible risks of contamination of the environment, frequent and regular visits to establishments keeping animals of listed species shall be carried out, taking into account also the principles of risk-based surveillance.
- Surveillance should primarily monitor the spread of FMDV. This requires a well-designed surveillance strategy, which should be coordinated by an expert group at central level.
- Transport of kept terrestrial animals of listed species should be reduced to the minimum and in accordance with established biosafety rules. In this context it is recommended to maintain an adapted “stand still” at least until the essential investigations already initiated had been completed with satisfactory results.
- There is a well founded need to introduce ELISA testing for the detection of antibodies to structural proteins of the serotype O



The EU-VET team would like to thank all colleagues In Hungary for their support and assistance.

The EU-VET team experienced a fruitful and cooperative working atmosphere during the mission.