

Mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Slovakia

(26-28 August 2018)



Objective

- **Reason: occurrence first positive** result for ASF in domestic pigs in backyard farms and cases in wild boar in Trebisov region.
- **ToR:** provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the refinement of the most suitable eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards epidemiological investigations, registration of holdings and management of the restricted areas.
- **Expert**: Team leader-Vittorio Guberti (Italy), Krzysztof Jazdzewski (Poland); Paulius Bušauskas (Lithuania)



Agenda

Meetings and field visits were organized by regional veterinary authority as follows:

1st day – meeting with RVFA Trebišov, visit to the first ASF outbreak farm in Slovakia (Stražne), meeting with a major of village;

2nd day – meeting with the owner of commercial farm, visit hunting ground with ASF presence, visit border area, visit second farm on ASF outbreak, visit commercial farm.

3rd day – final meeting in RVFA Trebišov

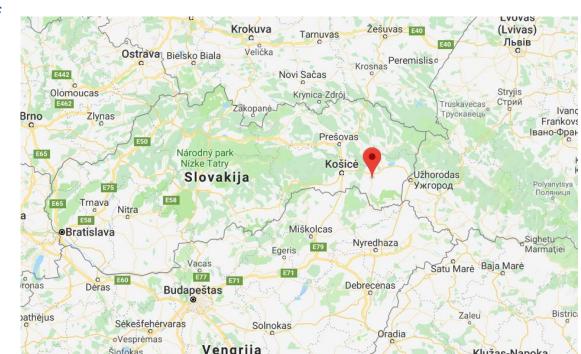


Background

Trebisov Region:

- The Trebisov district is about 1100 km2;
- 180 back yard farms were registered, but following the first outbreak the number of registered farms increased to 456;
- According to legislation farmers slaughtering pigs for own consumption should inform private practitioner for anteand postmortem inspection;
- The area located into an a recognised ASF high risk area.

Since the beginning of 2019 it was compulsory to register all farms including the ones with one pig only





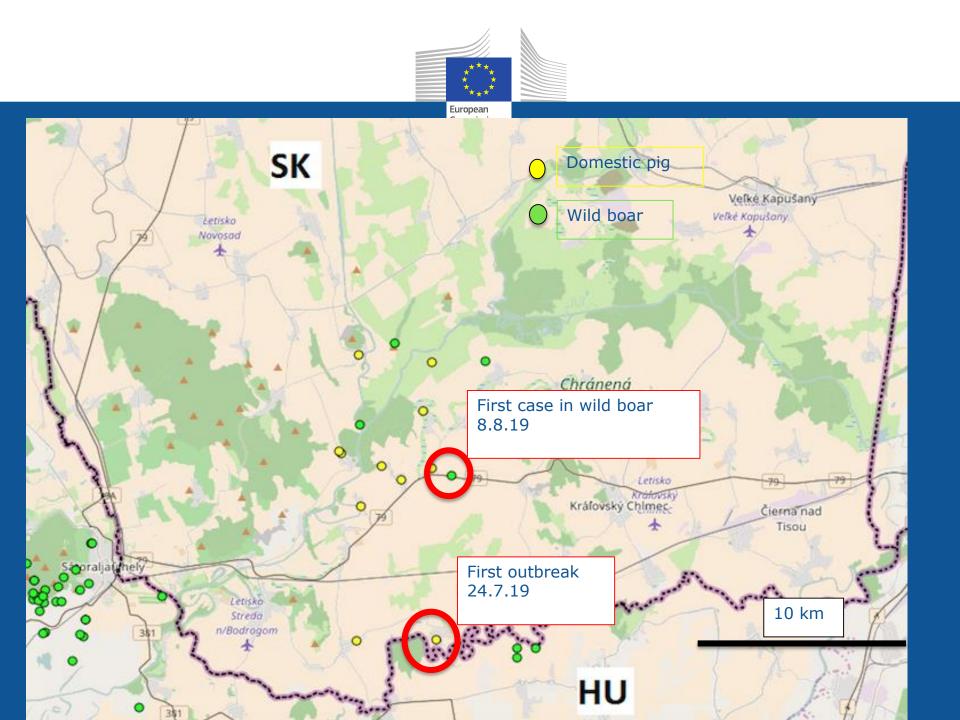
Epidemiological situation in Slovakia

At the time of the mission Slovakia has notified 10 outbreaks in non-commercial farms and 4 cases in wild boar;

The domestic pig outbreaks were observed during the period 24 July - 19 August;

The virus spread with a south-north direction being the first infected pig farm located in the village of Strazne few hundreds meters from the Hungarian border similarly for the second outbreak (village of Kemenec)





ASF IN Slovakia

- On 24th of July 2019 the NRL for ASF confirm first positive result for ASF in domestic pigs;
- 4 pigs kept in effected farm;
- The mission was informed that firstly the pigs were treaded by the vet with antibiotics after few days samples were taken for ASF;
- Just one pig was sick;
- The samples were tested positive for both: ASF virus and antibodies;
- The introduction of the virus was estimated around 10 July.
- The farm was not registered and pigs a kept for a long time before (30 years).



ASF IN Slovakia

- In the second outbreak only one dead pig was present and later tested ASF positive;
- 2 days before another pig was home-slaughtered;
- The meat of the slaughtered one was virus negative;
- The farm was not registered (15 years pigs kept)





WILD BOARS

1 visit to hunting ground

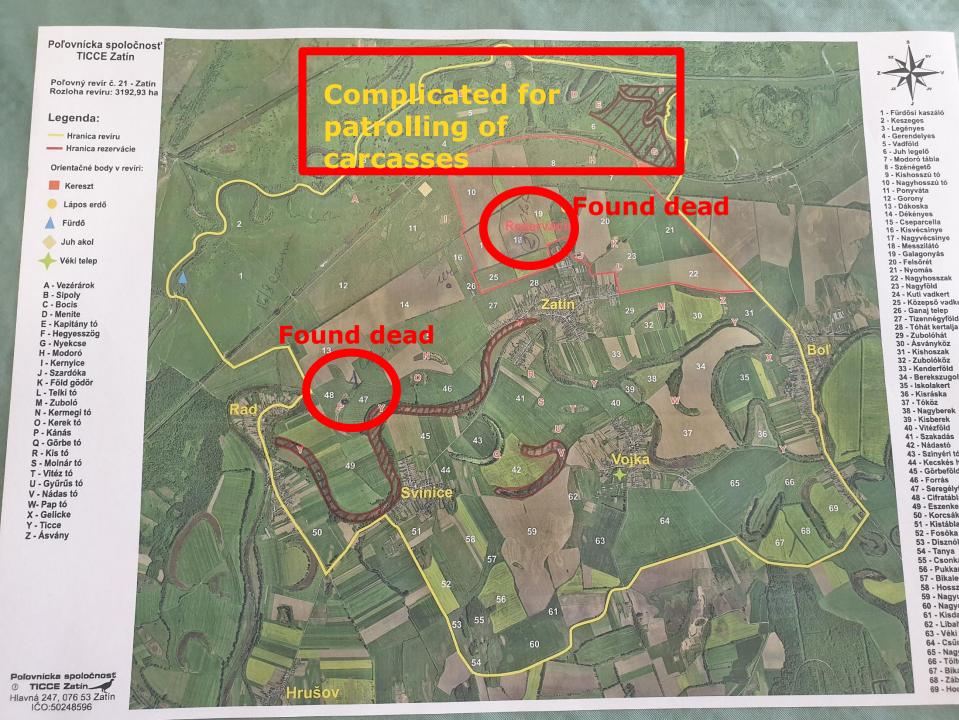
The first case in wild boar was detected on 8th August close to Svätuse village;

6 km north to the first infected farm;

The ASF positive animal was shot while showing abnormal behavior;

The second case (15.08) was a dead wild boar found at about 8 km from the 1st one.









WILD BOARS





Measures implemented:

The CA promptly established ban of hunting;

The exact procedures for the active search of wild boar carcasses are still unclear

Wild boar carcass detection is awarded with 50 euros and additional 50 euros are given when the animal is tested ASF positive;

The biosecurity measures for safe disposal of carcasses are in place



Findings and Conclusions

Both wild boar and back yard domestic pigs populations are involved in the current ASF epidemic. The specific epidemiological role played by the 2 populations is shadowed by a number of findings:

- a) High percentage (≈70 %) outbreaks in not registered farms;
- b) Low level of biosecurity in back yard farms;
- c) Home slaughtering during the incubation phase (second infected farm) and consequent testing of matrices not listed in the ASF Diagnostic Manual;
- Lack of awareness of both practitioners and back yard farm owners regarding registration of farms including the one pig only ones;
- e) Insufficient level of passive surveillance in wild boar (first case detected in a shot sick animal).



Findings and Conclusions

The risk of further spread of the virus is enhanced by the unclear epidemiological situation including the number of back yard farms not yet registered;

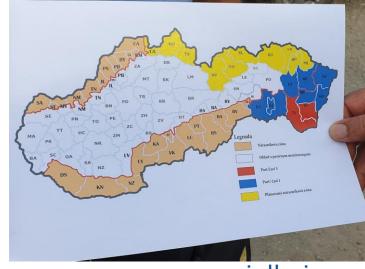
The undefined geographical distribution of the virus in the wild boar population.



Registration of back yard:

To complete an exhaustive census of the back yard farms directly involving Official Veterinarians and practitioners; the census should cover all the risk area (set in 2018) along the border with Hungary

To strength the collaboration with the practitioners aimed at improving farm registration and early detection of the virus.



Surveillance system:

To organize an addressed active search of wild boar carcasses especially in bordering, still free, areas. Attention should be given to the forest west to river Bodrum and north to the present infected area



Movement control:

To strength animal movement control in whole area identified at risk;

Guidelines:

To prepare and make available guidelines addressing the main activities foreseen in the eradication program. I.e. responsibility and modalities for active search of carcasses; procedures for animal movement between different areas; legal bases for the full involvement of practitioners etc;



Biosecurity:

To guide the enforcement of the prescribed biosecurity measures in both commercial and back yard including regular inspections;

Carcasses collection center:

To establish, in the wild boar infected area, a unique wild boar carcasses collection centre where sampling can be carried out and followed by a safe disposal of carcasses through rendering



Awareness:

To raise the maximum level of awareness among back yard and commercial pig farm owners, hunters and Environmental Authorities.

Collaboration:

To strength the collaboration and data sharing with neighbouring Member States - possibly with the assistance of the European Commission - in order to develop a common strategy for the control and eradication of ASF since the virus is affecting a shared wild boar population.



Thank you for your attention!

The CVET team wish to thank all colleagues from Republic of Slovakia for their support and help given.

The working atmosphere during the mission was excellent.

