

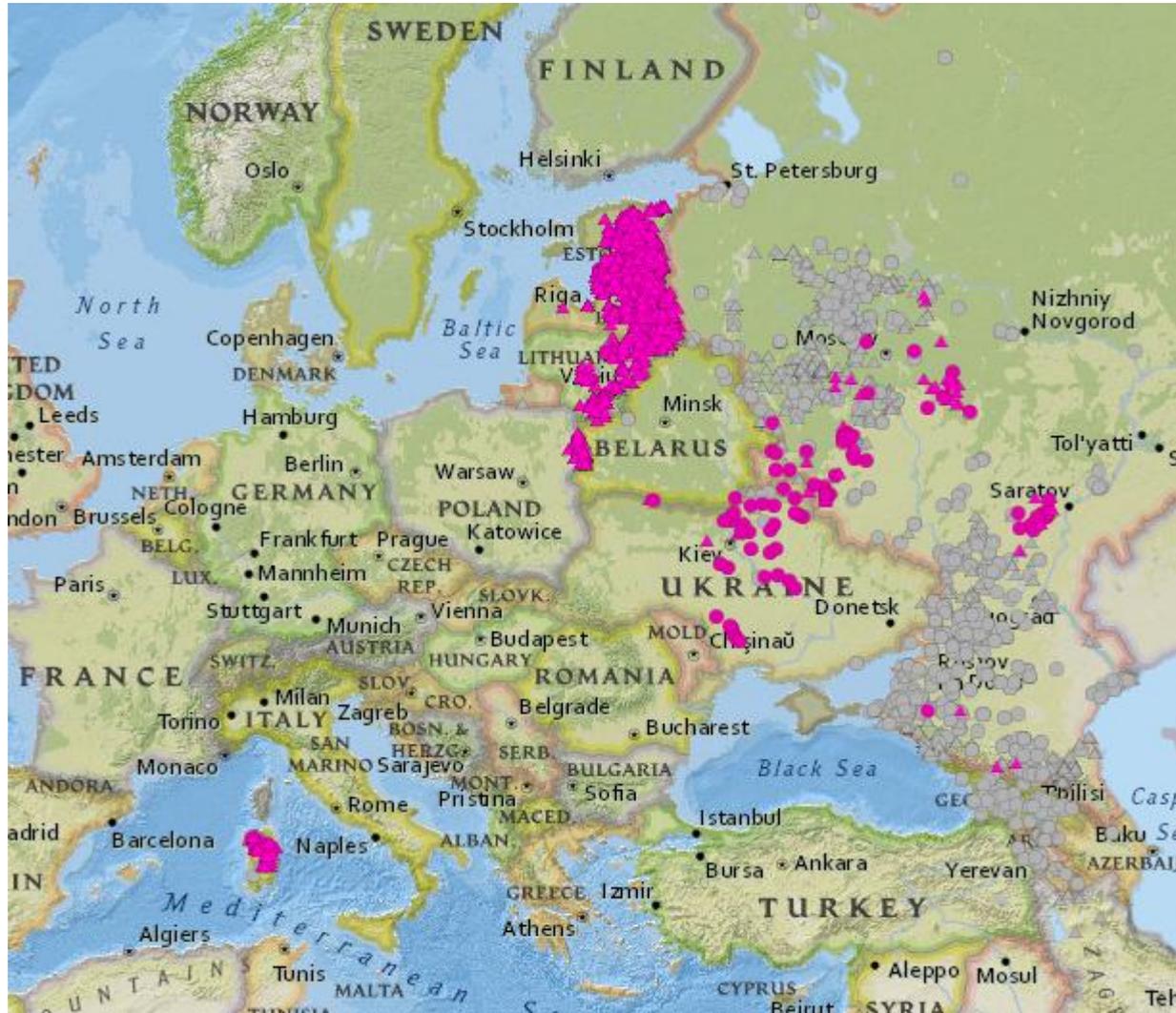
Visit of the executive Director of EFSA  
Dr. Bernhard Url

# African Swine Fever: an E.U. trans-boundary challenge

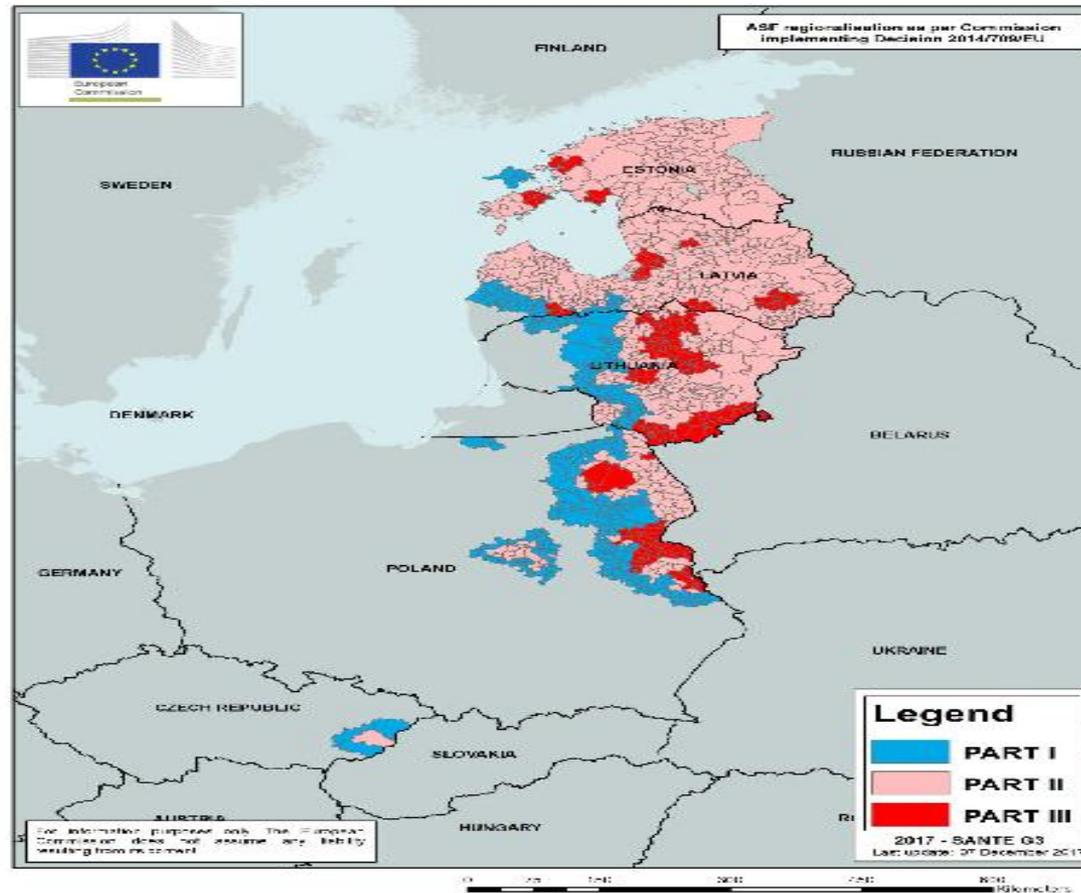
Pierdavide Lecchini

Office 3 «Animal health control and management - Center for management of animal diseases emergencies»

# Map summarising the disease spread in Europe



# Map summarising the current regionalisation applied in Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

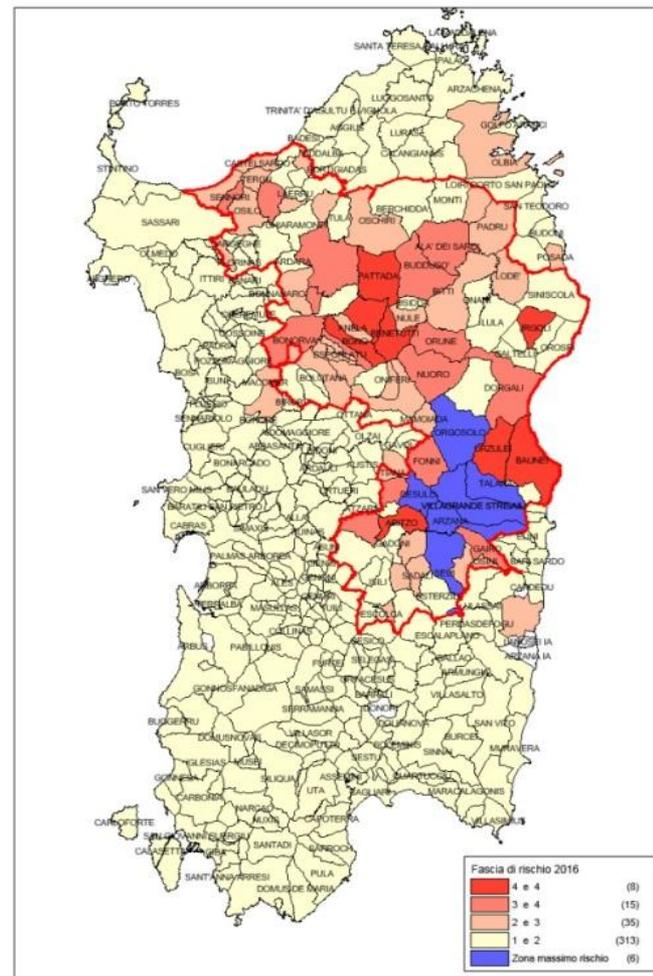
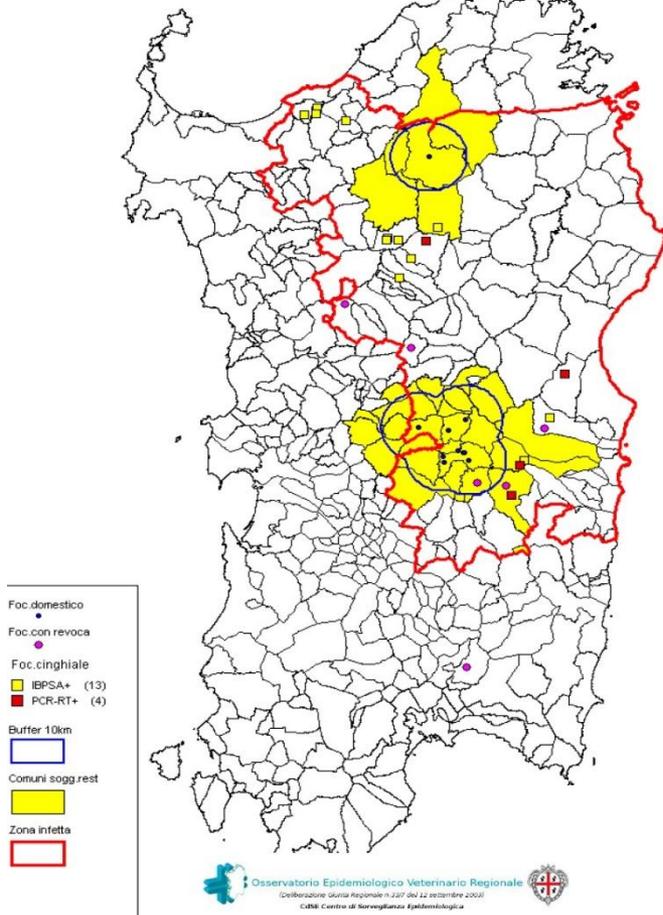


# Map of Sardinia showing the ASF situation in 2017 as at 27 October

# ASF infected areas and municipalities risk categorization in Sardinia

Peste Suina Africana 2017

Mappa 10 KM al 27-ott-17





## Gaps remaining as regards to ASF epidemiology and pathogenesis (1)

1. **Virulence genes and genes related to host protection** and immune evasion are largely unknown.
2. The **role of multigene families**, the antigenic variability, and evasion of immune response are uncertain.
3. **Factors in the host** that determine viral persistence and interactions between ASFV and suids that are tolerant to ASFV infection need to be clarified.
4. The **specific role of different hosts, vectors and environmental factors** in disease propagation needs to be clarified for the different epidemiological scenarios.
5. **Gaps in sanitary control of wild boar populations** make ASF control difficult.



## Gaps remaining as regards to ASF epidemiology and pathogenesis (2)

6. **Disease modelling technologies** including wild boar, human activities and vector data are needed to implement control actions based on risk.
7. **Reassessing routes of introduction and transmission** to identify regions most at risk and raising awareness among hunters, farmers and veterinarians should be the priorities for ASF control.
6. Advances in **non-invasive sampling** are required in order to facilitate surveillance in affected areas, and current and future tests need to be optimized, harmonized and validated for non-invasive matrices.
7. Ultimately, ASF prevention and control could benefit tremendously from an **ASFV vaccine**, but despite some advances, a safe, effective vaccine is still lacking.

## There is no a single recipe for preventing ASF (1)

- **Preventive measures are crucial** for avoiding the introduction of infectious diseases into herds and their subsequent spread.
- **Feasibility and efficacy of prevention and control measures**(farms confined, outdoor or backyards)
- **Farm biosecurity standards**, biosecurity-related activities.
- **Parameters in the epidemiological situation** (domestic and/or wild population).
- **Legislation, economic resources and logistical aspects.**
- **Farmers and farm staff need awareness.**

## There is no a single recipe for preventing ASF (2)

- **Early suspicion and identification** of suspected disease, early diagnosis of disease, identification of subacute/unapparent infected animals.
- Control failures may be caused by **cultural practices**, trade of infected products and throwing away food observed in some cultures.
- In contrast, **passive surveillance may not be sufficient** for early disease detection in the case of moderately virulent ASFV isolates or infection of wild boar or wild suids.
- A priority is **to develop new, non-invasive methods to sample** wild populations, particularly given the current situation in northern Europe.

# Impact and Risk factors

African swine fever (ASF) causes **greater sanitary, social and economic impacts** on swine herds than many other swine diseases.

EFSA has updated the epidemiological analysis of the ASF in the EU

EFSA has documented a **temporal model of the epidemic and the risk factors** that facilitate its spread

The analysis of risk factors has shown an association between the number of **human settlements, the size of populations of domestic pigs and the population density of wild boars** for the purpose of the spread of ASF in in many Eastern European countries

**Cooperation** on ASF, in particular in terms of **data sharing and analysis of the size and density of the wild boar population**, should be extended to the Member States at risk in order to increase their preparedness to cope with the disease.

## What about a new control strategy?

It seems **the right time for a reassessment of the approach** towards the ASF regarding the legislation and the existing control policies to be adopted both on the infected territories and on those at high risk, as well as on the vast areas still unharmed in the European Union.

**Epidemiological situation in the wild assessed separately from that relating to infection in domestic pigs** (new ASF chapter of the OIE Terrestrial Code)

**Regionalization and EU measures should be based on EFSA's new scientific opinion** and experience gained by the GF-TADs Group (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) and the Member States concerned.

## Outcome from the discussions under the Estonian Presidency

- a) A balance **between measures to eradicate the disease and the sustainability of the agricultural sector**, animal welfare and commercial activities;
- b) Consistency of the measures to **guarantee to the Third Countries commercial partners a real control of the disease**;
- c) **Revision of the Impl. Dec. 2014/709/EU** to provide clearer and more flexible measures to include the States concerned in Ann. II or III ex level of risk.
- d) Possibility of carrying out **preventive slaughter and applying extension of regionalization** according to some serious circumstances;
- e) **development of “ad hoc” actions in case the disease switch to endemic**;
- f) **improvement of biosecurity standards in pig holdings**, in particular on small and non-commercial farms;
- g) **improvement and review of passive surveillance**, in particular when home slaughtering takes place;
- h) biosecurity measures **with regard to hunting** applied taking into account the available resources;
- i) **communication campaigns** to raise awareness among hunting communities;

**DGSAF**



*Ministero della Salute*

**Direzione generale della sanità animale e dei farmaci veterinari**

Thanks for the attention