

# GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltics and Eastern Europe  
Region under the GFTADs**

## **Expert mission on African swine fever in Lithuania**

Standing Group of Experts on ASF  
in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region  
GF TADs – 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (SGE3)  
Moscow, 15 – 16 March 2016

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Disclaimer: The views and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the independent experts and may not in any circumstances be construed as the official position of their organisation, nor of the EC, OIE or FAO.

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# Terms of Reference

- The experts should perform on the spot visits in order to gather data and be in a position to formulate recommendations on disease management.
  - The experts should work with the Veterinary Services in order to determine the following aspects:
    - If African swine fever (ASF) is occurring in domestic pigs (both in commercial sector and the so called back yard sector) and extent of the areas of occurrence.
    - If ASF is occurring in wild boar and geographical distribution of ASF in wild boar.
    - Formulate hypothesis on the drivers of ASF occurrence for domestic pigs and back yards.
  - Propose measures intended for the control and eradication of ASF under local conditions, in line with the OIE International Standards.
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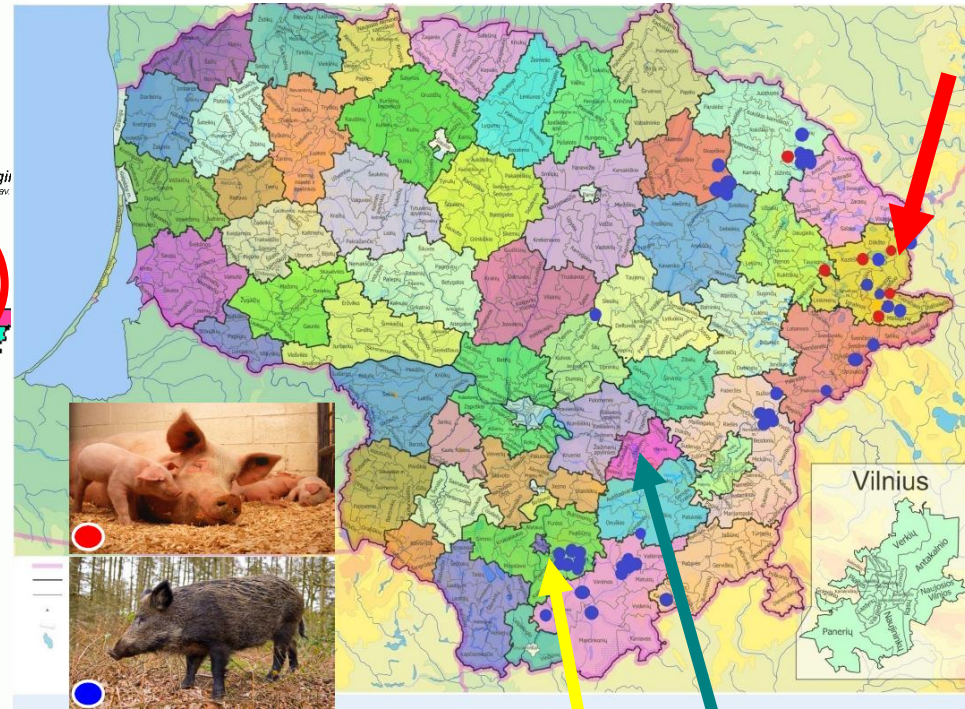
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# Expert Mission on ASF in Lithuania

- ❖ **Period:** from 30 March to 3 April 2015
  - ❖ **SGE Experts:** Silvia Bellini (Team Leader), Konstantine Gruzdev, Vittorio Guberti and Sergei Khomenko, that could not be present.
  - ❖ **Places visited during the mission:**
    - **Vilnius:** Central Veterinary Office
    - **Kaišiadorys:** south part of Lithuania, from 1st of April listed in **part I** of the Annex to CD 2014/709/EU.
    - **Alytus:** south part of Lithuania, listed in **part II** of the Annex to CD 2014/709/EU.
    - **Ignalina** district municipality: east part of Lithuania, at the border with Belarus. The region is listed in **part III** of the Annex to CD 2014/709/EU.
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# Lithuania

## places visited during the mission



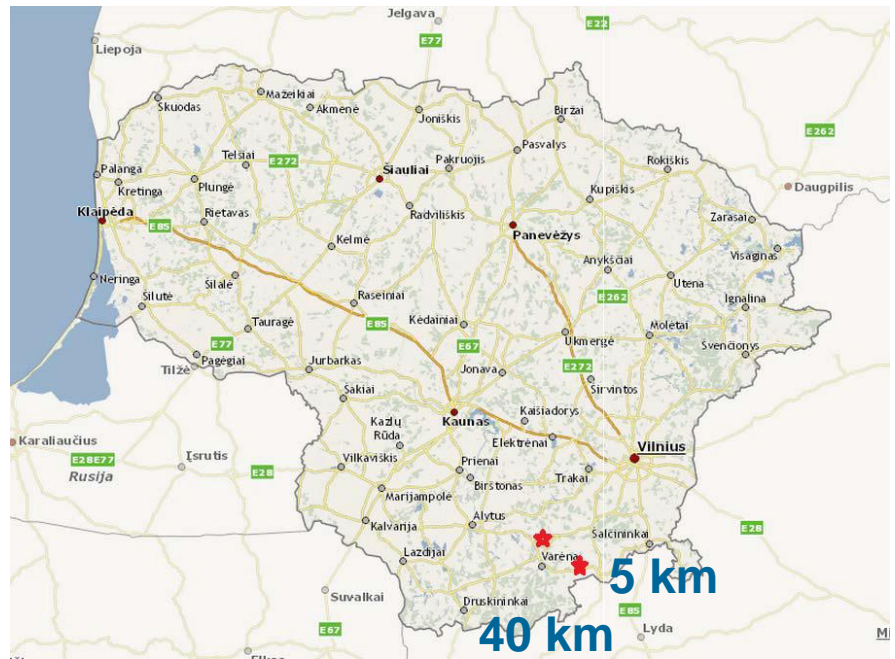
In each region we visited:

- The Local Veterinary Office (LVO)
- A commercial pig holding
- A Hunting Ground

# ASF in Lithuania

## Epidemiological Background

- First ASF detection on 24.01.14 in 2 WB, 1 hunted (Salcininkai), 2<sup>nd</sup> found dead (Alytus/Varena)
- The Lithuanian ASFV had 100% sequence homology with the ASFV detected in Belarus in 2013 (Grodno region)
- Since 1<sup>o</sup> detection, 109 cases in WB (\*):
  - 76 in 2014
  - 33 in 2015 (\*)
- In July 2014 ASF was reported also in domestic pigs (Ignalina). Afterwards, 5 outbreaks were reported in the area. Last one on 31.08.14.
- At the time of the visit surveillance was ongoing and there was no evidence of infection in domestic pigs



BELARUS

(\*) at the date of the visit

# Lithuania: general information

## ■ Domestic Pigs population in Lithuania (01.03.2015):

- Pig holdings: **14.541** (96.3% of which are backyards)
- Pigs: **582.090** (7,6% of which are in backyard holdings)

**bio-security:** minimum requirements for pig holdings were established in 2011 (CSF fever in domestic pigs). In 2013, the requirements were reinforced in Lithuania after the confirmation of ASF in Belarus. A buffer zone was established at the border with Belarus and the holdings not meeting the basic requirements were requested to slaughter pigs. The owners of these holdings were compensated to avoid restocking for at least one year

## ■ Wild Boar

- 31.12.2013: **61.795**
- 31.12.2014: **22.322**

Recommendations to reduce the wild boar population have been given to hunters by the Central Veterinary Authority

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# Biosecurity in pig holdings

**Since October 2014**

## **1. Category I - Commercial pig farms.**

The owner is obliged to fully implement the biosecurity requirements applicable in the pig holdings.

## **2. Category II - Non-commercial pig farms (minimum biosecurity requirements)**

- Pigs kept only for own consumption;
    - No swill feeding,
    - No contact with susceptible animals (indoor keeping) and with part of feral pig (hunted or dead wild boar/meat/by-products),
    - The owner should change clothes when entering/leaving the stable,
    - Disinfection/disinfectants at the entrance of holding,
    - No unauthorized persons in the pig holding,
    - Home slaughtering under veterinary supervision
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# Lithuania: General Information

## pig holding registration

- Veterinary Service were in the process of reviewing the national legislation on pig holding registration and for backyards (NCF) that are located in the areas under restriction, the new rules foresee that they can have a maximum of 5 fattening pigs, without breeders.

**GOOD PRACTICE**

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# Surveillance in pig holdings in 2015

In the entire country: enhanced passive surveillance (combined with active in accordance with national animal disease control program);

## In Part I, II and III of the Decision 2014/709/EU

### ➤ **Official Checks:**

1. Inspection: biosecurity check and pigs census (number of pigs reported in the CDB, in animal register and real number of pigs kept) minimum 2/year;
2. clinical investigation and in case of suspicion – examination, collection of samples and testing;

➤ In non commercial farms (category II) pigs are slaughtered under official control, examined and tested.

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# Surveillance and control in Wild Boar

- **Lithuania (whole territory)**
  - **Passive Surveillance:** All found dead wild boars (including road kills) have to be, compulsory, reported to the Competent Authorities and tested for ASF. (passive surveillance)
  - **Active Surveillance:** 59 samples (minimum) for County, to be tested for ASF (virus and antibody detection)
- **Territories in Part I, II and III of the Decision 2014/709/EU**  
all wild boar hunted and found sick/dead are checked and tested for ASF (passive and active surveillance)

In infected and risk areas, artificial feeding was forbidden. Whilst, attractive feeding was permitted (100 kg/hunting tower/winter)

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# KAŠIADORYS

## (Part I)

### Local Veterinary Office (LVO)

Local Vet Service was well equipped and resulted well connected with the Central Authority. Good exchange of information with the Hunter Association and the Farmers. They reacted properly to presence of ASF in the neighboring county.

### Commercial pig holding (close cycle breeding farm)

The Team was positively impressed by the infrastructure, the production parameters, the management system and also by the proactive attitude of the manager of the holding. **Biosecurity in the holding was already high but it was strengthened to cope with the risk of ASF in the neighboring regions:**

- 1) **buying land around the farm, double fencing the holding, electifying the fence near the woods..**
- 2) **Motivating farm personnel**

**GOOD PRACTICE**

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# KAŠIADORYS

## (Part I)

**Surveillance:** properly conducted.

In **wild boar** the number of sampled animals largely exceeded the foreseen sampling intensity (59 individuals). In fact, sampling increased as a precautionary measure due to the detection of a positive wild boar in the bordering territory of Jonava. **GOOD PRACTICE**

### Recommendations

- Hunting bag data should be considered as the most accurate indicator of the actual wild boar population size.
  - In the hunting ground, the entrance of the dressing area should be provided with appropriate means for cleaning and disinfection
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# ALYTUS

## (Part II)

### Local Veterinary Office (LVO)

- It is one of the two regions in which ASF was first identified in 2014. The disease is still present in the area, in fact 18 cases were reported in wild boar in 2014 and 5 in 2015.
- The region is divided into 11 parishes and currently in 7 there are no pigs. In 2014 pigs were slaughtered as precautionary measure.
- At the time of the visit 543 pig holdings, 1 of which commercial.
- Census for domestic pigs is updated quarterly.
- ~~Since 2013 they conducted awareness campaigns and training (hunters, private vets and pig keepers)~~

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# ALYTUS

## (Part II)

### Commercial pig holding (close cycle breeding farm)

- The holding was well conducted and it has a good bio-security system in place. The farm has a direct contract with an authorized veterinarian in order to ensure a strict control over the health status of the farm.
  - Also in this occasion the Team was well impressed by the attitude of the owner, she understood the risk posed by the presence of ASF in the neighboring area, she followed the advices of veterinary services and tries to improve the organization/management of the holding, including motivation and incentives to personnel.
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# ALYTUS

## (Part II)

# Surveillance: properly conducted

### Recommendations

- Hunting bag data should be considered as the most accurate indicator of the actual wild boar population size.
  - In the hunting ground, the entrance of the dressing area should be provided with appropriate means for cleaning and disinfection. It was even recommended to fence the perimeter of the dressing area
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# ALYTUS (Part II)

## Hunting strategy applied in the infected territories

When infected wild boar are detected, the hunting rules are the following:

- hunting ban of 30 days (all species) in an area of about 3 km radius around the spot;
- Usual hunting in the neighbouring areas w/o specific request regarding wild boar depopulation,
- Weekly active search of carcasses in the 3 km radius;
- In the 30 days a limited number of WB could be hunted for sampling purposes under Veterinary supervision (for virus and antibodies detection); carcasses are stored until results. In case of positive test all the stored carcasses are destroyed under Veterinary supervision.

**GOOD PRACTICE**



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# IGNALINA

## (Part III)

### Local Veterinary Office (LVO)

- The region is located in the east part of Lithuania, at the border with Belarus. The presence of ASF in the region has been recognized in a commercial pig holding (24 July 2014), then the disease has been reported in wild boar (8 August 2014).
  - In total, in the period from 24 July 2014 to 1 September 2014, 4 ASF outbreaks were detected in Ignalina. The first one in a commercial holding, the others in backyards.
  - At the last census 691 pig holdings were present, 690 backyards and 1 commercial farm. Since 15 December 2014 all the holdings are empty. In fact, after the eradication of the outbreaks, all the pigs of the region have been checked and slaughtered as precautionary measure, and pig farmers cannot restock holdings.
  - Currently, there is a control plan in place to verify if the holdings continue to be empty.
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# IGNALINA

## (Part III)

### Surveillance in Wild Boar:

- period from 1 January 2014 to 17 September 2014, 323 wild boar were tested for ASF:
  - 309 hunted
  - 14 dead (2 of which resulted positive for ASF)
- In the period from 18 September 2014 to 31 January 2015, 74 wild boar were tested for ASF: 63 hunted and 11 dead (9 resulted positive for ASF).
- In the period from 1st January to 23rd March 2015, 59 wild boar have been tested: 55 hunted and 4 dead (2 of which resulted positive for ASF)

**Last positive wild boar was detected on 23 March 2015**

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# IGNALINA

## (Part III)

### Conclusions

- The Team was positively impressed by the organization and the activities carried out by the Local Veterinary Service. They are well organized, they were able to provide immediately with all the detailed information required. They are well connected with the Central Authority and there is a good exchange of information with colleagues, border inspection service and hunter association.

### Recommendations

- In the hunting ground, the entrance of the dressing areas should be provided with appropriate means for cleaning and disinfection without neglecting the cleaning and disinfection procedures already in place for the vehicles.
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# IGNALINA

## (Part III)

### **Good Practices**

Continue with the 30-day suspension of hunting of all the species, in combination with the active search of dead animals in the surrounding area of at least 28 km<sup>2</sup> (about 3 Km radius). It is considered a good practice to contain the spread of the infection.

### **Wild boar passive surveillance**

Before the detection of the virus, the intensity of the passive surveillance in place fully fit the requested standard (1% of the wild boar estimated population) for the early detection of the virus.

### **Final Remark**

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Lithuania gave all their support and assistance to facilitate the mission.