

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 Latvia

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

Silvia Bellini (Italy)

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.

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.
-

Expert Mission on ASF in Latvia

- ❖ **Period:** from 18 to 21 May 2015

 - ❖ **SGE Experts:** Silvia Bellini (Team Leader), Klaus Depner, Konstantine Gruzdev, Vittorio Guberti and Sergei Khomenko

 - ❖ **Places visited during the mission:**
 - Riga: Central Veterinary Office
 - Valmiera Distric (Vidzeme Region):
 - a) Regional Vet Office,
 - b) Pig holding
 - c) Hunting Ground
 - d) Forest - Burtnieku county
-

Latvia

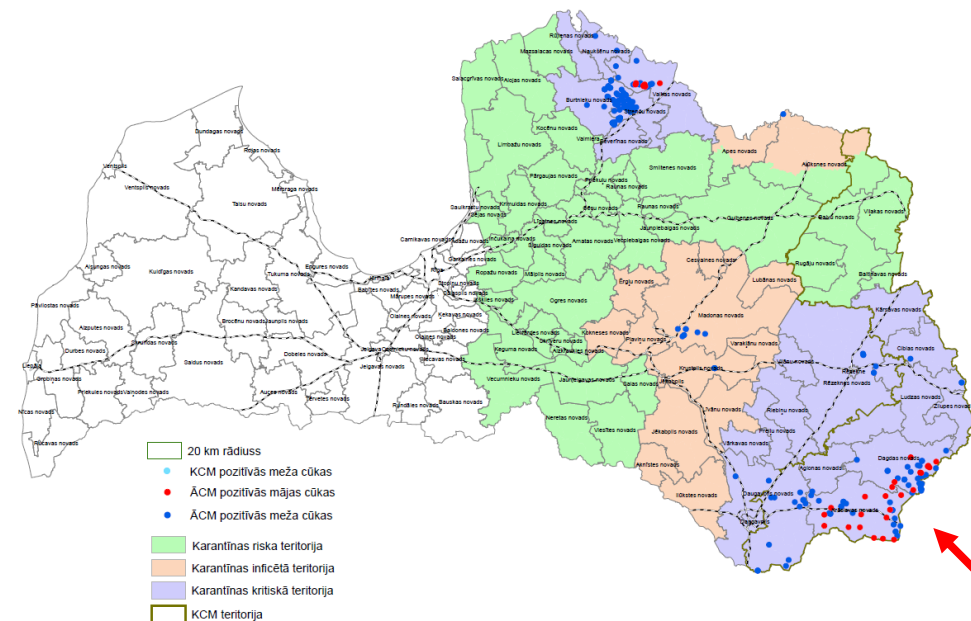
places visited during the mission



ASF in Latvia 2014

Epidemiological Background

- First ASF detection on 26.06.14 in Kraslava, DP and WB
- ASFV: same as in Belarus
- 32 outbreaks in DP (last 17.09.14)
- 367 cases in WB:
 - 217 in 2014
 - 150 in 2015 (May 2015, mainly located in the same areas of 2014)
- 3 main clusters in wild boar
- At the time of the visit surveillance was ongoing and no evidence of infection in DP



Latvia: general information

- Domestic Pigs population in Latvia:
 - 328.857 pigs
 - 7039 pig holdings, 5714 of which (81,2 %) contains from 1 to 9 pigs
 - Pig holdings categorized in 3 main groups: 1) Commercial farms, 2) Non-commercial farms (including backyards), 3) Outdoor keeping farms
 - Wild Boar:
 - Population: about 50.000 animals (about 13.000 in ASF restricted territories)
 - Density: 0.3 – 2.2 animals/ km², higher in the west part of the country
 - CA recommended hunting 130% of the pre-reproductive size. They reached 80-90% of the target. However, in some hunting grounds the population decreased due to ASF.
-

Bio-Security

- Biosecurity requirements have been established in Latvia in 2013, after the occurrence of CSF at the border with Belarus.
 - Requirements have been revised in 2014, immediately after the introduction of ASF and basic measures were made compulsory also for backyards.
 - Holdings located in the infected territories not meeting the basic bio-security requirements were requested to close their pig farming activity and to slaughter pigs. The owners were compensated.
-

ASF Surveillance

■ Domestic Pigs

- all Latvia: all sick and dead pigs checked and tested for ASF (passive surveillance)
- **Part I of the Annex to CD 2015/558/EU**: pig holdings are inspected 1/year. (active surveillance)
- **Part II and III of the Annex to CD 2015/558/EU**: pig holdings are inspected 2/year. Farm inspection are carried out by official vets (active surveillance)

■ Wild Boar

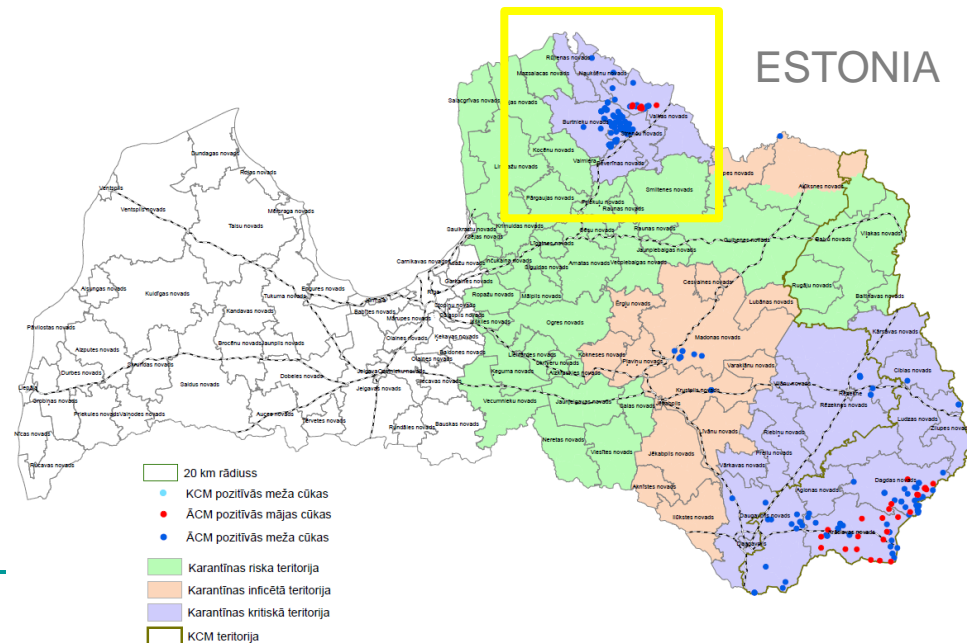
- **Part I of the Annex to CD 2015/558/EU** + the rest of Latvia: all sick and dead wild boar checked and tested for ASF (passive surveillance)
- **Part II and III of the Annex to CD 2015/558/EU**: all wild boar hunted and found sick/dead are checked and tested for ASF (passive and active surveillance)

VIDZIEME REGION

Valmiera District

Domestic Pigs

- Backyard area, about 18.000 pigs (decreasing) farm average size: 1 to 10 pigs
- 7 outbreaks (18 July – 15 September 2014), 4 detected by passive surveillance, 3 by tracing
- Surveillance activities in protection and surveillance zones were carried and no further outbreaks were detected.
- Adoption of biosecurity measures
- Awareness campaign.

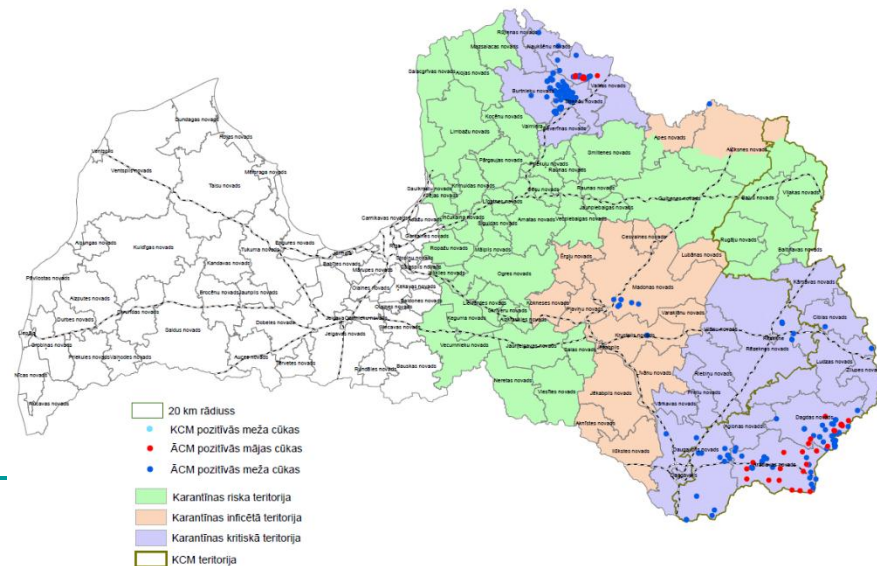


VIDZIEME REGION

Valmiera District

Wild Boar

- On 1.04.14, the population density ranged from 12,82 to 4,2 WB/10 km². A decrease in WB was reported in 2015, max in Burtnieku county (from 11,35 to 0,6 WB/10 km²).
- Despite the decrease, ASF cases were still occurring in that Unit.
- Surveillance 2015 (January/May) :
 - 119 WB found dead, 98 virus pos. **(82, 4%) [PASSIVE]**
 - 487 WB hunted, 3 virus pos. **(0,62%) [ACTIVE]**



VIDZIEME REGION

Burtnieku county

➤ Hunting Ground (Burtnieku county)

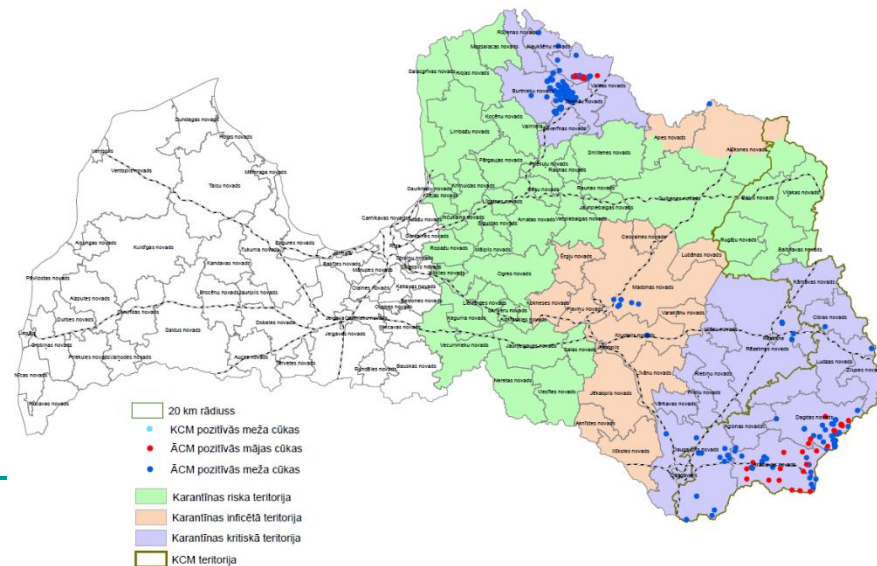
In 2014 about **200 WB** were present in the area, only **60 WB** have been estimated on 1.04.15. The brisk decrease seems due to the presence of ASF.

➤ Forest in Burtnieku county

The forest consists of a mixing of broad-leaved and pines trees. Good habitat for the WB. Two old WB carcasses were found by the Team

➤ WB dressing house

WB are transported to the DH with a trailer. WB are dressed and samples taken, then identified and stored. Offal are transported to a disposal container. Afterwards, disposed under the supervision of the Veterinary Service.



VIDZIEME REGION

Valmiera District

Domestic Pig Holding

- Small open cycle breeding holding (40 sows and fatteners) commercially active on the local market. The holding is currently under restriction given that the area is located in Part III of the Annex to CD 2015/558/EU.
 - The holding was applying minimum bio-security measures, appropriate for the type of holding.
 - The owner was aware of the epidemiological situation and reacted properly in a ASF suspect case in his holding.
-

General Conclusions

- In general, surveillance for ASF in wild boar is effective and well documented, allowing Veterinary Authorities to understand the evolution of the situation and to react properly to new cases.
- As regards as ASF surveillance activities and the implementation of control measures, there is good understanding and collaboration between the Forest Service, Veterinary Authorities and hunting communities (clubs).
- Latvian Veterinary Authority pays a fee of 50 Euro for each discovered and appropriately disposed wild boar carcass. The economic incentive facilitates the positive outcome of passive surveillance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Veterinary Service

- The team was positively impressed by the competence and the level of organization of the Central Veterinary Authority.
- Regional Veterinary Services are efficient and well equipped. ASF was early detected in the area and Veterinary Service reacted properly to the presence of the infection.

Wild boar

- An improvement in wildlife management is advisable. As an example, the administrative boundaries used by veterinary service and wildlife management units used by Forest Service mismatched, causing problems in the management of diseases and wildlife.
- In the Hunting Grounds, hunters are well aware of the procedures which are properly carried out. However, offal of shot wild boar should be properly stored on the spot.

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.