



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex I.c: Programme for the control and eradication of classical swine fever or African swine fever

Member States seeking an EU financial contribution for national programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis shall submit online this document completely filled out by the 31 May of the year preceding its implementation (part 2.1 of Annex I to the Single Market Programme Regulation).

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- 5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : OESTERREICH

Disease : African Swine Fever

Species : Domestic pigs and wild boar

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

First year of implementation of the programme described in this document:

1. Contact data

Name	Phone
Email	Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date	Submission Number
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 13:15:36	1669724138788-18867



2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

Provide a concise description of the following indicators :

- Number of serologically positive domestic pigs compared to previous year
- Number of virologically positive domestic pigs compared to previous year
- Number of serologically positive wild boar/feral pigs compared to previous year
- Number of virologically positive wild boar/feral pigs compared to previous year
- An assessment of the evolution of the indicators along the years is requested as well as obstacles and constraints identified that hamper the progress of eradication.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Austria is historically free of African swine fever (ASF), it had never cases in domestic pigs or wild boars. Despite extensive efforts to prevent the spread of ASF in the European Union since its first appearance in 2014, several member states neighboring Austria are affected or were affected by the disease. In June 2017 Czech Republic reported ASF in wild boars only 80km away from the Austrian border. Although the Czech Republic was able to eradicate the disease within 2 years, other neighboring countries (Hungary since April 2018, Slovakia since July 2019, and Germany since September 2020) regularly report ASF outbreaks in wild boars. In Hungary and Slovakia ASF infected wild boar were found relatively close to the Austrian border, which means a considerable risk of introduction through natural spread in the wild boar population. Furthermore, there is a constant risk of introduction through human mediated spread, which has already happened in other EU member states like Belgium or Italy. This substantial risk of introduction of ASF to Austria poses a great threat to national pig production. Therefore, the Central Veterinary Authority under supervision of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) has taken precautionary measures to prevent introduction and to enable early detection.

Measures in domestic pigs: Efforts for early disease detection are primarily based on passive surveillance. To support the notification of suspicions awareness activities addressing farmers and veterinarians are implemented. Additionally, a risk based enhanced passive surveillance programme is carried out since 2015, in which pigs showing suspicious symptoms at slaughterhouses, rendering plants or diagnostic laboratories are tested for ASF according to a pre-established plan.

To prevent introduction pig holdings have to comply with stringent biosecurity measures adapted to the risk of introduction, for example due to the holding system.

Measures in wild boar: Efforts to ensure early disease detection are primarily based on passive surveillance. Since December 2019 a national regulation lays down the mandatory notification of any found dead wild boar to the competent authority for subsequent ASF testing and biosecurity measures for hunting activities. To support the notification of found dead wild boar by the public, an application for mobile devices was developed.

The notification of suspicious hunted wild boar (due to pre- or postmortem symptoms) to the competent authority is legally required by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (AHL) and the Austrian Animal Disease Act.

A national wild boar management plan according to Annex IV of working document SANTE/7113/2015 – Rev 12 “Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU” was drawn up. To reduce the number of wild boar in areas bordering already affected member states, incentives for

hunted wild boar are paid in the federal province Burgenland.

To prevent introduction via natural spread in wild boar, fences were ordered in advance, which will be build when ASF outbreaks in neighboring countries fall below a certain to the Austrian border.

3. Description of the submitted programme

Provide a concise description of

- *The programme with its main objective(s). In case of a long time strategy, interim objectives for each year should be specified.*
- *Target population*
- *Main measures : active/passive surveillance in holdings, active/passive surveillance in wild boar-feral pigs, vaccination in holdings, vaccination of wild boars-feral pigs, monitoring efficacy of vaccination, eradication measures*
- *Areas of implementation of the programme*

(max. 32000 chars) :

The main objectives of the programme are prevention of introduction and early detection of ASF infections.

This includes:

- Passive surveillance, enhanced passive surveillance and active surveillance in wild boars
- Passive and enhanced passive surveillance in domestic pigs
- Awareness campaigns
- Biosecurity measures in domestic pigs
- Biosecurity measures in wild boars
- National wild boar management plan
- Purchase of fences

1. Surveillance:

Austria is historically free of ASF but the spread of the disease to and in neighboring countries increases the likelihood of introduction. To ensure early detection the susceptible population (domestic pig, wild boar) is under passive and enhanced passive surveillance.

Domestic pig:

Surveillance activities are primarily based on passive surveillance, as this is the most efficient way for early detection of ASF infection. The efficiency of passive surveillance depends on disease awareness of farmers, veterinarians and other personnel involved in pig farming. Therefore, veterinary authorities regularly perform awareness activities to inform about disease epidemiology and notification obligations. In 2021, suspicions in 4 holdings were notified, investigated and negatively tested for ASF. Additionally enhanced passive surveillance is performed since 2015 using a nation-wide risk-based sampling plan (legal basis: national regulation "Schweinegesundheits-Verordnung BGBl II 406/2016", attachment 1). Suspicious samples taken from slaughtered pigs not fit for human consumption after post mortem inspection and from fallen animals brought to rendering plants and diagnostic facilities are tested for ASF. A statistical sampling plan ensures that samples are taken from pig farms distributed over the entire territory and from animals of any age, but emphasis is put on the coverage of regions with a high pig farm density. Since 2015 all samples tested were negative for ASF (in 2021 1517 samples), which is also relevant to demonstrate disease freedom.

Amendment 20221129:

The Austrian enhanced passive surveillance programme in domestic pigs aims to test pathologically

conspicuous animals in slaughterhouses, rendering plants or diagnostic laboratories for ASF. When selecting the animals, the farm of origin of the animals is not taken into account. Together with passive surveillance (notification of clinical suspicion to competent authority), we are of the opinion that this program ensures that suspicious symptoms are not overlooked, but are investigated for ASF in a balanced way (benefit versus costs). According to our database in 2021 domestic pigs from 16 free range pig holdings were investigated within enhanced passive surveillance programme.

Wild boar:

Surveillance activities are primarily based on passive and enhanced passive surveillance as this provides the most reliable means for early detection. The investigation of wild boars with suspicious clinical or post mortem symptoms is legally required by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the Austrian Animal Disease Act. Furthermore, the mandatory testing of any found dead wild boar is laid down by national regulation "ASP Revisions- und Frühwarnverordnung BGBl II 399/2019" (attachment 2). As passive surveillance is most effective when stakeholders are aware to report any suspicion or found dead wild boar to the competent authorities, awareness activities targeted at hunters and other relevant stakeholders are performed to inform about disease epidemiology and notification obligations. To support the reporting of found dead wild boar by the public, an application for mobile devices was developed. It supports the easy and straightforward notification of found dead wild boar to the competent authority. In 2021 249 wild boars were negatively tested in the context of enhanced passive surveillance.

All samples tested in domestic pigs or wild boars are recorded within the electronic database VIS.

In the Federal province Burgenland, which neighbors affected Member State Hungary as well as Slovakia, hunted wild boar are also tested for ASF (active surveillance).

2. Eradication:

In case of suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak in domestic pigs, measures will be in accordance with EU legislation (Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, Implementing regulation (EU) 2021/605) and national legislation (Austrian Animal Disease Act RGBI 1909/177, ASP-Verordnung BGBl II 2005/193).

In case of suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak in wild boars, measures will be in accordance with EU legislation (Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, Implementing regulation (EU) 2021/605) and national legislation (Austrian Animal Disease Act RGBI 1909/177, Wildschweine-Schweinepestverordnung BGBl II 2004/35).

Legal basis for notification of ASF is Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the Austrian Animal Disease Act (RGBI 1909/177; §16 Z. 15). It requires that any suspicion must be notified immediately to the competent veterinary authority. This includes clinical symptoms as well as post-mortem signs that might indicate virus presence. After notification, competent authorities have to investigate the suspicion immediately to confirm or rule out the disease.

3. Awareness of stakeholders

To prevent introduction and to ensure early detection via passive surveillance a high level of disease awareness of relevant stakeholders (i.e. farmers and hunters) is considered crucial. An awareness campaign started in 2018 and focused on the current disease situation in Europe, etiology, clinical symptoms, regulatory procedures to inform the competent authorities and biosecurity measures. In the following years additional target groups were identified (farm workers, nursing personnel, truck drivers,

tourists, etc.) and tailored information material was produced, which dealt with possible ways of introduction and biosecurity measures. Different media (videos, leaflets, posters, articles, etc.) on how to avoid an introduction of the disease and explaining the consequences of an outbreak were used. This information packages are regularly updated / amended and provided to target groups in order to keep the awareness level high. In case of an outbreak in Austria or close to its borders, intensified initiatives will be necessary and additional material will be produced.

§ Target population:

2021:

Domestic pigs: 2.840.982 animals in 25.935 establishments were registered

Wild boar: To estimate the Austrian wild boar density the number of hunted wild boars per district (=hunting bag) is used (attachment 3: number of hunted wild boar per km²)

for more information see 4.3.2

§ Areas of implementation of the programme

Domestic pig:

Passive and enhanced passive surveillance is applied nationwide.

Wild boars:

Passive and enhanced passive surveillance is applied nationwide. Active surveillance of hunted animals is applied by Federal Provinces bordering affected Member States.

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1 Organisation, supervision and role of all stakeholders involved in the programme

Describe

- *The competent authorities (CA) involved in the implementation of the programme and their responsibilities*
- *Other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the programme, their role and their communication channels with the CA.*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Central Veterinary Authority (CVA): Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Dep. III/B/10, Radetzkystrasse 2, 1030 Vienna

The CVA initiates, supervises and coordinates surveillance/outbreak measures by providing legislation, sampling plans and implementing animal movement restrictions. Reporting towards EU, OIE, neighboring countries is also done by CVA.

9 Local Veterinary Authorities (LVA) (one for each federal province) are responsible for the operative fulfillment of the measures and have to report to the CVA.

The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) located in the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) carries out all the laboratory tests and reports to the CVA. It is also responsible for data compilation.

Hunters organized in hunting associations (e.g. Jagd Österreich, Jägerschule, Landesjagdverband NÖ) are widely implemented in prevention, surveillance or eradication strategies in wild boars as they fulfill an important role in wild boar management. They are part of the National Expert Group which supports CVA and LVA in applying biosecurity measures and defining an infected area after an outbreak in wild

boar.

Expert group animal disease control: according to EU legislation and national regulation "Tierseuchen-Experten-Verordnung BGBl II 2004/324" Austria has established an expert group which includes members of CVA, LVA, NRL, University and other experts. Additionally an ASF subcommittee within this expert group (Task Force team for ASF) has been established. The duties of the Task force are to assist the competent authority and the national disease control center in case of a disease outbreak.

4.2 Description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented

Describe the name and surface of the areas where the following activities are implemented (if administrative units are not used, describe the natural or artificial boundaries used to determine the geographical areas) :

- 1) Surveillance in holdings/wild boar
- 2) Vaccination in holdings/wild boar and monitoring the efficacy of the vaccination
- 3) Describe risk areas if they have been defined
- 4) Describe WAMTA (ASF programme)

Add maps.

(max. 32000 chars) :

1) Surveillance in holdings/wild boar

Passive and enhanced passive surveillance in holdings is applied nationwide.

Passive and enhanced passive surveillance in wild boar is applied nationwide.

For more information on surveillance, see section 3.

2) Vaccination in holdings/wild boar and monitoring the efficacy of the vaccination

not applicable as no vaccine exists to combat ASF virus

3) Describe risk areas if they have been defined

Since December 2019 the mandatory testing of any found dead wild boar for ASF virus on the entire Austrian territory is regulated by national regulation "ASP Revisions- und Frühwarnverordnung BGBl II 2019/399"

4) Describe WAMTA (ASF programme)

see point 3

4.3 Description of the measures of the programme

4.3.1 Notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

Legal basis for notification of ASF is Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the Austrian Animal Disease Act (RGGI 1909/177; §16 Z. 15). Any suspicion has to be notified immediately to the competent veterinary authority. This includes clinical symptoms as well as post-mortem signs that might indicate virus presence. After notification, competent authorities must investigate the suspicion immediately to confirm or rule out the disease. In case of suspicion/confirmation of an ASF outbreak, measures laid

down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation 2020/687, Delegated Regulation 2020/689 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 are implemented. The national legislation is provided by regulations "Afrikanische Schweinepest-Verordnung BGBl II 193/2005" and "Wildschweine-Schweinepestverordnung BGBl II 35/2004".

4.3.2 Target animals and animal population

Describe

- The pig industry, type and number of farms
- Feral pigs-wild boar distribution in the country
- Target population
 - for surveillance and or vaccination in holdings
 - for surveillance and or vaccination in feral pigs/wild boar

(max. 32000 chars) :

2021:

Domestic pigs:

2.840.982 animals in 25.935 establishments registered

See Attachment 6 for table providing numbers for animals and holdings of the 9 Federal Provinces and information on size and type of establishments

As regards registration and surveillance, pig-holding establishments are not distinguished in commercial and non-commercial. Each establishment has to be registered in an electronic database accessible to all veterinary authorities and is subject to the same surveillance measures.

Most domestic pigs are kept in the federal provinces Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Steiermark and Kärnten with approximately 2.770.000 pigs in 21.000 establishments (mean number of animals per holding: 131).

As regards farm types, free-range holdings have to be approved by competent veterinary authority according to national regulation "Schweinegesundheitsverordnung BGBl II 2016/406" (Definition of free-range holding: Keeping pigs outdoors without a stable, but only protective facilities). In 2021, 355 establishments with 10988 pigs were approved as free-range holdings.

Annex 4 provides a map showing the spatial distribution of pig holdings and approved free-range holdings.

Wild boar population:

To estimate wild boar density the number of hunted wild boars per district (=hunting bag) is used. The mean number of hunted wild boar in Austria is 0.5/km². The risk of introduction by natural spread in infected wild boars from affected neighboring countries is considerably higher in the Eastern parts of Austria. In the Eastern Federal Provinces Niederösterreich, Wien, Steiermark and Burgenland the mean number of hunted wild boar is considerably higher (1.1/km²) than in the Western Federal Provinces Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Tirol and Vorarlberg (0.1/km²).

Passive surveillance comprises all susceptible animals (domestic pigs, wild boars). Mandatory disease notification is laid down by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the Austrian Animal Disease Act (RdGBl

1909/177). Additionally enhanced passive surveillance in wild boar has been implemented in Austria (compulsory testing of any found dead wild boar). Enhanced passive surveillance in pig establishments is performed according to a risk-based sampling plan covering the entire Austrian territory with an emphasis on areas with high pig density.

4.3.3 *Identification of animals and registration of holding including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease*

(max. 32000 chars) :

All holdings are registered and electronically identifiable within the electronic database VIS (Verbrauchergesundheitsinformationssystem). All pigs are holding-related identifiable according to Austrian legislation (Tierkennzeichnungs- und Registrierungsverordnung 2009 BGBl II 2009/291) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

4.3.4 *Rules of the movement of animals including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease*

(max. 32000 chars) :

Movement of animals within the European Union is in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, which is implemented into Austrian legislation by Regulation "Veterinärbehördliche Binnenmarktverordnung 2008 BGBl II 2008/473". In case of an ASP outbreak in Austria and subsequent regionalization, movement of animals within and from restricted zones will also be regulated by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

4.3.5 *Surveillance and inspection regime*

Describe

- *The test used, when are to be used and in which animals*
- *Sampling schemes at holding level and at animal level and the criteria to include an animal or a holding in the sampling scheme*
- *Sampling scheme in wild populations*
- *Inspection regime in farms (commercial and backyards)*

(max. 32000 chars) :

The test used, when are to be used and in which animals:

For the detection of viral genome real-time PCR from tissue and blood samples is performed. PCR protocols used are published in Haines et al. 2013 (Screening) and Fernandez-Pinero et al. 2013 (Confirmation). PCR is used in samples gained from active and passive surveillance measures in domestic pigs and wild boars.

For the detection of antibodies, blood samples are analyzed with ELISA INgezim PPA Compac (Ingenasa, Madrid, Spain). Antibody detection with ELISA will be used for samples gained from restricted zones if ASF has been introduced to domestic pigs.

Sampling schemes at holding level and at animal level and the criteria to include an animal or a holding in the sampling scheme:

for details please see 3.1 and 3.2

Diagnostic procedures, sampling and laboratory testing is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and national contingency plan.

Sampling scheme in wild populations:

for details see 3.1 and 3.2

Sampling is based on passive surveillance and enhanced passive surveillance, meaning that found dead and suspicious wild boars are tested for ASF using PCR.

Diagnostic procedures, sampling and laboratory testing is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and national contingency plan.

Inspection regime in farms (commercial and backyards):

Inspection is performed by state veterinarians or contracted veterinarians of the veterinary service (for details see 3.1).

The sampling and analysis will be done in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and national contingency plan.

As Austria is free of ASF current surveillance activities in domestic pigs are mainly based on passive surveillance. Additionally pig farms are monitored by a risk-based enhanced passive surveillance programme (for details see 3.1).

As regards registration and surveillance, Austria does not distinguish between commercial and non-commercial pig establishments. Therefore, surveillance for early detection of ASF is performed in all pig establishments.

National regulation "Schweinegesundheitsverordnung BGBl II 406/2016" requires that pig holdings exceeding a certain size (>30 fattening pigs, >5 sows) and open range holdings are inspected regularly (at least once per year) by an attending veterinarian.

Health status and compliance with biosecurity measures in all pig holdings is checked by official veterinarians in accordance with a risk-based control plan.

In case of confirmation of ASF in domestic pigs, the inspection regime in holdings will be in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687: in the protection zone all holdings are visited as soon as possible by an official veterinarian to control the establishment, to conduct a clinical examination of susceptible animals and, if necessary, to take samples; in the surveillance zone a subset of holdings is visited by an official veterinarian to control the establishment, to conduct a clinical examination and, if necessary, to take samples.

In case of confirmation of ASF in wild boar, the testing regime in pig establishments in the infected zone will be in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687:

1. Identify all pig establishments in infected zone
2. Collect and review records of pigs in all identified establishments
3. Visits of all pig establishments identified in infected zone by official veterinarian, clinical examination of animals, if necessary laboratory investigation
4. Examination of all sick or dead pigs on establishments by official veterinarian

Furthermore, measures according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 will be implemented.

4.3.6 Vaccines used and vaccination schemes including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

Describe

- Vaccines to be used in the programme
- In case of feral pigs, type of holdings to be vaccinated
- In case of feral pig-wild boar, bait density to be achieved in each area of the programme
- Sampling scheme and tests used to verify the efficacy of the vaccination

(max. 32000 chars) :

not applicable (vaccination not available)

4.3.7 Biosecurity requirements applicable to farms (commercial and backyards) and to hunting grounds.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Farms:

To prevent the introduction of ASF in pig holdings, comprehensive biosecurity measures have been implemented with national regulation "Schweinegesundheitsverordnung BGI II 406/2016".

The following biosecurity measures apply in all farms (except free range):

- Premises must be in a good structural condition
- Unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the farm
- Buildings must be built in such a way that animals cannot escape
- Outdoor areas must have a livestock-proof fencing
- Pigs must be kept in a way that there is no direct or indirect contact with wild boars
- Buildings and equipment must allow for appropriate cleaning, disinfection and disinfestation
- Buildings must be properly illuminated
- Farm must be equipped in a way that footwear can be cleaned and disinfected

In farms exceeding a certain size (>30 fattening pigs, >5 sows) the following biosecurity measures apply additionally:

- Farm must have a possibility to change clothes and footwear
- Farm must have appropriate facilities for storage of feed and litter, which cannot be accessed by wild boars
- Farm must have facilities allowing for the appropriate disinfection of vehicles and any other equipment used for handling/transport of animals
- Farm must have facilities for the appropriate storage of fallen animals, which cannot be accessed by wild boars
- Farm must have facilities to isolate sick animals; any equipment used in isolation area must not be used in other areas of farm
- External persons are only allowed to enter premises after changing clothes/footwear
- Cleaning, disinfection and disinfestation procedures for buildings, vehicles and fomites must be in place and carried out continuously and verifiably
- Newly entering breeding pigs must be kept in isolation areas for at least 3 weeks

In free-range holdings, the following biosecurity measures apply:

- Holding needs approval by veterinary authority (is only granted if biosecurity measures are appropriate)
- Area needs to be double-fenced

- Entries into area must be secured against unauthorized access
- Spatial segregation of sick animals must be possible
- Entrance area must be equipped to allow biohygienic measures (cloth/footwear changing; washing and disinfection of hands and footwear)
- Holding must have facilities allowing for the appropriate disinfection of vehicles and any other equipment used for handling/transport of animals
- External persons are only allowed to enter after having changed clothes
- Farm must have appropriate facilities for storage of feed and litter, which cannot be accessed by wild boars
- Farm must have facilities for the appropriate storage of fallen animals, which cannot be accessed by wild boars
- Pigs must be kept in a way that there is no direct or indirect contact with pigs from other holdings or wild boars- Cleaning, disinfection and disinfestation procedures for buildings, vehicles and fomites must be in place and carried out continuously and verifiably- Newly introduced pigs must be kept in isolation areas for at least 3 weeks

Some biosecurity measures are described in more detail at [https:// www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/sgk.html](https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/sgk.html); with link "Biosicherheit Schwein" a brochure describing biosecurity measures for farmers can be downloaded.

Hunting grounds:

To prevent the introduction of ASF in wild boars, biosecurity measures for hunting activities have been implemented by national regulation "ASP Revisions- und Frühwarnverordnung BGBl II 399/2019". It requires that the following biosecurity measures apply on all hunting grounds in Austria:

- hunting has to be carried out in such a way as to minimize the spread of the disease which may be present;
- any direct or indirect contact of the wild boar carcass or meat with domestic swine needs to be avoided;
- the measures ordered by the authority on the basis of the epidemic situation for an epidemic-safe disposal of animal materials resulting from hunting must be observed;

Currently Austria is free of ASF in domestic pigs as well as in wild boar. In this situation, biosecurity in hunting grounds and wild boar management is regulated by hunting laws under the responsibility of Federal Provinces. Each of the nine provinces has its own hunting law and implementing regulations. However, feeding of wild boar is forbidden in all provinces. Wild boar can be hunted all year round and there is no limit on the number of wild boar to be hunted. However, "ASP Revisions- und Frühwarnverordnung" lays down minimum standards of biosecurity to be observed during hunting of wild boar. Each person is obliged to notify found dead wild boar to competent veterinary authority and official veterinarian takes samples and sends them to NRL. The coordinates of the location of the animal, samples and results are recorded in electronic database.

If ASF gets introduced in wild boar, biosecurity measures for hunting grounds were already established by the ASF expert group and will be part of the eradication plan (in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and national regulation "Wildschweine-Schweinepestverordnung BGBl II 2004/35").

Examples of such biosecurity measures in hunting grounds are:

Avoid contamination of hunting equipment, hunting dogs, clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles with blood

Wash and disinfect hands after contact with dead boars before leaving the hunting ground

Change clothing after contact to dead wild boars and wash clothes with at least 40°C

Change footwear before leaving the hunting ground and clean and disinfect immediately
Clean vehicles, especially carefully remove contamination with blood
Set up central dressing facility for pressure hunts and disinfect after use
Safe disposal of offal (do not leave in the forest)
Separate wild collection sites for hunting grounds in ASF restriction areas;
Prohibition of moving wild boar carcasses from ASF areas to other wild collection points

For more details see attachment 5_Hunting measures (in German)

4.3.8 Measures in case of a positive result including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

A description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals and detailed reference to the Union legislation provisions (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, the therapeutic or preventive treatment chosen, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter and the creation of a surveillance zone around infected holding). A definition of a suspicion and of a confirmation should be provided, with detailed measures implemented in both situation and how the herd is requalified as free after a positive result.

(max. 32000 chars) :

In case of a positive result measures laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 will be implemented. National specifications are provided in the Austrian Animal Disease Act RGBI 1909/177 and regulations "ASP Verordnung BGBl II 2005/193" and "Wildschweine-Schweinepestverordnung BGBl II 2004/35".

Measures after confirmation of ASF in pig holdings are: culling of pigs in affected holding, safe destruction of carcasses and subsequent cleaning and disinfection of holding; the establishment of protection and surveillance zones, control of pig movement and epidemiological investigations (tracing of sources and possible spread of infection).

Measures after confirmation of ASF in wild boars are the establishment of an infected zone and an eradication plan. Further measures are the organized search for wild boar carcasses and suspending hunting in the affected area.

4.3.9 Description of the slaughtering policy (in ASF programmes). Describe under which circumstances a farm will be slaughtered/culled and, if any, types of preventive slaughtering/culling regimes applied.

(max. 32000 chars) :

In case of a positive result in a holding culling is performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, Austrian Animal Disease Act RGBI 1909/177 and regulation "ASP-Verordnung BGBl II 2005/193".

4.3.10 Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

(max. 32000 chars):

Compensation is done in accordance with Austrian Animal Disease Act RGBI 1909/177.

4.3.11 Control on the implementation of the programme and reporting including detailed reference to relevant Union legislation and its implementation in the Member State for this disease

(max. 32000 chars):

In Austria, animal health control measures are a federal competence in terms of legislation and enforcement. The Central Veterinary Authority is responsible for establishing and enforcing legislation. The Regional and Local Veterinary Authorities implement legislation on behalf of the federal government. The Regional and Local Veterinary Authorities have to comply with the instructions issued by the Federal Ministry and are obliged to report to the Central Veterinary Authority. The Central Veterinary Authority is informed about suspicious cases either by official veterinarians/local veterinary offices or by the NRL. The electronic database VIS allows all involved authorities to monitor the actual situation and measures taken. To coordinate measures after ASF confirmation, the national disease control center according to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 is set up in the offices of the Central Veterinary Authority.

4.3.12 Measures implemented in wild boar (in ASF programmes).

Describe

- how sustained feeding is avoided.
- average amount of food distributed in hunting grounds per month and km²
- sampling, collection / delivery and removal of dead wild boar and compensation scheme applied

(max. 32000 chars):

If ASF is confirmed in wild boar, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 foresee the implementation of an eradication plan, which will include a catalogue of measures to combat the disease (for details see attachment 5). These measures were adapted from the catalogue of measures issued by the Friedrich Löffler Institut (FLI) on 10 October 2017 and are agreed with the Austrian ASF expert group. These measures are part of the national contingency plan and can be immediately implemented.

If ASF is confirmed in wild boars, one of the first activities will be the declaration of an infected zone. The infected zone will be divided into different wild boar management zones (e.g. central high-risk area with temporary hunting ban, adjacent low risk area with intensified hunting). One of the main goals within the infected zone is the finding of further cases to estimate disease prevalence and spread. As enhanced passive surveillance is the most effective method for detection, the testing of as many "found dead" animals as possible and all hunted animals in the infected area is a priority. To secure passive surveillance incentives will be paid for each found wild boar. Carcass collection and testing under strict biosecurity measures will be implemented. To reduce wild boar population the targeted hunting of adult and sub-adult females will be implemented in the low risk area.

Possible obstacles and constraints that may hamper progress of eradication-surveillance programme: The organization of wild boar carcass finding, sampling and disposal in infected zones will be a challenge, as it requires many resources and coordination between stakeholders as hunters, forest workers, veterinarians and laboratory. The planned provision of incentives for notifying dead wild boar will be critical to ensure a well-functioning passive surveillance system.

To ensure early disease detection and mitigation of disease spread (if possible), the involvement of stakeholders as hunters and forest rangers is of critical importance. To enhance stakeholder involvement awareness activities in form of regular meetings, printed leaflets and information campaigns on the internet are performed.

Fencing might be used to avoid spread of ASF in the wild boar population. As the currently used fencing methods (solid, electrical, odor/light/sound repellents) are not considered 100% wild boar proof, a thorough cost/benefit analysis based on the local outbreak scenario needs to be done before implementation.

Another challenge for the eradication of ASF from the wild boar population might be that figures for wild boar density are based on the annual hunting bag and are therefore only estimates of the actual number of wild boars.

Further details as regards measures in wild boar:

In Austria, the hunting law is under the responsibility of the Federal Provinces. Each of the nine provinces has a separate hunting act. Unlike for domestic pigs, there were no nation-wide biosecurity rules to be observed during hunting of wild boars. Therefore, the federal regulation establishing the mandatory testing of found dead wild boar ("ASP Revisions- und Frühwarnverordnung BGBl II 399/2019") also established the following general biosecurity rules:

- hunting has to be carried out in such a way as to minimize the spread of the disease which may be present;
- any direct or indirect contact of the wild boar carcass or meat with domestic swine needs to be avoided;
- the measures ordered by the authority on the basis of the epidemic situation for an epidemic-safe disposal of animal materials resulting from hunting must be observed;

To prevent introduction of ASF in wild boar, a high level of awareness of hunters is considered crucial. Therefore, an awareness campaign starting in 2018 focused on possible ways of introduction and biosecurity measures to prevent transmission. Tailored information material was produced and provided; numerous different media (videos, leaflets, posters, articles, etc.) were used to explain how to avoid an introduction of the disease and to explain what the consequences of an outbreak of ASF in Austria would be. This information is regularly updated.

4.3.13 Describe the raising awareness actions to be implemented.

(max. 32000 chars) :

A nation-wide awareness campaign targeting not only special risk groups such as veterinarians, farmers, hunters or suppliers of goods and services to pig farms, but also other entities, especially from the meat industry, transport sectors and operators involved in the international passenger traffic was set up in 2018. In order to keep the awareness at a high level the information material is regularly updated. In case

of further escalation of the ASF situation, comparable - but even intensified – distribution will take place.

Austria is performing continuously ASF awareness raising activities: e.g. training of official veterinarians as regards new developments in ASF legislation and sharing of experiences in ASF disease control; organisation of cross border conferences with affected neighbouring countries (e.g. Hungary, Slovakia) (last conference on 29. June 2021) for mutual information regarding the current situation and measures to prevent and combat ASF. One consequence of cross border conferences was the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, which should clarify the way of information if ASF continues to approach the Austrian border. However, these activities are not eligible to co-financing as no specific information material is produced or websites are established. We do expect that eligible tasks will increase the moment we have the disease in the country and figures given in table B are an estimate of this situation.

Austria also developed an electronic tool (mobile phone application) for easy reporting of found dead animals to competent veterinary authorities.

Amendment 20221129:

As already described under point 4.3.13: if the risk of introduction of ASF increases further (positive wild boars found closer to Austrian border as currently), different materials and services to increase disease awareness are very likely to be produced. We assume that the following purchases eligible to cofinancing will be relevant:

- purchase of services to print leaflets and posters (approximately 1000 Euros)
- purchase of information road panels (approximately 2000 Euros)
- purchase of production and broadcasting of radio, television and internet spots (approximately 7000 Euros)

5. Benefits of the programme

A description is provided of the benefits of the programme on the economical and animal health points of view.

Describe

- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in the previous years, in line with the objectives and expected results
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs

(max. 32000 chars):

The main aim of the programme is to prevent ASF introduction and early detection in case of introduction. Spread of ASF to Austria is likely within the next years and the described programme ensures reliable information concerning the epidemiological situation and fast eradication measures.

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

B. Targets

B.1 Disease surveillance in domestic pigs to be carried out

Targets for year : **2023**

Country	Region	Type of farms	Total number of farms	Number of farms to be sampled	Number of animals to be sampled	Expected number of farms with serologically positive result	Expected number of farms with active infection detected	
OESTERREICH	Austria	Commercial and Backyard	25 935	900	1 600	0	0	X
Totals :			25 935	900	1 600	0	0	
Total number of animals to be sampled in MS (blood)						Add a new row		
						1600		

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

B.2 Disease surveillance in feral pigs/wild boar to be carried out

Targets for year: **2023**

Country	Region	Estimation of the population	Method of estimation used	Species	Type surveillance	Number of animals to be tested	Expected animals positive	
OESTERREICH	Austria	40 000	Hunting bag	Wild Boar	Passive	300	0	X
Totals :		40 000				300	0	
						Add a new row		
<i>Animals sampled Active in MS</i>						0		
<i>Animals sampled Passive in MS</i>						300		
<i>Animals sampled - Total in MS</i>						300		

B.3 Feral pigs/wild boar oral vaccination to be carried out

B.4 Stratified data on diagnostic test and results

Targets for year: **2023**

Country	Region	Animal population	Laboratory tests used	Type of sample	Number of animals to be tested	Number of tests to be carried out	Expected number of positive results	Comments	
OESTERREICH	Austria	Domestic pigs	PCR	Tissue	1 600	1600	0		X

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OESTERREICH	Austria	Wild boar	PCR	Tissue	300	300	0		X
Totals :					1 900	1 900	0		
					Add a new row				
Total tests ELISA in MS					0				
Total tests PCR in MS					1 900				
Total tests Virus isolation/virological test in MS					0				
Total tests IPT in MS					0				
Total tests (Other) in MS					0				

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

C.2. Financial informaton

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who performs the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

(max. 32000 chars):

Official veterinarians or authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the federal veterinary services (state budget).

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b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

NRL performs the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget.

c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars):

Compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services.

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars):

not applicable

Standard requirements for the submission of programme for eradication, control and surveillance

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implements this measure? Who provides the equipment/service? Who pays?

(max. 32000 chars):

awareness campaign: paid by the federal veterinary services
desinfection measures: paid by the federal veterinary services

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

In the "*Guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes*", it is indicated that in exceptional and duly justified cases, additional necessary measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

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If you introduced these type of measures in this programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and also justification of their cost:

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : [jpg](#), [jpeg](#), [tiff](#), [tif](#), [xls](#), [xlsx](#), [doc](#), [docx](#), [ppt](#), [pptx](#), [bmp](#), [pna](#), [pdf](#).
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD** ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

	Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_):	File size
	18867_14505.pdf	18867_14505.pdf	198 kb
	18867_14506.pdf	18867_14506.pdf	822 kb
	18867_14507.pdf	18867_14507.pdf	481 kb
	18867_14508.pdf	18867_14508.pdf	61 kb
	18867_14509.pdf	18867_14509.pdf	182 kb
	18867_14510.pdf	18867_14510.pdf	288 kb
	18867_14511.pdf	18867_14511.pdf	55 kb

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		ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
			Total size of attachments :	2375 kb