



**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 : SUOMI / FINLAND

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**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022 14:19:54**

**1669810794757-18897**



## 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) :

African swine fever (ASF) has never been detected in Finland. Taking into consideration the outbreaks of ASF in Europe and a neighboring third country (Russia), Finland is at risk of the introduction of ASF. The objective of the surveillance programme is monitoring and early detection of the presence of ASF virus in the susceptible population of domestic pigs and wild boars. The target population of the programme is the wild boar population of Finland. The programme also includes passive surveillance in both wild boar and domestic pig population.

The active surveillance in hunted wild boars was initiated in Finland in 2010 and extended to farmed wild boars in 2011. The passive surveillance in wild boar population as well as in domestic pig holdings has been implemented in whole territory of Finland since 2010. The present surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland.

The number of hunted wild boar tested each year is relatively small due to the small wild boar population in Finland (wild boar population was about 3 100 animals in January 2022). The number of hunted wild boar was 1444 in 2021, according to the record of Finnish Wildlife Agency. The domestic pig population was 1,108,257 animals in 2021 and the number of pig farms was 889. Wild boars are farmed in 110 farms.

The Finnish Food Authority (Ruokavirasto) began its operation in the beginning of 2019 when the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Elintarviketurvallisuusvirasto Evira), the Agency for Rural Affairs and part of the IT services of the National Land Survey of Finland were merged into one single Authority. Finnish Food Authority is the NRL for ASF and has diagnostic preparedness to diagnose both ASF virus and antibodies. Finnish Food Authority has participated in reference samples test trials since 2004.

The number and results of the ASF -tests are the following:

2021

- wild boars (passive and active surveillance): (16 + 1199) 1215
- farmed wild boars (passive and active surveillance): (1 + 17) 18
- domestic pigs (passive surveillance): 79

All with PCR and negative results.

2020

- wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 937
- farmed wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 13
- domestic pigs (passive surveillance): 76

All with PCR and negative results.

2019

- wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 683  
- farmed wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 29  
- domestic pigs (passive surveillance): 96  
All with PCR and negative results.

2018

- wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 715  
- farmed wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 54  
- domestic pigs (passive surveillance): 55  
All with PCR and negative results.

2017

- wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 527  
- farmed wild boars (passive and active surveillance): 44  
- domestic pigs (passive surveillance): 57  
All with PCR and negative results.

Constraints that may hamper an effective implementation of the ASF surveillance in Finland might be  
1) Passive surveillance in wild boar population might be hampered if dead wild boars would not be found. In Finland there are large sparsely populated forest areas where dead animal carcasses may not be found at all. Passive surveillance is based on hunters and other people voluntary reporting if they find dead or sick wild boar.

This is managed by an awareness campaign on the risks of African swine fever and by encouraging hunters and other people to report dead or sick wild boars and by paying a reward of 100 € per each reported animal.

2) Active surveillance in wild boar population might be hampered if hunters would not be motivated in hunting wild boars or sending samples from them.

This is managed by encouraging hunters to send samples (blood, spleen, kidney) for ASF analysis by paying a reward of 40 € per samples from one wild boar. Targeted hunting to female wild boars is encouraged by paying 60 € extra reward per each hunted female wild boar. Hunters send, as a proof of targeted hunting, a piece of uterus of hunted female wild boar (in the same package with ASF-samples) to the laboratory. In addition to the rewards, hunters are motivated by sharing information of the disease and its risks for pig production. In cooperation with authorities, the hunters' organization trains hunters in hunting wild boars and in biosecurity of hunting. The Finnish Food Authority delivers sampling material to hunting associations to facilitate the sampling. The veterinary authorities cooperate with game authorities and hunting organization to promote wild boar hunting and to control wild boar population. Hunting of wild boars seems to be relatively heavy compared to the population size: the estimated population size in January 2022 was 2,161–4,540 (median 3106) individuals in the whole country (Natural Resources Institute Luke) while the number of hunted and sampled animals in 2021 was 1,199. The Finnish Wildlife Agency records wild boar hunting bags of hunters. According to this record, altogether 1,443 wild boars were hunted in 2021, which means that 83% of all hunted wild boars were sampled for ASF. General opinion in Finland is positive to hunting of wild boars.

3) Active surveillance in farmed wild boars might be hampered if the slaughterhouses slaughtering farmed wild boars would not sample the animals (blood, spleen, kidney).

This is managed by directing official veterinarians responsible for meat inspection to supervise the slaughterhouse operators in sampling. The Finnish Food Authority delivers sampling material to slaughterhouses to facilitate the sampling. The sampling scheme of farmed wild boar is aiming to get as many slaughtered wild boars for sampling as possible.

4) Passive surveillance in domestic pigs and farmed wild boars might be hampered if pig keepers would

not report of sick animals to the local veterinarian.

This is managed by training pig keepers of the risks and symptoms of ASF, their responsibility in preventing ASF and to maintain biosecurity. When a sick pig has been reported, the local veterinarian does clinical examination and takes samples for laboratory analyses. Sick or dead pigs are investigated and tested for ASF even if there is no actual suspicion of the disease, if there is no obvious other reason for the findings.

### 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 objective of the programme is prevention of introduction of the ASFV and early detection of its presence in the country in case the disease would enter to Finland. The main fields covered by the programme:

- passive surveillance in domestic pigs, farmed wild boars and wild boars
- active surveillance in farmed wild boars
- active surveillance in wild boars
- strengthening biosecurity at pig holdings
- awareness campaign
- targeted hunting of wild boars

Passive surveillance in domestic pigs and farmed wild boars

The passive surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. If African swine fever is suspected an official veterinarian will visit the suspected holding, check production and health records of the holding and carry out clinical examination and sampling of pigs, in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687 and Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605. Sick or dead pigs will be investigated and tested for ASF even if there is no actual suspicion of the disease, if there is no obvious other reason for the findings. The estimated number of tests to be carried out in 2023 is based on the number of tests performed in 2021-2022. The samples (spleen, kidney, tonsils, lymph nodes, lung) of suspected animal will undergo virological tests (PCR).

In domestic pigs and farmed wild boars, we keep on sharing information of ASF to pig keepers to increase the number of samples in passive surveillance. Regular training on prevention of ASF is given to pig keepers by farmer organizations and stakeholders of meat industry, in co-operation with animal health authorities. Pig keepers are informed of the risks and symptoms of ASF, their responsibility in preventing ASF and to maintain biosecurity. In addition to trainings, the pig keepers are informed via social media, via our home pages, via brochures we deliver, and on agricultural fairs.

Veterinarians are regularly trained and reminded to suspect ASF whenever they are reported of dead or sick pigs and if they meet signs in sick pigs that might fit to ASF.

Samples from sick or dead pigs are investigated and tested for ASF on very low threshold. If there is no obvious other reason for the findings, the samples will be tested for ASF.

#### Passive surveillance in wild boars

Target population of the programme is the wild boar population and the surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. Hunters and public have been instructed to report any dead or sick wild boar to the municipal official veterinarian. Finnish Food Authority pays for reporting 100 € / one dead found/sick wild boar. The sampling scheme of wild boar is aiming to get as many wild boars for sampling as possible. Samples are collected by the municipal official veterinarian in cooperation with local hunters. Disposal of carcasses will be carried out by burial or safe transportation to the rendering plant (under supervision of the municipal official veterinarian). Samples (spleen, kidney, blood, entire long bone) of dead wild boar will undergo virological tests (PCR). The estimated number of tests to be carried out in 2023 is based on the number of tests performed in 2021 - 2022 and the estimation of the wild boar population in 2022.

Number of wild boars to be tested in passive surveillance in 2023 is estimated to 40. In the active surveillance the number of tested animals is estimated to 1,200. In 2021, the number of wild boars tested was in passive surveillance 16 and in active surveillance 1,199.

Due to relatively small population of wild boars in Finland (3,100 individuals in the whole country in 2022), the number of animals found dead and tested will remain relatively low. To increase the sampling in passive surveillance, we campaign continuously to activate people to report if they find a dead or sick wild boar. Information of the need to report is shared via advertisements in magazines, via social media, via our home pages, via brochures and in all direct contacts to different stakeholders. The magazines used for advertising are aimed to hunters, outdoor people and people moving in the forests on professional base. To motivate people in reporting we pay a reward of 100 € per each reported wild boar found dead or sick. However, because Finland is a relatively sparsely populated land (338,472 km<sup>2</sup>, 16.3 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>) with large forest areas, there are practical challenges in finding potential wild boar carcasses.

We take part to training events aimed to hunters and organized by hunting organizations, game authorities and stakeholders every year. In the training events, we remind them to report if dead wild boars would be found.

Based on the results of year 2021, the passive surveillance target for year 2023 is optimistic and cannot be increased. However, we receive, accept, and test all samples from wild boars we will get.

#### Active surveillance in farmed wild boars

Surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. Slaughterhouses slaughtering farmed wild boars are asked to sample the animals (blood, spleen, kidney). The sampling scheme of wild boar is aiming to get as many wild boars for sampling as possible. The samples of farmed wild boar will undergo virological tests (PCR). The estimated number of tests to be carried out in 2023 is based on the number of tests performed in 2021-2022.

#### Active surveillance in wild boars

Surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. An estimated size of the free-living wild boar population in Finland is 3,100 animals. Most of these animals live in the South-Eastern area of Finland. The sampling scheme of hunted wild boar is aiming to get as many wild boars for sampling as possible. Samples from hunted wild boar are collected in cooperation with the Finnish Wildlife Agency and local hunters and hunters' associations. The Finnish Food Authority pays hunters for sampling 40 € / one hunted wild boar. Samples (spleen, kidney, blood) of hunted wild boar will undergo virological tests (PCR). An estimated number of tests to be carried out in 2023 is based on the number of tests performed in 2021-2022 and the estimation of the wild boar population in 2022.

An open access database has been opened to public with on-line situation of wild boars analyzed for ASF: <https://avointieto.ruokavirasto.fi/#/elain/luonnonvaraiset-elaimet>

#### Awareness campaign

The Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) published a risk profile on entering routes of African swine fever in 2011 and updated it in 2017 (Afrikkalaisen sikaruton mahdollisia maahantuloreittejä - riskiprofiili, Eviran julkaisu 4/2011). According to the profile, biosecurity measures on farm level and information campaigns are the most effective means to prevent African swine fever epidemics in Finland. Awareness campaign will continue in the whole territory of Finland and targeted information campaign related to ASF prevention and control measures will cover pig keepers, veterinarians, hunters, and public.

#### Targeted hunting

Selective hunting of female wild boars (adults and sub-adults) will in long term decrease the number of susceptible animals. Now the wild boar population is relatively small in Finland, but it has been growing since 2010. Based on experience from some Member States, a wild boar density of 0.5 wild boar/km<sup>2</sup> or lower is expected to reduce the spread of ASF. A working group consisting of experts from the veterinary and game authorities, the hunters' association, farmers' organization and the Animal Health Association (ETT ry) owned by the food industry has reached a common agreement about an intention to cut the wild boar population to half. Thus, hunters have agreed to use all available and legal means to reduce wild boar population growth.

## 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):

The competent authority in charge of the programme is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Food. The Unit of Animal Health and Medication of Finnish Food Authority oversees supervising and coordinating the programme and reporting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The laboratory of Veterinary Virology of the Finnish Food Authority is the NRL of ASF and in charge of performing the laboratory assays.

Locally the control of ASF is carried out by official veterinarians in Regional State Administrative Agencies and official veterinarians in municipalities, in local level. Furthermore, any operator, veterinarian, or other person (including hunters) in contact with the animal must immediately notify a municipal veterinary officer of any signs referring to a serious animal disease like African swine fever in an animal.

Samples from hunted wild boars are collected in cooperation with the Finnish Wildlife Agency and local hunters and hunters' associations. Co-operation with the Finnish Wildlife Agency and the Finnish Hunters' Organization is continuous. Finnish Food Authority sends sampling and packaging material directly to hunters' associations. Slaughterhouses slaughtering farmed wild boars take samples from slaughtered farmed wild boar based on a request from Finnish Food Authority.

Implementation of the programme is controlled by monitoring the number of samples and information exchange, e.g., via e-mails and meetings with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Food Authority, and the Finnish Wildlife Agency.

## 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) :

The programme is applied in the whole territory of Finland.

## 4.3 Description of the measures of the programme

### 4.3.1 Notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

African swine fever is a category A disease, and the national actions to prevent and control the disease in Finland are laid down in national Animal Disease Act 76/2021. Any operator, veterinarian, or other person (including hunters) in contact with the animal must notify a municipal official veterinarian of any signs referring to African swine fever in an animal. Municipal veterinary officer must inform a regional state veterinary officer and the regional state veterinary officer must inform Finnish Food Authority. Notifications shall be made immediately. Official veterinarians must take immediate steps to ensure the diagnosis and prevent spreading of the disease.

### 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):

The free-living wild boar population in Finland is relatively small, estimated to 3,100 in 2022. The densest wild boar population is in the South-Eastern Finland, where the population density is at highest more than 3 individuals per 1000 hectares (>3 animals/ 10 km<sup>2</sup>). The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) provides annual estimates of wild boar population size and density in Finland, see the report "Suomen villisikakanta tammikuussa 2022" <https://jukuri.luke.fi/handle/10024/551615>. Hunters are obligated to notify their catches to Finnish Wildlife Agency. The size of notified hunting bag was 1,443 hunted wild boars in 2021.

The vast majority of pig production in Finland is commercial. Most of the farms have specialized on having either sows (farrowing farms) or finishing unit. There exist a few farms that have the whole production chain (farrowing-to-finishing), but that production system is diminishing year after year. The pig industry is concentrated on the coast of South-Western and Western Finland. Most domestic pigs are always kept indoors, only a few farms allow their pigs outdoor access. Keeping pigs outdoors is forbidden in Finland unless there is a double or a strong electric fence (Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 404/2021).

According to the agriculture statistics database of National Resources Institute Finland (Luke), the number of domestic pigs was 1,107,822 animals in 864 farms in 2021. Out of those 864 farms, 426 were keeping sows (in total 82,256 animals) and 784 were keeping fattening pigs (age 3-8 months, in total 504,304 animals). Farms keeping fattening pigs divided per size: less than 50 pigs, 132 farms, average animal number 19 pigs; 50-499 pigs, 341 farms, average animal number 251 pigs; 500-1,499 pigs, 231 farms, average animal number 654 pigs; 1,500 or more pigs, 80 farms, average animal number 2,713 pigs. [https://statdb.luke.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/LUKE/LUKE\\_\\_02%20Maatalous\\_\\_04%20Tuotanto\\_\\_12%20Kotielainten%20lukumaara/01a\\_Sikojen\\_lkm\\_ELY.px/table/tableViewLayout2/](https://statdb.luke.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/LUKE/LUKE__02%20Maatalous__04%20Tuotanto__12%20Kotielainten%20lukumaara/01a_Sikojen_lkm_ELY.px/table/tableViewLayout2/)

According to the register of Finnish Food Safety Authority, farmed wild boars were kept in 110 holdings in Finland in 2022. The total number of farmed wild boars was 529 in 01.04.2021. The wild boar farms are outdoor facilities. The same regulations (identification of animals, registration of the holdings, requirements for fences) as for domestic pigs are applied to farmed wild boar.

According to the register of Finnish Food Safety Authority, 305 persons or holdings were keeping miniature pigs (06.05.2022). Hobby and other non-commercial pigs are included in the pig register.

#### *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):

Identification of animals and registration of the holdings are performed according to EU Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429), the national law of animal identification (Laki eläinten tunnistamisesta ja rekisteröinnistä 1069/2021), and the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No 67/2022 of identification of suidae (Maa- ja metsätalousministeriön asetus eläinten tunnistamisesta ja rekisteröinnistä 67/2022).

All pig holdings must be registered, and all pig keepers must be registered as an animal keeper, also those who have one or just few pigs (including miniature pigs). Keeper gets a personal up to five-digit code of his/her own when he/she registers as a keeper of pigs. The code is a unique identification mark for holding of origin. Pigs must be marked with this code by a tattoo or an ear tag no later than in 9 months of age or before they leave their holding. An animal keeper can have one or more holdings, where his/her animals are kept. Holdings are registered and they have their own identification code and address (coordinates) in the register. Domestic pigs are identified on a group level. The batch movement database system for pigs started in January 2002. System was upgraded in October 2011. Pigs are



registered in a way that the original and previous holdings can be traced. All pig keepers, slaughterhouses and dealers must notify movements of pigs within 7 days to the database. The same regulations as for domestic pigs are applied to farmed wild boar.

### 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):

Pigs are identified on a group level. All pig keepers, slaughterhouses and dealers must notify movements of pigs within 7 days to the batch movement database. The database system of pig animals (batch movement database system for pigs) started in Finland in January 2002. In October 2011 an upgraded database was introduced. The database is operated by Finnish Food Authority. A major part of the information notified by the keepers comes into database via internet-program. Pigs are registered in a way that the original and previous holdings can be traced. Domestic pigs (including farmed wild boar) must be marked with a code (a unique identification mark for holding of origin) by a tattoo or an ear tag no later than in 9 months of age or before they leave the holding. Ear tag is normally used for very hairy or dark colored pigs.

Domestic animals traded in Finland are mostly transported by entrepreneurs registered for animal transportation. Registration of the vehicle and the case/event is obligatory, based on the national animal welfare legislation (Laki eläinten kuljetuksesta 1429/2006).

Moving of free-living (wild) wild boars from an area to another or catching the animals to a holding is forbidden in Finland with the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 404/2021 (Maa- ja metsätalousministeriön asetus varotoimenpiteistä afrikkalaisen sikaruton leviämisen ehkäisemiseksi luonnonvaraisten villisikojen ja kotieläinten välillä).

### 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):

All samples will be tested with UPL real time PCR (Fernandez-Pinero et al. 2013). On demand Finnish Food Authority can use conventional PCR by Agüero et al. 2003 or by Bastos et al. 2003 followed by sequencing and ELISA and IPT for serology.

Passive surveillance in domestic pigs and farmed wild boar:

If African swine fever is suspected, the official veterinarian will visit the suspected holding to confirm or rule out the presence of the disease. The official veterinarian will check production and health records of the holding and carry out clinical examination and sampling of pigs, in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687, the Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605, and the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Domestic pigs which will be tested for ASF in the framework of passive surveillance are mainly not real

suspects of ASF, but dead for other reasons. All sick or dead pigs for which other causes cannot be excluded on clinical grounds, will be investigated, and undergo virological tests for ASF.

### Sampling scheme for active surveillance in farmed wild boars

According to the sampling scheme of farmed wild boars as many samples are taken and analyzed as possible. Surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. The number of wild boar farms in the whole country is relatively small. In 2022, farmed wild boars were kept in 110 holdings in Finland. Starting from September 2021, the sampling takes place at slaughterhouse. Until September 2021, the sampling was planned to take place at farms, but since we did not get many samples, the scheme was changed. According to the meat inspection records, the number of farmed wild boars slaughtered in a slaughterhouse in 2021 was 141, which means that the whole farmed wild boar population is relatively small. All farmed wild boars are slaughtered in a slaughterhouse, and they have to pass meat inspection before selling the meat.

### Passive surveillance in wild boars:

The sampling scheme of wild boar is aiming to get as many wild boars (all wild boars found dead or sick) for sampling as possible.

### Sampling scheme of hunted wild boars, active surveillance

The sampling scheme of active surveillance in hunted wild boar is aiming to get as many wild boars for sampling as possible. Surveillance programme covers the whole territory of Finland. Samples from hunted wild boars are collected in cooperation with the Finnish Wildlife Agency and local hunters and hunters' associations. Sampling is voluntary for the hunters. The total number of samples received from hunted wild boars has been on good level (83% of hunted animals in 2021).

### Implementation of biosecurity measures

All animal holdings must have sufficient biosecurity measures in place in relation to their production type and risks. According to a study done in Finland (Sahlström et al. 2014), most pig farms implement the following biosecurity measures: protective clothing and boots are always used by farmers and visitors, there is a separate loading area for the pigs, a leak-proof carcass container is used, the doors are kept locked, the premises have compartments and pest control procedures are in place. The following additional biosecurity measures are very common in piggeries: a hygiene barrier which one cannot pass without changing clothes and washing hands, the premises are thoroughly cleaned after each batch of pigs and traffic at the farm is arranged taking biosecurity into account.

Pig production as primary production of pork is guided in hygiene and good practices. <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/yriytykset/elintarvikeala/elintarvikkeiden-alkutuotanto/alkutuotantoa-koskevat-vaatimukset/>

On food chain information (including animal health issues) there are available guides for producers: <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/yriytykset/elintarvikeala/elintarvikkeiden-alkutuotanto/ketjuinformaatio/> FCI is supervised by official veterinarian as a part of meat inspection at slaughterhouse. Municipal official veterinarian inspects pig farms based on suspicion and if there appears a reason for control.

Pig keepers planning to keep pigs outdoors, must announce it in advance to municipal official veterinarian. There must be a double fence or strong electric fence that inhibits all direct contacts between kept pigs and free-living wild boars. The requirement is set in the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 404/2021. It applies to all pigs including even farmed wild boars and non-commercial and pet pigs. The municipal official veterinarian supervises outdoor pigs and inspects farms. Pig farms involved in Sikava are using a voluntary system Biocheck.UGent® to evaluate and improve their biosecurity. Implementing of biosecurity on Sikava pig farms is inspected 2 times per year by a

veterinarian. The results are reported in Sikava data base.

Sikava is a voluntary health classification register for pig farms in Finland (organized by Animal Health ETT). The system covers about 90% of the pig farms and about 97% of the pig production. In practise it covers the commercial pig production in Finland. In Sikava system pig farms are classified into different health categories and the different health categories have separate animal transport logistics. Sikava shares all essential data to official veterinarians responsible for animal health of the pig farms or meat inspection. Information of Sikava: <https://www.sikava.fi/PublicContent/IntroductionInEnglish>

#### 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) :

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

##### Biosecurity at farms

All animal holdings must have sufficient biosecurity measures in place in relation to their production type and risks. Since first of June 2018 all pig holdings, where pigs are kept outside, must have had double fence or strong electric fence that ensures that there will be no direct contact with wild wild boar, in accordance with the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 404/2021. This applies to farmed wild boar and hobby pigs too.

Wild boars are farmed in 110 farms in Finland. Farmed wild boar are kept outdoors. The farms are double or electric fenced, thus farmed wild boar should not have any contacts with free-living (wild) wild boar.

Most domestic pigs are always kept indoors. According to a study done in Finland (Sahlström et al. 2014), the vast majority of farms implements the following biosecurity measures: protective clothing and boots are always used by farmers and visitors, there is a separate loading area for the pigs, a leak-proof carcass container is used, the doors are kept locked, the premises have compartments and pest control procedures are in place. The following additional biosecurity measures are very common in piggeries: a hygiene barrier which one cannot pass without changing clothes and washing hands, the premises are thoroughly cleaned after each batch of pigs and traffic at the farm is arranged taking biosecurity into account.

Sikava is a voluntary health classification register for pig farms in Finland (organized by Animal Health ETT). The system covers about 90% of the swine farms and about 97% of the production. In Sikava system pig farms are classified into different health categories and the different health categories have separate animal transport logistics. Pig farms involved in Sikava are using Biocheck.UGent system to

evaluate their biosecurity.

There are guidelines for hunters on hygiene and biosecurity in hunting and handling the carcasses. The information is given on homepages of Finnish Food Authority and in separate brochures. The guiding includes handling of carcass, cleaning of equipment, disinfection, recommendations of feeding wild boars, recommendation to avoid bringing feed from countries with ASF, recommendation to avoid hunting trips abroad to areas with ASF.

<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/viljelijat/elaintenpito/elainten-terveys-ja-elaintaudit/elaintaudit/siat/afrikkalainen-sikarutto/metsastajille-afrikkalaisesta-sikarutosta/>

<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/laboratoriopalvelut/elaintautitutkimukset/naytteenotto-ohjeet/villisika/>

[https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/ala\\_tuo\\_tuhoisaa\\_tuliaista\\_062021\\_fi.pdf](https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/ala_tuo_tuhoisaa_tuliaista_062021_fi.pdf)

Guidelines on hygiene in handling of hunted wild boar <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/yriytykset/elintarvikeala/elintarvikkeiden-alkutuotanto/elaimista-saatavat-elintarvikkeet/riista/Villisiat/>

Guidelines on game meat inspection and game handling establishments: <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/yriytykset/elintarvikeala/teurastus/lihantarkastus/luonnonvaraisen-riistan-lihantarkastus/>

Activity in game handling establishments is controlled on regular basis. Whenever a game animal is slaughtered in the establishment, an official veterinarian does the postmortem inspection of the carcass and supervises the activity and hygiene of the premises. Different game species and their meat shall be handled separately, and the surfaces shall be washed and disinfected between them.

Guidelines for food business operators on ASF: <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/yriytykset/elintarvikeala/elintarvikealan-yhteiset-vaatimukset/varautuminen-afrikkalaiseen-sikaruttoon/>

#### 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) :

The measures as regards positive animals will be taken in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687, the Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605, and the ASF Contingency Plan.

#### 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 a case where the presence of African swine fever is officially confirmed in a holding, all pigs on the holding will be culled without delay under official supervision and in such a way as to avoid the risk of ASFV spreading during killing.

#### 4.3.10 Compensation scheme for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

Owners would be given compensation of slaughtered and culled animals according to the national Animal Diseases Act 76/2021. Animals are fully compensated for their market value, as assessed by an independent expert. If property is destroyed based on orders from the competent authority, its value is fully compensated to the farmer. The competent authority may also decide to partially compensate for production losses if those losses constitute a significant loss to the livelihood of the farmer.

#### 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) :

Reporting of the program will be in accordance with EU requirements (intermediate report + final report).

The laboratory of Veterinary Virology oversees performing the laboratory assays for ASF in Finland. No other laboratory is authorized for handling of ASFV in Finland. All suspicious or positive laboratory test results will be immediately reported by the laboratory of Veterinary Virology to the Unit of Animal Health and Medication of Finnish Food Authority in accordance with guidance in place. The Unit of Animal Health and Medication will report immediately to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will report to the EU according to regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Data collection, aggregation, analysis, and transmission: All laboratory testing as well as background information on sampled animals will be entered into the laboratory information system of Finnish Food Authority (ELMO). Laboratory remission form includes requirements of the regulation (EU) 2016/429.

#### 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 km<sup>2</sup>*
- *sampling, collection / delivery and removal of dead wild boar and compensation scheme applied*

(max. 32000 chars) :

The samples (spleen, kidney, blood) from hunted wild boars are taken by hunters. Guidelines for sampling wild boars and submission of samples for virological analyses are available in homepages of Finnish Food Authority and in printed leaflets. Printed leaflets have been distributed to local hunting associations in cooperation with game authorities. Information on sampling and submission of samples has also been given in training events and through hunters' magazines. <https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/laboratoriopalvelut/elaintautitutkimukset/naytteenotto-ohjeet/villisika/>  
<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/naytteenotto->

metsastetyista-villioista\_fi\_a4.pdf

The meat from hunted wild boars is used as food, mostly by hunters' own consumption.

Targeted hunting is encouraged to target female wild boars. The Finnish Food Authority pays hunters for targeted hunting 60 € / hunted female wild boar. Hunters send, as a proof of targeted hunting, a piece of uterus of hunted female wild boar (together with ASF-samples) to the laboratory.

If a dead or sick wild boar is reported to municipal official veterinarian, it is considered as a suspected case of ASF. The official veterinarian is responsible for sampling the animal for virological analyses and submission of the samples to Finnish Food Authority's laboratory. The municipal official veterinarian is also responsible for disposal of the dead wild boar after it has been sampled. According to the guidelines, the carcass will be buried or transported to an ABP establishment. There are available detailed instructions.

There is not a legal based ban for feeding of wild boars in Finland. The authorities recommend feeding wild boar only to draw them to the hunting sites. The recommendation has been agreed between game authorities, national hunting association and animal health authorities in National Wild Boar Working Group in 2015, and the recommendation is communicated to hunters in guidelines and other information.

Report of the National Wild Boar Working Group: <https://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/1722412/MMM-TRM-2015-1/845d6b04-f425-44f2-8486-11d9107c2cf9>

The national report does not include any precise maximum limit of feed that is allowed to use in baiting wild boars. However, the estimation is that the feed used in wild boar hunting does not exceed the maximum recommended amount 10 kg/km<sup>2</sup>/month.

#### 4.3.13 Describe the raising awareness actions to be implemented.

(max. 32000 chars):

There have been several targeted awareness campaigns in Finland; campaigns are aimed at pig farmers, veterinarians, hunters, hikers, travelers, and the general public. The content of the campaigns has been related to ASF prevention and control measures.

We will continue our awareness campaign by the following means:

- Increase the number of road panels and maintaining existing ones. The remaining road signs will be installed in late 2022 and possibly early 2023. It's possible the signs won't be billed until early 2023. The cost of the signs in 2023 would then be around . The amount also includes maintenance work on signs already installed. –
- Purchase of services to print ASF -leaflets and posters. Many of our brochures are e-brochures available for download from our website, but brochures also need to be printed. At the Nordic Travel Fair in January 2023, brochures related to the private import of food will be distributed. The weatherproof, laminated A3 brochure "How do you take ASF samples from a hunted wild boar" which is distributed to hunting clubs is expensive to print (printing cost per 1000 pieces is almost ). –
- Four-week targeted online media campaign. Seven animated ASF videos, targeted to pig farmers, hunters, veterinarians, those planning on a trip abroad, hikers, and forestry workers, will be shared in social media (Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram) and on Finland's largest online media channels, with the help of programmatic media buying. When communicating to an audience that isn't very interested in the issue, online video campaigns are one of the best ways to reach big audiences. Our previous online video campaigns have shown this to be true. With these programmatically purchased online

video campaigns, we have reached a large audience. The impressions per campaign for these campaigns have been up to more than 6 million and more than 1.2 million people have watched more than 50% of the full length of videos. Paid advertising on social media channels. Paid ads on social media achieve greater visibility. -

- Advertising in magazines such as Finnair's inflight magazine Blue Wings, Baltic Guide, Suomen Luonto, Latu ja Polku, Metsästäjä, Rahtarit, Luva. Targeted based on profession or hobby, the printed magazine is still a viable means of reaching specific target groups such as hunters, hikers, truck drivers, forestry workers and experts in the sectors of natural resources and nature enthusiasts. ATTENTION! It has now become clear that Finnair will publish only one issue of Blue Wings customer magazine next year. Therefore, we have reduced our previous estimate of advertising costs for 2023 by Blue Wings was previously released 11 times a year with an advertising cost of around per year. -

- In the ads, we urge people to report wild boar found dead or sick. Similarly, we instruct people not to bring products containing pig or boar meat from countries with African swine fever. We also tell you that food waste should be disposed of in waste containers with lids.

- We remind veterinarians and pig keepers of good disease protection in animal estates and urge monitoring for possible symptoms of African swine fever in pigs.

- We remind hunters to take ASF samples from wild boars and send them for laboratory research.

- Banner advertising on the websites of magazines, associations, and organizations. The importance of online media is constantly growing and ASF needs to have visibility there as well. Banners take to the ASF section of our website. The target groups are the same as those mentioned above -

- Participation in at least the Nordic Travel Fair, the largest travel industry event in Northern Europe. Large crowds are expected for Nordic Travel Fair after the years of covid-19. We will reach one of our main target groups there, people who travel a lot. -

- Advertising agency expenses (as the disease situation changes, animations on maps appearing in ASF videos need to be updated) -

## 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):

Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira published a risk profile on entering routes of African swine fever in 2011. The profile was updated in 2017. (See Afrikkalaisen sikaruton mahdollisia maahantuloreittejä - riskiprofiili. [https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/viljelijat/elaintenpito/elaintaudit/afrikkalaisen-sikarutto/paivitetty\\_2017\\_eviran\\_tutkimuksia\\_4\\_2011.pdf](https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/viljelijat/elaintenpito/elaintaudit/afrikkalaisen-sikarutto/paivitetty_2017_eviran_tutkimuksia_4_2011.pdf)) According to the profile, biosecurity measures on farm level and information campaigns are the most effective means to prevent African swine fever epidemics in Finland. The most significant benefit of the programme would be to promote actions to prevent the disease from entering pig farms or wild boar population in Finland by enhancing

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biosecurity measures on holdings and informing public/travelers about risks related to personal import of food and hunters about risks related to hunting in abroad. Wild boar population in Finland could be controlled by selective hunting of sows.

Awareness campaign is implemented in the whole territory of Finland and targeted information campaign covers for example pig keepers, veterinarians, hunters, and public related to ASF control and prevention measures.

The surveillance programme aims to early detection of African swine fever in case the disease would enter Finland. This would facilitate early measures to eradicate the disease before it becomes an epidemic.



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## 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	
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Commercial	889		150	0	0	X
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Farmed wild boar	110		40	0	0	X
<b>Totals : 999</b>				0	190	0	0	
						<b>Add a new row</b>		
<b>Total number of animals to be sampled in MS (blood)</b>						190		

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## 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	
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	3 100		wild boar	Active	1200	0	X
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country			wild boar	Passive	40	0	X
<b>Totals :</b>		3 100				1 240	0	
						<b>Add a new row</b>		
<i>Animals sampled Active in MS</i>						1200		
<i>Animals sampled Passive in MS</i>						40		

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<b>Animals sampled - Total in MS</b>	1240
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**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	
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Domestic pigs	PCR	Tissue	150	150	0	passive	<b>X</b>
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Domestic pigs	ELISA ab	Sera	40	40	0	passive	<b>X</b>
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Domestic pigs	IPT	Sera	5	5	0	passive	<b>X</b>
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Wild boar	PCR	Tissue	40	40	0	wild boar passive	<b>X</b>
SUOMI / FINLAND	Whole country	Domestic pigs	PCR	Tissue	10	10	0	farmed wild boar passive	<b>X</b>
									<b>X</b>
<b>Totals :</b>					245	245	0		
					<b>Add a new row</b>				
					<b>Total tests ELISA in MS</b>				
					40				
					<b>Total tests PCR in MS</b>				
					200				
					<b>Total tests Virus isolation/virological test in MS</b>				
					0				

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<b>Total tests IPT in MS</b>	5	
<b>Total tests (Other) in MS</b>	0	

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## 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):

The sampling of hunted wild boars is performed by hunters. The Finnish Food Authority pays (state budget) hunters for sending the samples to the laboratory.

If African swine fever is suspected (clinical suspicion in a pig holding or a dead wild boar), the official sampling is performed by municipal official

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veterinarian. The official veterinarian is paid for from government funds. No co-financing for sampling is requested.

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):*

Laboratory of Veterinary Virology of Finnish Food Authority is the NRL for ASF and has diagnostic preparedness to diagnose both ASF virus and antibodies. Laboratory of Veterinary Virology oversees performing the laboratory assays for ASF in Finland. No other laboratory is authorized for handling of ASFV in Finland. The testing is 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):*

EU co-financing is not requested.

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)

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(max. 32000 chars):

Not applicable.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Awareness campaign (purchase of services to print ASF -leaflets and posters, purchase of information road panels, purchase of production and broadcasting of radio spots, purchase of media campaigns in social media and online media channels, advertising in magazines, participation in the travel industry event and advertising on port terminals) will be implemented by advertising and media agencies and paid by the state budget.

## 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*

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### 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.

*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
	18897_14555.pdf	18897_14555.pdf	288 kb
	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	ERAFUNDSPESTFUNDS_PPD.pdf	288 kb
		Total size of attachments :	576 kb