



First announcement International Conference “African swine fever: knowledge and future challenges; contribution from the COST Action ASF-STOP”

Brescia, Italy, 29-30 January, 2020

Local Organiser: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna (IZSLER).

We **welcome** you to the final conference of the COST Action ASF-STOP- Understanding and Combating African Swine Fever in Europe. Since the Launch Conference of ASF-STOP celebrated in Pulawy (Poland) in December 2016, African swine fever (ASF) has continued to challenge scientists, stakeholders and animal health authorities. Within this short period ASF has further spread across Eurasia and continues advancing into south-eastern Asia causing devastating effects to the pork production and industry. Staying at the cutting edge to combat ASF requires close collaboration of scientists from multiple disciplines and from a broad geographical range. ASF-STOP, with its 31 participating countries in Europe and its extended international network, provides the optimal platform for knowledge sharing on ASF.

The Final International Conference of ASF-STOP seeks to disseminate and exchange scientific knowledge on ASF. The two-days scientific programme will cover topics related to ASF virology, vaccinology, molecular biology, epidemiology, surveillance and diagnostics, as well as contingency planning, wild boar ecology, biosecurity and policy making.

The conference encourages the participation of Early Career Investigators through specific sessions and award competitions. ASF-STOP aims at inclusive collaboration with a good gender balance and wide geographical representation, thus, researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) and women are encouraged to participate. Stakeholders are also welcome, a session will be dedicated to bridge knowledge between stakeholders and researchers.

WELCOME to the conference ‘**African swine fever: knowledge and future challenges; contribution from the COST Action ASF-STOP**’ kindly hosted by our colleagues of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna (IZSLER) in the lovely Italian city of Brescia.

Let’s tackle the ASF challenge together, we need each and all of you!

Dolores Gavier-Widén
Chair, ASF-STOP

Francisco Ruiz-Fons
Vice-Chair, ASF-STOP