

## WG3 – BIOSECURITY AND PIG PRODUCTION SYSTEM

The current African swine fever (ASF) situation in the Baltic countries and Poland represents a serious threat to the EU livestock sector, particularly if the infection pressure remain high at the Eastern border of the EU. No vaccine or drugs are available to prevent ASF infection. Therefore, it is particularly important to prevent the introduction of the disease in free territories; indeed, prevention and early detection play a key role in the control strategy for ASF. The basic elements of biosecurity derive from the knowledge of the epidemiology of the disease, the duration of pathogen excretion in infected animals, the main routes of excretion, survival of the pathogen in the environment and its routes of infection. Some basic principles of biosecurity apply to all farming systems and all diseases but the main practical biosecurity measures need to be targeted to the disease and to the farming systems in which they are to be implemented. In fact, biosecurity measures are rather standardized in commercial pig holdings, whilst they are not well defined and of easy implementation in the backyards. The aim of WG3 is to define the main preventive measures to adopt to minimize the risk of ASF spread in the pig sector, including both industrial and backyard production systems. Indeed, backyards with poor biosecurity in place are currently playing an important role in the maintenance and spread of ASF in the eastern European Countries. WG3 includes experts of the pig production system, epidemiologists, scientists and policy makers.

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