

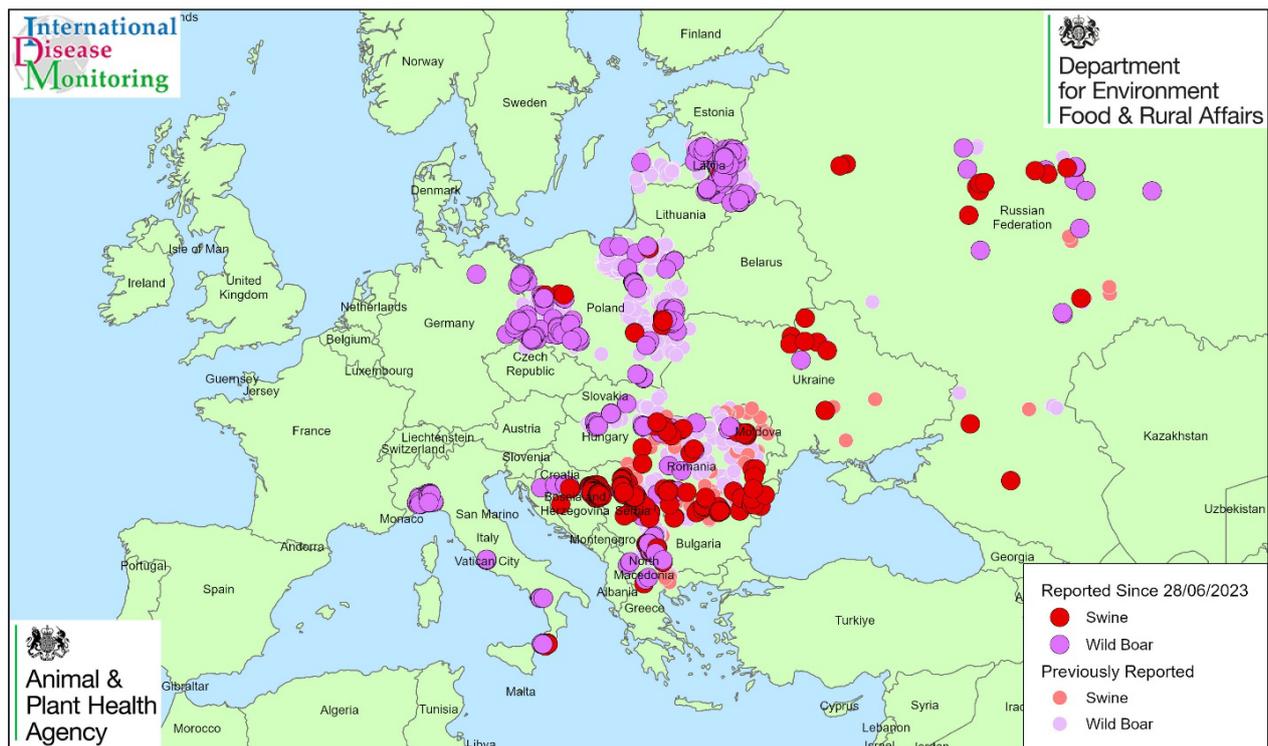
Updated Outbreak Assessment #33

African swine fever in Europe

15 August 2023

Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar in Europe. Since our last report on 28 June 2023, a marked increase in ASF outbreaks has been reported on domestic pig farms across the Balkan states, particularly in newly affected Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. According to available ADIS summaries, numbers of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report were approximately 266 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 312 in Croatia, 292 in Romania and 239 in Serbia. There have also been multiple reports of ASF cases in wild boar in these countries.



Map Prepared by IDM

Date: 22/08/2023

Absolute Scale: 1:28,800,000

African Swine Fever
01 January 2023 to 15 August 2023
(WOAH Data Only)

Map 1 Showing ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Europe from January to August 2023

Elsewhere, according to WOAAH reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. Since our last report the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine have all reported ASF in wild boar, according to WOAAH reports (Map 1).

Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the [EU Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\) summary tables](#), and information from relevant PAFF (the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) presentations. Tables of numbers of WOAAH reports by country can be found in Appendix A.

Situation assessment

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In late June 2023, we reported on the first outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in north-east Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since then, there have been a further 335 outbreaks in domestic pigs reported to WOAAH. The majority of outbreaks were in the north-east of the country, near Brčko and Bijeljina, although 4 outbreaks were in the north-west of the country near Banja Luka. All of the outbreaks were on backyard premises, the largest of which contained 14 pigs. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 5 cases of ASF in wild boar to WOAAH, distributed along the northern border with Croatia, between Brčko and Banja Luka. It is unclear what surveillance strategy is being used to detect ASF in wild boar in the country, or wild boar numbers in the region.

Croatia

Croatia also reported ASF in domestic pigs for the first time in June 2023 near Drenovci, around 30km from the first outbreaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since our last report, Croatia has reported a further 202 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs to WOAAH. These were in Vukovarsko-Srijemska and Brodsko-Posavska, near to the borders with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. All of the outbreaks were on farm premises, the majority of which contained fewer than 5 pigs, and the largest of which contained 19 pigs. According to available ADIS summaries, the number of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in Croatia is considerably higher than reported by WOAAH, with 313 outbreaks reported to ADIS to 4 August 2023. These outbreaks look to be in similar areas, according to maps provided by Plateforme ESA (<https://www.plateforme-esa.fr/fr/bulletins-hebdomadaires-de-veille-sanitaire-internationale->). Croatia also reported 3 cases of ASF in wild boar to WOAAH, one of which was detected in Vukovarsko-Srijemska near to the domestic pig outbreaks. The other two wild boar cases were detected in the west of the country in Sisacko-Moslavacka and Karlovacka, which are regions close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Romania

Romania has reported 214 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs across the whole of the country to WOAAH since our last assessment on 28 June 2023. This is a marked increase since, according to WOAAH, there had been 98 outbreaks reported for the whole of 2023 to the 28 June. Of these, 2 outbreaks were on farm premises with between 12 and 27 animals. One outbreak involved 1 dead pig found in a public place, and the remaining 211 outbreaks were on backyard premises with between 1 and 136 animals. The whole of Romania remains under RZ III restrictions. Seasonal increases in the number of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs have been observed in previous years in Romania and other European countries (Appendix B), although additional investigations would be required to identify the cause of this seasonality (EFSA, 2022).

Romania also reported 13 cases of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 19 animals.

Serbia

Similar to Romania, Serbia has also reported a marked increase in ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs. Serbia reported 398 outbreaks in domestic pigs to WOAAH since our last assessment according to WOAAH reports, compared to 86 outbreaks in 2023 to 28 June. These were all on backyard premises with between 1 and 18 pigs.

There were also 15 cases of ASF in wild boar in Serbia which affected 18 animals.

Greece

Since our last report, Greece has reported a further outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs. This was in Western Macedonia near Florina, in an area around 110km further west than the 5 outbreaks previously reported. The outbreak was on an outdoor farm premises with 16 pigs, close to the border with North Macedonia. Intensive hunting of wild boar and active surveillance in the surveillance zone is under way.

Italy

Since our last assessment, further ASF outbreaks have been confirmed on two pig farms in Calabria which contained between 1 and 12 pigs. There were also 5 cases of ASF in wild boar reported in the region.

Our last report on 28 June 2023, described ASF detections in wild boar in 2 new regions of Italy, Lombardy and Campania. Since then, there have been a further 3 ASF cases reported in wild boar in Campania but none in Lombardy. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Lombardia and Emilia Romagna have conducted a risk study in order to categorize zones at risk of ASF introduction in farms in Lombardy, which has more than 5 million pigs ([PAFF July 2023 Italy](#)). There have been 71 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, all of which have been within the existing Restriction Zones (RZs). There have also been a further 9 cases in Lazio, central Italy.

Control and surveillance measures in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2020/687 and 2023/594 have been applied. Protection and surveillance zones have been implemented around the affected farm premises and the wild boar cases. There is currently no evidence of an epidemiological link between cases in Calabria and Campania and disease clusters in northern or central Italy, although phylogenetic analysis is ongoing ([PAFF May 2023 Italy](#)).

In Sardinia, where ASF genotype I has been present since the 1970s, there have been no seropositive cases in wild boar in the RZ II since November 2021, and the last positive PCR result was in 2019.

Poland

In Poland, since 28 June 2023, there have been 17 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs reported to WOA. This comes after a decrease in reports with just single outbreaks in September 2022 and April 2023. Five of these outbreaks were reported in our previous assessment ([PAFF June 2023 Poland](#)). Of the remaining 12 outbreaks, 7 were in Lubelskie in the east and 2 were in Wielkopolskie in the west, where outbreaks in domestic pigs have previously been reported this summer. Since our last report, according to WOA, there were further 196 reports of ASF in wild boar throughout the east and the west of the country (where there is high domestic pig density) comprising a total of 288 animals.

Latvia

Latvia has reported a substantial increase in ASF cases in wild boar, with an uptick in outbreaks in domestic pigs. Since our last report, Latvia has reported 5 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to WOA, on 3 farm premises with between 1 and 8 pigs, and 2 backyard premises with 1 and 4 pigs.

Latvia has submitted 225 reports of ASF in wild boar to WOA since our last update, comprising of 346 animals. Most of the cases were in eastern regions of Latgales, Rīgas, Vidzemes and Zemgales, with one case in the western region of Kurzemes.

Estonia

Since our last report, Estonia has reported 6 ASF cases in wild boar and at least 2 outbreaks in domestic pigs, according to ADIS. There are differences in circulating strains of ASF in Estonia, with outbreaks in southern counties thought to have originated in Latvia and Russia, since they differ from ASF circulating elsewhere in Estonia (<https://news.err.ee/1609057346/swine-fever-in-south-estonia-likely-originates-in-russia-and-latvia>).

Czech Republic

In December 2022, [the Czech Republic reported the first case of ASF since April 2018](#). The Czech Republic has reported 6 more cases of ASF in wild boar since our last

assessment in June 2023. All cases were in the Liberecký region, close to the border with Poland. The Czech Republic is yet to report any outbreaks in domestic pigs.

Germany

Since 28 June 2023, there have been 12 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising of a total of 96 animals. There is no significant reporting of large distance spread since our previous update, all but one cases have continued to be reported in the Saxony and Brandenburg regions, close to the border with Poland. One case was reported as having a start date of October 2022, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where it has been concluded that there is no longer any active ASF activity ([PAFF April 2023 Germany](#)). The permanent double fences between Brandenburg and Poland, and between Saxony and Brandenburg are now completed ([PAFF March 2023 Germany](#)). Construction of a double fence between Saxony and western Germany is ongoing. In Brandenburg, there has been reversion of RZ I and RZ II areas so no RZII areas remain, and permanent fencing in neighbouring RZ I areas have been completed leaving a corridor free of ASF (https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/reg-com_ahw_20230713_pres-02.pdf). The last case of ASF in a wild boar in this area was in October 2021. There were no detections of ASF in domestic pigs in Germany since our last report.

Hungary

Since 28 June 2023, there have been a further 17 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 20 animals in Hungary. Around half of these were in the east of the country close to the border with Romania, with the remainder of reports north and east of Budapest, within the RZ II and near to the border with Slovakia.

Moldova

Since our last report, Moldova has reported 3 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Two were in Cahul in the south of the country, on a backyard premises and a farm premises with 12 and 6 pigs, respectively. One outbreak was in Ungheni in the north of the country on a farm premises containing 6,278 pigs. All outbreaks were close to the border with Romania.

Republic of North Macedonia

Since the last outbreak assessment, the Republic of North Macedonia has reported 3 outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on village premises containing between 3 and 4 pigs in the north-east of the country.

North Macedonia has continued to report ASF in wild boar in areas across the country, with 8 cases since our last report.

Russia

Russia has reported 14 outbreaks in domestic pigs in the west of the country since our last assessment according to WOAAH reports. All outbreaks were on backyard premises, the largest of which contained 15 pigs.

There were also 11 cases of ASF in wild boar in Russia since our last assessment, affecting 18 individuals.

Ukraine

Ukraine has reported 6 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, 5 of which were near Kiev and one which was further south in Kirovohrad. The outbreaks were on a mixture of commercial farm, backyard and village premises, with the largest premises containing 105 pigs. Ukraine has also reported 2 cases of ASF in wild boar affecting, one of which was on a backyard premises with 36 animals in Kirovohrad.

ADIS outbreaks

Some Eastern European countries including Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia have reported ASF outbreaks and cases via ADIS only (to date), which are available via ADIS summaries (ADIS 2023).

Conclusion

The rapid spread of ASF among domestic pig farms in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina following disease introduction in June, although expected, is a considerable increase in the range of ASF. Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia were two of nine Balkan countries (which included Greece) identified by EFSA as having a very high chance (66- 100%) of disease spread inside their borders, within a year of introduction (EFSA, 2019). Initial outbreaks in both countries were reported in domestic pigs, mostly in smallholdings close to borders with known ASF affected countries. Since then, long-distance spread to domestic pigs across Bosnia and Herzegovina has occurred, and ASF-infected wild boar have been detected in Croatia in regions distant to the initial detected infected area. The EFSA (2019) report predicted that the natural median spread of ASF due to wild boar movements was between 2.9-11.7 km/year, but that human mediated translocation of ASF remains an important contributing factor to disease spread. It is unclear whether the first introductions of disease were from movements of wild boar or through human-mediated transmission, but onward spread since our last report is currently considered to likely be due to human-related activities considering the current rate of spread being much quicker than that predicted by wild boar movements alone (EFSA 2019).

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe. While the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases reported in wild boar decreased considerably in

2022, for the first time ([African swine fever decreases in pigs and wild boar in the EU during 2022 | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#)), the marked uptick in domestic pig outbreaks in Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, and in wild boar in Latvia shows that this trend has not continued into 2023. ASF still remains a threat with EU pork production at its lowest level in almost a decade according to recent reports, with ASF (which limits export opportunities), input costs and consumer cost of living being given as reasons ([AHDB 2023](#)). The continued outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Poland, Latvia and Bulgaria are consistent with seasonal increases in the summer months in domestic pig outbreaks seen in previous years in Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Slovakia (EFSA, 2022 and Appendix B). The cause of these seasonal increases is yet to be determined. However, previous long-distance ‘jumps’ of ASF to domestic pigs in western Germany in summer 2022 were thought to have been facilitated by movements of seasonal workers.

Given the above, we consider that the risk of entry of ASF virus in live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from affected countries, remains at **MEDIUM (occurs regularly)**.

The potential high risk for non-commercial imports of pork products from ASF affected areas remains of high concern. Evidence from inspections at Great Britain ports suggest that there are several vehicles illegally bringing pork meat into Great Britain from some regions of the EU affected by ASF. Some of these instances involved large quantities of porcine POAO, some of which appear to be home-slaughtered and arrive in Great Britain from an undisclosed origin as a non-commercial import, with poor levels of biosecurity and food hygiene. Therefore, the risk of ASF entering Great Britain, from the human-mediated pathway and moving porcine POAO, is considered to remain at **HIGH (occurs very often)**, though there is considerable uncertainty around this until data is fully collated and analysed, and we will reassess as further information becomes available.

It remains a critical time for the spread of the virus throughout Europe as well as into other regions through human-mediated routes such as introduction from non-commercial imports (including illegal imports) or fomites. On 1 September 2022, strict new controls were introduced restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It is no longer legal to personally bring in pork or pork products weighing over 2 kilograms unless they are produced to the EU’s commercial standards. This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control, but Great Britain will be bringing in further controls. Although this legislation does not currently apply to non-commercial imports of pork products less than 2 kg from the EU, all travelers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, buying, ordering on the internet, or requesting any pork products – for example, fresh or frozen meat, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. It remains illegal for travelers to import meat or dairy products from Asia and other non-EU country areas.

Swill feeding any animal, whether pigs, poultry, ruminants, or wildlife is illegal and has the potential to cause substantial harm. We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and the general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban.

All pig keepers, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors or seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) or equipment associated with such activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, these measures are only as effective as the people using them, so proper training should be provided.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

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Appendix A

Number of reports of African swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs in Europe, according to WOAAH. Note that some countries do not routinely report ASF outbreaks to WOAAH such as Slovakia and Lithuania.

Country	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina																		38	394	432
Bulgaria	2																		2	4
Croatia																		20	187	207
Germany					1		2							1						4
Greece															1	1	4			6
Italy						1											2	3	1	7
Latvia							3	3										1	4	11
Moldova	1				2	2	2	3	1		2	2	3	6	5				2	31
Poland					1	6	6		1							1		9	8	32
Republic of North Macedonia							3	15	3	5	2							2	2	32
Romania	45	45	24	25	17	13	13	31	26	43	28	20	26	12	14	14	12	52	156	616
Russia	4	2		1	2	2	22	25	4	3	3		1		6	1	5	2	12	95
Serbia	11	4	3	3	20	14	17	9	15	3	1	7	11	11	13	41	26	209	172	590
Ukraine		1				2	1	1				2		2			1		5	15
Grand Total	63	52	27	29	43	40	69	87	50	54	36	31	41	32	38	58	47	340	945	2082

Number of reports of African swine fever in wild boar, according to WOAAH. Note that some countries do not report to WOAAH, and that these numbers show reports only, not the number of individual animals affected.

Country	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina																			6	6
Croatia																			3	3
Czech Republic											1		2	2	4	5	7	17	5	43
Germany	41	72	61	36	35	19	27	15	13	21	18	15	24	20	20	20	12	5	8	482
Greece													2							2
Hungary	50	72	95	70	71	44	31	28	10	18	30	65	62	74	39	42	40	20	13	874
Italy	28	20	35	24	50	44	20	9	2	6	9	34	77	114	114	137	122	129	56	1030
Latvia	79	56	53	20	30	46	135	100	95	92	118	89	51	37	26	29	16	35	163	1270
Moldova		2						1					1		2	1				7
Poland	213	165	138	94	138	79	75	90	98	148	297	311	365	323	343	314	318	135	119	3763
Republic of North Macedonia			2			1	1			2	3	4	1	9	1	2	2	2	8	38
Romania	146	42	39	26	29	12	13	14	15	21	48	37	71	70	23	19	21	6	10	662
Russia	8	1	4	2	2	1	11	17	4	8	7	10	1	5	1	1	2	4	7	96
Serbia	28	38	6	3	2	4	9	2	2	5	15	31	86	34	32	8	17	16	4	342
Ukraine	1	1											1		1	1	2		1	8
Grand Total	594	469	433	275	357	250	322	276	239	321	546	596	744	688	606	579	559	369	403	8626

Appendix B

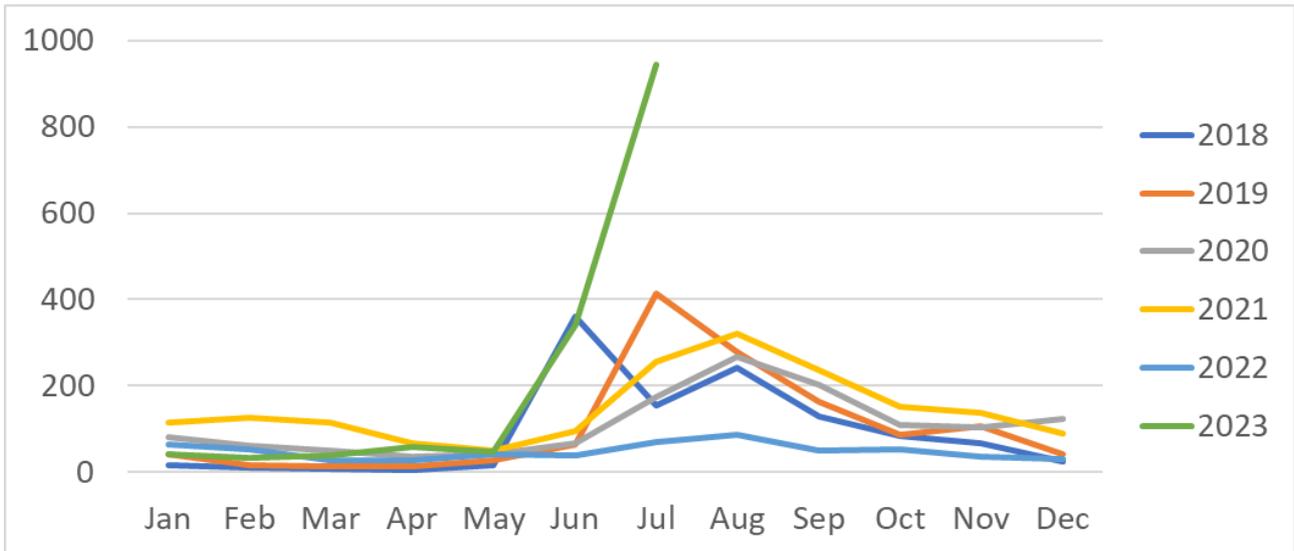


Figure 1 Number of reports of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs across Europe between January 2018 and July 2023

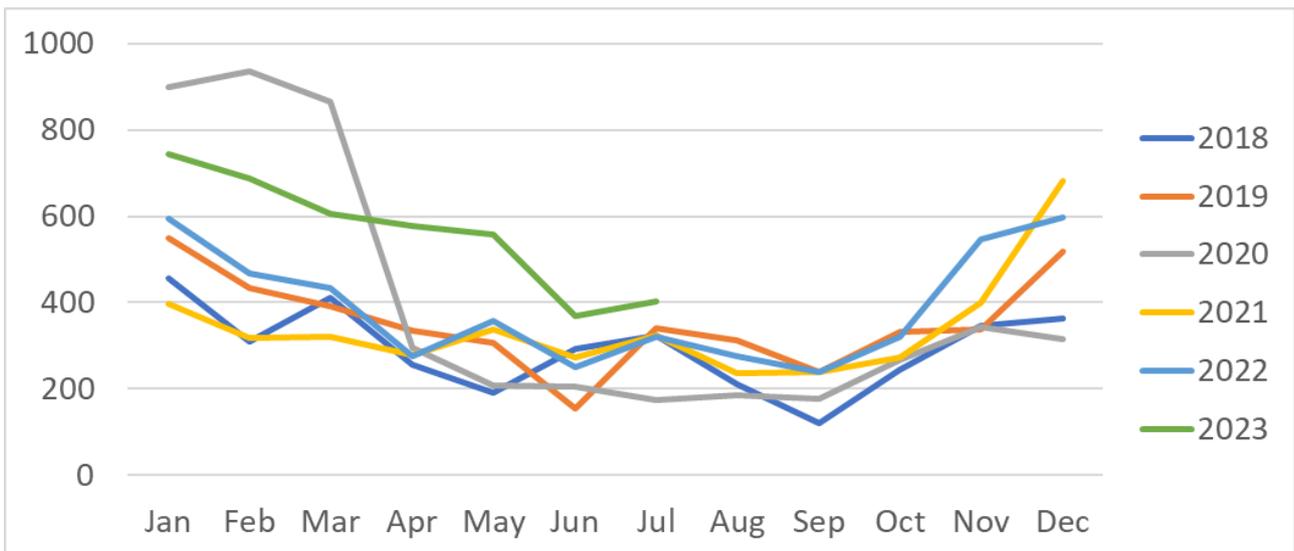


Figure 2 Number of reports of ASF outbreaks in wild boar across Europe between January 2018 and July 2023

