



Key principles of effective Regionalisation Measures in the EU

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Andrea Gavinelli

**Unit G3 – Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals
DG SANTE European Commission, Brussels**

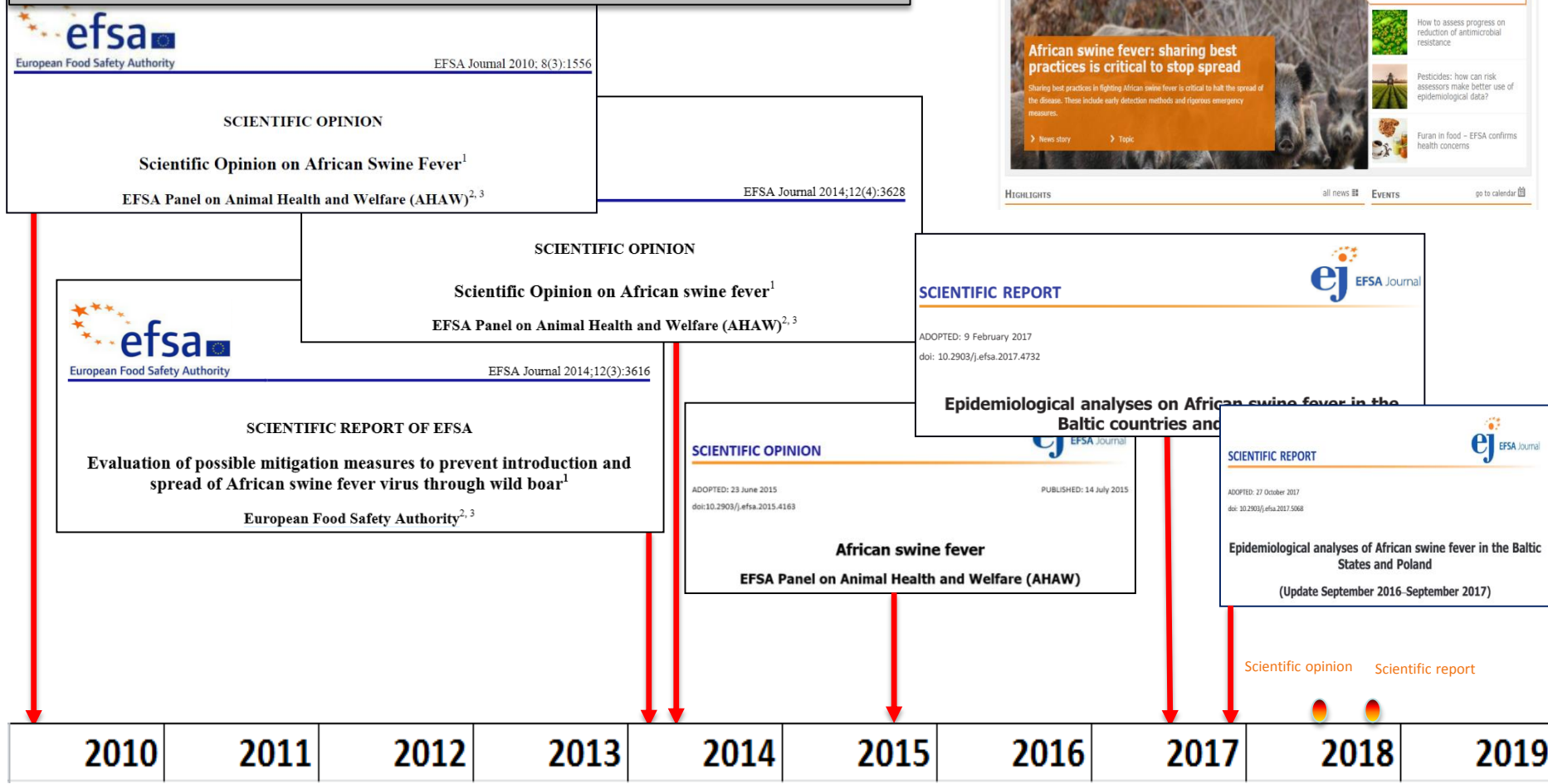
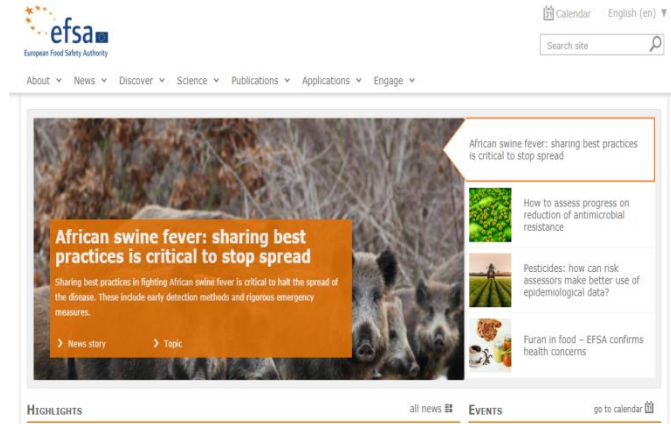
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RECAP ON TOOLS: EFSA ASSESSMENTS ASF REPORTS AND OPINIONS

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/african-swine-fever>





Regionalisation is a transparent system!

- Clearly defined roles for Member States and Commission
- Rapid flow of information
- Urgent adoption of emergency measures
- Agreed with Member States
- Immediately applicable
- Decisions published in the Official Journal of the European Union in 23 languages

Key elements for successful regionalisation are:

- **Swift response**
- **Risk based / Proportionality**
- **Consistency/Predictability**
- **Transparency**

Legal basis for regionalization/zoning in WTO - OIE

- Art. 6 of the SPS Agreement
- Ch. 4.3 "Zoning and compartmentalization" of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2016)
- OIE: Zone/region:
 - *a clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade*

Regionalization in the EU

- Regionalization is applied in the EU in line with OIE and as an integral element of the EU comprehensive strategy aimed at:
 - **ensuring the best possible disease control**
 - **minimize the negative impact** of disease outbreaks on the EU single market (intra-EU trade) and on exports, without lowering the level of safety of the commodities that are traded/exported (SPS agreement principles)

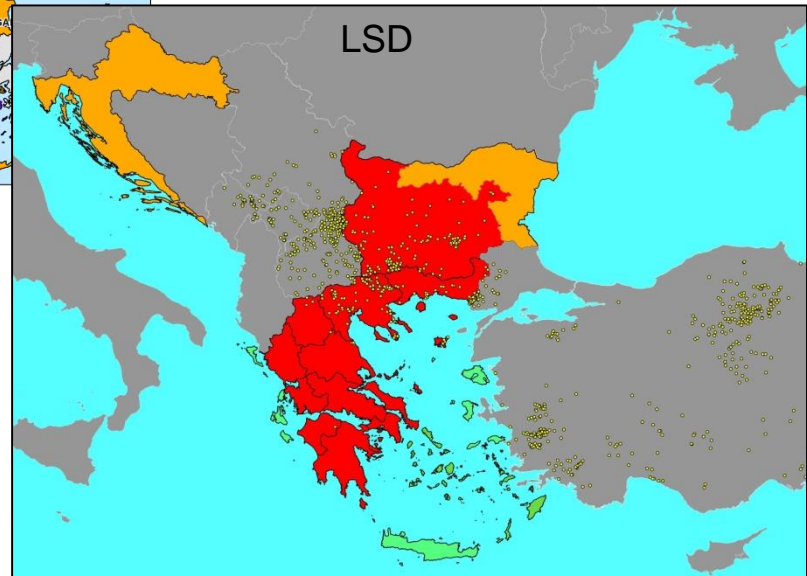
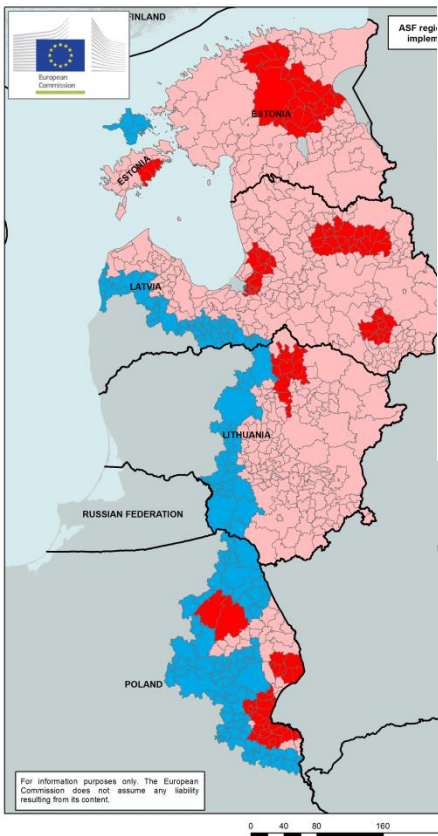
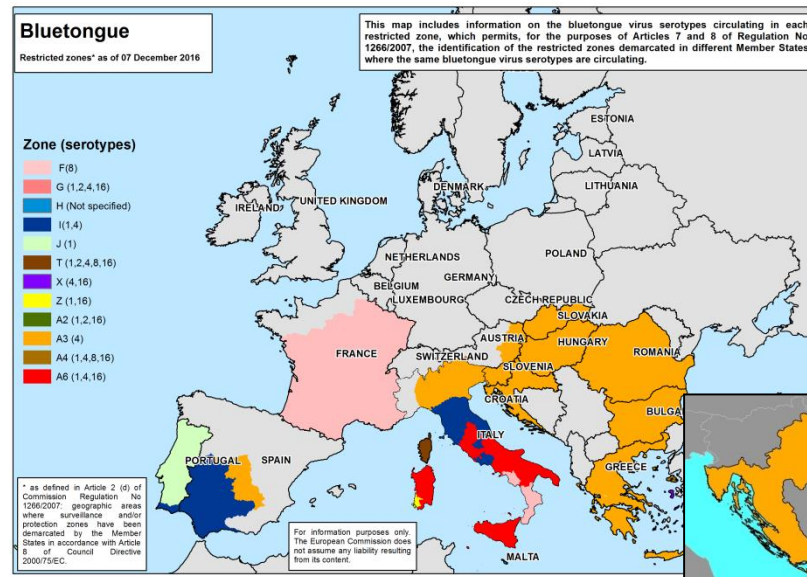
Application of regionalization in the EU

- National measures / contingency plans based on EU Directives on individual diseases
- Disease control measures are applied in the concerned area
- Flexible approach necessary:
 - **Disease specific approach (e.g. vector diseases)**
 - **geographical factors**
 - **environmental factors**
- Stamping-out of animals in the infected farms and dangerous contact / neighboring farms

Application of regionalization in the EU

- Establishment of areas defined on epidemiological grounds (depending on risk/disease characteristics)
- Tracing/Epidemiological investigations
- Additional Surveillance and Testing
- Emergency vaccination possible

Application of regionalization in the EU



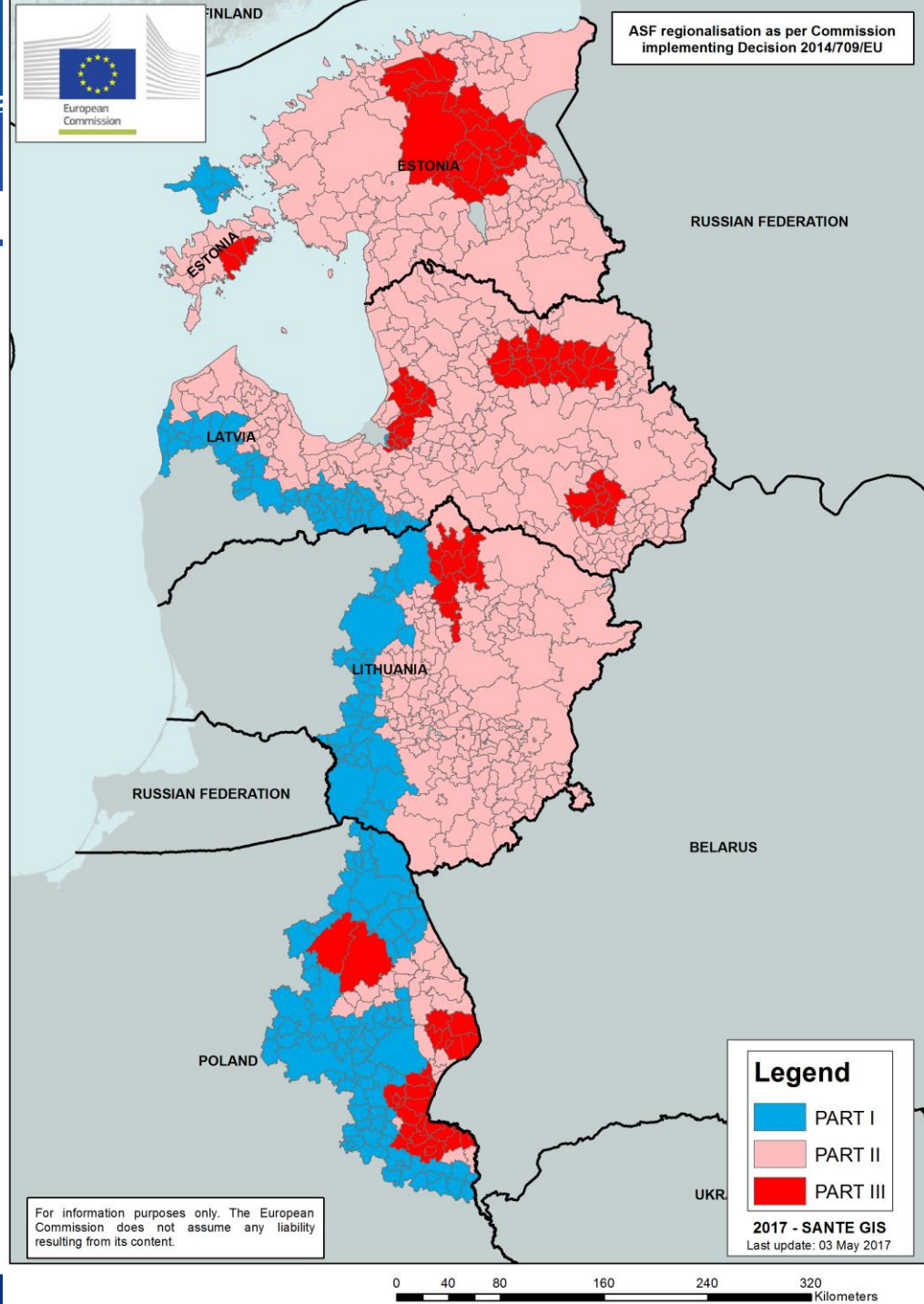
Main ASF law requirements in the EU

- ✓ **Council Directive 2002/60/EC:** which lays down specific provisions for the control of ASF (including those on contingency plans, lab requirements)
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2003/422/EC:** diagnostic manual for ASF
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2013/426/EU:** on measures to prevent the introduction of ASF from certain third countries
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2014/709/EU:** concerning animal health protection measures against ASF in certain Member States

Regionalisation for ASF

Based on Commission
Implementing Decision of 9
October 2014 (2014/709/EU)

Latest update by
Commission Implementing
Decision (EU) 2017/767 of 28
April 2017



Regionalisation for ASF

Art 3

[...]shall **prohibit** the **dispatch** of:

(a) **live pigs** from the areas listed in Parts II, III and IV of the Annex;

(b) consignments of **porcine semen, ova and embryos** from the areas listed in Parts III and IV of the Annex;

(c) consignments of **pig meat, pig meat preparations**, pig meat products and any other products containing such meat from the areas listed in Parts III and IV of the Annex;

(d) consignments of animal **by-products** from porcine animals from the areas listed in Parts III and IV of the Annex.

Derogations apply only in case of
specific risk mitigating measures in place !

Regionalisation for ASF

Article 8

Prohibition on the dispatch to other Member States and third countries of **live pigs** from the areas listed in the Annex

Derogations apply only in case of specific risk mitigating measures in place !

Regionalisation for ASF

Article 9

Prohibition on the dispatch to other Member States and third countries of consignments **of porcine semen** and **ova** and **embryos** collected from pigs from the areas listed in the Annex

Derogations apply only in case of specific risk mitigating measures in place !

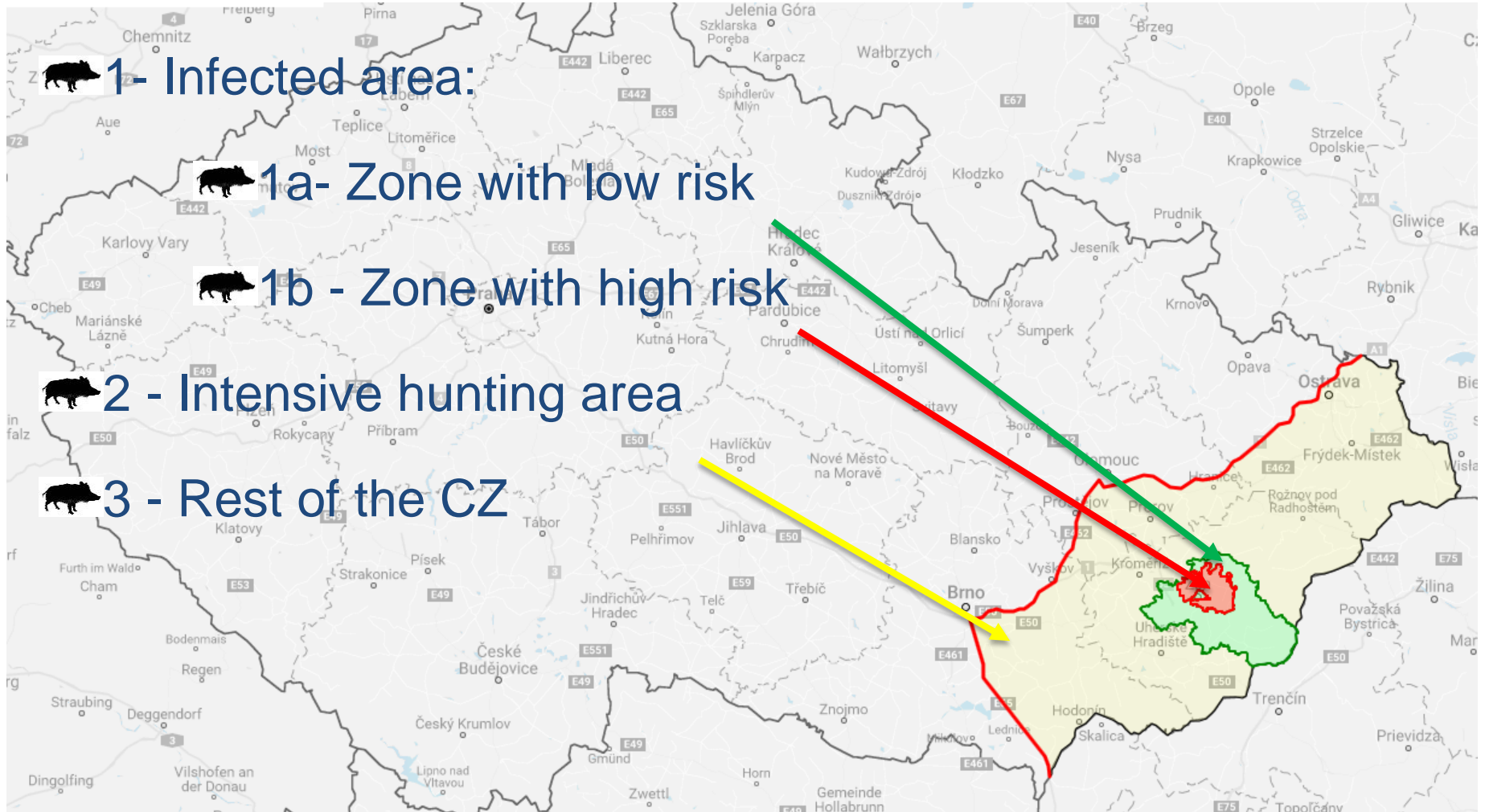
Regionalisation for ASF

Article 11

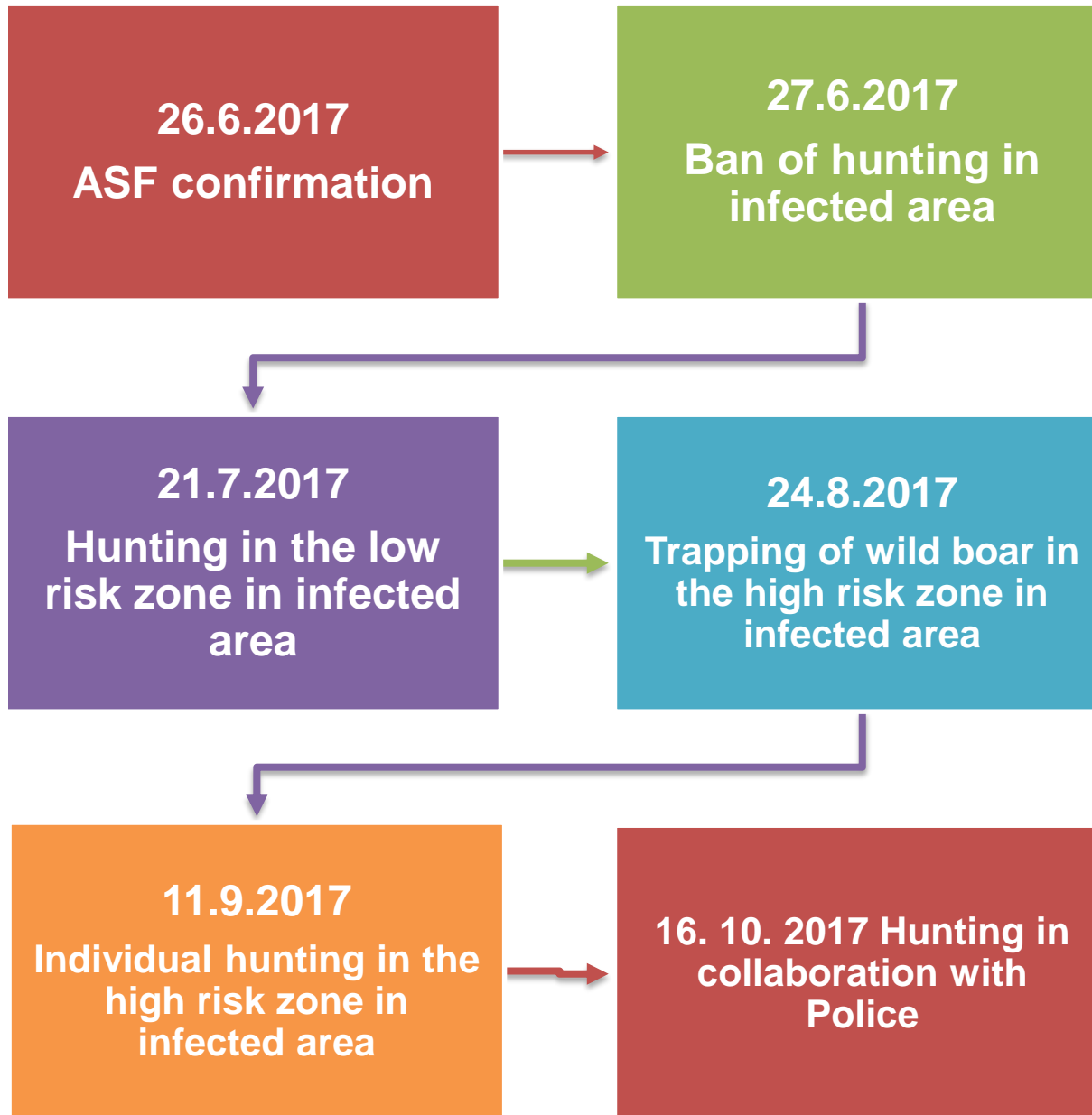
Prohibition on the dispatch to other Member States and third countries of fresh **pig meat** and of certain pig meat preparations and pig meat products from areas listed in the Annex

Derogations apply only in case of specific risk mitigating measures in place !

CZ Republic: measures in wild boar population in 4 levels



Timeline of hunting regulation CZ Republic



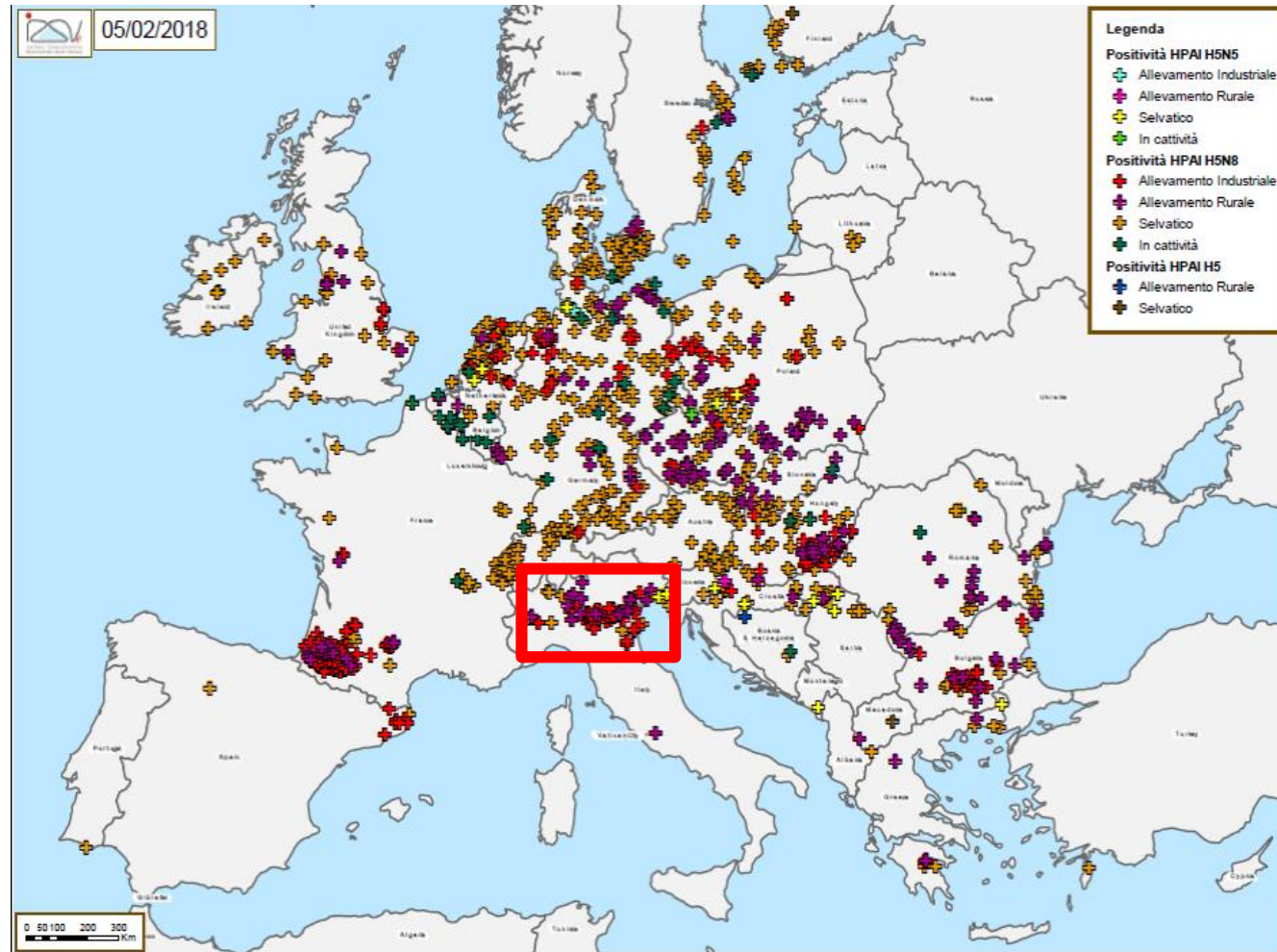
AI control strategies and regionalization measures

Case Study 2016-2018 Italian H5N8 HPAI epidemics

With the kind contribution of
Stefano Marangon.

H5N8 HPAI (Europe 2016/17) (first case 26.10.2016)

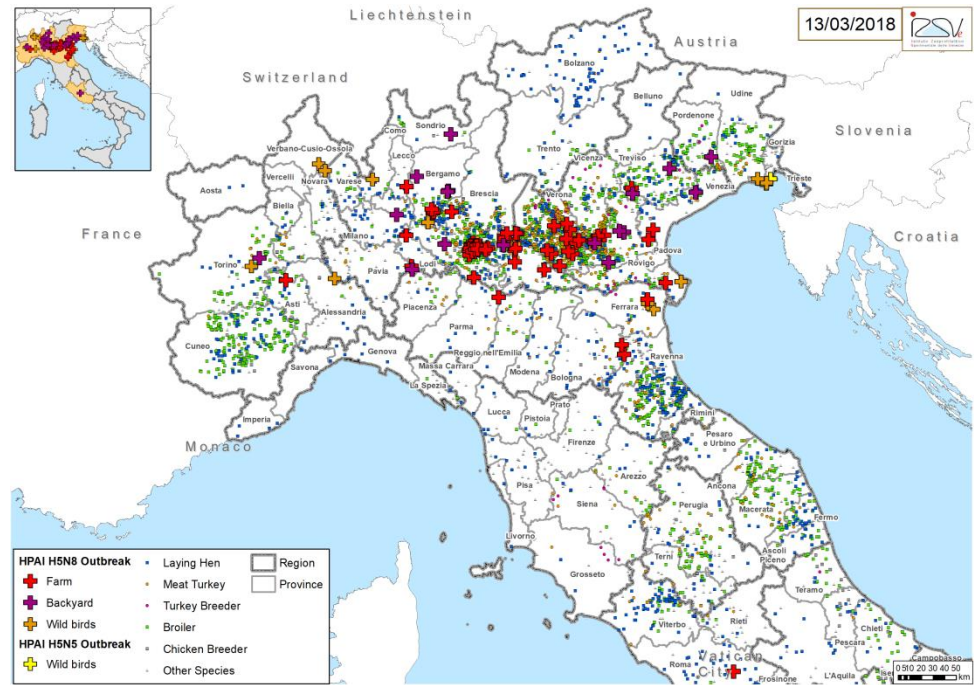
- **29 Countries**
- **≈1,200 outbreaks**
- **Millions of birds dead or stamped out**
- **3,081 affected wild birds**



2016-2018 H5N8 HPAI in Italy

December 2016 – March 2018

- 6 outbreaks in poultry
- 3.000.000 birds stamped out on affected premises
- 2.000.000 birds preemptive culling on at-risk premises in DPPAs



● AI outbreak communication

- *Primary outbreaks*

- **Notification to the Commission and other Member States (MS) within 24 h**
- **Animal Disease Notification System assures a rapid exchange of information with MS and third Countries -> transparency**
- **Specific information must be provided in e.g. number of birds, measures taken**

- *Secondary outbreaks*

- **Notification/update at least once per week (Monday)**

● AI outbreak management

- *Restrictions on suspect/affected holding*
- **Stamping out** of all poultry in affected premises
- *Disposal of carcasses and contaminated materials (e.g. eggs, litter)*
- *Cleansing and **disinfection***
- *Epidemiological investigation and contact tracking activities in each affected premises*

Risk analysis to identify:

- **Premises at high risk of AI (preventive killing -> criteria)**
- **Premises with at-risk contacts (restrictions and enhanced surveillance)**
- **Geographical areas at risk (where restriction measures shall be rapidly enforced)**

● Preventive culling

Culling of healthy birds in poultry premises at high risk of AI

It is an **additional eradication measure** depending on the epidemiological situation taking into account the following criteria and risk factors:

- High risk contacts (e.g. transport of live birds, indirect contacts with no biosecurity)
- Proximity - possible neighborhood spread (500 – 1000 m)
- Location in *Densely Populated Poultry Areas (DPPAs)*
- Poultry species with high susceptibility to AI (e.g. turkeys)

● Establishment of restriction zones (Regionalization)

Criteria

- *Outcome of epidemiological enquiry*
- *Geographical situation*
- *Natural and administrative boundaries*
- *Location, proximity of other holdings, number and distribution of holdings and birds (poultry density)*
- *Movements and trade patterns*
- *Role of wildlife*
- *Veterinary infrastructure to control movements*

Establishment of restriction zones (in line with OIE standards)

Procedure

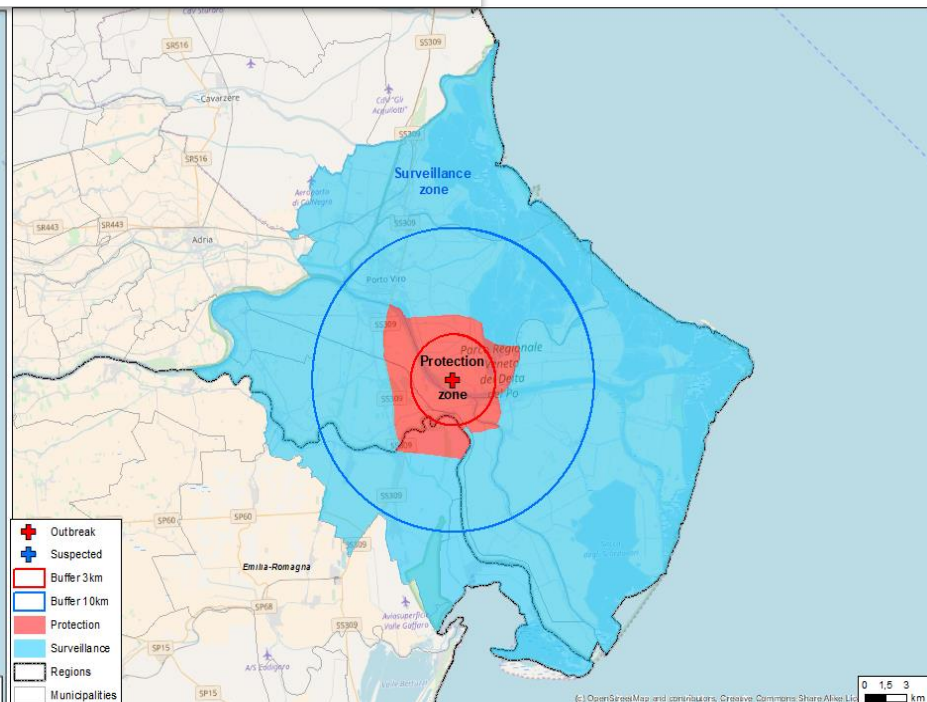
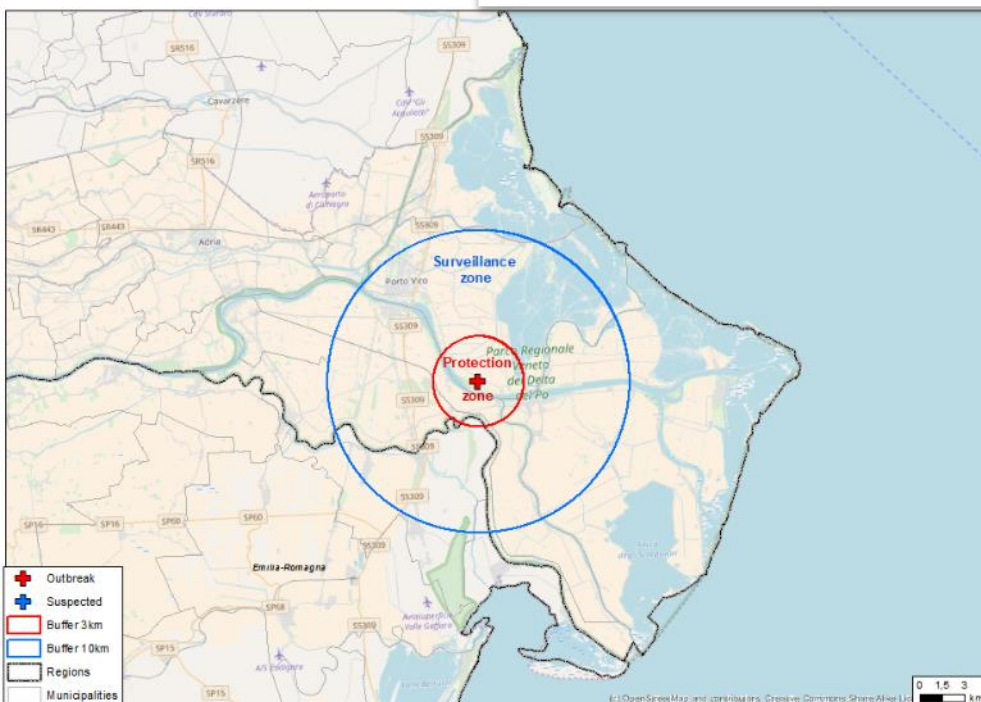
- *To identify a sub-population within a clearly delineated geographical area*

Aims

- *Disease control*
- *International trade*

Method

- *Definition of geographic areas (**GIS**)*
- *Restriction, surveillance and biosecurity measures*



● Protection zone - minimum 3 km radius

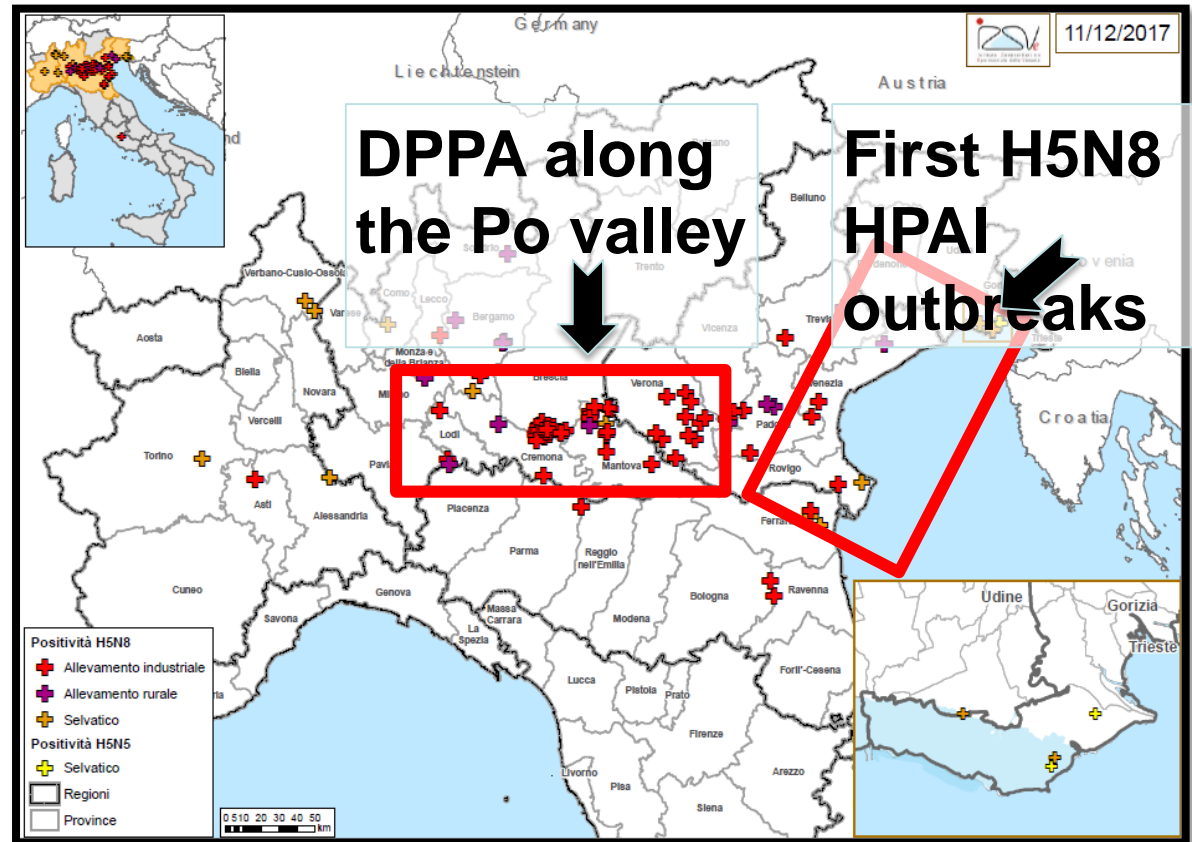
- *Census of holdings*
- **All poultry indoors**
- *All commercial poultry holdings **visited by official veterinarian***
- ***Restrictions on movements*** of live poultry, poultry products, meat, eggs and manure
- *Certain movements may be authorized under strict conditions - testing according to AI diagnostic manual*
- ***Biosecurity measures*** for persons entering / leaving
- *Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and equipment*
- *Prohibition of fairs, markets and shows for poultry*
- *No release of game birds*

Surveillance zone – minimum 10 km radius

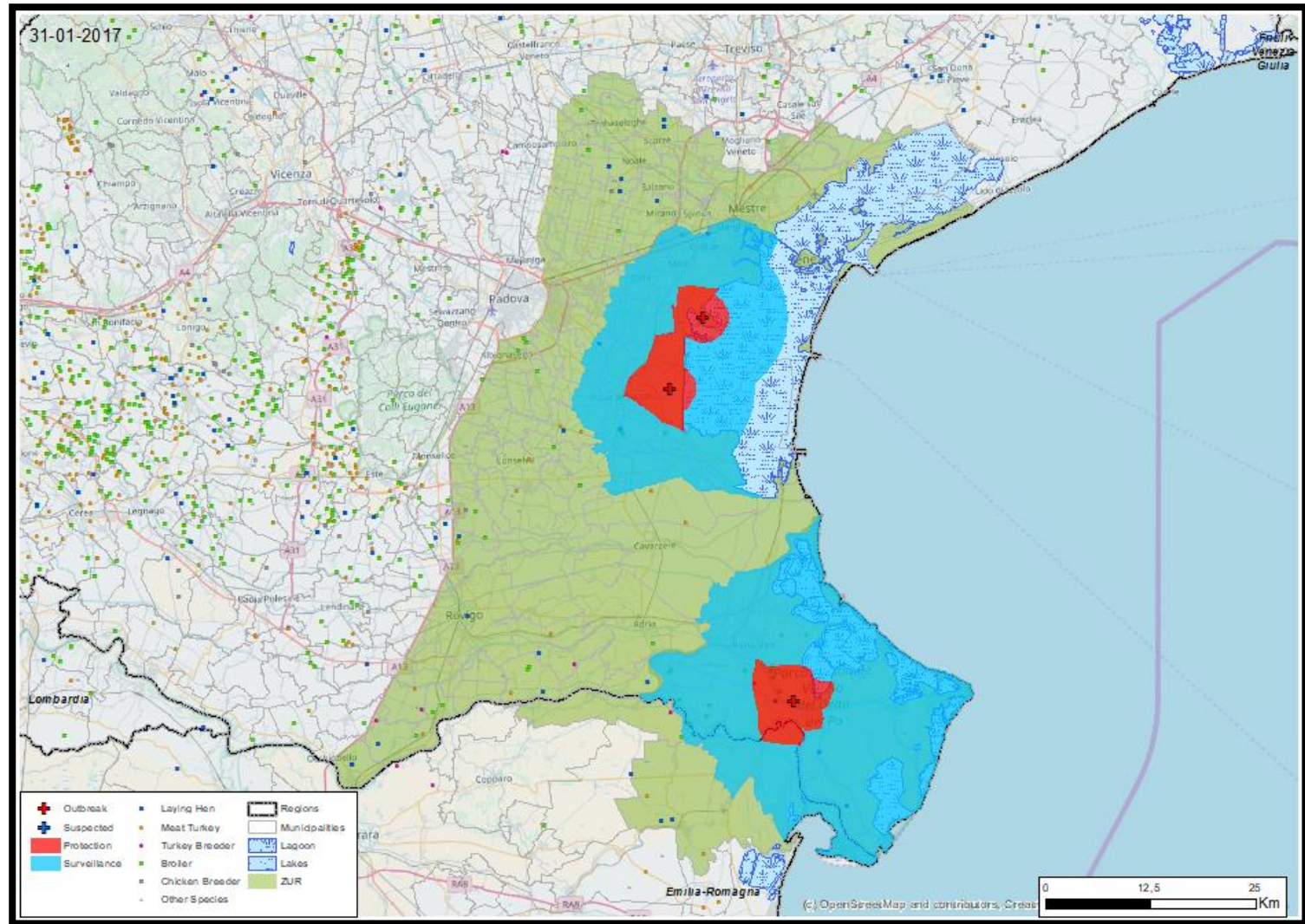
- *Census of holdings*
- *Any increased **morbidity/mortality to be notified** immediately and investigated by the competent authority*
- ***Restrictions on movements** of live poultry, poultry products, meat, eggs and manure.*
- *Certain movements may be authorized under strict conditions*
- ***Biosecurity measures** for persons entering / leaving*
- *Cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and equipment*
- *Prohibition of fairs, markets and shows for poultry*
- *No release of game birds*

2016-2018 H5N8 HPAI in Italy

- *First outbreaks detected along the migratory flyways (Venetian lagoon and Po river Delta)*
- *Afterwards H5N8 HPAIV introduced in DPPAs mainly along the Po valley -> high risk of farm-to-farm spread*

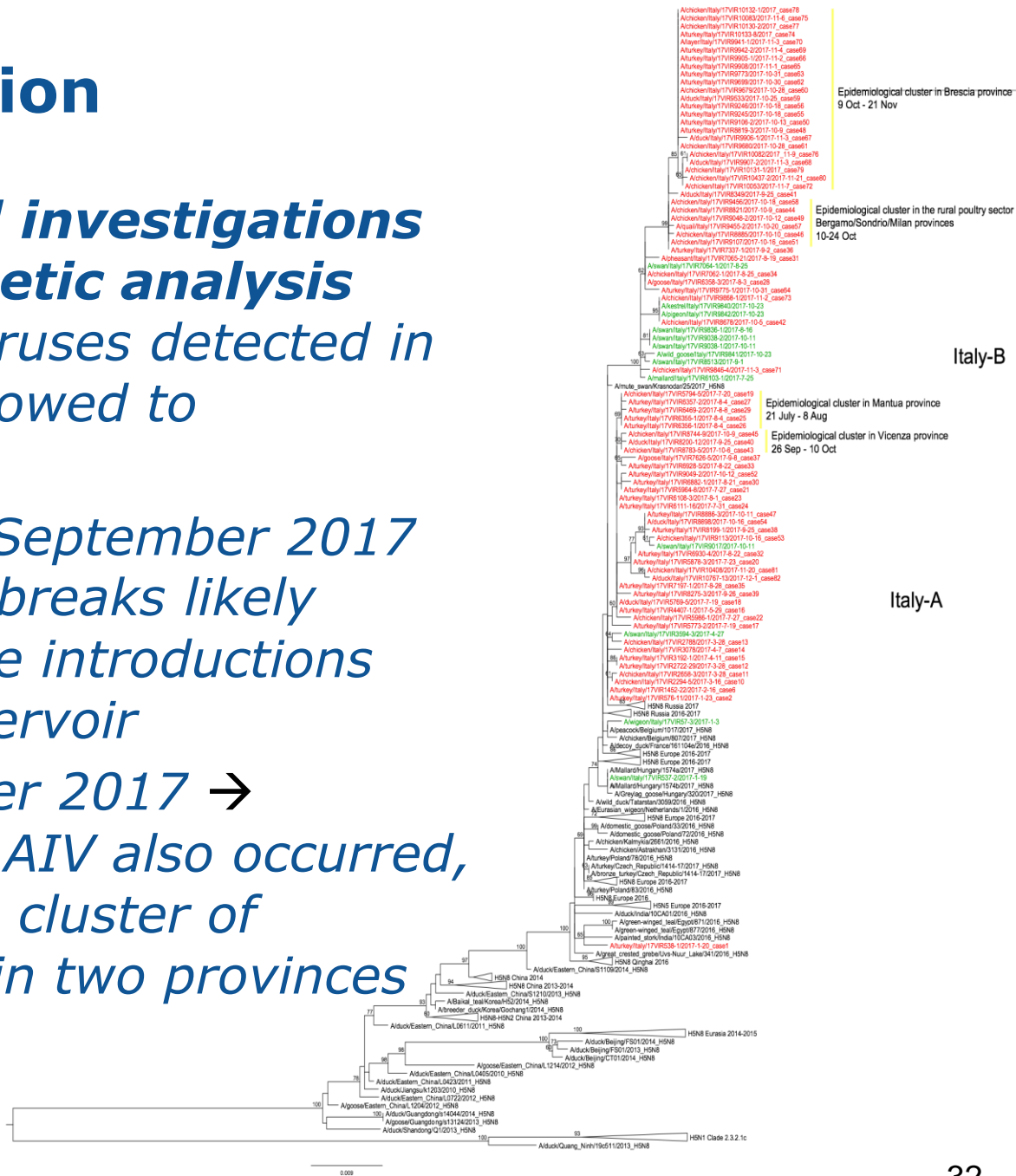


Further restricted zones



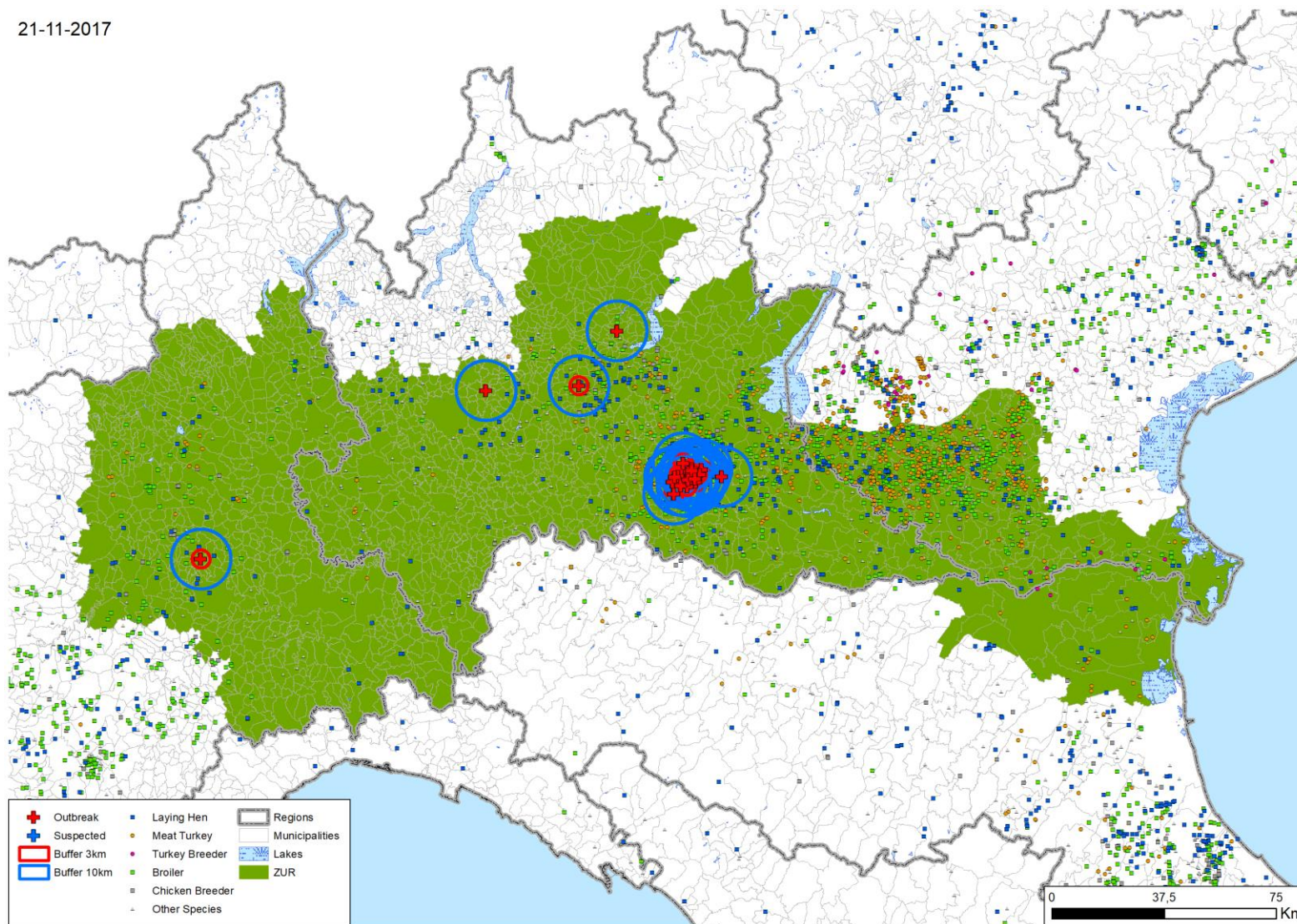
Origin of infection

- **Epidemiological investigations coupled with genetic analysis (WGS) of HPAI viruses detected in each outbreak allowed to established that:**
- **Up to the end of September 2017 → Majority of outbreaks likely related to multiple introductions from the wild reservoir**
- **October-November 2017 → Lateral spread of AIV also occurred, leading to a large cluster of secondary cases in two provinces**



Further restricted zones

21-11-2017



● Further Restricted Zone

Additional restriction and control measures

- *Census of industrial poultry holdings*
- *All poultry indoors*
- *Official inspection and virological (PCR) testing e.g. before loading for slaughter (**pre-movement controls**)*
- *Enforcement of **strict biosecurity** measures regarding vehicles/personnel entering and exiting farms*
- *Poultry companies must ensure a functional separation of activities, personnel and facilities with areas outside the FRZ*
- **Re-stocking** of turkey farms **prohibited**
 - Possible derogation only in presence of strict biosecurity standards and after a geographical risk assessment

● **Restricted Zones**

Commission Implementing Decision (EU)

2017/247 on "Protective measures in relation to outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States", as amended:

- *Established at Union level the protection and surveillance zones to be instituted by the Member States, following an outbreak of HPAI in poultry or captive birds*
- *Prohibited the dispatch of consignments of live poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs from the areas listed as Further Restricted Zone*
- *Derogations applied in case specific risk mitigating measures were in place*

● Conclusions

- 2016-2018 H5N8 HPAI epidemic in EU was **unprecedented** for its amplitude and geographical range of wild bird involvement
- The spread of LP and HPAI viruses from EU Member States to other Countries has **never occurred** due to the prompt enforcement of **strict eradication, restriction and biosecurity measures** in affected and at risk areas

In Italy

- The last outbreak was stamped out on 23 March 2018
- A stamping-out policy (including disinfection of all affected establishments) was applied and AI surveillance is on-going

Thank you

more at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/health-and-food-safety_en