

**Report  
TAIEX Mission (Ref. Code AGR 24409)**

**to**

**Croatia**

**regarding CSF control and eradication**

**1- 5 April 2007**

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## Mission's objectives

- Assessment of the epidemiology of CSF outbreaks in particular at the borders with the EU;
- Analysis of epidemiological data, organisation (contingency plan) and the applied measures;
- Identification of weak spots;
- Proposal of additional measures or changes that might be useful;
- Assessment of the situation as regards CSF in wild boar

## Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

State Veterinary Services (CVO) – 14 official vets

21 Counties – Chief Veterinary Inspectors (86 official  
vets in the counties)

1200 vet. practitioners of which 860 are so called “contracted veterinarians” obliged to fulfil also duties as official veterinarians.

National Croatia Veterinary institute

# Structure of pig production in RC (1)

About 1.8 million pigs kept in 204.000 holdings  
71.000 holdings 1 to 2 pigs  
92.000 holdings 3 – 10 pigs  
38.750 holdings 11 – 50 pigs  
3.250 holdings over 50 pigs

In commercial farms, in backyards, on pasture, as feral pigs.

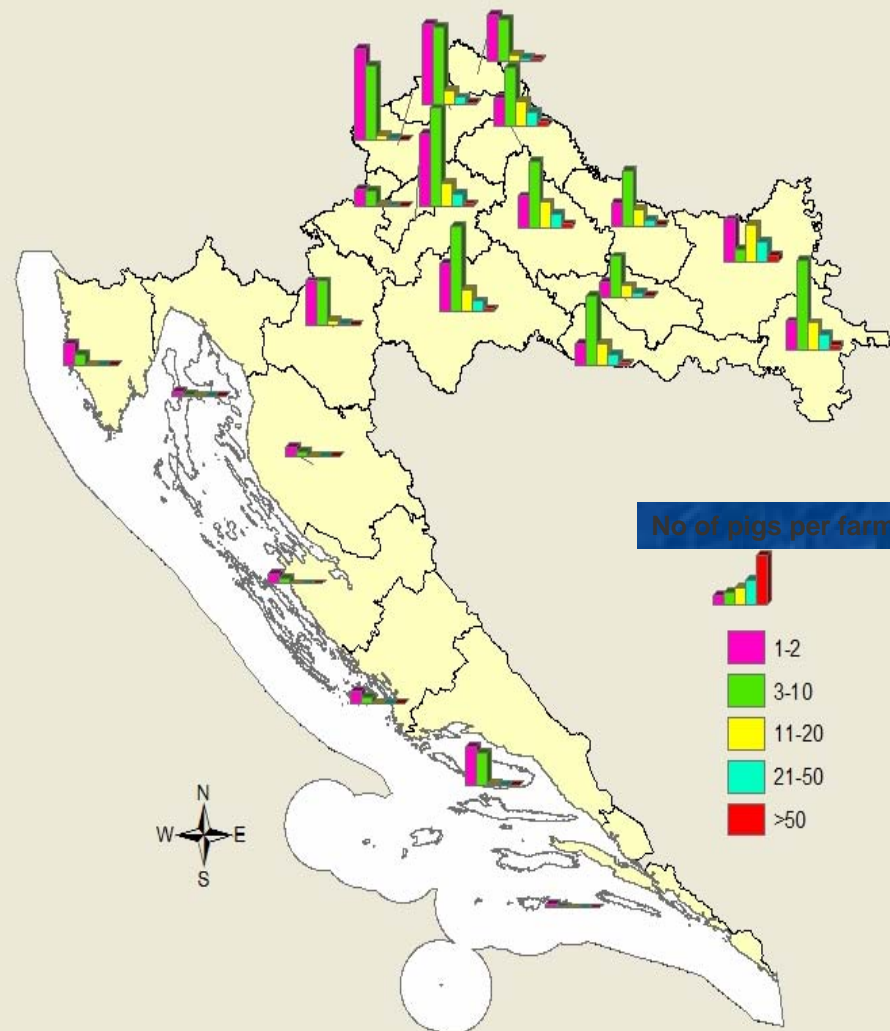
Rate of self-supply with pigs and pig products is 70%  
Import mainly from EU countries.

Pigs are indiv. identified with eartags, no registration of  
backyard holdings yet.

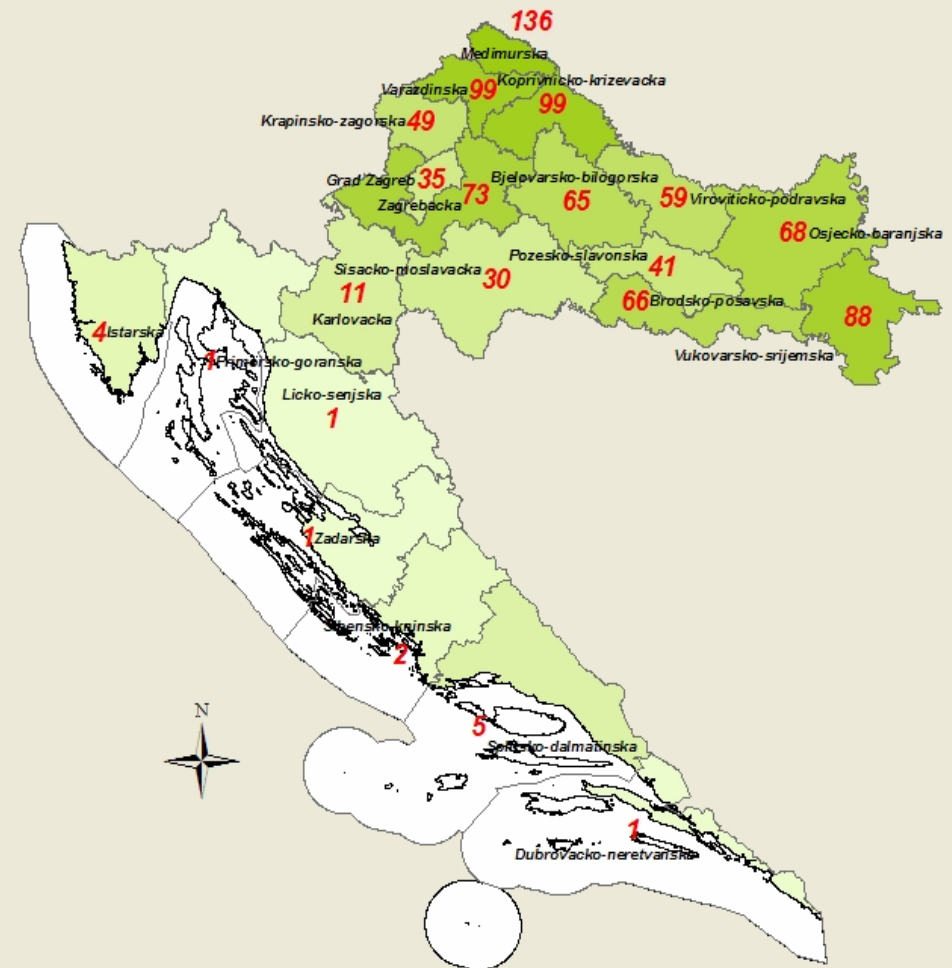
Vaccination against CSF ceased at 1-1-2005

# Structure of pig production in RC

(cont.)



Gustoća svinja po km2 u 2003. godini



# Epidemiology

2005

Vaccination abandoned 1-1-05

2006

last outbreak on Dec. 9 in Vukovar Srijem county

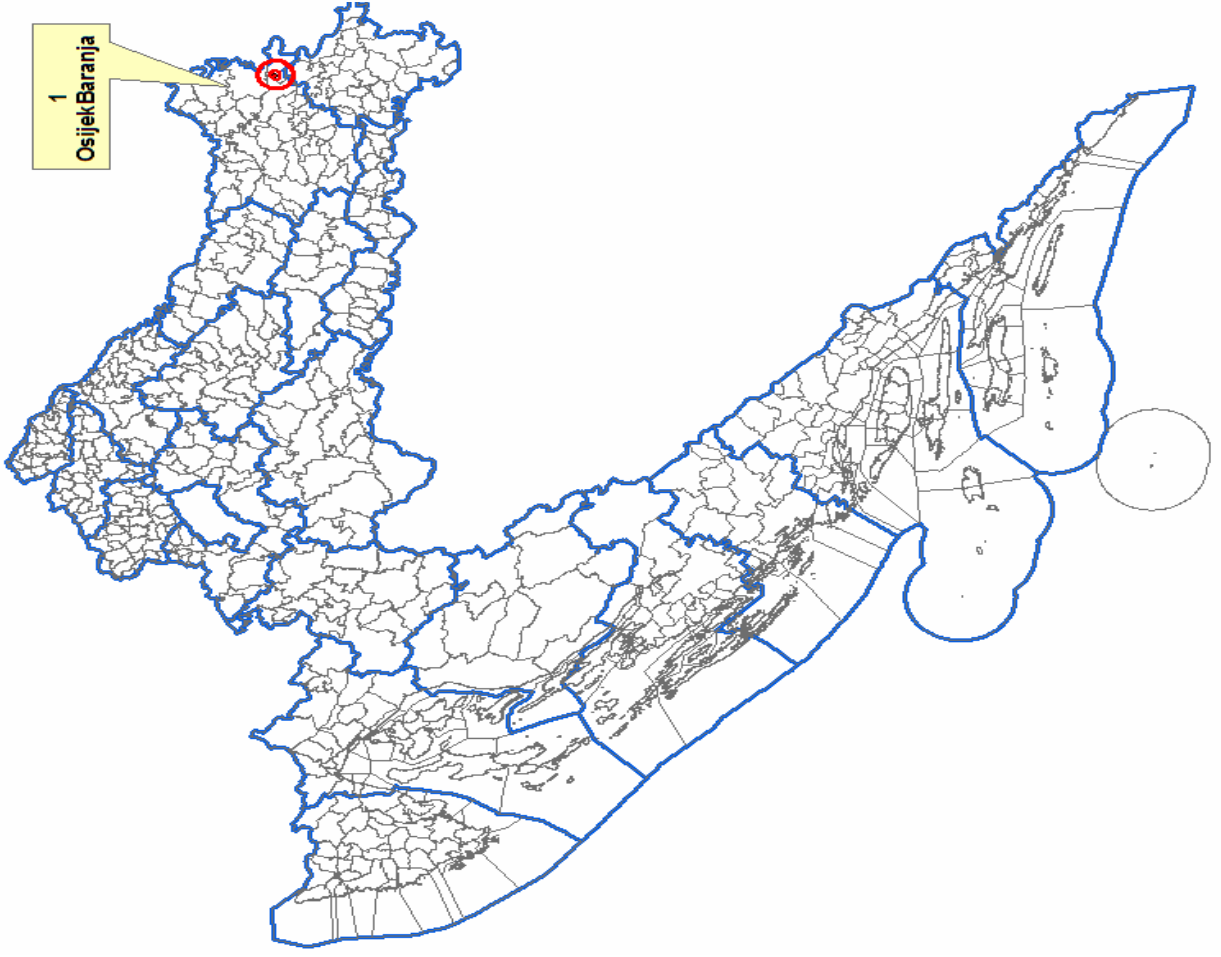
2007

From Jan. 11 - febr. 23  
outbreaks in the most eastern counties

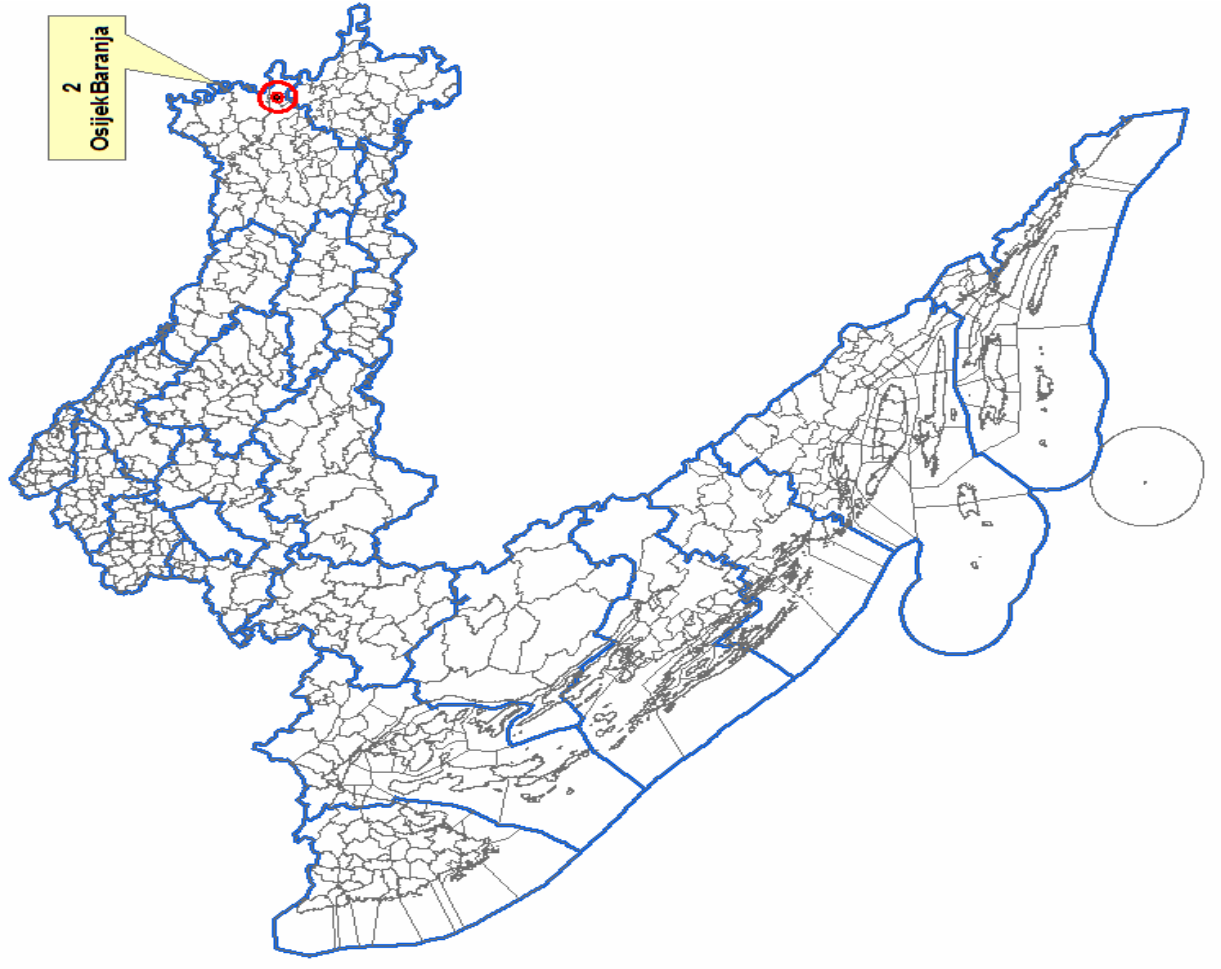
From febr. 23 also outbreaks in other parts of the country

Up to April 4 in total 66 outbreaks

CSF Restriction Area  
110107



CSF Restriction Area  
180207



2007 (cont.)

Up to April 4 the total number of outbreaks: 66

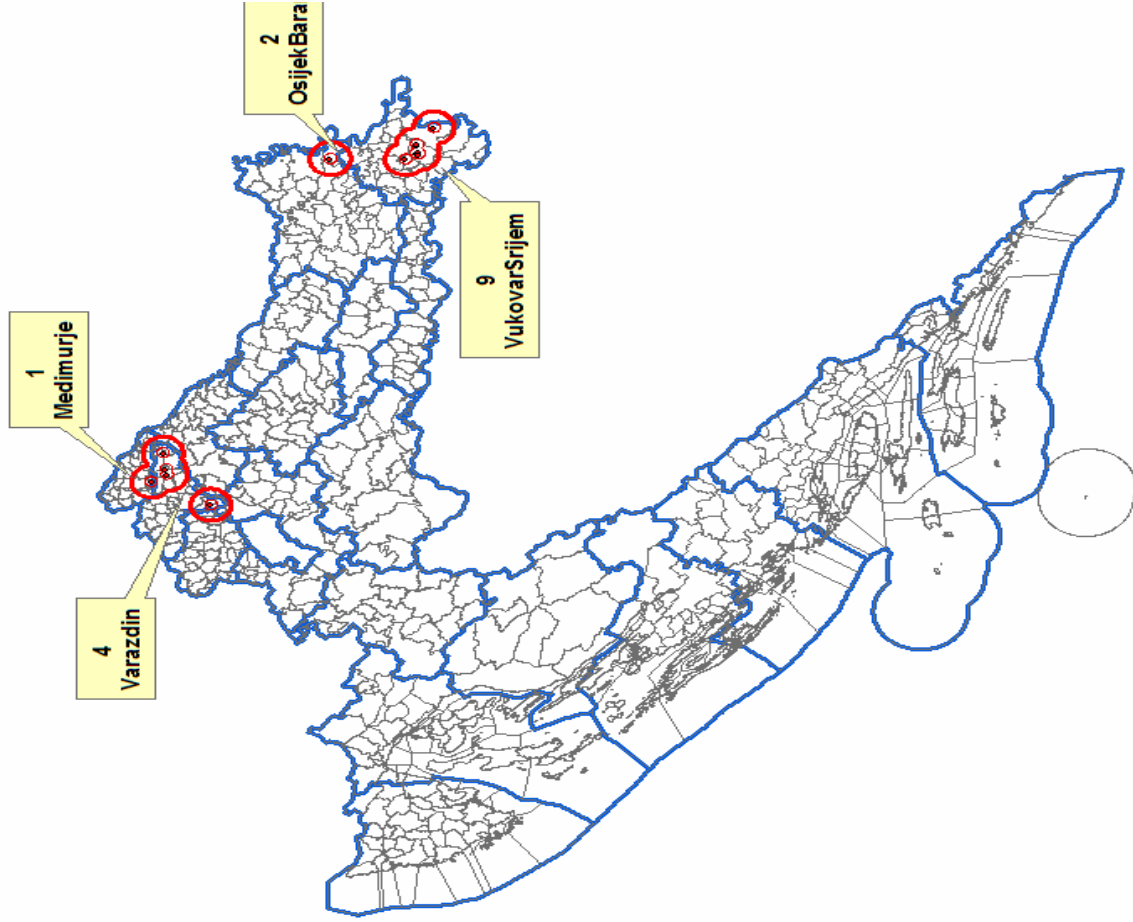
Spread:

between clusters illegal transport of pigs??  
transport in the incubation period

within clusters direct and indirect contacts  
wellknown and documented

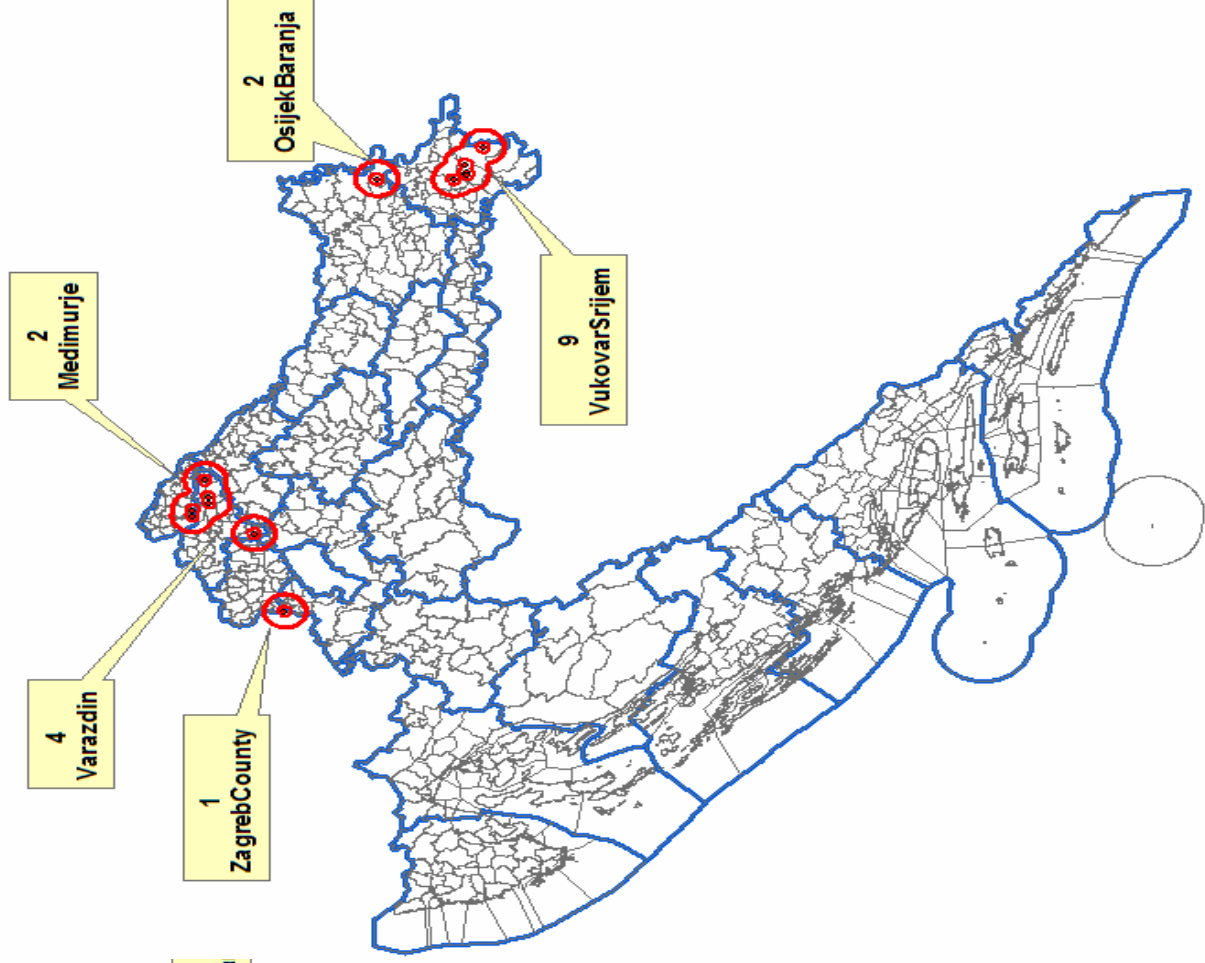
# CSF Restriction Area

280207

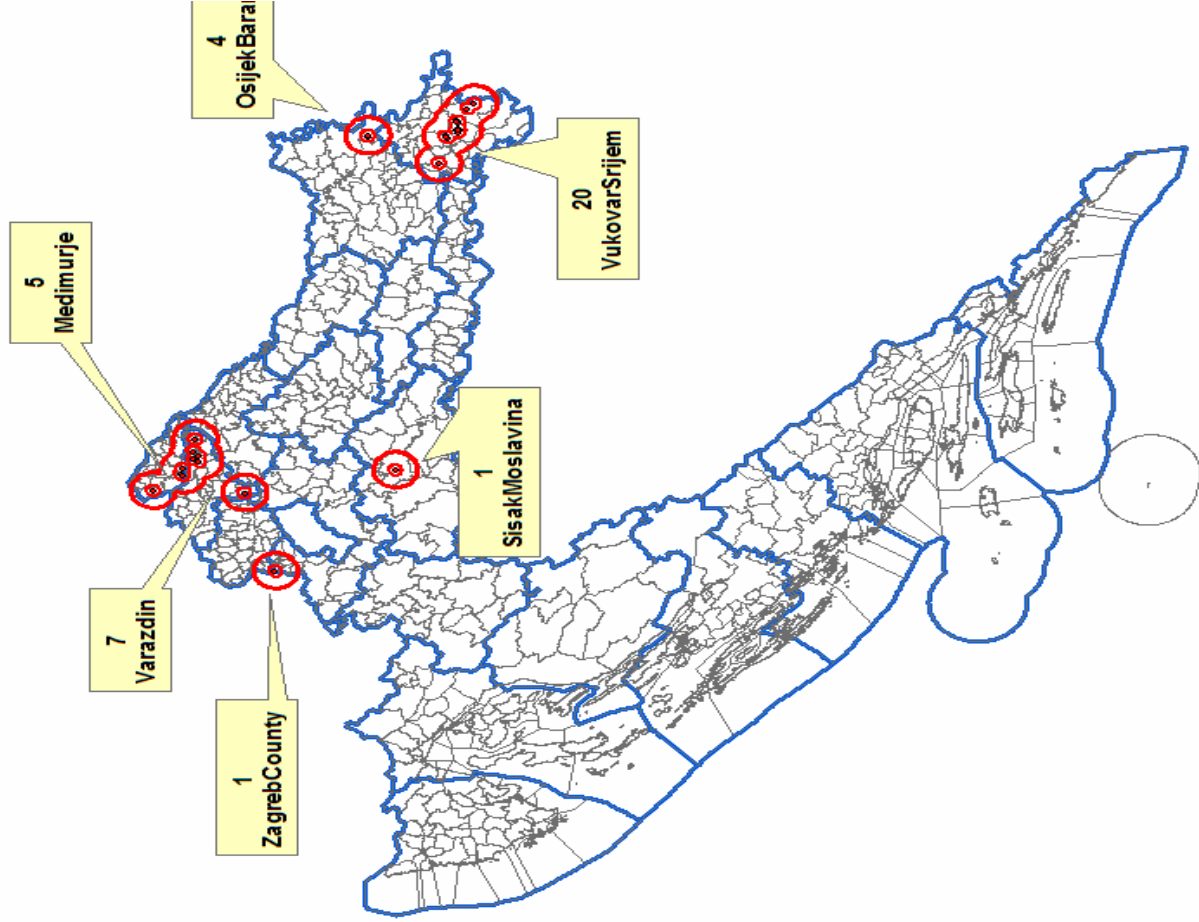


# CSF Restriction Area

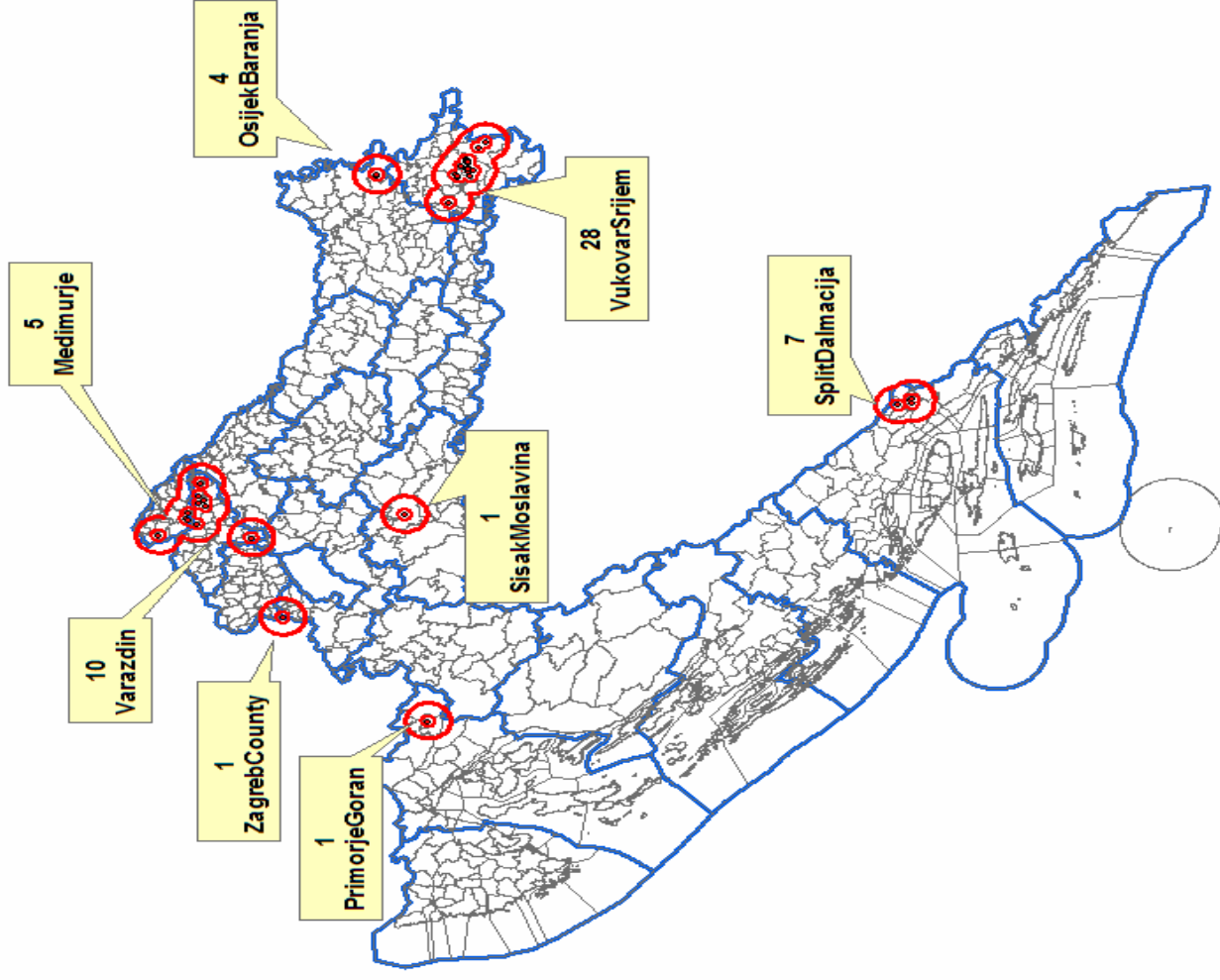
030307



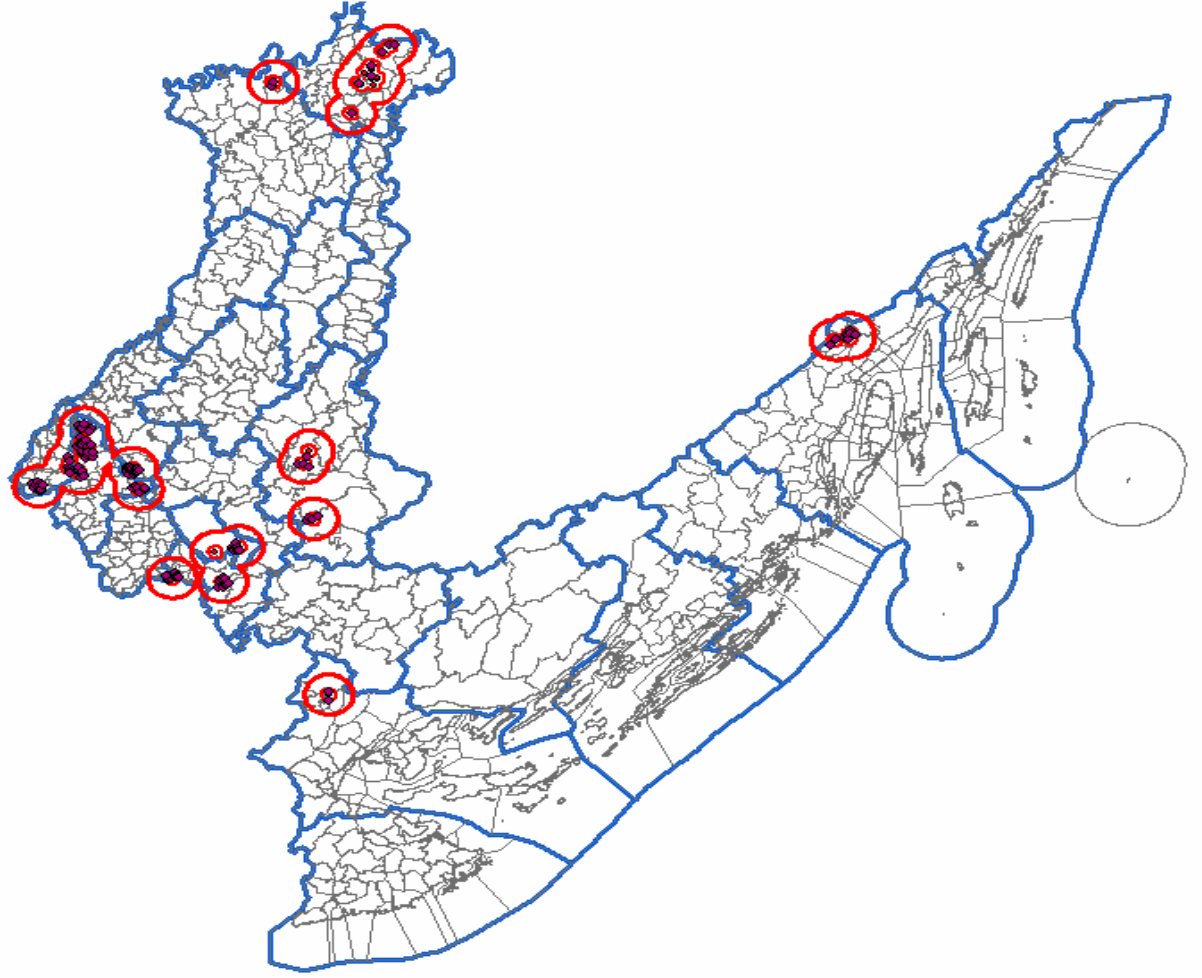
# CSF Restriction Area 110307



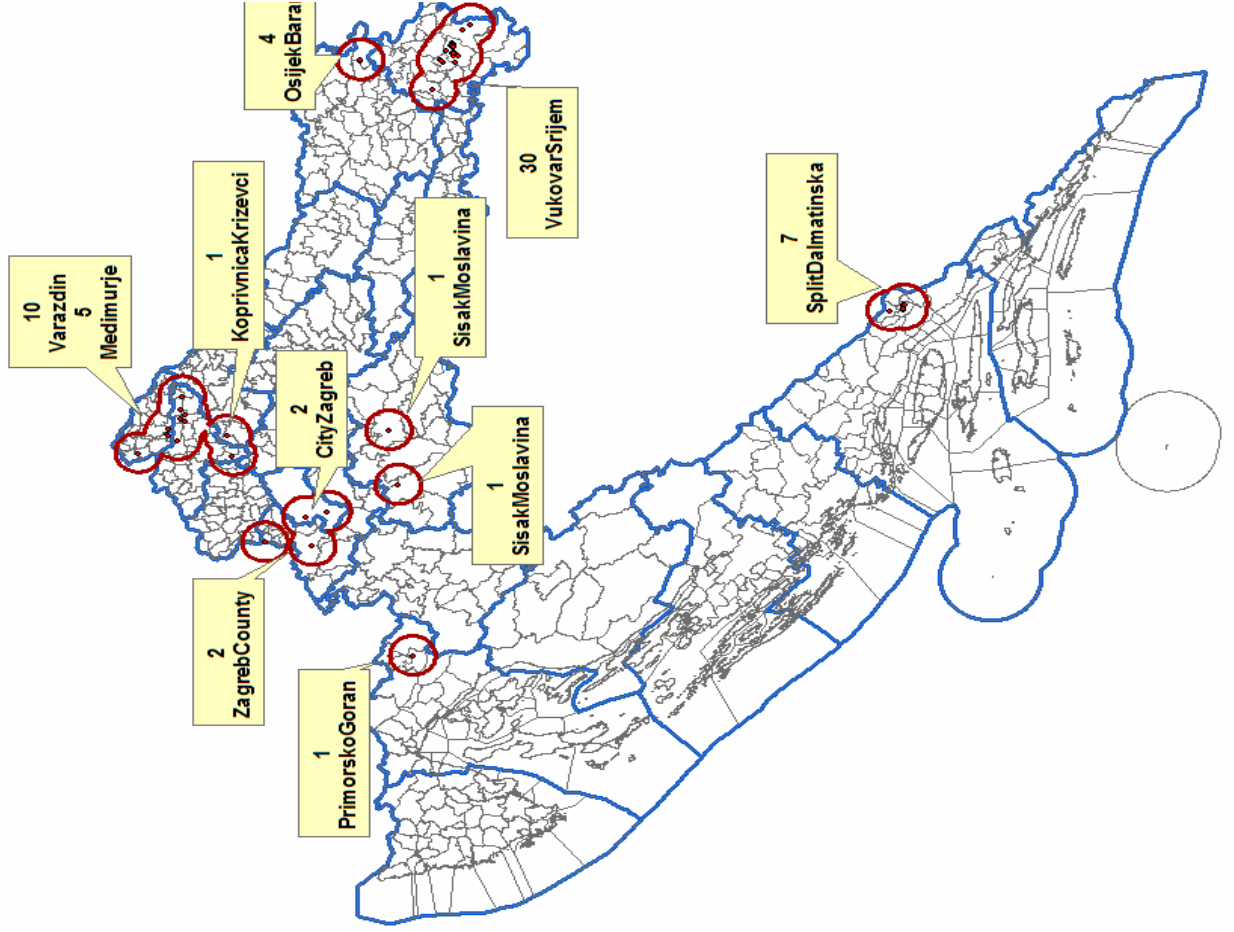
# CSF Restriction Area 220307



CSF restricted area  
040407



CSF Restriction Area  
270307



## Wild boar

- Total number expected to be “about 12.000” or more  
hunting bag not known
- 11.00 hunting grounds all over the country about 30 km<sup>2</sup> each  
90 of them have been participating in monitoring
- In 2006 1213 samples examined – 47 positive in serology  
vaccination?
- In the most eastern county of Croatia:
  - in 2006 – 121 samples, 6 positive in serology
  - in 2007 – 62 samples, 4 positive in serology  
and one in virology (March)

## Main problems

- Structure of pig farming
- Low level of disease awareness
- Long period of “silent spread” of the disease due to no or late notification of death or diseased pigs (proofed by lab. findings)
- Illegal placing on the market of pigs and pig products
- Intensive contacts between pigs during collection, transport and marketing
- Illegal swill feeding
- Natural mating of pigs on other holdings
- Lack of biosecurity measures especially on holdings with less than 100 pigs
- Tendency of small farmers to treat pigs themselves by drugs from the black market
- The quality of eartags is poor

## Organisation of the measures

- On legal basis centralised and short chain of command
- Follows the contingency plan based on EU legislation
- Prompt payments of compensation
- All over the country 5 main stores with equipment for the control and eradication
- Destruction of carcasses in a rendering plant
- Hierarchy of crisis centres NDCC and LDCC

## -Legal measures

- Measures focused on protection and surveillance zones
- All markets for pigs closed since March 8
- Feeding of swill completely forbidden
- Pasture for pigs and natural mating on other holdings completely forbidden



## Summary

- the veterinary services follow EU legislation very strict
- awareness of farmers, traders, veterinarians and politicians to eradicate the disease has grown
- to stop illegal transport of pigs, to reduce trade in high risk areas, better identification of the pigs and registration of all pig holdings
- CSF situation has to be seen always in the context with the neighbouring countries
- improvement of the efforts to eradicate CSF, expert team for epidemiology – no vaccination necessary seen the actual situation.

The mission took place in an open atmosphere, all available information have been given.