

Work Package 9

6 month Progress Report DEFEND - 2020

Risk Assessment for LSD abundance on the Balkans

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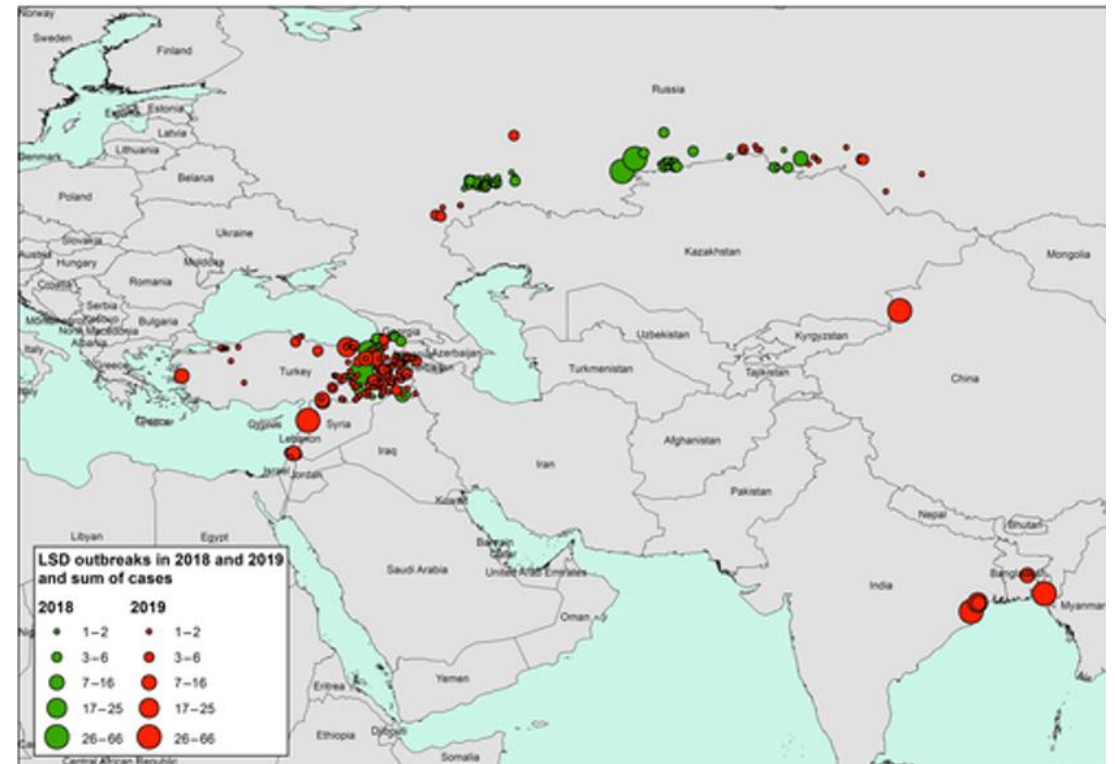
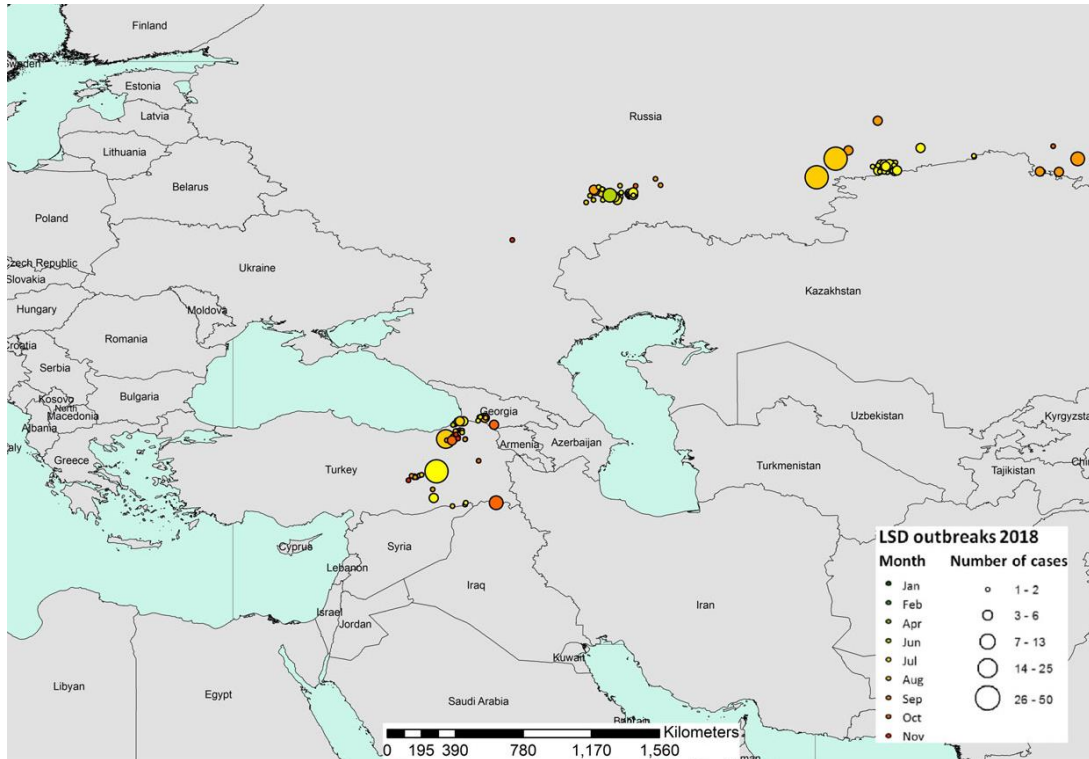
Country: Bulgaria

Research focus: LSD

Period – 6-th month 2020



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in 2018 -2019



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in 2018 -2019

- 2018 few number of LSD outbreaks appeared in South Eastern Turkey, bordering Syria, but also few cases in Western Turkey;
- LSD outbreaks 2018 in the Russian Federation appeared along the border with Kazakhstan expanding eastward;
- 2019 large number of LSD outbreaks appeared in South Eastern Turkey, bordering Syria, Irak Trancoucasus contries, but also few cases in Western Turkey;
- LSD in the Russian Federation expanding eastward in Asia with affecting Kazachstan and outbreaks reported in China and Bangladesh and India for the first time in 2019.



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in -2019

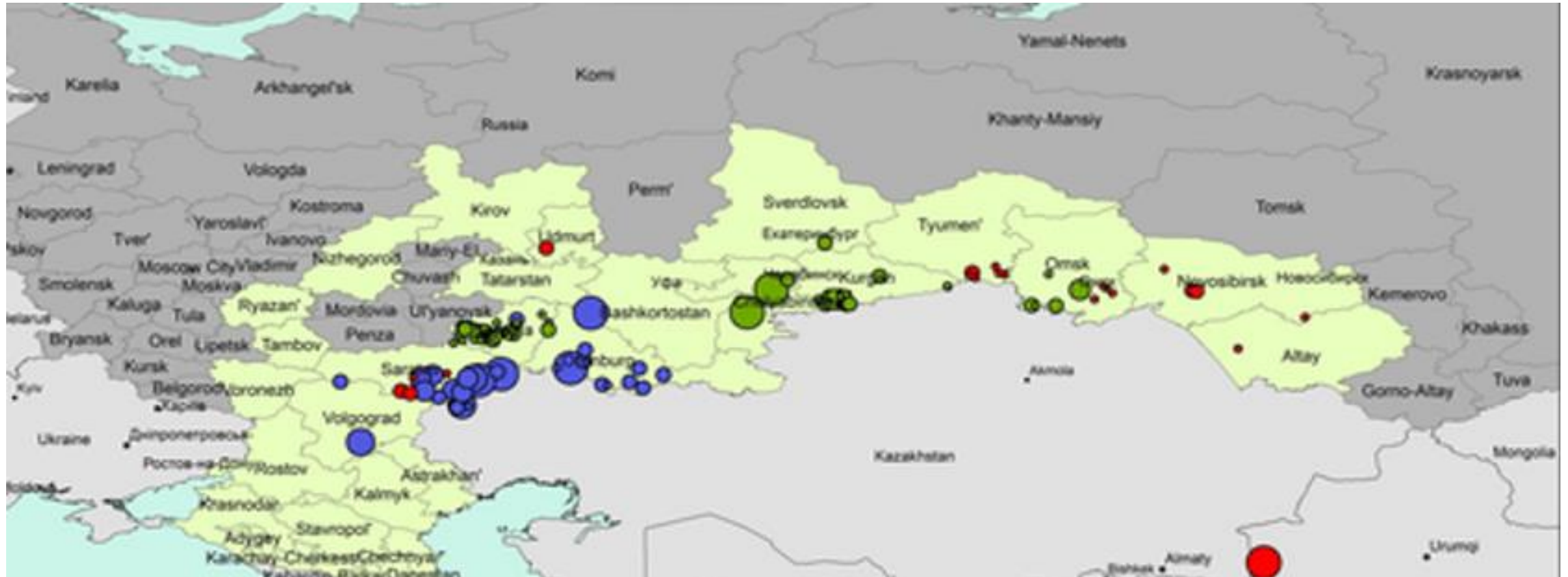
- In 2019, 131 outbreaks were reported in Turkey, mostly in the eastern part of the country and mostly between April and October.
- Twenty outbreaks in western Turkey close to Thrace region (European part) around Izmir town opposite to the Greek islands were reported.
- The number of reported outbreaks in Turkey has been slightly increasing up to 169 outbreaks in 2019.



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in -2019

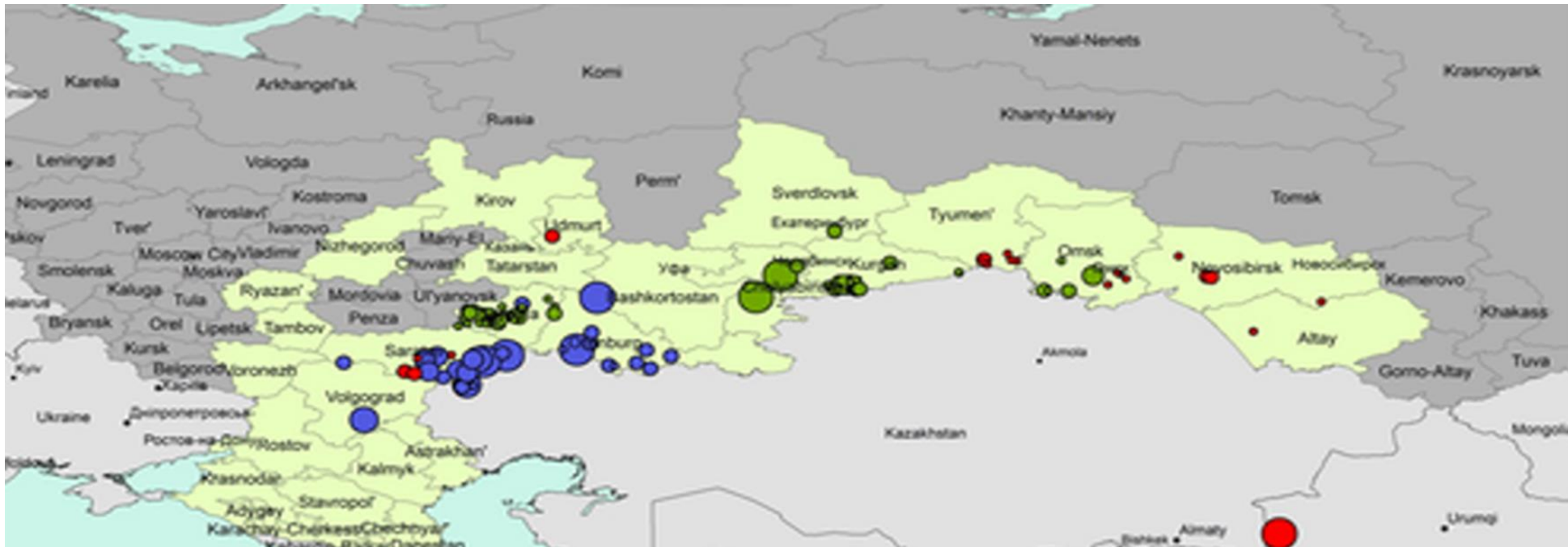


Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in -2019



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in -2019

- LSD outbreaks were reported in six Russian administrative regions along the border of Kazakhstan to the east of previous outbreaks since 2018, across southern Siberia until Novosibirsk and Altai.



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in -2019

- In 2019, LSD has further spread to Eastern Asia, with outbreaks reported for the first time in China, Bangladesh and India.



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in 2019 – Bangladesh and India, Orissa state

In Bangladesh in 2019, two outbreaks of LSD were reported, one in July and one in September, with 66 animals affected

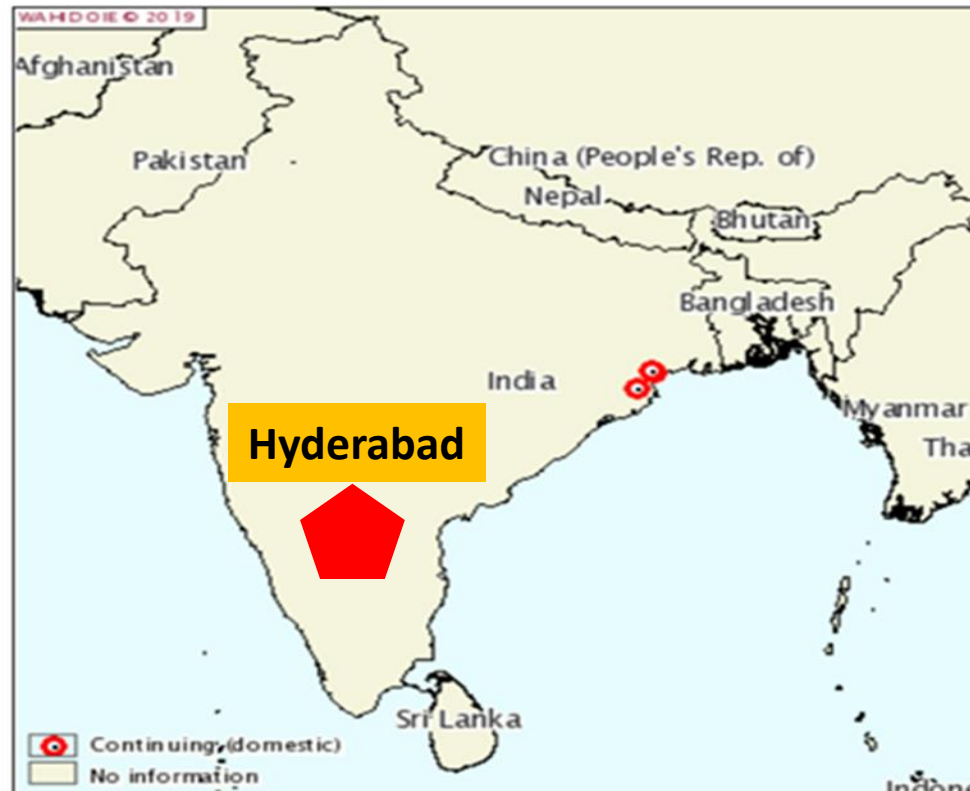


In Eastern India, three outbreaks were reported to OIE in Orissa state, with 79 affected animals out of 932 exposed.

Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in 2020 – Syria and Palestina



Temporal distribution of the LSD outbreaks in 2020 – Hyderabad and Kerala - India



Risk assessment

- In 2019 and 2020, no LSD outbreaks reported in South-East European countries.
- In 2019 and 2020, LSD further spread to Eastern Asia with new countries affected for the first time, China, Bangladesh and India, thus substantially increasing the global LSD virus spread east;
- LSD has been reported in Turkey consistently, for the seventh year, with an increased number of outbreaks in 2019 compared to 2017 and 2018; for this reason, **and according to OIE, Turkey can be considered as a LSD endemic country.**



Risk assessment (cont.)

- FAO, together with researchers from the [Autonomous University of Barcelona](#) (UAB) have developed a spatial model that allows **to predict the LSD risk in neighbouring unaffected areas in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia**, identifying several areas with high risk of spread.
- The results showed **an increased risk of LSD in areas mostly covered with croplands, grassland, or bushes. Also in areas with higher cattle density, as well as areas with higher annual mean temperature and higher temperature diurnal range.** (Allepuz A, Casal J, Beltrán-Alcrudo D. 2018. [Spatial analysis of lumpy skin disease \(LSD\) in Eurasia - Predicting areas at risk for further spread within the region](#). TBED 2018 Dec 6. doi: 10.1111/tbed.13090.



Risk assessment (cont.)

- In 2018 and to date in 2020, there has been a steady improvement of the LSD epidemiological situation and no case of LSD has been reported in any Member State or in any neighbouring third country in South-East Europe on the Balkans, excluding Turkey.
- During the same period, annual mass vaccination against LSD has continued in all the Member States and in some of the neighbouring third countries.





Plan to vaccinate against LSD 2019

European
Commission

LSD vaccination in 2019 (excl. Turkey) (planned / in progress)

 **Annual revaccination of all cattle** (planned / in progress)
Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia (southern districts)*

 **Vaccination of imported cattle and calves >6 mon.**
Serbia (northern districts)

 **Cease of vaccination**
Bosnia and Herzegovina



0 outbreaks in 0 countries (as at May 2019)
(excl. Turkey)

Risk assessment (cont.)

- In view of the favourable epidemiological situation, Croatia stopped preventive vaccination against LSD since the beginning of 2018, and replaced it with systematic disease surveillance.
- Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2009 was amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2019/82, in order to delete Croatia from the list of Member States with an approved vaccination programme against LSDV.
- Serbia, B&H, Macedonia and Kosovo stopped vaccinations against LSD since the beginning of 2019.



OIE regaining the status “free of the disease”

- According to the rules of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), where LSD vaccination is discontinued in a country or a zone thereof, it takes a minimum period of 8 months before LSD-free status may be regained, in the case of preventive vaccination, or a minimum period of 14 months, in the case of vaccination in response to an occurrence of LSD.
- Hence, the measures laid down in Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 should remain in place for a minimum period of 8 months or 14 months, depending on the zone, before LSD-free status can be restored.



Perspective for “exit strategy”

- Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 applies until 31 December 2019, and accordingly the current measures in relation to LSD in Greece and Bulgaria laid down in that act will no longer apply after that date. But.....
- Given the current epidemiological situation and the minimum time required to regain LSD-free status, it is necessary to prolong the period of application of these measures for an appropriate period of time. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council established a new legislative framework as regards animal health in the Union.
- More particularly, it lays down rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases, including LSD.



Perspective for “exit strategy”

- As LSDV is still circulate in some neighboring countries in the Middle East and Turkey and the risk of introducing the disease in some South East European countries still exists (low-to moderate), Article 15 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 from 28.11.2019, **extend the possibility of using preventive vaccination against LSDV to April 20, 2021.**
- **As the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 is to apply from 21 April 2021,** the period of application of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 was prolonged until 20 April 2021
- Bulgaria (BFSA) will probably take advantage of this opportunity in 2021 too.



Thank you!

