



# Risk-based approach for checking intra community trade consignments of animals

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## Background and Objective

In spite of official veterinary inspections of animals at the place of origin, intracommunity trade of animals may be a source of the transboundary spread of animal diseases. Therefore, random physical and laboratory checks of such consignments at the place of destination are useful to detect possible disease incursions. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of these checks, a system for a uniform and automatic selection of consignments with an increased risk of containing potentially diseased animals was required.

## Material and Methods

The percentage of intracommunity consignments per animal category to be checked by veterinary officers is laid down in a national Austrian ordinance. Data on animal consignments are taken from the TRACES database and data on animal disease outbreaks from the ADNS database. Analyses are carried out using the software package R.

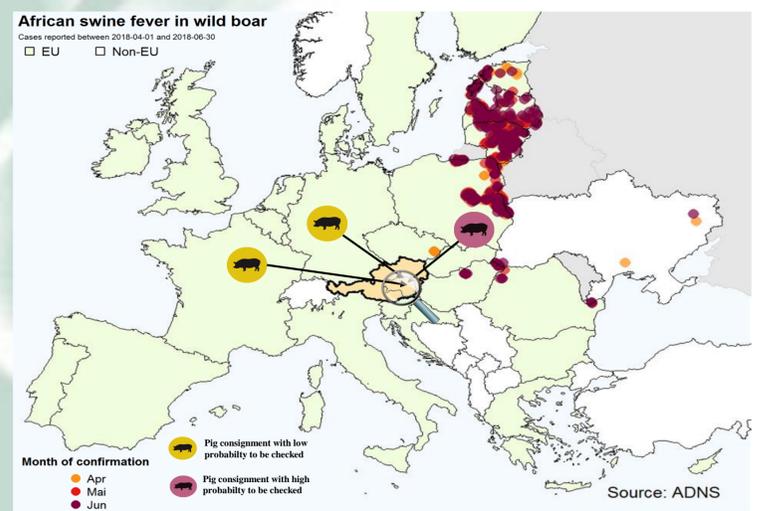


Fig. 1: Principle of the risk based selection of consignments

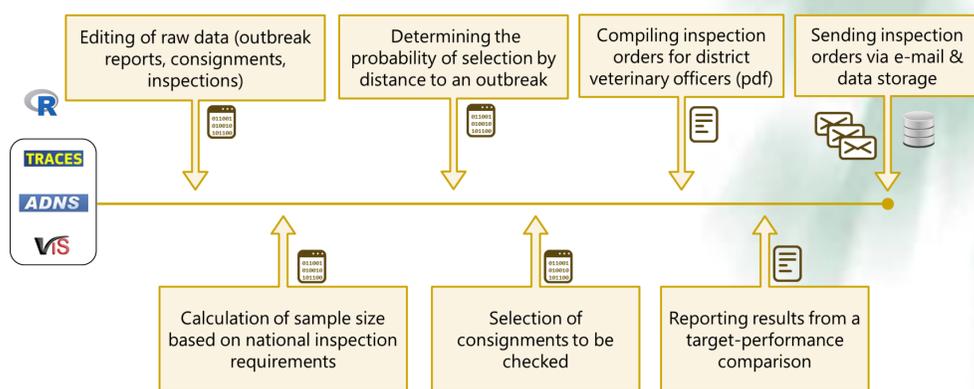


Fig. 2: Sequence of the automatic selection of consignments to be checked.

## Results

The developed tool preferably selects intracommunity animal consignments originating from regions near recent outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases. A list of consignments to be checked and sampled is generated every two weeks, taking into account the prescribed surveillance goals, and sent by email to the responsible veterinary officers. A target-performance comparison is carried out regularly and reports on the progress of the surveillance program and on data errors are provided.

## Discussion and Conclusions

The new system saves personnel resources and harmonizes the selection of consignments to be checked. By taking into account the disease situation in the vicinity of the region of origin, it increases the sensitivity of the intra community trade surveillance in Styria and the chance of detecting potentially infected animals which did not show clinical symptoms at the place of origin.

## Perspectives

A rollout of the developed system to other Austrian Provinces is planned in the near future.