



# ASFaVIP Project 2025 in Perspective: Impact & Results

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## Background, Objectives and Scientific Advances

The EU-funded consortium African Swine Fever Attenuated Live Vaccines In Pigs (ASFaVIP) kicked off in 2024, focusing on research to help pave the way for a licensed live-attenuated vaccine against African swine fever virus (ASFV). With ASFV continuing to spread across Europe, it is a concern that affects both commercial pig farms and wild pig populations. We're hopeful that the ASFaVIP project will lead to effective solutions to protect European and global pig communities. 2025 was in many aspects a fruitful year for the ASFaVIP consortium: Scientifically, our partners completed several animal trials that provided important data on vaccine safety and efficacy of the live-attenuated vaccine candidate, ASFV-G-Δ1177L. These were some of the other highlights throughout 2025:

### April 2025 – Field Tools, Publications & International Visibility

In April, researchers from IREC published their findings on environmental ropes to collect oral fluid of wild boar ([see below](#)), which will be used to evaluate vaccination studies in ASFaVIP field trials in Germany and Latvia and trial at all partner institutions. We also had the pleasure of sharing our project and initial insights at the Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) meeting held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. It was great to connect with an international audience of ASF researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders ([Link](#)). We are proud to share that two of our FLI researchers, Dr. Virginia Friedrichs and Dr. Alexander Schäfer, received awards for their outstanding poster presentations at the event.

### June 2025 – Consortium Expansion

In June, we welcomed a new partner to the consortium, the Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” from Latvia ([Link](#)). Their expertise in ASF and wild boar ecology will be a fantastic addition, supporting our bait trials in the field and ecological studies of wild boar populations across Europe.

### July 2025 – Advancing the Scientific Debate

In July, a team from our ASFaVIP partner FLI responded to a recent study that raised potential safety concerns for live-attenuated vaccines against ASFV in a thoughtful comment in npj vaccines ([see below](#)). In it, they argued against hasty decisions and for a careful but rational approach to vaccination against ASFV, exemplified by previous successful oral vaccination campaigns with imperfect vaccines. ASFaVIP researchers from Switzerland's IVI provided important insights into one of the major open questions in the field of ASFV infections with their results on correlates of protection against ASFV employing a systems immunology approach ([see below](#)). These results will be used to optimize vaccine design and assessment of vaccination efficacy in ongoing immunization studies.

### September 2025 – Mid-Term Review & International Outreach

In September, we had a fantastic milestone as our project was successfully evaluated by our project officer and external reviewers from the European Commission during the Mid-term review. All partners shared updates on the overall project development, ongoing studies, and the questions we're still exploring, both in a detailed written report and during an engaging online meeting. The reviewers highlighted the great importance of our research efforts and provided data but also gave critical feedback on the remaining tasks and questions. Also in September, we had the pleasure of attending the 13th International Congress for Veterinary Virology (ESVV) in Portorož (Slovenia), presented insights into ASFaVIP's research, and had prolific discussions with international experts in veterinary virology ([Link](#)).

### November 2025 – Field Trials & Operational Milestones

In November, our ASFaVIP partner Büro WildVet, along with FLI and IREC, started the first open-air trials in Brandenburg (Germany) to see how European wild boar respond to baits designed for potential oral vaccination campaigns ([Link](#)). Similar trials are planned or ongoing in Latvia and Spain, coordinated by our ASFaVIP partners BIOR and IREC, respectively. These efforts will provide crucial insights into bait acceptance, uptake by non-target species, and the overall feasibility of using oral vaccination campaigns for wild boar in Europe.

## Publications

 <p><b>Correlates of protection against African swine fever virus identified by a systems immunology approach</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read Article</a></p>	 <p><b>Oral fluid collection in wild boar: A field protocol</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read Article</a></p>	 <p><b>Benefit risk considerations for African swine fever virus live attenuated vaccines</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read Article</a></p>
 <p><b>Improved stability and specificity of baits for oral administration of substances to wild boar</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read Article</a></p>	 <p><b>Optimizing the baiting strategy for oral vaccine delivery to wild boar</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read Article</a></p>	

To learn more, follow our research and explore the available resources, go to the ASFaVIP project website.

[ASFaVIP Website](#)

## ASFaVIP 2025 Reunions

### ASFaVIP Ethical Meeting in Kassel, Germany



On 24 October 2025, the Ethics Committee of the ASFaVIP convened in Kassel for a productive meeting.

The session provided an important platform to review ethical standards and ensure that all research activities within the project align with the 3Rs principles (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) as well as with European and international guidelines.

[Read more](#)

### ESVV 2025 in Portorož



The 13th International Congress for Veterinary Virology (ESVV) took place in Portorož, a picturesque town on Slovenia's Adriatic coast, from September 2-5, 2025. Hosted by the EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY VIROLOGY, the congress featured an EPIZONE session.

[Read more](#)

### GARA Meeting



From April 28-30, 2025, the Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) convened its biennial Scientific Meeting at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. This pivotal event brought together researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders from around the world to share insights and strategies in the fight against African Swine Fever (ASF).

[Read more](#)

## But Also Virtually

- On March 24, 2025
- On June 23, 2025
- On September 29, 2025
- On December 12, 2025



Looking ahead to 2026, we are eager to continue this European collaboration and to deliver a successful final year driven by collective engagement and impact.



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