

Developing tools to control the lumpy skin disease and African swine fever epidemics in Europe and neighbouring countries

Mission Statement: To control the growing Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and African Swine Fever (ASF) epidemics in Europe and neighbouring countries by understanding the drivers of LSDV and ASFV emergence, and generating research outputs which underpin novel diagnostic tools and vaccines, and authenticate appropriate and rapid responses by decision-makers.

Background: ASF and LSD have been chosen as the newly emerging diseases to target because of their major impact on agricultural production and trade. The diseases represent immediate and long term threats to European livestock.

Work packages

The project is organised around three scientific objectives (Figure 1):

Objective 1. Identify the drivers for emergence of ASF and LSD in Europe

Objective 2. Understand the fundamental biology of LSDV

Objective 3. Develop tools for the management of ASF and LSD

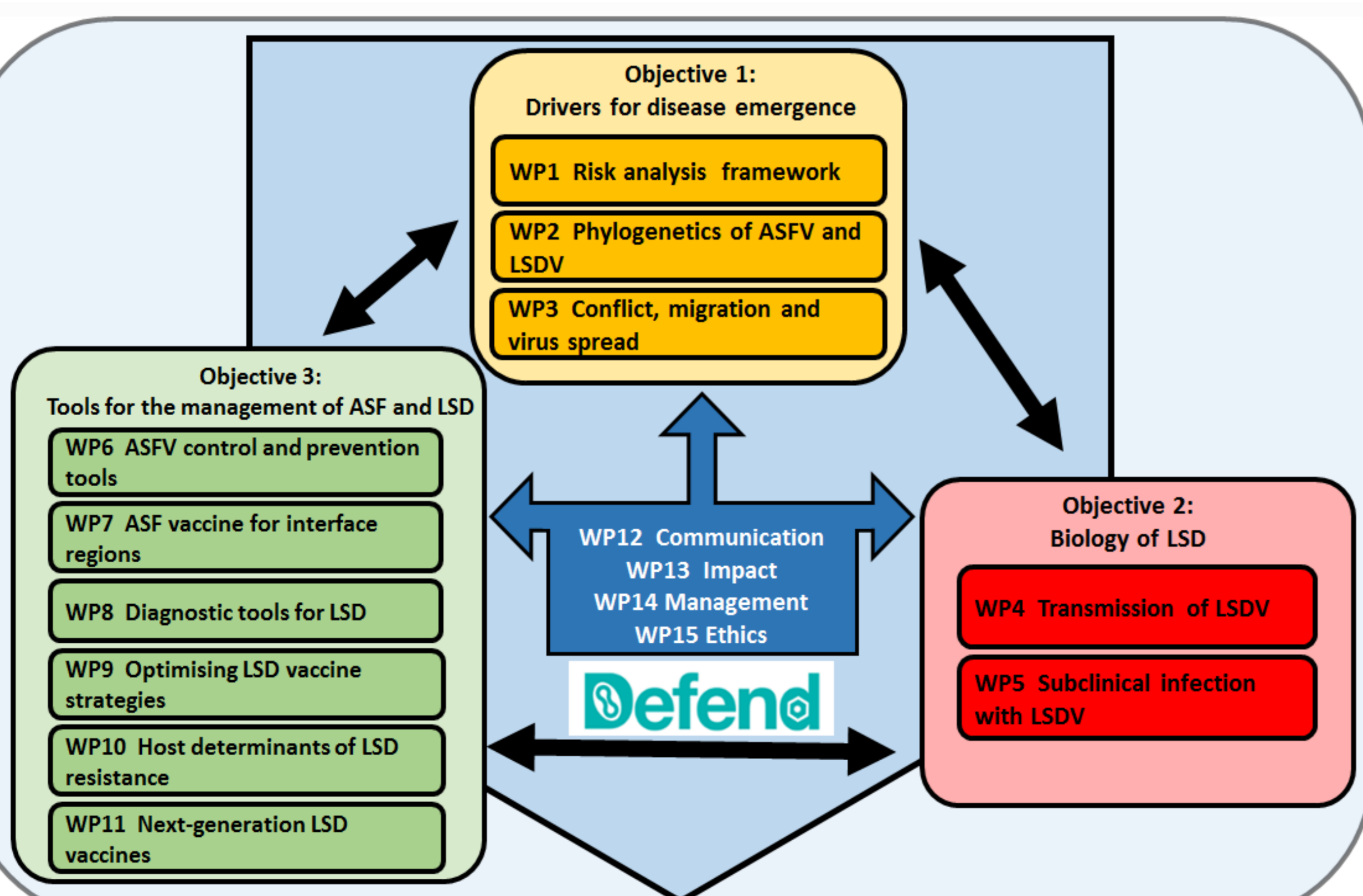


Figure 1: Work packages and their interrelatedness within DEFEND

Consortium

The DEFEND consortium consists of 33 partners from Europe, South Africa and Australia (Fig. 2).

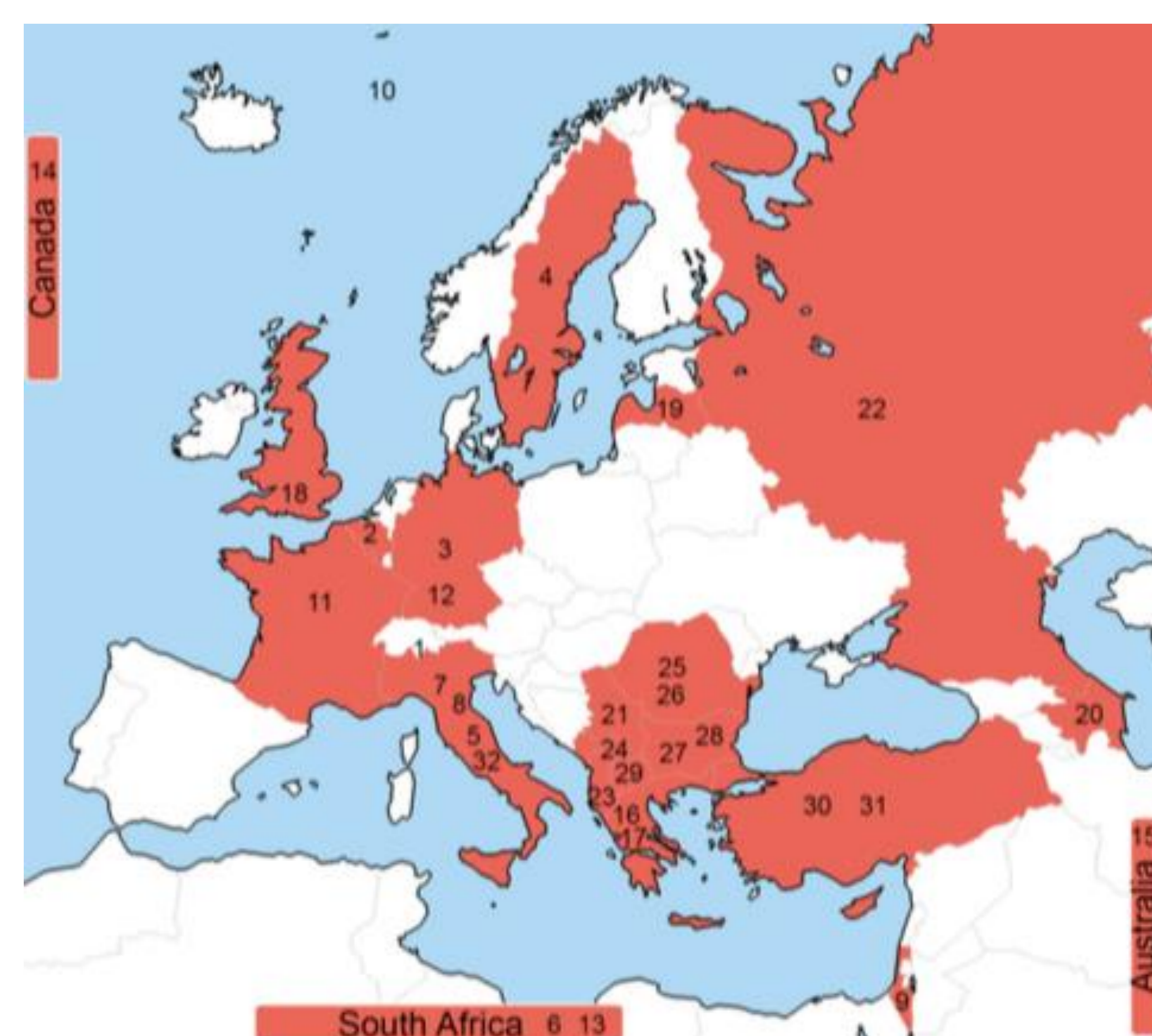


Figure 2: Consortium member countries (in red) with figures indicating their consortium number

Funding

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773701.