

WORK PROGRAMME for EURCAW-Pigs

European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Pigs

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EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS	3
INTRODUCTION	5
ACTIVITIES	7
COORDINATED ASSISTANCE - WLR	7
ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS - FLI.....	12
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES – FLI	14
TRAINING COURSES - AU.....	18
DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS - WLR.....	22
REMARKS.....	26

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS

AU	Aarhus University (Denmark)
BTSF	Better Training For Safer Food
CA	Competent Authorities: (a) the central authorities of a Member State responsible for the organisation of official controls and of other official activities, in accordance with Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625, and the rules referred to in its Article 1(2); (b) any other authority to which that responsibility has been conferred; (c) where appropriate, the corresponding authorities of a third country.
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EURCAW-Pigs	First European Union reference centre for animal welfare, focussing on pigs
EURCAW-SFA	EURCAW-Small Farm Animals: the EU Reference Centre for poultry, rabbits and fur animals.
FLI	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (Germany)
Focus areas	Key areas to focus on during welfare inspections of certain aspects of pig husbandry, such as 'Space and freedom to move' with regard to 'Farrowing housing and management'. The focus areas are addressed in e.g. reviews and Factsheets.
Indicator	An indicator is a quantitative, measurable parameter (potentially) indicating an animal welfare aspect.
Iceberg indicator	An 'Iceberg' Indicator is an indicator reflecting major welfare issues in an integrative manner in order enable an initial overview on the welfare state.
MS	Member States of the EU
NCP	National Contact Points. NCPs are asked for by two regulations regarding pig welfare: Reg (EU) 1099/2009, Art 20 (on welfare at slaughter), and Reg (EU) 1/2005, Art 24 (2) (on welfare during transport). The regulations require that for the purpose of providing scientific support via a network, each Member State shall identify a single contact point and make it publicly available via the Internet. Such contact point shall be responsible for sharing technical and scientific information and best practices regarding the implementation of this Regulation with its counterparts and the Commission.
NRC	A National Reference Centre for animal welfare, officially designated by a Member State.
Open norm	Requirement in EU or national legislation which does not unambiguously translate into qualitative or quantitative criteria that can be used to check/verify compliance.
Q2E	Question to EURCAW. A 'Question and Answer' service provide by EURCAW-Pigs to CA's and policy makers of Member States. See https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs/services/Q2E.htm
National Support Bodies	Organisations or individuals supporting CA's with science, training, communication, research and technical based advice.
Target Groups	The target groups are defined in Articles 95(1) and 96 of the OCR as 'the Commission' and 'the Member States', in relation to the application of the rules referred to in point (f) of Article 1(2) – "official controls performed for the verification of compliance with the rules (...)". EURCAW-Pigs interprets these to be DG SANTE, the MS competent authorities and government policy workers on pig welfare, as well as their National Support Bodies.

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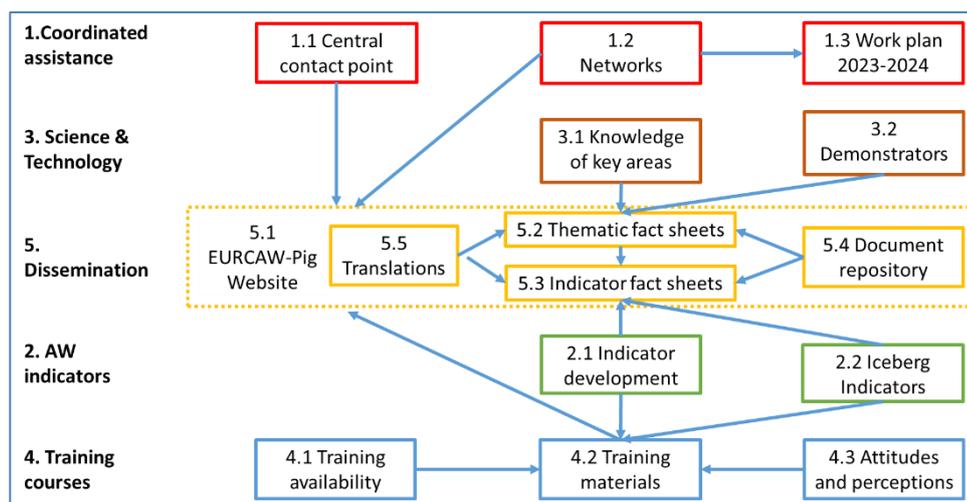
Welfare topics	EURCAW's prioritised topics covering pig welfare issues that are addressed in reviews and dossiers. These are published on the website. They are proposed by DG SANTE, CAs and policy workers.
WLR	Wageningen Livestock Research (The Netherlands)

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INTRODUCTION

The activities of the first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (EURCAW) focus on the welfare of pigs, hence: EURCAW-Pigs. They cover the entire life cycle from birth to the end of life, and include pig husbandry, transport and slaughter or killing (for other purposes than human consumption). EURCAW-Pigs' main objective is a harmonised compliance with EU welfare legislation regarding pigs.

The Centre started its activities in October 2018, and built a solid and structured foundation for knowledge dissemination to the two main target groups: the Competent Authorities and animal welfare policy workers in the Member States.



EURCAW-Pigs has 5 main areas of activity: 1. coordinated assistance, 2. welfare indicators to improve compliance, 3. science & technology needs, 4. training and 5. dissemination. The results of the first four activities are published as part of the 5th activity: the EURCAW-Pigs website. The central source of technical information on the website are the 'Dossiers' on priority thematic areas for enforcement (5.3), which include practical knowledge on indicators (5.3). Both are supported by a knowledge base (document repository (5.4)). The full titles of the Sub-activities are:

To support Coordinated Assistance, EURCAW-Pigs will develop the following activities:

- Sub-activity 1.1 Central contact point for technical information required by Competent Authorities
- Sub-activity 1.2 Networking across supporting bodies, CA's, pig welfare and policy workers
- Sub-activity 1.3 Development of the 2023-2024 Work Programme

To promote the use of welfare indicators:

- Sub-activity 2.1 Relevant welfare indicators to verify compliance with legislation
- Sub-activity 2.2 The identification of 'Ice berg indicators'

Scientific and technical studies will be:

- Sub-activity 3.1 Existing knowledge of welfare topics related to EU pig welfare legislation
- Sub-activity 3.2 To identify demonstrator farms, transport companies or slaughter houses

For training, EURCAW-Pigs will:

- Sub-activity 4.1 Evaluate existing training activities and materials with reference to training needs of inspectors
- Sub-activity 4.2 Develop course standards and materials for welfare topics
- Sub-activity 4.3 To produce guidelines on how to change perceptions and attitudes

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EURCAW-Pigs' dissemination activities will include:

- Sub-activity 5.1 Maintaining a 'EURCAW-Pigs portal'
- Sub-activity 5.2 'Thematic Factsheets' and Dossiers on prioritised welfare topics
- Sub-activity 5.3 'Indicator Factsheets' for welfare inspection purposes
- Sub-activity 5.4 Maintaining a knowledge base with relevant documents and other items
- Sub-activity 5.5 Translations of output

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ACTIVITIES

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 - Article 96:

The European Union reference centre for animal welfare shall be responsible for the following supporting tasks insofar as they are included in the reference centres' annual or multiannual work programmes that have been established in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the relevant work programmes adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014

1

COORDINATED ASSISTANCE - WLR

Article 96 (a): Providing scientific and technical expertise within the scope of their mission including, where appropriate in the form of coordinated assistance, to relevant national support networks and bodies in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for animals.

Sub-activity 1.1 Central contact point for technical information required by Competent Authorities (WLR)

EURCAW-Pigs has an [easy access point](#) for technical queries of its primary target groups. Relevant queries are dealt with correctly and within reasonable time, agreed with the requestor. Queries and answers are also used to grow the knowledge within EURCAW-Pigs to provide an even better or quicker service in future.

Achievements so far:

In 2019-2020, there was an increasing use by CAs of the possibility to ask EURCAW-Pigs for scientific advice on several topics that were either not covered by the eight welfare topics in 2019-2020 or quite specific. A total of 13 'Questions to EURCAW' (Q2Es) were received. Due to this positive development in the direct communication between our target group and EURCAW-Pigs, in 2021-2022 the time budget allocated into answering the Q2E will be increased at the expense of reviews and dossiers.

Objectives:

- To maintain an email account and service for relevant technical questions by Competent Authorities and supporting bodies, and to answer these Q2E's within a timespan as agreed with the requestor, preferably within 15 working days .

Description:

The email account info.pigs@eurcaw.eu is checked on a daily basis by the secretariat at Wageningen Livestock Research. The secretariat books any queries from competent authorities, policy workers or support bodies as 'Q2E's' (Questions to EURCAW) in a query record (Excel file). The booking will include the

- date and time of receipt,
- the identity of the sender of the query,
- the original query,
- the identification of the EURCAW-Pigs colleague who will respond.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

If queries are suspected not to have come from the above mentioned target groups, a confirmation email will be sent to clarify the status of the requestor. Those that do not belong to the target group will receive a standard email explaining the reason for rejection. If questions are outside the scope of the Centre's activities, they will also be rejected.

Relevant queries will be forwarded immediately to EURCAW-Pigs colleagues, and an indicative reply will be requested so that the query can be replied to. The secretariat will monitor the process of answering the query, and pursue that the final answer is given as soon as possible.

The secretariat will respond to the sender of the query within two working days: by acknowledging receipt and either answering the query immediately or by providing an indication of when a reply might be expected. Email interactions with the sender will be archived.

When the final answer is provided to the sender, the Q2E will be closed, and date and time of closure will be recorded. The Q2Es are included in a dedicated EURCAW-Pigs webpage (<https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs/services/Q2E.htm>), and linked to relevant dossiers (see Sub-activity 5.2)

Expected output and timing:

In 2021 as well as in 2022

D1.1 An up-to-date query record at any time during the contract period, with all queries receiving an initial response within two working days of receipt by EURCAW-Pigs (ongoing).

D1.2 A list of Q2Es published on the website of EURCAW-Pigs (ongoing).

Sub-activity 1.2 Networking across supporting bodies, CA's, pig welfare and policy workers (WLR)

Objectives:

- To improve and harmonise the technical knowledge of CA's, pig welfare policy workers and supporting bodies in the EU by face-to-face interaction and dialogue.
- To make sure that EURCAW-Pigs can optimize its services by staying well aware of, and updated on the main concerns and expectations within its primary target groups.

Achievements so far:

In 2019 EURCAW-Pigs organised meetings with CA's in two regions of the EU and attended several meetings organised by others (e.g. EU Welfare Platform, NCP meetings). In 2020 the COVID-19 crisis prevented travel, and although meetings were still organised they were usually via digital means. This has seriously impacted the visibility of the Centre, as informal contacts during these meetings have become impossible. A combination of formal contributions (presentations, agenda points) and informal personal contact is essential for networking purposes, and it is hoped that in 2021 physical meetings will be possible again.

Description:

From 2021 onwards, this Sub-activity will involve five types of meetings: a) Annual EURCAW-Pigs meetings with the primary target group (Competent Authorities and policy workers of the EU Member States); b) meetings of the primary target groups organised by others (e.g. DG SANTE and EFSA); c) meetings with National Welfare Reference Centres and National Support Bodies, d) virtual meetings with support bodies of the Member States and e) meetings with other EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare. The sixth activity f) relates to the handling of personal data and GDPR.

a) Annual meetings with the primary target group

EURCAW-Pigs will host one larger physical meeting every year with Competent Authorities, inspectors and welfare policy workers of the Member States and the EU. The meeting will include smaller virtual

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

or satellite meetings. At each meeting at least one delegate from each member state will be invited by EURCAW-Pigs. The meetings will last for two days.

On the agenda will be:

- introduction and update of EURCAW-Pigs activities
- questions from the CA's in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for pigs
- potential new links between EURCAW-Pigs and MS activities, e.g. any national reference centres and other scientific support bodies
- 'replies' by senior scientists on technical queries posed by the delegates.
- suggestions for improved functioning of EURCAW-Pigs

EURCAW-Pigs will use these meetings and the interactions with the target groups as the basis for developing the Work Programme 2023-2024 (Sub-activity 1.3).

EURCAW-Pigs will offer the 'replies' by senior scientists of the topics to a wider audience of Competent Authorities via a Webinar. These webinars will be held after the meeting, and advertised via the social media channels of the centre.

The EURCAW-Pigs meeting will be held in September 2021 (EURCAW-SFA will have its meeting in November). The date of the meeting in 2022 is to be decided.

b) Existing NCP networks

There are currently three networks active which aim to support direct dialogue between EURCAW-Pigs' target groups. They are:

- The network of contact points for Dir (EU) 1099/2009 (on stunning and killing of animals), coordinated by EFSA in Parma (Italy);
- The network of contact points for Dir (EU) 1/2005 (on transport of animals), coordinated by unit F2 of DG SANTE (located in Grange);
- The EU Platform on Animal Welfare, which meets twice per year in Brussels and is coordinated by DG SANTE.

If meetings are organised EURCAW-Pigs will take an active presence, present EURCAW-Pigs intermediate results and activities when appropriate, provide expert opinion if necessary and ask for feedback from the networks regarding EURCAW-Pigs' future role and functioning.

c) National Reference Centres (NRC) for animal welfare and National Support Bodies

During 2019-2020, EURCAW-Pigs has contacted the national reference centres of France, Sweden, Finland, Greece and Italy. More national reference centres may be initiated.

From 2021 onwards, EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-SFA have agreed to jointly organise and host one of these meetings per year. We will invite and pay for 1 representative from each NRC. All Member States which do not have an NRC will be invited to propose participation of one expert from a Support Body in their country, to be paid for by the two Reference Centres.

The points of discussion during these meetings will be:

- Update of the role and responsibilities of the national reference centre;
- Update of the role and responsibilities of the EURCAWs;
- Update on collaboration between all centres, and development of new initiatives.
- Collaboration on translation and demonstrator activities

d) Other EURCAWs

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

EURCAW-Pigs will meet every three months with DG SANTE and the other two reference centres (EURCAW-SFA and EURCAW-Ruminants and Equines), resulting in 4 meetings per year. The meetings will be hosted alternately between the three Centres. The host will be responsible for the agenda, the chairing and the minutes of the meeting. The meetings will last approximately 2 hours.

The aim of these meetings is to exchange experience and for mutual inspiration, and to report on progress to DG SANTE. Dates to be agreed with DG SANTE and the other centre(s).

e) Reflection Board

An Reflection Board (RB) for EURCAW-Pigs was set up in 2020 and met once in July with ten delegates attending. The AB does not represent the main target group, but represent the pig supply chain, related professional organisations and civil society organisations. The Commission took part as 'observer'. At the request of the Commission, the Reflection Board will be informed about the activities of EURCAW-Pigs and reflect on them, and will be asked to support the Centre with technical information.

In 2021 and 2022 EURCAW-Pigs will organise one physical AB meeting per year in Brussels (a digital meeting will take place if physical is impossible due to pandemic restrictions). The aim will be to increase the size from 10 to max 20 delegates. The agenda will be based on the main dossiers on the website and the Work Programme. It will include ample time for any other business suggested by the delegates (this could be any topic which could improve the functioning of the Centre).

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

- D1.3 A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2021 annual meeting with the National Reference Centres (NRCs) for Animal Welfare identified in EU member states, and with Support Bodies. The summary will be published within one month after the meeting.
- D1.4 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with Competent Authorities and Policy Workers in September 2021, which will be submitted to SANTE within one month after the meeting.
- D1.5 Two webinars on topics addressed in the CA meeting of September 2021, to be published via the website.
- D1.6 Active presence of EURCAW-Pigs members during the annual meetings of the three NCP networks organised by EFSA and DG SANTE in 2021.
- D1.7 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes for the quarterly meetings of the Centre with DG-SANTE and the other reference centre(s), for those meetings hosted by EURCAW-Pigs in 2021.
- D1.8 The minutes of the Reflection Board meeting in 2021.

In 2022

- D1.9 A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2022 annual meeting with the National Reference Centres (NRCs) for Animal Welfare identified in EU member states, and with Support Bodies. The summary will be published within one month after the meeting.
- D1.10 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with Competent Authorities and Policy Workers in 2022 (timing TBC), which will be submitted to SANTE within one month after the meeting.
- D1.11 Two webinars on topics addressed in the CA meeting of 2022, to be published via the website.
- D1.12 Active presence of EURCAW-Pigs members during the annual meetings of the three NCP networks organised by EFSA and DG SANTE in 2022.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

D1.13 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes for the quarterly meetings of the Centre with DG-SANTE and the other reference centre(s), for those meetings hosted by EURCAW-Pigs in 2022.

D1.14 The minutes of the Reflection Board meeting in 2022.

Sub-activity 1.3 Development of the 2023-2024 Work Programme (WLR)

The designation of the centre covers the period 2018-2022, and the current Work Programme describes the activities of the second half of this period. Subject to approval by the European Commission, a new Work Programme may be required at the end of this period.

Objectives:

- To develop the EURCAW-Pigs Work Programme 2023-2024.

Achievements so far:

N/A

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs will develop the next Work Programme on the basis of inputs received during the execution of the current plan. This involves suggestions obtained through discussions with the Commission and MS representatives, as well as the Q2Es (Sub-activity 1.1) and feedback from the annual meetings with the target group and network meetings (as described in Sub-activity 1.2). The development of the next WP will be an essential point in the meetings and exchanges with MS CA, NRC, support bodies, etc., as they are the main target group. We will listen to their suggestions and advice on EURCAW functioning and activities.

Expected output and timing:

In 2022

D1.15 A Work Programme for the period 2023-2024, to be delivered to DG SANTE in August 2022.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

2

ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS - FLI

Article 96 (b): Providing scientific and technical expertise for the development and application of the animal welfare indicators referred to in point (e) of Article 21(8);

The Article 21 (8) (e) refers to possible rules on the cases and conditions where official controls to verify compliance with animal welfare requirements may include the use of specific animal welfare indicators based on measurable performance criteria, and the design of such indicators on the basis of scientific and technical evidence.

Article 96 (c): Developing or coordinating the development of methods for the assessment of the level of welfare of animals and of methods for the improvement of the welfare of animals.

Sub-activity 2.1 Relevant welfare indicators to verify compliance with legislation (FLI)

In order to harmonise the interpretation of animal welfare requirements and to verify compliance with the European pig welfare legislation, the Competent Authorities require standardized and relevant welfare indicators. To be relevant, an indicator needs to be valid, feasible, reliable and refer to compliance with EU legislation.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will provide relevant indicators suitable to verify compliance with Directives 98/58/EC and 2008/120/EC (on farm), Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (transport), and Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (slaughter).

Achievements so far:

To date EURCAW-Pigs has produced over [40 indicator Factsheets](#) on the basis of the reviews and additional scientific materials, which were collected as part of this Sub-activity in 2019 and 2020.

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs will continue to identify and describe relevant indicators for each newly identified welfare topic that can be used to verify compliance with the EU legislation on pigs. Of the topics presented in Sub-activity 2.1 above, indicator sets will be described for 'Measures to prevent heat stress'. If appropriate, additional Indicator Factsheets will be developed for the other reviews produced in 2021 and 2022.

Indicators will be obtained from indicator schemes partly already in use in different MS, and from publications from support bodies and other sources such as scientific studies. Animal based indicators will be included particularly with regard to addressing 'open norms' in the legislation. The indicators will be selected based on their validity, reliability and feasibility to be used by official inspectors, and published in form of Indicator Factsheets (see Sub-activity 5.3).

The selected indicators will be discussed with experts of the National Reference Centres and of the Scientific Support Bodies. In addition, official inspectors will be asked for comments and suggestions in order to verify that the selected indicators and the suggested methods will meet their requirements and are practically feasible during inspections.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

D2.1 The existing indicator sets will be reviewed regularly and updated should new information become available. The 2021 activity report will contain a list of the updates.

In 2022

D2.2 A new indicator set on Heat stress will be identified and described in parallel with the review, and published in August 2022.

D2.3 The 2022 activity report will contain a list of the updates.

Sub-activity 3.2 The identification of 'Iceberg Indicators' (FLI)

Competent authorities and official inspectors emphasized the need for 'Iceberg Indicators' during the interviews done in 2018. These indicators will help the official inspectors to have a quick and qualitative overview on emerging animal welfare problems on a certain farm, transport, or abattoir which they visit. For this purpose, Iceberg Indicators need to be integrative, enabling a quick assessment/indication of the welfare status on farm, during transport or at the abattoir. These indicators will be few, and easy to record in order to allow a first qualitative assessment in an integrative manner. In contrast, for a more detailed understanding of the welfare status and of compliance with legislation regarding the prioritized welfare topics, the inspectors will need to use the specific indicators identified in the reviews and described in the Indicator Factsheets. In contrast, iceberg indicators often are not specific to certain welfare topics but may help the inspector to identify whether the given farm, transport or abattoir may reveal welfare problems irrespective from a certain Welfare Topic. E.g. a high mortality may indicate welfare problems on farm. The more specific indicators identified in the reviews on the welfare topics than can help to further localise the problem. Thus, identification of Iceberg Indicators are detached from the specific focus areas for inspections.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will provide Iceberg Indicators that can be used by official inspectors to obtain a quick overview on possible welfare problems on farm, transport, and at abattoirs.

Achievements so far:

A list of Iceberg indicators has been produced in 2019.

Description:

The Iceberg Indicators listed previously will be further developed by including all relevant information needed to produce Factsheets in Activity 5. The list of Iceberg indicators produced in 2019 (and possible alternative Iceberg indicators) will be discussed with experts of the National Reference Centres or of the National Support Bodies. The resulting 'short list' of potential Iceberg indicators will be offered to official inspectors suggested by CVOs. They will be asked in particular to add practical advice on how to use the indicators on farm. Following their suggestions, the Iceberg Indicators will be described in 'Iceberg Indicator Factsheets' comparable to the 'Indicator Factsheets', but with emphasis on their broader and integrative function. These Factsheets will be produced in Activity 5.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

D2.4 By July 2021, the list of potential Iceberg indicators is discussed with NRC and NSB resulting in a 'Short list'.

D2.5 By December 2021, Iceberg Indicators Factsheets for on farm are reviewed by the end users and are ready to be developed into Factsheets (in Activity 5).

In 2022

D2.6 By September 2022, Iceberg Indicators Factsheets for transport and abattoir are reviewed by the end users and are ready to be developed into Factsheets (in Activity 5).

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

3

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES – FLI

Article 96 (d): Carrying out scientific and technical studies on the welfare of animals used for commercial or scientific purposes;

Sub-activity 3.1 Existing knowledge of welfare topics related to EU pig welfare legislation (FLI)

Competent Authority inspectors are expected to have a good understanding of pig farming, transport and slaughter house practices. Inspectors can be supported by scientific knowledge on animal welfare, i.e. information on pigs' physiological and behavioural needs, identification of key areas to focus on during welfare inspections ('Focus areas'), suggestions for improved practices suitable to minimise welfare risks, and information on the relevant legal requirements. Possible risk factors will be addressed by that. Such science based information will also help them in dialogue with farmers, drivers and slaughterhouse staff, where they need to have a good understanding of what the practical situations look like when the law is implemented correctly. This is particularly important when dealing with 'open norms' in the legislation. A review document addressing these aspects will help them to visualise the required outcomes, and can help in discussions with those who's operation is inspected. In addition, in these reviews indicators are derived and explained that can be used by inspectors to check compliance with EU regulations. These reviews are also the basic document for the Dossiers on EURCAW-Pigs website (Sub-activity 5.2), the training course standards (Sub-activity 4.2), the Thematic Factsheets (Sub-activity 5.2) and the Indicator Factsheets (Sub-activity 5.3).

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will work on filling perceived gaps in knowledge which currently hamper implementation of EU legislation, through science based reviews.
- To support, with scientific and technical expertise illustrated through a series of practical reviews, the implementation of pig welfare legislation across the Member States, in particular with respect to 'open norms'.
- EURCAW-Pigs will identify remaining questions for which further research is needed.

Achievements so far:

In 2019 and 2020 EURCAW-Pigs produced 7 [reviews](#): Climate control and space allowance during transport, Farrowing management and housing, Handling in lairage, Group-housing and mixing, Fitness for transport, On-farm killing, and Pig stunning. The latter 3 will be finalised in Q1 of 2021. An 8th review for the website Dossier on 'tail docking and tail biting' was addressed by adopting the Commission's [Staff Working document \(2016\)](#).

Description:

The target groups, consisting of DG SANTE and the CA's of the Member States, who responded to our invitation to suggest topics for 2021-2022, confirmed their support to the current 8 review welfare topics for the website. EURCAW-Pigs will make an effort to maintain these welfare topics with new information, if needed. Each review developed in 2019-2020 will be checked for the need of an update and if necessary an improved version is published throughout the 2021-2022.

Furthermore, based on their suggestions, five new reviews (on welfare topics proposed by the target groups) will be developed. EURCAW-Pigs will investigate relevant scientific publications and reports, e.g. by EFSA. The draft review will be developed further via an iterative process with experts from National Reference Centres and other National Support Bodies. The reviews will form the basis for the

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

web dossiers and thematic factsheets (Sub-activity 5.2), the training course standards (Sub-activity 4.2), and the Indicator Factsheets developed in Sub-activity 5.3. In addition, information will be collected on several other welfare issues which will be submitted to Sub-activity 5.2 for inclusion in the existing dossier, as indicated below.

The welfare topics for which additional technical info will be developed are:

1. Alternatives for farrowing crates and for sow stalls (topic supported by DG SANTE): Crating of sows for the entire farrowing period and confining sows after service (insemination) in sow stalls are the most common housing condition for those production periods but strongly impacts the welfare of sows. EURCAW-Pigs will review alternative housing conditions.

- a review on alternative farrowing systems will be added to the 'Farrowing housing and management dossier'
- a review with examples on group housing systems will be added to the 'Sow group housing and mixing' dossier
- On the website a Knowledge section on best practices will be added to the 'Farrowing housing and management dossier' (in Sub-activity 5.2)
- On the website a Knowledge section will be added to the 'Sow group housing and mixing dossier': on group housing of empty sows and of sows in early pregnancy, and on different group housing systems (in Sub-activity 5.2)

2. Methodology for assessing tail biting/ tail docking on farm and in slaughterhouses (topic suggested by DG SANTE): a relevant new development is the feedback of slaughter assessment results to farmers and competent authorities of the farms of origin of the pigs. For this, existing good practices in Member States in this field will be investigated and described.

- On the website a Knowledge section on best practices and demonstrators will be added to the 'Tail biting and tail docking dossier' (in Sub-activity 5.2)

3. Management of unweaned piglets (topic suggested by DG SANTE): tail biting often starts pre-weaning. Appropriate management (e.g. enrichment materials, nursing management, litter size) may help as early prevention measures against tail biting/ tail docking.

- On the website a Knowledge section will be added to the 'Tail biting and tail docking dossier', and this will also be made available in the 'Farrowing housing and management dossier' (in Sub-activity 5.2)

4. Transport of sows (topic supported by DG SANTE and DK): Transporting end-of-career sows to the abattoir includes specific welfare risks that are associated e.g. with the higher weight (> 250 kg) and reduced fitness associated with the reasons for culling. Sows are also less 'valuable' compared to finishers, and more likely to be grouped with unfamiliar other sows on the truck. Items to be addressed will be e.g. transport conditions, preparation for transport and decisions regarding alternatives (killing on the spot).

- A review on this topic will be added to the dossier on 'Fitness for transport' and the dossier on 'Transport: climate control and space allowance'.

5. Measures to prevent heat stress on farm (topic supported by NL and PT): Given the changing climate and increasing risks of longer and warmer summers, practical methods to prevent and reduce heat stress, and indicators to assess heat stress need to be developed. There is also a need to better understand and explain pig physiology and behavioural responses.

- A review on heat stress will be written, and added to a new website dossier on 'Preventing heat stress' (Sub-activity 5.2). This review will also allow a new set of indicators to be produced in Sub-activity 3.1)

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

6. Prevention of hunger and stereotypies in sows (topic supported by DG SANTE): Pregnant sows most often are fed restrictively regarding energy content of food in order to avoid problems at farrowing. Restrictive feeding can impair their welfare due to hunger and can lead to stereotypies. EURCAW-Pigs will review possibilities to reduce these welfare risks.

- A review will be written and added to the 'Sow group housing and mixing' dossier.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

D3.1 Review on Alternatives for sow stalls (empty and early pregnancy) in November 2021

In 2022

D3.2 Review on Hunger and stereotypies in sows in January 2022

D3.3 Review on Alternatives for farrowing crates in March 2022

D3.4 Review on Transport of sows in May 2022

D3.5 Review on Prevention of heat stress in July 2022

Sub-activity 3.2 To identify demonstrator farms, transport companies or slaughter houses (FLI)

Demonstration of good practices are excellent ways and proven methods of dissemination of knowledge, exchanging ideas, harmonize assessments, and change attitudes. Demonstration of good practices on how to deal with welfare requirements for which compliance in the MS is low, was considered a high priority by inspectors we spoke with during the EURCAW-Pigs activities 2019-2020. These good practices need to be seen in a full systems context (farm, transport company, abattoir).

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will identify farms, transport companies and abattoirs demonstrating good practices of implementation of EU legislation.

Description:

During 2019-2020, EURCAW-Pigs compiled a comprehensive list of potential demonstrators. This compilation has been supplemented by experts of National Reference Centres. The first demonstrators were included on EURCAW-Pig webpage – in the web dossiers as 'Inspiring examples' - by the end of 2020 (e.g. the ['Inspiring examples'](#) for 'Sow group housing and mixing'). This Sub-activity will continue in 2021-2022.

The EURCAW-Pigs demonstrators will show how legal EU requirements that have a low level of implementation in other farms, transport companies, and abattoirs can be implemented. The good practices of the demonstrators will address the welfare topics of Work Programme 2019-2020 and successively of Work Programme 2021-2022 (see Sub-activity 2.1).

Each demonstrator should either be open for interested visitors in person, or through virtual tours. The demonstrators should be commercial operators, representative for standard farming, transport and slaughtering procedures. Demonstrators will also need to have a strong cooperation with veterinarians and other advisors. In addition, research and educational stations of consulting institutions may be a source for demonstrators.

Inclusion criteria will be described by EURCAW-Pigs in collaboration with national reference centres and national scientific support bodies. Each demonstrator candidate is asked to provide technical and economic information if necessary, so EURCAW-Pigs can help to understand and explain why these operators are able to perform the way they do.

In different MS demonstrator farms, transport companies and abattoirs will be identified and their good practices described. The number of descriptions will depend on e.g. availability and labour required to obtain publishable materials and information. We will present the EURCAW-Pigs

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

demonstrators and the story behind their success on its website in Sub-activity 5.1, and linked to the Dossiers of Sub-activity 5.2. If possible, information and materials from the demonstrators will be used where relevant in Sub-activity 4.2 and 4.3 for training purposes.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

D3.6 A minimum of 4 demonstrators will be presented on the website by the end of 2021

In 2022

D3.7 An additional 4 (minimally) will be presented by the end of 2022.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

4

TRAINING COURSES - AU

Article 96 (e): conducting training courses for staff of the national scientific support networks or bodies, for staff of the competent authorities and for experts from third countries;

Article 96 (e): conducting training courses for staff of the national scientific support networks or bodies, for staff of the competent authorities and for experts from third countries;

Sub-activity 4.1 Evaluate existing training activities and materials with reference to training needs of inspectors (AU)

The BTSF training courses funded by DG SANTE provide training of MS representatives of various aspects of pig welfare legislation (on farm husbandry, transport, slaughter). The cascading of knowledge from this European level to the MS level does not happen automatically, and should be supported by EURCAW-Pigs.

MS conducts national courses in parallel and independent of each other. Many of these national courses could be useful for other countries as well. EURCAW-Pigs identified some critique from inspectors regarding training offered to them on key areas. These trainings needs experienced by inspectors on the ground need to be identified

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will evaluate BTSF course material and course evaluations and suggest courses feasible for use in MS's additional training needs for inspectors
- EURCAW-Pigs will collect course material used in MS, translate these materials to English and suggest ways to make the courses available for further use in MS
- EURCAW-Pigs will assess inspectors need for training by grounded interviews

Achievements so far:

EURCAW-Pigs has repeatedly asked MS, their support bodies, and other providing training to inspectors for existing training material. Only a limited number of examples has been obtained so far. In 2020 EURCAW-Pigs was given access to training materials produced for the BTSF training courses on animal welfare on farms, during transport and at slaughter. We also obtained the course evaluations. Some of these materials are relevant, but cannot be published by the centre yet.

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs has invited MS's to submit existing course material to EURCAW-Pigs for an evaluation for relevance for further dissemination across MS's as part of the work program for 2019-20. This activity will continue in the coming work program. Relevant course material will be translated and made available on the EURCAW-Pigs homepage.

EURCAW-Pigs will continue to evaluate the BTSF materials it obtained. We will look for gaps between the BTSF courses and the need by inspectors on the ground. Providing permission by DG SANTE will be granted, selected BTSF courses will be modified and made available for all MS's.

Training activities can vary widely in the level of quality, relevance and practicality for inspectors with different educational background and professional experience. Poor quality training will result in poor uptake of knowledge, and a waste of resources. In the EURCAW-Pigs work programme 2019-2020 we

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

identified some gaps between training needed and training offered by some MS. These gaps may relate to differences in education and professional experience. There is a need to make a more detailed study of training needs as they are experienced by inspectors on the ground with different education and professional experience. Interviews with 2-3 inspectors from each EU region (North, West, South and East) will be conducted in order to gain insight into what inspectors on the ground see as their needs for training and support. The involved inspectors will cover a variety in education and professional experience. The results of these interviews could potentially highlight some differences between what inspectors see as their needs as opposed to the perspectives of Competent Authorities (CAs). These interviews could also reveal some needs and ideas about training and support that are not currently part of BTSF courses or national courses.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

- D4.1 Access to past BTSF courses on the DG SANTE site will be facilitated via the EURCAW website by August 2021, dependent on successful collaboration with DG SANTE.
- D4.2 A selection of national courses will be made available for all MS on the EURCAW website during the entire work program period. A status update will be made by December 2021
- D4.3 Overview of progress of interviews with inspectors to be published in the 2021 activity report to DG SANTE

In 2022

- D4.4 A report on inspectors' needs to be published by April 2022
- D4.5 A selection of national courses will be made available for all MS on the EURCAW website during the entire work program period. A status update will be made by December 2022

Sub-activity 4.2 Develop course standards and materials for welfare topics (AU)

Objective:

- To provide examples of training courses and materials that support the training activities and calibration of compliance criteria for main welfare topics.

Achievements so far:

In work programme 2019-2020, EURCAW-Pigs developed reviews, dossiers and suggested indicators for inspectors for eight welfare topics. Targeted training courses are needed to effectively implement this knowledge as part of future inspections. In work programme 2019-2020, a training course standard (or 'training guide') was made covering the eight welfare topics.

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs has prepared examples of courses and course materials for the welfare topics for work program 2019-20. In this subtask, course examples and course materials will be made for the new welfare dossier on Heat stress.

The draft training course will be run at a workshop with a selection of training bodies representing different regions of the EU. Their feedback will be used to finalise the materials, prior to release.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

- D4.6 A workshop for national training bodies, in which draft material will be presented and evaluated with the attendees (by October 2021).
- D4.7 The existing training guides on Sow housing will be updated following the new review on Sow group housing systems in December 2021.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

In 2022

- D4.8 The existing training guides on Sow housing will be updated following the new review on Stereotypies in February 2022.
- D4.9 The existing training guides on Farrowing systems will be updated following the new review on Alternative farrowing systems in April 2022.
- D4.10 The existing training guides on Transport will be updated following the new review on Sow transportation in June 2022.
- D4.11 One new training guide on Heat stress related to the new review and new dossier will be developed in August 2022.

Sub-activity 4.3 To produce guidelines on how to change perceptions and attitudes (AU)

Economic operators' attitudes and perception of animal welfare are important elements, when it comes to understanding why they sometimes show ambivalence or resistance towards changes in their production system. Also inspectors may need to rethink their traditional inspection procedures to address these new production modes. This could include inspections conducted in pairs or farmers conducting self-inspections as an integrated part of the inspection process. Guidelines from EURCAW-PIGS to change, risk-taking, perception and attitudes will address communication techniques, which inspectors can use when it comes to handling ambivalence and making a change happen.

Objective:

- To develop alternative approaches to the inspection process
- To develop examples for on-line videos as integrated parts of training lessons

Achievements so far:

In 2019 and 2020 two manuscripts were published to illustrate this issue and provide guidelines: '[Possibilities for Change](#)' and '[Improving communication](#)'.

Description

In some cases, inspectors, farmers, and governing bodies are re-thinking the traditional inspection in order to address some common problems. EURCAW-Pigs will conduct a review of literature and relevant projects aimed at re-thinking inspection practices. This review will include proposals to conduct inspection in pairs to solve conflict resolution and calibration of indicators. In addition, the review will include literature related to participatory methods such as stable school approaches that could apply. This review will identify possible creative approaches to the form and process of inspection especially in situations with major changes in the production process.

A key feature of inspection process and form concerns the communication between inspectors and economic operators. Furthermore, it can be challenging for CAs to develop training on how to implement alternative procedures for inspection. EURCAW-Pigs can help to address these challenges through online videos as part of training lessons. The training would include suggestions for course activities and discussion topics that would complement the videos. These could be used as suggested or adapted to the specific needs and situation in which they are used. There are already some examples like this for veterinary students that specifically address the form of a veterinary consultation and communication skills relevant to different phases of the consultation. The major tasks for EURCAW-pigs would involve shifting the Calgary-Cambridge framework and materials to fit the particular needs of inspectors and developing online training lessons workshops based on this method. These materials would be freely available through the EURCAW-pigs website and in English.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

D4.12 A review on creative approaches to the inspection process is published by December 2021.

In 2022

D4.13 A first training video is published by March 2022.

D4.14 Four videos and relevant course examples for using the videos is available on the webpage by November 2022.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

5

DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS - WLR

Article 96(d): disseminating research findings and technical innovations and collaborating with Union research bodies in the fields within the scope of their mission.

Sub-activity 5.1 Maintaining a 'EURCAW-Pigs portal' (WLR)

Objectives:

Relevant and actual information to support enforcement of pig welfare legislation is available and easily accessible via the EURCAW-Pigs website, for the main target groups: Competent Authorities, Welfare policy workers and supporting bodies.

Achievements so far:

In 2019 and 2020 EURCAW-Pigs develop the website www.eurcaw-pigs.eu and starting populating it with dossiers, reviews, training materials and other technical information for the main target groups.

Description:

The website is continuously updated and expanded with new information, e.g. with output from EURCAW's activities on coordinated assistance, science, welfare indicators and training:

- Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)-section where answers generated in Sub-activity 1.1 are made public.
- Thematic Factsheets and dossiers on prioritised welfare topics, based on the reviews in activity 3 'Scientific and technical studies', and training opportunities in activity 4 'Training courses' (via Sub-activity 5.2).
- Indicator Factsheets for welfare inspection purposes, as output from activity 2 on 'animal welfare indicators' (via Sub-activity 5.3).
- A knowledge base (document repository) to provide access to all documents generated by EURCAW-Pigs, and to collected scientific, legal and technical documents on the relevant pig welfare issues (via Sub-activity 5.4).
- Webpages in different languages, with an overview of translated materials (reviews and a selection of indicator Factsheets) (via Sub-activity 5.5).

In addition, the website presents:

- Inspector stories/blogs: In collaboration with Sub-activity 4.3, inspectors in different MS will be interviewed and asked for their experiences 'in the field'. Every three months these experiences will be shared on the website. Each central competent authority is made aware of resulting conclusions or guidelines.
- List of key experts on slaughter, transport, and various aspects of pig husbandry, and an introduction about each expert to stimulate users 'getting in touch'. Identity and access management of the EURCAW-Pigs Online Portal will be strictly compliant with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)¹.
- 'Latest news' and agenda.
- A form to subscribe and unsubscribe to newsletter (to be sent 3 times a year).
- Twitter and YouTube as social media to quickly create and share content with target groups.
- Disclaimer, rules of conduct.

In addition, in 2021 EURCAW-Pigs will investigate the possibility to develop a so called 'Community of Practice'. This will be a dedicated part of the website for CA's, inspectors and Policy workers, through

¹ <https://eugdpr.org/>

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

which personal contacts can be established among the target group, and with the centre. It will provide:

- A workspace for joint writing of documents that can be published by EURCAW later.
- Community building activities to stimulate that people involved will meet and visit each other, exchange and share experiences.
- Pre-releases of documents from the Centre.

If this pilot is successful, the Community of Practice will be expanded in 2021 and maintained.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021 as well as in 2022

D5.1 An attractive and informative website visited regularly by the primary target audience of CA, policy workers, support bodies, inspectors and farmers. Number of unique visitors to the website and visits to specific content of the website will be monitored (statistics in monthly reports). The portal will publish relevant new knowledge and continuously be 'work in progress'.

Sub-activity 5.2 'Thematic Factsheets' and dossiers on prioritised welfare topics (WLR)

Sub-activity 2.1 develops reviews on welfare topics related to the welfare legislation. These are the basis for specific Thematic Factsheets and Dossiers made available via the EURCAW-Pigs website.

Objectives:

- For each review, EURCAW-Pigs will develop a Thematic Factsheet to provide a quick and easy overview of the welfare area.
- Additionally, building on each review, The EURCAW-Pigs website will present a Dossier as a central source of technical information and documents on that particular topic.

Achievements so far:

In 2019 and 2020 eight dossiers and a set of thematic Factsheets were developed for the website: Tail docking, Temp & space during transport, Farrowing house management, Handling in lairage, Group-housing and mixing, Fitness for transport, On-farm killing and Pig stunning. The latter three are finalised in Q1 of 2021.

The Thematic Factsheets are based on the reviews of Sub-activity 3.1, and consist of four pages:

- First page: Introduction into (relevance of) the welfare topic;
- Second page: Focus areas for inspections, visualized by an infographic;
- Third page: Welfare indicators for inspections
- Fourth page: For that topic relevant legal requirements that have to be complied with.

The Dossiers are structured around the main areas Husbandry - Transport - Slaughter and killing. Each dossier is building on a review (Sub-activity 3.1) and a central source of technical information on a particular topic, with links to documents, video's etc., structured around:

- legal aspects of the welfare issue
- practical knowledge on welfare indicators
- background information on the welfare issue
- demonstrators and inspiring examples, identified in Sub-activity 3.2
- relevant training materials, identified in Sub-activity 4.1

Description:

In 2021 and 2022 the existing dossiers will continuously be updated, and in addition, new technical information will be added to the existing dossiers based on additional reviews produced in Sub-activity 2.1.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

- A Knowledge section on best practices regarding alternative farrowing systems will be added to the 'Farrowing management and housing dossier'
- Knowledge sections will be added to the 'Sow group housing and mixing dossier': on group housing in early pregnancy, and on different group housing systems
- A Knowledge section on best practices and demonstrators to assess tail damage in the abattoir will be added to the 'Tail biting and tail docking dossier'
- Knowledge sections will be added to the 'Tail biting and tail docking dossier' on the management of unweaned pigs, as well as to the 'Farrowing housing and management dossier'
- An entire new website dossier on 'Preventing heat stress' will be build.

Expected output and timing:

In 2022

- D5.2 Update of dossiers based on the review on Sow group housing systems (January 2022).
- D5.3 Update of dossiers based on the review on Hunger and stereotypies (March 2022).
- D5.4 Update of dossiers based on the review on Alternative farrowing systems (June 2022).
- D5.5 Update of dossiers based on the review on Transport of sows (July 2022)
- D5.6 New dossier based on the review on Prevention of heat stress (September 2022).
- D5.7 Update of knowledge sections in the 'Farrowing housing and management' dossier and 'Tail biting and tail docking' dossier for 'Management of unweaned piglets' in May 2022.
- D5.8 Update of knowledge sections in the 'Tail biting and tail docking' dossier for 'Methodologies for assessing tail biting' in October 2022.

Sub-activity 5.3 'Indicator Factsheets' for welfare inspection purposes (FLI)

CAs and official inspectors ask for easily accessible and reliable indicators to verify compliance with the requirements of the European pig welfare legislation.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will develop a set of Indicator Factsheets that will meet these requirements.

Achievements so far:

In 2019 and 2020 EURCAW-Pigs develop over [40 indicator Factsheets](#). Each indicator Factsheet has two pages, and describes one indicator (in some cases a combination of indicators in case of multidimensionality, e.g. health):

First page:

- Origin of a problem;
- Corresponding focus areas;
- Corresponding legal basics;
- Short and simple description of the inspection and scoring method, including origin

Second page:

- Scoring classes, visualized by pictures and corresponding descriptions.

Description:

In 2021 the existing Indicator Factsheets will be updated if and when needed.

The Iceberg Indicator Factsheets (see Sub-activity 2.2) will be produced in 2021 and 2022.

Expected output and timing:

In 2022

- D5.9 The new set of Indicator Factsheets on Heat stress will be published in September 2022.
- D5.10 Iceberg Indicator Factsheets for on farm (by February 2022), and for transport and abattoir (by December 2022) are available on the EURCAW website.

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

Sub-activity 5.4 Maintaining a knowledge base with relevant documents and other items (WLR)

Objectives:

Documents needed by CAs or support bodies are available for further study or background information, and can be found in a knowledge base (document repository) with keywords through a search engine.

Description:

The website will link to a knowledge base containing all the relevant scientific, legal and technical documents on the relevant welfare issues. Types of documents included in the database:

- EU Policy documents
- Relevant legal documents
- Scientific papers
- Relevant farming press publications

The documents will be identified through the work in Activities 2, 3 and 4. An international team of experts will process the items one by one. Each item will have a set of key words and short summary attached to it. These short texts and the key words can be scanned by the search engine of the website, and links to the items can also be found in website's Dossiers and Factsheets.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021 as well as in 2022

D5.11 The number of available scientific, legal and practical documents on the relevant pig welfare issues in the knowledge base increases over time (mostly parallel with the release of reviews and dossiers).

Sub-activity 5.5 Translations of output (WLR)

Currently all EURCAW-Pigs' output is published in English. Consequently, it may be difficult to cascade from EU level to Member States level due to language issues.

Objectives:

Factsheets needed by CAs or support bodies are made more 'accessible' by translating them into the languages of the Member States. EURCAW-Pigs will include the translated documents on dedicated webpages on the centre's website.

Achievements so far:

N/A

Description:

During 2021-2022, EURCAW-Pigs will translate Factsheets in three languages: German, Spanish and French. The choice of these three languages is based on the number of pigs produced in Germany, Spain and France, which are the highest in the EU.

All translation will be done in cooperation with a national animal welfare centre/scientific support body. All translations will be peer reviewed prior to publication on the EURCAW-Pigs website. The organisation doing the translation gets access to the original/raw documents and resources.

Translations in other languages or of other EURCAW-Pigs documents are encouraged and supported by EURCAW-Pigs. These can be done:

EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

- by EURCAW-Pigs at the request of MSs, provided they are fully funded by the MS. EURCAW-Pigs will obtain machine translation software to facilitate this. At present, The Netherlands have offered to pay for translations of the Factsheets into Dutch.
- by MS or MS support bodies, with a limited quality check by EURCAW-Pigs. These documents may be published on the centre's website with a disclaimer: "EURCAW-Pigs cannot verify the accuracy of the translation, and for the correct wording the English original should be consulted"

For each language, a webpage will be created on EURCAW-Pigs' website, accessible through a language symbol (link) on the English 'Indicator Factsheets' page (or other relevant English language page).

The webpage:

- a. includes an overview of all translated documents, i.e. the Indicator Factsheets.
- b. provides a direct link with a national animal welfare centres/scientific support body involved in the translations.
- c. acknowledges the funding received by the organization making the translations possible.

The translated documents can also be found in the knowledge base of Sub-activity 5.4, by searching with a language label.

Expected output and timing:

In 2021

D5.12 In December 2021 half of all Indicator Factsheets will be translated into Spanish, French, Dutch and German. The website will include at least four folders presenting Factsheets in these languages.

In 2022

D5.13 The remaining factsheets will be translated by December 2022.

REMARKS