



EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE  
AGENCY (HADEA)  
Department A Health and Food Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP



## Single Market Programme (SMP Food)

### **SMP-FOOD-2023-EURL-EURC-AG-IBA Activities of the EU reference laboratories and EU reference centres in 2023-2024**

**SUBMISSION FORM: DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**  
**(Annex 1 – Description of the action (part B))****SMP-FOOD-2023-EURL-EURC-AG-IBA****Activities of the EU reference laboratories  
and EU reference centres in 2023-2024**

<b>Applicant - COORDINATOR</b>	<b>EURCAW-Pigs Wageningen Livestock Research</b>
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Animal Welfare-Pigs</b>
<b>Implementation period</b>	<b>1/1/2023 – 31/12/2024</b>

**CONTACT PERSON for the programme :**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dr. Hans Spoolder</b>
<b>Function</b>	<b>EURCAW-Pigs coordinator</b>
<b>e-mail</b>	<b>hans.spoolder@wur.nl</b>

<b>ASSOCIATED PARTNER 1</b>	<b>Aarhus University</b>
<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Prof. Jan Tind Sorensen</b>
<b>e-mail</b>	<b>jantind.sorensen@anivet.au.dk</b>

<b>ASSOCIATED PARTNER 2</b>	<b>Friedrich Loeffler Institut</b>
<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Prof. Lars Schrader</b>
<b>e-mail</b>	<b>Lars.Schrader@fli.de</b>

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS

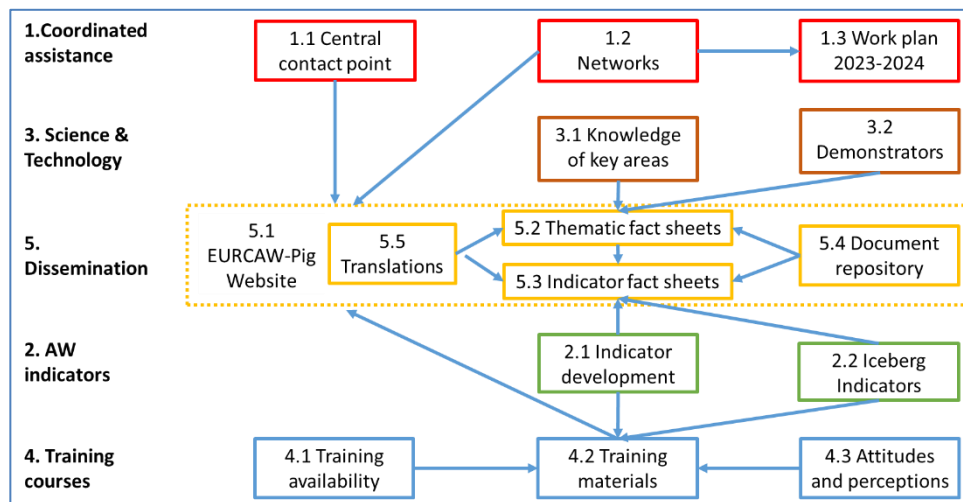
AU	Aarhus University (Denmark)
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CA	Competent Authorities: (a) the central authorities of a Member State responsible for the organisation of official controls and of other official activities, in accordance with Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR), and the 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
Dossier	A central source of scientific and technical information and documents on a particular welfare topic, on the EURCAW-Pigs website. A dossier contains the scientific review of a welfare topic, thematic factsheet, welfare Indicator factsheets, inspiring examples (demonstrators), and resources on training.
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EURCAW-Pigs	European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare, focussing on pigs
EURCAW-Poultry&SFA	EURCAW-Small Farm Animals: the European Union Reference Centre for poultry and other small farmed animals.
EURCAW-R&E	EURCAW-Ruminants and horses: the European Union Reference Centre for cattle, sheep, goats and equids.
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 (or ABM) that helps to identify more than one welfare consequence.
MS	Member State of the EU
Knowledge Section	Additional information of 2-4 pages of text for the Knowledge sections on the website on topics that link to existing dossiers.
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.
Officials	Representatives from member states that work on animal welfare issues as inspector, at the Competent Authorities or as policy worker.
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 its Target Groups. See <a href="https://eurcaw-pigs.eu/questions-to-eurcaw">https://eurcaw-pigs.eu/questions-to-eurcaw</a>
RB	The Reflection Board represent the pig supply chain, related professional organisations and civil society organisations. The names of the organisations will be presented on our website.
Review	A review provides background information on a welfare topic. It is structured according to the major risk factors identified for the welfare issue, describes why it occurs and refers to indicators that can assist inspectors to identify the issue. Thereafter it contains relevant EU legislation and good and better practices that can reduce and prevent the welfare issue.
SB	Support Bodies: organisations or individuals supporting CAs 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 NRCs and SBs.
Welfare topics	EURCAW-Pigs 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.
WR	Wageningen Research (The Netherlands)

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Missions, meetings & workshops
- Sub-activity 1.3 Development of the 2025-2026 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 Iceberg Indicators at the slaughter house

**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 Inspiring examples of 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 Guidelines on how to change perceptions and attitudes

**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

**NOTE**

**Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare**

The European Partnership Animal Health & Welfare (EUP AH&W) starting 1 January 2024 is a Co-Funded Partnership involving 56 Research Performing Organizations in Europe.

EUP AH&W will generate key knowledge, innovative methodologies, tools and products helping to reduce the socio-economic and environmental impact of animal infectious diseases and to strengthen animal welfare in livestock and aquaculture. The Partnership will reinforce the preparedness of all actors and stakeholders, and support evidence based intervention and policy making in the fields of animal health and welfare. Reference Centres are explicitly mentioned in the Description of Activities for EUP AH&W. Collaboration between the EUP AH&W and the EURCAWs will benefit both, as research results from the Partnership will facilitate reviews and indicator development by the EURCAWs. Welfare assessment and monitoring, practical solutions to welfare issues and best practices for animal welfare are common denominators for both.

EUP AH&W will last for 7-10 years and may involve up to 360 million euro of funding. The coordinating teams of the EURCAWs will follow the development of the Partnership with the aim to develop a mutual beneficial collaboration.

## 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*

### 3.1 Work package 1 - COORDINATED ASSISTANCE

*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 (WR)**

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 (as specified in the Quality Assurance document), 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:

From 2019-2021 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 or were quite specific. A total of 20 'Questions to EURCAW' (Q2Es) were dealt with in the period from 2019-2021. We would like to maintain the level of budget dedicated to this activity as we think it serves a purpose.

##### Objectives:

- To maintain an email account and service for relevant technical questions by Competent Authorities and supporting bodies, and to answer these Q2Es within a timespan as agreed with the requestor.

##### Description:

The email account [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto: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 'Q2Es' (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.

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.



As specified in the Quality Assurance document, 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 three working days: by acknowledging receipt and answering the query immediately or if necessary, by clarifying the question between the requestor and EURCAW. If it cannot be answered immediately, EURCAW-Pigs will aim to produce an answer within two calendar months. 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). All Q2Es have a document identifier in the format “Q2E-Pigs-YEAR-THREE DIGIT NUMBER”, e.g. “Q2E-Pigs-2021-008”.

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023 as well as in 2024*

- 1.1.1. An up-to-date record during the contract period, with all queries receiving an initial response within three working days of receipt by EURCAW-Pigs (ongoing).
- 1.1.2. A list of Q2Es published on the website of EURCAW-Pigs (ongoing).

**Sub-activity 1.2 Missions, meetings & workshops (WR)**

Objectives:

- To improve and harmonise the technical knowledge of CAs, pig welfare policy workers, NRCs or NSBs 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 CAs in two regions of the EU and attended several meetings organised by others (e.g. EU Welfare Platform, NCP meetings). In 2020 the two regional CA meetings were held remotely, and in 2021 the COVID-19 crisis still prevented travel and there was one CA meeting held remotely with a large attendance (80+ delegates!). The meeting in 2022 with the CAs was a physical meeting in Brussels with 30 delegates from 20 MS. All other meetings were still organised 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. For 2023 and 2024 it is expected that physical meetings to bring CAs together can be held again, although other meetings will still be organised or attended remotely. Further, the presentations will be recorded and published on the EURCAW-Pigs website.

Description:

In 2023 and 2024, this Sub-activity will involve six types of meetings: a) physical or digital annual EURCAW-Pigs meetings with the Competent Authorities and policy workers of the EU Member States; b) physical ‘Road show’ meetings in Members States for MS officials; c) physical or digital meetings of the CAs and NRCs or NSBs organised by others (e.g. DG SANTE and EFSA); d) digital meetings with National Reference Centres (NRCs) and National Support Bodies (NSBs), e) digital meetings with DG SANTE and / or with the two other EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare, f) digital meetings with the Reflection Board.

*a) Annual meetings with the CAs and policy workers organised by EURCAW-Pigs*

EURCAW-Pigs will host a meeting with animal welfare officials of the Member States and the EU every year. Once every three years these meetings will be physical, the other two via video conference. During those latter 2 years the physical meeting will be organised by the other two EURCAWs. Each centre organises its own 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. Prior to the meeting the delegates will be invited to submit ideas for topics they wish to discuss.

On the agenda will be:

- introduction and update of EURCAW-Pigs activities
- presentations on the latest scientific knowledge related to the topics chosen by the delegates
- interactive discussions (sub groups if appropriate) on chosen topics
- suggestions for future activities or topics for the EURCAW Work Programme

EURCAW-Pigs will use these meetings and the interactions with the target groups as the basis for developing the Work Programme 2025-2026 (Sub-activity 1.3). EURCAW-Pigs will record the introductory lectures for presentation as an online seminar on the website (see also Sub-activity 5.1).

In consultation with the other two EURCAWs, the EURCAW-Pigs meeting will be held October 2023, and October in 2024. The 2024 meeting will be a physical meeting.

#### *b) Road show meetings in Member States*

EURCAW-Pigs will organise physical meetings in a limited number of Member States. Delegates will be around 10 MS officials (inspectors, policy workers, CAs) of the country where the Road Show is organised. The meeting will be as much as possible in the language of the country where it is held. The topics are to be proposed by the MS, to allow targeted support. They should as much as possible be linked to local themes and priorities. The meeting lasts one full day, if possible from lunchtime to lunchtime to allow travel before and after the meeting. The programme will be similar to that of the main annual meeting for the target group:

- introduction and update of EURCAW-Pigs activities
- presentations on the latest scientific knowledge related to the topics chosen by the delegates
- interactive discussions (subgroups if appropriate) on chosen topics
- suggestions for future activities or topics for the EURCAW Work Programme
- if possible, a field visit will be added to the programme in collaboration with local experts.

Each Road show meeting will be attended by 2-4 experts from EURCAW-Pigs. If the Road Show is in DE, DK or NL, the EURCAW-Pigs experts will come from their own country. If EURCAW-Pigs organises it in a MS outside one of its own countries, a team from one of the three partners organisations will organise it together with local scientists. These local scientists will be subcontracted, and will also provide the translation of documents and interpret the presentations.

For the long term (beyond this Work Programme) the aim is to visit all MS, based on risk prioritisation. The Road Shows will support local knowledge development and capacity building, and are envisaged to be highly useful for other EURCAW activities, e.g. the search for inspiring examples, finding members of the Community of Practice, obtaining video footage, identifying speakers for podcasts, identifying interviewees for 'Inspectors at work', etc.

In 2023, we will pilot this activity in 3 Member States: NL, DK and DE. In 2024 we will visit three other main pig producing countries: PL, RO, ES.

#### *c) Physical or digital meetings with primary target groups organised by others*

There are currently three networks active which aim to support direct dialogue between the three EURCAWs and our target groups. They are:

- The network of national contact points (NCPs) for Dir (EC) 1099/2009 (on stunning and killing of animals), coordinated by EFSA in Parma (Italy);
- The network of national contact points (NCPs) for Dir (EC) 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. The Platform also regularly organises 'working groups' to support its activities.

If meetings are organised one or more of the EURCAWs will take an active presence, present EURCAWs intermediate results and activities when appropriate, provide expert opinion if necessary and ask for feedback from the networks regarding the EURCAWs future roles and functioning.

*d) Digital meetings with the National Reference Centres (NRC) for animal welfare and National Support Bodies (SBs)*

During 2019-2020, EURCAW-Pigs contacted the national reference centres of France, Sweden, Finland, Greece and Italy. More national reference centres may be initiated. From 2021 onwards, the three EURCAWs have agreed to jointly organise and host one of these meetings each year. 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. The meetings will be held remotely.

The agenda will include opportunities to share experiences

- on the approach taken in different MS to support the target groups
- regarding technical issues, e.g. main questions from the target group

The dates for the meetings in this WP are June 2023 and July 2024.

*e) Digital meetings with DG SANTE and / or the other EURCAWs*

EURCAW-Pigs will meet every three months with DG SANTE and the other two reference centres (EURCAW-Poultry&SFA and EURCAW-R&E), 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, mutually inspire each other's work, and to report on progress to DG SANTE. The exact dates to be agreed with DG SANTE and the other centre(s), and will be in February, May, August and November of 2023 and 2024.

In addition, exchange will be intensified by subgroup meetings (between all EURCAWs) to exchange materials on footage for indicators factsheets (5.3) / Inspiring Examples (2.2)

The three centres will also meet every three months without DG SANTE, either to prepare for the SANTE meetings, or to discuss operational issues, or both. These meetings will take place in January, April, September and December of 2023 and 2024.

*f) Digital meetings with the Reflection Board*

A Reflection Board (RB) for EURCAW-Pigs was set up in 2020 and met once in July with ten delegates attending. It met for a second time in October 2021 via Teams. The RB does not represent the target group, but represent the pig supply chain, related professional organisations and civil society organisations. The Commission takes 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. The names of the organisations represented in the Reflection Board will be presented on our website.

In 2023 and 2024 EURCAW-Pigs will organise one RB meeting per year, in June. The agenda will be based on the main dossiers on the website and the Work Programme. The meetings will last half a day, and include ample time for any other business suggested by the delegates (this could be any topic which could improve the functioning of EURCAW-Pigs).

*g) Pig team consortium meetings*

The EURCAW-Pigs team meets almost monthly via Teams to discuss progress of the Work Programme. Although efficient, Teams meetings do not quite offer the same effectivity as brainstorming sessions during physical meetings. In 2022 the EURCAW-Pigs team came together in Celle for a strategic discussion meeting, which turned out to be a success in terms of generating ideas and actions for the ongoing and future Work Programme. Therefore, a physical meeting of the consortium will be planned annually at one of the three locations. The first such meeting will be held in May 2023 in Denmark. The next meeting will be held in The Netherlands in May 2024.

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023*

- 1.2.1. The minutes of the consortium meeting in Denmark in May 2023.
- 1.2.2. A summary of the discussions during the Road shows in NL, DE and DK (June 2023).
- 1.2.3. The minutes of the Reflection Board (RB) meeting in June 2023.
- 1.2.4. A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2023 annual meeting with the National Reference Centres (NRCs) for Animal Welfare identified in EU member states, and with National Support Bodies (NSBs). The summary will be published jointly with the other centres, within one month after the meeting (July 2023).
- 1.2.5. A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with Competent Authorities and Policy Workers in October 2023, which will be submitted to DG SANTE within one month after the meeting.
- 1.2.6. A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the quarterly meetings of the three Centres with DG-SANTE in 2023.

*In 2024*

- 1.2.7. A summary of the discussions during the Road shows in PL, RO, and ES (June 2024).
- 1.2.8. The minutes of the Reflection Board (RB) meeting in June 2024.
- 1.2.9. A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2024 annual meeting with the National Reference Centres (NRCs) for Animal Welfare identified in EU member states, and with Support Bodies (NSBs). The summary will be published jointly with the other centres, within one month after the meeting (July 2024).
- 1.2.10 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with Competent Authorities and Policy Workers in October 2024, which will be submitted to DG SANTE within one month after the meeting.
- 1.2.11 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the quarterly meetings of the three Centres with DG-SANTE in 2024.

**Sub-activity 1.3 Identification of concerns of target groups (WR)**

Objectives:

- To identify and prioritise the main concerns and expectations of the target groups.

Achievements so far:

N/A

Description:

Discussions on the concerns and the needs of the target groups will be an essential point in the meetings and exchanges with MS CA, NRC, NSB, etc., as they are the main target group. We will listen to their suggestions and advice on EURCAW functioning and activities.

An inventory of the main concerns and expectations will be made. 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). This will include the technical and scientific feedback requested by the Commission, as well as from the CA's and national support networks.

Relevant possibilities for collaboration within the European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W) will be investigated.

In addition, the current welfare reference centres endeavour to meet physically in the Summer of 2024 to discuss and exchange ideas on concerns and topics raised by the target group, across species.

Expected output and timing: N/A

List of Indicators WP1:

- Number of technical and scientific feedback provided by the EURC based on Commission enquires
- Number of enquires requested from national support networks and bodies and competent authorities. Number and quality of replies provided by the EURC
- Number of technical requests provided by the EURC to societies, third parties and competent authorities

## 3.2 Work package 2 - ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS

*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 [45 unique Indicator Factsheets](#) on the basis of the reviews and additional scientific materials, which were collected as part of this Sub-activity in 2019 to 2022.

#### 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. Of the topics presented in Activity 3 below on reviews, indicator sets will be described or updated. If appropriate based on the continuously developing scientific knowledge, existing Indicator Factsheets will be updated or additional Indicator Factsheets will be developed for the other reviews produced in previous years.

Indicators will be obtained from indicator schemes partly already in use in different MS, and from publications from National 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 National 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. The latter can be done e.g. during the annual meetings with the target groups, and as part of the Community of Practice activities (see Sub-activity 5.1).

#### Expected output and timing:

*In 2024*

2.1.1. If relevant indicators are identified for welfare topics targeted in 2023-2024 (see 3.1) a new indicator set will be described in parallel with the review, and published in August 2024.

2.1.2. The 2024 activity report will contain a list of the updates.

### **Sub-activity 2.2 Iceberg Indicators at the slaughter house (FLI)**

EFSA recently published a report on “The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of pigs on farm: EFSA’s AHAW Network exercise” (2021). Within this report, tail lesions are identified as the most important Iceberg indicator for finishing pigs. In line with EFSA, the EURCAW-Pigs survey on Iceberg Indicators with NRCs and NSBs in 2021 identified tails lesions as the most important iceberg indicator for finishing pigs. At present, a simple assessment method based on presence/absence of the ABM is used to record tail lesions. Because of this, the EFSA network members asked for a more detailed scoring system for the assessment of tail lesions. Further, EFSA (2021) concluded that “there is a need for a harmonised scoring system to monitor tail lesions in the European population of pigs”.

EURCAW-Pigs published a Knowledge section on “Methodology for assessing tail biting/ tail docking on farm and in slaughterhouses” (see WP2021-2022). In the Scientific Opinion ‘Welfare of pigs on farm (2022) EFSA identified the ABIs lameness, carcass condemnations, lung lesions, skin lesions caused by fighting, ear loss, abscesses, and bursitis in addition to tail lesions as relevant indicators that should be assessed for fattening pigs at slaughterhouses.

The EFSA opinion, the results of the literature review for the Knowledge section and additional literature reviews on the indicators mentioned above will be used to develop and conduct a study on the reliability and practicability of these indicators as iceberg indicators for finishing pigs. We will also contact and exchange information with ongoing projects that deal with the assessment of animal welfare indicators at abattoir such as the aWISH project (<https://www.awish-project.eu/>).

Based on this knowledge, EURCAW-Pigs will

- (a) initially identify those scoring systems that appear most suitable for the use by official inspectors. Subsequently EURCAW-Pigs develops the design for a study aiming to
- (b) test the inter-observer-reliabilities of methods to assess the relevant ABIs,
- (c) investigate the practicability of these methods (e.g. time needed for assessment, survey with inspectors after assessments), and
- (d) develop an assessment scheme (as simple as possible) that can be used by official inspectors (meat inspectors) for identifying finishing farms with a high risk for pig welfare.

Depending on the outcome of the first step (a), we may already identify suitable scoring systems that have been tested for validity, reliability and/or practicability. This will affect the extent of the subsequent study. However, we will keep in mind the suitability of the scoring system for the use by official inspectors rather than e.g. for scientific purposes. For the final scoring system, we (e) will publish an Indicator Factsheet.

#### Expected output and timing:

##### *In 2023*

2.2.1. By December 2023, the identification of protocols and research is finished, a study on the assessment of iceberg indicators for fattening pigs on abattoirs is developed and slaughterhouses in DE, DK and NL on which the study can be conducted are recruited.

##### *In 2024*

2.2.2. Results of the abattoir study (including Indicator Factsheets) are published in December 2024.

### 3.3 Work Package 3 - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

*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)**

Official inspectors are expected to have a good understanding of pig farming, transport, slaughterhouse practices, and the killing of animals on-farm (e.g. depopulation, euthanasia). 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 ('Welfare topics'), 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). For identified gaps in knowledge on topics that are an extension of already existing welfare topics, EURCAW-Pigs will provide additional technical information.

#### 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 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:

So far EURCAW-Pigs produced 10 [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 of piglets, Heat stress, Alternative sow stalls, Hunger induced behaviours and Pig stunning and bleeding. An 11<sup>th</sup> 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 who responded to our invitation to suggest topics for 2021-2022, confirmed their support to the current review topics for the website. EURCAW-Pigs will make an effort to maintain these welfare topics with new information, if needed. Each review developed so far will be checked for the need of an update and if necessary an improved version is published throughout the next period 2023-2024.

In this sub-activity two types of new information will be developed: a) Additional Knowledge sections, and b) new dossiers

*a) Additional Knowledge sections for existing website dossiers*



We will develop additional short reviews, in preparation of Knowledge sections on the website on topics that link to existing dossiers. Each consist of 2-4 pages of text, perhaps 2 new indicator factsheets, and a short introductory text and pictures for the website.

The following Welfare topics (proposed by DG SANTE) will be addressed in short reviews for the website dossiers:

1. Nest building materials for sows (for dossier Farrowing house)
2. Animal welfare and pre-transport fasting of pigs (for dossier Fitness for transport)
3. Enrichment materials for sows during pregnancy (for dossier Group housing and mixing)
4. Handling large litter sizes: welfare issues & practical solutions (for dossier Farrowing house)
5. Guidelines describing indicators for use during Road checks and procedures to follow (for dossier Climate & space during transport)

*b) Reviews for new dossiers*

Based on target group's suggestions, three new reviews will be developed. One of them will start a new dossier on our website.

EURCAW-Pigs will investigate relevant scientific publications and reports, e.g. by EFSA, and summarise the knowledge in 10-15 pages. The reviews will provide additional information for the 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 following Welfare topics (proposed by DG SANTE) will be addressed in reviews:

1. Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration (for new dossier)
2. Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through management or technology (for dossier Heat stress on farm).
3. Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods (for dossier Killing on farm)

In addition to this additional information for the website dossiers, the existing materials (e.g. additional Indicator Factsheets) will be developed if necessary (i.e. will vary based on the individual topic).

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023*

- 3.3.1 Short reviews are published by September 2023 on 1) Nest building materials for sows (for dossier Farrowing house), and 2) Animal welfare and pre-transport fasting of pigs (for dossier Fitness for transport)
- 3.3.2 A new full review on Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration, by September 2023 (for new dossier).
- 3.3.3 A new full review on Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through management or technology, by September 2023 (for dossier Heat stress on farm).

*In 2024*

- 3.3.4 Short reviews are published by June 2024 on 3) Enrichment materials for sows during pregnancy (for dossier Group housing and mixing), and on 4) Handling large litter sizes: welfare issues & practical solutions (for dossier Farrowing house)
- 3.3.5 Guidelines are published in June 2024, which describe indicators for use during Road checks and procedures to follow (for dossier Climate & space during transport)
- 3.3.6 A new full review is published in November 2024 on Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods (for dossier On farm killing).

### **Sub-activity 3.2 Inspiring Example of 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. These good practices need to be seen in a full systems context (farm, transport company, abattoir).

#### Objectives:

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

#### Description:

So far, 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’ (e.g. the [‘Inspiring examples’](#) for ‘Sow group housing and mixing’). This Sub-activity will continue in 2023-2024.

Since the selection of good practices of farms, transport companies and abattoirs are specifically tailored to the welfare topics addressed by EURCAW-Pigs, they are now called ‘inspiring examples’ as opposed to ‘demonstrators’. They will show how legal EU requirements that have a low level of implementation in other farms, transport companies, abattoirs and other related companies can be implemented. Inspiring examples could also be information on national legislation or animal welfare labels going beyond EU legislation. The good practices of the inspiring examples will address all welfare topics (see Sub-activity 2.1).

In different Member States inspiring farms, transport companies, abattoirs and other related companies will be identified and their good practices described. We will expand on collection of media material, translations, subtitles in videos.

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 examples 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 inspiring examples will be used where relevant in Sub-activity 4.2 and 4.3 for training purposes.

#### Expected output and timing:

##### *In 2023*

- 3.2.1 A minimum of 4 additional inspiring examples will be presented on the website by the end of 2023.

##### *In 2024*

- 3.2.2 A minimum of 4 additional inspiring examples will be presented by the end of 2024.
- 3.2.3 Number and quality of technical and scientific studies and materials developed and/or updated by EURCAW (December 2024)

#### List of Indicators WP3:

- Number and quality of technical and scientific studies and materials developed and/or updated by the EURC AW

### 3.4 Work Package 4 - TRAINING COURSES

*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)**

EURCAW-Pigs has received suggestions from inspectors regarding training on key areas offered to them. These training needs experienced by inspectors need to be further explored and addressed. An overview on how the road transport legislation is checked in seven MS may be a first step to identify the training needs. These MS are: Spain, Italy, Finland, Poland, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. A more detailed identification can be done by grounded interviews with inspectors. Each MS use inspection checklists for their welfare inspection.

##### Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will collect inspection checklists used in MS and develop an overview on how they differ in their interpretation of current EU pig welfare legislation
- EURCAW-Pigs will assess inspectors' need for training by grounded interviews

##### Achievements so far:

We have made a report mapping relevant existing BTSF courses and how they link to the welfare topics in focus in EURCAW Pigs. Regarding training needs, we completed a field-based study visiting inspectors in four countries in 2022 (Denmark, Ireland, France and Poland) focusing especially on inspection at on-farm and at slaughter. The follow-up report provided a deeper understanding of their daily work and offered insights as to how to improve inspection, including identifying their training needs. This initial study focused on challenges faced on farm and at slaughter.

##### Description:

EURCAW-Pigs will collect inspection checklists used in MS, translate them and develop an overview on how they differ in their interpretation of current EU pig welfare legislation.

EURCAW-Pigs will conduct fieldwork across 2023 and 2024 focusing on the context-specific challenges faced by inspectors on farm and at slaughter across Spain, Finland, Italy, and Poland to identify training needs. Through an ethnographic approach combining observation of participants at work and follow-up grounded interviews facilitating deeper reflection, this study will examine the challenges of the regulation of welfare on farm and at transport. This study aims to identify areas where EURCAW-Pigs can facilitate and support inspectors through their activities, from training needs to specific resources. With a focus on export as well as further on farm fieldwork, we have identified countries that are both high-producing countries with a high level of export activity while also maintaining a relative geographical spread across the EU.

##### Expected output and timing:

###### *In 2023*

4.1.1 By December 2023: a report on road transport inspection checklists used by seven MS as described in Sub-activity 4.1.

###### *In 2024*

4.1.2 November 2024: A report on field work visiting inspectors in four countries, as described in Sub-activity 4.1.

#### **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 up to now, 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 2019-2022. In this subtask, updates and new course examples and course materials will be made for the new welfare dossier on entire males, decreasing heat stress for finishing pigs on farm and the large-scale killing (depopulation) methods.

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 2023*

- 4.2.1 A workshop for national training bodies, in which training materials (e.g. videos) will be presented and evaluated with the attendees (by October 2023).
- 4.2.2 In December 2023, a new training guide will be added following a new review on Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration.
- 4.2.3 In December 2023, the training guide on Heat stress on farm will be updated to include the review on Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through cooling technologies.

###### *In 2024*

- 4.2.4 In November 2024, the training guide on On-farm killing will be updated to include the new review on Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods.
- 4.2.5 Short videos on communication between inspectors and farmers and transport chauffeurs will be implemented in existing training guides by December 2024.

#### **Sub-activity 4.3 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](#)'. In 2022 five videos on various challenges for pig welfare inspection are prepared for publication early 2023.

Description

The following tools will be developed.

1. A guide for how to carry out pairwise inspection for training and calibration when dramatic changes in pig production takes place (i.e. stop tail docking, free farrowing sows)
2. A catalogue on ways of conducting inspections including inspection during transport and slaughter

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023*

- 4.3.1 A guide for how to exploit pairwise inspection for training and calibration when dramatic changes in pig production takes place (i.e. stop tail docking, free farrowing sows) is published in December 2023.

*In 2024*

- 4.3.2 A catalogue on ways of conducting inspections including inspection during transport and slaughter is published in June 2024.
- 4.3.3 Number of training and collaboration activities with national support networks and bodies and competent authorities in December 2024.

List of Indicators WP4:

- Number of training and collaboration activities with national support networks and bodies and competent authorities

## 3.5 Work Package 5 - DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS

*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' (WR)

#### 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:

EURCAW-Pigs has developed the website [www.eurcaw-pigs.eu](http://www.eurcaw-pigs.eu) and populated it with web dossiers, reviews, training materials and other technical information for the main target groups. The website recently was renewed to make it more modern and interactive. The 'heart' of the website is the search box to provide access to a knowledge base (repository), and through which also the content, e.g. news items, of the website can be searched. The menu button at the top right allows to navigate through the main webpages of the website, e.g. the dossiers on welfare topics, EURCAW-Pig's materials such as scientific (reviews) and technical (indicator factsheets) output, and featured pages, e.g. news and agenda, Inspector@Work and contact details.

#### Description:

This activity will consist of two main sub-activities: a) the further development of the website and b) the development of the Community of Practice.

#### *a) The website of EURCAW-Pigs*

The website will continue to be optimized, updated and expanded with new information, e.g. with output from EURCAW Pigs' (and when applicable other EURCAWs) 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.
- At least 4 online seminars as recorded during the meetings described in Sub-activity 1.2 will be published.
- 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).
- An overview of translated materials (Indicator Factsheets) (via Sub-activity 5.5).
- Inspector stories/blogs named 'Inspector@work': 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.
- Four podcasts will be produced to help reaching inspectors. As audio files, inspectors can listen to podcasts when they are on the road. Podcasts are typically available in a series. In 2023 we will pilot to have inspector@work as podcasts, i.e. use an interview format. Another series of podcasts

concerns an update of inspectors on specific topics and knowledge, done by experts. This can be done in different formats.

- Identity and access management of the EURCAW-Pigs Online Portal will be strictly compliant with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)<sup>1</sup>.
- 'Latest news' and agenda.
- A form to subscribe and unsubscribe to newsletter (to be sent 4 times a year).
- Twitter and YouTube as social media to quickly create and share content with target groups.
- Disclaimer, rules of conduct.

#### *b) Community of Practice (CoP)*

In addition, in the previous two year period, EURCAW-Pigs investigated the possibility to develop a so called 'Community of Practice'. This is a dedicated part of the website for CAs, inspectors and Policy workers, through which personal contacts can be established among the target group, and with the centre. The Community of Practice will be expanded in 2023 and maintained.

It will provide:

- A workspace for joint writing of documents; pre-releases of documents from the Centre.
- Community building activities to stimulate that people involved will meet and visit each other, exchange and share experiences.
- Contact details of participating inspectors and CA and policy officials, and their expertise and main projects and focus.
- 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'.
- A repository of problems/challenges that the officials face in the course of their duties. The replying members could add their own experiences and relevant documents to help solve the problem.
- If an issue is identified as important, the community could also pose a subsequent question to the EURCAW. This could be a tool to feed the centre's activity on Q2E.

#### Expected output and timing:

*In 2023 as well as in 2024*

5.1.1 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 (WR)**

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:

Eight dossiers and a set of Thematic Factsheets were initially developed for the website: Tail docking, Climate & space during transport, Farrowing house management, Handling in lairage, Group-housing

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eugdpr.org/>

and mixing, Fitness for transport, On-farm killing and Pig stunning. A new dossier on Heat stress is added at the end of 2022. For the current Work Programme, three new dossiers will be added based on three new reviews: 1) Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration; 2) Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through management or technology; and 3) Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods.

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 and Slaughter and killing. Each Dossier is built 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 2023 and 2024 three new dossiers will be added and 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.

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023*

- 5.2.1 Launch a new dossier in December 2023: Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration.
- 5.2.2 Update the existing dossier on Heat stress on farm, by including the review on Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through management or technology (December 2023).

*In 2024*

- 5.2.3 Update the existing dossier On-farm killing in December 2024, including the review on Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods

**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:

Previously, EURCAW-Pigs developed over [45 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 2023 the existing Indicator Factsheets will be updated if and when needed.

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023*

5.3.1 In December 2023 two new set of Indicator Factsheets will be published on 1) Keeping entire males as an alternative to castration; and 2) Possibilities to decrease heat stress for finishing pigs on farm through management or technology.

5.3.2 In December 2024 a new set of Indicator Factsheets will be published on 3) Large-scale killing (depopulation) methods.

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

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:

In addition to building the database, in this activity we will also look for opportunities to make our output better findable and identifiable

*a) Building the database.*

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 and MS 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 a 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.

*b) Increase visibility and retrievability of documents.*

All documents/output generated by EURCAW-Pigs can be found in the knowledge base on the EURCAW-pigs website. Documents are categorized according to keywords, topic, file format, publication type, year, language, and author. All documents will progressively receive identifiers (codings), being harmonized with the other EURCAWs. All documents are permanently stored with stable links in the e-depot of the Wageningen Library. Scientific documents, i.e. the reviews, will also receive a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) to make the research easily citable. For this purpose, the scientific documents are uploaded in a [EURCAW-Pigs community on Zenodo](#).

Expected output and timing:

*In 2023 as well as in 2024*

5.4.1 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 (WR)**

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 translated all Factsheets in four languages: German, Spanish, French and Dutch. 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. The Netherlands supported the Dutch translations.

All translations were done in cooperation with EURCAW-Poultry & SFA. All translations were peer reviewed prior to publication on the EURCAW-Pigs website.

In 2023 and 2024, translations will be organised into Polish, Romanian and Danish.

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

- by EURCAW-Pigs at the request of MSs, provided they are fully funded by the MS.
- 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. starts with a disclaimer that only a small part of the documents is translated: "Please check the English language pages for many more details"
- b. includes an overview of all translated documents, i.e. the Indicator Factsheets.
- c. provides a direct link (web or email) with a national animal welfare centres / scientific Support Body involved in the translations.
- d. 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 2023*

5.5.18 In December 2023 half of all Indicator Factsheets will be translated into three additional EU languages: Polish, Romanian and Danish.

*In 2024*

5.5.29 In December 2024 the remaining half of the Indicator Factsheets will be translated into three additional EU languages: Polish, Romanian and Danish.

## REMARKS

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