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SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027

Activities of the EU Reference Laboratories and EU Reference Centres in 2025-2027

SUBMISSION FORM: DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION
(Annex 1 – Description of the action (part B))

SMP-FOOD-2025-EURL-EURC-PJG-IBA 2025-2027

**Activities of the EU Reference Laboratories
and EU Reference Centres in 2025-2027**

Applicant - COORDINATOR	EURCAW-Pigs Wageningen Livestock Research
Topic	Animal Welfare-Pigs
Implementation period	1/1/2025 – 31/12/2027

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS

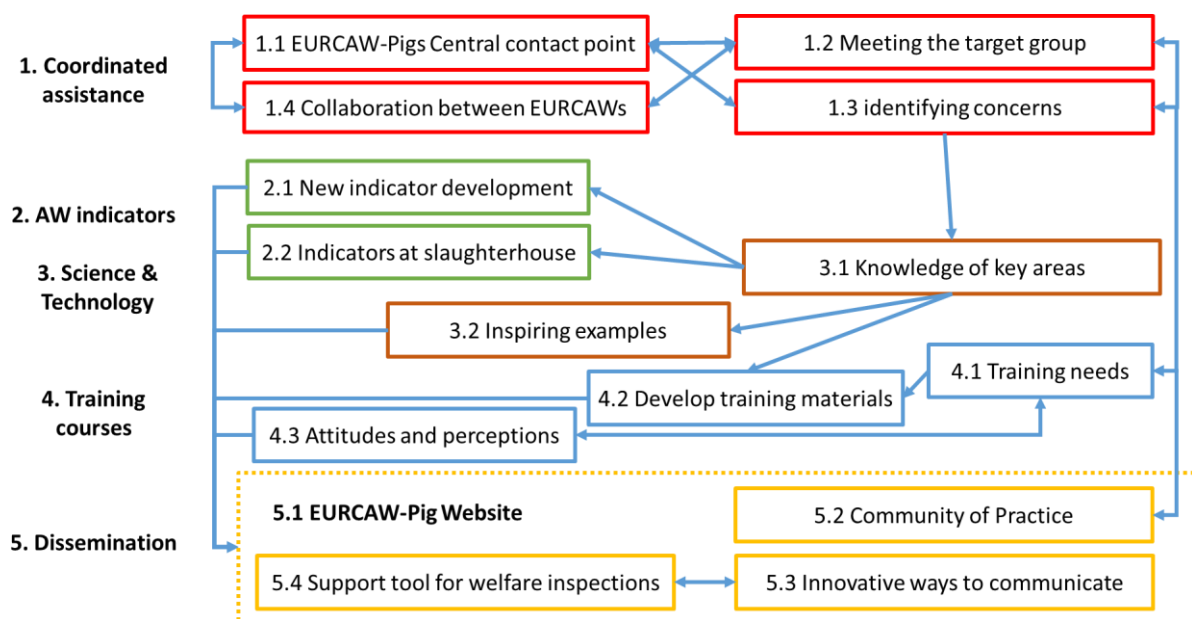
AU	Aarhus University (Denmark)
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CA	Competent Authorities: (a) the central authorities of a Member State responsible for the organisation of official controls and of other official activities, in accordance with Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR), and the 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.
EURCAW-Aqua	EURCAW-Aqua: the European Union Reference Centre for Aquatic 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 (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 (Short Reviews) 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 https://eurcaw-pigs.eu/questions-to-eurcaw
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. Animal Welfare indicators, 3. Scientific & technical studies, 4. Training courses and 5. Disseminating research and innovations. The identification of relevant topics to address (1.3 and 4.1) is done by meeting the target group (1.2 and 5.2). Increasing and collating technical information (3.1) supports development of materials for inspectors (2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2) all of which are published on the EURCAW website (5.1) through priority thematic areas for enforcement, or so called 'Dossiers'.

To support Coordinated assistance:

- 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 Identification of concerns of target groups
- Sub-activity 1.4 Collaborative efforts between the four EURCAWs

To promote the use of Welfare indicators:

- Sub-activity 2.1 Relevant welfare indicators to verify compliance with legislation
- Sub-activity 2.2 Tail biting indicators at the slaughterhouse

Scientific and technical studies will be:

- Sub-activity 3.1 Knowledge of welfare topics related to EU pig welfare legislation
- Sub-activity 3.2 Inspiring examples of farms, transport companies or slaughterhouses

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, tools and materials for welfare topics
- Sub-activity 4.3 Perceptions and attitudes regarding routine tail docking

EURCAW-Pigs' dissemination activities will include:

- Sub-activity 5.1 Maintaining EURCAW-Pigs website and dissemination framework
- Sub-activity 5.2 Maintaining a Community of Practice (CoP)
- Sub-activity 5.3 Innovative Ways to Communicate
- Sub-activity 5.4 Novel support tool for welfare inspection purposes

Interim updates

Towards the end of 2025 and 2026 an informal evaluation will be performed together with the European Commission to analyse the match of the current priorities with the concerns of the target groups. On the basis of this analysis, the priorities of the Work Programme may be adjusted and activities may be included or removed for the remainder of the Work Programme.

Focus on tail docking

The Work Programme 2025-2027 will have a strong focus on the ban of routine tail docking. As part of that, several interrelated activities are planned.

Sub-activity 2.2 Tail biting indicators at the slaughter house

A. Feasibility testing to develop a procedure for the assessment of tail length and tail damage in the abattoir with a focus on sampling methods. This will be concluded in July of 2025.

B. Development of training materials to apply the correct and standardised monitoring procedures across the Member States. The visual materials required for a Training programme will be developed in 2026. This work will be followed by the development of a Training programme in Sub-activity 4.2 (in 2027).

Sub-activity 3.1 Knowledge of welfare topics

Literature studies will address three main risk factors for tail biting, for which technical information is available in the literature. The literature studies will make this information available to inspectors in a standardised and practical manner, e.g. through fact sheets and the novel welfare inspection tool.

They are:

2. in-barn climatic conditions (in 2026). This literature study will be followed by a Technical study in 2027 (see below)
4. competition at the feeder and drinker in weaners and finishers (in 2026)
5. mixing of finishing pigs (in 2027).

Technical studies will develop knowledge that is currently not available and require data collection.

There will be three such studies:

7. 'Policy measures to prevent tail docking' is aimed to support policy makers in making choices regarding the approach to use when implementing the ban in their Member State (in 2026).
8. 'Sector scenarios to prevent tail docking' aims to provide an overview of potential scenarios for farmers and other stakeholders to move away from routine tail docking (in 2027).
9. 'Methods to assess in-barn climatic conditions' follows on from the Literature review above, and aims to test practical measures that can be used by inspectors. Climatic conditions are a risk factor for tail biting (in 2027).

Sub-activity 4.2 Develop course materials

As part of this activity an online training programme for the post-mortem inspection of tails will be developed and tested, based on the activities in sub-activity 2.2. This training programme aims to enable official inspector to assess the tail indicators in a harmonized manner. It will be developed in 2027.

Sub-activity 4.3 Perceptions and attitudes regarding routine tail docking

This ethnographic study will focus on efforts taken by inspectors to identify, address, and improve instances of systematic tail docking. It will provide inspectors with the tools to identify routine tail docking and address the issue with the farmer. Each year, a report on the fieldwork will be published, with a variety of dissemination material produced in 2027 including inspiring examples and podcasts related to change processes in tail docking.

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:

Over 30 'Questions to EURCAW' (Q2Es) have been answered since the start of the service for MS officials. Per year and legislative area we published the following numbers of replies;

Year	On farm	During transport	At slaughter/killing
2019	6		1
2020	4	1	2
2021	4		2
2022	1		0
2023	5	1	3
Total	20	2	8

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 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. In case a question involves interpretation of the existing EU legislation on animal welfare, the requestor will be referred to the Commission.

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. The draft reply will be reviewed by one or more members of the Core Team and, in parallel, be sent to the relevant contact person in DG SANTE for comments. The suggestions from the reviewer(s) of DG SANTE and of the Core Team will be considered for the final draft. 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 5.1). 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:

For the total duration of the three year contract

D1.3 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).

D1.4 A list of Q2Es published on the website of EURCAW-Pigs (ongoing).

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

In this sub-activity we address meetings with our primary target groups.

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:

Since 2019 EURCAW-Pigs has organised a range of meetings as part of Sub-activity 1.2: a) meetings with the Competent Authorities and policy workers of the EU Member States; b) physical 'Road shows'; c) meetings with CAs and NRCs or NSBs organised by others (e.g. DG SANTE and EFSA); d) meetings with National Reference Centres (NRCs) and National Support Bodies (NSBs); e) meetings with DG SANTE.

a) We started with **meetings with MS officials** in four regions of the EU: in 2019 physical for Western and Southern European countries, in 2020 digital for Northern and Eastern MSs. In 2021 the COVID-19

crisis still prevented travel and there was one CA meeting held remotely with a large attendance (80+ delegates!). Fortunately, in 2022 we were able to have a physical meeting again with CAs in Brussels with 30 delegates from 20 MS. The CA meetings continued in 2023 (digital) and in 2024 (physical). All other meetings (NRC/NSB, Reflection Board) were still organised via digital means.

We believe that a combination of formal contributions (presentations, agenda points) and informal personal contact is essential for networking purposes. However, we realise that other EURCAWs are also asking the same MS officials to join their meetings. Therefore, we will continue to have a physical meeting every other year (and not every year). The timing of physical meetings will be coordinated to reduce overlap with the other centres. To support reaching a large audience, the presentations will be recorded and published on the EURCAW-Pigs website.

b) The **Road shows** were organised in a limited number of Member States so far: in 2023 we started in NL, DK and DE. We continued in 2024 with visits to RO, ES and PL. Delegates were 10-40 MS officials (inspectors, policy workers, CAs) of the country where the Road Show was organised. The meetings were as much as possible in the language of the country where it is held. The topics were proposed by the MS, to allow targeted support. The meeting lasted one full day, from lunchtime to lunchtime to allow travel before and after the meeting. The programme generally included:

- 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.

A Road show meeting was attended by 2-5 experts from EURCAW-Pigs. Roadshows outside DK, NL and DE were organised by a team from one of the three consortium partners together with local scientists. These local scientists were also invited to provide the translation of documents and interpret the presentations.

The Road Shows support local knowledge development and capacity building, and are 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', identifying areas of interest for future activities of the EURCAW as per sub-activity 1.3, etc.

c) There are currently **two networks** active which aim to support direct dialogue between the 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 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.

Over the past years EURCAW has actively taken part to these meetings, to present 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. The presence at the EFSA meetings was covered by a relevant expert from the centre. The Platform meetings were all attended by the coordinator or a deputy coordinator of EURCAW-Pigs.

d) During 2019-2020, EURCAW-Pigs contacted the **National References Centres** of France, Sweden, Finland, Greece and Italy and had a separate and a plenary meeting with them. 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 are held remotely, and on the agenda are 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

e) EURCAW-Pigs has met digitally every three months with **DG SANTE** and the other reference centres (EURCAW Poultry-SFA, EURCAW Aqua and EURCAW Pigs), resulting in 4 meetings per year. The meetings were hosted alternately between the Centres. The host is responsible for the agenda, the chairing and the minutes of the meeting. The meetings 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.

Description:

For the period 2025-2027, 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 Member 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) meetings with DG SANTE.

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, alternating between physical and digital meetings. Each reference centre organises its own meetings, but meeting dates will be coordinated to avoid overlapping and to alternate the physical meetings. At least one delegate from each member state will be invited by EURCAW-Pigs to attend the meeting, as well as a representative of EFSA, as an observer. 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 2028-onwards (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 2025 (digital), October 2026 (physical) and October 2027 (digital).

b) Road show meetings in Member States

EURCAW-Pigs will continue to organise physical meetings in a limited number of Member States as part of the new work program. In addition to the physical attendance of approximately 10 MS officials of the country where the Road Show is organised, we will investigate with the hosts the possibility to provide remote connections for plenary parts of the meeting. Furthermore, EURCAW-Pigs will endeavour to include sector parties of the host country, in line with discussions about this with DG SANTE. Not all MS can be visited in a three year programme. The order of the host country is based on the estimated size of the pig production sector in the MS.

- In 2023-2024 the Roadshows were held in The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Poland and Rumania.
- In 2025 we will visit France, Ireland and Belgium.
- For 2026 and 2027, a decision on the countries to be visited will be taken in consultation with DG SANTE at the end of the preceding year.

Every year EURCAW-Pigs will produce a written summary of the Roadshows including the topics discussed, concerns raised, advice given and agreed follow-up actions, if any. The anonymity of the delegates will be respected. The summary and the translated materials offered during the Roadshows will be published on the EURCAW-Pigs website.

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

For 2025 to 2027 we will continue to attend the network of national contact points (NCPs) for Dir (EC) 1099/2009 (on stunning and killing of animals), coordinated by EFSA in Parma (Italy), as well as the EU Platform on Animal Welfare

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

The dates for the NRC and SB meetings in the new Work Program are June 2025, 2026 and 2027.

e) Meetings with DG SANTE and the other EURCAWs

These meetings will continue to be held every three months. The exact dates are to be agreed with DG SANTE and the other Centre(s), and will be in February, May, September and November of 2025-2027.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

- D1.5 A summary of the discussions during the Road shows (December 2025).
- D1.6 A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2025 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 2025).
- D1.7 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with Competent Authorities and Policy Workers in October 2025, which will be submitted to DG SANTE within one month after the meeting.

In 2026

- D1.8 A summary of the discussions during the Road shows (December 2026).
- D1.9 A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2026 annual meeting with the NRCs and NSBs.
- D1.10 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with CAs and Policy Workers in October 2026.

In 2027

- D1.11 A summary of the discussions during the Road shows (December 2027).
- D1.12 A summary of the discussions and outcomes of the 2027 annual meeting with the NRCs and NSBs.
- D1.13 A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of the annual meeting with CAs and Policy Workers in October 2027.

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:

During the previous periods, EURCAW-Pigs identified topics that were discussed with CAs, during the annual meetings through ranking exercises, workshops and open discussions. The CAs and DG SANTE also provided their main concerns and expectations during the annual meetings. The output was discussed with DG SANTE.

A Reflection Board (RB) of stakeholders in the pig industry was set up in 2020 and has met once every year since. The RB does not represent the target group, but represent the pig supply chain, related professional organisations and civil society organisations. The Commission can take 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. This reflection board was also asked to reflect on the draft WP 2025-2027.

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.

A Reflection Board (RB) meeting be organised each year in June. The meetings will last three hours, 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).

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

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D1.14 The minutes of the Reflection Board (RB) meeting in June 2025.

D1.15 An evaluation of the match of defined priorities with the concerns of the target groups and stakeholders for evaluation of the next year's programme.

In 2026

D1.16 The minutes of the Reflection Board (RB) meeting in June 2026.

D1.17 An evaluation of the match of defined priorities with the concerns of the target groups and stakeholders for evaluation of the next year's programme.

In 2027

D1.18 The minutes of the Reflection Board (RB) meeting in June 2027.

D1.19 An evaluation of the match of defined priorities with the concerns of the target groups and stakeholders for evaluation of the next year's programme.

Sub-activity 1.4 Collaborative efforts between the four EURCAWs (WR)

The four Centres will actively search and identify possibilities to collaborate and harmonise their approaches. This Sub-activity aims to keep focus on collaborative efforts and common approaches between the four EURCAWs.

Objectives:

To strengthen the collaborative efforts and common approaches between the four EURCAWs.

Achievements so far:

a) Physical meetings between EURCAW staff.

The EURCAW-Pigs consortium has a digital meeting almost every month to discuss progress of the Work Programme. Although efficient, digital meetings do not quite offer the same effectivity as brainstorming sessions during physical meetings. In 2022 the EURCAW-Pigs team came together for the first time 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. Subsequent annual physical meetings were held in Vejle (2023) and Wageningen (2024).

The management teams of the four Centres meet four times a year to discuss ongoing activities and deepen their collaboration. In 2024 we organised a physical meeting with members of the other three centres (EURCAW Poultry SFA, Ruminants & Equines and Aquatics) in Thessaloniki, Greece.

b) Common approaches between EURCAWs

Concrete examples of common approaches are the agreed Quality Assurance process, a common 'Code of Conduct' for meetings with our target groups and pork production stakeholders (Reflection Board), common Terms of Reference for the Reflection Boards and the intensive collaboration across the Centres via working groups on Training, and on Communication. The members of the latter working groups meet periodically, to share experiences and identify areas for collaboration in view of adopting common approaches and developing common outputs.

Description:

For 2025-2027 we envisage the following common activities.

a) Meetings with the other EURCAWs

The 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, of which one is a physical meeting, will take place in February, May, September and November of 2025-2027. The physical meetings will be in May, and are scheduled to be in Crete (2025), Italy (2026) and The Netherlands (2027).

b) Common topics

The four EURCAWs will jointly work on several common topics.

a) Guidance for the **assessment of stunning equipment**. This topic will be initiated by EURCAW Poultry SFA in 2025, and is described in their Work Programme at sub-activity 3.3.1. In consultation with DG SANTE this guidance will be included and further developed for pig stunning equipment in the EURCAW-Pigs programme of 2026 or 2027.

b) A novel **digital support tool for inspectors** will be developed by EURCAW-Pigs. Please see sub-activity 5.4 below for a description of activities and timing. To achieve this common goal and optimise the use of the financial resources of this work programme, EURCAW Ruminants and Equines will

explore, together with EURCAW Pigs, the possibility to partially reuse already available tools for further development, in particular, the CARE4DAIRY APP and its source IT systems.

c) EURCAW-Ruminants and Equines are taking the lead in a joint effort to produce **audio materials based on our written output**. These are described in their sub-activity 5.2. In consultation with DG SANTE the methodologies will be applied to EURCAW-Pigs output in future activities during 2026 and/or 2027.

d) The development of a **pilot community of practice** will be led by both EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines and the Pig Team. A description can be found in sub-activity 5.2 below, and in sub-activity 5.1 of EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines.

Expected output and timing:

- Further collaboration and harmonisation of activities.
- This sub-activity will run continuously.

Deliverables WP1 (only two main deliverables for inclusion in the SYGMA system)

D1.1 This deliverable includes all outputs of WP1 listed in the Work Programme 2025-2027, i.e. all deliverables D1.3 – D1.19 referred to above.

D1.2 This deliverable includes the indicators for WP1: a) Number of technical and scientific feedback provided by the EURCAW based on Commission queries; b) Number of queries requested from national support networks and bodies and competent authorities in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for animals. Number and quality of replies provided by the EURCAW.

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 2024.

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs will look into indicators to address priorities and gaps identified in the course of activity 1 on coordinated assistance, in order to enable the target groups to monitor pig welfare to implement the legislation. In addition, any indicators identified during the processing of new literature studies, e.g. Reviews and Short Reviews in Sub-activity 3.1 that can be used to verify compliance with the EU legislation, will be transformed in materials to be used by inspectors.

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. In period 2025-2027 indicators will continue to be published in Indicator factsheets. In addition, they will be included in the "Novel support tool for welfare inspection purposes" that will be developed in sub-activity 5.4.

Expected output and timing:

In 2026 and 2027

- D2.3 Any relevant indicators identified for welfare topics targeted in 2025-2027 (see sub-activity 3.1) and asked for in the course of activities on coordinated assistance will be described in parallel with the literature studies and included in the Novel support tool for welfare inspection purposes (sub-activity 5.4).

Sub-activity 2.2 Tail biting indicators at the slaughterhouse (FLI)

In several scientific reports intact and uninjured tail of pigs at slaughter are identified as the most important indicator for the welfare of pigs on farm (e.g. FAWC, 2009; EFSA, 2012, 2021, 2022). As part of a future implementing act on official controls the EC intends to set rules on the post-mortem inspections of tails (e.g. length and lesions) at the abattoir.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs support the work of future tertiary legislation (implementation act) by providing assessment methods for post-mortem tail inspection tailored for the use by official inspectors.

Achievements so far:

In 2020 and 2023, EURCAW-Pigs published Indicator factsheets on tail lesions to be assessed on farm. In 2023, a Knowledge section on “Feedback of slaughter findings” and a Short Review on “Existing practices and current research on feedback of tail slaughter findings” were published on our webpage. In the Short review it was concluded that currently the meat inspection data on tail status is not a valid method for assessing tail biting on farm mainly due to a lack of standardisation. In 2023-2024 EURCAW-Pigs did a literature review on assessment schemes that have been used for post-mortem inspection of tails at abattoirs. These assessment schemes were evaluated regarding validity, reliability and practicability based on existing literature. In order to sample sufficient material for an evaluation study, video recordings of carcasses (finishing pigs) were done at an abattoir and pictures from tails varying in length (undocked/docked) and the degree of lesions were taken from these recordings. With selected assessment schemes a pre-test regarding inter-observer-reliability was done. However, it became evident that inspectors should be trained in using the scoring schemes in order to increase the agreement between different assessors (see sub-activity 4.2).

Description:

A. Feasibility testing

To assess the feasibility of recording tail length and lesions at different line speeds and with different sampling intervals, we will do a pilot test in different slaughter houses in order to estimate the feasibility of assessing tail lesions and tail length under practical commercial conditions.

We will start in Q1 with a definition and description of the indicators to be scored. In addition we will develop a simple app that allows to score these indicators on a tablet, for digital recording. Three trainers (from DE, DK, NL) will meet at an abattoir to try out the indicators. They will agree between themselves how to run the studies with the inspectors in their own country, e.g. what variables to test.

Furthermore, they will obtain a first impression and experience with applying the scoring system,

1. How to record scores: via the use of the tablet, versus the use of paper & pen.
2. How fast to record: e.g. scoring of all pigs, or 1 in 3 pigs, or 1 in 5 pigs or scoring of 1 in 10 pigs.

Their experiences will determine the protocol to be tested with inspectors.

Secondly, we will plan the test days. We will recruit a minimum of 9 inspectors, 3 for each of our own countries (DK, NL, DE), and at least one slaughterhouse per country in which we can run the pilot. The line speeds of the slaughter houses should vary between them, but within standard commercial limits. With inspectors and slaughterhouses we will plan slaughterhouse test days in Q2 of 2025. For each inspector one test day visit to the abattoir is envisaged.

Thirdly, we will do the testing at abattoirs. A test day will start with an assessment of the physical circumstances to determine location of scoring and of marking pigs (to know which ones to score).

Then an 'instruction session' will be held to explain the various assessment methods to the inspector. After that, the feasibility testing will start for each of the following elements:

1. The use of the tablet, versus the use of paper & pen
 2. The sampling method (e.g. 1 in 5 or 1 in 10 pigs) depending on first experiences described above.
- Each run will last for 30 – 60 minutes at the commercial line speed used by the slaughter house. A EURCAW trainer will be present during the trial to answer questions and learn from the comments given by the inspector. The inspector will be observed by the EURCAW trainer who will note problems with the agreed way of scoring (the scoring protocol).

Finally, the EURCAW trainers will write a report on their observations, and conclude with recommendations on a protocol that is feasible to be applied by inspectors at specified line speeds.

B. Development of training materials

In period 2025-2027, EURCAW-Pigs will support implementation of tail inspections at the abattoir by developing technical information on the assessment of tails (e.g. length and lesions) at the abattoir. The visual materials and format of the output (e.g. digital or paper) needs to be developed and tested in close collaboration with inspectors in the field, to maximise ease of use.

To better standardise the assessment of tail indicators by inspectors and to support the dissemination of the indicator assessment procedure, we will develop visual materials for a training for inspectors. In a first step, we will run a physical training with smaller groups of inspectors. For this physical training, the pictures taken in 2024 (and additional pictures taken during the feasibility study in 2025) and the scoring scheme for tail assessment identified in 2024 will be used. After training, inspectors will be asked to assess tails at slaughter in parallel, i.e. at least two inspectors will assess the same animals. From the results of this pre-test study we will estimate the agreement between inspectors in assessing the tails, i.e. the inter-observer reliability.

In sub-activity 4.2 an online training programme will be developed. This training programme will be fed with pictures of tails taken in 2024 and additional pictures taken during the feasibility study in 2025. Within sub-activity 4.2 an additional test will be done with inspectors that had been trained by a Beta-version of the training programme (online test with pictures), see sub-activity 4.2 for further description. Results of both tests, i.e. based on physical training and on online training, will be used to further improve the online training and the tail scoring scheme if needed. The results on the inter-observer reliability will indicate the degree of standardisation of the tail assessments at abattoir.

The visual materials for the training programme will be developed in 2026.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D2.4 By July 2025, a report on the feasibility study of protocols for on-line assessment of tail damage and lesions by inspectors is available.

In 2026

D2.5 By June 2026, the pictures needed for the training programme (physically and online) are provided.

D2.6 By December 2026, results of the pre-test study are fed to the online training programme (sub-activity 4.2) and technical information on the assessment of tails are developed.

Deliverables WP2 (only two main deliverables for inclusion in the SYGMA system)

D2.1 This deliverable includes all outputs of WP2 listed in the Work Programme 2025-2027 above, so D2.3-D2.7.

D1.2 This deliverable includes the indicators for WP2: a) Number of methods developed/coordinated for the assessment of the level of welfare of animals; b) Number of methods developed / coordinated for the improvement of the welfare of animals.

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 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. This scientific knowledge should include possible risk factors to focus on during welfare inspections. 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.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will work on filling perceived gaps in knowledge which currently hamper implementation of EU legislation, through Literature studies (i.e. science-based reviews) and Technical Studies.
- To support, with scientific and technical expertise illustrated through a series of Literature and Technical studies, the implementation of pig welfare legislation across the Member States, in particular with respect to 'open norms'.
- To inform about how welfare issues are addressed in the different MS.
- EURCAW-Pigs will identify remaining questions for which further research is needed.

Achievements so far:

So far EURCAW-Pigs produced 14 [reviews](#): Transport of sows, Group housing and mixing of sows, Keeping entire male pigs, Cooling technologies for pigs, Alternatives to farrowing crates, Farrowing housing and management, Fitness for transport of pigs, Hunger induced behaviours: aggression and stereotypies, Heat stress in pigs on farm, Euthanasia of suckling piglets on farm, Alternatives to stalls for sows after weaning and in early pregnancy, Arrival and lairage management at pig slaughterhouses, Pig welfare in slaughterhouses at stunning and bleeding, Climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs. An 15th review for the website Dossier on 'tail docking and tail biting' was addressed by adopting the Commission's [Staff Working document \(2016\)](#). In addition, EURCAW-Pigs published 5 Short reviews: Existing practices and current research on feedback of tail slaughter findings, Enrichment materials for sows during pregnancy, Animal welfare and pre-transport fasting of pigs, Nest building materials for sows during farrowing, Management of unweaned piglets.

Description:

The information that is needed for these outputs will be gathered through one of these two methods:

- a) Literature studies
- b) Technical studies

Ad a) The collection of new and existing data is particularly important when dealing with 'open norms' in the legislation. A **Literature study** will result in a Review addressing the pigs' physiological and behavioural needs, risk factors, and suggestions for improvement. This will help inspectors 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 5.1), the training course standards (Sub-activity 4.2), and the reference materials for relevant welfare indicators (Sub-activity 5.4). If a Literature study focuses on a specific topic the structure may differ (Short Reviews).

Ad b) For identified gaps in knowledge on topics that are an extension of already existing welfare topics, EURCAW-Pigs will provide additional technical information. This technical information, in part, will be based on results of **Technical Studies** EURCAW-Pigs will conduct in period 2025 - 2027. These Technical Studies aim to fill certain knowledge gaps but also to evaluate methods that shall support official inspectors to assess aspects of animal welfare in a harmonized and standardized manner. Technical studies may be supplemented with a Review summarising the current knowledge on the topic and identifying the open research question. The results of Technical Studies will be published in Reviews or Technical notes.

In addition to either Literature or Technical studies EURCAW-Pigs may also do a **Questionnaire** or **online interviews** with CAs, inspectors and/or NRC/SB, for example, to gather information on how topics are addressed in other MS.

The following Welfare topics will be addressed:

a) Literature studies

1. Overhead space for pigs transported by road: Point 1.2 of Chapter II in Annex I of Reg 1/2005 requires that sufficient space be provided above the animals for adequate ventilation, natural standing position and movement of pigs. There is a lack of adequate scientific advice on sufficient vertical space during transportation of pigs. The latest EFSA scientific opinion on protection of pigs during transport mentions that the available research is limited. Recently, a Danish study has been finished on this topic (Herskin et al., 2022¹). In the first half of 2025, EURCAW will run a Literature study and present the current knowledge and the results of the recent study in a **Review** to provide guidance on this important transport parameter.

2. Methods to assess in-barn climatic conditions: There is a variety of methods to measure in-barn climatic conditions, harmful gases, light and dust in pig barns. However, the technical devices for measuring these parameters differ in their applicability and costs. Moreover, methods often suffer from a lack of standardisation. Based on Literature and/or Technical studies, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA developed Factsheets with recommendations on how to measure these parameters. In a Literature study EURCAW-Pigs will review information on methods (e.g. protocols) how to measure at least two in-barn climatic parameters (e.g. dust, ammonia) and will develop **Factsheets** proposing a method to measure this parameter in a standardised and feasible manner. This will be done in 2026, and precedes a technical study in the years thereafter.

3. Moving pigs to the stunner: In the "Review on arrival and lairage management at pig slaughterhouses" EURCAW-Pigs already addressed how pigs can be moved to the stunning area. In 2026 we will develop a **Short Review** (knowledge section) dealing with inspiring examples on how pigs can be moved to electrical and to gas stunners.

4. Drinkers and feeders for pigs: DIRECTIVE 2008/120/EC requires that "all pigs over two weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water". In addition, Directive 98/58/EC

¹ Herskin, M.S., Kobek-Kjeldager, C., Kaiser, M.Ø., Thodberg, K., Jensen, L.D., Chen, G., Zhang, G., Rong, L., Foldager, L. 2022. Krav til indvendig højde ved transport af smågrise. 15 sider. Rådgivningsnotat fra DCA – Nationalt Center for Fødevarer og Jordbrug, Aarhus Universitet, leveret: 5. juli 2022.

requires that ‘feeding and watering equipment must be designed constructed and placed so that (...) the harmful effects of competition between the animals are minimised’. These open norms are addressed differently in the ms. Drinkers and feeders already had been addressed in Q2Es and based on this EURCAW-Pigs will describe the current knowledge on how water and food should be offered based on the needs of pigs. Results of this Literature study will be published in **two Reviews**: One Review on feeders and drinkers for weaners and finishing pigs (in 2026) and one Review on feeders and drinkers for sows (in 2027)

5. Mixing finishing pigs: Mixing of unfamiliar finishing pigs may occur during finishing period but in particular in preparation for transport to slaughter. In 2027 we will write a **Short review** on possibilities to avoid or to mitigate the consequences of mixing.

b) Technical studies

6. Policy measures to prevent tail docking: MS have initiated measures to support compliance with the ban of regularly tail docking. These measures may consist, for example, of financial incentives for long tails, promoting welfare labels (and organic farming), improved advice and information for the farmers or financial support for rebuilding or new pig barns. By means of a **Questionnaire and/or online interviews** with CAs, inspectors and/or NRC/SB EURCAW-Pigs will gather information on supporting measures already applied in the different MS to complement a realistic approach towards the implementation of the tail docking ban. This will be linked to the “expert panel” of DG SANTE. This will be done in 2026.

7. Sector scenarios to prevent tail docking: The 2022 EFSA opinion provided useful scientific information on the relevant welfare consequences for different pig categories and made recommendations on farming parameters such as space allowance, enrichment, litter size, flooring, air quality, mutilations etc. Despite the efforts, there is still no consensus on the minimum farming conditions that would allow the farmers to make progress in the phasing out tail docking and the rearing of tail docked pigs, while at the same time ensuring economic viability of the pig sector. EURCAW will build on the EFSA recommendations and carry out a **Technical study** to explore the practical, zootechnical and socio-economic conditions that would allow farmers to rear undocked pigs. Because a large variety of factors contribute to tail biting there is no “one-fit-for-all” solution for farmers to successfully keep pigs with long tails. EURCAW-Pigs will identify farms which have been successful in changing from a ‘routine docking’ to a ‘routine long tail’ situation. For this, we will identify farmers that have converted successfully, e.g. because changes in legislation in their country or because of they are committed to a labelling scheme.

The steps these farmers used to move to long tails may involve technical changes to the husbandry system, including changes to the minimum space allowance, enrichment, flooring, climate conditions, feeding and drinking space and any other relevant parameters. They may also include changes to the management of the farm (more staff or different handling or animal management practices).

We will identify these farmers (‘Cases’), and interview them to learn how they successfully went towards non-docking. We will identify whether there are aspects that they have in common when moving towards the phasing out of tail docking. These aspects form the ‘scenarios’. EURCAW-Pigs will take care to include a geographical representation of these Cases, and involve a range of farm sizes. We will consider the economic and environmental aspects for implications of the various scenarios for change.

The process will involve:

- a. Identify farms ('cases') from a larger group of farms that are **not tail docking**: via abattoirs, personal contacts, CAs, producer associations, labelling schemes, Road shows, other EURCAWs. We will use different drivers for change to help identify successful farmers: legal changes, policy incentives, market opportunities, etc. For each driver we want to have at least 5 farms (cases) in three countries. We will try to cover most of the EU conditions, and focus on large commercial farm that were successful. We expect at least 25 cases.... More will be better.
- b. Develop a questionnaire for interviewing farmers. Include questions on: a) their old situation with docked tails, b) incentive for change, c) steps in the process of conversion, d) consequences on economy, climate, work pleasure, disease, etc., e) are they happy with the conversion? f) how long did the conversion take? g) Any steps in the process that are important? h) any financial issues?
- c. Train the interviewers.
- d. Interview the farmers through semi-structured interviews, remotely. Ask for videos and pictures. We can pay professional interpreters for 1 hour video calls. We may include colleagues from other EURCAWs. Record interviews.
- e. Analyse data: find similarities, strong points, weak points, risk factors for biting, obstacles, things that worked and did not work. Similar approaches will be grouped in a 'scenario'. A scenario is a technical approach that was used by several farmers (cases), to solve the docking problem. Each scenario describes a different approach that includes the risk factors, or management solutions.
- f. Discuss the scenario's with economic and environmental experts and ask them to reflect on opportunities and obstacles for implementation.
- g. Describe the scenario in terms of tangible steps a farmer can take to move to intact tails. The scenario is not based on drivers, but on common technical methods to come to long tails.

The outcome will be different scenarios to facilitate on-farm change from docking to non-docking, applicable across the member states. This study will run in 2026 and 2027.

8. Methods to assess in-barn climatic conditions: Based on the outcomes of the Literature study (see Literature study 2 above), in a **Technical study** EURCAW-Pigs will test methods that can be used by inspectors to easily and standardised measure a certain in-barn climatic parameter (e.g. dust). In a Factsheet we will describe this method including suggestions for a standardised procedure of measurements (e.g. places, number of measurements). This work will be done in 2027.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D3.3 Scientific review published by September on overhead space during transport.

In 2026

D3.4 Scientific Factsheets published by September on methods to assess in-barn climatic conditions.

D3.5 A report of a technical study on policy measures to prevent docking is published in June.

D3.6 Short scientific review published by September on moving pigs to the stunner.

D3.7 Scientific review published by September on feeders and drinkers for weaners and finishers.

In 2027

D3.8 A report of a scenario study for transitions to long tails is published in November.

D3.9 Scientific review published by September on feeders and drinkers for sows.

D3.10 Scientific review published by September on mixing finishing pigs.

D3.11 A report of a technical study on in barn climatic conditions is published in November.

Sub-activity 3.2 Inspiring examples 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. [Husbandry - EURCAW-Pigs](#) and [Slaughter and killing - EURCAW-Pigs](#)). This Sub-activity will continue in 2025-2027.

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, certain guidelines in MS, 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 or exemplary official guidelines will be identified and their good practices described. We will expand on collection of media material, translations, subtitles in videos.

Each year at least 2 new descriptions will be added. 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 5.1. 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 2025

D3.13 A minimum of 2 additional inspiring examples will be presented on the website by the end of 2025.

In 2026

D3.14 A minimum of 2 additional inspiring examples will be presented by the end of 2026.

In 2027

D3.15 A minimum of 2 additional inspiring examples will be presented by the end of 2027.

Deliverables WP3 (only two main deliverables for inclusion in the SYGMA system)

D3.1 This deliverable includes all outputs of WP3 listed in the Work Programme 2025-2027 above, so D3.3-D3.15.

D1.2	This deliverable includes the indicator for WP3: Number and quality of technical and scientific studies and materials developed and/or updated by the EURCAW.
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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;

Sub-activity 4.1 Evaluate materials relevant for identification of training needs of inspectors (AU)

EURCAW-Pigs has continuously interacted with Competent Authorities to identify training materials and course examples targeting official pig welfare inspectors to be shared across Member States. Member States make national interpretations of regulations and praxis's for inspecting compliance with pig welfare legislation. These differences can to some extent be identified by comparing checklists for welfare inspection across countries. More in-dept understanding of national differences can guide EURCAW Pigs on relevant training needs to be provided by EURCAW Pigs.

Objectives:

- EURCAW-Pigs will collect inspection checklists used in MS for inspecting pig welfare on-farm and develop and overview on how they differ in their interpretation of current EU pig welfare legislation.
- EURCAW Pigs will identify training needs in the areas covered by the collected check lists.

Achievements so far:

We have collated road transport inspection checklists used by five MS as a basis for completing a guidelines for roadside checks in pig transport (Deliverable 3.5). Regarding training needs, we are continuing 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 with visits in Finland, Poland Italy and Spain in 2024 focusing on transport and on-farm inspection.

Description:

EURCAW-Pigs will collect inspection checklists used in MS on selected on-farm pig welfare areas, translate them and develop and overview on how they differ in their interpretation of current EU pig welfare legislation. Further EURCAW Pigs will provide guidelines for how to develop and maintain check lists and to train inspectors to apply checklists.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D4.3 December 2025: A report on pig welfare inspection checklists used by MS in a selected welfare area.

In 2026

D4.4 October 2026: A report on pig welfare inspection checklists used by MS in a selected welfare area identifying relevant training needs.

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

EURCAW Pigs has produced training course guides for all dossiers representing a pig welfare area. In this Work Programme EURCAW will develop a programme for training and certifying inspectors and aligning their evaluation of selected Tail indicator candidates in slaughterhouses. The programme will be directly applicable by inspectors in all 27 MSs, as broad application of such a tool will enhance uniformity of meat inspection. Besides focusing on the welfare topic dossiers, we will in this work programme also make an additional webinar on a generic topic, namely on natural behaviour of a pig.

At the roadshow for Danish pig welfare inspectors in 2023 EURCAW-Pigs was asked for a tutorial session on 'what is a pig'. The session was well received, and we will produce a webinar focusing on natural behaviour for a pig.

The training programme is targeting EU member state welfare inspectors. However, the generic nature of the material focusing on lesions to be observed post-mortem may be relevant also for welfare inspectors in thirds countries.

Objective:

- To develop a training programme (course examples and materials) to support the training activities and calibration of compliance criteria for selected iceberg indicator candidates from meat inspection.
- To explore the relevance and feasibility of the training programme to be applied by third countries.
- To develop three webinars targeting welfare inspectors needs. A video summarizing the webinar content will be developed for each webinar.

Achievements so far:

In work programme up to now, EURCAW-Pigs developed reviews, dossiers and suggested indicators for inspectors for welfare topics. Targeted training courses are needed to effectively implement this knowledge as part of future inspections. In work programme 2023-2024, Training course standard (or 'training guide') was made covering: heat stress in pigs on farm, hunger induced stereotypes, alternatives to sow stalls, transport of sows.

Description:

a) Training Programme to assess tails post-mortem

In this activity an online training programme for the post-mortem inspection of tails will be developed, based on the activities in sub-activity 2.2. This training programme aims to enable official inspector to assess the tail indicators in a harmonized manner. The training programme will present information on the relevance of the tail indicators and indicators will be presented and explained (e.g. scores for different severities). Afterwards inspectors can start the training during which they can assess the indicators. They will be presented pictures from tails to be assessed. Their assessments will be compared with assessments done before by experts from EURCAW-Pigs ('silver standard') and correct and false answers will be indicated. Finally, inspectors can start a test in which they again are asked to assess tail indicators. The answers of inspectors will be used to calculate the inter-observer reliability, i.e. the agreement between the answers of the inspector and the correct answers ('silver standard'). If an inspector successfully passes the test, he may download a certificate. A Beta-version of the training programme will be tested by inspectors and based on their online assessment of pictures their inter-observer reliability will be calculated. Inspectors also will be asked to test the assessment of the trained indicators in an abattoir in parallel with other inspectors (see sub-activity 3.1). From the results from tail assessment at abattoirs also the inter-observer reliability will be calculated. The results of these tests will be used to further tailor the training (including the training material) for the purpose of post mortem tail inspection at abattoir and, finally, to increase the reliability of assessments. The online training programme will be an application that runs automatically via internet. It can be adapted to the scoring provided for in relevant legislation, if and when it is adopted.

b) Third Countries

The training programme is targeting EU member state welfare inspectors. However, the generic nature of the material focusing on lesions to be observed post-mortem may be relevant also for welfare inspectors in thirds countries. Together with DG SANTE we will identify the group of competent authorities in third countries, and the material will be made available to them. A survey will be done

to assess the relevance of the programme material for their welfare inspectors. The results are reported in a report.

c) Webinars

Three webinars will be developed. At the roadshow for Danish pig welfare inspectors in 2023 EURCAW-Pigs was asked for a tutorial session on 'what is a pig'. The session was well received, and we will produce a webinar focusing on natural behaviour for a pig. A second webinar will focus on how to use the training programme for tail inspection. The topic for the third and final webinar will be agreed at a later date. For each of the webinars we will make two videos: one full version of the webinar, the second one summarizing the content of the webinars to be available on our web page but also useful for courses tailored to national needs (*the EURCAW Poultry team calls these short videos 'Pills'*). The videos will be subtitled in at least five languages.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

- D4.5 October 2025: A webinar on the topic 'What is a pig', based on a review.
- D4.6 November 2025: Two videos with summary of the October webinar.
- D4.7 December 2025: A workshop for training bodies (responsible for training inspectors) from different regions of EU to achieve feedback on draft training course on aligned evaluation of indicators from meat inspection.

In 2026

- D4.8 June 2026: A report on a survey investigating the relevance of the material for the training programme for welfare inspections in third countries.
- D4.9 October 2026: A webinar on a topic to be decided at the end of 2025.
- D4.10 December 2026: Two videos with summary of the 2026 webinar.

In 2027

- D4.11 May 2027: A webinar on a selected topic.
- D4.12 June 2027: Two videos with summary of the May webinar.
- D4.13 October 2027: A training programme for scoring tail indicators will be released.

Sub-activity 4.3 Perceptions and attitudes regarding routine tail docking (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. Also, inspectors may need to rethink their traditional inspection procedures to address these new production modes (for example long tails or free farrowing). In WP2023-24 EURCAW Pigs has conducted anthropological field work in sub-activity 4.1 aiming to identify areas where EURCAW-Pigs can facilitate and support inspectors through their activities, from training needs to specific resources. The field work has been quite productive, and we will, therefore, apply the methods to investigate changes in perception and attitudes of inspectors over time with focus on the greatest challenge to their work – addressing routine tail docking.

Objective:

- To describe examples on improvement experiences in varying countries.
- To identify areas where greater support is needed.
- To examine how inspection processes have changed.

Achievements so far:

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. 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) was made in 2023. A catalogue on ways of conducting inspections including inspection during transport and slaughter will be published in 2024.

Description

Directive 2008/120 prohibits routine tail docking; therefore, when visiting a farm, inspectors must decide whether tail docking is carried out as part of a regular procedure or due to occasional circumstances. The decision will need to be relayed to the farmer, and discussed. EURCAW will carry out a technical study to provide guidance on the different elements that inspectors and competent authorities need to collect, record and analyse in order to be able to conclude whether tail docking is carried out on a regular or occasional basis. It will also investigate with inspectors how these findings are then communicated to achieve the maximum positive impact.

Across the three years 2025-2027, EURCAW-Pigs will conduct fieldwork in three countries returning to the same countries across three years. The countries will be selected based on initiatives implemented to reduce the level of routine tail docking. Two weeks in each country along with ongoing contact throughout the year is expected to make it possible to examine issues, challenges, and solutions longitudinally and qualitatively.

This ethnographic study will focus on efforts taken by inspectors to identify, address, and improve instances of systematic tail docking. Each year, a report on the fieldwork will be published, with a variety of dissemination material produced in year three including inspiring examples and podcasts related to change processes in tail docking.

Year one will describe the current situation in the three member states. Based on placements, EURCAW-Pigs will join inspectors on audits and document the current situation in each member state. During visits, how tail docking is addressed, the information that is collected, recorded, and analysed in a tail docking case as well as how tail docking is judged as regular or occasional will be studied. A report will document the current situation and the ongoing challenges in the three cases and highlight the initiatives adopted to improve the situation. The report will include a preliminary list of key indicators that inspectors use to identify routine docking.

Year two will examine change processes. Initiatives to drive change in tail docking practices will be described and their implementation analysed through qualitative research methods. Instances of successful implementation, including specific scenarios, where they arise, will be documented for contribution to the technical study on measures to prevent tail docking. A report will examine the varying approaches of the member states exploring the challenges to improvement through semi-structured interviews and field-based observation.

Year three will focus on the status of change processes. The report will focus on how the challenges to change can be addressed through regulation, funding, and legislation. Further outputs related to potential good examples will be produced along with podcast episodes related to these topics.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D4.14 December 2025: A report describing the three selected countries and initiatives addressing routine tail docking, including a preliminary list of indicators to determine routine docking.

In 2026

D4.15 December 2026: A report describing improvement and challenges in the three selected countries.

In 2027

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|-------|--|
| D4.16 | December 2027: A report that provides recommendations for change based on the success or lack of success with reference to initiatives made in 2025. |
| D4.17 | October 2027: A report evaluating how inspection processes have been changed. |

<u>Deliverables WP4 (only two main deliverables for inclusion in the SYGMA system)</u>
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|------|---|
| D4.1 | December 2027: This deliverable includes all outputs of WP4 listed in the Work Programme 2025-2027 above, so D4.3-D4.17. |
| D1.2 | December 2027: This deliverable includes the indicator for WP4: a) Number of training and collaboration activities with national scientific support networks and bodies and competent authorities; b) Number of training and collaboration activities with third countries. |

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 EURCAW-Pigs' website and dissemination framework (WR)

Introduction:

The aim of this sub-activity is to disseminate and communicate EURCAW-Pigs' outputs, research findings and technical innovations to CAs to support policy and inspectors in the implementation of legislation. In the 2025-2027 work programme, WP5 will comprise ongoing activities such as evaluation and updating of the website and to maintain a dissemination framework (i.e. newsletters, LinkedIn). Continued consultation with the dissemination teams at other EURCAWs will ensure a cost-effective and consistent approach, when possible, to dissemination and communication.

Objectives:

- Relevant and up-to-date information and Centre's deliverables 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.
- A dissemination framework (i.e. newsletters, LinkedIn, YouTube) is maintained based on the needs of the target groups.

Achievements so far:

EURCAW-Pigs has developed the website www.eurcaw-pigs.eu and populated it with web dossiers, reviews, training materials and other technical information for the main target groups. The website was renewed in Spring 2022 to make it more modern and responsive. This means that it automatically resizes, shrinks, or enlarges, to make it look good on all devices (desktops, tablets and phones). A so-called 'hamburger' menu is used for navigation. Menu items are: 'Questions to EURCAW', 'Everyday inspection', 'Welfare topics' (web dossiers), 'Indicator factsheets' (monitoring welfare), 'Scientific output', 'Training resources', and 'Inspiring examples'. By using fixed positioning on the hamburger icon, visitors can access the navigation no matter where they are in the website. Featured pages are e.g. news and agenda, and contact details.

In the 'heart' of the website is the search tool which provide access to a knowledge base (repository). This is a sustainable e-depot of Wageningen University and Research where all output/deliverables of EURCAW-Pigs can be found and downloaded. Also the content of the website, e.g. news items, can be searched. In November 2022, in addition the EURCAW-Pigs Zenodo Community was created for scientific documents, i.e. the reviews. The main reason was to create DOIs for these documents.

Statistics of use of the website are monitored with Google Datastudio dashboard. This monitoring shows that the number of visitors and pages visited has increased over the years. In 2022 the website received 4,630 visitors and this number has doubled to 9,243 in 2023. Number of web pages visited increased from 21,297 in 2021 to 35,612 in 2023. Number of downloads has varied over the years from 19,114 (2021), 21,154 (2022) to 14,536 (2023). The peak in 2022 coincides with a high number of translated indicator factsheets being published.

News items are regularly published on the website (approx. 2 per month) and a shorter version posted on LinkedIn. The newsletter is issued, on average, four times per year and has a subscriber base of 530.

Continuous collaboration with other EURCAWs on common dissemination tools (e.g., common templates (PPT, factsheets, reviews, icons, and document identifiers) has been done since the designation of the Centre.

Description:

This sub-activity will consist of a) the further development and optimization of the website, and b) maintaining and elaborating a dissemination framework. To build a common dissemination approach strategy with the other EURCAWs, several meetings will be conducted during the period with the other EURCAWs communication teams.

a) The website of EURCAW-Pigs

The website will continue to be optimized, updated and expanded with new information regarding the various activities and outputs of the Work programme including the Road Shows:

- **New output** from EURCAW Pigs' (and when applicable other EURCAWs) on coordinated assistance, science, welfare indicators and training can be found through the hamburger menu: e.g. 'Questions to EURCAW' (activity 1. Coordinated assistance), 'Welfare topics' (web dossiers based on activities 2. Welfare indicators, 3. Science and 4. Training), 'Indicator factsheets' (monitoring welfare; activity 2. Welfare indicators), 'Scientific output' (activity 3. Science), 'Training resources' (activity 4. Training), and 'Inspiring examples' (activity 3. Science).
- 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](#).
- **New web dossiers** will be added when new reviews are released and existing web dossiers will be expanded on the basis of new short reviews. Each web dossier is structured around:
 - legal aspects of the welfare issue, identified in activity 3.
 - practical knowledge on welfare indicators, identified in activity 2.
 - background information on the welfare issue, identified in activity 3.
 - demonstrators and inspiring examples, identified in activity 3.
 - relevant training materials, identified in activity 4.
- **Specific communication output** from other communication sub-activities in WP5 is disseminated, i.e. sub-activity 5.3 Innovative Ways to Communicate (including podcasts) and sub-activity 5.4. Novel tool for welfare inspection purposes.

Please note: identity and access management of the EURCAW-Pigs website will be strictly compliant with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR <https://eugdpr.org/>)

b) Dissemination framework:

To increase awareness of our activities and outputs:

- Network exchanges through **news, agenda and newsletters** will be carried out. An online newsletter will be sent out every 3 months, which is published through the Commission's EU Animal welfare Digital Tool.

- **LinkedIn** is used as the main social platform to communicate on new activity on the website and in the Centre.
- **YouTube** is used as the main platform to share online videos used in the Centre's output.
- **Monthly statistics** are generated with Google Analytics, focusing on the total number of users and new users; web pages visited, number of downloads and the demographic of visitors, namely country.

Expected output and timing:

D5.2 December 2025-2027: An attractive and informative website and knowledge base visited regularly by the primary target audience of CA, policy workers, inspectors and supporting bodies. Numbers of unique visitors to the website, downloads, 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'.

D5.3 December 2025-2027: Production of quarterly newsletters.

Sub-activity 5.2 Maintaining a Community of Practice (CoP) (WR)

Introduction:

The Community of Practice (CoP) is a password protected platform, separate from the EURCAW-Pigs' website. It creates a 'safe' environment for official inspectors and policy workers of Competent Authorities in EU Member States to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience. The piloting of the CoP has helped to identify ways to improve, cultivate and sustain it. Through the CoP, personal contacts can be established among the target group, and with the centre.

Objectives:

The Community of Practice will be expanded and maintained. Success, achievements, possible obstacles and difficulties are evaluated.

Achievements so far:

The ICT infrastructure and website tool for the CoP is ready and first contacts are established as part of the piloting which continued in 2024. Next step is to send out a registration procedure to CA national contact points of Member States that did not assign community members yet. The CoP activities so far are aligned with those of EURCAW Ruminants & Equines, and we will have continued consultation with their dissemination team. Success, achievements, possible obstacles and difficulties will be exchanged. EURCAW-Poultry-SFA observes the EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines CoPs, and will decide in their WP 2025-2027 whether they also will start a CoP.

Description:

The community building activities in the CoP will stimulate participants to meet and visit each other, exchange and share experiences and information. Elements are:

- **Contact details** of participating inspectors and CA and policy officials, and their expertise and main projects and focus. A CoP should be kept rather 'small' to be an effective and safe community. Therefore, number of participants per MS is bound to a maximum of 2. EURCAW-pigs members are facilitators of the CoP and engaged as experts in the discussions.
- For each of the main welfare topics the Centre is dealing with, a **discussion forum** is available. The topics are aligned with the topics of the web dossiers on EURCAW-Pigs' website. Participants can start discussions, pose questions, exchange experiences and relevant documents etc.
- If an issue is identified as important, the community could also pose a subsequent question to EURCAW. This could be a tool to **feed the Centre's activity on 'Questions to EURCAW'** (activity 1. Coordinated assistance)

- To structure discussions and stimulate activity, **themed discussions** will be started quarterly. These are related to the planning of specific output of the Centre (e.g. as part of activities 2. Welfare indicators, and 3. Science or 4. Training). We also plan to connect these themed discussions with the podcasts of communication sub-activity 5.3 Innovative Ways to Communicate.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D5.4 October 2025: Anonymised report on the success, achievements, possible obstacles and difficulties of the Community of Practice.

In 2026

D5.5 October 2026: Anonymised report on the success, achievements, possible obstacles and difficulties of the Community of Practice.

Sub-activity 5.3 Innovative Ways to Communicate (WR)

Introduction:

This sub-activity is designed to produce specific dissemination tools to promote the knowledge produced by the Centre and make it more easily accessible to and find new ways to engage with the target audience. The innovations include focus on the spoken word, and for practice-ready documents (e.g. factsheets, Q2Es) focus on use of infographics and automated translations in national languages.

Objectives:

- Podcasts, as audio files, are produced as inspiration and information for inspectors. Inspectors and experts will be guest on EURCAW-Pigs' podcast series Pig Welfare in action.

For practice-ready documents (in cooperation with the other EURCAWs):

- Creating outputs in different languages by use of automated translation tools.
- Publishing multilingual audio versions by use of a text to speech app.

Achievements so far:

The podcast series Pig Welfare in Action from EURCAW-Pigs was launched in Spring 2024. In July 2024, four episodes were online, together with a trailer. The initiative emerged from contacts with inspectors in the field who described how they would spend many hours travelling to farms for inspections. They also expressed a keen interest in both topics of welfare as well as the experiences of other inspectors. Therefore, both inspectors and experts are being guest on the podcast. Inspectors tell their personal stories during inspections of pig welfare. Experts give insight and knowledge on specific pig welfare topics. The episodes are being hosted by [Spotify for Podcasters](#).

The use of practice-ready documents (e.g. factsheets) by the target group varies a lot between MS. There is room for improvement, especially a desire to make them more accessible and practical. This is also often discussed in the joint meetings of the EURCAWs and in the communication team.

Therefore, the EURCAWs plan is to make this a common activity and to introduce innovations.

Description:

This sub-activity will consist of a) the further development of podcasts in EURCAW-Pigs' podcast series Pig Welfare in Action, and b) increase the practicality and accessibility of practice-ready documents.

a) Podcasts

Podcasts will be produced to help reaching inspectors:

- Twice a year, inspectors will be guest on the podcast **Pig Welfare in Action** to tell about their experiences in the field. This is aligned with the contacts and specifics outputs in the CoP (sub-activity 5.2). These specific podcasts will replace the written inspector stories. **Inspector@work** will therefore be continued as podcast.
- Twice a year, experts will be guest and will be interviewed on **specific topics and knowledge**. The topics are aligned with the planning of specific output of the Centre. Also, they may also be a follow-up of discussions and suggestions in the CoP.

b) Practice-ready documents:

New communication and dissemination formats are applied to increase practicality and accessibility. This is a common activity in cooperation with the other EURCAWs:

- Text is kept to a minimum and is supported by photos and QR codes linked with videos.
- Creating outputs in different languages by use of **automated translation tools**. DeepL and other translation tools will be used. These tools can more reliably be used when the amount of text is reduced.
- Publishing **multilingual audio versions** by use of a text to speech app, e.g. Speechify. Improving accessibility to practice-ready documents for official inspectors will be piloted by creating downloadable audio versions in multiple languages. This activity will be led by EURCAW Ruminants & Equines.

Expected output and timing:

D5.6 December 2025-2027: Production of half-yearly Inspector@work podcasts

D5.7 December 2025-2027: Production of half-yearly Knowledge podcasts

Sub-activity 5.4 Novel support tool for welfare inspection purposes (WR)

Introduction:

CAs and official inspectors ask for easily accessible and reliable indicators to verify compliance with the requirements of the European pig welfare legislation. Indicators are selected in sub-activity 2.1 Relevant welfare indicators to verify compliance with legislation. In sub-activity 5.4 they are further developed and elaborated into support tools for welfare inspection.

Objectives:

- Development of a fully 'smart phone' accessible set of reference materials per relevant welfare indicator.

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.

These factsheets were translated into 7 languages: German, Spanish, French, Dutch, Polish, Romanian and Danish. Legal requirements are not listed anymore, as inspectors always refer to the original texts and official documentation, and because more strict national legislation may be in place in some EU Member States. The factsheets will therefore focus on science & technology.

Description:

We are constantly evaluating the effectiveness of our output, and recent discussions with inspectors regarding the indicator factsheets format and content lead us to maintain the current factsheet series (translated ones without legislation), and at the same time that the content will gradually be transferred to a novel 'welfare inspection support tool', which can be accessed via a smartphone:

- In 2025 we will investigate the inspectors' needs for format and content of the new tool. And also which indicators should be covered per welfare topic. This will be done by interviewing 10-15 team leaders from different MS, supported also by the CoP.
- In 2026-2027, for six prioritized topics and indicators, sets of visual materials will be collected: photos and videos. This will be done by a professional photographer/designer.
- In 2026, the novel welfare inspection tool will be developed and piloted in 2027 with three indicator sets, covering husbandry, transport and slaughter. First ideas are an app or another web-based application.

Expected output and timing:

In 2025

D5.8 December: Short report on the inspectors' needs for format and content of a novel welfare inspection tool.

In 2026

D5.9 December: Sets of visual materials ready for three prioritized welfare topics.

D5.10 December: Novel welfare inspection tool ready for piloting.

In 2027

D5.11 December: Sets of visual materials ready for three prioritized welfare topics.

D5.12 December: Novel welfare inspection tool piloted and short evaluation report in place

Deliverables WP5 (for inclusion in the SYGMA system)

D5.1 This deliverable includes all outputs of WP5 listed in the Work Programme 2025-2027.

REMARKS

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