SPECIFICATIONS ATTACHED TO THE INVITATION TO TENDER

Call for tender SANCO/2014/G3/026 concerning a study:
"Pig castration: methods of anaesthesia and analgesia for all pigs and other alternatives for pigs used in traditional products"

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1. **Title of contract**
   
   Study on methods of anaesthesia and analgesia for the castration of all pigs and on alternative methods to the castration of pigs used in traditional products

2. **Purpose and context of contract**

   2.1. **Introduction**

   Boar taint is an offensive odour that may occur when meat from non-castrated male pigs is cooked. Only a small percentage of pigs, when they are sexually mature, accumulate high concentrations of substances responsible for the odour. While few consumers are sensitive to boar taint, they will reject the pig meat as inedible. According to a provision of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 on official controls meat with a pronounced sexual odour is considered unfit for human consumption.

   The most common way to prevent boar taint in pig meat is surgical castration of young piglets without anaesthesia. Male pigs are routinely castrated in their early days if they are expected to be slaughtered after six months of age or at a live weight of 80 kg or more. In particular pigs produced for traditional products like Iberian dry-cured ham or Parma ham are slaughtered with a weight around 140-160 kg. The Hungarian pork chain (Mangary Ltd.) prefers pigs with a slaughter weight of 170-180 kg.

   Castration is therefore practiced to respond to consumer demand since taste and odour is an important aspect that consumers take into account when they buy meat. It implies additional handling and potential losses for pig producers.

   Surgical castration of pigs is an animal welfare concern even when performed on very young piglets. Different alternatives to surgical castration are already being applied such as rearing entire male pigs, slaughter at a slaughter weight of 80 kg or using vaccination.

   The risks of boar taint increases with the age or the live weight. Slaughtering entire pigs during the 100- to 130-kg growth period increase the risk of producing pig meat with intensive boar taint.

   Also the cleanliness of the holding, and breeding and feeding have influence of the boar taint components. Other alternatives could be the use of female pigs for meat production or the sex-preselection by sperm-sorting (sperm-sexing).

   Following a workshop, DG SANTE invited in 2010 a pilot group for the elaboration of an EU work plan with representatives from pig producers, meat industry, retailers, animal welfare organisations, consumers, scientists and policy makers to assist in planning towards a European partnership on pig castration.

   In the "European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs" of December 2010, major actors of the sector committed on a voluntary basis to stop routine surgical castration of pigs by 1 January 2018. The declaration proposes different options to phase out surgical castration. However, according to the declaration, surgical castration is

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1 Paragraph 1 (p) of Chapter V of Section II of Annex I.
2 OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206
3 European pork chains, Wageningen Academic Publishers 2009
4 Consumer acceptance in the European Union and in third countries of pig meat obtained from male pigs not surgically castrated, Campig project, Wageningen 2014 (not yet published)
5 [http://www.improvac.com](http://www.improvac.com)
6 Raising intact male pigs for meat: Detecting and preventing boar taint. Swine Health Production, 1997; 5(4): 151-158
7 Study on how to achieve reduction of boar taint compounds by breeding, feeding and management techniques (IRTA 2015, not yet published)
8 The separation of mammalian sperm into those bearing an X chromosome and those bearing a Y chromosome, in order to be able to produce, via artificial insemination, animals of a specified sex.
unavoidable in traditional production requiring heavy pigs (pigs with a weight up to 115 kg): "...in the case of pig meat registered under "traditional specialties guaranteed" or with "geographical indications" (Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) or Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)) and pig meat produced for traditional high quality products to be listed in accordance with point 6, castration is unavoidable to meet the current quality standards...".

To address the challenges of the declaration the Commission adopted a work programme to support technical, scientific and educational measures to identify and introduce alternatives to surgical castration of pigs (2011/C 243/0610) in 2011. This work programme included studies on (1) consumer acceptance of meat obtained from male pigs non-surgically castrated, (2) detection methods on boar taint and (3) alternatives methods to pig castration like feeding, breeding and management.

The Commission supports the work of the signatories of the declaration by facilitating expert group meetings to promote exchange of information, to establish networking and to coordinating research on the alternatives to surgical castration. The meetings of the Expert Group on alternatives to pig castration, undertaken within the framework of the European Declaration, encouraged discussions which allowed the development of joint working methods and most importantly engendered mutual trust.

Five international studies11 were presented in an international workshop on alternatives to pig castration in February 201512. The results generated high interest of all involved stakeholders. Also the Expert Group has published the first annual report informing international stakeholders on the progress made. A roadmap 2015 – 2018 will be drafted by the Expert Group on further actions that have to been taken to phase out surgical castration.

The complete phasing out of surgical castration of pigs in 2018 seems to face more difficulties than expected and due to these limitations. It is necessary to explore ways to provide anaesthesia and analgesia to the pigs when surgical castration is practiced.

In addition, the declaration did not address the question of the production of heavy pigs which constitutes an important area of production in some Member States.

Both issues have not been previously investigated at EU level and are the subject of this contract.

2.2. Main objectives of the study

Several Member States have already committed to the long term phasing out of surgical castration of pigs. Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs13 provides that only veterinarians or trained persons may castrate pigs and that when the pigs are seven days or older an anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia is to be used. During the first 7 live-days of male piglets surgical castration is generally carried out without anaesthesia and this raises concerns about the welfare of the pigs
animals. Scientist of the EFSA reported in 2004\textsuperscript{14} that surgical procedure inflicts pain and discomfort, even in very young pigs. For this reason castration should be better performed with anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia. However, with present day scientific knowledge it may not be possible to conclusively rank methods using anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia with respect to pain reduction.

Therefore the first part of the study should identify available methods for the use of anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia to reduce pain at the time of castration and/or in the period of restitution\textsuperscript{15}.

Surgical castration may be unavoidable to meet the current quality standards in traditional productions requiring heavy pigs. For this reason the second part of the study should explore alternatives to surgical castration for pigs used in traditional products, analyse and compare the identified alternatives with particular emphasis on costs and benefits.

Both parts of the study should include:

a) whether and how the methods are embedded in national quality assurance systems

b) meat quality parameters such as pH, intramuscular fat content, especially back fat thickness, content of fatty acid, and aw-value,

c) animal welfare criteria comparing castration and alternative methods.

2.3. Previous studies

Several European research and technical institutes and universities have been working on alternatives to the surgical castration, boar taint detection and consumers' acceptance of pig meat obtained from entire male pigs at national level and there are already a comprehensive number of publications. At European level, the EU funded research project PIGCAS\textsuperscript{16} and four DG SANTE studies\textsuperscript{17}.

The study "on the improved methods for animal-friendly production, in particular on alternatives to the castration of pigs" (ALCASDE)\textsuperscript{18} has already delivered some results on the issue in 2009 on alternatives to surgical castration and consumer's acceptance of meat obtained from non-castrated male pigs. Alternatives to surgical castration through management breed-specific mechanism were studied. The results showed that enrichment and housing condition can improve animal welfare by reducing aggressiveness of the male pigs. Also the project identified breed-specific mechanisms controlling skatole and androstenone\textsuperscript{19} accumulation.

The study "on how to achieve reduction of boar taint compounds by breeding, feeding and management techniques" (IRTA, 2015)\textsuperscript{20} described also some alternatives like management, feeding and breeding that can reduce skatole content of the fat of entire male slaughter pigs:

\textsuperscript{14} EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW); Scientific Opinion on a request from the Commission related to welfare aspects of the castration of piglets. EFSA Journal 2004; 91[1-18 pp].
\textsuperscript{15} Effect of local anesthesia and/or analgesia on pain responses induced by piglet castration, Acta Vet Scand. 2011; 53(1): p. 34 f.
\textsuperscript{16} http://w3.rennes.inra.fr/pigcas/index.htm
\textsuperscript{17} Study on how to achieve reduction of boar taint compounds by breeding, feeding and management techniques (IRTA 2015, not yet published), Study and economic analysis of costs and benefits of ending surgical castration, (CIVIC Consulting 2013, not yet published), Study on rapid methods for boar taint used or being developed at slaughter plants in the European Union (NOFIMA 2014, not yet published) and Study on the development of reference methods for the detection and the measurement of the main compounds responsible for boar taint (JRC 2014, not yet published).
\textsuperscript{18} http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/alcasde_study_04122009_en.pdf
\textsuperscript{19} Indole, skatole and androstenone are substances that negatively affect the boar taint
\textsuperscript{20} Study on how to achieve reduction of boar taint compounds by breeding, feeding and management techniques (IRTA 2015, not yet published)
• by decreasing the air levels of ammonia, methane and CO₂,
• by supplementing the pork feed with inulin and
• by using progeny from parent animals with low genetic potential for boar taint.

The "study and economic analysis of costs and benefits of ending surgical castration" (CIVIC, 2013)21 compared the production of pig meat from surgically castrated male pigs (regarding the use of analgesia and/or anaesthesia), from entire pigs and from vaccinated pigs taking account their final weight at slaughter to the consumption of pig meat. The study exposed that the range of net benefits is the highest for raising entire male pigs compared to all other options analysed, including the surgical castration of male pigs without analgesia or anaesthesia (the most commonly used practice).

3. **Subject of contract**

The purpose of the contract is twofold:

**Part 1:** Identify, specify and evaluate recognised methods for the anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia at the time of castration and during the period of restitution in Europe including Norway.

**Part 2:** Evaluate and review the alternatives to surgical castration for heavy pigs used in traditional products. Compare and evaluate quality parameters of ham production with the founded alternatives methods.

3.1. **Task related to Part 1: Methods for anaesthesia and/or analgesia**

**Task 1 – Planning and methodology**

The contractor will present the detailed planning of the study, including methodology, data sources and contacts to be used for the completion of Part 1 (see section 5).

**Task 2 – Collecting information and establishing a list of methods**

a. to gather, assess and report existing methods for the use of anaesthesia at the time of castration in at least 12 Member States22 and Norway considering the age of the piglets and actual use;

b. to gather, assess and report existing methods for the use of analgesics for pigs which can be used to reduce pain during and after castration in a maximum number of different Member States and Norway considering the age of the piglets and actual use;

c. to analyse and compare the different methods for the use of anaesthesia and/or analgesics regarding special aspects:
   − secondary effect on the environment and human health,
   − indicators for efficiency to reduce pain during the castration also in the period of restitution,
   − practical and effective applicability of anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia by herdsmen or veterinarian,
   − economic costs/benefits of castration under the use of anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia.

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21 Study and economic analysis of costs and benefits of ending surgical castration, (CIVIC Consulting 2013, not yet published)
22 The Members States should differ in size and population and the collected data should be geographically balanced
d. to evaluate the methods/results of the scientific research and to establish a list of methods recognized or to be recognized (pros and cons) based on criteria like animal welfare advantage/disadvantages, practical applicability, actual use in the Member States/Norway and economic costs/benefits;

e. to study the effect surgical castration using anaesthesia and/or analgesia has on the meat quality parameters for non-traditional products (like pH, aw-value, saturates fatty acid, intramuscular fat content regarding the back fat).

The assessment will take into account any relevant work through EU-policies including EFSA projects: in particular, the contractor shall ensure coordination with EFSA notably for the gathering and collation of existing data. The data collecting method or survey tool can involve scientist, stakeholders, veterinarians and herdsmen to capture their views/knowledge by the methods. This task should be performed by surveys/focus groups/interviews in each of the (at least) 12 countries covered by the contract. When justified, the interviews could be carried out to gather additional information on castration methods or use of antibiotics and/or make an in depth assessment of the situation.

Data should be collected from at least 12 Member States and Norway, and they should amount at least three per EU region (e.g. North, South, West and East of the EU), representing both high and low number of pig meat production.

3.2. Task related to Part 2: Alternatives to surgical castration for heavy pigs used in traditional products

Task 1 – Planning and methodology

The contractor will present the detailed planning of the study, including methodology, data sources and contacts to be used for the completion of Part 2 (see section 5).

Task 2 – Collecting information, presenting the current situation and establishing a list of alternatives to pig castration

The contractor will describe and evaluate the general situation of the production of traditional products with meat of castrated or not castrated pigs. Therefore the contractor will

a. gather, assess and report existing available alternatives to surgical castration for pigs that could be used in traditional products;

b. evaluate the alternatives to castration for heavy pigs compared to the use of anaesthesia and/or prolonged analgesia (part 1) as regards:
   - their practical and effective applicability for heavy pigs;
   - their advantages and disadvantages following a qualitative and quantitative analysis compared to castration;
   - their economic costs and benefits;
   - the meat quality parameters for traditional products especially for the ham producing process (like carcass weight, pH, aw-value, saturates fatty acid, intramuscular fat content regarding also the back fat)

23 Traditional products are described in the European Declaration: "traditional specialties guaranteed" or with "geographical indications" (Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) or Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)) and pig meat produced for traditional high quality products (= meat from heavy pigs with an average live weight at slaughter > 115kg)
− establish a list of pros and cons on the alternatives methods in comparison to traditional methods (surgical castrated pigs with or without anaesthesia and /or analgesia). This part should also include the advantage/disadvantages of animal welfare and the actual use in the evaluated Member States/Norway.

Investigations should be carry out in at least 12 Member States and Norway, at least three per EU region (Germany, Italy, Spain, France and Hungarian must be evaluated), representing both high and low number of pig meat production.

### 3.3. Timeframe

The duration of the contract is **nine** months. The timing for meetings, deliverables and reports is defined in section 11.

### 4. Participation in the tendering procedure

Participation in tendering procedures is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties and to all natural and legal persons in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.

Subcontracting is allowed. However, the contracting authority reserves the right to validate the proposed subcontractor(s) and is entitled to demand that the selection and exclusion criteria be applied not just to the tenderer but also to any subcontractors proposed (whether in the tender or during performance of the contract).

### 5. Documentation for tenderers

The following organisations and publication may be consulted for the purpose of the present contract (indicative list):

- Veterinarian universities in Europe and Switzerland
- Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)
- COPA-COCEGA [www.copa-cocega.eu](http://www.copa-cocega.eu)
- Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union (CLITRAVI) [www.clitravi.eu](http://www.clitravi.eu)
- European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) [http://www.uecbv.eu](http://www.uecbv.eu)
- Eurogroup for Animals [www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org)
- Signatories of the European Declaration (see annex)
- EFSA, animal welfare and plant health unit [www.efsa.europa.eu](http://www.efsa.europa.eu)

### 6. Visits to premises or briefing

Not applicable.

### 7. Variants

Not applicable.

### 8. Volume of contract

Price band from EUR 80.000 (eighty thousand Euros) up to a maximum of EUR 100.000 (one hundred thousand Euros).
The duration of the contract is **9 months**; the tasks covered by the contract shall be completed within **9 months** after the signature of the contract by the last contracting party.

9. **Price**

- Prices must be quoted in Euro using, if necessary, the conversion rates published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union on the day when the contract notice was published (if no notice was published, on the day when the invitation to tender was sent out).
- Prices must be fixed amounts in Euro.
- Estimated travel and subsistence expenses must be indicated separately.

This estimate should be based on Article I.3.2 of the contract annexed to these specifications and include any travel required to meet representatives of DG Health and Food Safety. In any event, it should represent the maximum amount of travel and subsistence expenses payable for all the services provided.

- Prices should be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union; the amount of VAT should be shown separately.
- Prices are firm and not subject to revision.

10. **Terms of payment**

See attached draft contract and point 11.

11. **Reports and documents to be submitted**

The work carried out by the Contractor under the contract will be the subject of the following reports, which must be sent to the Commission by the Contractor (see table 1). All communication with the Commission and the contractor responsible for the coordination, including the drafting of the reports, shall be in English.

11.1. **Format of the reports**

All reports shall be submitted in electronic format by e-mail. Each report shall include a summary and be accompanied with the power point presentation performed at the Commission's offices. Reports and power point presentations will be provided in English under the electronic format compatible with the Commission's software.

Reports will be submitted to a Commission's steering group, which may ask for complementary information or propose adjustments in order to redirect the work if necessary. Reports must be accepted by the Commission. With work progressing and in the light of new findings, revisions of deliverables already approved may be necessary.

After receiving the following reports, the Commission will then either inform the Contractor that it approves the report or will send comments.

Within 20 days of receiving any such comments, the Contractor will send the Commission his consolidated proposal, which will either take account of the comments or put forward alternative proposals.

In the absence of any comments from the Commission within 20 days of its receiving the draft work plan, the Contractor may request written acceptance of it.
The reports or documents will describe the work carried out and the results obtained during each period or phase, the duration of which is specified below, and give detailed information in particular on:

- the work performed and the results obtained related to the actions described in the contract,
- the work programme planned for the following period.

Reports shall be drafted in a concise and easily understandable language. The presentation of the texts, tables and graphs has to be clear and complete and correspond to commonly recognised standards for studies to be published.

Any document/data collected or created in an electronic format in the context of this specific contract will be the property of the Commission and will be delivered at the end of the contract to the Commission by e-mail. The contractor will keep records and proof of all contacts and will produce them in a timely manner if they are requested. These records shall be appropriately archived to enable the verification of data if the need arises.

- **Updated work plan - Deliverable 1** (only under electronic format (pdf and doc))

  The contractor must send the Commission a final version of his work plan for the working period no later than four weeks after signature of the contract, as certain elements may require modification since the bid was drafted. This plan must be approved by the Commission before being implemented.

- **Inception report – Deliverable 2** (only under electronic format (pdf and doc))

  This should summarise the discussion from the kick-off meeting and identify the tasks of the study. Also a presentation of the methodology of the survey/questionnaire and data collection methods has to be provided (Task 1 of part 1 and 2).

- **Interim reports or documents – Deliverables 3 and 4**: (only under electronic format (pdf and doc))

  The interim report or documents regarding Part 1 (Task 2) must be sent to the Commission no later than three months after signature of the contract. The interim report or documents regarding Part 2 (Task 2) must be sent to the Commission no later than fifth month after signature of the contract.

- **Final report – Deliverable 5**: electronic format (pdf and doc) as well as, after approval two paper copies.

  The final report will describe all the work carried out and the results obtained under the contract (presenting in full the results of the analyses, no more than 50 pages). It will also contain an executive summary of the main results of Part 1 and Part 2 obtained and technical annexes.

  The final draft report must be submitted to the Commission no later than nine months after signature of the contract. The Commission will then either inform the Contractor that it approves the draft or will send its comments.

  The final report should be drafted to a high standard and checked by a native speaker. While drafting the final report the contractor should bear in mind that Commission publications usually gain high visibility and interest, and thus the study results can be
viewed critically or questioned. The Commission with the help of the final report and primary data should be able to provide information necessary to answer possible questions. In addition the Contactor is requested to produce a two pages sheet with key messages identified in the study that are suitable for a wider dissemination and could serve as a basis for further communication materials.

The contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or corrections, a new final report or other documents if it is required by the contracting authority.

The executive summary of the final report should be suitable for understanding by a non-specialised reader (synthesis of main analyses and conclusions, no more than three pages). This should contain the main findings described in straightforward language, explaining all technical terms.

The contractor is required to have a phone call of approximately 30 minutes every two weeks with DG SANTE to update on the progresses of the study; these phone-calls are to be arranged every time based on the availabilities of both parties.

The ownership of all the results or rights thereon as listed in the tender specifications and the tender attached to the contract, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, and all technological solutions and information embodied therein, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be fully and irrevocably acquired by the European Union (Art. I.8.5 of the special conditions for service contracts, which may use them as described in Art. II.10 of the general conditions for service contracts). Grant of rights forms (copyright), authorisation for the taking of photographs etc. are to be collected by the contractor and provided to DG Health and Food safety.

### Table 1 – Timeframe, activity and terms of payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Payment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updated Work Plan</td>
<td>Month 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>D1 Kick-off meeting with DG SANTE in Brussels Final version of work plan</td>
<td>Month 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D2 Inception report</td>
<td>Month 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>D3 Interim report of Part 1, Task 2</td>
<td>Month 3</td>
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<td>D4 Interim report of Part 2, Task 2 Meeting with DG SANTE in Brussels</td>
<td>Month 5 60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D 5 Final report Final steering group meeting</td>
<td>Month 9 40%</td>
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</table>

### 11.2. Meetings with the Commission

Whereas most of the coordination of the activities will be possible via audio or videoconferences, the contractor will be required to attend face to face meetings in Brussels with Commission officials throughout the process. The travel cost should be included in the global quote by the tenderer.

The number of meetings within the duration of the contract is three, including:

- A kick-off meeting within the first ten days after signature of the contract in order to discuss the general approach, planning, and content of the draft inception report
- A meeting to present the draft Interim report of Part 1 and 2.
- A meeting to present the draft Final report.
In general, the meetings will include presentations and explanations by the contractor of the progress of the work and the proposed ways to deliver the tasks relevant to the deliverables. The contractor will be asked to draft detailed minutes for each of these meetings. All meetings between the contractor and the Commission shall take place in Brussels. Generally, the meetings will take place in the premises of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety. All costs relating to the preparation of and participation in these meetings by the contractor must be taken into account when preparing the tender, and should be included in the costs supported by the contractor and included in the final financial offer.

12. Contractual terms and guarantees

In drawing up his bid, the tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the standard contract attached to this invitation to tender (Annex VI).

Submission of a tender implies acceptance of all the terms specified in the present specifications and in particular in the attached standard contract including the general conditions applicable to contracts (Annex VI).

All documents presented by the tenderer become the property of the European Commission and are deemed confidential.

The Commission will not reimburse expenses incurred in preparing and submitting offers.

13. Requirement as to the tender

The tender must include:

(a) an **administrative part** including all the information and documents required by the contracting authority for the appraisal of tenders on the basis of the exclusion and selection criteria set out under paragraphs 14 and 15 respectively of these specifications;

(b) a **technical part** including all the information and documents required by the contracting authority for the appraisal of tenders on the basis of the award criteria set out under paragraph 16 of these specifications;

(c) a **financial part** setting out prices in accordance with paragraph 17 of these specifications.

(d) **electronic files** of all documents; organised in the same way as the tender documents (administrative, technical and financial part) and stored on a commonly used IT support such as a compact disc or memory stick.
ADMINISTRATIVE PART

14. Exclusion criteria

14.1. Candidates or tenderers shall be excluded from participation in a procurement procedure if:

a. they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

b. they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;

c. they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;

d. they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

e. they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;

f. they are currently subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply this information, or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts covered by the Union's budget.

g. Points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph shall not apply in the case of purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms from either a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, through an arrangement with creditors, or through a similar procedure under national law.

14.2. Evidence

a. The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is not in one of the situations described in point (a), (b) or (e) of paragraph 14.1, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. Where the tenderer is a legal person and the national legislation of the country in which the tenderer is established does not allow the provision of such documents for legal persons, the documents should be provided for natural persons, such as the company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision making or control in relation to the tenderer.

b. The contracting authority shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer is not in the situation described in point (d) of paragraph 14.1, recent
certificates or letters issued by the competent authorities of the State concerned. These documents must provide evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions for which the tenderer is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions.

c. For any of the situations (a), (b), (d) or (e), where any document described in two paragraphs above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

d. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraph 14.2 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.

14.3. Contracts may not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

a. are subject to a conflict of interest;

b. are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information;

c. find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in paragraph 14.1, for this procurement procedure.

d. Candidates or tenderers must certify that they are not in the situation in point (a) by completing and signing the form in Annex IV, “Certification with respect to the Exclusion Criteria”.

15. Selection criteria

15.1. Evidence of access to contracts (proof of eligibility)

The tenderer indicates in which State it has its headquarters or domicile and presents the supporting evidence normally acceptable under its own law (see annex I).

Moreover, the tenderers are requested to:

- indicate their VAT number (see annex I);
- indicate the name and position of the person authorised to sign the contract (see annex I);
- indicate their account number and bank address (R.I.B. or standard form in annex II);
- for natural persons, the standard form in annex III must also be completed and returned.

15.2. Economic and financial capacity

1. Proof of economic and financial capacity may be furnished by one or more of the following documents:

a) appropriate statements from banks or evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance;

b) the presentation of balance sheets (or extracts from balance sheets) and profit and loss accounts for at least the last two years for which accounts have been closed, where publication of the balance sheet is required under the company law of the
country in which the economic operator is established (Mandatory for contracts with a value of 130,000 EUR or more);

c) a statement of overall turnover and turnover concerning the works, supplies or services covered by the contract during the last three financial years.

2. For contracts with a value of 130,000 EUR or more, tenderers (and in case of a consortium, the consortium leader and the consortium members) are also requested to fill in the 'simplified balance sheet' and the 'simplified profit and loss accounts' enclosed in the 'Simplified Presentation' form in Annex VII for the last year for which accounts have been closed. Alternatively, the tenderers may fill in only the fields marked in bold and the ones marked in italics. All amounts must be expressed in Euro using the conversion rate as per section 9 (Price) of these tender specifications.

3. On the basis of the data from the 'Simplified Presentation' form in Annex VII, a number of values and ratios will be calculated in order to evaluate the economic and financial capacity of the tenderers.

4. The following values will be calculated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Formula/source</th>
<th>Unfavourable if:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>own funds</td>
<td>from the balance sheet</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>working capital</td>
<td>permanent capital - fixed assets</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gross operating surplus</td>
<td>from the P&amp;L accounts</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net result</td>
<td>from the P&amp;L accounts</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>self-financing capacity (SFC)</td>
<td>net result after tax + amortization – capitalized production</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Following ratios are calculated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratio</th>
<th>Formula</th>
<th>Unfavourable if</th>
<th>Average if</th>
<th>Favourable if</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>general liquidity</td>
<td>current assets/short-term debts</td>
<td>below 1</td>
<td>between 1 and 1.25</td>
<td>Above 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>financial independence</td>
<td>own funds/total liabilities</td>
<td>below 0.20</td>
<td>between 0.20 and 0.40</td>
<td>above 0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indebtedness</td>
<td>own funds/medium &amp; long-term debts (MLT)</td>
<td>below 0.30</td>
<td>between 0.30 and 0.60</td>
<td>above 0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coverage of deposits and borrowed funds by the SFC</td>
<td>SFC / MLT debts</td>
<td>below 0.25</td>
<td>between 0.25 and 0.50</td>
<td>above 0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Each type of evaluation has a corresponding scoring (number of points) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unfavourable value/ratio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourable value</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average ratio</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourable ratio</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. In order to meet the financial capacity criterion, the tenderer must obtain a score of at least 8 points (out of a total of 16 points), which corresponds to 50% of the maximum number of points.

8. If, for some exceptional reason which the contracting authority considers justified, the tenderer or candidate is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, or if he feels that the financial viability check does not provide an accurate picture of his organisation's financial status, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the Commission considers appropriate.

15.3. Technical and professional capacity

1. Technical and professional capacity of economic operators shall be evaluated and verified in accordance with paragraph(s) 2 and on the basis of the following criteria for the person(s) responsible for each individual task or tasks foreseen by this call.

In particular, personnel described at point 3 must fulfil the following conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum years of experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator of the project</td>
<td>• Academic degree in agriculture or food science;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience in relation to pig production and/or pig meat processing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience in administration, coordinating projects and budgets at EU level of at least 100,000 euros;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader of Part 1</td>
<td>• Academic degree in veterinary medicine or in animal production;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience on the welfare of pigs with at least one scientific publication on the welfare of pigs at the time of castration;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader of Part 2</td>
<td>• Academic degree in veterinary medicine, animal production or food processing;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience in the pig production chain and in the alternatives methods to pig castration;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience in the production of traditional products;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert on communication</td>
<td>• Experience in questionnaires and surveys*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The requirement of the expert can be combined with the profile of the Leaders
All the above personnel must be able to communicate in English.

The tenderer must attach to his bid evidence of the qualifications of each of the persons he intends to assign to the project, including evidence of their language skills. This should include CV-s and summary of their project related experience on top of every CV. The tenderer must supply a table clearly identifying which of the above tasks are assigned to which team member(s) and who is the backup for each of them in case of their absence.

If applicable, the tenderer must also supply a detailed description of the networks and partners on which he intends to rely and must attach to his bid the corresponding letters of intent.

Tenderers which cannot demonstrate the minimum level of experience required will be excluded from the award phase.

2. Evidence of the technical and professional capacity of economic operators may be furnished on the basis of the following documents:

   a) the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider or contractor and/or those of the firm's managerial staff and, in particular, those of the person or persons responsible for providing the services or carrying out the works;

   b) a list of the principal services provided and supplies delivered in the past three years, with the sums, dates and recipients, public or private;

   c) a description of the measures employed to ensure the quality of supplies and services, and a description of the firm's study and research facilities;

   d) an indication of the technicians or technical bodies involved, whether or not belonging directly to the firm, especially those responsible for quality control;

   e) an indication of the proportion of the contract which the service provider may intend to subcontract.

Where the services referred to in point (b) (c) of the first subparagraph are provided to contracting authorities (incl. the Commission), evidence of performance shall be in the form of certificates issued or countersigned by the competent authority.

15.4. Tenders from consortiums of firms or groups of service providers, contractors or suppliers

Tenders from consortiums of firms or groups of service providers, contractors or suppliers must specify the role, qualifications and experience of each member or group. Proof of eligibility, Certification with respect to the Exclusion Criteria and documents on exclusion and selection criteria must be supplied by each member of the consortiums of firms or groups of service providers (or contractors or suppliers, depending on the type of contract) submitting a single tender in case a member or a subcontractor participates to at least 20% of the total budget allocation of the tender.

TECHNICAL PART
16. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer who submits the most economically advantageous bid, as assessed on the basis of the following factors:
(a) Technical evaluation criteria in their order of importance as weighted by percentage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Qualitative Award criteria</th>
<th>Weighting (max. points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Organisation of the work and project management</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Quality control measures</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Quality and relevance of the proposed methodology</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total points** 100

On **criteria 1**, "Organisation of the work and project management" tenders will be evaluated on the clarity of the role of partners, including a breakdown of tasks; of their coordination and decision process (work schedule, number of meetings, types of arrangements, etc.); of the planning and work allocations in time, of the coordination procedures between partners and of the reporting process.

On **criteria 2**, "Quality control measures" tenders will be evaluated on the specific measures put in place to guarantee adequate quality of the requested outputs and hence ensuring a high performance level.

On **criteria 3**, "Quality and relevance of the proposed methodology": tenders will be evaluated on the proposed methodology and in particular its relevance, robustness and consistency regarding the following steps: literature review, data collection, consultation of stakeholders, data analysis, risk assessment and synthesis.

The tender shall have a minimum of 50% of the points for each award criteria and overall total points of 75% to be awarded the contract.

(b) Price.

The price must be indicated in the financial offer **only**.

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer offering the best value for money. This will be determined by applying the following formula:

\[
\text{Score for tender } X = \frac{\text{cheapest price}}{\text{price of tender } X} \times \text{total quality score (out of 100) for all criteria of tender } X
\]

The contract is awarded to the tenderer achieving the highest score.

**FINANCIAL PART**

**17. Financial part**

Prices must be presented in the standard format of annex V.
Annexes:

I: Tender submission form
II: Financial identification form
III: Form for natural persons only
IV: Certification with respect to the exclusion criteria
V: Budget
VI: Contract and annexes