

# EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

## WORK PROGRAMME for

PERIOD: 2018

Version 4.0  
date 24/07/2018

### CONTACT DETAILS

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# EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

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## Guidance regarding the use of this template to present your work programme

Each activity/sub-activity must be clearly identified in order to make an unambiguous link with the financial template.

Here below are some explanations on how this template must be completed:

### Objectives:

*Explain the key objectives of the activity and how they contribute to achieve the objective laid down in the legal base under which the activity is presented.*

### Description:

*Provide details on the activity*

### Expected Output:

*Each activity shall list a precise list of deliverables with defined quality standards in order to perform evaluation based on commonly agreed criteria.*

### Duration

*Each activity and deliverables shall be defined in a precise time frame in order to perform evaluation based on commonly agreed criteria.*

The work programme will be subject an evaluation based on the reporting you will provide when the work programme is completed.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
BTSE	Better Training For Safer Food
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
WLR	Wageningen Livestock Research
AU	Arhus University
FLI	Friedrich Loeffler Institut
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health

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## INTRODUCTION

The activities of the reference centre (later called "Centre") will cover the welfare of pigs during the whole production chain from the keeping of pigs on farm, to their transport and killing (for human consumption or other purposes).

The activities are linked together according to the following chart from coordinated assistance to dissemination. The details of each sub-activity are explained in the next paragraphs.

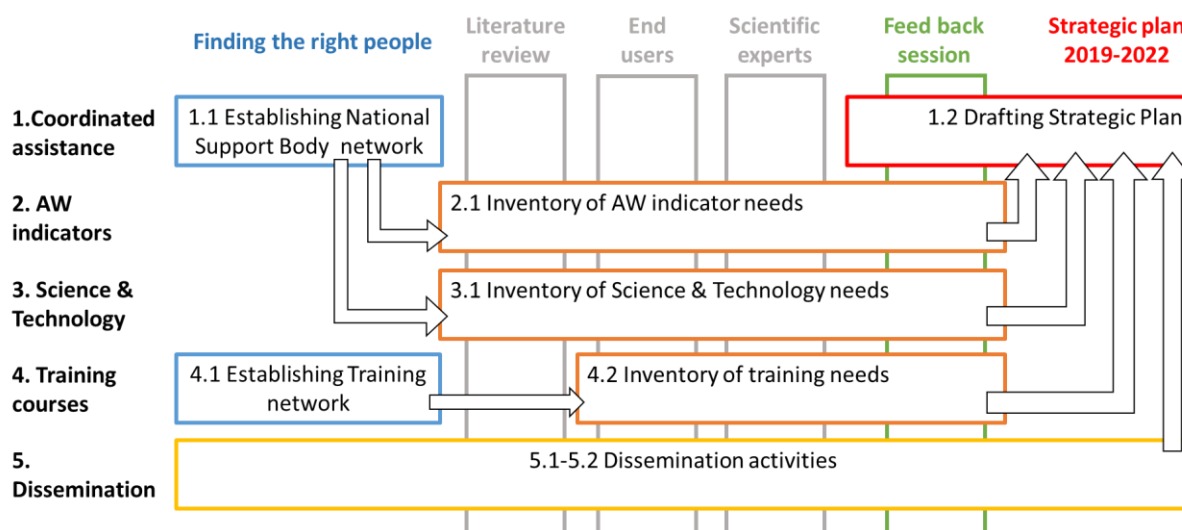


Fig. 1. Overview of the 2018 activities of the Centre. Potential members of National Support Bodies (1.1) and a Training network (4.1) will be consulted regarding the Activities 2, 3 and 4. Literature review and interviews with stakeholders and scientific experts will also be performed if needed. The results will be presented and discussed during a feed-back session with competent authority representatives. Finally, a strategic plan for 2019-2022 will be presented and discussed with the Commission. Activity 5 (Dissemination) will run in parallel to all the other activities.

## 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*

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## COORDINATED ASSISTANCE - WLR

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

Please, provide activities related to Regulation (EU) 2017/625:  
(Number of Sub-activity boxes can be adjusted by EURC)

### Sub-activity 1.1 Establishing a network of national support bodies (WLR)

#### Objectives:

- To list the support bodies of all EU members states working on the welfare of pigs (whole chain) and their contact details.
- To identify and establish a protocol of exchange of information and coordination between the Centre and national scientific and technical support bodies (later 'support bodies').

#### Description:

##### *List of support bodies*

To develop this list, advice will be sought from

- DG SANTE which has developed a network of member state representatives focussing on on-farm pig welfare (e.g. Directive 2008/120/EC).
- DG SANTE which has a list of national contact points from competent authorities in member states for the animal transport following Art 24 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport).
- EFSA, which coordinates a scientific support network on the protection of animals at the time of killing (following Art. 20 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animal at the time of killing).

##### *Protocol for interaction*

For each of these three groups, a minimum of 6 representatives will be contacted. They will be interviewed for developing a protocol to facilitate the exchange of information between support bodies of different Members States and the Centre, and the development of coordinated activities.

The protocol will include in particular means of communication (email, meetings, central or decentral contact points, digital working tools) and their possible frequencies.

A draft of the protocol will be presented at a meeting with competent authority representatives. The protocol will be finalised with the input from the delegates of this meeting.

#### Expected Output:

A list of national support bodies working on the welfare of pigs (whole chain) with contact details and a protocol of coordination in order to exchange information and coordinate activities relevant for the Centre.

#### Duration:

Date of delivery: 31 December 2018

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## Sub-activity 1.2 Drafting a strategic plan for the period 2019-2022 (WLR)

### Objectives:

Define strategic orientations and options for the activities of the centre for the period 2019-2022 for each type of activity.

### Description:

#### *Writing a draft plan*

Based on discussions with the Commission, representatives of the support bodies and based on the outcomes of the activities 2 to 5 below, the Centre will draft a strategic plan for 2019-2022.

The draft will contain clearly defined objectives and a proposal for the futures activities for the period 2019-2020:

- Development of indicators, assessment methods and improvement measures, as developed in Activity 2.
- Scientific and technical studies, as developed in Activity 3.
- Training courses, as developed in Activity 4.
- Dissemination activities, developed in Activity 5.
- Tentative calendar of activities implementation.

#### *Obtaining feed-back from competent authorities on the draft strategic plan*

The draft plan will be presented at a meeting of competent authority representatives for possible suggestions and improvements. The draft plan will also be sent to the representatives of the support and training bodies identified for possible improvements.

Complementary ways of consultation will be organised through focused semi-structured interviews (face-to-face or telephone) as well as online seminars.

#### *Finalising the strategic plan*

In consultation with the Commission, the plan will be finalised.

### Expected Output:

A strategic plan defining the key options for future activities of the centre for the period 2019-2022, with clear objectives, priorities and indicative timeframe per activity.

The plan will be based on the needs identified by other activities and contains a general analysis on the other actors' activities and how the centre will relate with them (Member States support bodies, Member States training bodies, semi-public or private training bodies, relation with third countries bodies, EFSA, BTSF, OIE collaborating centres, etc.)

### Duration:

Date of delivery: 31 December 2018

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## ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS - FLI

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

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

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

Please, provide activities related to Regulation (EU) 2017/625:  
(Number of Sub-activity boxes can be adjusted by EURC)

### **Sub-activity 2.1 Inventory of needs regarding animal welfare indicators (FLI)**

#### Objectives:

To identify indicators for the assessment of the level of welfare of animals and of methods for the improvement of the welfare of animals, in order to verify compliance with EU legislation on the keeping, transport and killing of pigs. The work will focus on practical indicators designed to be used by inspectors in the context of their official controls.

#### Description:

##### *Compilation of existing indicators*

An overview of indicators for the assessment of pig welfare will be compiled for the different phases of production (breeding, fattening, transport and slaughter). The overview will include various scientific works as well as practical indicators already used for inspections purposes, self-assessment by operators and external private audits.

It will result in a state-of-the-art overview regarding current assessment techniques.

##### *Interviews with end users of animal welfare indicators*

At least 6 official inspectors will be interviewed to investigate the main requirements regarding welfare assessment when verifying compliance with Directive 2008/120 (pig housing) and Regulations 1/2005 (on transport) and 1099/2009 (on slaughter).

Discussion points will be:

- indicators currently used during inspections
- Suitability of measures to deal with 'open norms'
- Practical problems when assessing welfare
- Need for standardisation and means to achieve it (e.g. training needs)

Interviewees will represent different EU member states and include:

- officials responsible for the controls on animal transport (Reg 1/2005)
- officials working in pig abattoirs (Reg 1099/2009)
- officials responsible for on farm assessment (Dir 2008/120), with a focus on tail biting and tail docking

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The interviews will result in an overview of current and future needs of the end users of animal based measures for verification of compliance with legislation.

## *Interviews with scientific experts*

Leading scientists involved in the development of pig welfare indicators will be interviewed to investigate future possibilities as well as research needs.

Discussion points will address in particular:

- New technologies and their future application
- Scientific and other obstacles that hinder progress
- Potential solutions and the envisaged way forward: what expertise is needed, which actors and what resources?
- How indicators could be used into practice by farmers and/ or competent authorities?
- How the collection of data at different stage of production could be better integrated and used for identifying animal welfare risks?

The interviews will result in an overview of future possibilities and research needs to further develop pig welfare indicators.

## *Prioritisation and reporting*

The ideas and specific topics will be presented at a meeting with competent authority representatives. The delegates will be asked for their feedback to improve the overview.

## Expected Output:

- A list of indicators currently used to assess pig welfare along the food supply chain (breeding, fattening, transport and slaughter)
- A list of indicators currently used by national competent authorities to verify compliance with EU legislation.
- A description of possible areas of future works for developing indicators and methods of assessment on the welfare of pigs to verify compliance with the EU legislation. This description will establish an order of priority based on explicit criteria.

The outcomes of this sub-activity will feed the strategic plan 2019-2022, as described in sub-activity 1.2.

## Duration:

Date of delivery: 31 December 2018



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## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES – FLI

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

Please, provide activities related to Regulation (EU) 2017/625:  
(Number of Sub-activity boxes can be adjusted by EURC)

### **Sub-activity 3.1 Inventory of needs regarding scientific and technical studies (FLI)**

#### Objectives:

To identify the needs for scientific and technical studies on the welfare of pigs (whole chain).

#### Description:

*Inventory of recent and ongoing research activities on the welfare of pigs at EU and national level*

The Centre will establish the areas of recent and ongoing areas of research on the welfare of pigs and based on this findings identify the possible areas of future works.

#### *Interviews with representatives of support bodies*

Representatives from at least 6 support bodies will be interviewed to investigate the main knowledge gaps to ensure compliance with Directive 2008/120 (pig housing) and Regulations 1/2005 (on transport) and 1099/2009 (on slaughter). The Centre will also establish contact with the OIE Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare to explore potential synergies and avoid overlapping in innovations and research.

#### *Interviews with leading scientific experts*

Leading animal welfare scientists will be interviewed to investigate the need for future transnational research to improve compliance with EU legislation. The main input for the discussions will be the list of technical questions from support bodies, obtained through the preceding interviews.

The interviews will address in particular:

- The latest innovations regarding pig welfare research supporting the various areas of legislation: on farm, during transport and at the abattoir.
- Technical innovations that can improve welfare monitoring on farms, during transport and at slaughter
- Corrective measures that could be developed by business operators
- Innovations to facilitate data sharing in the food supply chain, to facilitate welfare monitoring at different levels

The interviewees will represent:

- At least 6 different leading welfare research groups from different EU Member States
- Expertise on the practical application of science to support welfare legislation
- Experience in international collaboration on animal welfare research

The result is a list of ideas and specific topics requiring further scientific and technical studies on the welfare of pigs.

*Prioritisation and reporting*

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The ideas and specific topics will be presented at a meeting with competent authority representatives. The delegates will be asked to prioritise the ideas and/or topics.

## Expected Output:

- A summary of key ongoing scientific and technical works on the welfare of pigs.
- A list of the main knowledge gaps to ensure compliance with Directive 2008/120 (pig housing) and Regulations 1/2005 (on transport) and 1099/2009 (on slaughter).
- A list of topics for scientific and technical studies that can be carried out at EU level and coordinated by the Centre. The inventory will prioritize studies directly related to the practical application of the EU legislation and which provide a clear EU added value. Priorities will be established on explicit criteria.

The outcomes of this sub-activity will feed the strategic plan 2019-2022 as described in sub-activity 1.2.

## Duration:

Date of delivery: December 2018.

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## TRAINING COURSES - AU

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

Please, provide activities related to Regulation (EU) 2017/625:  
(Number of Sub-activity boxes can be adjusted by EURC)

### Sub-activity 4.1 Establishing a Training & Education Network (AU)

#### Objectives:

- To list relevant national training bodies of all EU members states working on the welfare of pigs for the whole chain, and their contact person and details.
- To identify and establish a protocol of exchange of information and coordination between the Centre and these training bodies.

#### Description:

##### *List of national training bodies*

The Centre will establish a list of relevant training bodies and the contact details of their representatives. Participant in recent BTSF courses on pig welfare will be asked to identify national training bodies active in the field of animal welfare related to on-farms, at transport and at the abattoir.

The list will be discussed and complemented following discussions with:

- The Unit F2 of DG SANTE in Grange, who have developed a network of member state representatives focussing on on-farm pig welfare (e.g. Directive 2008/120/EC).
- The Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) course coordinator, regarding their contacts at national member state levels when cascading their training and education initiatives.

##### *Protocol for interaction*

A minimum of 6 training bodies from at least 6 different countries will be selected and contacted. They will be interviewed for the purpose of developing a protocol to facilitate the exchange of information between training bodies of different Member States and the Centre, and developing/establishing coordinated activities.

The protocol will include the following elements:

- Means of communication (email, meetings, central or decentral contact points, digital working tools)
- Frequency of communication (relative to each mean)

#### Expected Output:

A list of national training bodies working on the welfare of pigs (whole chain) with contact details and a protocol of coordination in order to exchange information and coordinate activities relevant for the Centre.

#### Duration:

Date of delivery: 31 December 2018.

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## Sub-activity 4.2 Inventory of needs regarding training in Member States (AU)

### Objectives:

To identify needs for supporting the activities of national training bodies as well as of national support bodies.

### Description:

*Inventory of recent and ongoing training activities on the welfare of pigs at EU and national level*

The Centre will establish the areas of recent and ongoing areas of training on the welfare of pigs and based on these findings identify the possible areas of future works for the Centre.

### *Interview with BTSF training coordinator*

An interview will be organised to establish the main areas of technical and scientific knowledge currently addressed during the BTSF training courses that focus on pig husbandry, pig transport and pig slaughter.

### *Interviews with representatives of training bodies*

Representatives from at least 6 training bodies will be interviewed to investigate their training needs, focussing on technical issues related to Directive 2008/120 (pig housing) and Regulations 1/2005 (on transport) and 1099/2009 (on slaughter).

### *Prioritisation and reporting*

The research ideas will be presented at a meeting with competent authority representatives. The delegates are asked to prioritise the ideas.

### Expected Output:

- A summary on the ongoing training activities performed by EU (BTSF) and national training bodies on the welfare of pigs (whole chain) including the key training materials available for each EU official language. The description shall include the format used (physical support, electronic, etc.) and identify the most successful experiences depending on the countries concerned.
- A list of areas of future works for developing training activities and materials on the welfare of pigs to support EU and national training bodies. This list will establish an order of priority based on explicit criteria.

The outcomes of this sub-activity will feed the strategic plan 2019-2022, developed as part of sub-activity 1.2.

### Duration:

Date of delivery: 31 December 2018.

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## DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS - WLR

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

Please, provide activities related to Regulation (EU) 2017/625:  
(Number of Sub-activity boxes can be adjusted by EURC)

### **Sub-activity 5.1 Inventory of needs regarding dissemination (WLR)**

#### Objectives:

To identify suitable ways of disseminating findings and innovations with a focus to national support and training bodies.

#### Description:

##### *Interviews with representatives of support bodies*

Representatives from at least 6 support bodies will be interviewed to investigate the ways they proceed to disseminate their findings and, based on their experience, in which way they would like to be informed about knowledge generated by the Centre.

Explore also if similar disseminations ideas have not been already launched by the OIE Collaborating Centres on animal welfare. Five communication specialists from different Member States in order to identify the most suitable and cost efficient means of dissemination for the purpose of the targeted audience.

##### *Prioritisation and drafting of a Dissemination plan*

The dissemination ideas will be presented at a meeting with the representatives of the national support and training bodies identified. The delegates are asked to prioritise the ideas. These will then be incorporated into a Communications Plan for the centre.

The draft dissemination plan will be also submitted to a small group of at least five communication experts from different Member States.

#### Expected Output:

A dissemination plan addressing the target groups, communication techniques needed to reach them and key messages of the Reference Centre.

The outcomes of this sub-activity will feed the strategic plan 2019-2022 as described in sub-activity 1.2.

#### Duration:

Date of delivery: December 2018.

### **Sub-activity 5.2 Website and leaflet (WLR)**

#### Objectives:

Provide information on the centre' activities and make easily accessible in a user friendly way the materials produced under its aegis to different target groups.

Target groups will include the general public, the media. Specific sections will be targeted to the scientific and technical community including outside the Union. Restricted areas will be dedicated to

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members of networks established by the centre such as national support bodies, national training bodies, EU institutions (including EFSA).

## Description:

### *Website*

A website will be designed in line with the Commission's requirements regarding lay-out. For 2018 the language that will be used is English, and it will only contain introductory back ground information on the Centre.

### *Information leaflet*

A high quality leaflet (in English) will be produced that can be downloaded from the website, and handed out at events where the Reference Centre is presented / introduced.

## Expected Output:

An operational website and a hand-out leaflet with basic information on the Reference Centre.

## Duration:

Date of delivery: December 2018.

## REMARKS

(if necessary)