



# Coordinated European Animal Welfare Network (EUWelNet)

## Deliverable 1

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**Title**

Report summarizing the objectives and status of the network, its members, and its constitutional and operational rules designed to achieve good governance, independence and excellence in achieving its objectives

## 1. Introduction

In the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010<sup>1</sup> the creation of a European Centre or Laboratory for the protection and welfare of animals was suggested. The Centre was envisaged to be involved in: a) education, training, dissemination of information, b) preparation of relevant socio-economic studies and impact assessments, c) the standardisation/certification process for (animal based) welfare indicators, and d) the establishment of a European label for animal welfare by providing a harmonised European set of science-based benchmarks.

In 2009 the European Commission presented the idea of a European Network of Reference Centres for Animal Protection and Welfare (ENRC) in a report<sup>2</sup> to the Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Accompanying this was an Impact Assessment Report<sup>3</sup>, in which the European Commission explained that the creation of an additional independent body, like a Commission agency, would not find the necessary support from the Parliament, the EESC or Member States. In the report, the Commission therefore explored other options utilising existing bodies in order to minimise the administrative costs and consequently proposed a European Network of Reference Centres for Animal Protection and Welfare.

In 2009 the European Parliament<sup>4</sup> concluded that the ENRC ought to be a support tool to assist the Commission, Member States, food chain actors and citizens on various animal welfare issues, such as training and education, best practices, trustworthy information, consumer communication etc. More specifically, the network's tasks should include assessing and stating its views on future legislative and policy proposals and their impact on animal welfare, assessing animal welfare standards on the basis of the latest available knowledge, and coordinating an EU system for testing new techniques. The European Parliament considered that a European coordinated network for animal welfare should be set up under the existing Community or Member State institutions and that the network should designate one institution as the coordinating body.

The EC's communication on the European Union strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015<sup>5</sup> made it clear that the network's role should be to ensure the competent authorities receive coherent and uniform technical information on the way EU legislation should be implemented, especially in the context of outcome-based animal welfare indicators. The network's tasks were proposed to be:

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council on a Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 (COM(2006) 13)

<sup>2</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions: Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals. COM (2009) 584 final.

<sup>3</sup> Commission staff working document impact assessment report accompanying the report from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social committee and the committee of the regions: Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals.

<sup>4</sup> European Parliament on evaluation and assessment of the Animal Welfare Action Plan 2006-2010 (2009/2202(INI)). Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Rapporteur: Marit Paulsen

<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the European union strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015.

- Support the Commission and the Member States with technical expertise, especially in the context of the use of outcome-based animal welfare indicators;
- Conduct training courses for the benefit of staff from competent authorities and experts from third countries where relevant;
- Contribute as appropriate to dissemination of research findings and technical innovations among EU stakeholders and the international scientific community;
- Coordinate research in collaboration, when appropriate, with existing EU funded research structures.

In order to afford European Union (EU) citizens a high level of human, animal and plant health, and guarantee the functioning of the internal market, EU legislation provides for a set of harmonised rules to prevent, eliminate or reduce the level of health risk to humans, animals and plants, which may arise along the 'agri-food chain'. These rules govern health risks in the strict sense (risks to the integrity of humans, animals and plants from pests, diseases, microbial and chemical contaminants and other hazards) but also the preservation of inherent qualities such as animal welfare.

To ensure that this extensive set of rules is enforced by the Member States across the EU in a harmonised manner, a legislative framework for the organisation of official controls has been established through Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. Recently the Commission adopted a proposal to revise this regulation which opened the way for the EU to designate 'reference centres for animal welfare' to support the activities of the Commission and of the Member States in relation to the application of the rules laying down welfare requirements for animals.

These reference centres for animal welfare are proposed to be qualified in terms of their level of scientific and technical expertise and training of staff and have access to the necessary infrastructure and equipment. Designations shall follow a public selection process and be reviewed regularly. The proposed Regulation does not specifically describe or define a coordinative structure for the reference centres for animal welfare.

The foreseen tasks of the European Union reference centres for animal welfare as listed in the proposed revision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are very much in line with the above mentioned tasks of the network as suggested in the European Union strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 and can be summarised as:

- providing scientific and technical expertise (e.g. related to specific legislation or the development and application of animal welfare indicators);
- developing methods for the assessment and improvement of the welfare of animals used for commercial or scientific purposes;
- conducting training courses for the benefit of national scientific support staff, of staff of the competent authorities and of experts from third countries;
- disseminating research findings and technical innovations and collaborating with Union research bodies in the fields within the scope of their mission.

In March 2010, the European Commission launched a call (SANCO 2012/10293) for bids for a grant to support a pilot project to experiment the feasibility and usefulness

of a network of technical resources in order to assist the competent authorities and the stakeholders in improving the implementation of the EU legislation on animal welfare through knowledge strategies. The proposal by the EUWelNet consortium was granted and the present 6-month report is Deliverable 1 as defined in the work programme of the EUWelNet project. It summarizes the objectives and status of the EUWelNet network, its members, its way of working and constitutional and operational rules as defined at the beginning of this pilot. Of course these will be reflected upon during the course of the pilot and the contents and thrust of the final project report are likely to evolve as new information is gathered during the remaining 6 months of the project.

## **2. Objectives of the network**

The EUWelNet work programme does not address all possible roles of a future Network as indicated above but focuses on the specific objectives of the call and thus investigates (and will make recommendations) on the feasibility and usefulness of a network of technical resources designed to assist the competent authorities and the stakeholders in improving the implementation of EU legislation on animal welfare through targeted knowledge strategies. Four objectives are identified as follows:

1. Establish a consortium and coordinate the pilot study
2. Identify bottlenecks/difficulties in implementing EU legislation on animal welfare
3. Develop and test knowledge strategies
4. Overarching analysis and recommendations on feasibility and conditions for a European network

These are briefly described in Annex 1. This annex also provides a list of deliverables.

## **3. Members of the network**

Selection of partners for EUWelNet was based on established scientific expertise in relevant and complementary disciplines, geographical spread and earlier effective collaborations. The network builds on two existing knowledge networks: the Welfare Quality Network ([www.welfarequalitynetwork.net](http://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net)) and the AWARE project ([www.aware-welfare.eu](http://www.aware-welfare.eu)). The current consortium brings together 26 partners (16 Universities and 10 research and technical Institutes. See Annex 1) with a wide range of expertise (technical, scientific and educational) in a number of different disciplines (ethology, veterinary medicine, animal production, sociology...), with experience in knowledge transfer in education, (vocational) training and other forms of more informal education (including science-society dialogue) and with broad geographical spread.

All the participants in the project are currently managing nationally funded research and training projects addressing animal welfare, including related consumer, marketing, legislative and economic issues. Many also lead (or participate in) international research programmes in these fields. All are members of world-wide organisations and scientific societies dealing with consumer attitudes, animal science, animal welfare, education and market issues.

The partnership has representatives of 16 European countries (see Annex 1). EUWelNet also builds upon the substantial knowledge and stakeholder network generated by the European Animal Welfare Platform which is a stakeholder group committed to safeguarding and progressing farm animal welfare throughout the supply chain ([www.animalwelfareplatform.eu](http://www.animalwelfareplatform.eu)).

Thus, the collective partnership is well placed to address the objectives of this pilot.

#### **4. Status of the network**

This pilot study aims to establish proof of principle for a coordinated European animal welfare network.

As requested in the call the established network consists of 'institutions with recognised knowledge on animal welfare that are independent from specific private interests'. The existing relations and collaborative links between partners in the network contribute significantly to an effective and efficient consortium. The multi-disciplinary partnership interlinks multiple animal welfare expert networks and provides a particularly strong platform for all planned activities. The current EUWelNet network is firmly established with good communication (organised by an intranet webtool, e-mail exchanges, Skype meetings and face-to-face integration meetings) and collaboration between partners (all tasks involve partners from at least 3 countries but 8-15 countries is common). Progress is closely monitored (formal exchanges within the Coordination Team (see below) every 3 weeks) and activities are developing according to plan within the prescribed time schedule.

An essential complementary component to the EUWelNet knowledge network is the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board enables receipt of opinions from a wide range of relevant stakeholders, supports the consortium in gathering necessary information and feedback during the pilot study, and helps us better understand its potential role and function in a future Centre, such as it reflects the perspective of relevant stakeholders (farmers, retailers, industry groups, competent authorities, non-governmental organisations etc.). The Advisory Board also serves to inform stakeholders about the project's progress and outputs. The composition of the present broad-based Advisory Board (see Annex 2) reflects the project's emphasis on selected examples of EU animal welfare legislation and their implementation across all Member States. Although playing a very important role the members of the Advisory Board are independent and not partners in EUWelNet.

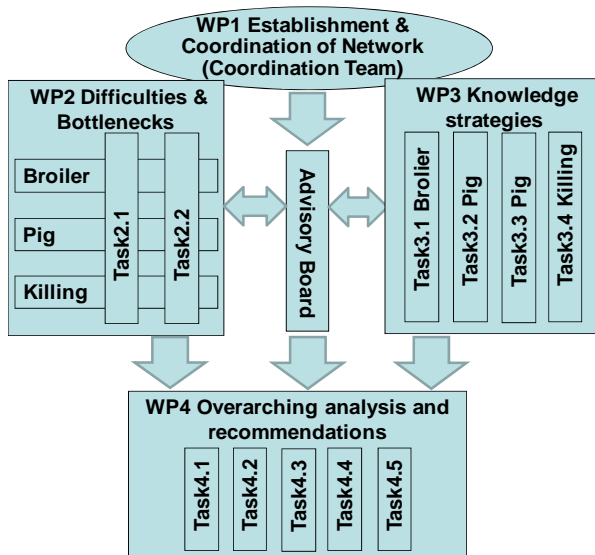
Two meetings of the advisory board were foreseen of which one was held on 7-8 March and a second meeting is scheduled for 29-30 October. The first meeting mainly focused on the working of the pilot network, the approach taken and the role of and interaction with the Advisory Board. Advisory Board members provided critical but constructive comments on proposed studies and also on how Advisory Board members could assist the project team with further information and advice. Deliverable 2 (dated 25 March 2013) summarises the discussions and conclusions of the meeting. The second meeting will focus more on outcomes and discussion of the project's draft reports on feasibility and conditions (administrative, technical, and financial) under which the Union could support a European coordinated network. This valuable information will contribute to the consortium's decision making process.

## 5. Way of working and constitutional and operational rules

### Way of working

#### Organisational structure

The way of working and the related organisation were chosen to suit the complexity of the issues and the limited lifetime of the project. The objectives are carried out mainly in parallel and complementary Work Packages (WPs), led by Work Package Coordinators. Each WP contains 2 to 5 tasks, each task is led by a task leader, with a total of 13 task leaders (see figure below).



The adoption of this sort of parallel organisation was necessary because of the short duration of the project. Thus, rather than waiting for identification of welfare problems in WP2, the knowledge strategies studied in WP3 were selected by the project partners before the project began (on the basis of existing knowledge).

The coordination Team consists of (see Annex 1 for acronyms):

- Harry Blokhuis (SLU), Project Coordinator, Chairman and coordinator of WP1, Coordinator of WelfareQualityNetwork
- Bettina Bock (WU), Coordinator WP2
- Xavier Manteca-Vilanova (UAB), Coordinator WP3
- Isabelle Veissier (INRA), Coordinator WP4
- Marek Spinka (IASP), Coordinator of AWARE

The task-leaders are:

- Task 2.1 Mara Miele (CU)
- Task 2.2 Bettina Bock (WU)
- Task 3.1 Andy Butterworth (UOB)
- Task 3.2 David Main (UOB)
- Task 3.3 Xavier Manteca (UAB)
- Task 3.4 Antonio Velarde (IRTA)
- Task 4.1 Marek Spinka (IASP)

- Task 4.2 Maria Cecilia Mancini (UNIPR)
- Task 4.3 Mara Miele (CU)
- Task 4.4 David Main (UOB)
- Task 4.5 Isabelle Veissier (INRA)

Intensive interactions between the WPs and the integrative activities of a specific WP addressing the final objective guarantee the coherence of this approach.

The general management of the project is entrusted to the Coordination Team which consists of the Coordinators of the four Work packages and the coordinator of the AWARE project. The Coordinator of EUWeINet chairs this group. The Coordination Team meets every 3 weeks (either face-to-face meeting or by Skype conferencing) to discuss progress and future planning as well as to take remedial action if necessary. More specifically, the Coordination Team monitors the progress of the project with respect to:

- Progress and integration
- Reporting and quality of output

All decisions made by the Coordination Team are based on consensus. If differences of opinion arise the issue will be put to a vote. The fact that there are five members of the Coordination Team means that a casting vote is not required. The members of the Coordination Team have complementary backgrounds in the disciplinary fields of social and animal sciences. They have extensive experience in animal welfare related areas of research and education, they have all interacted extensively with relevant stakeholders, and they are all experienced in managing national or international projects.

Each WP Coordinator is responsible for the coordination, planning, monitoring, delivery and reporting of his/her WP activities and deliverables. WP activities are grouped in Tasks that are headed by a Task Leader and these support the WP Coordinators in the above responsibilities, ensuring timely delivery of the deliverables, and providing the WP Coordinators with the required reports and progress statements.

Each partner is responsible for the timely delivery of his/her contribution within the tasks they contribute to. They also provide any information or documents regarding his/her tasks and obligations requested by the WP Coordinators or the Coordination Team.

Clearly, it is essential that the project produces clear, consistent, correct and high quality deliverables and other information. Therefore, an external expert (B. Jones) with substantial and widely recognised experience of animal welfare science and of editing in this field is sub-contracted in order to ensure the clarity, correctness, quality and coherence of material intended both for internal (minutes, letters, notices etc.) and external dissemination (reports, website etc.), and to provide advice on issues likely to affect the general quality of the project.

## *Communication*

### Internal communication

Ongoing discussion and communication between all network partners is facilitated by the use of a web-based management tool; this is operational for communication and document archiving. A start-up meeting for all partners in the first month of the project ensured they were well informed on all aspects of the project. The Coordination Team provides feedback to the partners after each Coordination Team meeting via the webtool.

In Month 6, a 2<sup>nd</sup> integration meeting was organised with all task leaders, in order to ensure a smooth flow of information and to improve consistency between tasks.

In Month 11 all partners will meet again to discuss deliverables and, by using their combined expertise, will ensure the highest quality of report.

### External communication

A dedicated project website was set up ([www.euwelnet.eu](http://www.euwelnet.eu)) to inform stakeholders and the general public about the project, its objectives, approach and outcomes. The Advisory Board also serves to disseminate information about the activities of the network and its achievements to relevant stakeholders. The communication with stakeholders represented in the Advisory Board is not limited to the two scheduled meetings. For example, in Task 3.3, the text of five fact sheets has been sent to all members of the Advisory Board and a significant number of them have already responded with comments and suggestions. The overall opinion was that the fact sheets were useful and several members of the Advisory Board (including representatives of the industry and practising veterinarians) suggested changes to make the fact sheets more practical and useful in field conditions. This sort of interaction with the Advisory Board is obviously very important to deliver output and results that are not only scientifically correct but are also relevant in practice.

Over and above the stakeholders represented in the Advisory Board, additional stakeholders are extensively consulted and involved in various of the project's activities and tasks. Firstly, for instance such consultation takes place in WP2.2 through interviews of stakeholders in six different countries. Stakeholders all along the food chain that are likely to exert significant influence on the implementation of legislation were interviewed: farmers (farmer unions), the processing industry, integrators, slaughterhouse managers, animal protection organisations etc. Not only was specific information requested but also opinions about bottlenecks, the relevance of better knowledge transfer and the potential role of a network centre. Indeed understanding their perspective on the relevance of knowledge transfer, their interest and their need to solve specific knowledge problems is an important aim of WP2.2.

Secondly, two-way interaction with farmers, veterinarians and assessors is a critical component of the WP3 tasks which aim to develop concrete knowledge strategies to overcome obstacles to the implementation of welfare legislation. For example task 3.2 (e-learning materials for environmental enrichment) has involved many stakeholders in addition to the relevant competent authority. The principle of involvement with pig producers was established early in the project when the Swedish partner invited an interested pig farm to present his experiences of tail-



biting outbreak at the first task meeting in January. Some partners have had direct contact with farmers organization in order to discuss the general approach of the e-learning tool (organisations have included Śląsko-Opolska Spółdzielnia Producentów Trzody Chlewnej, Poland; BPEX, UK and LTO, Netherlands). In order to assist with recruitment of scheme assessors we have also involved animal welfare NGOs and industry certification schemes, including in the UK (RSPCA Freedom Food, Soil Association, Product Authentication International) and Belgium (Codiplan, SGS Belgium, Quality Partner).

Due to the short duration of the project, no large communication event was planned during its lifetime.

#### Communication with the Commission

The Coordinator is responsible for communication with the Commission. Regular contact is maintained to update the Commission on progress as well as any difficulties encountered and the remedial measures taken. Dates for meetings and presentation of output are set.

#### *Selections and limitation of scope*

Due to time and budgetary constraints, the substance of the project is necessarily limited. The work focuses on specific objectives of the call rather than addressing the full width of possible tasks indicated in various documents described in the introduction. In line with the objectives of the call EUWelNet focuses on improving implementation of EU legislation on animal welfare through knowledge strategies.

The following pieces of EU legislation were chosen as examples to focus on in the present project:

- Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs ('pig directive').
- Council Directive 2007/43 of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production ('broiler directive').
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing ('killing regulation').

The rationale behind this selection reflects the consideration of various aspects related to the likely feasibility and expected impact of the overall results. Further, in order to allow the development, implementation and evaluation of specific knowledge strategies in the limited time span of the project the work purposely focuses on a few examples of obstacles that can hamper implementation of welfare legislation, with the proviso that they are clearly documented and have clear potential for improvement through the use of tailored knowledge. This selection was made during the construction of the EUWelNet proposal in which a core team consisting of 10 members of the future EUWelNet consortium was involved. The decision corresponded to a consensus between these partners.

Knowledge strategies to be designed and tested in the project were chosen as case studies of different types of knowledge strategies (e.g. workshop to exchange best practices, e-learning module, etc.). Given the restricted timeframe it was clearly not

possible to run in-depth, long-term evaluation of the knowledge strategies developed in terms of their contribution to actual and immediate improvement of implementation of EU legislation. Instead, practical indicators are being developed to not only allow preliminary assessment within the project timeframe but also, more importantly, to enable future detailed evaluation of progress.

For reasons of practicality we selected specific countries in which to focus the main activities: RO, IT, SE, SK, UK, NL, PL, ES, FR, DE. In several activities even fewer countries are involved but the selection is always made from these 10 countries. Criteria for selection include 'geographical spread', 'expertise of partners contributing to specific activities', 'countries with large numbers of a specific species', etc. Partners involved in WP2 proposed this selection which was approved by the rest of the partners who contributed to the construction of the EUWeINet proposal.

### *Constitutional and operational rules*

Expected results and general requirements for deliverables as well as other details regarding duration and eligibility of costs were defined in the Call for proposals (SANCO 2012/10293). The activities defined in EUWeINet and its organisation are described in detail in the project proposal and summarised above. The description of the work programme also identifies the partners involved in the different activities which, together with their allocated budget, defines each partner's contribution and effort. The work programme also describes the management structure and decision making and the roles of the Coordination Team, the Project Coordinator, the Work Package Coordinators and Task Leaders (see summary above).

The Call for proposals and the work programme are included in Annex 1 to the 'Grant agreement for an action with multiple beneficiaries (SANCO/2012/G3/EUWELNET/SI2.635078') and form an integral part of this agreement which was signed on behalf of all partners by the coordinator and the European Commission. Further annexes to this agreement are Annex 2 'Estimated budget of the action' and Annex 3 'Mandates conferring powers of attorney from the co-beneficiaries to the coordinator'. Through the Grant Agreement all partners have agreed to the Special Conditions, General Conditions and Annexes described in this Agreement. The partners have also concluded an internal co-operation agreement in which they agree to conduct their roles in EUWeINet in accordance with the Grant Agreement and its Annexes, including the articles relating to payment and consortium management. The Parties also agree to perform the management and the implementation of the action in accordance with the arrangements as laid down in the work programme. Moreover, some points are also agreed regarding intellectual property rights, settlement of disputes and limitation of liability.

All members of the Advisory Board signed a code of practice (see Annex 4).

## **5. Concluding remarks**

The purpose of Deliverable 1 is to describe the membership, management, organisation and way of working of the current pilot network, in order to evaluate at

the end of the project what has been successful, what has failed and what could be improved. Clearly, since the project is not yet halfway through its lifetime such evaluation can not be meaningfully made at this stage. Instead, it will be developed later as new information is gathered enabling new recommendations to be made. However, some relevant points can already be indicated:

- The current consortium collaborates effectively in an open and positive atmosphere. It is essential that all members of the current project and a future centre recognise the need to work together to realise common aims rather than striving independently, competing (possibly unnecessarily) with each other, duplicating research and making inefficient use of resources.
- The effective communication and collaboration is strongly facilitated by the fact that the consortium is built upon existing networks;
- The integral application and use of a web based communication and management platform is essential;
- It is helpful to have some kind of coordination in each country in order to structure the approach of stakeholders outside the network in relation to tasks within and across WPs;
- The role of a 'General Assembly' where all partners meet could be further formalised as a platform for discussion and strategic decision making;
- Involving expert centres outside the current consortium membership is not feasible under the restrictions of time and budget in this pilot project. Clear rules and criteria for membership of a future centre should be established;
- The workprogramme of the current pilot project was clearly set within the boundaries of the call. The allocation of tasks was done in a pragmatic collaborative way, matching expertise and resources to the task at hand. Procedures and structures for prioritisation and distribution of efforts have to be clearly defined for a future centre;
- Accountability and reporting are also defined through the conditions in the call and the agreement with DG Sanco. Structures and procedures for this have to be developed for a future centre;
- The membership and role of the external Advisory Board seems to have developed effectively but needs to be evaluated and formalised for the future;
- In a future network it will be important to organise a two-way flow of information from the EC to the network and to users, and also in the opposite direction. This would help ensure that innovative strategies developed by users can also be taken on board by the network and further disseminated to the EC and other users;
- External communication of a future network should be strong in order for the EC to inform stakeholders and society at large on progress in animal welfare.

The four objectives of the EUWenel project can be briefly described as follows:

1. Establish a consortium and coordinate the pilot study

Here, the main task is to manage and coordinate the current project effectively and efficiently in order to realise its objectives within the constraints of time and budget. This includes evaluation of progress and quality and the establishment and maintenance of effective internal and external communication. Project coordination activities also include the contractual, financial and administrative management of the consortium. This activity prepares and organises the meetings of the whole network as well as management meetings, provides partners with relevant documents and information and prepares reports of meetings and decisions. Achievement of this objective is facilitated by the fact that the consortium is built upon the work and networks created in the ongoing Welfare Quality Network and the AWARE project (see below).

2. Identify bottlenecks/difficulties in implementing EU legislation on animal welfare

This objective aims to map the structure and organization of the process by which EU animal welfare legislation is implemented (main public and private actors and agencies involved, procedures, financial investments) and to identify the main bottlenecks to the implementation of specific examples of EU legislation on animal welfare and the level of implementation achieved. The identified bottlenecks are studied, paying particular attention to knowledge gaps, and problem areas that may be addressed by improved knowledge transfer are defined. An inventory of supportive measures and best practices as well as ideas for improvements, focusing on knowledge strategies, is being produced.

3. Develop and test knowledge strategies;

A further objective is to develop and test four different types of knowledge transfer strategies aimed at improving the implementation of selected pieces of EU legislation related to animal welfare. These strategies could potentially be used as models for future development. The different types of knowledge strategies include:

- Face-to-face techniques (workshops, best practice, training) to improve the consistency of identification of poor welfare farms and the implementation of Directive 2007/43/EC to protect broiler chickens;
- An e-learning strategy to improve the consistency of professional judgments required to assess compliance with the environmental enrichment and tail docking requirements for finishing pigs (Directive 2008/120/EC);
- Educational material (fact sheets, digital information) to assist pig producers and Competent Authorities to assess and improve compliance with the Council Directive 2008/120/EC especially regarding the group housing of pregnant sows;
- Design of Standardized Operating Procedures to improve the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on protection of animals at the time of killing.

4. Overarching analysis and recommendations on feasibility and conditions for a European network

The fourth main objective is to assess the likely effectiveness of a coordinated European animal welfare network to improve the implementation of EU legislation on animal welfare and to reach firm conclusions on the feasibility and the possible conditions under which the EU could support such a network.

Specific objectives include:

- To identify potential partners of a future coordinated European animal welfare network, and to determine their interest in and expectations of such a network;
- To describe and discuss scenarios for the establishment and management of a future coordinated European animal welfare network;
- To propose efficient and effective ways of monitoring the implementation of EU legislation on animal welfare;
- To assess the potential of knowledge strategies to overcome bottlenecks and thereby facilitate the implementation of EU legislation on animal welfare;
- To formulate recommendations to the Commission on the establishment of a sustainable coordinated European animal welfare network.

| <b>Deliverables</b>  | <b>Workpackage</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| The organisation of a first advisory board meeting within the first three months of the project (from the signing of the agreement) and a report summarizing its outcomes.   | WP1                |
| A report summarizing the objectives and status of the network, its members, its constitutional and operational rules in order to achieve good governance, independence and excellence in achieving its objectives. | WP1                |
| A report for each of the specific aspects of legislation chosen for the project listing the main problem areas and their sensitivity to be addressed by knowledge transfer.  | WP2                |
| A report presenting the rationale of the undertaken strategies for knowledge transfer and the results of their implementation, including the reasons for success or failures.                                      | WP3                |
| A final advisory board meeting in the last 3 months of the project to discuss outcomes and collate the comments of stakeholders on possible recommendations on a future European network in a report.              | WP1                |
| A report providing conclusions on the feasibility of a sustainable future EU network accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis on the different options proposed.   | WP4                |
| Final report   |                    |

## Partners in the EUWeNet network

| No | Partner name  | Acronym       |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1  | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences<br>Department of Animal Environment and Health<br>Sweden  | SLU           |
| 2  | Cardiff University, School of City and Regional Planning<br>United Kingdom  | CU            |
| 3  | Wageningen UR Livestock Research,<br>Netherlands  | DLO           |
| 4  | Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)<br>France  | INRA          |
| 5  | University of Bristol<br>United Kingdom   | UOB           |
| 6  | Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries<br>Spain  | IRTA          |
| 7  | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna<br>Division of Livestock Sciences/Department of<br>Sustainable Agricultural Systems<br>Austria | BOKU          |
| 8  | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona<br>Spain  | UAB           |
| 9  | University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna<br>Austria   | VMU Vienna    |
| 10 | Wageningen University<br>Rural Sociology<br>Netherlands   | WU            |
| 11 | Institute of Animal Science<br>Czech Republic   | IASP          |
| 12 | Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research<br>Belgium   | VLAGEW (ILVO) |
| 13 | University of Reading<br>Centre for Agricultural Strategy<br>School of Agriculture, Policy and Development,<br>United Kingdom                           | UREAD         |
| 14 | Università degli Studi di Parma<br>Department of Economics<br>Italy   | UNIPR         |
| 15 | Groupe ISA Lille<br>France  | ISA Lille     |
| 16 | University of Kassel<br>Germany   | UNI KASSEL    |
| 17 | IFIP Institut du Porc<br>France   | IFIP          |
| 18 | Institut de l'Élevage<br>France   | Idele         |

|    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 19 | Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali<br>C.R.P.A. S.p.A.<br>Italy                            | CRPA    |
| 20 | Banat University Of Agricultural Sciences And Veterinary<br>Medicine Timișoara<br>Romania | USAMVBT |
| 21 | Szent István University<br>Hungary  | SZIE    |
| 22 | Ustav biochemie a genetiky zivocichov slovenskej<br>akademie vied<br>Slovakia             | IABG    |
| 23 | University of Thessaly (UTH)<br>Greece  | UTH     |
| 24 | Eesti Maaulikool<br>Estonia   | EMÜ     |
| 25 | Warsaw University of Life Sciences<br>Poland  | SGGW    |
| 26 | Agricultural University of Cracow<br>Poland   | CRACOW  |

## Members of the EUWelNet Advisory Board

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Alain Dehove         | World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), France  |
| Anna Valros          | International Society Applied Ethology, ISAE Finland  |
| Christina Nygaard    | Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations-<br>General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union<br>COPA-COCEGA, Danish Agriculture & Food Council DAFC, Denmark |
| David Morton         | European College of Animal Welfare and Animal Behaviour, ECAWAB,<br>France  |
| David Pritchard*     | Veterinary Consultancy Services Limited, VCS United Kingdom   |
| Dawn Howard          | European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders, EFFAB Belgium   |
| Denis Simonin        | European Commission, EC, Belgium  |
| Desmond Maquire      | Food and Veterinary Office, FVO, Ireland  |
| Ester Peeters        | European Farm Animal Welfare Councils, EuroFAWC, The Netherlands  |
| Franck Berthe        | European Food Safety Agency EFSA, Italy   |
| Jean-Luc Mériaux     | European Livestock and Meat Trading Union, UECEBV, France   |
| Jerome Languille     | Ministre Agriculture, France  |
| Karlien De Paepe     | Federal Public Service Public Health, Animal Welfare Department, Belgium  |
| Laurens Hoedemaker   | European Farm Animal welfare Councils, EuroFAWC, Netherlands  |
| Lesley Lambert       | World Society for Protection of Animals, WSPA, United Kingdom   |
| Lindsay Whistance    | University of Bristol, United Kingdom   |
| Lorenz Gygax         | Federal Veterinary Office, Switzerland  |
| Marlene Wartenberg   | Vier Pfoeten, VP, Austria   |
| Michaela Fels        | International Society of Animal Hygiene, ISAH Germany<br>Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations-  |
| Miguel Angel Higuera | General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union<br>COPA-COGECA, Spain  |
| Miroslava Lutzova    | State Veterinary Administration, Czech Republic   |
| Monika Hametter      | Association "Tierschutz macht Schule", TMS, Austria   |
| Nadège Leboucq       | World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) Sub-Regional Representative in<br>Brussels   |
| Nancy De Bryne       | Federation of Veterinarians , Belgium   |
| Nathan Rhys Williams | Humane Slaughter Association,, HSA, United Kingdom  |
| Olga Kikou           | Compassion in World Farming, Belgium  |
| Paul Cook            | Farm Animal Initiative, FAI, Ltd, United Kingdom  |
| Philippe Naber       | International Federation of Animal Health, IFAH, Europe, France   |
| Pilar Leon           | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, MAGRAMA, Spain   |
| Reineke Hameleers    | Eurogroup for Animals Belgium   |
| Simon Waterfield     | Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Defra,<br>United Kingdom   |
| Sophie Duthoit       | Vier Pfoeten, VP, Belgium   |

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\* Chairman on behalf of the EUWelNet Project



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|---------------------|--|
| Taina Mikkonen      | Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira, Finland                       |
| Teodora Sarakostova | Veterinary Services , Bulgaria                                     |
| Terence Cassidy     | Food and Veterinary Office European Commission (FVO), Ireland      |
| Tim Parkin          | European College of Veterinary Public Health ECVPH, United Kingdom |
| Véronique Schmit    | Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium                                     |

Members not attending in first meeting:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Anna Jaworska     | General Veterinary Inspectorate WETGIW Poland                                   |
| Branka Susic      | Ministry of Agriculture, MPS Croatia  |
| Cees Vermeeren    | Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU countries, AVEC   |
| Jorg Hartung,     | European Farm Animal welfare Councils, EUROFAWC, Germany                        |
| Katharina Kluge   | Federal Ministry of Consumer and food Protection, Germany                       |
| Lise Tønner       | Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Denmark                              |
| Maria Correia     | Direcção de Serviços de Protecção Animal DGAV-DSPA Portugal                     |
| Rasa Sirutkaityte | Veterinary Service Lithuania  |
| Roland Aumüller   | The Global Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Agriculture, GlobalGAP, Germany |

## **CODE of PRACTICE for members of the EUWELNET ADVISORY BOARD**

This Code of Practice applies to the members of the EUWELNET ADVISORY BOARD hereinafter referred to as the "AB". The members of the "AB" are committed to abide by the Code of Practice, acting in an honest and responsible manner at all times.

The objectives of the Advisory board are :

- To guarantee that the pilot network is transparent in its organisation and operations;
- To inform stakeholders in this project about the approach and progress of the work;
- To facilitate access to stakeholders by the project team when necessary for completion of the project;
- To monitor the design and effectiveness of knowledge strategies aimed at CAs and stakeholders to improve compliance with welfare legislation and best practice,
- To ensure the pilot network and proposed future networks are complementary to existing scientific and national resources so as to avoid duplication with regard to both farm animal welfare and, in particular, the role of scientific support for welfare during killing
- To scrutinise the project's proposals for the design, operation and feasibility of a future welfare network and ensure that lessons learnt from the pilot study are fully taken into account; and ensure that the final report fully incorporates the views expressed by the Commission, competent authorities and stakeholders.

In his/ her activities, the undersigned member of the "AB" with respect to their activities as a board member and with regard to contacts with partners of the EU WELNET project and their subcontractor Veterinary Consultancy Services Limited agrees to:

1. endeavour to make positive, critical and constructive contributions to support the objectives of the advisory board and the goals of the EUWELNET pilot project.
2. act in confidence with any information which is labelled as in confidence ;
3. avoid any professional conflict of interest by declaring such conflicts of interests to the Board Chairman;
4. not to obtain information by illegal or dishonest means;
5. neither directly nor indirectly offer nor receive any improper financial inducement to and from anyone;
6. to conduct themselves in all activities related to the AB with the highest degree of ethics and integrity.
7. to operate in accordance with all applicable laws when undertaking any activities related to the AB.
8. not carry out any action which could bring the EUWELNET ADVISORY BOARD into disrepute.

I hereby agree to become a member of the EUWELNET ADVISORY BOARD and to uphold this code of practice.

Signed :

Full Name:

Date:

.../.../2013

Place:

Organisation: