



EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE
AGENCY (HADEA)

Department A Health and Food Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP



Single Market Programme (SMP Food)

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

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

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

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

**Activities of the EU reference laboratories
and EU reference centres in 2025-2027**

Applicant shall provide information on each question contained in the Form. The information filled in the Form, shall be clear, concise, consistent and complete.

For questions on the information requested in this Form, please contact: please contact: HADEA-EURL@ec.europa.eu.

For questions on the [eGRANTS](#) Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Applicant - COORDINATOR (Name of EURC)	FRENCH AGENCY FOR FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (ANSES) (EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)
Topic	Animal Welfare
Implementation period	1/1/2025 – 31/12/2027

CONTACT PERSON for the programme :

Name	Virginie Michel
Function	Coordinator
e-mail	Virginie.Michel@anses.fr

ASSOCIATED PARTNER 1 (Name)	AARHUS UNIVERSITET (ANIVET)
Contact person :	Anja Brinch Riber
e-mail :	anja.riber@anivet.au.dk

ASSOCIATED PARTNER 2 (Name)	INSTITUT OF AGRIFOOD RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (IRTA)
Contact person :	Antonio Velarde
e-mail :	antonio.velarde@irta.cat

ASSOCIATED PARTNER 3 (Name)	EXPERIMENTAL ZOOPROPHYLACTIC INSTITUTE OF LOMBARDY AND EMILIA ROMAGNA (IZSLER)
Contact person :	Leonardo James Vinco
e-mail :	leonardojames.vinco@izsler.it

CONTENT

1.	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY WORDS	5
2.	INTRODUCTION	6
3.	WORK PACKAGES/ ACTIVITIES	7
3.1.	WORK PACKAGE 1 - COORDINATED ASSISTANCE	7
3.2.	WORK PACKAGE 2 - ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS	13
3.3.	WORK PACKAGE 3 -SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES	16
3.4.	WORK PACKAGE 4 - TRAINING COURSES	22
3.5.	WORK PACKAGE 5 - DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS	25
4.	REMARKS.....	28

1. List of abbreviations and key words

ABI	Animal-based Indicator
AI	Avian Influenza
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CA	Competent Authority
CoP	Community of Practice
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines	European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Ruminants & Equines
EURCAW-Pigs	European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Pigs
EURCAW-Poultry-SFA	European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Poultry and other small farmed animals
MBI	Management-based Indicator
M	Month
MS	Member States of the EU
NCP	National Contact Points
NRC	National Reference Centre
RB	Reflection Board
RBI	Resource-based Indicator
SB	Supporting Body
WBS	Waterbath Stunning

2. Introduction

The consortium between ANSES (France), IRTA (Spain), ANIVET (Denmark), and IZSLER (Italy) was designated as the European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Poultry and other small farmed animals (EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/1685) on 4 October 2019. EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has been created in February 2020, in the context of regulation 2017/625 about official controls (art. 95) to support the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) and the Member States (MS) Competent Authorities (CAs) and their Supporting Bodies (SBs), in the implementation of welfare legislation for poultry and other small-farmed animals in farms, during transportation and slaughtering. The Centre provides scientific and technical support, training and education. More information about the Centre and the consortium can be found here: <https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/welcome-european-reference-centre-animal-welfare-poultry-and-other-small-farmed>.

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has five main activities: 1) Coordinated assistance, 2) Animal welfare indicators, methods for the assessment and methods of improvement 3) Scientific and technical studies, 4) Training courses, and 5) Dissemination of research findings and innovations. During the next three-year period (2025-2027), each activity includes two to four sub-activities. All partners participate in all activities.

During 2021 and 2022, the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA developed its activities related to the 3 initial priority areas: welfare of broilers on farm, welfare of laying hens housed in systems alternative to cage, assessment of the state of consciousness after stunning for poultry. In 2021, rabbit welfare on-farm with a focus on alternative housing systems, and in 2022 the welfare of turkeys on farm were included to our priority areas and related activities were developed. During the 2023-2024 period, 5 welfare priority areas concerned the assessment of the welfare of: Broiler chickens on farm; Laying hens in alternative housing systems; Stunning and killing; Rabbits on farm, with a focus on alternative housing systems; Turkeys on farm and during transport.

In the forthcoming period, the activities of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will still focus on the welfare of poultry and rabbits. Other small-farmed animals will be dealt with only under Activity 1 (coordinated assistance) if specific queries on these animals arise. The DG SANTE together with the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has identified **5 priority areas** to deal with in the next three-year period:

1. Broiler chickens on farm.
2. Laying hens in alternative housing systems.
3. Consciousness and welfare during stunning and killing process at slaughter and on farm.
4. Rabbits on farm, with a focus on alternative housing systems.
5. Turkeys on farm

The activities of the work programme will be targeted around these five priority areas.

A yearly internal evaluation of this Work Programme will be performed together with the European Commission to analyse the match of the current priorities with the concerns of the target group (Sub-activity 3.1.3). On the basis of this analysis, the priorities for the remaining time of the Work Programme may be adjusted and priority areas as well as activities relating to them may be added or replaced.

As in the previous period, the Centre will be performing work directed to the European Commission and MS CAs, and their relevant national support networks and bodies by providing scientific and technical expertise in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for animals. ANSES is the coordinator of the Centre and IRTA deputy coordinator.

List of activities and sub-activities:

- 1 COORDINATED ASSISTANCE
 - 1.1 Network building
 - 1.2 Technical assistance, query service
 - 1.3 Identification and collection of concerns of target groups
 - 1.4 Defining collaborative efforts between the four EURCAWs
- 2 ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS, METHODS FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND METHODS OF IMPROVEMENT
 - 2.1 Relevant animal welfare indicators and methods used for their assessment
- 3 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES
 - 3.1 Reporting of scientific and technical knowledge
 - 3.2 Scientific and technical studies to validate indicators and methods
 - 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices
- 4 TRAINING COURSES
 - 4.1 Review of existing training activities and materials
 - 4.2 Development of course material for specific topics
- 5 DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND INNOVATIONS
 - 5.1 Centre website and knowledge base implementation and maintenance
 - 5.2 Development of dissemination tools to promote knowledge
 - 5.3 Development of a Community of Practice
 - 5.4 Translation of outputs in national languages

3. WORK PACKAGES/ ACTIVITIES

[Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) - Article 96

The **European Union reference centres for animal welfare** shall be responsible for the supporting tasks described under section 3 below, 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 16 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690.

3.1. Work Package 1 - Coordinated assistance (ANSES)

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 - Article 96 (a): Providing scientific and technical expertise within the scope of their mission including, where appropriate in the form of coordinated assistance, to relevant national support networks and bodies in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for animals.

Sub-activity 3.1.1 Network building

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to the development of coordinated the assistance to DG SANTE, CAs and NRCs or SBs. This will be done by continuous development of the network to keep the end-users (DG SANTE, CAs, NRCs and SBs) informed on the missions and activities that the Centre develops and promotes.

Objective:

The objective of this sub-activity is to consolidate and enhance networking through CAs of the EU and continue building strong collaboration with NRCs, SBs and other welfare networks. Furthermore, the Centre will seek information and exchange knowledge with the reflection board (RB) network.

Concretely, the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will:

- 1) Consolidate the network with CAs.
- 2) Consolidate the network with NRCs and SBs
- 3) Consolidate the network with the Reflection Board.
- 4) Continue collaboration with existing welfare networks (e.g. WG9 Poultry welfare and management of WPSA).

Achievements so far:

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has developed the coordinated assistance by consolidating its network and collaboration with European Union (EU) MS CAs, the DG SANTE, NRCs, SBs and existing EU networks. One EU network CAs meeting has been organised each year in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to present EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's activities and discuss actual needs and future ones. Four joint meetings between the NRCs/SBs and the three EURCAWs were organized virtually on 0.5 day.

In 2021, the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Reflection Board (RB) was created. Three meeting were held remotely (0.5 day) in 2021, 2022, 2023. One is planned for October 2024. The meetings provide the opportunity to collect relevant information from the participant, updated them about our activity and identify and discuss possible future collaborations.

Description:

Four main tasks will be conducted:

- 1) The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will consolidate its relationship with the **EU MSs** (e.g., CAs, official inspectors) through diffusion and exchange of information through the website, and its newsletter (see activity 3.5), exchange about scientific and technical information (see sub-act 3.1.2) and physical or digital annual meetings where the progress and outcomes of the Centre will be presented. A yearly meeting will be organised with the NCPs of the CAs to present the ongoing work and identify the main concerns and expectations of the target groups. Every three years, this meeting is organised physically. The other two years the meeting is virtual. The physical meeting for this working program is scheduled for 2025 for EURCAW-Poultry-SFA. Prior to the annual meeting, the delegates are invited to submit ideas for topics to be discussed during the meeting.

In addition to the annual meeting, online workshops or specific topic meetings can be organised during the year to discuss with EU MSs CAs target group about technical issues they face (see sub-activity 3.1.3).

On top of the annual meeting, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will start organising **road shows**, based on EURCAW-Pigs's positive feedback. EURCAW-poultry SFA will organise one physical meeting per year.

Delegates will be from MSs CAs (e.g., inspectors, NCPs, policy workers) of the country where the road show will take place. The meeting will be held as much as possible in the language of the country (interpretation will be organised). The topics are to be proposed by the MSs, to allow targeted support. They should, as much as possible, be linked to MSs' interest and priorities. If possible, a field visit will be added to the program in collaboration with local experts during the meetings. Taking advantage of the road show, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA may also consider having a meeting with stakeholders of this MS to inform them about the activities of the EURCAW and exchange on topics and priorities specifically relevant in that MS.

Each Road show will be organised by 2-4 members of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA. If the road show is targeting DK, ES, FR, IT, it will be organised by the national team from the four consortium partners. If the road show is targeting other EU MSs, it will be organised by a team from one or two of the four consortium partners together with local experts. The local and EURCAW experts will provide the translation of documents and interpretation of presentations and discussion during the road shows as well as a written summary of the topics discussed, points raised, advice given and agreed follow-up actions, if any. The summary, the original and the translated documents will be uploaded in English and in the language of the MS concerned on the centre's website in a dedicated area.

The Road Shows aim at improving visibility of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA and its activities. They shall support knowledge development in MSs and help harmonizing implementation activities. In addition, they are envisaged to be useful for other EURCAW-Poultry-SFA activities, e.g., the search for good practices, identifying areas of interest for future activities of the Centre as per sub-activity 3.1.3, etc.

For the long term (beyond this Work Programme) the aim is to have dedicated meetings with all MSs.

2) The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will consolidate the network with the **existing NRCs (SE, FI, EL, FR, IT ES, SI) and SBs for Animal Welfare**.

The four EURCAWs will jointly organise one meeting each year. The MSs which do not have a NRC will be invited to appoint experts from SBs of their country. Three digital meetings with the NRCs for animal welfare and SBs will be organised (M6, M18, M30).

3) Develop and consolidate the **RB** network for EURCAW-Poultry-SFA. The RB is constituted by Poultry and other small farmed animals supply chains, related professional organizations and civil society organizations from the EU Animal Welfare Platform. The Centre informs the RB about their activities and asks to support the Centre with technical information and identification of best practices. The Centre will organize one web-meeting per year, and DG SANTE and other EURCAWs are invited to take part to it as "observers".

Short additional Ad hoc on-line meetings between EURCAW-Poultry-SFA and members of the RB will be organized if the Centre needs to gather information to answer specific Q2Es (e.g., mobile housing guidelines).

4) The Centre will participate in **other scientific and technical networks** in order to present its activities and results, to collect knowledge that can be used in the different activities of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA. Technical questions raised in several MSs can be identified via this channel as well as scientific work areas for the centre to be used for the development of future work programmes. One day per year will be dedicated for each network.

- These networks are: The National Contact Points for Animal Welfare, coordinated by EFSA. The purpose of this network is to share information about animal welfare between MSs.
- Network of the National Contact Points (NCPs) for scientific support under Art 20 of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 coordinated by EFSA.

- The National contact points for Reg (EU) 1/2005 (on transport of animals), coordinated by unit F2 of DG SANTE.
- Scientific societies such as the working group IX “Poultry welfare and management” of WPSA (World Poultry Science Association), EAAP.

Expected output and timing:

- **EU network meetings** with representatives of **MSs CAs: M36**. Written summary of the discussion and outcomes of each of the **three** annual EU network meetings with representatives of MSs CAs available one month after the meetings (physical meeting during M10, virtual meeting during M22 and M34).
- A summary of the discussions during the **road shows: M36**. The yearly summary will be delivered and implemented during the period: M11, M23, M36.
- **e-annual meetings with NRCs and SBs** for animal welfare: **M 36**. A summary of the discussions and outcomes of each of the **three** e-annual meetings with NRCs and SBs, for animal welfare identified in EU MSs and all EURCAWs (one meeting during M6 organized by EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines, one meeting during M18 organized by EURCAW-Aqua, and one meeting during M30 organized by EURCAW-Poultry-SFA) will be available maximum three month after the meetings. The three summaries will be published jointly with the other EURCAWs.
- **e-annual meetings with RB: M36**. A written summary of the discussions and outcomes of each of the **three** e-annual RB meetings available one month after each of the meetings (one meeting during M12, one meeting during M24 one during M35).
- **Summary table listing the presence of Centre members in the meetings** of the described existing networks: **M36**. The table will be delivered and implemented during the period: M13, M25, M36.

Sub-activity 3.1.2 Technical assistance: query service

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to the development of coordinated assistance that the Centre provides to DG SANTE, CAs and NRCs or SBs. This will be done by consolidating the Q2E service as a scientific and technical support tool for the target bodies.

Objective:

- To answer scientific and technical queries from DG SANTE and MS CAs and NRCs/SBs
- To revise and refine the technical assistance service procedures.

Achievements so far:

The scientific and technical coordinated assistance service for the MS CAs, DG SANTE, and EU MS NRCs/SBs is running since 2020 and a dedicated online web form for the application of the queries was developed in 2021. Since the beginning of the activity, 32 Q2Es has been sent to the Centre and 25 has been considered admissible and answered. Currently, three additional ones are under preparation in June 2024.

Description:

The main task of this sub-activity will be to answer scientific and technical queries under the remit of the Centre. The answers of the queries will be allocated in the adequate section on the website, so that they will be public. No information on the requestor nor on the experts is provided, since the answer is given in the name of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA.

At mid-period and at the end of the period, an internal review of the functioning of the service on the basis of the experience of the received queries will be done. Re-adjustment will be performed in order to improve efficiency. The procedures and quality scheme will be reviewed and updated, when necessary, in order to facilitate the process for all concerned parties.

Interaction with other EURCAWs will ensure synergy and similar functioning, when possible, to make the process easier for end-users.

Expected output and timing:

- Q2E quality scheme: **M36**. The quality scheme and internal review short report on the performance of the system (e.g., number of queries treated/queries submitted; average time for answering submissions, average time for sending the answer to the requestors). The report will be delivered and implemented three times during the period: M13, M25, M36.

Sub-activity 3.1.3 Identification and collection of concerns of target groups

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to identify, collect and prioritize the main concerns and expectations of the target groups (DG SANTE, CAs, NRCs and SBs).

Objective:

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

Achievements so far:

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

Description:

The first objective will be to identify the priority areas and target species that the Centre should work on with the DG SANTE and MSs. At the occasion of the annual CAs meetings, and meeting with NRCs/SBs, the Centre will present its outcomes and progress and will ask for feedback on topics and interests from the target groups, including if there are needs for training materials. Needs of the target groups can also be expressed at the occasions of webinars (see sub-activity activity 3.4.2) and workshops (see sub-activity 3.3.2) and related satisfaction surveys organized by the Centre. Further discussions in meetings with the DG SANTE will be organised also. The coordinator and deputy coordinator will meet on a yearly basis to work on this sub-activity to prioritize the priority areas and main concerns.

Expected output and timing:

- An overview of the target groups' main concerns and expectations (M23).

Sub-activity 3.1.4 Collaborative efforts between the four EURCAWs

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to define collaborative efforts between EURCAWs.

Objective:

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

Achievements so far:

Close collaboration with other EURCAWs has been developed: first with EURCAW-Pigs, afterwards with EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines since mid-2021 and recently with EURCAW-Aquatics since mid-2024. The management teams of the four Centres meet four times a year to discuss ongoing activities and deepen their collaboration. Concrete examples of common approaches are the agreed Quality Assurance process, the common Terms of Reference for the Reflection Boards and the intensive collaboration via across Centres working groups on Training, and on Communication. The members of the latter working groups meet periodically, to share experiences and identify areas for collaboration in view to adopt common approaches and develop common outputs.

The four EURCAWs met physically in June 2024 to discuss and exchange ideas on concerns and topics across species to be developed in the four Centres.

Description:

The four Centres will actively search and identify possibilities to collaborate and harmonise their approaches. The objective is to promote collaboration and common approaches among the four EURCAWs.

Digital meetings with DG SANTE and the four EURCAWs

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will meet every three months with DG SANTE and the other reference centres, resulting in 4 meetings per year (2-hours meeting). Each meeting will be organised alternately by one Centre. The organiser will propose the agenda, chair the meeting and draft the minutes. The aim of these meetings is to exchange experience, mutually inspire each other's work, and to report on progress to DG SANTE. The exact dates to be agreed with DG SANTE and the other Centre(s), and will be in February, May, September, and November of 2025-2027.

Digital meetings among the four EURCAWs

The four centres will also meet every three months, either to prepare for the DG SANTE meetings, or to discuss operational issues, or both. These meetings will take place in February, May, September and November of 2025-2027. One of these meetings will be physical and held together with the management meeting of each Centre.

Additional ad hoc meetings between the EURCAWs or with DG SANTE will be organized if and when necessary.

Digital meeting of the Communication and Training working groups

The Training and Communication working groups will meet on a regular basis during the period to maintain and develop the intensive collaboration and common approach.

Development of joint activities

The four EURCAWs will jointly work on one new common topic led by EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, 'the guidance for the assessment of stunning equipment' (see Activity 3.3). EURCAW-Pigs will initiate 'the development of an app or other digital tool for inspectors' (WP5). Furthermore, EURCAW-Ruminants and Equines are taking the lead in a joint effort to produce audio materials based on our written output. Finally, an ongoing topic is the 'development of a pilot community of practice' led by EURCAW-Ruminants and Equines and the Pig Team (see WP5)."

Expected output and timing:

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

List of Indicators WP1:

- Number of technical and scientific feedback provided by the **EURC** based on Commission queries.
- Number of queries requested from national support networks and bodies and competent authorities in the area governed by the rules on the welfare requirements for animals. Number and quality of replies provided by the **EURC**.

3.2. Work Package 2 - Animal welfare indicators (IZSLER)

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

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

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

Sub-activity 3.2.1 Relevant animal welfare indicators and methods used for their assessment

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to the identification, assessment, application and development of indicators to assess animal welfare and verify compliance with animal welfare legal requirements, related to the priority areas. Methods for the assessment of the level of welfare regarding the corresponding indicators will also be developed in this activity. The sub-activity will focus on the relevant indicators for specific welfare issues and provide factsheets based on the reviews on the assessment of animal welfare produced in sub-activity 3.3.1.

Objective:

Priority area 1 (broiler):

- To develop a guidance on which animal-based indicators are relevant for assessing welfare implications of genetic selection on growth rate in broilers chickens.
- To develop a factsheet on the assessment methods of the resource-based indicator of litter quality in broilers barns.
- To develop a factsheet on the assessment of play behaviour as an animal-based indicator of positive welfare in broilers.

Priority area 2 (laying hen):

- To organize a workshop about the fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens to deeply discuss the indicators that can be used and gaps of knowledge with the official inspectors.
- To develop practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens to deliver tools immediately usable by inspectors assessing animal welfare.

Priority area 4 (rabbit):

To work on suitable methods for catching rabbits in order to preserve their welfare and provide a factsheet on how to catch rabbits for transportation.

To provide a factsheet on assessment of thermal stress in rabbits.

Achievements so far:

Lists of welfare indicators and methods for assessment of welfare on farm for use during control of compliance with EU legislation requirements have been produced for all five priority areas. Likewise, numerous factsheets on indicators and associated methods have been developed. Gaps of knowledge have been identified of which many have been targeted in the scientific and technical studies performed in the work programme 25-27.

Description:

Priority area 1 (broiler):

The growth rate of broiler chickens has repeatedly been shown to influence the welfare of the broilers and the parents, the broiler breeders. To assist in assessing the welfare of broiler genotypes differing in growth rates, a **guidance** will be developed that provides a list and description **of animal-based indicators** that are relevant **for assessing welfare implications of genetic selection for growth rate** in broilers.

In the last working programme, a scientific study performed in experimental facilities assessed the validity, reliability and repeatability of two visual litter scoring systems, issued from the Classyfarm and the Welfare Quality protocols. In 2025, a factsheet will be developed on the basis of the results obtained with the objective to provide recommendations to **assess litter quality with a visual scoring scale** on farm.

One of the few indicators currently available on **positive welfare in broilers is play behaviour**. Play behaviour that can be observed when performing transects, have the potential of being a feasible indicator of positive welfare in broilers during official controls. A factsheet will be developed, based on the report of the study of the relation between occurrence of play behaviour after transects (creation of open spaces) and spontaneous play behaviour (without creation of open spaces) (described in 3.3.1). If the study results in a validation of using play behaviour during transects as an indicator of positive welfare, the factsheet will give a practical description of the method for use by official inspectors during on-farm visits. If play behaviour during transects cannot be validated based on the study, the factsheet will instead give a more general description of play behaviour as a positive welfare indicator.

Priority area 2 (laying hen):

Based on the review developed in 2024 on **fitness for transport of end of lay hens**, the Centre will carry out a workshop with CAs from the MSs dedicated to fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens in order to deeply discuss the indicators and gaps of knowledge with the inspectors.

From the results of this workshop and the review, the Centre will produce practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens, in order to deliver tools immediately usable by official

inspectors assessing animal welfare. The Centre will plan some farm and slaughterhouse visits to take photos in order to have visual material to illustrate the guidelines.

Priority area 4 (rabbit):

In 2026, a factsheet will provide guidance on how to **catch rabbits for transportation**, taking into account the characteristics of the rabbits and their welfare. It will detail the proper techniques for loading rabbits from cages into containers or crates (crating), and subsequently transferring them into transport vehicles (M23).

In 2025, a factsheet will be developed based on the 2022 report on welfare indicators and assessment methods for rabbits' welfare on-farm. This factsheet will provide insights into **thermal stress** experienced by both growing and breeding rabbits. It will explore the multifaceted factors influencing thermal stress, including air speed, external temperature, relative humidity, flooring and cage/pen type, bedding, etc. Additionally, it will cover animal-based indicators for assessing behaviours related to heat loss, and their assessment methods will be discussed, providing some information on their validity, feasibility, and reliability (M5).

Priority areas 1, 2 & 5 (broilers, laying hens and turkeys):

Based on EFSA reports on welfare of different poultry species, including up to date information on environmental enrichment in poultry, three factsheets will be developed on the resource-based indicator of environmental enrichment in broiler, laying hen and turkey barns (M36).

Expected output and timing:

A guidance on animal-based indicators for assessing welfare implications related to growth rate in broilers (M18)

8 Indicator(s) factsheets on animal welfare: M36. This includes:

A factsheet to assess **litter quality with a visual scoring scale** in broiler farms (M3);

A factsheet on the **assessment of thermal stress for rabbits on-farm** (M5);

A factsheet on **how to catch rabbits for transportation** (M23);

A factsheet on **play behaviour as a positive welfare indicator in broilers** (M30);

A factsheet on the use of **environmental enrichments in broiler production** (M17)

A factsheet on the use of **environmental enrichments in turkey production** (M23)

A factsheet on the use of **environmental enrichments in laying hen farms** (M26)

A factsheet on the indicators of the state of **consciousness after waterbath stunning for ducks** (M33), from the work in activity 3.3.2.

Fitness for transport of end of lay hens: M36. This includes:

A workshop dedicated to fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens (M11);

A practical guideline to assess fitness for transport of end-of-lay hens (M30).

List of Indicators WP2 :

- Number of methods developed/coordinated for the assessment of the level of welfare of animals
- Number of methods developed/coordinated for the improvement of the welfare of animals

3.3. Work Package 3 -Scientific and technical studies (ANIVET)

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

Sub-activity 3.3.1 Reporting of scientific and technical knowledge

Introduction:

This sub-activity deals with scientific reviews, in poultry and rabbit welfare both on farm and at slaughter to support the official inspections. The knowledge gained can be used for the tasks in activity 3.1 (specific studies to answer specific questions from CAs), activity 3.2 (indicators and methods) and activity 3.4 (training content).

Objective:

Priority area 3 (stunning and killing):

- To develop a guidance for the assessment of stunning and killing equipment both at the farm and the slaughterhouse.
- To perform a review about currently available methods for on-farm killing of growing rabbits, breeding rabbits and kits, and a survey on currently used methods for on-farm killing that will target EU rabbit-producing MS.

Priority area 4 (rabbit):

- To provide a review and a thematic factsheet on gnawing material and general enrichment for rabbits.

Achievements so far:

In 2020, the Centre delivered a review about the gaps of knowledge and the identification of the most critical “open norms” regarding the three priority areas (welfare of broilers on farm, welfare of laying hens housed in alternative systems and assessment of consciousness for poultry after electrical waterbath stunning). In 2021, a synthetic review about the main welfare aspects of stunning broiler by exposure to controlled atmosphere was published. Within the same priority area 3, the Centre has started a study on the depopulation methods used in the EU in case of Avian Influenza in January 2023 that has led to the development of 3 deliverables at the end of 2024: 1) a report aiming at describing the 10 most used depopulation methods in the EU – together with a description of their animal welfare implications and efficiency in terms of death induction; 2) a decision tree for the selection of the most adequate depopulation method according to the farm characteristics and the concerned species; and 3) a suggestion for bird welfare assessment on depopulation sites.

Furthermore, priority area 4 (welfare of rabbits) started with the synthetic review about the main welfare aspects of rearing rabbits, with a specific focus on alternative systems. The review has been the basis of the thematic factsheet: ‘Rabbits Welfare in farm rearing systems’ in May 2022.

In 2023, the Centre sent a questionnaire about current practices in the EU in terms of preparation of the end-of-lay hens for transport to the slaughterhouse and killing on farm and a workshop was held to discuss the data obtained, and a review about methods of assessing walking ability in broilers was delivered. In 2024, a review about fitness for transport assessment for end-of-lay hens will be delivered. Furthermore, a review about the main welfare aspects of the different stunning methods in rabbits was delivered in 2023. Finally, a description of the main husbandry systems used for turkey farming in the EU was delivered in 2023, followed in 2024 by the development of guidelines on the assessment of turkey welfare on farm using the most relevant welfare indicators to assess compliance with requirements laid down in Directive 98/58 EC.

Description:

Priority area 3 (stunning and killing): Legislation 1099/2009 states that ‘Products marketed or advertised as restraining or stunning equipment shall only be sold when accompanied by appropriate instructions concerning their use in a manner which ensures optimal conditions for the welfare of animals. Those instructions shall also be made publicly available by the manufacturers via the Internet’. The centre will develop a guidance describing the content of the instructions to be checked by the competent authorities. This will harmonize the information about the equipment that should be available on internet. This guidance can be a proof of concept for the other EURCAWs to develop similar guidance for the species under their remit.

In 2026, the centre will conduct a comprehensive review of current **on-farm killing methods for rabbits** across three categories: growing rabbits, breeding rabbits, and kits. This review will detail the on-farm killing methods for rabbits approved under Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, which dictates the protection of animals at the time of killing. The review will assess the advantages and disadvantages of these methods in terms of animal welfare, as well as identify existing gaps of knowledge. In addition, a survey will be conducted to investigate on-farm culling practices used in EU rabbit-producing countries by sending an online questionnaire to the competent authorities concerned. The findings from this survey will be integrated into the review to provide a broader perspective on current practices (M17).

Priority area 4 (rabbit):

In 2025, a review (M9) and thematic factsheet (M12) on **gnawing material and general enrichment** for rabbits will describe the benefits of introducing this material in the housing of growing and breeding rabbits in order to reduce stress and increase the repertoire of positive behaviours, emphasizing the importance in improving rabbit welfare.

Expected output and timing:

- **Two reviews on animal welfare: M36.** This includes:

A review on **gnawing material and general enrichment for rabbits** (M9);

A review of current **on-farm killing methods for rabbits** across three categories: growing rabbits, breeding rabbits, and kits (M17).

- A guidance describing the content of the instructions to be checked by the competent authorities for **assessing stunning and killing equipment: M36.**

- **1 Thematic factsheet: M11.** This includes:

A thematic factsheet on **gnawing material and general enrichment for rabbits** (M12).

Sub-activity 3.3.2 Scientific and technical studies to validate indicators and methods

Introduction:

This sub-activity deals with the development of scientific and technical studies in poultry and rabbit welfare both on farm and at slaughter to support the official inspections. This knowledge will be used for the tasks in activity 3.1 (specific studies to answer specific questions from CAs), activity 3.2 (indicators and methods) and activity 3.4 (training content).

Objective:

Priority area 1 (broiler):

- To investigate the validity of play behaviour (an indicator of positive welfare) performed in open spaces created during the transect method for use in assessment of broiler welfare on-farm.
- To provide recommendations in an experimental report regarding the appropriate age for broilers to access the covered veranda.

Priority area 3 (stunning and killing):

- Refinement of the guidance (one checklist/method developed in 2024) for poultry welfare assessment on depopulation site based on operators' feedback.
- Evaluation of the welfare aspects of the use of waterbath stunning in ducks at slaughter (co-financing with the EUPAHW).

Achievements so far:

Guidelines for the assessment of turkey welfare on farm using the most relevant welfare indicators to assess compliance with requirements laid down in Directive 98/58 EC will be delivered in 2024 (DL.3.1) However these guidelines are totally lacking animal-based indicators, the use of which is recognized at international level.

Description:

Priority area 1 (broiler):

One of the few indicators currently available on positive welfare in broilers is play behaviour. However, spontaneous play is relatively rare to observe in undisturbed flocks. Studies have shown that play behaviour occurs at a higher frequency during transects as the broilers will exploit the open areas suddenly created due to the person doing the transect for expression of play behaviour. Play behaviour observed during transects may therefore have the potential of being a feasible indicator of positive welfare in broilers for veterinary inspectors. However, further investigations are required before play behaviour collected after transects can be validated as an indicator across production systems. A pilot study using the transect method to obtain data on the frequency of play behaviour found a higher occurrence of play behaviour in conventional broilers than in organic broilers and speculated whether this was due to a rebound effect in the conventional broilers as a response to being housed at twice as high a stocking density than that of the organic broilers. If this was the case, then the higher occurrence of play behaviour in conventional flocks could not be interpreted as an indicator of improved welfare, but was more likely indicating the opposite, i.e., the conventional broilers experienced poor welfare due to restriction of movements. In the proposed study, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will seek to **validate play behaviour collected after transects as an indicator of positive welfare** by investigating the relation between the occurrence of play behaviour performed during undisturbed conditions (no open spaces created) and during transects (open spaces created). This will for comparison be done both in conventional and organic flocks. This study will serve as a proof of concept for the other EURCAWs to develop similar studies for the species under their remit.

In 2024, the Centre delivered a report based on the findings of a scientific study regarding the use of covered verandas for broiler welfare. Building upon the positive outcomes observed in terms of broiler health and behaviours, further research will investigate the optimal age for providing access to the veranda to enhance broiler welfare in varying seasons (winter and summer). An experimental report stemming from this research will be developed by 2026, offering recommendations regarding the appropriate age for broilers to access **the covered veranda**.

Priority area 3 (stunning and killing):

Refinement of the guidance (developed in 2024) for poultry welfare assessment on depopulation sites. In case one or more of our checklist is used in the first semester of 2025 in some MSs, we will conduct interviews with the relevant field operators to gather their feedback and integrate it in an updated version of our guidance.

Scientific study in commercial slaughterhouses of ducks stunned with a waterbath electrical device will be done under the frame of EU PAHW (with EU PAHW budget) in order to: i) assess the state of consciousness after stunning, ii) identify the most relevant indicators, iii) test the inter-observer repeatability of different animal-based indicators of consciousness and iv) study (if wide range of electrical current is practiced) the effectiveness of stunning according to the electrical parameters applied to induce immediate unconsciousness until onset of death due to bleeding. The study will also investigate the main hazards leading to the negative welfare consequences. The Centre propose to work on the data obtained and refine and validate a list of animal-based indicators for the assessment of the state of consciousness and if possible optimal key parameters of effective stunning. Visits will be done in 2025 and first part of 2026 in France, Spain and Italy and analysis will be performed in 2026 and beginning of 2027. This study will be conducted under the frame of both EURCAW and the partnership EUPAHW. Staff and travelling expenses undertaken for slaughter houses visits will be funded by EUPAHW. The staff for data treatment, report writing and factsheet elaboration is funded by EURCAW.

Expected output and timing:

- **Refined checklist(s) about welfare assessment of poultry during depopulation: M14.**

-**Report on Scientific studies in experimental facilities: M30.** This includes:

-A report offering recommendations regarding the appropriate age for **broilers to access the covered veranda** (M24);

- Report on the scientific study on commercial slaughterhouses of **ducks stunned with electrical waterbath devices** (M29).

- **Report on scientific studies in on-farm conditions: M26.** This includes:

A report on a study of the relation between **occurrence of play behaviour after transects** (creation of open spaces) **and spontaneous play behaviour** (without creation of open spaces) (M26).

Sub-activity 3.3.3 Examples of good welfare practices

Introduction:

Examples of good welfare practices are gathered and reported in this sub-activity for the potential uptake in different MSs by farmers and CAs. Indeed, official inspectors are expected to have sufficient knowledge about the welfare of poultry and rabbits both on farm and at slaughter to support the quality of their official inspections. This will help them in discussion with farmers and food business operators where they need to have a good understanding about the indicators used for the official controls and the main positive and negative welfare aspects related to the systems under their inspection. In a questionnaire performed in 2023, CAs reported that they use the good practice factsheets to a high extent and for many different purposes.

Objective:

- To identify farms, slaughterhouses, premises, equipment, systems, and management practices demonstrating good practices for the welfare of poultry and rabbits.

Achievements so far:

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has currently produced seven good practice factsheets, covering the following topics: mobile houses in broiler chickens, design and management of covered verandas for optimal use, design and management of outdoor ranges for optimal use, captive bolt as a back-up stunning method during slaughter of turkeys, environmental enrichment and wintergarden in a turkey barn, an example of inspections of compliance with the transport regulation (COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No. 1/2005), and elevated pen system for breeding and growing rabbits. More factsheets on good practices are currently in the process of being finalised.

Description:

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA continuously reach out to CAs and our network in the search of potential demonstrators of good practices in poultry and rabbit productions. In addition, CAs are asked for topics they need good practices on. When potential good practices are found, they are initially thoroughly examined from written material and/or interviews with relevant people. If still considered a potential good practice after the initial screening process, visits are made to the farms, slaughterhouses or other relevant venues in the different MSs. After a visit, the decision is made whether to finally consider the candidate as a good practice, and if positively assessed, a factsheet is produced on the good practice (equipment, housing and/or management) for improving poultry and rabbit welfare.

Examples of topics that we will seek to identify good practices for are listed below, but the list is dynamic as new ideas constantly flow in and others may be discarded after being scrutinised:

Priority area 1 (broiler):

- Good management practices for maintaining the litter in appropriate conditions for broiler chickens
- Hatching on-farm of broilers
- How to reduce hunger in broiler breeders
- How to avoid water restriction in broiler breeders

Priority area 2 (laying hen):

- Ensuring litter access during early life in layer chicks kept in aviary systems

Priority area 3 (stunning and killing):

- Design of waterbath stunning entrances optimised to avoid pre-stun shocks

Priority area 4 (turkey):

- Use of sick pens in the production of turkeys on farm

Priority area 5 (rabbit):

- Enrichment for rabbits
- Catching rabbits before transport for slaughter
- Alternatives to painful intervention used for identification of rabbits

Across priority areas

- Management practices of poultry with intact beak
- How to assess fitness for transport

- Culling on farm/depopulation recommendation
- Good practices of inspections
- How to manually catch poultry for transport
- Automatic assessment of welfare indicators at slaughter.

Expected output and timing:

- **Six to nine good practice factsheets:** M36. This includes two to three good practice factsheets by the end of each year (M11, M23, and M35).

List of Indicators WP3:

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

3.4. Work Package 4 - Training courses (IRTA)

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

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

Sub-activity 3.4.1 Review of existing training activities and materials

Introduction:

This sub-activity is about reviewing existing training activities and materials of official control services regarding the legal requirement concerning the priority areas of the Centre.

Objectives:

To collect and review existing training activities and material for:

- Depopulation/Killing rabbit on farm
- Fitness for transport
- Depopulation/killing poultry on farm

Achievements so far:

During 2020, a description of existing courses and materials for poultry was delivered, including information on objectives, content and training materials as well as an identification of the gaps that the Centre could possibly address in the future. In the following period, 2021-2022, priority area 3 (stunning and killing) was supported with the publication of a report on the evaluation of existing training courses for the assessment of the state of consciousness after CAS of broiler and turkeys; and priority area 4 (rabbits) with the publication of a report on the evaluation of existing training courses for the rabbit welfare on farm. In the last period, 2023-2024, priority area 3 (stunning and killing) was also supported with the publication of a report on the evaluation of existing training courses for the assessment of the state of consciousness after electrical stunning in rabbits; and priority area 5 (turkeys) with the publication of a report on the evaluation of existing training courses for the assessment of turkey welfare on-farm.

Description:

This sub-activity will identify, collect and review the existing training courses and materials in use at EU level (e.g., BTSF), MSs (e.g., national and regional training courses) or other levels (e.g., from universities, institutes).

Specifically, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will review the following topics:

- Depopulation/Killing rabbit on farm
- Fitness for transport
- Depopulation/killing poultry on farm

The revision will consist of a description of the existing courses and activities including information on objectives, content and training materials as well as an identification of the gaps that the EURCAW could possibly address in the future.

Expected output and timing:

- **Three reports on the evaluation of existing training courses.** This includes:

One report on depopulation/killing rabbits on farm in (M12);

One report on depopulation and killing poultry on farm in (M18);

One report on the fitness for transport (M24);

Sub-activity 3.4.2 Development of course material for specific topics

Introduction:

This sub-activity is about developing contents for the training of official control services regarding the legal requirement concerning the priority areas of the Centre.

Objective:

To organize webinars and training content about specific topics within the list of priority areas.

Achievements so far:

During the period 2021-2022, the Centre prepared training material for the assessment of the state of consciousness after stunning: one for broiler and another for turkeys. For each specie, the training material consists of webinars and short training videos. The webinars of 2h are addressed to CAs and official inspectors. In the following period, 2023-2024, 4 webinars were carried out: for the assessment of the welfare during the induction to unconsciousness in broilers during exposure to CAS; for the assessment of the welfare of rabbits on farm; for the assessment of welfare of turkeys on farm; and for the assessment of the state of consciousness after electrical stunning in rabbits. Furthermore, short videos were edited as training material on the website.

Description:

Due to the success of the webinars and the positive opinion of the competent authorities, the Centre will continue to prepare Webinars with audio-visual materials. A standard webinar will have a duration of 90 minutes with 45 minutes of lecture and 45 minutes of discussion. The duration of the webinar might vary depending on the topic. There will be no limitation on the number of attendees. The target audience is official inspectors from the Competent Authorities of the EU MSs. However, all CA's staff are welcome if they feel it's relevant for their work. The trainings will be recorded and uploaded on the Centre's website for the official inspectors and CAs who could not attend the direct presentation and also for the general public interested in the topic (e.g., animal welfare officers, food business operators, NGOs associations).

The webinars to be carried out during this work program will be:

- Assessment for poultry welfare on depopulation farms. The webinar will present the method of welfare assessment of birds on depopulation sites. At least two methods will be presented: one for a group-killing method, and one for an individual-killing method.

-Indicators of the state of consciousness after waterbath stunning for ducks. The webinar will present the outcome of the study carried out in the previous year.

- Fitness for transport. The webinar will present the guidelines developed for this topic.

- On-farm killing methods for rabbits. During this webinar, the on-farm killing methods for rabbits approved under Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 will be presented, which dictates the protection of

animals at the time of killing. Additionally, the Centre will describe the main methods in Italy, France, and Spain. This information will be drawn from insights gathered in the 2026 survey conducted as part of Activity 3.1, 'Review of Current Practices about killing on-farm for rabbits'.

Despite the good attendance to the online webinars, their recordings available online receive very few visualizations due to long duration of the videos. In order to provide complementary training material available online and to maximize their views, the Centre will provide "Knowledge pills" about topics of interest. A knowledge pill (also called "learning pill") will consist of a short recording of a presentation, between 5-15 minutes long. They will be available online, and the topics will be selected between the most interesting ones at a time (for example: summary of a given deliverable, summary of a query, additional information from a factsheet...). This learning technique introduces people to small packets of practical information for an immediate work-related need. We hope to facilitate access to the Centre knowledge this way, in a more friendly and accessible way. We will carry out 3 knowledge pills (one at the end of each year) about selected topics of interest within the Centre work.

Expected output and timing:

- **3 knowledge pills on animal welfare** available online: **M36**. This includes one knowledge pill at the end of each year (M12, M24, and M36).

- **4 webinars on animal welfare: M36**. This includes:

One online webinar about Welfare assessment for bird **welfare on depopulation farms: M11**. The webinar will take place in November. Publication online of video content in February 2026.

One online webinar about **indicators of the state of consciousness after waterbath stunning for ducks: M29**. The webinar will take place in May 2027. Publication online of video content three months later.

One online webinar about **Fitness for transport: M33**. The webinar will take place in September. Publication online of video content in December 2027.

One online webinar about **on-farm killing methods for rabbits: M33**. The webinar will take place in September. Publication online of video content in December 2027.

List of Indicators WP4:

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

3.5. Work Package 5 - Disseminating research and innovations (ANSES)

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

Sub-activity 3.5.1 Centre website and knowledge base implementation and maintenance

Introduction:

This activity is dedicated to the dissemination via the Centre's website, knowledge base, and newsletter of the Centre's outputs and the innovation in the domain of poultry and other small farmed animals' welfare.

Continued consultation with the dissemination teams at other EURCAWs will ensure a cost-effective and consistent approach, when possible, to dissemination and communication.

Objective:

- To implement and develop further the existing website and knowledge base and make available Centre's deliverables related to its five activities.
- To set up a dissemination framework (i.e., newsletters, query section) based on the needs of the target groups.

Achievements so far:

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA website was published online mid-July 2021: <https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu>.

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA knowledge base is based on a Zenodo open-access repository and was created in 2022 as the [EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Zenodo Community](#). The community is curated by the Centre and dedicated to the Centre's output production related to the Centre's five activities. Each document published has a DOI. A link to the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's repository is available on the Centre's website in the 'Knowledge base' sub-page.

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA dissemination framework (leaflet, Q2E alert, newsletters and infographic) was developed and put in place. Continuous collaboration with other EURCAWs on common dissemination tools (e.g., common templates (PPT, factsheets, reviews), icons, and document identifiers) has been done since the designation of the Centre.

Description:

Website

Dissemination and communication of EURCAW and other relevant information will continue on the Centre's website. The Centre will work with the other EURCAWs on the development and functioning of the websites for dissemination purposes in order to make their use is easy for targeted bodies.

Knowledge base

Public documents produced by the Centre (factsheets, reports, reviews, training, and newsletters) during 2025-2027 will be published on the repository. The knowledge base will be updated continuously. The documents published will arise from the output of the work performed in Activities 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4. A brief description and keywords will be available for each document.

Dissemination framework

To bridge the gaps between researcher outcomes and target groups' needs, network exchanges through news and newsletters will be carried out. During the period, the Centre will evaluate the feasibility to use an online newsletter tool and if possible, develop an e-EURCAW-Poultry-SFA newsletter. A EURCAW-Poultry-SFA LinkedIn account will be created to promote further the Centre's activities.

To build a common dissemination approach strategy with the 3 other EURCAWs, several meetings will be conducted along the period with the other EURCAWs communication teams.

Expected output and timing:

- **Informative website and knowledge base** fulfilling the needs for disseminating research findings, innovations and technical expertise: M36.
- **Production of quarterly newsletters:** M36.
- **Create and maintain the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA LinkedIn account:** M36.

Sub-activity 3.5.2 Development of dissemination tools to promote knowledge

Introduction:

This sub-activity is designed to produce, when possible, dissemination tools to promote the knowledge produced by the Centre and make it more easily accessible to the target audience.

Objective:

- To develop tools to promote the knowledge produced by the Centre.

Achievements so far:

A stop-motion video was developed to present the activities of the Centre and two others about the evaluation of consciousness at the slaughterhouse after WBS in broilers and turkeys for training purposes.

In 2023, a collaboration with [La Chaire bien-être animal](#) led to the production of an infographic for [manual handling and carrying turkeys](#). This infographic is a graphic tool for operators in the field, elaborated from the EURCAW recommendations with the objective to improve turkey welfare during catching. This infographic is based on a Q2E answer: [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2023-007](#).

Description:

To increase the dissemination and use of the knowledge produced by the Centre, dissemination tools will be developed. This could be short videos (e.g., knowledge pills; see activity 3.4) on selected topics of interest within the Centre's outputs or infographics based on Q2E answers produced by the Centre and identified as relevant for the target bodies.

Expected output and timing:

- **Develop at least one infographic(s)** based on EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Q2E-answers: **M36**.
- **Develop at least one video on selected topics of interest** within the Centre's outputs to promote the knowledge produced (link with activity 3.4): **M36**.

Sub-activity 3.5.3 Development of a Community of Practice

Introduction:

The third sub-activity will consist in observing other EURCAWs' Community of Practice (CoP) creation and development. If other EURCAWs' CoP are successful, a pilot for the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA CoP will be explored to assess the benefits of a knowledge exchange between EU MS CAs (e.g. Official Inspectors, policy workers, national contact points...) and EURCAW-Poultry-SFA.

Objective:

- To follow EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines CoPs creation and development.
- In case the EURCAWs' CoPs are successful, to investigate the feasibility of a pilot CoP.
- If feasible, develop a pilot CoP

Achievements so far:

During the last period, the progress of EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines CoPs have been monitored during EURCAWs-DG SANTE meetings and during the Communication working group meetings. A survey on EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's activities was launched in May 2024 to collect MSs' feedback on various activities including communication and dissemination.

Description:

During the first year of the period, the Centre will follow EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines CoPs. Regular meetings of the EURCAWs' communication team will permit to follow other centre's progression on this. Success, achievements, possible obstacles and difficulties will also be identified and discussed in the framework of the meeting between EURCAWs and EURCAWs-DG SANTE.

Based on the results of a survey sent to EU MSs (launched in May 2024), and the outcome of the discussion with the CAs during the annual EU network meeting (October 2024), the interest to create a EURCAW-Poultry-SFA CoP will be evaluated.

During the second year of the period, the Centre will explore the possibilities regarding the feasibility of the development of a CoP on the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's. In the meantime, building on other EURCAWs' experiences, and using the established network across EU MS CAs, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will investigate a pilot CoP for EU MS CAs (e.g., Official Inspectors, policy workers, national contact points...) relating to poultry and small farmed animal welfare. The registration form would be sent to the participants through CA national contact points to ensure that the aimed audience is reached. The connection would be password protected to enable the exchange of knowledge and experience by CAs in a safe environment.

During the last year of the period, if EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines CoPs are successful, the Centre will develop a pilot CoP based on the results of year two feasibility exploration.

Expected output and timing:

Feasibility and development if previous established CoP are successful, of a EURCAW-Poultry-SFA pilot Community of Practice: M36. This includes:

- Explore the feasibility of the development of a CoP on the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's website M25.
- Develop a pilot CoP M36.

Sub-activity 3.5.4 Translation of outputs in national languages

Introduction:

This sub-activity is dedicated to the translation of the Center's outputs in national languages.

Objective:

- To support CAs for the translation of Factsheets, into national languages of MSs.

Achievements so far:

The Centre website's content is published in English. The Centre does not have the capacity for the translation of the material in all national languages, but to facilitate diffusion of information from EU level to MSs level, the Centre initiated in 2022, translation into four languages corresponding to countries among the main producers of poultry and rabbits in Europe: France, Italy, Germany and Spain. In 2022, a web page 'translation' was created and published online with four sub-pages, one per languages, where translated factsheets were published. In 2024, the Centre started translating also in Polish and a 'Polish' sub-page was created.

Description:

We will translate 21 factsheets (six to eight per year) produced by the Centre into five languages: French, German, Italian, Polish, and Spanish. The choice of the languages is based on the highest poultry and rabbits producers in the EU.

The German translations could be done in collaboration with EURCAW-Pigs and EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines.

The polish translation will be externalized to a Poultry and rabbit Polish animal welfare expert.

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will support the CAs or the corresponding NRC and SBs of each MSs if they want to translate at their own cost the factsheets produced by the Centre in their national languages. These national language Factsheets will be on the website of the national CAs/NRCs. A link to these national websites will be made available on the Centre's webpage with a disclaimer specifying that the translation does not arise from the Centre: "EURCAW-Poultry-SFA cannot verify the accuracy of the translation, and for the correct wording the English original should be consulted". Other type of documents produced by MSs and translated by MSs will be present via specific links on the website (with a disclaimer specifying that the translated content does not arise from the Centre), redirecting users to the national websites of CAs/NRCs where documents will be accessible.

Expected output and timing:

21 Factsheets translated into 5 languages: M36.

4. Remarks

Partners' co-financing was displayed for information in the budget Excel file. This display is not exhaustive.