

European Union Reference Centre for the welfare of ruminants and equines (EURCAW-*Ruminants&Equines*)



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- Art. 95 of 'The Official Controls Regulation': "The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, designate European Union reference centres for animal welfare “
- The role of the Centres is to develop and disseminate knowledge and tools to assist the NCAs in performing better official controls and enforce EU animal welfare rules
- The main target groups are therefore NCAs, Policy Workers and their 'support bodies'

- Two Reference Centres have already been set-up, one for pig production and one for small farmed animals (farmed birds, rabbits and fur animals)
- The third Centre '*EURCAW-Ruminants&Equines*' designated through Commission Implementing Decision of 6 May 2021, to start 1 June 2021

- Partners from Sweden, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland and Greece
 - Sweden, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) including the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW)
 - Italy, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSAM)
 - France, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE)
 - Austria, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)
 - Ireland, University College Dublin (UCD)
 - Greece, Ellinikos Georgikos Organismos-Dimitra (ELGO-Dimitra)

- Sweden, Harry Blokhuis Birgitta Staaf Larsson
- Italy, Silvia D'Albenzio
- France, Isabelle Veissier
- Austria, Christoph Winckler
- Ireland, Alison Hanlon
- Greece, Evangelia Sossidou

First meeting of the Management Team
4th June 2021





The Experts



More than 120 experts (and their networks) are directly connected to the Centre





The Expertise



Expertise

Behaviour

Health/disease

Stress physiology

Human-animal relationship

Welfare assessment

Genetics

Nutrition

Ethics

Economics

Transport

Slaughter/killing

Training

Communication



Expertise	Country					
	Sweden	Italy	France	Austria	Ireland	Greece
Behaviour	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, E, O	C, S, G, E, O
Health/disease	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C	C, E	C, S, G, E, O
Stress physiology	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C	C	
Human-animal relationship	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, G	C, E	C, S, G, E
Welfare assessment	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G	C, E	C, S, G, E
Genetics	C, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O		C, S, G, O
Nutrition	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G		C, S, G, O
Ethics	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen
Economics	Gen	Gen	Gen			
Transport	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O		C	Gen
Slaughter/killing	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O	C, S, G, E, O			Gen
Training	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen
Communication	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen

Species

C=cattle

S=sheep

G=goats

E=equines

O=other

Gen=Cross cutting



Mission and Activities



EURCAW-*Ruminants&Equines* will provide the NCAs with access to consistent technical data, research findings, new techniques and expertise necessary for the correct application of EU legislation in the field of animal welfare



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Activities in five categories:

1. Coordinated assistance
2. Animal welfare indicators, methods for assessment and improvement
3. Scientific and technical studies
4. Training courses
5. Dissemination of research findings and innovations

1. Coordinated assistance

Organisation of a central contact point for Competent Authorities (NCAs) and prioritise effort

- provide NCAs with scientific and technical information on their request
- create a systematic and easily accessible repository of questions and responses
- identify and prioritise the main concerns and expectations of the target groups.

Output:

- Central contact point and repository
- Prioritised list of welfare issues to be addressed by the Centre



2. Animal welfare indicators, methods for assessment and improvement

Address two areas that seem to be of high priority given the open norms in the EU directive to protect calves (Council Directive 2008/119/EC):

- the feeding of rearing calves (calves should be fed at least twice daily and receive adequate feeds according to their needs)
- the need for contact between individually housed calves (calf boxes should have “perforated walls which allow the calves to have direct visual and tactile contact”)

Output:

Factsheets on welfare indicators and assessment methods and welfare improvement measures

3. Scientific and technical studies

Identification of available knowledge and knowledge gaps regarding high priority farm animal welfare issues and design scientific and technical studies to fill gaps

- exploring an issue that concerns all species covered by the Centre: the richness of the environment. This allows to address a range of topics, from conditions that result in poor welfare (e.g. barren environment of fattening animals) to conditions that promote positive welfare (ranging from e.g. provision of brushes to cow-calf contact systems or complex environments such as in agroforestry).

Output:

- A series of reviews covering various aspects of environmental enrichment
- An agenda for scientific and technical studies

4. Training courses

Analyse training needs, profile audience and develop blueprints for effective training

- implementation of a Training Needs Analysis Platform (TraNAP), functioning as a central virtual node (WEB based), where the training need analysis and the audience profiling will be done, and the relevant reports presented.
Creation and validation of course blueprints for effective training

Output:

- A web-based system for training need analysis and audience profiling
- Course blueprints for effective training concerning feeding of calves and individual calf housing, and environmental enrichment

5. Dissemination of research findings and innovations

Establish a framework and design a website for the dissemination of EURCAW-*Ruminants&Equines* outputs

- perform an analysis of NCA needs for dissemination of research findings and technological innovations and establish a framework for dissemination activities including newsletters, factsheets, videocasts tailored to the needs of the target audience

Output:

- Inventory of current dissemination activities by NCAs and their supporting research bodies and an evaluation of dissemination needs in ruminant and equine welfare to support the implementation of regulatory controls
- The EURCAW-*Ruminants&Equines* website will be created for dissemination activities.

Thank you for your attention



SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
LIFE