



CLARIFICATION N°2

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2024-BIOHAW-01

Call title: Pathway to animal welfare quantitative risk assessment: piloting a harmonised collection of welfare data in pigs.

Question 1: It is unclear if 'online database' means a ready to use website with database OR as also stated in the call text: a 'prototype database that is transportable'. These two terms seem contradictory.

Answer 1: it needs to be noted that this project falls into a framework goal of EFSA which is to develop a freely accessible, online-based database populated with field data that could be used in analysing correlations between Animal Based Measures (thereinafter: ABMs) and related context data. This will enhance EFSA's capacity to respond to forthcoming inquiries from the European Commission, the European Parliament, or MSs.

However, this goal involves several key steps reported in the published call for proposals (please refer in particular to Tasks 5, 13 and 14):

- The awarded Consortium (beneficiary) is requested to develop a prototype database to collect primary field data from selected ABMs and related context data for the relevant pig categories. The prototype database should be structured according to a data model that will guide the field data collection and management, ensuring quality, traceability, and compliance with existing EFSA standards.
- The beneficiary is tasked also to produce a detailed draft protocol for a harmonised primary field data collection of the selected ABMs and context data that will be stored in the database.
- The database, including structure, data model, controlled terminologies and format, and the draft protocol should be agreed by EFSA. EFSA will evaluate the prototype to address also any issues related to personal or sensitive data.
- The produced database, populated with all field data should be interoperable or exportable into other formats.

As reported in the call, it's at EFSA's discretion the publication and dissemination of the populated database for free accessing also from third parties.

In summary, "freely-accessible online database" and "prototype database that is transportable" represent different steps of the project. The prototype envisioned in the call for proposals is an initial version of a dataset created to demonstrate functionality or test concepts. The export formats should ensure the possibility (transportability) for the database to be shared or deployed in different environments. The online publication of the database is not required as a task for the beneficiary.

Question 2: There will be a need to recruit a large number of farms for data collection on ABMs. To achieve this, we will most probably need to ask for help from industry partners in the different countries. However, we also realize that involvement of private companies can be problematic from EFSA's point-of-view. Thus, are there any restrictions/recommendations on how this collaboration can be designed?

Answer 2: From the question you ask we understand that you would consider a way to recruit farms/industry partners as their involvement is considered relevant for the envisaged activities and you would like clarifications on the problematic implications that EFSA may have with involvement of private companies.

Moreover, from your question we understand that the private companies envisaged to be involved in your application are not expected to have an impact on scientific output you will produce, as they are to be selected for tasks foreseen under sub-objective 2.3 and following sub-objectives.

Should our understanding be correct i.e. private companies envisaged to be involved in your application are not expected to have an impact on scientific output you will produce, their involvement is not to be considered problematic, provided that their role is clearly explained in the technical proposal to be submitted as part of your application. In case farms/industry partners are expected to provide data, the applicants are expected to clearly mention this role in the technical proposal (farms/industry partners to provide data) and to put in place measures to prevent that data provided are biased and to clearly explain these measures in their technical proposal.

On a different note, please note that involvement of subcontractors as defined in art. 9.3 of the General model grant agreement (Annex 1 of the call for proposals) is possible only for non-core tasks (tasks 5, 9 and 10). Subcontractors can be public or private companies. As subcontractors, they are subjected to the submission of Institutional Declaration of Interest (DoIs) and, when applicable, of individual DoIs as outlined in section 2.4.B of the call for proposals – Selection Criteria, B) Professional and operational capacity.

You may consider consulting also the answer provided to question 2 under clarification 1 regarding compensation of farms for allowing on-farm data collection - [link to clarification 1](#).