



CLARIFICATION N°1

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: How should travel costs to farms be budgeted? As farms cannot be recruited during the proposal planning stage, we do not know the exact locations of the farms/slaughterhouses, so we can only estimate the costs. On the budget template sheet A.2, however, information regarding exact locations for each travel item is requested. How should we handle this?

Answer: Indeed the costs indicated in the budget at the time of submitting the proposal should be based on an estimation of the costs. The eligible costs of the project receiving an EFSA grant must be shown in detail in the estimated budget excel file. EFSA will take the final decision on the nature and amount of the costs to be considered as eligible.

Rules on eligibility of costs are presented in section 4. of the call for proposals (RULES ON ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS). In particular sub-section 4. FLEXIBILITY WITH APPROVED ESTIMATED BUDGET mentions that *"After the estimated budget of the project has been approved by EFSA (corrections are possible during the evaluation of the proposal) it becomes the approved estimated budget, and it will be attached to the Grant agreement. The approved estimated budget is based on estimates, and therefore it is normal that during the project implementation there might be a need to adjust it to reality or any unforeseen events. The approved estimated budget may be adjusted by making transfers provided that such adjustments do not affect the basic purpose and the completion of the project is not jeopardised. No amendment is necessary for these transfers."*

In the specific case mentioned in the question, it is fine that at proposal stage you estimate costs for activities in farms/slaughterhouses to the best of your possibility and that these costs are different in the reporting phase when you will know the exact locations of activities.

Please also note that, as explained in section 4. RULES ON ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS (2.1.1 COSTS OF PERSONNEL and 2.1.2 TRAVEL COSTS AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES), the personnel and travel costs (sheets A.1 and A.2) are based on pre-defined unit cost based on the country and on the staff categories (Manager, Researcher/Teacher/Trainer, Technical, Administrative) while the rest of the sheets (A.3 to A.6) are based on actually incurred costs.

Question 2: Does the funding allow us to reserve some budget part for compensating farms for allowing on-farm data collection?

Answer: From the question you ask we understand that you would consider a way to compensate with a financial support farms/slaughterhouses which are keen to cooperate in the frame of your project. Should this be the case, we may suggest considering the option of providing financial support to third parties. This financial support must be budgeted under "miscellaneous costs". There is a provision in such a sense in the grant agreement. For ease of reference, please consult the Grant Agreement, section D.1 Financial support to third parties.

Question 3: We would like to clarify from which age/production stage gilts are to be included?

Answer: Please refer to the definition of 'gilt' in the EFSA Scientific opinion (SO) on the welfare of pigs on farm (EFSA AHAW Panel, 2022:

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7421>): as described in section 3.2.2.1 of the SO, a gilt is a young female pig that has started her reproductive life but has not yet farrowed a litter. In the context of this call for proposals, gilts should be considered from the service (see Fig. 1 of the Call for proposals).

Question 4: Who will continue updating and using the protocol, training and database after the end of the project? Is this up to the project group to suggest this, or does EFSA have a specific plan regarding this?

Answer: No request regarding the updating of the protocol after the end of the project has been included in the call for proposals. There is no request from EFSA to propose any follow up activities when submitting your proposal.

The aim of this call for proposals is to have a protocol, database and training as a static version enabling a harmonised data collection for quantitative AW risk assessment and to serve as basis for future monitoring/surveillance on AW. The beneficiary (i.e. the consortium who will receive the grant) can make suggestions or recommendations on follow-up activities during the project implementation or in the final report to EFSA.