



Funded by  
the Better Training for Safer Food  
Initiative of the European Union

## Agenda

---

# Animal welfare in broiler production

Desenzano del Garda (BS), Italy, 8-11 March 2016

*Training activities on Animal Welfare mainly for EU Member States  
under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' Initiative.*

*Service Contract N. 2012 96 04*



*Contractor:*

*Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"*

*Sub-contractors:*

*Aarhus University (DK), Scotland's Rural College (UK), Università degli Studi di Milano (I)*



# Introduction

The Commission has been developing animal welfare legislation for over 30 years and has been at the forefront of initiatives to promote it internationally by its active participation in, and support for, initiatives of the Council of Europe and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Animals are recognised as sentient beings by Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union (TFEU). In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The European Commission adopted its EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 in January 2012. The strategy builds on the experience gained through the 2006-2010 Action Plan to propose lines of EU action for the next four years. This strategy in particular considers enforcement as priority and stresses the importance of training in this regard.

The EU legislation on the protection of animals on the farm aims to ensure that animals are kept and raised respecting the minimum physiological needs and to minimise painful practices. In particular, Council Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes lays down general rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians. Moreover, specific EU legislation exists on the welfare of poultry, pigs and calves. Council Directive 1999/74/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens and Council Directive 2007/43/EC, applying as of 30 June 2010, lays down minimum standards for the protection of chickens kept for meat production. Council Directive 2008/120/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of pigs and Council Directive 2008/119/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

The EU strategy for the Protection and Welfare of animals 2012-2015 includes, as a key objective, support for international cooperation. At international level, the OIE has adopted standards on the protection of animals at the time of killing and during transport. It also includes standards for the protection of animals used for experimental purposes. Moreover the OIE is also developing standards on animal welfare in different production systems.

FAO is also working on capacity building on good animal welfare practices which may benefit livestock related livelihood in developing countries.

In this context the EU has actively promoted consideration of animal welfare within the framework of veterinary agreements with other Third Countries trading partners. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement with Chile was the first ever bilateral agreement between the EC and a Third country to include animal welfare within its scope. It was followed by the EC-Canada JMC/Veterinary Agreement. Furthermore, Cooperation Forums on Animal Welfare were established with New Zealand and Australia.

Training in the areas of animal welfare issues is considered an important tool in view of developing best practices and compliance with the EU and international standards.

## The relevant European context

Broiler farming is a very important sector within the EU, with over 5 billion chickens slaughtered per year, representing more than any other farmed species. Scientific data indicate that due to the intensive farming conditions of this sector, there are significant challenges for the health and welfare of these animals.

Council Directive 2007/43/CE of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production aims to reduce the overcrowding of chicken holdings, by setting a maximum stocking density of 33kg/m<sup>2</sup>, or 39kg/m<sup>2</sup> if stricter welfare standards are met. The new legislation also lays down a number of other conditions to ensure better animal welfare, including features of the housing environment (e.g. lighting, litter, feeding, and ventilation) and assessment of post-slaughter measures of welfare. All Member States were required to transpose the Directive into their national legislation and implement it by June 2010.

The Commission proposal, already adopted on 30 May 2005, was based on a scientific opinion of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW) and extensive consultations with stakeholders and Member State experts.

## Specific learning objectives

The course will allow participants to achieve the necessary skills to:

- interpret relevant EU legislation;
- apply scientific basis for proper housing, management, handling and transport (loading phase);
- assess the existing farming systems in relation to compliance with the current EU legislation;
- monitor animal welfare outcomes throughout practical experience at farm;
- carry out efficient inspections at farm level, including practical guidance on how to verify compliance of the farming systems with the EU legislation (for example, how to verify the stocking density and how to calculate mortality rates in broilers);
- set up and monitor data collection systems for broiler at slaughterhouses;
- promote a strong cooperation among stakeholders for improving the welfare conditions of broilers at farm.

# Agenda

Scientific Coordinators: Valentina Ferrante, Stefan Gunnarsson

<i>Chairman: Stefan Gunnarsson</i>				
Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
8 March	Morning	Arrival and transfer to the hotel	---	---
	13.30 – 15.30	Welcome buffet lunch	---	2 h
	16.00	Welcome addresses Course background, objectives, expected results	S. D'Albenzio IZSAM	15 m
	16.15	Directive 2007/43/EC on the protection of chickens kept for the production of meat*	P. Caruana Directorate F - DG Health and Food Safety	15 m
	16.30	Experiences and perspectives on the state of implementation of the legislation in Europe	S. Gunnarsson SLU	20 m
	16.50	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	20 m
	17.10	Panel discussion: options to be envisaged to ensure proper enforcement of Council Directive 2007/43/CE of 28 June 2007 and international perspectives	V. Ferrante (UNIMI) <i>Panel coordinator</i>  A. Brecelj (Slovenia)  B. Broberg (Denmark)  S. Gunnarsson (Sweden)  M. Simon (The Netherlands)  L. Stuardo (OIE)	1 h 20 m
	18.30	End of the first session and free time	---	---
	20.00	Dinner	---	---

\* *pre-registered presentation*

Chairman morning session: Ales Brecelj  
 Chairman afternoon session: Mariella Simon

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
9 March	09.00	OIE initiatives and standards: animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems	L. Stuardo (OIE)	15 m
	09.15	Welfare problems in broilers caused by genetic factors and the resistance to stress of commercial broilers	D. Guémené (INRA)	30 m
	09.45	Common husbandry systems in Europe and their specific and a-specific management procedures	D. Guémené (INRA)	30 m
	10.15	Morning tea and coffee break	---	15 m
	10.30	Broiler chickens: the risk factors affecting animal welfare on farm (density, litter management, microclimate, de-population)	V. Ferrante (UNIMI)	30 m
	11.00	Animal Based Measures for on-farm evaluation of broiler welfare and for ante-mortem inspection	V. Ferrante (UNIMI)	30 m
	11.30	Open forum: questions & answers	A. Brecelj (Slovenian NCA)	15 m
	11.45	Group activity: case studies	All tutors facilitate	60 m
	12.45	Presentation of the group activity results: plenary session	WGs leaders	30 m
	13.15	Lunch	---	1 h 15 m
	14.30	Practical examples on the use of ABM and plenary discussion	V. Ferrante (UNIMI) and S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	45 m
	15.15	Data collection system of welfare indicators in EU broilers' slaughterhouses	P. Ferrari (CRPA)	30 m
	15.45	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m
	16.00	Simulation exercise on data collection at slaughterhouse	All tutors facilitate	30 m
	16.30	Presentation of the farms/slaughterhouses to be visited the day after	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	15 m
	16.45	Preparation to the in-field exercise: how to conduct an audit (useful tools and good practices)	A. Brecelj (Slovenian NCA)	30 m
	17.15	Open forum: questions & answers	Chairman coordinates	15 m
	17.30	End of the session and free time	---	---
	20.00	Dinner	---	---

*Morning session: all tutors facilitate the sub-group activities*  
*Chairman afternoon session: Valentina Ferrante*

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
10 March	08.00	Departure to farms	All tutors	1 h
	09.00	In field simulation exercises	All tutors	3 h
	12.00	Departure to the hotel	All tutors	1 h
	13.00	Lunch	---	1h 30 m
	14.30	Group activity: discussion on the in-field simulation exercise	All tutors facilitate	1 h 30 m
	16.00	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m
	16.15	Preparation of in-field activity reports (ppt presentations)	WG leaders	45 m
	17.00	End of the session	---	---
	17.30	Social Programme	---	---
	20.00	Social dinner and musical entertainment	---	---

*Chairman: Stefan Gunnarsson*

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
11 March	09.00	Presentation in plenary session of the in-field activity reports	WGs leaders	1 h
	10.00	Plenary discussion	S. Gunnarsson (SLU) coordinates and all tutors facilitate	30 m
	10.30	Course major outcomes and final conclusions	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	15 m
	10.45	Brunch	---	---
	11.30	Transfer from the hotel to International Airports	---	---

# Training course methodologies

The course aims at improving participant practical skills to be applied in their daily work. They focus on developing the abilities of participants identifying critical points and solutions to main problems encountered in the everyday work.

Training methodology, drawn upon the experience of the trainees, takes into consideration that the trainee is in most cases already quite informed on the issues related to animal welfare standards.

On the basis of previous DG SANTE experiences and taking into account adult learning styles, the training methodologies will be the following ones:

Methods
Lectures by experts
Group works/facilitated group discussions
Study and discussion of typical cases
Structured exercises and simulations
Individual reading assignments and individual exercise
Demonstrations in field activities

A half-day visit to a chicken farm and to a slaughterhouse will be organised for practicing simulation exercises.

## Participants

Official veterinarians belonging to the National Competent Authorities of EU Countries, Candidate and Third Countries, involved in:

- official controls on animal welfare aspects concerning broiler farming;
- development of good practices to improve the application of European legislation and international standards.

## Location

### **Hotel Acquaviva del Garda**

Via Agello, 84 - 25015 Desenzano d/G (BS)

Tel. +39 030/9901583

Website: [www.hotelacquaviva.it](http://www.hotelacquaviva.it)

e-mail: [info@hotelacquaviva.it](mailto:info@hotelacquaviva.it)