Mid-term Seminar

Sustainability in Pig Production with Immunocastration

Partners: UOH, DE; ILVO, BE; INRA, FR; KIS, SL; UL-VF, SL; SEGES, DK; WULS, PL; WU, NL

Problem Addressed in the Project:
Most male piglets are surgically castrated, which is painful. Raising entire males (EM) is not the hoped for alternative. Use of anesthesia also has (welfare) problems and is no sustainable solution.

Objectives:
Optimise pork production with immunocastration (IC) as an environmental, economic and socially sustainable alternative to pork production with entire male (EM) and surgical castrates (SC)

Interim Research Findings:
- IC reduces boar taint and animal welfare problems effectively
- IC are ecologically very efficient. Precision feeding further improves this.
- EU pork industry faces ambiguity challenges to justify their legitimacy position. Germany has an influential role in this market.

Future research and activities:
- Animal trials run, data analysis are in progress, generalized conclusions expected thereafter
- Intensify research uptake and co-creation processes (SuSI, other projects, stakeholders)

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