Project aim and strategy

- Aims to co-construct innovations to improve the welfare of poultry and pigs reared in organic and low-input outdoor farming systems through a multi-actor approach conducted by 23 partners from 9 EU countries.
- Participatory approach, involving all actors of the value chain from farmers to consumers, citizens, scientists and policy makers in 9 National Practitioner Groups (from France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Romania, Denmark and Germany) for proposing and studying welfare improvement levers.
- Experimental investigation of innovative techniques and on-farm test of the most promising ones
- Delivery of a combination of practical solutions to improve animal welfare that can be applied on a pan-European basis with specific adjustments tailored to meet citizen’s expectations and the target market.
- PPILOW will receive 10 M€ funding for 5 years from the Horizon H2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

Main objectives and expected outcomes

- Co-created strategies and tools for improving animal welfare
  Favouring positive behaviours and improving health and robustness in both poultry and pigs
  Reducing the use of veterinary drugs through the improvement of animal robustness and resilience
  Identifying and selecting of genotypes with relevant traits suitable for outdoor systems and with a higher survival rate
  Identifying valuable genotypes and management techniques to limit the risk of boar taint in non-castrated male pigs
  Limiting parasite infections through different feeding and management strategies
  Providing welfare self-assessment tools
  Optimizing a non-invasive in ovo-sexing technique and promoting new farming systems valorizing layer male chicks by using dual-purpose breeds

- "One Welfare" evaluation of the proposed tools and strategies
  Multi-criteria analyses of the most effective strategies for evaluating impacts according to sustainability goals, with specific emphasis on animal and human welfare.
  Creation of economic and business models for the high-quality products generated from the adoption of innovative strategies.
  Dissemination and communication activities to various actors of the food chain from farmers to consumers.
  Uptake of the project results by end-users by the close involvement of National Practitioner Groups throughout the EU for facilitating change.