

Lifting farm animal lives – Laying the foundations for positive animal welfare



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POSITIVE WELFARE

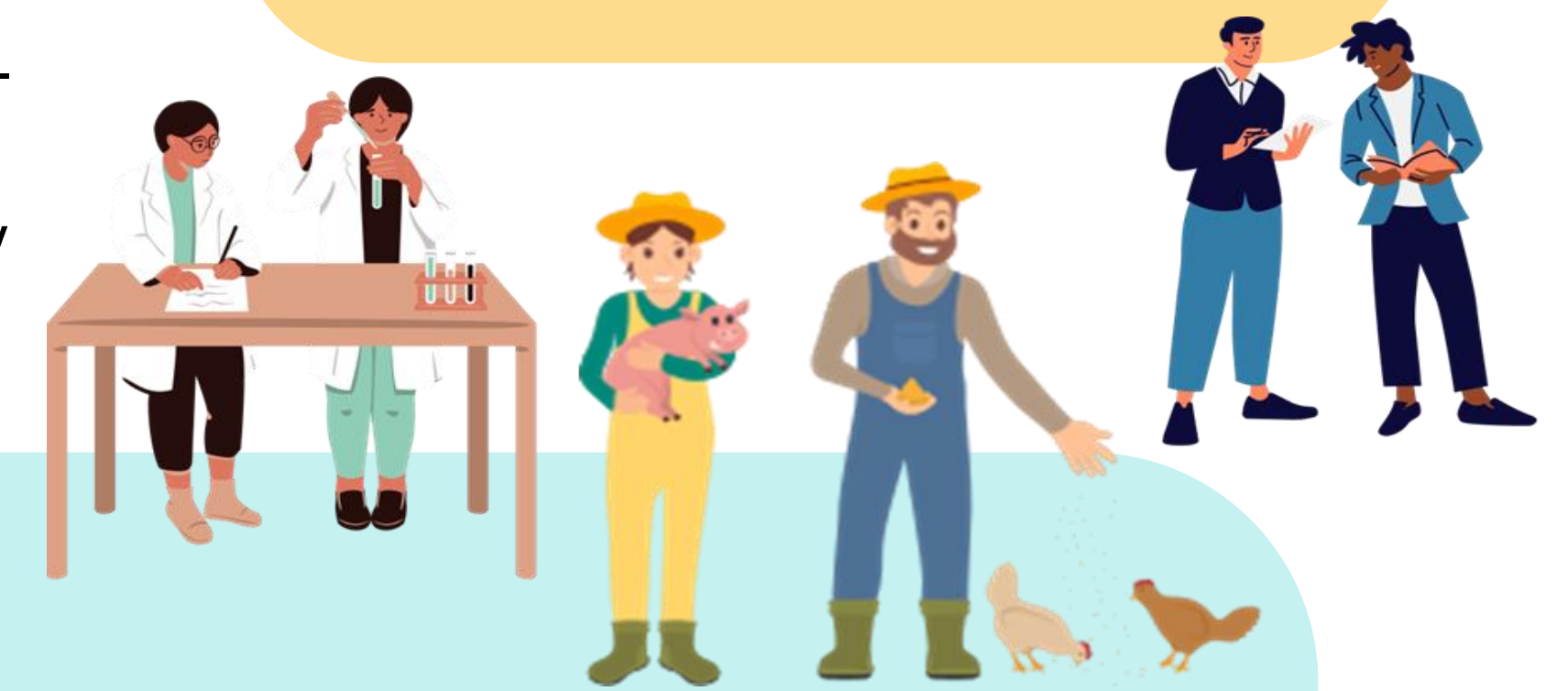
In science, and society at large, there is a growing interest in promoting positive experiences in farm animals. However, there is little agreement on how to define or assess positive animal welfare scientifically.

COST Action LIFT

COST Action LIFT (CA21124) is a research network which aims to support the understanding and assessment of positive animal welfare, through providing scientific background. We encourage cross-discipline knowledge exchange, training and collaboration.

350+ Members
46 Countries

Researchers, Industry
Stakeholders, and
NGOs



WHAT IS POSITIVE ANIMAL WELFARE?

The project has recently published a definition of positive animal welfare (PAW), based on consensus between key researchers in the field.

PAW can be defined as "the animal flourishing through the experience of predominantly positive mental states and the development of competence and resilience. PAW goes beyond ensuring good physical health and the prevention and alleviation of suffering. It encompasses animals experiencing positive mental states resulting from rewarding experiences, including having choices and opportunities to actively pursue goals and achieve desired outcomes."



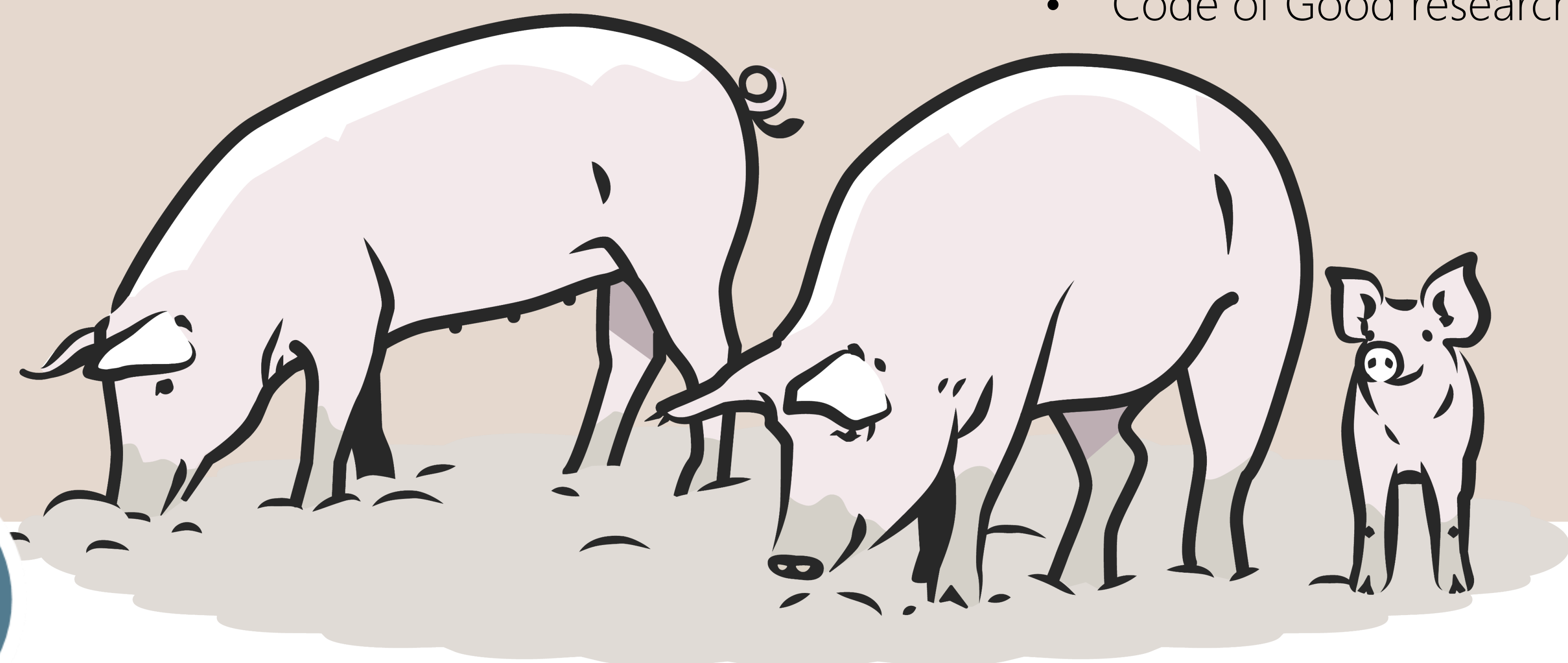
See publication
Rault et al., 2025

TOPICS

- Cumulative welfare
- Choice and agency
- Low arousal positive states
- Affect balance
- Circadian rhythms
- Play behaviour
- Cognition & Neurobiology
- Welfare assessment
- Stakeholder engagement
- Cross-disciplinary concepts
- Socio-individual factors
- The 4 Why's of PAW
- Technologies to monitor PAW

OUTPUTS

- Review papers
- Searchable Research forum
- Catalogue of methodologies
- Code of Good research practice



CONCEPTS

Define positive animal welfare

METHODS

Identify valid methodologies

Bring cohesion to the European effort into positive animal welfare

Communication and dissemination

ON-FARM
Suggest potential indicators



Watch here a short video about the project

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New updates are published every month!

