

EconWelfare: Upgrading Animal Welfare Standards Across Europe

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Paper based on EconWelfare work by
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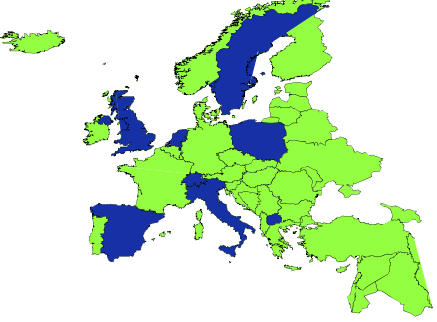



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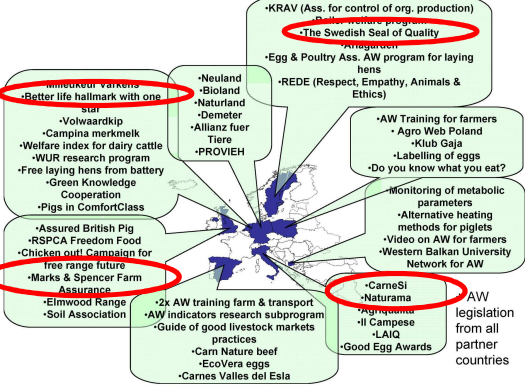
- Overall aim:
‘What are the policy instruments which are effective in the route towards higher farm animal welfare?’



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- Denmark:**
 - Beter life hallmark with one star
 - Volwaardkip
 - Campina merkmek
 - Welfare index for dairy cattle
 - WUR research program
 - Free laying hens from battery
 - Green Knowledge Cooperation
 - Pigs in ComfortClass
- UK:**
 - Assured British Pig
 - RSPCA Freedom Food
 - Chicken out! Campaign for free range future
 - Marks & Spencer Farm Assurance
 - Elmwood Range
 - Soil Association
- Sweden:**
 - KRAV (Ass. for control of org. production)
 - The Swedish Seal of Quality
 - Egg & Poultry Ass. AW program for laying hens
 - REDE (Respect, Empathy, Animals & Ethics)
- Poland:**
 - AW Training for farmers
 - Agro Web Poland
 - Klub Gaja
 - Labelling of eggs
 - Do you know what you eat?
- Spain:**
 - Monitoring of metabolic parameters
 - Alternative heating methods for piglets
 - Video on AW for farmers
 - Western Balkan University Network for AW
- Other:**
 - Neuland
 - Bioland
 - Naturland
 - Demeter
 - Allianz fuer Tiere
 - PROVIEH
 - CarneSi
 - Naturama
 - Argenteus
 - Il Campese
 - LAIQ
 - Good Egg Awards
 - AW legislation from all partner countries
 - 2x AW training farm & transport
 - AW indicators research subprogram
 - Guide of good livestock markets practices
 - Cam Nature beef
 - EcoVera eggs
 - Carne Valles del Esla



Leave AW standards to the market?

- Market solutions are widely believed to be more efficient & effective in supplying the needs of society than government intervention
- But: higher standards are a matter of personal choice, and will not be chosen by all consumers
- Illustrative is the competition on prices and price-promotions
- Government intervention is still needed, to set minimal standards

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Which policy objective is most important?

- A Delphi questionnaire among 200 stakeholders in 8 countries

Which policy objective is most important?

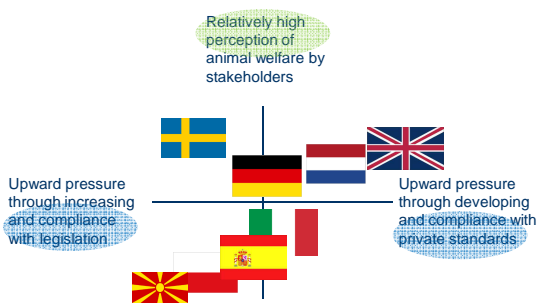
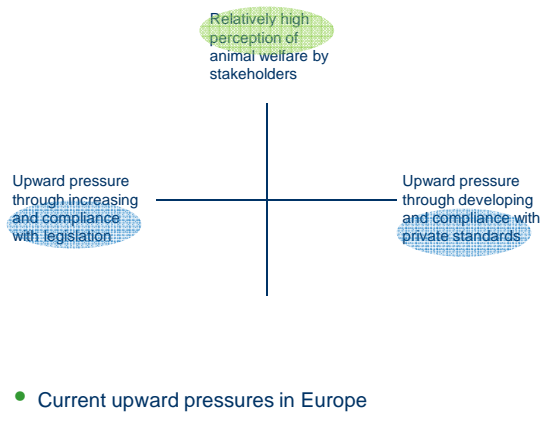
- A Delphi questionnaire among 200 stakeholders in 8 countries

	Public awareness of farm animal welfare	Education & information to chain	On-farm standards	Off-farm standards	New markets & existing markets
Italy					
Macedonia					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Spain					
Sweden					
Germany					
UK					

Which policy objective is most important?

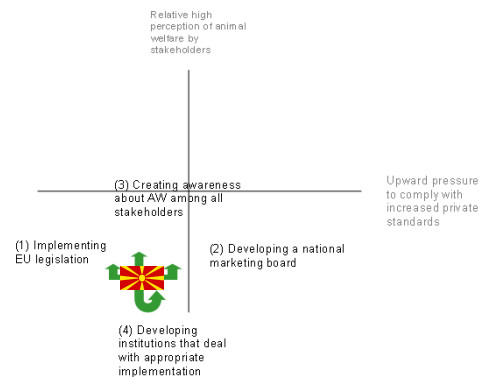
- A Delphi questionnaire among 200 stakeholders in 8 countries

	Public awareness of farm animal welfare	Education & information to chain	On-farm standards	Off-farm standards	New markets & existing markets
Italy	4.31	4.40	4.20	3.96	3.82
Macedonia	4.58	4.65	4.60	4.64	4.15
Netherlands	4.38	3.79	4.13	4.00	4.42
Poland	4.44	4.20	4.12	4.22	4.01
Spain	3.67	4.14	3.74	3.83	3.54
Sweden	4.27	3.82	3.78	3.81	2.90
Germany	4.25	4.03	4.30	4.05	3.95
UK	3.83	4.09	4.32	4.23	3.51

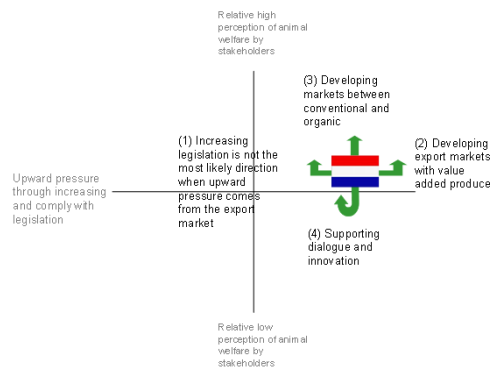


- A common welfare goal for Europe
- ... but via different routes?

FYR Macedonia: Balcan model



The Netherlands: export market model



EU wide policy

- Best practices need to be shared to increase welfare but with lowest additional costs: a European Network of Reference Centers may be helpful in this.
- Judging welfare for marketing and legislative purposes should be on the welfare *outcome*, rather than the *input* (e.g. building design...)
- We need transparent animal welfare labeling schemes

(some) ECONWELFARE CONCLUSIONS

- The overall goal of animal welfare policy should be the same everywhere in the EU, but is unlikely to be achieved in similar ways.
- EU wide legislation is important to set the lower boundaries for farm animal welfare, and it needs to be enforced.
- Transparency is needed, and an EU harmonised welfare labelling system for animal products could strongly support this.



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www.econwelfare.eu