**Mapping of detection and management of residues of antimicrobials in pigs delivered to an abattoir**

The objective of this project is to collect information about activities related to detection and management of residues of licensed antimicrobial substances in pigs delivered to an abattoir. This includes the routine monitoring activities developed and implemented by the competent authorities (CA) and the food business operators (FBO). Moreover, focus is on a case where a pig producer has provided food chain information (FCI) indicating compliance regarding withdrawal periods, but later discovers that a pig was delivered before the end of this period.

The questionnaire has been developed by a project group within the European COST Action RIBMINS CA18105. RIBMINS is an acronym for risk-based meat inspection and integrated meat safety assurance. Please see <https://ribmins.com/> for more information. During the development of the questionnaire, input was received from CA and FBO, in- and outside Europe.

The target audience are the staff of the CA and the FBO involved in planning, monitoring and handling of residues of antimicrobial substances in pigs delivered to slaughter. The intention is to have at least one answer from the CA and one answer from an FBO per country. For large countries, we are interested in receiving answers from all relevant regions, if possible. Moreover, we would appreciate to receive answers from FBOs representing large, medium and small abattoirs.

The questionnaire is launched through the RIBMINS working group and the national contact points for all countries participating in RIBMINS. There are two versions of the questionnaire, one for the CA and one for the FBO. They can be accessed through each their link. The links will be open until 30 June 2022. It will take around 25 minutes to fill in each questionnaire.

The area of expertise may be divided between more persons and departments, e.g., the central CA and the local CA in charge of controls on the abattoir. In this case, please identify the correct persons who will be able to help providing the needed information. The questionnaire does not cover monitoring of illegal veterinary substances or environmental pollutants. Neither is monitoring of live animals on the farms covered.

The data will be analysed and processed in accordance with the EU data protection law. By filling in the questionnaire, the respondents give their consent in letting the project group use the data as described above. All answers will be anonymised, and when reporting, countries will be anonymised. The questionnaire has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee for Faculty of Science & Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (journal number 504-0308/22-5000).

The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. This will include a discussion of the similarities and variations between countries and an identification of different sets of countries’ best practices and more precise objectives for monitoring and control of residues. The outcome may act as a basis for more cost-effective routine monitoring and more evidence-based procedures regarding condemnation of carcasses and by-products that might contain antimicrobial substances. This may lead to a more harmonised approach in Europe and allow for reducing food losses without jeopardizing consumer safety. Hence, improved food security and reduced resource footprints of pork production, in line with the EU ambition to ensure a more climate friendly and sustainable future.

If you have any queries related to the questionnaire or the project as such feel free to contact Lis Alban, who is the researcher responsible for the project, on lia@lf.dk.

We thank all participants for their contributions.

On behalf of the RIBMINS project group

**Lis Alban**

DVM, PhD, DipECVPH

Chief Scientist, Danish Agriculture & Food Council

Adjunct Professor, University of Copenhagen

DENMARK

**Additional members of the project group**: Ian Jensen (AU), Jesper Valentin Petersen (DK), Fernando Perez Rodriguez & Rosa Mª Garcia-Gimeno (ES), Ioannis Sakaridis (GR), Boris Antunovic (HR), Silvia Bonardi (IT), Aivars Bērziņš' (LV), Derk Oorburg (NL), Madalena Vieira Pinto (PT), Madalina Belous & Alexandrina Sirbu (RO), Ivar Vågsholm & Arja Helena Kautto (SE)