

## **PIGWEB**

An infrastructure for experimental research for sustainable pig production

<https://www.pigweb.eu/>



The PIGWEB project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101004770

# **TNA PROCEDURAL MANUAL**

Version 04 (29.08.2023)

The entire TNA process is based on a continuous collaboration between the TNA user, the TNA provider, and the TNA management team. To ensure a successful process and outcome, all parties must strictly adhere to the procedures prescribed in this manual.

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## 1. PIGWEB

PIGWEB is a Horizon 2020 project that was launched on March 1, 2021. This five-year project gathers 16 different partners from ten different countries across Europe.

*The core aim of the PIGWEB project is to strengthen the pig research community.*

This aim will be achieved by providing and facilitating access to research infrastructures, by reinforcing a culture of cooperation between the research community and industrial and societal stakeholders, and by improving and integrating the services provided by the research infrastructures. PIGWEB and all partners fully embrace the European Green Deal and the 'Farm to Fork' strategy to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Further detailed information about the project can be consulted on the project website <https://www.pigweb.eu/>.

## 2. TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS

*PIGWEB's transnational access (TNA) programme ensures free access to top quality European pig research installations.*

Divided over three calls, a budget of about 1.5 million euros is available to provide external teams (both academic and private researchers) with easy and transparent access to the partners' infrastructures. Apart from the cost of the research itself, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs may be covered by the project's budget as well. TNA can be applied for by submitting research proposals as described in this manual. The TNA installation receives the money to conduct the selected trials. The TNA users receive all experimental data.

## 3. TNA INSTALLATIONS

The TNA installations cover the most advanced technologies in the following research topics:



In total, 28 experimental pig research installations of the 10 participating research infrastructures are offering TNA (Figure 1, Table 1). Table 2 summarizes the key expertise made available by the different installations.



**Figure 1** PIGWEB TNA consortium map. Ten research infrastructures (logos) in nine different countries (yellow) are offering TNA to 28 experimental pig research installations.

**Table 1** PIGWEB TNA consortium partners.

Short name	Legal name	Country
Agroscope	Eidgenössische Departement für Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung	Switzerland
AU	Aarhus Universitet	Denmark
EV ILVO	Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek	Belgium
FBN	Forschungsinstitut für Nutztierbiologie	Germany
INRAE	Institut national de recherche pour l’agriculture, l’alimentation et l’environnement	France
IRTA	Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentaries	Spain
MATE	Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences	Hungary
Medicopus	Medicopus Egészségügyi Szolgáltató Közhasznú Nonprofit KFT	Hungary
SLU	Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet	Sweden
WU	Wageningen University	The Netherlands

**Table 2** Key expertise offered for TNA per TNA installation.

Infrastructure	TNA installation	Animal behaviour and welfare	Body and carcass composition	Calorimetry	Emissions	Feed and feed technologies	Metabolism and physiology	Production systems
Agroscope	DXA		■				■	
	Metabolism <sup>1</sup>				■		■	
AU	Piglets						■	
	Feed					■		
	Lactation <sup>1</sup>	■					■	
EV ILVO	Gestation						■	
	Nursery							■
	Emissions & odours				■			
	Nutrient balance		■					
FBN	PigHouse							■
	ExpPhysioRo						■	
	EnergyLab			■				
	BehaveLab	■						
	GenSuite						■	
INRAE	Feed mill					■		
	Calorimetry			■	■		■	
	PLF							■
	RFI lines	■						■
	Creole breed							■
IRTA	Feed mill and laboratory					■		
	Abattoir and CT unit		■					
MATE	Perform						■	
	Rapid analysis						■	
	Lipid-mycotoxin						■	
Medicopus	CT lab		■					
SLU	Lövsta	■						■
WU	Respirometry unit			■	■		■	
	Behavioural research unit	■						

<sup>1</sup> Installations not offered in 3<sup>rd</sup> call

1. Do you want to assess **animal behaviour** to better understand and improve **animal welfare**? Five installations allow you to carry out different types of behavioural experiments (e.g., home pen behaviour such as maternal and suckling behaviour, or specific tests such as cognitive tasks and anxiety tests) using live observations, cameras and bioacoustics. Behaviour of pigs of different ages and of different breed and lines can be studied.
2. Do you want to know more about **body and carcass composition**? Five installations give you the possibility to study the effect of experimental treatments on nutrient and energy deposition rate or efficiency in live pigs or nutrient and energy content of the carcasses, by using either dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), computed tomography (CT) or by grinding and analysing the animals.
3. Are you interested in **calorimetry**? Three installations offer the possibility to measure effects of experimental treatments on heat production measured by gaseous exchange (i.e., O<sub>2</sub> consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> production) under a wide variety of highly controlled environmental and housing conditions. These measurements can be part of a complete energy and nitrogen balance study, and/or can be combined with the measurement of metabolites, or emissions of other gases or feeding behaviour and physical activity characterization.
4. Do you want to quantify **emissions** to study the environmental impact of pig production? Four installations allow you to measure gas emissions (e.g., CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and/or N<sub>2</sub>O) and odours in controlled experimental barns, in respiration chambers, or in *in vitro* systems.
5. Do you want to produce an experimental **feed**? Three feed manufacturing installations are made available where high precision **feed technologies** can be applied under well-controlled and traceable conditions to process feed ingredients into complete feeds that meet the requirements of precision nutrition research.
6. Are you focussing on **metabolism and physiology**? Eleven installations offer you the possibility to assess nutrient transformation and feed efficiency of pigs, and the environmental impact of variable production conditions.
7. Do you want to study specific elements of pig **production systems**? Six installations allow you to perform various experiments with different feeding strategies, different breeds or different systems (e.g., conventional or organic systems or loose-housed sows during farrowing). The modern and flexible installations provide data recording of body weight, feed intake and/or water consumption. Depending on the installation, registrations can be done both at an individual level and/or at group level at different stages from birth to slaughter.

*Each TNA installation is highlighted in more detail through its TNA installation sheet (including a short description and some images), which is available on the project website.*

Multiple TNA installations, from the same or different infrastructures, may be combined into a single TNA project. TNA applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the TNA provider prior to submitting a research proposal to discuss whether a specific trial is feasible in a specific installation. If the TNA applicant has no idea of the most appropriate installation, the TNA management team can bring the applicant in touch with the appropriate provider(s) based on the applicant's interests.

Support from the PIGWEB budget varies among installations, but generally covers the operating costs of the installations, the experiment-associated costs as described in the unit of access (e.g., animal care, feeding, monitoring, sampling, sample preparation, lab analysis, and data analysis), and the costs for travel and subsistence if participation is required. Importantly, not all installations offer a complete trial including e.g. feed production, animal housing, sampling and data analysis as well. Sometimes only a specific part of a trial is covered (i.e. only feed production or only scanning of the animals).

*The unit of access describes what is covered by the PIGWEB budget.*

*The number of units of access represents the TNA capacity of each TNA installation.*

The number of units of access available is indicated on the TNA installation sheets (on the project website). TNA users can apply for a trial with fewer units of access than offered. TNA users can also apply for a trial that exceeds the number of units of access available, provided the TNA user agrees to self-finance the additional costs and the trial is practical feasible for the TNA installation.

#### **Four different units of access are used:**

##### **PIG.WEEK**

One pig.week corresponds to the housing of 1 pig for 1 week and carrying out the measurements as described in the unit of access. Example: 2 treatments x 8 sows per treatment x 4 weeks = 64 pig weeks

##### **LAB.WEEK**

One lab.week corresponds to the specific number of samples (depending on the research installation) that can be analyzed. Example: 250 samples = 4 lab.weeks

##### **PORK.WEEK**

One pork.week corresponds to the (housing and/or) scanning and/or slaughtering of 1 pig (depending on the research installation). Example: 2 treatments x 20 pigs per treatment = 40 pork.weeks

##### **TON.FEED.WEEK**

One ton.feed.week corresponds to the production of a specific amount of feed, i.e. preparation, fabrication, and analyses (depending on the research installation). Example: 5 ton feed = 5 ton.feed.weeks

*The start of the TNA project is defined as the day the first unit of access starts.*

*The end of the TNA project is defined as the day the last unit of access ends.*



## 4. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The TNA programme is open to researchers in academia and industry from any country, although priority (at least 80% of all funded access) will be given to organizations legally established within an EU Member or Associated State<sup>2</sup>. The TNA applicant cannot be a partner of the PIGWEB project and has to be established in a country other than the country of the requested infrastructure. The country in which the applicant is working is considered rather than the applicant's nationality. The decision tree in Figure 2 gives a schematic overview of who is eligible for TNA. First-time users and users who do not normally have access to specific installations in their home country are particularly encouraged to apply. TNA users who were not selected in a previous call may reapply in this third and last call. TNA users with a TNA project selected in a previous call may submit a proposal for a new project in this call as well.

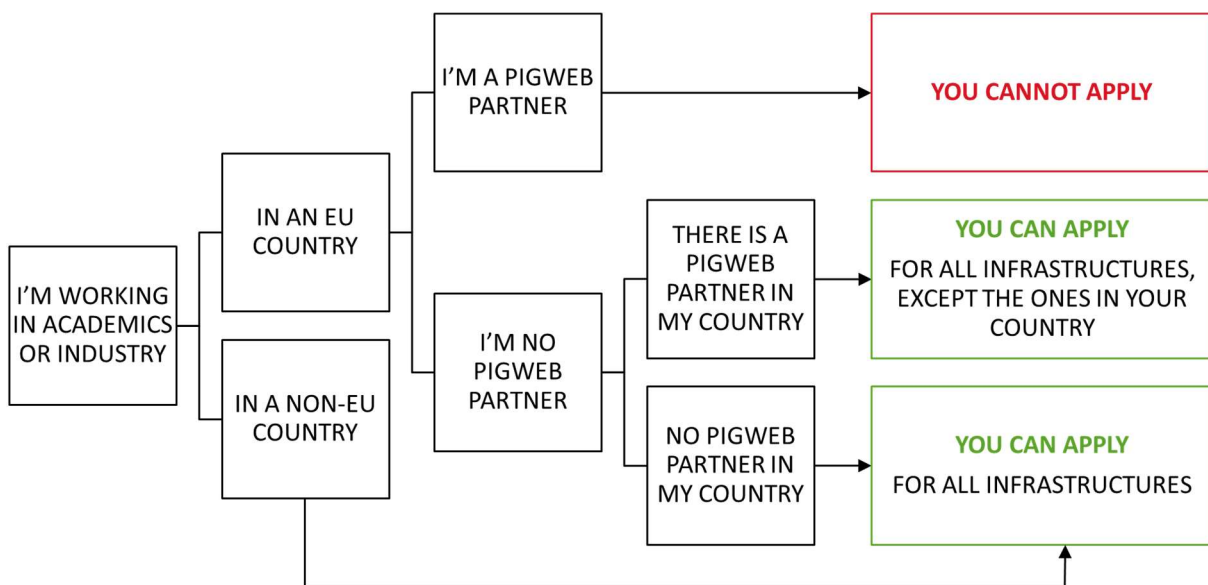


Figure 2 Decision tree for TNA eligibility.

## 5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

One can apply for TNA by the submission of research proposals.

*A two-stage application process is used. For the first stage, a pre-proposal is expected, while for the second stage, a detailed full proposal should be submitted.*

Applications for TNA should be made in accordance with the guidelines given below and should be submitted using the online TNA tool, available at <https://tna.pigweb.eu/>. Guidance for submission is available within the application forms and through this manual. TNA

<sup>2</sup> Associated states: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, Israel, Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, Albania and Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina

applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the TNA provider already in the first stage to discuss whether a specific trial would be feasible in a specific installation.

### 5.1. First stage application

Applicants are requested to submit a pre-proposal, mainly providing information about:

- The rationale: describe the context in which the project fits, indicate the overall objective and assess the expected impact on sustainable pig production.
- The scientific quality: present the state of the art, define a clear scientific question to which the project should provide an answer, formulate the appropriate hypothesis and briefly explain the approach to be followed.
- The valorisation strategy: explain what the data will be used for (e.g. open data, scientific publication, patent or registration procedure).

### 5.2. Second stage application

Selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal, which should be prepared in close collaboration with the TNA provider. Full applications should provide information about:

- The scientific and ethical soundness: resume the final scientific question, describe the design of the trial, including e.g. details related to the number of animals, the number of treatments, the response traits, the number of replicates and the experimental unit, demonstrate a responsible use of experimental animals and give the anticipated timetable.
- The practical and financial feasibility, including e.g. the number of units of access, necessary approvals from the ethical committee or other authorities, information on visits and/or participation by the applicant, and an overview of potential risks.

All work must comply with the European Union legislation on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU), as well as any national requirements in the country where the work will be conducted. If participation by the TNA applicant is required during the experiment, it should be ensured that the person participating has the appropriate training and licenses.

The first call was launched in September 2021, the second call was launched in September 2022 and the third (last) call will be launched in September 2023. Each call will remain open for three months. The deadlines for submission of the first and second stage applications are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3** Application submission deadlines.

Call	First stage application deadline	Second stage application deadline
September 1, 2021	December 1, 2021	March 31, 2022
September 1, 2022	December 1, 2022	March 31, 2023
September 1, 2023	December 1, 2023	March 31, 2024

## 6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications will be reviewed by the User Selection Panel, which is composed of three internal and three external experts from the PIGWEB consortium. The TNA applicant will be able to follow the selection process through the online TNA tool. All applications will receive a short feedback, including suggestions for improvement.

### 6.1. First stage selection

*First stage proposals will be assessed on the rationale (40/100), scientific quality (40/100), and valorisation strategy (20/100).*

The main criteria in the first stage selection round are therefore the relevance, possible impact, scientific questioning, degree of innovation, and valorisation potential. A threshold of 28/40 for both the rationale and the scientific quality, and of 16/20 for the valorisation strategy will be used. Applications with lower scores will not be considered. Applications with higher scores will be retained for selection, which will be based on the total score and the available budget. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the first stage selection within four weeks after closing the call (Figure 3).

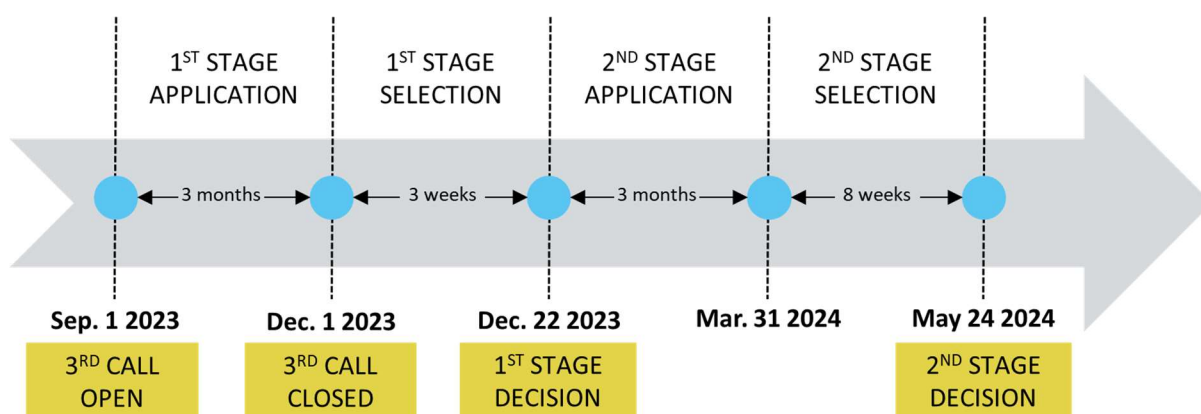
### 6.2. Second stage selection

*The main criteria in the second stage selection round are the scientific and ethical soundness of the proposal, together with the practical and financial feasibility.*

A threshold of 70/100 for the scientific soundness will be used. Applications with lower scores will not be considered. Applications with higher scores will be retained for selection, which will be based on the total score and the available budget. In addition, the User Selection Panel will assess the responsible use of experimental animals and the TNA provider must attest the feasibility of the proposed work. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the second stage selection process within eight weeks after the second stage application submission deadline (Figure 3).

#### *What to do after being selected?*

- TNA users should contact the TNA provider to prepare the trial.
- Provisional approval is granted pending possible approval by other authorities (e.g., derogation or ethical committee). TNA providers need to apply for this additional approval. Without the approval of authorisation bodies, the project cannot start. Official documents regarding the approval by the ethical committee must be delivered to the TNA Management team by the TNA provider.
- The establishment of a formal agreement with the TNA provider is not mandatory, but highly recommended, as described in section 11. Once the study has started, TNA users are expected to upload concise reports at the start, midway and end of the TNA project, as explained in section 7. Upon completion of the study, the data should be valorized as described in the valorization procedure, as explained in section 8.



**Figure 3** TNA application and selection timeline for third call.

## 7. REPORTING PROCEDURE

To monitor and guide the TNA projects, TNA users are expected to deliver concise reports at the start, mid-way, and upon termination of the TNA project. Reports should be submitted using the online TNA tool available on the project website and are valid only if approved by the TNA provider and the TNA management team. Templates for the reports are available at <https://www.pigweb.eu/call-for-proposals>. To further improve the TNA programme, a follow-up questionnaire is expected to be submitted with the final report and is available on the website as well. Guidance for submission is available within the report forms. The deadlines for reporting are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4** Reporting deadlines.

<b>Start report deadline</b>	one week after start of the TNA project
<b>Interim report deadline</b>	halfway TNA project
<b>Final report deadline</b>	four months after termination of the TNA project

## 8. VALORIZATION PROCEDURE

*The TNA provider provides a ‘service’. The ownership of the results goes to the TNA user, but the TNA user is expected to valorise the results as soon as feasible (pending protection of intellectual property), preferably in Open Access publications.*

Joint ownership of the results may be considered if, for example, the TNA provider has funded additional costs or has been heavily involved in the trial. It is advised to discuss joint ownership of the results in advance and clearly state in the TNA agreement. In case the results will not be published in a scientific paper, another valorisation-strategy is expected (e.g., patent or registration procedure). Details of the valorisation plans must be clearly explained in the first

stage application. Authors are also encouraged to make the raw data accessible in repositories using the FAIR data principles<sup>3</sup>.

In each publication and communication resulting from a TNA project, it is mandatory to specify that the project received research funding from the European Community's Horizon 2020 Programme, by using the acknowledgement sentence: 'This [infrastructure][equipment] [insert type of result] is part of a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101004770'. In addition, the host organization and, if applicable, research funding supporting the specific infrastructure must be acknowledged. Co-authorship can be considered when there is a significant contribution by the TNA provider in the trial design, processing of the data or own investment in additional observations or analyses. It is advised to discuss co-authorship in advance and indicate the decision in the agreement.

## 9. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE FOR TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

*When visiting the research infrastructure, PIGWEB can subsidize travel and subsistence costs.*

Either the TNA user or the TNA provider (upon agreement) can make the bookings. It is expected to choose the most cost-effective form(s) of travel and accommodation. In case the TNA user makes the bookings, the TNA provider must be contacted to discuss the travel budget. Costs that exceed the agreed travel budget cannot be reimbursed. In addition, without submission of the final report, including the follow-up questionnaire, costs cannot be reimbursed.

Boarding passes, travel agency invoices, original tickets or e-tickets must be submitted along the reimbursement claim form. For reimbursement of travel expenses incurred in a currency other than Euro, conversion will be made using the official ECB exchange rate on the date of the expense. The cost of a journey by private car (user's personal or company car) is calculated at a rate per km in accordance with the internal rules of the TNA provider concerned. Fuel is included in the kilometre rate. Road tolls may be paid extra. When two or more participants travel together by car, travel costs will be reimbursed to only one person. The total cost of travel by car cannot exceed the maximum cost of an equivalent flight. Car rental costs cannot be covered unless it is the more convenient way to travel. Car insurance costs cannot be covered.

## 10. SUPPORT

PIGWEB created a TNA Management Team as a main contact point and supporting body for potential TNA users. Its aim is to advise potential users on the most suitable research facilities, to assist in the submission of applications and to answer any further questions about the TNA programme. This team is composed of Jaap van Milgen (jaap.vanmilgen@inrae.fr, INRAE,

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<sup>3</sup> Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. *et al.* The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* **3**, 160018 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

coordinator of PIGWEB), Carolien De Cuyper (carolien.decuyper@ilvo.vlaanderen.be, EV ILVO, responsible person for TNA), Cornelia Metges (metges@fhn-dummerstorf.de, FHN, member of the user selection panel) and Sam Millet (sam.millet@ilvo.vlaanderen.be, EV ILVO, TNA work package leader). Potential TNA users have the possibility to contact this team via their email address or via the project website.

*A TNA helpdesk (Teams-meeting) will be organized on October 2 (2-3 pm), which will allow potential TNA users to ask their questions directly to the TNA management team.*

Click [here](#) to join the TNA helpdesk.

## 11. TNA AGREEMENT

It is strongly recommended to establish a formal agreement between the TNA provider and the TNA user, including all details regarding e.g. the unit of access, the travel budget, the ownership of the results, the publication policies, and the additional costs not covered by PIGWEB. Since most infrastructures have their own template for formal agreements, the TNA management has not created a general TNA agreement that can be used by all partners. However, a checklist of important items to include in the agreement is available to the TNA providers. This checklist can be used by the TNA provider to draw the agreement, using the official form of the respective infrastructure. If multiple installations from different TNA providers are used, an agreement should be made between the TNA user and each of the TNA providers.

## 12. MORE INFORMATION?

More information is available at the TNA page of the project website (<https://www.pigweb.eu/call-for-proposals>), including the TNA installation sheets, the direct link for submission and all template forms for application, reporting and travel reimbursement.

## 13. DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

1. PIGWEB is a consortium made of several institutions that are supported by the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme to conduct a 5-years' research project under the coordination of the Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (**INRAE**), a French public research institute dedicated to agricultural science.
2. The Own Capital fund of ILVO (Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek; **EV ILVO**), with registered office at Burgemeester Van Gansberghelaan 92/1, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium, is an independent scientific research institute, which aims to improve the knowledge and the dissemination of research results on the

sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and agri-food sector. Based on the description of PIGWEB activities included in Grant Agreement No 101004770, Annex 1, EV ILVO is authorized by the PIGWEB Consortium to develop and update the Transnational Access (TNA) portal, namely a web-based interface for launching a transnational call for proposals and possibly offering other services.

3. For the purposes of its activities within the TNA portal, EV ILVO may need to process certain personal data or personal information concerning individuals who apply to the TNA funding and services that could be made available by the PIGWEB consortium.
4. For the purpose of this Data Protection Notice and pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), “personal data” means “any information relating to a natural person identified or identifiable, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person”; “processing” means “any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction”.
5. Your personal data will/may be processed by EV ILVO on behalf of the PIGWEB Consortium for the following purposes:
  - a. Processing applications to the PIGWEB TNA call for proposals;
  - b. Administering and/or managing applicants’ communications with the TNA portal administrators and particularly with the TNA Access Point (including mailing of correspondence, statements or notices to applicants);
  - c. Managing activities related to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of TNA research projects;
  - d. Responding to any enquiries by applicants;
  - e. Implementing other activities related to PIGWEB objectives.
6. Unless consent is revoked, EV ILVO, on behalf of the PIGWEB Consortium, will store your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purpose(s) as described. The PIGWEB consortium represented by the project coordinator Jaap van Milgen, INRAE, and EV ILVO, represented by the TNA contact persons Sam Millet and Carolien De Cuyper, lawfully and rightfully process personal data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Personal data are processed by EV ILVO on behalf of the PIGWEB consortium in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organizational measures, and kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than it is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.
7. The processing of personal data by the PIGWEB Consortium and EV ILVO shall be without prejudice to all the rights conferred to you as data subject by Articles 15-21 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, namely:
  - a. Right to have **access** to your own personal data processed by the PIGWEB Consortium and to receive the information on the persons or third parties who

- have directly or indirectly access to your personal data stored in the EV ILVO databases; this include the right to receive a response to the request for the information whether your personal data are being processed and receive the personal data within 30 calendar days after the request is made;<sup>4</sup>
- b. Right to obtain the **rectification** without undue delay of inaccurate or incomplete personal data;
  - c. Right to obtain the **restriction of processing** of your personal data where they are:  
(a) inaccurate; (b) no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which they were processed, but you need them for the establishment, exercise or defense of your legal claims;
  - d. Right to obtain the **erasure** without undue delay of your personal data where: (a) they are no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which they were processed; (b) they have been unlawfully processed; c) you have exercised your right of withdrawal of consent on which the processing is based and there is no other legal ground for the processing;
  - e. Right to require the provision of your personal data in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format; and where technically feasible, to transmit your data directly to another controller of your choice (right to **data portability**);
  - f. Right to **object** at any time to processing of personal data where they are processed for direct marketing purposes, which includes profiling to the extent that it is related to such direct marketing;
  - g. Right to **protect** your personal data from unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage caused by intentional or untimely concealment, and the right for protection from information which is unreliable or harms the person's honor, dignity, and business reputation;
  - h. Right to **lodge a complaint** with the supervisory authority to safeguard your rights of personal data protection;
  - i. Right to **withdraw your consent** to processing your personal data at any time.
8. In relation to data transfer outside the EEA (European Economic Area), within the PIGWEB Consortium or within PIGWEB TNA call, no personal data will be transferred to/from non-EU countries.

Accomplishment of all rights can be demanded by contacting the EV ILVO's data protection officer, Bart Ampe, by email ([privacy@ilvo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:privacy@ilvo.vlaanderen.be)).

This Data Protection Notice serves as an integral part of the terms and conditions of all TNA portal activities developed by the PIGWEB consortium.

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<sup>4</sup> That period may be extended by two further months where necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of the requests. EV ILVO shall inform the data subject of any such extension within one month of receipt of the request, together with the reasons for the delay (Article 12(3) GDPR).