

## Call Announcement

### COMPETITIVE CALL FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECT PARTNERS

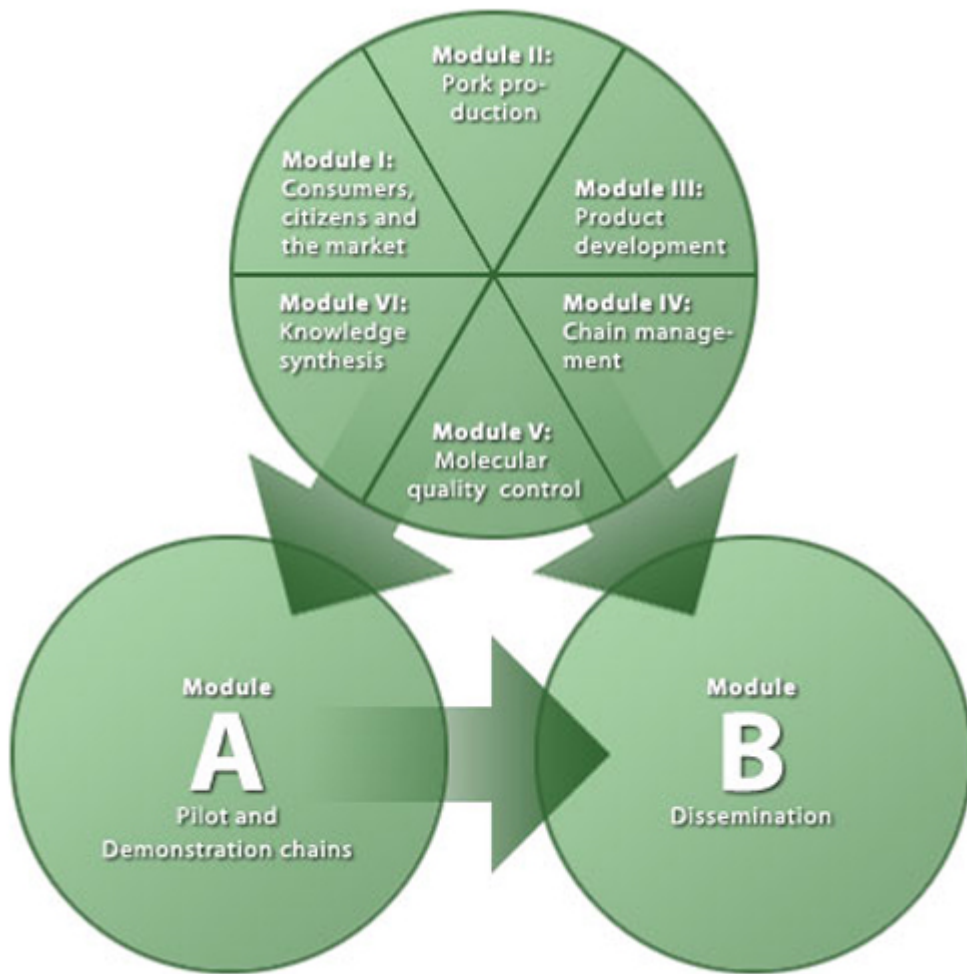
The following project currently active in the *Sixth Framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European research area and to innovation (2002-2006)* requires the participation of new project partners (small and medium sized enterprises are preferred for the integration of new partners) to carry out certain tasks within the project.

<b>Project information</b>	
Project contract number	FOOD-CT-2006-036245
Project acronym	<b>Q-PorkChains</b>
Project full name	Improving the quality of pork and pork products for the consumer: Development of innovative, integrated, and sustainable food production chains of high quality pork products matching consumer demands.
Instrument type	Integrated Project
<b>General information regarding the call</b>	
Language in which proposal should be submitted	English
Date of open of call	09. March 2009
Date of close of call	13. May 2009
Time of close of call	17h00 Brussels time
Web address for further information (call webpage)	<a href="http://www.q-porkchains-industry.org/call.html">www.q-porkchains-industry.org/call.html</a>
Contact person for the call	Maren Bruns ( <a href="mailto:m.bruns@giqs.org">m.bruns@giqs.org</a> ) Project Manager GIQS e.V. c/o University of Bonn Katzenburgweg 7-9; D-53115 Bonn Tel.: +49(0)228-734931; Fax: +49(0)228-736515
Project coordinator	Anders H. Karlsson ( <a href="mailto:ahka@life.ku.dk">ahka@life.ku.dk</a> )

### 1 Introduction

Q-PorkChains is a currently active Integrated Project (IP) in the Sixth Framework programme of the European Community. It was initiated through collaboration between Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at University of Aarhus and Faculty of Life Sciences at University of Copenhagen. Now it includes some of the most important research organisations and industries working in the field of pork and pork products all over Europe ([www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx](http://www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx)). It is one of the greatest research projects in the field of meat science financed by the EU Commission.

The figure below illustrates the project structure. The project consists of 6 research modules (module I-VI) and 2 horizontal modules (Module A and B). You get more information about the modules here: [www.q-porkchains.org/Project.aspx](http://www.q-porkchains.org/Project.aspx).



Q-PorkChains research and technology developments will be completed by applied research in pilot chains and demonstration activities. These are core elements in Q-PorkChains which focus on the involvement of industrial partners in testing and demonstrating innovations and new technologies. Q-PorkChains aims at setting up additional pilot and demonstration activities (Module A). New industry partners will be integrated to test the most promising innovations deriving from the project (Module I-VI).

## 2 Summary of tasks requested in the field of pilot activities (research and technical development – RTD)

### Topic 1: Implementation and evaluation of sustainability aspects in pig production (innovative pig production system based on integrated sustainability criteria or sustainable breeding strategies)

Module II of the Q-PorkChains project contributes to the development of a diversity of sustainable pork production systems (at farm level) that correspond to market and society demands. Based on an evaluation of the sustainability of selected, contrasted pork production systems partners in Module II are working on breeding programmes with new traits and / or new methods important for sustainable pig production and the validation of on-farm sustainability concepts. They design for example breeding strategies for sustainable pork production. Further more, they are working on housing systems (needs-based space) to optimise between pig welfare and economic returns.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to implement innovative pig production system based on integrated sustainability criteria or sustainable breeding strategies. By that the Module's research output and methods should be validated in the real world. For this activity we are looking for a company / organisation / actor (breeding company, breeding organisation, slaughterhouse, housing / stable construction company) at farm level with associated pig farms that is interested and active in the field of sustainability aspects (environment, animal welfare, economics, social conformity etc.). Interested organisations that want to work further on these aspects can send in proposals.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this pilot activity will be €250.000. Pilot activities belong to research and technical development (RTD). 50% of the budget will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €125.000.

## **Topic 2: Development and implementation of biological makers for meat quality**

Module V addresses the need for improving safety, animal welfare and meat quality traits (i.e. pH, drip loss, IMF, etc.) in a large variety of pork production chains from fork to farm. Researchers focusing on identifying biomarkers to develop meat quality control tools and the applications of developed markers to provide ready-to-use markers to be used by the industry with the aim to improve pork quality in the entire chain.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to develop rapid tests based on biomarkers to predict pork quality traits appropriate for the use in the industry (e.g. as a first step in the slaughterhouse). Companies relevant for testing the rapid test in the slaughterhouse are already involved in Q-PorkChains ([www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx](http://www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx)). If a collaboration with existing partners is desired in this specific pilot activity it should be expressed in the proposal.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this pilot activity will be €250.000. Pilot activities belong to research and technical development (RTD). 50% of the budget will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €125.000.

## **Topic 3: Development and implementation of non invasive on line evaluation of the total and intramuscular fat content in green hams and loins**

Positive sensory and nutritional characteristics and convenience increase the consumer acceptance and market potential of pork and pork products. Module III develops innovative technologies for improved pork products to match consumer demands in relation to quality, nutrition and convenience. Especially in south Europe medium-high intramuscular fat hams are considered of higher quality for the production of dry-cured meat products. To be able to select green hams and loins concerning special meat quality parameters specific technologies are needed.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to develop non invasive on line techniques (e.g. NIR-technology) with the aim to select the total and intramuscular fat content in green hams and loins.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this pilot activity will be €250.000. Pilot activities belong to research and technical development (RTD). 50% of the budget will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €125.000.

## **Topic 4: Implementation and evaluation of regional pork chain concepts for local food in European niche markets or new pork product concepts in production chains which currently have a limited number of products in the market**

Module IV addresses sustainable management of a diversified European production and distribution system. Module IV already made an inventory on European pork chains. One result is the demonstration of typologies and conceptual models of chains. Regional chains support local economies, environment, and SMEs. To support the diversity of the European production, regional chains are in

the focus of this new pilot activity. There is an opportunity of regional chains to take advantage of traditionally-produced meat products and market them into new domestic markets.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to work on break-through barriers for regional pork chains. The given demand for regionally produced meat products should be taken as an advantage. Producers of local food, retailers that sell local food, organisations to protect local and traditional food or marketing corporation for local and traditional food might fit to this topic.

This activity is as well supported by Module I that focuses on consumer science and peoples' expectations regarding specialities.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this pilot activity will be €250.000. Pilot activities belong to research and technical development (RTD). 50% of the budget will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €125.000.

### **Topic 5: Implementation and evaluation of cold chain management systems to improve quality and safety of pork products.**

Module IV addresses chain quality management systems, which is related to the primary objective of the European food policy "to improve the health and well-being of European citizens through higher quality food and improved control of food production and related environmental factors". Improved confidence in chilled food products, especially in the integrity of their supply-chain in terms of its ability to maintain product quality and identity along with its ability to detect potentially harmful and undesirable product changes is of high priority for all involved in food production and distribution.

Researchers are looking for a new partner (preferably SME) that develops services to detect potentially harmful and undesirable product changes in cold chains. Beside the scientific know how in the field of cold chain management Q-PorkChains can offer collaboration with processing companies or slaughterhouses to build a fruitful working environment to validate innovations ([www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx](http://www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx)). If a collaboration with existing partners is desired in this specific pilot activity it should be expressed in the proposal.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this pilot activity will be €250.000. Pilot activities belong to research and technical development (RTD). 50% of the budget will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €125.000.

## **3 Summary of tasks requested in the field of demonstration activities**

### **Topic 6: Validation of life cycle assessment tools**

One researcher group in Module IV focuses on life cycle assessment. Industry tools for chain and network assessment of ecological load will be developed based on LCA (Life Cycle Assessment). These tools will be designed with the aim of integration with chain quality management systems. Companies that are able to document on environmental and sustainable aspects will have a competitive advantage because of citizens demand and in order to that retailers demand products from companies that are able to document these kinds of issues. If a production chain is able to measure the life cycle assessment it can be used as a base for improvement.

A new partner with a strong network and strong connection to up and down stream parts of the production chain (e.g. retailer, slaughterhouse) is being sought to support the validation of LCA tools in practice. Companies / organisations that are active in environmental aspects and interested to work further on these aspects can send in proposals. One partner will be selected.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this demonstration activity will be €250.000. 35% of the budget for demonstration activities will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €87.500.

### **Topic 7: Implementation and evaluation of drying technology for salt reduced dry-cured meat products to improve quality and health**

Module III addresses the development of new methodologies to improve drying quality for salt reduced dry-cured meat products. A drying chamber is already in use on a laboratory scale.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to take steps in the development and to demonstrate drying technologies for salt reduced dry-cured meat products. We are looking for producers of machinery / equipment for the drying process that are interested to bring drying technology further. Collaboration to a processing company is desired. Beside the scientific know how in the field of drying technology Q-PorkChains can offer collaboration with processing companies to build a fruitful working environment to validate drying technologies in collaboration. If collaboration with existing partners is desired in this specific demonstration activity it should be expressed in the proposal (a list of Q-PorkChains partner can be found here: [www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx](http://www.q-porkchains.org/Project/Partners.aspx)).

It is anticipated that the total budget for this demonstration activity will be €250.000. 35% of the budget for demonstration activities will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €87.500.

### **Topic 8: Implementation and evaluation of certification systems to guarantee the conformity with quality standards / labelled products**

Certificates promote understanding between buyers and sellers. Information on whether a product, service or system meets a particular standard can tell a buyer about the product's suitability and safety. Module IV is dealing with these issues in connection to chain quality management systems.

A new partner (preferably SME) is being sought to work out and demonstrate certification systems in the field of quality management. This topic might, among other things, focus on certification systems like animal welfare, GMO free feed, origin of animals and pork products etc.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this demonstration activity will be €250.000. 35% of the budget for demonstration activities will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partner will get an EC contribution of €87.500.

### **Topic 9: Benchmarking and demonstration of centralised data register model for animal health management data**

Module IV addresses differentiated pork chains in Europe supported by connective information systems and inter-company governance regimes. An inter-company information system is for example a centralised data register for animal health data (especially laboratory results), that function as a central data base for multiple information management systems (e.g. piglet health data base and salmonella data base). If information about the defined health status is desired in connection to the food chain information this can be maintain with a central solution.

To complete Q-PorkChains research activities new partners are being sought to make their experiences available that they have in building up such systems. The aim is to demonstrate examples of existing centralised data register models for animal health management data especially towards Eastern European countries. We are looking for organisations / companies that are willing to exchange experiences between countries that have already or that building up centralised animal health register.

We are looking either for a consortium of partners or several single partners

- Consortium of partners: It would be possible that several organisations / companies build a group of experts for an exchange and demonstration of experiences and send in a proposal together
- Single partners: Companies can as well apply as a single proposer.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this demonstration activity will be €250.000. 35% of the budget for demonstration activities will be funded by the EC. Therefore, it is anticipated that the selected new partners (divided between the consortium members or the selected partners) will get an EC contribution of €87.500.

<b>Expected duration of participation in the project (for all topics)</b>	
From	September 2009
To	December 2011
<b>Anticipated EC contribution available for the tasks is divided as follows</b>	
Topic 1	€125.000
Topic 2	€125.000
Topic 3	€125.000
Topic 4	€125.000
Topic 5	€125.000
Topic 6	€87.500
Topic 7	€87.500
Topic 8	€87.500
Topic 9	€87.500

#### 4 Submission Procedure

It is highly recommended that proposers contact the Q-PorkChains Liaison Office ([www.q-porkchains-industry.org/office.0.html](http://www.q-porkchains-industry.org/office.0.html)) if they are interested in Q-PorkChains pilot and demonstration activities. The Liaison Office will do their best to provide information and guidance to the proposers.

The proposal must be submitted in English electronically to the following address: [m.bruns@giqs.org](mailto:m.bruns@giqs.org)

Once submitted electronically, an acknowledgement of receipt of the proposal will be prepared and returned electronically.

The proposal must arrive at the specified electronic address no later than 13th of May 2009 17h00 Brussels time.

#### 5 Proposal documents

[www.q-porkchains-industry.org/call.html](http://www.q-porkchains-industry.org/call.html) provides templates for:

1. Part A Application Forms:

- A1
- A2
- A3

2. Part B Application Form:

In the application proposer should refer to the following issues:

- Pilot and demonstration activities should correspond to the vision and strategy of Q-PorkChains
  - In what extent does your proposal correspond to the vision of Q-PorkChains?
- Description of their activities planned for the pilot or demonstration chain
  - Definition of small and manageable tasks to meet the overall objective and to reach the defined results

- Innovative potential: Introduction of new developments or fundamental improvements (product, process, market/marketing, organisational innovations)
  - What is innovative regarding your proposal?
- Implementation potential: The proposer has to be adequate equipped with expertise, a strong network and financial resources for the co-payment
  - What are your specific competences related to your proposal?
  - Please describe your network which gives an insight if you are able to carry out your described activities
  - Please indicate that you are equipped with the needed personnel resources to take part in a research cooperation
- Multiplication potential: The outcome, new knowledge, new experiences should be available and effect part of the pig and pork sector
  - Please indicate in what extend you are able to disseminate your experiences made in this project to your own network (employees, customers, suppliers) and to a percentage of the European pork sector

All forms must be completed by the proposers and submitted. Further assistance and guidance are available from the Q-PorkChains Liaison Office ([www.q-porkchains-industry.org/office.0.html](http://www.q-porkchains-industry.org/office.0.html)).

## **6 Evaluation**

The evaluation of proposals will take place from 13th of May till 19th of June by the project coordination committee and two independent experts selected by Q-PorkChains and approved by European Commission. You can find the evaluation criteria in the guide for proposers on page 32 and 33.