

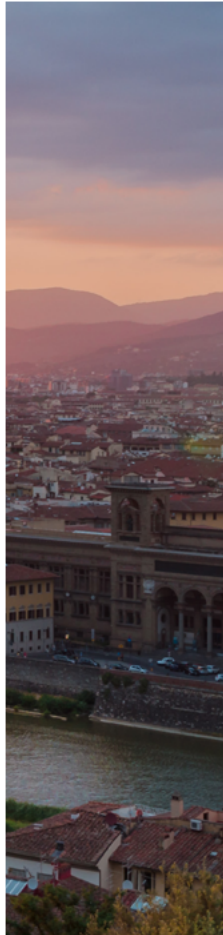
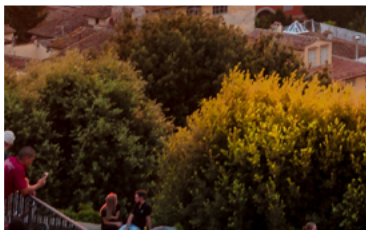
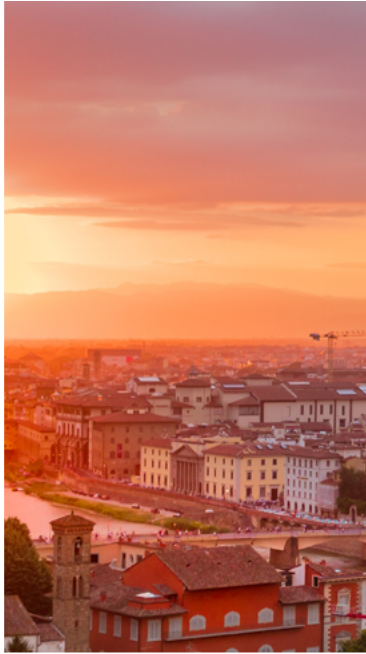
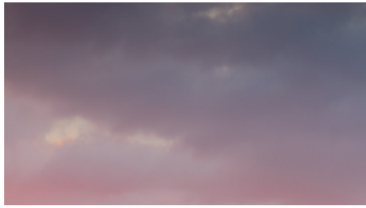


2026

ITALY | FLORENCE
MAY 13-15

ESPHM

17th EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM
OF PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT



PROCEEDINGS

May 13-15, 2026
Florence, Italy

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 17th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management (ESPHM), which will be held from 13 to 15 May 2026 in the beautiful city of Florence, Italy.

We are delighted to host colleagues from around the world in Italy for the most important European event devoted to porcine health management. Many of you will remember the 6th ESPHM held in Sorrento in 2014 — an edition still fondly recalled for its outstanding scientific content and unforgettable social programme. Inspired by that success, we are committed to making ESPHM 2026 an equally memorable and enriching event.

Florence in May offers an ideal setting: mild temperatures, blue skies, and an atmosphere full of art, history, and vibrant Italian culture. As the cradle of the Renaissance, Florence embodies Italian creativity, beauty, and inspiration — the perfect backdrop for a dynamic and insightful symposium.

Over the years, ESPHM has evolved into one of Europe's leading veterinary events, drawing a diverse international audience of veterinarians, researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers. The 2026 edition will carry on this proud tradition with a comprehensive scientific programme featuring world-renowned speakers, parallel sessions, roundtable discussions, and countless opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.

The venue, Fortezza da Basso, is a historic landmark of Renaissance military architecture, conveniently located in the heart of Florence — just steps from the central railway station and close to the accommodations selected for the delegates.

We are confident that ESPHM 2026 in Florence will provide an outstanding scientific experience as well as a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Italy!

We look forward to welcoming you to Florence and to sharing with you what promises to be an unforgettable symposium.

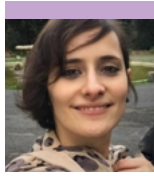


Prof. Paolo Martelli
Chair of the 17th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management

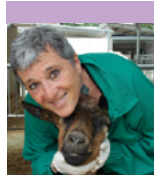
LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE



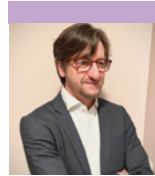
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Head of LOC and
Chair of ESPHM
2026, University
of Parma



Elena Canelli
University of
Parma, P.B.A. srl



Laura Helen
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University of
Parma

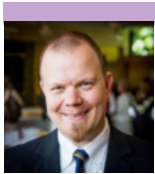


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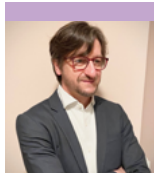


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BOARD OF THE ECPHM



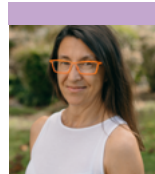
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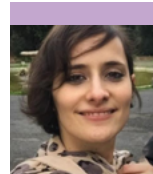
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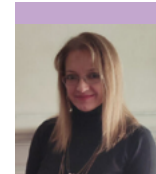
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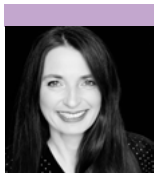
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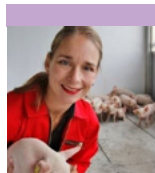
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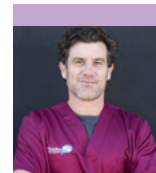
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am Weinberg
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THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT **ECPHM**

ECPHM EUROPEAN COLLEGE
OF PORCINE HEALTH
MANAGEMENT

www.ecphm.org

The ECPHM is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS). EBVS **recognises and monitors** veterinary speciality Colleges in Europe. It defines **guidelines for the recognition and registration** of specialists in areas of veterinary medicine in Europe, and maintains an **updated register** of European Veterinary Specialists.

EBVS encourages and promotes the enhanced utilization and availability of veterinary specialist services to the public and the veterinary profession.

The ECPHM works for the advancement of health and welfare oriented porcine production management in the herd context in Europe, and the increase of the competency of those who practice in this field.

The major **objectives** of the ECPHM include:

- Establishing guidelines and standards of training for postgraduate education and experience prerequisite to become a veterinary specialist in the specialty of porcine health management;
- Examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in porcine herd health management to serve health and welfare of the animals, the economic outcome of the herd, and the production of safe quality product for consumers in a sustainable animal production by providing expert care for pigs;
- Encouraging research and other contributions to the science and practice of porcine herd health management including husbandry, reproduction, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting pigs and the maintenance of healthy and productive pig herds;
- Porcine health management also includes the impact on quality and safety of pork and gives special consideration to herd health and production, production systems and targets, and the management of pig populations;
- Providing high scientific standards and continuous training on porcine health and management;

- Promoting communication and dissemination of knowledge.

The ECPHM is organized through different bodies that take care of the **different activities performed**:

- the Board represents the College and is its main government body;
- the Education Committee organizes educational events for the ECPHM residents, including the e-learning sessions, the pre-symposium workshop and the summer school. The Education Committee also approves Resident training programs;
- the Examination Committee prepares the annual exam and arranges the examination of residents;
- the Credentials Committee reviews and approves the applications for admittance to the residency program, as well as the applications to sit the exam, and review applications for recertification of the Diplomates;
- the Nominations Committee manages and reviews the proposals for nominations in the different committees and board;
- the ECPHM activities are supported by a permanent Administrative Secretariat in Parma, Italy.



THE EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM OF PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT **ESPHM**



www.esphm2026.org

The first ESPHM was organized by the ECPHM in 2009 in Copenhagen (Denmark). Subsequent meetings were organized in Hannover (Germany) and Helsinki (Finland). After the creation of the European Association of Porcine Health Management (EAPHM) in 2010, the following symposia were organized in a three-party fashion, involving the EAPHM, the ECPHM and the local organizers until ESPHM 2021.

| | |
|--|---|
| ESPHM 2009 Copenhagen (Denmark) | ESPHM 2017 Prague (Czech Republic) |
| ESPHM 2010 Hannover (Germany) | ESPHM 2018 Barcelona (Spain) |
| ESPHM 2011 Helsinki (Finland) | ESPHM 2019 Utrecht (The Netherlands) |
| ESPHM 2012 Bruges (Belgium) | ESPHM 2021 Virtual Symposium |
| ESPHM 2013 Edinburgh (United Kingdom) | ESPHM 2022 Budapest (Hungary) |
| ESPHM 2014 Sorrento (Italy) | ESPHM 2023 Thessaloniki (Greece) |
| ESPHM 2015 Nantes (France) | ESPHM 2024 Leipzig (Germany) co-organized with IPVS |
| ESPHM 2016 Dublin (Ireland) co-organized with IPVS | ESPHM 2025 Bern (Switzerland) |

By means of this organizational formula, the ESPHM has been held so far in various European Countries.

The 17th edition will be held in 2026 in Florence (Italy) and is jointly organized by the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM), a renewed council of European pig practitioners (Veterinary Practitioner Council, VPC) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

The symposium philosophy consists of **mounting a sound program**, with **cutting-edge scientific-technical knowledge**, **practically oriented**, which is able to catch the attention of swine veterinarians all over Europe, but with full international vocation.

The symposium's content includes **invited lectures of recognized experts**, as well as **oral communications, flash talks and poster presentations**. Importantly, the ESPHM is an excellent platform for introducing the ECPHM Residents into the scientific world, by presenting their studies (Resident oral communication sessions) and participating in the College activities organized around the symposium (e.g., Resident workshop).

In addition, the ESPHM must serve as a **vehicle for potentiating networking among pig veterinary professionals all around Europe**, and emphasize the global character of a borderless profession. Also, Annual General Meetings of the ECPHM are organized within the program of the symposium, and facilitate that the critical mass of the college can join together once a year.

PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

PHM

<https://porcinehealthmanagement.biomedcentral.com/>

Porcine Health Management (PHM) is an open access peer-reviewed journal that aims to publish relevant, novel and revised information regarding all aspects of pig health medicine and production. The journal provides a venue for global research on pig health and production, including infectious and noninfectious diseases, reproduction, epidemiology, management, economics, genetics, housing, nutrition, animal welfare and ethics, legislation, food safety, drugs and surgery. This journal is aiming at readers, and attracting authors, with different levels of experience; Diplomates and Residents of the ECPHM and other colleges as well as PhD students and experienced researchers from outside!

Anticipated articles include: original research, reviews, short communications, case reports, case studies and commentaries.

The Editors-in-Chief are **Heiko Nathues** (University of Bern, Switzerland) and **Nicolas Rose** (French Agency for food, environmental and occupational health and Safety (Anses)).

Porcine Health Management – 2025 Highlights

Advancing excellence in swine health, welfare and production medicine

- **Journal Impact Factor: 3.1**
- **CiteScore: 5.7**
- **Median time to first decision: 5 days**
- **491.2k downloads in 2025**
- **49 articles published in 2025**
- **Fully Open Access**
- **Official journal of the ECPHM**
- **International editorial board with global expertise**
- **Key topics in 2025: PRRSV, PCV2, influenza A, antimicrobial stewardship, pig welfare, precision livestock farming, reproduction and zoonoses**

Please use the online submission system to submit your manuscript. For all enquiries about the journal, technical issues, payment of article processing charges (APCs), etc. please contact: porcinehealthmanagement@biomedcentral.com.

There are many reasons to publish in PHM:

- Fast, fair, and expert peer-review
- High visibility through open access
- Indexed in PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science
- Official journal of the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM)

VPH-PP-19

BIOSECURITY CHALLENGES FOR SMALL-SCALE PIG FARMS: NATIONAL DEFINITIONS AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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Background and Objectives

Small-scale pig farms are vital for food security but often have lower biosecurity levels, increasing the risk of disease spread and compromising animal and public health. Yet, little is known about how biosecurity is regulated for these farms across Europe or how they are defined in national legislation.

Material and Methods

The EU-funded COST Action BETTER (CA20103) consortium collected data using a participatory research approach. One questionnaire explored national definitions of small-scale pig farms while a second questionnaire mapped the biosecurity measures mandated by national legislation, covering 41 pre-listed biosecurity measures. Data on the biosecurity implementation on small-scale pig farms was obtained from the Biocheck.Ugent database outside of the project.

Results

Validated data from 17 European countries were included. Most countries distinguished smaller farms from intensive operations using criteria such as the purpose of keeping pigs (e.g., self-consumption) and/or the number of animals kept, without explicitly using the term 'small-scale farm'. The number of mandatory biosecurity measures for this type of farms varied greatly, from two in Ireland to 29 in Italy, and in some countries these measures applied to all pig holdings rather than specifically to small-scale farms. National legislation in all countries prohibited feeding pigs with household leftovers, and none mandated a sanitary break in the farrowing unit after cleaning and disinfection. Biocheck.Ugent data from 96 small-scale pig farms in seven European countries on 25 November 2025, showed an average total biosecurity score of 61.7%, with 59.9% for the external and 65.8% for internal biosecurity.

Discussion and Conclusion

There is considerable heterogeneity in national definitions of small-scale pig farms, and mandatory biosecurity measures are rarely tailored to this sector. Clear definitions are essential to ensure that biosecurity standards adequately cover all farm types.

Acknowledgement This abstract is based upon work from COST Action BETTER, CA20103, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).



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MANAGEMENT

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



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