

PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM - HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-03	
PIC	999995602
Full legal name	Università degli Studi di Padova (Dipartimento di Biomedicina Comparata e Alimentazione)
Legal name in EN	University of Padua (Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science)
Acronym	UNIPD
Department	Dipartimento di Biomedicina Comparata e Alimentazione (BCA)
Address	Viale dell'Università, 16
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Country	Italy
Region	Veneto
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City	Legnaro, Padova
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PROFILE	
Type of Organisation	Higher or secondary education establishment
Is the partner organisation a public body?	Yes
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes
BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE	
Please briefly present the partner organization	The Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science (BCA) is the department of the University of Padova that pursues excellence in research and teaching in all disciplines related to veterinary medicine, comparative animal science and food safety . Today, BCA is a flourishing department, rich in ideas and

	specific expertise that has 51 active professors (2022). BCA supports scientific projects integrated with specific needs of the territory, promoting technological transfer of the obtained results. It develops relationships with the business community, public and professional associations.
Fields of research and topics of interest of the organization	With particular reference to the call HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-03, the research activities involve a multidisciplinary team. The research area brings together expertise in histology, immunohistochemistry, cell culture and molecular biology applied to the study of animal morphology across multiple species. The team investigates a wide range of biological systems, including: • the nervous system of large mammals, • skeletal muscle structure and muscle pathologies, • the digestive and muscular systems of zebrafish and aquaculture species, • mechanisms of tissue regeneration, • animal welfare assessment using physiological and molecular stress indicators. These activities combine classical morphological approaches with advanced imaging and molecular techniques, supporting both basic and applied research in veterinary and comparative biology. The call offers an opportunity to deepen the study of: • the morphological interface between the bovine endometrium and its microbiota, • communication pathways between the endometrium, the central nervous system and the visceral nervous system, • mechanisms regulating host–microbiota interactions in reproductive tissues. This research direction could create synergies with groups specialising in microbiology, neurobiology, reproductive physiology and environmental influences on animal health. It also supports an integrated One Health perspective on reproductive function, microbial ecology and animal welfare.
What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons of the organization?	<u>Regarding the call:</u> The area provides advanced competencies in: • Histology and immunohistochemistry for detailed tissue characterisation. • Immunohistofluorescence and 3D reconstruction techniques to map cellular structures, nerve endings and receptor distributions in complex tissues. • Cell culture and molecular biology for investigating cellular responses and tissue–microbiota interactions.

	• Morpho-functional analysis across species, enabling comparative studies relevant to animal health, physiology and aquaculture. These skills allow the group to characterise the bovine endometrial–microbiota interface across different ages, health conditions and physiological contexts, providing high-resolution morphological datasets for integrative studies. <u>More in general:</u> • 51 professors and researchers, 35 technicians and administrative employees, • At the moment, involved in 5 UE projects and 12 national/regional projects (ongoing). It has also signed 22 grant agreements for commissioned research activities with private and public bodies (ongoing). • The average number of publications in the period 2017-2021 has been 181 publications per year; • Centre of excellence for aquatic animal health research; • 3 patents in nanotechnology and biosensors, a direct drug patent to the treatment of diseases of the skeletal muscle, and finally a system of living cells of marine mammals for studies of cell biology, toxicological test and application for large-scale research. • ive patents in nanotechnology and biosensors, a direct drug patent to the treatment of diseases of the skeletal muscle and finally a system and method for cognitive assessment and training of an animal. • 2 spin-offs: a system and method for cognitive assessment and training of an animal and a development of products, materials, devices and processes based on nanoparticles.	
CONTACT PERSONS		
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European Union granted projects		
Programme	Year	Project identification
Horizon Europe	2022	FishEUTrust: Building trust in EU fish supply chains
Horizon Europe	2022	Improving Green Innovation for the Blue Revolution
H2020	2020	Improving biosecurity compliance in poultry farms
H2020	2019	Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation
LIFE	2019	LIFE DELFI
H2020	2017	Integrating Innovative Approaches for Competitive and Sustainable Performance across the Mediterranean Aquaculture Value Chain -
H2020	2016	Preventing and Mitigating farmed Bivalve Diseases