Summary:

Current European Union pig production sector has suboptimal resource utilisation, resulting in unnecessarily high emissions and wastes. This has much to do with outdated building standards, climate control systems and barn management approaches. At the same time animal welfare is of increasing concern, farmers are struggling to maintain economic competitiveness and the public image of the sector is poor. Whilst there are many approaches for the improvement of individual aspects of the system, none provides effective whole system consideration. PigSys (www.pigsys.eu) is an ERA-NET (European Research Area Network) SUSAN (Sustainable Animal Production) funded project that is addressing these issues and is realised in collaboration with partners from different European regions, and including France, Germany and Denmark as three of the five biggest European pig producers, will ensure the relevance of the project across the EU and beyond.

Solutions:

- implementation of a cross-scale, multi-disciplinary approach at system level
- development of a universal livestock management decision support system
- development of a unified data warehouse for a cloud-based data storage and processing with the option of data analysis and support by decision support system