



Press release #8

EuroSheep –3.5 years of great collaborative work!

The thematic network EuroSheep ends the dynamic knowledge exchange between European sheep sector stakeholders that was initiated by SheepNet. The knowledge and expertise exchanges in EuroSheep focused on flock nutrition and health management, based on the industry's current needs.

EuroSheep, which was funded by the EU H2020 research programme, started in January 2020 and ended on the 30th June 2023, 3.5 years of extensive collaborative work. Eight countries were involved, namely Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Greece and Turkey, representing 80% of sheep production in Europe.

EuroSheep finished its activities on the 30th June 2023 after 3.5 years of great collaborative work between the eight countries of the network, namely Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Turkey and the UK. It has been a great journey for all partners and stakeholders who were involved in the project.

EuroSheep' aim was to improve sheep profitability through health and nutrition, using a multi-actor approach and cross-fertilisation for sharing ideas, technologies experience and expertise.

The group involved 11 partners in 8 countries, which together represent 129.7 million sheep on 1.04 million farms. The project managed to have 22 national farmers' networks connected, including 7 European Operational Groups.

An initial survey of farmers and stakeholders in those countries identified 61 needs and challenges relating to sheep nutrition and health management. The consortium, in response, proposed 96 best practice solutions that could answers those issues – 47 for the health needs and 49 for nutrition. The farmers involved in the project also proposed 52 tips and tricks that they use on their farm to ease their nutrition and health management. Not all needs could be answered by the solutions proposed, so, to provide more information, EuroSheep also prepared 26 technical factsheets, to complement or add to the proposed solutions. Those factsheets are based on existing scientific literature and collective knowledge within the network.

Out of the 96 solutions proposed, 51 were tested by the stakeholders and farmers involved in the project, based on information provided by partners in cost-benefit and sustainability analyses. In total, 167 assessments were conducted. Thirty-eight of these solutions received

good evaluations, 3 solutions were not deemed satisfactory by the evaluators in their circumstances and 10 solutions received mixed reviews, depending on the context of system that they had been evaluated in.

The project organized 50 national workshops, both online and face to face, to which 1010 stakeholders participated in, and 6 transnational workshops (3 online, one in Greece, one in Turkey and a last one in France), with a total of 560 participants.

The project leaves a strong legacy, with a website translated in 7 languages, full of information regarding the solutions identified, their cost-benefit analysis and assessments and outcomes of the project (www.eurosheep.network), ready for people to browse or download information on sheep health and nutrition. Policy briefs, e-learning materials, and informative videos are available on both the website and the project YouTube channel ([EuroSheep EU - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)).

All Eurosheep best practices are available in all the languages of the project on www.eurosheep.network.



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