



Press release #2

EuroSheep, first step achieved!

EuroSheep is a EU-funded thematic network to encourage knowledge exchange between European sheep sector stakeholders on 2 main topics: nutrition and health management, based on the industry's current needs.

The first EuroSheep TransNational WorkShop took place virtually on the 16th of December 2020. The delegates were from Ireland, France, UK, Spain, Italy, Greece, Hungary and Turkey. The aim of this workshop was to discuss what are the main needs/issues/challenges of stakeholders involved in sheep production in relation to nutrition, health and management of the flocks in their countries, for meat and dairy systems. This virtual transnational workshop facilitated detailed discussion on the needs identified in workshops through the use of breakout rooms. Several national workshops organized, although virtual, were a great opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and express their opinions on the results of the earlier EuroSheep survey. Multi-actor participatory approaches were implemented during these virtual workshops to gather expertise and knowledge. These needs/challenges of stakeholders were identified by a survey completed in the 8 EuroSheep countries.

[A survey to collect the needs and different workshops to validate the results](#)

People across Europe, including farmers and farm workers, advisors, veterinarians, researchers and lecturers expressed their needs and issues about sheep nutrition and health management in an online survey

They were asked about their issues and needs through 6 main questions relating to:

- 1) sheep nutrition, 2) lamb nutrition, 3) replacement nutrition, 4) sheep health, 5) lamb health and 6) flock management.

Before the transnational workshop, results had been validated in each EuroSheep country during national workshops, targeted at getting values input from farmers, veterinarians, advisors, scientists and lecturers.

[The common needs](#)

Across the countries, a lot of the issues identified were similar and especially:

The knowledge of the nutrition requirement was the main nutrition issue/need for ewes, replacement or lambs.

Grassland and grazing management was also a major need identified for ewes' nutrition.

For lamb nutrition, lamb performances targets before weaning was the main issue, whilst, for replacement, it was growth target for first lambing at 1 year.

For health of the ewes and the replacement, the most important needs were issues in relation to internal parasitism, lameness and mastitis. The main issues identified for lamb health were neonatal diseases, coccidiosis and acute death.

Finally, the main issues for management were flock health plans and outdoor welfare management

And now

The next step of EuroSheep is to identify solutions and tips and tricks to respond to these needs and challenges. Each country will identify best practices that could address the needs identified in other partner countries. A true cross-exchange approach!

The next international workshop will be the opportunity for farmers to select the best solutions, before testing them on their own farms – the true test if technology. Stay tuned!

EuroSheep thematic network main aim is to encourage the exchange of knowledge on the management of nutrition and flock health between the sheep sector stakeholders across countries.





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