



Integrating innovative **TECH**nologies along the value Chain  
to improve small ruminant **welfARE** management

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### **Press release 3**

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> series of National Workshops was completed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> series is on its way!**

**TechCare project is based on the the consent and involvement of stakeholders along the whole value chain of small ruminant farming systems.** Therefore, following the 1<sup>st</sup> series of National Workshops, organised in spring 2021, in all 9 countries participating in TechCare project, a list of welfare issues in small ruminant farming systems was formulated for each country, taking into consideration the views of relevant stakeholders. Based on this list, TechCare scientists proposed appropriate PLF tools that can be used as early-warning systems to address those issues. The PLF tools were presented to the relevant stakeholders during the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of TechCare National Workshops, and were assessed based on common criteria, like ease-of-use, cost competitiveness, overall efficiency, etc. The 2<sup>nd</sup> series of NWs were organised in Spain, Romania, France, Norway, Italy, UK, Greece, and Ireland during the autumn of 2021, under rather unprecedented conditions, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Most of these events were organised virtually; however, almost 150 stakeholders from different sectors, namely: farmers, veterinarians, animal transporters, slaughterhouse owners, researchers/academic, administration etc., actively participated and provided their feedback.

The agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of NWs included an introduction talk on the aims of the event and the role of stakeholders within the TechCare project, followed by a short presentation of the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> series of NWs concerning the prioritisation of the welfare issues of small ruminant farming systems. Then, the list of PLF tools to be prioritized was presented, and each PLF tool was mapped with the priority welfare issues that addresses. The stakeholders were informed about basic information concerning the functionality of the PLF tools, technical, and economic data, and were asked to pose questions or comments on the presented technologies. Finally, a poll was employed based on common evaluation criteria like the effectiveness of the PLF tools, the cost-efficiency, the ease-of-use, their applicability across the whole value chain etc. The stakeholders were also asked to rate the probability of employing the specific PLF tool in their farm or business. The results were collected based on the three main production systems (e.g. meat sheep, dairy sheep, and dairy goat), however some PLF tools were commonly considered as more appropriate, including EID LF and UHF technologies, weighing devices, weather/air quality sensors, milk meters and water meters.





Within 2022, the 3<sup>rd</sup> series of National Workshops is on its way, focusing on the algorithms and applications that are developed in the context of the project as early warning systems. Stakeholders will provide their feedback on the type of data and information, and they will rate the ease-of-use and the workability of the apps interphase. Finally, practical/technical issues concerning connectivity, data management and storage will be also discussed.

**The TechCare project team greatly appreciates the active participation of all the stakeholders and looks forward to meeting them again in the course of the project!**

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