



Romanian stakeholders' view on dairy sheep welfare priorities and PLF tools used for EWS

TechCare is a multi-actor project that involve stakeholders in every major decision. Therefore, two workshops per year are foreseen in each country, to consult stakeholders. The first Romanian workshop was held online in April 2021 with the aim to prioritize the welfare issues in dairy sheep farms. After sub-groups and all 30 participants discussions the most important welfare issues for dairy sheep farms in semi-extensive rearing system were: 1) gastrointestinal parasites, 2) lameness, and 3) mastitis. Also, inadequate



Photo: Sorin Voia

or contaminated water, respiratory infection, malnutrition and ectoparasites were issues that put the sheep health at risk. The second workshop took place online in July 2022, with 16 participants. The aim of this workshop was to prioritize the PLF technologies to be used in large scale study to be organized in Romania, in order to approach the identified welfare issues. Participants were informed about the welfare issues that were considered important by stakeholders from other partner countries. A list of PLF technologies were presented and after discussions, each participant was asked to nominate 4 of them. The most frequent technologies to be used in large scale studies were considered to be the weather station, the automatic weighing platform, and the EID-RFID reader. Also, accelerometer with geo-localization and electronic milk meter were of interest. Criteria to choose the PLF technologies were considered to be price, durability, maintenance costs, ease of reading and interpreting the data.



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