



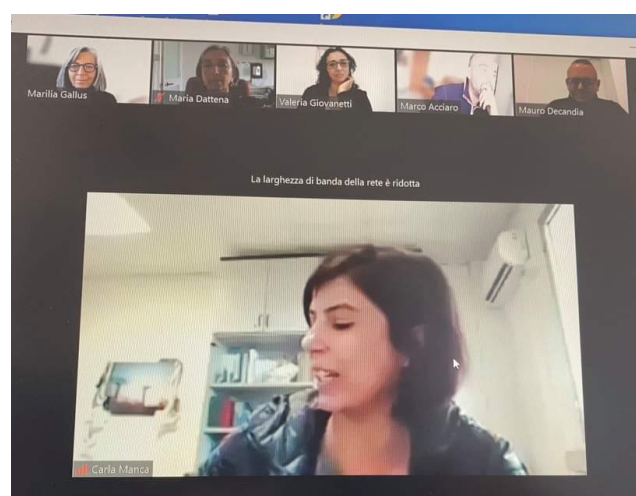
Integrating innovative TECHnologies along the value Chain
to improve small ruminant welfARE management



IT pilots to test innovative technologies for welfare monitoring

TechCare project identified the welfare priorities for meat sheep, dairy sheep and dairy goats' productions and the innovative tools that could monitor them. The adequacy of those tools to improve the management of welfare issues has been evaluated on research and demonstration farms. One pilot dairy sheep farm has been used in Italy, located in the North West of Sardinia (Bonassai farm AGRIS),

representing the Mediterranean dairy sheep systems. Welfare priorities being addressed are: mastitis, under/malnutrition and gastrointestinal (GI) parasite in adult ewes. The innovative tools tested are: electronic identification weigh crate with auto drafter (for under-nutrition, parasitism), milk tank weighing scale (for under-nutrition, parasitism), milk meters (for mastitis, under-nutrition, parasitism), and environmental sensors (for under-nutrition, parasitism). Sheep welfare assessments are also being carried out, to test whether information obtained from the innovative tools can predict and anticipate welfare issues. Data collection, transfer and analysis issues are also verified, as well as connectivity and infrastructure



requirements. Early warning systems will be developed from the data collected, together with those from the other pilot farms in the project. Once testing on pilot farms is completed, the candidate tools will be deployed on commercial farms, for real-conditions testing.



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