



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

Press release 10 (November 2024)

The TechCare project takes on the EAAP annual meeting in Florence!

TechCare is a European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation project (grant no. 802050), involving nine countries – from Scandinavia to the Middle East –aiming to revolutionise the use of precision technologies in sheep and goat farming. Led by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), TechCare is the biggest study of its kind for small ruminants and is focusing on improving management of welfare using digital technologies.

TechCare (innovative **TECH**nologies along the value Chain to improve small ruminant welfare management) had a very good presence at the 75th annual meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science, held in Florence (Italy) in September 2024 and showcased its latest work to an international scientific audience.

The project's results were presented in 5 different sessions during the 4 days conference. On Monday 2nd September, Claire Morgan-Davies (SRUC) had a presentation in Session 42: *Digital technologies for management* titled 'TechCare: Technologies to manage the welfare of sheep and goats – from pilots to large-scale studies'. Tuesday 3rd September was a full day. Fiona Kenyon (MRI) and colleagues had a poster for the morning Session 56: *PLF for health, behaviour and welfare Part 1*, titled 'TechCare: Monitoring semi-intensive meat sheep welfare through EID and weight'. The afternoon Session 65: *PLF for health, behaviour and welfare Part 2* was a busy one, with 3 presentations relating to the project: Eliel Gonzalez-Garcia (INRAe) presentation was titled 'Full-flock-full-pregnancy monitoring of liveweight progression in Romane meat ewes, using a walk-over-weighing system in rangelands', reflecting on the work done on prototypes. Next, Germain Tesniere (IDELE) presented results from some of the pilots: 'Tracking sheep indoors or on pasture using Bluetooth and UHF RFID for welfare management: feedback from trials conducted in Scotland and France', followed by Gerardo Caja (UAB), who had a presentation on 'Milking order of healthy and subclinically mammary infected dairy ewes in mid lactation'. At the same time, Michelle Reeves (SRUC) had an invited presentation 'Welfare challenges in small ruminants' in Session 68 *Small ruminant health and welfare aspects*. Finally, on Wednesday 4th September, Gerardo Caja had another presentation in Session 96 *Optimization of technical, economic, and environmental efficiency in sheep and goat production systems*, titled: 'Implementing an autodrafter-weighing scale for assessing the body weight changes and grouping dairy sheep and goats during lactation'. The breadth of the work and the sessions covered reflect on the importance of the project. These sessions were also excellent opportunities to not only present





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our work but also network with colleagues internationally, as well as spending quality time with the TechCare colleagues present at the conference.

Dr Claire Morgan-Davies, SRUC, TechCare coordinator

Website: www.techcare-project.eu

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Some of the TechCare team members in Florence (L-R: Tim Keady (Teagasc), Germain Tesniere (IDELE), Fiona Kenyon (MRI), Jean-Marc Gautier (IDELE), Michelle Reeves (SRUC), Claire Morgan-Davies (SRUC - coordinator), Brid McClearn (Teagasc), Irene Llach-Martinez (INRAE), Gerardo Caja (UAB), Riccardo Carelli (EAAP), Eliel Gonzalez-Garcia (INRAE).



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