



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

Newsletter - Issue 14

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The **TechCare** project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement N°862050.

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TechCare Final Conference! - *by C. Morgan-Davies (SRUC)*

TechCare is nearing its end, and we are organizing a final event to outline some of the main results and discuss more widely their implications. TechCare aimed to demonstrate innovative approaches to monitor animal-based welfare indicators and improve welfare management in small ruminant (SR) systems using precision livestock farming (PLF) technologies along the whole production chain, enabling all stakeholders, from farmers to consumers and regulators, to choose animal welfare friendly products.

During the project, we tackled the challenge of using innovative and low-cost technologies, adapted to small ruminant systems across the EU. The 1.5-day final event will kick off with interventions from sister projects ([aWISH](#), [DECIDE](#), [Digi4Live](#), [ClearFarm](#)) and will showcase the project’s main results in terms of welfare assessments and their priorities as well as the activities carried out within the project’s pilot and large scale phases.

Moreover, the developed online tools, alongside promising prototypes, will be presented, and our business models explained. Panel discussions on welfare and innovations, and data use with the participation of prominent stakeholders, will also take place. Do join us, in person or online, on the 17-18th June in Brussels.

For any information you can contact: marlene@eaap.org. To register [visit the website](#).





FINAL CONFERENCE



**Join us
to discover
TECHCARE
final results!**

June 2025:
- 17th full day
- 18th Morning

**Brussels, University
Foundation & Online**

TechCare takes part to EU Cluster DECIDE in Berlin – by C. Morgan-Davies (SRUC)

On 25th March 2025, TechCare was invited by the Horizon 2020 [EU project DECIDE](#) (data-driven control and prioritisation of non-EU-regulated contagious animal diseases) to take part to their Animal Health Cluster event. This networking event was focused on animal disease surveillance and farm data sharing. It brought together the scientific community from EU-funded projects to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and tackle key challenges in animal health and welfare. The event focused on 2 main topics, 1) Data access & re-use for animal disease surveillance tools, and 2) Data-driven tools and stakeholder behaviour. It had been a success, TechCare had been part of a group of participants from the projects [BIOSECURE aWISH](#), [Digi4Live](#), [Doorcas Africa \(Start Accelerator '25 \)](#) and [Complexity Science Hub](#), who, together with the members of DECIDE, exchanged experiences and insights with projects' presentations and interactive group discussions. We presented TechCare, its aims and objectives, and how the project has dealt with data sharing and stakeholders' engagement. This helped for the afternoon workshops, which both focused on critical topics: data management practices in the animal health community, and



stakeholders' needs, in particular innovations and desired users' behaviours. A very insightful day of exchanges during this Cluster event!



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Dimitrios Noulas Greek goat farmer - by E. Sossidou (ELGO-DIMITRA)

Dimitrios Noulas is a farmer located in a village at the base of Mount Olympus.



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He owns a flock of 280 dairy sheep and a separate herd of 80 dairy goats. He manages his farm using a semi-intensive farming system; his animals have access to pasture from March to June.



Dimitrios employs innovative management techniques on his farm. These practices include monthly volumetric measurements to record milk yield, as well as the evaluation of fat, protein and urea content in individual milk samples twice per year. He also uses a specialized software called Sheeping.co to record data such as lambing/kidding dates, vaccination protocols, mating groups, ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis results, etc. Furthermore, he has implemented artificial rearing of lambs and kids on his farm. He mainly has one kidding period for his goats, which takes place in February annually. His future goal is to increase the size of his flock and develop extended lactation in a group of high-yielding goats, to better deal with reproduction management and distribution of milk throughout the year. Dimitrios has actively participated in the activities within the TechCare project as one of the Greek goat

farmers to undertake in the framework of large-scale studies. A meteorological station for measuring relative humidity, temperature and microclimate conditions was established in his farm. He was trained to use the THlcare app, designed by UAB (Universitat Autònoma Barcelona), in order to check and evaluate weather conditions, microclimate and air quality in his farm. Moreover, he has been trained to assess the health status, behaviour, and welfare of the animals and fulfil the relevant recording sheets from the project on a daily basis.

New TechCare publication: “Norwegian sheep farmers’ perception of the advantages and disadvantages of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) technologies” - by M. Reeves (SRUC)

Partners from SRUC and NIBIO have published a study investigating current PLF technology users' perceptions of their tools. The research team spoke to sheep farmers in Norway currently using GPS collars, virtual fencing, automatic feeders and other technological tools to understand the benefits gained and the challenges they faced. According to farmers, time and energy savings were the main advantage of using PLF technology. It also allowed many of them to increase the longevity of their business and pass it on to the next generation. High costs were the most significant barrier to adoption and continued use, but so were distrust in technology companies and faulty equipment. The research team is very grateful to all the participants who shared their experience. To read the article click [here](#).

TechCare Practice Abstracts ! - by EAAP

TechCare produced 40 practice abstracts in the EIP Agri format. These included practice abstracts based on TechCare activities, each produced in English and, if applicable, in national languages. A practice abstract is a brief summary that describes the main

information/recommendation/practice that can be used by the end-users in their daily practice. To know more [visit the webpage!](#)

TechCare in the news

List of past and upcoming events with TechCare partners attendance.

Event 	Date 	Location 	Partner 
←			
Visit from the Northern Irish farmers of the CAFRE Farm Innovations visits programme.	8 May 2025	SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre, Scotland, UK	SRUC
→			
North Sheep On SRUC stand, showcasing TechCare results to English sheep farmers	4 June 2025	Penrith (UK)	SRUC
Highland Sheep On SRUC stand, showcasing TechCare results to Scottish sheep farmers	11 June 2025	Ardgay (Scotland, UK)	SRUC
26th Congress of Association for Science and Animal Production (ASPA) Presentation of two works: 1. "GPS as a tool to monitor grazing behaviour of Sarda dairy ewes" 2. "THI as an alert tool for decline in milk production in grazing Sarda sheep"	17 – 20 June 2025	Turin, Italy	AGRIS
Royal Welsh Show Participation to the agricultural fair in Wales, showcasing TechCare results on SRUC stand	21-24 July 2025	Builth Wells (UK)	SRUC
Tech-Ovin IDELE, CNBL and CIIRPO will have a stand to communicate about technologies and an oral presentation during conference: "Individual production data and heat stress: exploring new indicators for managing dairy sheep flocks?"	3 – 4 September 2025	Bellac, France	IDELE, CNBL, CIIRPO



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www.techcare-project.eu



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