

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

Final conference Conclusions

17 - 18 June 2025 University Foundation - Brussels





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TechCare - Objectives



To propose innovative and cost-effective technologies to improve welfare management in small ruminants

With technologies adapted to small ruminant production



- By considering the whole production chain (only up to the abattoir)
- With adapted early warning systems
- Using appropriate business models

'Low-cost' & relevant to most small ruminant farmers





TechCare – Outputs after 5 years

2 main outputs:



Technologies ready to implement on farms/value chain, to improve welfare management



Technologies not yet acceptable entirely to whole industry:

- I. Only available to innovative farmers
- II. Still to be developed





- ✓ Electronic milk meter
- / Liectronic mink meter
- ✓ Milk tank weight
- √ Weather station/indoor sensors

TRL 8-9

- > THIcare app
- > Milking order alert
- Weight change alert (dairy & meat)
- > Breedr app









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- ✓ Trough Al
- ✓ UHF platform
- ✓ Abinsula platform
- ✓ GPS collars

TRL 7-8

- ✓ BLE
- ✓ Proximity loggers
- ✓ Accelerometers

TRL 6

- √ EID weigh crate + reader(s)
- ✓ Electronic milk meter
- ✓ Milk tank weight
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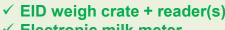




- **Proximity loggers**
- **Accelerometers**

TRL 6

- Welfare priorities lists
- 4 sets of welfare assessment guidelines
- 4 broad categories of welfare indicators
- **Indicators for transport**





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Blueprint for other species









TechCare – Stakeholders/farmers?

Stakeholders keen to be engaged, even after 5 years

Farmers in large-scale pleased to be involved

 Some farmers want to keep using the technology







THANK YOU!

