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Nowadays, breeding programs exist only in few local pig breeds in Europe. In the other local pig breeds, recording of phenotypic traits strongly differs according to the breed (organization) considered. To promote phenotyping in local pig breeds, a dedicated database and a website were developed in the frame of the TREASURE project. This is the first step towards the implementation of breeding programs in European local pig breeds, based on a standardised recording of carcass and meat quality traits (Figure 1).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The important information and phenotypic traits to be recorded were inventoried by partners for six local breeds : Basque (FR), Bísaro (PT), Crna slavonska (HR), Gascon (FR), Krškopoljski (SI) and Schwäbisch-Hällisches (DE)
- The identification or codification standards used in each country were described: animals, parents, breeds, farms and slaughter places
- For each considered trait and each slaughter place, available measurement methods were described
- The specifications of the database and website were written

RESULTS

- A preliminary database and website have been developed (Fig 2)
- Measurement method of traits has been included and related to each slaughter place and date
- The database is organised in eight tables (Fig 3):
 - Three for countries, breeds, farms
 - One for animal data containing 74 variables related to: animal herdbook information (10), rearing and growth (22), carcass (22) and meat quality (20)
 - Four for measurement methods associated to slaughter places
- Data can be either imported with CSV files or directly entered into the database
- Four import programs have been developed for animals, farms, slaughter places and breeds data
- A full export data program has been developed
- The site has been translated into different languages : English, Croatian, French, German, Slovenian
 - Translation in other languages can be easily included
- Preliminary tests have been performed and are still ongoing

CONCLUSION

A website and phenotypic database have been developed and are currently tested by all the partners until the end of the TREASURE project. All the breeds studied in TREASURE are free to use these tools. Data can be hosted in a common database or in a partner specific duplicated database. Once enough data will have been recorded, it will be possible to estimate genetic parameters in local breeds in order to define specific breeding objectives for each population.

Fig 1 : Overview of the flow of data and data transmission

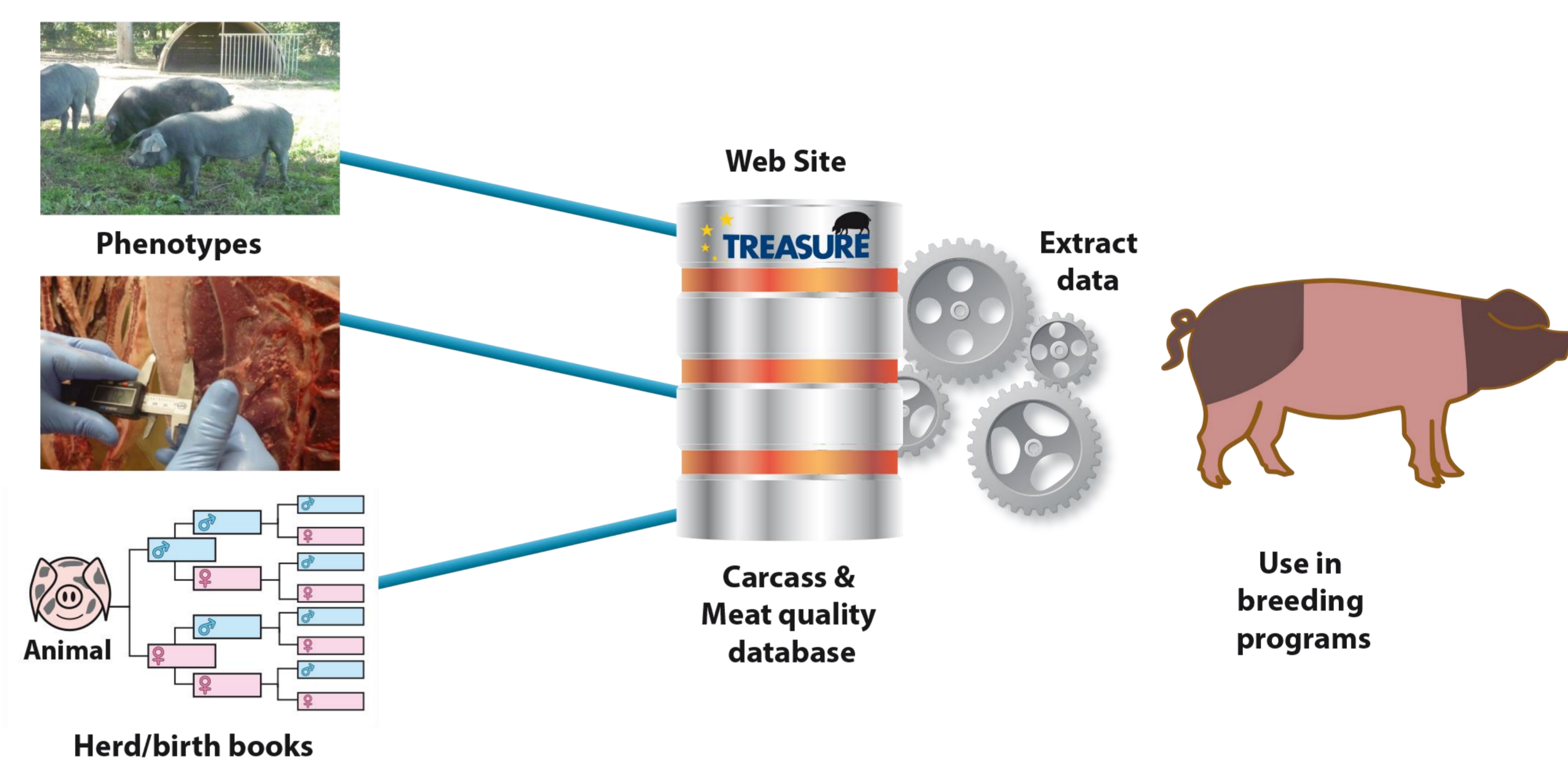


Fig 2 : Home screen of the website

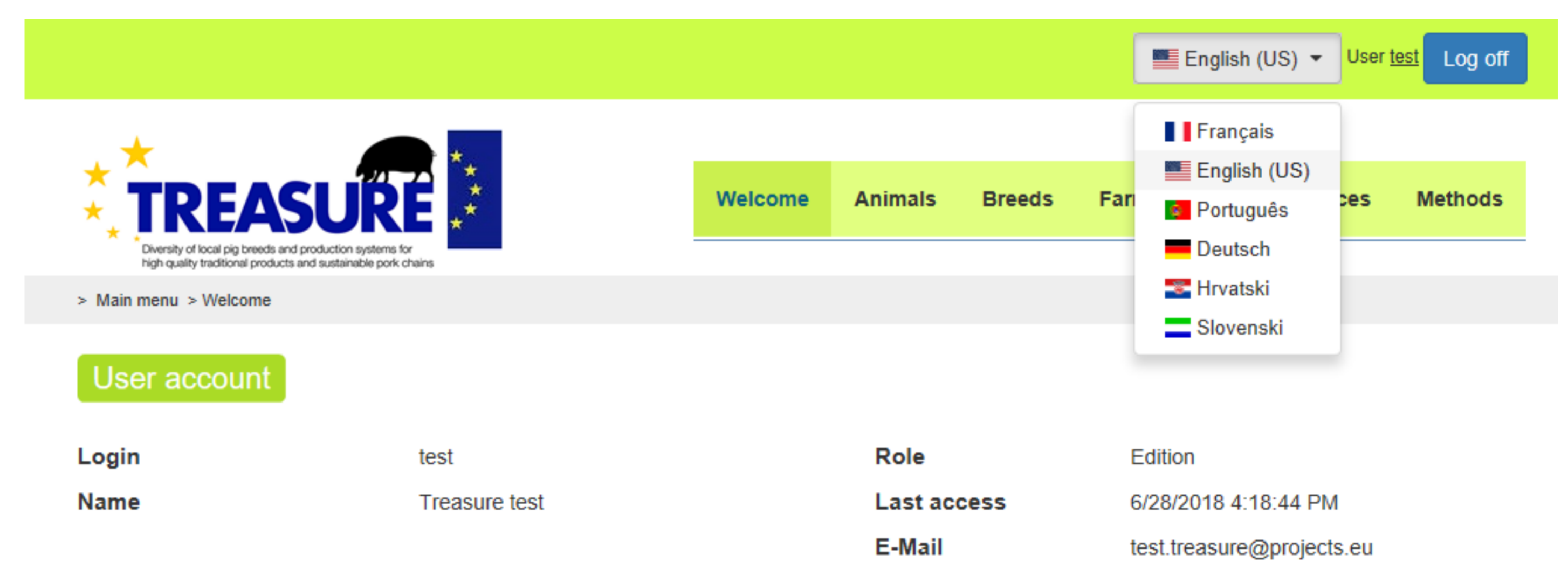


Fig 3 : Class diagram of the database

