# **EuroSheep :** End users assessments of flock health and nutrition Best Practices

**P.G. Grisot,** B. Fanca, A. Carta, S. Salaris, C. Morgan-Davies, I. Beltran de Heredia, R. Ruiz, S. Ocak, T. Keady, B. McClearn, R. Klein, C. Ligda

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# The 6 EuroSheep steps

- Step **1**: Identification of **end-user needs** at common or specific levels
- Step **2**: Syntheses of **corresponding solutions**, from practical and technical knowledge (and completed by scientific knowledge if needed)
- Step **3**: Prioritisation and **selection of solutions suitable** to the different contexts
- Step **4**: Panel/range of **ready to disseminate solutions** adapted in local contexts with economic, environmental and social analysis
- Step **5**: Assessment of **end-user acceptance** for the different solutions
- Step **6**: Definition of a European **dissemination strategy** and a European **research exploitation**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Step 1: Identification of end-user needs

- Survey online for farmers, advisors, researchers…
- Which are the main challenges and needs regarding nutrition, health and management?
- More than 1200 answers across Europe

**61 needs** identified


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Step 2: Synthesis of corresponding solutions

- Each country proposed solutions

- **96 solutions** available
  - 47 solutions on health management
  - 49 solutions on nutrition management
- Published online

www.eurosheep.network


project has received funding from the pean Union's Horizon 2020 research and ation programme under grant agreement 3056.

# Step 3 and 5 : selection of solutions suitable and Assessment of end-user acceptance

| Country | Number of different solutions | Total number of surveys | Surveys provided by | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Commercial farms | Research farms | Vets or Advisors |
| France (FR) | 9 | 20 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| Greece (GR) | 12 | 21 | 17 | 1 | 3 |
| Hungary (HU) | 17 | 20 | 5 | 15 | 0 |
| Ireland (IR) | 15 | 20 | 17 | 0 | 3 |
| Italy (IT) | 10 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Spain (SP) | 9 | 25 | 21 | 3 | 1 |
| Turkey (TR) | 8 | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 |
| United Kingdom (UK) | 6 | 21 | 16 | 2 | 3 |
| **TOTAL** | 51 | 167 | 98 | 15 | 34 |

N° 863056.

# End-users' acceptance - Implementation

| |
|---|
| Did you implement the solution? |
| If not, why? |
| What kind of equipment do you already have to implement the solution? |
| What are the implementation costs of the solution |
| Consumables |
| Other services (lab analysis, vet,…) |

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# End-users' acceptance - Labour

| |
|---|
| How much time is required to prepare and implement the solution |
| How many labour is needed to implement the solution? |
| Other specific prerequisites |
| Is there any particular regulation linked to the solution? |
| Overall stake-holder's acceptance |
| Was it easy to implement (Y/N) |
| Any limits to its applicability |
| Did you need to adapt the solution? (Y/N) |
| If yes, how? |
| Observed benefits (in comparison with the list of expected benefits) |
| How long did it take time to see an effect on the farm |
| Will you continue to implement it? |
| If not, why? |
| Do you recommend the solution to anyone else? |

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Exemple

- Solution for grassland and grazing management :
  - **Rotational grazing systems** from Ireland

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Rotational grazing systems - establishment and management

## Background

- Rotational grazing systems involves
  - dividing areas into paddocks
  - managing paddocks in rotation

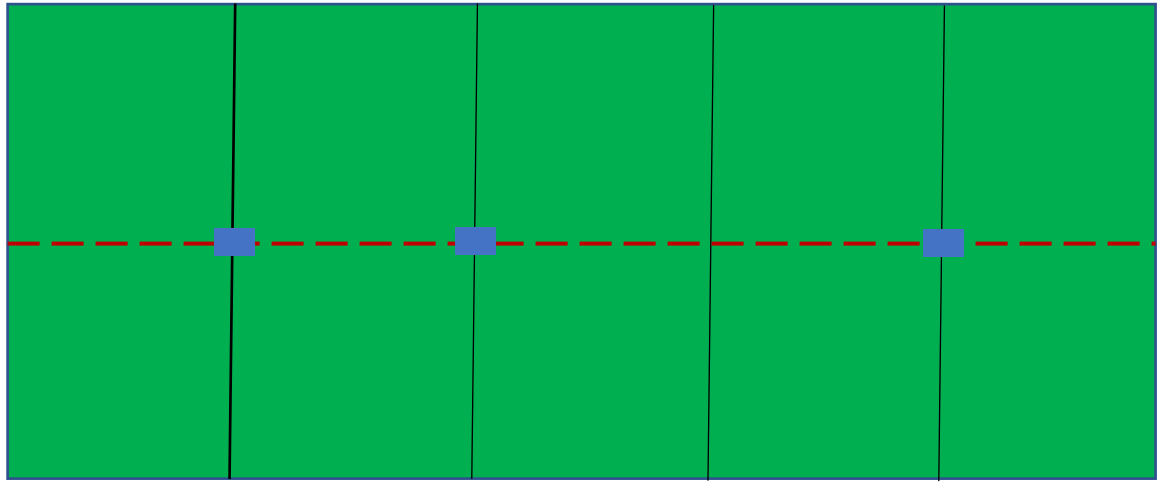

- Facilitates
  - grassland management
  - higher herbage utilization
  - high feed value silage
  - creep grazing for lambs
- Requires
  - calculate ideal paddock size (3 days grazing per group)
  - access to paddocks
  - water supply
  - fencing

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Rotational grazing systems - establishment and management

**How to set up:**

- 5 permanent paddocks per grazing group
- Electric fencing to split paddocks
- Aim for 3 days grazing per half paddock
- Approximately 21 day rotation in mid season and 40 day rotation in spring and autumn



- Strategically locate drinking troughs between main paddocks which can be split

**Expected benefits:**

- Higher grass utilization
- Increased sward quality
- High feed value silage produced
- Increases animal performance
- Reduce feed costs

# Rotational grazing

- Number of assessments: **9**
- Countries who implemented the solution: **France/Italy/Spain/Turkey**
- Limits to the implementation: **A lot of work especially for watering animals. Very restrictive if the farmer has to manage different groups/flocks. Size of the paddocks. Cost of material needed to implement. Water management.**
- Adaptations needed:
  - **Adapt size of parcels to area, available parcels, type of grassland**
- Observed benefits:
  - **Self sufficiency improved**
  - **Better internal parasitism management**
  - **Better management of BCS of the animals on pasture**
  - **Better grass production and increased sward quality leads to animal performance improved**
  - **Reduce hay and concentrate use**
  - **Easier lameness management**
- Overall acceptance : **8/9 positive assessments**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Step 5 : Assessment of end-user acceptance

| | Good overall acceptance | Bad overall acceptance | Mixed overall acceptance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Health | 20 | 2 | 5 |
| Nutrition | 18 | 1 | 5 |

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.

# Thank you for your attention

View slideshows of our conferences at

idele.fr

https://eurosheep.network

@EuroSheepEU

EuroSheep EU

@EuroSheepEU

EuroSheep

EuroSheep EU

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056.