



# PLF and Digital technologies for small ruminants



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# Digital tools and technologies: Irish sheep stakeholder opinions before and after training

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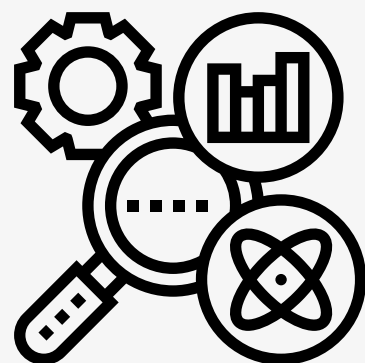
# OBJECTIVES

- Create a European network around the use of PLF and digital technologies in small ruminants
- And encourage
  - 1) knowledge exchange
  - 2) new technology adoption
  - 3) communicationbetween small ruminant farmers and stakeholders





# 3 levels of networking



## DIGIFARMS

1 research or  
demonstration farm  
per country to  
demonstrate use of  
PLF tools



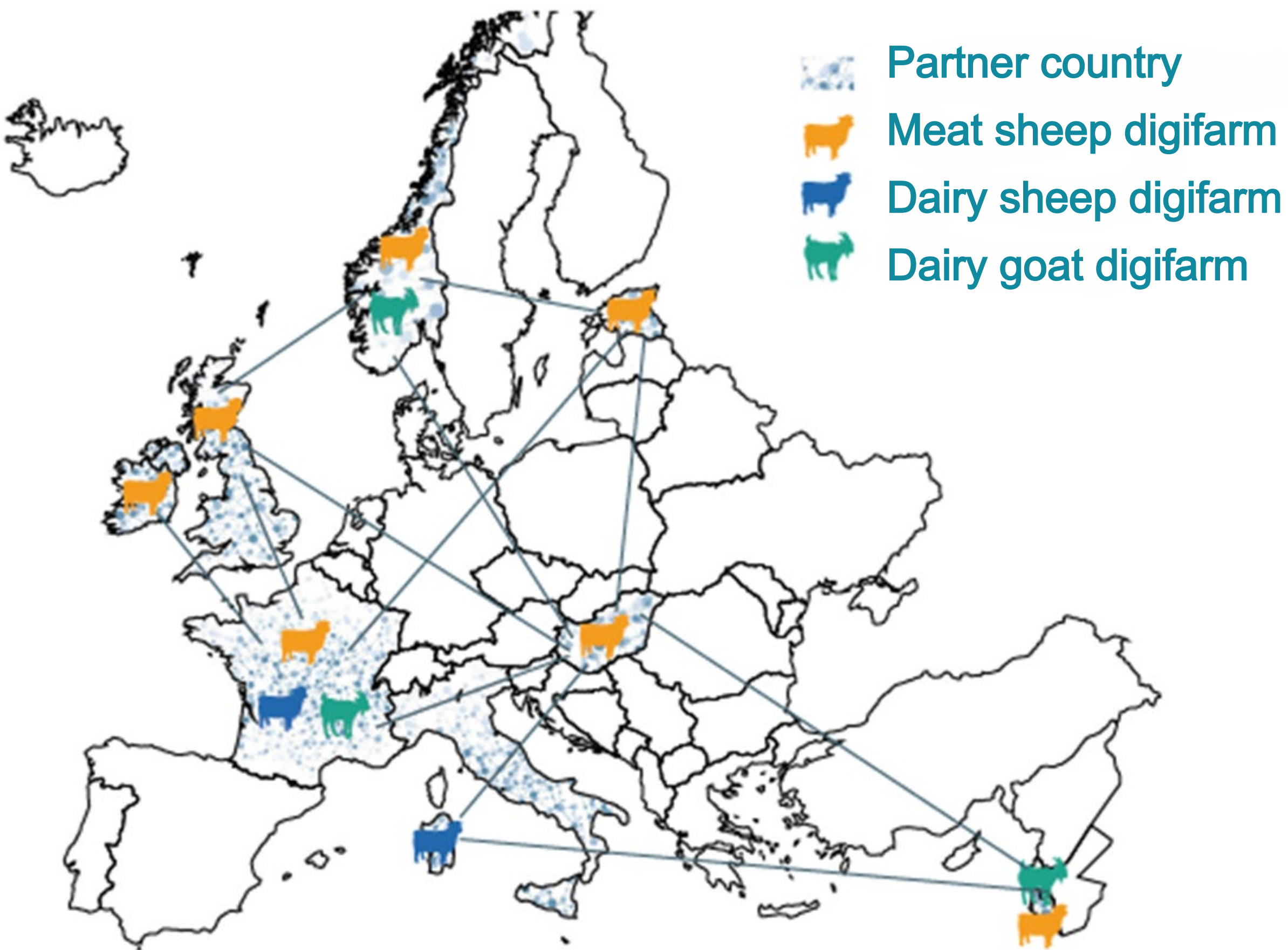
## INNOVATIVE FARMERS

3 commercial farms in  
each country that have  
adopted technologies  
and will facilitate peer -  
to-peer exchanges



## INTERESTED FARMERS

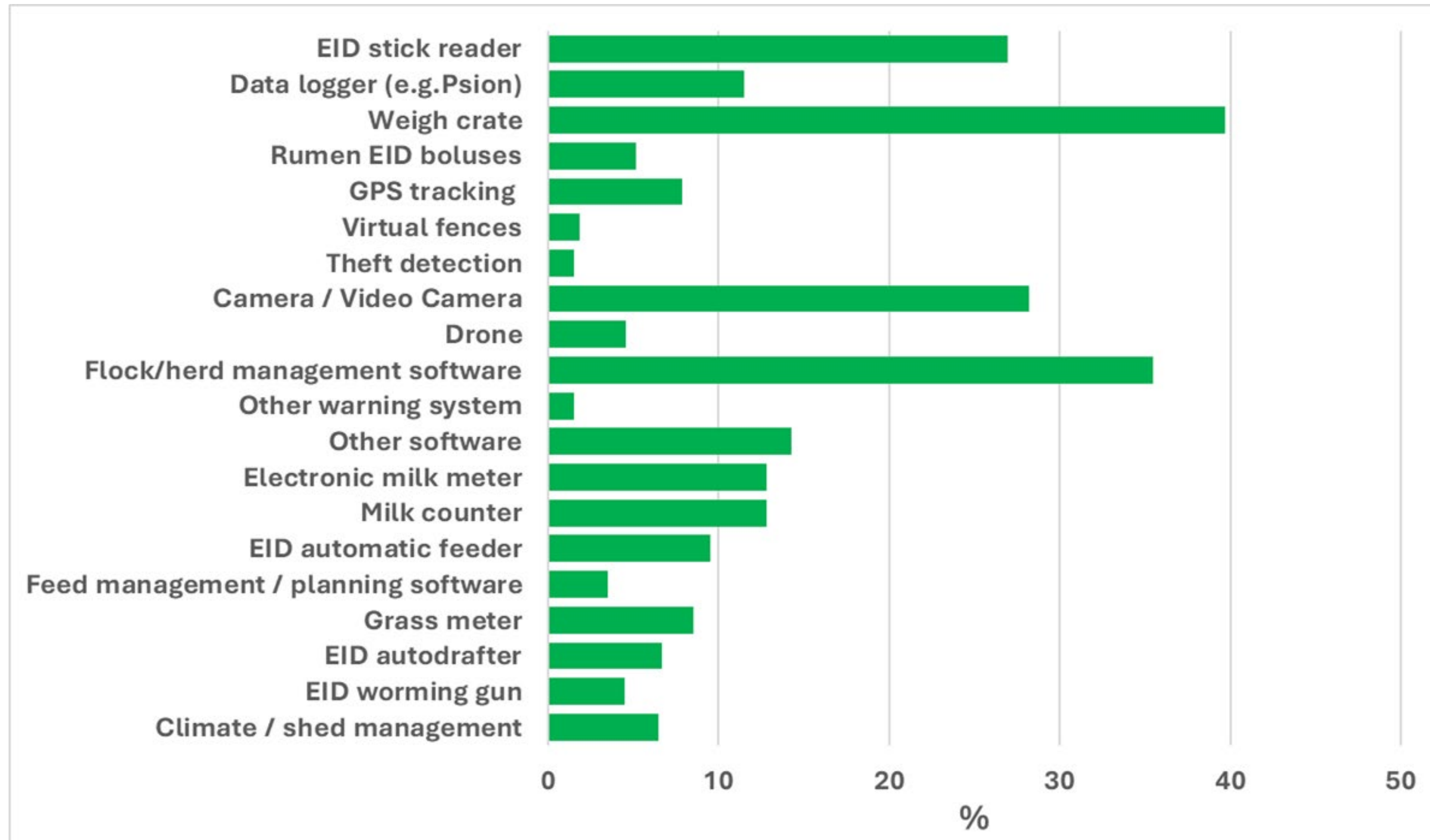
Farmers or  
stakeholders  
interested in learning  
more about PLF tool  
available



## PARTNERS

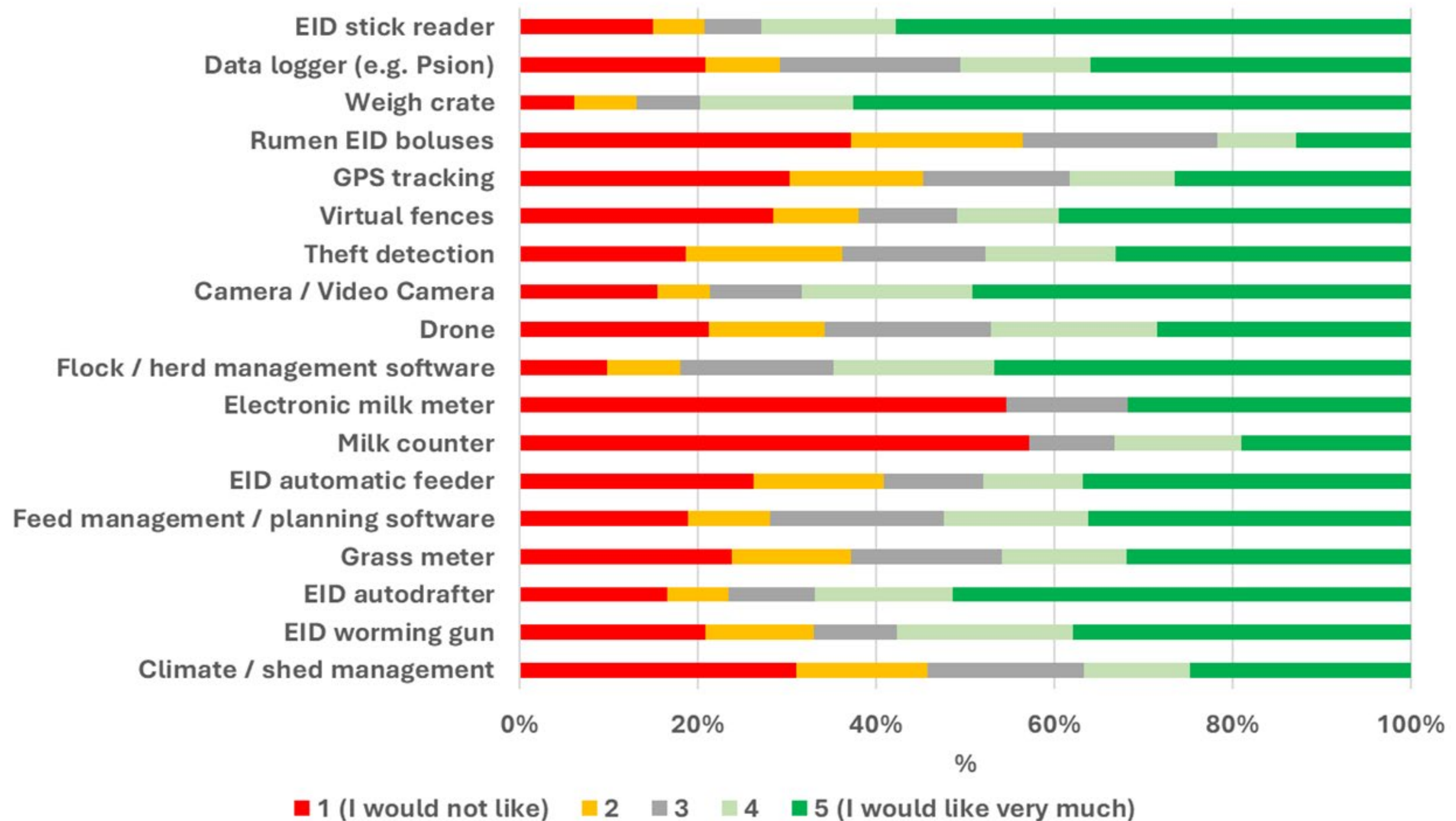
- Ireland – Teagasc
- UK – SRUC, MRI
- France – Idele, INRAe, IEIC
- Italy – Agris Sardegna
- Norway – NIBIO
- Estonia – Estonia University of Life Science
- Israel – Agricultural Research Organisation
- Hungary – University of Debrecen

# Farmer % with technology currently on farm





# Technologies farmers would like to have





# Demo and training days





# Questionnaire before and after demonstration

## EID Reader

### Questionnaire

| <b>BEFORE THE DEMONSTRATION</b>           | Yes | No |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| Do you have the tool?                     |     | ✓  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Do you think it is worth investing in it? | ✓   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Would you like to implement on your farm? | ✓   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                                           |     |    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Level of practicality (1=low, 5=high)     |     |    |   |   |   | ✓ |   |

| <b>AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION</b>            | Yes | No |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| Do you think it is worth investing in it? | ✓   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Would you like to implement on your farm? | ✓   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|                                           |     |    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Level of practicality (1=low, 5=high)     |     |    |   |   |   |   | ✓ |

# EID Reader



## Prior to demonstration:

- 29% had an EID reader
- 19% did not think EID readers were worth investment
- average 3.9/5 for practicality

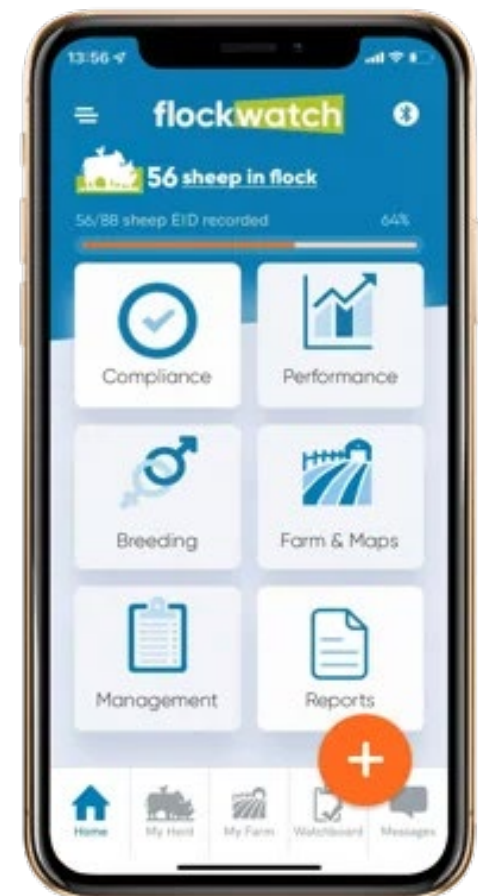
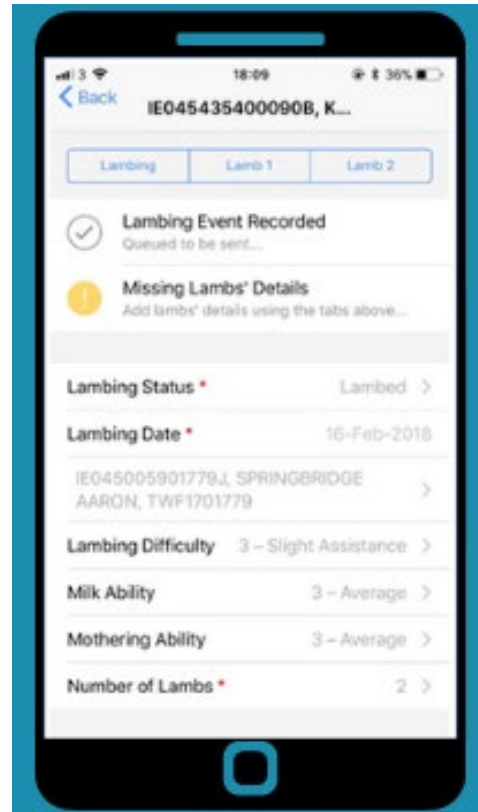


## After demonstration:

- 5% did not think EID readers were worth investment
- average 4.3/5 for practicality



# Flock recording phone applications



## Prior to demonstration:

- 18% had one of the two apps
- 32% did not think flock recording apps were worth investment
- average 3.1/5 for practicality

## After demonstration:

- 18% did not think flock recording apps were worth investment
- average 3.4/5 for practicality

# Lambing camera



## Prior to demonstration:

- 54% had a lambing camera
- 23% did not think lambing cameras were worth investment
- average 4.2/5 for practicality



## After demonstration:

- 15% did not think lambing cameras were worth investment
- average 4.4/5 for practicality



# Results across all countries

(V. Giovanetti et al., EAAP Mountain livestock farming systems 2024)

- 39 unique PLF tools surveyed across 8 countries
- Some common in every country e.g. EID reader, weighcrate etc.
- 860 before/after surveys completed
- Average 20.5% of farmers surveyed already had the technology
- Practicality rating increased on average for all technologies

# Project resources

- 30+ tool guidelines on website with cost -benefit analysis (8 languages)
- 40+ videos of tools in use and farmer testimonies on YouTube
- ADOPT results predicting the peak adoption and time for each tool (page 285 abstracts book)



[www.smartplatform.network](http://www.smartplatform.network)



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Thank you!