



Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe

Taking a holistic approach to achieve sustainable sheep & goat production across Europe

Background

iSAGE aims to improve the overall sustainability and innovative capacity of the sheep and goat sectors in Europe. Within an industry-led, multi-disciplinary approach, the project will produce outputs that:

- Enhance the efficiency and profitability of the sector in the long term;
- Guide industry products to better meet the needs of today's consumers;
- Increase the societal acceptance of sheep & goat production; and
- Improve the delivery of ecosystem services (including social well-being and rural development) and animal welfare



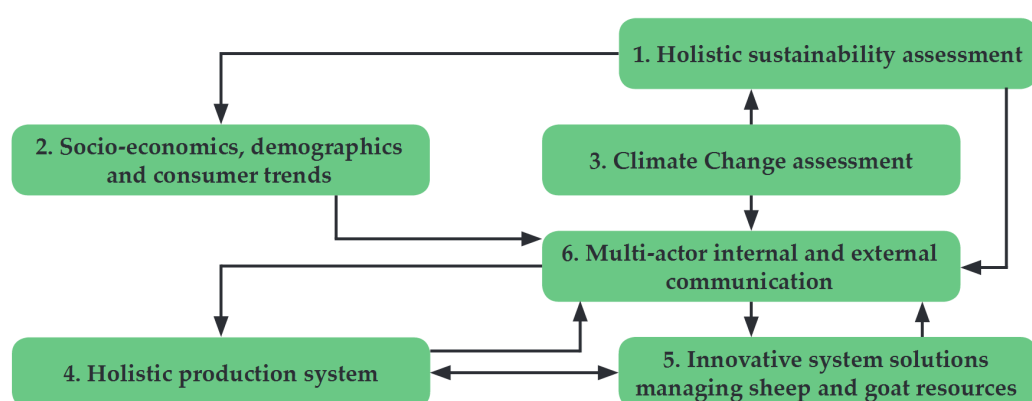
What we will do

iSAGE will develop new socio-economic, animal welfare and sustainability assessment tools for the whole supply chain. It will use these to:

- Understand barriers to innovation and development;
- Define future opportunities to exploit niche markets for a competitive edge;
- Develop farm management tools and innovative breeding strategies;
- Find solutions for social, welfare and consumer issues;
- Work with industry to inform, help and teach.



The work is done through 6 closely related work packages:



At the core of **iSAGE** is a participatory approach centred on multi-actor internal and external communication activity to build the project from the farmer level.

Sustainability assessments will be carried out with an adapted version of the PG tool. Interactions of economic, environmental and social outcomes and their effects on farm resilience (to climate change, market instability, etc.) will be analysed.

Consumer trends will be established in conversation with farmers, consumers and retailers to guide market direction and advise best-practice supply chains.

Climate change effects on pasture and livestock will be modelled, alongside different adaptation responses.

Production system innovations to tackle identified challenges will be investigated with on-farm case studies and modelling. A whole farm model will be built and used to develop user-friendly tools giving farm-specific best practice.

Sheep & goat resources will be maximized by developing breeding strategies based on phenotypes and gene profiles associated with resilience, adaptability and sustainability. Local breeds will be looked to as a valuable genetic source.

Multi-actor communications will ensure that the work of the project translates into wide-spread industry change. Workshops, demonstrations, conferences and training will be provided and a knowledge exchange network established.



INDUSTRY PARTNERS



RESEARCH PARTNERS



iSAGE consortium comprises 33 partners from 6 EU countries and Turkey. 14 diverse research partners work alongside 19 industry partners representing ~16 000 farmers and ~5.5 million sheep and goats



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