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# Sm@RT: Small Ruminant Technology - PLF and Digital Technology for Small Ruminants

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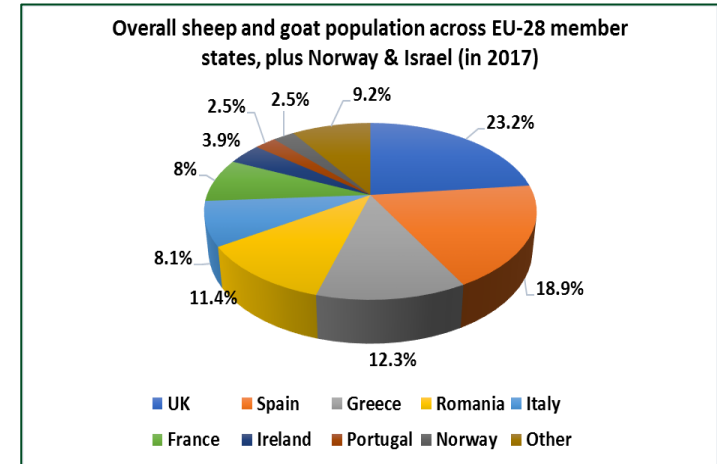
# Outline

1. Context
2. Project
3. Partners
4. Sm@RT concept
5. Recent activities
6. What next?



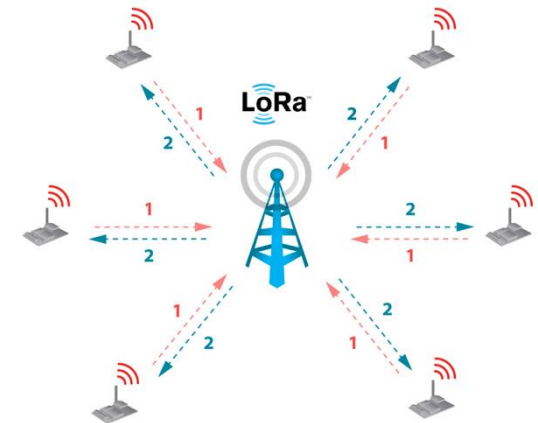
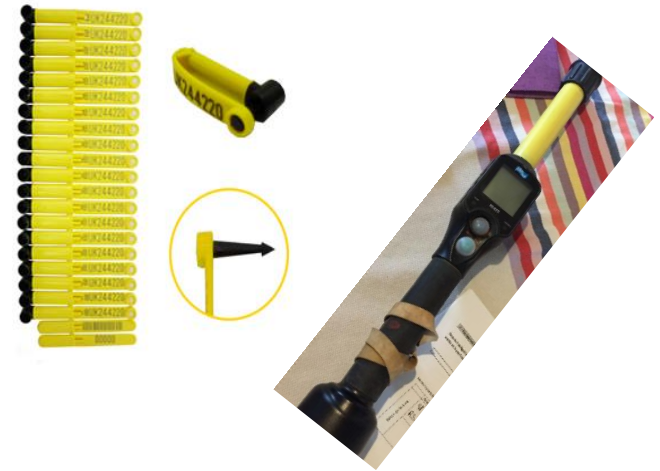
# Context

- Sheep & Goats in Europe
- Challenging environment
- Varied production systems
- Important societal, environmental and cultural roles
- Labour issues
- Technology & innovation uptake is slow
- PLF & DT can provide production efficiency



# PLF & DT

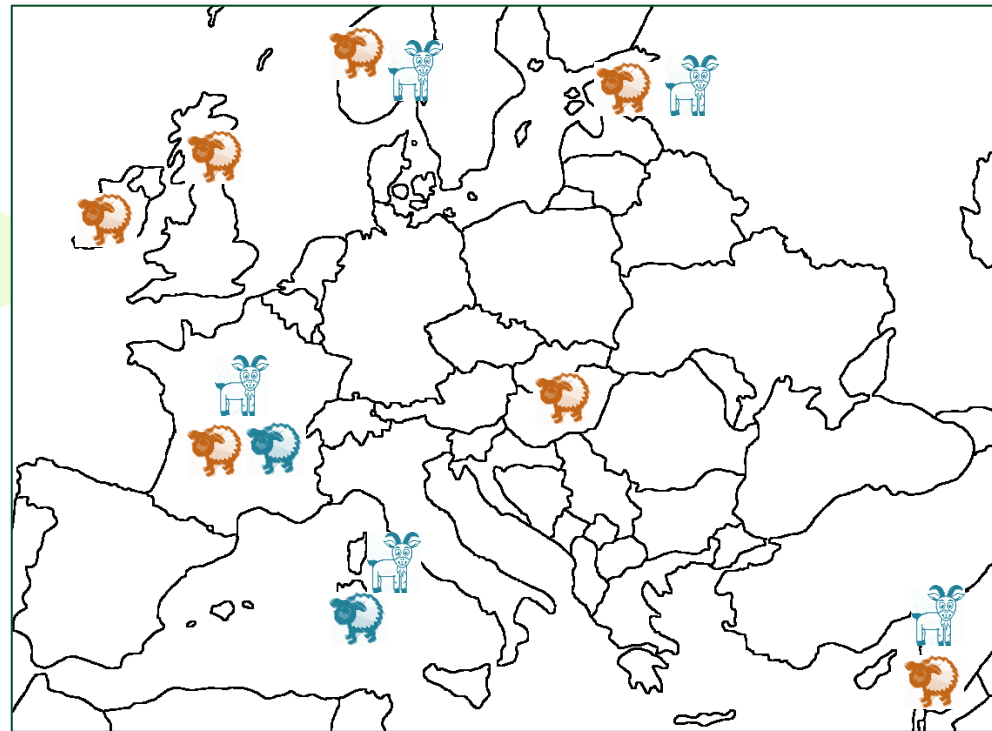
- Application to in Sheep & Goats?
- Advantages/Opportunities?
  - Generalisation of EID
  - 64% of farmers see as opportunity
  - Development of IoT
- Misconception around the technology



# Sm@RT – The project



- EU Thematic Network funded project
- Start Jan 2021 for 3 years
- 11 partners, 8 countries
  - UK – SRUC, MRI
  - France – Idele, INRAe, IEIC
  - Italy – Agris Sardegna
  - Norway – NIBIO
  - Ireland – Teagasc
  - Estonia – Estonia University of Life Science
  - Israel – Agricultural Research Organisation
  - Hungary – University of Debrecen
- Sheep & Goats



# Work thematic

## 2 axis & 2 species

PLF innovations and uses  
(farmers' needs)

Guidelines on technology use  
and data management

Multi actor approach within the 2 axis

3 levels of networking

Digifarm  
1 per  
country

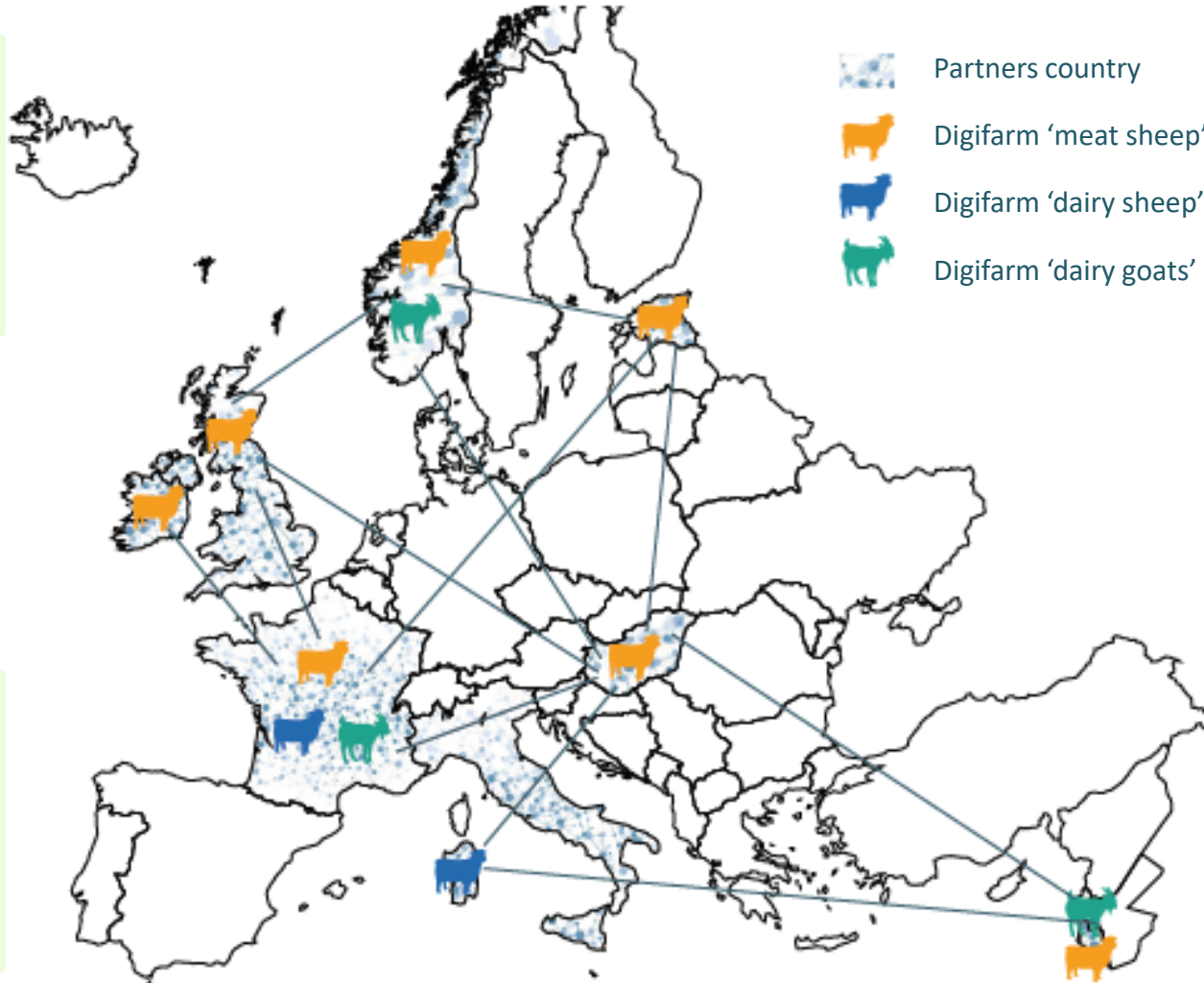
Innovative farmers  
(commercial &  
demonstration)

Interested farmers

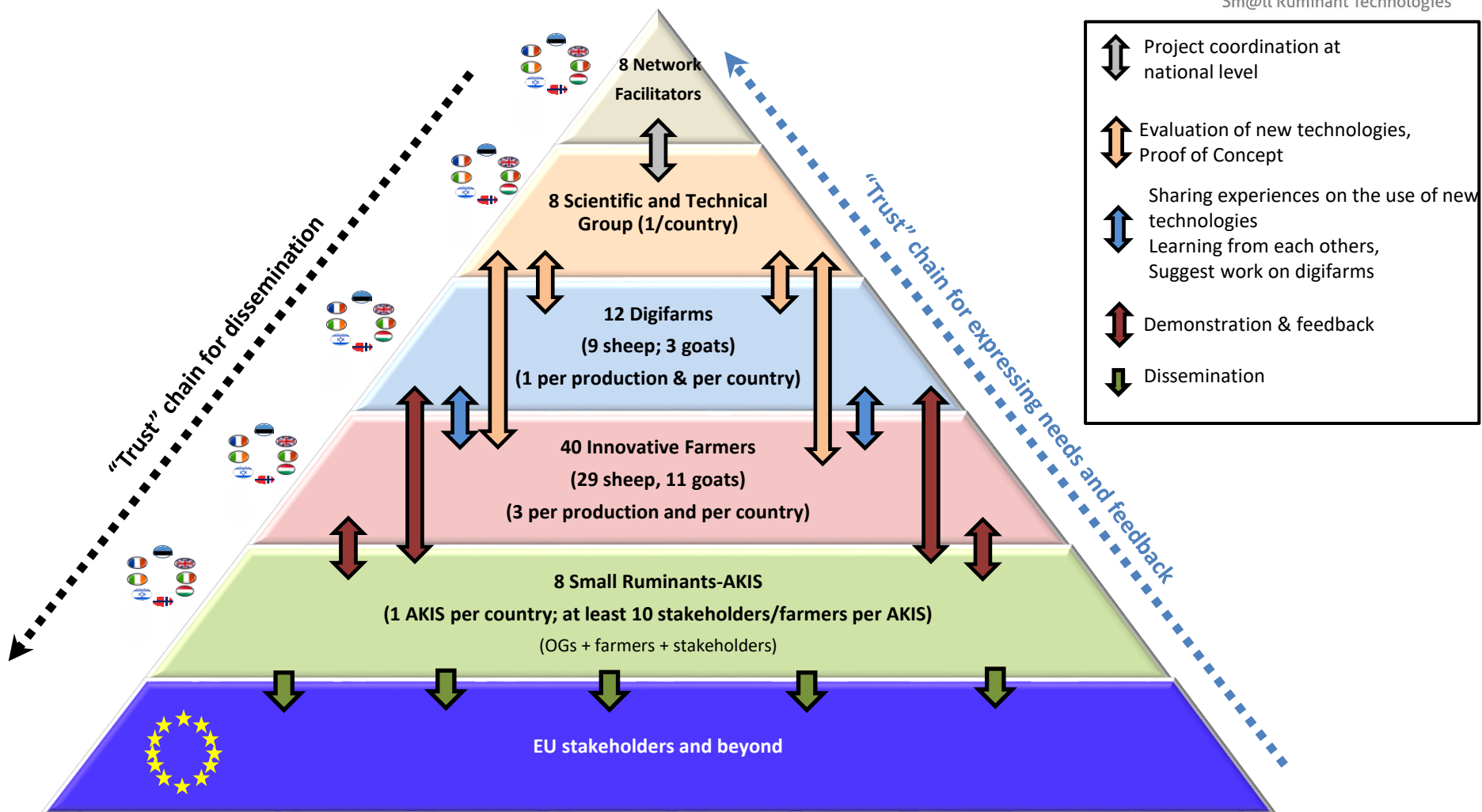




# Digifarms

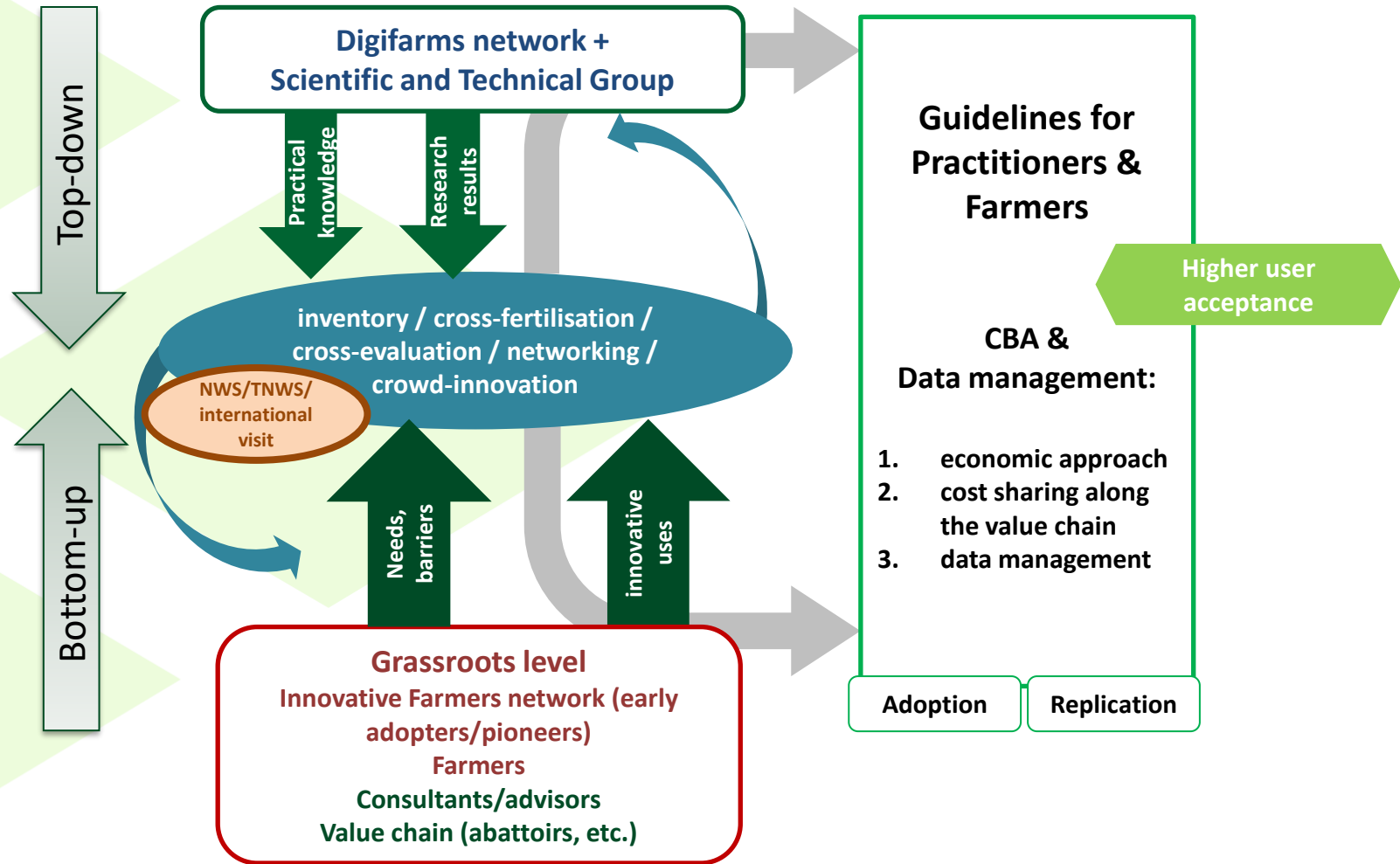


# Relationships within project

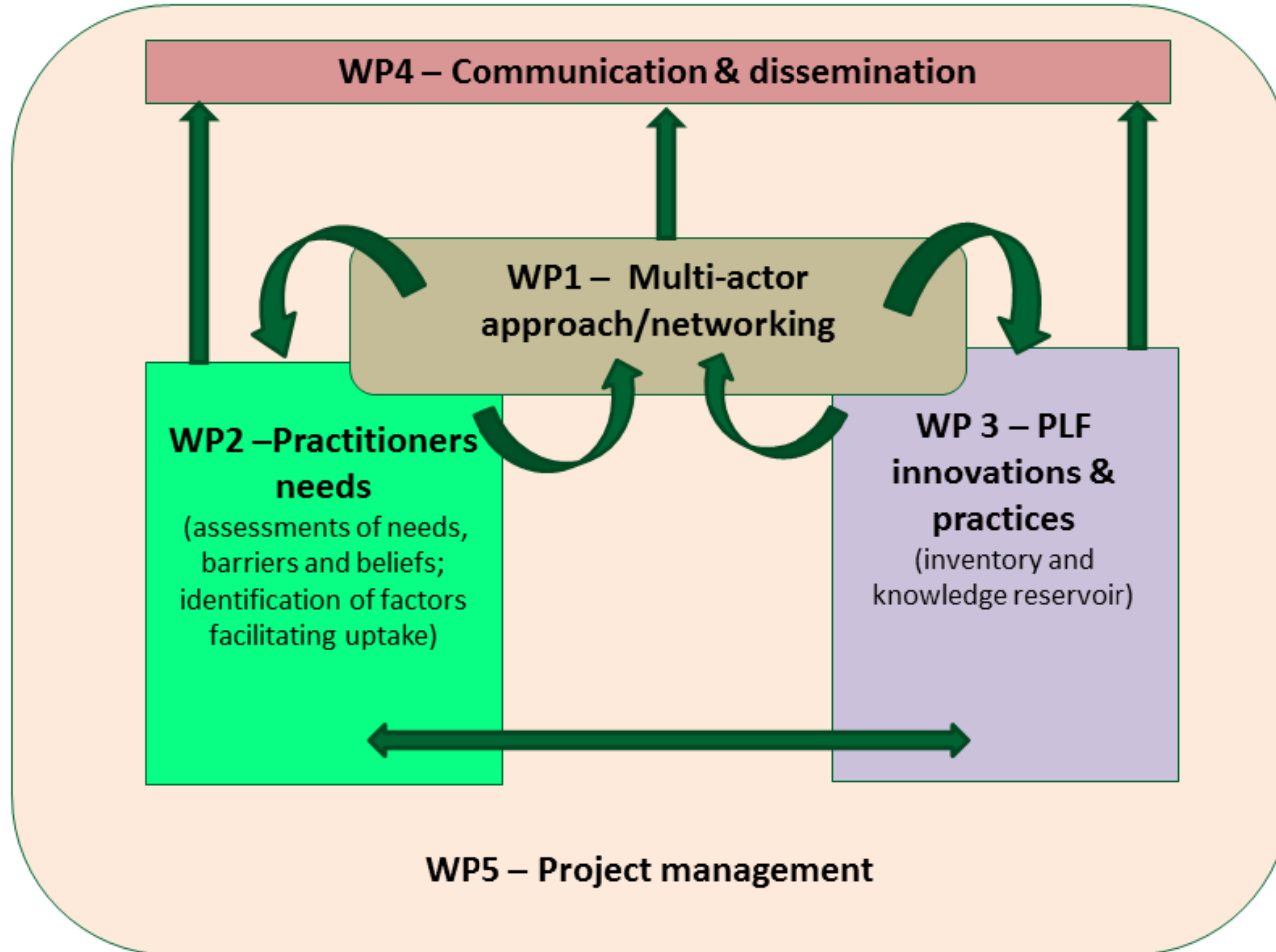




# A multi-actor/cross-fertilisation approach



# Project WPs



# Project steps

## Step 1

- **1a:** Identification of farmers needs
- **1b:** Inventory of corresponding PLF/digital solutions

## Step 2

- Selection of PLF/digital solutions suitable to the different contexts and countries
- Identification of methods and channels for knowledge transfer

## Step 3

- Farmers and practitioners' barriers, testimonies and description of PLF/digital solutions adapted to local contexts

## Step 4

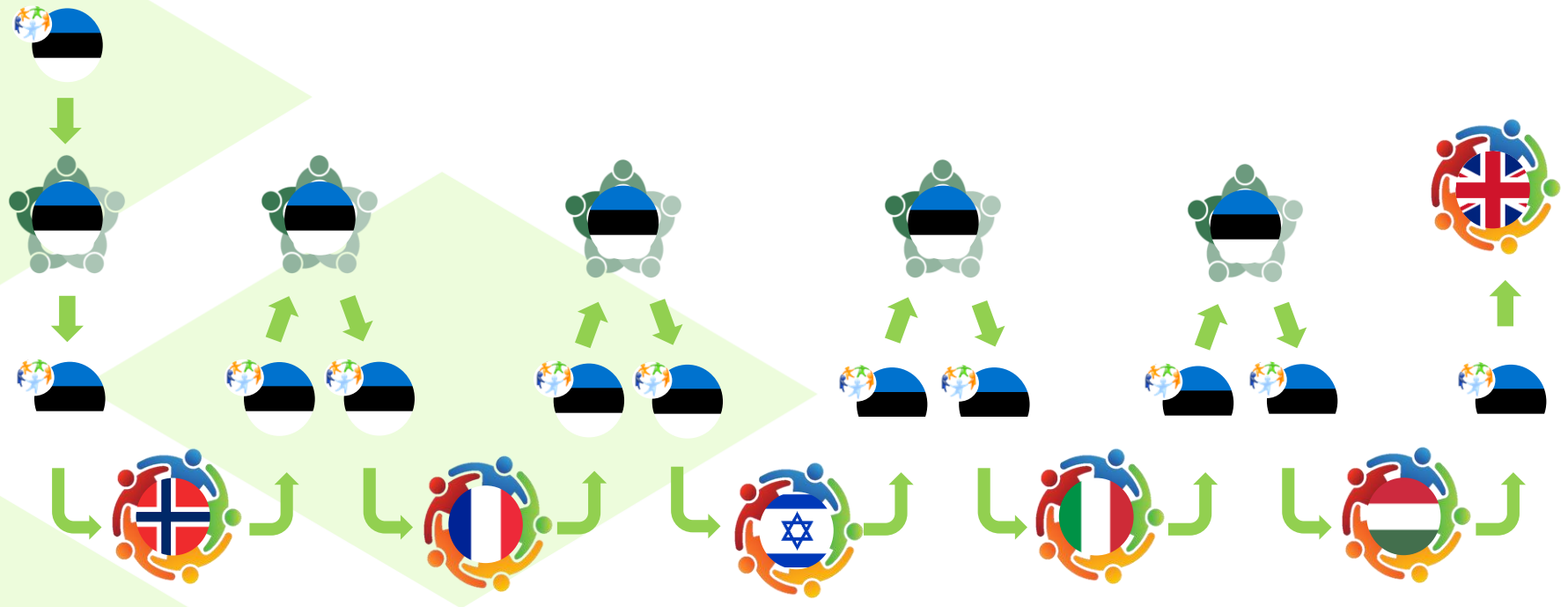
- Assessment of farmers acceptance of the different PLF and DT solutions from the sessions, visits, and farm demo on IF and Digifarms.




## Step 5

- Definition of a European dissemination and uptake strategy for PLF and digital technologies in small ruminants systems

# Project steps

Every 6 months

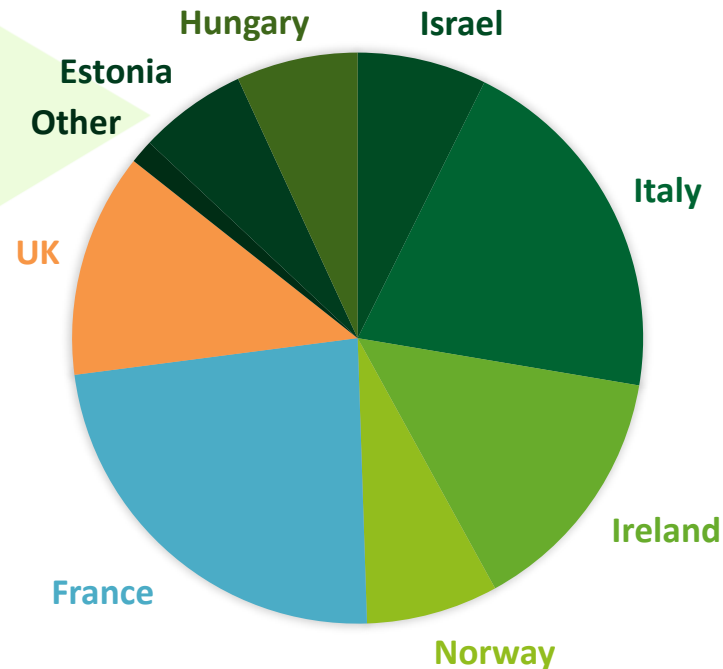


-  TNWS, Final seminar
-  NWS
-  STG

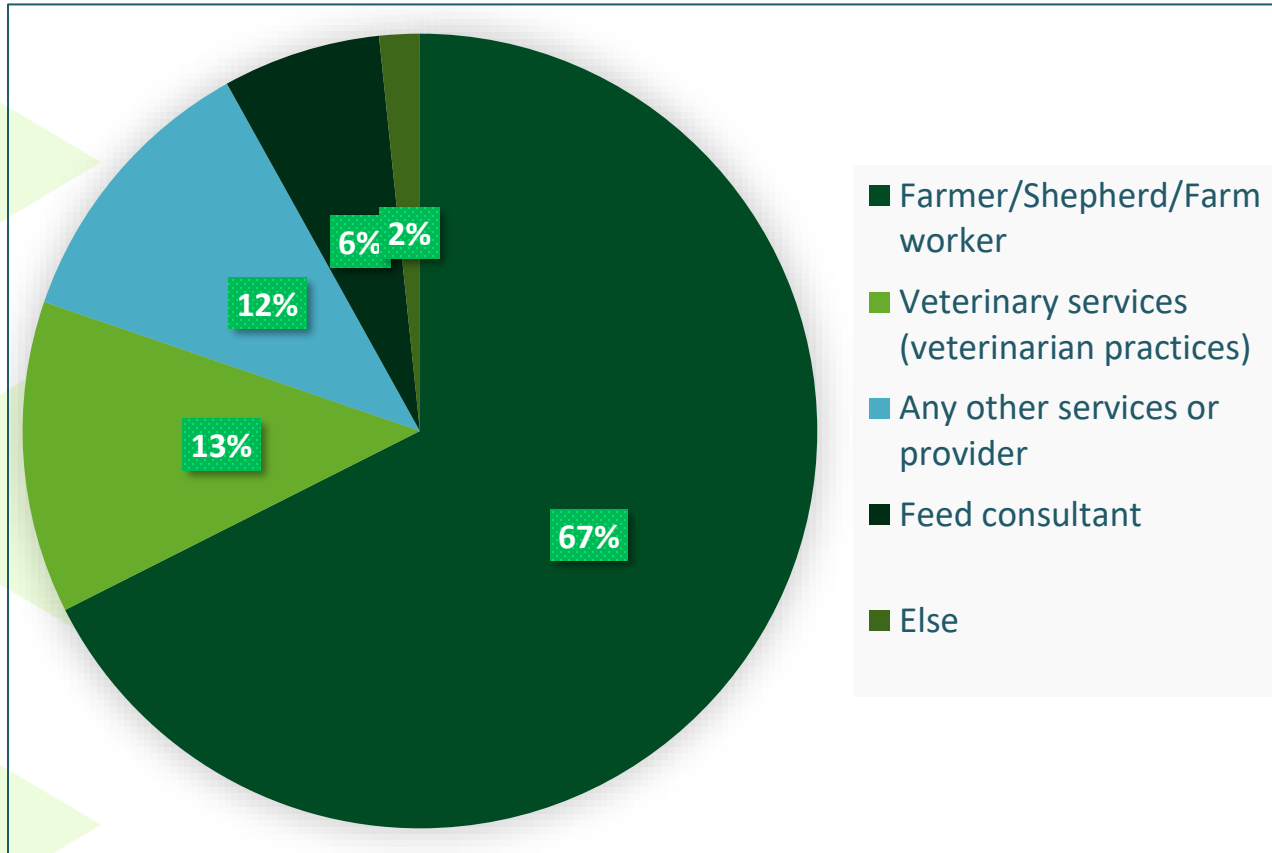
# Step 1 - Survey

- Online survey on PLF & DT use and needs
- April – July 2021
  - farmers, vets, scientists, value chain

| Country | No. |
|---------|-----|
| Israel  | 49  |
| Italy   | 136 |
| Ireland | 96  |
| Norway  | 50  |
| France  | 157 |
| UK      | 85  |
| Other   | 9   |
| Estonia | 41  |
| Hungary | 46  |
| Total   | 669 |

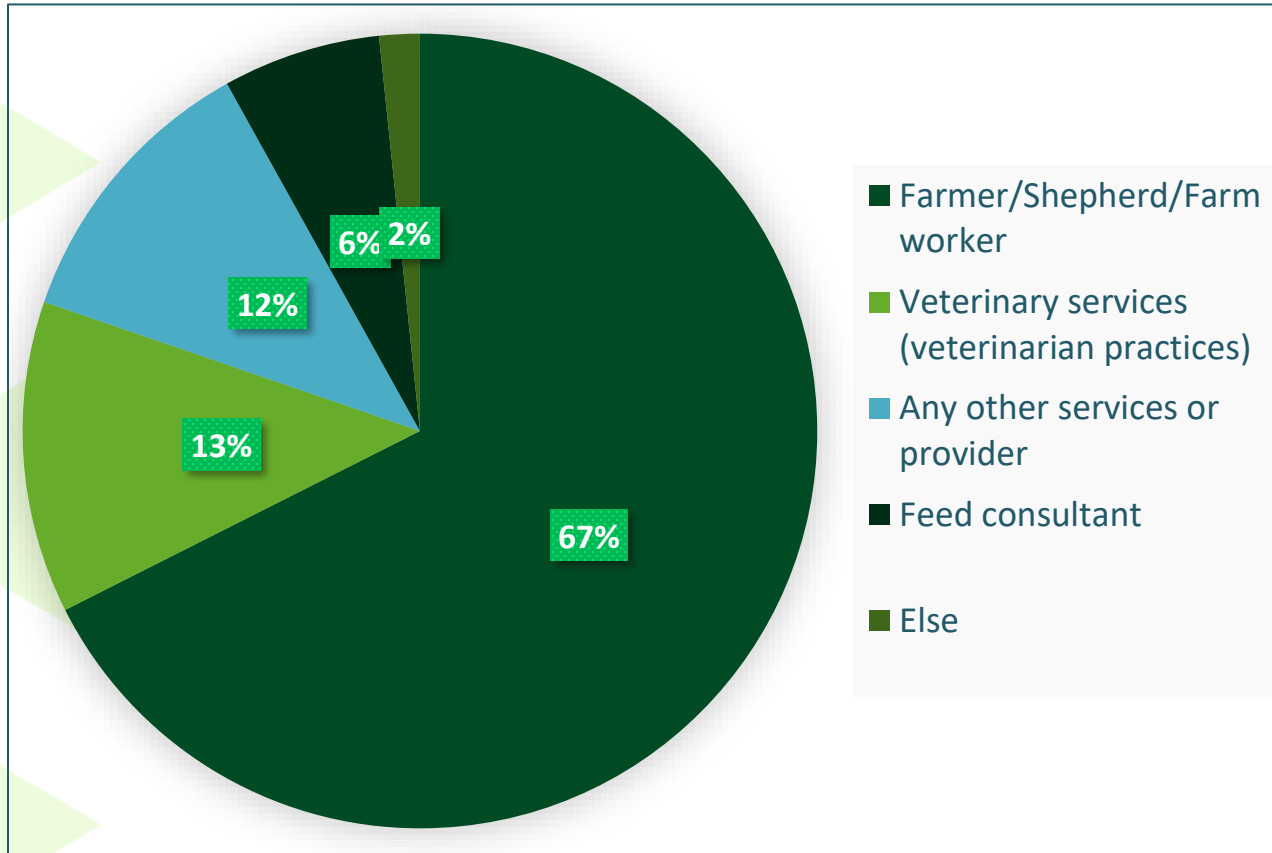


# Respondents profile



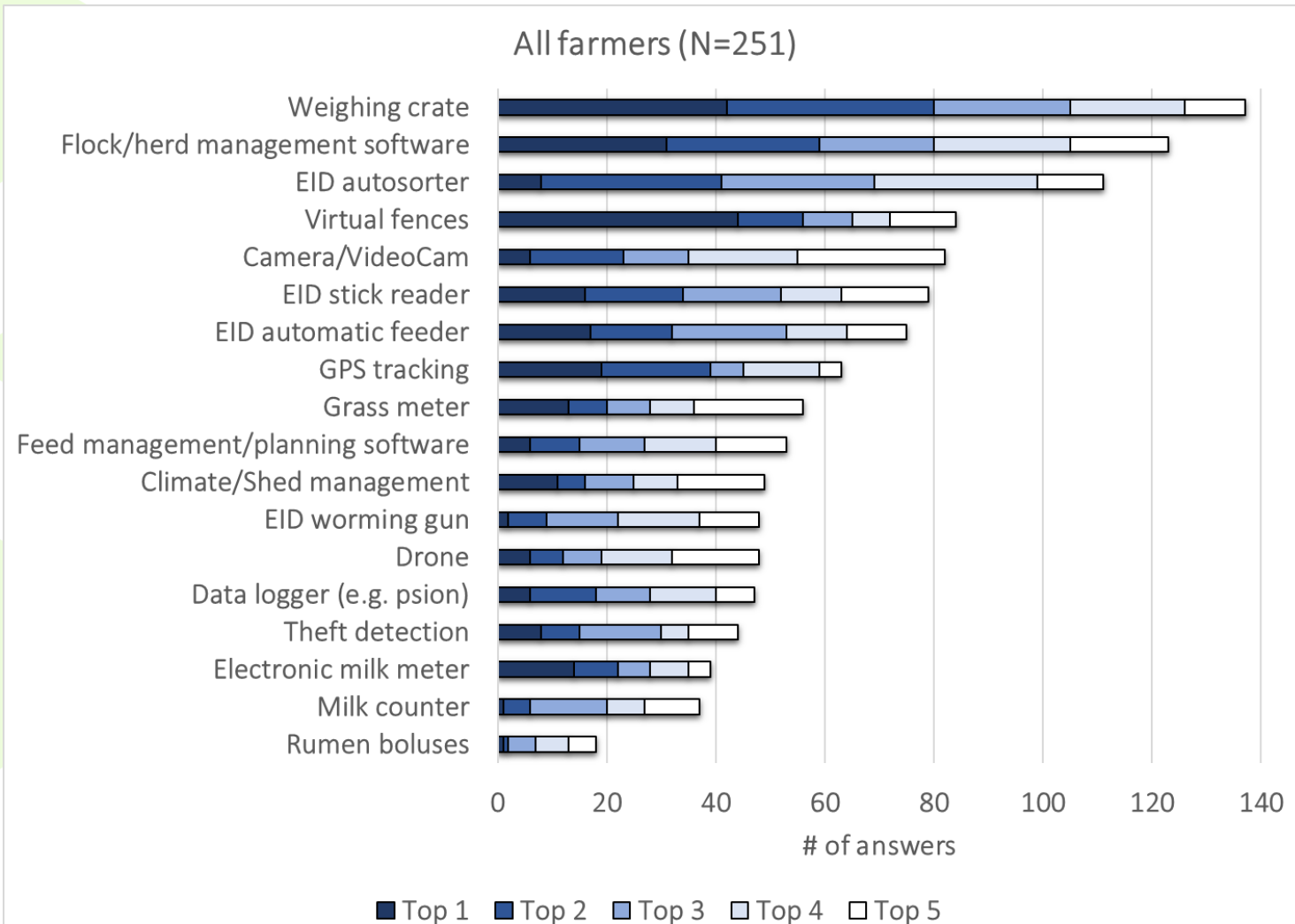


# Respondents profile



# Farmers' priority list

Assuming you could get some of the following products for free, please rank **the 5 most beneficial to your system**



# Farmers' scoring for systems

Assuming you could get any of the following tools for free, how much would you like to use them?



# Next steps?

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- Analyse survey in detail
  - By production (meat sheep/dairy sheep/dairy goats)
  - By system (outdoors/indoors/mix)
  - Consider non-farmers
- Complete 1<sup>st</sup> series of national workshops
  - Survey results
  - Needs/barriers
- Run the 1st TNWS
- Complete inventory of PLF & DT tools

# Next steps?



1st TNWS – online 12<sup>th</sup> October



**Please join us!**

**Project open to all and we expect a wide participation**

**Contact [claire.morgan-davies@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:claire.morgan-davies@sruc.ac.uk)**



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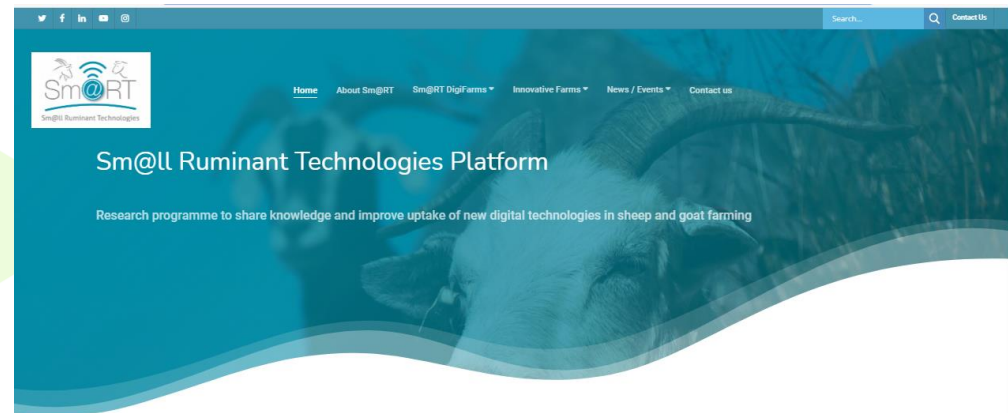
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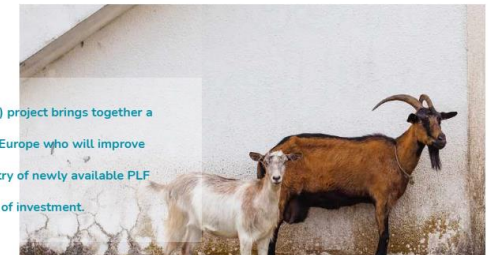
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H2020-Sm@RT



The EU-funded Sm@RT (Sm@ll Ruminant Technologies) project brings together a network of researchers, farmers & advisors from across Europe who will improve awareness amongst those working in the farming industry of newly available PLF tools, demonstrating their potential and possible return of investment.





# Acknowledgments



**Agris**

Agencia pro sa Chirca in agricultura  
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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



**NIBIO**



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