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Abstract title: Holistic approach to improving European sheep and goat sectors – iSAGE

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Preferred presentation: Poster

Preferred session: 55: Farm to fork influences on product quality in sheep and goat meat and milk (with H2020 Project iSAGE)

Abstract text:

Innovation for sustainable sheep and goat production in Europe (iSAGE) is an EU H2020 funded project (No 679302). The consortium undertaking the work is composed of 33 partners from 6 EU countries and Turkey of which 18 are industry partners representing ~ 16,000 farmers and ~ 5.5 million sheep and goats supported by 15 diverse research partners. It is coordinated by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. The project aims to improve the overall sustainability and innovative capacity of sheep and goat sectors in Europe. This will be achieved by: enhancing the efficiency and profitability of the sector, meeting the needs of consumers and increasing its societal acceptance and improving the delivery of ecosystem services. iSAGE will develop new socio-economic, animal welfare and sustainability assessment tools for the whole supply chain to understand barriers to innovation and development, define future opportunities for a competitive edge, develop farm management tools and innovative breeding strategies and derive solutions for social, welfare and consumer issues. The project will provide solutions to re-design sheep and goat systems that will result in improved sustainability and innovative capacity of the sector together with enhanced consumer and societal acceptance. New efficiency traits will be developed to enable selection of animals more adapted to environmental changes and increased animal welfare. The multi-actor approach with industry and research organisations working together will enable the research to be more relevant to practice and improve impact. For further information go to [www.isage.eu](http://www.isage.eu).