

Country Level Meetings

Task 6.4.4 National Workshops

Report of the UK National workshop
held on 15th November 2019

Project acronym: **iSAGE**

Project full name: **Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe**

Grant agreement number: **679302**

Start date of project: **1 March 2016**

Duration of project: **48 months**

Project website: www.iSAGE.eu

Title and aim of meeting	Developing a resilient UK sheep industry To provide UK sheep breeders and supporting organisations an overview of the iSAGE project and an introduction to some of the key deliverables.																						
Venue	Radisson Blu Hotel, Herald Way, Pegasus Business Park, East Midlands Airport, Derby DE74 2TZ																						
Date	15 th November 2019																						
Number of delegates	160 in total <table><tr><td>Academic</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Advisor</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Breeder</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Consultant</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Farmer</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>Levy board</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Researcher</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Retailer</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Trade Association</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Unrecorded</td><td>32</td></tr></table>	Academic	8	Advisor	4	Breeder	17	Consultant	8	Farmer	39	Other	24	Levy board	4	Researcher	21	Retailer	1	Trade Association	2	Unrecorded	32
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Presentations given on iSAGE	<p>Georgios Banos, Professor in Computational Biology, Animal Breeding and Genomics, SRUC, Edinburgh Georgios.Banos@sruc.ac.uk</p> <p>Introduction to iSAGE: Georgios introduced the EU funded project, which is looking at innovation in sheep and goats.</p> <p>Marion Johnson, Organic Research Centre, Berkshire marion.j@organicresearchcentre.com</p> <p>Farm assessment tools: Marion spoke about why tools are important to the UK sheep industry and what they can tell us.</p> <p>Ann McLaren, Researcher, SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre, Crianlarich Ann.McLaren@sruc.ac.uk</p> <p>How can we assess genetic resilience in our sheep flocks? Ann discussed her work on genetic resilience, with some examples from the SRUC's Scottish Blackface flocks.</p>
Weblink to programme and presentations	https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/sbrt/

Table 1 – Key information

Country	United Kingdom
Authors of this Report	K. R. Matthews
Short name of lead participant for report	AHDB (33)
Date	13 January 2020

Summary

The workshop was held in partnership with the Sheep Breeders Roundtable as an extension to their programme, which normally commences in the afternoon of the Friday and was extended to commence at 10am to include this additional workshop.

Georgios Banos gave an overview of the project, introduced the main work areas and discussed the key outcomes.

Marion Johnson presented the farm assessment tools, and encouraged delegates to provide feedback to the project team on any areas of improvement they would like to see to the tools.

Ann McLaren discussed the work on defining resilience phenotypes and understanding their genetic background and potential to improve with selective breeding.

The workshop introduced these novel areas to key members of the UK sheep sector. Relevant outcomes and recommendations from the iSAGE project were discussed with stakeholders present. Highlights from the workshop were also circulated to a wider audience through the Sheep Breeders Roundtable social media activity (Twitter account @SheepBreeders19).

Finally, the ensuing UK regional training & workshop event (Dec 3-6, 2019) was advertised and promoted during this workshop.

Task 6.4 National Workshops

Report of the Finland's iSAGE presentations
held on 14th March 2019 and 8th January 2020

Project acronym: **iSAGE**

Project full name: **Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe**

Grant agreement number: **679302**

Start date of project: **1 March 2016**

Duration of project: **48 months**

Project website: www.iSAGE.eu

Title and aim of meeting	<p>A. Valtakunnalliset lammaspäivät (National sheep days, organized by ProAgria)</p> <p>The twice a year held two day meeting for sheep farmers and other members of sheep industry to give information of topical issues and new study results.</p> <p>B. Maataloustieteen päivät (Agricultural Science Days, organized by The Scientific Agricultural Society of Finland)</p> <p>The two-day every two years scientific meeting which gives a thorough picture of recent research in the area of agriculture and related sciences</p>
Venue	<p>A. Porvoo, Taidetehdas</p> <p>B. Viikki, Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry</p>
Date	<p>A. 13.- 14.3.2019</p> <p>B. 8.-9.1.2020</p>

Number of delegates	<p>A. 35 in total (of which 3 participated by weblink)</p> <p>Advisor, veterinary, receacher 5</p> <p>Slaughterhouse 2</p> <p>Farmer 28</p> <p>B. 650 in total, of which about 30 participate to sheep lecture (numbers estimated)</p> <p>Academic 4</p> <p>Advisor 4</p> <p>Breeder organisation 4</p> <p>Receacher, student 18</p>
Presentations given on iSAGE	<p>A.</p> <p>Kaie Ahlskog, Specialist in sheep and goat production</p> <p>ProAgria Keskusten Liitto Ry/Association of ProAgria Centres, kaie.ahlskog@proagria.fi Uuhivalinnan perusteita ja tuotosseurannan lukujen hyödyntäminen jalostuseläimen valinnassa (Basics of ewe selection and utilization of data recording results in selection of breeding animal)</p> <p>Marja-Liisa Sevón-Aimonen, Research Scientist, Production systems / Animal genetics, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), marja-liisa.sevon-aimonen@luke.fi Eläinten sopeutuminen ilmaston muutokseen. Uusi uuhi-indeksi käyttöön (Adaptation of animals to climate change. Introducing a new ewe index)</p> <p>B.</p> <p>Marja-Liisa Sevón-Aimonen, Säämuuttujien vaikutus lampaan liha- ja uuhiominaisuuksiin (Effect of weather variables on sheep meat and lamb characteristics)</p> <p>Terhi Latvala, Senior Scientist, Bioeconomy and environment / Bioeconomy policies and markets, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), terhi.latvala@luke.fi</p> <p>Lampaanlihan markkinoillepääsyn esteet ja mahdollisuudet vähittäiskaupan näkökulmasta (Barriers to entry and opportunities for sheep meat from a retail perspective)</p>

Weblink to programm es and Abstracts	<p>A. https://www.proagria.fi/tapahtumat/valtakunnalliset-lammaspaivat-11193 (the pdf-files of presentations in finnish available from ProAgria by email)</p> <p>B. http://www.smts.fi/sites/smts.fi/files/MTP2020%20suullisten%20esitysten%20ohjelma_1.pdf http://www.smts.fi/sites/smts.fi/files/MTP2020%20Posteriohjelma.pdf http://www.smts.fi/sites/smts.fi/files/MTP2020%20Abstraktikirja.pdf</p>
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Table 1 – Key information

Country	Finland
Authors of this Report	M-L Sevón-Aimonen
Short name of lead participant for report	Luke
Date	31 January 2020

Summary

A.

The workshop for farmers and sheep industry was held as a part of National Sheep Days. Kaie Ahlskog kept lecture about utilizing of collected information for selection of breeding ewes.

Marja-Liisa Sevón-Aimonen told about results adaptation of animals to climate change and properties of a new ewe index.

B.

The workshop for farmers, advisors and researcher was kept as a part of Maataloustieteen päivät.

Marja-Liisa Sevón-Aimonen gave a lecture about effect of meteorologic parameters on animals phenotypic results and genetic variation of adaption for temperature.

Terhi Latvala presents in her poster retailers' views on barriers and opportunities for increasing sheep meat consumption

The workshops introduced new information of recent results of national results of iSAGE project. Especially the selection of ewes and the ewe index sparked much discussion. Utilizing already well-known training days, it was possible to bring in sheep experts from farmers to university researchers. The possibility take part to National sheep days by web was also available. Both events briefly described the project and reminded them of the link to the project pages.

Task 6.4.4 National Workshops

Report of the Greek National workshop
held on 8th September 2019

Project acronym: **iSAGE**

Project full name: **Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe**

Grant agreement number: **679302**

Start date of project: **1 March 2016**

Duration of project: **48 months**

Project website: www.iSAGE.eu

Title and aim of meeting	Environment and climate change: primary sector challenges and support measures To provide major stakeholders of the agricultural sector with information on climate change and discuss recommendations and support measures.
Venue	Congress Centre “Nikolaos Germanos”, 154 Egnatia Street, Thessaloniki International Fair, Thessaloniki, 54636
Date	8 th November 2019
Number of delegates	138
Presentations given on iSAGE	Georgios Arsenos, Professor, Laboratory of Animal Husbandry, School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki arsenosg@vet.auth.gr iSAGE and SMARTER: Innovative approaches to farming systems and adaptation of animals to climate change.
Weblink to programme and presentations	http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/ekdhlwseis/PERIVALON_KLIMATIKH_A_LLAGH_080919/programma_ekdhlosh_perivalon_080919.pdf https://ead.gr/presentations_event_thessaloniki_9september2019/

Table 1 – Key information

Country	Greece
Authors of this Report	G. Arsenos
Short name of lead participant for report	AUTH
Date	06 February 2020

Summary

This industry meeting was organised by the General Secretariat of Agricultural Policy and European Funds Management of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food. It took place during the

84th Thessaloniki International Fair on the 8th of November 2019 and all the major stakeholders were present including the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Muuroudis Voridis, the Deputy Ministers Fotini Arampatzi and Konstantinos Skrekas, the General Secretariat of Rural Development and Food, Georgios Stratakos, the General Secretariat of Agricultural Policy and European Funds Management Mr Konstantinos Baginetas as well as key policy officers of the Ministry. The aim of the meeting was to address the issue of climate change in relation to agriculture and propose support measures.

Within this scope, Georgios Arsenos gave an overview of the iSAGE project focusing on its innovative strategies and approaches regarding livestock farming systems and adaptation of sheep and goats to climate change (https://ead.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/iSAGE-SMARTER_%CE%91%CF%81%CF%83%CE%AD%CE%BD%CE%BF%CF%82_%CE%91%CE%A0%CE%98.pdf). Key outcomes of the project based on projectional models for climate change were also presented.

Conclusions and recommendations were discussed with the stakeholders present and the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture. Main recommendations included the need of sustainable and resilient farming systems, genetic improvement for adaptation, innovations and adoption of technology, subsidies linked to production and innovation on farm and emphasis on the role of the sheep and goat sector on climate change mitigation.

Finally, highlights from the iSAGE presentation were further disseminated through national communication channels (<http://www.euractiv.gr/section/georgia-kai-trofima/news/isage-systimata-ektrofis-kai-prosarmostiki-ikanotita-ton-zoon-enanti-tis-klimatikis-allagis/>).

<https://thesstoday.gr/%CE%B4%CE%B5%CE%B8-%CF%84%CE%B9-%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%80%CE%B5-%CE%BF-%CE%BC-%CE%B2%CE%BF%CF%81%CE%AF%CE%B4%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%AE/>

<https://www.agronews.gr/pliromes/epidotiseis/179076/oi-epidotiseis-diatirisis-tou-zoikou-kefalaiau-epivarunoun-to-klima/>

<https://www.ypaithros.gr/epiptoseis-kalliergeies-zoiki-paragogi-apo-klimatiki-allagi-stin-ellada/>).

Task 6.4.4 National Workshops

Report of the Spain National workshops 2019

Project acronym: **iSAGE**

Project full name: **Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe**

Grant agreement number: **679302**

Start date of project: **1 March 2016**

Duration of project: **48 months**

Project website: www.iSAGE.eu

Title and aim of meeting	Technical Workshop on “Livestock farming in the XXI Century: Policies and techniques to improve extensive livestock farming” To provide local farmers sheep breeders and supporting organisations an overview of the iSAGE project and an introduction to some of the key deliverables.
Venue	Sariñena, Huesca (Spain)
Date	20 th September 2019
Number of delegates	80 in total. Sheep farmers and technical personnel in advisory/farmers organisations, and citizens
Presentations given on iSAGE	Leticia Riaguas, veterinarian and innovatuion projects head at Oviaragon <lriguas@oviaragon.com> “Innovación para una producción sostenible del ovino y caprino en Europa dentro del Proyecto iSAGE Núm. 679302.Horizonte 2020”
Weblink to programme	https://oviaragon.com/femoga-2019-programa-de-actos-organizados-por-oviaragon-y-upra-grupo-pastores/

Title and aim of meeting	Technical Workshop on “Innovations, antibiotics free production and CAP reform” To provide local farmers sheep breeders and supporting organisations an overview of the iSAGE project and an introduction to some of the key deliverables.
Venue	Cedrillas, Teruel (Spain)
Date	4 th October 2019
Number of delegates	80 in total. Sheep farmers and technical personnel in advisory/farmers organisations, and citizens

Presentations given on iSAGE	<p>Leticia Riaguas, veterinarian and innovatuion projects head at Oviaragon <lriaguas@oviaragon.com></p> <p>“Innovación para una producción sostenible del ovino y caprino en Europa dentro del Proyecto iSAGE Núm. 679302.Horizonte 2020”</p>
Weblink to programme	https://oviaragon.com/cedrillas-2019-programa-de-actos-organizados-por-oviaragon-y-upra-grupo-pastores/

Title and aim of meeting	<p>Technical Training Workshop for High Performance Farmers on “How to best manage the different variants present in the selection program of the UPRA-Pastores Group? “Survey of the valuation by the farmers of the use of the Roa Variant within the Project: Innovation for a sustainable production of sheep and goats in Europe within the iSAGE Project No. 679302.Horizonte 2020””</p> <p>To provide local farmers sheep breeders and supporting organisations an overview of the iSAGE project and an introduction to some of the key deliverables.</p>
Venue	Montañana, Zaragoza (Spain)
Date	28 th October 2019
Number of delegates	50 in total. Sheep farmers and technical personnel in advisory/farmers organisations
Presentations given on iSAGE	<p>Leticia Riaguas, veterinarian and innovatuion projects head at Oviaragon <lriaguas@oviaragon.com></p> <p>“Encuesta de valoración por parte de los ganaderos de la utilización de la Variante Roa dentro del Proyecto : Innovación para una producción sostenible del ovino y caprino en Europa dentro del Proyecto iSAGE Núm. 679302.Horizonte 2020”.</p>
Weblink to programme	https://www.cita-aragon.es/es/eventos/jornada-de-formacion-de-ganaderos-de-alto-rendimiento

Table 1 – Key information

Country	Spain
Authors of this Report	Leticia Riaguas, Antonio López-Francos

Short name of lead participant for report	OVIARAGON (18) IAMZ-CIHEAM (14)
Date	13 February 2020

Summary

The three workshops were organised in the framework of livestock fairs and breeders meetings, in order to profit of the presence of numerous stakeholders and of possible synergies with other innovation projects and activities of the sheep industry in Aragón region. iSAGE project activities and results were presented and discussed with stakeholders in the framework of three livestock events/meetings in the Aragonese region:

- FEMOGA 2019, an agriculture and livestock fair organised annually in September, in the locality of Sariñena (Huesca province, Spain)
- Feria de Cedrillas, a traditional agriculture and livestock fair organised annually in September, in the locality of Cedrillas, (Teruel province, Spain)
- Technical training workshops for High Performance farmers, organised periodically with the support of CITA Aragón (also a partner in iSAGE) and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture. These are technology transfer activities targeting the most advanced farmers in the regions.

The three activities were also part of the Oviaragon Cooperative programme of technical dissemination and training for sheep farmers of the Aragonese Region.

The two first workshops had a more generalist thematic and the presentations by Ms Riaguas dealt with the general aspects and results of the iSAFE project. Relevant outcomes and recommendations from the iSAGE project were discussed with the participant stakeholders.

As for the last workshop, the presentation by Ms Riaguas was included in a session on the topic “How to manage different variants existing in the selection programme of UPRA-Grupo Pastores”. The iSAGE case study on the farmers perception on the RAO gen was presented and discussed with the farmers involved in the breeding programme of the Rasa Aragonesa sheep breed, some of whom had participated in the project survey.

Task 6.4.4 National Workshops

Report of the French National workshop
held on 4th February 2020

Project acronym: iSAGE

Project full name: **Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe**

Grant agreement number: **679302**

Start date of project: **1 March 2016**

Duration of project: **48 months**

Project website: www.iSAGE.eu

Title and aim of meeting	iSAGE restitution day : an European project for sustainable sheep and goat production Journée de restitution iSAGE, un projet européen sur la durabilité des productions ovines et caprines To provide FRENCH sheep breeders and supporting organisations an overview of the iSAGE project and an introduction to some of the key deliverables.														
Venue	Maison du Lait, 42 rue de Chateaudun, Paris 9ème														
Date	4 February 2020														
Number of delegates	54 in total : <table><tr><td>Academic, Ministry, Research</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Applied research, R&D</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Breeders</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Farm services</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Milk factory</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Journalist</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Trade union, interbranch org.</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	Academic, Ministry, Research	12	Applied research, R&D	17	Breeders	8	Farm services	4	Milk factory	2	Journalist	6	Trade union, interbranch org.	5
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Applied research, R&D	17														
Breeders	8														
Farm services	4														
Milk factory	2														
Journalist	6														
Trade union, interbranch org.	5														
Presentations given on iSAGE	Welcome and registration of participants (9 :30) Introduction : the iSAGE project – G. Lagriffoul (IDELE) WP1- Sustainability assesment of Sheep and goat systems in Europe tools and zoom on the French results (E. Morin – IDELE with the support of Marion Johnson – ORC - UK) WP2 – Consumer trends and needs, retailer views and value chains. iSAGE research results and recommendations (R. Zanolli –Univ. Politecnica delle Marche, Italie) WP3 - Impacts of climate change and adaptation options (A. Madrid –														

	<p>IDELE with the support of Guillermo Pardo, Agustin del Prado du BC3, Espagne)</p> <p>WP5 – Genetic resources and breeding strategies for the adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . responses of breeds to heat stress (D. Buisson, H. Larroque and F. Tortereau – IDELE, INRA France with the support of Manuel Ramon INIA Espagne) . novel phenotypes for improving animal resilience/adaptability : the body reserves mobilization-accretion process (D. Hazard, H. Larroque and al. – INRA, France) . genetic x environment interaction (I. Palhiere and D. Buisson and al. – INRA, IDELE, France) <p>WP4 - Summary presentation of the different innovations (case studies) implemented within the iSAGE project (G. Lagriffoul – IDELE with the support of D. Marin Collado– CITA, Espagne)</p> <p>Introduction to the round table: T4.1 Challenges for European sheep and goat sector identified by iSAGE (E. Caramelle-Holtz, IDELE with the support of Alejandro Belanche (CSIC, Espagne) and Daniel Martin (CITA, Espagne)</p> <p>Round table (led by Christine Moulin, Idele)</p> <p>3 short interventions of a representative from each sector [dairy sheep, meat sheep, dairy goat] : its analysis of the main factors of sustainability</p> <p>discussion and debate</p> <p>Synthesis and Conclusions (17:00)</p>
Weblink to programme and presentations	http://idele.fr/no_cache/recherche/publication/idelesolr/recommends/isage-pres-n5.html

Table 1 – Key information

Country	FRANCE
Authors of this Report	G. LAGRIFFOUL
Short name of lead participant for report	IDELE (8)
Date	13 February 2020

Summary

The meeting was organised by Institut de l'Élevage (IDELE). To facilitate the exchanges all the meeting was in French. IDELE translated in French all the key outcomes of iSAGE WP presented during the regional workshops. For the final presentation, IDELE and INRA added some specific results from the French works.

G. Lagriffoul gave an overview of the project and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

E. Morin presented the farm sustainability assessment with a zoom on the French results. The tools was presented and IDELE proposed to translate the tools of interest.

After a quick live survey with the participants, R. Zanolli summarised the findings, good practices and recommendations about consumers and retailers.

A. Madrid gave an overview of the impacts and adaptations of sheep and goat systems on climate changes.

About breeding, D. Buisson, I. Palhière, H. Larroque and D. Hazard tried to answer to the questions: does an animal's genetic value depend on the system in which it is raised? What are the responses of breeds to heat stress? The body reserve dynamics in sheep is it a novel phenotypes for improving animal resilience/adaptability?

G. Lagriffoul made an overview of the projects conducted by the various iSAGE partners

E. Caramelle-Holtz introduced the round table by presenting the challenges for the European sheep and goat sectors: participatory inventory and prioritisation. The 3 breeder representatives for the 3 small ruminant sectors (dairy sheep, meat sheep, dairy goat) were asked to answer to the 3 following questions:

Taking into account of that has been said during the day, do you find that it is relevant for your sector?

What are the challenges that are already taking into account in your sector?

What are the R&D priorities to continue or develop to meet the challenges in your sector?