



Innovation for Sustainable  
Sheep and Goat  
Production in Europe

# Welcome to the ISAGE project: Greek regional meeting

Prof. Georgios Arsenos  
Coordinator

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - AUTH



# The Consortium

- iSAGE deals with the **less developed** livestock sector in the EU
- iSAGE has all the major players in small ruminant sector

Approximately **16,000** sheep and goat farmers (**5.5** million sheep and goats)



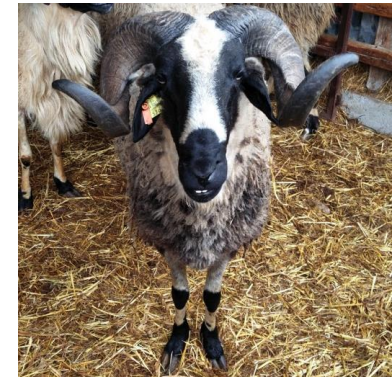
# iSAGE philosophy:



Farms



Farmer



Animal



Processors

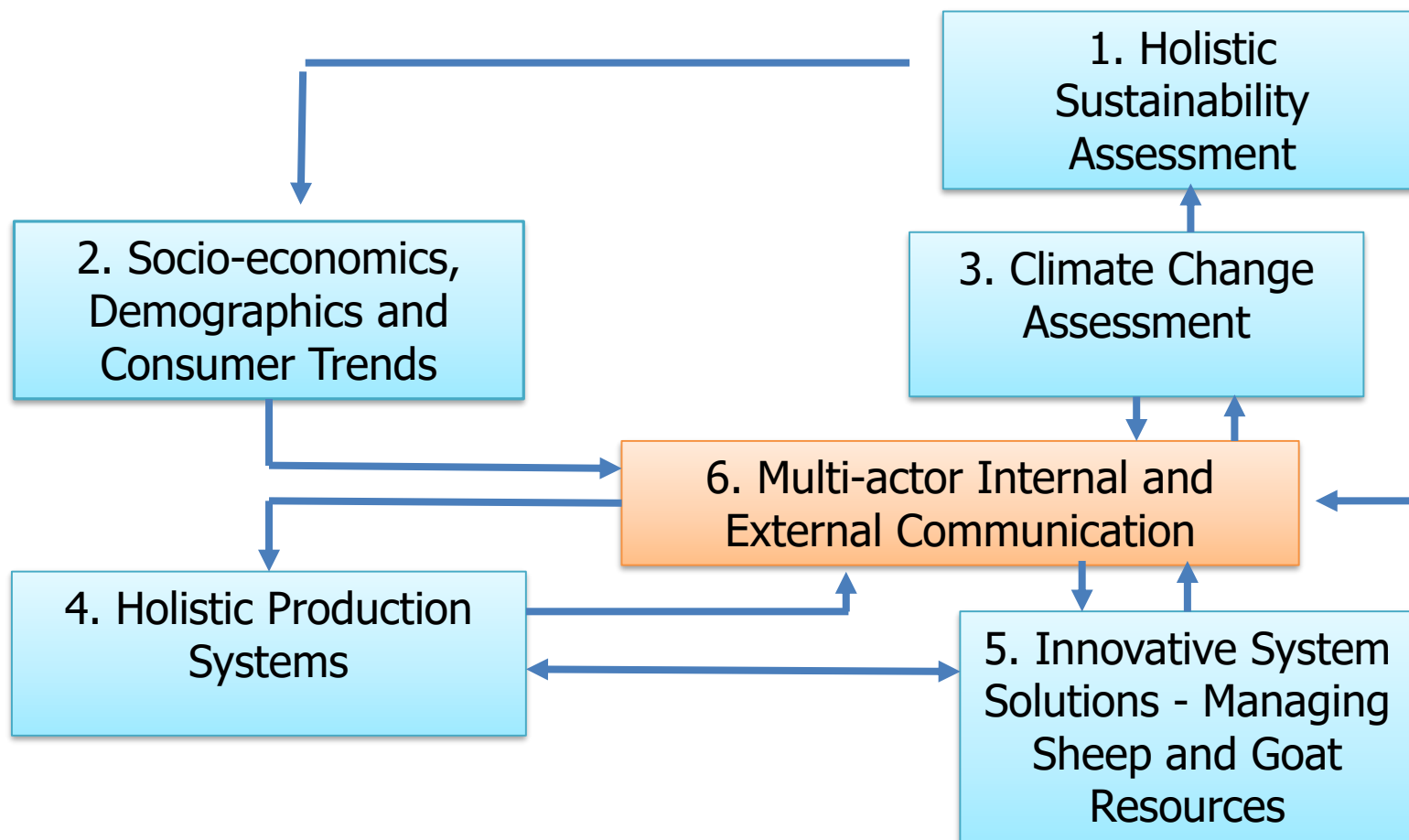


Consumers



Policy makers

# iSAGE working platform



# iSAGE aims

- **Increase/improve** efficiency, profitability, overall sustainability and innovative capacity of the sector
- **Find** new efficiency traits of animals/more adapted to environmental changes
- **Increase/improve** animal welfare, social well-being and rural development
- **Increase/enhance** consumer acceptance, societal acceptance
- **Identify/implement** innovations and **develop policy recommendations**

# What iSAGE did?

## Qualitative techniques

- Case studies
- Semi structured and structured interviews
- Focus groups
- Laddering surveys

## Quantitative techniques

- Farm level surveys
- **Recording impacts** of new innovations on farms
- **Modelling** expected climate impacts
- **Modelling** how management can improve ecology and productivity of farms
- **Assessing the genetic potential** of sheep and goat populations for **future breeding programmes**
- **New decision support tools**



# iSAGE main outputs

- **10 farm typologies** were identified
- **225 farmer surveys** were performed
- **202 farmers'** responses were analyzed
- **453 questionnaires** for meat and dairy products consumers and non-consumers were analyzed



# iSAGE main outputs

- Interviews for **retailer surveys**
- **Three case studies** per country on selected supply chains
- **New modelling methods** to promote sustainability and resilience to climate change -**Pasture productivity** statistical model
- Implementation of **innovation case studies** in different countries
- Development of a **toolbox**
- Development and testing of a new **iSAGE farm model**
- Development and testing of **iSAGE-DSS**



# iSAGE outputs are used to:

- **Understand barriers** to innovation and sustainability
- **Define future opportunities** for a competitive sheep and goat sector
- **Develop farm management tools** and innovative breeding strategies
- **Develop solutions** for social, welfare and consumer issues
- Work with industry to **inform, help** and **innovate**



# Aim of iSAGE regional training

- Communication of results and training of early career scientists and technologists from the industry (pre and post farm gate), advisors and trainers/students

# Topics of iSAGE regional training

- Defining and Assessing Sustainability in sheep and goat farms and systems. Tools and results (WP1)
- Genetic approaches to improve farms' sustainability and resiliency (WP5)
- Assessing consumer needs and developing new products (WP2)
- Modelling the impacts of climate change on European sheep and goat production systems (WP3)



# Topics of iSAGE regional training

- Innovations to support the viability of sheep and goat industries in Europe. Practical examples, methods and recommendations for their adoption. (WP4)
  - Presentations of innovations and discussion
- Participatory research and case studies in farms to test and adapt innovations Methodology and examples (T4.2) (Cont.)
  - Presentations of innovations and discussion

# **iSAGE regional training for Structured discussions**

- Trends in the Sheep and Goat sector**
- Strategies regarding consumers perception and acceptance of sheep and goat products**
- Biodiversity and landscape**
- On farm decision support tools (iSAGE-DSS)**





Innovation for Sustainable  
Sheep and Goat  
Production in Europe

Thank you

