



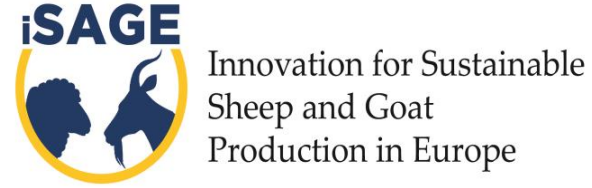
Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe

www.isage.eu

Cledwyn Thomas



iSAGE



- Is coordinated by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It has a multi-lateral consortium consisting of 33 partners from 6 EU countries and Turkey.
- Nineteen of the partners represent industry with about 16,000 sheep and goat farmers and 5.5 million sheep and goats.
- The project will last 4 years and started in March 2016.

Objectives for sheep and goat sectors in Europe

iSAGE will improve the overall sustainability and innovative capacity of the sheep and goat sectors in Europe.

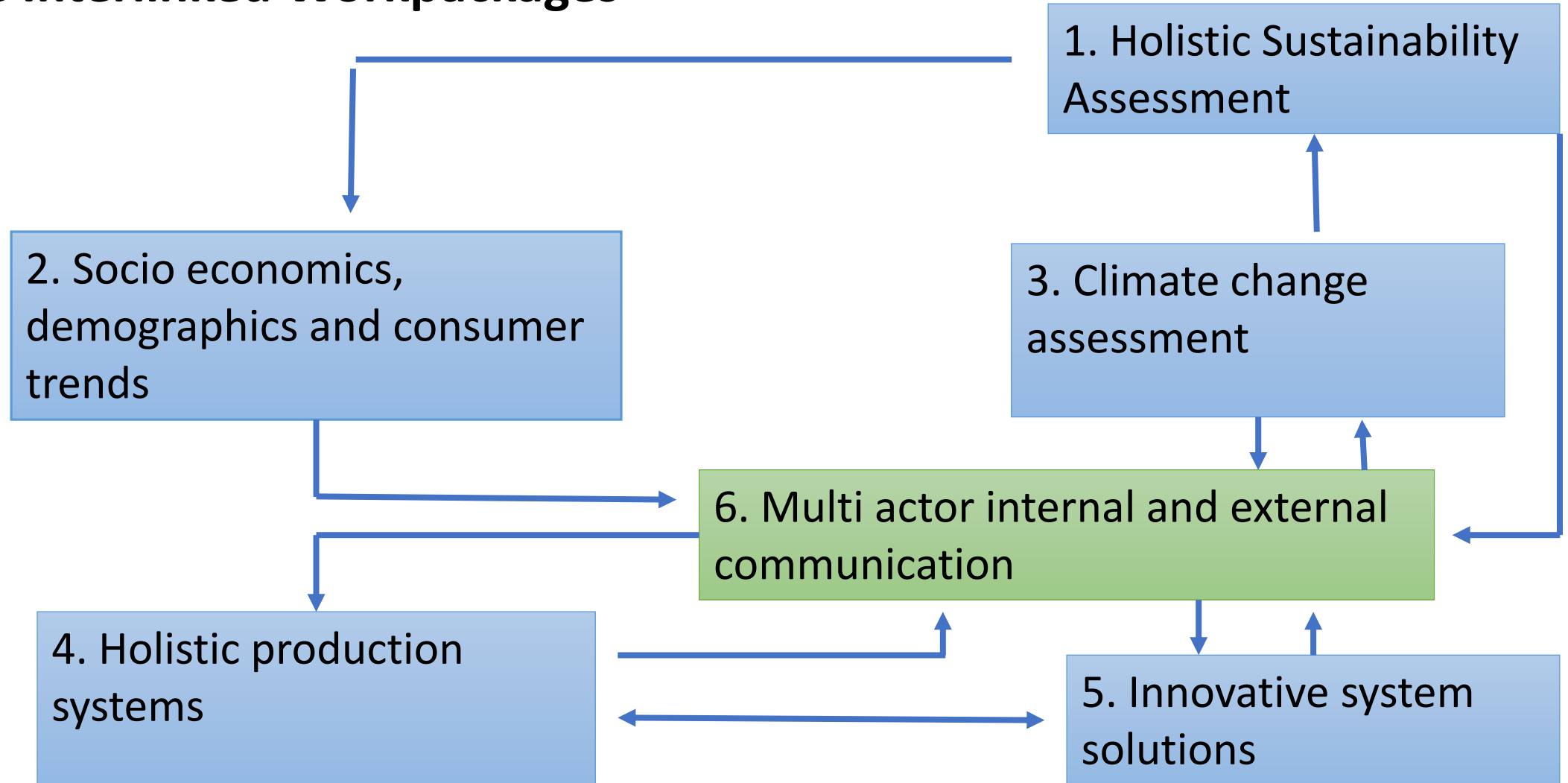
- Make them sustainable, efficient and profitable and improve ecosystems
- Meet consumer needs, and
- Increase social acceptance
- Improving the delivery of ecosystem services

iSAGE will develop new socio-economic, animal welfare and sustainability assessment tools for the whole supply chain in order to:

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

The work is carried through 6 interlinked work packages

Five Interlinked Workpackages



Work packages

- **Work package 1 - Holistic sustainability assessment**

To assess the sustainability of different types of sheep and goat farming systems in seven European countries (including Turkey) using social, economic and animal welfare indicators

These sustainability indicators will be also used to develop a novel toolbox of assessment tools that can be used by the industry partners as standard for future sustainability assessments.

- **Work package 2 - Socio-economic, demographic and consumer trends**

To identify in greater depth geographic, demographic and other socio-economic variables and understand their impact of on farmers and the whole supply chain.

To better understand consumers and societal interests towards goat and sheep farming and the place of sheep and goat milk and meat various products in future diets.

Work package 3 – Climatic change assessment

- Gather the most up-to-date scientific information of the impact of climate change on pasture and animal production related to sheep and goats farming systems.
- Provide a link between iSAGE and existing/past FP7 EU –funded projects (e.g. ANIMALCHANGE, MULTISWARD and Legume Futures, SOLID, FACCE JPI, MACSUR).
- To build meta-models that can be incorporated into a whole-farm model (i.e. case studies) in WP4 to find strategies to help sheep and goat farming systems adapt to climate change.

Work package 4 – Holistic production systems

- Bring together outcomes from work packages 1, 2, 3 and 5 to design and test innovative management practices for sheep and goat farmers.
- Solutions will be identified and will be tested in case-study farms and using holistic farm modelling..
- New decision support tools will be developed.



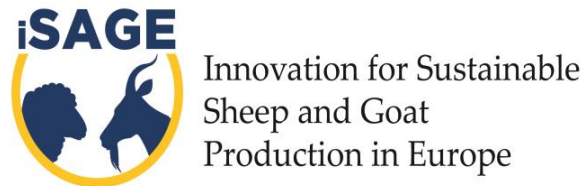
Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

Work package 5 – Innovative system solutions - managing sheep and goat resources

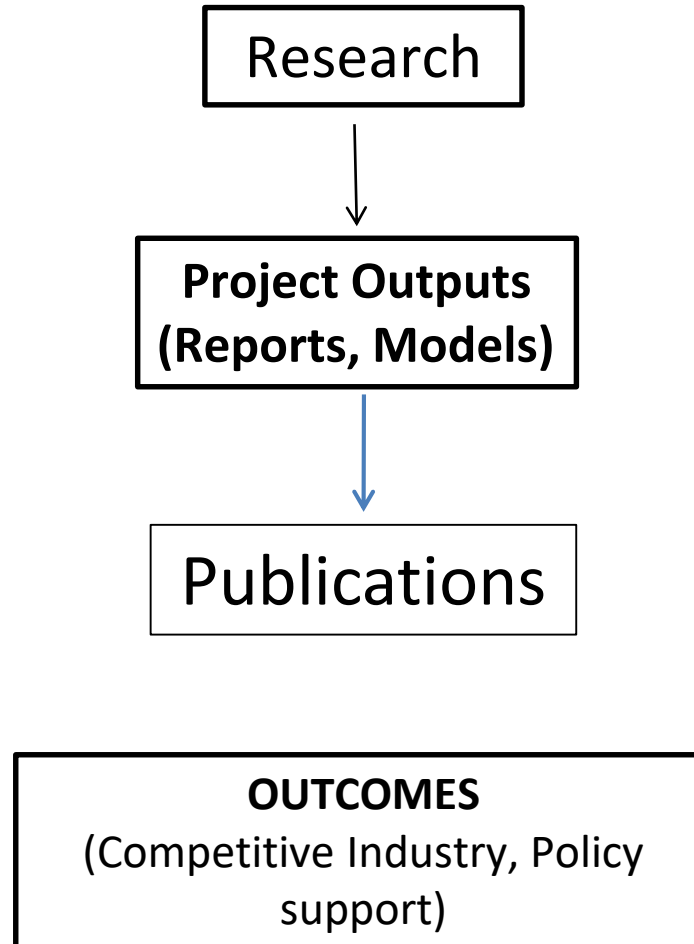
- Innovative population-level genetic resource management and breeding solutions will be developed to help the industry cope with future challenges
- New breeding solutions will be developed through literature research, field data analyses and simulation studies.

WP 6

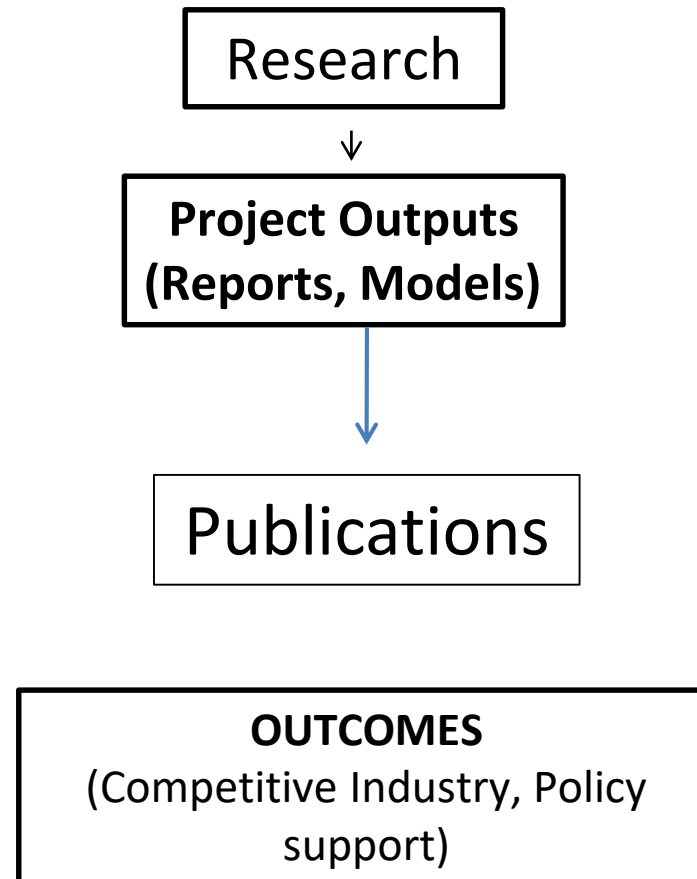
Multi-actor internal and external communication



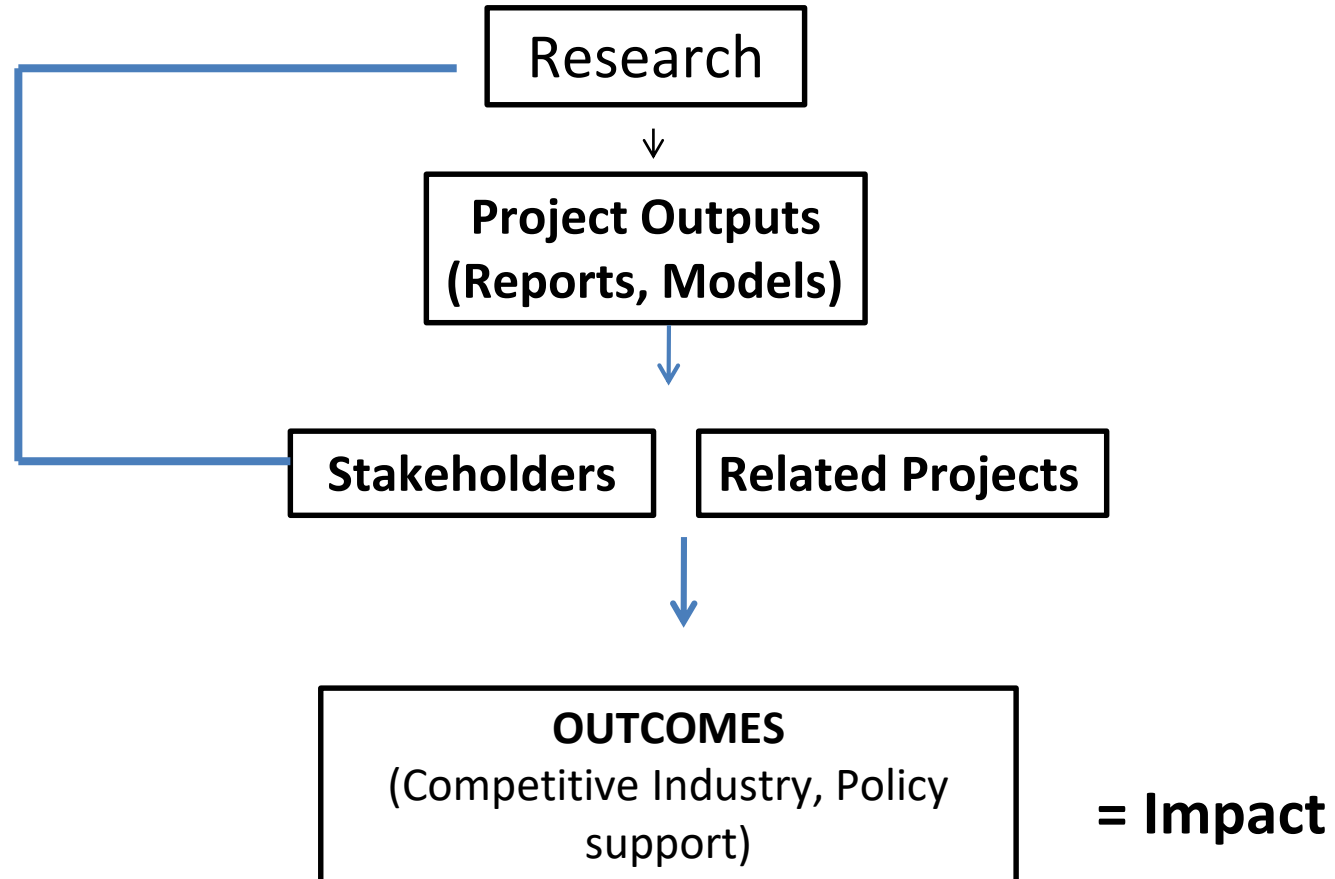
Dissemination Model (top down)



Dissemination Model (top down)



Dissemination Model



Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

Effective Dissemination

- Identify stakeholders for the project
- Involve stakeholder in research and dissemination
- Use appropriate medium to target the stakeholder

In iSAGE the stakeholders are full partners in the project



Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

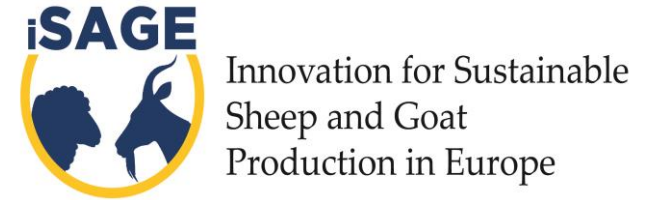
Knowledge exchange activities between Stakeholder and Research Partners

Communication between researchers and stakeholders to ensure;

- Research outputs are relevant to industry needs.
- Stakeholder's perspectives are used in the development of the research programme.
- Dissemination and training plans are implemented for efficient uptake of project outputs during and after the project.

Implemented through 6 monthly meetings of research and Industry partners

Management of on-farm surveys and recording data



- Coordinate data collection, storage and exploitation for farm physical and financial **data available from existing recording schemes run by industry partners**
- Coordinate with all WPs the **new data collection at the farm level through surveys and interviews**
- Organise a database structure and a workplan for gathering and collating data
- Create a **Data Management Plan (DMP)**
- Coordinate the scientific activities on **case study farms**

Establish a farm-level observatory and knowledge exchange network

- Linking with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP).
- Create links with other EU projects, In particular with Sheepnet, AWIN, SheepRep, Rosei, 3SR, SOLID
- Jointly apply for funds for dissemination.



Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

Dissemination

- Website (www.isage.eu) and social media
- Brochures, Poster and newsletters (see website)
- New Product Demonstrations with WP 2 in 2018/19
- National and Regional Workshops in 2019
- International conferences (EAAP annual meetings, International Goat Association.....)



Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

Enhance Capacity

Face to face

- Summer School (PhD, post doc)
- 4 regional technical training courses (extension services, industry, technicians, colleges)

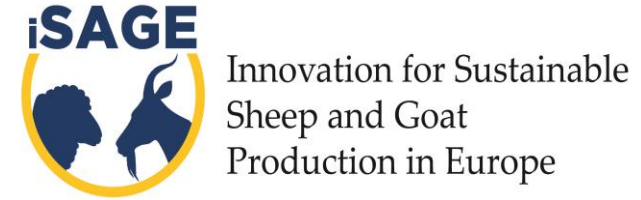
Web based

Interactive e learning courses based on the subjects presented at the summer school and the regional training courses



Innovation for Sustainable
Sheep and Goat
Production in Europe

Expected Outcomes



iSAGE will provide solutions to re-design sheep and goat systems that will result in

- Increased efficiency and profitability of animal agriculture.
- Improved overall sustainability and innovative capacity of the sector.
- Enhanced consumer acceptance
- Increased societal acceptance.
- New efficiency traits to be incorporated into breeding schemes enabling selection of animals more adapted to environmental changes.
- Increased level of animal welfare.
- Improved social well-being and rural development.