



ERA-NET **SUSAN**

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA ON SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL PRODUCTION





The ERA-NET Cofund SusAn

The **animal production sector** forms an important part of Europe's (agricultural) economy and plays an essential role in the provision of Europe's citizens with **high quality animal products**.

However, the sector is set against a very complex background of different species farmed in extensive, semi-intensive or intensive production systems using multiple resources to produce a wide range of animal products and other services. At the same time it also **faces many challenges** – from increases in global food demand, climate change, competition for natural resources to economic volatility.



In order to address these challenges, the **Collaborative Working Group on Sustainable Animal Production (CWG-SAP)** recommended to join European research efforts to support the transition to more sustainable European animal production systems. Research funding organisations from **22 European countries** followed the recommendation and joined the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) on Sustainable Animal Production **SusAn** in 2016.



Based on the **three pillars of sustainability** - economy, environment and society – **SusAn targets innovative research across all areas of the animal production system** such as health and welfare, feeding and nutrition, reproduction, breeding and genetics, housing, nutrient management and economics.

SusAn's approach on Sustainable Animal Production promotes the concepts of system thinking where animal production is a complex set of interdependent system components and sustainable development. Compliance with these concepts therefore requires a paradigm shift from a traditional one dimensional to a multi-dimensional research approach supporting the three pillars of sustainability with equal importance.

ERA-NET Cofunds are a funding instrument under Horizon 2020 designed to support public-public partnerships between funding organisations in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as topping up of single joint calls and of actions of a transnational nature.

EXCELLENT RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE

Funding research and innovation



For the first call a total of **16,0 M EUR** of national and regional funds topped up by EU cofunding have been pooled. As a result of the co-funded call **14 transnational research projects** were selected which take a systems and interdisciplinary approach to address multiple objectives under the following **three Research Areas**:

- Improve the **productivity, resilience and competitiveness** of European Animal Production
- Improve and manage resource use to reduce waste and enhance the **environmental sustainability** of European Animal Production
- **Improve on-farm practices to enhance consumer acceptability** and address societal challenges associated with animal welfare, product quality and safety, biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services.



Research and Innovation objectives:

- » Address the entire animal production chain;
- » Use natural and non- or poorly renewable resources efficiently;
- » More efficient utilisation of feed, taking into account land use and quality;
- » Consider opportunities for converting non-edible feedstuffs into valuable human edible protein sources and other animal products;
- » Produce high quality animal products
- » Minimise emissions (soil, water, atmosphere);
- » Protect and enhance biodiversity & ecosystems, provide public & cultural services;
- » Develop systems meeting societal needs and values, including minimising the use of antibiotics and avoid resistance to other therapeutics;
- » Provide worthy livelihoods for current and future generations of animal farmers and farm workers, including training and up-skilling of managers and staff.

The work ahead

- Joint activities including non co-funded joint actions with other ERA-NET initiatives on cross-cutting topics and networking events.
- A Common Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda will identify knowledge and research gaps for future research activities.
- Seeking cooperation in research and innovation by strengthening networking and knowledge transfer also on international level.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION SECTOR IN EUROPE!



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Project details

Duration: March 2016 – February 2021

Consortium: 38 partner organisations from 22 European countries



Coordinator: Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany

Deputy coordinator: National Institute for the Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA), Spain

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