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STEP UP: Sustainable Livestock Systems Transition and Evidence Platform for Upgrading Policies

An update on progress

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

UK Research and Innovation
Funded by the European Union

Background

- STEP UP is a Research and Innovation Action
- Funded under **HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK:** ***Towards sustainable livestock systems: European platform for evidence building and transitioning policy***
- 16 partners representing 10 RPOs and 6 industry representative bodies across 10 European countries
- Total budget ca. €4.7m
- 4 year project (2024 – 2027)

Partners

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Queen's University Belfast | IGFS The Institute for Global Food Security

Wageningen University & Research

Gobierno de España | Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación

CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

INRAE science for people, life & earth

FOODSCALE HUB

SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

acta Les Instituts Techniques Agricoles

FeedInov

EFFAB European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food

THÜNEN

ITAVI

ifip institut du porc

Poznań University of Life Sciences

Institut de l'Elevage idele

Lisboa Universidade de Lisboa

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Context

- The livestock sector contributes substantially to the European economy – 2025 the value of livestock production and livestock products in the EU-27:
  - €240 billion,
  - 43% of the total agricultural output.
  - Beyond the farm-gate turnover ~€400m annually; direct and indirect employment. 4 and 30 million jobs, respectively.
- By 2050 the global demand for livestock derived food products is projected to increase by 60% to 70%.
- Sustainable livestock based food systems contribute to food security, economic and environmental stewardship, and sociocultural needs and are vital for achieving most of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.
- Increasing sustainability, viability and resilience of climate friendly agricultural production are key objectives of the EU Farm to Fork strategy and is wholly consistent with the Four Betters viz. as better production; better nutrition; a better environment; and a better life and leaving no one behind conceptualised by FAO

Challenges

- However, several challenges face the development of a sustainable pan-European livestock production system (ELPS).
- The global trend for greater demand for livestock derived food products, is currently being challenged because of its
  - (i) its impact on the environment and intensive use of resources
  - ii) ethical issues
  - (iii) perceived human health considerations
- A central problem is that many of these costs and benefits are externalised, i.e., not reflected in the market prices and therefore not in decision making of actors in food value - could be up to double the market value of food
- **Monetisation of the externalities** is needed to estimate the "true" costs of animal based products in Europe.

Objectives of STEP UP

➢ In order to address the many challenges facing European livestock production systems (ELPS), the overall objective of STEP UP is to provide policy makers with a robust evidence base on the impacts and externalities and their monetised values of livestock farming as part of the food system and wider ecosystem. This will be achieved through the following approaches:

- STEP UP will thoroughly investigate the positive and negative impacts, the externalities, and their monetisation, including the identification of potential trade-offs, their understanding and hierarchisation, across diverse types of farming systems, practices and environments, throughout Europe.
- The project will build on a wide range of scientific information, reports, expert opinions, practitioner knowledge, and other available material such as databases.
- In order to align challenges relating to the sustainability of future livestock systems with the challenges relating to the limitation of planetary boundaries, STEP UP will embrace the Safe and Just Operating Space (SJOS) concept and develop and align it to the scale of EU livestock systems.
- The socio-economic dimension is embedded throughout the work programme as a research topic through inclusion of economic and social lifecycle assessment (SLCA) impacts and externalities with clear employment of stakeholder engagement and the multi-actor approach.

STEP UP

Roadmap for Evidence-based and sustainable Livestock Production Systems

Stepping up European Livestock Production Systems

The Necessity for Change within European Livestock Production Systems

1 Mapping the Data Gaps



2 Establishing Current and Innovative Livestock Production Systems



Detailed assessment of the current landscape

1 data repository with quantified impacts/externalities per **20+** pan-European Livestock Production Systems (ELPS)
1 analysis report of current national/regional visions and strategies
3+ archetypes of future livestock scenarios



4 Holistic Methodology for Quantifying Impacts

3 Indicating & Measuring Impact for Livestock Systems



Demonstrating a change

15+ Innovative Livestock Production Systems (ILPS), using improved methodologies;
10+ new indicators for the measurement of negative, positive impacts and externalities of different types of ELPS
3+ livestock species analysed;
7+ ILPS assessed
5+ methods for capturing environmental and social aspects of livestock systems



5 Optimal Scenario Modelling

6 EU Livestock Systems Foresight



New Sustainable EU Livestock Production Systems

Livestock Landscape Up Hence

2+ models enhanced (AGMEMOD, MAFSEU)
1 Safe and Just Operating Space defined (SJOS)
1 easy-to-use assessment tool
1 Report on the improvement/enhancement of indicators
(20+ indicators reported)

Work Package 1

Aim: to collate, analyse, synthesise, and communicate existing knowledge on the impacts and externalities of terrestrial livestock systems on climate, environment, human societies, and biodiversity, as well as on livestock's potential future role.

D1.1 - Typology of current European livestock systems

D1.2 - Identification and discussion of innovations in livestock

D1.3 - Mapping and analysis of impacts/externalities of livestock farming

D 1.4 - Values of impacts/ externalities, classified by livestock system types

D1.5 - Inventory and analysis of foresight studies on European livestock production systems

D 1.6. - Inventory and analysis of national visions/strategy papers

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Typology of current European livestock systems

Typology of current European livestock systems

Table 2. Synthesis of all systems by livestock category and other features relevant to Step-Up project.

Livestock category	Main system	Sub-system	Conventional/Organic	Regions	Code
Dairy cattle	Intensive indoor	Large systems	Conventional	Spain, Italy	1.7
		Small systems	Conventional	Croatia	1.8
	Intensive grazing	Intensive grassland high nitrogen input systems	Conventional	Ireland	1.4
		Intensive grassland large herds and land systems	Conventional	Scotland	1.5
		Intensive grassland and low-density systems	Conventional/Organic	Alpine region	1.6
	Semi-extensive grazing	High green maize systems	Conventional/Organic	Western France and Northern Germany	1.1
		Temporary grasslands systems	Conventional/Organic	Denmark, Eastern Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary	1.2
		Permanents grass and green maize systems	Conventional/Organic	The Netherlands and North Belgium	1.3
		Semi subsistence systems	Conventional/Organic	Romania, South East of Poland, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Bulgaria	1.9
Suckler cows	Intensive indoor	Temporary grassland systems	Conventional	France	2.2
	Semi-extensive grazing	Permanent grass systems	Conventional/Organic	Ireland, UK, and Northern Spain	2.1
		Mediterranean systems	Conventional/Organic	Spain and Italy	2.3
		Mountain French systems	Conventional/Organic	Massif central	2.4
		Swedish systems	Conventional/Organic	Sweden	2.5
Finishing beef cattle	Intensive indoor	Indoor finishing feed compounds systems	Conventional	Spain, Italy (Po Valley), France (Brittany), and Germany	3.1
		Finishing based on maize silage systems	Conventional	France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, and Croatia	3.3
	Semi-extensive grazing	Systems based on grass silage	Conventional/Organic	Ireland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland	3.2
Sheep meat	Intensive indoor	Intensive indoor	Conventional	Spain and Italy	4.3
	Intensive grazing	Intensive grazing	Conventional	France (Limousin and Aquitaine)	4.1
		Based on meadows systems	Conventional	Ireland and England	4.4
		Based on rough grazing systems	Conventional	Scotland	4.6
		Based on meadows and rough grazing systems	Conventional	UK (NW)	4.5
	Semi-extensive grazing	Semi extensive sheep meat systems	Conventional/Organic	Spain, South of France, and Croatia	4.2
Sheep dairy	Intensive indoor	Intensive indoor	Conventional	Spain	5.3
		Intensive systems	Conventional	South of France	5.2
	Semi-extensive grazing	Semi extensive systems	Conventional/Organic	Northern Spain, Italy, Croatia, and Romania	5.1
Dairy goats	Intensive indoor	Intensive indoor dairy goats' systems	Conventional	Spain, Italy, UK, the Netherlands, and France (Nouvelle-Vendée, Deux-Sèvres)	6.3
	Intensive grazing	Intensive grazing dairy goats' systems	Conventional	France (Loire, Rhône, and Ain)	6.2
	Semi-extensive grazing	Semi extensive dairy goats' systems	Conventional/Organic	Spain, South of France, Italy, and Greece	6.1
Pigs	Intensive indoor	Indoor breeding and fattening pig systems	Conventional/Organic	Everywhere in the EU	7.1.a
		Labelled breeding and fattening pig systems	Conventional	Italy and Spain	7.1.b
	Intensive outdoor	Organic breeding and fattening pig systems	Organic	Uk, Denmark, part in France	7.2.a
		Labelled breeding and fattening pig systems	Conventional	Uk, Denmark, part in France	7.2.b
		Semi-subsistence and fattening pig systems	Conventional	Romania and Slovenia	7.4
	Semi-extensive outdoor	Labelled breeding and fattening pig systems	Conventional	Spain (Dehesa region) and France (Auvergne)	7.3
Laying hens	Intensive indoor	Cage laying hens systems	Conventional	Everywhere in the EU	8.1
		Barn laying hens systems	Conventional	Everywhere in the EU	8.2
	Intensive outdoor	Outdoor laying hens' systems	Conventional	Everywhere in the EU	8.4
		Outdoor organic laying hens' systems	Organic	Everywhere in the EU	8.3
	Semi-extensive outdoor	Semi-subsistence laying hens systems	Conventional	Romania, South East of Poland, Slovenia, and Portugal	8.5
Broilers	Intensive indoor	Indoor broilers systems	Conventional	Everywhere in the EU	9.1
		Labelled with outdoor access broilers systems	Conventional	Everywhere in the EU	9.2
		Organic with outdoor access broilers systems	Organic	Everywhere in the EU	9.3

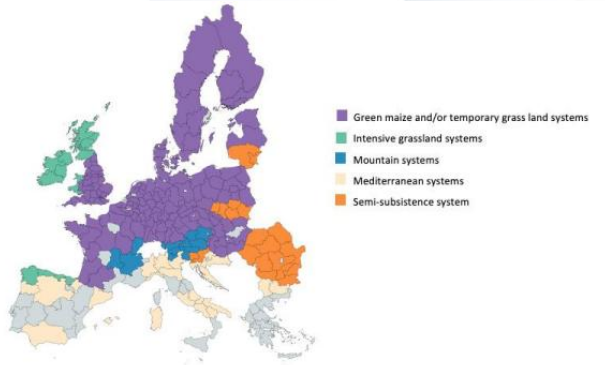


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of the main dairy cattle systems.

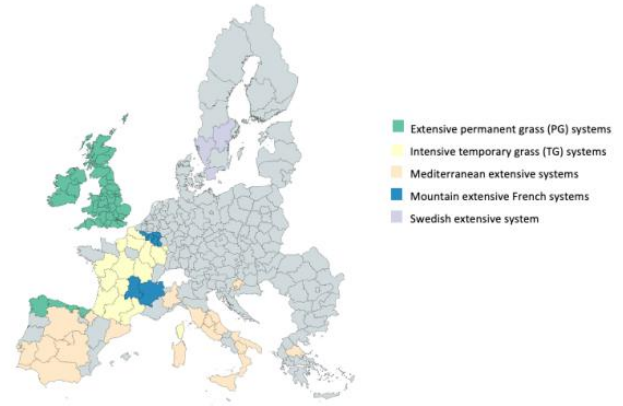
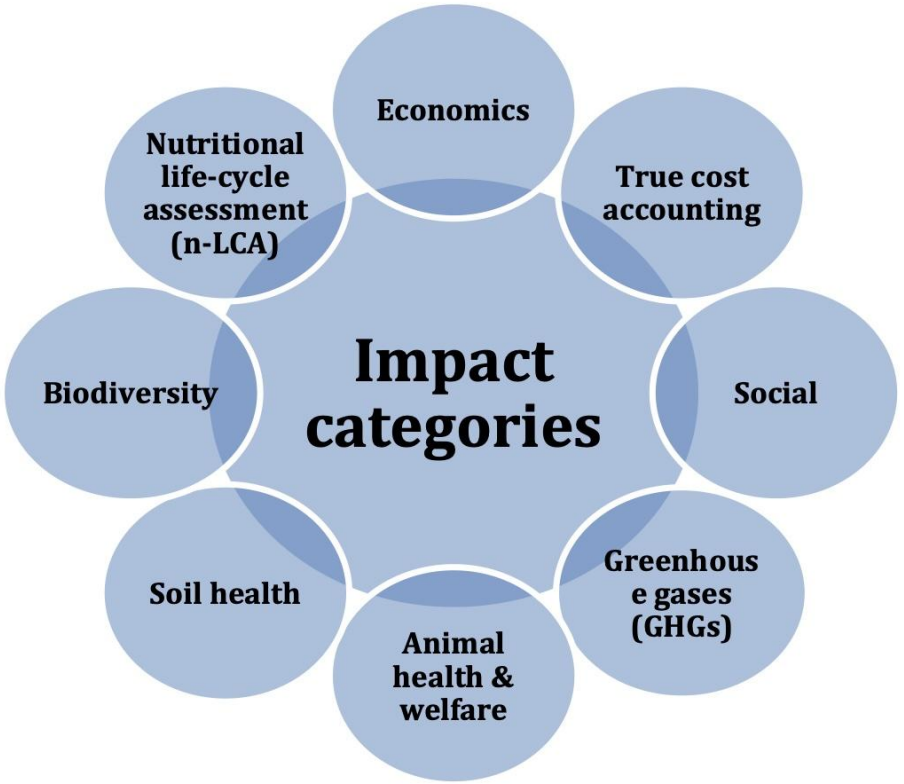


Figure 3: Geographical distribution of the main suckler systems.

WP2: Comprehensive database of pan-European Livestock Production Systems (ELPS) & Innovative Livestock Production System (ILPS) case studies

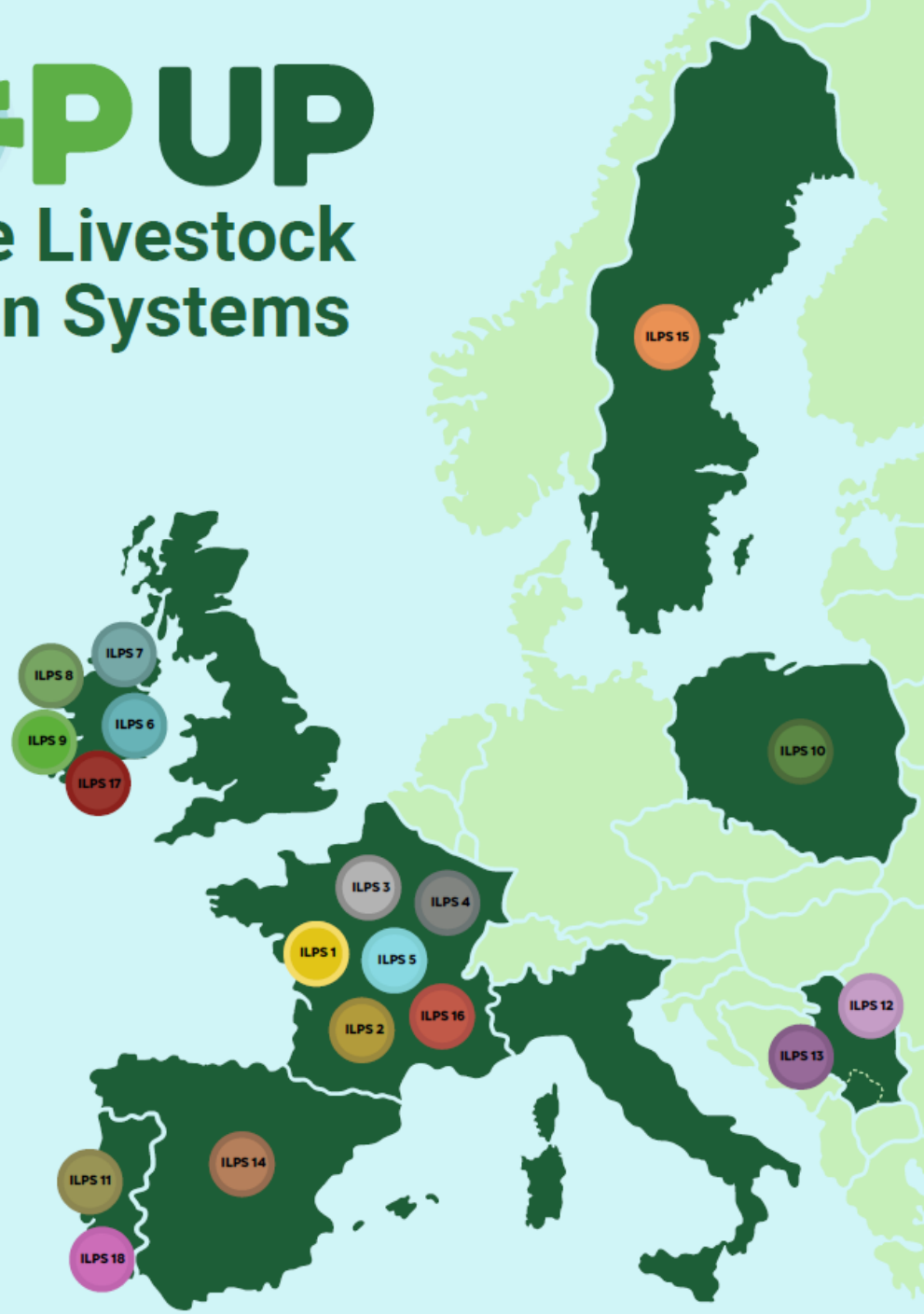
- **ELPS case-studies**: existing datasets, main European Livestock Systems
- **ILPS case-studies**: real-life innovative farm systems, offering inspiration for future development trajectories
- **Interdisciplinary approach** to analysing existing and new data, developmental approach to harmonisation of impact-sub categories across ELPS and ILPS cases & testing of new/enhanced indicators and methods
- **Multi-Actor Approach**: involvement of and interaction between actors from data providers, policy-makers, livestock & farming organisations, farmers, industry, NGOs etc.



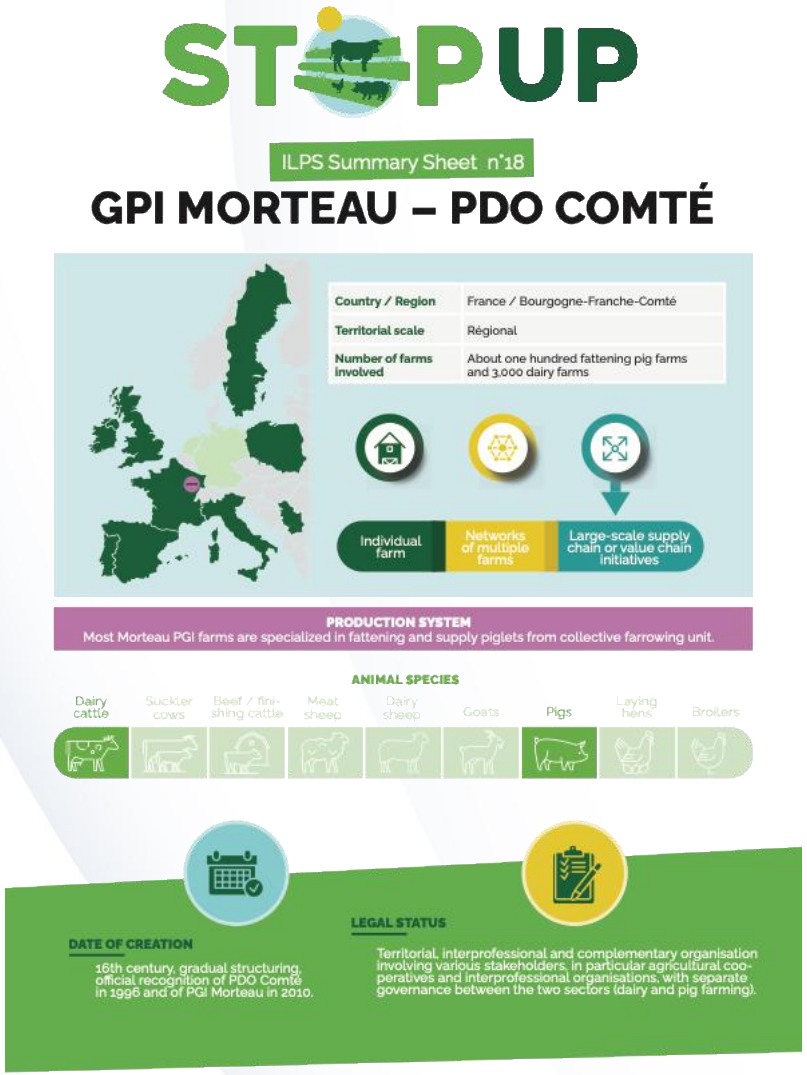
Assessing Impact Categories across ELPS and ILPS

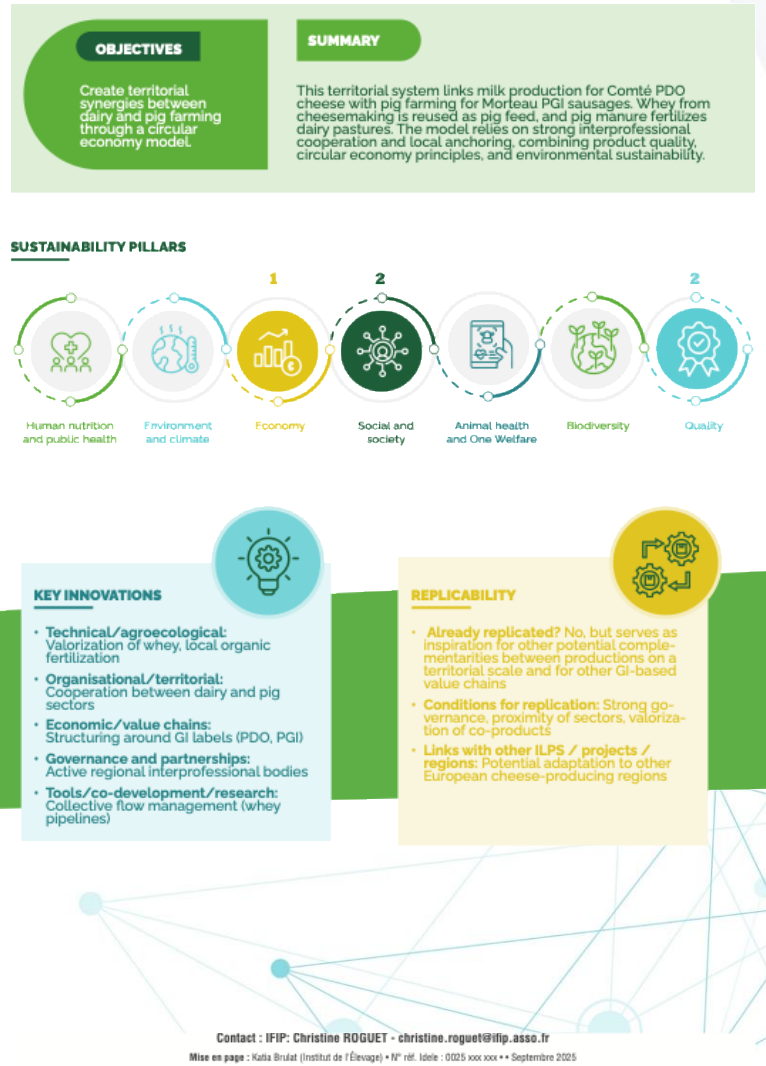
STEP UP
Innovative Livestock Production Systems

- ILPS 1 OasYs
- ILPS 2 INRAE PORGANIC
- ILPS 3 Bleu Blanc Cœur
- ILPS 4 GPI Morteau-DPO Comté
- ILPS 5 PAPILLE
- ILPS 6 Farm Zero C
- ILPS 7 Newford Farm
- ILPS 8 Waters of LIFE Integrated Project
- ILPS 9 Ballymaloe Organic Climate Farm
- ILPS 10 Agro Integracja Sp. z o.o.
- ILPS 11 Sown Biodiverse Pasture
- ILPS 12 NIV1 - Rebracommerce
- ILPS 13 NIV2 - Tenen doo
- ILPS 14 A circular ruminant system coupled with crop production in South Mediterranean
- ILPS 15 Svensk Kolinlagring (Swedish Carbon Storage)
- ILPS 16 Nature d'Eleveurs
- ILPS 17 Agrisearch - Beacon farm network
- ILPS 18 AGROS



ILPS Factsheets – showcasing innovative systems





WP3: Developing indicators measuring the impact and externalities of ELPS – tested on ILPS



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UK Research and Innovation

Funded by the European Union

Measuring livestock sustainability: developing and evaluating indicators of ELPS, tested on ILPS

Farm performance to whole-system sustainability: nutrition, people, animals, nature, economics and supply chain.

01 Nutritional LCA (n-LCA)

Environmental impacts of ASF interpreted against nutritional quality

02 Economics

Farm financial performance, resilience, and risk management

03 Social

Social priorities and indicators across ELPs

04 Animal Welfare

How welfare is assessed and integrated in sustainability

05 Biodiversity

Farm-level indicators for species, landscape, and soil

06 Post-farm Gate

Impacts from transport and slaughter through processing, retail, and consumption

Indicator Evaluation Criteria:

RELEVANCE
Measures the intended impact

FEASIBILITY
Data, access & benchmarks

CREDIBILITY
Expert, framework & policy recognition

IMPACT
Supports positive ELPS / ILPS outcomes

TRADE-OFFS & SYNERGIES
Links across indicators and impact categories

Methodological advances and stakeholder-informed indicators

T3.1 Nutritional LCA (n-LCA)

Approach:

Map and synthesize the environmental footprint of ASFs' relative to their nutrient density

Key findings:

- NFU choice strongly shapes interpretation. Most examples reported lower impacts than functional units — in some cases by >90%.

Key message:

Highlights the need for harmonised n-LCA methods, including nutritional quality and bioavailability, to improve comparability.

T3.2 Economics

Approach:

A multi-phase, participatory approach to improve economic indicators (n=3).

Key findings:

- Compliance costs: scalable data collection and opportunity-cost valuation.
- Resilience: robustness, adaptability and transformability.
- Risk management: adoption of production, marketing, financial, personal and institutional strategies.

Key message:

Moving beyond profitability to capture the wider economic resilience of livestock farms – including their capacity to adapt, transform and manage risk.

T3.3 Social

Approach:

Two-stage Delphi method: impact categories and indicators rated by stakeholders across animal types, systems, supply-chain stages.

Key findings:

- Highest ranked indicators: 1) preventive zoonosis measures, 2) biosecurity measures, 3) farm targets beyond legal requirements, and 4) multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Key message:

Consensus was high – all respondents found them to be (extremely) important.

Across these tasks: indicator choice, data availability, and methodological consistency determine how sustainability performance is interpreted.

From animal welfare – biodiversity – supply chain

Evidence reviews, pilot testing, and two stakeholder Delphi studies extend the assessment beyond conventional farm-level indicators.

T3.4 Animal Welfare

Approach:
Scoping review of 28 studies, complemented by an expert workshop (11 participants).

Key findings:
- No single approach to positioning or assessing welfare is preferable across all contexts.
- Mental state was the least frequently represented of the Five Domains.

Key message:
Select indicators for the assessment purpose and context; keep welfare results visible when combining sustainability results.

T3.5 Biodiversity

Approach:
A Farm-level assessment framework: 1) Farmland Bird Community Completeness; 2) Cover of Semi-Natural Features; 3) Soil organic carbon

Key findings:
- Improved indicators piloted across 12 farms: six in Portugal and six in England.
- Identification of main limitations in indicators and improvement

Key message:
Core set of biodiversity indicators, aligned with UN SEEA EA best practices, supporting interpretation, comparison, and aggregation

T3.6 Post-farm Gate

Approach
Two Delphi studies prioritised indicators across government, industry, civil society and research.

Key findings:
Indicators of food safety and animal welfare during transport and slaughter were ranked as the highest post-farm-gate sustainability priorities

Key message:
A gap between sustainability priorities and their operation as indicators, highlighting the challenges of translating broad sustainability ambitions into measurable outcomes.

WP3 contribution

A stakeholder-informed, multi-dimensional indicator evidence base

WP4: Advances on Consequential Life Cycle Assessment of European livestock systems

- **Scope:** A systematic review of 23 studies and an expert workshop examined how consequential life cycle assessment (CLCA) captures the environmental effects of changes in livestock production.
- **Scenarios:** Most studies examined incremental changes, such as alternative feeds or manure management. Few explored broader changes to livestock systems.
- **Data gaps:** Regional data were scarce, especially on which products or suppliers would be affected by a change.
- **Priorities:** Develop scenarios that explore broader system changes, use locally relevant data, and test whether conclusions hold under different assumptions.

Sun, D., Knudsen, M.T., Ponsioen, T. *et al.* Consequential life cycle assessment of European livestock systems: current practices, limitations, and priorities. *J. Ind. Ecol.* **30**, 2781–2802 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1007/s44498-026-00154-5

Sustainability assessment of innovative livestock systems

- **Advances of Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA)**: Ongoing review of how agri-food studies bring different dimensions together, aiming at proposing a LCSA framework for agri-food systems.

- **Farm assessment**: Use the Re-Livestock Tool (as part of the LCSA) to assess environmental, economic and social performance on innovative livestock farms, including animal health and welfare.

- **Application:** Present the results to show trade-offs between *innovative systems* (using LCSA methods) and *conventional systems* (benchmark).



Figure An example of the Re-livestock Tool scoring (Swedish case)

WP5: Modelling options of transition paths for European livestock systems and estimation of aggregated effects

Three agricultural market models (AGMEMOD, CAPRI, MAFSEU)

1. Framing the modelling scope
   - Data needs for implementing different ELPS – connection to WP1
   - Scenario elements to model different paths – connection to WP6

2. Enhancing the model structures for …
   a) … AGMEMOD, capturing the herd dynamics and disaggregated cattle subsystems (STEP UP definition) based on expert knowledge and FADN;
   b) … MAFSEU, extending model capabilities by disaggregating production sectors and food demand categories, incorporating demands for chemical inputs, linking simulation results to enhanced environmental and nutritional indicators, and adding trend components to the supply and demand modules.

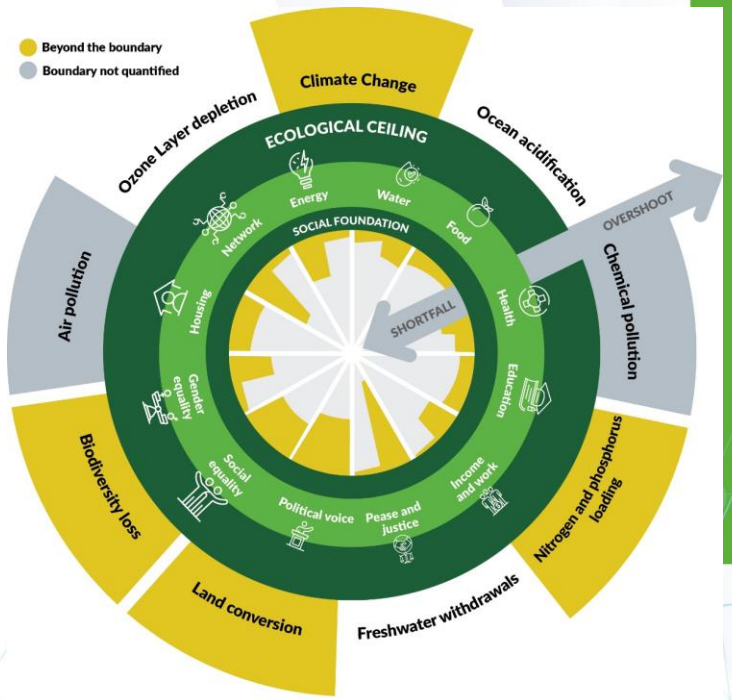
Planned & Ongoing Work

3. Modelling different scenario options
   - Translating three core WP6 livestock transition narratives of the European livestock farming into model-ready scenario elements via a *Translation Matrix*
   - Preparing the models to have a common baseline as a reference
   - Setting up a comparison tool to efficiently compare the simulation results
   - Effects of system shifts or human dietary changes on agricultural markets, land use, trade and environment

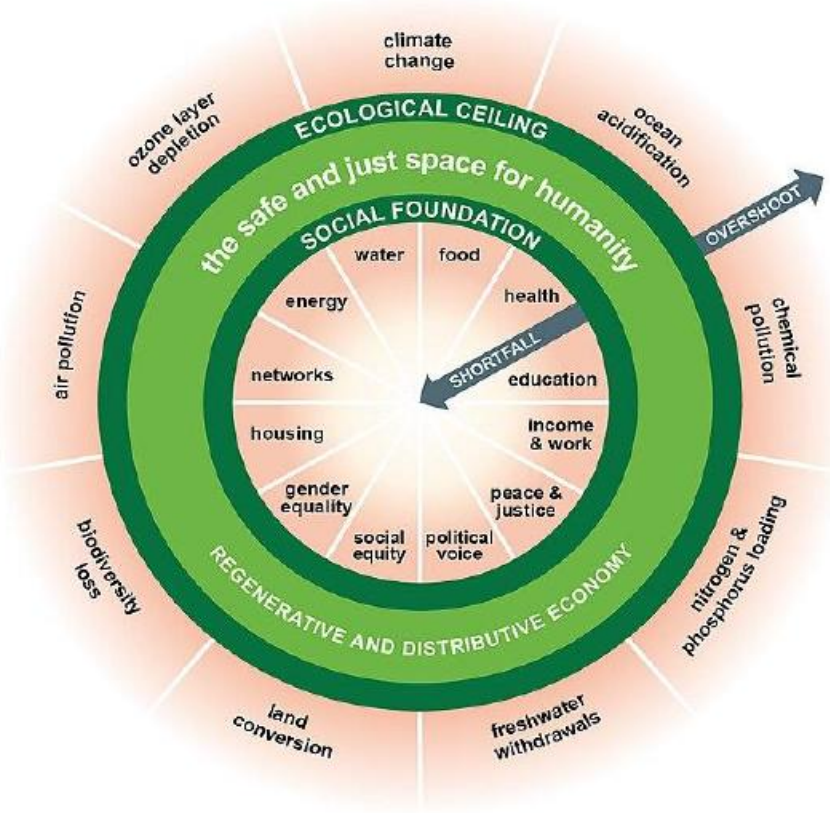
4. Estimating aggregated effects and monetization of externalities, synergies and trade-offs
   - Selecting the most relevant indicators developed in WP3 or available in literature
   - Developing a method for aggregation (national, EU) in current and future situations

Conceptualization framework of Safe and Just Operating Space (SJOS)

- The Safe and Just Operating Space (SJOS) for livestock production is a sustainability framework that defines the balanced zone between a social floor (Just; meeting human nutrition, livelihood, and animal welfare needs) and an environmental ceiling (Safe; staying within ecological planetary boundaries).
- Model helps policymakers and researchers determine how much livestock agriculture the planet can sustain without triggering irreversible ecological damage or social deprivation
- SJOS concept is being implemented for STEP UP through collaboration with the Horizon Europe funded BRIGHTSPACE project



SAFE AND JUST OPERATING SPACE: SJOS



Source : Raworth (2017)

Representation with a doughnut :

- **Outer circle: SAFE**
  - **Biophysical constraints (= planetary boundaries)** that must not be transgressed
- **Inner circle: JUST**
  - **Social objectives** that must be satisfied/respected (JUST)

An integrated framework for sustainable goals
What about livestock in the EU?

DIMENSIONS, VARIABLES AND INDICATORS – SOS

DIMENSIONS	QUESTIONS	VARIABLES	INDICATORS
BIODIVERSITY	What is the state of biodiversity associated with livestock production systems ?	**BIODIVERSITY STATE**	Farm Birds Index (FBI) (CAPRI)
			Total Permanent Pasture Area
			Livestock density on pastures
			Domestic diversity
			Pollinators
			Soil biodiversity
			General biodiversity

DIMENSIONS, VARIABLES AND INDICATORS – JOS

DIM	QUESTIONS	VARIABLES	INDICATORS
NUTRITION SECURITY	Can European consumers buy animal-source foods as recommended at an affordable price ?	AFFORDABILITY	Share of population that cannot afford animal-source foods
			Increase percentage of price of animal-source foods
			Price of animal-source foods
			Price share of animal-source foods in dietary recommendation
	Does the EU guarantee a stable supply of animal-source foods ?	SUPPLY STABILITY	Import dependency ratio for animal-source foods
			Self-sufficiency ratio for feed
	Is there an over-consumption of animal-source foods ?	OVER-COMSUPTION	Share of population that over-consume animal-source foods
	Is Europe producing excessive waste from animal-source foods?	WASTE MANAGMENT	Share of animal-source foods waste from food processing, transport and food waste from commodities and food services consumption

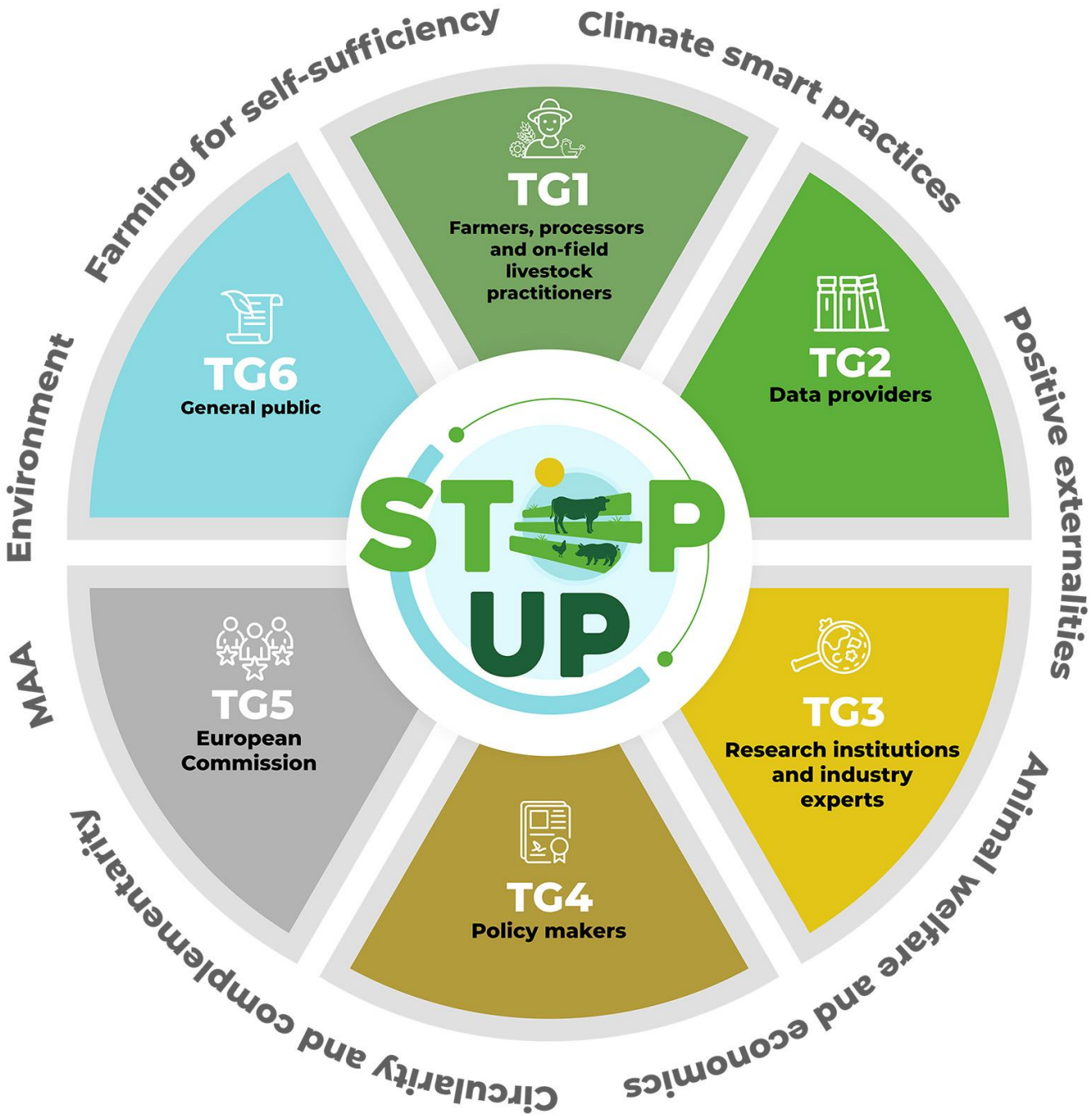
WP6 - Definition of scenarios based on existing and emerging trends and drivers

- **Complete**: design of the draft of 3 scenarios with focus groups
- **Ongoing**: refinement of the specificities of each scenario

	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
	World-scale	EU-scale	Territorial scale
Economics	Market-driven	Regulated and incentive-based	Planned and binding regulations
Trade	Export-oriented	Protectionist, EU-preference	Protectionist, local preference
Governance	EU and corporations	EU and States	EU and local actors
Environmental	N & GHG centred + land sparing	System-specific + land sharing	Holistic + land sharing
Agri-food industry	Standardisation, process	Intense product innovation	Traditional and raw products
Technology	Technology-intensive	Pragmatic and system-specific	Low tech, knowledge-intensive
Digital and data	High	Moderate to high	Moderate
Value chain	Vertically integrated	Horizontal and vertical	Fair and territorialised
Place of the citizens	Informed consumers	Choice-enabled consumers	Co-governing actors
Dietary patterns	High animal products	Diverse and highly-transformed	More plant-based

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Target groups



WP8: Facilitate DEC implementation and continued MAAS engagement

WP 7	WP 8	WP 9
Establishing DEC processes, materials & channels and launching the cross-functional MAAS	Facilitate DEC implementation and continued MAAS realisation	Final DEC activities and Sustainability Planning for Expanding Post-Project Engagement and Impact

Established a strong communication and dissemination presence:

- Regular blog posts
- Social media campaing
- Scientific publications
- Events

In numbers that mean:

> 20,400 website pageviews
> 1200 stakeholder
> 20 events
> 500 newslleter subscribers
> 10 Peer-reviewed papers







STEP UP

Stakeholder Webinar Series



Four webinars exploring the future of European livestock

- **New evidence.** Practical insights.
- **Exchange** perspectives.
- A more **sustainable future** for European livestock.

01	20 November 2026	**European livestock at a turning point** Systems, innovations and sustainability challenges	
02	1 December 2026	**From case studies to action** What is STEP UP learning from real livestock systems?	
03	25 January 2027	**Measuring what matters** New approaches to assess sustainable livestock systems	
04	23 February 2027	**Shaping the future of European livestock** Scenarios, policy and pathways for change	

Don't miss the first webinar!
Monday, 20 November 2026

Register now >

Challenge 1: Improved methodologies for increasing the granularity of regional and systems level databases for European Livestock Systems

Technical challenges:

- Integration of diverse datasets, sources and methodologies employed
- Regional nuances of different livestock production systems
- Greater granularity of data required for realistic scenario development/testing
- Designing operational frameworks for transdisciplinarity in scenario development (for system transitions), incorporating SSH and the MAA (multi-actor approach).

Industry challenges:

- Data sharing frameworks
- Database development and availability

Challenge 2: Improved indicator development and implementation regimens

- Challenges in defining social, resilience, animal welfare and environmental sustainability indicators; confounded with across countries and systems nuances
- Challenging to associate diverse data sources with farming systems, even at a high thematic level (e.g., indicators of biodiversity with stocking density)
- Indicator utility/relevance across system and ease of capture are key for monetisation and scenario development
- Balance between societal (consumer/environment) and economic (producer/industry) weightings for model and scenario development
- Harnessing artificial intelligence for improved model development and utility

Peer-review papers

Meat Science
Volume 226, August 2025, 109834

Review

Towards a 'One quality' approach of pork: A perspective on the challenges and opportunities in the context of the farm-to-fork continuum – Invited review

Mohammed Gagaoua, Florence Gondret, Bénédicte Lebret

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meatsci.2025.109834

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Environmental Impact Assessment Review
Volume 112, March 2025, 107846

Grazing or confining — Decoding Beef's environmental footprint

Tiago G. Morais [a], Manuel P. dos Santos [a], Lúcia Barão [b], Tiago Domingos [c], Ricardo F.M. Teixeira [a]

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Open Access Systematic Review

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Land Use Impacts of Soybean Production: Systematic Review and Analysis

by Rahela Lucić *, Mariana Raposo, Alina Chervinska, Tiago Domingos and Ricardo F. M. Teixeira

MARETEC, LARSyS, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Avenida Rovisco Pais 1, 1049-001 Lisbon, Portugal

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animal
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Short Communication: True Cost Accounting (TCA) as a transformative approach for livestock agri-food systems

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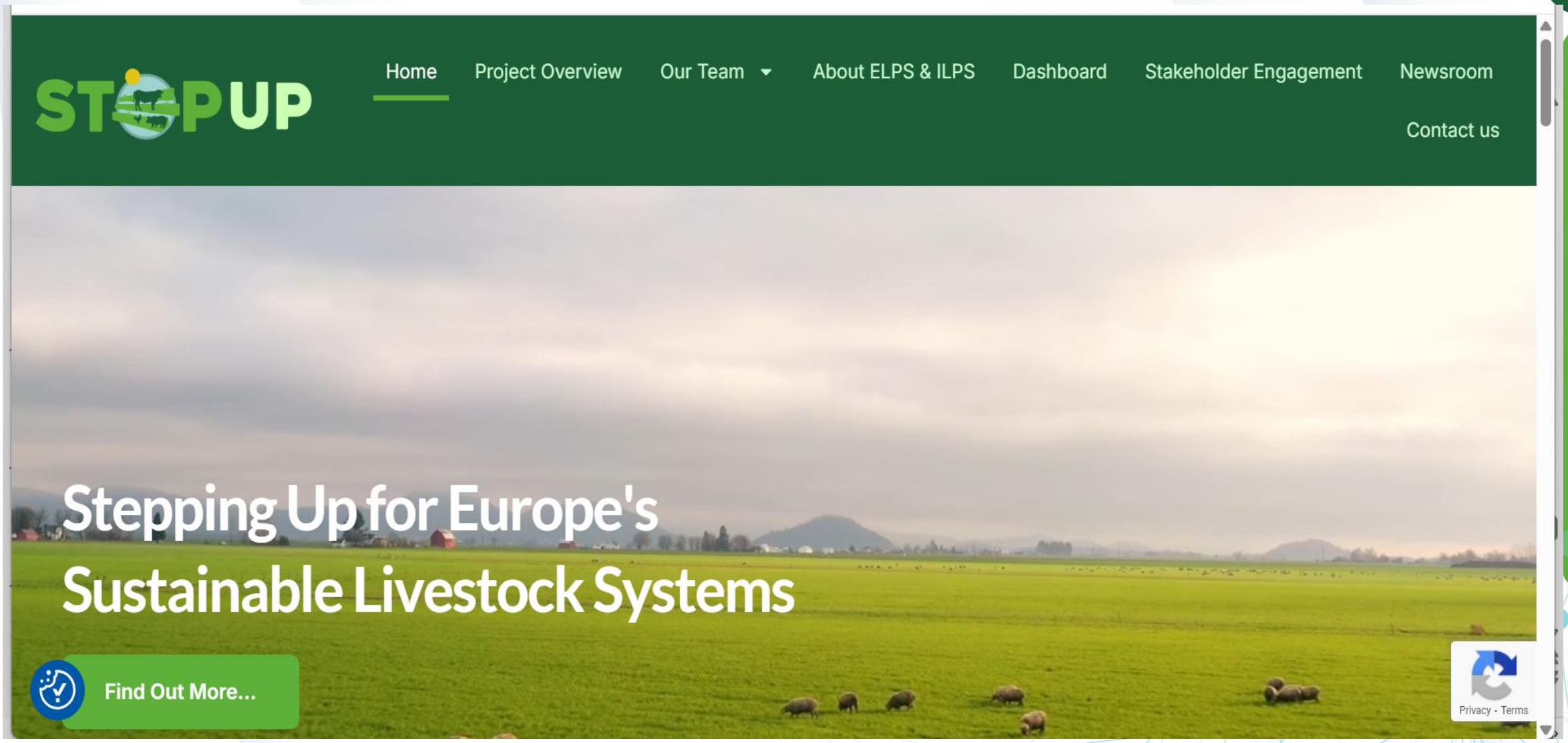
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Succession and Generational Renewal in ELPS

- Succession and generational renewal represent one of the greatest structural challenges in the European livestock sector, where an ageing workforce and high capital barriers threaten long-term production capacity and rural vitality.
- Across the EU, **33% of farm holders are over 65**, while only **12% are under 40**, with the average farmer aged 57.
- **EU Generational Renewal Strategy**
- **Collaborative farming models**
- **Targeted fiscal and advisory supports i.e. Succession Farm Partnership Tax Credit (Ireland)**

What are we doing in STEP UP?

- D1.5 (Foresight studies): generational renewal difficulties in the livestock scenarios
- D6.1 (Safe and Just Operating Space): generational renewal as relevant to the social sustainability of livestock systems.
- D2.3 (ELPS/ILPS indicators): the sustainability assessment framework.
- Intend to dedicate a report and seminar topic to this important issue over the coming year

Thank you
Questions?



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