

COST action (GroupHouseNet) getting research to farmers/industry

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- ❑ **Title: Synergy for preventing damaging behaviour in group housed pigs and chickens**
- ❑ **Aim: to facilitate prevention of damaging behaviour in group-housed pigs and laying hens**
- ❑ Similar damaging behaviours in pigs and chickens (Brunberg et al., 2016)
- ❑ Related to exploratory / foraging motivation

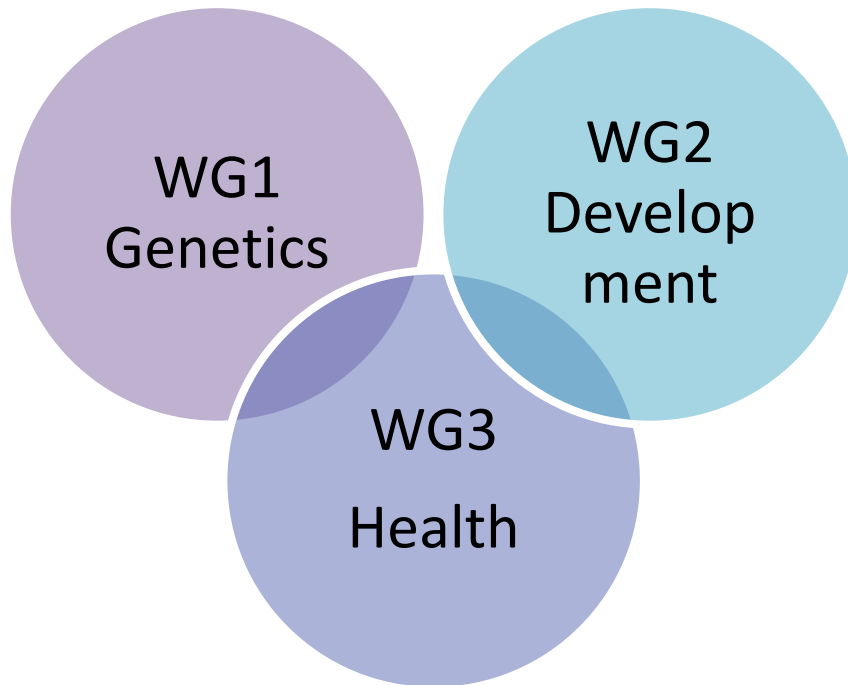


A network of European scientists:

- ❑ 30 Participating COST Countries (50% less research intensive countries):
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, fyR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom
- ❑ One observer country: USA
- ❑ Project runs March 2016-February 2020



**Three
interconnected
working
groups**



Possible solutions

- ❑ Improved breeding strategies (WG1)
 - ❑ Novel genetic and genomic approaches – tracking
 - ❑ Better understanding of epigenetic effects
- ❑ Improved early-life conditions (WG2)
 - ❑ Pre- and postnatal conditions
- ❑ A better understanding of relationship damaging behaviour and health (WG3): Poor health may both be a cause and/or a consequence



Our main tasks

- ☐ Summarise and communicate existing knowledge with the aim of implementing solutions to reduce damaging behaviours in group housed pigs and poultry
- ☐ Coordinate ongoing research in the area
- ☐ Participate in the formation of new collaborations
- ☐ Promote training of young scientists
- ☐ Promote the involvement of less research intensive countries



Scientific outputs

- ❑ Produce reports/scientific and technical papers in each area explored by the WGs
- ❑ Finance and organize training Schools for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers
- ❑ Fund scientific stays for young researchers to be trained at another participating institution



Scientific outputs

- ☐ Establish a forum for discussion between stakeholders and researchers



Getting research to industry

- ❑ **Making a difference in practice**
- ❑ Our ambition is to support the development of welfare-friendly housing systems for non-tail docked pigs
- ❑ June 2017: Stakeholder meeting, Skopje
 - ❑ Farmer organisations
 - ❑ Veterinary organisations
 - ❑ NGOs in animal protection
 - ❑ European Commission
- ❑ June 2018: Stakeholder meeting, Izmir
 - ❑ Work on dissemination



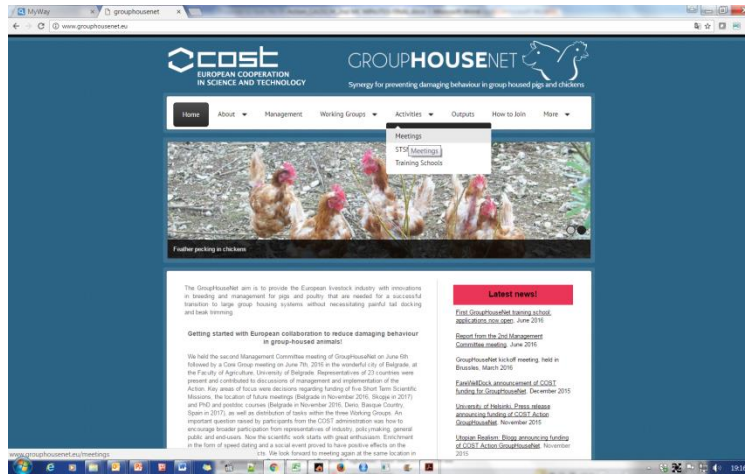
Getting research to industry: suggested actions

- ☐ Translated leaflets summarizing results and best practice
- ☐ Advisory packages and presentations of good examples / successful farms ([films](#))
- ☐ Study visits for stakeholders
- ☐ Participation at industry-focused meetings (dialogue)
- ☐ Depository of information materials referring to relevant sites
- ☐ Articles in technical journals for farmers or vets
- ☐ Information to support decision-making
 - ☐ Further suggestions are welcome!



For more information:

<http://www.groupousenet.eu/>



**Thanks for
your
attention!**



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