



PROJECT "EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA ON SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS" SUSAN

Horizon 2020 Call: H2020-ISIB-2015-1

Start of the project – March 1, 2016
End of the project – February 28, 2021
Budget – 16 600000,00 / 2500 EUR

The overall goal of this project put forward by the Collaborative Working Group on Sustainable Animal Production (CWG-SAP) is to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA) and improve collaboration between Member States on questions related to the investment in research, innovation and skills for a more competitive and sustainable livestock production sector in Europe. The ERA-Net SusAn considers all aspects of sustainable livestock production and follows a holistic approach to combine all disciplines and take a holistic view on the whole livestock production system. In order to help deliver a unified vision for a more sustainable and secure future for animal production in Europe, partners agreed to pool national/regional resources in order to make better use of scarce public research funding and work together more effectively in identified key areas. There is still scope for research and innovation to improve nutrient management, such as in grassland and forage use, but also intensive animal production. Biodiversity and ecosystem services have an essential impact on human well-being. In general, as modern farming practices progress and farm size increases there is a loss in biodiversity and overall ecosystem services which is viewed as a concern by all partners. Society (and Farmers) is concerned especially about large scale, intensive animal production. It is seen as contributing to numerous forms of environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, soil depletion and diminishing biodiversity. Key issues for animal management - to increase sustainability Management of Animal Health. New advances in genetics and genomics hold considerable potential to achieve the objectives of sustainable animal production. Genetic resources in minor or rare breeds and species are also of interest for cultural reasons and heritage, and could help towards the longer-term goal to sustainability. Management of Animal Feed and Nutrition Efficient feed chains involve alternative feed resources, especially protein sources, while not competing with food for humans or having a large impact on land-use change. To tackle the challenge of sustainability, SusAn promotes the systems approach in a way that can be regarded as a new paradigm in research. Due to the new approach to research and by demanding simultaneous consideration of the three sustainability pillars - economy, environment and society - SusAn is expected to make a significant contribution to the development of a more sustainable animal production in Europe. Sustainable development

which means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The three pillars of sustainability, economy, environment and society, need to be considered of equal importance.

The partners in this ERA-NET represent 23 European countries – 21 Member States and 2 Associated States – which will cover a wide range of animal production systems from the different European regions. Project Coordinator - Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

The main activities of ERA-NET SusAn are divided into two parts. Part A is dedicated to activities related to the co-funded call and the Consortium Agreement (WPs 1-5), and Part B is dedicated to additional activities (WPs 6 and 7).

Part A: Activities related to the co-funded call and the consortium management

» **Work package 1** “Consortium Management and Coordination” W is dedicated to project management and the supervision of effective communication and information exchange internally between Network Consortium (NC) partners and externally with the EC and other initiatives.

» **Work package 2** “Preparation, launch and closing of the co-funded call” will provide the online tool with the launch of the co-funded call, prepare proposal templates and complete the call documents including input of evaluation criteria (WP3), reporting requirements (WP4) and project seminar contributions (WP5). WP2 will provide information for dissemination to WP5.

» **Work package 3** “Evaluation and proposal selection for the co-funded call” will provide the outcomes of pre- and full proposal selection to the Call Secretariat (WP2) for communication to applicants and receive technical support for the evaluation tool from WP2.

» **Work package 4** “Follow-up and monitoring of projects resulting from the co-funded call” will provide information on the reporting and monitoring duties of applicants in the announcement of the co-funded call. Together with WP2 an online monitoring system for report management and data collection will be established.

» **Work package 5** “Communication and knowledge exchange” is responsible for effective communication and knowledge exchange from the ERA-NET SusAn to all stakeholders. Special attention will be paid to dissemination of results from the co-funded research projects to support innovation in sustainable animal production.

Part B: Additional activities

Two work packages dedicated to additional activities will run in parallel to the co-funded call for the duration of ERA-NET SusAn:

» **Work package 6** “Other joint activities”. Depending on availability of funds further activities such as organisation and implementation of training for researchers, scientific workshops and other, non co-funded research and innovation projects, including case studies or pilot studies will be taken into consideration.

» **Work package 7** “Common Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda” will map existing activities and European and international research initiatives in order to elaborate a CSRIA to ensure the advancement of sustainable animal production in Europe. This WP will also be responsible for proposing areas for additional activities (WP6).

SusAn has completed a co-funded call for project submission. 28 funding parties from 21 European countries participated in this call. The initial call contribution totalled 16,6 million € of national/regional funds. SusAn’s online call management tool included 74 pre-proposals were submitted requesting a total of € 66.9 m funding. A total of 54 pre-proposals were eligible according to both the call and the national/regional eligibility criteria and were passed on to an independent external expert panel. The experts recommended 29 out of 54 pre-proposals for funding and 29 full proposals were submitted. After evaluation of the full proposals, SusAn selected 14 projects for

funding, based on the ranking list of full proposals, with a total funding of more than 15,9 million € including EU top-up. Now all these projects are starting to be implemented.