



# Sustainable Sheep Production

SusSheP



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SusSheP Era-net

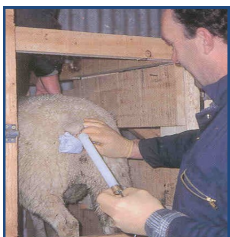
SusSheP is a 3 year European project (2017-2020), with 8 European partners across Norway, France, Ireland & UK.

SusSheP's overall aim is to increase the sustainability and profitability of European Sheep Production by addressing key industry focused problems.



## Key objectives :

- ❖ Provide **new genetic tools** for farmers to increase **longevity** of ewes.
- ❖ Quantify **labour input** and **carbon hoofprint** in contrasting sheep systems.
- ❖ Develop more socially acceptable **methods of AI**, looking at **ewe breed effects**.
- ❖ Maximise **knowledge transfer** and uptake of methods by farming community.



## More details about the project:

- ◇ Sheep are unproductive (but carbon productive) until they produce their first lamb crop (~ 2 years of age), and, on average, ewes only produce 3 to 4 crops of lambs in their lifetime.
- ◇ Despite being important both from an economic and environmental perspective, ewe longevity is not included in sheep breeding indexes across Europe.
  - \* *SusSheP will establish the genetic factors controlling **ewe longevity** under different Sheep Production Systems and assess if early life predictors can be used to predict longevity.*
  - \* *SusSheP will identify the most **carbon and labour efficient** Sheep Production Systems under different management approaches (use of technology, use of genetic gain, use of prolific breeds).*
- ◇ Breeding of more efficient breeds has been limited by the lack of sheep AI that is welfare friendly and socially acceptable. There are also major ewe breed differences in success rates.
  - \* *SusSheP will look at the **ewe breed effects** on oestrus, cervical mucus and sperm transport.*
- ◇ By engaging farmers and SMEs from the start, SusSheP will maximise **knowledge transfer** to industry, farmers and the scientific community. *Surveys and workshops will be carried out.*

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## Project funded by:

