NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 - JUNE 2025

EUROPEAN NETWORK ON LIVESTOCK PHENOMICS

The EU-LI-PHE project aims to strengthen ethical, legal, and social frameworks for the use of phenotyping technologies in livestock farming across Europe.

Key stakeholders include researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, farmers, device manufacturers, young researchers, and civil society organizations. **A stakeholder meeting was held on 11 July at KU Leuven;** read more in our press release and the upcoming newsletter.

Start Date:
September 27, 2023

End Date:
September 26, 2027

EU-LI-PHE
EUROPEAN NETWORK ON LIVESTOCK PHENOMICS

Newsletter
ISSUE 2
June 2025

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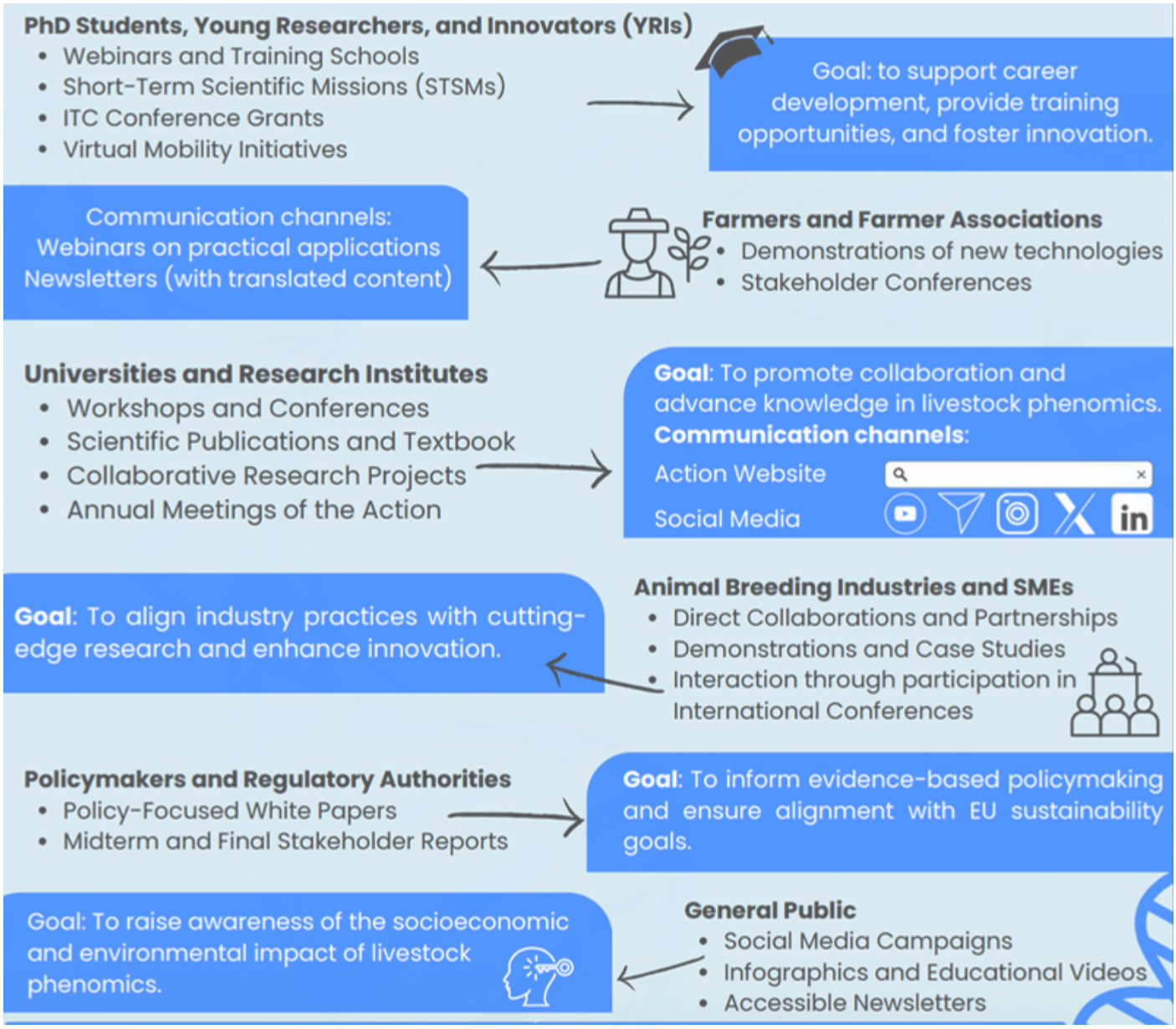
WHO IS THE TARGET GROUP OF EU-LI-PHE ?

We developed specialized communication channels for each of our target groups. This ensures continuous and efficient engagement for reaching maximum benefit for all involved sides.



66 Management Committee members from 36 countries

453 Working Group members, including:
200 females
171 from ITC
239 are YRI

LEARN MORE

MEET THE TEAM: YOUNG RESEARCHER AND INNOVATOR COMMITTEE

Iulia Blaj, KWS, Germany

Agostina Zubiri Gaitan, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain

Kyle Hoeksema, University of Bern, Switzerland

Pedro Nuñez, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain

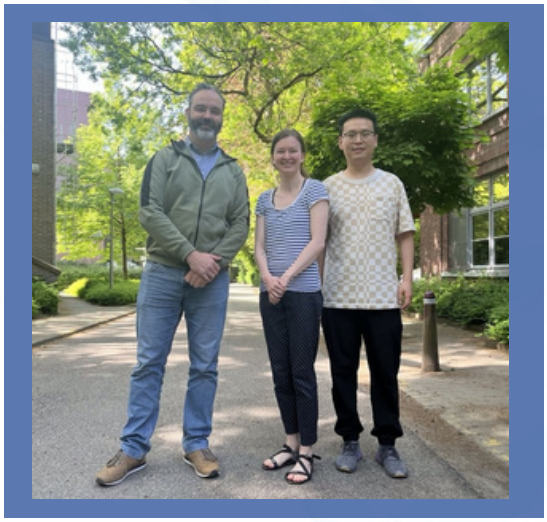
Amra Džuho, Verlab Research Institute, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ena Dobrić, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Skopje, North Macedonia

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Dr. Yansen Chen from Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège
hosted by Dr. Bingjie Li's research group at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in Edinburgh, UK during May 2025

"This experience was highly beneficial for my career, fostering connections that will support future joint publications and collaborative projects. I sincerely thank EU-LI-PHE for this valuable opportunity." - Yansen Chen



Hilla Fred from the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
hosted by Prof. Tomas Norton at KU Leuven, Belgium, from 2 April until 7 May, 2025

"The STSM, supported by EU-LI-PHE, facilitated close collaboration, practical skill development, and knowledge exchange, while significantly enhancing my professional network and establishing a foundation for future joint research." - Hilla Fred

Dr. Kisun Pokharel from the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
hosted at the University of Évora and the University of Lisbon from 21 February until 4 March, 2025

His research efforts during this STSM culminated in the submission of an abstract, "A Comprehensive miRNA Resource for Livestock Genomics," co-authored with 20 researchers from 10 institutions, for the ISAG 2025 conference.

OUR BIG CELEBRATIONS

We are proud to announce that EU-LI-PHE has reached a major milestone with **the addition of our 400th member,** Dr. Marinela Enculescu from the Research and Development Institute for Bovine Balotesti in Romania!

“I look forward to exchanging knowledge with peers and learning about new phenomics approaches applied to animal nutrition,” says Dr. Enculescu.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE ANNUAL CONGRESS 2025, GALWAY, IRELAND

We highlighted phenomics as a transformative force in animal science, the development of regional hubs, and the essential role of young researchers. A new proposal was announced to establish a Regional Hub connecting the British and Irish animal science communities.

Prof. Luca Fontanesi (EU-LI-PHE Chair) and Geena Cartick (Vice Science Communication Coordinator)

READ MORE

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

EU-LI-PHE
EUROPEAN NETWORK ON LIVESTOCK PHENOMICS

EVENT AGENDA OVERVIEW - FOLLOW US FOR MORE DETAILS

TACKLING THE PHENOTYPING BOTTLENECK IN LIVESTOCK GENETICS

Bridging Research, Industry, and Policy

1ST STAKEHOLDER MEETING

11TH JULY 2025

HOGENHEUVELCOLLEGE NAAMSESTRAAT 69, 3000, LEUVEN, BELGIUM

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Time	Session	Speakers
11:15–11:30	**Welcome and agenda overview**	**Tomas Norton**
11:30–12:45	**Phenotyping Innovations**	
	Mapping phenotyping technology across the EU	*Jarissa Maselyne*
	PLF/Digital phenotyping in EU projects	*Jarkko Niemi (Digi4Live),Jarissa Maselyne (aWish),Xabier Diaz de Otalora Aguirre (Re-Livestock)*
	Industry perspectives on phenotyping platforms	*Craig Lewis (PIC), Erik Vranken (SoundTalks)*
	Interactive Q&A	*All session speakers*
13:00–13:30	*Coffee & Light Snack*	
13:30–15:00	**Opportunities and Threats for Livestock Phenomics**	
	Data sharing in the EU	*Halid Kayhan, Anneleen De Visscher, Toine Roozen (ICAR)*
	Policy & society perspectives on AI in livestock	*Mark Ryan, Anne-Marie Neeteson, Patrick Pagani*
	Academic–industry collaboration	*Mike Toscano, Teun van de Braak*
15:30–15:45	*Comfort break*	
15:45–16:45	**Learning from Other Domains**	
	Cross-sector phenotyping insights	*Daniel Berckmans, Holger Russig*
	International/national initiatives	*Jean-Pierre Bidanel (LIPH4SAS), Luca Fontanesi*
	Stakeholder survey results	*EU-LI-PHE & Digi4Live team*
16:45–17:00	**Summary & Roadmap Forward**	**Chairs: Tomas Norton, Luca Fontanesi**

cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

https://eu-li-phe.eu/

Funded by the European Union

2ND TRAINING SCHOOL

The 2nd EU-LI-PHE Training School, titled "From Data to Discovery: Measuring & Analyzing Livestock Phenotypes," was successfully held from 14 to 18 July 2025 at KU Leuven, Belgium. Participants explored state-of-the-art methods in sensor technology, machine learning, computer vision, and phenotypic data analysis through interactive lectures and hands-on sessions. A full report and highlights will be featured in the next EU-LI-PHE newsletter.

I found out about this year's summer school through the EU-LI-PHE network and I was truly excited that it offered such a valuable opportunity for us young researchers - not only to deepen our knowledge and practical skills in livestock phenomics, but also to foster connections with peers from different research disciplines. (Stefan Gruber, BOKU, Austria)

The EU-LI-PHE Training School was blending theory with hands-on training in high-throughput phenotyping and data analysis for livestock and insects. The range of topics and depth of expertise were amazing. A great opportunity that has sharpened my skills and connected me with leading minds in European livestock research. Big thanks to EU-LI-PHE CA22112! (Emmanuel Okoli Odah, NMBU, Norway)

2025 WEBINARS

EU-LI-PHE
EUROPEAN NETWORK ON LIVESTOCK PHENOMICS

EULIPHETalks
A Webinar Series

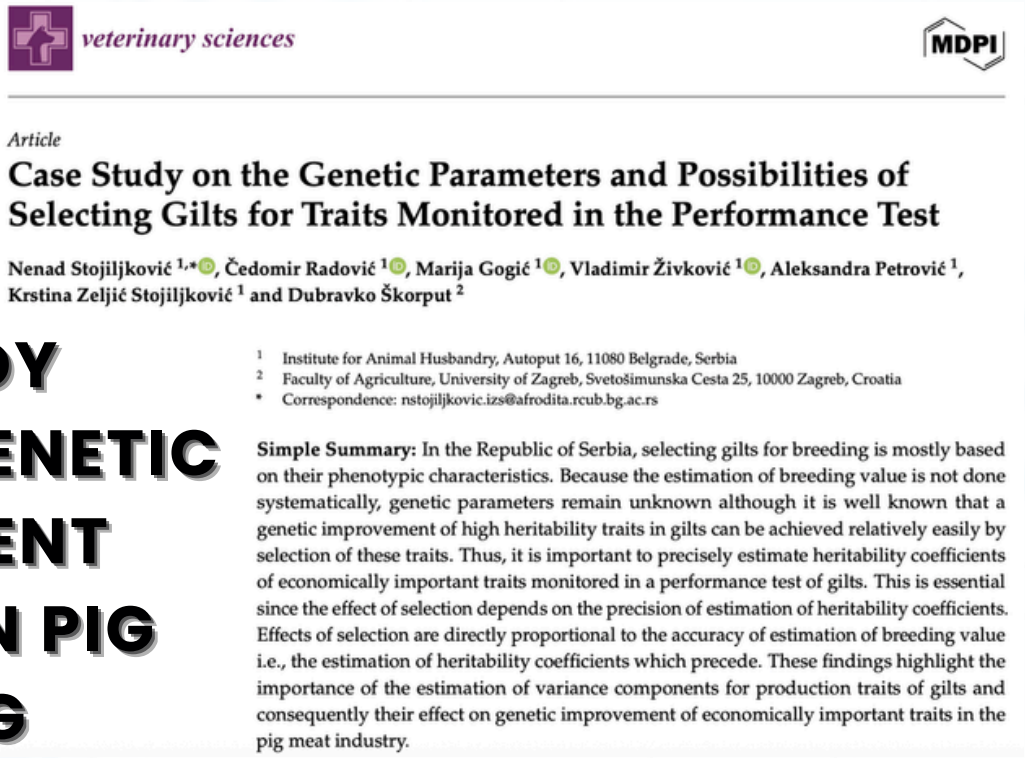
So far in 2025, EU-LI-PHE has successfully hosted two EULIPHETalks webinars. In May, we explored environmental sustainability in beef and dairy farming, while in June, we focused on the digital transformation of livestock production through cutting-edge technologies. These sessions sparked valuable dialogue across research, policy, and industry. Recordings of previous EULIPHETalks are available on our YouTube channel.

Stay tuned as we continue in September with new webinars led by our Young Researchers and Innovators Committee!

WATCH NOW

PUBLICATIONS

EU-LI-PHE
EUROPEAN NETWORK ON LIVESTOCK PHENOMICS



veterinary sciences

MDPI

Article

Case Study on the Genetic Parameters and Possibilities of Selecting Gilts for Traits Monitored in the Performance Test

Nenad Stojiljković [1,*], Čedomir Radović [1], Marija Gogić [1], Vladimir Živković [1], Aleksandra Petrović [1], Krstina Zeljić Stojiljković [1] and Dubravko Škorput [2]

[1] Institute for Animal Husbandry, Autoput 16, 11080 Belgrade, Serbia
[2] Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Svetošimunska Cesta 25, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
* Correspondence: nstojiljkovic.izs@afrodita.rcub.bg.ac.rs

Simple Summary: In the Republic of Serbia, selecting gilts for breeding is mostly based on their phenotypic characteristics. Because the estimation of breeding value is not done systematically, genetic parameters remain unknown although it is well known that a genetic improvement of high heritability traits in gilts can be achieved relatively easily by selection of these traits. Thus, it is important to precisely estimate heritability coefficients of economically important traits monitored in a performance test of gilts. This is essential since the effect of selection depends on the precision of estimation of heritability coefficients. Effects of selection are directly proportional to the accuracy of estimation of breeding value i.e., the estimation of heritability coefficients which precede. These findings highlight the importance of the estimation of variance components for production traits of gilts and consequently their effect on genetic improvement of economically important traits in the pig meat industry.

NEW STUDY HIGHLIGHTS GENETIC IMPROVEMENT POTENTIAL IN PIG BREEDING

A new study supported by EU-LI-PHE, co-authored by network members, has been published, **focusing on key genetic traits in gilt performance testing across 3664 animals from three major pig breeds.**

The research highlights the heritability of traits like backfat thickness and muscle depth, offering valuable insights for improving selective breeding strategies in pig production.

Congratulations to all involved! We look forward to sharing more groundbreaking publications as our collaborative efforts continue to advance animal breeding and livestock production across Europe.

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