



COST action (GroupHouseNet) getting research to farmers/industry

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GroupHouseNet (Action CA15134) is supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

- ❑ **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)



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



Approaches

- Improved breeding strategies (WG1)
- Improved early-life conditions (WG2)
- A better understanding of relationship damaging behaviour and health (WG3)



Central tasks

- ❑ Establish a forum for discussion between stakeholders and researchers
- ❑ Summarise and communicate existing knowledge with the aim of implementing solutions to reduce damaging behaviours in group housed pigs and poultry



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
- Information to support decision-making
- Link to other EU initiatives (DG Sante, EU Welfare Platform, EU Reference Centre Pigs)

