

H2020-SFS-2018-2020

## DECIDE

**Data-driven control and prioritisation of  
non-EU-regulated contagious animal diseases**

### Deliverable 6.6

## Animal disease surveillance cluster event

WP6 – Communication activities and dissemination and exploitation of results

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
EU	European Union
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
H2020	Horizon 2020
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SVEPM	Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
WP	Work Package

## Partner short names

Short name	Organisation
UU	Universiteit Utrecht
UoN	The University of Nottingham
SRUC	Scotland's Rural College
IfA	Innovation for Agriculture
GD	Gezondheidsdienst voor Dieren B.V.
EpiMundi	EpiMundi
accelCH	accelopment Schweiz AG

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## Executive Summary

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This Deliverable is a report focusing on:

- Delivering the Animal disease surveillance cluster event
- Reporting on the findings from discussions and feedback and insights gathered from the interactive sessions

### Objectives of the Deliverable

To provide insights and key takeaways from this networking event for EU-funded projects on data re-use and stakeholder needs in animal health surveillance, organised by the DECIDE project.

The event aimed to bring together the scientific community from EU-funded projects on animal health and welfare fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and discussing key challenges and solutions related to animal health surveillance.

### Activities

Researchers from across the DECIDE network including EU and non-EU funded projects working in the same field of animal disease surveillance came together in Berlin on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 to discuss data re-use and stakeholder needs when developing and implementing animal disease surveillance tools. Speakers gave presentations outlining their projects and the role of data and stakeholder needs in their operations.

In the afternoon, two breakout sessions took place, with a discussion about the challenges and best practices when re-using data as well as a group discussion focusing on stakeholder needs when developing and using animal disease surveillance tools. Attendees were encouraged to voice their opinions and experiences within the breakout groups, with speakers also providing insight while sharing their expertise.

This event was organised by IfA with support from UU and accelCH.

### Outcome

We now have a record of the suggestions of best practice, shared challenges, solutions tailored to meet specific demands and future requirements of the research sector with regards to re-using data and stakeholder needs when developing data-based animal disease surveillance innovation technology. Some important take home messages included:

- Increase funding for the production of re-usable datasets.
- Educate researchers in data management & better communicate data ownership and GDPR compliance.
- Promote EU wide dialogue on animal health data transparency to support broader data-sharing efforts.
- Build trust between the actors involved in the development and use of tools and innovation technologies.
- Engage stakeholders from the early stages of the co-designing process.

### Next steps

Continue collaborations with other projects involving data access and re-use, and stakeholder needs.

## 1 About DECIDE: the Cluster Event organiser

The DECIDE project, an H2020 project started in 2021, and runs for 5 years until 2026, involving 20 partners across 11 countries. The partners bring together expertise in veterinary epidemiology and diagnostics, data science, modelling, economics, animal welfare and the social sciences. The project’s aim is to develop data-driven decision support tools to help farmers, veterinarians, and animal health managers control endemic contagious diseases, including gastrointestinal and respiratory infections in calves, pigs, and poultry, as well as pathogens affecting salmonids. The decision support tools are integrated in existing farm management systems wherever possible and are evaluated in several pilot implementations in pig, poultry, cattle and salmon farms across Europe. The results of DECIDE will lead to improved decisions on disease control to increase animal health and welfare and protect human health and the food chain in Europe and beyond.



The DECIDE project



Start July 1th 2021,  
5 years



20 partners  
in 11 countries



## 2 Animal Disease Surveillance Cluster Event: Description and Agenda

The Animal Disease Cluster Surveillance Cluster event, a networking event on data re-use and stakeholder needs in animal health surveillance, was organised in Charite Universitätsmedizin, Berlin on the 25th of March 2025.

Held at the same venue as the SVEPM 2025 Conference and taking place the day before, the event brought together 30 delegates from the research community working on 7 different EU- and non-EU-funded projects and other relevant initiatives on animal health and welfare. The aims of the event were to foster collaboration, share knowledge and discuss key challenges and solutions related to data re-use and stakeholder needs.

### 2.1 Planning and outreach

Planning for the Animal Disease Surveillance Cluster event began in summer 2024, when partners agreed on the timing and location. It was strategically scheduled for 25 March 2025 in Berlin, Germany, one day prior

to the annual conference of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SVEPM). This timing enabled strong participation from projects affiliated with DECIDE and related initiatives attending the conference.

IfA, with support from UU and accelCH, identified and contacted relevant projects with personalised invitations. Additional promotion via various media channels helped broaden visibility and encourage wider participation.

As a result, representatives from five EU-funded projects attended: DECIDE, aWISH, BIOSECURE, Digi4Live, and TechCare. The event also attracted interest from other initiatives. In recognition of their relevance and shared focus on animal disease surveillance, two non-EU-funded projects Vetmeduni and Doorcas Africa were also invited to join. Their contributions added valuable perspectives and enriched the discussions.

## 2.2 Programme Highlights

The agenda of the day included:

- The Welcome note and introduction to DECIDE project, by Gerdien van Schaik, DECIDE Coordinator
- Beyond DECIDE, 6 Project introductions with a 10-minute presentation for each project including brief introduction, the role of data and/or stakeholder needs, and a Q&A session.
- 2 keynote presentations:
  - Keynote 1: Data access and re-use for animal disease surveillance tools, by Céline Faverjon, Epidemiologist and Senior Consultant, EpiMundi, France, DECIDE WP1 co-leader.
  - Keynote 2: Data-driven tools and stakeholder needs, by Jasmeet Kaler, Professor of Epidemiology and Precision Livestock Informatics, University of Nottingham, UK, DECIDE WP5 co-leader.
- And the breakout sessions inviting attendees to participate, as per their registration either in:
  - The Data access and re-use group, or
  - The Stakeholder needs group

Well in advance of the event and to warm-up broad discussions and bring narratives into the day, we shared 3 questions with the groups and gave them time to prepare their feedback with their own project teams.

In regards with the Data access and re-use session, the topics the group considered to discuss were the following:

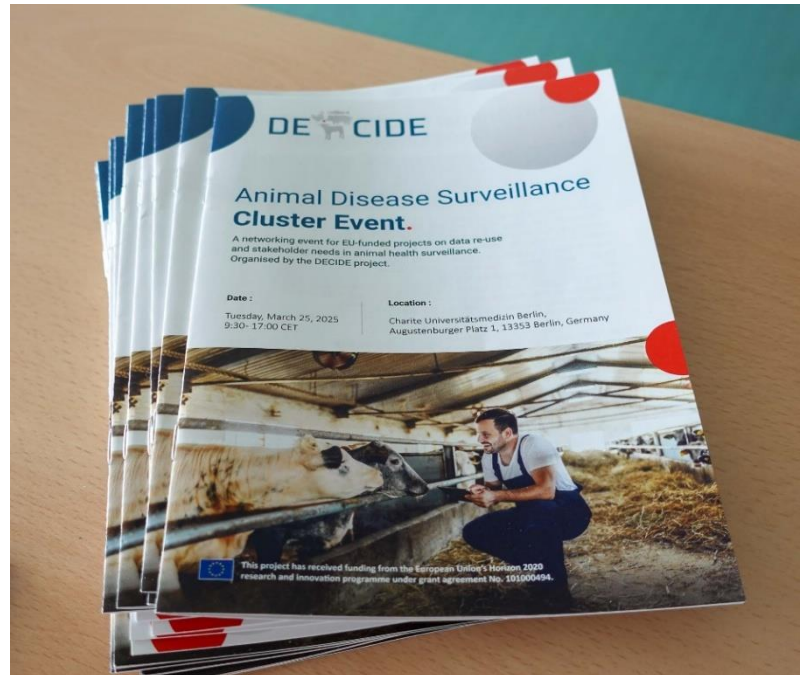
- What is the place of “data re-use” in your project?
- How would you describe the “data culture” and “literacy” in your project?
- What is the plan in terms of data management after the end of your project?

While the Stakeholders’ needs group were invited to discuss and share ideas and experiences reflecting on the following topics:

- How have you generated users’ needs?
- How have you incorporated the users’ needs into your tool or innovation?
- What are the potential, economic, social and environmental impacts of the use of your tool or innovation?

The breakout sessions included interactive activities engaging participants in discussions, sharing ideas and gaining insights into the challenges faced and the solutions implemented in the areas of data reuse for animal health surveillance tools and stakeholder needs. The sessions were moderated by Céline Faverjon and Jasmeet Kaler respectively (as presented in detail below).

At the end of the day, each group leader presented the main points of the interactive sessions to the wider delegation, and the event closed with final notes by Gerdien van Schaik. Further conversations and networking took place during an evening meal in Berlin.



### 3 Project Presentations

#### 3.1 DECIDE Project

Prof. Dr. Gerdien van Schaik, who leads the DECIDE project began by welcoming delegates to Berlin. She highlighted project objectives to integrate science with practice to develop innovative tools that match user needs. Facilitating the control of infectious endemic diseases leading to more sustainable animal production systems. Prof. Dr. Gerdien van Schaik was keen to develop a shared vision between researchers on how data should be used to improve animal health and welfare and use this to drive future research into data driven surveillance. Emphasis was also on how key events such as this cluster event play a role in discussion of challenges and develop solutions.



Figure 1. Gerdien van Schaik at DECIDE cluster event.



Figure 2. Workshop participants during DECIDE presentation.

The concluding remarks highlighted the main points of the DECIDE project and offered food for thought for the discussions that followed throughout the day:

- The DECIDE project integrates sound science with practice, i.e., innovative tools for different users.
- There are large amounts of animal health data, but data access is challenging. A shared vision for future research on the use of data to improve animal health and welfare is needed.
- Output from DECIDE aims to match user needs to facilitate control of infectious endemic diseases.
- Improved control of endemic infectious diseases is an important pillar of sustainable animal production.

### 3.2 aWISH

The aWISH project, presented by Bas Rodenburg, is developing large scale automated welfare monitoring of animal-based indicators on broilers and pigs through the slaughter process. The project works directly with major stakeholders in the meat production chain collecting and processing data to obtain information about animal welfare. This includes carrying out six pilots at commercial slaughterhouses supported by academic partners and tech providers with experts from the livestock sector, government and NGOs, industry and retail also involved in project activities. In the project 70 novel welfare parameters were defined and are measured based on data collected routinely on farm, during transport, but mainly at slaughter. Data exchange occurs through the aWISH platform and feedback is provided to farmers, catchers, transporters and slaughterhouses to improve performance.



Figure 3. Bas Rodenburg at DECIDE cluster event.

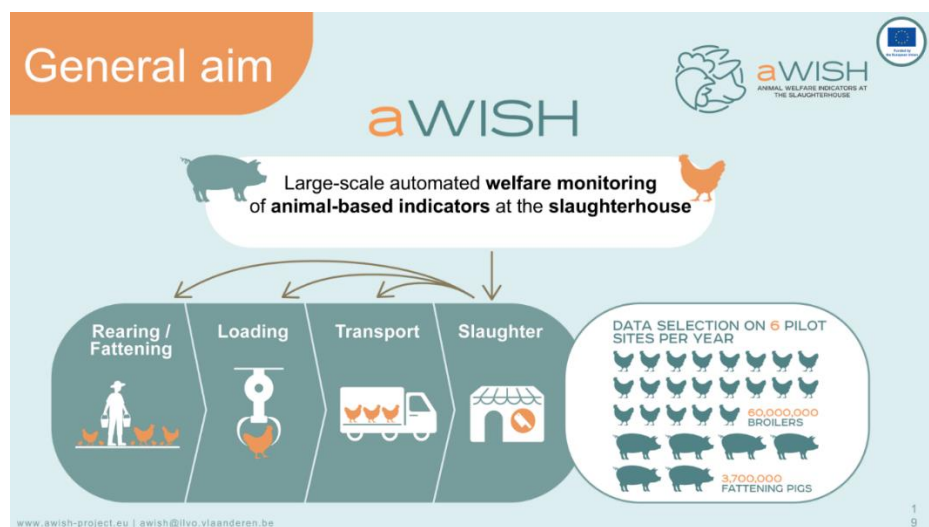


Figure 4. aWISH presentation.

### 3.3 BIOSECURE

The BIOSECURE: FARM2FORK project led by Jeroen Dewulf is actively enhancing livestock biosecurity across Europe. Completed efforts include 399 farm visits to score on-farm biosecurity levels. Ongoing work involves field studies evaluating the effectiveness of biosecurity measures, as well as interviews with stakeholders in Sweden, Spain, and Ireland. The aim of these interviews is to explore conflicts between biosecurity and animal welfare, before identifying solutions. Interventions include co-designed community approaches, individual farmer coaching, and network-based strategies. Stakeholder workshops support knowledge exchange, while future plans involve identifying policy scenarios and business models in Italy, Romania, and Ireland, culminating in a final workshop focused on resolving biosecurity and welfare conflicts.



Figure 5. Jeroen Dewulf at DECIDE cluster event.



## BIOSECURE



Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- **Rationale:** Biosecurity is the cornerstone for management of animal health and disease control
- **Objective:** Improve the capacity of stakeholders to understand, prioritize and implement evidence based, cost-effective, and sustainable biosecurity management systems
- Five objectives, each linked to a specific work package in the project



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Figure 6. BIOSECURE presentation.

### 3.4 Digi4Live

Jarkko Niemi presented Digi4Live, a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action project running from 2024 to 2028 led by the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke). The project involves 16 partners across 11 work packages and aims to strengthen the European livestock sector by promoting digital, data-driven solutions for animal tracking, health, and policy monitoring. It addresses current challenges such as inadequate data harmonisation, standardisation, and interoperability. Digi4Live supports collaboration and stakeholder engagement through case studies, expert panels, surveys, and co-creation workshops. A key focus is understanding stakeholder needs and motivations to share data, ultimately enabling more efficient use of livestock data both in policy and on farm practice.



Figure 7. Jarkko Niemi at DECIDE cluster event.

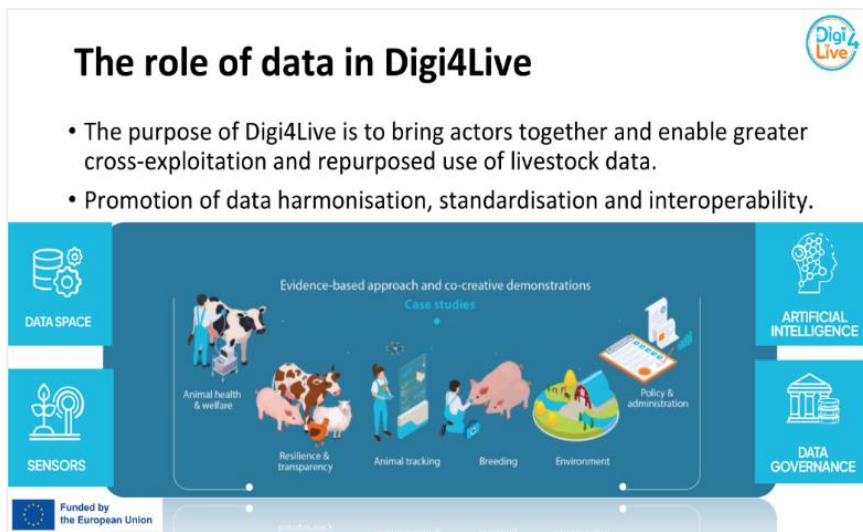


Figure 8. Digi4Live presentation.

### 3.5 TechCare



Figure 9. Claire Morgan-Davies at DECIDE cluster event.

The TechCare project, led by Claire Morgan-Davies (SRUC), integrates innovative technologies across the value chain to enhance small ruminant welfare management. It delivers technologies ready for farm use, while also identifying tools needing further development or wider acceptance. Thirteen potential technologies were assessed, with four tested on commercial farms, including EID (Electronic IDentification) weigh crates and electronic milk meters. Three digital platforms support welfare assessments, data monitoring, and alerts. The project emphasises data access, ownership, GDPR compliance, and stakeholder engagement through co-design, workshops, and training. It also produces welfare guidelines, algorithms, and practical tools tailored to diverse production systems.

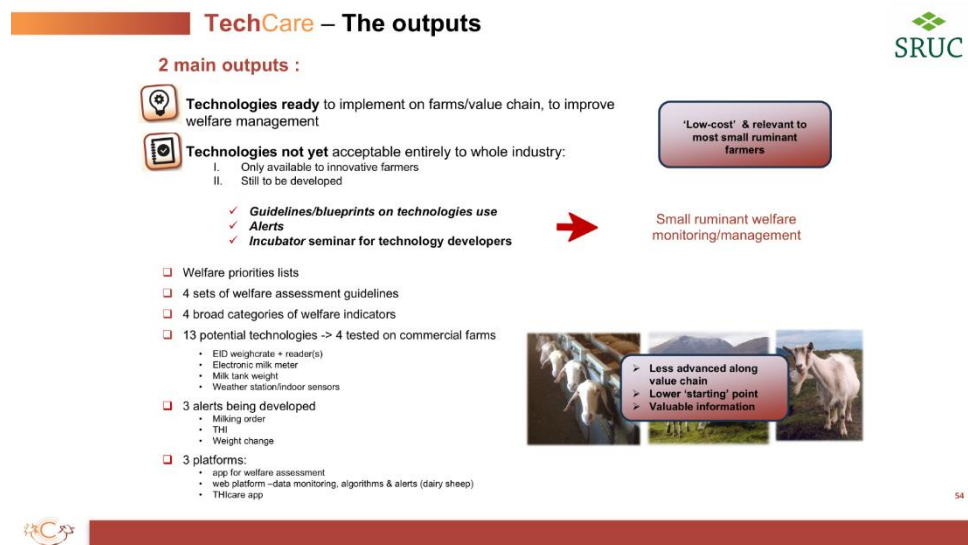


Figure 10. TechCare presentation.

### 3.6 Doorcas Africa

The Data-Driven Disease Surveillance platform presented by Odole abayomi Sunday, CEO of Doorcas Africa, aims to provide farmers with a platform to report disease outbreaks and access advice and training from vets. The project aims to address key data challenges such as inconsistent reporting, lack of standardisation, and time-consuming data cleaning. Solutions include AI-driven data cleaning, mobile-friendly reporting tools, and collaboration with veterinary agencies. The platform ensures that farmers have control and ownership of their data while using anonymised reports to report outbreaks and support disease mapping. The platform uses predictive modelling to forecast disease outbreaks and aims to expand coverage to benefit the maximum number of livestock farmers. Participation by farmers is also incentivised while the platform fosters global collaboration through research partnerships, aiming to transform livestock disease surveillance and strengthen animal health systems across Africa.



Figure 11. Odole abayomi Sunday at DECIDE cluster event.

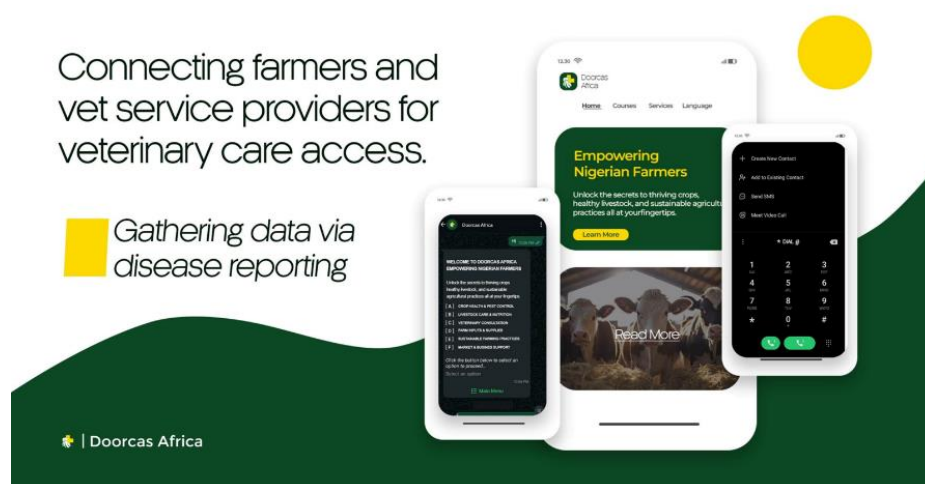


Figure 12. Doorcas presentation.

### 3.7 Vetmeduni

Vetmeduni researcher Gavrila Amadea Puspitarani presented their project carrying out network analysis of animal movement data and infectious disease epidemiology. The team is exploring how pig trade dynamics influence disease spread in Austria’s swine industry. Applying network science, farms, markets, and slaughterhouses are modelled as nodes, with animal trades as weighted edges. The Austrian pig trade network is found to be weakly connected, sparse, and exhibit small-world properties. Disease modelling reveals that highly connected holdings (hubs) play critical roles in transmission. Strengthening biosecurity at these hubs and monitoring high-import regions can improve early detection and control of potential disease outbreaks, such as African Swine Fever.



Figure 13. Gavrila Amadea Puspitarani at DECIDE cluster event.

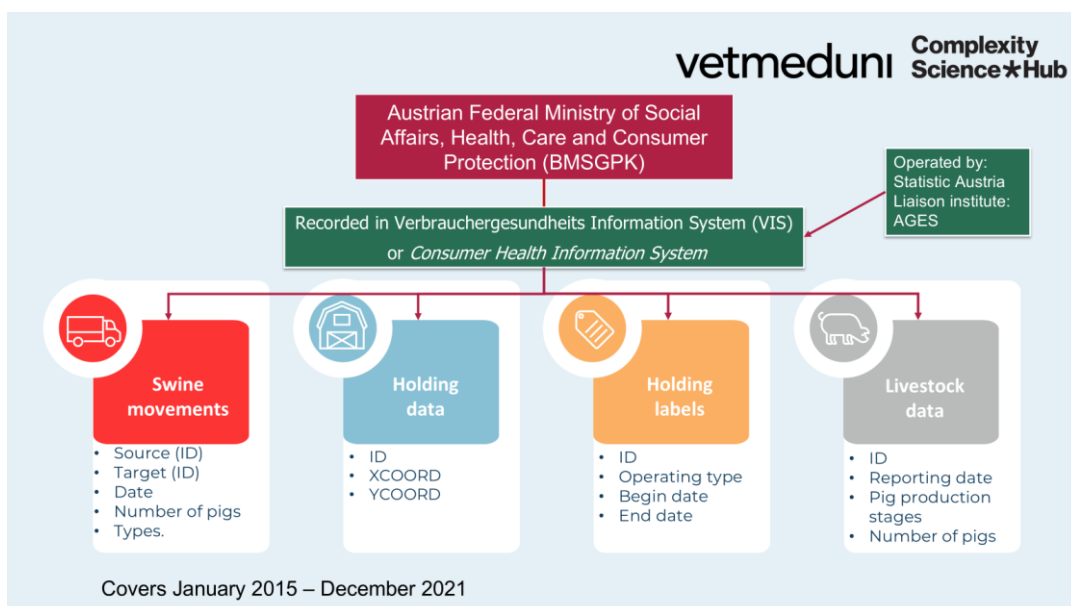


Figure 14. Vetmeduni presentation.

## 4 Breakout session I: Data access and re-use

Data re-use has the potential to significantly benefit research by maximising the value and use of existing datasets. However, despite potential benefits, data re-use is uncommon within animal health surveillance. During the breakout session on data re-use led by Dr. Céline Faverjon, members of the research community came together to explore the barriers that limit data re-use.

Participants shared personal experiences, explaining that a range of factors prevent re-usable data being produced. From financial pressures to a lack of data management knowledge, to the fear of sensitive data falling into the wrong hands, there are many barriers to producing re-usable data. The group identified the reasons behind these obstructions and suggested potential solutions. These included changing the data management culture, providing more incentives to produce re-usable data and driving budgetary changes to make the significant work required to produce detailed high-quality datasets possible.

In this report we explore the insights shared during the session and outline practical steps the research community can take to make data re-use more feasible.



Figure 15. Workshop participants during the breakout session I.

### 4.1 Identifying the problem

A range of barriers preventing the re-use of data were identified by the group from data culture to privacy. Financial factors were also a re-occurring theme throughout, causing many barriers to data re-use. Identification of each barrier would subsequently allow the group to find solutions.

Firstly, the group shared their own data culture and literacy and the impact it has on their ability to share data. When exploring the knowledge areas required, ranging from statistical analysis to ethics and culture most admitted there were gaps in their understanding of some of the data literacy skill areas outlined in Figure 16 leading to possible omissions in the research they produce, especially if there are gaps in knowledge within their wider team. They also shared similar feedback regarding a lack of knowledge with the research communities understanding of data management and reported there is significant training required with a change in data management culture needed.

The use and non-use of data management plans gave an insight into the practical problems associated organising and directing the collection and production of re-usable data. While there was shared recognition that data management plans are useful, their time-consuming nature makes them unfeasible within tight project budgets. The suggestion was made that data plans could be less detailed making their production faster but used more throughout projects to add value to research.

The time required to produce and explain re-usable data was highlighted as a key factor in the lack of production of re-usable data. Productivity demands and again, the lack of available budget in many projects means time is not available. Without producing clear explanations of datasets, the risk of using inappropriate data or mis interpreting data is higher, leading to researchers being less likely to continue re-use if outcomes are poor.

It was observed that many researchers are unaware that data produced is not of adequate quality for re-use. The reason for this could be due to poor of support and communication between colleagues or simply a lack of focus on improving the quality of datasets. The absence of incentives to encourage producing re-usable data was again highlighted as key in people not being driven to spend time explaining and improving datasets.

The high costs incurred when producing data were also marked as a reason for private companies not sharing data leading to a lack of collaboration between private and public researchers. Alongside the costly nature of collecting data, strict GDPR rules stating that data can only be used for a specific aim, also lead to private companies are hesitant to share data for re-use. Improved accessibility could prevent wasting costly resources on data collection which may have already been carried out by another group.



Figure 16. Delavenne, C., Cameron, A., & Faverjon, C. (2023). Requiem for UnFAIR Data. How data literate are animal health epidemiologists? The Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SVEPM), Toulouse. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1>.

## 4.2 Characterising the problem

When characterising the challenges surrounding data management, sharing, and re-use, the group was asked to reflect on why, as a research community, we are not better in utilising data. Discussions centred around three key areas: environmental factors, people, and the data itself.

Environmental factors were identified as having a significant influence on limiting data re-use. Research projects, often constrained by tight funding and timelines, typically prioritise outputs over the development of datasets for future use. As a result, tasks such as improving data descriptions, ensuring quality, and enhancing interoperability are not undertaken. Culture also plays a crucial role. Where teams receive adequate support,

training, and time to develop high quality data management plans, the likelihood of producing re-usable data increases. It was also noted that introducing new perspectives and skills into a team can improve data management processes and skillsets.

In animal-based research, external concerns can prevent data sharing. The risk of data being misused by activists or potentially leading to protests and reputational damage for the industry was highlighted as a major barrier. Such concerns can lead to data being withheld.

People are central to advancing data re-use. While there is growing recognition of the benefits of transparency, many researchers remain reluctant to share data due to a desire for control or concerns over GDPR compliance. Better communication around data anonymisation, intended use, and developing trust from stakeholders is key. Additionally, many researchers struggle to locate suitable datasets due to poor metadata and inadequate descriptions. Improving metadata practices across institutions would significantly enhance the discoverability and re-usability of existing data.

### 4.3 Solutions

Identifying practical solutions to enable data re-use is critical for addressing the challenges facing the animal science research sector. The group discussed a range of options. These included changes in journal requirements for submitting data and metadata, increased financial and technical support, and data management training. While researchers agreed that there is substantial potential to enhance data re-use, achieving this will require a significant shift in current practices.

A key step involves allocating sufficient funding for training and technical infrastructure. Producing re-usable data requires time, expertise, and ongoing support. Upskilling research teams in data management through both internal training and external expertise was seen as essential. Project-specific training was suggested to increase the relevance of training to teams' work, while the benefits of bringing in external experts to broaden perspectives and promote best practices could drive improvement in producing re-usable datasets.

Incentives and recognition also emerged as key motivators. Journals could lead change by mandating that data, metadata, and accompanying code should be made available upon article submission. Universities, likewise, could encourage better data practices by recognising the contributions of data management teams, helping drive ownership and accountability.

Concerns about data ownership and the potential misuse of sensitive information were consistently raised. Better communication about how sensitive data is handled, and clearer distinctions between personal and non-personal data under GDPR, were seen as crucial. Researchers suggested promoting EU-level dialogue on increasing the transparency of animal health data, while allowing data owners to retain control through trusted data-sharing platforms.

Improving the clarity of description of datasets was also identified as a priority. Clear definitions between terms such as "heifer" and "cow" which change between research groups and countries are key to ensure data can be correctly interpreted. Clear descriptions of how the data should be used, along with accompanying code or pseudocode, would further reduce the time spent understanding datasets and while improving their re-usability.

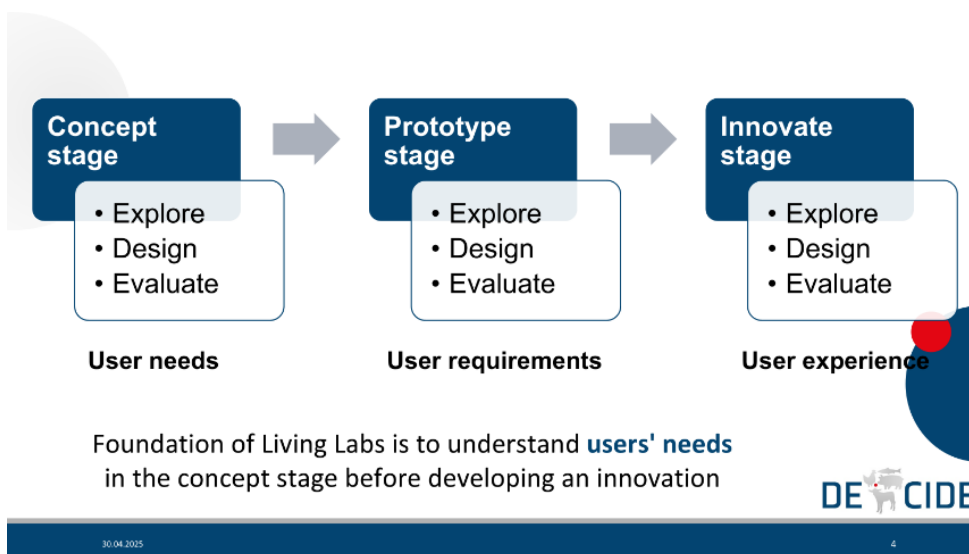


Figure 17. Workshop participants during breakout sessions.

## 5 Breakout session II: Data-driven tools and stakeholder needs

In her key-note presentation Prof. Jasmeet Kaler introduced the Living Lab approach we have used in the DECIDE project and explained how this methodology could be applied. The methodology involves stakeholders at all stages of development, guides the planning, execution and evaluation of a project in a user centred and co-creative manner.

The foundation of Living Labs is to understand users' needs in the concept stage before developing an innovation. Those that develop agricultural technologies tend to design them based on their own values and normative assumptions which could result in uneven adoption of innovations by farmers and may focus on positive impacts forgetting about potential harms. Instead, we should focus on users' motivations and values. FormIT Living Labs, one of the most developed types of Living Labs, have 3 stages (concept, prototype, and innovate), and each have 3 phases (explore, design, and evaluate) (Ståhlbröst, A. and M. Holst. 2012. The Living Lab Methodology Handbook).



So, what are user “needs”? They relate to overall goals, motivations, and desires and tend to be broader and less influenced by trends compared with technical requirements.

Here is a practical example:

*Password protected device is a technical requirement*



*Security is the need*

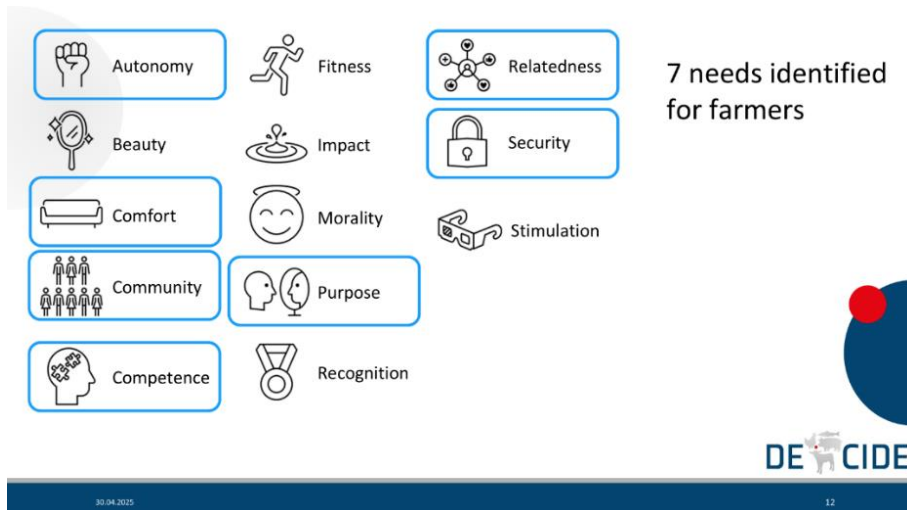
Jasmeet presented the template of the 13 fundamental needs which according to the typology of needs (Desmet and Fokkinga, 2020) is used as a repertoire for a human-centred design of needs. Here is the menu:

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Autonomy   | Purpose     |
| Beauty     | Recognition |
| Comfort    | Relatedness |
| Community  | Security    |
| Competence | Stimulation |
| Fitness    | Impact      |
| Morality   |             |

Identification of user needs can be very challenging for the user as they tend to start thinking about solutions. Yet, the needs can be identified from the dialogue the users produce regarding their experiences, goals, and motivations. A task that requires qualitative approaches so that users provide rich narratives.

To explore the concept stage (needs finding approach) of Living Lab methodology, focus groups with farmers were organised in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and UK, engaged in interactive discussions to identify their technology and data needs to improve herd health. A qualitative survey with vets in Ireland and the UK also took place to access veterinarians’ needs in relation to technology on farms.

Following the user centred needs typology, out of 13 fundamental needs, 7 were identified for farmers in relation to technologies for herd health:



We also identified three main needs for veterinarians:



Worth noticing is that veterinarians have the need for impact, which farmers did not have. They needed influence over cattle health and welfare as well as the way technologies were used on farms.

It is also important to go beyond just thinking about the individual behaviour we would like to change when we are developing innovations. Social, ethical and cultural implications of innovations and technologies developed and used are important to consider ensuring responsible innovation. For example, we showed how farmers’ self-identity is shaped by their animals. Farmers project their identity through managing their animals. They do so by using self-management techniques which include inspecting their animals’ data and documenting changes in their practices (Doidge, C., Frössling, J., Dórea, F. C., Ordell, A., Vidal, G., & Kaler, J. (2023). Social and ethical implications of data and technology use on farms: a qualitative study of Swedish dairy and pig farmers. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 10, 1171107).

As a take home message, Prof. Jasmeet Kaler shared the following points:

When developing new technologies or innovations, it is important to understand:

- How does an innovation/technology align with user needs?
- What are the social and ethical implications?
  - What new user practices will emerge, what other practices are impacted, and what practices will disintegrate?
- Some methods of facilitating this were shown and practiced in the breakout session.

## 5.1 Aims of the session and interactive activities

Prof. Jasmeet Kaler, who moderated the session, welcomed the participants and explained the aims of the workshop as follows:

- To understand the concept of user needs.
- To reflect on how the projects' innovations may fulfil, or harm user needs and identify potential design opportunities.
- To share experiences in engaging users in the creation of innovations.



Figure 18. Jasmeet Kaler at the DECIDE cluster event.

### 5.1.1 Understanding the concept of user needs

The group was invited to participate in a card sorting exercise where cards featured various types and shapes of chairs. Participants were asked to decide which chair represented which need by sorting on a large piece of paper. An exciting exercise everyone enjoyed as a method to start thinking about the definitions of each need and how these can be applied to different designs and technology developments.



Figure 19. An interactive activity based on Typology of Thirteen Fundamental Needs for Human-Centred Design by Desmet and Fokkinga, 2020.

5.1.2 Reflecting on how your innovation may fulfil or harm user needs and identify potential design opportunities

Participants were invited to describe the innovation developed in their projects and the desired user behaviour. To do so, we were split in smaller groups and on a large piece of paper and on the middle box we were asked to write and reflect upon:

- What was our innovation/tool/technology?
- Who was the intended user?
- How did we think the user would behave with the innovation?

This was followed by a whole-group discussion to understand what innovations or tools each sub-group were reflecting on.

As a next step we focused on the top two boxes of the paper, and we were encouraged to think about:

In the left box:

- What current needs do you think your innovation fulfils?

And in the right box:

- What needs could be harmed by your innovation?
- Harmed needs of other potential user types
- How could harms be reduced?

Diving further into the designing opportunities for innovation technologies and tools we started thinking about and added our notes and ideas in the bottom left box by dwelling on:

- How could we strengthen the needs that are already fulfilled by the innovation?
- How other sub-needs could be fulfilled?

Thoughts and ideas about:

- How could the innovation fulfil new needs?
- How would the innovation become even more relevant to users?

were added in the bottom right box.

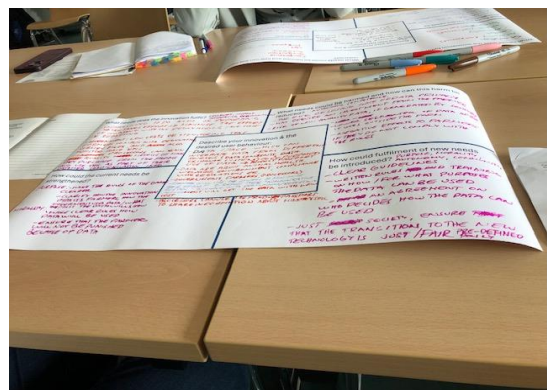


Figure 20. Impressions from interactive activity during breakout session II.

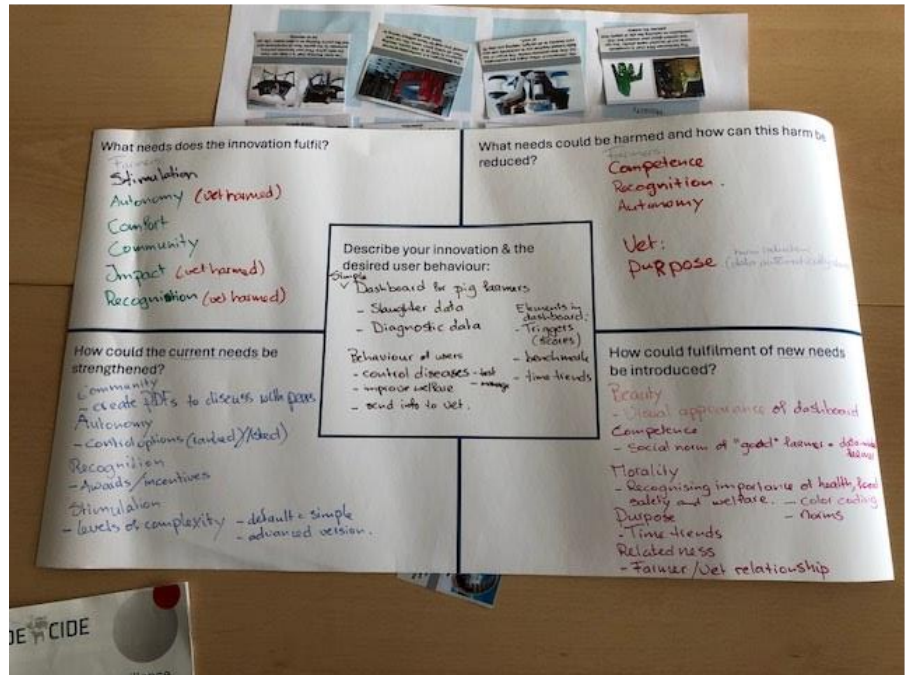


Figure 21. Example sheet (above) and participants (below) during interactive activity.

### 5.1.3 Sharing your experiences in engaging users in the creation of innovations

To fulfil this aim of the session, we were encouraged to discuss and actively engage with the group sharing our experiences and knowledge on how we have generated users' needs within our projects, or we are planning to do so in the future.

Plans and practical examples were discussed on:

- Which methods were used and whether they were different for different stakeholders?
- Potential engagement with harder-to-reach or marginalised groups?
- What worked well? What didn't work so well?

How had we incorporated the users' needs into the tool or innovation developed was the focus of the next round of discussions where we thought about:

- how users' needs/opinions/values have influenced our research, and
- How have our initial assumptions or motivations changed in the process

Finally, we reflected on the potential impacts of our tool or innovation reviewing aspects such as:

- Stakeholder behaviour changed?
- Intended and unintended (positive or negative) consequences
- Consequences to those who are not the direct user of the tool
- Economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts

To help gathering all the ideas and narratives participants were asked to use post its on A2 sheets of paper, hanging on the wall, thus grabbing the opportunity to stretch our legs and moving around with our thinking hats on.



Figure 22. Interactive exercise during breakout session II.

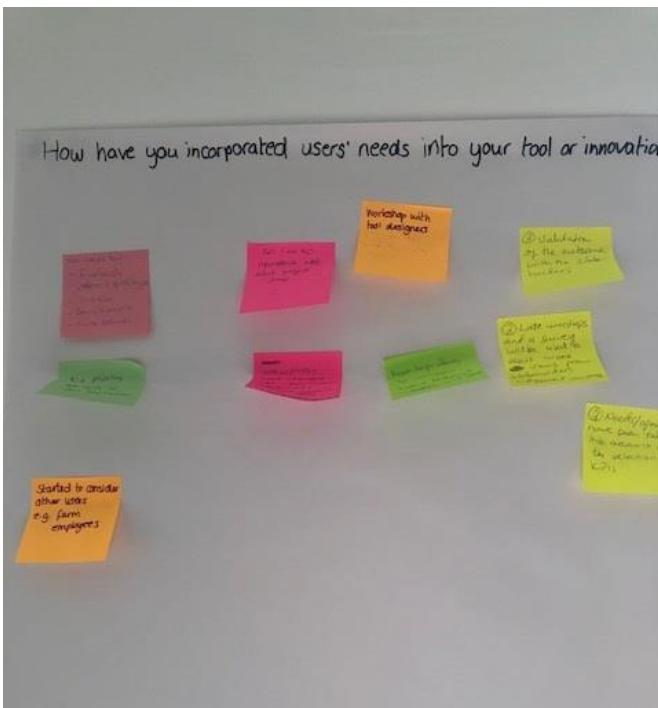
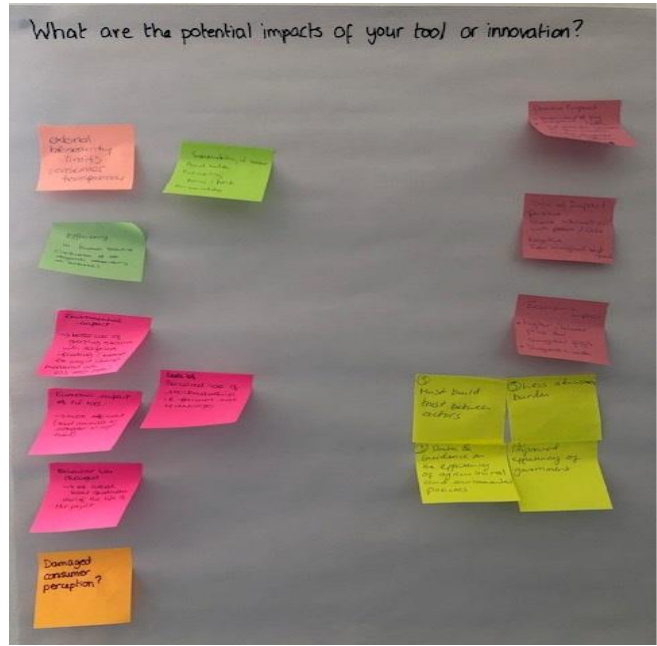


Figure 23. Impressions from interactive exercise during breakout session II.

## 6 Key takeaways

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### 6.1 Data re-use

The leaders and participants of the data re-use discussion group provided valuable insight into the barriers that prevent data re-use while putting forward solutions to improve data-handling practices. The group identified and characterised the problems that cause a lack of data reuse before putting forward and discussing solutions.

Firstly, the group identified why re-usable data is not regularly produced and transferred for use across multiple research projects. Many of the reasons revolved around the lack of data management planning which would drive forward the quality and details contained in datasets and therefore increasing their reusability. The main reasons highlighted were:

- Financial and time constraints across both the private and public sector.
- Lack of training in data management results in knowledge gaps and research omissions.
- No culture of driving re-usability coupled with a lack of rewarding mechanisms meaning motivation to create re-usable datasets is low.
- Unwillingness to share data both due to the costly nature of collecting primary data and the fear of data getting into the wrong hands and causing reputational damage for the industry and institutions.
- Poor metadata and data descriptions make identifying and using relevant research difficult.

Many solutions were identified to ensure data re-use could increase in the future. Most solutions centred around good communication between stakeholders to develop trusted data sharing and clarity when interpreting and re-using data. Provisions of sufficient funding to upskill and pay for the extended time taken to improve the quality of data sets was also highlighted. The main improvements suggested by the group were:

- Increasing funding and technical infrastructure to support production of re-usable datasets.
- Project specific training educating researchers in data management with continuous training with internal and external experts.
- Better communication about data ownership and GDPR compliance.
- Improving descriptions and metadata alongside providing code alongside datasets. This could be driven by journals requiring detail with all submissions.
- Promotion of EU level dialogue on animal health data transparency to support broader data-sharing efforts.

### 6.2 Stakeholder needs

A range of decision support tools at different readiness levels were discussed during the session. From the well-developed ones such as the biocheck biosecurity app, or EID weigh scales to the ones that are more to the beginning of their development as the pig dashboard or the data integration tool. Some were focusing on farmers as end users and others on both farmers and veterinarians.

The environmental, economic and social impacts of using the tools/innovations were discussed focusing on the efficiency of economic, environmental and human resources and on improving the use and sharing of information between peers (for e.g., vets). Improved efficiency of government policies was also mentioned

as an impact of using and working with these tools with data and guidance on the efficiency of the agricultural policies as the main focal point.

Common theme in the discussions of user needs and expectations, was how the tools could be used without harming the autonomy of decisions and practices. It was pointed out that although the sub-need of comfort can be fulfilled in terms of making some information easier to obtain and accessed, autonomy in decisions could be harmed as applying some new technologies and platforms need lots more to do and often increase the administrative burden.

The issue of trust between the actors involved in the development and use of the tool

has been raised and the need for stakeholders' engagement from the early stages of the designing process has been stressed.

Discussion about how we incorporate the user needs into tool or innovation brought some very interesting insights from the audience on ideas and methods followed and tested in practice or as part of the co-design process, bringing together lived experience and lived expertise:

- Workshops with the tool designers
- Online survey to gather more views from stakeholders from different countries
- Go/no Go approach after each step in the development process
- Benchmarking
- Stakeholders' needs and opinions gathered in relation to the incorporation of KPIs
- Validation of the outcome of the evaluation with the stakeholders
- Started considering other users of the tool, for e.g., farm employees

Finally the issue of how we strengthen and introduce the stakeholders' needs following the typology of needs while keeping in mind the responsible innovation approach, was discussed with interesting insights shared among the group:

- Clear guidelines for how data are used, this will improve the autonomy fundamental need
- Providing opportunities to share things with others, share tools, will create the circumstances to improve community and relatedness.
- Follow positive communication rather than punishing farmers for bad results, will improve comfort
- Competence will be further improved through training
- Recognition of achievements with awards, incentives
- Human animal relations, not only related but sometimes they shape farmers' self-identity

## 7 Social media feedback

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The cluster event has received positive feedback and generated an extensive reach out from the participants on social media too. Here are some highlights:

*'a great start of the week joining the workshop of DECIDE Project titled "Data driven decision support tools for managing infectious diseases". thanks to all the organisers! Interesting insights were drawn that will benefit EUPAHW , BIOSECURE, COST BETTER and Digi4Live! Cool colleagues, Berlin and SVEPM2025 is loading :)'*

**@Ilias Chantziaras**

*'Very inspiring to join the DECIDE H2020 Cluster event yesterday on data re-use and stakeholder needs in European projects focusing on animal health, animal welfare and biosecurity! Happy to present the aWISH project there and engage in nice discussions and meet new people!'*

**@Bas Rodenburg**

*'The DECIDE H2020 cluster event in Berlin has been a great occasion to present our TechCare project. The afternoon workshops on data exchanges and on stakeholders' needs have also been enlightening. Thanks again for inviting me!'*

**@Claire Morgan-Davies**

*A big thank to DECIDE H2020 for organizing an interesting #Cluster event and for all colleagues and projects for fruitful discussions. Digi4Live project was happy to participate in the event.*

**@Jarkko Niemi**

*It was a pleasure to participate in such an event in Berlin, organized with the support of our partner, the University of Utrecht. In addition to outstanding project presentations, including the aWISH project, we engaged in exciting breakout sessions—Data Access and Re-use for Animal Disease Surveillance Tools and Data-driven Tools and Stakeholder Needs. We had the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas and to be part of something truly fantastic. I am grateful to have been part of such an amazing team and look forward to future collaboration!*

**@Jelena Jojić**

*Shaping the Future of Animal Health! 🍌🍌*

*Digi4Live was delighted to have Dr Jarkko Niemi, head coordinator, represent the project at the DECIDE H2020 cluster event in Berlin. The event focused on data re-use and stakeholder needs in animal health surveillance!*

*Digi4Live joined five other innovative projects, BIOSECURE, aWISH, TechCare project, Doorcas Africa ( Start Accelerator '25 ) and Complexity Science Hub, to exchange ideas, share insights and strengthen collaboration in animal health surveillance. 🍌💡*

*Thank you to Innovation for Agriculture, Utrecht University and accelopment for organising this insightful event.*

***Digi4Live project LinkedIn page***

## 8 Annex

### 8.1 Event Agenda

## Animal Disease Surveillance Cluster Event.

A networking event for EU-funded projects on data re-use and stakeholder needs in animal health surveillance. Organised by the DECIDE project.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
9:30 - 17:00 CTT

**Location:** Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Augustenburger Platz 1, 13353 Berlin, Germany

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101020094.

## About Animal Health Surveillance Cluster Event.

Animal Health Surveillance Cluster Event is organised by Innovation for Agriculture in collaboration with Utrecht University and accepatment for DECIDE – a Horizon 2020 project for the development of tools for data-driven control and prioritisation of endemic contagious animal diseases.

Held at the same venue as the SVEFM Conference and taking place the day before, this event aims to bring together the scientific community from EU-funded projects on animal health and welfare. The focus will be on fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and discussing key challenges and solutions related to animal health surveillance.

### Key Topics

- Data access and re-use for animal disease surveillance tools
- Data-driven tools and stakeholder needs

### Our Approach

The agenda includes keynote presentations as well as breakout sessions, allowing participants to engage in discussions on data access and stakeholder behaviour. Together, we aim to exchange ideas and gain insights into the challenges faced and the solutions implemented in these areas.

### Who Should Attend?

Scientific community from EU-funded projects on animal health and welfare. We invite two to four participants from each project to contribute to the sessions. Young scientists and early-career researchers are especially encouraged to attend, as this event provides a valuable networking opportunity and a chance to stimulate future research and collaborations.

→ To ensure meaningful discussions and a productive event, we invite you to review the "warm-up" questions for each session on pages 8-10 in preparation for the event.

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## About DECIDE the Cluster Event organiser.

**Horizon 2020 project**  
5 years, 2021-2026

**Decision support for endemic respiratory and gastro-intestinal disease control in pigs, poultry and cattle, and specific pathogens in salmonids.**

**20 partners, 11 European countries**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101020094.

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## Programme.

Tuesday | 25 March 2025

- 9:30 - 10:00 **Coffee & registration**
- 10:00 - 10:10 **Welcome note**  
by Gerdiër van Schaik, DECIDE coordinator
- 10:10 - 11:10 **Project introductions**  
Each project has a 10-minute session, including a project introduction, the role of data and/or stakeholder needs, and a Q&A. Please share your slides in advance.
- 11:10 - 11:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:30 - 11:50 **Keynote 1: Data access and re-use for animal disease surveillance tools**  
by Céline Faverjon, Epidemiologist and Senior Consultant, Epimundi, France
- 11:50 - 12:10 **Keynote 2: Data-driven tools and stakeholder needs**  
by Jasmeer Kaler, Professor of Epidemiology and Precision Livestock Informatics, University of Nottingham, UK
- 12:10 - 13:10 **Lunch**

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**Breakout sessions**

**Data access and re-use group**

- 13:10 - 15:15 • Broad warm-up discussion based on the questions outlined on page 5
- Interactive activity on Data-driven decision support tools: challenges and best practices in Data access

Moderated by Céline Faverjon

**Stakeholder needs group**

- Broad warm-up discussion based on the questions outlined on page 6
- Interactive activity on Data-driven decision support tools: challenges and best practices in Stakeholder behaviour

Moderated by Jasmeel Kaler

15:15 - 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 - 16:15 **Presentation by the Data access group**

16:15 - 16:45 **Presentation by the Stakeholder needs group**

16:45 - 17:00 **Final notes**  
by Gerdien van Schaik, DEC DE coordinator

17:00 **Networking and dinner**

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## Speakers.




**Prof. Dr. Gerdien van Schaik**  
Professor in Monitoring and Surveillance of Farm Animal Health at Utrecht University, NL  
& DECIDE coordinator

Prof. dr. Gerdien van Schaik obtained an MSc in Animal Science at Wageningen University, the Netherlands with specializations in Veterinary Epidemiology and a PhD in Animal Health Economics at the same university. From 2009 to 2021, she headed the Epidemiology group of Rijksvet Geneeskunde (RvG), a contract research organization with a large veterinary diagnostic laboratory. RvG runs voluntary disease control programs as well as the national surveillance program. In 2015, she was appointed a part-time chair in Monitoring and Surveillance of Farm Animal Health at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Utrecht University. Since 2021, she coordinates the European funded H2020 project called DECIDE and combines this with her position as a senior researcher at RvG. Her dual appointment provides her with both solid scientific knowledge and practical experience in animal health surveillance.




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**Dr. Céline Faverjon**  
Epidemiologist and Senior Consultant, EpiMundi, FR

Dr. Faverjon is a senior consultant in epidemiology and veterinary public health at EpiMundi, a private consulting company based in France. Céline graduated from the National Veterinary School of Alfort in 2011 and completed a PhD in risk-based surveillance for vector-borne diseases, enhancing her quantitative skills and interest in data mining and disease surveillance. She then worked at the University of Bern on integrated disease surveillance, data validation, and transdisciplinary approaches. Céline joined EpiMundi in 2019 and became in 2021 part of the European-funded H2020 project DECIDE, as co-leader of the Work package focusing on data access and integration.



**Prof. Jasmeel Kaler**  
Professor of Epidemiology and Precision Livestock Informatics, University of Nottingham, UK

Dr. Kaler is a Professor in Epidemiology and Precision Livestock Informatics, leading the Ruminant Population Health research area. Her main area of research interest is epidemiology of livestock diseases through use of "big data". The focus of her research is to use data / big data to understand patterns that can be used to advance our understanding of livestock health, welfare and behaviour. Jasmeel also studies stakeholder decision-making, particularly how farmers and vets perceive risk and adopt new technologies. Jasmeel earned a Master's in Veterinary Epidemiology from the Royal Veterinary College (2001) and a PhD from the University of Warwick (2008). After a postdoctoral fellowship at Warwick, she joined the University of Nottingham in 2010. Since 2021, she has been part of the European-funded H2020 project DECIDE.

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## Warm-up questions.

### Data access and re-use for animal disease surveillance tools

To ensure meaningful discussions and a productive event, we invite you to review and discuss the following questions with your project partners in advance.

- 1 What is the place of "data re-use" in your project?**

"Data re-use" is the data used in your research project to conduct research, but not directly generated by the project.

*Examples of data you might be reusing in your project are: population or mortality data provided by governmental agencies, diagnostic data provided by private laboratories, veterinary records, production data generated by farmers, outcomes of a meteorological model generated by other researchers.*

*Examples of data you are NOT re-using but directly creating are: output of a questionnaire or a field survey you have implemented as part of your project, laboratory tests conducted only for the purpose of your project, models outcomes.*

  - What is the proportion of data used in your project, which has been created as part of the project vs generated by others (i.e., see definitions of "data re-use" above)
  - Difficulties experienced and the solutions implemented focusing on 1) data accessibility and 2) data management (i.e., time needed to understand these data created by others, data cleaning, processing etc)
- 2 How would you describe the "data culture" and "literacy" in your project?**
  - Proportion of partners very (or not at all) comfortable with terms like metadata, ontologies, FAIR principles, API, GDPR, data security, data ethics
  - Overall interest (and skills) in data science related questions
  - General engagement for the development and maintenance of the Data Management Plan
  - Challenges you may have faced on this topic (e.g., technical skills, resources available) and how you may have addressed them

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