

H2020-SFS-2018-2020

DECIDE

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

Deliverable 6.10

Final event

WP6 – Communication activities and dissemination and exploitation of results

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AI	Artificial Intelligence
DG AGRI	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
DoA	Description of Action
EU	European Union
FESASS	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
PRRS	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome
UECBV	European Livestock and Meat Trades Union
WP	Work Package

Partner short names

Short name	Organisation
UU	Universiteit Utrecht
UCPH	Københavns Universitet
UGent	Universiteit Gent
UoL	The University of Liverpool
ETHZ	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
UoN	The University of Nottingham
SVA	Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt
INRAE	Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement
NVI	Veterinærinstituttet – Norwegian Veterinary Institute
IRTA	Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries
SRUC	Scotland's Rural College
AHI	Animal Health Ireland Initiative
IDELE	Institut de l'Elevage
IfA	Innovation for Agriculture
GD	Gezondheidsdienst voor Dieren B.V.
EpiMundi	EpiMundi
SLW	SLW Biolab s.c.
LELY	Lely Industries N.V.
accelCH	acclompment Schweiz AG
HFP	HF Partners
UEDIN	The University of Edinburgh

Executive Summary

This deliverable has been developed as part of the work of WP6 and reports on the organisation, implementation and outcomes of the DECIDE Final Event, held on 10 June 2026 in Brussels under the theme **"From Insights to Implementation"**. It documents:

- the planning, promotion and delivery of the final project event;
- the participation of key stakeholders and the presentation of DECIDE results and decision-support tools.

Objectives of the Deliverable

This deliverable aims to:

- document how the DECIDE Final Event fulfilled the objectives defined in the DoA;
- provide an overview of the event programme, stakeholder participation and communication activities;
- summarise the main presentations, discussions and key messages;
- demonstrate the contribution of the event to the dissemination, exploitation and future uptake of DECIDE results.

Activities

The reported activities include:

- the planning and coordination of the event by the consortium,
- the implementation of communication and promotional activities through online, print and targeted stakeholder outreach,
- the organisation of scientific presentations, interactive tool workshops, poster sessions and panel discussions, and
- the engagement with researchers, veterinarians, policymakers, industry representatives and European stakeholder organisations.

Outcome

The DECIDE Final Event successfully showcased the project's scientific achievements, decision-support tools and implementation pathways to approximately 70 participants representing research, policy, veterinary practice, industry and animal health organisations across Europe. The event strengthened dialogue between developers and end users, promoted the exploitation of DECIDE outputs and collected valuable stakeholder perspectives on future implementation and sustainability.

Next steps

The results and feedback gathered during the event will support the continued dissemination and exploitation of DECIDE outcomes beyond the project's lifetime.

The lessons learned regarding stakeholder engagement, practical usability, data availability and sustainability provide a foundation for further development, adoption and scaling of DECIDE tools by researchers, policymakers, veterinary services and the livestock sector.

1 Introduction

[DECIDE](#) is a Horizon 2020 research and innovation project that has developed and validated data-driven decision-support tools to support the control, prioritisation and management of endemic contagious animal diseases in pigs, poultry, cattle and salmon. Throughout its implementation, the project has integrated epidemiology, economics, social sciences and stakeholder engagement to help policymakers, veterinarians and the livestock sector make informed, transparent and sustainable disease-control decisions across Europe. Stakeholder engagement has been central to DECIDE, as the practical relevance and uptake of decision-support tools depend on their alignment with the needs, constraints and expectations of end users. The project has therefore worked closely with representatives from the livestock sector, the veterinary profession, the research community, industry, and policy environments to ensure that its outputs are scientifically robust, operationally relevant and applicable across different European production systems. To present the project results and outcomes to all target groups and to hold discussions with members of international, national or regional organisations, the consortium organised **the DECIDE Final Event** under the banner “**From Insights to Implementation**”. The event was held on 10 June in Brussels and provided a dedicated platform to present DECIDE’s main achievements, demonstrate the relevance of its tools and approaches, and discuss future pathways for their uptake beyond the project lifetime.



Figure 1. DECIDE Final event banner.

The event brought together European- and national-level stakeholders, including researchers, veterinarians, industry representatives, policymakers and sectoral organisations. Through presentations, stakeholder discussions and a dedicated panel discussion, the event created an opportunity to reflect on project outcomes, assess their practical implications and identify opportunities for further implementation and sustainability. As a final communication and dissemination activity, the event played an important role in consolidating DECIDE’s results and making them accessible to relevant target groups and contributing to strengthening the visibility, relevance and long-term impact of DECIDE’s outcomes.

2 Objectives and stakeholders-oriented approach

The DECIDE Final Event aimed to support the transition from project results to practical implementation by presenting key outcomes, encouraging stakeholder exchange and identifying pathways for future uptake of DECIDE tools and approaches.

The specific objectives were to:

- present the main scientific, technical and practical results of DECIDE;
- demonstrate the relevance of DECIDE decision-support tools for endemic contagious animal disease management;
- facilitate dialogue between researchers, veterinarians, industry representatives, policymakers and sectoral organisations;
- collect stakeholder perspectives on implementation needs, barriers and opportunities;
- strengthen links with European, national and regional organisations active in animal health and livestock production;
- support the exploitation and sustainability of DECIDE outcomes beyond the project lifetime.

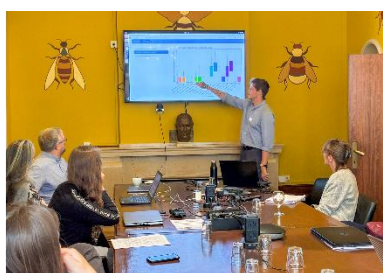
Target groups: The event targeted stakeholders with a role in animal health decision-making and livestock disease management, including researchers, veterinarians, policymakers, industry representatives, farmers' organisations, animal health bodies and European or national sectoral associations. Particular attention was given to organisations able to support the uptake, dissemination or further use of DECIDE results across the pig, poultry, cattle and salmon sectors.

The structure of the event was specifically designed to address the interests and perspectives of the different stakeholder groups involved in animal health management and livestock production.



Insights from DECIDE

Especially for EU representatives, researchers and other EU projects.



DECIDE tools in action

Especially for tool developers, veterinarians and technical users.



DECIDE moving forward

Especially for policymakers, regulatory, industry and researchers.

Figure 2. DECIDE Final event was divided into three parts. While of interest to all stakeholders, scope was tailored to specific groups.

3 Final event planning and overview

3.1 Development process

The planning process was carried out collaboratively by the consortium partners and involved the coordination of scientific, communication and logistical activities to ensure that the event effectively addressed the project objectives and target audiences. Table 1 below summarises the main contributions and responsibilities related to the preparation and implementation of the event. The preparation phase included the definition of the event concept and objectives, the development of the programme structure, the identification and invitation of speakers and panellists, and the coordination of communication and dissemination activities.

Table 1. Overview of partners' roles and responsibilities in the Final Event organisation.

Partner(s)	Role and responsibilities
accelCH, UU, UGent	Oversight of event planning, coordination among partners, agenda validation, stakeholder engagement, coordination support.
accelCH	Development of promotional materials, website updates, social media promotion, participant outreach and registration management.
accelCH, UGent, NVI, IRTA, SRUC, AHI, SVA, UU, GD, SLW	Development of videos presenting DECIDE tools to be integrated in panel presentations.
All partners	Preparation and delivery of presentations, contribution to panel discussions, presentation of project results and case studies.
UGent, NVI, IRTA, SRUC, AHI, SVA, GD, UU, INRAE, EpiMundi	Preparation and delivery of posters on DECIDE tools and additional WPs highlights.
UU, UGent,	Identification and invitation of relevant stakeholders and organisations, coordination with sectoral networks, facilitation of discussions
UGent	Venue coordination, technical setup, onsite support.
All partners	Promotion of the event through partner networks, engagement with stakeholders before and during the event.
accelCH	Development of poster and presentation templates.

The organisation process also included the preparation of event materials, development of videos about the developed tools to be integrated into the presentations, registration management, coordination with the venue, technical arrangements and promotion of the event through the project communication channels and partner networks.

3.2 Event information

The Final event was held in person on 10 June 2026, hosted by UGent at the [University Foundation](#), Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. The date was chosen to build on the final General Assembly which took place the day before on 9 June. Partners could use the opportunity to finalise any open points and organise logistics, including posters showcased in parallel to the Interactive workshops.

3.3 Registration

The registration process was managed by accelCH via a Google Form. In addition to collecting standard participant information, such as name, organisation and professional profile, the form was designed to capture participants' main interests and expectations regarding the interactive DECIDE tool workshops. During registration, participants were asked to select their preferred workshop session from several options, enabling the organisers to better understand stakeholder priorities and support the planning of the parallel sessions.

The registration process was carried out in compliance with GDPR requirements: participants were informed about the intended use of the information provided and were asked to give their consent for their data to be used for event organisation, communication and reporting purposes.



Figure 3. Registration page for the Final event.

Please **select up to three sessions** you would like to join for the **interactive workshop on DECIDE tools** *

☐ Tool 1: Griskompassen (SVA): Griskompassen collects pig health and production data from different sources in one place and provides a comprehensive overview of a farm's health status. It is aimed at Swedish pig farmers and can be used to understand the current situation, follow trends over time, and benchmark against national averages. ☐ Tool 2: AbattoirInspect (SRUC): The AbattoirInspect tool is a data visualisation application designed to analyse and present pig meat inspection findings. It enables farmers, veterinarians, and processors to utilise abattoir data as benchmarking tool, and as an early warning system to improve on-farm animal health management and prioritise disease control strategies. The tool can be easily adapted to other species and countries. ☐ Tool 3: Pig Barometer: The pig Barometers is an interactive dashboard that visualise pathogen-specific diagnostic results to support disease surveillance and evidence-based decision-making in pig production. It shows historical trends, dynamics and current pathogen presence by region, enabling early warning for antimicrobial use, vaccination and animal purchasing. ☐ Tool 4: Broiler Barometer + Broiler Virus Circulation: The Broiler Barometer (NL) and the Broiler Virus Circulation tool (PL) both monitor infectious bronchitis virus strains based on PCR samples, with the aim of supporting vaccination decisions. ☐ Tool 5: Laksetap: Tool for visualising and benchmarking salmonid mortality, showing mortality patterns over time and across regions for different species (Rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon). Includes data analysis functions for estimating mortality from production data.	☐ Tool 6: Salmon Mortality Monitor: Tool for visualising and benchmarking salmonid mortality, including context for mortality data, showing patterns over time, across sites, and across reasons for mortality. It includes different metrics of mortality. ☐ Tool 7: Cattle barometer: The cattle Barometer is an interactive dashboard that visualises pathogen-specific diagnostic results to support disease surveillance and evidence-based decision-making in cattle production. It shows historical trends, dynamics and current pathogen presence by region, enabling early warning for antimicrobial use, vaccination and animal purchasing. Pilot versions of predictive models for the detection and forecasting of epidemics are available. ☐ Tool 8: Cattle purchase assistant: a tool aiming to provide a risk estimate of introducing a certain pathogen when purchasing live animals. In addition, a list of matching cattle herds according to certain health status is provided to facilitate trade. The model currently covers Salmonella and Mycoplasma bovis as exemplary pathogens. ☐ Tool 9: Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) intervention rankers: Eval'BRD for intervention ranking and Connect'BRD for early detection and intervention ranking based on on-farm real-time sensor data can be used to assist farmers and their veterinarians in what measures to take for BRD control in beef cattle. ☐ I am flexible and can be assigned where needed
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Figure 4. Interest in hands-on workshops with the DECIDE tools included in the registration form.

4 Communication and promotion activities

4.1 Online

Online communication played a central role in promoting the DECIDE Final Event and reaching stakeholders across Europe. The event was promoted through the dedicated event page on the DECIDE website (decideproject.eu/final-event/), which provided the event description, venue details, programme, registration information and practical access information. The page presented the event as an opportunity for researchers, veterinarians, industry representatives, policymakers, EU institutions and end users to discuss how data-driven decision-support tools can be translated into practice across countries.

DECIDE Final Event: From Insights to Implementation
Join us for the final event on 10 June 2026 in Brussels

20
Days

16
Hours

54
Minutes



Register Now

Click Here

Figure 5. Active link to the registration with "count down".

Have a look at our interactive overview, including programme, speakers and why you should join

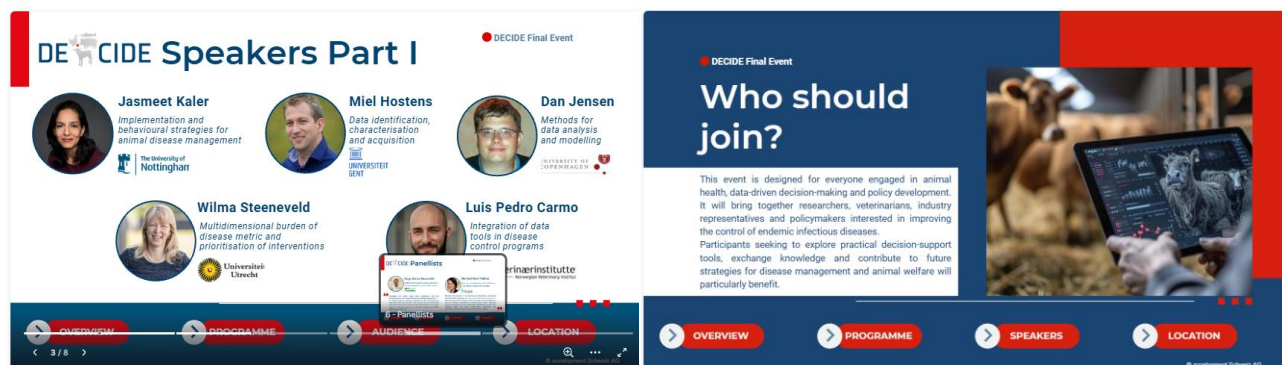


Figure 6. Interactive presentation embedded on the event page.

The event was also promoted through the DECIDE LinkedIn channel, using a dedicated campaign to raise awareness, direct audiences to the event page and encourage registration among relevant professional communities. LinkedIn was particularly relevant for reaching animal health experts, research organisations, veterinary professionals, policymakers, industry stakeholders and partner networks. Consortium partners further amplified the campaign by sharing posts through their own institutional and personal channels.

In addition to DECIDE's own channels, partner organisations supported online dissemination through their websites and networks. For example, DGZ published an invitation to the final event.

Following the event, online communication continued through a [dedicated news item](#) on the DECIDE website, summarising the event outcomes, as well as LinkedIn posts providing updates during and after the event. This post-event communication helped extend the reach of the event beyond the participants present on the day and supported the wider dissemination of key messages from the project.

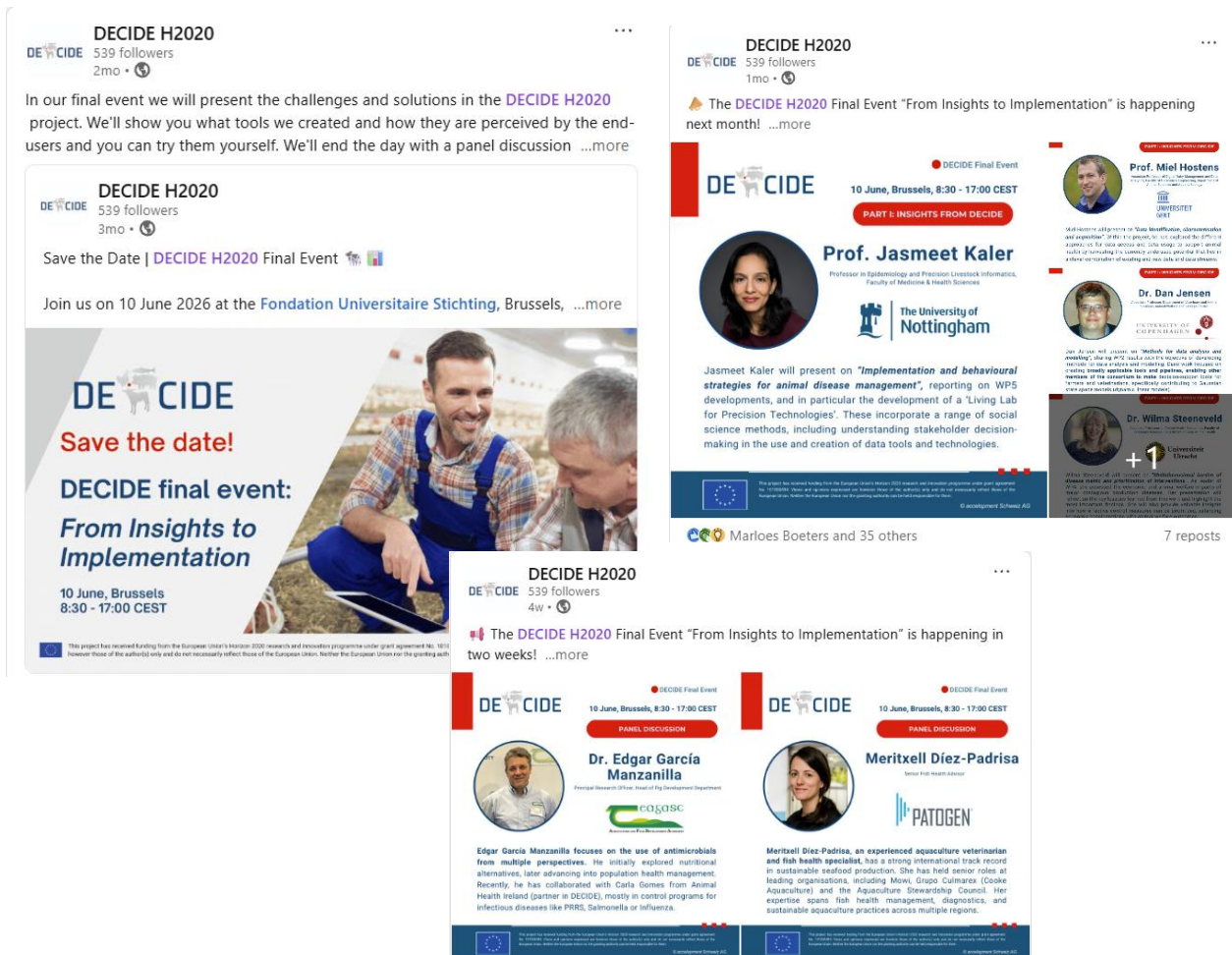


Figure 7. DECIDE LinkedIn campaign about the Final Event.

4.2 Print

Print materials were used to support the promotion and visibility of the DECIDE Final Event both before and during the event. Flyers and posters were developed in line with the project's visual identity and shared through consortium networks. Event posters were displayed at relevant organisational premises to increase awareness of the event among local audiences. In addition, printed materials were distributed by consortium members at relevant meetings leading up to the event. On the day of the event, printed posters were displayed at the venue, and flyers were made available to attendees to provide key information.

4.3 Other

In addition to print materials, website promotion and social media activities, the DECIDE consortium implemented targeted outreach actions. Direct email invitations were sent to relevant European and international organisations, institutions and stakeholder networks active in animal health, livestock production, veterinary practice, policymaking and research. Organisations contacted included FESASS, FVE, Copa-Cogeca, Animal-healthEurope, UECBV, DG SANTE, DG AGRI, the European Aquaculture Society, the Danish Agriculture & Food Council, the Royal Veterinary College, SRUC, LUKE, Ghent University, the Royal Agricultural University, Harper Adams University and other relevant research and sectoral organisations. Tailored messages were also sent to DECIDE subscribers, highlighting the event programme, interactive workshops and opportunities to discuss project results with consortium experts and end users. This network-wide outreach helped increase awareness of the event and supported participation from key target groups.

5 Final event overview and implementation

The programme was organised into three complementary parts, each focusing on specific stakeholder needs and discussion areas, ranging from scientific results and practical applications to policy perspectives and future implementation pathways.



DECIDE: Control and prioritisation of endemic contagious animal diseases

Location University Foundation
Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Description The event will gather various stakeholders (researchers, veterinarians, industry representatives and policymakers) to reflect on project outcomes and future pathways for the uptake of DECIDE tools, including a panel discussion on "From Insights to Implementation". It aims to bring representatives from EU institutions, industry and end users together to discuss in an interactive way how data-driven tools for decision-making can be translated into practice across countries.

Programme morning

Time	Topic/Activity	Speaker
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee & registration	
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome note	TBD
Part I: Insights from DECIDE Stakeholders addressed: EU representatives, researchers and other EU project partners.		
9:15 – 9:30	DECIDE overview including key lessons learned	Gerdien van Schaik
9:30 – 10:45	DECIDE Behind the Scenes: Key Lessons and Challenges Highlights from WPs: • WP5 Implementation and behavioural strategies for animal disease management • WP1 Data identification, characterisation and acquisition • WP2 Methods for data analysis and modelling • WP4 Multidimensional burden of disease metric and prioritisation of interventions • WP3 Integration of data tools in disease control programs	Jasmeet Kaler Miel Hostens Dan Jensen Wilma Steeneveld Luis Pedro Carmo
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break & networking	
Part II: DECIDE tools in action Stakeholders addressed: tool developers, veterinarians and technical users.		
11:15 – 12:15	Tools Demonstrations (Plenary) Overview of DECIDE tools with brief "case study" / "end user perspective" and Q&As.	Beatriz Garcia Morante Bart Pardon, Yara Slegers, Annette Boerlage
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch and poster viewing	

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Programme afternoon

Time	Topic/Activity	Speaker
13:30 – 14:15	Interactive Workshops on DECIDE tools – two rounds • Parallel sessions (pre-registration interest): hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions. • In parallel: Poster session from DECIDE project.	Moderated by tools developers
14:15 – 15:00		
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break & networking	
Part III: DECIDE moving forward Stakeholders addressed: policymakers, EU representatives, industry and researchers.		
15:30 – 16:00	Future for data-driven decision support in Europe WP6 & WP7: Moving forward: sustainability and exploitation pathways, including feedback from stakeholders.	Inge Santman Gerdien van Schaik
16:00 – 16:45	Panel Discussion: From Insights to Implementation With representatives from DECIDE, EU institutions, industry and end users.	Moderator: Gerdien van Schaik; Panelists: Edgar Garcia Manzanilla, Meritxell Díez-Padrís
16:45 – 17:00	Closing remarks	Gerdien van Schaik
17:00	End of the event & informal networking	



Read more and register here: <https://decideproject.eu/final-event/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000494.

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Figure 8. Programme of the Final Event [available on the project website](https://decideproject.eu/final-event/), including time schedule, speakers and venue information (zoom in for details).

The event opened with a welcome note from Laurence Bonafos from the European Commission followed by the *DECIDE overview* presented by the project coordinator, Gerdien van Schaik (UU).

The first part focused on insights from DECIDE, where work package leaders and/or representatives shared experiences, key achievements and lessons learned from across the project. These presentations offered a behind-the-scenes perspective on the scientific, technical and practical challenges involved in developing data-driven decision-support tools for animal disease control.

WP	Presentation title	Presenter
WP5	<i>Implementation and Behavioural Strategies</i>	Jasmeet Kaler (UoN)
WP1	<i>Methods for data analysis and modelling</i>	Miel Hostens (UGent)
WP2	<i>Methods for data analysis and modelling (using state space models); Practical lessons learnt from mechanistic modelling</i>	Dan Jensen (UCPH); Sébastien Picault (INRAE)
WP4	<i>Multidimensional burden of disease metric and prioritization of interventions</i>	Wilma Steeneveld (UU)
WP3	<i>Integration of data tools in disease control programs</i>	Luís Pedro Carmo (NVI)

The second part of the event focused on the DECIDE tools in action. Species group leaders presented highlights from the tools developed for salmon, poultry, pigs and cattle, showing how project results can support disease prevention, monitoring and control in different animal production systems.

Presentation	Presenter(s)
<i>DECIDE Salmonid tools</i>	Annette Boerlage (SRUC)
<i>Decision support tools for poultry: vaccination against infectious bronchitis virus</i>	Yara Slegers (GD)
<i>Pig Data Tools</i>	Beatriz Garcia Morante (IRTA)
<i>Tools and experiences from “the cattle group”</i>	Bart Pardon (UGent)

The plenary presentation of the tools was followed by **the hands-on workshops**.

People could join two workshops to get acquainted with two different tools. They were briefly presented the aim and functionalities of the tools and then could have hands-on experience and discussions with the tool developers (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Workshops of AbbatoirInspect and the Cattle Barometer.

Slot 1: 13:30 -14:15			
Cattle Barometer <i>Room: Emile Francqui</i>	BRD Intervention Rankers <i>Room: Jean Willems</i>	Laksetap <i>Room: Félicien Cattier (left side)</i>	Griskompassen <i>Room: Félicien Cattier (right side)</i>
Slot 2: 14:15 -15:00			
Purchase Assistant <i>Room: Emile Francqui</i>	Abattoirinspect & Salmon Mortality <i>Room: Jean Willems</i>	Broiler Barometer <i>Room: Félicien Cattier (left side)</i>	Pig Barometer <i>Room: Félicien Cattier (right side)</i>

Furthermore, in parallel to the main programme, poster session was held showcasing DECIDE tools. 16 posters in total were displayed as shown in the table below.



Figure 10. DECIDE posters showcasing developed tools and research work.

Table 2. Overview of posters presenting DECIDE tools at the Final Event.

No.	Tool presented	Presenter
1	Barometer (poultry)	Slegers Yara
2	Broiler Virus Circulation	Camille Delavenne
3	Pig Barometer	Cecilia Aguilar
4	Early Disease Warning Pigs	Maria Marroco
5	Salmon Mortality Monitor	Annette Boerlage
6	Laksetap	Victor Oliveira
7	Pig HealthCheck dashboards	Carla Gomes
8	Lunch & Learns	Evi Arachoviti
9	Early Disease Warning Cattle	Lars Erik Gangsei
10	Connect'BRD	Sébastien Picault
11	Lely Calf Health Support Tool	Anouk Veldhuis
12	AbattoirInspect	Maria Costa
13	PigPeaks/Griskompassen	Wiktor Gustafsson
14	Purchase Assistant	Jenny Frössling
15	Eval'BRD	Sébastien Picault
16	Evaluation of the usability and usefulness of animal health dashboards	Jenny Frössling

The afternoon focused on the ***Future for data-driven decision support in Europe*** with presentations from Inge Santman (GD) and Gerdien van Schaik (UU) showcasing the way forward: sustainability and exploitation pathways, including feedback from stakeholders based on the work within WP6 and WP7.

The event concluded with a **lively panel discussion** on moving from insights to implementation. Participants were invited to vote on a series of statements addressing key challenges encountered during the project, including data re-use, tool development, animal welfare, artificial intelligence and the roles of academia and industry (see images below – Figure 11). The responses confirmed both the promise and complexity of translating data-driven tools into practical use across countries, sectors and species.

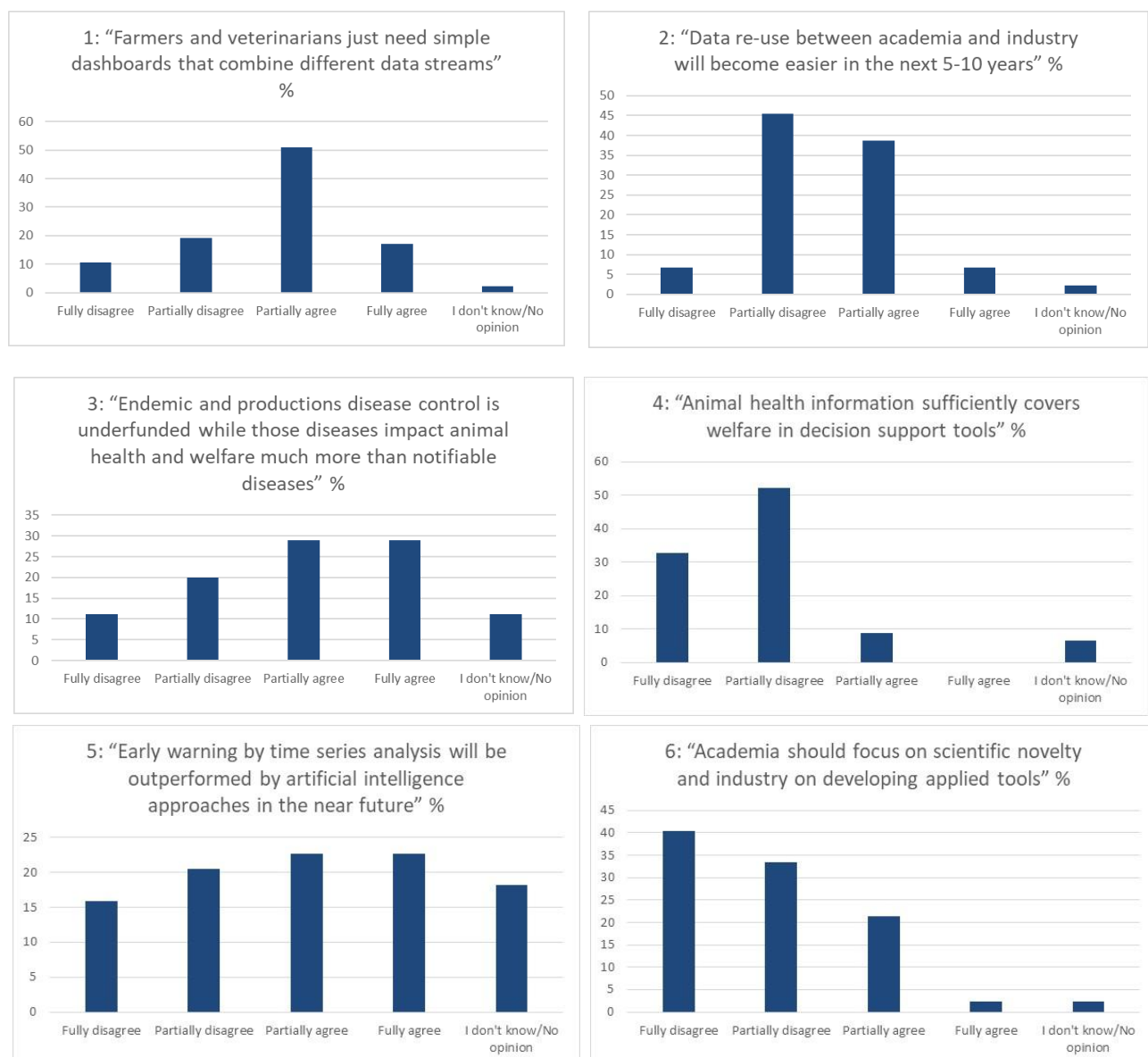


Figure 11. The six statements and the results of the voting (from 1 to 6 - top left to bottom right).

Panellists included:

Edgar Garcia Manzanilla

Bio: Edgar Garcia Manzanilla obtained his veterinary degree and a PhD in Nutrition from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). He then worked as a researcher at the University of California, Davis between 2005 and 2009, where he also completed a Master in Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM). In 2010, he returned to Barcelona and became a diplomate of the European College of Porcine Health Management. He moved to Teagasc in Ireland in 2014, where he currently serves as Head of the Pig and Poultry Department. Throughout his career, his work has consistently focused on the prudent use of antimicrobials from multiple perspectives. He initially explored nutritional alternatives, later advancing into population health management. More recently, he has collaborated with Carla Gomes from Animal Health Ireland (partner in DECIDE) mostly in control programs for infectious diseases like PRRS, Salmonella or Influenza.

Meritxell Diez-Padrisa

Bio: Meritxell Diez-Padrisa is an experienced aquaculture veterinarian and fish health specialist with a strong international track record in sustainable seafood production. She holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Barcelona and an MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies from the University of Stirling. Over her career, she has held senior roles at leading organisations including Mowi, Grupo Culmarex (Cooke Aquaculture) and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, and currently serves as Business Unit Manager UK and Senior Fish Health Advisor at PatoGen. Her expertise spans fish health management, diagnostics, and sustainable aquaculture practices across multiple regions.

Hans-Peter Schons

Bio: Hans-Peter Schons grew up on a dairy farm and studied agricultural sciences at the University of Giessen. He is currently the managing director of the Association of German Livestock Breeders (ADT). His main role is to represent the interests of the German livestock sector in Brussels, where he participates in numerous working groups of European umbrella organisations and also the European Commission. He joined the panel as the Vice-President delegated to animal welfare of FESASS (Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire), which is a European federation serving farmers to protect and strengthen animal health and food security.

Claudia Kamphuis

Bio: Claudia Kamphuis holds a Master degree in animal sciences from Wageningen University and a PhD degree from Utrecht University. Her PhD focused on automated detection of mastitis in dairy cattle. Currently she works as a researcher for Wageningen Livestock Research, at the Department of Animal Breeding and Genomics. She works in the area of Precision Livestock farming, and her current projects all have a strong link with Big Data analytics and how this can be used in research in the animal domain.

Mirjam Nielen

Bio: Mirjam Nielen is an emeritus professor in Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology. The aim of her chair was to carry out clinical epidemiologic research as basis for evidence-based veterinary care and to translate such evidence into clinical guidelines. She is the innovation manager in the DECIDE project and thus has an overview on the many scientific findings and tools of DECIDE.

6 Participation and stakeholder representation

Around 70 participants from across Europe attended the event, representing a wide range of professional backgrounds, including project officers, policymakers, veterinary epidemiologists, veterinarians, scientists, researchers, professors, programme managers, business and R&D managers, policy advisors, and animal health experts. This multidisciplinary representation supported discussions from scientific, regulatory and practical perspectives and reflected the cross-sectoral nature of the DECIDE project.

National and regional authorities were represented through organisations responsible for animal health, food safety and disease surveillance, while participation from the European Commission, REA and HaDEA ensured engagement with relevant EU policy and funding bodies. The veterinary community included practitioners, diagnostic laboratories and veterinary organisations, complemented by representatives from industry, farmers' organisations, and international organisations such as the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) and the European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV).

Overall, the participant profile demonstrated that the event successfully reached the key stakeholder groups required to facilitate the dissemination of DECIDE results and promote dialogue on their future implementation and uptake across Europe.

7 Summary of presentations and discussions

Presentations highlighted the development and integration of data-driven decision-support tools for animal health management, including data collection and harmonisation, modelling approaches, disease burden assessment and prioritisation of interventions. Demonstrations showed how DECIDE tools support monitoring, benchmarking and decision-making in real-world settings. Key results emphasised improved data integration across sectors, practical applicability of tools for veterinarians and farmers, and insights into behavioural and implementation challenges. Discussions also addressed sustainability, stakeholder engagement and pathways for scaling up the use of DECIDE outputs across Europe.

Key lessons learned presented: Across all species and tools, several common lessons emerged. Early and continuous involvement of end users proved essential, while access to high-quality data remained a major challenge. Stakeholders consistently preferred simple and practical tools with low labour requirements. Long-term sustainability also depends on viable business models and users' willingness to pay for services that deliver clear value.

Overall, the panellist discussion demonstrated broad agreement that data-driven decision support tools have significant potential to improve animal health management. Through live audience voting via Wooclap and debate, the session explored six key statements identified during the DECIDE project:

- *Farmers and veterinarians just need simple dashboards that combine different data streams.*
- *Data re-use between academia and industry will become easier in the next 5-10 years.*
- *Endemic and production diseases control is underfunded, while those diseases impact animal health and welfare much more than notifiable diseases.*
- *Animal health information sufficiently covers welfare in decision support tools.*
- *Early warning by time series analysis will be outperformed by artificial intelligence approaches in the near future.*
- *Academia should focus on scientific novelty, and industry on developing applied tools.*

A recurring message was that **decision support tools should be user-centred**. While participants generally supported simple dashboards for farmers and veterinarians, both the panel and audience agreed that users should also be able to access more detailed analyses when needed. The discussion highlighted that successful tools must balance simplicity with flexibility.

Data sharing between academia and industry was recognised as a major challenge. Although technological advances may facilitate data exchange, panellists emphasised that trust, standardisation, governance and willingness to share data remain the primary barriers to wider collaboration.

Participants also discussed research priorities, agreeing that both endemic and notifiable diseases require continued attention. On animal welfare, there was a strong consensus that health data alone cannot fully represent welfare, highlighting the need to integrate broader welfare indicators into future DSTs. Regarding artificial intelligence (AI), panellists considered AI and traditional time-series analysis to be complementary approaches rather than competing alternatives. Finally, the audience strongly rejected the idea that academia should focus only on research while industry develops applications, instead emphasising the importance of co-creation throughout the innovation process.

Overall, the discussion reinforced one of DECIDE's central conclusions: successful decision support tools require not only robust analytical methods but also continuous collaboration among researchers, industry, veterinarians, and farmers to ensure practical relevance, user trust, and long-term uptake.

8 Conclusions

Through presentations, demonstrations of decision support tools and discussions with end users, the event highlighted how DECIDE successfully translated scientific research into practical solutions to improve the prevention and management of endemic animal diseases. The positive engagement throughout the event demonstrated the relevance of the project's results and the strong interest from the animal health community in adopting data-driven approaches. The event fully supported the objectives defined in the Description of Action for communication, dissemination and exploitation. It provided a platform to present the project's key scientific outputs, innovative decision support tools and cross-sector collaborations, while demonstrating their applicability across cattle, pigs, poultry and salmonid production systems. The presentations illustrated how DECIDE integrated expertise in data science, modelling, economics, social sciences and animal welfare to deliver solutions that address both scientific and practical challenges faced by livestock stakeholders.

By presenting tools at different stages of technological maturity, sharing validation results from real-world case studies and discussing business models and implementation pathways, the event increased the visibility of the project's exploitable outcomes. Participants gained insights into future opportunities for further development, integration into existing animal health systems and continued research collaborations beyond the project's lifetime.

A recurring message throughout the event was the central importance of stakeholder engagement for the successful uptake of DECIDE results. The experiences shared across the different livestock sectors confirmed that involving farmers, veterinarians, industry partners and other end users from the earliest stages of development was essential for ensuring that the tools addressed real operational needs. User feedback consistently emphasised the importance of simplicity, practical applicability, trust in data and clear economic benefits. These lessons provide valuable guidance for future initiatives seeking to transform research outputs into widely adopted digital solutions. Continued collaboration between researchers, industry and end users will be fundamental for maintaining, further developing and scaling the DECIDE tools, thereby maximising their long-term impact on animal health, animal welfare, antimicrobial stewardship and sustainable livestock production.