



Press Release – January 2022

GEroNIMO: What's next in pig and poultry breeding?

GEroNIMO is a Horizon 2020 project that will contribute to developing sustainable and welfare-friendly pig and poultry production by knowledge improvement of the relationship between an animal's genetic code and its outward characteristics. The project will provide breeders of pigs and chicken – the most used animal protein sources worldwide – with new knowledge and tools. The project launched in June 2021 and will run until May 2026. It gathers 21 partners from across Europe, from research institutes to industry and dissemination and management partners.

Animal breeding plays an integral part in the European food system. To face human population growth, increasing environmental constraints and changes in socio-cultural values, animal breeding must evolve toward a more sustainable model that guarantees production while promoting efficient resource use, animal health and welfare, and preserving genetic diversity. Thanks to recent developments in -omics¹ technologies, it is now possible to rethink breeding, taking advantage of improved knowledge on genome-to-phenome relationships that account for genetic and non-genetic mechanisms controlling traits.

“In a changing world, we need to be open to new ideas to move research forward.” States Frédérique Pitel, Project Coordinator of GEroNIMO

The new knowledge and tools generated by the project will promote innovative genome- and epigenome enabled selection methods for traits related to *production* (quantity and quality), *efficiency*, *productive longevity*, *fertility*, *resilience* and *welfare*.

With the participation of a wide range of sectoral actors, the project will propose better (epi)genomic prediction models that will improve the accuracy of selection to guarantee improved sustainability. The GEroNIMO project's outcomes will therefore provide an important contribution to the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals

If you have any questions about the project, the research, or the partners behind it, don't hesitate to contact us. We would also be interested in participating in interviews and sharing more information depending on the media.

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Communication and Dissemination Strategy

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¹ Omics refers to the collective technologies used to explore the roles, relationships, and actions of the various types of molecules that make up the cells of an organism

