



Feedback on the work of the National Practitioners Groups (NPG)

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Every project starts with a... **challenge**

The challenge

- High quality of the rearing practices and of the products
- Diversity of practices throughout Europe
- Still a need to **improve animal welfare** and **limit mortality**, in relation to the **outdoor access** challenging the animals, ethical issues, the wish of practitioners and societal expectations

Identify, test and evaluate **animal welfare-improving practices** by taking into account environmental, economic and social impacts including human well-being

How to address these challenges?



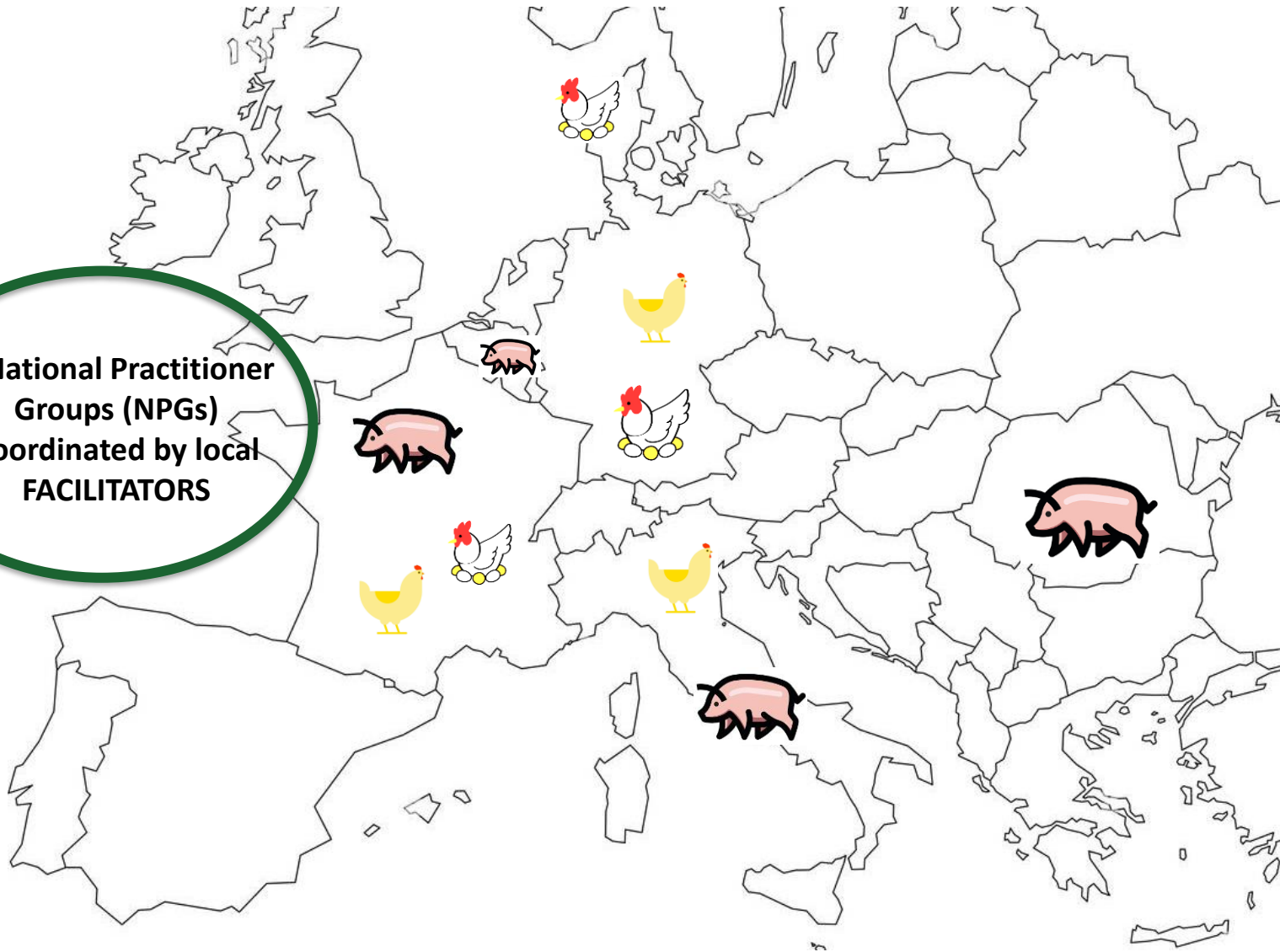
Facilitate change



**Multi actor groups to step
from research to innovation**

**National Practitioners Groups
creation**

**9 National Practitioner
Groups (NPGs)
Coordinated by local
FACILITATORS**



Enhance animal welfare through co-creation with National Practitioners Groups

- Co-creation: the **process** of designing in productive cooperation **with the end-users** and other relevant partners
- Co creators: practitioners involved into research activity and ready to implement **change**

Adopting a scientific approach supported by scientific partners

4 NPGs



5 NPGs





Practitioners involved

- Farmers
- Breeding companies
- Hatcheries
- Nutrition firms
- Equipment companies
- Slaughter houses & Processors
- Retailers
- Production organisations
- Veterinarians



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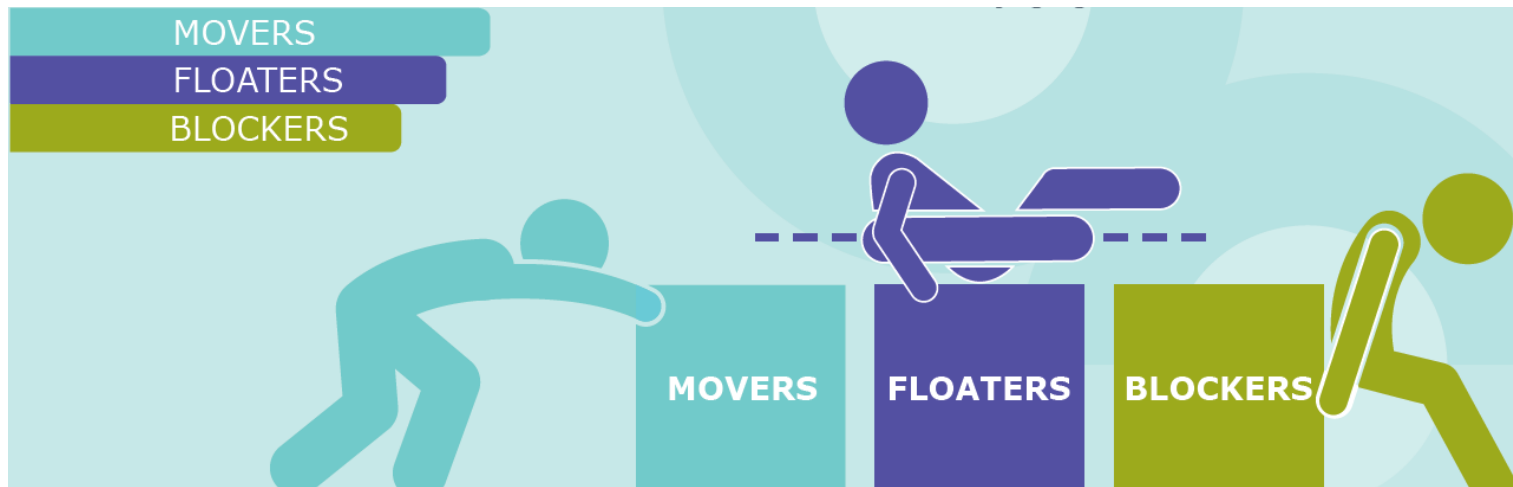
Other members of the society involved

- Organic production syndicates, associations or federations
- Consumer associations
- Citizen associations, especially dedicated to animal welfare
- Policy makers



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Type of actors/stakeholders you might meet



Understanding what co-creation means

- **Co-creation** versus 'using and being used'
- **Knowing** your endusers and what they **need** and want
- **Process** versus fixed action plan
- **Trust and willingness** to listen and to act – takes time
- **Ownership** within the group

- **A shared methodology** and constant contact between NPGs and research coordinators to face together any question and difficulty
- A **road map**, flexible and adaptable (in time and space) but shared among all NPGs
- Shared **templates and reports** (including guidelines)
- A space on the **web** (repository but also discussion area)

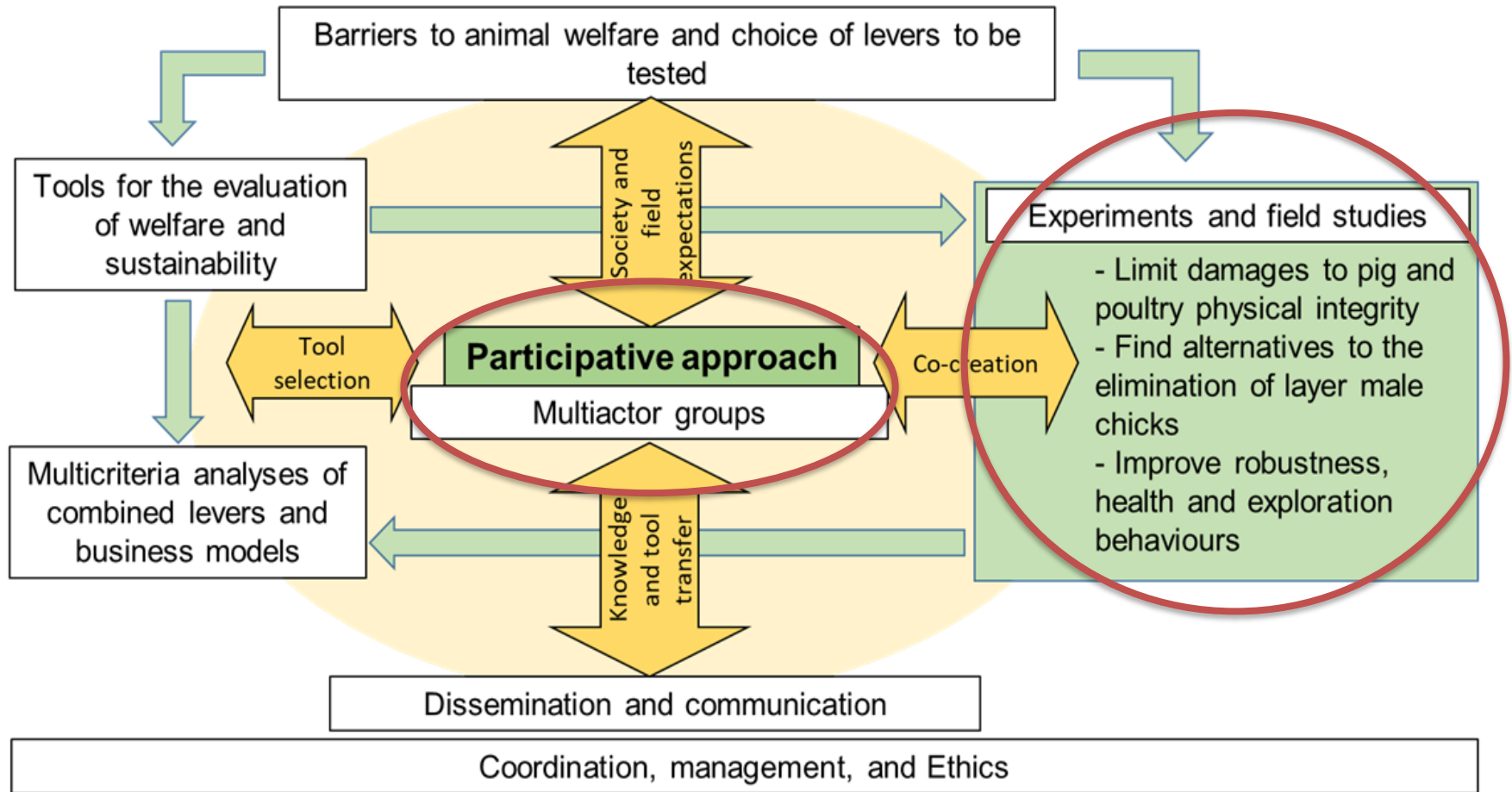
**Create 9 Communities of practices
active for 5 years**

THAT...

- That develop their own solutions through the exchange with colleagues in other regions
- **A broader community** looking at the skills and experiences developed and ready to use them, so changing « usual » practices
- **A robust scientific set of data** to support change and further develop it

PPILOW Organisation

Low-input and low-output animal production systems/Welfare





Innovative breeding and rearing strategies



Favouring positive behaviours, improving health and robustness

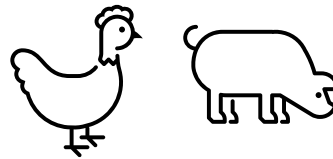
Avoiding piglet castration, beak trimming, the elimination of layer male chicks



The process of best practices implementation



Group of researchers working on **experiments** and **TOOLS**



Set of **practices/tools** proposed by **facilitators**



pixta.jp - 102934004

Farmers choose which **practices/tools** they like to **implement/test**

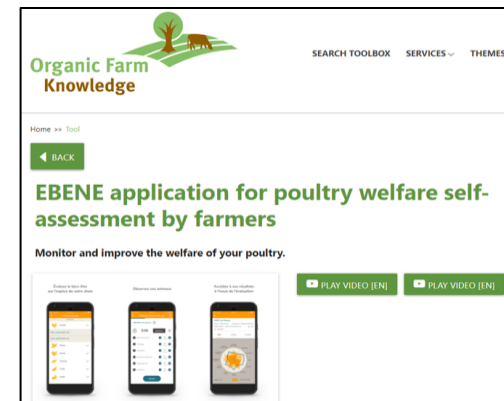


Co-creation of tools for welfare self-assessment on-farm

- Development of a first tool for PIGLOW, and extension of EBENE® for small farms and outdoor access by PPILOW partners (led by ITAVI and ILVO)
- Presentation to NPGs and collection of feedbacks
- Test of the co-developed apps on-farm and mid-term follow-up



Availability in 7 European languages





Discussions on indicators of criteria defined in each of the **One Welfare** dimensions with the NPGs

SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR	ONE WELFARE DIMENSIONS
Animal Welfare (4)	Good Feeding
	Good Environment (Housing)
	Good Health
	Appropriate Behaviour
Environment (3)	Enhance biodiversity
	Reduce pollution (soil, air, water)
	Minimize external resources used
Economy (4)	Performance - quantity
	Performance - quality
	Returns
	Costs
Society (4)	Working conditions
	Job perception and motivation
	Connection with local community
	Social Acceptability

Use of the PIGLOW and EBENE welfare self-assessment applications



PIGLOW



EBENE

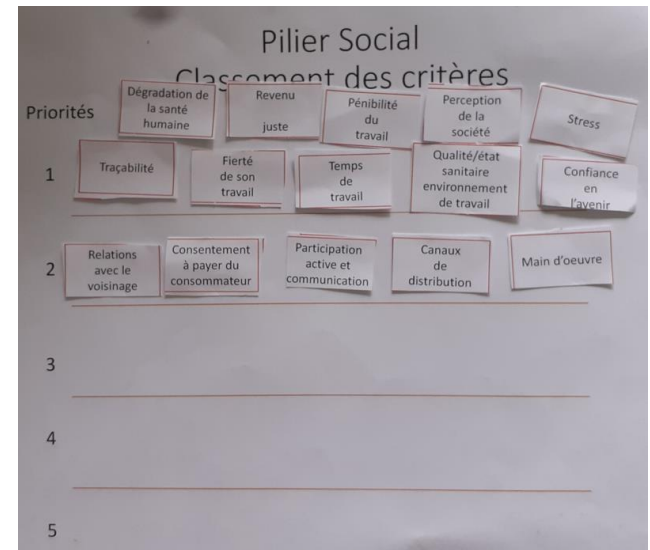
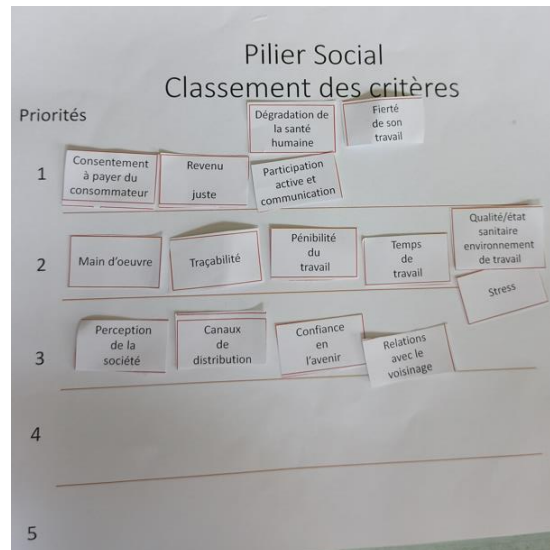
- **Great care about the presence of “soybean”** in the feed: not a problem if local organic supply (FR)
- **Origin of the feed and how are ingredients produced?** Consider the % of alternatives to soybean (ex: species attracting pollinating insects; IT)
- **Lower import of soybean in the future** should have a positive effect on the External Biodiversity index (DK)
- **External biodiversity index** considered **most important** (RO)

Ranking of the criteria by the members of the NPGs by using the **Deck Cards Method** *(Figure and Roy, 2002)*

Professional (engineer) of the layer production system

Member of a French association for Animal Welfare

The decision maker is given a deck of cards: each one bears the name of a criterion. Therefore, you will have many cards as many as the criteria in each dimension of the framework. The cards must not show numbers;





Implementation of selected practices

The **aim** of this task is to identify voluntary practitioners and train them to test in real conditions some of the strategies developed by researchers

Expected **outcome**: Inventory of implementation cases. Practical assessment of on farm implementation of proposed innovative solutions

FIRST RESULTS

- Exchange of information between **researchers and NPGs**
- Farmers have shown **interest in the proposed practices**
- Farmers are involved in the process of **experiment implementation**
- **APPs** included in the protocol
- First data have been collected



Country	NPG	Overview of the on-farm implemented innovation
N	Poultry	Working on dual purpose genotypes with a group of farmers and a coop with a focus on layers
D		Broilers from dual purpose genotype started from December 2021 to March 2022 and on-farm trial are still on-going. The testing of a product from Fermentation experts company is still in the planning phase.
FR		Broilers from dual purpose genotype were reared in France (December 2021 – March 2022). Laying hens of one PPILOW dual-purpose genotype have been reared on the same farm since April 2022.
DK		Pullets from two dual purpose genotypes reared in France were then tested on-farm in Denmark. One farmer expressed interest in the dual-purpose genotypes during NPG-meetings and received young hens from two genotypes for the trial. On-farm study with laying hens to test the most promising plant or plant extracts on intestinal infections with especially <i>Ascaridie galli</i> .
FR		On-farm hatching of slow growing chicks tested
NL_ BE		Alternatives to anthelmintics and test of feed from Fermentation experts planning phase.
RO	Pigs	Implementing the experiment on medicinal plants for improving the immune system. Results still need to be elaborated.
FR		Sow huts designed by Vanggaard and AU and tested in DK were installed in 2 farms PIGLOW app training and test in pig farms with IFIP
BE		The sow hut experiment is being implemented in one farm
IT		Sow huts designed by Vanggaard and AU and tested in DK were installed in 2 farms





French Poultry NPG to avoid chick transport and any delay before feeding/drinking



On-farm hatching

Industrial set-ups or simple designs described

Van de Ven et al., 2009; De Jong et al., 2018; Giersberg et al., 2020

Comments from NPGs before the trials

- **Interesting for small structures** located far from the hatchery? Potential interest for the farmer for limiting chick stress and good for the communication towards local consumers
- For bigger farms: less interest expressed (fear of density limitations due to lower hatching rates and high heating costs)

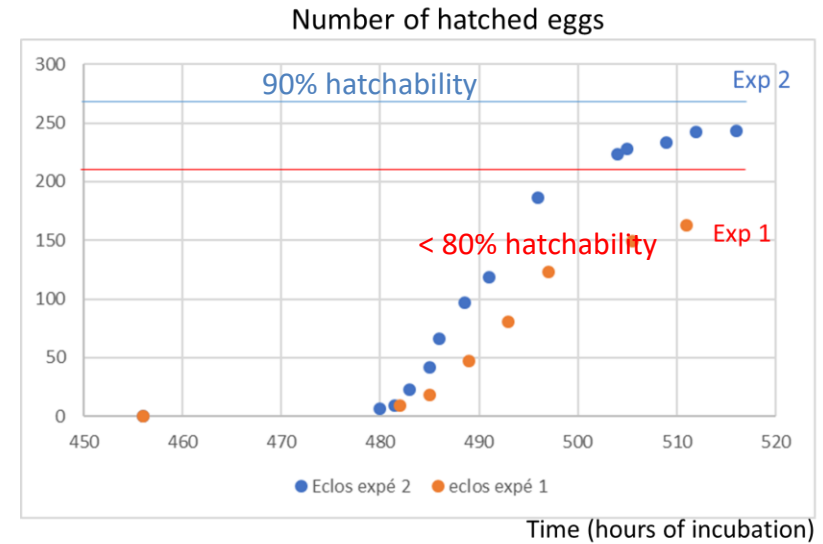


Transport of eggs at 18d of incubation

Two trials on a French organic farm

1 - Adjustment of the heating system (33-36°C around the eggs)

2- Heating carpet and a smaller electric heater



The chicks have access to water and feed when ready:
no weight loss and less chick dehydration

- Covid outbreak
- Turnover of facilitators
- Best practices implemented in very diverse environments
- Swine fever and avian flu limiting outdoor rearing, which impact on animal welfare?

PPILOW PARTNERS



Thank you for your attention

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