

EU Projects GErONIMO and RUMIGEN Unite to Shape the Future of Sustainable Livestock Breeding in Europe

At the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) 2025 Annual Meeting in Innsbruck, the RUMIGEN and GeroNIMO projects joined forces to host a dedicated session that highlighted the synergy between these two projects in advancing a cross-species understanding of genomic and epigenomic mechanisms underlying animal resilience, adaptation and welfare.

The joint session gathered experts from research, breeding companies and policy to exchange insights on the outcomes of the two projects and the future directions for sustainable, resilient, and ethical livestock production systems.

Talks covered how gene activity and inherited traits are influenced in ruminant and monogastric species, with examples linked to heat stress, hormonal disruption from environmental factors, and fertility. Presentations also highlighted new tools that make it possible to map animal genomes more accurately and improve how genetic links are identified.

In addition to the biological focus, the session concluded with reflections on the ethical and societal dimensions of genomic innovations in farm animals.

Speakers shared real-world examples of how EU-funded research is contributing to new knowledge and tangible solutions, ensuring that European livestock breeding remains both competitive and sustainable in the years to come. The session was chaired by Çağla Y. Kaya (EFFAB) and Barbara Harlizius (Institute for Pig Genetics -IPG), with Clotilde Patry (ELIANCE) co-chairing the panel discussion part of the session to share their views on the project outcomes and impact, and their uptake by the breeding companies.

Another session was hosted by H  l  ne Kiefer (INRAE) on “*Trans- and intra-generational effects and epigenetic mechanisms*” showcasing how research from RUMIGEN is revealing how environmental and physiological factors leave molecular marks — known as epigenetic effects — that can influence animal development, health, and performance across generations.

Both projects are working to develop advanced breeding strategies that balance productivity, biodiversity, and animal welfare, supporting Europe's transition to a sustainable and resilient food system.

As the projects continue their journey, they remain dedicated to ensuring that innovation in animal genetics aligns with societal values and environmental goals.

Find out more about GeroNIMO's scientific advances [here](#).
Find out more about RUMIGEN's scientific advances [here](#).

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