



TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF **RUMINANT** BREEDING
THROUGH **GENOMIC** AND EPIGENOMIC APPROACHES

Grant agreement number: 101000226

H2020 – Research and Innovation Action

Deliverable 2.3

Anonymised raw data from citizen consultations.

Due date of deliverable: M44 – January 2025

Actual submission date: M44 – January 2025

WP concerned	WP2	
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Version	V1	
Dissemination level	- PU: Public	

Call: H2020-SFS-2020-2

Topic: SFS-13-2020 • Genome and epigenome enabled breeding in terrestrial livestock

Start date of the project: June 1st, 2021

Duration: 60 months

End date of the project: May 31st, 2026

Project ID: 101000226



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°101000226.

Table of content

1. Summary	3
2. Introduction	4
3. Results.....	4
4. Conclusion.....	5
5. Annex	6

1. Summary

The objective of Deliverable 2.3 is to provide anonymized raw data from citizen consultations conducted as part of the RUMIGEN project. This data is critical for analyzing societal perspectives on breeding approaches and informing subsequent project outputs.

Citizen engagement was carried out in Task 2.4 using the EuropeSay method, developed by Democracy x, and facilitated via the in-house developed EngageSuite online platform, hosted by Democracy x. Citizens from nine European countries were recruited, primarily through local independent recruitment partners and hosts, who organized structured, self-facilitated consultations. All collected data was securely logged, anonymized, and transferred to Wageningen University for analysis in compliance with stringent data protection protocols.

This deliverable involved collaboration between RUMIGEN partners (Democracy x, INRAE, and Wageningen University) and local recruitment partners in eight European countries (Denmark, France, Spain, Italy, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, The Netherlands). An overview of involved partners is available in Table 1.

While challenges arose, including a local recruitment partner failing to meet contractual obligations and delays in the Netherlands, the engagement reached 771 citizens participating across nine countries. The data will play a crucial role in refining the ex-post “room of acceptance,” developing breeding approaches, and informing workshops and conferences in subsequent project tasks.

Table 1: Partners involved

RUMIGEN partners	
Democracy x	Responsible for, method development, implementation, online platform, deliverable (citizen engagement) and responsible for citizen engagement in Denmark
INRAE	Responsible for citizen engagement in France
Wageningen University	Responsible for data analysis (final ex-post room of acceptance)
Contributing partners	
Science For Change	Responsible for citizen engagement in Spain
Formativa	Responsible for citizen engagement in Italy
PZR	Responsible for citizen engagement in Poland
MEDIATEDOMAIN	Responsible for citizen engagement in Germany
ARC Fund Bulgaria	Responsible for citizen engagement in Bulgaria
G1000	Responsible for citizen engagement in the Netherlands

2. Introduction

Deliverable 2.3 represents a significant component of the RUMIGEN project and the work in Work Package 2, aimed at fostering societal dialogue and inclusivity in breeding approaches. The deliverable provides anonymized raw data from citizen consultations conducted in a total of nine European countries. This data serves as a foundation for analyzing public perspectives through the room of acceptance approach developed as part of the RUMIGEN project, contributing to the development of breeding approaches that align with societal values and expectations.

The consultations employed the EuropeSay method and relied on the Democracy X developed EngageSuite platform for data collection and management. Local recruitment ensured diverse participation, with hosts engaging peers in structured, self-facilitated discussions with significant reflection. This approach combines the ability to carry out engagement over wide geographical areas with many participants, while also enabling participants to engage in deep discussion and reflection. The result is a dataset that uncovers values and motivations in combination with stated preferences and reflecting a wide range of societal views.

This deliverable will contribute meaningfully to the broader goals of RUMIGEN.

3. Results

The primary result of Deliverable 2.3 is the anonymized raw data exported from the EngageSuite platform. This data, generated through Task 2.4, reflects the outcomes of citizen engagement in nine European countries. The dataset (except cells with e-mail addresses and cells linking to self-uploaded photos, both of which have been deleted to ensure anonymity and to align with data security measures), due to its volume and format, is available upon request.

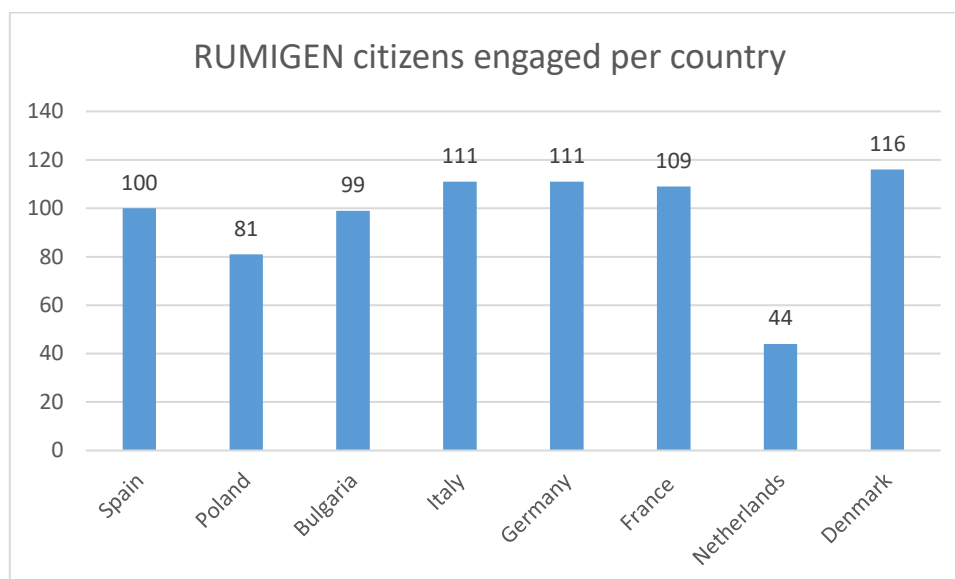
The dataset is saved in a secured folder. Access to the secured folder has been shared with Wageningen University, which is responsible for data analysis. A data handling strategy aligning with data protection policies is being finalized to facilitate access to the relevant parts of the dataset, which has currently been removed due to data security measures.

Democracy x has conducted a preliminary count of all entries, excluding those with insufficiently filled cells. The results, displayed in Figure 1, indicate that 771 citizens participated across Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark¹. The figure represents a highly satisfactory outcome, achieving 96% of the project's target of 800 citizens.

This count should be regarded as preliminary, as Wageningen University is expected to conduct a data-cleaning phase to determine the threshold for including entries in the final analysis. This may result in slight adjustments to the final participant count.

¹ The two participating Belgian groups are included within the numbers for other countries in this statistic, as they were recruited independently of the official citizen recruitment process.

Figure 1: RUMIGEN citizens engaged per country



Risks and Failures

In addition to the partners listed in Table 1, an additional local recruitment partner was initially employed but failed to fulfil the contractual obligations. Consequently, the contract was terminated, and the partner was replaced by the current Polish recruitment partner.

In France and Denmark, RUMIGEN partners managed the citizen engagement directly. While the same approach was initially planned for the Netherlands, Democracy x and Wageningen University subsequently agreed to hire a local recruitment partner to carry out the task, due to difficulties in recruitment and time constraints at Wageningen University. Since this decision was made after citizen engagement activities had already commenced in the other seven countries, the local recruitment partner in the Netherlands faced delays from the outset and did not meet the target number of citizens.

While this situation was unfortunate, the risk was managed by pivoting to an external recruitment partner. Noting that other countries over-recruited participants, leading to an overall engagement rate of 96% of the target. Despite the challenges, the project has maintained strong results across the participating countries.

4. Conclusion

The citizen engagement in Task 2.4 was completed within the designated timeframe. Among the eight countries in which the citizen engagement was planned (the ninth country, Belgium, was not part of the task), four exceeded their recruitment targets, recruiting more than 100 citizens, two met or nearly met the targets, recruiting 100 and 99 citizens respectively, and two fell short, recruiting 44 and 81 participants respectively. The overall participation of 771 citizens demonstrates robust engagement across diverse contexts.

The anonymized data has been securely saved and shared with Wageningen University in December 2024. The dataset will inform the finalization of the ex-post “room of acceptance” in Task 2.2, the development of breeding approaches in Work Package 8, and the discussions planned for Task 2.1 workshops and the Work Package 9 conference.

5. Annex

Due to its volume and format, the dataset *Anonymised raw data from citizen consultations* is available upon request.