Project „Understanding microbiomes of the ruminant holobiont (HoloRuminant)"

HoloRuminant is based on the hypothesis that the host animal and its associated microbiomes are interconnected and thus the simultaneous and holistic characterization of all microbiomes within a given individual is needed to decipher the complete interplay that exists. **The goal** is to elucidate the role of ruminant-associated microbiomes and their interplay with the host animal in early life and throughout fundamental life events (*e.g.* weaning, feed transition and lactation) that are known to affect health, welfare and environmental efficiency in ruminant production systems.

- **Project promoter:** Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, LSMU, LT;
- **Project coordinator:** Institut National de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (France);
- **Project leader at LSMU:** Rasa Želvytė, rasa.zelvyte@lsmu.lt;
- **Project partners:** Consortium of 25 organisations from 17 countries;
- **Funding scheme:** EU funds (Horizon2020);
- **Grant amount:** 9 724 763 €;
- **Duration:** 01/10/2021–30/09/2026;

OBJECTIVES
Characterise ruminant-associated microbiomes;
Define microbiome establishment and maintenance;
Evaluate the effect of ruminant microbiomes on animal production, health and welfare;
Facilitate the adoption by end-users of the innovations proposed.

RESULTS
The creation of a benchmark dataset of ruminant-associated microbes, microbiomes and methods for analysis that will be used for answering essential (who, what, where, and when) scientific questions and will be the knowledge foundation for innovation.