

4th EAAP Regional Meeting 2026

**SASSARI – ITALY
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAY 20TH – 22TH**



**PROGRAMME
EAAP 2026**

Welcome to the 4th EAAP Regional Meeting in Sassari

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the University of Sassari, it is our honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 4th EAAP Regional Meeting, scheduled from May 20 to 22, 2026, in the city of Sassari, Italy.

This event represents a valuable opportunity to bring together scientists, researchers, and professionals from across Europe and beyond to address the key challenges of animal production in a rapidly changing world.

The scientific program will focus on major areas of relevance for the livestock sector, including animal genetics and the management of genetic resources, sustainable animal production systems, and innovations in precision livestock farming and digital technologies. Particular attention will also be given to animal nutrition and its role in improving productivity, efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

Sassari, with its rich historical and cultural heritage, provides an inspiring setting for this meeting. Participants will have the opportunity not only to engage in a stimulating scientific program but also to explore the city's traditions, nearby archaeological sites such as Nuraghe Santu Antine and *Complesso nuragico di Palmavera*, and the unique landscapes of northern Sardinia.

We are confident that the 4th EAAP Regional Meeting will be a dynamic and engaging event, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation. We look forward to welcoming you to Sassari for a productive and inspiring experience.

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Scientific programme

Wednesday 20 May

Session 1. Animal Genetic Resources: Local and Transboundary Breeds in the Mediterranean: Diversity Aspects for Sustainable Livestock Farming

Chair: Bojkovski / Hadjipavlou / Ligda

Session Type: Theme session

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Chair: Odintsov Vaintrub / Karatzia

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14:45	Computer vision-based monitoring of pig behaviour in Mediterranean farms during hot periods <i>N. Hlel, D. Alexander Mendez, X. Díaz De Otálora, F. Estellés, S. Calvet, D. Liu, T. Norton</i>	44

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10:30 <i>Invited</i> Beyond nutrients: microalgae and yeast as functional tools in sustainable small ruminant production <i>A. Mavrommatis, C. Christodoulou, P. Kyriakaki, R. Andreaki, E. Tsiplakou</i>	52
11:00 <i>Invited</i> Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism in tension: a year (and furthermore?) to empower the strengths of these livestock farming systems, the opportunities addressed to them and minimize their weakness and the threats they face, toward sustainability <i>M. O. Nozières-Petit, B. Hubert, B. Dedieu</i>	53
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Chair: Spehar

Session Type: Theme session

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16:30	Sperm and blood epigenetic diversity in local and cosmopolitan Italian cattle breeds <i>E. Capra, R. Negrini, B. Lazzari, P. Cozzi, A. Tafuri, P. Ajmone Marsan, A. Stella, F. Turri</i>	57
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03.14	Metabolic indicators of heat-tolerant phenotypes in cattle: insights from blood metabolomics of Angus and Nellore under natural heat stress <i>G. Rocchetti, E. Capra, M. Errico, L. Lucini, J. F. Garcia, G. De Paula Nogueira, Y. T. Utsunomyia, A. M. Perez O'Brian, M. Milanesi, P. Ajmone Marsan</i>	59

Session 4.

Animal health and welfare: Implications for livestock sector sustainability and farmer well-being

Chair: MHAMDI

Session Type: Theme session

Theatre Session 4

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Chair: Casasús / Nozieres-Petit

Session Type: Theme session

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Friday 22 May

Session 6. Nutritional challenges, feed and forage resources for Mediterranean animal production

Chair: Foggi / Cannas
Session Type: Theme session

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Session 7.

Building resilience in Mediterranean Livestock farming systems

Chair: Pouloupoulou

Session Type: Theme session

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Commission on Poultry

Katarzyna Stadnicka	President	Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland	-
Amélia Camarinha Silva	Vice-President	University of Hohenheim, Germany	-
Gürbüz Das	Vice-President	Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Germany	-
Shelly Druyan	Secretary	Volcani Center, Israel	-
Achille Schiavone	Secretary	University of Turin, Italy	-
Bertrand Méda	Secretary	INRAE, France	-
William Lambert	Industry Rep	MixScience, France	-
Dariusz Goszczynski	Industry Rep	Chamber of Commerce, Poland	-

Industry Members Club



EAAP started in 2023 a new initiative to create closer connections between European livestock industries and the animal science network. Therefore, the “EAAP Industry Club” was shaped with the specific aim of bringing together the important industries of the livestock sector with our European Federation of Animal Sciences. All companies dealing with animal production (nutrition, genetic, applied technologies, etc.) are invited to join the “EAAP Industry Club” because industries will have opportunity to increase their visibility, to be actively involved in European animal science activities, and to receive news and services necessary to industries. In addition, through the Club, industries will enlarge their scientific network and will receive specific discounts on sponsoring activities. The Industries that already joined the “EAAP Industry Club” are:

The Club gives:

Visibility • Company name and logo at EAAP website and all relevant documents • Slides with name and logo at Official Events • Priority links with EAAP Socials • Invite, through EAAP dissemination tools and socials, people to events organized by your company • Information disseminated through a brand new Industry Newsletter • Networking • Joining the Study Commissions and Working Groups • Suggest topics to be considered for Annual Meetings Scientific Sessions • Organize Professional Panel through the EAAP platforms • One free registration to each Annual Meeting and at every meeting organized by EAAP • Five individual memberships at no cost • Many possible discounts (-30%) to sponsor and to increase company visibility through: EAAP Newsletter, EAAP website, EAAP Annual Meetings and workshops • Support young scientist by sponsoring scholarships named by the company • Co-Organize and sponsor webinars

Make yourself more visible within the livestock industry via the animal science network!

For more information please contact eaap@eaap.org

About the University of Sassari



The University of Sassari, Italy, is a prestigious institution dedicated to research and education in agricultural sciences and related fields. Founded in 1562, it has a long and distinguished history of contributing to advancements in agriculture, environmental protection, and rural development. The university's mission is to provide high-quality education while fostering research that addresses contemporary challenges in agriculture and food production. As a key player in Italy's agricultural research landscape, the university focuses on a variety of disciplines, including animal science, plant breeding, horticulture, and agricultural economics. It comprises numerous experienced scientists who engage in innovative projects, collaborating with national and international research networks to enhance knowledge transfer and application in the agricultural sector. The University of Sassari is committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, working to develop practices that support both agricultural productivity and the preservation of natural resources. The institution offers comprehensive educational programs that equip students with the necessary skills to address global agricultural challenges. In addition to its educational and research activities, the university maintains modern laboratories and research facilities, providing a conducive environment for cutting-edge studies.

For more information about the University of Sassari, you can visit their official website <https://www.uniss.it/>.

Agriculture in Sardinia

Sassari, located in northern Sardinia, is surrounded by extensive agricultural areas that are a cornerstone of the island's economy. Crop and livestock production, viticulture, olive growing, vegetable cultivation, and beekeeping are all significant activities in the region. Sardinia's unique climate and soils provide excellent conditions for high-quality and organic production, particularly in pastoralism and traditional Mediterranean crops.

The agricultural sector in Sardinia spans approximately 1.2 million hectares of utilized agricultural area, characterized by a predominance of small and medium-sized family-run farms. Sheep farming is a defining element of the island's agricultural landscape, supporting its renowned pecorino cheese production. Cattle, goats, and pigs are also important, alongside cereals, vineyards, and olive groves. In recent years, processes of modernization and specialization have transformed Sardinian agriculture, while maintaining its strong link with tradition and local identity.

The number of farms on the island has been gradually decreasing, while the average farm size has increased, particularly in areas embracing innovative and sustainable practices. Agriculture remains a major source of employment in rural communities, although demographic challenges and limited economic opportunities compared to urban areas persist.

Through these dynamics, Sardinia continues to cultivate a resilient agricultural sector that preserves its cultural and gastronomic heritage while contributing to food security, rural vitality, and environmental stewardship.

About Sassari

Sassari is one of the oldest and most significant cities in Sardinia, with a rich history dating back to the Middle Ages. Initially a small settlement, by the 13th century it had grown into an important center of political, economic, and cultural life on the island. Its strategic location in northern Sardinia, close to the Gulf of Asinara, contributed to its growth and prosperity, making it a vital hub for trade and cultural exchange throughout the Mediterranean.

The historic center of Sassari, with its narrow streets, elegant piazzas, and notable churches such as the Cathedral of San Nicola, reflects centuries of history and artistic heritage. Over the centuries, Sassari has witnessed numerous historical events, including periods of Aragonese, Spanish, and Savoyard rule, each leaving a distinct mark on its architecture and traditions. During the Renaissance and Baroque periods, Sassari flourished as a cultural and intellectual center, attracting scholars, artists, and craftsmen.

Today, Sassari—thanks to its demographic, cultural, and scientific vitality—ranks as one of the most important urban centers in Sardinia. It offers high-quality human capital and is a city people choose for living, working, studying, and enjoying leisure time in diverse ways. Sustainable development, the enhancement of local resources, and the preservation of its rich traditions are at the heart of Sassari's growth strategy.

Sassari is also renowned for its vibrant cultural scene, lively festivals, and distinctive cuisine. Events such as the Cavalcata Sarda and Faradda di li Candareri (Descent of the Candelieri) celebrate the city's heritage and attract visitors from across the world. Its dynamic blend of history and modernity makes Sassari a captivating destination for tourists, scholars, and professionals alike.

We invite you to discover the many opportunities offered by Sassari—rooted in tradition, open to innovation, and proud of its cultural heritage. For more information, you can visit the official Sassari Tourism Page: <https://www.turismosassari.it>

Useful information

Official Language

The official language of the EAAP meeting is English. No translation will be provided.

Passport and Visa

Italy is part of the European Union, allowing nationals from other EU countries to travel to Sardinia without a visa. Additionally, several non-EU countries, including the United States, Australia, and New Zealand can enter Italy without a visa for stays of up to 90 days. For more details on visa requirements, you can refer to the [Schengen Visa Info](#)

Official Invitation and Certification

An official letter can be requested to assist in meeting administrative requirements. However, this invitation does not imply any obligation, financial or otherwise, from the EAAP organizing committee. A certificate of attendance will be available for all registered participants.

Liability and Insurance

The organizing committee is not liable for personal accidents or loss of or damage to participants' private property. It is recommended that participants obtain their own travel and health insurance.

Health and Emergency

In case of emergency, call 112, the European emergency number, for assistance from the relevant services.

Currency

The currency in Italy is the Euro (EUR). Current exchange rates can be checked through financial news sites or currency exchange services.

Local Time Zone

Sassari operates on Central European Time (CET, UTC/GMT +1).

Climate

Sassari has a typical Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild, wetter winters. Summer temperatures can exceed 30°C, while winter temperatures rarely drop below 5°C. Spring and early autumn are especially pleasant for visiting, with mild weather and fewer crowds.

Electricity

Italy uses type F and L electrical sockets, which have two or three round pins. The voltage is 230V, and the frequency is 50Hz.

Travel by Plane

The nearest airport is Alghero-Fertilia Airport (AHO), located about 30 km from Sassari. It offers regular flights to major Italian and European cities. Bus services and taxis connect the airport to Sassari's city center.

Airport – Sassari route

Alghero Airport – Sassari Bus (via Padre Zirano), Line 760

- A ticket vending machine is available at the airport
- Departure times: 08:50, 10:40, 13:00, 15:10, 16:50, 19:15, 20:30, 23:00, 23:45

Private transfer (NCC) Alghero Airport – Sassari – Alghero Airport

- +39 349 6926386, +39 320 0924979 (info@lowcostcaralghero.it), +39 388 1066007 (ajotransfer@gmail.com)
- Approximate cost per trip: €15–22

Travel by Train

Sassari's central train station provides connections to other Sardinian cities such as Olbia, Oristano, and Cagliari. Trains are operated by Trenitalia and ARST regional services.

Travel by Bus

Sassari has an extensive bus network operated by ATP Sassari for urban routes and ARST for regional connections. Buses link Sassari to surrounding towns, coastal resorts, and archaeological sites.

Information for participants

Registration Desk

The registration desk will be located on the ground floor of the Segni palace, where the conference will take place, via Italia 39a, and will open on the 20/05/2026, 10:00-18.30. The registration desk will also operate on 21/05/2026, 8:00-13:00.

To Authors

Authors who do not wish to have their PDF presentations or posters made available on the EAAP website must notify EAAP by May 1st, 2026. This can be done by sending an email to liguori@eaap.org. After this date, EAAP will assume permission to include the presentation/poster on the website.

Posters

Physical boards/tripods will be provided in the Segni palace (Department of Agricultural Science, via Italia 39a) area of the University of Sassari for poster presentations. Posters should be in portrait format and should have the following dimensions: 120*80 (height*width) cm.

All presenting authors are requested to mount their posters on the 20/05/2026 from 10:00.

Theatre Presentation Upload Desk

Presenters are kindly requested to send their PowerPoint presentations (*.ppt or *.pptx) in advance to the email address: liguori@eaap.org. For last-minute issues, there will be an upload desk for theatre presentations close to the registration desk. The support team will assist participants with the upload process. Please ensure that your presentation is on a portable USB drive. Meeting rooms will be equipped with MS Windows computers, so PowerPoint presentations (*.ppt or *.pptx) are preferred. When preparing your presentation, allow approximately 3 minutes for questions and discussion at the end.

Conference Website

The EAAP 2026 Regional Meeting website is live and optimized for smartphone navigation. It contains detailed information about the conference program and venue. You can visit the conference website at <https://regional2026.eaap.org/>

Conference App

The conference program will be available for all delegates by downloading the app "EAAP" available for iOS/Android.

