

Any questions ?

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LIFE GREEN SHEEP FINAL SEMINAR · 17 & 18 NOVEMBER 2026

Overview of the LIFE Green Sheep Project



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Key Figures of The Project

LIFE GREEN SHEEP IS:

5 years
European project, from October 2020 to ~~September 2025~~ December 2026

€ 4,6 M
budget

1 355
demonstrative farms involved

40 partners from
5 European countries

Reduce by **12 %** GHG emissions while making sure farms are sustainable

282
innovative farms involved in the implementation of action levers







Objectives of The Project



Reduce by 12% the carbon footprint of milk and meat produced in sheep farms

Launch a national and European dynamic progress initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring sustainability of sheep farms

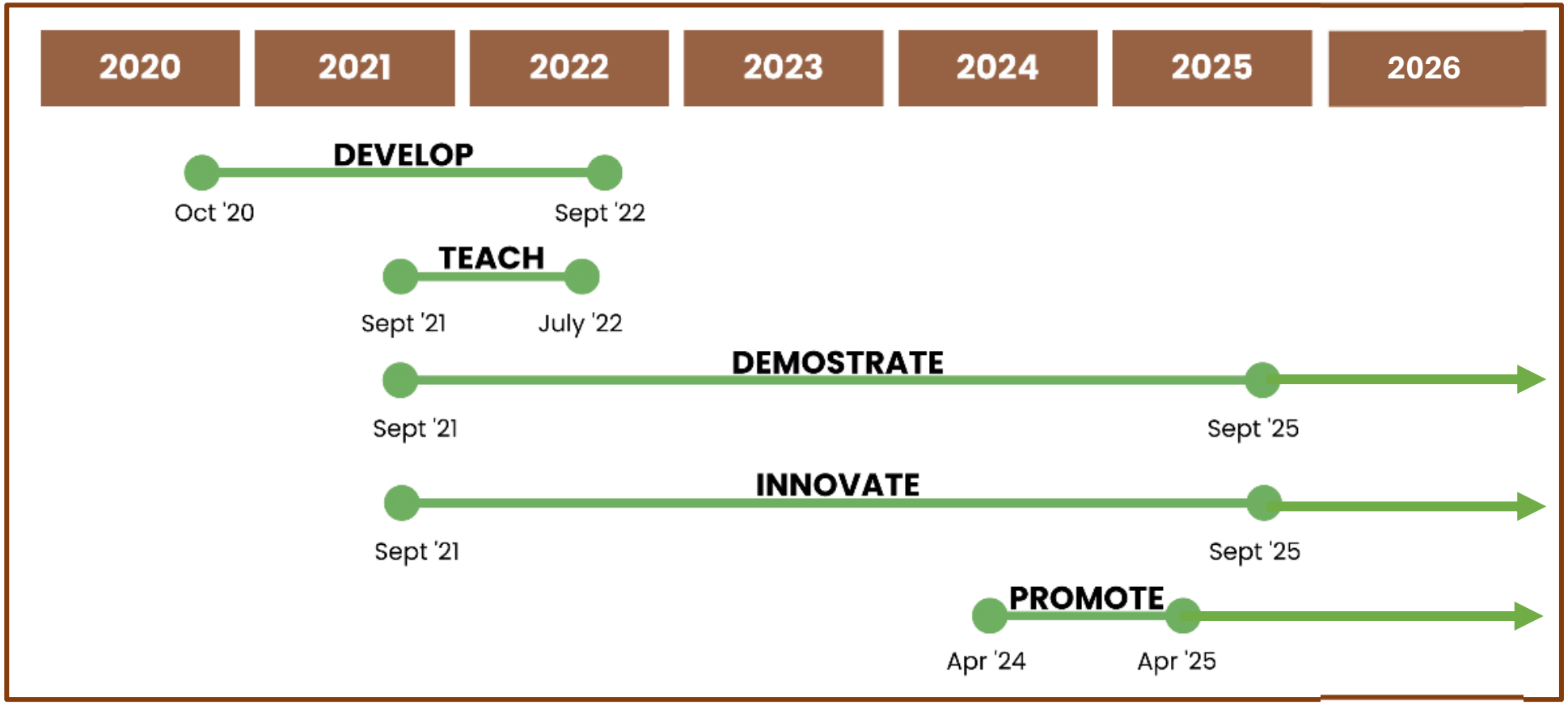
Create an national and European observatory of environmental and sustainable performances of sheep production systems

Promote innovative practices associated with GHG emissions mitigation to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability of farms

Train current and future generations

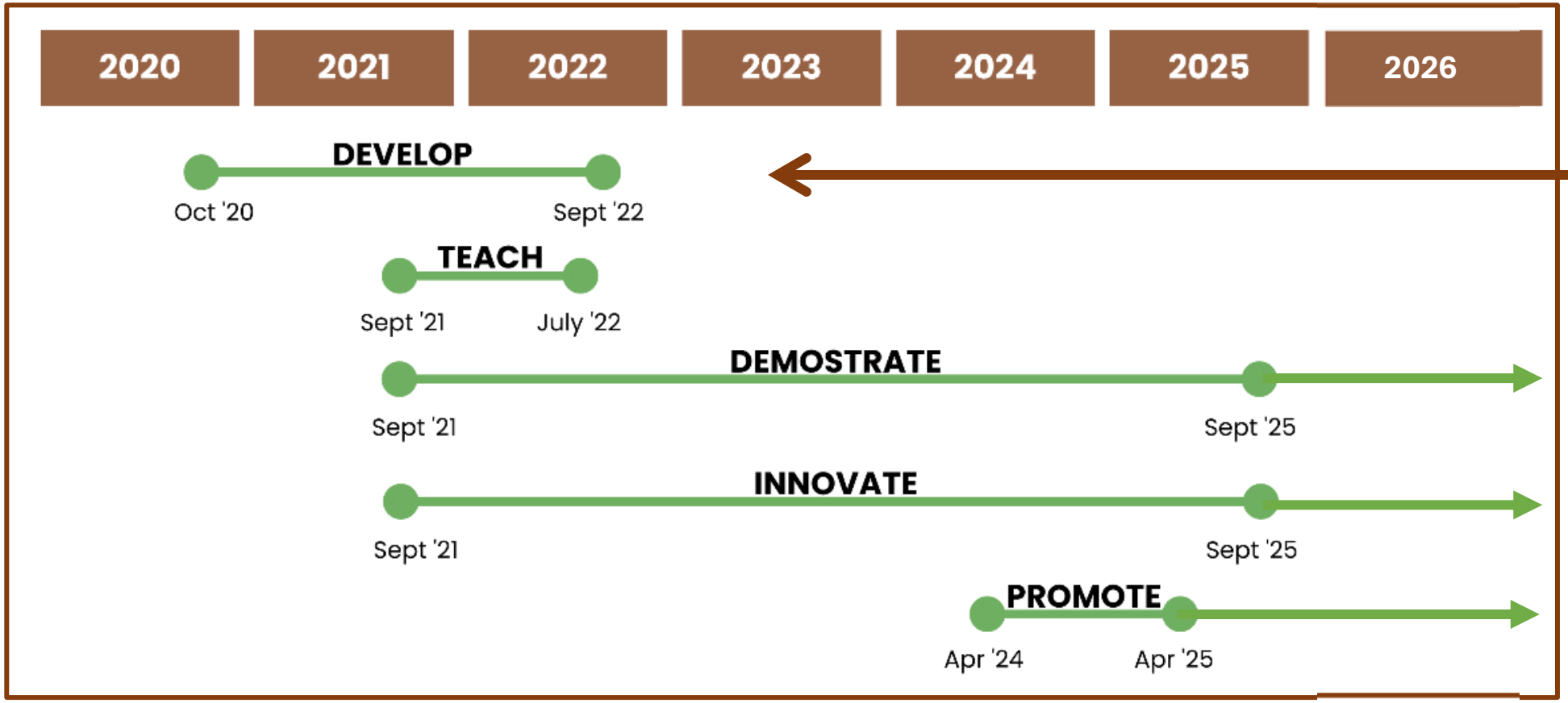
How Can We Meet These Objectives ?
5 Main Actions !





How Can We Meet These Objectives ? 5 Main Actions !



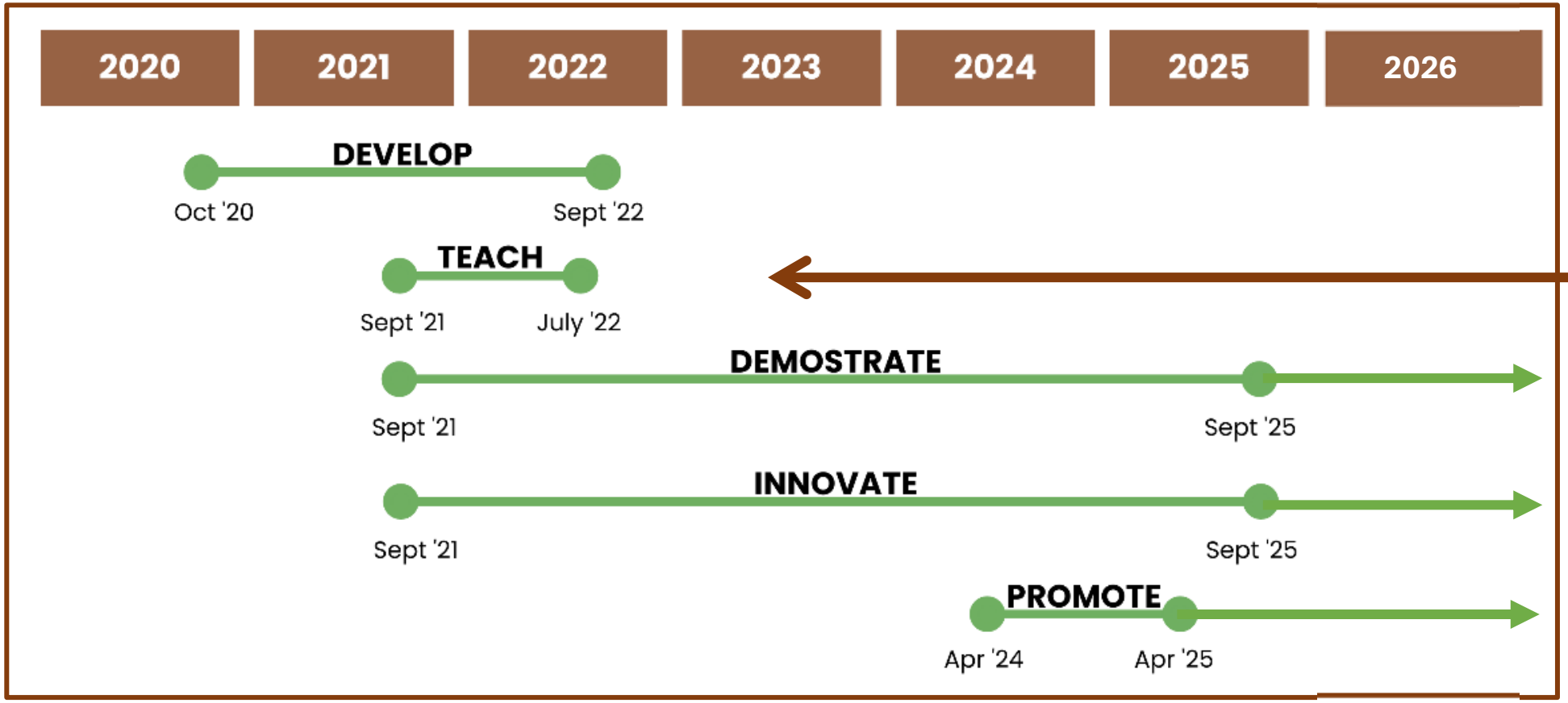


Action 1 : DEVELOP

Review, benchmark and harmonize the tools for assessing GHG emissions and sustainability indicators at the European scale

How Can We Meet These Objectives ?
5 Main Actions !



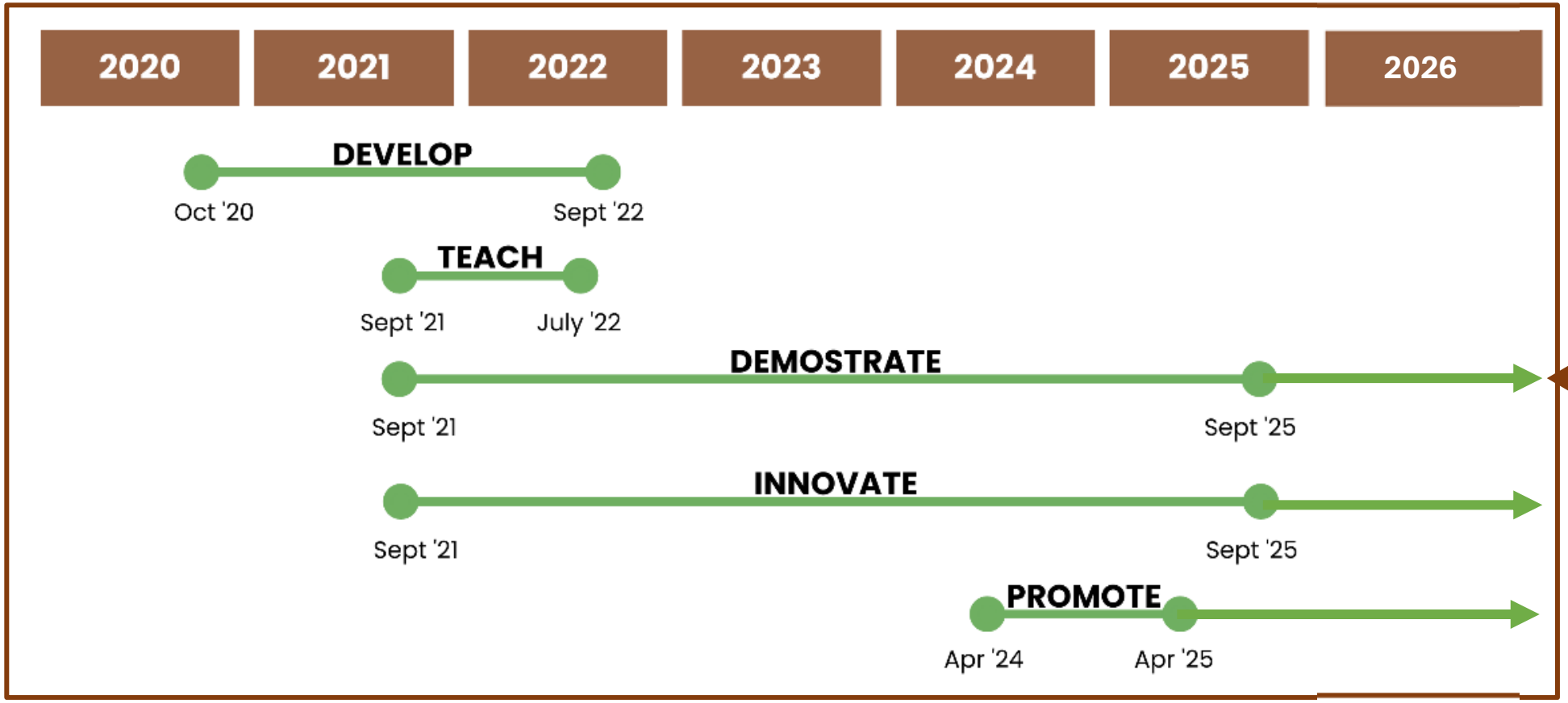


Action 2 : TEACH

Raise awareness and train advisors and technicians on the tools: background, methodologies, analysis of the results and construction of action plans

How Can We Meet These Objectives ?
5 Main Actions !





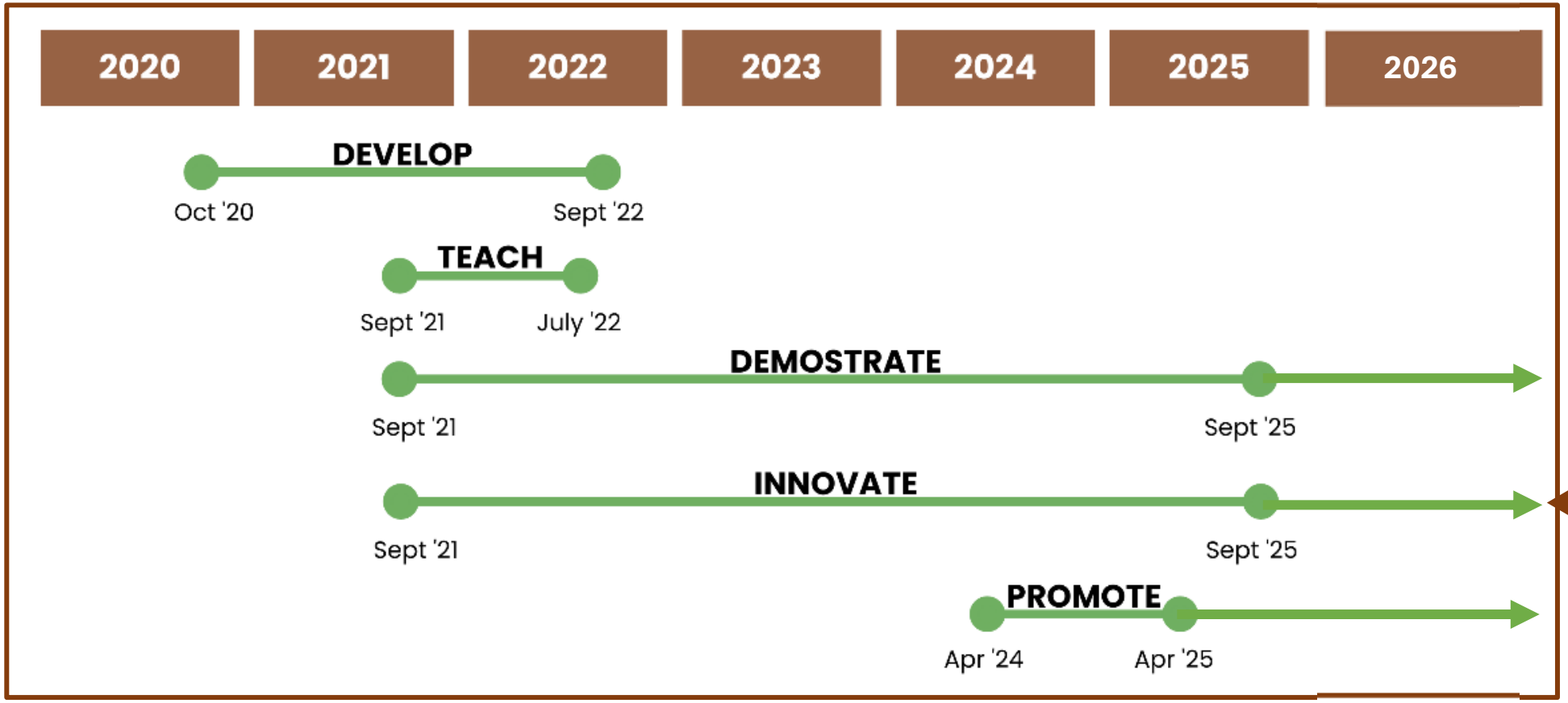
Action 3 : DEMONSTRATE

Creation of an EU observatory of environmental and sustainability performance <u>with demonstrative farms</u>

1 355 demonstrative farms involved

How Can We Meet These Objectives ?
5 Main Actions !





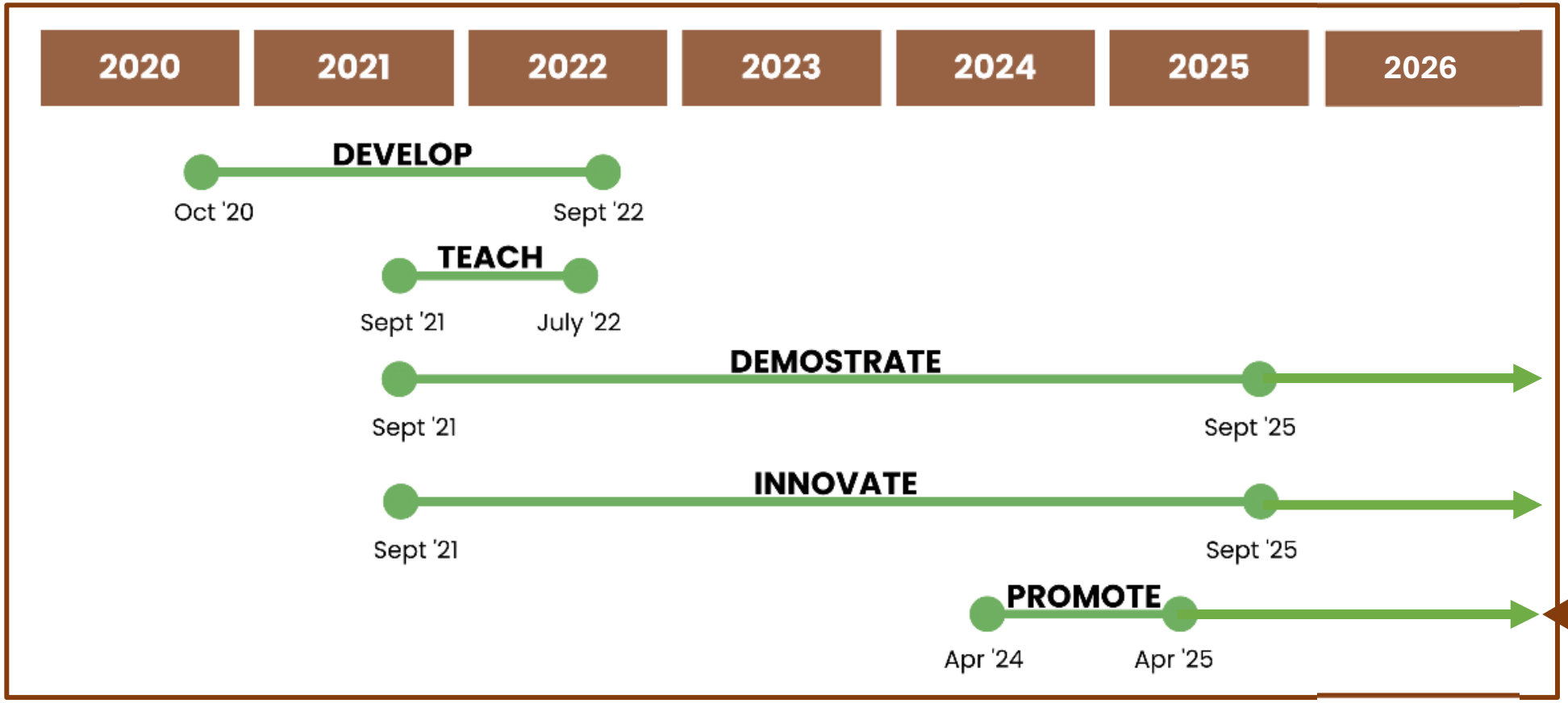
Action 4 : INNOVATE

Development and promotion of low-carbon farms by demonstrating the feasibility of action mitigation practices in real conditions

282 innovative farms involved in the implementation of action levers

How Can We Meet These Objectives ?
5 Main Actions !



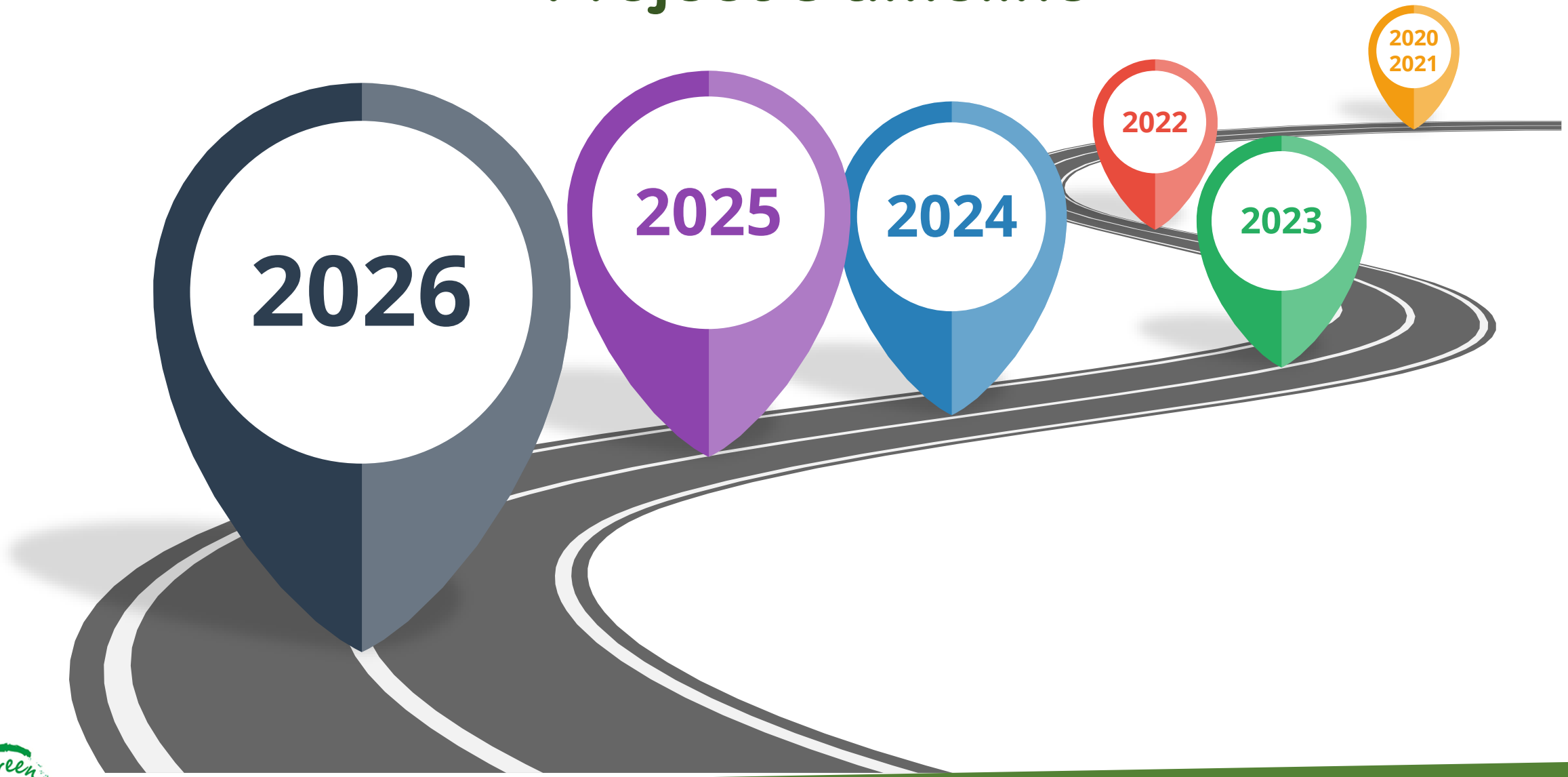


Action 5 : PROMOTE

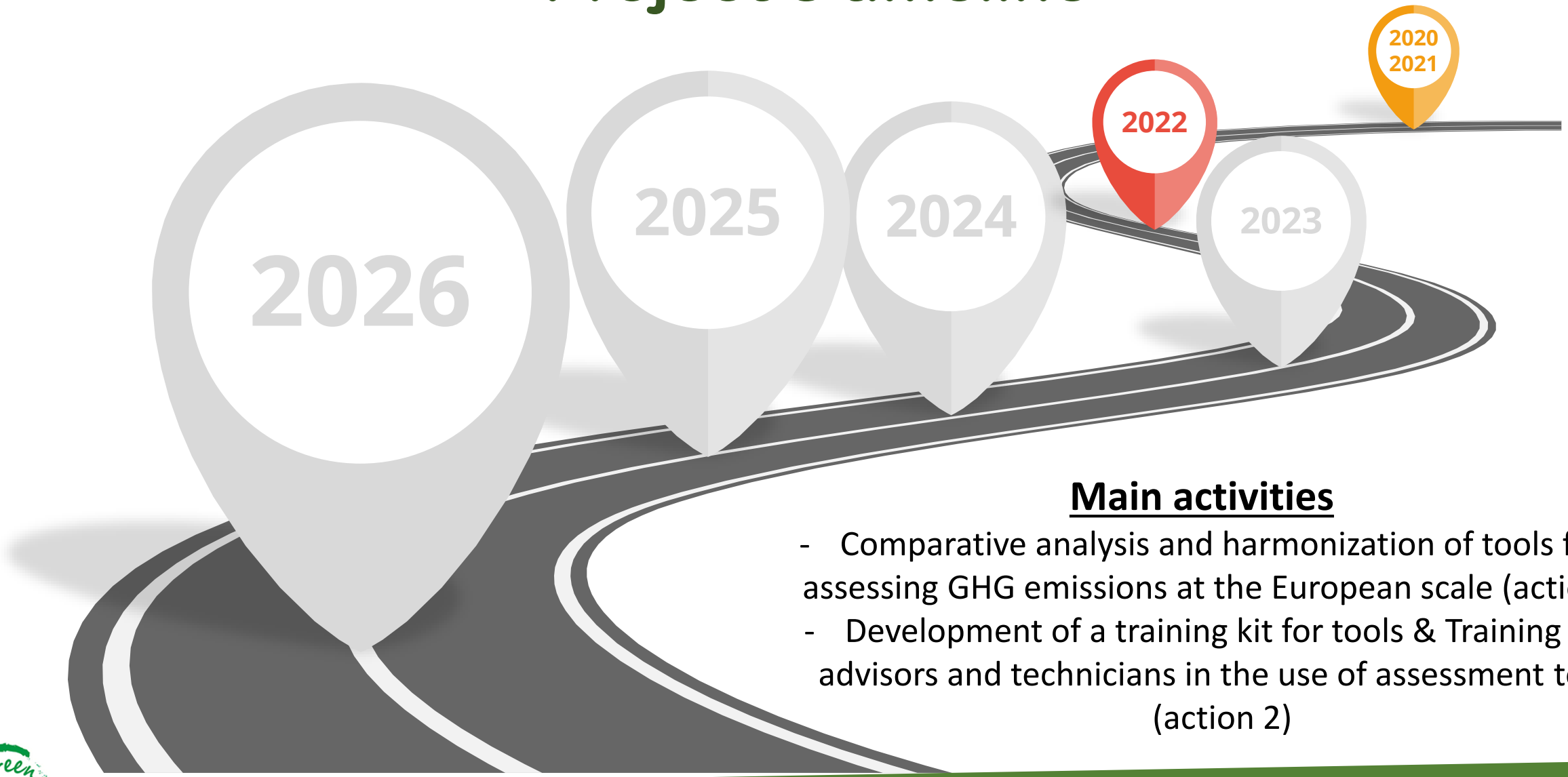
-Synthesis of all the knowledge

-Definition of the national strategy and partnerships to be built for the deployment of a low carbon plan

Project’s timeline



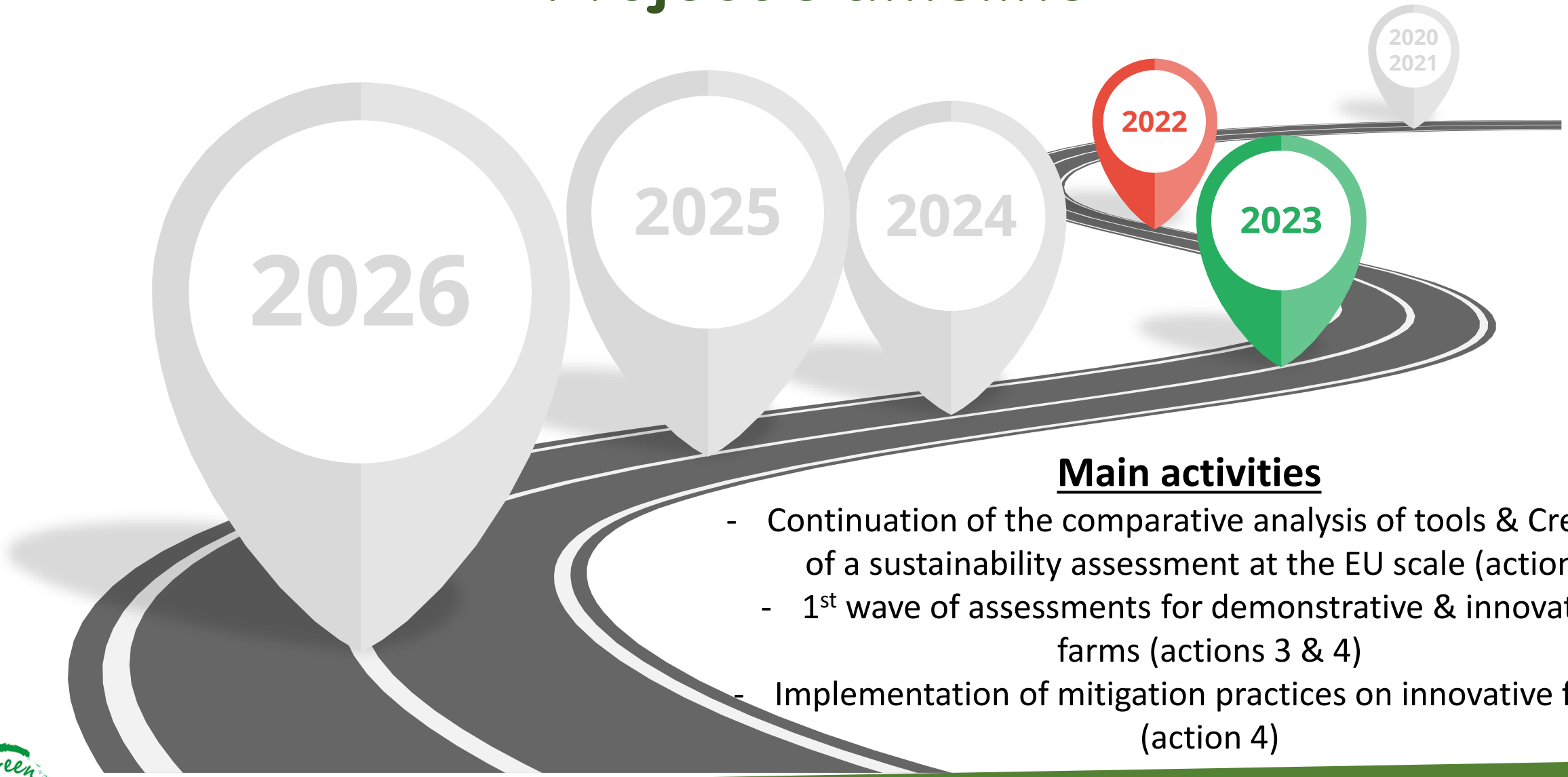
Project's timeline



Main activities

- Comparative analysis and harmonization of tools for assessing GHG emissions at the European scale (action 1)
- Development of a training kit for tools & Training of advisors and technicians in the use of assessment tools (action 2)

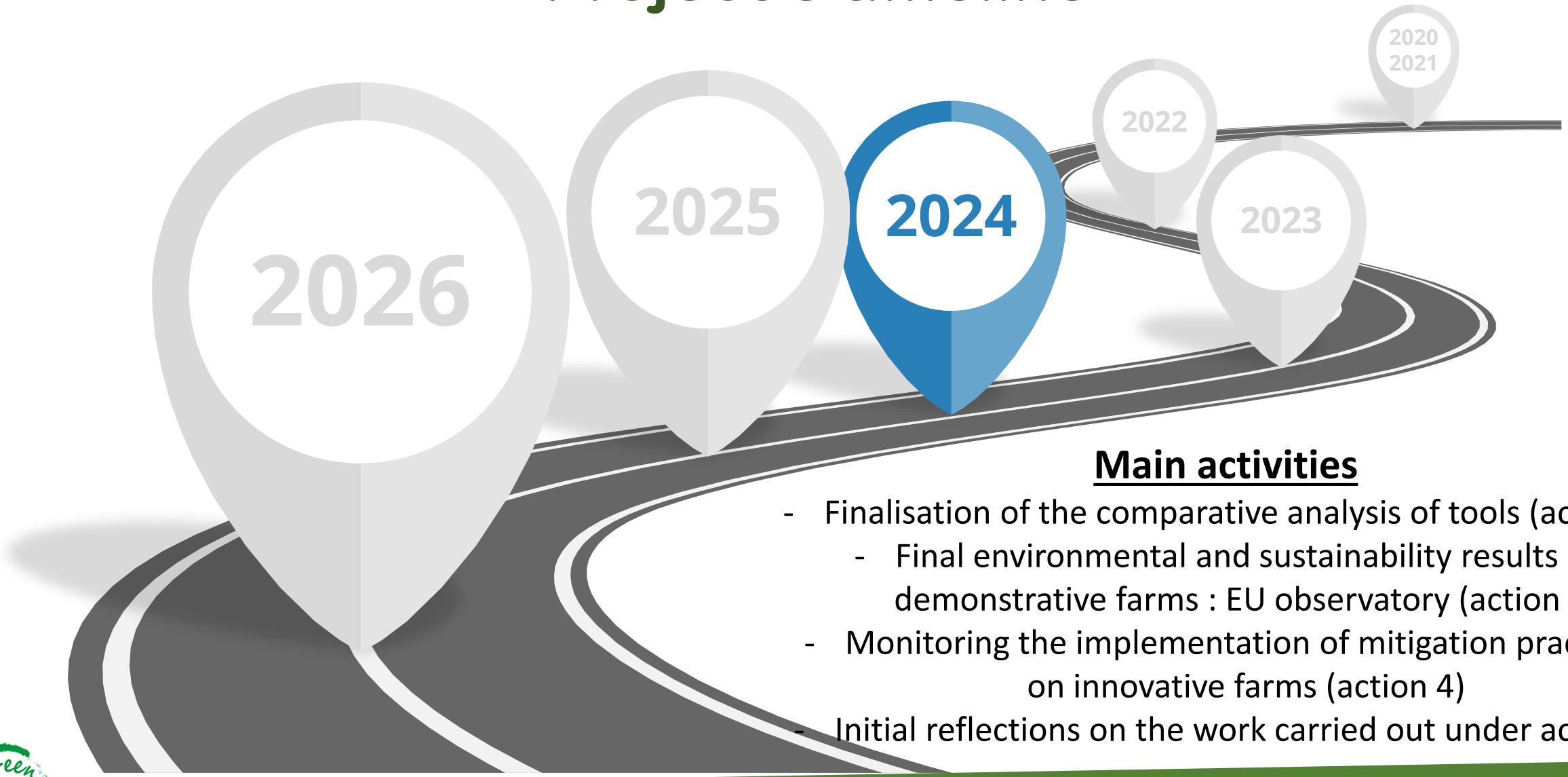
Project's timeline



Main activities

- Continuation of the comparative analysis of tools & Creation of a sustainability assessment at the EU scale (action 1)
- 1st wave of assessments for demonstrative & innovative farms (actions 3 & 4)
- Implementation of mitigation practices on innovative farms (action 4)

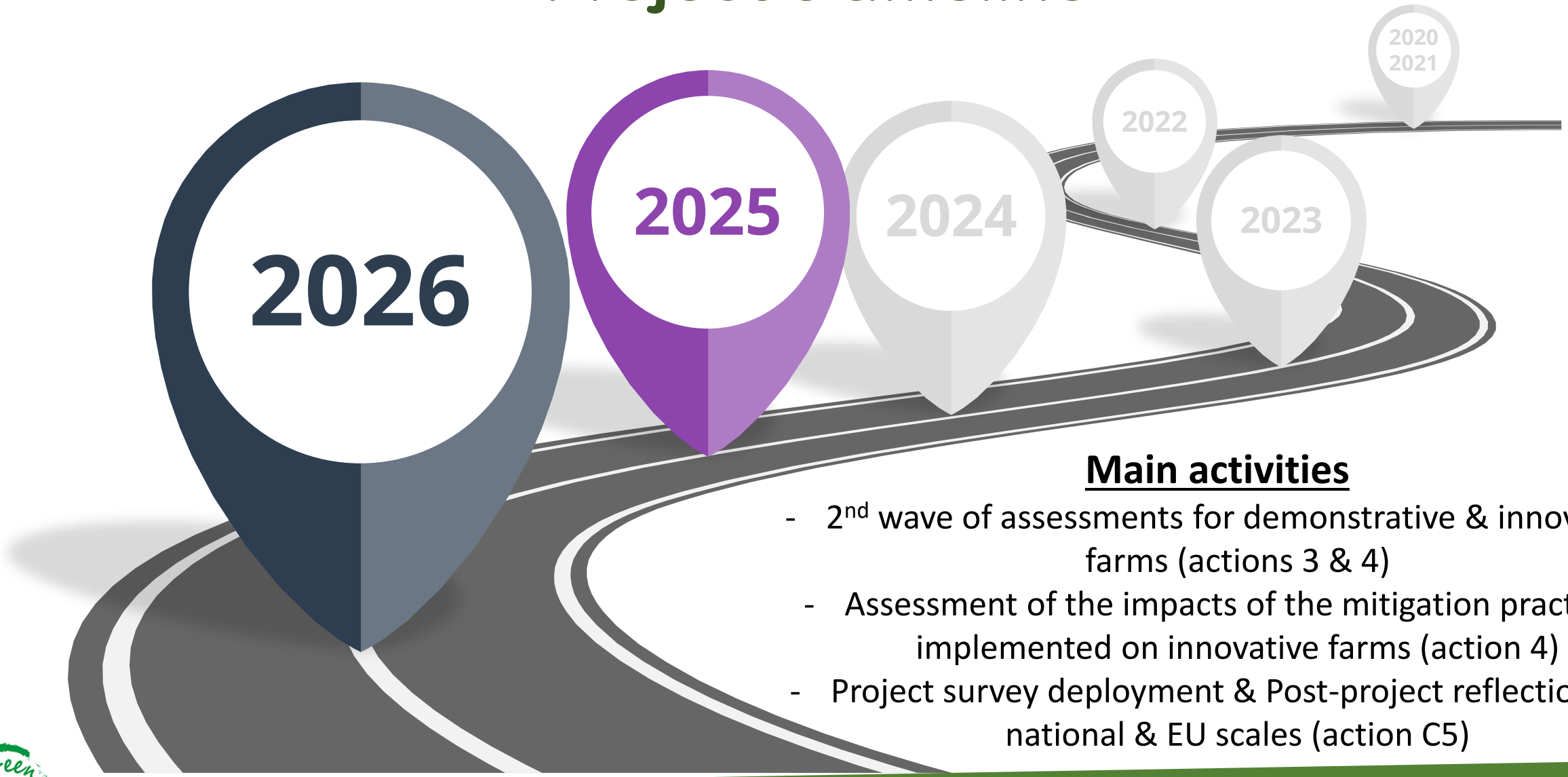
Project's timeline



Main activities

- Finalisation of the comparative analysis of tools (action 1)
- Final environmental and sustainability results of demonstrative farms : EU observatory (action 3)
- Monitoring the implementation of mitigation practices on innovative farms (action 4)
- Initial reflections on the work carried out under action 5

Project's timeline



Main activities

- 2nd wave of assessments for demonstrative & innovative farms (actions 3 & 4)
- Assessment of the impacts of the mitigation practices implemented on innovative farms (action 4)
- Project survey deployment & Post-project reflections at national & EU scales (action C5)

A brief overview of the sheep sectors in these five countries









The french sheep milk sector in a few figures

4 000
DAIRY SHEEP FARMS

1,4
MILLION DAIRY EWES

320
MILLION LITRE OF SHEEP MILK

+ de 10%
OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

5th european producer
12th world producer

A providing job sector in rural areas

+ de 8 000
DAIRY SHEEP FARMERS

+ de 90
COMPAGNIES COLLECT AND PROCESS THE MILK

+ de 4000
EMPLOYEES THAT COLLECT, PROCESS AND MARKET SHEEP MILK

Adding-value to difficult territories, mainly mountain areas

+ de 90%
OF SHEEP MILK PRODUCTION IN MOUTAINOUS AREAS

Products that showcase French gastronomy

60 000
TONS OF PURE SHEEP CHEESE

3 AOP+ 1 IGP FROMAGERES
40% UNDER DOP

28 000
TONS OF FRESH DAIRY PRODUCTS







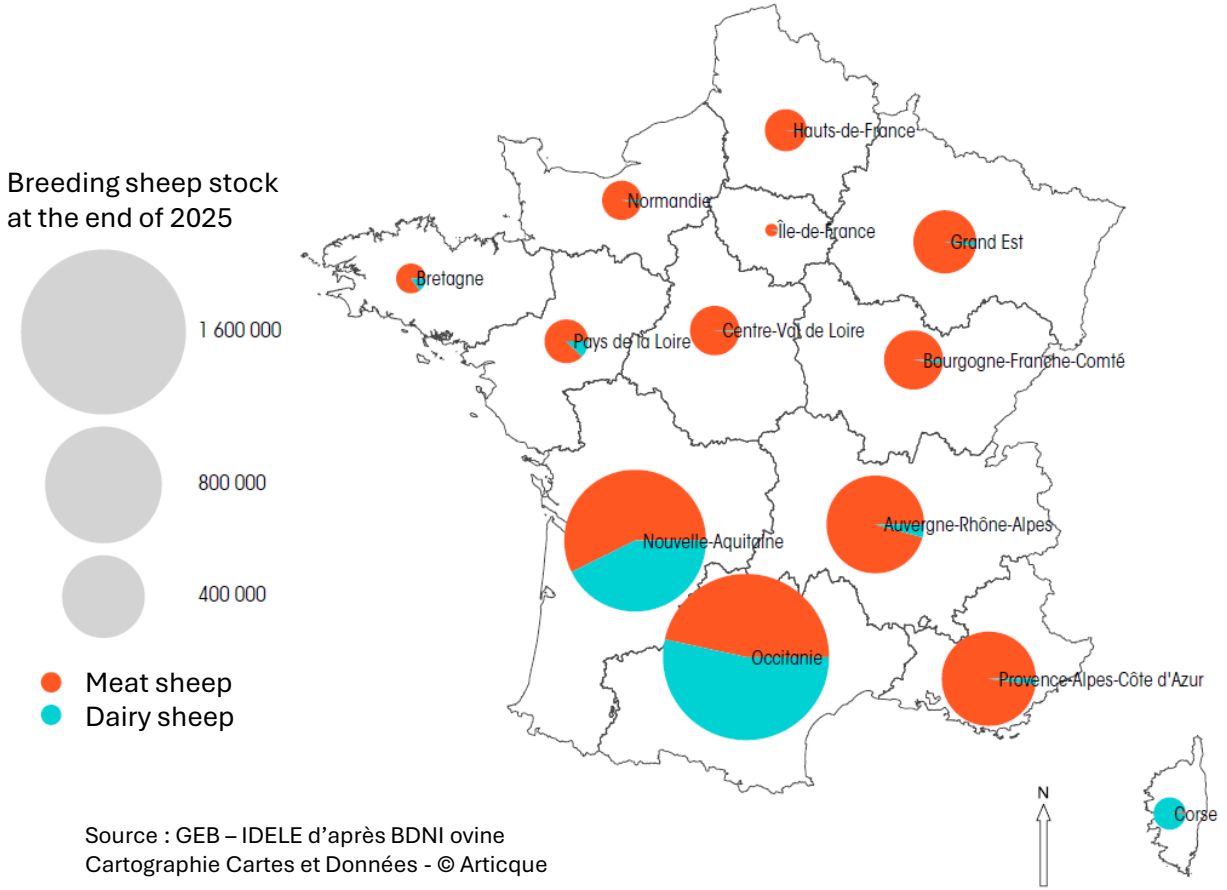





Meat sheep Industry

- **62,000 meat** sheep farms, of which **15,000** are professional (50+ ewes), with a **breeding flock of 3,300,000**
- **59 recognized breeds** (Charollais, Vendéen, Île-de-France…)

- **Diverse systems:** indoor, grass-based, pastoral, mountain, transhumant, and combined with other productions (cereals, cattle, vineyards, etc.)
- **Diverse lambs production:** official quality labels, standard, dairy-flock, milk-fed
- **130 abattoirs**: the top 5 handle 50% of volume
- **2.1 kg** of sheep meat consumed per person per year
- **42%** of the sheep meat consumed in 2025 is French-produced



Source : GEB – IDELE d'après BDNI ovine
Cartographie Cartes et Données - © Articque

Sheep production in Ireland

2.5 million ewes - 34,176 flocks Sheep farms with an off farm income – 48% Mean farmer age – 57.5 years

Lowland - 85% lamb carcass

- Stocking rate = 6.6 ewes/ha
- 1.3 lambs reared/ewe joined (NFS)
- 65% ewes from terminal sires
- mean gross margin €713/ha
- €253/ha for bottom 1/3 of farms
- €1,722/ha for top 1/3 of farms

Hill sheep – extensive production

- 0.9 lambs reared/ewe joined
- mainly Scottish Blackface



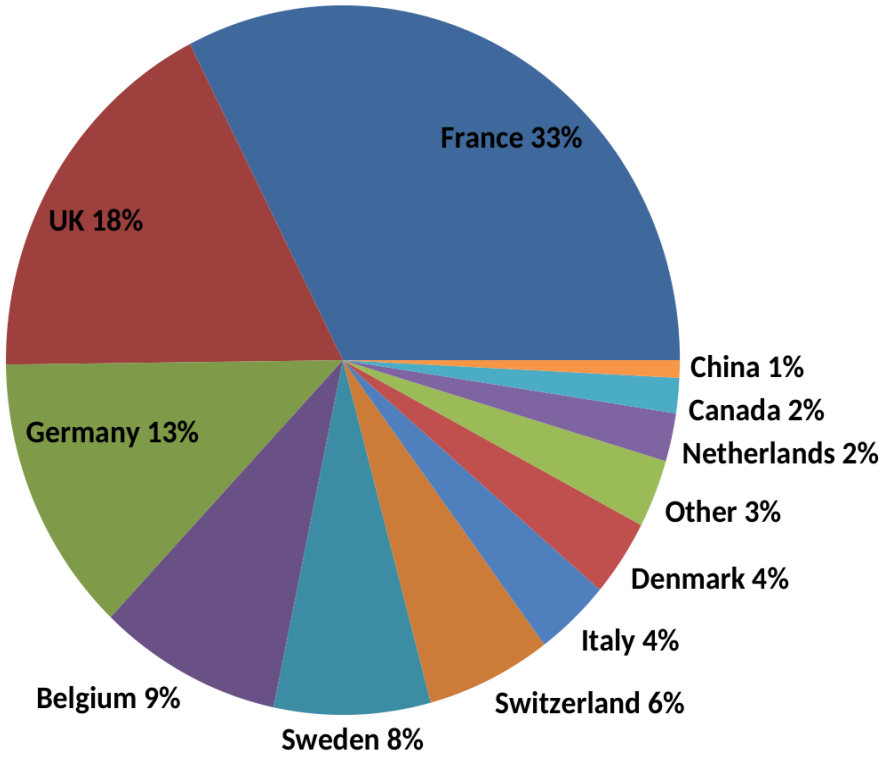






Irish Sheep Meat – export orientated

Ireland – largest meat sheep exporter in the EU
- fourth largest worldwide



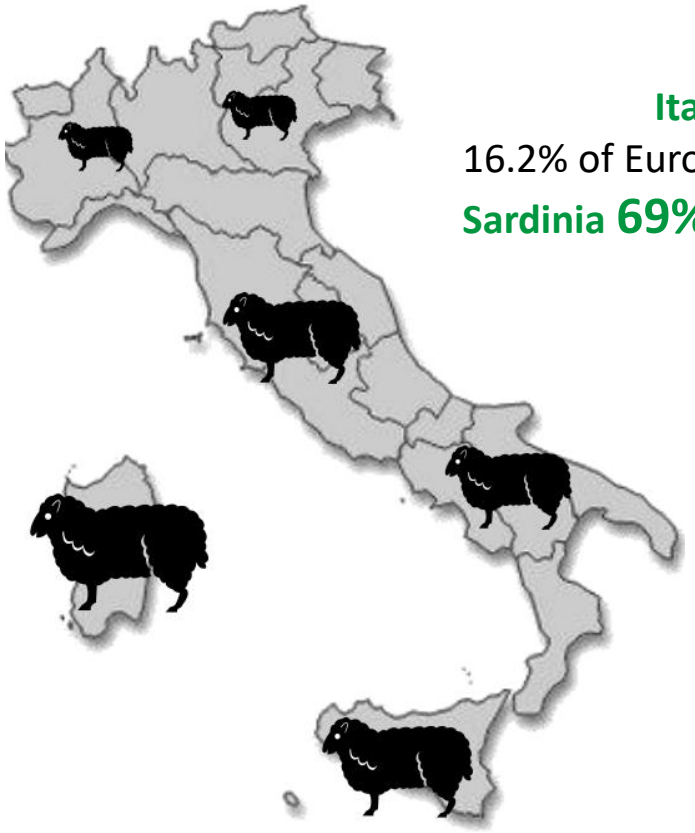




85 % of sheep meat production is exported
- 30% as carcass

LIFE GREEN SHEEP

Dairy sheep farming in Italy



Italy produces
16.2% of European sheep's milk and
Sardinia 69% of Italian sheep milk









PDO cheeses produced in Italy



	N° sheep	Tons of milk	Kg milk/head
Italy	**6.497.003**	**444,592**	**68**
Sardinia	**3.110.890**	**302.797**	**97**

Source: ISTAT, Noi Italia 2025 (2023 data).

LIFE GREEN SHEEP

Dairy sheep farming in Sardinia

Around 3 million sheep graze on natural and sown pastures, with supplementary feeding indoors, helping to maintain Sardinia's rural landscape

Typical sheep farming calendar

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Multiparous:	Lambing				Lactation							
Primiparous:	Lambing				Lactation							

Sarda breed



Sardinian lamb PGI



PDO sheep cheeses



Sheep Farming In Spain

49 breeds













Sheep Farming In Spain

49 breeds







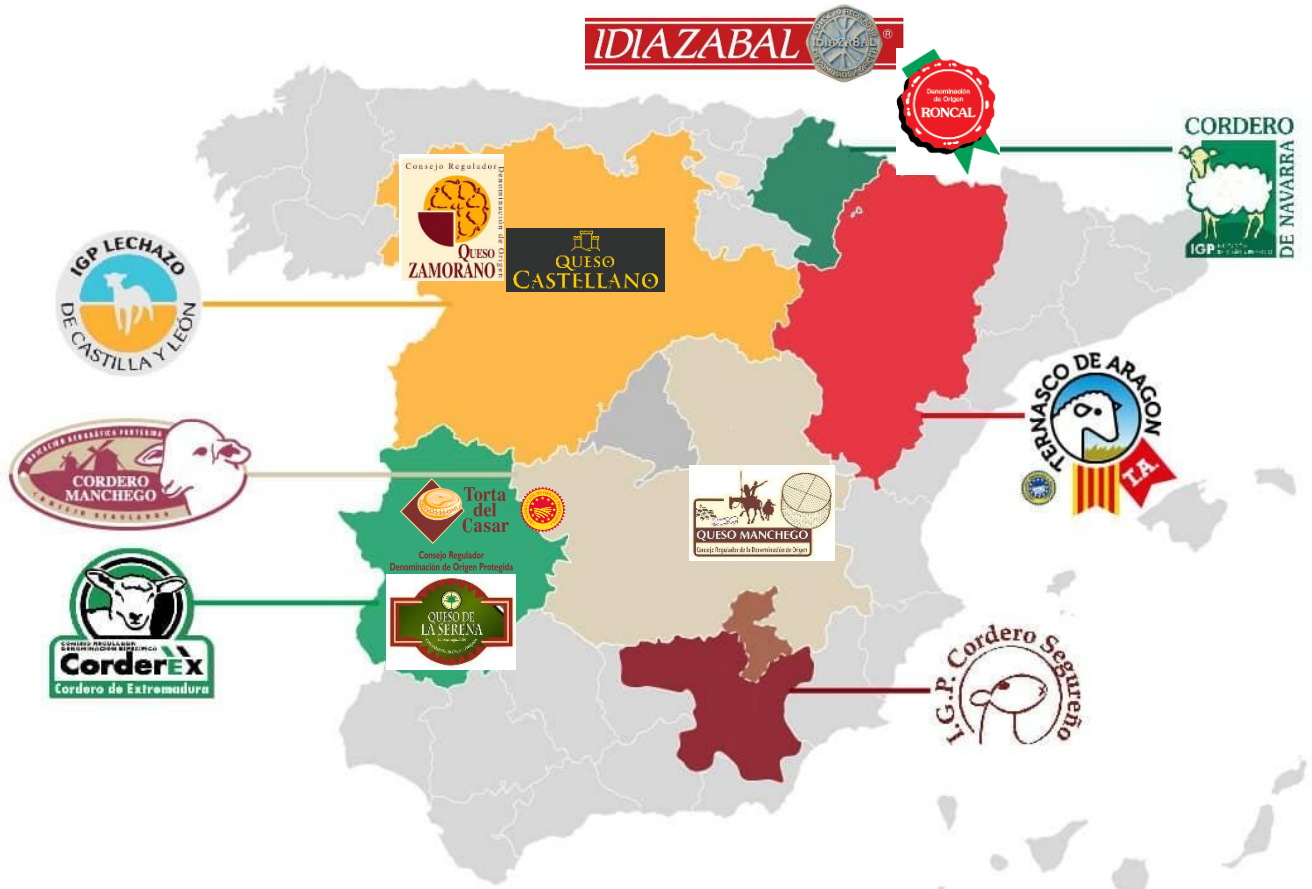




13 high quality food products (PDOs or PGI)

6 meat + 7 100% sheep milk cheeses

… **6 PDO blended cheeses (cow, sheep & goat)**





Romanian sheep sector, at a glance

sheep population: 11+ mil. heads, of which 9.5 mil. ewes

main breeds: Țurcană, Țigaie, Merinos, Karakul, Carabașă

Most livestock is in **smallholdings** (owned by individuals), only a small share is in large commercial farms

Even large farms **often use extensive methods** (lack milking/feeding equipment, low use of concentrates)

Abundant feed resources: vast mountain / hilly / plain pastures, plus **widely available cereals**

Low interest in vitamin-mineral premixes correlates with **lower yields**, whereas the few specialized lamb meat farms tend to use compound feeds

Most sheep are **raised for milk** (although the breeds are **rather low-productive** – Țurcana, Țigaie); there are a few dual-purpose breeds (Carabașa) and some specialised lines of Merino.

Wool is generally **unutilized and discarded**, while **lamb slaughter peaks in spring** due to Easter traditions

professional **associations** = very **fragmented**; there are several **specialised R&D units**, on sheep & goats













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