

The Kick-off meeting of the H2020 GENE-SWitCH project (2019-2023)



On September 10th and 11th, all project partners gathered together for the kick-off meeting of the GENE-SWitCH project, held in Paris at the AgroParisTech Alumni venue, facing the Louvre Museum. GENE-SWitCH, the regulatory GENomE of SWine and CHicken: functional annotation during development, aims to deliver new underpinning knowledge on the functional genomes of these two main monogastric farm species as well as to enable immediate translation of this new knowledge to the pig and poultry sectors. The project is conducted in the frame of the Functional Annotation of Animal Genomes ([FAANG](#)) initiative. Datasets are being produced to

fully conform to FAANG standards under the principles of international cooperation and open science, and in coordination and synergy with the other FAANG projects in other countries such as the US. The GENE-SWitCH consortium brings together partners representing pan-European excellence including the academic institutions which pioneered FAANG and world-leading animal breeding and biotech industry in a true co-creation effort. During the kick-off meeting, we evaluated initial progress since the official start (July 1st). We discussed and updated the action plans for reaching the forthcoming deliverables pertaining sample collections and logistics; assays-by-sequence optimization; metadata and data coordination, curation, validation, archiving processes; as well as refined the transversal plan for standardization, dissemination, and outreach to the animal science community. Importantly, we advanced considerably in the design of the “clustering plan” thanks to the coordinators present of respectively the two H2020 projects funded under the same topic call: [AQUA-FAANG](#) (on aquaculture fish species) and BovReg (on cattle). Overall, the meeting was highly productive and took place in a very convivial atmosphere. Further information will be available soon.