



UNIVERSITATEA DE ȘTIINȚE AGRICOLE ȘI MEDICINĂ VETERINARĂ DIN CLUJ-NAPOCA  
Calea Mănăstur 3-5, 400372, Cluj-Napoca  
Tel: 0264-596.394, Fax: 0264-593.792  
www.usamvcluj.ro



***Ad hoc* “Merino network”:**

**Merino and Merino-derived breeds in Europe**

**State of art – *in situ* valorization.**

**Insight into history of the Romanian Merino derived sheep breeds: current situation, distribution, origin / evolution and valorization**

**CSII Dr. Eng. Valentin Adrian Bâlțeanu<sup>a</sup>**

a: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, 3-5 Manastur Road, 400372, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

e- mail : lzga.usamvcj@yahoo.com

Monday 15th February 2021 13.50 (CET) - *First session: the Merino and Merino-derived breeds in Europe: history, demography, and genetics*

**Current situation of Romanian Merino derived breeds**

**Palas Merino**



**Transylvanian Merino**



**2020- Herd book data: 153,711 heads**

**2020 – Herd book data: 11,364 heads**

**The Breeders are organized several Associations, which are affiliated to one Association that is that is coordinating both Herd Books**

### Distribution of Romanian Merino derived breeds



### History

- When we refer to the formation of Romanian farm animal breeds, it can be stated that the majority of them were created and stabilised as breeds in the last 100 years. In most of the cases they were produced by admixture processes;
- The geographical position of Romania, located on the main past migratory routes from Asia, had an significant influence and shaped to the genetic background of domestic species or wild animals;
- This admixture process was observed in our past studies in cattle, pigs / wild boars or goats.
- Therefore the Merino derived breeds from Romania should follow the same genetic pattern.

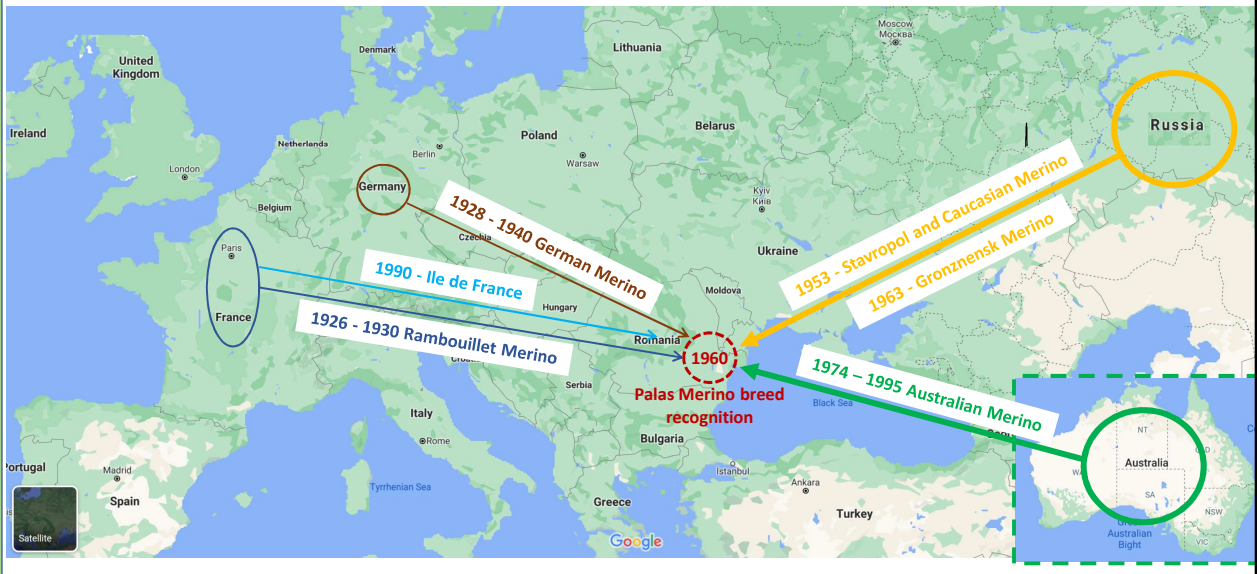
History

Starting point: 1919 - fine wool sheep population was brought to a Sheep Research Institute in Constanta



History

Since 1923 – several controlled infusions with other Merino derived breeds were made in order to improve body conformation or quality/quantity of wool



## Food and non-food products

### The main valorization of the Romanian Merino sheep in for:

- Lamb production, which are mainly exported in the Arabian countries;
- In Romania the lambs meat is consumed mainly in the Easter Holidays;
- The milk is used mainly for the production of crude cheese (called „cas”) or salty cheese (called „telemea”), which is locally sold.
- Wool production, which is exported mainly in Turkey.



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Tel: 0264-596.304, Fax: 0264-593.792  
[www.usamvcluj.ro](http://www.usamvcluj.ro)



**Thank you**

For further information you can contact me at

CS II Dr. Eng. Valentin Adrian Bâlțeanu  
Univeristy of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca  
Institute of Life Sciences  
3-5 Manastur Road, 400372, Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
E-mail: [lzga.usamvcj@yahoo.com](mailto:lzga.usamvcj@yahoo.com)

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