OPTIMIR: NEW TOOLS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE DAIRY SECTOR

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Aims

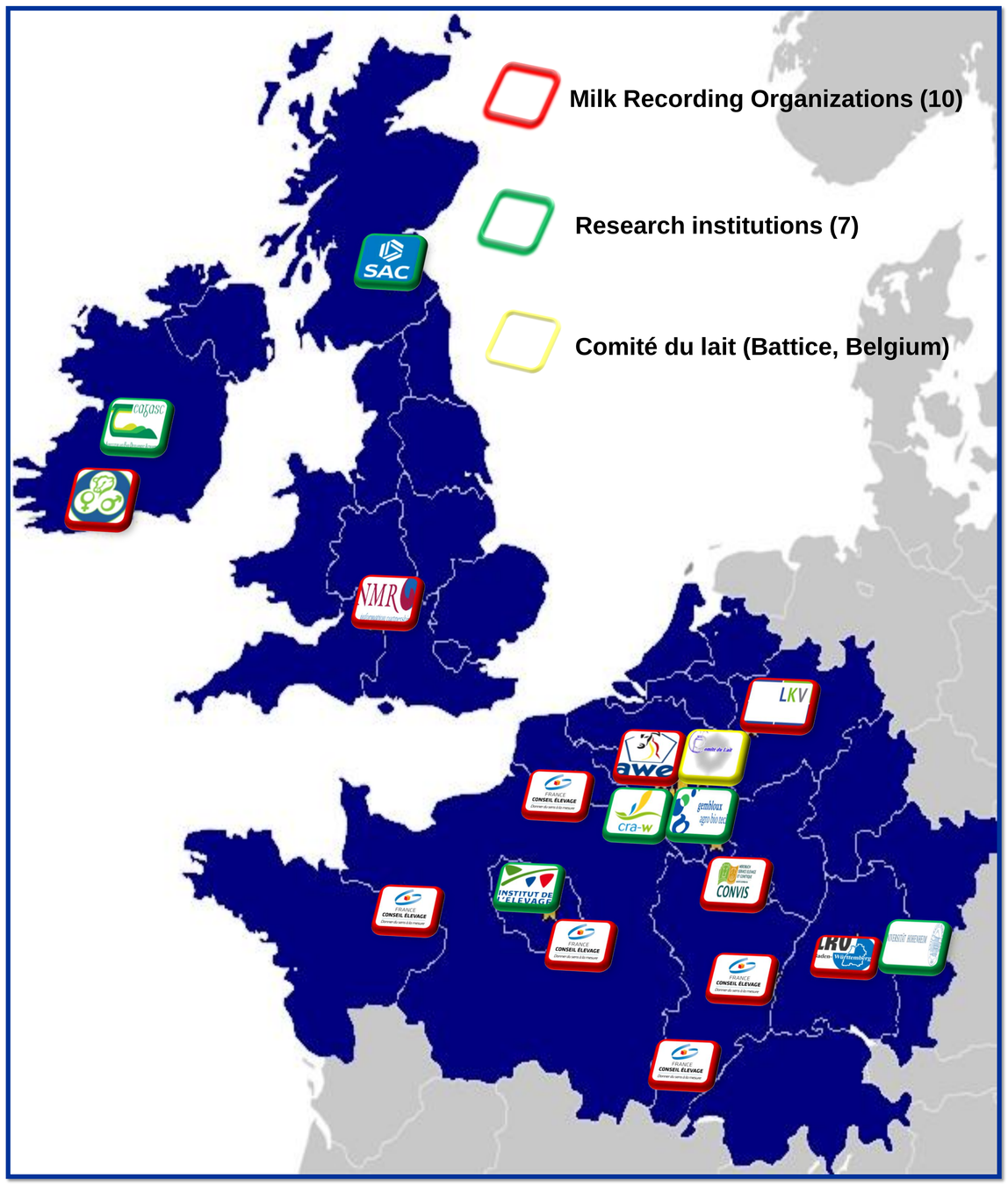
To improve the profitability and sustainability of the dairy sector by providing milk producers with innovative standardized management tools based on association between MIR milk records and cows' status:

- **To reduce the costs of production** through improved herd management for example:
  - costs of feeding with energetic balance indicator
  - veterinary costs with early diagnosis of mastitis
  - costs of semen straws with insemination predictor
- **To bring opportunities to access competitive markets** by measuring quality traits linked to higher added value (e.g. low-cost measure of food label claims)
- **To decrease the impact on the environment** (quantification of methane and nitrogen production)

Innovative Approach

- Large **cooperation** between Milk Recording Organizations (MRO) and research institutions specialized in animal sciences and infrared spectroscopy
- Exploration and use of the **all infrared spectrum** resulting from routine milk analysis as indicator of the **cows' status**
- Harmonization of the data collected by the various MRO's allowing a better validity of the **management tools** developed for all the areas of North West of Europe and their various systems of production

Partners



Work Packages of the Project

WP 1 – Guidelines: Define priorities and state of the art in achieving profitability and the sustainability of the dairy sector

- A 1: Sector's Survey
- A 2: Experts' Group

WP 2 – Development: To develop operating prototype of tools relevant to priorities defined in WP1

- A 3: Creation and maintenance of a transnational database
- A 4: Design and development of statistical tools to be publically available on OptiMIR website
- A 5: Selection of new dairy management indicators based on relationship between MIR milk spectra and animal characteristics (spectral indicators)
- A 6: Prototype tools' design using A5

WP 3 – Implementation, Validation & Roll-out: To provide stakeholders with a low-cost, users friendly and up-to-date access to validated web-tools through a private web-account

- A 7: Test & upgrade of the set of tools in pilot farms
- A 8: Implementation of the validated tools from A7 on every MRO's data-processing-system to provide dairy farmers with an access to the OptiMIR tools via the web
- A 9: Popularization, promotion and training

www.optimir.eu

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