



EU4SUPA NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 — June 2026

European Union for Sustainable Pastoralism | Erasmus+ KA220-VET

Welcome to the first issue of the EU4SUPA newsletter! EU4SUPA – European Union for Sustainable Pastoralism – is a 30-month Erasmus+ project (November 2025 – April 2028) bringing together seven partners from Spain, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria and Romania to modernize vocational education and training for pastoralism and support the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the sector. This is the first of 12 newsletters planned over the project's lifetime, and it looks back at our first months of activity.

ABOUT EU4SUPA

Pastoralism is essential for conserving biodiversity, preventing land degradation and sustaining rural economies across Europe – yet the sector faces mounting pressure from climate change, an ageing workforce and the erosion of traditional knowledge. EU4SUPA responds by co-creating a modern, structured training pathway that combines scientific knowledge with traditional ecological practice, developed with pastoralists themselves.

Our objectives

- Integrate environmental sustainability into regular pastoral practices.
- Modernise vocational training in pastoralism.
- Strengthen the skills of pastoralists and key stakeholders in rangeland management.
- Preserve and transfer traditional ecological knowledge.
- Foster collaboration among rural actors and rangeland managers.
- Increase the attractiveness of pastoralism as a sustainable profession.
- Enhance the environmental impact of pastoral practices on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Coordinator: Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (FMM), Spain. **Partners:** CESEFOR (ES), INNSAMBLE (ES), AGROM-RO (RO), AU-Plovdiv (BG), HAUP (AT), D.R.E.Am Italia (IT).

NEWS FROM THE PROJECT

Kick-off meeting – November 2025

On 1 November 2025, EU4SUPA was officially launched with an online kick-off meeting. Partners confirmed their shared motivation: professionalizing pastoralism and strengthening the resilience of rangelands across Europe, while combining scientific knowledge with traditional practice. In addition, the partners shared project insights and ideas, while agreeing on priorities and the next steps.

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Second Transnational Project Meeting (TPM2) – April 2026

In April 2026, partners met in Spain for the project's second Transnational Project Meeting, hosted by coordinator FMM at its headquarters in the beautiful Dehesa San Francisco estate in Santa Olalla del Cala (Huelva), Andalusia. The meeting reviewed progress on the Living Labs and co-creation activities and included a visit to their agroforestry farming system, with sessions on livestock guardian dogs and predator management.



TPM2 group photo / lab visit, Andalusia, April 2026

Six Living Labs are up and running

The consortium has set up six Pasture and Rangeland Living Labs – permanent, interactive spaces integrating traditional ecological knowledge with scientific research in real-world settings. Each Lab is exploring a locally-relevant question through co-creation workshops with pastoralists:

- Spain | FMM — How can the rearing and training of dogs contribute to sustainable extensive sheep farming?
- Spain | CESEFOR — How can shepherds manage predators and competitors for food while respecting society and the environment?

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- Italy | DREAM — How can pasture management systems support ecosystem services and economically sustainable livelihoods?
- Austria | HAUP — How can the sheep farming sector adapt planning and management to climate change?
- Romania | AGROM-RO — How can shepherds diversify income while adhering to sustainability principles?
- Bulgaria | AU-Plovdiv — How can shepherds share knowledge and influence policy and public opinion?

WHAT'S NEXT

- Continued co-creation workshops across the six Living Labs, feeding into the training curriculum
- Design of the Sustainable Pastoralism training curriculum and digital learning platform, to be piloted in six European regions
- Development of the European Network on Sustainable Pastoralism, connecting educators, pastoralists, researchers and policymakers

SPOTLIGHT: WHY PASTORALISM MATTERS

2026 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists – timely recognition of the vital role shepherds and extensive livestock farming play in preventing land degradation, conserving biodiversity and sustaining rural economies across Europe. Yet the sector faces an ageing workforce, limited generational renewal and growing pressure from climate change. EU4SUPA responds directly to these challenges by building a modern, structured training pathway for the next generation of pastoralists.

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