



LIFE  
SHEP FOR BIO

*ShepForBio Pastoral School Newsletter #6*

# **ShepForBio Pastoral Schools Newsletter #6**

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FOR BIO



**Welcome to the sixth edition of the LIFE ShepForBio Newsletter dedicated to pastoral schools!**

## **About LIFE ShepForBio**

The LIFE ShepForBio Project aims to improve the conservation status of three grassland habitats, which have a high naturalistic value and fall into the Habitats Directive (codes 5130, 6210\*, and 6230\*). To ensure sustainable and lasting management of these environments, the development of pastoral activities in marginal upland areas should be enhanced. The Project aims to restore more than 340 hectares of land and improve the conservation status of an additional 147 hectares.

These areas will be grazed following management plans developed during the project, with the aim of maintaining the efficiency restored by the planned recovery actions. The Project's intervention areas fall in two Italian Apennine regions, Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, mainly within the Casentino Forest National Park. In addition, the project will establish a School for Shepherds and Breeders to support aspiring professionals potentially interested in undertaking project-related activities.

Actions are also planned to disseminate the results, both in Italy and internationally, and to promote pastoralism as a tool for biodiversity conservation. In this context, a series of online discussion forums and three international conferences will be organised. The aim is to connect pastoral schools and relevant actors/networks promoting pastoral practices across Europe. Such international events are designed to exchange knowledge, best practices, and challenges among the attendants. The final aim is to encourage the dialogue between European pastoral schools that can build on each other's successes and difficulties and set up future collaborations.



Dear friends of the LIFE ShepForBio project,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in a series of upcoming events dedicated to pastoral schools, generational renewal, and the future of pastoral systems in Europe.

These events aim to strengthen exchange and cooperation between pastoral schools, practitioners, researchers, and institutions, while also contributing to the LIFE ShepForBio preparation of a European technical dossier on pastoral schools. The programme includes three complementary moments:

**EC DG AGRI Lunchtime debate: "[Pastoral schools and generational renewal in Europe](#)"**

3 June 2026, 12:30–14:00 | Hybrid

This session will open the discussion on the role of pastoral schools in supporting generational renewal, access to the profession, and the future of pastoral territories across Europe: check all info [here](#): online participation will be possible following [this link](#).

**[Workshop on pastoral schools at the XIV European Mountain Convention](#)**

1 July 2026, 16:30–18:00 | In-person only

The workshop is co-organised by the projects [LIFE ShepForBio](#), SHEP4ECO, and [EU4SUPA](#), and will bring together pastoral schools and stakeholders to exchange experiences and reflect collectively on the evolving role of schools. Activities will include interactive thematic discussions, case-study sharing, and networking sessions between established and emerging initiatives. What's more? The event is part of the XIV European Mountain Convention, which this year is fully dedicated to [extensive livestock](#).

More [details](#) and registration [here](#).

**LIFE ShepForBio Third International Conference – "[Pastoral Landscapes 2026](#)"**

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

23–24 September 2026 | In-person only

Important updates for our upcoming Third International Conference: the event will now be held on **23–24 September 2026** in Florence, Italy. The programme is developing well, with many exciting contributions and guest speakers already confirmed. We look forward to sharing it all with you and opening the registration process in the upcoming weeks: stay tuned!

As you may know, alongside these events, LIFE ShepForBio is currently preparing a **technical dossier on European pastoral schools**. It aims to document experiences, challenges, impacts, and innovative approaches developed across Europe, while becoming a starting point for an EU-wide overview of pastoral schools.



In the coming weeks, we will circulate more material and a survey to pastoral schools and related initiatives. Your contribution would be extremely valuable in helping us:

- map existing experiences and approaches,
- collect case studies and practical examples,
- better understand the role of schools in local economies and territorial development,
- and develop policy recommendations linked to generational renewal and the future of pastoralism in Europe.

We warmly encourage you to participate in one or more of these events and to contribute to the dossier process.

Please feel free to share this invitation within your own network, and we look forward to continuing this collective work together.

*Tommaso Campedelli, leading the consortium of LIFE ShepForBio (D.R.E.A.M. Italia) and Beatrice Bellavia (Euromontana)*