



**LIFE
SHEP FOR BIO**

ShepForBio Pastoral School Newsletter #7

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Welcome to the seventh 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're well into summertime, but the project is far from being in holiday mode!

The past few weeks have been packed with events that strengthened the collaborative dialogue between pastoral schools, experts and public institutions, all informing our European technical dossier on pastoral schools, to be released this autumn.

Today, we are happy to share with you the reports from these events, in case you have missed them. But we also have a big announcement for you: the registration for our third international **conference on 23 and 24 September** in Florence is [officially open](#)! Make sure you secure your spot through this link, as capacity is limited.



LIFE ShepForBio goes to Brussels: after a presentation at the [EU Commission's Civil Dialogue Group on Environment and Climate Change](#), we co-chaired the EC DG AGRI Lunchtime debate "[Pastoral schools and generational renewal in Europe](#)" on 3 June, we highlighted the growing recognition of pastoral schools as an effective tool for generational renewal, and much more. An in-person and online crowd of **100+ participants** called for stronger EU and national policy support to integrate and scale up these training initiatives across Europe. For more details, read the [full report](#) and watch the event recording [here](#).



Our latest [workshop on pastoral schools](#) at the [XIV European Mountain Convention](#) on 1 July, in collaboration with SHEP4ECO and [EU4SUPA](#), reaffirmed the value of pastoral schools in sustaining mountain pastoralism, fostering knowledge exchange, and attracting a new generation of shepherds across Europe...and many other contributions were shared. Participants stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation, policy support, and long-term investment to expand these initiatives and preserve Europe's pastoral landscapes. The full report is [here](#).



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REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Pastoral Landscapes 2026

Firenze, Italy
23-24 September 2026

LIFE ShepForBio
3rd International Conference

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LIFE20 NAT/IT/001076
Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas



Regione Toscana





LIFE ShepForBio Third International Conference – “[Pastoral Landscapes 2026](#)” Florence, Tuscany, Italy |23-24 September 2026 | In-person only.

The registration is officially [open](#)! We look forward to meeting for two days of keynotes, panel discussions, interactive workshops, networking opportunities...and much more. Secure your spot now, as capacity is limited.

As you may know, alongside these events, LIFE ShepForBio is currently preparing a **dossier on European pastoral schools**. Can you help us? If you're a shepherd school, or you know one, please compile this [survey](#) to help us gain a much-needed EU-wide overview of the training activities offered to aspiring shepherds. Many thanks for your collaboration!

We wish you a great summer break!

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