EU4SUPA Newsletter · Issue 3

About EU4SUPA



EU4SUPA supports sustainable pastoralism through learning across territories and the exchange of practical expertise. The project connects experiences from Spain, Bulgaria and Italy, using working dogs, livestock heritage, pasture management as shared themes for dialogue and cooperation.



Learning from working landscapes

Pastoral landscapes are shaped by people, animals and the environments in which they work. Understanding these connections helps keep local knowledge visible while supporting the careful stewardship of pastures.



Knowledge that travels

The project creates links between field experience, technical discussion and interdisciplinary knowledge. Exchanges make it possible to compare different territories and recognise common challenges without losing their local character.

From practice to sustainable futures

The activities presented in this issue show how sustainable pastoralism depends on connected forms of knowledge: the protection and management of working dogs, the value of genetic heritage, productive pastures and the ecosystem services they provide.

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NEWSLETTER · ISSUE 3 · OCTOBER 2026

ERASMUS+ KA220-VET

European Union for Sustainable Pastoralism — Issue 3 gathers the knowledge exchanges of the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
From León to Plovdiv to Tuscany, working dogs, pasture management and co-creation connect three countries in one shared pastoral conversation.

01
SPAIN

Working dogs and living pastoral traditions

29 August 2026 · La Cueta, León | Fundación Monte Mediterráneo

A Living Lab and co-creation workshop brought together 22 participants around the Spanish Mastiff for livestock protection and the Leonese Carea for flock management. The group discussed native breed conservation, legislation, tourism pressure, loose animals, rural awareness and veterinary support for working dogs.

02
BULGARIA

Livestock guardian dogs: working ability and genetic heritage

18 October 2026 · Agricultural University of Plovdiv

Twenty-one participants examined the Karakachan dog and the protection of sheep from large carnivores. The workshop addressed genetic selection, the risk of breeding on appearance alone, and the conservation of genetic diversity alongside real working ability.

03
ITALY

Connecting pasture productivity and ecosystem services

20 October 2026 · Tuscany | D.R.E.AM. Italia

A Living Lab and workshop on pasture management explored productivity, forage quality and ecosystem services. Twenty-one participants — pastoralists, breeders, researchers, students and local institutions — took part, with particular attention to young female shepherds and livestock farm managers.



01 SPAIN

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Newsletter

ERASMUS+ KA220-VET

Working dogs and living pastoral traditions

29 August 2026 · La Cueta, León | Fundación Monte Mediterráneo



A Living Lab in the field

A Living Lab and co-creation workshop brought together 22 participants around the Spanish Mastiff for livestock protection and the Leonese Carea for flock management.



Two working roles, one shared territory

The exchange focused on the different roles of working dogs within pastoral life, connecting livestock protection, flock management and the conservation of native breeds.



Challenges discussed together

Participants discussed legislation, tourism pressure, loose animals, rural awareness and veterinary support for working dogs, alongside the need to keep local knowledge visible.

The Spanish experience shows how practical exchange can support both living pastoral traditions and the people who depend on them.

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02

BULGARIA

Livestock guardian dogs: working ability and genetic heritage

18 October 2026 · Agricultural University of Plovdiv



01

A workshop on working ability

Twenty-one participants examined the Karakachan dog and the protection of sheep from large carnivores.

02

Genetic heritage and selection

The workshop addressed genetic selection and the risk of breeding on appearance alone, highlighting the importance of conserving genetic diversity alongside real working ability.

03

Keeping function at the centre

The discussion connected the heritage of livestock guardian dogs with the practical conditions in which they work and with the knowledge needed to protect their role in pastoral systems.



The Bulgarian exchange placed working ability and genetic heritage at the centre of a shared reflection on sustainable pastoralism.



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03

ITALY

Connecting pasture productivity and ecosystem services

20 October 2026 · Tenuta di Paganico, Tuscany | D.R.E.AM. Italia

01

A Living Lab on pasture management

A Living Lab and workshop on pasture management explored productivity, forage quality and ecosystem services.



02

A diverse exchange

Twenty-one participants — pastoralists, breeders, researchers, students and local institutions — took part in the discussion.

03

Attention to people and place

The exchange paid particular attention to young female shepherds and livestock farm managers, linking practical experience with the wider value of managed pastoral landscapes.



From Stakeholder Engagement to Wider Impact: EU4SUPA Knowledge Reaches New Audiences!

One of the most rewarding outcomes of a European project is seeing its knowledge, ideas and experiences travel beyond the activities in which they were originally developed, inspiring further dialogue and reaching new audiences.

We are thrilled to share a wonderful example of this through Angela Saba, shepherd and President of the National Sheep and Goat Federation of Confagricoltura, who participated in the EU4SUPA workshop "Pasture Management: Productivity, Forage Quality and Ecosystem Services", held on 20 October 2026 at Tenuta di Paganico, Italy.

Following the workshop, Angela expressed her interest in sharing its findings at the international conference "Pastures and Shepherds: From Myth to 4.0", organised by INSOR and FIDAF as part of the Cerealia Festival on 29 October 2026.

We were delighted to support this initiative and see EU4SUPA's discussions and insights brought to a broader audience.



From Stakeholder Engagement to Wider Impact: EU4SUPA Knowledge Reaches New Audiences!

In the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

This initiative is of special significance in the context of the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, highlighting the essential contribution of pastoral communities to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem services and the resilience of rural territories.

For D.R.E.AM. Italia

This experience is particularly meaningful for D.R.E.AM. Italia, reinforcing the importance of connecting European project activities with real-world experiences, local communities and stakeholder-led initiatives. Seeing knowledge generated through EU4SUPA reach new audiences represents a valuable example of how participatory approaches can strengthen the relevance, visibility and potential long-term impact of European cooperation projects.

This is what meaningful stakeholder engagement looks like: when participants become ambassadors of project knowledge, creating new opportunities for dialogue, strengthening connections and extending the reach of project results.

A heartfelt thank you to Angela Saba for giving further visibility to EU4SUPA, sharing the insights emerging from our workshop and amplifying the voices of those working every day towards a more sustainable and resilient future for pastoralism!

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LOOKING AHEAD

Together, these experiences show the value of learning across territories: from the protection and management of working dogs to the stewardship of pastures and ecosystem services.



Working dogs and living pastoral traditions



Livestock guardian dogs: working ability and genetic heritage



Management of pasture and productivity

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