XIV European Mountain CONVENTION

30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

EUROMONTANA

Suaci Montagn'Alpes

The role of pastoral schools beyond education

Beatrice Bellavia (Euromontana) & Eugenia Spinelli (DREAM Italia)

beatrice.bellavia@euromontana.org / spinelli@dream-italia.it
site

www.euromontana.org/ www.dream-italia.it



LIFE SHEP FOR BIO

EU4SUPA

SHEP4ECO

D.R.E.A.M. ITALIA

The LIFE ShepForBio project

Improve the **conservation status** of three grassland habitats of European conservation concern by the Habitats Directive

→ through the **development of pastoral activities** and the valorisation of the role of pastoralism in the conservation of biodiversity.



© Marco Buratti

The LIFE ShepForBio project

- Shrubs **clearings** + pastoral **infrastructures**
- Specific **grazing** management **plans**
- Support for farms → targeted **training** activities + creation of a Shepherd **School**
- Promotion of **pastoralism** as a tool for **biodiversity conservation**

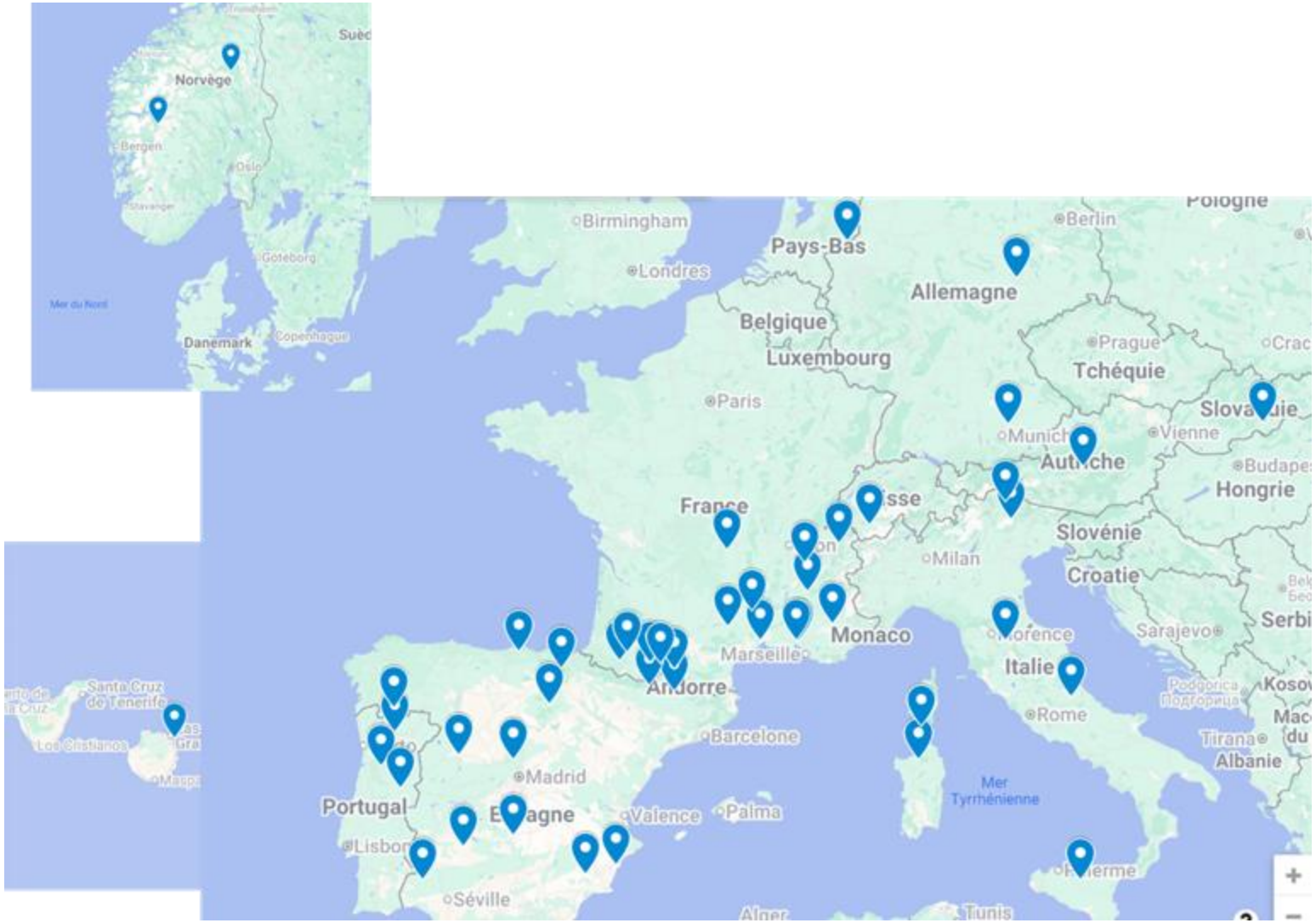
- **Good practices** for the conservation of open habitats



© Marco Buratti

LIFE SHEP FOR BIO

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches



The European Dossier of Pastoral Schools

EU-level overview of pastoral schools

- Pastoral training in Europe is **highly uneven**: not many shepherd schools, specialised programmes + informal knowledge transfer
- **France** & **Spain** lead the development of pastoral schools, with training combining traditional skills and modern topics



© Marco Buratti

EU-level overview of pastoral schools

- Most pastoral knowledge is still learned through **practice and mentoring**
- Many programmes face **challenges**, including low enrolment, ageing shepherd populations & limited long-term institutional support.
- Shepherd schools are increasingly recognised as strategic tools for generational renewal and rural vitality.



© Marco Buratti

COORDINATOR PARTNERS

The EU4SUPA project

- 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.



https://dream-italia-euprj.eu/en/eu4supa_eng/

Erasmus+
Enriqueciendo vidas, abriendo mentes.

Co-funded by the European Union

Erasmus+ KA220 VET000360691

COORDINATOR PARTNERS

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION 30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

The EU4SUPA project

Document traditional pastoral knowledge and integrate scientific research

- Living Labs
- Co-creation workshops
- Good Practices collection

Develop a sustainability-focused curriculum for pastoralism

- A 120-hour blended training programme on sustainable pastoralism merges traditional and scientific knowledge on biodiversity, pasture management, and climate change adaptation.
- Designed for EQF Level 4 and aligned with the EU GreenComp framework
- Available on a user-friendly digital platform
- Pilot the programme in six European Regions in 5 Countries

Establish a European pastoral network

- A digital database of 60+ institutions (schools, universities, associations, NGOs) for transnational sharing of data and methodologies.
- Shared network rules to facilitate the immediate exchange of information and best practices



https://dream-italia-euprj.eu/en/eu4supa_eng/

Erasmus+ Enriqueciendo vidas, abriendo mentes.
Co-funded by the European Union
Erasmus+ KA220 VET000360691

The SHEP4ECO project

Innovative **professional profile** "Shepherd for Ecosystems" tailored to **provide ecosystem services** → ready to collaborate with land managers & access ES valorisation mechanisms.

- Growing demand for aspiring shepherd training
- ES valorisation is not systematically included in pastoral schools' training programmes



© Marco Buratti

The SHEP4ECO project

→ A **replicable training model**

→ Engage pastoral schools & trainers

→Agro-silvo-pastoral activity = socio-economic activity + tool for sustainable ES

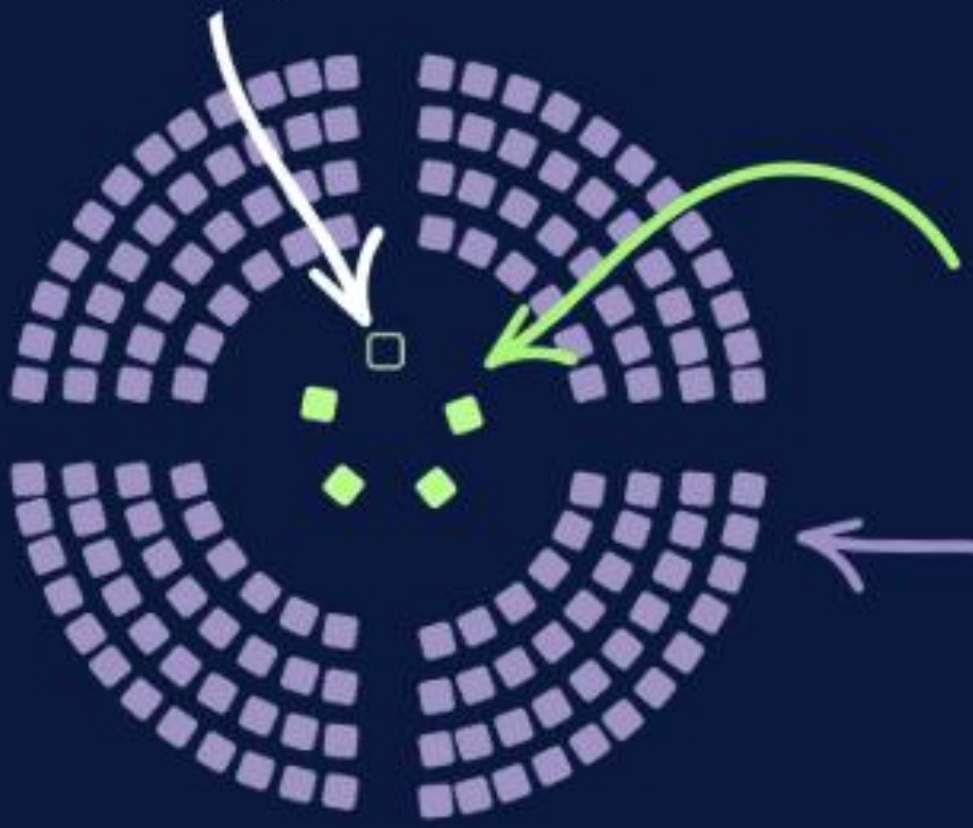
→New **employment opportunities** to support **generational renewal**

→Pastoral activity essential for landscape maintenance and territorial conservation

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

THE FISHBOWL CONVERSATION

One or more seats in the fishbowl will be empty



A small inner circle (the Fishbowl) holds the conversation.

A larger outer circle listens, observes, and reflects.

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

Rules of the game

- If you are in the **inner circle**, engage in a natural conversation rather than taking turns to speak.
- If you are in the **outer circle**, listen actively, observe, and take notes if helpful.
- If you would like to **contribute**, ask something, or share your insights, please **move to the empty seat in the inner circle**. When you join the inner circle, another participant returns to the outer circle, ensuring that one seat always remains open.

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

How do (or could) pastoral schools contribute to your region, community, or sector, beyond training and educating the next generations of shepherds?

En quoi les écoles pastorales contribuent-elles (ou pourraient-elles contribuer) à votre région, à votre communauté ou à votre secteur, au-delà de la formation et de l'éducation des futures générations de bergers ?

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

Rules of the game

- Please write your thought on a sticky note
- Or use the Mentimeter

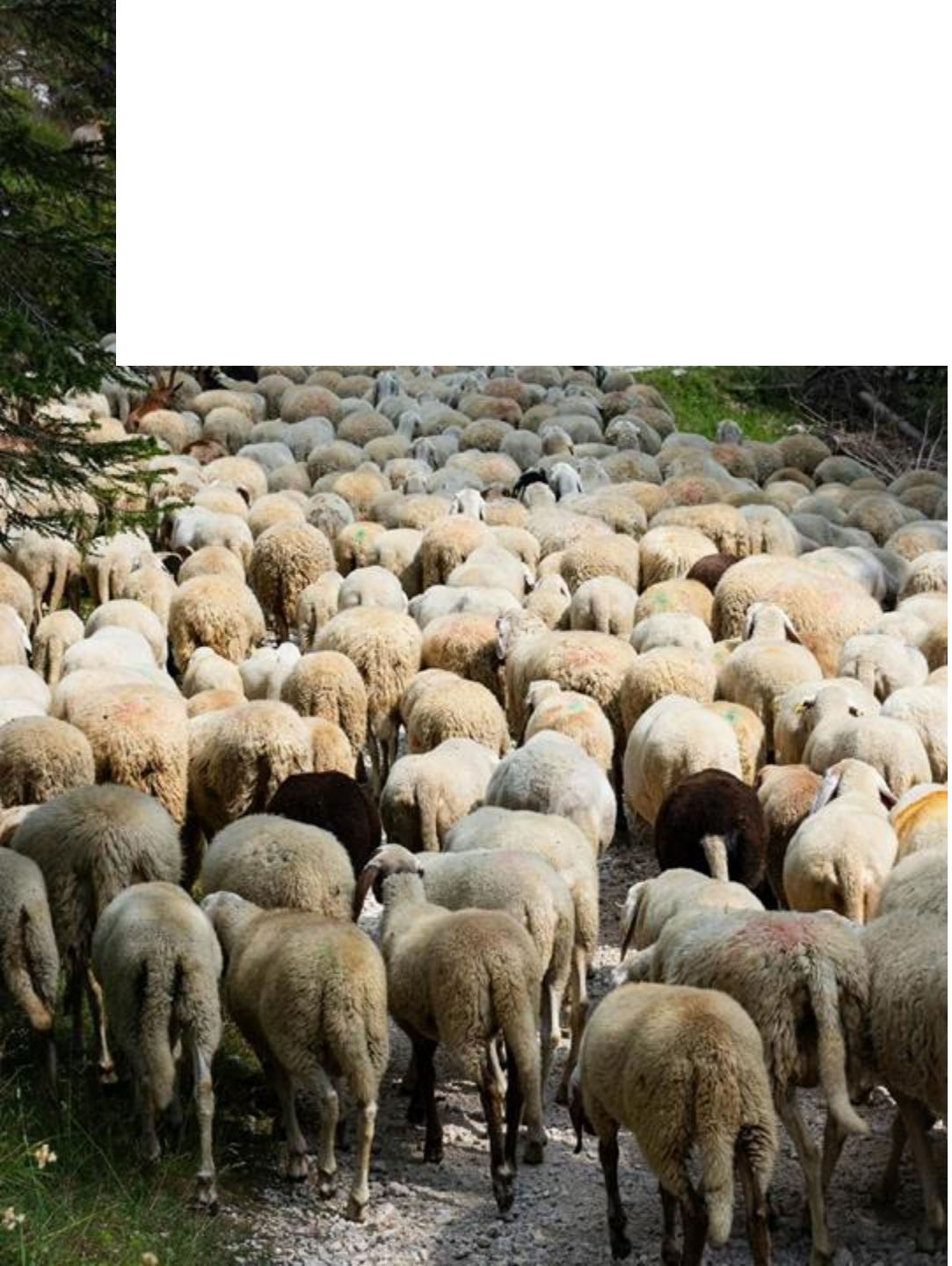
XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

Video contributions from pastoral schools



XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches





MERCI

DE VOTRE ATTENTION !

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Beatrice Bellavia (Euromontana) &
Eugenia Spinelli (DREAM Italia)

beatrice.bellavia@euromontana.org
spinelli@dream-italia.it
site

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

Nos partenaires
Our partners

