



LIFE GRACE - Grasslands conservation through grazing



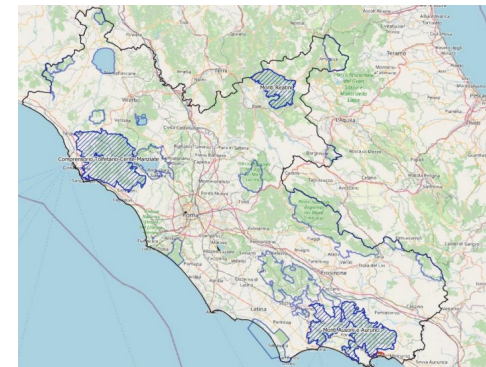
Duration and budget: 4 years (01/09/2020 – 31/08/2024) - **1,378,727 €**

Partners: ARSIAL, Univ. Sapienza, FIRAB, Green Factor, Comunità Ambiente.

Demonstration areas/case study areas

Implementation in three Natura 2000 areas of the Lazio Region:

- 1 Tolfa mountains in the west of the region (67.573 ha),
- 2 The Reatina mountain in the north of the region (23.485 ha)
- 3 Ausoni-Aurunci mountains in the south of the region (62.351 ha)



Main Goals:

Grace aims to promote the conservation of the semi-natural grassland habitats which need grazing as a condition to avoid deterioration or loss, through:

- Engaging breeders in grassland habitats conservation and monitoring
- Strengthening of brands for the production of the Natura 2000 pastures and the relationship with the HORECA system
- Greater public awareness on the role of breeders in protecting habitats and on the Natura 2000 productions



Main Actions:

- Policy and administrative dialogue with Lazio Region's environmental authorities and National Rural Network
- Evolutionary analysis of grazing habitats and stocking rates
- Awareness raising among the managers of the common lands that make up the prevailing matrix of the grazing habitats
- Development of web-apps for breeders involved in grassland habitats monitoring
- Exploration and greater understanding of the main channels for commercialization of breeders products
- Market analysis to assess the grass-fed meat potential and consumers' awareness raising on the Natura 2000 productions
- Engagement of Local Administrations to implement the CAM (Minimum Environmental Criteria) in public canteen contracts for livestock products from the N2000 areas
- Engagement of short/local circuits experiences (such as box schemes) for direct selling of products
- Dissemination of the territorial analysis model inside and outside the region

Main results:

- Actualised mapping of state-of-the-art habitats' situations
- 24 technicians from regional bodies trained in habitat monitoring with the use of *Collect Earth*
- Local administrations commitment to adopt suitable GPP's CAM
- Box schemes engagement subscription
- Greater awareness of the general public (as well as breeders and Local Authorities)



Policy implications:

- *highlight the main policies targeted and indicate if applicable the expected contribution of your project to implementation, design or take-up of regional, national or European policy initiatives*

- Rewarding of pasture management (e.g. dedicated EcoScheme)
- Simplification of excessive bureaucracy of both CAP/RDP measures
- Simplification of contractual schemes and land management interventions authorisations
- More incentivising Natura2000 support measures
- Incentives to multispecies breeding and breeds conservation
- More suitable GPP's CAM criteria to value territorial high-quality/high-environmental products

- Enabling strategic interventions:
 - Rural development interventions for inner and mountaneous areas (infrastructures, social cohesion, promotion, cultural vitalisation), aiming at reducing transaction costs
 - Consumers/youth nutritional education
 - Stimuli to foster aggregation among producers, particularly on commercial strategy
 - Tougher discipline on landless/intensive livestock systems
 - Emergency measures to buffer climate/market shocks