



## LIFE ShepForBio - Shepherds for Biodiversity in Mountain Marginal Areas



**LIFE  
SHEP FOR BIO**

**Duration and budget:** 09/2021 – 12/2027; 3.228.451 €

**Partners:** Dream Italia (Ben. Coord.), Foreste Casentinesi Nation Park, Tuscany Region, University of Florence (DAGRI), University of Rome – La Sapienza, Studio Verde, Municipality Union of Pratomagno, Casentino, Valdarno Valdisieve, Romagna Forlivese and Euromontana

**Demonstration areas/case study areas:** 7 SACs in Foreste Casentinesi Nation Park and Pratomagno Massif, province of Florence and Arezzo, Tuscany

### **Main Goals:**

- improvement of the conservation status of habitats H6210\*, H6230\*, H5130 through restoration interventions and lasting management;
- definition of management methods through grazing to improve the habitats conservation status and support shepherds through training activities for the grazing management;
- support pastoralism in marginal areas through a school for shepherds;
- promotion of pastoralism as a biodiversity conservation tool at European level.



## Main Actions:

- Updated assessment of target habitats conservation status within SACs
- Restoration of grassland habitats and building of infrastructures for pastoral activities
- Definition of grazing management plans and their application
- Creation of a Shepherds School
- Promotion of pastoralism as a tool for biodiversity conservation in Europe through the creation of an European shepherd schools network, the implementation of 3 European conferences on pastoralism and biodiversity conservation, and dissemination of best practices for the conservation of grassland habitats through pastoralism.
- Definition, in collaboration with Tuscany regional administrations, of a regional conservation strategy for target habitats to be implemented by European Funds through the promotion of pastoral activities

## Main results:

- update of the distribution and conservation status of the three target habitats within the SACs involved in the project
- planning of interventions for the recovery of the target habitats on over 380 ha;
- programming of the first training cycle of the ShepherdSchool (*more than 160 application forms received*)
- involvement pastoral schools from other 4 EU countries in networking activities and in the first international planned Conference (*11-12 of May in Florac, Montpellier - The role of pastoral Schools in the management of natural habitats*)



## Policy implications:

### The project works at two main levels: local (regional) and broader (National and European)

**Local:** implementation of a Regional Conservation Strategy for the three target habitats, which promotes the pastoralism as a "biodiversity conservation tool". In our vision, this should contribute to better apply, especially in the next programming of the European regional funds, Measures to support pastoralism and extensive zootechnical activities.

**National and European:** the same objectives are pursued at national and European level, in particular through the networking of projects and initiatives that work on pastoral training (i.e. Shepherd Schools) and the enhancement of the role that pastoral activities have for the conservation of biodiversity.