

EU Project Launches to Boost Soil and Farm Recovery

GroundWork Project Kicks Off today in Cyprus to Drive Regenerative Livestock Farming Across Europe

Nicosia, 23 October 2025 — The [GroundWork](#) Project, an ambitious new EU-funded initiative aimed at transforming European livestock and agricultural systems through regenerative practices, officially launched this week (22-23 October) with a successful Kick-Off Meeting hosted by [Cyprus Research and Innovation Center](#) (CyRIC), the project's management partner.

Healthy soils are the foundation of human wellbeing, supporting 95% of global food production. Yet today, [60–70% of EU soils are degraded](#), largely due to unsustainable agricultural practices and the impacts of climate change. This degradation costs the EU an [estimated €50 billion annually](#) in lost productivity and ecosystem services. Intensive livestock farming, while contributing €170 billion to the EU economy, is also a [major source of greenhouse gas emissions](#), water pollution, and nutrient runoff, all of which threaten soil and ecosystem health.

“GroundWork is about uniting science, practice, and policy to regenerate our soils and ensure the resilience of European agriculture. By working directly with farmers and local communities, we aim to turn research into action and deliver tangible benefits for people, animals, and the planet.”

— Maria Anastasi, R&D Project Manager, CyRIC, GroundWork coordination team

GroundWork seeks to tackle these challenges head-on by promoting Regenerative Livestock Grazing Practices (RLGPs) that improve soil structure, enhance biodiversity, and reduce environmental impacts, while ensuring economic viability for farmers.

Through a participatory research and innovation approach, GroundWork will bring together farmers, researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to co-design and test adaptive grazing practices across five *Living Labs* located in Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Sweden,

and Serbia. These sites will serve as real-world testing grounds, demonstrating the benefits of regenerative livestock management in diverse climatic and farming conditions.

The Kick-Off Meeting in Cyprus marked the start of this five-year collaboration, setting a strong foundation for innovation, knowledge sharing, and cross-border cooperation in the transition to regenerative livestock systems.

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Regenerating soils, Rethinking livestock

GroundWork brings together farmers, scientists, and communities to regenerate soils and promote sustainable agriculture. Using innovative grazing practices adapted to each region, it restores degraded soils, reduces pollution, and combats climate change. With Living Labs in five countries, the project shows that nature-friendly agriculture can be productive, resilient, and provide sustainable food for a healthier future.

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