

Regenerating soils, Rethinking livestock

EU context

Healthy soils are the foundation of Europe's food systems, ecosystems and rural economies, with **95% of food production depending on them**. Yet **60–70% of EU soils are degraded** due to unsustainable management and impact of climate change, causing annual losses of around **50 billion €**.

To tackle this, the European Commission launched the **EU Soil Strategy for 2030**, aiming to ensure all EU soils are healthy by **2050**. It works alongside the **Farm to Fork Strategy**, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**, the **Nature Restoration Law**, the **Zero Pollution Action Plan** and the **EU Soil Observatory**. Together these instruments aim to align agricultural productivity, biodiversity restoration and pollution reduction with soil protection and monitoring.

Intensive livestock farming is a key driver of soil decline through nutrient loss, erosion, ammonia emissions and pollution from manure. Addressing this requires systemic change: improved herd and manure management, regenerative farming practices, targeted incentives, and robust monitoring.



Photo: William Edge / Shutterstock

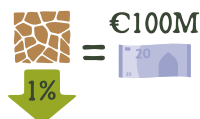
Facts



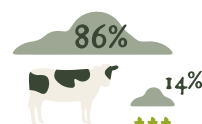
12 million hectares of EU agricultural land suffer from severe soil erosion.
(Source: [Desertification and agriculture](#))



EU livestock production contributes **€170 billion** to the economy and supports regional landscapes but is also a major driver of soil degradation.
(Source: [European Commission](#))



Reducing loss erosion by **1%** over the medium/long term would save **more than €100 million**.
(Source: [European Commission](#))



81–86% of agricultural GHGs are generated by intensive livestock farming.
(Source: [European Commission](#))

Resources

- [EU Mission Soil](#)
- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)
- [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#)
- [Nature Restoration Law](#)
- [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#)
- [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#)

Project Overview



About

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.

groundwork-project.eu

Partners

Coordinated by: **CYRIC**

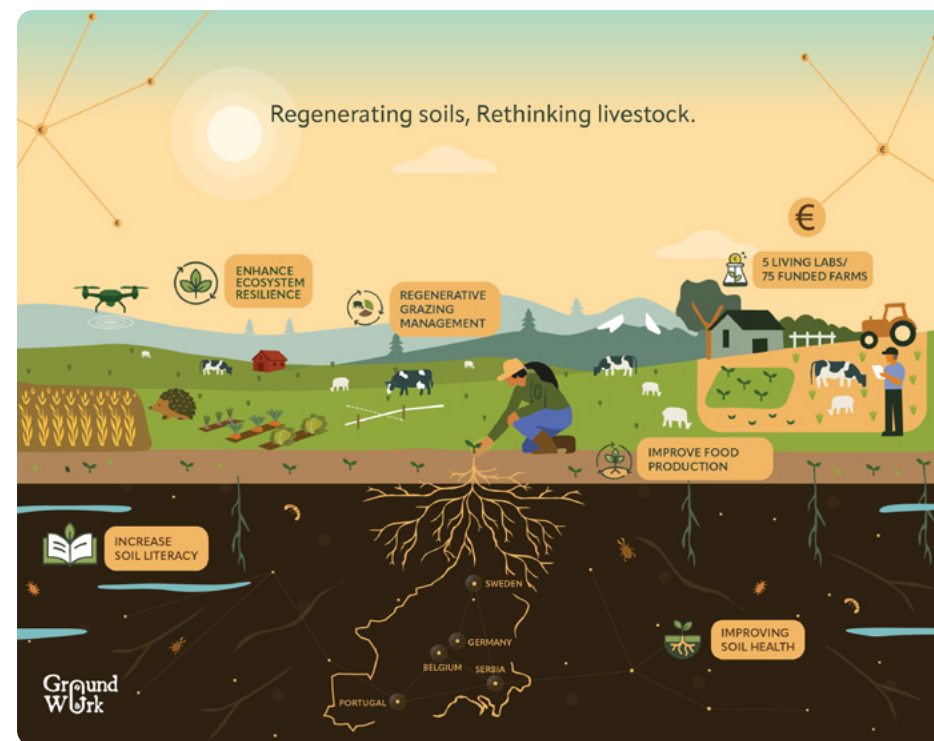


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Keywords

- Agroecology
- Soil health
- Soil regeneration
- Soil monitoring
- Living labs
- Regenerative Livestock Farming
- Regenerative agriculture
- Sustainable farming

General info

- 11 999 555.04 EUR Budget
- 13 countries
- 24 partners
- 60 duration months

For more details about the Partners and Budget, please visit the [CORDIS](https://cordis.europa.eu/) database