

Grazing4AgroEcology NEWSLETTER

FIRST ISSUE - FEBRUARY 2023



Dear readers,

The entire Grazing4AgroEcology consortium is pleased to send you this first newsletter in which you will find many insights into this ongoing project. We are a consortium that includes 18 partners from eight EU member states (France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Sweden) and we represent different pedo-climatic conditions in Europe and a wide range of grazing practices.

Together we ensure that grassland knowledge is put into practice to support farmers, also with the involvement of the whole agri-food sector, including NGOs and society.

Let's step together in this story called Grazing4AgroEcology.

Have a nice reading and keep following us to receive all the updates on our future activities!

The Grazing4AgroEcology Consortium



**Funded by
the European Union**

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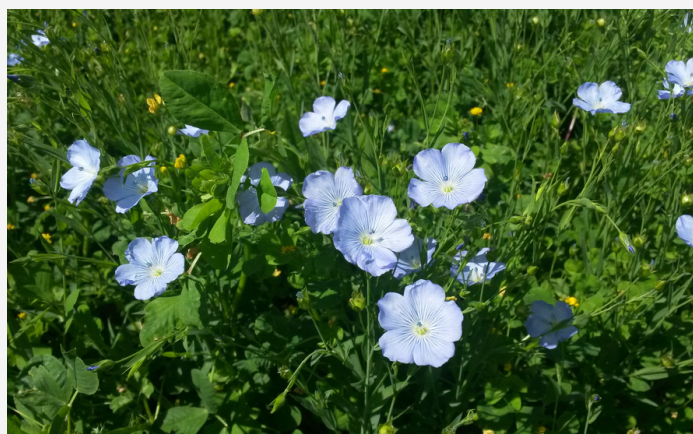
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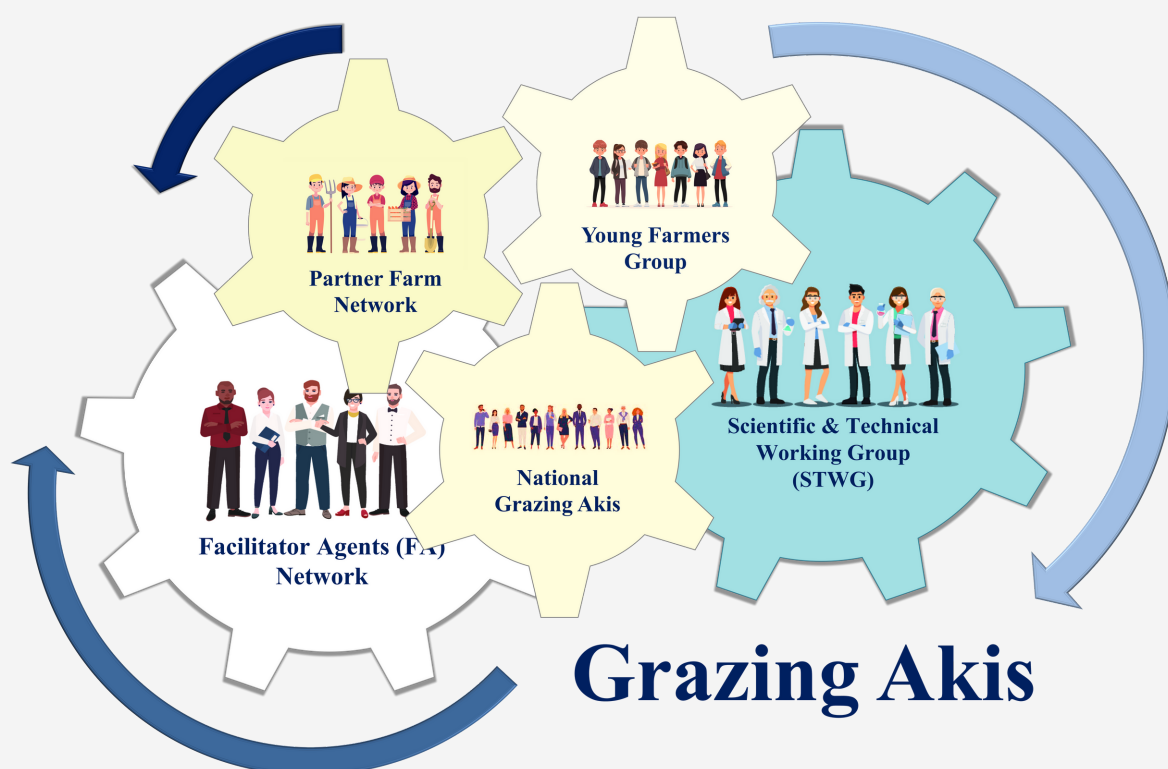
ABOUT THE PROJECT



Grazing4AgroEcology (G4AE) is a Horizon Europe funded project that will support farmers in the implementation of grazing-based systems, as a practice for the environment, animals and society, to produce healthier food and less impact on natural resources. G4AE will aim to target the EU Green Deal objectives regarding biodiversity restoration, nutrient loss reduction, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.



G4AE will have a multi-actor approach based on co-creation and knowledge sharing that will actively involve all relevant actors including farmers, industry, education, researchers, advisors, society, etc. This will improve the uptake of the innovation capital and significantly contribute to the improvement of the transferability of best practices and innovations.



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G4AE STAKEHOLDERS – BENEFITS

We want this project to bring added value both to the consortium and to the collaborators with whom we want to create a solid and sustainable partnership.

Here are some of the advantages that we consider valuable, which are divided into 3 types of stakeholders: general stakeholders, farmers, and young farmers.

General stakeholders and farmers:

- Access to the European network built in the grazing sector composed of young farmers, Partner farms, facilitator agents and scientific & technological working groups;
- Creating synergies and collaborative relationships with other European stakeholders to find solutions to specific grazing problems;
- Increasing the visibility at least in the 8 partner countries;
- Access to an online repository of knowledge related to innovations in agroecological grazing;
- Direct interaction with other interested parties through dedicated events and a multinational exchange of experience between the project network (focus groups, workshops, etc);
- Communication and openness to have an active dialogue with project experts;
- Participation to Farm walks and demonstrations at local level hosted by innovative farmers;
- Possibility to travel abroad to visit innovative farmers and exchange experiences and knowledge on common issues;
- Learn how to use of tools to assess farm sustainability and the impact of innovations on ecosystem services and farm profitability;
- Learning strategies to promote the own business (video-making and storytelling)

Young farmers:

- Use innovative learning and communication methods (digitalization);
- Be part of national/European young farmers group network;
- Meet the other young farmers of the network in national meetings;
- Give input in discussions within young farmers groups
- Be supported by inspiring mentors;
- Feed the development of the project with your needs and opinions;
- Have access to useful outputs for the young farming community
- Have access to international multi-day grazing tours, based on mutual learning in an interactive way, through farm visits, trainings, and discussions
- Have access to an international grazing network of young farmers, acting as ambassadors for grazing in your own countries
- Have access to educational materials concerning grazing related innovations;
- Access to interactive training events on grazing held by international and national experts



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PROJECT INSIGHTS

Arno Krause - Project Coordinator



Organisation: Grünlandzentrum

Niedersachsen / Bremen e.V.

Position: General Manager

E-mail: arno.krause@gruenlandzentrum.de

Q: How would you describe in a few words the uniqueness of the project and the expected impact/results?

A: G4AE will innovate the grazing sector by strengthening the capacity of farmers to understand more objectively their own agroecological performance through an integrated self-assessment. The core of the network is formed by 120 partner farms in 8 Member States and these networks will enable the capture and implementation of best practices and innovations to promote grazing for agroecology.



Q: How will farmers benefit from this project? What about other types of end users?

A: The project “Grazing4Agroecology” is a Thematic Network that generally aims at compiling knowledge ready for practice.

The G4AE approach based on co-creation and knowledge sharing will actively involve all relevant actors of the grazing AKIS. This will improve the uptake of the innovation capital and significantly contribute to the improvement of the transferability of best practices and innovations and will also enable cross-linkage of OGs.

Q: What are the new inputs in this project, and which do you think will contribute the most to its success in the future?

A: Innovation in the grass-based system is much more complex and challenging than in any other type of farming system. The new input of G4AE is the integrated innovation approach through co-creation. Our 3-tier multi-actor approach based on co-creation and knowledge sharing will actively involve all relevant actors of the grazing AKIS.

Q: As its project coordinator, what are the anticipated challenges/barriers/blocks that could be faced by the consortium during the implementation of this project?

A: Integrating the entire sector with all types of stakeholders means the integration of different expectations, viewpoints, and constraints. It will be a challenging task to keep all on board and to ensure equal engagement. In our G4AE network, we will implement a set of 18 so called “Facilitator Agents” who are specifically dedicated to this task of mediating and moderation.



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Deirdre Hennessy - WP2 Coordinator



Organisation: Teagasc, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre
Position: Senior Research Officer
E-mail: deirdre.hennessy@teagasc.ie

Q: What are the main objectives of the WP2? Can you briefly describe them?

A: The main objectives of WP2 are:

- To establish the Partner Farm Network (PFN);
- Create an inventory of Partner Farm best practices to optimise farm performance;
- Self-assessment by partner farmers of their performance based on the principles of agroecology
- Peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange within national Partner Farm Networks



Q: What is the role of the partner farms and how can other farms benefit from the results of the project?

A: Farmers are central to the project which has a bottom-up approach. There are 15 Partner Farms in each national network, and they will be the source of the best practices and innovations to enhance productivity, economics, ecology, cultural and societal values on grassland farms nationally, and across the project MS. The Partner Farmers will make short practice videos and provide information for practice abstracts that will be shared through the project network for the wider farming community.

Q: What would be your remarks concerning the first few months of implementation of the project as a coordinator of WP2?

A: This is a very exciting project which has farmers at the center. Sharing innovations cross-border will increase farmer's knowledge of innovations and best practices that can contribute to the resilience of their systems.

Q: What are the biggest challenges for WP2 in your perspective as a coordinator?

A: One of the biggest challenges will be maintaining active and engaged Partner Farm Networks throughout the project. The Facilitator Agents will have a huge role to play here.



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MEET THE PARTNERS



FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

We are focusing on building the network of partner farms and creating the first synergies in the coming period.

Soon we will also be visible online.



CONTACT US



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