



# LANDCARE EUROPE

## Captures Carbon

– Supporting Natural Climate Protection in  
Agricultural Landscapes  
Corinna Friedrich, DVL

Supported by:



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by the German Bundestag



# LANDCARE EUROPE e.V.

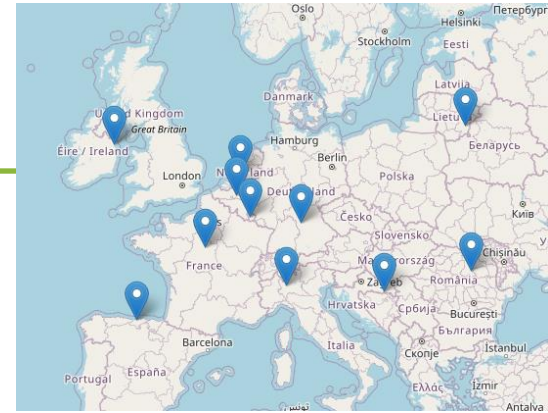
Founding event: 7.06.23, Brussels

## Members:

- Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL), Germany
- Agri-Cultura-Natura Transylvaniae Association (ACNT), Romania
- Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), Lithuania
- BoerenNatuur, The Netherlands
- Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels, France
- Boerennatuur Vlaanderen, Belgium
- Legambiente Lombardia, Italy
- Brodsko ekološko društvo - BED, Croatia
- Sonairte, Ireland
- Naturschutzsyndikat SICONA, Luxembourg
- Perinnemaisemayhdistys ry. (Pemy), Finland

## Friends

- Deutscher Fachverband für Agroforst, Germany
- LPV Freising, Germany

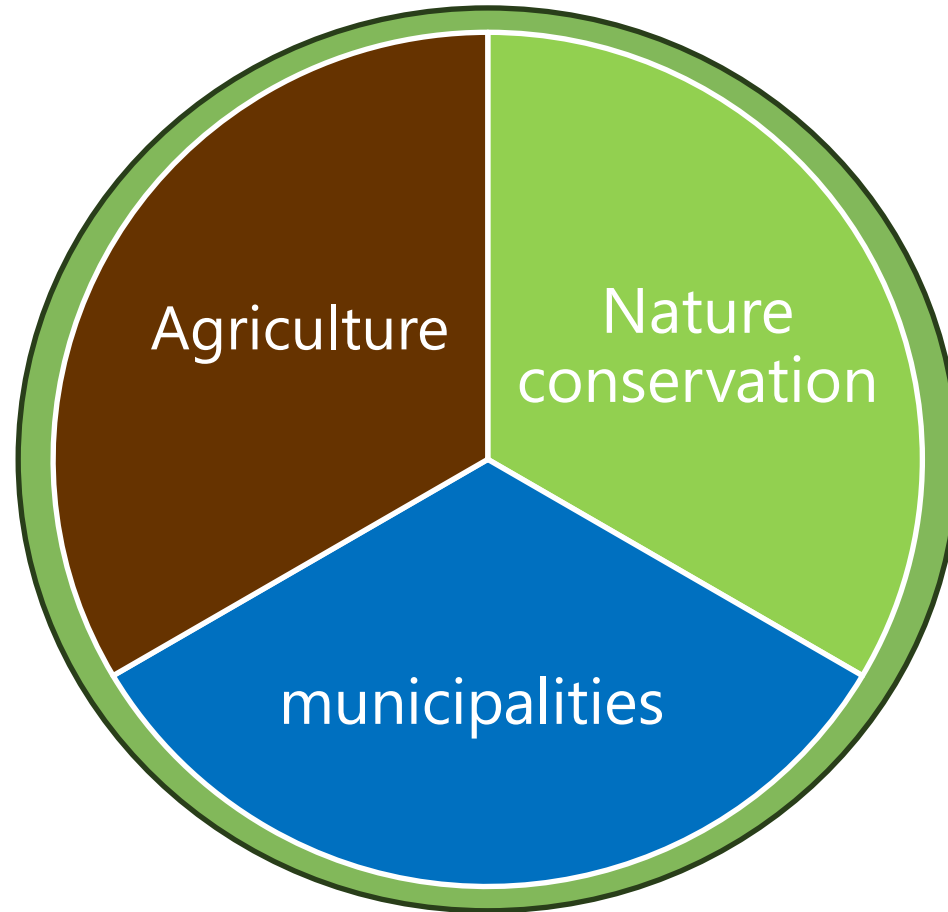


# Goals of Landcare Europe e.V.

- 1) **Knowledge exchange** between regions and countries, especially in the areas of agriculture, nature conservation, administration, politics, research and tourism
- 2) **Political and practical implementation of EU strategies**, e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Water Framework Directive (WFD) or the "Farm to Fork" strategy
- 3) Support the **foundation of new Landcare organizations** and umbrella associations in the Member States

# How Landcare Associations (LCA) operate

- Cooperatively
- Voluntarily
- Independently
- Regionally
- Interdisciplinary





# The farmers we work with...

- ... > 100.000 in Europe
- ... cultivate grasslands, arable land, wetlands and special crops
- ... in a conventional or non-conventional manner
- ... on farms stretching from <1 ha to >3.000 ha
- ... on private, public and communal land
- ... from family to agri-businesses



# What is our project goal?

## LANDCARE EUROPE Captures Carbon – Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes

- **Knowledge** on the political and practical implementation of **natural carbon sinks** in agricultural landscapes has improved in Europe amongst **political decision makers, multipliers and practitioners**.



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# Emissions from agriculture

- EU-28 agriculture: total, 490.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq (12.4% of total EU emissions)
- 434.9 from methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide from livestock, nitrogen fertilisation and others
- 55.7 million tonnes carbon dioxide from agricultural organic soils and the conversion of permanent grassland to arable land, minus the sink effect of mineral soils.
- sink function of mineral soils: 50 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> is the use of peat soils.

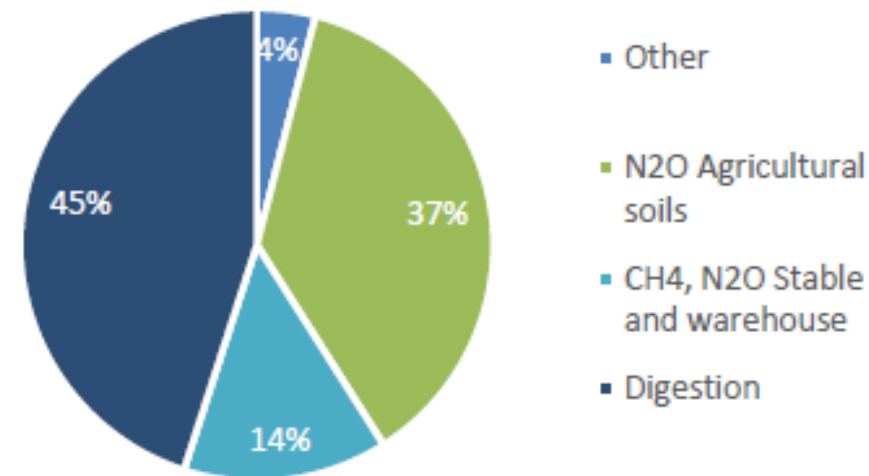


Figure 1 Source: UNFCCC Inventory Submission 2020

“Improving the contribution of the Common Agricultural Policy to climate change mitigation” - Germanwatch - Quantification of greenhouse gas emission reduction potentials of the CAP; conditionality (GAEC standards) for direct payments and possible eco-schemes

# Highest saving potentials

- the **reduction of nitrogen inputs** including the reduction of nitrogen surpluses
- the **land commitment of livestock**, in particular grassland commitment for ruminants
- the **management of organic soils** used for agricultural purposes
- the **expansion of uncultivated land and agroforestry systems**.

Table 3: Overview of the mitigation effects of the CAP

Measures	Reduction (million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)
GAEC standards	-0,3 bis -28,9
Eco-Schemes	-72,1
TOTAL	-72,4 to -101,0
Overall reduction compared to 2018 (490,6 million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)	-14,8% to -20,6%

Source: Own calculations based on UNFCCC 2020 and Eurostat Database 2020



# Workshops - topics

Country	Time	Topic
Croatia	11. - 13.06.24	<b>Extensively managed grasslands</b> as natural carbon sinks and requirements for CAP measures
Czech Republic	30.09 – 02.10.24	<b>Soils</b> as natural carbon sinks – Practical implementation of water and soil management and requirements for CAP measures
Romania	16.-18.06.25	Traditional & modern <b>agroforestry systems</b> as natural carbon sinks and requirements for CAP measures
Lithuania	Sept 25	<b>Peatlands</b> as natural carbon sinks – water management, preserving farming methodes, value chains and requirements for CAP measures

# Positive effects of healthy soils on the climate & public goods

- **Storing CO<sub>2</sub>**: Humus contains 58% carbon (C)
- providing ground for **agricultural food production and food security** (→ EU Farm to Fork strategy)
- Preserving **nature and biodiversity** (→ EU Soil Strategy for 2030)
- Improving **natural water retention** capacity and groundwater levels (→ EU Water Framework Directive)
- **reducing effects of extreme weather situations** (→ EU Climate Adaption Strategy)



# Threats for agricultural soils

- **Loss of soils including humus**
- **Soil compaction**
- **Economic losses**
- **Permanence (durability) of humus building measures**
- **Displacement effects** (organic matter from external sources)
- **Soil sealing**



# Positions on CAP & Climate

1. **Holistic approach:** Measures on improving carbon storage in agricultural landscapes need to be balanced and should create win-win situations with the production of healthy food and the protection of biodiversity, water and soil.
2. **Profitability:** Implementing climate protection measures as public service needs to be economically sustainable for farmers through public payments relevant to income or higher retail prices for agricultural products and services.
3. **Practicability & Suitability:** Regulatory frameworks for climate protection measures need to consider aspects of practical implementation and regional specificities. Measures need to be simple to administer and control.
4. **Advice & Support:** Funding for advising and supporting farmers on climate protection measures is needed.





# Positions on CAP & Climate

**5. Collective approach:** It should be possible for farmers to implement climate protection measures in a collective approach as it can increase effects and reduce administrative burdens.

**6. Priority measures:** The most effective climate protections measures and good practices in agriculture that should be supported include:

- a. Reduction of nitrogen inputs to minimize N<sub>2</sub>O emissions
- b. Rewetting of organic soils & peatlands and farming on those lands
- c. Traditional and modern agroforestry systems including landscape elements
- d. Grassland commitment for livestock on extensively used grasslands
- e. Soil protection and humus building measures

