



EGF2026 WG Grazing

Sunday, 12 April 2026

Overall theme: Resilience in grazing systems

Understanding how grazing and grazing-based systems can contribute to overall sustainability in Europe requires urgent attention. Grazing livestock play an important role and impact the ecosystem services that grasslands provide. Most of those ecosystem services will be lost if grazing livestock are removed from our grasslands. Grazing and grassland systems are intrinsically linked to climate change, weather, input costs, etc. Key challenges for grazing and grassland systems include coping with extended droughts and poor grass growth, managing larger herds without compromising grazing efficiency, safeguarding animal welfare, and addressing the cost barriers of smart grazing technologies. Grassland and grazing innovations are increasingly important, as are social aspects. The WG Grazing will explore the risks and mitigation strategies for grazing-based livestock systems, as well as the positive contributions of grazing to resilience under two sub-themes:

1. Role of livestock
2. Innovations

We invite participants to share experiences, research, and practical strategies to strengthen the resilience of grazing systems across Europe. *If you are interested in presenting at the EGF Working Group Grazing on Sunday 12th April please contact Deirdre Hennessy (deirdrehennessy@ucc.ie).* In the afternoon, we will join with the WG Sensing for a field visit followed by a workshop to explore the role of sensing in grazing systems.

Programm

08:30 Depart from Évora to Mitra campus

09:15 Welcome

09:20 Introduction – based on survey – where we are at in Europe in terms of grazing followed by short discussion

09:40 Sub-theme 1 – Role of livestock

- ~30 mins of presentations each followed by quick Q and A
- Discussion on the sub-theme

10:40 Coffee

11:00 Sub-theme 2 – Innovations

- ~30 mins of presentations each followed by quick Q and A
- Discussion on the sub-theme

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Joint field visit at Mitra campus with Sensing WG and Group photo

15:00 Coffee

15:30 Joint workshop with Grazing Working Group

- How can sensing promote grazing in Europe?
- The role of sensing in enhancing resilience in grazing systems

17:00 Closing and return to Évora Colégio Espírito Santo – UE for welcome drink

Contact

For questions or suggestions contact DeirdreHennessy@ucc.ie