



LANDCARE EUROPE

The network that brings together agriculture, nature conservation and communities for biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and quality of life in our European cultural heritage landscapes.

Vision & mission

Landcare Europe aims to preserve and restore biodiversity and resilience in European landscapes in a contemporary, innovative and sustainable manner by working in a cooperative approach with land users, farmers, local communities, nature conservation organisations, political authorities and decision-makers on private, public and communal land. Landcare Europe fosters a more nature-inclusive agricultural system providing healthy food and other public goods and ecosystem services, which improve the quality of life for people and other living beings. The network promotes land management in Natura 2000 areas and beyond that sustains or regenerates healthy soils, clean water and air, stable habitats, rich biodiversity and diverse landscapes in Europe and helps to mitigate climate change.

Core activities

The main focus of Landcare Europe lies on the exchange of knowledge & best practices beyond borders to better implement EU environmental targets within an agricultural context. These exchanges allow to define key factors for successful cooperative nature conservation, which can be transferred and therefore applied to other countries. The network is sharing expertise on local food production and direct marketing, species and habitat restoration with farmers, good-practice-based payment schemes, managing large carnivores in rural grassland farming, as well as improving water and soil management, biodiversity, ecosystem services and yield in intensively farmed systems, including agroforests.

The network aims to extend its reach to all EU Member States, connect existing Landcare or Landcare-like organisations as well as guide the foundation of organisations in countries, in which such a structure does not yet exist.

Why another network?

Farmers manage about 40 % of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. The implementation of European environmental policies and directives - such as the European Nature and Water Framework Directives as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 or the "Farm-to-Fork" Strategy - can only be achieved across borders and in cooperation with stakeholders from agriculture, nature conservation and politics. By following such an approach Landcare associations support nature conservation, responsible land management, sustainable, future-proof agriculture providing livelihoods while preserving cultural heritage landscapes on private, public and communal land and ensuring regional food security even in times of global crises.

The German Landcare organisation DVL has been instrumental in initiating a European network since 2007 by organising mutual visits to close this gap in the current NGOs landscape. In 2021, DVL received funding from the European Commission for a 2-year pilot project to formally establish such a Landcare network at EU level together with partners it has been collaborating over years.

For more information visit www.landcare-europe.org or contact landcare-europe@dvl.org

In cooperation with:



With support from:

