

Press Release

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GROUND2LIVE a European living lab for improved ground cover on vegetable farms

From 29 September to 1 October 2025, the European research project *GROUND2LIVE* officially started with a three-day Kick-off Meeting hosted by the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) in Belgium.

All project partners from across Europe came together to discuss the project's objectives, approaches and collaborative framework. Over the next three years, GROUND2LIVE will develop and test innovative ground cover strategies, aiming to strengthen the resilience of vegetable farms against climate change, reduce erosion and nutrient losses, and improve soil health.

The project, funded under the European Agroecology Partnership, brings together research institutions, advisors, and farming communities from seven European countries. At its core are Living Labs, where farmers, advisors and researchers co-create practical agroecological solutions, such as intercropping, undersowing and reduced tillage.

The Kick-off Meeting provided the opportunity for partners to align research activities, share experiences, and build the collaborative spirit that will guide the project. The consortium also visited ILVO's and INAGRO's experimental fields as well as one of the pilot farmers involved to explore practical examples of soil and crop management strategies.

GROUND2LIVE will run from May 2025 to April 2028, contributing to the transition towards more sustainable and climate-resilient vegetable production systems in Europe.

For more information, visit: www.agroecologypartnership.eu/ground2live

Project partners:

- Louis Bolk Institute (Netherlands)
- Institute for Research and Advice in Agriculture – Inagro (Belgium)
- VÖL – Vereinigung Ökologischer Landbau in Hessen (Germany)
- Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – ILVO (Belgium)
- Council for Agricultural Research and Economics – CREA (Italy)
- Aarhus University (Denmark)
- University of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Estonian University of Life Sciences – EMU (Estonia)
- University of Kassel (Germany)

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