

# PRESS RELEASE

## COCO PROJECT

Service provider in the sense  
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## MEDIA CONTACT

Katrina Marsden  
Alt-Moabit 91  
10559 Berlin

[info@coco.eu](mailto:info@coco.eu)

## UNTANGLING EUROPE'S COMPLEX PASTORALISM-WILDLIFE POLICIES

**New EU Project to tackle the policy knots.**

Berlin, 10 April 2025

Europe's policy approach to pastoralism and wildlife conservation and management is **disjointed**. A sectoral approach to developing and implementing policy has resulted in a **fragmented European policy framework**.

On one hand, large carnivores and herbivores provide a rare conservation success story. Following lows or near extinction in many countries, some species have rebounded strongly, with **wolves** in particular making a remarkable comeback thanks to protective conservation laws and return of prey.

On the other hand, **pastoralists** and **rural communities** report that they are left bearing the costs of recovering wildlife, compounded by other pressures on the sector and sometimes inconsistent regulations that clash across sectors and national borders.

As part of a **new EU Horizon project**, researchers from **Umeå University** supported by **adelphi research gGmbH**, are examining these complexities.

By mapping the policy landscape across **12 European countries**, the project will highlight where policies conflict and where cross-border learning can drive improvements in policy coordination.

### **A collaborative approach:**

The *CoCo Project (Co-creating Coexistence)* engages thousands of practitioners and scientists through online workshops, surveys, interviews with pastoralists, hunters, landowners and environmental groups.

The findings will be compiled into toolkits, scientific publications, and policy briefs to guide further research and decision-makers in creating more comprehensive and effective policies, taking into the account this accumulated experience.

This **grassroots input** is invaluable in revealing how policies work in practice, exposing gaps and contradictions that undermine effective conservation.

Visit the website: <https://cocoproject.eu/>

**Expert Quote 1:**

“For too long, policies addressing pastoralism and wildlife have developed in isolation. Through this research, we aim to provide clarity on how these policies interact and where improvements can be made.”

**Dr. Auvikki de Boon**, Researcher at the Department of Political Science, Umeå University.

**Expert Quote 2:**

“By mapping out the policy landscape across 12 countries, through the CoCo Project, we can observe how the variations in implementation in EU legislation, make differences on the ground. This allows us to identify good practice and propose solutions.”

**Katrina Marsden**, Head of Programme, adelphi.