

Ruminants Cross Visit

Extensive Livestock Systems in Mediterranean *Dehesa* Landscapes

SANTA OLALLA DEL CALA (HUELVA) & CAZALLA DE LA SIERRA (SEVILLE)

24-25 NOVEMBER 2026



Credit: Ecovalia at Finca Las Hazas

The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims to build a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organises cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange knowledge and share experiences on innovative organic farming practices.

This Cross Visit will take participants into the wider Mediterranean *dehesa* and Sierra Morena livestock landscapes of western Andalusia. The *dehesa* is the result of centuries of human stewardship of Mediterranean woodlands, where holm oaks, cork oaks, pastures, scrubland and natural forage coexist in a multifunctional landscape. These systems support cattle, sheep, goats and Iberian pigs, while also contributing to biodiversity conservation, soil protection, carbon storage, wildfire prevention and rural vitality. For participants from other European regions, the *dehesa* offers a powerful case study of how extensive livestock farming can be linked to landscape management, ecosystem services and long-term resilience.

In Santa Olalla del Cala, participants will experience the *dehesa* as a living agroecosystem through an immersive stay in a rural setting surrounded by the *dehesa* landscape. The visit will show how organic extensive and transhumant grazing contributes to biodiversity, soil health, landscape management and organic production. Participants will observe how sheep, cattle and Iberian pigs are integrated within an organic *dehesa* system, supporting biodiversity, improving soil fertility and optimising the use of local natural resources. The experience will connect livestock management with woodland management, reforestation, cork oak landscapes and the wider cultural heritage of pastoralism, while opening space to reflect on grazing management, adaptation to drought and heat, tree-based and semi-natural habitats, animal welfare and the economic viability of extensive farming.

In Cazalla de la Sierra, the exchanges will allow participants to explore how sheep, goat and cattle systems are organised in the Sierra Norte, how producers and advisors respond to current challenges, and how cooperation, product differentiation and territorial identity can support the viability of extensive livestock farming.

What you can expect from this cross visit

During the Cross Visit, participants will explore:

- Extensive ruminant management in climate-exposed and resource-constrained environments.
- Organic and low input approaches to herd health, nutrition and welfare.
- Grazing strategies in *dehesa*, mountain and high nature value landscapes.
- The role of transhumance and mobile grazing in ecosystem management and pastoral culture.
- Integration of cattle, sheep, goats and Iberian pigs within multifunctional livestock systems.
- Regeneration of grazed landscapes through balanced stocking, careful grazing, woodland management and reforestation.
- Cooperative models, short supply chains and product differentiation as strategies for farm viability.
- Advisory needs linked to drought, labour, generational renewal, market access and climate resilience.
- Lessons that can be compared with grass based, mountain, agroforestry and marginal land livestock systems in other parts of Europe.

Through farm visits, field-based learning, group discussions and peer-to-peer exchange, the programme will highlight how long-standing pastoral traditions and modern organic principles can come together to create resilient, high quality livestock systems. The visit will also create space for participants to compare Andalusian experiences with advisory challenges in their own regions, from northern grassland systems and upland grazing areas to central European mixed farms and other high nature value landscapes.

DAY 1 (Tuesday, 24 November 2026)

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
07:45 – 08:00	Pick up of participants	Gathering and pick up of participants at meeting point (Hotel Occidental Sevilla Viapol) (C. Balbino Marrón 9, 41018 Seville  View on map).
08:00 – 09:00	Transfer to Santa Olalla del Cala	Travel and introduction to the overall cross-visit theme and program.
09:00 – 10:00	Visit 1: Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (Part 1)	Introduction to the project's objectives and lines of work. Fundación Monte Mediterráneo is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of the <i>dehesa</i> through organic livestock farming, environmental restoration, education, and research focused on biodiversity, soil health, and rural development.
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome coffee and light refreshments at the farm	
10:30 – 13:00	Visit 1: Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (Part 2)	Guided tour of the <i>dehesa</i> • Observation of livestock in winter grazing pastures.
13:00 – 15:00	On-farm lunch (local organic food)	
15:00 – 17:00	Visit 1: Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (Part 3)	Guided tour of the <i>dehesa</i> • Explanation of organic extensive management practices and environmental benefits.
17:00 – 18:00	Transfer back to Seville	
19:00 – 20:00	Reflections on Day 1	Wrap-up discussion on key observations, lessons learned, and participant feedback.
20:00 – 22:00	Social dinner (Location TBD)	Informal networking.

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 25 November 2026)

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
08:15 – 08:30	Pick up of participants	Gathering and pick up of participants at meeting point (Hotel Occidental Sevilla Viapol) (C. Balbino Marrón 9, 41018 Seville  View on map).
08:30 – 10:00	Transfer to Cazalla de la Sierra	
10:00 – 11:30	Visit 2: CorSevilla	CorSevilla is a livestock cooperative supporting extensive sheep and goat farming through advisory services, feed supply, processing, and marketing of its members' products. Its activities are closely linked to the conservation and sustainable management of the <i>dehesa</i> agroecosystem.
11:30– 12:00	Transfer to Riscos Altos Farm	
12:00 – 14:00	Visit 3: Riscos Altos Farm	Riscos Altos is an ecological agro livestock farm in the Sierra Norte de Sevilla that brings together extensive livestock farming, rural accommodation, and nature-based rural experiences. The farm offers a good illustration of how organic livestock production, <i>dehesa</i> management, territorial innovation, and diversified rural activity can be combined sustainably in practice.
14:00 – 15:30	On-farm lunch (local organic food)	
15:30 – 16:30	Reflections on Day 2 and Cross Visit	Wrap-up discussion on key observations, lessons learned, and participant feedback.
16:30 – 18:00	Transfer back to Seville	

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Requirements

Participation in the entire cross visit program. There is no possibility to arrive later or leave earlier, except for local participants.

Participants

Agricultural advisors supporting organic farmers or farmers in conversion are welcome to join this cross visit. Advisors and young graduates interested in developing competencies in organic advisory services are also encouraged to participate. Maximum 15 participants.

Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit, and your capacity to cover your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed, because the number of advisors who may join the visit is limited. Participants taking part will receive a confirmation message.

First-round registration deadline: 16 October 2026

Confirmation of application: 23 October 2026. The registration deadline might be extended if places remain available.

Link to Registration: [Cross Visit: Extensive Livestock Systems in Mediterranean Dehesa Landscapes, 24-25 Nov 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Estimated travel costs for this cross visit

Costs for this cross visit are estimated to be around 430 EUR per participant. This amount includes accommodation for 3 nights, 3 breakfasts, 1 social dinner, and local transportation during the programme. The project will pay for lunch and coffee breaks on Day 1 and Day 2. This estimate does not include travel expenses to reach **Seville**, nor any additional accommodation, meals or transport before or after the official programme.

Travel cost reimbursement

Participants who do not have a budget to cover their travel costs may be eligible for partial reimbursement through the OrganicAdviceNetwork advisory partner in their respective country. Eligible countries are: FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, GR, SI and RS. Costs directly related to participation in the Cross Visit are eligible for reimbursement, up to a limit of **400-800 EUR per participant**. This may include train and/or flight tickets, accommodation, breakfasts, lunches during the visits, social dinners, and local transport.

Once your participation in the Cross Visit has been confirmed, you will receive more detailed information from the advisory project partner in your country about eligible expenses and the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

- Antonio Hurtado, ecovalia.projects@ecovalia.org