



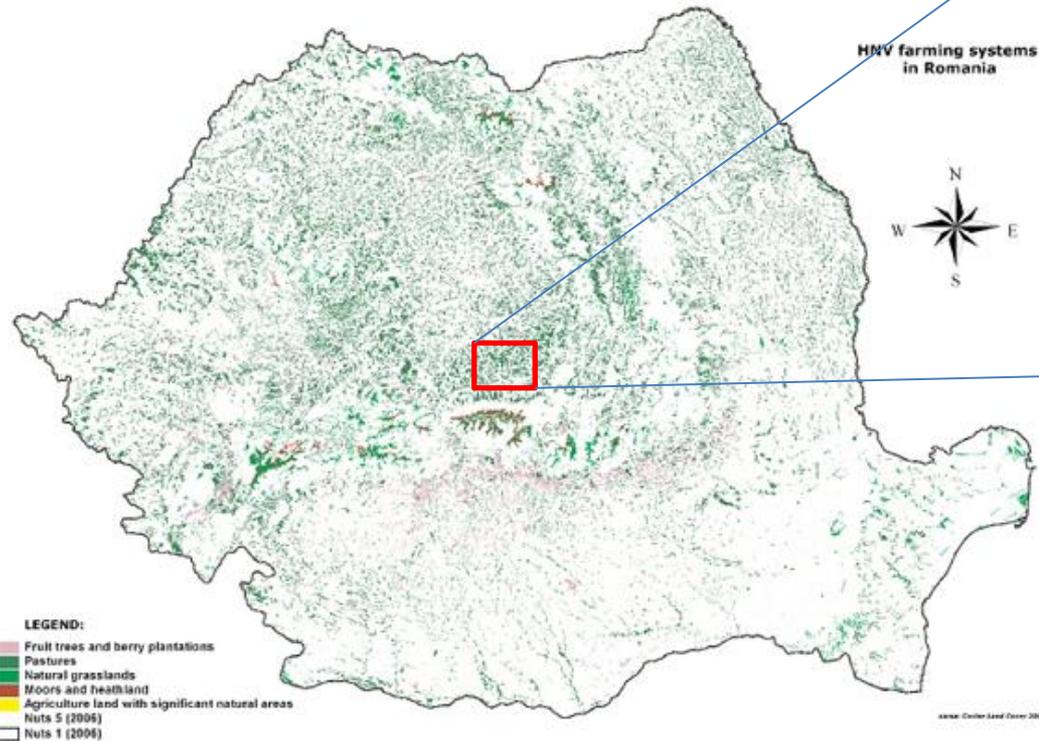
# Past, present and future of common grazing land in Romania

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# Introduction

## Tarnava Mare area



Nationally, 3.3 mi ha pasture (23% of agricultural land)

# Pastures and commons

1.9 mi ha agr land is in ,public administration‘

-> An estimated 50-60% of pasture is common grazing

Until now administered by town halls, with rights coupled with taxes, maintenance responsibilities etc.

<i>Suprafața agricolă utilizată (hectare)</i> <i>Agricultural area in use (hectares)</i>		<i>Legal status of agricultural holdings</i>
2005	2007	
13906701,28	13753046,49	<b>Total</b>
9102018,22	8966308,55	<b>Individual agricultural holdings</b>
4804683,06	4786737,94	<b>Units with legal status</b>
742065,39	615896,92	<i>Agricultural companies / associations</i>
1780787,84	1951114,59	<i>Commercial companies</i>
2124736,63	1872193,76	<b>Units of public administration</b>
3246,42	15088,11	<i>Cooperative units</i>
153846,78	332444,56	<i>Other types</i>

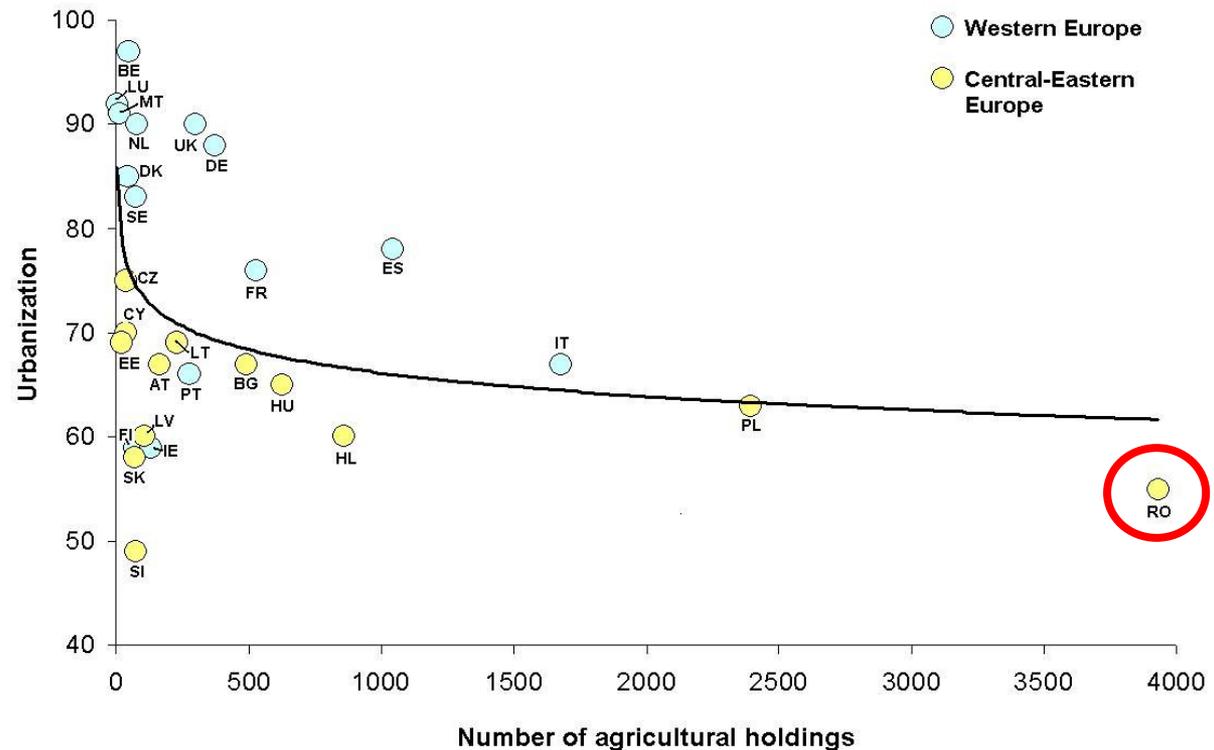
# Relationship with farming

This can be linked to the high proportion of subsistence farming:

3.5 million (90%) of holdings <5 ha (2007)

Typical commons user has 1-3 cows, 5-20 sheep and 1-2 pigs (+ poultry)

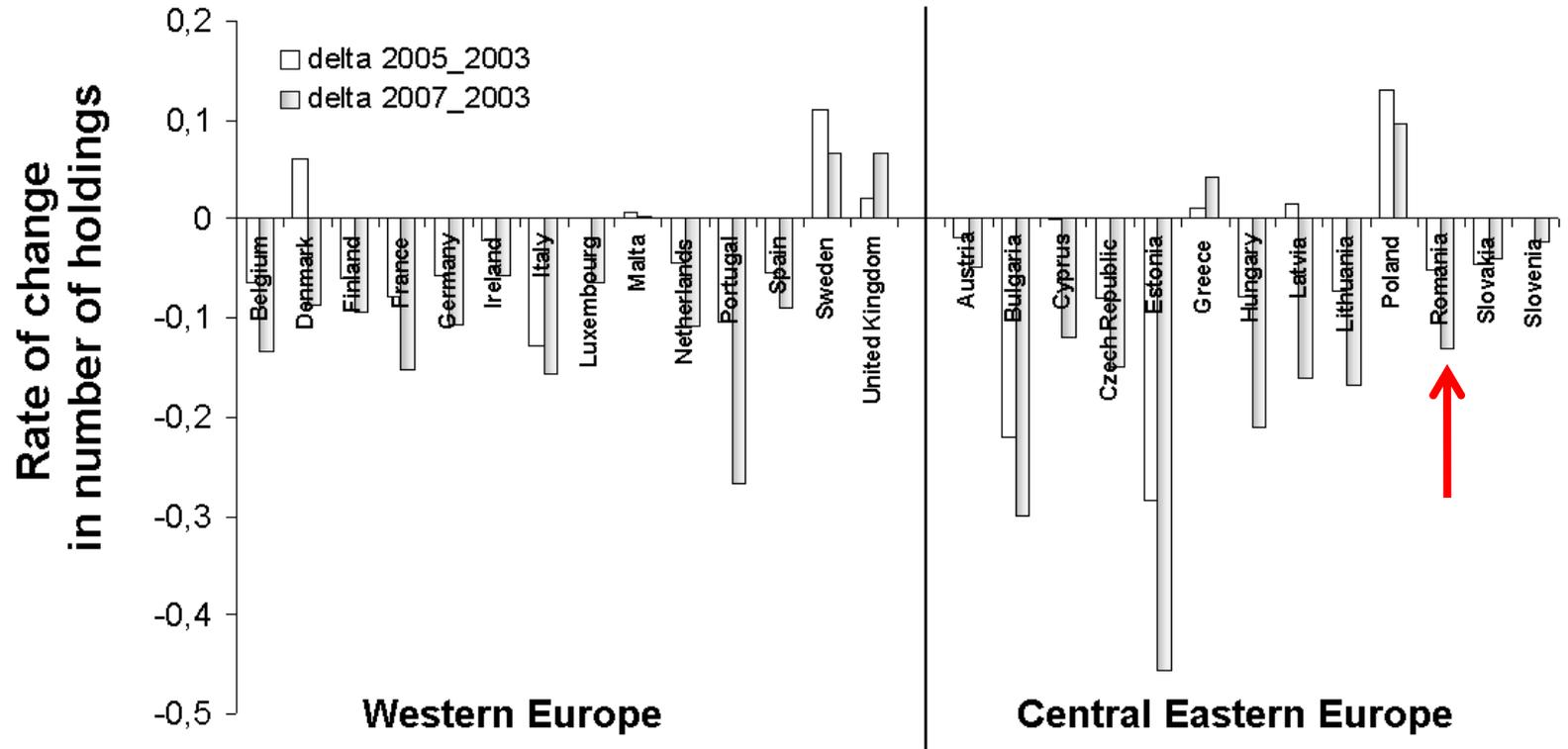
Social and environmental role





# Relationship with small-scale farming

This situation is changing:



Source: Eurostat, Figure: Tibor Hartel

## Interaction with agricultural policy

- As a result of the advent of CAP subsidies in 2007, there has been:
  - Increasing lease of land to individuals for longer periods
  - Increasing formation of Grazing Associations, releasing users from taxes and other duties



Common grazing land in Romania



# Issues with grazing associations: a case study

## Calva Grazing Association

- Formed in 2009
- Today has 39 members (half of livestock owners), mostly large sheep owners, membership fees are ~€150
- Rents 938 ha from the Town Hall
- Receives €70/ha in Single Area Payments (Pillar I), and €182/ha in Agri-Environment Scheme (Pillar II) payments
- Plans to invest in a milk collection point, abattoir, tractor...
- But lack of decision-making has led to internal conflict and mistrust from non-members



# Future prospects



## **Past:**

Community decision-making, elected (voluntary) overseer, and personal involvement in the maintenance of the pasture

## **Present:**

No consultation of commons users on the management of the commons or the subsidies it generates, no physical involvement in maintenance, no significant benefit from the subsidies

## **Future?:**

Community decision-making, expansion of the role of Grazing Associations to act as a source of advice, equipment and services at reduced cost, and access to land for small-holders

## Three points to conclude

- This is a period of relatively rapid change for commons in Romania
- Policy and market directed at individuals rather than collectives
- Need for SUPPORT for the formation of Grazing Associations – regulations and guidelines





Thank you!