



# Review of the literature on Pastoral Economics and Marketing:

## Europe

Report prepared for the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism, IUCN EARO by Jean Pierre Biber, European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism. Switzerland 2006

### Table of Contents

The status of pastoralism in Europe.....	1
Key features of pastoralism in Europe.....	2
The economic importance of pastoralism in Europe.....	2
The ecological importance of pastoralism in Europe.....	2
Main trends in European pastoralism.....	2
Information on countries.....	3
Europe and EU.....	3
France.....	4
Spain.....	5
Switzerland.....	5
UK.....	5
Norway.....	5
Romania.....	7
Albania.....	10
Macedonia.....	11
Sources.....	12

## The status of pastoralism in Europe

In the recommendations of the Third International Conference "Biodiversity in Europe" and 8th meeting of the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) 18-21 January 2004, Madrid, Spain, it is stated, concerning Mountain Biological Diversity that:

"Recognising the specificity and importance of mountain ecosystems for their natural social and cultural values and for the important services they provide, and the importance of a significant reduction in the loss of mountain biodiversity as a contribution to the 2010 target, the Conference recommends the COP to:

46. Adopt the programme of work on mountain biological diversity as agreed by SBSTTA9 recommendation IX/12.

47. Highlight the following issues in the proposed PoW:

- The role of sustainable agriculture, rangelands and pastoralism using traditional practices that can maintain biological diversity in mountain ecosystems;
- The need to protect natural dynamic processes in order to enhance the capacity for ecosystems to cope with negative impacts and climate change;
- Land-use and water resource planning at landscape level;
- Environmental planning in order to reduce the negative impact of tourism and its associated settlements and facilities;
- Integrated watershed management practices;
- Promotion of integrated transboundary cooperation and cross-sectoral approaches;
- Promotion of collaboration between CBD and its joint work programme with the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, international and regional agreements and relevant international organisations concerning mountain biodiversity.
- Foster the importance of upland-lowland contracts in maintaining mountain integrity and achieving the 2010 target."

This may be considered as an official statement of the governments (who are represented in the council of PEBLDS). This concerns mountain areas only; but it is where much of the pastoralism occurs in Europe occurs. Some points concern pastoralism directly, in others pastoralism is indirectly addressed.

Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 establishes the purpose and scope of assistance by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in the new programming period from 2007-2013. One of the three objectives constituted in the regulation is to improve the environment and the countryside by supporting land management. The Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development emphasises the preservation and development of high nature value farmland and forestry and traditional agricultural landscapes as one of the priority areas of Rural Development. Pastoralism is one of the important HNV farming systems, so is relatively directly emphasized in this Council Regulation.

Many pastoralists' areas are in so called Less Favoured Areas LFAs, and quite a few are also in Natura 2000 areas; these should benefit from special payments and thus seem to be recognized for their value. But, when talking to the farmers, it very often becomes clear that on the ground things are not yet as good.

The decoupling (from production) suggested by the new Common Agricultural Policy CAP is often not bringing much to the very extensive farmers: the new decoupled payment is based on what the farmers used to get before, so that those who used to receive little because of low production will still receive little. And also, the decoupling has not been implemented in the same way by all countries. Spain has not fully implemented decoupling, but if it had there would be considerable difficulties in Castilla La Mancha where sheep farmers use (by legal right) land that actually belongs to a separate class of arable farmers (similar to what we know from Mali and Morocco e.g.). In Germany they have gone to an area-based payment and

pastoral transhumant shepherders are basically left high and dry with no land available on which they exclusively can claim their payments.

It thus looks like HNV farming (and thus pastoralism) receives more consideration on the paper than it used to, but there is still a long way to go until this is reflected on ground.

## **Key features of pastoralism in Europe**

Pastoralism, understood as a low production farming system, usually takes place in areas where higher production is physically not possible. These areas are high mountain habitats, arid zones or otherwise poor soil areas that don't allow for intensive cultivation. These areas also very often are with high biodiversity or with very specialized plant and animal communities: of high nature value HNV. This HNV feature can be found throughout Europe, and certainly is a key feature of pastoralism. Other key features are more cultural ones: traditional knowledge of the farmers (e.g. old landraces being kept alive or by generations traded knowledge on the carrying capacity of soils), their close association with the landscape (usually mainly formed by pastoral activities), and, more and more so, their need of diversification in their activities (be it with ways of marketing their products or their landscapes, be it with second jobs). The mobility is another feature of pastoralism, though this may vary a lot from transhumance to local movements by shepherds or changing enclosures. Even some nomadic movements do exist: sheep flocks spending much of the winter going from one fallow land to another and thus walking hundreds of kilometres during the winter; similar things occurring in the Crau (south of France).

## **The economic importance of pastoralism in Europe**

The economic importance of pastoralism is integrated in the Swiss mountain agriculture policy: the grazing of alpine pastures has a great importance in the prevention of avalanches (long grass becomes an ideal gliding terrain for avalanches). Its importance for the prevention of fires is also well known for instance in southern France, although it is in most of the cases not yet politically accepted (only few areas allocate payments for the grazing as a fire prevention).

There is very little information on the economic importance of pastoralism as means of marketing its products, be it dairy products, meat or wool. Local markets in pastoral areas – for instance in the south of France – and the numbers of local producers selling their dairy products (mainly cheese) and meat show that the economic value of pastoralism is real. Also the fact that on-farm small cheese factories are being installed (this also starting in eastern European countries (e.g. Bulgaria) is a sign that the marketing of the cheese is economically interesting. In some countries such cheese farmers do actually quite well (Romanian flock masters, at least in the past; Extremadura sheep farmers, some farmers in the South of France).

## **The ecological importance of pastoralism in Europe**

In most of Europe, pastoralism takes place in areas of High Nature Value, and in many places it is pastoralism that has created this High Nature Value after hundreds or thousands of years of existence. Since the land where pastoralism happens very often could not be used for other, more intensive forms of agriculture, the abandonment of pastoralism results total abandonment of the land, and thus in the loss its pastoralism related HNV (often through the encroachment by shrub and eventually reforestation). So, the ecological importance of pastoralism is indisputable. Many studies have shown that, and an important part of the work of the EFNCP is related to the HNV of pastoralism.

## **Main trends in European pastoralism**

At the moment, pastoralists in Western Europe are developing a lot of personal initiatives. Many are not optimistic about the help they will get from the CAP. But they are creative and help themselves with the marketing of their products or of services they can provide (holidays on the farm, bed & breakfast, horse riding, etc.). Though many older pastoralists fear that no young ones will take over once they have to stop their activities. In Bulgaria, this fear is even bigger because of the uncertainty of what will happen with the accession to the EU; they also have the feeling that most small farmers will have no chance to survive after accession. On

the other hand, there is a growing interest to form small cooperatives that may have better chances to get access to subsidies and also to market the products.

The CAP being in constant evolution, it is difficult to make any predictions on the trends of pastoralism in EU Europe.

Impacts of policy on pastoralism vary by country of course. Even times when pastoralism reaches a peak varies. Sometimes political changes favoured it (reconquista in Spain, customs union in Germany, union of England and Scotland); sometimes it did not favour it (closing of Greek/Bulgarian border in 1950s as part of Cold War; expulsion of Ruthenians in Poland post second world war). Response to pastoralism in Socialist countries varied considerably, and the post 1990 pattern also; but generally the pattern is much as in West, especially as other economic opportunities increase and regulation (e.g. on food hygiene, hygiene in the production of cheese and other dairy products) is getting stronger.

The social status of pastoralists varies from country to country. But as a general rule, it seems that pastoralists are becoming more accepted in society than they had been for a while when the shepherd was considered the lowest rank person in a community. Swiss shepherds are very often are students spending the summer on an alp; in general they are well seen people to whom tourists try to talk to, because "they are special" and because one wants to know what they do. In France, there is still the idea in some areas that the shepherd is the most stupid thing of the village that could really not be used for anything else. But this is changing a lot now. Many "pastoralists" in the Languedoc-Roussillon are in fact "68-ards" (people from the 1968 movements who quitted the cities to go "back to nature"), and they are actually still staying there (and replacing the children of the original farmers who went to the cities!).

For the moment, it seems that the persistence of pastoralism, in many cases, is the same as in much of the rest of the world: positive adherence to tradition and, more commonly, conservatism and lack of opportunity to do anything else (both from the absolute point of view and from the point of view of lack of education and confidence to do something different). Trends for the narrowly defined pastoralism are in general a decline in the number of farmers, the area of land used and the number of stock involved. Some land lost to abandonment, some to transfer into severalty, some to alternative land use (e.g. forestry, 'conservation').

## **Information on countries**

The information presented below is a very small part of what is available, especially as far as France, Spain, Switzerland and UK are concerned.

I have so far, been mainly looking at a small percentage of available English texts on the internet. There would also be a high increase in information if I looked at other languages (Spanish for Spain, French for France and Switzerland, German for Switzerland, French probably also for eastern European countries [especially Romania]) which I have had no time to do so far. I could also look with other keywords than I have been so far. Finally, with EFNCP contacts a lot more data could be gathered. The information in fact is immense!

## **Europe and EU**

<http://www.macauley.ac.uk/livestocksystems/granada/lsirdworkshopreport.pdf>:  
(lsirdworkshopreport.pdf ) The whole report (172 pages) gives at several places information on value-adding to the products of livestock especially in less favoured areas (LFAs). The report is built of many individual articles, e.g George Zervas: "Current trends in animal production practices in southern European systems" or Jean-Paul Dubeuf: "Ascendant technology in the milk-cheese sector: The case of cheese from small ruminants in disadvantaged areas" who both give information on marketing cheeses in Mediterranean Europe, where it is often well organized on local markets and brings added value. Etc. There is also much information on organic farming and ways to market it in several countries of Europe.

<http://www.macauley.ac.uk/livestocksystems/nafplio/proceedings/proceedings.pdf>  
(proceedings.pdf) Chapter 2 of this 146 page report is dedicated to "adding value to the products of livestock systems" It deals more specifically with Belgium, France, UK and Germany. There is also a part on sustainability of cashmere production in Spain and UK.

The PASTORAL project is an EU funded concerted action of SAC (Scottish Agricultural College), EFNCP, ALTERRA (The Netherlands), IEEP (Institute for European Environmental Policy, UK), ARPA (Asociación para el Analisis y Reforma de la Política Agrorural, Spain), UAM (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), ESA-IPCB (Escola Superior Agraria de Castelo Branco, Portugal) and CPE (Coordination Paysanne Européenne, Belgium). Its aim was to look at agricultural, socio-economic and ecological characteristics of high nature value pastoral systems in Europe. There were workshops in France (Crau), Scotland (Islay), Spain and Romania, dealing a.o. with socio-economic and ecological aspects of pastoralism in the respective regions. (Several papers from this project are attached: 1 - An introduction.pdf, 2 - Need for typology.pdf, 3 - Nature of pastoralism.pdf, 4 - Examples of European pastoral systems.pdf, 5 - Trends and threats.pdf, 6 - Potential policy.pdf, 7 - Gaps in understanding.pdf, 8 - Farming with nature.pdf.) Davy McCracken from SAC and EFNCP was the coordinator of this project (davy.mccracken@sac.ac.uk). Further information on the PASTORAL project and on European pastoralism can be found at: [www1.sac.ac.uk/envsci/Pastoral/default.htm](http://www1.sac.ac.uk/envsci/Pastoral/default.htm).

<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/avec/capri/presentations/mccracken.pdf>: This is a paper held by Davy McCracken, Scottish Agricultural College, in 2004 at a workshop in Capri on High Nature Value farming systems. It stresses the agricultural, socio-economic and ecological value of traditional pastoral systems in Europe. It is also part of the PASTORAL project. (Paper attached as mccracken.pdf)

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/>: International Association for the Study of Common Land Property: This association deals with important aspects of pastoralism (worldwide).

## France

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/livestocksystems/granada/lsirdworkshopreport.pdf> (lsirdworkshopreport.pdf) One of the articles of this 172 page report gives information specifically about value adding in France: Louis Lagrange: "Adding value through marketing and distribution: artisanal and farm-processed livestock products from the less-favoured areas of France".

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/livestocksystems/nafplio/proceedings/proceedings.pdf> (proceedings.pdf) Chapter 2 of this 146 page report is dedicated to "adding value to the products of livestock systems" It deals more specifically with Belgium, France, UK and Germany. There is also a part on sustainability of cashmere production in Spain and UK.

A big discussion at the moment in France is the coexistence of sheep and wolves and bears, especially in the Pyrenees and Alps. Figures on losses in sheep flocks due to large predators vary a lot depending on the sources. This discussion is quite French specific (at the moment increased with the release of bears in the Pyrenees), while in other countries (e.g. Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria) shepherds have always been used to live with large predators. There are several sources on that subject. Here is one: Benhammou, F., Baillon, J. & Sénotier, J.L. (coord) (2004) La cohabitation homes/grands prédateurs en France (Loup et Ours) [Coexistence Humans /Large Carnivores in France (Bear and Wolf)]. Acts of the Conference of March 21st and 22nd 2004, Museum of Orléans. Recherches Naturalistes en Région Centre n° 14. 213 pages).

<http://www.ariège.com/plan/info.html>: This page is about the Ariège, a département in the Pyrenees, and includes a important part on pastoralism. Being in the Pyrenees, it also much about the coexistence of livestock breeding and bears, a hot political issue at the moment with the repeated releases of bears in the Pyrenees. It is also about shepherds' dogs, which are being accepted as important "partners" to livestock breeders by some people. Shepherds' dogs are also much in discussion in the Swiss Alps, where wolves and bears seem to make their comeback. The site is also about some regional types of cattle, sheep and horses, and about transhumance.

Gérard Guérin from the Institut de l'élevage in Montpellier (attached document: Gerard Guerin.pdf) gives information on types of extensive sheep systems in south-eastern France. It is an area with medium to quite large flocks (300 - > 1000 sheep); normally transhumant sheep spending the summer in the mountains; with two lambing seasons (spring and autumn). He also discusses the environmental impact of sheep, an important one being the protection against fire (which has been recognized in other parts of France too, but tends to

be forgotten in the agricultural policy). He also discusses the viability of sheep farming (the world market situation having an increasing impact, wool and meat imported from Australia and New Zealand being normally cheaper than the local products). No solution has been found so far to increase the viability of extensive livestock farming.

## **Spain**

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/livestocksystems/nafplio/proceedings/proceedings.pdf>: (proceedings.pdf) Chapter 2 of this 146 page report is dedicated to "adding value to the products of livestock systems" It deals more specifically with Belgium, France, UK and Germany. There is also a part on sustainability of cashmere production in Spain and UK.

[http://www.globalnature.org/docs/02\\_vorlage\\_asp\\_id~18012\\_domid~1011\\_sp~E\\_addlastid~0\\_m1~11089\\_m2~11103\\_m3~11170\\_m4~18012\\_suma~.htm](http://www.globalnature.org/docs/02_vorlage_asp_id~18012_domid~1011_sp~E_addlastid~0_m1~11089_m2~11103_m3~11170_m4~18012_suma~.htm): This website gives information on the value of pastoralismo, and more specifically transhumance, for the protection of ecosystems. The Fundación Global Nature España is working on the revival of transhumance and the 120.000 km of cañadas (drove roads) of Spain. No figures are given about the valuation of pastoralism and transhumance.

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/livestocksystems/tdv/ruiz.htm>: Ruiz, Roberto, Mandaluniz, Nerea, Albizu, Isabel & Oregui, Luis M. (Internet document) The environmental role of traditional farming systems in the Basque country: This paper is about the dairy sheep-cattle system in the Spanish part of the Basque country. Farmers work as sylvo-pastoralists, mostly having also another job in industry or services. Farm size is between 5 and 30 ha. Livestock breeding consists of sheep (311,000 ewes in 4,800 flocks), dairy cattle (82,500 cows older than 2 years), beef cattle (57,000 cows older than 2 years), goats (16,500) and horses (15,000). The main products are sheep cheese (Idiazabel, labeled with the "dénomination d'origine contrôlée) and beef cattle (mainly local breeds sometimes crossed with Limousin or improved Pirenaica). Sheep and cattle go on transhumance. The article also gives a very few figures on land disponibility and average production. Livestock breeding is only viable thanks to the transhumance and the use of mountain pastures in summer. There is also information on the interaction between livestock breeding and the environment. The ecosystems and landscape being mostly the result of livestock breeding, it can only be maintained with continued pastoralism. The article concludes that it is essential to develop techniques that allow improving the utilization of such mountain resources.

## **Switzerland**

The issue of wolves and bears having an impact on livestock in the Swiss Alps is starting now, but at a much lower level than in France because cases are very few.

The summering of mainly cattle in the mountains (especially in the Alps) has a important economic impact in the way that the grazing prevents snow avalanches. This is also being recognized by the agricultural policy which supports alpine pastures.

## **UK**

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/livestocksystems/nafplio/proceedings/proceedings.pdf>: (proceedings.pdf) Chapter 2 of this 146 page report is dedicated to "adding value to the products of livestock systems" It deals more specifically with Belgium, France, UK and Germany. There is also a part on sustainability of cashmere production in Spain and UK.

## **Norway**

<http://www.uswaternews.com/books/bksbycategory/1aAgricult/ci1850700451.html> (document attached) The document is a very short summary of a book "Commons in a Cold Climate: Coastal Fisheries and Reindeer Pastoralism in North Norway: The Co-management Approach" (S. Jentoft, 1998, Published by Parthenon Publishing Group). The book is a.o. about common lands, which is an important issue in livestock breeding, be it transhumant or nomadic pastoralism or sedentary livestock farming. See also: <http://www.ramex.com/pa/pa-3567.html>.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/bali/papers.html> (document attached: Bergstrom\_Cassandra.pdf) "Formation and change of property regimes: the case of reindeer in Norway" paper to be presented at the 2006 Conference of the International Association for

the Study of Common Property by Cassandra Bergstrom. Gives a lot of information on the problems of the indigenous Sami (Sámi or Saami, sometimes also called Lapps or Laplanders) people of Norway, reindeer breeders for generations. (The Sami are the indigenous people of Sápmi or Lapland, which encompasses parts of northern Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Kola Peninsula of Russia.) There are a lot of problems between reindeer breeders and farmers (who normally are the land owners). It is also about the conflict resulting from the fact that two national administrations: Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment each create their own sets of rules to regulate and manage Norway's reindeer.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/abstracts/57.html> (document attached) "Berg, Bard (1995) Government Intervention into Saami Reindeer-Management in Norway: Has it Prevented or Provoked 'Tragedy of the Commons'?" This paper is about the changing herders' policy towards the end of the 19th century: Until then, herders had always automatically adjusted their reindeer-management to that of other herders without needing any formal regulations; but with the introduction of laws and regulations concerning reindeer-management, but also with increasing area conflicts with new, expanding Norwegian interests (road- and railway building, mining, dam-building, military activities, tourism) traditional reindeer areas were largely damaged, and the herders had to adapt to these changes. The main impact of changing policies was the fact that the traditional free access to the Commons by everyone was lost; this is what led to the "Tragedy of the Commons". One question is being asked at the end of the article that may apply to most problems involving pastoralists: what kind of knowledge is most relevant with regard to reindeer-management problems: The Governments rational, 'scientific' knowledge -- or the Samis 'traditional' knowledge, built on hundreds of years of experience."

[http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/archive/00001184/00/Marin,\\_Andrei.pdf](http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/archive/00001184/00/Marin,_Andrei.pdf) (document attached; contact to the author: [andrei.marin@student.nlh.no](mailto:andrei.marin@student.nlh.no)) "The Political Ecology of Managing the Common Reindeer Ranges in Finnmark, Sub-Arctic Norway" by Marin, Andrei and Vedeld, Paal Centre for International Environment and Development Studies (NORAGRIC) Agricultural University of Norway, NORWAY. According to this article, the nomadic pastoralism "characterized by flexible patterns of resource use and tenure regimes, as a response to fluctuating circumstances in both time and space" as Sami reindeer pastoralists used to practice it, has been gradually replaced by a formalized system reinforced by the State." The consequence of it is that today, "the lichen ranges are highly degraded and the reindeer enterprise is sustained by large subsidies legitimating more control from the Administration and calling for a drastic revision of management approach". "Using a political ecology framework and narrative analysis, the present study addresses the effectiveness of the present management regime in promoting economic and environmental sustainability and equity in the use of the common lichen ranges in Inner Finnmark. The article contrasts the discourse of the herders with the hegemonic one produced by the State and reproduced by society at large on two main thrusts: the ecological model used to determine the optimal herding strategy in order to secure a sustainable production (on an equilibrium/non-equilibrium continuum), and the legitimacy and efficiency of institutions that regulate the resource-use -i.e. the need for a centrally-controlled, formalized regulation system in order to avoid resource degradation (the 'tragedy of the commons')."

[http://www.lennartlundmark.se/internt/lennart.nsf/doc/001F587F/\\$FILE/Helsinki.pdf](http://www.lennartlundmark.se/internt/lennart.nsf/doc/001F587F/$FILE/Helsinki.pdf) (document attached) "Reindeer pastoralism in Sweden 1550-1950" by Lennart Lundmark. The article discusses trans-border nomadism between Sweden, Finland and Norway. The discussion is partly about common lands versus land tenure (the herders preferring apparently the idea of common land, as they always had it). The fact is that reindeer herders and the Sami exist independently of the actual political borders between the countries, the question being what could have happened if there had been no borders. But no final answer is given to that.

<http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/HistoryCulture/Sami/samisf.html> (document attached) (article by Scott Forrest, a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., received a 1996 Award for Arctic Research Excellence from ARCUS [Arctic Research Consortium of the United States] for this paper "Territoriality and Sami-State Relations." The following is the summary of the article: " The Sami are the indigenous people of Fennoscandia. The practice of reindeer herding is central to the Sami way of life, often

regarded as the defining feature of Sami culture. The Sami exhibit a very different form of territorial organization (flexible and overlapping) than the modern or 'Western' systems of the European states (fixed and exclusive) which colonized them. Contradictions between these two conceptions of territoriality have been a defining feature of state-Sami relations in the following ways: 1. Nordic states viewed the Sami as nomadic, and thus having no ownership of their land. 2. Reindeer herding was viewed as an illegitimate or backwards form of economic activity, resulting in the privileging of 'modern' forms of land use at the expense of traditional Sami activities. 3. Where states did feel an impulse to 'protect' the Sami way of life, they viewed nomadic pastoralism as economically unviable, prompting systems of administration which increased state regulation of herding. These conflicts lie at the root of the issues which the Sami are struggling with today: rights to land and resources, self-government, and autonomy over reindeer herding management. Recognizing the importance of different conceptions of territoriality is necessary for a just settlement of these matters." The Sami seem to have the same status as most pastoralists in Europe!

[http://www.sristi.org/cpr/cpr\\_detail.php3?Mode=Institutions&page=44&limit=1](http://www.sristi.org/cpr/cpr_detail.php3?Mode=Institutions&page=44&limit=1) (document attached) "Sami Reindeer Pastoralism as an Indigenous Resource Management System in Northern Norway" by Ivar Bjorklund (1990). This article is about "Self-designed institutions for management of common property resources at the grassroots exhibit considerable variations. These institutions may be formal or informal, culturally embedded or other-wise and episodic or durable. The nature of rules/norms may vary across sectors, regions and cultures. The source of variability may be however, more importantly include the nature of stress or opportunity to which the institution owned its genesis, the context of the participants, the size of the groups and heterogeneity among stake holders, the nature of the resource (whether fugitive or stable), the ownership of the resource (whether private, common, club or public), the scarcity of resource and the purpose of management (whether for accumulation of wealth or for sheer survival of the members). The present Institution is for Sami reindeer pastoralists living in the Finnmark, a territory including northern parts of Sweden, Finland and Norway. Rules for Management of the Institution are: (a) Boundary Rules SOCIAL BOUNDARIES: Members of the "Siida" (see below). SPATIAL BOUNDARIES: Gouvdageaidnu area of Northern Norway, Finland and Sweden. National borders restrict the movements of the herds but specific rules for crossing the border between Norway and Sweden has been made in an internal agreement between the governments the two countries. (b) Governance rules Herdowners are organized in "Siida's", cooperations organized through kith relations (Possibly a Clan). The members of the "Siida" lives and migrates together and they will organize the grazing of reindeer herds throughout a year. (c) Resource Allocation Typically a Siida will regroup three times during a year in accordance with grazing conditions. In the summer reindeer will be gathered in large herds, splitting up in medium size herds for the winter and smaller herds during spring. As a general principle, the herd size should not exceed the carrying capacity of the grazing area. If it occurs, individual owners will withdraw their animals from the common herd and join other herding units according to kinship relations and available pastures. Conflicts are being discussed between the governments who try to regulate the number of reindeer on the basis of an appraisal by biologists on the carrying capacity of pastureland which disagrees with that of the herders (who have hundreds of years of experience).

<http://www.indiana.edu/%7Eiascp/abstracts/77.html> (document attached) by Tarje Brantenberg (1995) "Indigenous Rights and Norwegian Law; The Problem of Sami Customary Law and Pastoral Rights in Norway" Lecture presented at "Reinventing the Commons," the fifth annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, May 24-28, 1995, Bodo, Norway. This article is about Sami customary law versus modern Norwegian law as politics and about how herders' practical knowledge remains implicit, contested, sometimes ignored and silenced.

<http://uit.no/getfile.php?PagelId=1437&FileId=173> (document attached)

## **Romania**

In the frame of the PASTORAL project (see under Europe) Workshop 2 (document: Workshop 2. report.pdf) was mainly about Romania. The workshop report, written by Sally Huband and Davy McCracken, gives information on economic and ecological aspects of pastoralism in Romania. Agriculture is Romania's most important economic sector and

employs 37% of the working population. Since 1990, livestock production has decreased by 13% and the export of livestock products has decreased by 64%. The decrease in livestock production is, in large part, due to a massive drop in wool prices, which were subsidised at 3-4 times the world market prices by the state until 1989. Despite this dramatic decrease, Romania still produces more sheep meat (and goat meat) than any other CEE candidate country and livestock numbers currently stand at 3 million cattle and 9 million sheep. 70% of the national sheep are owned by small farmers (which is remarkable for European standards). Livestock management is still nearly as artisanal as it was 100 years ago. Subsidies are being paid to farmers who own land (41 € per hectare), which leaves most small livestock breeders out. It is hoped that this will change with the accession to the EU (in 2007) when EU agricultural legislation will be applied. Summer pastures in the mountains normally belong to the village community, and livestock owners pay a rent for these pastures. The village council sets the maximum grazing densities of animals (usually 5-15 sheep per hectare). Night enclosures are moved every 3-5 days to prevent overgrazing and soil erosion. At the end of the grazing season, livestock owners pay land maintenance charges. The Romanian Carpathians have a high density of large carnivores (wolves, bears and lynx); on average, each shepherd camp loses 2% of their livestock to large carnivores, enough to have a significant impact on income. The paper also gives a case study, a discussion on agricultural policy and one on the ecological importance livestock breeding may have.

- Main products are dairy related. There are commercial outlets who market their products in the standard form. In 2005, it was reported that only 33 out of 300 plus dairy processing units met with EU standards. Romania was allocated a milk quota that it could not meet last year with the current commercially operating farms.
- The vast majority of dairy products are used for home consumption. Any excess is marketed by word of mouth to neighbours, friends, owners of tourist accommodation etc. There are locally driven initiatives to promote cheese and meat but these are piecemeal, and there seems to be no nationwide initiative. However, things change fast, and Ralluca Barbu (WWF) will have more information.
- Sally does not know of any professionals involved in marketing or economics. But marketing seems not to be relevant at present since the vast majority of livestock are involved in semi-subsistence systems, especially HNV (High Nature Value farming systems). If things change to a commercial system following the normal route as per the EU, that would be the end of the majority of HNV here and energy efficient farming. It is more important to find a way to support small holders and the communal summer arrangements that they use.

<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/s0345262/policy.html> (document attached) This document gives information from Sally's phd work. There is one part on pastoralism & ecology and one part on pastoralism & policy. On the ecological part, she mentions the recent rapid decline of livestock numbers and the consequent encroachment with shrub; this is what can be observed in many areas of Europe. On the political side, she sees problems concerning the support measures the pastoralists will have as a consequence of the fact that pastoralists are characteristically:

- part-time/small-scale,
- using labour intensive methods not recognised by support measures,
- unable to meet regulations designed for intensive systems e.g. hygiene and welfare,
- poorly represented by farmers unions and associations,
- 'using traditional breeds adapted to local environments that can not compete with more modern and sedentary breeds, seasonally migrant or transhumant,
- 'landless' – they may rent land, share common land or graze crops grown by settled or resident agriculturalists.

[http://www.carpathians.org/incubator\\_info2.htm#on](http://www.carpathians.org/incubator_info2.htm#on) The EFNCP European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism and CERI have submitted a project on "Predators as Indicators for High-Nature Value Farmland in Romania" partners to the Darwin Grant (DEFRA). The aim is to use 2 focal predator species to identify high native value farmland in Romania as part of

the Carpathian ecological network as well as using these sites to investigate various economic compensation schemes for conserving the land.

<http://www.cirval.univ-corse.fr/webanglais/publication/tintenna/t28/t8-2.htm> (document attached) This document is about "Pastoralism and sheep and goat cheese production in Romania" It gives information on different breeds of sheep and goats in the Carpathians, on numbers of animals and on types of cheese. It gives also some figures on milk production and milk prizes. An important information is about the fact that whereas lowland farming had been collectivised during the communist period, most of the agricultural structures had been kept unchanged in the mountainous regions where small farms are the majority.

<http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/romania/romania142.html> The text of the document is: "Prior to the dramatic increase in grain cultivation in the nineteenth century, livestock raising, sheep breeding in particular, was the most important economic activity in the country. But with the diversion of grazing land and a perennial shortage of fodder, livestock raising fell into decline. After a drastic reduction in livestock inventories in World War II, herds were gradually replenished, but the number of horses continued to decline, as agriculture became more mechanized. Cattle were raised throughout the country, particularly in the foothills of the Carpathians. Sheep predominated in the mountainous areas and Dobruja. Pigs, poultry, and rabbits were raised on a wide scale.

Private farmers, who produced a large share of livestock brought to market, operated under dire conditions. The state theoretically was obliged to provide fodder to the livestock breeders it contracted to fatten animals. But fodder and proteinrich mixed feeds were not made available in the necessary quantities, especially in the 1980s, when imports were drastically curtailed.

Data as of July 1989"

<http://ac1998.egea.de/workshops/landuse.htm> (document attached) This article gives some information on the evolution of agricultural land before, during and after the communist period. The Nationalization of the land during the 1950s, resulted in reduced connection between rural communities and their land and stimulated many people to take work in the towns. Much land was thus abandoned. Encroachment was a consequence. On the other hand, the village commons (pastures and meadows) were converted to intensive arable land or modern orchards, and thus lost their high nature value. "Pastoral pressure therefore increased on the remaining land available, usually steeply sloping ground with thin soil. The result was severe degradation of the structure and composition of the vegetation and greater erosion; aggravated by a proliferation of paths and cart tracks. Corrective works were only rarely carried out where incipient erosion forms occurred. Meanwhile grazing in the forests damaged young trees. Belatedly the authorities implemented programs to cope with erosion over extensive areas of degraded land: they were usually well-conceived, although they were implemented by enterprises which had no contact with the local farming population and by specialists with no personal interest in the results. An assessment of the environment in 1989 revealed that erosion affected five million hectares and landslides another 0.7 million." After the end of communism, the land was privatised again. An increase in interest for livestock occurred. The consequences are not clear yet; the evolution of the land is being discussed in connection with soil type, slope and erosion factors.

Huband, S; Mertens, A; McCracken, D I (2004). An insecure future for transhumance in Romania. La Cañada: Newsletter of the European forum on nature conservation and pastoralism. Spring/Summer 18, p27-30. (maybe downloaded on the website of EFNCP [www.efncp.org](http://www.efncp.org)) Conclusions of the article: Transhumance continues in Romania today despite the challenges shepherds have faced in the past few centuries and in more recent times. We have not yet established the number of shepherds and flocks or the extent of abandonment of this livelihood, but it is clear that social factors, particularly the increased hardships shepherds endure with the fragmentation of land ownership, will play a critical role in deciding whether transhumance is still practised ten years from now. Romania is scheduled to join the European Union (EU) in 2007 and experiences from within the EU indicate that the restructuring of the country's agricultural sector in accordance with the Common Agricultural Policy (which generally favours sedentary and industrial livestock production) will also greatly influence the future of transhumance and may well prove to be a challenge too far. Without substantial investments in infrastructure, it is highly unlikely that transhumance shepherds will

be able to meet the European Commission's (EC) rigorous hygiene and welfare regulations. In the immediate future, there is a clear need to address the social factors that are causing shepherds to leave transhumance livelihoods. The provision of better accommodation (learning from similar initiatives in France and Spain) could also provide more incentive for people to stay in, and join, the profession. One man said that he would seek an alternative livelihood if the opportunity arose but the majority expressed a strong wish to stay in their profession. They do not want special advantages from the government but just want to be allowed to continue with their livelihoods. They suggested that in cases of damage to crops, independent arbitrators could be employed to assess a fair level of compensation. Also, certain areas or 'corridors' could be established through which flocks have the right to pass. Though they acknowledged that the effective implementation of this strategy would be very difficult to achieve in terms of designating enough land, enforcing this designation and fairly compensating the people whose land is grazed. However difficult it is to achieve, shepherd's livelihoods must be made more secure: they have the right to choose to continue with their profession without the risk of violence and extortion.

## Albania

[http://www.ecmi.de/download/working\\_paper\\_3.pdf](http://www.ecmi.de/download/working_paper_3.pdf) (paper attached): This paper by Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers gives an interesting history of the Aromanians, people living in Northern Greece, Macedonia, southern Albania and parts of Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Romania. They were originally pastoralists (call themselves as such) and never wanted to form a Nation. The reason for that is that a Nation would have given them borders which would hindered their mobility between winter and summer pastures since they practice transhumant pastoralism (this was what had happened in Bulgaria e.g. when the communists closed the borders to Greece). The article gives other interesting information on the historical and social importance of these transhumant people in the whole region they inhabit. The economic importance of this is the problem of land use by pastoralists.

[bp45\\_albania.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/trade/bp45_albania.htm) (paper attached; may be downloaded at: [http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/trade/bp45\\_albania.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/trade/bp45_albania.htm)) This OXFAM paper is about the missing policy for small Albanian farmers. Since the collapse of communism in the late 1980ies, Albania has been changing from a centrally planned economy to a market oriented economy. This has resulted in the small farmers (more than half the Albanian population relies on farming, livestock breeding or forestry for their living) are more or less falling out of the system. Those few farmers who would have some products left to put into the market can't do it either because of lacking transport infrastructure or due to the agricultural imports from other countries. Since the late 1990ies, EU assistance has shifted from economic development to the preparation to EU accession (combating fraud and organized crime, justice and home affairs, and border management) thus leaving out the subsistence farmers. The paper gives policy recommendations, such as the implementation of a rural development strategy integrating subsistence farmers, support to farmers from remote areas and mountains, transport infrastructure, the development of farmers marketing associations. Out of the 440,000 farms of Albania, 20% cannot even make their own living out of their products; 65% can live on their farm and even produce some surplus, and only 15% are able to produce for the market. Sales of livestock and dairy products accounts for 70% of farm income, vegetables for about 20%. The communist regime used to distribute input farm products (seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and equipment); this is no longer the case now, and many farmers just can't afford to buy these products.

World Bank assistance in the environmental sector in EECCA and SE Europe is also guided by its over-arching Europe and Central Asia Environmental Strategy, see [http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/ECA/ECSSD.nsf/3b8b3d27260832ec852569fa0059675f/9ebf4b89efcba68285256ae800017073/\\$FILE/ECAEnvStrategy2001.pdf](http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/ECA/ECSSD.nsf/3b8b3d27260832ec852569fa0059675f/9ebf4b89efcba68285256ae800017073/$FILE/ECAEnvStrategy2001.pdf) (document attached)

<http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/albania/> (data from 1992)

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761561564\\_6/Albania.html#p41](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761561564_6/Albania.html#p41) (document attached) This document is about the changes that occurred after the collapse of communism. Under the Communists, agriculture was worked by the people collectively, and prices were strictly controlled by the government, which oversaw 120 state farms and 420 agricultural collectives. After communism, a series of land reforms beginning in 1991 transformed Albanian agriculture. State farms and cooperatives were taken apart, almost all cultivated land (21

percent of the country's total land area) was privatized, and peasants were allowed to raise crops and livestock for profit. In addition, a free market for farm produce was established, and steps were taken to modernize the farm sector. While Albania was almost totally dependent on foreign aid for food during the transition years from 1991 to 1993, by 1994 the reforms began to pay off. Production on farms grew by 15 percent that year, and farming grew from about one-third of the GDP in the 1980s to 25 percent of the GDP in 2004. These informations are quite in opposition with the OXFAM document above (bp45\_albania.pdf). The emigration movement from Albania, as it still occurs now, tends to contradict this positive information.

<http://www.zooconsult.it/CountryExperience.html> (document attached) This is an article about a project for "Technical Assistance for the Direction of Veterinary Service" of Albania. The project aims at institutional, professional and technical strengthening of the Albanian veterinary services. All project objectives are placed within the framework of the Strategy for Agriculture Development of Albania ("Green Strategy"). The applied project approach consists of support interventions and measures carried out at several levels: (i) institution building at VD and DVS, (ii) improvement of the working conditions of VD and DVO staff, (iii) transfer of technical and professional know how, and (iv) provision of short-term expertise for specific problems. In terms of improved working conditions, a variety of tools and equipment are provided, such as communication facilities (e.g. e-mail), office work facilities (e.g. computers and printers), transport equipment, and laboratory equipment (diagnostic facilities). For the transfer of know-how, three training methodologies are being applied: on the job training through close collaboration with the long-term and the short-term experts, specific training through workshops or seminars (e.g. LogFrame workshop), and the provision of study tours to Central and Northern Europe. In the fields of short-term expertise, specific prevailing animal health and veterinary public health constraints (e.g. veterinary epidemiology) will be addressed.

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/essd/essd.nsf/2f8eec6c436b828385256a290067cab0/5ea0170644da4fc285256a8b00786fc5?OpenDocument> (document attached) This document gives an Albanian example of "Community-based forest management in a transition economy". It is about the restoration of forest and pasture areas which had been degraded after the end of communism and about controlling illegal harvesting and improving forest management on publicly managed land. The transfer of user rights and management to local communities has apparently worked very well; user rights have been transferred for 10 years. Local communities have been assisted with development of management plans and have invested user fees in improving the resource. This component is being expanded and may form the basis for a follow-on natural resources and environment project. So this article again is in contradiction with other information according to which land management seems to work rather badly (again the OXFAM document bp45\_albania.pdf).

<http://www.dec.org/pdf%5Fdocs/PDABS698.pdf> (document attached) This is about the "Albania private Forestry Development Program" (financed by the United States Agency for International Development). This programme started apparently around 1995 and seems to be a long term programme. The article is one of 19 quarterly reports. It gives information on the management of forests, pastures and meadows, but also on social aspects (such as gender integration) and on capacity building (including published materials).

## **Macedonia**

<http://www.macedonia.info/FAQ.htm> (document attached) The name Makedonia seems to vom form the Greek and is supposed to mean "highlander" (could also come from Macedon who is the son of Zeus and Thyia, Deucalion's daughter, one not excluding the other). The Macedonians have apparently been transhumant pastoralists already in the 6th BC.

<http://www.europexl.nl/progmacleure.html> ? <http://www.europexl.nl/library.html> (document saved as "agriculturesector.doc") The document gives information on the different size-types of farms. The livestock sub-sector is characterized by a large number of very small, subsistence oriented farm households, a limited but growing number of small, commercially oriented family farming businesses and a decreasing number of large, specialized livestock enterprises. Between 1990 and 2002, the pig industry has grown substantially and the dairy industry modestly, whereas the cattle, sheep and poultry industries have declined markedly. The largest reductions have been in the sheep and poultry industries, which have shrunk by

45% and 49%, respectively. Sheep numbers have fallen heavily in both individual farm and enterprise sub-sectors, due to the intermittent loss of international markets and the termination of subsidies for lamb production. Rising labor costs and reduced labor availability have also made it difficult to continue upland shepherding. Small-scale farms seem to do better than large agricultural enterprises: Small-holders have adapted more quickly to economic transition, and benefited from improved access to farm inputs, product markets and land. Agriculture enterprises on the other hand have been in continuous decline, despite sustained soft-budget support. This seems to be the opposite to many other countries (especially EU) where large farms do better than the small ones.

## **Sources**

Sources to check for information on economics of pastoralism:

- [www.efnecp.org](http://www.efnecp.org)
- [www.ieep.org.uk](http://www.ieep.org.uk)
- <http://www.eldis.org>
- [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
- [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)
- [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org)
- [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)
- [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
- [www.unu.edu/unupress](http://www.unu.edu/unupress) (United Nations University Press)

There is very little information on UK, France, Spain and Switzerland so far, countries for which a lot more is available