



High Nature Value grasslands: securing the ecosystem services of European farming post 2013

7- 9 September 2010, Sibiu, Romania

EFNCP, in partnership with Fundația ADEPT and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, are proud to announce a major international conference to address the importance of High Nature Value farming for the delivery of ecosystem services in Europe.

How can these vital services be secured post 2013 with the support of a reformed CAP that targets public money on public goods?

This conference will be held in the historic city of Sibiu, the 2007 European city of culture. Central to the conference is the field trip to the Tarnava Mare area, one of the most biodiverse farmed lowland landscapes remaining in Europe, rich in wildflowers, birds, butterflies and large mammals including bears and wolves. ADEPT is working to maintain HNV farming and encourage appropriate rural development as keys to conserving the values of this extensive Natura 2000 site.

The conference will discuss the role of HNV farming in providing a wide range of ecosystem services: not only biodiversity conservation, but other services vital to our long term future, such as carbon sequestration, quality and security of water and food, and resistance to climate change, fires and flooding.

HNV farmed landscapes are dominated by semi-natural grasslands, and often small-scale traditional management. Their ecosystem services make them of global importance. Both the grasslands and the farming systems that use them are under threat. Are they sufficiently valued and supported by the CAP at present? Will a reform focused on “public money for public goods” make a significant difference, and how should it work on the ground?

This conference will propose improved EU strategies for maintaining HNV farming and grasslands.

The Natura 2000 network provides site protection, and LIFE supports pilot projects within this network. But there is an urgent need for better economic support and more effective action to maintain HNV farming across large areas. The CAP reform debate of 2010-13 is a major opportunity for re-targeting CAP resources, so that they help to secure the future of HNV farming and grasslands, and of the ecosystem services they deliver across Europe.

Thanks to generous support from DG Environment, Orange Romania and Lucian Blaga University, participation is free of charge. However, those intending to participate are required to **register by 28 June** by email to info@efnecp.org using the attached form.

We have reserved rooms at a several hotels in the old city of Sibiu and will provide you with details of how to contact them, and of preferential room rates, when we confirm your registration.

Sibiu Airport is easily reached from a variety of European airports. The organizers will arrange transport to and from Sibiu airport. Sibiu is about 4 hours by car from Bucharest, where there are 2 international airports. Public transport connections are available. Further details will be in your confirmation email.



DG Environment



Programme Summary



Tuesday 7th September

Session 1 – Introduction to the conference themes and aims, and the local area

Wednesday 8th September

Session 2 – Field trip to Târnava Mare region arranged specifically to illustrate and elicit discussion of themes to be covered in the next day's sessions.

Thursday 9th September

Session 3 – Key ecosystem services of Europe's HNV grasslands

Semi-natural pastures and meadows ("HNV grasslands") are central to the ecosystem services of European farming, and at the same time represent a major part of European biodiversity.

The place of HNV grasslands within ecosystem services needs to be clarified and flagged up – landscape, water-catchment functions, quality food production on land with limited economic options.

The climate change debate has complex implications for HNV grasslands. There are positive services to be supported - carbon storage, fire resistance in dry areas, large-scale habitats that allow species to adapt to climate change. But potentially negative policy responses - e.g. intensification, biofuels.

Session 4 – EU policy context for supporting HNV farming

Environmental public goods from EU farming depend largely on low-intensity HNV livestock systems.

Where do they fit into EU strategies for biodiversity post-2010? What policies are being and can be used to support both the economic and ecological viability of these types of farming?

Session 5 – Improving policies to support HNV farming

Key policy lessons from local projects, highlighting common challenges.

EFNCP proposals for CAP measures to address HNV challenges, from local to EU levels. Discussion and conclusions on how CAP reform 2010-13 can complement EU biodiversity strategies and Natura 2000 to secure a sustainable future for HNV grasslands and farming.

Speakers from a wide range of EU Member States to include

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment (video message)

Mihail Dumitru, Minister of Agriculture, Romania

Alvaro Picardo, Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Castilla y León (Spain)

Peter Veen, Netherlands

Prof Michael Dower, UK

Colin Tudge, UK



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