



Common land – common heritage, common issues?

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Common land – what exactly is it?

- Land belonging to Government and used by farmers?
- Land over which people apart from the owner exercise rights?
- Jointly owned land?
- Some sort of joint governance?
- For today, we'll assume the common thread is plurality of use (or the right to use) for grazing



Common land – how common is it?

- Eurostat says:
- Do we believe it? ☺
- It might be 24 million ha in EU and 15 million ha in non-EU!
- The UAA of France is 27 million ha



MEMBER STATE	COMMON LAND (ha) year 2010
Spain	4 205 593
Cyprus	805
France	750 000
Ireland	422 415
Italy	610 165
Austria	252 872
Portugal	171 351
United Kingdom	1 195 246
Hungary	627 225
Bulgaria	858 563
Romania	1 497 764
Greece	1 698 949
Slovenia	8 221
Norway	Unknown
Croatia	Not identified
Montenegro	Not identified
EU TOTAL (ha)	12 299 265



It's significant!

- Socially and economically for its users
- Often for the wider agricultural sector
- Cultural and social value for society
- As an important element of the semi-natural area of the EU it has
 - Landscape value
 - Biodiversity value
 - Carbon sink
 - Catchment protection
 - Huge role in fire risk (/management)





Dependable
grazing
resource at
reasonable
cost

Ability to deal
fairly with other
graziers and
other users

Mechanisms to
maintain
pasture quality

Ability to get at
least same
support as
other farmers

Secure, guaranteed
access to land

Governance of the
pasture

Secure, guaranteed
access to 'forage' (on
paper)

Regulations which
recognise and cope with
common pasture

Support measures which
'work' on common
pastures

Applicants eligible for
support

Food products
from semi-
natural
resources

Resilient food
supply (climate,
fuel...)

Cultural and
landscape
values

Habitats and
species

Fire control

Combatting
rural poverty

It's rather marginalised

- Geographically
 - Socio-economically
 - In terms of awareness and understanding
 - In policy
-
- And graziers FEEL marginalised and alone



Aims of this event

- Getting to know each other and our circumstances
- Finding our common issues and especially the ones where we can potentially act together, either as a whole group or in smaller bilateral or multilateral partnerships
- Identifying common areas of work and building a consensus about a prioritised plan of action for the next 2 years

