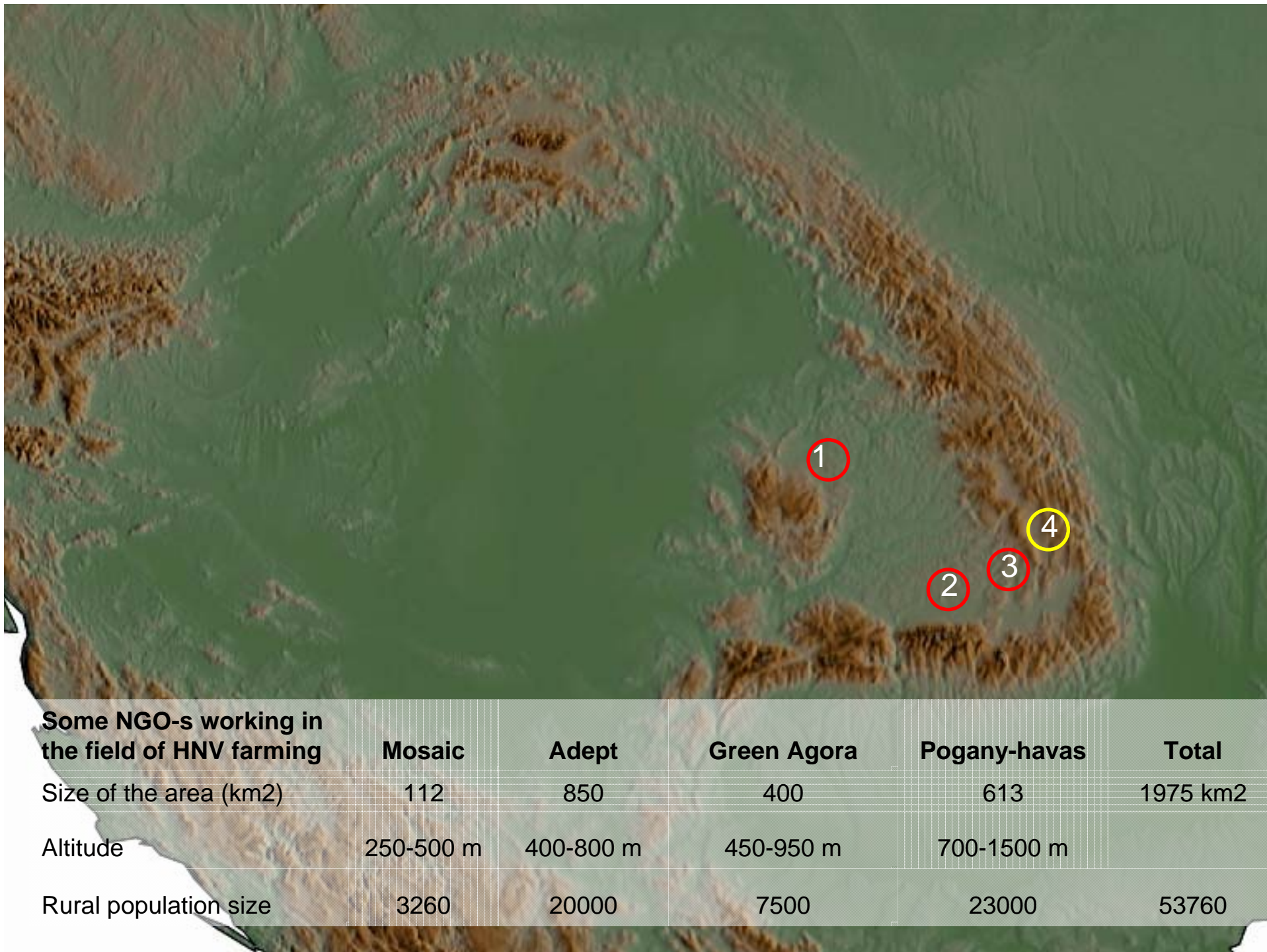


Romania: Why and how CAP should support HNV farming in Transylvania?

László Demeter, dr Barbara Knowles, Gergely Rodics

*Pogány-havas Association, European Forum on Nature
Conservation and Pastoralism*





Some NGO-s working in the field of HNV farming

| | Mosaic | Adept | Green Agora | Pogany-havas | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Size of the area (km2) | 112 | 850 | 400 | 613 | 1975 km2 |
| Altitude | 250-500 m | 400-800 m | 450-950 m | 700-1500 m | |
| Rural population size | 3260 | 20000 | 7500 | 23000 | 53760 |

Some geographic terms related to our area (Pogány-havas Association)

- Pogány-havas - Pagan Snowcap
- Csík Basin, Csík Mountains (pronounce: „cheek”) - Weatherfish Country (*Misgurnus fossilis*)
- Gyimes – Deer Valley

Pagan Snowcap - highest known occurrence of the Eastern Pasqueflower –
Pulsatilla patens in Romania (Europe?)

Csík Mountains

Csík Basin

View to the East



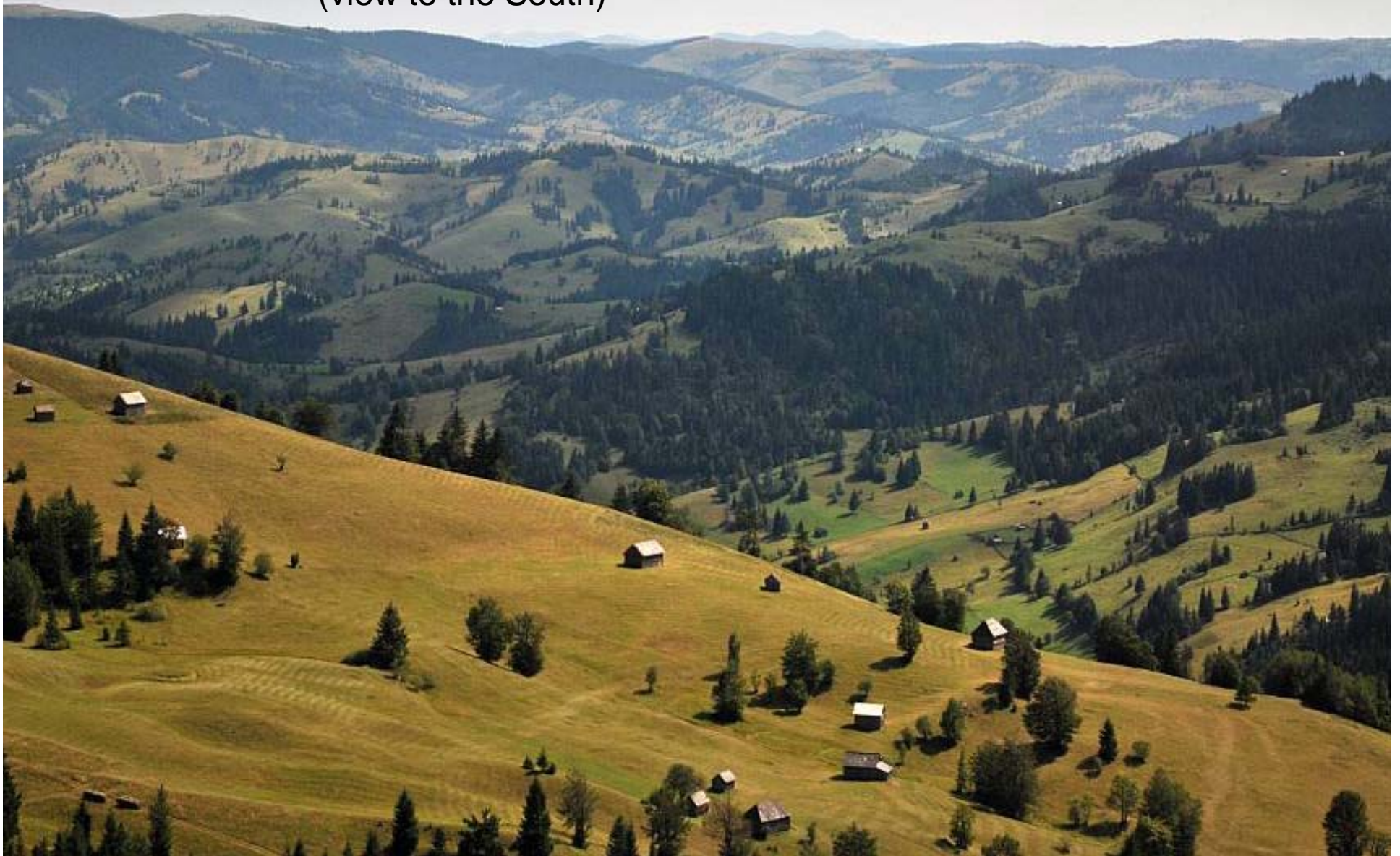
Medieval drawings on the tower of a church



Some important natural features
of the area among the drawings



Csík Mountains – Gyimes – hay storage buildings in the foreground
(view to the South)







Weatherfish
(*Misgurnus fossilis*)



The scale of small farming and the services provided to European society

- 3.5 million small farms in Romania
- Created and manage HNV farmland, and especially **HNV grassland** – both good for biodiversity and human society, providing services like:
 - Maintaining soil, reduce erosion, filtering water, protection from flooding
 - Pollination, protection against pests and diseases
 - Carbon storage; Biodiversity including genetic and ecological diversity
 - Cultural heritage – part of European cultural heritage
 - Healthy food products
 - A „living library” of knowledge about sustainable agriculture
 - Social cohesion – e.g. children taking part in the family business and doing useful work
 - RESILIENCE to social, environmental and economic threats
- They are payed for food - the other services are valuable but unpaid

Key features of HNV farming in Transylvania

- Small
- Small plot size, fragmented ownership (economic handicap) – mosaic habitat structure and refuge
- **Community and landscape level land stewardship**
- Low fossil fuel and chemical input
- High human and animal labor input
- Huge traditional ecological knowledge (see Molnár and Babai)



Key features of HNV farmland in Transylvania

- Huge biodiversity: genetic, species and ecological diversity
- High connectivity of functional ecosystems (landscape scale)
- Abandonment and quick, ecologically damaging changes (energy crops, afforestation – driven by new rules and opportunities)

Products and problems of HNV grassland farmers in Transylvania

Marketable products

- Milk and milk products (milk is of key importance for HNV grassland conservation)
- Meat
- Honey, jam, herbs
- Handicrafts

Problems

- Finding markets – where to sell milk? and meat?
- Too strict food safety rules – developed originally for large scale producers – flexibility needed
- Understanding regulations and policies
- Access to grants and subsidies – eligibility problems

The role of EU policies in HNV farming

- Creating equal opportunities for small producers
 - So that small and large producers can compete equally in the market
- Rewarding the services that HNV farmers provide to Society
 - Agri-environment scheme and other agricultural payments at a realistic level
- Change in philosophy: not only compensation for loss, but also payment for services

Increasing the efficiency of RDP payments for maintaining HNV farm services to society

– principles for support systems

- **Recognize and Maintain Diversity** = regionalized rules for agri-environment packages (no one rule for a whole country)
- **Maintain Landscape Heterogeneity** – include small plots, as an ecologically optimal system of habitat management
- **Reward Non- and Little-Mechanized Farming** as cultural heritage and minimal ecological footprint in food production and providing ecosystem and socio-economic services
- **Reward Being Small** – it's not size that matters most (as opposed to policies that aim to increase farm size)
- **Respect Traditions** (traditional agricultural and ecological knowledge) in existing historical HNV farmer communities – farmers often know better how to manage the land sustainably

- We thank Sógor Csaba MEP for funding and hosting this event
- Thank our other MEP hosts George Lyon and Iratxe García Pérez
- BirdLife and RSPB for helping us to organize the event
- EFNCP for providing funding
- For your attention

