

ЖАЙЫЛЫМ
Многостороннее
партнерство и инновации в
устойчивом использовании
пастбищ
Енбекшиказахского района

Жайылым - Еңбекшіқазақ ауданындағы жайылымдық мал шаруашылығының экономикалық және экологиялық тұрақтылығын қамтамасыз етудегі көпжақты ынтымақтастық пен инновациялар



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Союзом

REVIEW OF HERDERDS' UNIONS & ASSOCIATIONS BEST PRACTICES



The review is realised by IIsleda experts, in the framework of the Project “JAILYM - Multi-actor partnerships and innovation at the service of economic and environmental sustainability of grazing activities in Enbekshi-Kazakh District”



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1. Background and objective of the review

The review has the objective of providing information about the main roles and tasks that pasture users unions and associations generally perform in different countries, and why and how the experience of these associations can be fruitful in the development and growth of the “District Pasture Coordinating Council (DPCC)”, and the “Unions of Pasture Users (UPUs) established in the framework of the “JAILYM” Project, in the Enbekshi-Kazakh district of Almaty Region.

The review has been elaborated taking into account the outcome of the Jailym project, which provides for *“enhanced capacities and interaction of CSOs, Akimats and farmers on sustainable pasture management in Enbekshi-Kazakh District”*, as well as its long-term impact *“to contribute to improving the role of CSOs and LAs in tackling the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss on pastures and agriculture”*, and in consideration of the intermediate results achieved by the Project during its first year of implementation, as well as the constraints on the way to associationism and to sustainable pasture management and livestock, that characterize the local context.

One of the main achievements of the Jailym project has to do with the elaboration and implementation, in the target counties of Enbekshi-Kazakh district, of the pasture management plans for the years 2023-2025. These plans are indeed considered as instruments for rationalising and making more sustainable the use of the pasturelands, as well as for introducing agreed norms regarding animal feeding requirements, while also preventing further degradation of the land). Complementary to the development of the plans, the Jailym project has proceeded with the establishment of a District Pasture Coordinating Council (DPCC), and the Unions of Pasture Users¹ (UPU) as means for implementing the plans.

The criticalities highlighted so far in the implementation of the Project regard:

- The pasture users, particularly those who own small amounts of cattle heads, are not aware of the rules introduced by the Law on Pasture and by the Law on Self-governing.
- Moreover, most of the farmers have scarce awareness of how agriculture and grazing activities influence, and in return are influenced, by environmental degradation and climate change.
- There is scarce acquaintance of the existing and potential economic opportunities, and only few are the dairy farms engaged in added-value economic operations, including milk processing and sales, since the great majority of the small livestock owners sell their milk to few big processing companies
- The decrease in the forage yield. also due to the fact that pasture users do not always link their grazing practices with land degradation. Instead, they tend to place the blame on the lack of pastures and hence demand from the Akimats additional lands.
- The lack of available pasturelands compared to the number cattle
- Scarce or degraded (due to lack of maintenance and other problems) pasture infrastructure including cattle routes, shelters, watering holes and other water supply facilities
- Water scarcity
- Overgrazing or illegal grazing

¹ Currently 5 UPUs have been created and operate in the five target counties of the District (Aksi, Asy, Sogeti, Kyrbaltabaj and Karazhota)

- Lack of voice and legitimacy of the small farmers and pasture users in the public debate and political arena, which result in weakness in advocating for their demands

The findings of the JailyM Project, mainstreamed by the project experts into the pasture management plans provide a number of recommendations, which, altogether, aim at improving the sustainability of pasture livestock activities in Enbekshi-Kazakh district, through the following coordinated actions:

- 1) The reduction of the load and prevention of further degradation on pastures**
(Increasing the existing feed supply; Bring the grazing population into line with the existing feed supply; Step by step development of reserve lands for transhumance livestock farming; Redistribution of pasture lands by region depending on the needs of its livestock)
- 2) The improvement of sanitary and hygienic regime**
(Accounting of the entire livestock; change of pasture areas; control over the use of pastures and watering sources; prohibition from grazing to the sick cattle in advance on the pasture territory; periodic examination of samples on the presence of infectious agents or infestations; regular cleaning of the territory, disinfection of water, feeders, watering areas, pens, feed residues; preventive disinfection of animal premises; combating dust in pastures; pasture prevention; preventive deworming, using highly effective anthelmintic agents; carrying on sanitary activities during the grazing period, such as: monthly preventive deworming of young sheep and cattle of the current and previous years of birth; effective helminth-larvoscopy examination of animals; therapy of young animals with signs of parasitic bronchopneumonia; comprehensive anti-epizootic measures for increasing the general and specific resistance of the animal population)
- 3) Carrying on special veterinary measures**
(Routine diagnostic -serological, allergic and other-; use of therapeutic drugs and specific preventive measures -vaccines, serums-; Veterinary educational seminars for farmers and managers of small farms; annual farm's plan of veterinary-sanitary measures; organization of veterinary services; registration of applications for the purchase of biological products; registration and certification of treatments on animals; control of the contaminated areas of pastures, watering places, cattle burial grounds, cattle routes; annual scheduled cleaning of adjacent pasture areas; organization of slaughter and sanitary stations)
- 4) Enhance awareness and joint work among the livestock owners and between them and the Akimats (notably via the District Pasture Coordinating Council)**
(Regulate issues related to the implementation of the Pasture Management Plans of the rural areas; Conduct explanatory work with the local population regarding the proper use of pastures; Make proposals for improving and restoring pasture infrastructure).

Collective governance mechanisms, such as the Unions and the Council, can help solve the multilevel constraints on ground in a much more effective and sustainable way, than the single pasture users or the single Local Authority can do. A Union facilitates the exchanges of information on good practices and problems among the herders, also enabling them to raise their voice in the public debate and make proposals on issues of common interest. Moreover, it can help herders to obtain more favourable market conditions, both on the inputs and outputs' sides, thanks to the possibility of agreeing more convenient purchasing and sales prices thanks to the possibility of agreeing prices and sale products through collective sale channels. Moreover, a union of herders can establish and maintain links with relevant public and private actors (at the local, regional, national and international levels).

Based on the above-mentioned analysis and recommended actions, this review wishes to present different associative experiences, developed by different groups of livestock owners and herders worldwide which may inspire the work of the Unions of Pasture Users and the Akimats in the context of the JailyM project and, hopefully, beyond it.



Mountain pastures in Europe (photo from the European Shepherds Network website)

Within this review the good practices of ten groups (associations) of livestock owners and herders from the EU and from Georgia are analysed, and namely:

	Location	Name	Acronym
1.	European Union (transnational)	Shepherd Net - European Shepherds Network	ESN
2.	ITALY	UNIONE PASTORI NURRI	NURRI
3.	SPAIN	Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo	Monte Mediterraneo
4.	FRANCE	Association des bergères et bergers des Alpes du Sud et de Provence	ABBASP
5.	FRANCE	Association Aspir	ASPIR
6.	FRANCE AND SWISS	Association des bergers du Jura franco-suisse et amis	ABJFSA
7.	GEORGIA	Shepherd's Life	Georgia SL
8.	ROMANIA	Association of animal producers and breeders from Vama Buzăului	VAMA BUZĂULUI
9.	POLAND	Fundacja Pasterstwo Transhumancyjne	FPT
10.	GREECE	Association of Pastoral Farmers of Epirus	EMKH



Photo from the European Shepherds Network website

2. Comparative analysis of ten herder unions in the EU

The cases analysed in the present review are gathered in 4 main interrelated categories, based on the issues that each union seeks to address:

- a) Productivity of pastures:
 - Increase in the forage yield/land productivity
 - Prevent further degradation of pastures
 - Improve water supply
 - Assure animal care
 - Address land relations and other issues preventing the access to rangeland
- b) Governance:
 - Facilitate joint work between herders and local administrations
 - Facilitate awareness on legislation rules
 - Improve access to pasturelands, and cattle routes
 - Mitigate overgrazing or illegal grazing
 - Enable voice in the public policies
- c) Environment and sustainability:
 - Raise awareness on the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on agriculture and grazing activities
 - Assure proper veterinary services
 - Sustainable water supply

d) Economic performances of the farms

The actions performed by the ten Unions analysed under each category are described in brief here below:

1) Productivity of pastures

a) Provision of **technical support and advisory services** to herders is the primary mission of five out of the ten analysed associations and namely of: Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo (Spain), Fundacja Pasterstwo Transhumancyjne (Poland), Association of Pastoral Farmers of Epirus (Greece), Shepherd's Life (Georgia) , and Vama Buzăului (Romania). All these associations seek in fact to improve their members':

- productivity, including support to administrative procedures, for the preparation of agro-silvo-pastoral management plans (aimed among others at reducing grazing load and prevent land degradation), improvement of working conditions, regulation of the access to pastures, etc.
- quality of livestock products and animal health
- support to improve the forage production
- support to improve the animal breed performance control (EKNH)
- supporting members to obtain credits or other facilities (Vama Buzăului)

b) Organisation of educational activities (ESN, ABBASP, Nurri), for:

- effective management and use of pastures
- effective management of pastures resources, for avoiding overgrazing, and finding alternative to the water scarcity, including training in veterinary medicine and first aid measures (Georgia SL)
- pastoral schools and specialization courses (ESN, Monte Mediteraneo)
- strengthening marginalized groups breeders (Georgia SL)
- preparing operational manuals

c) Liaison with competent entities and research centers on genetic management and breed conservation

d) Dissemination of new technologies, mainly related to land maintenance and water supply (EKMH, ABJFSA)

2) Governance

a) Strengthening collaboration among the members and other actors, and maintaining relationships with organizations and institutions related to pastoralism (Nurri, Monte Mediterraneo, ESN, Georgia SL, ABJFSA, Vama Buzăului, FPT, EKMH) for

- ensuring more voice and role to herders in negotiating pasture regulations with governmental authorities
- promoting and defending pastoralism and the role in the management of the forest and agricultural spaces
- raising social awareness of the figure of the shepherd and their values and benefits
- editing a charter highlighting the commitments and wishes of the shepherds.

b) Providing space for shared decisions (All)

c) Organising meetings, seminars, conferences, festivals, also and collaboration of the different agents interested in pastoralism, and participating to regional, national and international meetings on pastoralism (Monte Mediterraneo, Georgia SL, ABJFSA, Vama Buzăului, FPT)

d) Monitoring

- the commitments and wishes of the shepherds (Vama Buzăului, FPT)

- the genetic evaluation and selection of suitable replacement male and female animals (EKMH)
- e) Information circuit and system, through
 - Bookkeeping genealogic reference, animals/breeding catalogues, breeding book, pedigree certificates, Fertility control during the menstrual period (Georgia, EMKH, ABJFSA)
 - Mapping & cartographic sistematization of breeding practices (ABBASP, ABJFSA)
 - Recording problems and collecting ideas / possibilities to improve the working conditions on site (Georgia SL, FPT)
 - Disseminating information on legislation and regulations (ESN)
- f) Raising public and private funds for the members (Monte Mediterraneo, Aspir, Georgia SL, Vama Buzăului), through:
 - Scouting opportunities
 - Elaborating projects for using these opportunities at benefit of the members: better use of mountain pasture shepherds, infrastructure, processing and storing products, etc., improving herders' capacities through training courses, including veterinary courses.
 - Involving important cooperation partners at regional, national and international levels from business, science, culture and politics

3) Environment sustainability (prevent / mitigate land degradation, water scarcity and climate change, and promote circular economy)

- e) Technical support and advice for
 - managing and defending natural spaces (Monte Mediterraneo)
 - Improving animal health, also in view to guarantee more ecologically sustainable production, and meat and milk quality (Vama Buzăului)
 - obtaining certificates for ecological and traditional products of animal origin (Vama Buzăului)
- f) Consultancy and technical support for maintaining the animals in good agricultural and environmental conditions, including the defence of the forests, as well as the local flora and fauna, and agriculture spaces (Georgia, ABBASP, Vama Buzăului, ABJFSA)
- g) Favours the preservation of uniqueness of the natural, social and cultural richness of the region through cooperation with relevant organizations, through nurturing the natural values of the environment, care for environmental protection and the natural heritage (FPT)
- h) Awareness raising and emergency actions for reducing the risk of fires
- i) Awareness raising actions on bio- diversity
- j) Promoting and sustaining circular economy (reuse of resources from pastoralist activities, otherwise lost), through advices and training (Monte Mediterraneo, Vama Buzăului)

4) Economic performance (incl. promotion and marketing)

- a) Promoting local and ecological products on the markets, particularly showing the added value of products from animal welfare compared to factory farming for the consumer and for the environment (Nurri, EMKH, Georgia SL, Monte Mediterraneo, ABBASP, EMKH, FPT), as well as local arts and crafts and dishes (FPT)

Best practices of herders' unions and associations

- b) Realizing comprehensive analysis and concept development documentation for the preservation of the traditional shepherd's farms (Georgia SL)
- c) Providing advisory services for adapting the livestock production to new demands (Monte Mediterraneo, EMKH)
- d) Improving sales, through scouting possible purchasers (retailers, commercial chains, public sector) and organising correspondent distribution (Georgia SL, EKMH)
- e) Providing advice on manufacturing new products and developing new sources of income for the shepherds (Georgia SL, Vama Buzăului)
- f) Organizing fairs (Vama Buzăului)



Logos of the Union of Livestock Breeders/Shepherds of the Mediterranean Mountains of Monte Mediterraneo (Spain, left), the Association of Livestock Farmers of Epirus (Greece, center) and the Union of Livestock Breeders and Shepherds of Nurri (Italy, right)



Products of the Union of Cattle Breeders and Shepherds of Nurri (UNIONE PASTORI NURRI), Sardinia, Italy

3. Conclusions

The review had the intention of answering to the question “may the types of tasks and activities carried out from foreign selected herders’ associations or unions match the needs and problems of the Enbeck-Kazah shepherds, and the recommendations reported in the Pasteur plans 2023-2025?

The answer was “Yes, they may”.

As matter of the fact, the review provided evidence how in the framework of four main typologies of tasks, such as governance, productivity, environment, and marketing, they addressed the main problems, needs, and the recommendations included in the pasture plans management in the following way:

Through tasks related to **Governance** (modalities, through which the actors link each other, exchange experience and information, contact public authorities, organize production and sales) they addressed *problems* such as: scarce awareness of the rules introduced by the law on pasture and by the law on self-governing; *needs*, such as: lack of pasturelands, and cattle routes, overgrazing or illegal grazing, and no voice in the public policies; and *recommendations from the pasture plans*, such as: joint Work between the Akimat and pasture users.

Through tasks related to **improvement of productivity** addressed needs, such as: scarce forage yield, Lack of pasturelands, and cattle routes, scarcity of water supply facilities, Overgrazing or illegal grazing; Reduction of the load and prevent degradation of pastures; *recommendations from the pasture plans*, such as: create sanitary and hygienic regime, and carrying on special veterinary measures.

Through tasks related to **environment protection**, they addressed *problems*, such as scarce awareness of impact of environmental degradation and climate change on agriculture and grazing activities; *needs*, such as scarcity of water supply facilities; and *recommendations from the pasture plans*, such as: reduction of the load and prevent degradation of pastures create sanitary and hygienic regime; and carrying on special veterinary measures.

Through tasks related to **Marketing**, they addressed *problems*, such as: scarce familiarity with commercial opportunities.



Best practices of herders' unions and associations



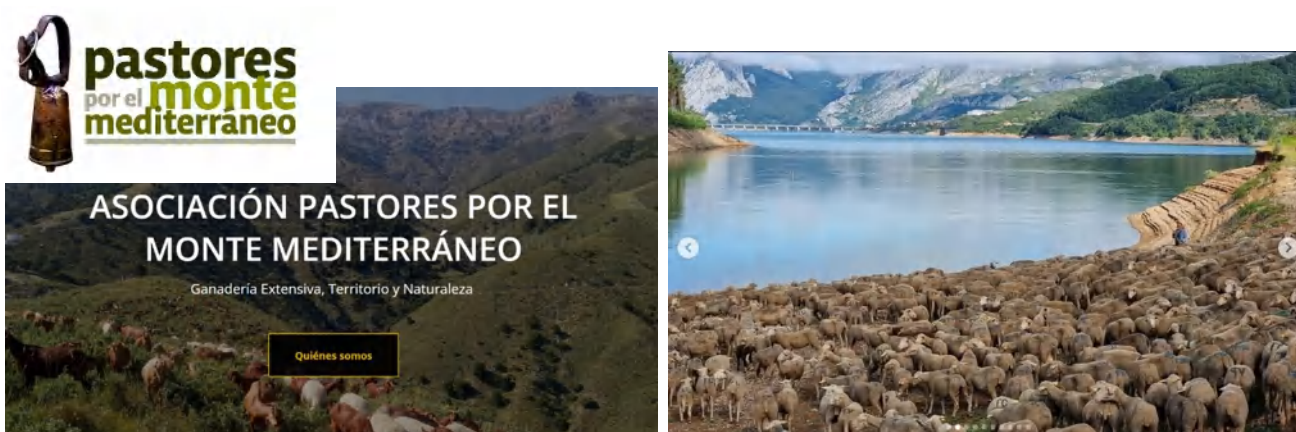
Pastures in Greece (top) and Sardinia (bottom). At the bottom right is a page on the website of the Union of Cattle Breeders and Shepherds of Nurri, with which you can complete the purchase of cheeses from members of the Union

ANNEX 1. BEST PRACTICES OF HERDERS' UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Shepherd Net - European Shepherds Network
What it is	European Shepherds Network (ESN) brings together extensive livestock farmers and shepherd organizations in Europe that share common goals such as supporting pastoralism and building a cohesive social movement. European Shepherds Network is social movement and the only alliance formed for and by grassroots mobile pastoralist organisations in Europe.
Mission	ESN's mission is to promote knowledge and recognition of the role of pastoralism in the sustainable development of European territories. The operation covers disadvantaged or mountainous areas that are underpopulated and suffer from major economic handicaps. ESN brings together different types of territorial partners so that they can establish technical and economic strategies and propose improvements for policies and public action.
Main tasks / activities	ESN is currently devoting its activity through different campaigns covering the main problems and aspects of pastoralism in Europe: 1. Specific legislation for extensive pastoralism under EU Common Agricultural Policy 2. Opposing Electronic Identification System for sheep and goats and legal bureaucracy 3. Consultative approach to predator species 4. Shepherds schools and regeneration
Link	https://shepherdnet.eu/

Country	ITALY
Name	UNIONE PASTORI NURRI
What it is	The cooperative company UNIONE PASTORI, founded in 1962, is today a Producers' Organisation that promotes the value of its dairy products through a dynamic business philosophy based on shared goals and cooperation. We are based in Nurri, in the heart of Sardinia, and we are the proud inheritors of an age-old dairy farming tradition, following in the footsteps of a proud and enterprising culture. Our production is firmly rooted in the territory, achieving a perfect synthesis of advanced skills, culture and traditions
Mission	It promotes the value of its dairy products through a dynamic business philosophy based on shared goals and cooperation
Main tasks / activities	Over the years, the cooperative has always tried to produce typical and quality cheeses, obtained from fresh and genuine milk from the rich pastures of Barbagia and the lush hills that border the Flumendosa and Mulargia. The Unione Pastori di Nurri is made up of more than eight hundred members and annually transforms about 14,000,000 liters of sheep and goat milk. The plant is based in Nurri (Ca). For years, following its inclusion in the tourist route of the Consorzio dei Laghi, the production center has been visited by numerous tourists. Thanks to state-of-the-art systems and highly qualified personnel, all stages of processing are followed in the factory with great professionalism: from the transfer of milk to the aging of the cheeses. In this way, through a production process in which healthiness and hygienic-sanitary safety are the pivot and key element, products that are incomparable in terms of taste and quality are obtained. The Unione Pastori di Nurri is a UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 certified company, a certification obtained to consolidate and develop its presence on the market through the promotion of a policy based on maximum customer - consumer satisfaction. In over 50 years, the cooperative has developed its activity of production and marketing of typical Sardinian sheep and goat cheeses, and has been able to establish itself on the international market, especially in the marketing of Pecorino romano DOP, for which it has reached of processed product among the most important in Sardinia
Link	https://www.unionepastorinurri.it/

Country	SPAIN
Name	Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo
What it is	The Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo association is a diverse group of professionals gathered to collaborate in the enhancement and promotion of Mediterranean pastoralism. Among them are shepherds and ranchers who collaborate with the Andalusian Pasto-Firewall Areas Network (RAPCA), forestry technicians and environmental agents with competencies in the management and defense of natural spaces, as well as the research team "Pastos and Mediterranean Silvopastoral Systems" of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC).
Mission	<p>the Association Shepherds for the Mediterranean Mountain was born in 2009 in order to give greater support and attention to the extensive livestock sector, necessary for its strengthening and adaptation to new social demands, such as quality products linked to the territory and environmental benefits such as risk reduction of fires or the promotion of biodiversity.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Association are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The study, promotion and defense of pastoralism and the revaluation of its role in the management of the Mediterranean forest and agricultural spaces. b) The constitution of a space for meeting and collaboration between the various agents interested in the reintegration of extensive livestock farming in the sustainable management of the territory. c) The promotion of initiatives to raise social awareness of the figure of the shepherd and to disseminate the values and benefits of extensive livestock farming. d) The organization and collaboration in the training programs in extensive livestock farming and pastoral management , such as pastoral schools and specialization courses for technical personnel. e) The promotion of artisanal and ecological livestock products , favoring their dissemination and that producers receive greater added value. f) The promotion of extensive livestock activity , claiming and supporting the measures that public administrations can take to facilitate the performance of this work and improve the working conditions of shepherds.
Main tasks / activities	<p>Among the activities that the Association wishes to develop , the following stand out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparation and publication of scientific studies, technical reports and dissemination material linked to pasture, livestock and agroforestry resources. b) Provision of advisory services and professional collaboration to farmers : facilitation of administrative procedures, improvement of business management, supply of support staff, preparation of agrosilvopastoral management plans, etc. c) Organization of meetings, conferences and other multidisciplinary activities for the meeting and collaboration of the different agents interested in pastoralism. d) Creation of distribution networks and sale of livestock products , strengthening the role of their producers and the revaluation of their artisanal and/or ecological character. e) Participation in projects and organizations related to pastoralism , from the local to the international level, fostering collaboration with other people and organizations that share objectives, whatever their geographical origin.
Link	http://www.pastoresmonte.org/Inicio



Photos from the website of the Association of Livestock Breeders/Shepherds of the Mediterranean Mountains of Monte Mediterraneo, Spain

Country	FRANCE
Name	ABBASP - Association des bergères et bergers des Alpes du Sud et de Provence
Mission	An association dedicated to creating links between guarding employees, promoting pastoral culture and improving working conditions in this environment.
Main tasks / activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and create a link between the members of the association. • Offer professional training and time to exchange knowledge. Throughout the year, ABBASP organizes training for its members, calling on professionals in various fields, and in close collaboration with its institutional partners. • Defend our profession and improve our working conditions. • Make our profession known. • Maintain and develop relationships with organizations and institutions related to pastoralism. • ABBASP regularly organizes discussion days, which are an opportunity for stakeholders who are members or not of the association to share their knowledge, knowledge and experiences around a particular theme.
Link	https://abbasp.fr/lassociation/

Country	FRANCE
Name	Association Aspir
What it is	The Aspir association, born in 2013, now has around forty members. Aspir aspires to be a laboratory of ideas open to the world.
Mission	The purpose of the association is to promote all projects aimed at supporting inventive and responsible pastoralism.
Main tasks / activities	<p>The association generates meeting times around projects and workshops where shepherds, breeders, researchers, artists and citizens come together to support pastoral activities and cultures in the Alps and elsewhere.</p> <p>Aspir has undertaken several projects (manuals for the use of mountain pasture shepherds, Alpapes workshops, Cléopâtre, the support team for shepherds, etc.) which require both the commitment of its members (particularly expertise) and requests for aid (grants) to various institutions (including the Fondation de France). Aspir has designed and published Le Petit Manuel du berger d'alpage (2015) and the Manuel des bergers d'alpage (2017), a new revised and expanded edition of the manual.</p> <p>These works were designed with the help of its members, the Association of shepherdesses and shepherds of Provence and the Southern Alps, and the Maison du berger (Community of communes of Haut Champsaur).</p>
Link	http://aspir.eu/presentation/

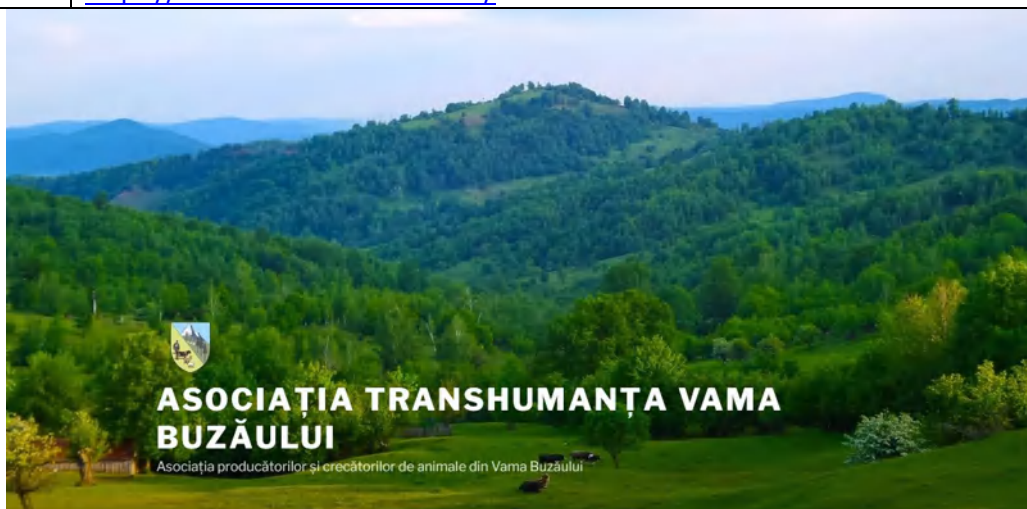
Country	FRANCE AND SWISS
Name	ABJFSA - Association des bergers du Jura franco-suisse et amis
What it is	Created in 1993 by French and Swiss shepherdesses and shepherds working in the Jura mountains.
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and defend pastoral life by respecting the presence of the shepherd, flora and fauna. - Promote links between shepherds and communication with the agricultural and non-agricultural world. - Support alternative projects in the spirit of the association.
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of a cartographic document listing the alpine farming practices of the Jura massif and the shepherds in place. - Training courses for shepherds on the themes of the profession. - Participation at regional, national and international level in meetings on pastoralism. - Publication of a charter highlighting the commitments and wishes of the shepherds. - Launch of the operation "A shepherd in my school" in partnership with the Haut-Jura PNR. - Interventions in the school environment; training of shepherds for these interventions in partnership with the CPIE du Haut-Doubs. - Business promotion and communication - Project for the installation of shepherds in peri-urban areas and in sensitive natural areas; operation a shepherd in my school; shepherds' course; territorial contract follow-up - Animation of the f'ESTIV'al in partnership with the Lycée agricole de Montmorot - Lons le Saunier. - Organization of national meetings of shepherds' associations
Link	http://www.bergersdujura.org/index.php

Country	GEORGIA
Name	Shepherd's Life
What it is	<p>Our association "Shepherds Life" would like to investigate and record sheep breeding in Georgia and work for its continued existence. The history of the Caucasus region and its culture is inconceivable without nomadic sheep farming.</p> <p>We would like to secure the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage "sheep breeding" and promote economically oriented sheep breeding in Georgia and in the entire Caucasus. This includes the direct sale of wool, skins, meat, sausage, ham, milk and cheese, and it requires a special effort to show the added value of products from animal welfare compared to factory farming for the consumer and for the environment.</p>
Mission	<p>Preserving the ancient shepherd culture in the Caucasus and supporting it through sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Due to the global economic, cultural and social changes in Georgia and Georgian society, the continued existence of the semi-nomadic Tushetan pastoral tradition is acutely threatened and confronted with a complexity of existential problems that we consider to be entirely solvable. For the preservation of the cultural area of the Eastern Georgia region with its small-scale and relatively clean cultivation, the preservation of these agricultural pasture activities is necessary from various points of view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preservation of an important cultural and economic heritage - An ecologically sustainable meat production and an expansion of the value chain - An ideal way of keeping the animals in their natural environment - The diverse interactions and dependencies between humans – animals – plants – climate – economy – culture and tradition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporation and participation of Shepherds in local and regional government decisions on economic measures in Eastern Georgia - A comprehensive analysis and concept development for the preservation of the traditional shepherd's farms - The preservation and passing on of manual skills and traditional knowledge of the shepherds and the training of the next generation - The preservation of the shepherd's language and shepherd identity Zchwari (sheep) – Mezchware (shepherd) – Mezchware dzagli (shepherd dog) - Embedding the shepherd's farms in the concepts of the Tusheti and Vashlovani national parks and the connection with sustainable tourism - The preservation of the intangible cultural heritage as defined by UNESCO and the implementation of the Georgian Cultural Strategy 2025 - Involvement of important cooperation partners at regional, national and international levels from business, science, culture and politics - The preservation of a traditional economic livelihood for many Georgian families, which could limit a migration to purely tourist professions and activities - Strengthening marginalized social groups of shepherds, animal breeders and migrant workers - Involvement of local minorities in the region, especially the Azerbaijanis, Kists, Chechens - Awareness development in the local villages and communities in the sense of 'Local Empowerment' - Responsibility for the uniform development of economy, culture, politics and tradition
Main tasks / activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and statistics: Creation of an official register with all shepherds and the movements of the sheep herds in the country • Recording of problems and collecting ideas / possibilities to improve the working conditions on site • Advice on sales opportunities and marketing of the products at home and abroad • Sales of the products on a separate platform • Advice on manufacturing new products and developing new sources of income for the shepherds e.g. New ways of using the wool obtained from Schur, alternative types of cheese and other dairy products • Organization of seminars for a regular exchange of Georgian shepherds and shepherds abroad • Further education / training in veterinary medicine and first aid measures • Improvement of mobility and working materials / working conditions • Image building among the population / consumers
Link	http://shepherdslife.info/

Country	ROMANIA
Name	ASOCIAȚIA TRANSHUMANȚA VAMA BUZĂULUI Association of animal producers and breeders from Vama Buzăului
What it is	The association "Transhumanța Vama Buzăului" was established in 2010, in accordance with the provisions of OG no. 26/2000 with subsequent amendments and additions from Law no. 246/2005, through the association of the Vama Buzăului Municipality with the animal breeders from the Vama Buzăului commune
Mission	It aims to protect the interests in the sector of raising and improving animals (sheep, cattle, goats and horses), improving, maintaining them in good agricultural and environmental conditions of the pasture bodies that form the village of Vama Buzăului commune, as well as raising the standard of living of its members.
Main tasks / activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting collaboration among its members; • professional training of its members; • participation in the activities of raising and improving sheep, cattle, goats and horses, according to the legislation in force; • involvement in propaganda actions for raising and improving sheep, cattle, goats and horses, according to the legislation in force;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizes and jointly manages the pasture bodies that form the village of Vama Buzăului commune; • submits to the Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture the single payment request for the eligible surface of the pasture fields that form the exit of the commune of Vama Buzăului; • benefits from financial support from European funds and from the national budget for agricultural land surfaces, for the purchase of machinery, for the maintenance and improvement of animal species, for projects aimed at the development of agriculture and others; • supporting and organizing the valorization of agricultural production; • processes, promotes and exploits products of animal origin, both in the country and abroad; • establish units for slaughtering animals, processing and storing products of animal origin; • obtaining certificates for ecological and traditional products of animal origin; • the ecological certification of the pasture bodies that form the village of the commune of Vama Buzăului; • supporting the ecological certification of its members' holdings; • the supply of goods, materials and the provision of services to members; • administration of animal fairs, land or other goods according to the legislation in force; • supporting its members to obtain credits or other facilities for the development of agricultural activities; • representing interests in an organized and democratic way; • participation in the collaboration of social and economic development strategies in the medium and long term; • collaboration and maintenance of relations with state institutions; • collaboration with similar organizations from the country and abroad; • promotion and development of tourism in the area of Vama Buzăului; • protecting and exploiting the natural environment; • identification of intervention needs, identification of financing programs, realization of projects in order to obtain financing, implementation and monitoring of these projects; • stimulating and attracting foreign capital; • organization of exhibitions, cultural events, conferences, symposia
Link	https://asociatiatranshumanta.ro/



Country	POLAND
Name	Fundacja Pasterstwo Transhumancyjne -
What it is	The "Transhumance Shepherding" Foundation is a social organization whose main goal is to preserve traditional pastoralism in the Carpathians and to act for the preservation of cultural heritage.
Mission	The main goal of the Foundation is to support all forms of activity related to traditional farming in the areas of the Carpathians and the Balkans, mainly traditional shepherding.
Main tasks / activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparation and organization of the project "REDYK KARPACKI" The project covers a journey in 2013 along the Carpathian arc. The goal of Redyk is to celebrate the Wallachian migrations that led to the settlement of the Carpathians and the emergence of a shepherd culture connecting communities living in the Carpathians. In addition, Redyk Karpacki is a promotion of regional products, integration of shepherd communities in the Carpathians, promotion of Carpathian culture and traditions, as well as drawing attention to the natural and cultural values of the Carpathians. ○ Promoting, organizing events, conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings, festivals, concerts, etc. referring to the cultural and material heritage of the Carpathian and Balkan communities, by supporting traditional forms such as: folk crafts, traditional music, dance and regional rituals. ○ Action for the dissemination of the Carpathian Convention. ○ Sustainable development of the Carpathians, paying attention to ecological and socio-economic conditions in mountain areas. ○ Acting for sheep breeders, traditional shepherding, supporting shepherds, shepherds and shepherds. ○ Reconstruction of pastoral infrastructure. ○ Promotion of traditional and organic products registered on the National Lists of Traditional Products and in the European Union. ○ Actions supporting the development of agritourism as an opportunity for the development of the inhabitants of the Balkan and Carpathian regions. ○ Regional education. ○ Assistance in setting out a cultural tourism route, presenting the cultural heritage of Wallachian settlers, which enabled the development of the Carpathians. ○ Favouring the preservation of landscape, natural and cultural values of the region through cooperation with relevant organizations. ○ Support for preserving the uniqueness and natural, cultural and social richness of the Balkan and Carpathian regions. ○ Nurturing the natural values of the environment, care for environmental protection and the natural heritage of the Balkan and Carpathian regions, protection of biological and landscape diversity. ○ Taking into account the natural, landscape, social, spatial, economic, historical and cultural specificity of the region. ○ Focusing on comprehensive cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in order, among other things, to improve the quality of life of local communities. ○ Promotion of local arts, crafts and agricultural products and dishes. ○ Attention to perpetuating and preserving highlander culture and art, regional costume and dialect. ○ Publishing your own materials. ○ Joining regional, national and international activities in the process of European integration in the sphere of statutory activity, establishing and strengthening international contacts with particular emphasis on cross-border cooperation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sublimation of Carpathian tourism, building and promoting sustainable tourism, which is a tool for active protection of the natural and cultural resources of the Carpathians. ○ Enriching and diversifying the offer of tourist services in Carpathian communes based on their own human and landscape capital. ○ Cooperation with non-governmental organizations pursuing similar statutory goals. ○ Cooperation with national governments in the field of activities with similar assumptions.
Link	http://porozumieniekarpackie.ekopsychologia.pl/241,a,fundacja-pasterstwo-transhumancyjne.htm

Country	GREECE
Name	EMKH – Association of Pastoral Farmers of Epirus
What it is	<p>The Association of Pastoral Farmers of Epirus (A.P.F.E.) is a nonprofit organization, founded recently. A.P.F.E. has member's farmers who raise local farm animals utilizing the mountain pastures of Epirus for a certain period of the year. In these areas livestock farming is very often the only agricultural activity, so it contributes significantly to the local economy.</p> <p>The initiative for the foundation of A.P.F.E. was the outcome of an INTERREG IIIC project on the pastoral farming in the Mediterranean region. In Greece the project was carried out by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the National Agricultural Research Foundation, in collaboration with the Animal Genetic Improvement Center of Ioannina of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and pastoral farmers of Epirus. In this project participated also farmers from Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.</p>
Mission	<p>Aim of the Association is to promote activities for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continuation of the mountainous livestock farming and the improvement of the quality of living of its members. 2. The conservation and utilization of native breeds, the promotion of quality products and the protection of the environment. 3. The collaboration with local, national and European bodies 4. The application of appropriate national and European projects and the incorporation of innovative activities in the pastoral farming for the improvement of the labor organization.
Main tasks / activities	<p>Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining Genealogical Information: the properly trained staff that employs, assists and technically supports all cooperating farms to maintain pedigree data, providing all possible information regarding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The census 2. The estimation of the physical structure 3. Fertility control during the menstrual period 4. The organization and recording of the channels, during the breeding season. 5. Registration and birth declarations. 6. The census of lambs and the marking, during the period of births. 7. The genetic evaluation and selection of suitable replacement male and female animals. The evaluation of the genetic values is done before the breeding season. - Performance control: the properly trained staff it employs, technically supports all cooperating farms for the control of livestock yields, offering all possible help: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Checking the milk production per month, completing the milk production statements, entering the data and transferring the control information to the producer. 2. To check the production duration after collecting all the above data. - Animal Sales
Link	https://emkh.gr/

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