



ESSEDRA project
Policy advocacy: data collection phase

Yanka Kazakova, EFNCP Bulgaria
22 January 2013
Project Kick-off meeting



EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



What have we promised in the project proposal?

This project will catalyse and support a skilled and engaged CSOs network in the Balkans and Turkey

which will develop a joint strategy to achieve the goal of an effective agriculture and rural development providing effective analysis, advocacy and monitoring at local, national and European level.



**Scene setting
for
our advocacy activities**



**How Agriculture and Rural Development Policy is
made?**

Where are issues/ideas generated for AgRD policies?

What institutions—influence policies and laws on AgRD?

-- political, government, or nongovernmental?

What mechanisms are in place for NGOs participation?

What other sector's policies (e.g., environment) are
linked to AgRD?

How involved are other ministries in AgRD policy
development? Existing mechanisms?



Types of policy processes in the region

- > **National policy for agriculture, including support for farmers**
- > **EU Accession policy and legislation harmonization, including support for farmers from IPARD**

Questions to consider:

- Is there good coordination between the two at national level?
- Or each is having separate goals? How compatible are they?
- What is the role of the EC Delegation in this process?



EU Acquis harmonization process

- What is the status at the moment?
- Are the negotiations on the Agriculture Chapter opened?
- Is there a publicly available plan of the process?
- Is there discussion of national priorities to be considered in the accession process?
- What is the type of participation that is encouraged by the national ministry?
- Are NGOs able to join the process if they wish to do so?
- What is the general public opinion on the accession process for AgRD?



Getting in the details



AgRural Development Policies and Strategies at national level

- How many are there – nat'l, IPARD?
- Which one is implemented in practice?
- What are the main priorities?
- What are the differences?- in the supported sectors, type of support, level of support, others..
- Are there implementation and monitoring reports?
- Which are the main sectors and type of farming systems supported in reality?



Facts and figures

- What is the definitions of a farm/er in your country?
- What is the definition of a small farm/er?
- What is the definition of High Nature Value farming?
- Total number of farms and total number of small farms;
- Area of land used by small farms
- Number and area of farms in protected areas
- Number and area of farms in High Nature Value areas



Farm/ers

How many are officially registered – number of farmers, livestock, farmland

How many are not registered – number of farmers, livestock, farmland

What are the reasons for non-registration:

- Complicated process?
- Minimum requirements?
- Expensive in terms of payments due?
- Lack of real benefits?

What is the stage of setting up IACS and LPIS?



Hygiene legislation and direct sales

Is it already harmonized with EU regulations? What are the planned/introduced requirements at farm level?

What are the farm requirements at national level?

What would it cost to farmers to adapt to the new requirements?

in terms of money, equipment, buildings..

What support is planned to help them adapt?

What are the requirements for farmers for direct sales?

Are farmers aware that there are new requirements?



NGOs participation process

- What is the institutional culture on participation?
- How is EC/delegation encouraging participation of NGOs?
- Is there a different participation process between EU and national policy development?
- What national platforms, networks or coalitions exist?, including in other sectors
- What is the level of cooperation and collaboration between NGOs at national level on AgRD issues?
- What is the potential for cooperation between AgRD and environmental NGOs?



EU role and structures

EU delegation in the country

- Agriculture officer
- TACSO officer

EC – DG Enlargement – new IPA regulation

- desk officer per country

EC – DG Agri in Brussels – new IPARD regulation

- desk officer for IPARD per country

EC – DG Envi, DG Sanco

- desk officers on enlargement




achieving a common understanding on

the goal of


**a sustainable and effective
agriculture and rural development**



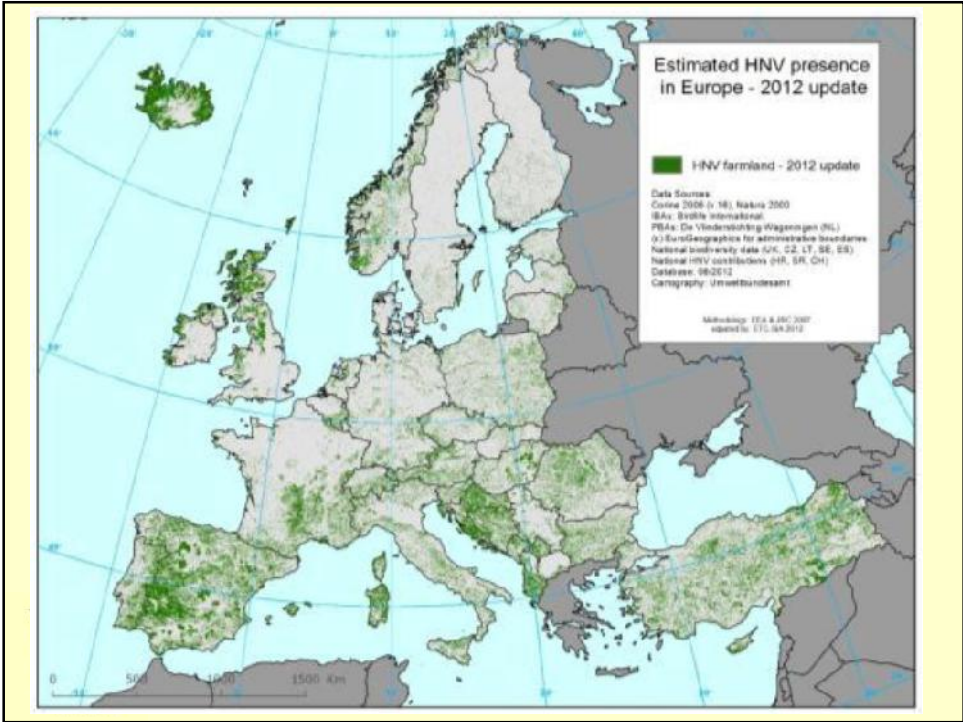



EFNCP vision:

A viable future for the farming types that most benefit biodiversity across Europe, by making them valued by policy and the general public, and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable at the farm and landscape scales



EUROPEAN FORUM ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND PASTORALISM



Common characteristics of HNV farming in SEE

(1) Transhumance: Traditionally practised throughout the region -> MN, AL, MK, BiH, SR;

nowadays becoming more and more geographically limited and at shorter distances;

(2) Common grazing

- ^ A normal practice, but
- ^ Official data usually lacking



(3) Forest grazing

- ^ Practised in most countries esp. in Mediterranean zone, historically used for grazing and browsing
- ^ No official data on it AND co-existing with “all grazing in forests is bad” paradigm

(4) Local breeds of farm animals

- ^ Well adapted to the regional conditions
- ^ Still widely used in mountains
- ^ Extensive land use



(5) Mosaic land use

- ^ Extensive use in small plots of land around villages, more often in hilly and mountain areas
- ^ Typically for subsistence and semi-subsistence use

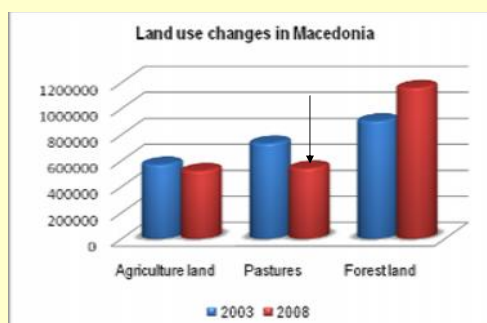
(6) Extensive olive groves

- ^ Traditional management on small plots, manual labour and little chemicals use
- ^ Still dominated by native varieties



(7) Land abandonment

- ^ In all countries of the region
- ^ Due to out-migration of people to urban centers and abroad
- ^ And resulting decrease in number of animals
- ^ More evident in remote and mountainous areas



Key challenges

(1) Socio-economic

- Well developed informal economy but high rural poverty
- Outmigration and ageing of population
- Underdeveloped rural infrastructure and services

(2) Shift of paradigm

- Extensive farming is not 'serious' enough to young farmers
- Modernization is not equal to intensification

(3) Policy support

