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Background Analysis & Documentation

for developing a Carpathian Convention (SARD)
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Protocol



Third Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)

Eleonora Musco, 20 – 22 April 2015, Stara Planina, Serbia

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- **DRIVING FORCES**
 - **SWOT ANALYSES**
 - **RECOMMENDATIONS & FIELDS of ACTION**
 - **SYNTHETIC SUMMARY**

DRIVING FORCES



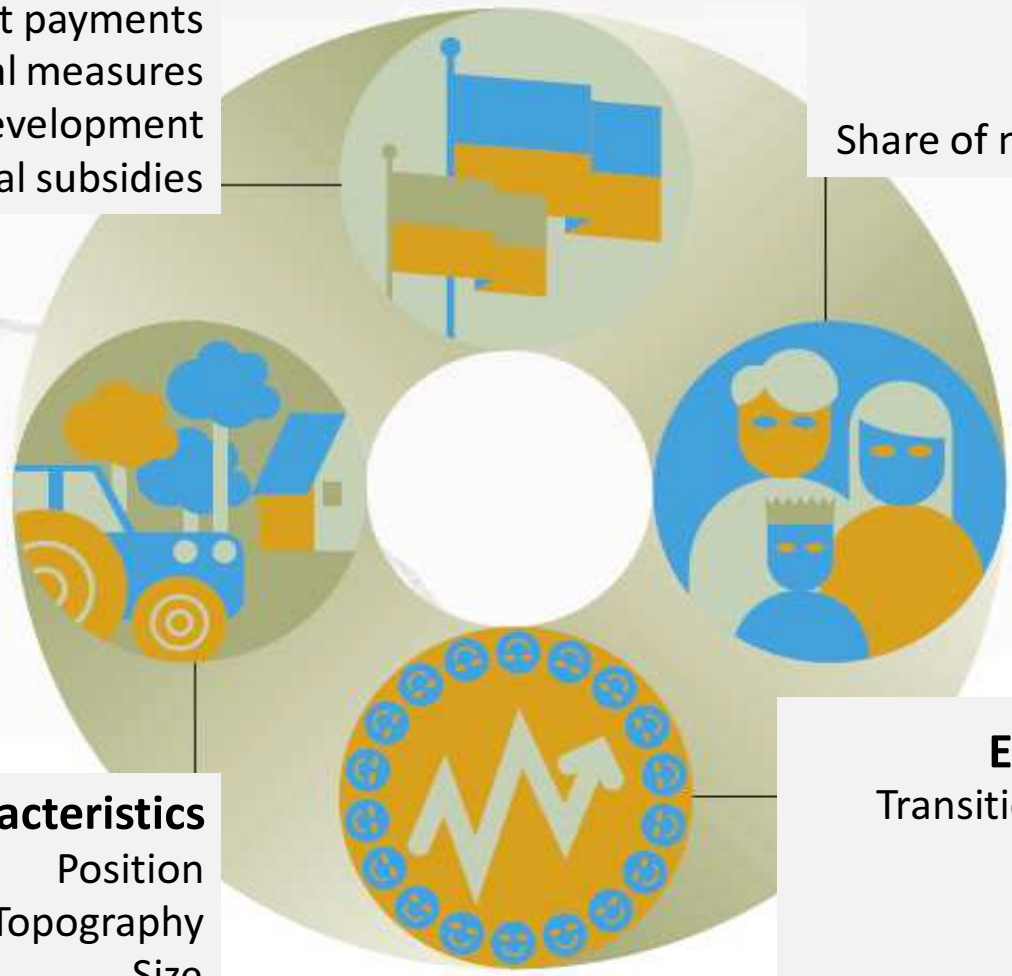
Source: Janek Skarzynski—EPA/© 2006 European Community (Tatra Mountains, near Zakopane PL)

Policy
Direct payments
Agro-environmental measures
Programm for rural development
Regional subsidies

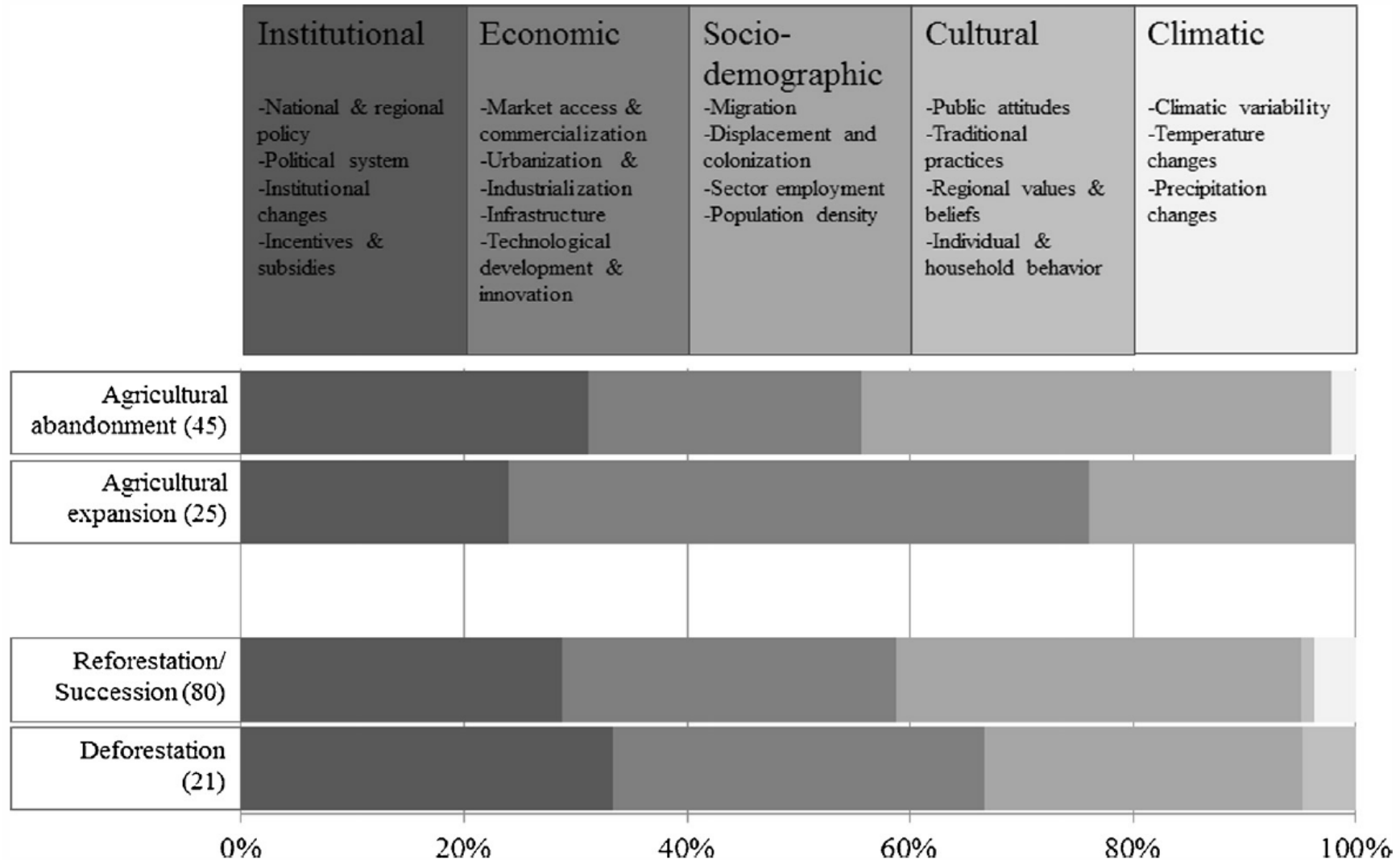
Family
Age of farmer
Existence of successor
Education
Size/status of family
Share of non-family members

Farm characteristics
Position
Topography
Size
Production type
Full- or part-time farming
Heritage law
Specialisation and diversification

Economy and society
Transition to market economy
Agricultural income
Off-farm activities
Regional labor market
Tourism intensity
Production prices and costs
Population density
Social framework



Abandonment is driven by:



Source: Manteanu et al. (2014): Forest and agricultural land change in the Carpathian region.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Specific and widely distributed cultural and agricultural features:

- Traditional farming practices;
- Extensive, organic and semi-natural farming operations;
- Old rural architecture and different rural arts and crafts;
- Traditional, authentic products.

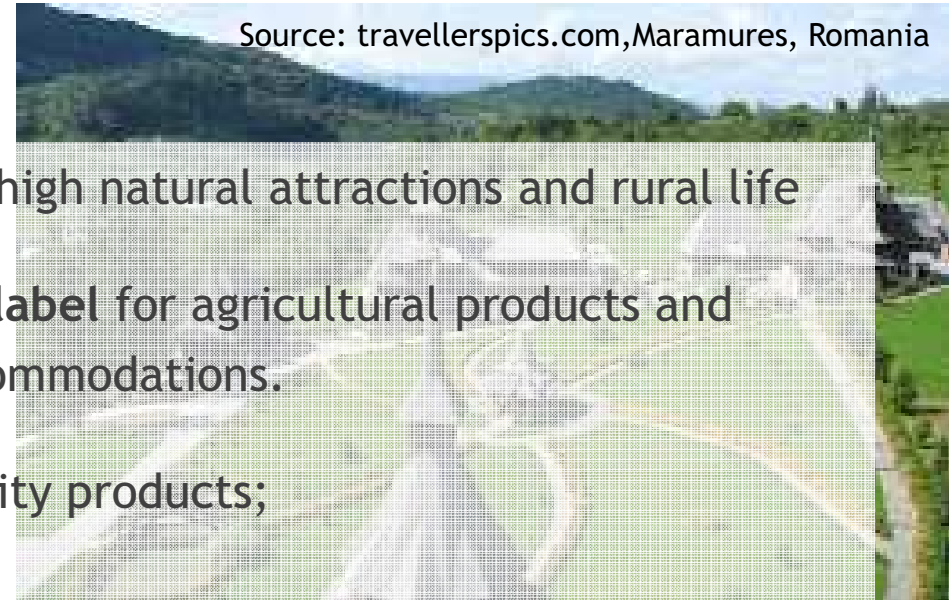
High attraction level:

- Vast areas classified as deep rural;
- Uncontaminated nature and much High Nature Value (HNV) areas rich in unique biodiversity and natural attractions;
- Low touristic intensity.

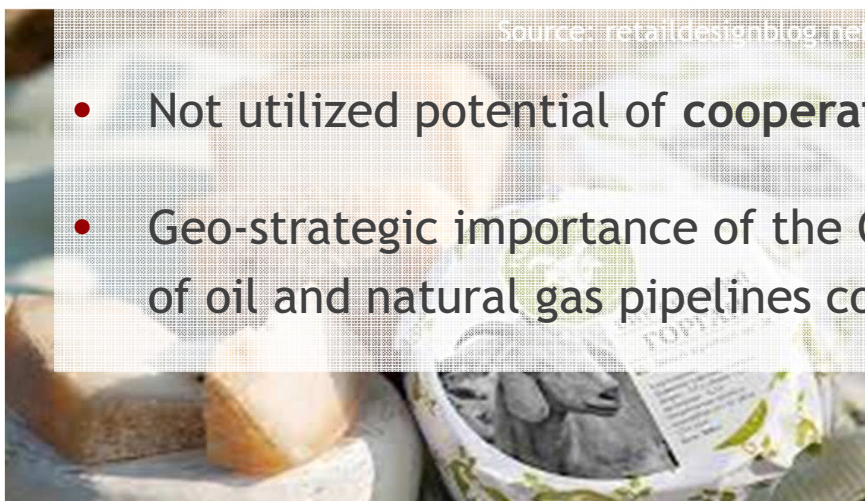


- High potential for tourism due to high natural attractions and rural life
- Introduction of a Carpathian-wide label for agricultural products and certified rural or agrotouristic accommodations.
- Development of genuine high quality products;

Source: tourism-cluster-romania.com



Source: travellerspics.com, Maramures, Romania



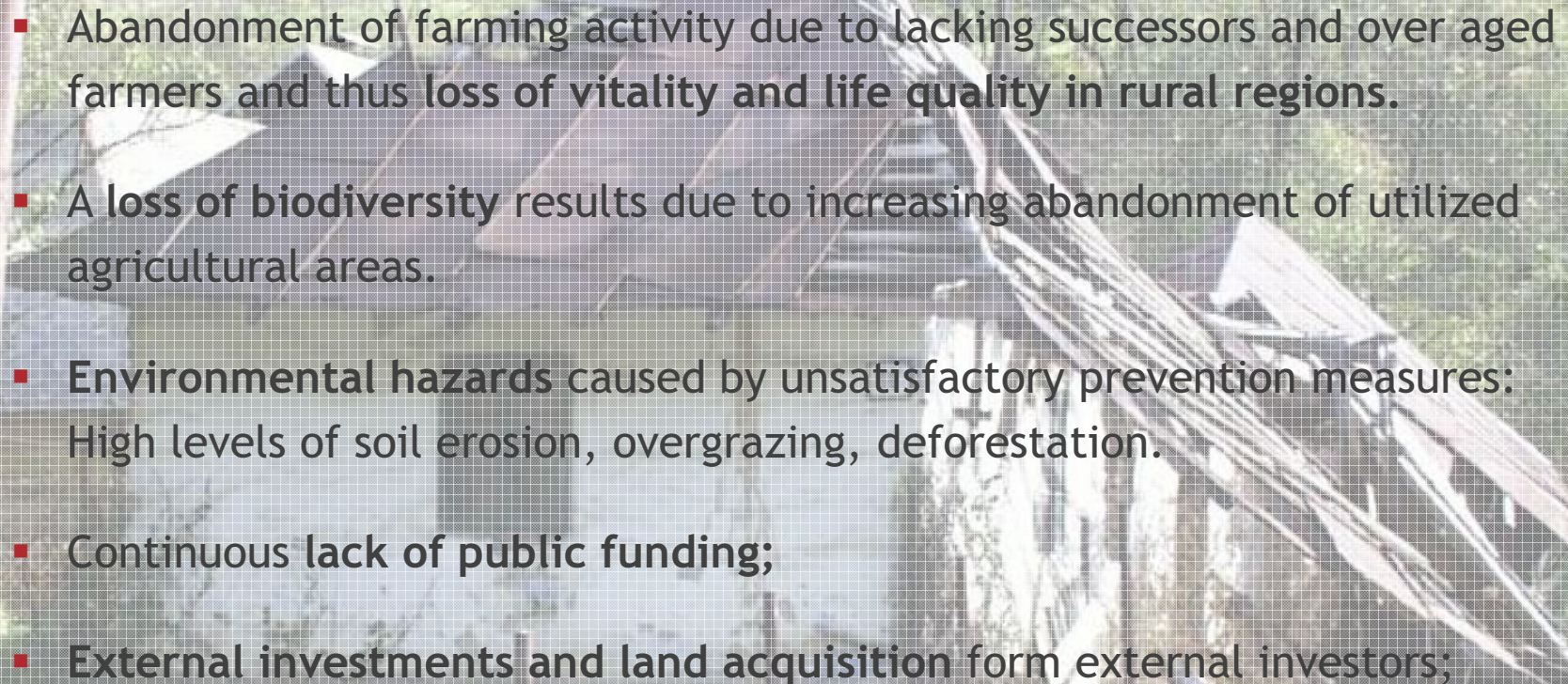
Source: retaildesignblog.net

- Not utilized potential of cooperative systems due to historic reasons.
- Geo-strategic importance of the Carpathian region due to the presence of oil and natural gas pipelines could gain foreign investments.



Source: blog.polishorigins.com

- Remoteness of rural areas from urban areas and national capitals - and high transport costs limit the accessibility to more developed markets
- Vast areas threatened by land use change and heterogeneous pattern of reforestation and deforestation, with associated soil erosion
- High fragmentation of land ownership effects small-structured farms
- Low productivity and income of agriculture
- No Carpathian-wide labelling of quality products
- Long-term high emigration, especially youth outward emigration

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- Abandonment of farming activity due to lacking successors and over aged farmers and thus **loss of vitality and life quality in rural regions.**
 - A **loss of biodiversity** results due to increasing abandonment of utilized agricultural areas.
 - **Environmental hazards** caused by unsatisfactory prevention measures: High levels of soil erosion, overgrazing, deforestation.
 - **Continuous lack of public funding;**
 - **External investments and land acquisition** form external investors;

RECOMMENDATIONS & FIELDS of ACTION

- **Cooperatives and collaborative structures should be stronger considered as a valuable instrument for economic valorization;**
- **Promotion of coordination among governmental bodies to prevent from poor cooperation and overlapping competences between ministries or regional administrations.**

- Enabling the access to public funds for remote located farms by installing **advisory-service center**;
- Provide **financial support** to small-scale farmers & local processing companies as well as the promotion of **economic diversification**;
- **Enforcement of product processing and marketing strategies** for high quality goods.

- **Environmentally friendly practices: land consolidation processes, reintroduction of missing species or extension of forests;**
- **Implementation of multifunctional agriculture, reduction in the use of fertilizers, financial and training services to organically produced goods;**
- **The Promotion of tourism combined with traditional farming practices, Carpathian cultural heritage and rural landscape.**

- **Mountain agriculture and mountain rural area specific institutional arrangements should be created or further fostered.**
- **Mountain-agriculture related policies are occasionally marginalized, as these issues are part of administrative units responsible for governing rural development.**
- **Mountain-agriculture related departments, ministries etc. like those for rural development, agriculture and environment should closely collaborate to agree on appropriate measures.**

SYNTHETIC SUMMERY

- Vast deep rural areas with traditional farming practices;
- Rural cultural heritage;
- Diversification: high potential for rural & agro tourism;
- Typical products, appropriate for being processed to high quality;
- Transnational network due to the CC & working groups activities;
- Exchange with the Alpine network or related expertise.

- Enabling environment for sustainable rural and agro-tourism;
- Carpathian wide booking system for touristic accommodation;
- Trans-Carpathian label for certified & typical high quality products;
- Compatible monitoring and information systems for agriculture in CC;
- Common programs and projects;
- Coordinated knowledge transfer of scientific research & information;
- International knowledge exchange platform on practices and experiences in governing rural development.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

