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SARD Protocol
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Protocol
SARD-M Report for the Carpathian Convention Member States
Assessment of Policies, Institutions and Processes
Regional Synthesis for Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine
In accordance to a COP4 decision, it remarks the needs for the SARD Protocol Overview on Mountain Agriculture in the National Carpathian Mountain Areas regarding strengths, gaps & needs relevant to establish the SARD Protocol.

Delivered key aspects and inputs for the discussion of the related Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
Background Analysis - SWOT

Stara Planina, Serbia
April, 2015

COP4, Mikulov, CR: Article 7 CC-Text
CAP coherent
Territorial & thematic flexible
Knowledge transfer
Good Practices

• Global trends in Agriculture and the food sector;
• Climate Change;
• Major impacts of the agricultural sector on challenges in rural development
• Sustainable farm management and organic production;
• Horizontal & vertical cooperation and benefits from rural urban interrelations
• Commercialisation and marketing of typical rural products
• Specialization versus diversification
• Resilience of small structured mountain farms
• Enabling Environment - Exogenous factors: Governance, Institutions, Socio-Economy, Subsidies, Climate, Demography, Culture;
• Enabling Environment - Endogenous factors: Spatial allocation, farm structure, full-time or part time farm, production-type, age of the farm holder, existence of a successor, skills and capacities, family members, etc.
European Rural Classes

Source: EEA, 2010
70.7 tsd km² Agricultural Land (39.8%)
### Carpathian Agricultural Land Use Types in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Arable Land</th>
<th>Permanent Grassland</th>
<th>Orchards and Vineyards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To maintain the management of land, traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, taking into account the need of the protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favoured areas.  
(Article 7, (1), Text of the Carpathian Convention)

Conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity; appropriate measures, to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats and their continuity and connectivity; as well as the protection of the characteristic flora and fauna species - in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.  
(Article 4, (1), Text of the Carpathian Convention)

Preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and of traditional knowledge of the local people, crafting and marketing of local goods, arts and handicrafts; preserving the traditional architecture, land-use patterns, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants;  
(Article 11, Text of the Carpathian Convention)
Governance

SARD-Protocol:

- (a) Site specific-rural development strategies
- (b) Common policies to promote endogenous agricultural and rural development potentials in less favoured areas
- (c) agricultural policies and instruments that integrate environmental concerns
- (p) cross-sectorial policy approach: Integrating the SARD targets into other sectorial policies;

Source: blog.v-comply.com/governance-styles/
Sustainable Land Resources Management, Biodiversity & Climate Change

SARD-Protocol:

- **(d)** Sustainable / extensive Agro-environmental, Land resource management practices or Organic production - to protect biological diversity, natural and semi-natural habitats – including grasslands and protected areas – and to prevent from adverse impacts on air, water, soil, landscape and biological diversity

- **(Art. 3, 3):** Climate smart agriculture addresses (1) sustainable increase of productivity, (2) resilient agricultural and food security systems through climate change adaptation and (3) mitigation;

- **(f)** Gene banks for local varieties as well as propagating the cultivation of these varieties;

Source: www.dailyyonder.com/across-the-mountain-from-appalachia-to-carpathia
Tradition

SARD Protocol

- (d) Protection and management of traditional cultural landscapes
- (e) Conservation and sustainable use of: genetic resources for food and agriculture, local breeds of domestic animals, cultivated plant varieties and crop wild relatives;
- (g) Measures for preserving and promoting traditional farming practices and the related traditional knowledge;
- (j) Conservation of traditional rural architecture, infrastructure and rural arts and crafts;

Diversification

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• (k) Diversification of livelihood in rural areas by combining *Rural & Agri-Tourism*

• (k) Crafting and marketing of local goods, arts and handicrafts

• (k) offering services like: *Green Care*, *Forest or communal Services* or working as *Nature Guide* or *Ranger*, etc.
Marketing & Commercialisation

SARD Protocol

- **(h)** Supporting local agricultural producers
  Development of short food supply chains and the access to markets to stimulate local economy;

- **(i)** Fulfilling hygienic and formal requirements
  Product Innovations

- Fostering local farmer markets, artisan food producers, community supported agriculture;

- Promoting Events at Typical Festivals

Source: romaniatourism.com/romanian-food-wine.html

Source: www.city-tours.ro
Capacity Building

SARD-Protocol:

• **(l)** Formal and informal **education**, advanced **training** and **qualification** including **intergenerational learning**, access to local public services and **advisory service**;

• **(m)** Carpathian-wide monitoring of the agricultural and rural areas and their socio-economic development;

• **(n)** Developing and/or promoting coordinated **scientific research programs** and **projects**;

• **(o)** Developing a **transnational network** and **knowledge exchange platform**;

Source: www.purefoodrecipes.com & www.mecokenya.org
SARD Protocol:

• **(Art. 6 & 7):** Interregional, transboundary & transnational cooperation in exchanging Carpathian-wide experiences at the vertical and horizontal level between relevant institutions, regional and local authorities, local farmers and other stakeholders as well as among competent institutions and organizations at international level (**Alpine Convention & EUSALP**).

• **(q) Innovations** in rural waste and energy management, and promoting smart energy and waste free solutions and systems (**Circular- Economy**).

• **(Article 8, 2)** creating and enabling socio-economic environment for rural innovation and value added networks, in particular between agricultural and other relevant rural economic sectors;
SARD’s Legal Status

**Legal basis for adopting CC protocols:**

**Article 2; (3)** of the CC - To achieve the CC targets & to ensure its implementation, the Parties may, as appropriate, develop and adopt Protocols – together with article 18, - legitimates CC protocols.

The **adoption of protocols** is one of the **most important** means for achieving the **overall objectives** of the Carpathian Convention.

The procedure for **adoption of protocols** is regulated in **article 18** of the CC: (1) proposition (2) Circulation (3) Adaptation, **Signature, Ratification (4) Entry into force**;

Both the **framework convention and protocol instruments are legally binding**, as they are **ratified** by national parliaments, and are then **required to adopt implementing in legislation**.
BioEast

EIP-Agri:

1. Sustainable **Intensification** - Soil and Water
2. Sustainable **Extensification** – Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services
3. Farming **organic** – Awareness – Logistics – small market extent
4. Reducing the dependence from **non-renewables** (Bio-Economy & CC Mitigation)
5. Potential for **Protein Crop Production** (UN-SDG-2)
7. Fresh-water **Fish-Production** – diversification & rural economy
8. Modern **knowledge based** farming & **Cooperation** – Capacity Building
9. Change to the **first generation of successors** – labour reinforcement & investments
10. Improving **supply chain efficiency** & increasing its **value added**
11. Increasing **consumer awareness** – lack of confidence & price sensitivity
12. The **value added** from agricultural & forestry **biomass**
13. Experiences of less developed EU-regions in **social integration challenges** – rural emigration & **International migration** – changed consumer habits.
Thoughts for future perspectives for mountain farming in the Carpathians

- No romantic views – Depopulation & Demographic change
- Promotion of local entrepreneurs and cooperation in rural areas
- Scientific projects to transfer knowledge to promote the renaissance of rural economy – including the 2nd & 3rd sector.
- Application of new technologies in agriculture.
- Delivery & Accessibility of Services of General Interest & Fostering applications enabling rural urban relationships.
- Public financial support (CAP2) to give incentives for entrepreneurship for creating value added.

Make the Carpathians glamorous!
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