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

Source: Derkova M., UNEP Vienna
DRIVING FORCES

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

- Institutional
  - National & regional policy
  - Political system
  - Institutional changes
  - Incentives & subsidies

- Economic
  - Market access & commercialization
  - Urbanization & Industrialization
  - Infrastructure
  - Technological development & innovation

- Socio-demographic
  - Migration
  - Displacement and colonization
  - Sector employment
  - Population density

- Cultural
  - Public attitudes
  - Traditional practices
  - Regional values & beliefs
  - Individual & household behavior

- Climatic
  - Climatic variability
  - Temperature changes
  - Precipitation changes

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.

Source: M. Watson, https://archnetwork1.files.wordpress.com (Romania)
Opportunities

- 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;
- 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.
Weaknesses

- 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

Source: UNEP Vienna
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;

Source: Mick Sura, Slovakia, 2004
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
Advantageous Features

- 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