



Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock,

file submitted to the
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative List of
Humanity

30th March, 2025

16 countries

(5 Carpathian: Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia)

Carpathian countries – Transhumance landscapes

- **Romania:** **Southern Carpathians** and some divisions of the **Eastern Carpathians**: Muscel, Bran – Moieciu, Mărginimea Sibiului, Covasna, Săcele–Braşov, Vaideeni, Perişani, Mărginimea Sebeşului, Vrancea, Nucşoara, Petroşani Plateau, Haţeg Plateau, Sângeorz Băi (Rodnei Mountains).
- **Poland:** **Northern and Western Carpathians**: Tatra Mountains, Beskid Mountains, regions of Podhale, Malopolskie, Podkarpacie
- **Slovakia:** **Western Carpathians** and parts of the **Eastern Carpathians**: mountain pastures in the Low Tatras, the Liptovské hole, the Great and Small Tatra Mountains and the Balanske Tatras, Prešov region.
- **Ukraine:** **Eastern Carpathians**: Hutsul region, Zakarpattia Oblast
- **Serbia:** **Eastern Serbia**: Homolje region and Stara Planina region; in **Western Serbia**: Pešter highland and Sar Planina region









The Carpathian connection

- Mountain long-distance pastoralism was brought to the Carpathians by the Romanian and Balkan nomadic shepherds (also called **Wallachians**), spreading through the Southern Carpathians up to the Northern and Western Carpathians (in today's territories of Romania, Poland, Czechia and Slovakia) as early as the 14th century

(See Kadlec 1916, Dobrovolski 1930, Macourek 1957, Chaloupecký 1947, Jawor 2014, Cosma 2023).



Obr. 1. Walach na trhu z faskami, Josef Heřman Agapit Gallaš, kolorovaná kresba, kolem 1820. Převzato z Gallaš 2005: příloha IX

The Carpathian connection

- **Vernacular architectural traditions** -- to shelter livestock both in high-altitude summer pastures and in the shepherds' home villages.
- Mountain sheepfolds include several functional elements: the **târla** (a fenced night enclosure), the **strunga** (a walkthrough milking area), and simple animal shelters such as the **șopron** (Romanian) or **mraznica/kotelnica** (Slovak), often made from woven reed walls, as well as other characteristic fencing systems.
- During summer and winter transhumance, shepherds often sleep outdoors or in temporary shelters – **surla** in Romanian and **koliby/salaše** in Slovak and Polish – basic huts equipped with wood-burning stoves.



The UNESCO safeguarding plan

1. Awareness-raising and recognition of pastoralists:

- intensify awareness-raising at international level, highlighting the skills, daily work, and challenges of transhumance practitioners

2. Integration into international / UNESCO Environmental and Cultural Frameworks

- Cultural Landscapes, Global Geoparks, MAB, GIAHS, IYRP 2026, FAO
- Carpathian countries – to strengthen cooperation within biosphere reserves, national parks, and protected areas, where pastoralism plays a key ecological role

3. Biodiversity protection and climate resilience

- biodiversity conservation, wildfire prevention, and the preservation of indigenous breeds

The UNESCO safeguarding plan

4. Strengthening the economic dimension

- product valorisation, sustainable mountain tourism

5. Vocational education and generational renewal

- training modules, apprenticeships, certification standards
- support both informal community-based learning and formal vocational programs

6. Carpathian Collaboration Framework

- Use the Convention as a platform for cross-sectoral collaboration in biodiversity, rural development, climate resilience, and cultural heritage
- Participate in regional projects that strengthen the safeguarding of Transhumance across the entire Carpathian arc

Next steps

INTERNATIONAL Conference "Transhumance as part of humanity's intangible cultural heritage: A driving force for the future?" (Marseille, 21-23 April, 2026, Ministry of Culture of France, UNESCO French Commission)

21-23 April 2026

December 2026

Decision on the inscription of the extended file, China