

Leaders of the *Ad Hoc* action: Fabio Pilla

## **Report of the ERFP *Ad Hoc* action Local breeds and transhumance in Mediterranean and in the Alps**

### **1. Objectives (Summary)**

The aim of this *ad hoc* action is to suggest and share strategies and tools for in situ conservation of animal genetic resources based on the exploitation of the tangible and intangible value of transhumance.

### **2. Membership**

- Coordination Fabio Pilla (University of Molise, Italy)
- Members of the team developing the AHA:

Italy : Fabio Pilla, Enrico Sturaro ;

France : Claude Soulas (CORAM) ;

Spain : Juan Pablo López García MASAV ( Avilena cattle breed), Julio Grande Fundacion Espacio XXI,

Beatriz Lopez (EA Group, merinos breeders) ;

Portugal : Nuno Carolino, Tiago Perloiro (Ancorme) ;

Germany : Antje Feldmann The Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH)

Slovenia : Danijela Bojtkovski ;

Greece : Despina Karatosidis ;

Rare International : Juanv Vincente Delgado.

### **3. Activities in the past year and output/results**

A physical meeting of the *ad hoc* action was held in Navarredonda de Gredos in the Avila region (Spain) the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. The reunion was organized with the support of breeders association of the Avilena Negra and the ministry of Agriculture of Spain. The attendance was not restricted to the members of the *ad hoc* action but actively involved people interested to the topic from universities and research centres, national and local institutions, breeders associations and NGOs. Several qualified speakers gave their talks on the technical and cultural aspects of the transhumance and local breeds. The conference was chaired by Montserrat Castellano (Spain). Fabio Pilla, from the University of Molise, Italy, presented the objectives of the working group, while, J. Delgado, from the University of Córdoba, Spain, spoke about the transhumance system and its impact on local races. Next the anthropologist Letizia Bindi from the University of Molise, highlighted the intangible values of this ancient practice. Pablo Manzano, from the Basque Center for Climate Change, Spain, continued with a presentation on the environmental values of transhumance, emphasizing its importance in biodiversity preservation and to contrast the climate change. Cecilio Barba

capote from the University of Cordoba gave a speech on the role of livestock in the framework of the CAP with a special reference to local breed and transhumance.

Francesca Pasetti presented the UNESCO declaration on transhumance and the designation of the International Year of Grasslands and Grazing, and Julio Grande, spoke about the relationship between transhumance and tourism.

After lunch, the afternoon session begun with a presentation on seasonal transhumance systems in the Alps, by Antje Feldmann from Germany. Afterwards, María Pía Sánchez, president of FEDEHESA, spoke about transhumance in Spain, followed by presentations on Greece and Slovenia, by Despina Karatosidi and Danijela Bojkovsky, respectively.

The event also included case studies on how the transhumance system exploits and preserves local breeds. In this block, Pedro Herráiz presented the Avileña-Negra Ibérica breed, while Claude Soulas of sheep and bovine breeds in France. Rocco Giorgio and Enrico Sturaro reported the experiences about transhumance and local breeds in southern and northern Italy respectively.

The day ended with a general discussion and the participants reaffirming the commitment in the promotion and conservation of transhumance and local breeds. A further meeting in spring 2025 was proposed with the sponsorship of the Basilicata region (Italy).

The second day was dedicated to a field trip to visit a herd of Avila breed during its transhumance and directly discuss with the farmers the state of art of transhumance of the Avila cattle breed.

#### **4. Plans and priorities for the rest of the year.**

A further meeting is proposed for the spring 2025. The regione Basilicata (Italy), expressed the intention to host and support the meeting during the spring 2025 during the seasonal droving of the Podolica Cattle breed. In case of acceptance a virtual meeting is planned in the 2024 to discuss the organization.

#### **5. Other**