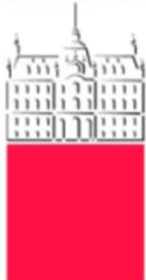




Transhumance in Slovenian Alps

Univerza v Ljubljani
Biotehniška fakulteta



Avila, 19th -21st June 2024

Danijela Bojkovski

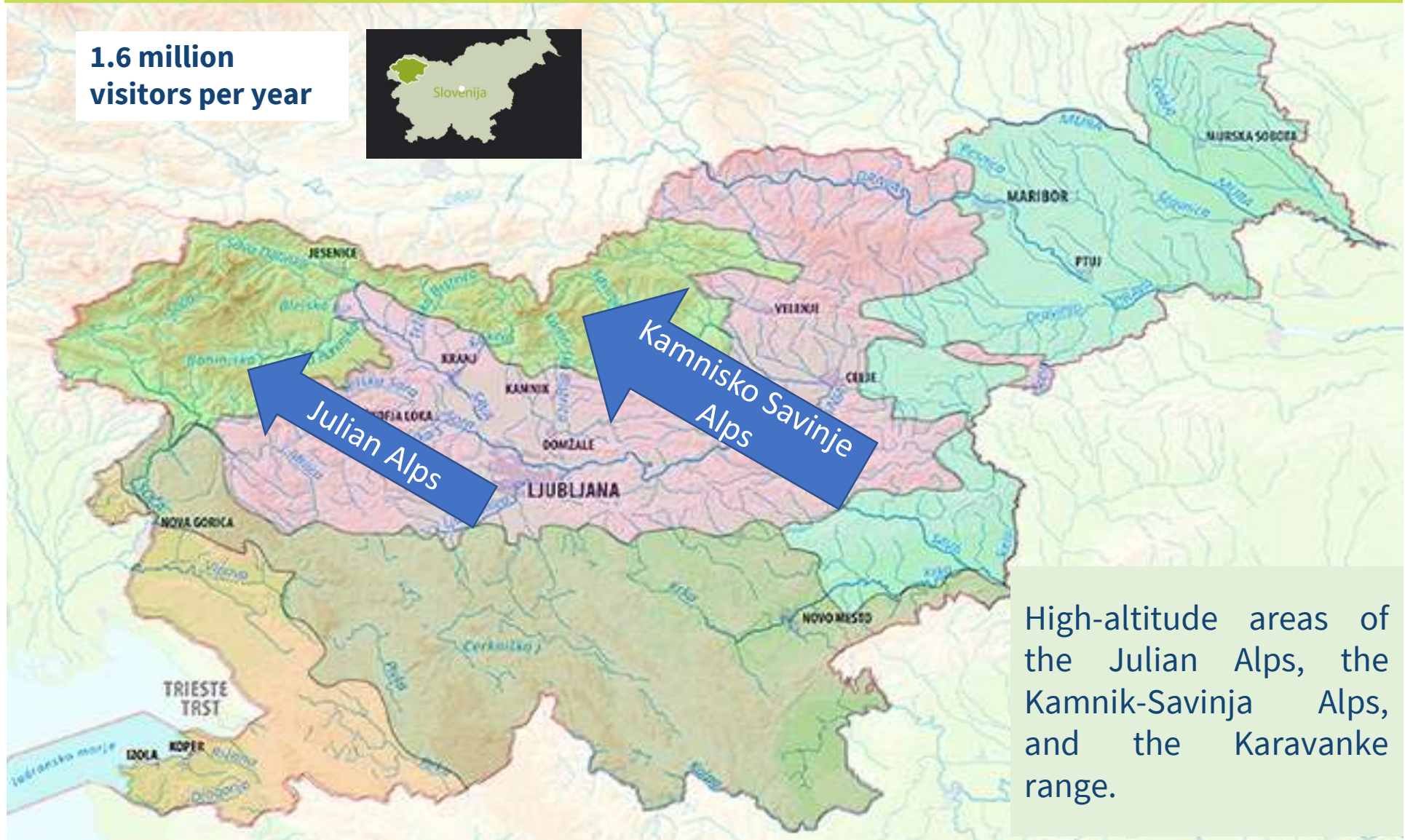


ERFP

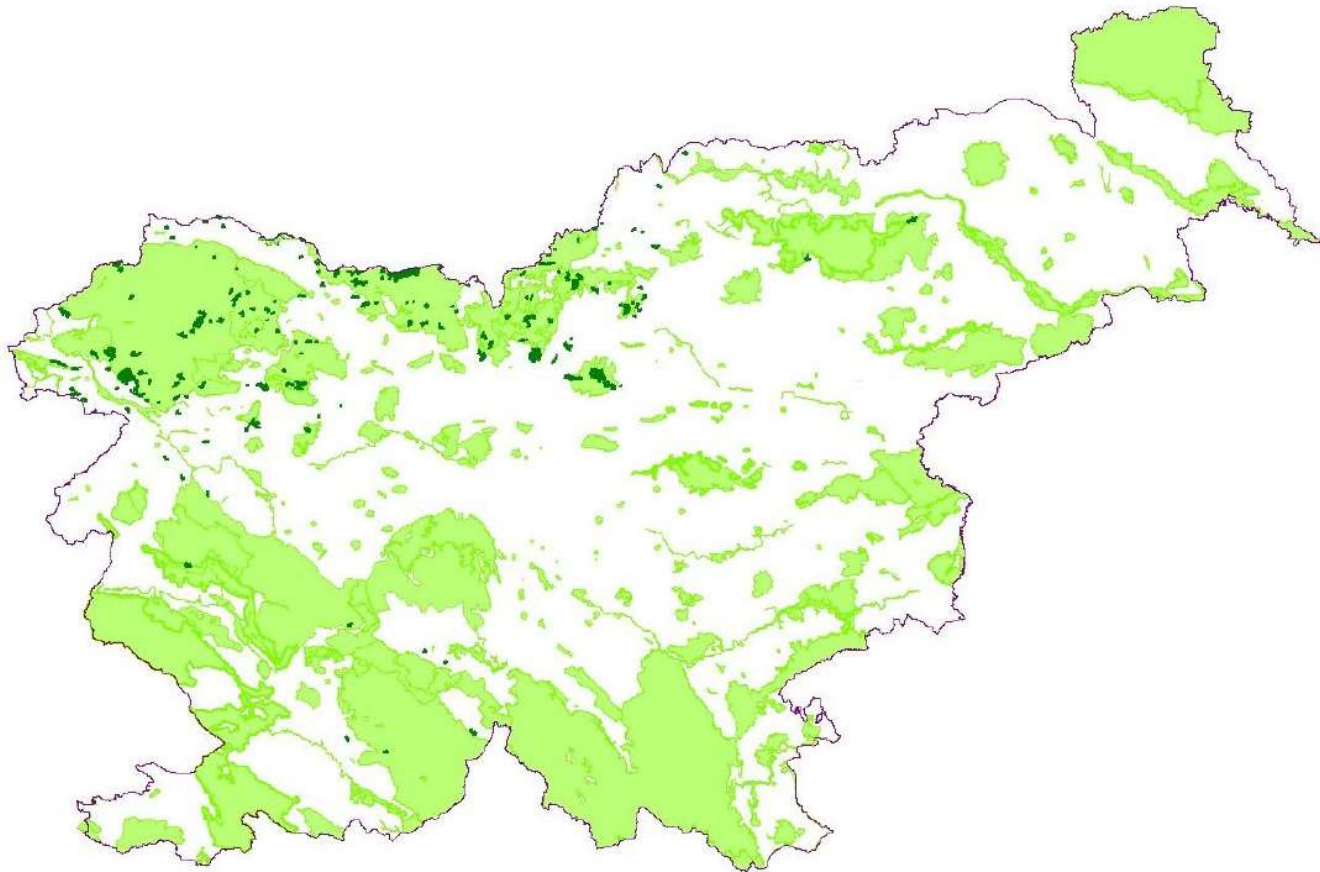
European Regional Focal Point
for Animal Genetic Resources

Area of transhumance in Slovenia

**1.6 million
visitors per year**



Natura 2000 and alpine pastures



Alpine pastures (dark green spots) and Natura 2000 in Slovenia

History of transhumance

- Dates back to medieval times, possibly earlier.
- Lack of grazing land = grazing was prohibited in lowlands.
- Moving herds (cattle, sheep, goats) to higher pastures (Jun-Sep).
- Grazing communities, infrastructure.
- Winter – back to farm, better protection (weather + food).



What are numbers telling us.....

Size of alpine pastures and numbers from 1926 until 2010

Year	Size in ha	No. of alpine pastures
1926 ¹	54.000	300
1993 ²	14.524	200
1993 ³		213
2004 ⁴		241
2007 ⁵	9.880	208
2008 ⁵	9.137	2018
2009 ⁵	8.909	208
2010 ⁵	7.776	207
2023	7.660	213

Supported by RDP incentives, direct payments to farmers and financing of infrastructure (3 types =500-720€)

Importance

- **Conservation** = ecosystems + biodiversity of alpine meadows.
- Grazing - **prevent overgrowth**, maintain open, **flower-rich grasslands** (habitats for plant, animal species).
- **Distribution** - **nutrients + seeds**, promoting ecological balance.
- **Cultural tradition/heritage** = unique shepherding techniques, traditional knowledge, strong community spirit.

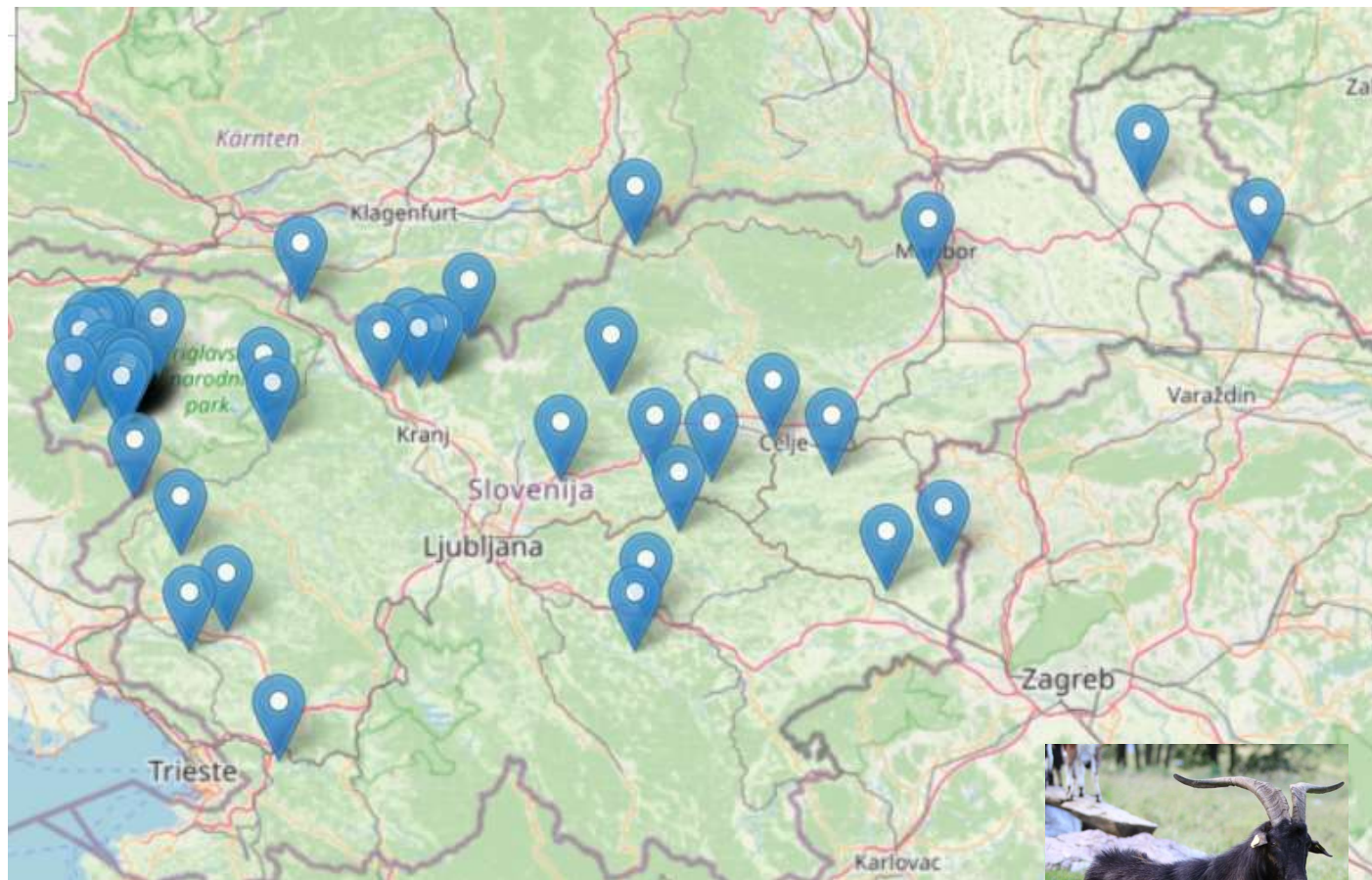


Economic importance

- Supports to the **local economy** = production of high-quality dairy products, such as **cheese** and **butter**, made directly on the alpine pastures.
- These products are **prized for their unique flavours** = result from the diverse flora of the alpine meadows.
- Sold at local markets and to tourists, providing a vital **source of income** for the herders.
- Tourism along transhumance (guided tours, cultural festivals) **contributes** to the **local economy**.



LOCAL BREEDS and TRANSHUMANCE (1)



Population:

rams: 145
ewes 1.003
total: 1.148

Status:

Critically
endangered

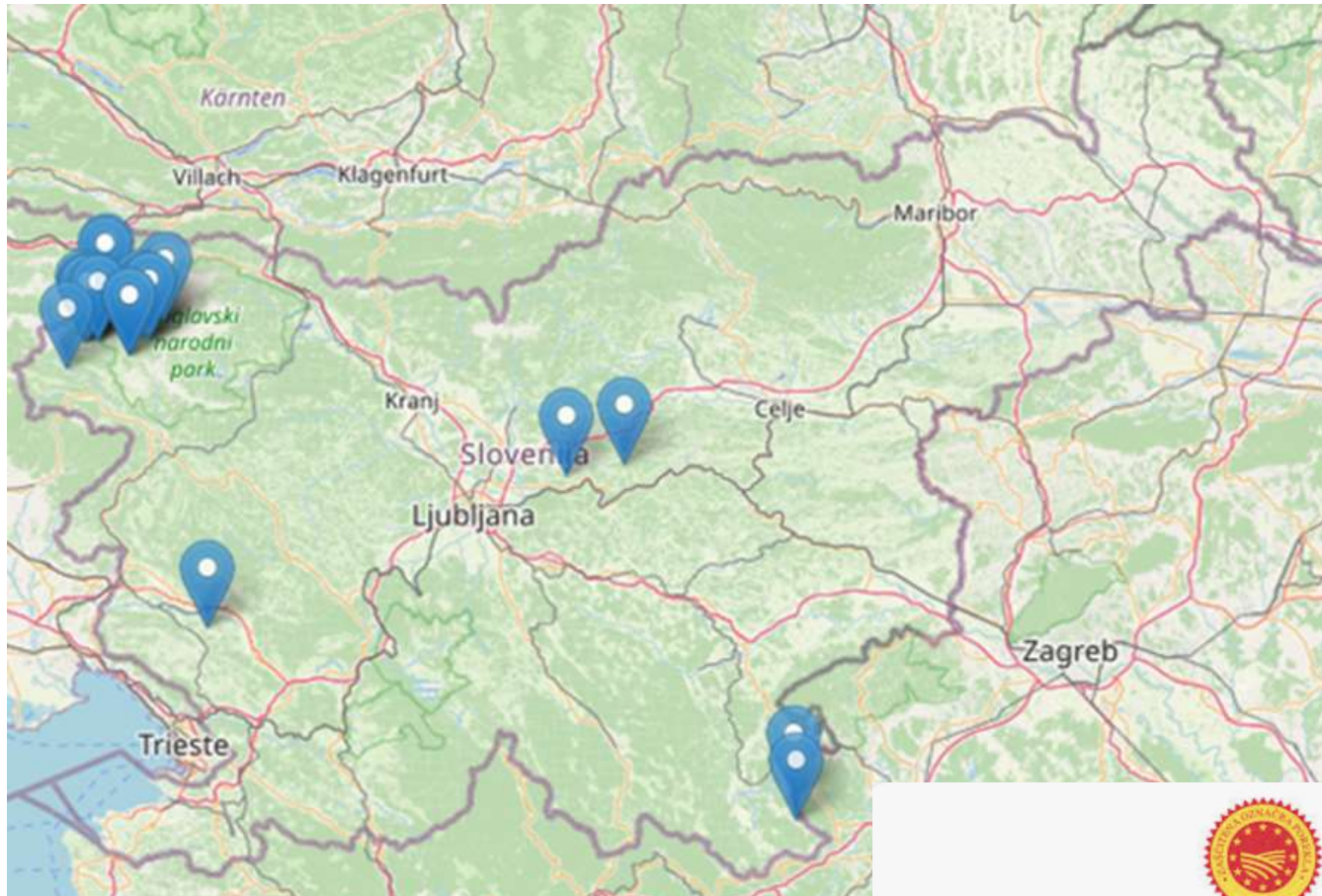
Incentives

27 breeders
501 animals

DREŽNICA GOAT



LOCAL BREEDS and TRANSHUMANCE (2)



Population:

rams: 126
ewes 2.876
total: 3.002

Status:

Critically
endangered

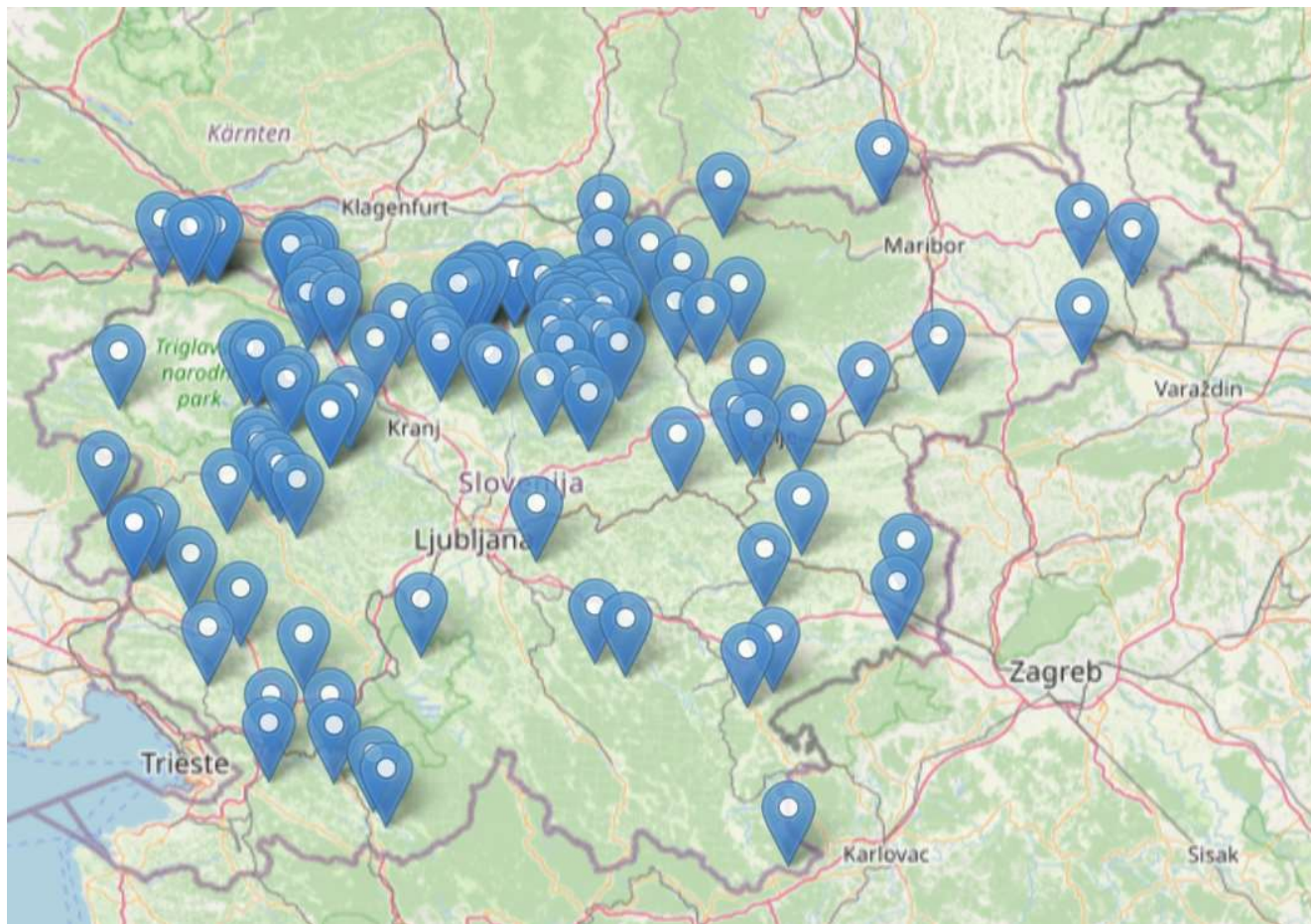
Incentives

18 breeders
1.949 animals

BOVEC SHEEP



LOCAL BREEDS and TRANSHUMANCE (3)



Population:

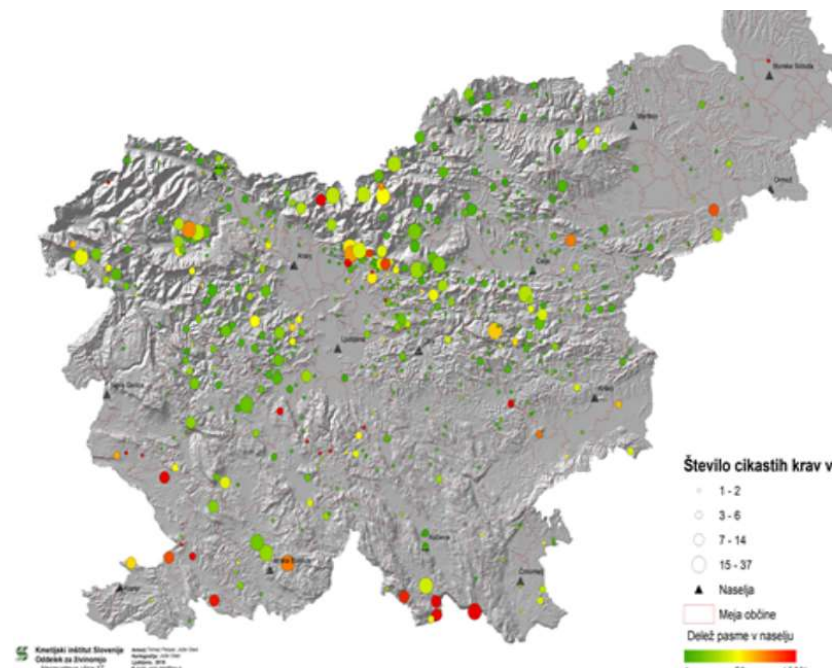
rams: 131
ewes 5.886
total: 6.017

Status:

Endangered

JEZERSKO SOLČAVA SHEEP

LOCAL BREEDS and TRANSHUMANCE (4) - CIKA CATTLE



Population:

cows 2.979

bulls: 104

total: 6.321

Status:

Endangered

Incentives

346 breeders

2.440 animals



TRANSHUMANCE AND CIKA CATTLE

- Cow`s ball in Bohinj - very long tradition to celebrate the end of the grazing season.
- In 1950s - a celebration for wider public ; today, nearly = 10 000 visitors including tourist visit the fair.
- It`s one of the most recognized tourist event in Slovenia and has been mentioned in the two world`s greatest travel guides (Frommer's 300 Unmissable Events and Festivals Around the World and Lonely planet A Year of Festivals).
- Introduction of life and work on the mountain pastures and to greet the livestock and herdsmen.
- Cika cattle, herdsmen and Alpine dairymaids are in the spot of the festival.

During the Covid-19 virtual event









also very important for the preservation of the Bohinj mountain pastures.

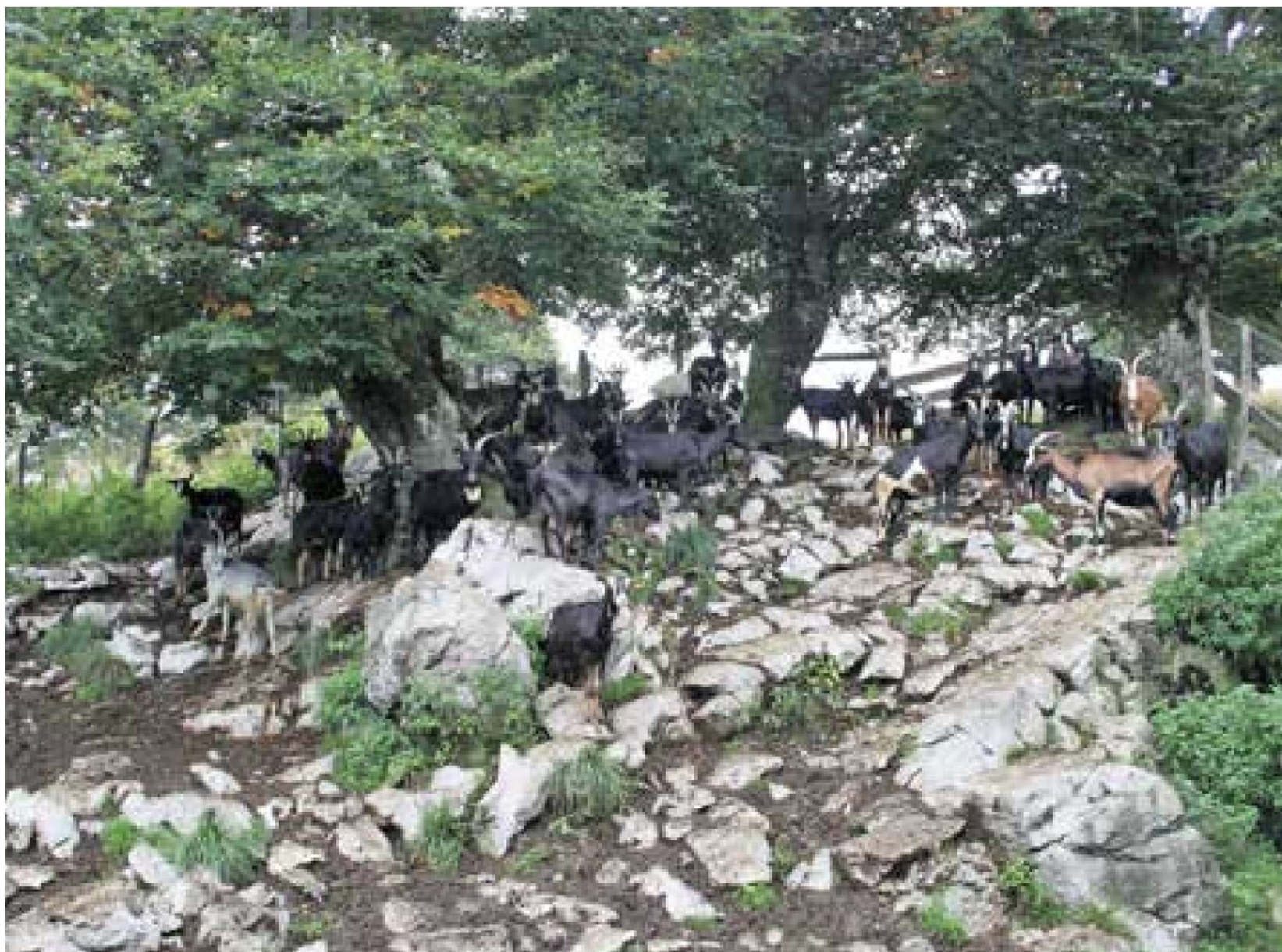


In general, we had many visitors, many Slovenian guests, who are also discovering our high mountain places and our mountain pastures,



Since the second half of the 19th century, the original Bohinj breed has been bred with bulls from the Balen and Pinzgauer breeds







Virtual event:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1051412465291088>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!!**