



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 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 Fundación Espacio XXI, Beatriz López (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 Bojkošič ; Greece : Despina Karatosidis ; Rare International : Juanvi Vincente Delgado.

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Transhumance is the seasonal, regular droving of livestock along established routes aimed to a rationale exploitation of pastures both in the Mediterranean area (long range) and in the Alps (short range).

Transhumance is a production system which is based on a harmonious integration between man, animals and territory and has produced not only food but also landscape, knowledge, traditions and identity of the places and, more notably, the selection of livestock breed adapted to this farming system.

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Chair: Montserrat Castellanos		
20.06. 2024	Day 1 - Meeting of Ad Hoc Action	
10:00-10:10	Introduction - Objectives of the WG meeting	Fabio Pilla (University of Molise) Italy
10:10-10:30	The transhumance system, transhumance and local breed.	J.Delgado (University of Cordoba, Spain)
10:30-10:50	The intangible values of transhumance	L. Bindi (University of Molise, Centro ricerca Biocult Italy)
10:50-11:10	The environmental values of transhumance	Pablo Manzano Basque Center for Climate Change Spain
11:30-12:00	Coffe break	
12:00-12:20	The role of the transhumance in the management of the territory and local breeds in the framework of the CAP	Cecilo Barba Capote University of Cordoba
12:20-12:40	The UNESCO declaration of transhumance /The International year for rangeland and pastoralism	Francesca Pasetti Spain
12:40-13:00	Transhumance and tourism	Julio Grande Sepinum Spain


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15:30-15:45	Special seasonal systems of transhumance in the Alps for Austria, Switzerland and Germany	Antje Feldmann GEH Germany
14:50-15:10	Transhumance in Spain	M ^a Pía Sanchez Chair of FEDEHESA Spain
15:10-15:30	Transhumance in Greece	Despina Karatosidi Research Institute of Animal Science Greece
15:30-15:45	Transhumance in Slovenia	Danijela Bojkovsky University of Ljubljana Slovenia
	Case studies on transhumance : how the transhumance system exploit and preserve local breed	
15:45-16:00	The Avilena breed	Pedro Herrainz Avilena breeders Association
16:00-16:15	The example of Manech and Basco béarnaise breeds (Milk Sheep) and Gasconne Pyrénées breed (Beef cattle))	Claude Soulas CORAM France
16:15-16:30	The Podolian breed and transhumance in Southern Italy	Rocco Giorgio Regione Basilicata Italy
16:30-16:45	The Alpagota sheep breed in the Alps	Enrico Sturaro Italy
16:45-17:15	Coffee break	
17:15-18:00	General discussion	
18:00-18:15	Work plan for 2024	
18:15– 18:30	Conclusions	

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A physical meeting of the ad hoc action was held in Navarredonda de Gredos in the Avila region (Spain) the 20th and the 21st 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.

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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 (Podolica cattle) and northern Italy (Alpagota sheep) respectively.

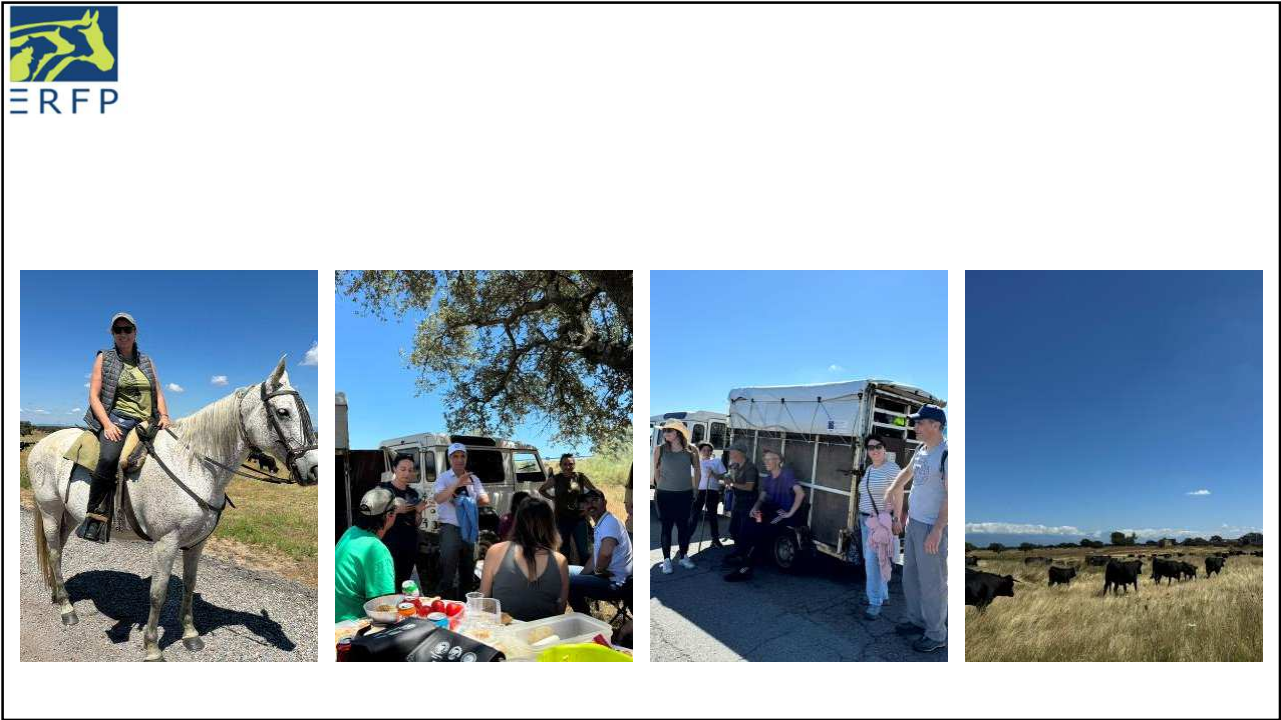
The day ended with a general discussion and the participants reaffirming the commitment in the promotion and conservation of transhumance and local breeds. A further meeting in spring 2025 was proposed with the sponsorship of the Basilicata region (Italy).

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.

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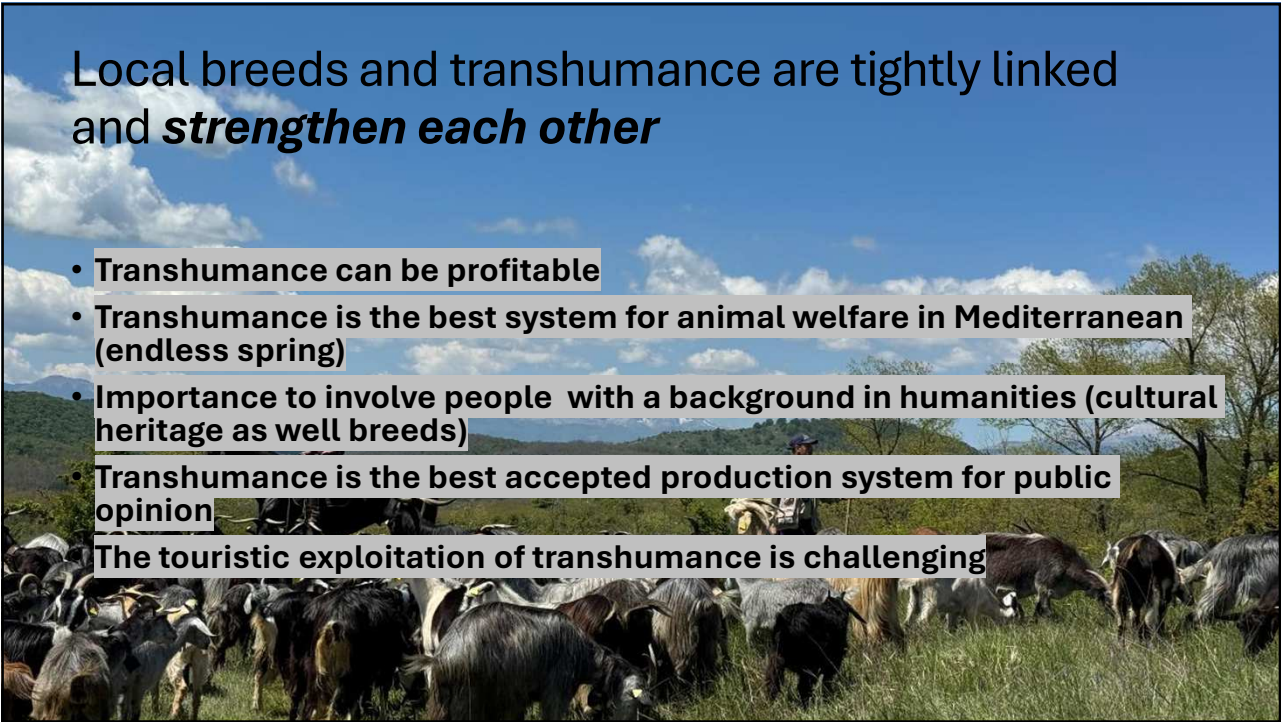


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Local breeds and transhumance are tightly linked and ***strengthen each other***

- Transhumance can be profitable
- Transhumance is the best system for animal welfare in Mediterranean (endless spring)
- Importance to involve people with a background in humanities (cultural heritage as well breeds)
- Transhumance is the best accepted production system for public opinion

The touristic exploitation of transhumance is challenging



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- National day of transhumance (breeders, and academic (animal production scientist and anthropologist) involved

