## Fundația ADEPT Transilvania

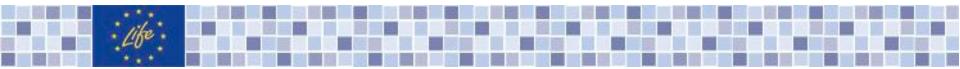




High nature value grasslands in Romania: identification, monitoring, conservation actions and compensatory payments

Ptuj, 16 may 2019 *Răzvan Popa; vice-president* 





projects related to grassland management and AE payments

- Protecting Romania's unique high-biodiversity landscapes and the small-scale farming communities that have created them - Life project
- Conservation status of grasslands in Romania MARD; tehnical support
- Designing a results-based agri-environment payment scheme for Southern Transylvania – EC; DG Env



# A. STIPA: Saving Transylvania's Important Pastoral Ecosystems

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Central Transilvania, Romania

BUDGET INFO:Total amount: €356.330% EC Co-funding: 73%

DURATION: Start: 1 Oct 2010 End: 30 Sept 2013

## Panonic Alpir Pontic Stepic Continental

**PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS: Single Beneficiary**: Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania

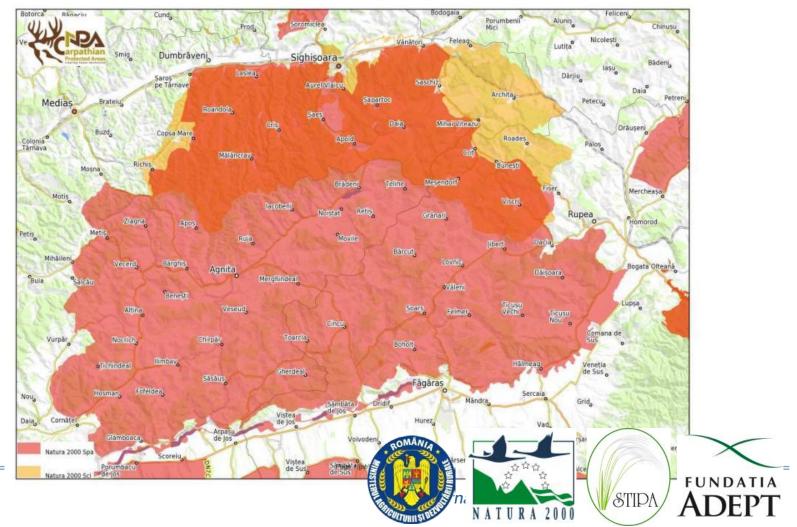


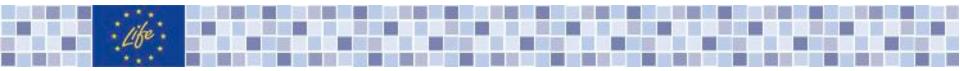


Tarnava Mare SCI, a lowland area of high biodiversity, 85.000ha farmed by 5.000 families in 24 small-scale farming communities

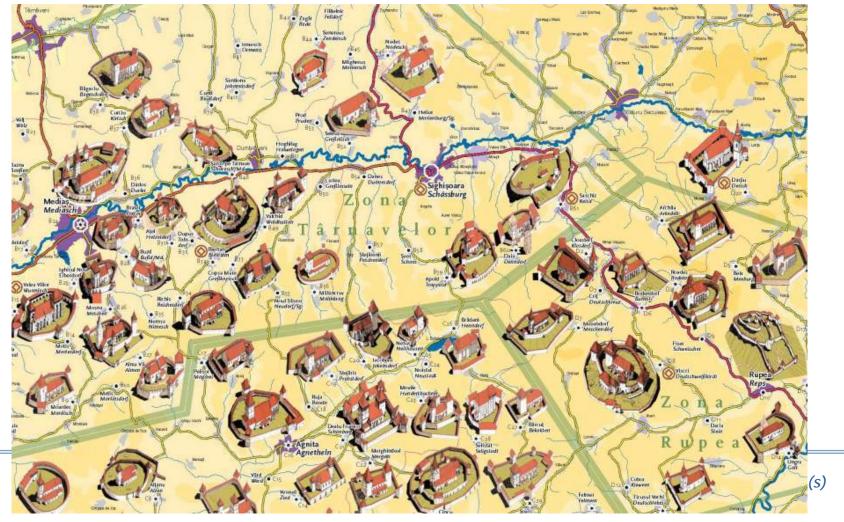


ADEPT does wider work in grassland management and relationships with farmers in 250.000ha area, 44 communes, 240 villages, over 200.000 people





#### This is a cultural landscape also. Villages, land management and nature have maintained their balance





How can we give a future to these landscapes and their communities?

Policy and information **Publicity** Education, festivals, community activities

Study habitats / species / landscape, and design measures to conserve prosperity and biodiversity

Promoting nature-friendly farm management with local involvement and local benefit

Diversifying, including agro-tourism linked to sales of local products

Agri-environment grants and other CAP measures

marketing, adding value to local products linked to biodiversity brand

Logo(s)

ition

### **BACKGROUND and AIMS OF STIPA PROJECT:**

#### Background

- ROSCI0227, 85.374 ha, perhaps the largest HNV farmed landscape in EU.
- 7% of the pSCI, 5,895 ha, is comprised of 2 priority dry grassland habitats
  - 6210\* Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) with important orchid sites
  - 6240\* Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands.

#### Threats

- Land use changes, the result of neglect and collapse of traditional rural economy. ~1,000 ha of these habitats in the project area poorly managed:
  - overgrazing in easily accessible sites
- abandonment of less accessible grassland (causing spreading of scrub) **Aim:** improve and secure future conservation status of the priority habitats, and of the HNV landscape more generally, in partnership with local people especially farmers

#### Main EU policies targeted:

- EU Habitats and Birds Directives
- CAP Pillar 2 especially agrienvironment



## MAIN ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS:

- 1. develop conservation action plans for 6210\* and 6240\* habitats in cooperation with farmers
- 2. clear scrub with innovative machinery target 395 ha
- 3. bring habitat into good conservation status target 1,000 ha
- 4. establish micro-reserves in certain hotspots target 5
- 5. awareness-raising in schools, farming community, general community, and policy-makers, including involving them in monitoring activities

## **ADDITIONAL RESULTS/OUTPUTS**

- 1. achieve/maintain favourable conservation status for 75% of 6210\* and 6240\* habitats (ca 4,400 ha) through sympathetic management
- 2. Indicator species identification cards for school use, 8 schools involved
- 3. inputs into design of national / regional agri-environment schemes, and into the integrated management plan for the broader combined SPA/SCI



ille:

Tarnava Mare: 6210\* and 6240\* managed by farmers in a High Nature Value farmed landscape - mosaic and connectivity characteristics



The importance of these landscapes: the public goods they provide have a very high economic value

Biodiversity Clean air, clean water Food quality Food security Nature tourism

Resistance to flooding, fires, climate change Low energy agriculture Low energy villages Short supply chains

Pollination Carbon sequestration Agro-biodiversity





Essential to discuss the project with farmers, to check that proposals in Conservation Action Plan are practical and acceptable

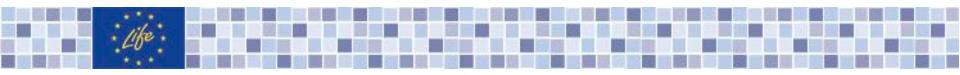
- over 30 meetings with farmers groups
- over 100 farms visited,
- Town Hall and Local Action Group



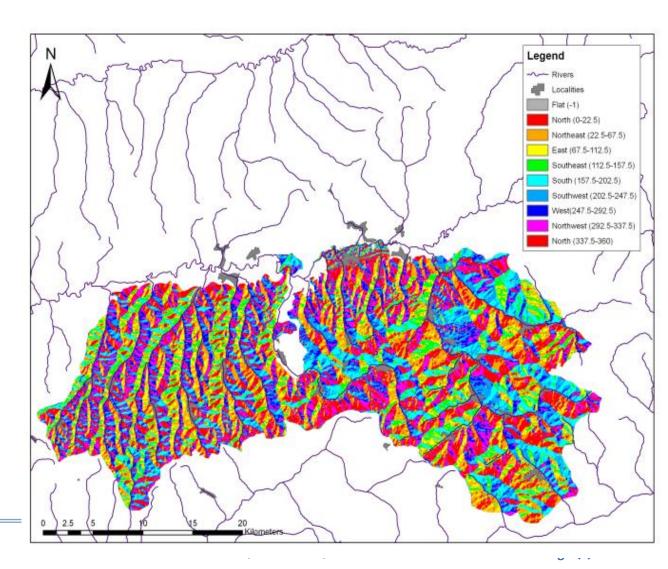
2. How to create accurate map and inventory of 4,800 hectares of habitat scattered over 85,000 ha SCI?

Database
created using
LPIS Physical
Blocks - allows
good
coordination
with Agri environment
schemes in the
future





Innovative GIS mapping using slope and inclination was over 90% accurate when field tested. 5,979 surfaces of target habitats identified, reduced by field checking (consolidation and elimination) to 752 surfaces.

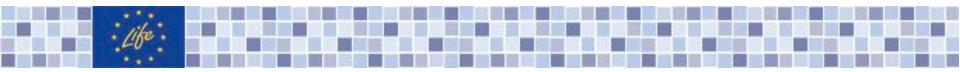




3. Over 50 demonstrations of innovative equipment for scrub clearance

Two local contractors trained for future use of the Brielmaier in the project area







4. Over 320 ha cleared by innovative Brielmaier mower, returned to favourable conservation status  Six biodiversity hotspots established as microreserves with Town Hall agreements: good for awareness-raising as well as protection



6. Improving farmer access to a-e payments, to provide incentives for good management

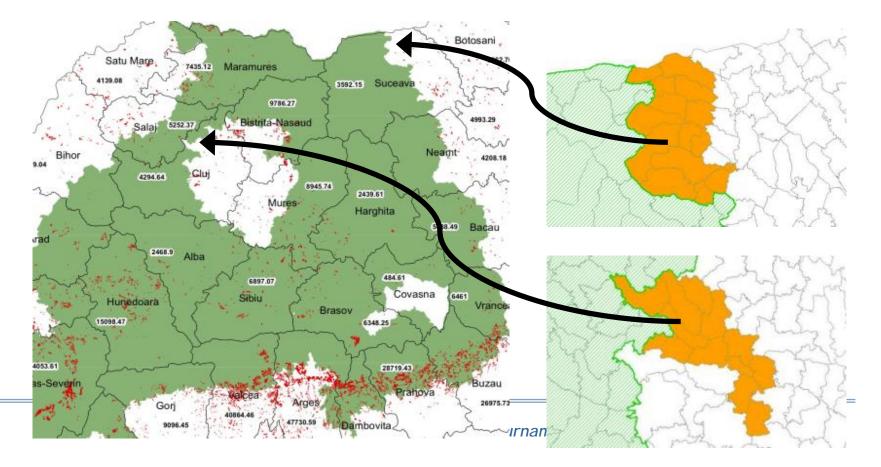


During project lifetime, over 3,800 ha of target habitat have entered the non-mechanised agri-environment measure (M10/2) as a result of ADEPT promotion of the measure.



# 7. Working directly with the Ministry of Agriculture, ADEPT successfully proposed new agri-environment measures at national level, effective from 2012.

> Additional 26 communes in eligible for payments, using innovative mowers



În acest loc biodiversitatea și diversitatea culturală sprijină concret economia locală! Here biodiversity and cultural diversity give real support to village economy!

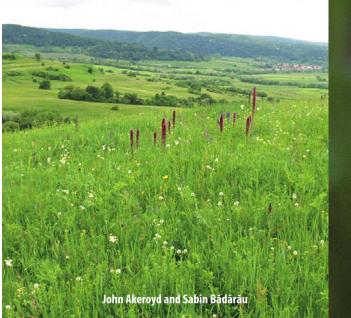


8. Raising local awareness of the value of the habitats

## Habitat, flower and butterfly identification manuals for schools and farmers in 2012

## The High Nature Value dry grasslands of southern Transylvania

 6210' Scrub habitats and semi-dry grassland over limestone or other calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*), with important orchid sites
6240' Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands

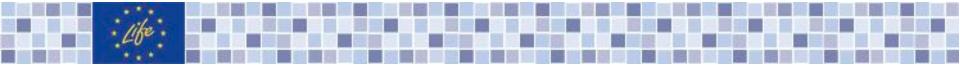


Specii de fluturi indicatoare pentru pajiștile uscate cu Înaltă Valoare Naturală din Transilvania



Specii de plante indicatoare pentru pajiști cu Înaltă Valoare Naturală din Transilvania

Laszlo Ràkosy



### Materials including calendars and newsletters for local use farmers, Town Halls, schools



#### STIPA - Protejati pajistile importante din Transilvania!



aturi calcarease cu situ ci de flora spontană, cum ar fi capul-sarpelui de n ochi albaşt

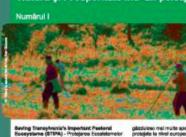
STIPA Saving Transvivania's Important Pastoral E Natură și Prosperitate într-un pelsai

 Programul LIFE .....

al LIPE- est tin in - LIFE+ fine ive de

Project STIPA. Târg de Natura 2000 ... pag. 3

#### 



protejate la nivel europe Aceste habiliste prioritore activitățile agricole intervi taranunilor. Mileurile de c Pastonia Importante dil Transilvoria Fundeția ADEPT Transilvenia -unul dintre cei doi dezvoltate pris projectui

beneficiari din tară cane au primit finanțare de la Comisie Europeană în anul 2010 din tondurile de mediu al Uniunii Europene. monitorizate de pâpunet este cazul, activități de s orin curbines paliabler d Habitatale de importanță

Protectul STIPA (Protejanas Ecosistametor Pastorale Importante din Transilvante) al Pundeles ADEPT Transilvante este unu divise une 210 antocto sui aprocede gentra transper de citins Comisia Europeană, în cadrul celei de a precum pi specifie de ple asociate acestors (indus sunt ameningate mai eler tarenumber ter othe correse surgeons, in soluti othe e a trois contro de propunor partie pregenne UFE-(2007-2013), fondui europeen parter media. Programul UFE+ sprijinis preisota din Intreaga Comunitare Europeant in demenici conservitif neturit, el politici de mediu precam el el internatio al comunicării. La nivel i birt navatra, su frat estectate a finanțele doar doal proiecte. Proiectele LFC+ Nature pun în evidență problemele de meclu, diseminează informeți pe această terră și includ

obivitária de bune presidu al demonstrati a induce adivitária de bune presidu al demonstratificare contribute la inglementarea oblectivetor Directive Unavril Europene pedru Pásiári pl Habitate (Directivela Comisió Europene 76/839 EEC yl 83/43/EEC).

STIFA, projectul în veloare de 300 de mil de EUR STEPA, prosectal in veices de 200 de mil de 20 el Fundajé ACIET, en ce adicide meléorame stéri de conservan a douis habitate prioritare d pajate usasté, situate în situ Netara 2000 Spripora-Tranura Mara, pajate semi-naturei usate pe substrat seloarse și cele stepore subpanonkie. Fundația ADEPT proxune analiza tesperante, rungestuder i propine anea la faja teoliaria a stári de conserver or o unor habitate prioritare de pajate, situate pe o supostará de 10 000 ha. Pe base aceator informati a tin consultare cu fermient a cu al factor de decisie de tertoria, ADEPT ve ve elabora planari de actiune pentru conservansa habitatolor vizato. Pajlątik, care accepent aproximativ 12% din supratete lotalit a attului Nature 2000 Sightycere-Tilmava Mane



J'STEDA

Saving Transylvania's Important Pastoral Ecosystems

Natură și Prosperitate într-un peisaj istoric Numarul VI

Concerver general LIFE+ este contribuția la împlementarea politică de mediu e

STIPA - Project carofinalizat in Septembrie 2013

Decarece lipsople motivi comunitățile locale pentr pospodárina terenutica project, all aprijinito form de agro-mecilu. Totocietà implicanse activit a comu a fermioritor și a elevitor, prioritare, prin activități d

Protectul STER of Funds

octombrie 2010 și ve du

A consernat: Lenko Bal

Fundatia ADEPT Transit

ADEPT1

Dels de contact Seus E-mail: office@funde

Web: warm burb

#### STIPA la vremea

Prezentari STIPA in scoli 080

Festivalul Florilor -sårbitloarea biodiversitätti...pag. 4



ferniadica

Briefmaler.

Paint de poverile"

uit, dealit ar 5 fast solicitet fille existente din partee

Fundation ADEPT, ceeps on adupte venituri in plusi

4. Mei mute demonstrații cu cositoanea trovatoane

5. Am Intraprine activitet in per liber og mai bine de

200 de copil, în fecare an, care au învițat mei mute despre natură și despre importanța peleajelor de

 Am organizational multe Intrunid ou farmiert. In card il s-a explicat acestora importanta habitatelor precun si beneficile economica pe care le pot obtine, atili

pentru el citt si pentru publicul larg - am discutat cu aproximativ 1050 de sameni.

7. Vizibilitatea zonei Térnava Mare In Mass Media a

crescut - numoi în 2013 am apârut în emisiuni TV care au fost vizionate de un milion de talespectator

vorbind despre "Pojiști cu înaltă Valoare Naturală"

8. Am produs broșuri cu plantele și fluturii mai

publicului larg acest project nu ar fi fost posibili

Existențe Grupului de Acțiune Locală - Dealurile

Vé multureim tuturor pentre sprijinel acordet?

important), specil asociate cu habitatele do pajteti

uncate ale protectului, care vor putea l'i folcolte l'e soci pe villor asu de vicitatori asu alle persoare interesate.

Färä sprjinul fernierilor, al copilior, al prinsitilor, al

Târtavelor, care scopetă sprospe aceessi zonă ca s

situi a fost un element de mare ajutor in acest project

meleocurile for natale, la nivel european.

#### solizirile proiectului STIPA

STIPA, finanțat de câtre Comista Europeană - EU LIFE+ Nature el de câtre Fundatia Orange e-a etilisurat pe o durată de 3 ani: Oct. 2010 - Sept. A fast implementat de piltre Fundatio ADEPT pa sprijin din partea Universități Babej Bolyai din Cluj și a Universități de Medicină și Farmacie

Târou Mures Ce și-a propus acest protect? Situl Netura 2000 Sightpoara - Târneve Mere

gázituleşte habitate de paljsti uscate, care sunt. emenințate cu departție în Europe și cere se bucură de un nivel riticat de protecție în legislație Europeana. Scopul a fost de a identifica modalități de protectie a aceidor habitate, a fionel și a feunel asociate cu

ele si totodată de sile coretera cu beneficilie economice. Inciti să fie de un real folos pentru lacahici Projectul a fost gândit să sprijine fermierii locali și administratori (pentru continuarea / restabilirea

nanagementului pajiștilor ceea ce va oferi acestor habitate un vitor pe territes lung - viltor care poate fi asigurat numai dacă localnicii lei vor da eama să pot beneficia de pe urma acestor másuri de menecement.

Objectivele projectalui au pressous muncă de tares, consultári cu fermieri: pentra a desermita planuri de acture cu másuri efective si precisce. vederes conserviril difertielor habitatie Cele mai importante reduitate alle protectulur sunt

Curitipanea a aproximativ a 350 ha de tufáripart, cu alutorul costoaral Briekmaler. Incât teranul să fie mai bine utilizat de ciêre fermieri și în vederez eligibilități la pâțție de agro-medu.

2. Am ajutat la realizzene statutului de bunili conservare a peste 900 ha. 3. Tămava Viere are o supratată mai mare nscrisă la măsura 214/2 practici agricole non

mecanizate. Stă de media la rivel national Deci schema de plátj sunt prevázute cu 4000

te de contact: Saschia, nº 166 let. 0265 711635 mait: office@fordatia:adept.org dr: www.fordatia-adept.org

UNDATIA







9.8 schools in the area enjoy nature classes, over 280 children per year

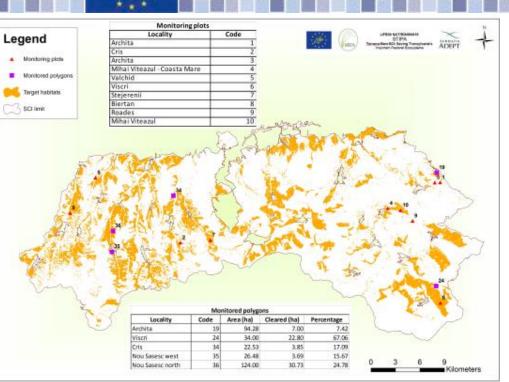
## 10. Media and dissemination

Visits by Agriculture Commissioner Ciolos and HRH The Prince of Wales resulted in millions of TV viewers hearing about STIPA project



- coverage
- papers published in academic journals
- presentations at several conservation conferences

Name, Surr



11. Monitoring of effects on floristic diversity and conservation status using 5 fixed quadrats, and 5 largerscale monitoring points

Monitoring 2011-2013 of grasslands cleared of scrub has revealed significant increases in floristic diversity



## What did the project achieve in the end? Some highlights

- Innovative GIS mapping for large-scale conservation can be replicated more widely
- Conservation Action Plan agreed by Town halls, farmers
- Innovative mowers demonstrated and contractors trained in future use
- 320 ha cleared of scrub, 920 ha returned to Favourable Conservation Status, 3,800 ha under better conservation management
- Monitoring shows habitat improvements after only 3 years
- Flora and Lepidoptera Indicator species guides produced, for long-term use in the area and more widely
- 8 schools, 280 children per year in nature classes
- Over 1 million TV viewers in Romania have seen film dedicated to the project
- High-profile visits have raised awareness further, among policy-makers as well as locally.
- New agri-environment measures designed and accepted

Romania'rs.hunique.high-biodiversitygo(s)

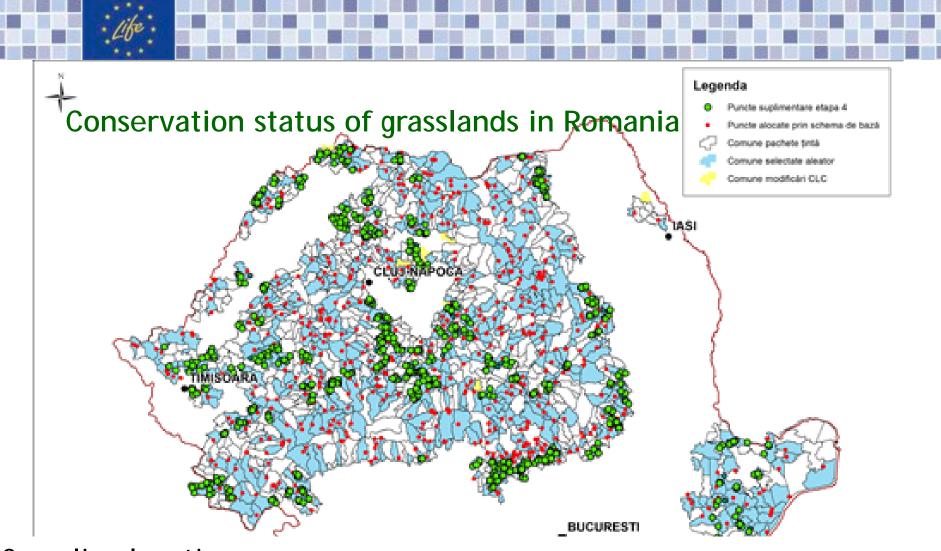
# B. Conservation status of grasslands in Romania - methodology

### National approach, monitoring national policy through scientific assessment

**GOAL:** To assess the current conservation status of grasslands in Romania; M10/NRDP

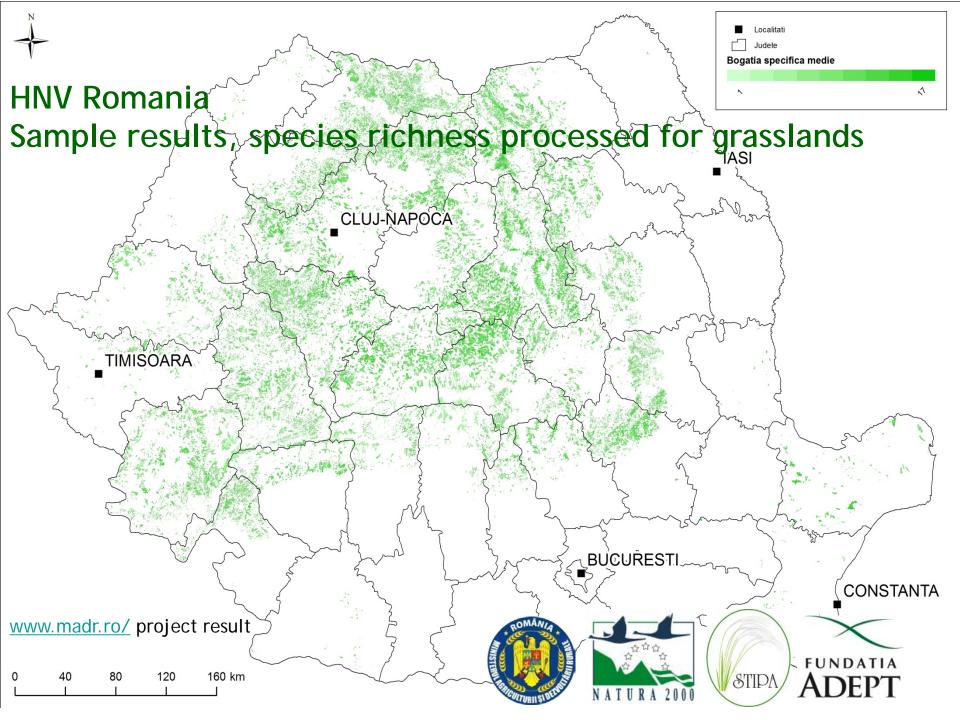
Automatic part just sampling design not modelling

- Random sampling in grasslands but with parameters (altitude, slope, soil etc....)
- 600 points to be assessed by biologists
- Field mapping of management and conservation indicators Spatial statistics in R for data analysis
- .. for the eligible HNV area (grasslands)



Sampling locations

- 1. 1 year field study, vegetation period
- 2. Partnership with relevant stakeholder (institutes, universities etc)





## Comparison between the two projects

## **STIPA**

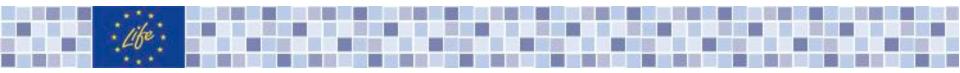
## **Grasslands monitoring**

Less GIS but more Rstatistical processing Targeted all grasslands No intervention as it was a project covering the entire country



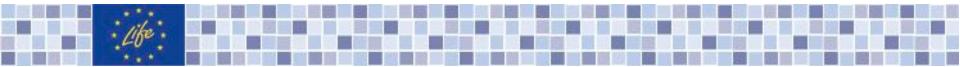
### More GIS

Specific target - 2 habitats Includes direct measures (intervention) and asses this intervention



## C. Designing a results-based agri-environment payment scheme for Southern Transylvania for 2 regions (continental and mountain)





**Results-based agri-environment scheme (RBAPS)** 



Until now: management-based AES  $\rightarrow$  e.g. mowing dates

**RBAPS** : payments for desired result

 $\rightarrow$  more freedom for farmers

 $\rightarrow$  more adaptable to local conditions (wet year/dry year, aspect of slope, altitude, etc.)





## **Pros and cons of RBAPS**



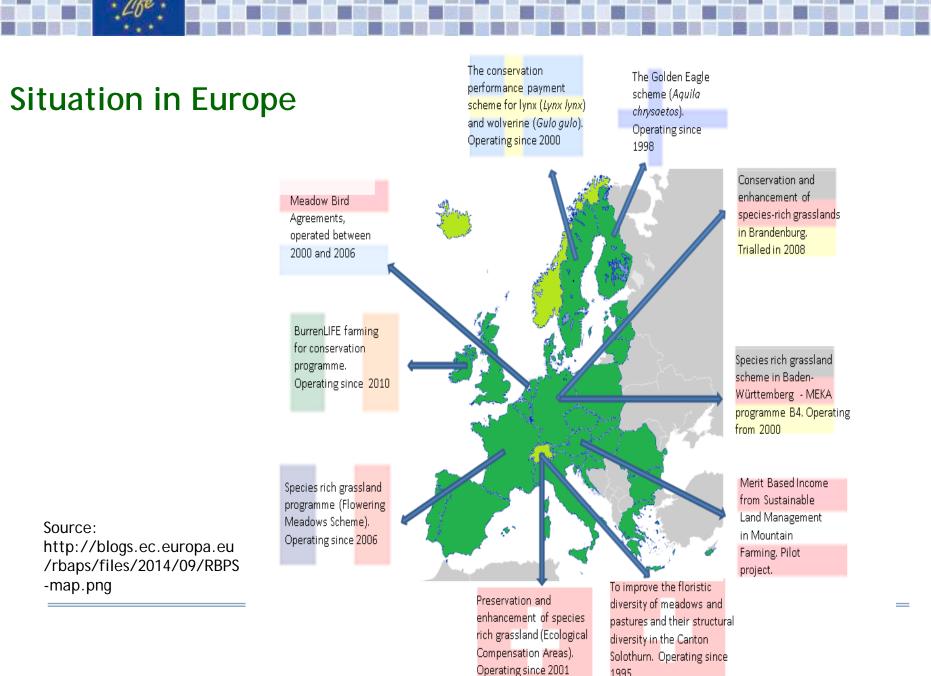
•Clear link between payment and biodiversity objective

- •"production" of biodiversity becomes part of farming system
- •Farmers are rewarded for their **entrepreneurial effort**
- •Greater **public recognition** of farmer's role in maintaining biodiversity



- In some cases it is not possible to design indicators of biodiversity results
- Managing authority does not always have access to expertise to set up a RBAPS
- Farmers must be willing to accept a results-based approach







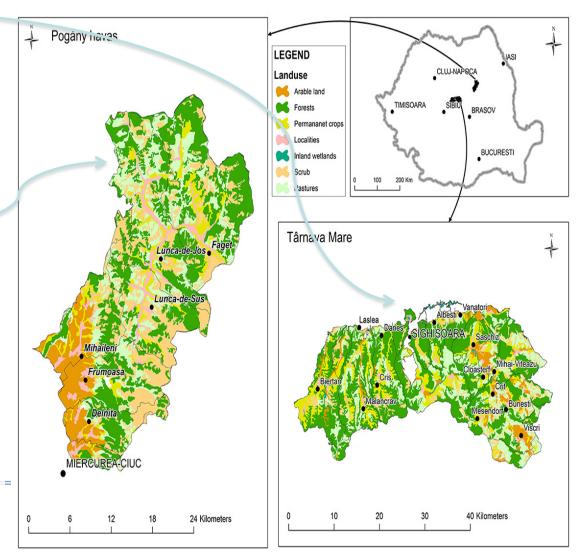
## The Romania pilot scheme 2015-2018

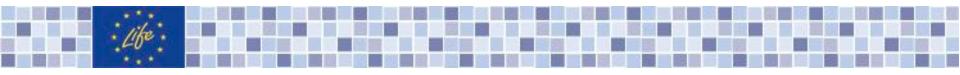
Târnava Mare: approx. 85,000 ha, 350-700 m altitude: Continental b-g region

Pogány-havas (Muntii Ciucului):

approx. 60,000 ha, 650-1500 m altitude: alpine b-g region

→ HNV, Natura 2000, good relations between project partners and farmers

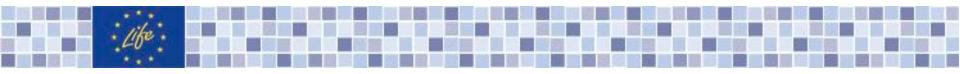




### Target: Hay meadows of High Nature Value

Name, Surname, Position





Monitoring in 2015 to determine suitable species, which:

- ✓ Only grow at low intensity hay meadows
- ✓ Are associated with high plant & animal species richness
- ✓ Are associated with good quality hay
- ✓ Are not rare
- ✓ Are sensitive to changes in management



## 30 indicator species for TM & PH



Primula spec.



Trollius europaeus

- Same list for two regions
- Easily to recognize
- Species groups to avoid confusion
- Flowering in springsummer
- Indicators for wet, mesic & dry meadows





Name, Surname, Posit

Fragaria spec.



## 30 indicator species for TM & PH



Dianthus spec.



Scorzonera purpuraea



Trifolium montanum



Filipendula vulgaris



Leucanthemum vulgaris



Name, Surname, Position

Logo(s)



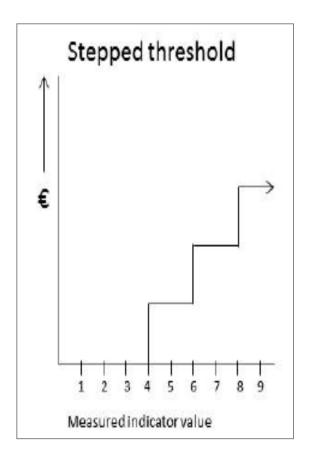
## **Payment levels**

3 payment levels calculated with methodology (income foregone) agreed by Managing Authority:

- <u>5 species: €213 / ha / year</u>
- <u>8 species: €229 / ha / year</u>
- <u>10 species: €259 / ha / year</u>

#### Contract holders...

- → cannot step down during contract period
- → are incentivised to manage in a way to step up to get higher payment rates
- $\rightarrow$  + 50 Euro for each farmer /ha in 2017 (240.000 beneficiares for about 1,2 mil ha)





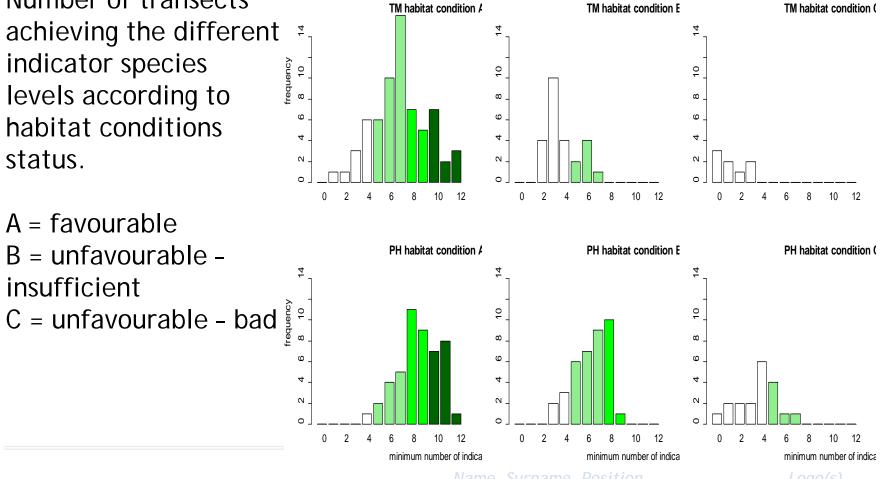


## Why these levels?

Number of transects achieving the different indicator species levels according to habitat conditions status.

A = favourable

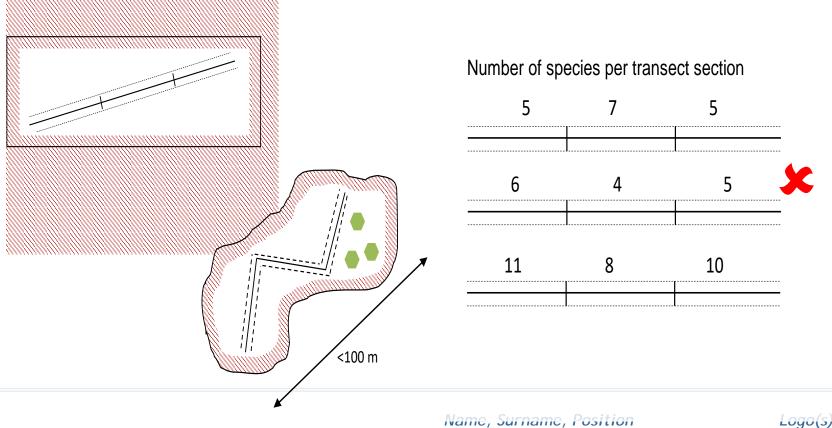
insufficient



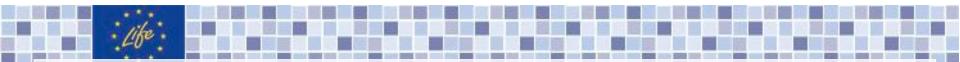


### **Indicator recording method**

#### Used by farmers AND payment agencies



Name, Surname, Position



## Impressions

Farmers are interested and like the flexibility of the scheme

- 56 farmers, 98.95 ha, 155 parcels in Pogany-Havas
- 17 farmers, 72.91 ha, 48 parcels in T. Mare
- more suitable land offered: limited by budget, not availability of suitable land

Farmers already recognise many of the species

→ Further information needed to assist selfassessment: training, guidance booklets







# Schedule of RBAPS pilot project

### 2015

 Monitcring in TM & PH to identify suitable indicator species

## 2016

- Contacting farmers
- Gathering parcels & making contracts
- Scientific monitoring of parcels & indicator species

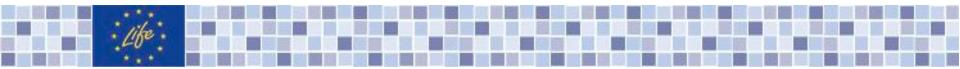
## 2017

- Training for farmers, control by farmers themselves
- Specialists carry out repeat monitoring, with payment agency staff

## 2018

- 2nd scientific monitori ng of parcels
- Evaluatio





## Outlook

Evaluation of implementation after 2018

Working closely with Managing Authority and Paying Agency makes integration into national policy post 2020 more possible?

Possible use as an option for Natura 2000 areas?

Dark green measures?





## For further information



Results-based Payments for Biodiversity Guidance Handbook Designing and implementing results-based agri-environment schemes 2014-2020



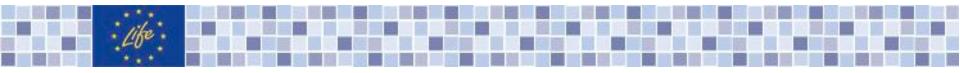
SUMMARY of Results-based Payments for Biodiversity Guidance Handbook Designing and implementing results-based agri-environment schemes 2014-2020





http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/rbaps/handbook/index\_e n htm

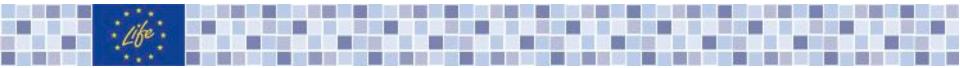
Logo(s)



Acknowledgments:

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Fundatia ADEPT seeks to promote links between biodiversity conservation, continued traditional land management, and local incomes on scientific basis



Thank you! www.fundatia-adept.org

