



# High Nature Value Farmlands – Recognizing the European Importance of SEE landscapes

## *Introduction to project sites*

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# Introduction to project sites

3 areas in each Bulgaria and Romania  
All of exceptional biodiversity importance

BG: landscape approach:  
Strandja, Roussenski Lom, Western Stara Planina

RO: administrative approach  
Sibiu, Mehedinti, Galati





## Project Sites





# Farming situation in project sites

## Relative grouping of areas:

- A. “Classical” landscapes of large grasslands areas – Strandja and Sibiu
- B. A mixture of small-scale mosaics and semi-natural grasslands – Western Stara Planina and Mehedinti
- C. Patches of HNV farming in areas of very intensive cropping – Roussenski Lom and Galati





# Grasslands landscapes: Strandja, BG





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# Grasslands landscapes: Strandja, BG

- Traditional (sheep) grazing region
- Currently area with serious abandonment problems
  - > more than 95% of the UAA not in use
- Small areas for arable crops – cereals and maize
  - Plus vegetables in the riparian areas (subsistence)
- Forests cover up to 80% of the territory
- Outmigration in the region for the last decades
- Tourism a serious competitor for labour force
- Pilot SAPARD AE region for semi-natural grasslands
- HNVF and LFA region in new RDP 07-13

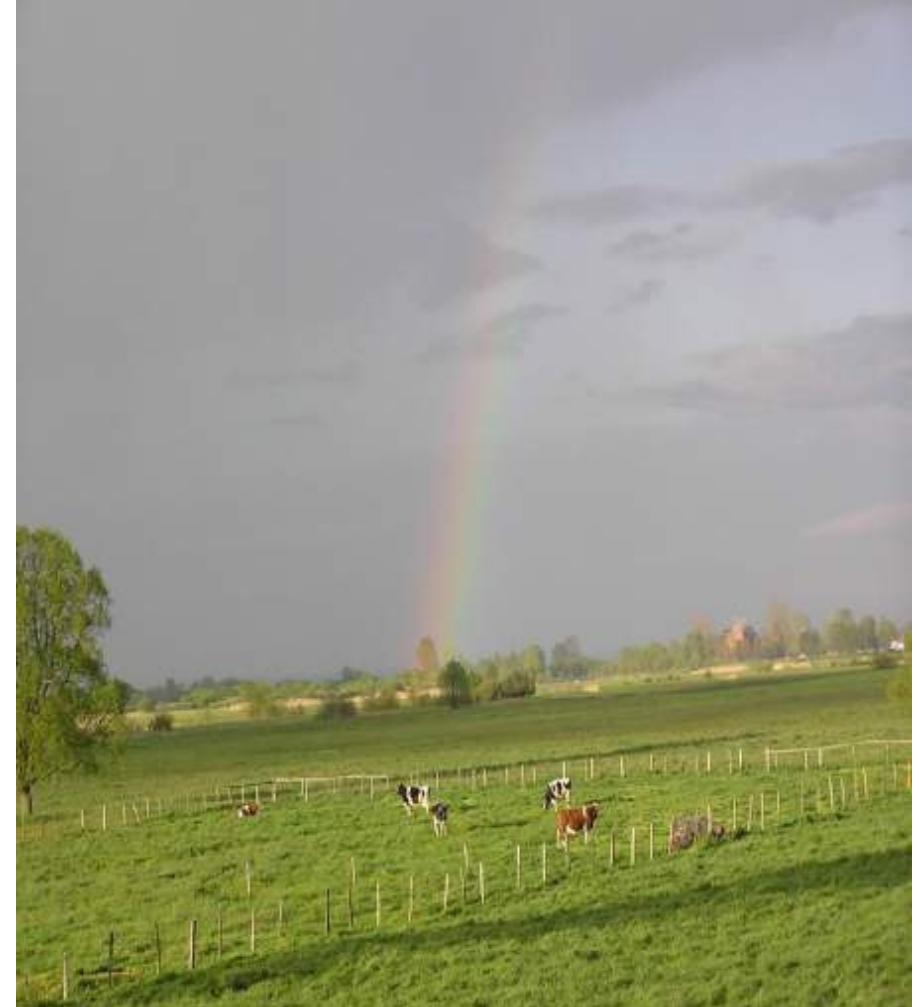


# Grasslands landscapes: Sibiu, RO





# Grasslands landscapes: Sibiu, RO





# Grasslands landscapes: Sibiu, RO

- Longest and most famous tradition in transhumance
- Mixed sheep (~300 000 heads) and cattle grazing
- Pastures and meadows ~60% of UAA;  
arable ~38%
- Local food products (cheese)
- Hygiene requirements major issue for small-scale farmers/shepherds
- HNVF and LFA region in new RDP 07-13



# Mixed landscapes: Western Stara Planina, BG





# **Mixed landscapes: Western Stara Planina, BG**





# **Mixed landscapes: Western Stara Planina, BG**

- Mountainous region with 70% of UAA in grasslands; arable only 1/3
- LPIS registered 18% of grasslands; 8% of arable
- Large share (20%) of abandoned lands
- Subsistence: potatoes, beans, tomatoes, peppers
- Commercial: strawberries and raspberries (incl. organic)
- HNVF and LFA region in new RDP 07-13



# Mixed landscapes: Mehedinti, RO





# Mixed landscapes: Mehedinti, RO





# Mixed landscapes: Mehedinti, RO

- Typical hill and plateau landscapes
- Mixed farming system: grazing and mowing.
- Arable: 64% from agri land , pastures: 30,8%, forests: 32%
- Sheep, goats, cattle, poultry
- Significant land abandonment esp.orchards
- HNV and LFA region in new RDP 07-13



# HNVF in intensive landscapes: Roussenski Lom, BG





# HNVF in intensive landscapes: Roussenski Lom, BG





# **HNVF in intensive landscapes: Roussenski Lom, BG**

- Predominantly intensive arable area (92% of UAA)
- Meadows and pastures mostly along rivers meanders and as patches in forests
- Threats of conversion to arable very high
- Abandonment of grasslands with difficult access
- Grazing competition on accessible grasslands
- Some HNVF areas in new RDP 07-13



# HNVF in intensive landscapes: Galati, RO





# **HNVF in intensive landscapes: Galati, RO**





# **HNVF in intensive landscapes: Galati, RO**

- Agriculture is a main land use (80%) in the county
- Arable land is 81% - cereals and rapeseed
- Pastures and meadows (incl.in floodplains) 12%;
- Vineyards 5% incl.some organic
- Orchards less than 1% - mostly intensive
- No HNVF identified as per new RDP 07-13!
- Some LFA land