

### A PROJECT TO...

- Improve the conservation status of Mediterranean pastoral open habitats.
- Share know-how, experiences and knowledge between all the actors concerned by these open environments.

More information about partners and identity sheet of the projet LIFE+ Mil'Ouv in page 16 and in the Website [www.lifemilouv.org](http://www.lifemilouv.org)

### 4 years of project summarized :

- through the slogan of the project : «Mediterranean pastoral open habitats are an important resource. Let's share our knowledge to preserve their biodiversity!»
- through 4 leaflets dedicated to the different stakeholders concerned by this project: breeders and shepherds, environmental and pastoral technicians, students and teachers, elected representatives and decision-makers



With the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Union

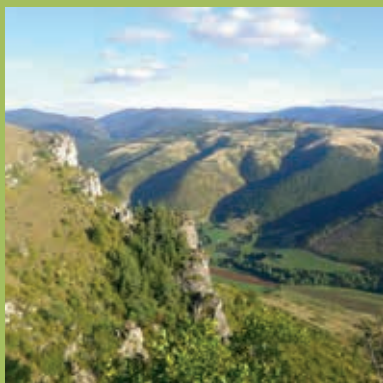
## LAYMAN'S REPORT

LIFE12 INF/FR/000735 (2013-2017)



## Open habitats...

Areas of land with natural spontaneous vegetation, little brushwood cover and no trees, and where little or no mechanical cultivation is possible: limestone plateaux, grassland, scrubland and heath land..



## Pastoral open habitats...

Definition of pastoralism by the French Pastoralism Association : *"Pastoralism refers to all stock farming activities making use of the spontaneous vegetation of natural areas by means of extensive grazing to provide all or part of animals' feeding needs. This production activity (suckler or dairy herd farming with possible processing for the production of cheese) can be carried out on pastoral areas close to the farmsteads (local trails, commons and summer pastures) or be organised on a regional or inter-regional scale through summer or winter transhumances"*.

Pastoral livestock farms display a diversity resulting from their capacities to adapt to varied territorial contexts.

Depending on their choice of production and products, the pastoral areas available to them and the orientations they choose for

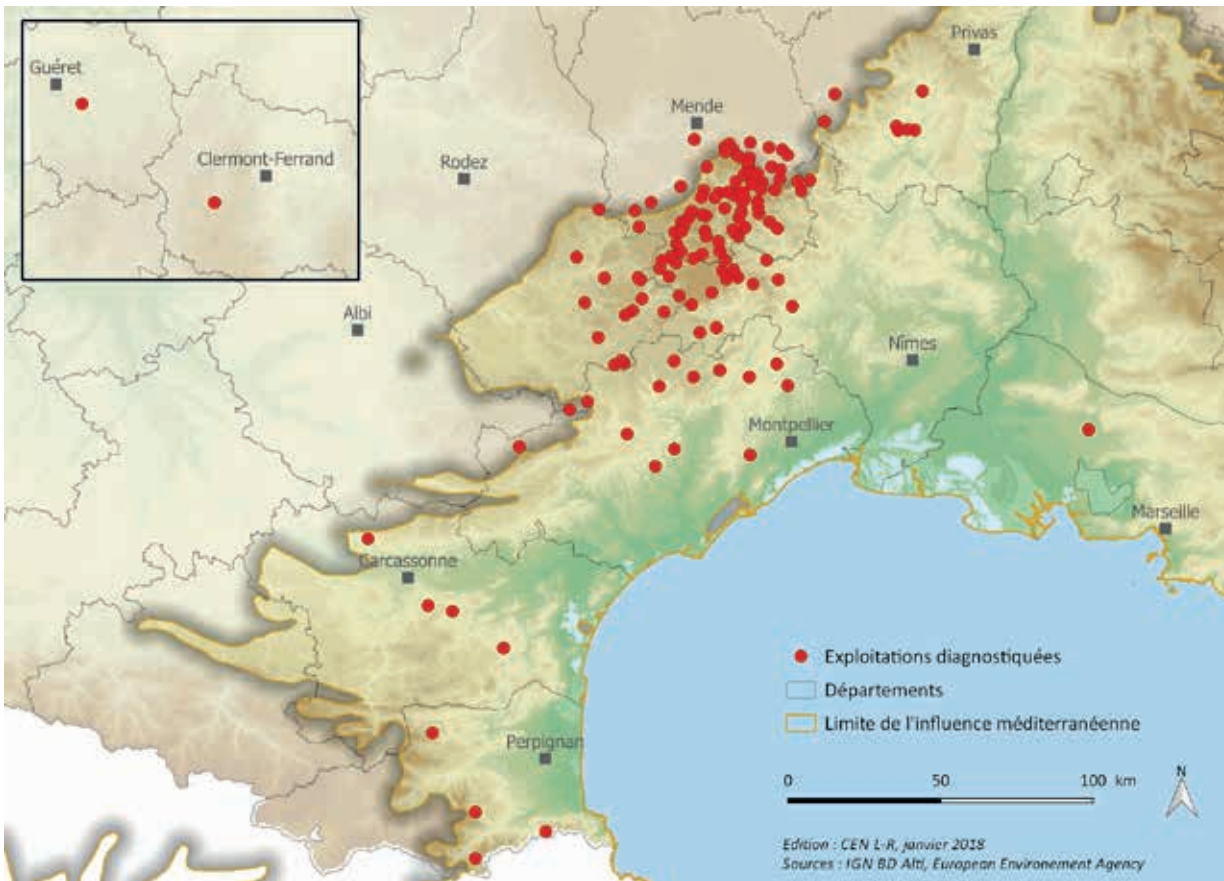
driving the herds to the grazing land, these farms develop different operating methods. Furthermore, the pastoral competences and know-how they employ, which cannot be based on ready-made formulae, contribute to increasing the diversity of practices. By way of illustration, in the French Mediterranean area, the livestock networks (Inosys 2014-2015) which endeavour to analyse the types of farm most representative of the sector identified at least 12 standard suckler ovine systems with a pastoral approach, 2 dairy ovine systems, 6 bovine systems and 5 goat systems, to which should be added a wide variety of horse-farming systems;

<http://idele.fr/reseaux-et-partenariats/inosys-reseaux-delevage.html>





## Mediterranean pastoral open habitats...



Map of the 151 farms and 4 agricultural farm schools which participated in the LIFE+ Mil'Ouv project.

The southern Massif Central was prioritised, in particular the Causses and the Cévennes area which appears on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the heading of Mediterranean agro-pastoral cultural landscape. The actions were, for the most part, conducted in the Occitanie region (formerly Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées), as well as in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur regions.





## ...are an important resource.

### To have the resources :

*«to have reserves of energy and endurance making it possible to cope»*

french definition of the Larousse dictionary

The resources of open environments are their broad biodiversity, their numerous uses and characteristics complementary to the productive areas (resource conservation, staggered growth of grass, presence of consumable wood resources, adaptation to Mediterranean climatic variations). This creates what could be a key place in the feeding system with flexible use in light of the various varia-

tions (climatic or technical)

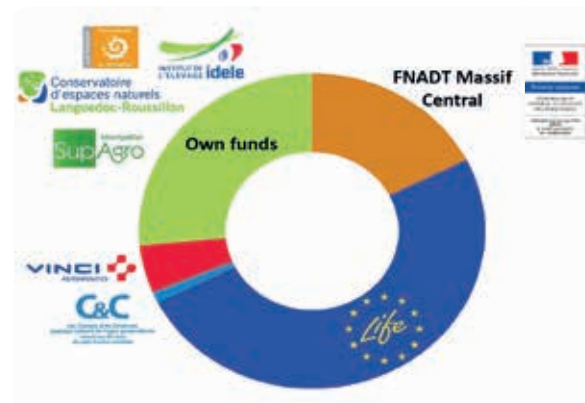
The resources of the LIFE+ Mil'Ouv project do not only come from open environments. The project has also called on a broad diversity of resources, be it in terms of funding, human resources or the competences of the partners involved, including ecology, pastoralism, agriculture and education.



### Resources produced :

1 eco-pastoral diagnostic method, 2 technical booklets, 1 pedagogical booklet, 1 attractive book, 1 international meeting, 75 diagnostics, 1 "serious game" - pastoral rummy, 9 videos, 1 Layman'report, 1 Website where are available all resources produced by the project.

### Financial resources of LIFE + Mil'Ouv : €1 628 059



### Human resources :

- 15 structures for implementation, 40 technicians mobilised : (Cen (6), PNC (7), Idele (3), CRA Occitanie (5), Montpellier SupAgro – Institut de Florac (4), Civam (1), Entente C&C (2), Copage (2), Cen Lozère (1), PNR GC (2), chambers of agriculture (7), trainees (6)),
- more than 150 stock farmers and shepherds concerned,



# Let's share our knowledge...

## Breeders and shepherds are at the heart of a network of stakeholders :

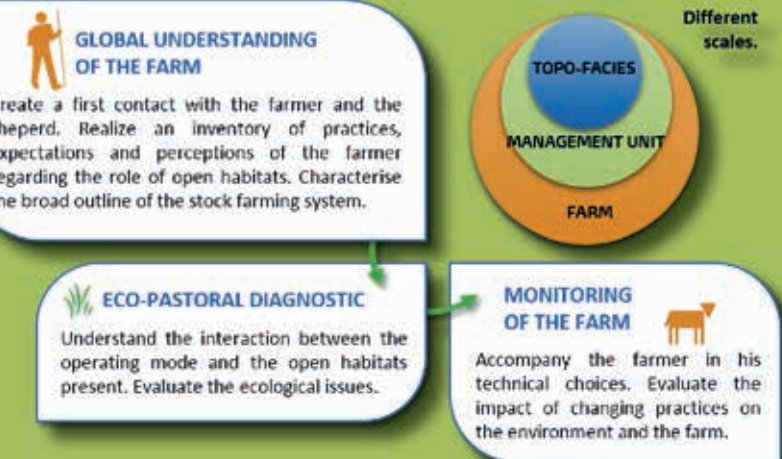
In their diversity, all these players have been encouraged to maintain dialogue, compare their visions and share their competences. The LIFE+ Mil'Ouv project facilitated this dialogue and helped identify and meet the needs of the different stakeholders.



The eco-pastoral diagnoses method briefly presented here is the cornerstone of the relationship between the technicians and the stock farmers.

### Key figures :

- **183** people participating in the technical workshops
- **92** technicians and teachers participating in the training courses concerning the eco-pastoral diagnoses method during 7 one-week sessions
- **200** elected representatives and representatives of administration participating in the training courses
- **193** participants in the international meetings of Mediterranean agro-sylvo-pastoralism stakeholders with 11 different countries represented





## ...to preserve their biodiversity !

Numerous heritage species of flora and fauna can be found in Mediterranean pastoral open habitats. The preservation of this heritage is inextricably linked to the maintenance of pastoralism.

8,300 ha of open habitats have been diagnosed within the framework of this project. The natural habitats concerned are :

### Grasslands on surface soils

- Bromus erectus grasslands (Code Natura 2000 (\*)6210) – 753 ha
- Brachypodium retusum grasslands (\*6220) – 582 ha
- Nardus and Festuca grasslands (\*6230) – 949 ha
- Steep-type grasslands – 1779 ha

### Heaths and scrubland

- Mountain Cytisus purgans formation (5120 if formations on higher levels) -1174 ha
- Low-lying dry heaths (4030) – 786 ha

### Grasslands on advanced soils

- Upright brome grasslands ((\*)6210) – 390 ha
- Brachypodium phoenicoides grasslands (\*6220) – 37 ha

### Wetlands

- Peat bogs (7110, 7140, 7230) – 35 ha

(\*) = *priority habitat*





## LIFE+ Mil'Ouv and beyond ?

The continuation of the LIFE+ Mil'Ouv project will be divided into three main axes :

- Individual and collective accompaniment of breeders and shepherds
- Training and sensitisation of the stakeholders in the pastoralism sector with regard to future issues
- The production and dissemination of technical references in the field of pastoralism

These will be translated into operational actions at local, regional, national and European levels. The coordination of an eco-pastoral network is necessary at regional level to accompany the different territorial initiatives in which the tools developed within the framework of the project will be remobilised: farm diagnostic method, accompaniment and monitoring, collective training for stock farmers and technicians, sensitisation of elected representatives, etc.

All the achievements of the project are made available to the stakeholders of pastoralism and the methodology established is already being applied in certain territories, for example regional nature parks, national parks or territories deploying agro-environmental projects

## Who to contact ?

### **Conservatoire d'espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon**

Immeuble le Thèbes  
26 Allée de Mycènes 34000 Montpellier  
Tel. 04 67 02 21 28  
[www.cenlr.org](http://www.cenlr.org)

### **Montpellier SupAgro Institut de Florac**

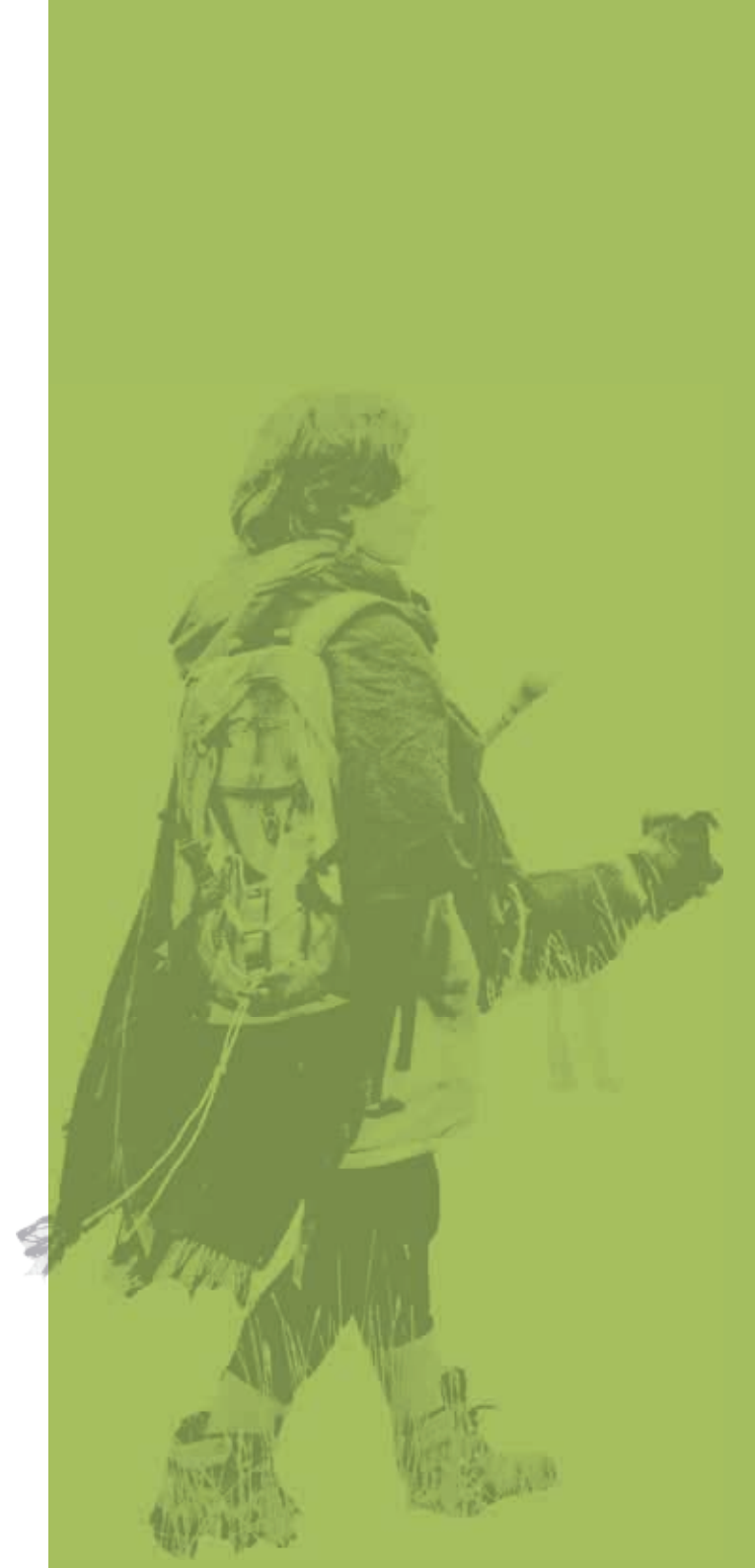
9 Rue Célestin Freinet  
48400 Florac  
Tel. 04 66 65 65 65  
[www.supagro.fr/web/florac](http://www.supagro.fr/web/florac)

### **Institut de l'élevage**

2 place Pierre Viala  
34060 Montpellier Cedex 1  
Tel. 04 99 61 21 93  
[www.idele.fr](http://www.idele.fr)

### **Parc national des Cévennes**

6 bis, place du Palais  
48400 Florac  
Tel. 04 66 49 53 00  
[www.cevennes-parcnational.fr](http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr)





### Breeders and shepherds

*Pastoral breeders and shepherds can have an impact on local development at several levels :*

- *Economic: by creating farm products and contributing to trade within their territories (purchase/sale of animals, equipment, buildings, etc.)*
- *Social: by contributing to the dynamics of the territory through their professional activities (market, farm visits, discussion between peers, etc.) and personal activities (school, grocery, associations, etc.)*
- *Environmental: by maintaining the area, they limit overgrowth and their agricultural practices therefore have an impact on diversity (fauna/flora) and rural landscapes.*

There is not one single pastoral system, rather a multitude of specific cases – pastoral farms each more singular than the next. Today, in the French Mediterranean area, the future of pastoralism is clearly under threat with the decline in agro-pastoral activities, the modification of agricultural practices, an increase in climate variations, the development of agricultural policies, adaptations necessary to cope with predators, etc. Pastoralism is nevertheless not doomed to disappear. Pastoral livestock farms enjoy a strong capacity for adaptation and are drivers which modify their practices when faced with difficulties or dysfunctions.





## Needs identified

Different needs identified among breeders and shepherds through surveys, workshops and training courses :

- Acquire new technical knowledge concerning the management of trails and optimise their value
- Incorporate the available pastoral resources into the grazing calendar and improve fodder autonomy
- Provide a technical view of the vegetation (flexibility of use, resource conservation, maximum palatability period, etc.)
- Ensure discussion of practices between stock farmers or with technicians
- Take advantage of personalised technical advice
- Facilitate the installation of young stock farmers
- Facilitate access to and the security of land
- Adapt the systems to cope with increasing predation by large carnivores affecting the herd

## Responses of Life + Mil'Ouv to these needs

- 75 eco-pastoral diagnoses answer the farmers' technical questions and accompany them in developing their practices
- 12 technical workshops and 3 training days to share and discuss experiences and know-how
- 1 technical guide to promote knowledge and experimentations
- 1 collective reflection game for pastoral stock farmers: pastoral rummy (construction of a food system, adaptation to different

technical objectives, resistance to climate variations)

- 7 training courses intended for technicians in the agricultural and environmental sectors with the long-term aim of providing more relevant advice to a large number of stock farmers and creating a common culture between ecologists and pastoralists
- Involvement of local structures in accompanying the stock farmers and implementation of technical workshops to initiate lasting group dynamics rooted in the territories
- 1 collective work entitled "Terres pastorales" advocating pastoralism, developed by and for stock farmers to promote their work

## Perspectives

- Ensure the continuation of individual accompaniment for breeders by agricultural and environmental technicians
- Support and pursue peer-to-peer exchanges by developing networks of breeders and technicians at territorial level
- Continue promoting and recognising the work of breeders in order to highlight the advantages of pastoralism (ecological, economic and social)
- Enhance the awareness of numerous target groups (technicians, teachers, students in the agricultural and environmental sectors, elected representatives, administrations, breeders and users) with the cooperation of the stock farmers

## Resource organisations and networks :

Departemantal Chambers of Agriculture, Copage, Regional Chamber of Agriculture (CRA) Occitanie, Parc National des Cévennes (PNC), Parc Naturel Régional (PNR) des Grands Causses, CEN Languedoc-Roussillon, CEN Lozère, CIVAM, Montpellier Supagro – Institut de Florac, Institut de l'Elevage (IDELE)



## Our work with

### Technicians

*Support breeders and sheperds either individual or collective, facilitates discussions between farmers, agronomists and ecologists while promoting a common agro-environmental culture. It satisfies the need for an integrated view of social and environmental issues together with economic viability focusing on pastoralism. Dialogue between stock farmers, ecologists and agronomists helps create a common language offering stakeholders the chance to work together in a coherent process to develop the pastoralism of tomorrow.*





## Needs identified

Different needs identified among agricultural technicians and managers of natural areas during training courses and technical workshops :

- Train a pair of ecological and pastoral technicians who learn to work together and adopt a common language with the stock farmer (training in this common culture)
- Provide a fresh perspective of pastoral practices and formulate recommendations with the aim of meeting the challenges of agricultural production and ecological conservation
- Dialogue with stock farmers and work together to construct appropriate management plans that can be applied
- Identify and develop ties with potential partners within a territory
- Share and discuss experiences and initiatives implemented at national level
- Pool, adapt and update methods, tools and references meeting the different expectations and new challenges in a range of situations and contexts

## Responses of Life + Mil'Ouv to these needs

- 4 beneficiaries of the project (CEN L-R, PNC, Idele and Montpellier SupAgro, Institut de Florac) displaying competences in the fields of ecology and agronomy which have worked together for 4 years. Involvement of a number of other partners with numerous competences. Methodological contributions of pastoral departments (CRA Occitanie and Cerpam) with regard to the global approach of farms and herd feeding strategies
- 1 work pooling existing methods and tools resulting in the preparation of a shared eco-pastoral diagnoses methodology
- Partnerships pursued through other projects subsequent to Life + Mil'Ouv

## Resource organisations and networks :

Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB), Montpellier SupAgro - Institut de Florac, Resolia, Civam, réseau PaturAjust, Ferme pilote PNC, Programme MOH, CRA Occitanie, UMT Pasto, CEN L-R, PNC, Copage

- 7 training sessions with regard to the eco-pastoral diagnoses method to create a common eco-pastoral culture (71 ecological or pastoral technicians, 21 agronomy or ecology teaching staff)
- Technical workshops intended for technicians (e.g.: "Complementary grazing interventions" or "Managing a herd and the vegetation with electric fences")
- Interventions during conferences and external technical days
- The exchange of knowledge during the international meetings of Mediterranean agro-sylvo-pastoralism stakeholders (RIAAM) (193 participants, 87 speakers)
- The analysis of information, collected within the framework of 75 eco-pastoral diagnoses in order to identify and characterise more clearly pastoral farms using open environments. A capitalisation work should be pursued and developed before continuing the reference updating work in the long term.

## Perspectives

- Renew training sessions intended for technicians
- Improve the incorporation of ecological and production issues during collaboration with the stock farmers, through sharing competences and regards or the creation of posts with dual environmental and pastoral competences
- Promote the shared interest in this approach which is based on exchange and crossed competences and requires time and thus financial resources (implementation of solutions and communication among financiers to benefit from their support)
- Constitute mixed networks of breeders and designated technicians
- Implement relays by local structures on certain territories and transfer this mobilisation to new territories



## Our work with

### Students & teachers

*Between 1945 and 1973, French agricultural policy focused on the notions of “production” and “national food self-sufficiency”. Agricultural teaching echoed these objectives and training courses emphasised “productive efficiency” and “output”. Environmental questions did not seem to call production modes into question but appeared to be parallel aspects to be taken into account. The current challenge is to develop agricultural training courses by favouring a cross-cutting and deparitioning approach between agricultural production and environmental management and protection. The objective is to train future technicians capable of grasping agro-environmental issues as a whole.*





## Needs identified

- Enable ownership of existing tools by teaching staff
- Develop practical cases in the field
- Develop a pastoral culture among students in the agricultural and environmental fields, from senior high to bachelor level, by identifying the parts of referentials where this is possible.
- Decompartmentalise the agricultural production value chains and environmental management and protection value chains to create a common culture

## Responses of the project to these needs

- Occasional interventions in the training courses (CFPPA, professional master and bachelor courses)
- 7 training sessions with regard to the eco-pastoral diagnoses method to take charge of and adapt methods in cross-disciplinary agricultural BTS training modules (“Analysis, Conduct and Strategy of the Agricultural Company” and “Management and Protection of Nature”) and create a common eco-pastoral culture (21 agronomy or ecology teachers, 71 ecological or pastoral technicians)

- 1 teaching booklet to accompany teachers in transposing this approach to their establishment and incorporating it into the training modules from senior high to BTS. This makes it possible to teach their pupils and students, who will be the farmers of tomorrow.
- Supervision of 5 trainees, 2 tutored projects, 2 work-study contracts

## Perspectives

- Pursue interventions among students, future agricultural technicians, ecologists, breeders, shepherds and territorial stakeholders as well as the teachers who teach them. This will be done within the framework of the initial training of the GENA professional bachelor's degree and as part of the DGER's National Training Plan among agricultural high school teaching staff, thereby addressing future stock farmers and agricultural advisors
- Develop a training offer focussing on pastoral rummy, a product of the Life + Mil'Ouv project, for teachers and accompaniment in the classes with their teachers
- Call on existing mechanisms and training centres.

## Resource organisations and networks :

SupAgro Montpellier – Institut de Florac, Catalogue Chlorofil of the DGER, Conférences Melagri de l'enseignement agricole





## Our work with

### Elected representatives & representatives of the administration

Mediterranean pastoralism and the related activities are interdependent on other activities in the territories. It is important not to lose this connection otherwise our society will become further removed from the field of agriculture. It is necessary to increase awareness of the pastoral agricultural world, the difficulties and obstacles it can encounter and the expectations and benefits of pastoralism.

Pastoral activity must be consolidated in the territories by working with elected representatives, administrations and all local socio-economic stakeholders. To this end, it is necessary to create a link between these different stakeholders in order to encourage concerted actions enabling territorial support for stock farmers to be improved (financial aid, political choices, facilitation of administrative procedures, access to land, the integration of pastoralism in local urban planning documents, etc.). The aim of this is to accompany and support local initiatives undertaken by the municipalities or other communities with a view to maintaining or re-deploying pastoralism.

Work must also be conducted to encourage and improve the incorporation of pastoralism into applications of the Common Agricultural Policy and to achieve a better distribution of aid to the benefit of agro-pastoral stock farming.





## Needs identified

- Encourage concerted actions designed to support stock farmers
- Improve incorporation of the pastoral activity in urban planning documents
- Accompany and support local initiatives in favour of pastoralism implemented by the municipalities and other communities
- Encourage and improve the incorporation of pastoralism in applications of the Common Agricultural Policy

## Responses of the project to these needs

- Involvement of elected representatives in the actions and decision-making process at the different stages of the project
- Work carried out on the development of peri-urban agro-pastoralism in Montpellier with targeted meetings of administration officers and elected representatives
- 3 training days intended for elected representatives and representatives of administration on the following topics: “interaction between pastoralism and public policies”, “integration of pastoralism in planning documents” and “pastoral redeployment within the framework of compensatory measures” (84 people in total)
- 1 sensitisation day intended for elected representatives of the PNC to encourage support for pastoralism through access to land (94 people)
- 1 collective work entitled “Terres pastorales”, in particular enhancing awareness of the benefits of taking account of pastoral activity in territorial dynamics (offered to 55 elected representatives and representatives of administration: region, département, DREAL, DDTM)

## Perspectives

- Ensure the intervention of public policies for the implementation of “pastoral promotion” and the protection of pastoral land
- Mobilise urban planning tools (municipal map, land use plan and local urban planning map) at municipal level to identify and protect pastoral zones by incorporating them into the land development process
- Conduct dialogue between local communities, local elected representatives, stock farmers and pastoral land users with a view to preparing planning documents in order to conduct strong actions conducive to pastoralism. For example, avoid classifying abandoned agricultural land that can still be used by pastoral stock farmers as wooded, modify a Local Urbanism Plan to install a sheep pen, provide for “pastoral exceptions” to enable the construction of agricultural buildings in natural areas to be protected, etc.
- Address other topics through training and sensitisation days or the creation of communication media (in particular concerning territories where pastoralism was present in the past and could be reintroduced)
- Publicise initiatives such as the intercommunal pastoral pact, or POPIs in the PACA region
- Promote the incorporation of pastoralism in the French application of the CAP vis-à-vis other European countries. Consolidate the role of pastoral activity in future applications

## Resource organisations and networks :

CRA Occitanie, CEN Languedoc-Roussillon, CEN Lozère, PNC, PNR des Grands Causses, Région Occitanie, AFB, Montpellier SupAgro - Institut de Florac



## Identity sheet :

LIFE + Mil'Ouv LIFE12 INF/FR/000735

LIFE+ Information-Communication project 2013-2017

Coordinating beneficiary: Conservatoire d'espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon

Associate beneficiaries: Institut de l'élevage, Parc national des Cévennes, Montpellier SupAgro - Institut de Florac

Partners: FR CIVAM L-R, Regional Chamber of Agriculture Occitanie, Départemental Chambers of Agriculture of Gard, Lozère, Aveyron, Ardèche, Copage, Cerpam, Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Lozère, IRD, Grands Causses regional nature park, UMT Pasto joint research unit, CIHEAM-IAMM

Budget: 1 628 059 € over 4 years (2013-2017)

Financial partners: European Union – LIFE, CGET Massif central – FNADT, Entente interdépartementale des Causses et des Cévennes, Vinci Autoroutes réseau ASF

[www.lifemilouv.org](http://www.lifemilouv.org)



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### Project overview :

The aim of Mil'Ouv was to contribute to improving the use of natural resources by the stock farming sector and the conservation status of agro-pastoral habitats in Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean regions...

...by accompanying the implementation of pastoral and ecological referentials as well as encouraging the dissemination of appropriate know-how, information, methods and advice intended for all the stakeholders in the agro-pastoral sector (stock farmers, technicians, students, teachers and decision-makers).



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