

Transhumance and Rural Development 2021

1st Edition



**International conference hosted by
the University of Shkoder "Luigj
Gurakuqi" in collaboration with the
Institute for Rural Research (IRR)**

10th and 11th of December 2021, Shkoder,
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

1st Edition of the ‘Transhumance and Rural Development’ International Conference hosted by the University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi” in collaboration with the Institute for Rural Research, on the 10th and 11th of December 2021.
Shkodra, Albania

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The University of Shkodra is committed to producing a publication with the proceedings from the conference. Immediately after the conference a consultation will take place to plan the publications.



Table of Contents

Panel 1 and 2: Transhumance, Natural and Cultural Heritage (Hybrid)	7
<i>Chairs of the online session: Dr. Bresena Kopliku & MSc. Erard Çurçija</i>	7
<i>Chair of the in-person session: Prof. Assoc. Tahir Latifi</i>	7
1. Title: Shepherds are guardians of the future - biocultural heritage, environmental and social frictions, and sustainable regenerations	7
<i>Author(s): Prof. Letizia BINDI</i>	7
2. Title: Pastoral culture among Albanians	8
<i>Author(s): Prof. Dr. Ardian MARASHI</i>	8
3. Title: Safeguarding and strengthening transhumance in Kelmend	9
<i>Author(s): Dr. MSc, DMV, frvcs, Sidibe MAMADOU¹ and Dr. (Cand.) Martine WOLFF²</i>	9
4. Title: The new paths of transhumance in Sardinia	10
<i>Author(s): Assistant Prof. Sebastiano MANNIA</i>	10
5. Title: Valorizing pastoralism and transhumance in Greece	11
<i>Author(s): Dr. Athanasios RAGKOS</i>	11
6. Title: Policies and practices in Mediterranean pastoralism.....	12
<i>Author(s): Dr. Michele NORI</i>	12
7. Title: Private struggle and social conflict. An intimate and public photo-story of the utmost Albanian shepherds.....	13
<i>Author(s): Dr. Francesca HAAS</i>	13
8. Title: Invention of tradition: transhumance in the rural tourism in Croatia	14
<i>Author(s): Dr. Vedran OBUĆINA</i>	14
9. Title: Transhumant tribal population in Jammu and Kashmir: Survey of socio-economic and cultural practices for ‘welfare and developmental resource planning’	15
<i>Author(s): Dr. Shahid Iqbal CHOUDHARY</i>	15
10. Title: Transhumance in Dukagjini plateau in Kosovo: the view from economic aspects and mountain tourism	16
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Tahir LATIFI</i>	16
11. Title: The spirit of the mountains reflected in phraseology and paremiology	17
<i>Author(s): Dr. Rezearta MURATI and MSc. Arjola LESHA</i>	17
12. Title: A cost analyses of the cost of shepherds (çoban) at the tranhumans period – Albanian Alps	18
<i>Author(s): Prof. Dr. Zef GJETA¹, Agim PEPKOLAJ², Prof. Dr. Luigj TURMALAJ³, and Alfred HAXHARI⁴</i>	18
13. Title: Preparing the sheep for the breeding season	19



<i>Author(s): Prof. Dr Luigj TURMALAJ¹, Dr. Gerald MUÇA¹, and Prof. Dr Zef GJETA^{1,2}</i>	19
14. Title: Transhumant Shepherding on Shara Mountain: Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Rural Development in the Context of a National Park	20
<i>Author(s):. Arta STAROVA</i>	20
15. Title: Vulnerability and resilience towards a sustainable development. Transhumance in Albania, an ecocultural heritage confronted to globality	21
<i>Author(s): Dr. (Cand.) Martine WOLFF</i>	21
Panel 3: Languages, education, and wellbeing (Hybrid)	23
<i>Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Rrezarta Dracini & Dr. Zamira Shkreli</i>	23
1. Title: The identity and culture of transhumance in the work of Martin Camaj	23
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Rrezarta DRAÇINI</i>	23
2. Title: The way of formation of terminology in the Albanian language before the Second World War	24
<i>Author(s): Dr. Karmen LAZRI and Dr. Zamira SHKRELI</i>	24
3. Title: Fjalori i shtjelluem i gjuhës shqipe i Át Benedikt Demës	25
<i>Author(s): Dr. Anisa KOSTERI and Doc. Bora LOGU</i>	25
4. Title: Mountain tourism and its impact on human mental health	26
<i>Author(s): Dr. Arlinda HALLUNOVI YMERI and Dr. Eranda HALLUNI BILALI</i>	26
5. Title: Sociocultural aspects of gender identity within the Transhumance concept	27
<i>Author(s): Dr. Merita HYSA</i>	27
6. Title: Loneliness and anxiety during the covid-19 pandemic among students of university of Shkoder	28
<i>Author(s): Dr. Elona HASMUJAJ</i>	28
7. Title: Students' perception on teaching quality in primary school practices	29
<i>Author(s): Dr. Rina MUKA GERA and Dr. Pranvera KRAJA</i>	29
8. Title: Making the future of work inclusive of people with disabilities: A.C.C.E.N.T project as an action approach	30
<i>Author(s): Doc. Proc/MSc. Suela NDOJA¹, MSc. Angjela ZENELI², & MSc. Stefan PALOKA³</i>	30
9. Title: Children cognitive assessment using draw-a-person-test – the case of Shkoder with kindergartens and preschools children	31
<i>Author(s): Dr. Migena KECAJ and Dr. Andi HILA</i>	31
Panel 4: Socio-economic aspects of rural development (In person)	32
<i>Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Drini Imami & Prof. Assoc. Edvin Zhllima</i>	32
1. Title: Why tobacco farmers continue to grow tobacco? – a literature review	32



<i>Author(s): Dr. Irena GJIKA</i>	32
2. Title: For a sustainable development of livestock in the areas of Northern Albania	32
<i>Author(s): Prof. Dr. Zef GJETA¹, Agim PEPKOLAJ², Prof. Dr. Luigj TURMALAJ³, and Prof. Dr. Sokrat JANI³</i>	33
3. Title: Intermediary power and value chain organization.....	34
<i>Author(s): Dr. Orjon XHOXHI</i>	34
4. Title: The impact of covid-19 on agricultural loans in Albania	35
<i>Author(s): Dr. Denada HAFIZI BUSHI¹ and Dr. Nevila KIRI²</i>	35
5. Title: Between climate change and covid-19 impact – the case of citrus sector in Albania ...	36
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Drini IMAMI, Dr. Orjon XHOXHI, Prof. Assoc. Edvin ZHLLIMA, Prof. Dr. Engjell SKRELI</i>	36
6. Title: Farmers’ financial education key determinant factors – the case of vegetable sector in Kosovo	37
<i>Author(s): Dr. Aurora HOXHA¹, Dr. Edmira OZUNI¹, and Dr. Ekrem HOXHA²</i>	37
7. Title: Inequality of opportunities and perceptions about redistribution – the great rural-urban divide	38
<i>Author(s): Dr. Elvira DRISHTI</i>	38
8. Title: Perception of risk to health and food safety in meat value chain.....	39
<i>Author(s): Dr. Gentjan MEHMETI and Prof. Assoc. Eda LUGA</i>	39
9. Title: Willingness to pay for market information – the case of farmers in Albania.....	40
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Edvin ZHLLIMA, Dr. Orjon XHOXHI, Prof. Dr. Engjell SKRELI, & Prof. Assoc. Drini IMAMI</i>	40
10. Title: Main veterinary measures for small livestock during migration.....	41
<i>Author(s): Prof. Dr. Xhelil KOLECI, Prof. Dr. Luigj TURMALAJ, Prof. Dr. Zef GJETA, Dr. Gerald MUÇA, and Prof. Dr. Ruzhdi KEÇI</i>	41
Panel 5: Rural development and sustainability (In person)	42
<i>Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Nevila Dibra & Dr. Aurora Dibra</i>	42
1. Title: Transhumance in the Albanian Alps, and the natural and human conditions in its favour that challenge the sustainable development of these areas.	42
<i>Author(s): Dr. Flora GJONI and Dr. Bresena KOPLIKU</i>	42
2. Title: Agritouristic development, possibility of new rural spaces	43
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Nevila DIBRA & Dr. Bresena Kopliku</i>	43
3. Title: Rural development and poverty, evidence from Albania.....	44
<i>Author(s): Prof. Assoc. Ardita BORIÇI¹ and MSc. Alba KRUIJA^{1,2}</i>	44
4. Title: The role of agriculture in the development of the peri-urban area of Shkoder city – Rrethinat administrative unit.....	45
<i>Author(s): Dr. Dritan RUSTJA</i>	45



5.	Title: Voice is given to the transhumant shepherds from Northern Albania. Toward which rural sustainable development?	46
	<i>Author(s): Dr. (Cand.) Martine WOLFF</i>	46
6.	Title: Development of rural tourism in north Albania as a premise for the sustainable economy in the region	48
	<i>Author(s): MSc. Valbona MAZREKU¹, Dr. Aurora DIBRA², and MSc. Valjeta BAJRAKTARI³</i>	48
7.	Title: The integration of soft and hard skills in urban and rural areas	49
	<i>Author(s): Dr. Ylrije BORIÇI KRAJA and Dr. Alba BERBERI</i>	49
8.	Title: Biodiversity conservation as a tool for sustainable development in Albania	50
	<i>Author(s): Dr. Aurora DIBRA, Prof. Assoc. Rrok SMAJLAJ, and Prof. Assoc. Marash RAKAJ</i>	50
9.	Title: Importance of agricultural systems for sustainability	52
	<i>Author(s): Dr. Brikene DIONIZI¹ and Prof. Dr. Donika KERCINI²</i>	52
10.	Title: Industrial district, inter-sectoral development impulse in the region of Malesi e Madhe 53	
	<i>Author(s): Dr. Nertila DILAVERI</i>	53



Panel 1 and 2: Transhumance, Natural and Cultural Heritage (Hybrid)

Chairs of the online session: Dr. Bresena Koplaku & MSc. Erard Çurçija

Chair of the in-person session: Prof. Assoc. Tahir Latifi

1. **Title:** Shepherds are guardians of the future - biocultural heritage, environmental and social frictions, and sustainable regenerations

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Abstract

This paper aims at outlining the crucial questions about pastoralism in the present environmental and sociocultural transition. Rangelands and pastures are increasingly threatened, breded biodiversity is progressively dismantled, traditional and local shepherds' knowledge is often dismissed or commodified.

Nonetheless the mainstream discourse of sustainability is apparently enhancing values and practices of extensive pastoralism, though often such a discourse remains a narration.

The paper focuses on some global processes of revitalization and heritagization of pastoralism and transhumance throughout their results and discontents.

Key words: Transhumance, pastoralism, revitalization, heritage



2. Title: Pastoral culture among Albanians

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Abstract

When it comes to transhumance or pastoral migration, it is impossible not to appreciate the crucial role of shepherds in the creation and development of traditional popular culture; a tradition which finds its earliest incarnation precisely in the central figure of the shepherd. The purpose of this paper will be to highlight the old process of culturalization of the rural population thanks to this catalyst ferment that the shepherds carry with them in both directions: from the place of origin to that of their transhumance and from there back again to the country of origin to keep going to the next transhumance and the one that will follow so that the process of culturalization will end up into crystallizing and becoming a cultural ferment at the level of society.

Just as the milk cream which gives the shepherds the energy of the flock, the shepherds, cream of the community, nourish the community with the energy of nature and pastures they have visited, of the places they have walked on and of the people they have met and fraternized with or even created alliances and a family. This process of genuine socialization, repeated thousands of times, and therefore anchored in the collective consciousness, goes hand in hand and consolidates the process of culturalization, by opening communities to each other and thus instilling in society a spirit of freedom and of interregional, even interethnic solidarity.

In the current context, when all this millennial pastoral culture is threatened with slow extinction or dramatic disappearance, it becomes necessary to highlight the emancipatory aspects and values of shepherds and their families as the avant-garde community of traditional society in a pastoral background where they have been operating and interacting since the birth of humanity.

Key words: Albanians, pastoral culture, traditional society, process culturalization, transhumance.



3. Title: Safeguarding and strengthening transhumance in Kelmend

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Abstract

Our work essentially aimed at two objectives: a rapid diagnosis of the main constraints linked to transhumance in Kelmend and the identification with the actors of solutions for real economic development. Transhumance in northern Albania mainly involves sheep, goats with a few cattle. These herds are led by their whole family, from the plain more than 250 km to the mountains. Equines, sometimes vehicles, ensure the transport of men and equipment. Dogs protect the herd from wolves and bears. Some Albanian livestock technicians ignore the value of transhumance, which they otherwise find archaic, in fact poorly informed about the importance of transhumance. The main constraints to transhumance identified are - The reduction of agricultural land with the increase in populations and the occupation of land by mining and industrial activities - The health coverage of livestock is poor exposing the animals to various diseases with risks of zoonosis. Production during transhumance, milk, meat and live animals are not well sold due to the lack of a local market - More and more, several breeders do not have a minimum quota of animals to enable them to live comfortably. Four main advantages and reasons are identified to safeguard transhumance in Albania: - Food products originating from Albanian high mountain pastures are of exceptional nutritional quality. Transhumance, a factor of social peace, unites the populations of the plains with those of the mountains. This mixing of communities is useful for the development of the social capital essential for rural development, no development without peace - Transhumance is respectful of the agro-pastoral environment, of the emblematic landscapes, maintains the vitality of the pastoral economy, It allows the increase of the productivity of the herds (milk, meat), of their reproductivity (more calves) and the maintenance of the livestock capital; it allows to satisfy the needs of the populations of the mountainous zones. All these production costs based on pastoralism are less expensive. Faced with these difficulties, innovative actions have been proposed: - Registration of transhumance as an intangible cultural heritage at the UNESCO - Strengthening of the sanitary security of the herds, prophylaxis and curative treatments - Increasing the income of transhumants, improving their living conditions, especially the schooling of children - Better organization of the milk, meat and live animal sectors in order to better sell them

Key words: transhumance, constraints, safeguard, economic development



4. **Title:** The new paths of transhumance in Sardinia

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Abstract

In the last century, one of the shared objectives for the improvement and rationalization of sheep herding in Sardinia was the replacement of transhumance with the sedentarization of shepherds and flocks. For this reason, in the seventies - following a series of changes in which shepherds played a decisive role - we witness the gradual disappearance of the long transhumances that involved farmers in inland areas from autumn to spring. However, the mobility of animals over short distances still persists today, for climatic reasons but above all for the lack of pastures.

In recent years, there is a renewed interest in transhumant pastoralism, which is not uniquely explained by its recent inclusion among the intangible cultural heritages by Unesco. Transhumance is in fact memory, it requires its re-enactment because it is identity, it is intrinsic to the pastoral culture of the island. But transhumance could be above all a decisive practice for the enhancement of pastoral landscapes, for the protection of the same, to curb the depopulation of inland areas, places from which transhumance took - and takes - life; to limit the abandonment of the countryside and the desertification of some places, for the relaunch of agricultural products, for the protection of the wider cultural heritage of the communities involved and at the same time for the enhancement of the role of the shepherd.

Key words: Sardinia, transhumance, pastoral culture, re-enactment



5. Title: Valorizing pastoralism and transhumance in Greece

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Abstract

Extensive livestock production in the form of pastoralism has been the main (or only) source of livelihoods for many Greek mountain areas. CAP measures have been put into place in the last decades to boost their economic activity towards diversification to activities downstream the supply chain (processing) or to non-farming alternatives, including options for integrating livestock production to other value chains (such as tourism). This presentation demonstrates the results of socioeconomic analysis of pastoral systems in five research projects that have dealt with pastoral production in parts of Greece in the last decade. Each one examines specific elements of pastoral production: THALES project (2012-15) about a diagnosis of structure and dynamics of sheep and goat transhumance in the country; iSAGE project (2016-20) where a case study examined the alternatives for value chains valorising the high quality milk from transhumant farms; TrueCheese project (ongoing), where the socioeconomic and environmental impact of a transhumance-specific certified product is investigated; PACTORES project (ongoing), where the Greek case study examines the role of subsidies in socio-cultural transformations of pastoral systems in southern Greece; and PAPESHE project (2018-21), where the public preferences regarding a local breed in the cross-border area Greece-North Macedonia were examined and assessed. The presentation shows how focus on these different elements has evolved in a relatively short period (10 years), from a state of low recognition and minimum knowledge for pastoral systems (in terms of structure and dynamics) to an upscaled form with higher reputation and initiatives to valorise their outputs and contributions. Various endogenous (e.g. farm size, production practices) and exogenous (e.g. farm policies, consumer trends) factors are examined.

Key words: Greece, pastoral systems, research projects, value chains



6. Title: Policies and practices in Mediterranean pastoralism

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Abstract

Within the Pactores and PASTRES projects a comprehensive analysis of policy framework regulating pastoral systems and rangeland management in the Mediterranean settings has been undertaken. In southern Europe as much as in the Maghreb and the Mashreq, policy rules, subsidies and development trajectories represent important drivers of the reconfiguration that has been taking place in mountainous, dryland and inner settings that characterise pastoral territories in the Mediterranean region.

Many pastoral regions show signs of stress, in either socio-economic and ecological terms; problems related to generational renewal and environmental degradation are constant concerns. Climate as well as ecosystem changes, shifts in consumption patterns, decreasing mobility, growing wildlife threats, value chain governance, competition with intensive systems and trade dynamics and relationships with encroaching interests and actors are critical features influencing the evolving policy frame impinging on pastoral regions.

The important decrease of pastoral farms throughout the Mediterranean indicates that more appropriate policy paradigms need to be forged, in order to reverse current trends with a view to enhance the effectiveness and consistency of the significant political and financial investments addressing pastoral practices, farms and territories.

Key words: pastoral systems, pastoral development trajectories, pastoral management and policies, generational renewal, Mediterranean regions



7. Title: Private struggle and social conflict. An intimate and public photo-story of the utmost Albanian shepherds.

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Abstract

Every year, families from the villages of the Cemi valley move up into the highlands following the needs of their livestock, re-establishing the rhythms of a daily life six hundred metres higher than the rest of the year. Between June and September, the lives of the families of transhumant shepherds take on new rhythms, linked to the different environment and routine of the highland, the scarcity of some resources and abundance of others, a strong dependence on nature and weather changes, the lack of telecommunications tools and networks and of electrical appliances that in recent years have reached some houses in the winter-settlement villages. This presentation aims to be a photographic narration of the intimacy of a family of shepherds who continues to live in continuity with the ancient local customs and practices between the villages of Kalcë and Lepushë in Kelmend, in northern Albania. We will carry out an analysis of everyday life, including the care of the house, the animals, the making of dairy products, and at the same time structuring, starting from childhood, a deep knowledge of the natural world, of the rich local biodiversity.

Alongside the circular regularity of life in the isolated huts in the highlands, we will present the manifestations through which local tradition, which we will distinguish from daily customs and practices, is reinforced on occasions of community unity or celebration of cultural traits typical of the region, in a political and demonstrative key.

Finally, we will problematize the scarcity of prospects for the locals and the consequent draining of the mountain population, in order to underline the urgency of having to implement coordinated action before this complex system (natural, cultural and social) will be too fragile to continue existing and resisting external pressures. The effects of climate change and the so-called “anthropocene” (or “capitalocene”, if we hold a few humans responsible of the crisis, rather than all of them) are evident in the Kelmend mountains, and any anthropization of the area that is not in accordance with natural balances and pastoral practices would represent a high risk of ethnocide and ecological disaster, as it is already happening to a large extent, due to the absence of the State, the advance of private external investors and an ever shrinking native population.

Key words: nature, pastoralism, transhumance, Kelmend, anthropocene, capitalocene, population drain, youth



8. Title: Invention of tradition: transhumance in the rural tourism in Croatia

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Abstract

Agro-pastoralism in the mountainous and Mediterranean regions of Croatia shares a lot of similarities with other transhumance traditions in the Balkans and the wider Mediterranean region. While there are now rare examples of real transhumance shepherds today, romantic ideas of leaving for high mountains in summer and coming back to the valleys in winter persisted over the decades. Many old shepherd houses are now refurbished for holiday homes. With the arrival of the rural tourism boom in Croatia in the last decade, a new discourse was needed to uphold the tourist offer in this rising niche of the tourism business.

The new touristic product offers the guests an imaginative discourse and image of the historical pastoral living, which has little to do with the actual past. The accommodation and the rural houses are accustomed to the modern tourist standards, destroying the historical architecture and small space where people used to dwell. The food offer is well beyond any diet shepherds of the old had often supplemented with modern recipes. The handicrafts and wool products give an impression of a large manufactory process that never really existed.

While the creation of new tourism offers is beneficial for the local communities, there is a need to protect the historical truism of the transhumance lifestyle. This paper is an addition to this debate, mostly from the local experiences and with the personal background of the shepherd family.

Key words: transhumance lifestyle, agro-pastoralism, Croatia, rural tourism, food offer



9. Title: Transhumant tribal population in Jammu and Kashmir: Survey of socio-economic and cultural practices for 'welfare and developmental resource planning'

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Abstract

Transhumance is a centuries old practice in north Indian territory of Jammu & Kashmir involving biannual vertical migration of Gujjar and Bakkerwal communities along with their livestock. Owing to this unique socio-economic and cultural practice they were declared as Scheduled Tribes in 1991 with an aim for focused welfare and developmental initiatives. A massive survey was conducted to generate transhumance database in support for rural development and welfare budgeting. The first survey of transhumant tribal population was conducted recently involving more than 10,000 officials and volunteers reaching out to highland pastures for assessment of livelihood on various parameters of rural development viz access to services, potable drinking water, power supply, healthcare, education, healthcare, welfare schemes and social security measures. The survey aimed to provide the much required database for welfare planning of transhumant tribal population. Multi-disciplinary teams involving officials from planning, statistics, administration, revenue, forests, sheep and animal husbandry departments were deputed to highland pastures in 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. A door to door survey was conducted on the mountains covering details related to population, customs, economic condition, education, health and other parameters. The origin, destination and transhumance routes were delineated as intra-district, inter-district, inter-province and inter-state/territory. Data analysis for sectoral policy formulation followed. Survey of transhumant tribal population identified the places of origin of tribal groups, halting places and routes; livestock husbandry, traditional knowledge, culture and customs. It also provided a comprehensive overview of access to healthcare, nutrition, education and welfare services. Dhoks (highland pastures) were mapped indicating complete information of Transhumant population. More than 1,00,00 transhumant families were covered. Policy planning viz a viz transhumant population welfare and developmental measures including livelihood support system. On the basis of database generated in first survey of transhumant population the tribal affairs department rolled out a number of developmental and welfare project like transit accommodations, transhumant health plan, veterinary care plan, livelihood units, educational facilities, access to food, rights over minor forest produce and connectivity. INR 5.10 billion budget sanctioned for transhumant support system based on population and peculiar requirements.

Key words: transhumance, tribal population, development, livelihood, welfare systems



10. Title: Transhumance in Dukagjini plateau in Kosovo: the view from economic aspects and mountain tourism

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Abstract

In Isniq village, Deçan municipality (west Kosovo) and other highland regions in Dukagjini Plateau in Kosovo, transhumance is still a common practice. Until the end of 20th century, respectively the end of 1998-99 war, mountains in the region, generally, have been utilized for grazing. While recently, in addition to grazing – pastoral economy, it seems an increasing interest to using them for tourism as well. Furthermore, due to the quality of air and food, vacations are also done for health rehabilitation purposes. The former traditional cottages (stane, tëbana) that belonged to herdsman and their families now are turned also as cottages for holidays. Hikers and other people that do their vacations in the mountains are served with food from the garden and fresh dairy products. Simultaneously, by selling bio-meat and bio-dairy products, families in the mountains complement their pastoral economy incomes. My aim here is to analyse the post 1999 trend of consumerism where ‘tradition’, ‘ethnic’ and ‘state’ identity become commodities, expressed and served in the interrelationship between transhumance and mountain tourism. This paper is based on my ethnographic fieldwork conducted from 2011-2015, as well as in the summer of 2017, 2018, and 2020 in Isniq and its mountains in west Kosovo.

Key words: Dugagjini Plateau, Kosovo, transhumance, identity, mountain tourism



11. Title: The spirit of the mountains reflected in phraseology and paremiology

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Abstract

The paper discusses the lexical-semantic aspects of phrases and units related to the mountain, in language, particularly Albanian, and provides some examples. Phraseological and parameological units being specific units of the language contain cultural information about the history, traditions, and everyday life of the people speaking the language. Living in the mountains surrounded by a breathtaking panorama, coexisting with the animals, being subject to environmental harsh, interrelating with a relatively small group of people reflect typical features of the language and especially of phrases and units. Examples of expressions and proverbs brought from spoken and written language explain how the meaning of the words related to the mountains is metaphorically transferred to phrases and units. Detecting the world image reflected in Phraseology and Paremiology, in this particular case study the mountain image, is the main goal of the conceptual approach of this study.

Key words: mountain, language, phraseology, paremiology, metaphor, semantics, denotation.



12. Title: A cost analyses of the cost of shepherds (çoban) at the tranhumans period – Albanian Alps

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Abstract

One of the most populous areas of the area, the Albanian Alps sometimes called the Cursed Mountains or even the Blessed Mountains, are a continuation of the Dinaric Mountains and lie in the north of Albania, in the west of Kosovo and in the southeast of Montenegro. Around them, in the mountainous and pre-mountainous part of the country, an intensive life develops which is very much related to the breeding of livestock and the activity of shepherds. Separated from the deep valleys, now resembling swallowing gorges, with forest greenery, surrounded by bare and gaping walls, by dangerous necks and jagged peaks, the mountains of these areas form a magnificent and inspiring scene, which does not will be late to become the central tourist point of Albania. It is in this area that they practice their old profession: shepherding, many inhabitants of the area, with which they have connected their livelihood and have inherited this master from generation to generation. But, they are family committed, work with all their might and fail to have visible growth from one year to the next. They do not make accurate calculations regarding expenses and income, so they do not have a clear balance. Mostly always, they do not take into account their work, and often not even capital expenditures, such as stani. In this article we will make an analysis of the balance of a typical pastoral family, thinking that in the future there will be more of them and to determine the dead point or where the shepherd comes out "break-even point", so that by change the parameters, for example, increase the number of heads, achieve an improvement in the balance sheet and a sustainable development on the farm.

Key words: sustainable development, balance, expenditures, incoes, transhumanse, animals, migration.



13. Title: Preparing the sheep for the breeding season

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Abstract

Sheep are seasonal polyestrous animals. Sheep sexual activity takes place from June to August in hilly and mountainous areas. The estral cycle lasts on average 17 days and pregnancy 142 to 155 days. Preparing sheep for the breeding season (reproduction) remains one of the main tasks for shepherds and specialists. In order to use the genetic capacities of the breeds that were bred in the middle and high climatic zones, some methodological aspects are needed which enable the maximum reproduction of the herd. In general, breeds bred in hilly and mountainous areas have reduced ability of reproduction and production indicators (indigenous breeds) as the Shkodra breed which has a fertility of 1 to 1.2 lambs per sheep and annual milk production on average 60-80 liters per sheep. However, some specific and improved breeds such as Bardhoka and Ruda have high indicators of reproduction and milk production (1.2-1.5 lambs per sheep) and milk production of 100 to 140 liters of lactating sheep. If you treat both sheep and rams well, these indicators can be improved. Among the main influencing factors are; nutrition, breed, breeding conditions, seasonality, hormonal treatment, "ram" factor, etc. Supplementary food treatment should begin 15-20 days before the start of the breeding season (flushing). This nutritional supplement should be from 150 to 250 gr / head per day. The role of the "dash" factor in stimulating and synchronizing heat is an opportunity to increase reproduction indicators in sheep. For this purpose, the rams should be separated from the herd about 2 months before the mating campaign. Selecting the richest pastures before and during the mating season increases the number of lambs per sheep by up to 0.2. Special hormonal treatments (programmed reproduction) can be applied on semi-extensive breeding farms. Controlled mating and males with high reproductive capacities guarantee a high fertilization rate.

Key words: sheep, ram, breeding, breed, food, estral cycle



14. Title: Transhumant Shepherding on Shara Mountain: Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Rural Development in the Context of a National Park

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Abstract

Following 27 years of persistent work, in 2021 Shara Mountain in North Macedonia was finally granted status of a national park. Conversations concerning rural development and pastoral/agricultural practices will play a crucial role in the parks' management plans as seasonal semi-nomadic (traditional) shepherding is still active in this region albeit the progressive decline in shepherd and livestock population. Consequently, overgrowth of shrubbery and the spread of forest areas is a common sight in the mountains' pastures with land abandonment having effects on the areas' biodiversity. Shara is a unique case in North Macedonia, in which the new management plans could offer an opportunity to successfully synergize and stimulate sustainable rural development and nature conservation in the country. The objectives of this study are to understand local shepherds' contemporary issues, views of living in a national park and their understanding of what this would entail for their business and livelihoods. Additionally, the shepherds were asked on their willingness to participate in adapting to more environmentally sustainable practices while also working with equipment that would aid in appropriate development of their work. By appropriate development it is understood that this equipment would help increase their quality of life, economic revenue, flock security and allow them to compete more efficiently in the market. Strong interrelations and co-dependencies between heritages and communities are capable of producing a variety of benefits, some of which are environmentally related. Most shepherds interviewed on this mountain inherited the practice and find that it should be sustained although it is difficult. Lack of communication concerning the management of the park and the benefits it could provide them leads to shepherds believing that the new protected status would harm their businesses by restricting their movement in the mountain. Furthermore, the general idea of incorporating rural tourism is relatively new and much more frequent in younger farmers' business models. Lastly, by supporting shepherds through the use of different vital equipment, they could be encouraged to continue as well as adopt sustainable practices in their work whilst simultaneously preserving the integrity of the tradition.

Key words: transhumance, intangible cultural heritage, sustainable rural development, national park, nature conservation, shepherding



15. Title: Vulnerability and resilience towards a sustainable development. Transhumance in Albania, an ecocultural heritage confronted to globality

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Abstract

Under which conditions can we create sustainable development? Regarding rural development, our challenge is in Albania that poverty has to be rethink in the dynamic of cultural landscapes and socioecological relations, within as well context of conservation of the traditional local knowledge and development of innovations. Appropriate strategies must be set up, giving the opportunity to the shepherds and their herds for transforming their vulnerability into resilience, adaptation and innovation, in respect of their traditional culture. It is all together, hand in hand, that adaptative openings will enhance a sustainable living and a fruitful rural development. But also resilience should reshape the goals and objectives of development interventions contributing to the emergence of a wider holistic vision towards a real change of development practices, building a bridge rethinking our expertise and giving voice to the shepherds and their herds.

I will focus my illustration on Kelmend and Dukagjin, part of the Albanian Alps which has an agropastoral multimillionaire culture. These mountains offered a refuge to shepherd's populations enabling preservation of an autochthonous culture in spite of all the invaders and a lot of particularities regarding their way of being, thinking and actions. All this underlies the very rich traditions and culture of this region. These mountains are also a space of circulation, exchange and communication which brings out a specific configuration with a very rich ecosystem. And there, the shepherd with his herd with all its transhumance traditions holds a specific role, having shaped the cultural landscapes in very specific ways, having accumulated traditional knowledge and ways of being, thinking, representing and acting giving their own imprint and identity. Therefore, is offered to the world exceptional cultural and natural scenic values, within a unique interaction between people and the nature, giving sense to all this environment and all the beauty of the culture which is integrated. All the traditional values shaping Albanian identity are taking their source from this sociocultural dynamic of life which originates in very ancient time. This agropastoral culture is enhancing a geographic, agronomic, cultural and sociological organization that encompasses the basis



and the heritage dimension of the pastoral identity of this region and cannot be erased. It owned to be part of the highest valued ethnocultural Mediterranean heritage.

Although this ecoculture is actually being threatened by many factors which I will analyse, nevertheless its inhabitants showed all through history resilience and adaptative abilities defending their ecocultural territories and beliefs, willingness to go on living in interaction and harmony, protecting and transmitting to the world all this heritage And there within this chaotic irruption of modernity, the shepherd remains, with his deep listening, attachment and respect towards life, his traditional knowledge, with all his quality of care to the animals, to the environment as well as to the entire society, an emblematic figure as actor of sustainable development creator of peace, harmony and stabilization.

In my presentation we will try to think together how this intangible ecocultural heritage can become a driving force for sustainable regional rural development in spite of all unpredictability. The shepherd community in the Albanian Alps always lived in deep precarity. The climatic crisis is actually, between other factors, amplifying their vulnerability. Beyond the balance of the nature, how pastoralist perspectives can give reliability on sustainability? How development promoters (agencies) can rethink their expertise, giving appropriate voice to the locals and their traditional knowledge enabling deep listening, dialogue and collective choices? How could we find a dynamic of coevolution, safeguarding and regenerating extensive pastoralism in the context of modernity and climate change? Is it not altogether that we have to build resilience? I understood confronted to my field work that adaptation, innovation and transformation are key dimensions for resilience and resistance making! The Albanian Alps also began to welcome tourism. Such a fact can also help economic development of the region, but not at any price. It must be conjugated in harmony with this agropastoral traditional activities which is the identity of all this region and which merits all our attention, support and protection. My presentation owns to open some reflection on all these issues. All your suggestions are really welcome. Let us advance altogether with shared competence

Keywords: ecocultural, pastoral sociocultural dynamic, world heritage, traditional knowledge, vulnerability and resilience, adaptation and innovation, cofactors of an appropriate rural development, coevolution

Key words: transhumance, Kelmend, Dukagjin, agropastoral, rural development



Panel 3: Languages, education, and wellbeing (Hybrid)

Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Rrezarta Dracini & Dr. Zamira Shkreli

1. Title: The identity and culture of transhumance in the work of Martin Camaj

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Abstract

The written inheritance of the Albanian language has a special importance, because it witnesses the life, tradition and the psyche of the Albanians during the centuries. Among the multidimensional functions of Literature, we will focus on the witnessing of life and its evolution. Language is a complex code and a good writer is a master of the usage of this code in the service of reflecting the complexity of human nature and the world. Language has always had a special role in the study of human language and will probably continue to do so. The creative aspect of the use of language has often been described as the clearest example of the foundational aspect of human nature.

In this work we will focus on the work of Martin Camaj in order to concretely analyze how transhumance is presented in the prose of Martin Camaj.

According to Chomsky skills and abilities are converted to expressions and rules in certain ways in certain circumstances. The work of Martin Camaj is no doubt the proof which proves these assertions.

Camaj's Novels are historical evidence of the description of the evolutionary development of human life, which passes from initial relationships in the context of the family, where the idea of the self is formed and self-worth and the affective world is developed. They also document the first social interactions and the conflicts that arise in them.

Everything is expressed clearly and strongly through Martin Camaj's language. For a writer the written word remains the only weapon through which the deepest experiences of the human psyche are felt.

Key words: transhumance, Martin Camaj, literary work, human being.



2. **Title:** The way of formation of terminology in the Albanian language before the Second World War

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Abstract

Modern (current) languages delivered for centuries, which have an old writing history and also with developed literature, with vertices of works of different genres and styles outlined as models to follow, also have marked indicators in the field of lexicography, otherwise also of multidisciplinary terminology, where the first place is occupied by terms linguistic. To see in this presentation, the path followed by Albanian terminology and the compilation of some of its dictionaries not only belonging to this field, but also the explanatory ones, up to the normative dictionaries, from 1954 - 1980; without leaving out a series of dictionaries of two or three languages, which also contain those terms in the field of linguistics. Such dictionaries are necessary because this relates to a requirement so inherent that one of the functions of language is to explain itself. It is already known that a pioneering work in the creation of Albanian language terminology, has undoubtedly been done by the prominent renaissance Sami Frashëri, one of the most prominent intellectuals and scholars of his time in the Ottoman Empire, who published the book "Letter of Language Albanian ", Bucharest, 1886, where the first terminology of the Albanian language is forged; for all its simplicity it has served as a starting point in the development of our grammatical terminology; a good portion of our grammatical terminology; a good part of today's terminology is still that of Samiut. In the efforts made by our linguists' terminologists over time, even before this great renaissance, more directly, from the bilingual Dictionary of Frang Bardhi, when a small number of terms begin, it seems the intention of specialists in various fields (for us, to linguistic disciplines), to distinguish conceptually between term and noun. This stems from the definition that linguistic theory has made in this field that it has always been and continues to be difficult to realize the "one meaning / one term" requirement, due to the lack of such a large number of signs; thus it becomes necessary in each case to distinguish that same sign as many times as a meaning of learned terminology. In such cases the same sign in every sense is presented as a separate term. Terminologists have come to the conclusion that some of the terminological meanings discovered in the semantic structure of the word may appear further decomposed depending on the connections into which these meanings enter with other meanings within a given terminological system. Through this paper you will try to bring valuable arguments about terminology in the Albanian language.

Key words: terminology, dictionary, term, noun.



3. **Title:** Albanian Language Elaborate Dictionary of Àt. Benedict Dema

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Abstract

The history of Albanian population is closely linked to the church and catholic clergy, which has always been inspiring for war for religion and homeland. In the same time the catholic church and clergy have had a primary role in the language realm.

The name of Àt. Benedict Dema is relatively known from all the Albanians. People living in Shkodra or Malesi e Madhe know him as a devoted and dedicated priest, as well as an educated, language and philological oriented one. The Albanian Language Elaborate Dictionary is not a mere dictionary which reflects the overall language depositary of the word of a language according to their alphabetical order. It is more ‘a partial catalogues mundi’, in the words of Dema, where the realm of nature and culture lay the foundation, whereas the language depositary of words puts them together (sfera e natyrës dhe e kulturës i shtrojnë themelin, e visari gjuhsuer i fjalve i lidhë zbashkut).

During the desing of the Dictionary, the Author was inspired by some English, French and German lexicologists as well as other foreign linguists who had already made the same work with their own languages. What should be even more appreciated and thanked is his love and deep feeling for the Albanian Language. In addition to this, what pushed even more Àt Benedict Dema to undertake such an initiative was his concern about the number of expressions and terms, or bunch of borrowed words from other languages. According to Àt Benedict Dema, these words should be replaced with the Albanian stuff and the design of such Dictionary would really help to reach this goal. The dialectic dictionaries of Albanian language hold always within a rich lexicon treasure. Even though we think that we may know these dictionaries to some extent, we still find unheard or unknown words. The rich depositary of expressions and phrases so beautifully given in the Dictionary, shows us how fanatically have they been preserved in the heart and mind of Albanian language speakers.

When we look carefully to the Dictionary, we realize how much work was needed to the author to gather all these words and how much precious is his work. The work of Àt Benedict Dema should be even more appreciated because he gathered words not only from the Albanian folklore, but also from the terminology dictionaries of medicine disciplines, with the aim to be accurate from the scientific approach. The author has been very accurate in the analytical explanation of different words. After giving the number and gender, he continues with their usage in French, Italian and German, extending further the meaning with respective synonyms. This procedure is followed in order to be as precise as possible with the çanzimin (definition), as he calls it, of the word

Key words: Dictionary, catholic church and clergy, rich Albanian language, language protection



4. Title: Mountain tourism and its impact on human mental health

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Abstract

The aggravated situation of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and now after COVID has significantly influenced the disruption of the human routine. Society was resized in many respects. Being unprepared, the immediate reversal of the changes dictated by COVID-19 was also manifested in unfortunate consequences for mental health and aggravated psychological condition. With the easing of the shock wave of the pandemic, people tried to return to normalcy. This be it in relation to themselves in changed conditions, in interpersonal relationships and their positioning in time and space. Under these conditions the desire to find oneself also translates into undertaking outdoor travel. Among other things, we can mention the revival of mountain tourism by highlighting the benefits that the latter has for human psycho-emotional health. Hypothesis: Mountain tourism positively affects the psychological state of man.

Methodology: Mixed technique was used to conclude the results of the paper. The sample was subjected to a semi-structured interview and from the analysis of these interviews emerged problems which helped to formulate the questionnaire with answers of the liqueur scale. The study sample were tourists of some hotels regardless of gender, but over the age of 35 (to understand and express the psycho-emotional state as a necessity in completing the questionnaire), and to express themselves only once for this questionnaire. The study was conducted in the period May-September 2021 and was implemented in 4 (four) hotels, namely in Shkodra Hotel Petit and Tradita Toskë and Gegë, and in Theth Logu i Harushave and Vila Polia. They were subjected to this questionnaire on the last day of the tour.

Objectives:

- Promote alternative ways of maintaining psycho-emotional stability.
- Increase effectiveness, productivity and lifestyle in favor of emotional well-being.
- Promotion of mountain tourist values in the service of good psychological health.

Also important in the work are the conclusions reached that more and more in the times we live in people are paying attention to positive feelings, experiences and emotions. The better psychologically they are, the more productive life they will have. This paper helps the population to have a healthy lifestyle, helps them to improve their daily lives by increasing its quality.

Key words: Transhumance, psychological well-being, mountain tourism, COVID-19, lifestyle.



5. Title: Sociocultural aspects of gender identity within the Transhumance concept

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Abstract

The term transhumance is difficult to define, especially when it comes to some specific aspects of the existence of these small communities, from a sociocultural perspective. The concept of gender identity is both a contemporary and traditional approach. In this presentation, we will try to make an evolutionary approach to the aspects of gender mainstreaming, within the concept of Transhumance, more precisely of the historical and contemporary elements that are observed in the traditional culture of Northern Albania.

The social hierarchy is based not only on the organization of social groups, but also on the core of the family. The gender-based organization of these structures is a feature of traditional societies, clearly reflected in the old manuscripts, especially in the Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini. By emphasizing gender-based differences in the way the community functions, the definition of cultural identities is highlighted, including the status of women in the gender hierarchy. The patriarchal system that has existed for centuries, portrays the female figure as a marginal part of social organization, both in the family and in society. Such an identity, missing, brings into focus their undeniable role in pastoral and transhuman cultures, as the basic pillars of social organization.

Key words: transhumance, identity, gender, differences, community, cultures.



6. Title: Loneliness and anxiety during the covid-19 pandemic among students of university of Shkoder

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between loneliness and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic among students of University of Shkoder.

A quantitative study was undertaken in order to test the hypothesis study and to answer to the research questions. Data was collected using the Corona Disease Anxiety Scale (CDAS), and UCLA Loneliness Scale administered online to assess the anxiety and loneliness level. The sample consists in 183 university students selected through a purposive non-probability sampling, where $n = 18$ were male students and $n = 165$ were females.

The results showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic and loneliness. The regression results also indicated that in general, loneliness can predict anxiety. T-test analysis indicated that there is no significant difference between the means of the two genders on loneliness, but female students are more prone to experience anxiety during pandemic than male ones.

The findings from current study can be used by other researchers and psychological professionals to develop appropriate interventions and inform future research to reduce anxiety, loneliness and other psychological problems among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key words: COVID-19, loneliness, anxiety, students, quantitative study.



7. **Title:** Students' perception on teaching quality in primary school practices

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Abstract

Although the active and passive practice in schools has been applied for years in the Faculty of Teaching, we have never documented their perspective related to this practice, the school and the teachers they have collaborated with. The purpose of this study was to analyze the students' practitioner point of view during their passive and active practice in elementary classes. The survey was conducted at Shkodra University during the academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The participants included in this study were 118 students of Bachelor and Master Level studying at the Faculty of Education to become primary school teachers. Quantitative study method was used to conduct this study where students completed a questionnaire about their perception of practice and teachers in general. Also, a focus group of students of both levels of education was developed to know and understand the students' opinion about their professional practice in schools. The results of this study admitted that the professional practice is very important and fruitful for their future work as teachers of elementary classes. Teachers have a very important influence on this experience for the pedagogical preparation of interns' students.

Key words: practice, school, students, teachers, teaching.



8. Title: Making the future of work inclusive of people with disabilities: A.C.C.E.N.T project as an action approach

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Abstract

Within the context of a rapidly changing world, especially in a COVID-19 era, the Future of Work is an issue drawing the attention of many individuals, associations and organizations. It is a global concern, posing important challenges that need to be addressed urgently. One such challenge is how to ensure that the future of work is inclusive, leaving no one behind, including the persons with disabilities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the framework for inclusive global sustainable development efforts for the coming decade. Persons with disabilities deserve one of the groups meriting specific attention in the 2030 Agenda. The social-psychological approach and rights-based approach towards persons with disabilities reflected in the 2030 Agenda is aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The future of work is still to be shaped, and we can all influence it to some extent. Driven by this idea and aware of the urgency to take action, the A.C.C.E.N.T. Project - Accessibility, Civic Conscience, Employment for Persons with Disabilities, as a New TREND is being implemented according to SDG the Priority 3: Promoting employment, labour mobility, social and cultural inclusion across the border financed by European Union. The Action A.C.C.E.N.T is addressing these common needs in Montenegro and Albania, to create employment opportunities and to increase the employability for PWDs by creating proper environment, functional institutional framework, by developing competences and professional skills and by strengthening the dialogue between all stakeholders. The Action will develop in particular in four municipalities: in Montenegro 2 municipalities, namely municipalities of Bar and Ulcini; in Albania in Shkodra and Lezha municipalities. In Albania, Caritas Albania and Association “Project Hope” are leading the action. This is a unique exercise to connect different areas of debate, looking at the key trends of the future of work from a disability perspective to seeking identifying specific action needed in order to shape the future of work under an inclusive perspective.

Key words: people with disabilities, inclusive work, employability and the employment opportunities, A.C.C.E.N.T project



9. Title: Children cognitive assessment using draw-a-person-test – the case of Shkoder with kindergartens and preschools children.

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Abstract

The drawings of young children are indicators of their development. Through the process of observing and analyzing the drawings of young children, we can evaluate social/emotional, physical, and cognitive development of each child. The aim of the study was to evaluate the cognitive development of children from urban and rural kindergarten through the Goodenough Harris Draw-A-Person. Test. Children between the ages 3 and 6 were asked to draw a human/child figure on a given sheet of paper and their drawings were analyzed. There were evaluated 100 children. The results demonstrated a clear correspondence between the number of details and their drawing age maturity. It was found that the rural children demonstrated a lower drawing age regarding the urban children. Drawing can be utilized by educators, teachers, mental health professionals as an important assessment tool for young children.

Key words: children, drawing, development, assessment



Panel 4: Socio-economic aspects of rural development (In person)

Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Drini Imami & Prof. Assoc. Edvin Zhllima

1. **Title:** The “addiction” of Tobacco Farming: A literature review - understanding why tobacco farmers continue to grow tobacco

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Abstract

Articles 17 and 18 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Tobacco Control oblige countries to address the protection of environment and the health of persons in respect of tobacco cultivation. Studies show that tobacco farming first and foremost it's not profitable and furthermore it is associated with a negative impact on the human population health but also on the environment. Governments in several developed and developing countries, including the world's largest producers of tobacco, have been contributing to introduce new cash crops, alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and others have been suggesting transition and diversification strategies. Strategies followed by these countries started initially by engaging farmers, developing a detailed understanding of the constraints they face and jointly creating a grounded plan for transition. As World Health Organization (WHO) recommends, to find economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing, not only income and crop profitability but all aspects of farmers' livelihoods need to be addressed. The present study will provide a detailed literature review of studies regarding main determining factors of why farmers continue to grow tobacco. Empirical studies carried out mostly in LMICs indicate that farmers' behaviours and decisions are predictable but complex: non-economic reasons more than economic reasons determine farmers' decision to continue to grow tobacco. Perceptions of tobacco farmers play a strong role in the supply: as the literature suggests, farmers continue to grow tobacco because of its perceived profitability and tradition (cultural habits) significantly impacts the reasons why farmers continue to cultivate tobacco around the world. A framework for alternative livelihoods that addresses the problem holistically could form a bridge between academic findings and policy decisions. Concluding, the transition of tobacco farmers to other crops could help towards a sustainable rural development especially for countries depended on agriculture.

Key words: tobacco farming, farmers' choice, literature review, alternative livelihoods



Title: For a sustainable development of livestock in the areas of Northern Albania

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Abstract

The area of Northern Albania is an area well known for the tradition of livestock breeding and the emergence of the phenomenon known as transhumance. This has happened for several reasons, but the most important are: i) area with very limited area of agricultural land; ii) fairly high areas where it is difficult to spend the winter with livestock in relation to livestock feed; iii) during the winter there are very low temperatures, where in the conditions of the trenches (modest stables) hyperthermia problems can appear; iv) problems arise in relation to the workforce to cope with all the problems of breeding in highland conditions. Therefore, the movement of cattle has become almost necessary: the winter spend in the valleys (in the plain area) and the summer in the mountains (meadows and mountain pastures). Forests and pastures in Albania occupy more than 50% of the entire territory, with approximately 1.5 million ha of forests and forested lands. However, these resources have been intensively exploited for many decades. Major and occasional legislative and political changes in the forestry sector have gone hand in hand with significant modifications in terms of territorial governance and land ownership. The inhabitants of the North of Albania have always been associated with livestock and are inheritors of livestock traditions, and this from very ancient times (several thousand years), and we fight to protect this tradition so as not to let it get lost. Based on the data for the area, as well as the heritage of the area, we are convinced that livestock can be a permanent development for the Albanian Ape even in this modern time we are living. This is a model of the relationship between man, animals, plant and fauna cover, climate, ecological biodiversity, coastal tourism development and the surrounding social community as a whole.

Key words: transhumance, animals, mountaineering, migration, sustainable development.



2. Title: Intermediary power and value chain organization

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Abstract

The paper analyses intermediaries' power over farmers' activities and identifies dimensions of intermediaries' power that have positive effects on farmers' business. These dimensions of intermediaries' power are 1. Power Over Farmers' Input Selection Activities (POIS) and Power Over farmers' activities that contribute to Losses at the Intermediary stage (POLI). The paper argues that when intermediaries exercise these dimensions of their power both farmers' and intermediaries should benefit because the focus of influence is not on margins (i.e., zero sum game, one wins the other loses) but on farmers' activities that relate to product quality and post-harvest losses (i.e. win-win game). Part of the bigger profits that the intermediary achieves from selling higher product quality and reduced cost from post-harvest losses at his stage are transferred back to the farmer as rewards. Furthermore, the paper investigates the factors that contribute to the exercise by intermediaries of these power dimensions.

Key words: Farmers, Intermediary, market power, food value chains, trading relationship.



3. Title: The impact of covid-19 on agricultural loans in Albania

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Abstract

Agriculture is an important sector for the development of Albanian economy and plays a key role for rural development. According to World Bank (2020), value added in the agricultural sector as percent of GDP is 19.25%. Financial institutions obviously contribute to finance this sector of the economy. According to Bank of Albania statistics (2020), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing remains one of the least credited sectors sharing 1.6 % of the portfolio of total credit. This paper tries to evidence the main problematics of financing agriculture sector in Albania during last two years. The COVID-19 pandemic influenced the economic developments. The defensive measures taken to limit the damage and the increased uncertainty caused decreasing demand and production, rising unemployment, and many financial difficulties for Albanian businesses and individuals. The earthquake in November 2019 and after that the corona virus disease (COVID-19) obviously affected every aspect of economy and especially agriculture. In addition to financial difficulties, agricultural business has increased uncertainty and loss of confidence. Therefore, the level of lending has been lower because of reduced demand from agricultural businesses. According to Bank of Albania, two sectors of the economy, with significant weight in the volume of restructured loans during recent twelve months were trade and tourism sectors. Restructured credit for these sectors was approx. ALL 528 billion or 1/3 of the total restructured credit during the period. Referring to Bank of Albania, the employment in agriculture sector decreased from 461,000 employees in end of 2019, to 446,000 in 2020.

The paper used primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by paper-based questionnaires filled out by farmers during September-October 2021. The secondary data, on the other hand, is taken from official reports of Bank of Albania, Ministry of Finance Albania, World Bank, Albanian-American Development Foundation and INSTAT. The results indicate that agricultural loans faced many difficulties during last two years. Specifically, during 2020, there is an increasing trend of agricultural production, but relating to farming there is a decreasing trend in the number of livestock heads. According to farmers, these problems are caused from COVID-19. In addition, during 2020, the transhumance was lower in comparison with other years. At the same time, the financial packages offered by government: the first and second, sovereign guarantee instruments and employment promotion programs have alleviated the crisis in the country in general and in the agricultural sector in particular.

Key words: agricultural loans, Covid-19 pandemic



4. **Title:** Between climate change and covid-19 impact – the case of citrus sector in Albania

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Abstract

In addition to the major health global crisis that it has caused, Covid-19 pandemic has had serious economic consequences all over the world. The Albanian economy, similar to other countries in the region, has been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in recession. At the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, food supply chains suffered from disruptions, changing market demand and increasing transaction costs

Economic effects in agriculture might be classified into two categories: direct effects for agricultural producers and indirect effects for rural households those depending on remittances. While the effects at the level of agricultural producers might be roughly grouped into demand- and supply-driven.

There is limited understanding on the Covid-19 impact on the agriculture sector in Albania– this paper tends to cast light and provide better understanding of Covid-19 impact on the agriculture sector with focus on the citrus sector.

The study is based on secondary and primary data collection. Secondary data were obtained through revision of previous studies, policy documents and statistical databases. The primary data/information collection consist of the following: semi-structured/in-depth interviews were carried out targeting various categories of actors and experts; structured survey with 137 agriculture extension services specialists at MARD and structured survey with 76 citrus farmers.

The impact of Covid-19 combined with climate change has resulted in a combination of low sales, high losses and decreasing prices caused a sharp decrease of profits. There was also observed moderate impact on capacity to carry agricultural services. Due to peculiar location of mandarin clusters, travel restriction of migrants reduced the capability in some cases to provide the required services in time. On the other hand, access to inputs is moderately impacted by inability to carry direct purchases. Investments are influenced from pandemics mainly due to negative expectations and farmers need to invest in protection against hails.



5. Title: Farmers' financial education key determinant factors – the case of vegetable sector in Kosovo

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Abstract

Farmers' financial education has a significant association with achievements. Financial literacy is linked to access to finance as well as overall farm performance. Previous research has shown that financial literacy has moderating influence on the relationship between access to finance and firm growth. This paper analyses the factors which determine farmers' financial education, in the case of Kosovo, based on a structured farm survey with 222 valid observations. The findings show that there are a number of factors that determine farmer's financial literacy, including socio-demographic variables such as education and farm attributes (such as farm size). Improving financial education would enable better performance and higher access to finance at farm level, would have a chain affect downstream (e.g. result in higher production volumes and higher quality that would benefit processors and traders).

Key words: financial literacy, Kosovo, performance, farm level



6. Title: Inequality of opportunities and perceptions about redistribution – the great rural-urban divide

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Abstract

The subject of this study seeks to analyse the degree of inequality aversion in relation to life satisfaction (happiness) for EU and Western Balkan countries. A negative association between these two variables is suggestive of inequality being a quality-of-life important consideration among the respondents.

Exploiting a nationally representative household database from the 2016 wave of European Quality of Life Survey, I run a cross-national estimation to look whether relative social deprivation predicts self-reported levels of life satisfaction (happiness). I further dissect these results by the perceived degree of urbanisation to test the differences in the outcome variable. In addition, I check what are the drivers of inequality aversion keeping account of welfare regime and transition/non-transition clusters.

The results suggest that there are significant life satisfaction costs attached to relative social deprivation. This relationship is more pronounced for transition post-communist, East-EU and non-EU, countries as compared to non-transition ones (West-EU). The degree of urbanisation acts in different directions for these groups, positively for transition economies and negatively for non-transition ones.

Key words: degree of urbanisation, life satisfaction, inequality aversion, EU



7. Title: Perception of risk to health and food safety in meat value chain

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Abstract

Perception of health risk is an important aspect that influences the behaviour of various actors in the meat value chain. Food markets are under the influence of events such as diseases, pandemics in animals and humans. This sector has faced outbreaks of diseases like bird flu, swine flu, mad cows, or other risks such as the use of dioxin in eggs, etc.

Consumers have higher concerns about the psychological factors of risk perception compared to professionals. Professionals showed a relatively low level of perception of risk due to their knowledge in this field. It seems that consumer knowledge is less compared to that of other actors in the chain. The knowledge of farmers, or processors can affect the perception of health risk. While the implementation of food safety standards may change consumer attitudes towards these products. The objective of this paper is to review the literature on how the perception of risk is created and influenced by these actors, how this perception changes in situations when the sector faces diseases, and in situations where the consumer is aware of the existence of ongoing risks from consuming such products. This paper would contribute to the research of the literature on the assessment of perceptions towards health risk for the meat sector by implicating in the patterns of livestock husbandry, processing and the marketing of meat products.

Key words: risk perception, public health, food safety, value chain



8. Title: Willingness to pay for market information – the case of farmers in Albania

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Abstract

Access to market information is crucial to improve farmers' positioning in the market. Farmers need consolidators prices, since there is a risk for speculation by the consolidators located in the near distances. There is no previous study for estimating the demand for market information and users' preferences for information.

The paper is based survey made with farmers. The findings show that the major part have access for price information. Buyers and neighbouring farmers are main source of information. The mobile use and occasional meetings in bars/streets are commonly used mediums of receiving the information. Moreover, the majority of farmers expressed an explicit need for market (price) information.

In the paper we employed a double-bounded dichotomous choice contingent valuation approach to assess the value that farmers place on being updated with market information on daily basis. In this context, figure shows farmer's willingness to pay for market information. On average their willing to pay 1600 ALL a year (round 13 Euro) to have access (or be updated) on daily basis about market prices.

Information about farmers' willingness to pay for market information is useful for actors interested to invest in market information systems. In addition to farmers, also other users such as banks, microfinance organizations and insurance companies may need such data and can pay for such services. Last, but not least, having a functional market information system is crucial for policy-makers to have sound assessment of sector and market development particularly in the case potential distortions or shocks.



9. Title: Main veterinary measures for small livestock during migration

Author(s): Prof. Dr. Xhelil KOLECI, Prof. Dr. Luigj TURMALAJ, Prof. Dr. Zef GJETA, Dr. Gerald MUÇA, and Prof. Dr. Ruzhdi KEÇI

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Abstract

Transhumance of livestock from lowland areas to the Alps and vice versa is a common practice throughout Albania. This tradition has been developed and transmitted from generation to generation in order to use the pastures as well as to prevent and improve the health status of the animals. In order to be as safe as possible in terms of health status, there is a need to plan, implement and strictly observed several important measures before the transhumance will start. The transhumance in the northern and north-eastern areas of Albania occurs in the months of June to September to the summer alpine pastures and November-December to April-May to the lowland pastures (winter pastures). These animal movements possess the risk of spreading diseases from one territory to another and from one herd to another. Taking all veterinary preventive measures such as vaccinations, anti-parasitic treatment and providing animal movement certificate are the primary tasks of the veterinary service from the area where the animal movement takes place. Veterinary preventive measures must be in line with the strategies developed by the veterinary service and the epidemiological situation of the respective areas. Performing dedicated vaccines such as against anthrax, brucellosis, enterotoxaemia, blue tongue, contagious agalaxia, rabies (in herding dogs), etc., performing anti parasitic treatments and other measures such as foot treatment and shearing not only ensure the health of animals, but also the environment of the areas where they move. This manuscript is intended to describe in more detail some of the biosecurity measures and transport stress reduction measures that should be applied to sheep and goats during movement to summer/winter pastures.

Key words: migration, alpine pastures, vaccinations, de-helmentization, sheep and goat health status



Panel 5: Rural development and sustainability (In person)

Chairs of the session: Prof. Assoc. Nevila Dibra & Dr. Aurora Dibra

1. **Title:** Transhumance in the Albanian Alps, and the natural and human conditions in its favour that challenge the sustainable development of these areas.

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Abstract

Transhumance (Albanian: Bjeshkëzimi) is composed of the seasonal cyclical movement of small livestock (sheep and goats) between the mountain pastures and the lowlands, led by the shepherds and sometimes accompanied by the owners of livestock farms. Transhumance is a form of pastoralism that has been practiced around the world since the domestication of farm animals. Of the Albanian territories 2/3 consist of highland-mountainous terrain, where the development of livestock farming has been the main activity of rural life. This leads us to believe that the process of transhumance has progressed historically in many parts of the country, and particularly in the Albanian Alps. The undertaking of this annual process has resulted in largely positive effects on the highland ecosystem, but there have also been negative ones. The ultimate goal is for this old tradition of the northern Albanian mountains to be preserved and have its sustainable development ensured. This study aims to analyse how this livestock migration pattern affects the abundance, the diversity and the propagation of the wild plants of these mountains, specifically focusing on the endangered endemic species. The research process has also uncovered the existence of a clear demarcation of seasonal summer residences and higher, permanent residences in this region.

Models of countries that practice transhumance are considered by scholars of this process to hold immense ecological values. This presents for us geographers an opportunity to analyse the natural conditions of the Albanian Alps in favor of this process. The natural conditions of this space are very favourable in all aspects of its composing elements.

Key words: summer transhumance, winter transhumance, mountain panorama, summer pastures, endemism.



2. Title: Agritouristic development, possibility of new rural spaces

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Abstract

Rural tourism in general, and agritourism specifically, is considered as a good alternative to tourism development, but also on rural spaces. Albania is a country bordering places, which are traditional touristic destinations, so creating a diverse and unique touristic destination is a challenge for the inhabitants of rural areas, especially the northern ones caught by the agricultural spaces. However, there has been a growing number of rural tourism initiatives, a “community-based tourism”, especially in Northern Albania. Rural areas are tending to behave as more creative in developing their unique but also static space in terms of land use.

The aim of the article is to define a new spatial dimension in the rural environment through agritourism development, some of the main difficulties agritourism’ entrepreneurs face during their everyday work and how these difficulties can be addressed from policymakers. The article is based on a qualitative approach, with 60 questionnaires delivered to rural entrepreneurs, and two focus groups organized with owners of guest houses. We argue that nevertheless agritourism is a driving force to boost development in rural areas, it still doesn’t have the right attention from policymakers. Nevertheless, there is a growing interest from international organizations operating in the area to foster agritourism development and also a raising awareness of local inhabitants’ perceptions on its importance, there are still many other problems related to strategic planning, ownership’s certificates, lack of human resources, low quality of public service delivery by local governments, etc. These problems go beyond the entrepreneurs’ possibilities, so they need to be addressed by national and local development strategies.

Key words: Rural tourism, Agritourism, Entrepreneurship, policy implications, North Albania



3. Title: Rural development and poverty, evidence from Albania

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Abstract

“...We ask ourselves the question: development, but development for what. The purpose of development is to integrate socially these large masses of the population that have been left behind in the process of economic development. If this is not done, development is incomplete and unjust. Thirty years ago you could have said ‘Well, let’s wait for a few decades; this process of development will gradually improve the lot of the whole population.’ But that has not come to pass.”

Raul Prebisch, 15 April 1971

Poverty is a widespread phenomenon, changing from place to place and across time, and has been explained in many ways. The development experience indicates a strong link between rural development and poverty reduction.

The purpose of this study is to identify the determinants of poverty in Shkoder Region, including urban and rural areas, at the household level using a questionnaire. The questionnaire was based on the methodology used in the Household Budget Survey (INSTAT). A Logistic regression and a linear log regression was estimated based on data collected from direct interviews, conducted with 48 household living in urban and rural area. In log linear regression we used logarithm of monthly family consumption as the dependent variable and a set of demographic variables as the explanatory variables, while in logistic regression dependent variable is poverty status (poor and non-poor). It was found that variable that most impacted the consumption of the household were employment status of the household head. While in logistic regression most impacted variable was found education level of household head.

Key words: poverty, rural development, poverty line, demographic factors



4. Title: The role of agriculture in the development of the peri-urban area of Shkoder city – Rrethinat administrative unit

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Abstract

This paper takes into consideration the development of agriculture in Rrethinat administrative unit which is a peri-urban area located in the periphery of Shkodër city, Albania.

Using a diverse range of data and methods, and field observation, we analyse the development of agriculture in this area that has undergone significant social, economic and land use transformations during the post-socialist period, because of internal migration, urbanisation, and informal development that it experienced after 1990. The results suggest that there is a decreasing importance of agriculture in the economic production of Rrethinat unit and structural changes of it, as maize and wheat are not so important anymore and have been substituted by the widespread cultivation of fodder (for cattle breeding) and vegetables, while fruit trees and vineyards continue to have an important role. Also, an increased importance of agro-industrial activities and the service sector is evidenced and there are signs of development of the peri-urban agriculture type, which is of a familiar level, based on small plots of land and serves to fulfil the needs of the local families and those of the residents of Shkodër city too.

The paper concludes on giving some useful recommendations about the improvement of the agriculture sector in this area and how it can be helpful to achieve its sustainable development in the future.

Key words: agriculture, peri-urban, Rrethinat unit, transformation, sustainable development



5. Title: Voice is given to the transhumant shepherds from Northern Albania. Toward which rural sustainable development?

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Abstract

Some shepherds from Malesi e madhe and Dukagjin will come and exchange with the scientific community present to the conference.

Being involved with preparation of the joint candidature to UNESCO for protecting transhumance as non-material cultural heritage, I mobilised the pastoral communities from Kelmend evaluating the degrading situation of the traditional practice of Transhumance, analysing its causes and thinking about which safeguarding measures could be proposed. Nearly 100 shepherds were involved in this process. As a pastoral anthropologist I had the honor to transcript a synthesis of their work done during summer 2018. Their work has been given to Albanian government as well to the two countries leading the joint candidature for UNESCO France and Spain. This work is now given the basis to extent the reflection to all the shepherd groups from Northern Albania. From that the shepherds organised five working groups regarding forward to find some operational strategies setting up some concrete steps in order to enhance positive evolution of the situation on short, middle and long term and innovating rural development. This group of shepherds will shortly present their work, their questions, their fears and convictions and open a dialogue with all of you.

In this period of COP 26 which actually occurring in Glasgow, the complex relationship between livestock production, biodiversity and climate change is at the core of the problems which are concerning us. In Albania exist actually also so many misunderstandings, false information and bad propaganda thrives everywhere regarding pastoralism issues. Dramatic changes are actually occurring in land use concerning marginal rangeland areas like in the Albanian Alps. Are they existing alternative knowledges, perspectives and way of life given new answers? And if our pastoral communities had some innovating responses to propose to us ! Let us listen to them and give them a voice. Let their traditional knowledge resonate in dialogue to our scientific understanding. Isn't it all together that we may become more intelligent? In this highly uncertain actual world, alternative and innovating perspectives can emerge based on how pastoralists see, understand, manage and value the world. Human being have overrun the world. We have to rediscover how to become sustainable,



restoring stability, adaptation and innovation. Through which skilled herding and livestock management?

There is for the shepherd communities an extreme pressure through rural depopulation. Economies are declining. But the cultural landscapes from our Albanian alps are created over thousand years by human activities (the shepherd and his herd are playing there a crucial role.). Where are the voices of the livestock keepers in all the political debates concerning our pastoralism, management of the environment and development strategies? Everyone has to be involved about political choices about livelihood and economic changes. Let us give a voice to those who have lived in these areas for milleneums, and discuss altogether which answers could be found, how can we Scientifics give to extend our hands, to put our skills at their service to move forward together in the construction of a true and respectful rural development. It is all together in a reciprocal listening that we will manage to find innovative ways to move forward.

This panel will be moderated by a pastoral anthropologist and rural development expert



6. Title: Development of rural tourism in north Albania as a premise for the sustainable economy in the region

Author(s): MSc. Valbona MAZREKU¹, Dr. Aurora DIBRA², and MSc. Valjeta BAJRAKTARI³

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Abstract

The development of tourism in rural areas in North Albania is nowadays a big challenge. Different types of tourism are linked with the beauty of the nature and the biodiversity, plant and animal lives. Communities have used local resources in supporting peripheral economies in the rural contexts of villages and rural tourism is an effective way to grow the economy in the village and farms. In the article are presented some case studies of development of rural tourism in several regions in Albania. It is presented that cultural aspect has an impact on the spatial heterogeneity of vegetation, affecting ecosystem processes and wetland landscapes. Today knowledge and skills related to cultural and natural tourism are mainly transmitted orally from one generation to the next, by taking part in tradition and learning through continuous observation and training from the experienced inhabitants; and through non-formal education, such as workshops organized by local communities. Rural life plays a vital role in environmental protection. In fact, thanks to the sustainable use of land and water resources and admitting livestock to live in the wild, food prepared using milk and meat and clothing made from wool and leather, have lower environmental impacts than similar products from intensive farming. It additionally reduces the incidence of pollution, the reliance on veterinary products (among them antibiotics) and thus produces healthier food, from livestock reared in the open air, which are fit and more resistant to diseases. Besides, the cheese-making products from farming are considered of high quality. It is attributed to the traditional cheese-making know-how and the specialized knowledge of livestock farmers about vegetation and the features of the flora. People who manage the lands and their biodiversity are aware of the multilevel skills that are required and therefore seek to be trained appropriately: they should study agronomic, agricultural and other relevant studies or should attend training programs on rural development.



7. Title: The integration of soft and hard skills in urban and rural areas

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Abstract

This presentation explores the integration of hard skills and soft skills in urban and rural areas. This paper is divided into three parts:

Part one: explores and argues that contemporary context of urban development is different from that of rural ones. Primary objective is to demonstrate how those areas differ in certain features.

Everything has truly changed in rural areas, this is obviously seen nowadays on the low rate of adaption, perspectives, and lack of alternative possibilities for employments. The difference between urban and rural development has become the barrier to achieve much more in the economic and social life, to achieve high quality development in Albania.

Part two: On this section a study of the literature review is done to create the base for our research. The paper is focused on studying integration, especially, the decision-making by employers regarding the employment based on hard skills and soft skills on urban and rural areas.

On the third part, few empirical studies have tested the above-mentioned relationship, which means there is a gap. For this reason, it is designed a proper empirical analysis. A questionnaire is filled out by 179 employers in urban areas and the same ones by 182 employers in rural areas. Findings improve our understanding of the integration of skills. This paper documents that link between employability and skills are significantly and positively associated in both areas, urban and rural ones, but in the rural areas the integration of those skills, is not as powerful as it was in urban ones.

Finally, the conclusions and recommendations are summarized. It is still the opinion, that if you have a diploma, for sure you can reach your dreams. It seems that soft skills are not appreciated as much as it should be. In accordance to several relevant studies, the integration approach of hard skills and soft skills in urban and rural areas, needs to be improved to increase the effectiveness of employees.

Key words: hard skills, soft skills, urban and rural areas, integration etc.



8. Title: Biodiversity conservation as a tool for sustainable development in Albania

Author(s): Dr. Aurora DIBRA, Prof. Assoc. Rrok SMAJLAJ, and Prof. Assoc. Marash RAKAJ

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Abstract

Biodiversity conservation is at the heart of sustainable development and rural development. At one level, it is inspired by deep ecology that considers all life forms as having value in themselves. And this biological aspect is very linked with the anthropogenic aspect.

The article focuses on the importance of biodiversity in the productive lives of many rural communities around North Albania Regions that are dependent primarily on nature for their livelihood. In as much as communities live in harmony with biodiversity, it gets regenerated and, in the process, provides the community with resources required by them for their livelihood. This dependency leads to an understanding of human communities and nature as being part of the same living, breathing ecosystem. The life of many communities located in North depends on biodiversity. Taking the example of agriculture, it is very common to find rural households in many parts of the world that tend cows, chicken, and other domestic animals within their households. Thus humans, plants, animals, water, soil, air, sunlight, and other elements of nature interact closely for life to flourish. Here we see an active renewal in process where nature is altered but not exploited. Biodiversity conservation is not meant to be restricted to wildlife sanctuaries and national parks since it is the active interaction between humans and nature that, while helping humans produce, also rejuvenates nature, thus making the act of production sustainable.

Understanding the need for biodiversity to maintain the delicate balance in an ecosystem and being mindful of the same in employing different methods of production is a good start toward practicing sustainability.

Development of rural tourism

Today knowledge and skills related to cultural and natural tourism are mainly transmitted orally from one generation to the next, by taking part tradition and learning through continuous observation and training from the experienced inhabitants; and through non-formal education, such as workshops organized by local communities. The role of the practitioners is of great importance in the transmission of the culture of using lands and biodiversity; the inhabitants are fully connected to their



environment, they enjoy a special bond with their animals (livestock, plant species and animals and they experientially understand the requirements of the area and their biodiversity.

People who manage the lands and their biodiversity are aware of the multilevel skills that are required and therefore seek to be trained appropriately: they should study agronomic, agricultural and other relevant studies or should attend training programs and relevant vocational schools. More so, specific seminars and courses should be offered by universities and research entities to anyone who wants to have a deeper understanding of the nature, environment, including veterinary issues, sustainable land management, making of foodstuff. Different schools, particularly in the villages or settlements of the communities concerned, should offer specific courses to children, which allow them to get in touch with and learn the basic elements of the practice as well as its social and cultural functions.

Another important vehicle of transmission are festivals and events hosted by the communities, good practices and social values connected to the nature are spread and local identities are reinforced. When people are asked why they maintain such a challenging way of life, the answer is often simply because they love it, because it makes them feel 'free'.

Enhancing ties between families and communities. Over generations, familial, social, and cultural bonds have been formed by communities. They keep the tradition alive abroad through social practices, such as festivals, rituals, and the wearing of traditional dresses.

Wetland landscapes. Cultural aspect has an impact on the spatial heterogeneity of vegetation, affecting ecosystem processes and wetland landscapes. Communities have used local resources in supporting peripheral economies in the rural contexts of villages and inland areas, which have been facing massive depopulation. The development of settlements and complementary farming activities, thereby creating sustainable and resilient networks are required.

Food safety and sustainability. Rural life plays a vital role in environmental protection. In fact, thanks to the sustainable use of land and water resources and admitting livestock to live in the wild, food prepared using milk and meat and clothing made from wool and leather, have lower environmental impacts than similar products from intensive farming. It additionally reduces the incidence of pollution, the reliance on veterinary products (among them antibiotics) and thus produces healthier food, from livestock reared in the open air, which are fit and more resistant to diseases. Besides, the cheese-making products farming are considered of high quality. It is attributed to the traditional cheese-making know-how and the specialized knowledge of livestock farmers about vegetation and the features of the flora.

Key words: livestock, wetland landscapes, ecosystem, environmental impact, rural development



9. Title: Importance of agricultural systems for sustainability

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Abstract

Agriculture was and remains a very important sector for the Albanian economy, having a representation of 18.39% in the structure of our GDP with a real annual growth of 0.63% (2019). Observing the data about the growth of the sector in 6 years the annual real growth of the sector for 2019 is the lowest. It is imperative to find the right strategies in order to make the sector more efficient, taking into consideration the potential agriculture has. On the other hand, Albania is doing its duties on its path toward EU. Part of our duties is also our commitment relating to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating the Agenda 2030 for the sustainable development. Giving the importance of the sector, it would be very important to consider sustainability also in agriculture through sustainable agricultural systems. These systems will be in the focus of this paper, highlighting the importance and available practices in order for the sector to contribute on sustainability. The objectives of the paper are:

- Analysis of agriculture in Albania
- Importance of sustainability nowadays
- Sustainable agricultural practices for implementation in the sector
- Challenges for the future

The right incentives can boost the sector making it more efficient and competitive in internal but also in the international market. On 2020 the importing of “Food, beverages and tobaccos” is tripled relating to exporting, but if Albania improves its practices in agriculture sector, the agri-products can compete also internationally. The focus on sustainability gives agricultural sector a long-time perspective demanding some elements to be taken into consideration in the planning process and in the day-to-day activities of the farmers.

Key words: agriculture, sustainability, SDGs



10. Title: Industrial district, inter-sectoral development impulse in the region of Malesi e Madhe

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Abstract

Although rural space is characterized by a predominant development of the primary sector, the agricultural economy, this does not mean that other economic sectors are not present and contribute to its economic development.

The exit of our country from the system of planned economy also introduced the region of Malësia e Madhe towards rapid economic changes, changes that not only overturned the structure imposed on agriculture, but highlighted the need to diversify the economic structure to adapt the new reality, the market economy. In this context, new forms of production organization were developed not only in the primary sector, but what constitutes a major change is the creation, in terms of economic liberalization, of the industrial district in some branches of production, mainly in the wine industry. . and medicinal and aromatic herbs.

The industrial district in the region of Malësia e Madhe represents an innovation of organizing production in form and space, an innovation that has given development impulses to other sectors of the region's economy. Closely related to supplies from the primary sector, it has also stimulated the development of the tertiary sector, especially the development of agritourism and trade.

Key words: Rural area, industrial district, economic changes, diversification, production organization, impulse, inter-sectoral development.