



## **High Nature Value grasslands: securing the ecosystem services of European farming post 2013**

**7- 9 September 2010, Sibiu, Romania**

**EFNCP, in partnership with Fundația ADEPT and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, are proud to announce a major international conference to address the importance of High Nature Value Farmland for the delivery of ecosystem services in Europe.**

### **How can these vital services be secured post 2013 with the support of a reformed CAP?**

**This conference will be held in the historic city of Sibiu, the 2007 European city of culture. Central to the conference is the field trip to some of the most biodiverse farmed lowland landscapes remaining in Europe - rich in wildflowers, birds, butterflies and large mammals including bears and wolves.**

**This conference will assess the role of HNV farming systems in providing a wide range of ecosystem services: not only biodiversity conservation, but other services vital to our long term future, such as carbon sequestration, quality and security of water and food, and resistance to climate change, fires and flooding.**

**HNV farmed landscapes are dominated by semi-natural grasslands, and often small-scale traditional management. Their ecosystem services make them of global importance. Should these farming systems continue to be treated by the CAP as the poor relation of competitive, intensive farming?**

**Both the grasslands and the farming systems that use them are under threat. This conference will propose improved EU strategies for maintaining them – the CAP reform debate of 2010-13 is a major opportunity for re-targeting CAP resources, so that they help to secure the future of these HNV grasslands and the ecosystem services they deliver.**

Thanks to generous support from the European Commission, Orange Romania and Lucian Blaga University, participation is free of charge. However, those intending to participate are required to register by 15 May by email to [info@efnccp.org](mailto:info@efnccp.org) using the attached form.

We have reserved rooms at a several hotels in the old city of Sibiu and will provide you with details of how to contact them, and of preferential room rates, when we confirm your registration.

Sibiu Airport is easily reached from a variety of European airports. It is about 4 hours by car from Bucharest, where there are 2 international airports – public transport connections are available. Transport to and from Sibiu airport may be arranged through the organizers. Further details will be available in your confirmation email.



DG Environment



## Programme Summary

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

#### Session 1 – Introduction to the conference themes and aims, and the local area

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Session 2 – Field trips to Târnava Mare region** arranged specifically to illustrate and elicit discussion of themes to be covered in the next day's sessions.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

#### Session 3 – Key ecosystem services of Europe's HNV grasslands

Semi-natural pastures and meadows ("HNV grasslands") are central to the ecosystem services of European farming, and at the same time represent a major part of European biodiversity.

The place of HNV grasslands within ecosystem services needs to be clarified and flagged up – landscape, water-catchment functions, quality food production on land with limited economic options.

The climate change debate has complex implications for HNV grasslands. There are positive services to be supported - carbon storage, fire resistance in dry areas, large-scale habitats that allow species to adapt to climate change. But potentially negative policy responses - e.g. intensification, biofuels.

#### Session 4 – Public money for public goods – putting this into practice for HNV grasslands

Environmental public goods from EU farming depend largely on low-intensity HNV livestock systems. Yet these systems often face severe problems of socio-economic sustainability. What policies are being used to support both the economic and ecological viability of these types of farming?

#### Session 5 – Improving policies to support HNV farming

Key policy lessons from local projects, highlighting common challenges.

EFNCP proposals for CAP measures to address HNV challenges, from local to EU levels. Discussion and conclusions on how CAP reform 2010-13 can secure a sustainable future for HNV grasslands.

#### Speakers from a wide range of EU Member States to include

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment

Mihail Dumitru, Minister of Agriculture, Romania

Ministère du Développement Durable (France)

Ministry of Environment, Romania

Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Castilla y León (to be confirmed)

Prof Peter Veen (Netherlands)

Prof Michael Dower (UK)

Colin Tudge (UK)

