

ERASMUS+ PECUS

CASE STUDY SHEET

CS code	ES-02	CS Title	A historical transhumance still alive
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Type of case study	<input type="checkbox"/> National or regional level policy/plan/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Local level policy/plan/strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Study/research <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Responsible body/Promoter	Catholic University of Valencia		
Location (region, locality)	Valdelinares (Teruel county), Spain- Ludiente (Castellón county)		
Geographical area covered	The covered displacement is about 80 km		
Year	It has been studied during the last year		
Summary description	<p>During the last year we have studied the transhumance carried out by a farmer from Linares de Mora, who during the last 20 years has moved the 6 winter months from his town in the mountains of Teruel to the valleys of the province of Castellón (here in two different locations so three locations per year), with milder temperatures in winter. During this period, we have interviewed the farmer on two occasions, both in his summer and winter pastures, as well as accompanied during one journey, downhill from Valdelinares to Lucena del Cid</p>		
Link with laws/regulations and with other policies/plans/strategies (if any)	This displacement presents an interesting legal problem, since transhumance is carried out between two autonomous communities that have different legislation in the field of livestock.		
PROBLEMS AND NEEDS TARGETED			
Problems	<p>The main problem encountered is the absence of marked path. He is the only person that travels on this route so every year he has problems as in some parts vegetal farmers have invaded the route and he has to change his traditional path and cross certain zones with high orographic difficulty which can be dangerous for young, old animals and the farmer himself. Moreover, he changes 3 times of location which has diffculted even more the formation of a family which is an aspect that is very valuable for him. As a farmer he has not very high technical level and has some problems in the flock that would be easy to solve with a good education. These problems affect he profitability of the business.</p>		
Needs	The problem is difficult to solve, since the work of a transhumant shepherd requires changing the location. The formation problem could be solved with formation programs in terms of animal handling.		
Quantitative data	Non applicable		
FOCUS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS			
Themes	Does the case study address this theme? (YES/NO)	If yes, how? (max 750 characters for each theme)	
Spatial planning	YES		



		The farmer values the summer pastures, the winter pastures, as well as keeping the transhumance route open, by going up and down it every year
Protection of environment (e.g. biodiversity, water, geomorphology, soil, climate...)	YES	The use of the pastures allows the maintenance and conservation of the pastoral space, avoiding the degradation of the vegetation and the invasion of thorny plants. The maintenance of the pastures attracts animal species, especially birds, as well as allowing the conservation of the aquifers
Protection/enhancement of tangible cultural heritage (e.g. historical paths, archaeological sites, architecture, terraces and field systems...)	YES	The winter and summer pastures used have been used for livestock farming since at least the 13th century. The transhumant route made runs along a historical path also used since the 13th century, with important monuments associated with this activity (MASÍAS DEL PEÑAGOLOSA Y SANTUARIO SAN JUAN DE PEÑAGOLOSA)
Protection/enhancement of intangible cultural heritage (e.g. historical route networks, scenic views, folklore, food, music...)	YES	The main value is precisely the livestock route used. It is especially iconic to observe the passage of the sheep over a 14th century bridge, which has been mainly used for cattle passage ever since.
Slow mobility (cycling routes, trekking paths, etc.)	YES	The transhumant route is an excellent trekking route, associated with important landscape, environmental, botanical, fauna and heritage values
Economic development of mountain & rural areas (e.g. tourism, agro-food production, agriculture, livestock breeding...)	YES	The survival of transhumant activity is associated with the maintenance of economic activity in small mountain villages, seriously threatened by depopulation and the migration of young people to the cities
INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS		
Actors involved	<i>The main actor in the case presented here is the farmer himself, although the owners of the mountain pastures are also involved, an individual, the town councils of the villages of Castellón that lease him the rights to pasture in their municipal districts.</i>	
Involvement procedures	<i>This practice is closely related to the use of pastures, so the interaction between owners and farmers is essential. In the same vein, the interaction of the farmer with his neighbours, both above and below, is of great interest.</i>	
Problems and challenges	<i>The major problem is the lack of formation of the farmer in animal handling. The profitability of the farm is based in the perception of direct public funds which creates a dependency. It would be very interesting to create additional funds to develop forming activities so the farmers would be more economically independent.</i>	
EXPECTED OR ACHIEVED EFFECTS		
Type of effect	Description (max 750 characters for each type)	
Effects on the environment (e.g. restoration of habitats,	The maintenance of the transhumant activity will make it possible to preserve the open space landscapes and to keep the grazing lands and the cattle track clean of brush	

increased biodiversity, climate change mitigation or adaptation...)	
Effects on immaterial, cultural assets (e.g. cultural landscape, scenic views, folklore...)	Transhumant activity itself is a manifestation of protected intangible heritage
Effects on material, cultural assets (e.g. restoration of historic artefacts or buildings, restoration of traditional terraces or cultivation systems...)	The use of transhumant roads is the major element in helping to maintain and preserve the cultural heritage associated with these livestock routes
Effects on social and economic aspects (e.g. new jobs, new enterprises...)	Extensive livestock activity has a direct impact on the maintenance of the population in the rural environment and especially in mountain areas. These places currently suffer from strong problems of depopulation and lack of job opportunities for young people
IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES	
Financial resources	<i>This study, carried out during one year, has been financed by the faculty of veterinary and experimental sciences and with help of the local councils of the villages crossed during the path.</i>
Implementation procedures	<i>The main difficulty has been to accompany the farmer during his periods of transhumance. The absence of a previous programming, as well as the exigency of its schedules has made complicated to be able to follow it. The weather conditions have also been, at times, a challenge</i>
SUPPORTING INFORMATION	
Images (pictures, graphics, maps, charts, etc.)	<i>Tengo fotos si necesitas</i>
References (including web links)	

