

Ecosystem services in high nature value farming regions of European mountains

The mountain environment is typically associated with unique natural resources. As part of the MOVING project, we are looking at how to combine the protection of these natural resources with agricultural activities. In order to do so, we are exploring what agricultural practices of extensive farming are suitable for protection of biodiversity and the maintenance of the cultural landscape (so-called high nature value farming), in context of the global climate changes that make mountain agricultural activities particularly vulnerable.

Experience from different European regions shows that farms do not only have to be providers of public goods (such as landscape character) but can also play an important role in terms of food production.

The MOVING project specifically addresses the issue of climate change impacts. In the context of nature-rich agriculture, it is appropriate to ask to what extent natural capital is threatened by global climate change and how any impacts may affect the functioning of farms in these areas. Moreover, these changes raise new dilemmas in terms of conservation policy and the search for a new boundary between private and public interests in these naturally valuable areas.

The issue of ecosystem services in mountain areas is explored through farming examples that cover the regions of Austria, Romania, Czechia, France, Serbia and Switzerland. The research includes the creation of a platform for sharing the experiences of farmers and other experts from these areas. Details can be found on the project website (<https://www.moving-h2020.eu/>).

Findings will be available in November 2023.

Cluster N – Nature and ecosystem services

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Anticipated users of PA

- Policy-makers
- Farmers
- Interested public

More info

www.moving-h2020.eu/