



Political context for Landcare in Romania

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11. July 2022



My hi-story in Transylvania

- Agri Cultura Natura Transylvanica Association (since 2019)



- Pogány-havas Natura 2000 administration (since 2016)



- Pogány-havas Regional Association (since 1999)



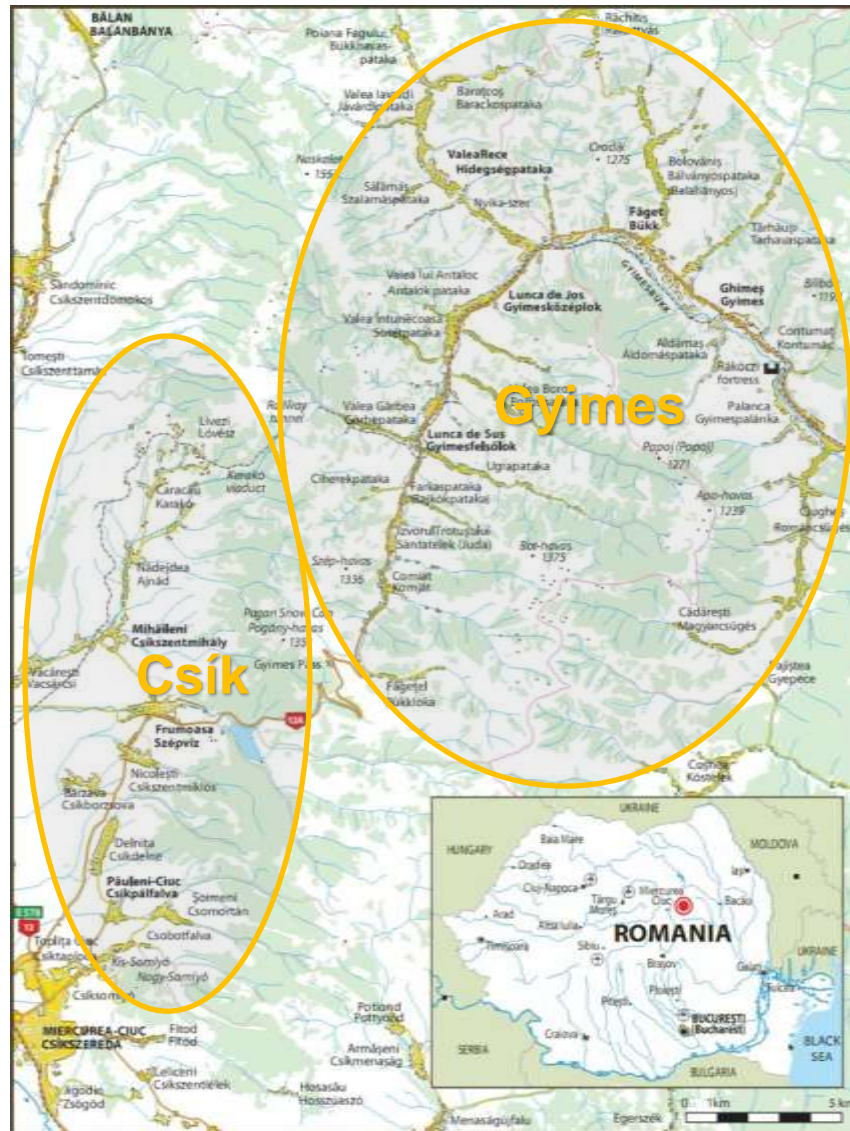
- Independent small NGO

- Covers 22 municipalities
- Subsidiary of the Pogány-havas association

- 6 municipalities, 33 villages



The area



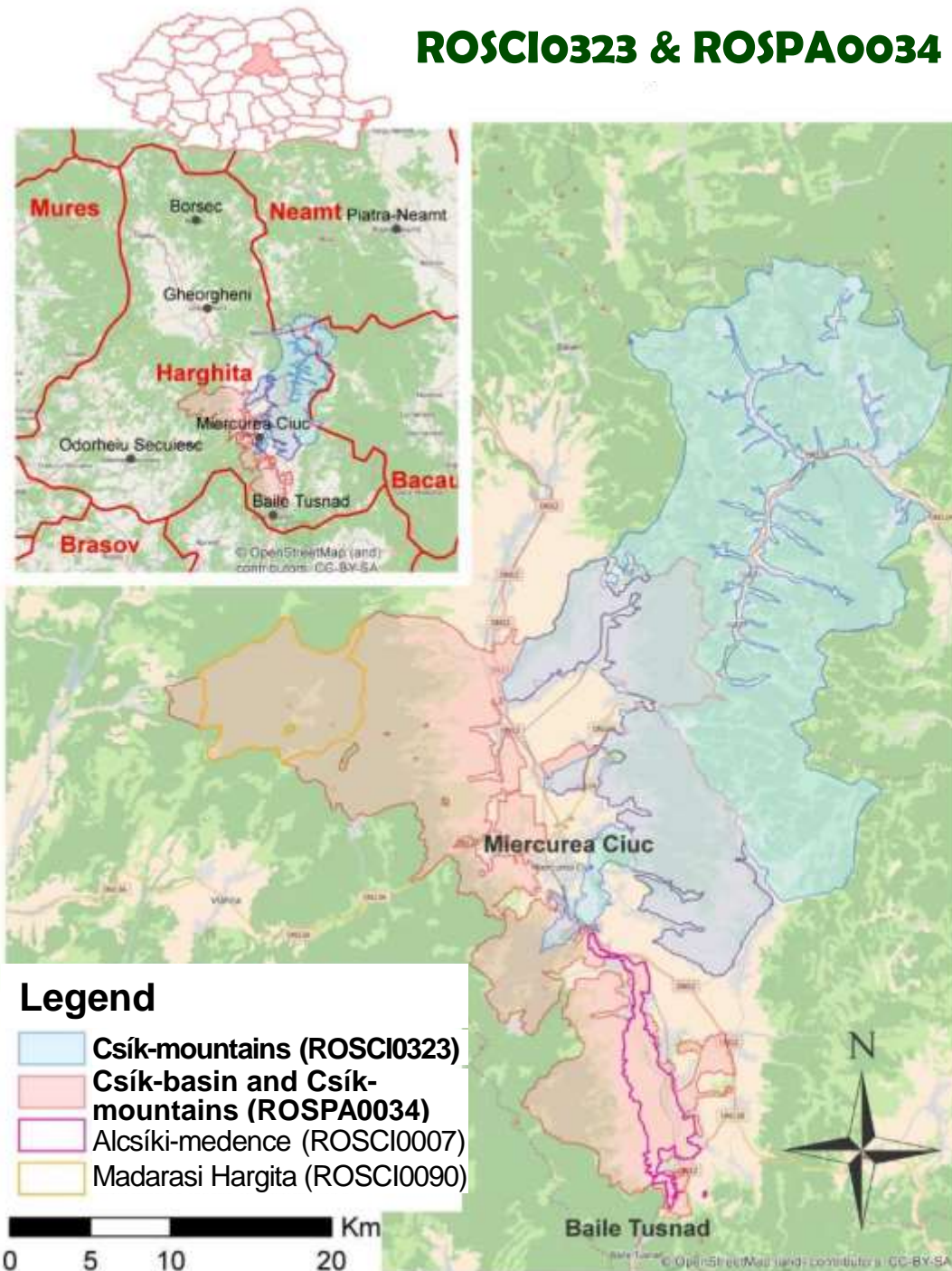


Site of Community Importance (ROSCI0323)

- 60045 ha
- 13 habitat type
- 4 mammal spec
- 3 amphibian spec
- 2 fish spec
- 2 insect spec
- 4 plant spec

Special Protection Area (ROSPA0034)

- 51784 ha
- 24 bird spec





Protecting landscapes and biodiversity





Working with farmers

- New milk collection business model after EU accession
- Trainings, conferences, study visits
- Organic conversion





Built heritage and village view





House & barn conversion (my home)





Eco tourism





Managing Natura 2000 sites

- Since 2016
- 90.000 ha
- Both SCI & SPA





Remarkable trees of Romania

- Country wide database on ancient and other important trees
- Each tree is recorded on Google maps

WWW.ARBORIREMARCABILI.RO





Policy development and advocacy

- Ecological and social research
- Organizing scientific and policy conferences
- Developing policy recommendations
- Running Pilot Results-based agri-environment schemes in the area
- Launching farmers' advisory service
- Raising the profile of family farming





Policy influence

3 conferences on HNV farming in the European Parliament (EP)


The Place of High Nature Value Farming in the Common Agricultural Policy

9.15-10.15, 28th June 2011
Pastries and coffee from 9.00


Jozsef Antall building Room 6Q1,
Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels

Hosted by SÖGÖR Csaba (MEP), George LYON (MEP)
and Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ (MEP)

Speakers include TÁNCZOS Barna, Romanian Minister for Agriculture,
Pogány-István Association, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
(BirdLife UK) and European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism



High Nature Value Farming systems provide important environmental services maintaining some of Europe's most threatened habitats and species and contributing to soil carbon storage, the protection of water resources and fire prevention. HNV Farming systems are also part of a rich cultural heritage underpinning an active land-managing rural population and sustaining a unique way of life in some of the most economically fragile areas in Europe. This event will showcase a variety of HNV Farming systems across Europe, explain their benefits and why greater support of these systems is needed in the new Common Agriculture Policy.



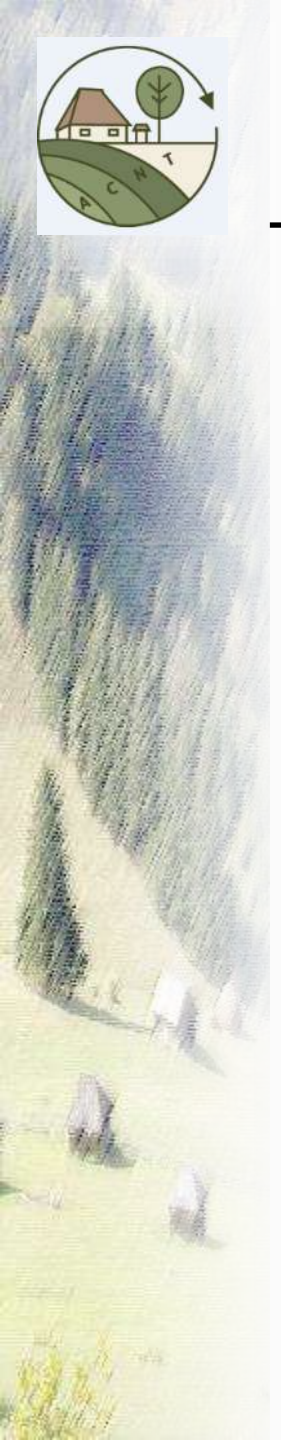
www.pogany-istvan.eu, <http://europe.birdlife.org>, www.ahcp.org, www.rspb.org.uk

Please confirm your participation by sending your name and organization to Caroline Lennister
Caroline.Lennister@ep.europa.eu by Wednesday 15th June. Please note that if you need a badge for the entry
to the Parliament, you must send your full name, date of birth and nationality, and bring with you a valid ID.
We very much hope you will join us for this important discussion.





The political context for landcare in Romania





What pople say...

- Western tradition: positions make people strong or weak
vs.
- Eastern tradition: people make positions strong or weak
- To know someone is more important than their role in the office
- Influential stakeholders and networks can be far too strong to influence policies (they have stronger words than this)



Governments in Romania

- Governments are extremely volatile

(Romanian governments in power between 1989 and 2022)

Less than 1 year	1-2 year	2-3 y	4y	All
17	8	1	4	30
57%	27%	3%	13%	100%

- Those in position have to work out their power balances quickly and soon they will be gone;
- Political attacks are continuous and dangerous;
- Thus politicians are super careful what they say and do



The experience of „bottom-up”

- Meritocracy has little role in selection for office
- Continuity of policy initiatives are problematic;
- Civil and business sector has to start building political relations from scratch far too often;
- Even successful lobbying goes to wastebin if actions are not fast enough;
- Politicians cancel participation last minute and...
- Don't even answer calls when uncomfortable



Tánczos Barna initiatives

Tánczos Barna - serving as Minister of Environment, Water and Forests since December 2020

- Loosen the hunting ban on bears
(to allow the killing of dangerous bears in populated areas)
- Introducing Natura 2000 payments in Romania
(besides/despite the agri-environmental payments)
- Introducing a tracking system of recyclable waste
(to stop illegal waste trafficking from other EU Member States)

THESE ARE CLEAR FIELDS OF CONFLICTS WITH
INFLUENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS



Potential for landcare in Romania

- There are a couple of dozens of regional development associations which could be suitable for the role
- There are about 500 Natura 2000 sites with some European highlights in species as well as habitats
- There are no consequential government actions to implement the European Landscape Convention
- Advisory services are critically underdeveloped – European Farm Advisory payment is planned to be introduced for about a decade
- Bottom-up approach can be successful, top-down too risky

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. The valley floor is a lush green meadow. Several small, rustic wooden huts with steeply pitched, shingled roofs are scattered across the meadow. A large haystack is visible on the right side. The valley is surrounded by steep, forested slopes. The trees are dense and green, with some areas showing signs of autumn color. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Thank you for your attention!

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