

Practice Abstract “Model Sheepfold ”

Short and easily understandable title (one key sentence, max 150 char.)

Model Sheepfold - Example of traditional farming methods being supported by technical expertise. The project provides solar panels for sheepfolds so that shepherds can improve their living conditions while staying with their flocks of sheep in the hills in the summer (charge their mobile phones to keep in touch with their families and to be able to use hot water to increase the hygienic condition up on the hills).

Objective: what problem/opportunities does the project address that are relevant for the practitioner/enduser, and how will they be solved? (300-600 characters word count-no spaces)

Between 2011 and 2015 ADEPT was involved in a project to prepare the management plan for the Natura 2000 site. Overgrazing was one of the main problems identified.

In the first phase, after a few field studies and direct contact with the actors involved, ADEPT revealed a number of limitations and needs for the members of a sheepfold. The most common problems were the low number of personnel compared with the number of sheep, very limited hot water supply, long distances to the water supply, difficulty in assembling and dismantling the sheepfold construction, and lack of electrical supply.

The difficulty in assembling and dismantling the sheepfold construction inhibits the regular moving of the sheepfold, which is required every week to prevent damage to the grasslands. This has led to excessive intervals between moving, 3 to 4 week intervals during the summer. This leads to a significant deterioration of the soil, where the sheep are kept for longer time. Lack of electricity and warm water is also one of the biggest issues for shepherds in the area, since it prevents night-time cheese-making, and reduces cheese quality from lack of ability to clean equipment properly.

Short summary in easily understandable language (1000 -1500 char.): What problem will the knowledge generated solve for the end-user? What will be the main benefits to the practitioner? Main outcome/recommendation (2-3 main results)

Based on the evaluation of the challenges and considering the discussions with the three shepherds identified as partners in a pilot project, a series of measures were proposed, aiming to improve the sheepfolds conditions. In 2011 ADEPT successfully applied to Innovation Norway, with whom we have carried out previous projects, under a project proposal “Ecosystem Services from High Nature Value farmland - Green industry – Romania”, with the component “Sustainable sheepfolds – waste management and renewable energy”.

In May 2015, ADEPT ordered the first photovoltaic and solar panel system in order to test them with the first shepherd. The results are amazing. The shepherd is very happy because he has energy to charge the mobile phones, lights during the night and they discovered that there is enough power stored in the system that can be used with electrical tools as drills or other small equipment.

After these good results ADEPT ordered another 2 systems that were delivered to the other 2 shepherds. We have done some calculation according to the technical specification of the systems and the number of days used we ended up with 1,3 MWh/year produced by the 3 systems installed.

Initially, ADEPT wanted to build a mobile unit that was supposed to incorporate all the equipment, but during the discussion with the shepherds we realised that the best way is to have a fix metal structure on which to fit all the parts. It takes about 15 minutes to disassemble the equipment and this is done 2 times a year. We have organised 3 groups (29 people) for visiting the shepherds, as part of this project.

ADEPT have also created a technical brochure on sheepfold specification so that it can be easily replicated. The brochure is freely available.

Quote of farmer and/or advisor

“This is a protected natural area where economical activities are allowed and we really try to find activities that combine utility with preservation and conservation of nature” (Ben Mehedin – Food&Farming Communities Manager, ADEPT Foundation)

Contact data: Project coordinator (+ address, e-mail, telephone), text editor, project partners (+ address, e-mail, telephone), geographical location, project period, funding source & budget, link to project website and to a website where info stays long-term available

Project coordinator:

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Farmers involved:

- 3 Shepherds were involved in this project.

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project partners (+ address, e-mail, telephone),

- External consultants:
 - Unfortunately there is no support agency for small scale farmers in Romania, ADEPT playing the role of advisor and mediator between small scale farmers and authorities, ensuring a two-ways communication.

geographical location: Southern Transylvania

project period: starting date 2011

funding source & budget:

- Innovation Norway, under a project proposal “Ecosystem Services from High Nature Value farmland - Green industry – Romania”, with the component “Sustainable sheepfolds – waste management and renewable energy”.

link to project website and to a website where info stays long-term available

- http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=green_innovation
- http://www.fundatia-adept.org/bin/file/green_innovation/Sheepfolds%20Innovation%20Systems-web.pdf
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