

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN CAUSSES & CEVENNES

The HNV-Link project in Causses and Cevennes, France, is led by a close partnership between CEN L-R (local conservatory of nature reserves), the Interdepartmental Organisation for the Causses and Cevennes, and the Regional Chamber of Agriculture of Occitanie Region. These organisations are used to working together through different structural projects (e.g. Mil'Ouv LIFE+ project finished in December 2017). The partnership integrates the numerous existing actions already carried out by the partners on the territory and organises regular meetings within the partnership.

Since 2016, the partners for Causses and Cevennes Learning Area (LA) have adopted a participatory approach to implement the HNV-Link project and to foster stakeholders' adoption of the concept of high nature value (HNV) farming, which is little used in in the Causses and Cevennes or France generally. The partners have lead a process to build together a baseline assessment for the Causses and the Cevennes and to identify implemented innovations and innovation needs in the local context.

Specific activities as part of the participatory approach used by the partners for the above goals include: informal bilateral meetings, group discussions, and workshops. In addition, outreach has aimed to share the concept and activities with the public. For instance, the network of the Interdepartmental Organization of the Causses and Cévennes has been used to inform local stakeholders and collect their perceptions and expectations for the area's future. The concept of HNV farming and the project were also taken up during the International Encounters of practitioners of Mediterranean agro-silvo-pastoralism (October, 17th-20th of 2017).



2016 territorial conference



2017 innovation seminar

Partners developed the baseline assessment of the learning area through evaluation of the general context for the area, the agro-pastoral systems, the current socio-political dynamics and the historical foundations. Partners also applied a prospective approach dealing with consequences of a business-as-usual scenario. To complete the baseline assessment and to formulate the Vision for the LA, the team reviewed literature, official reports and recent programmes or projects results (e.g., Mil'Ouv, Pegasus), after which the team consulted with various stakeholders and experts involved in natural areas management (Cevennes National Park, Grands Causses Regional Nature Park, etc.). Following these consultations, partners established a working group (10 participants) on February 21, 2017. Thanks to the mobilization of project leaders and other partners' skills (for instance, involvement of Cevennes National Park architect-landscaper to elaborate upon sections of territorial subunits), the baseline assessment was finalised in August 2017. The document is being distributed to contributors and concerned stakeholders.



An Innovation seminar aimed at the identification of existing innovations in the region and innovation needs took place with local stakeholders (20 participants from 17 organisations) on July 13, 2017. It facilitated validation of identified issues and sharing of innovations for the territory. These elements need now to be really adopted by local actors.

Table 1: List of participatory events in LA Causes and Cevennes, France (up to April 2018)

Activity	No of Participants	Date
Causes and Cevennes Territorial Conference	60	Dec 2016
Local workshop on baseline assessment	10	Feb 2017
Interviews with key stakeholders	15	May 2017
Innovation seminar	20	Jul 2017
International Encounters of practitioners of Mediterranean agro-silvo-pastoralism (RIAAM)	180	Oct 2017
Causes and Cevennes Territorial Conference	40	Dec 2017
Presenting the project at the Forum on Alternative Agricultural Practices, looking for new partnerships (LIFE+ Alpilles)	50	April 2018

Links

Baseline assessment process

http://www.cenlr.org/divers/hnv_link_cenlr_slides/

Report from the innovation seminar

<http://www.hnvlink.eu/download/FranceInnovationseminar.pdf>

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