

High Nature Value grasslands:  
can innovation secure a  
sustainable future?

EGF Alghero, 7-10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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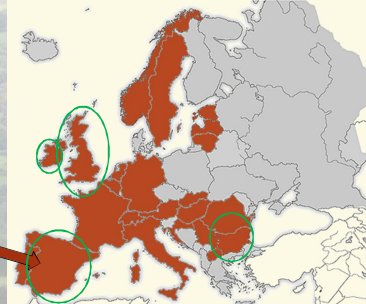
EFNCP is a European NGO  
based in the UK

Network of 60 organisations in 20  
countries

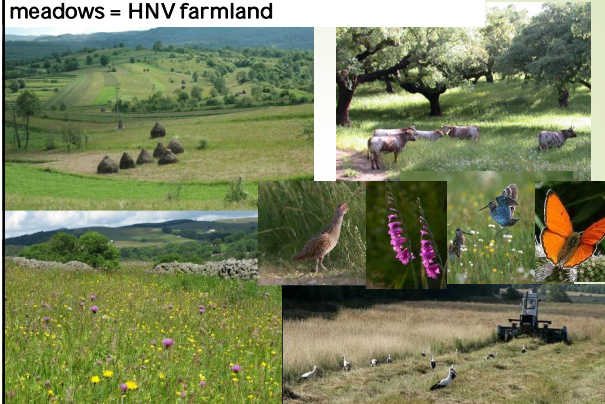
Small staff (in 4 countries):

- Ireland
- UK
- Bulgaria
- Spain


I'm based in  
Extremadura,  
Spain



EFNCP focus is on semi-natural pastures and  
meadows = HNV farmland



The great majority of HNV farmland is semi-  
natural pasture/meadow,  
on land which is marginal in many senses



Estimated High Nature Value (HNV) farmland  
presence in Europe,  
2012 update

Legend:

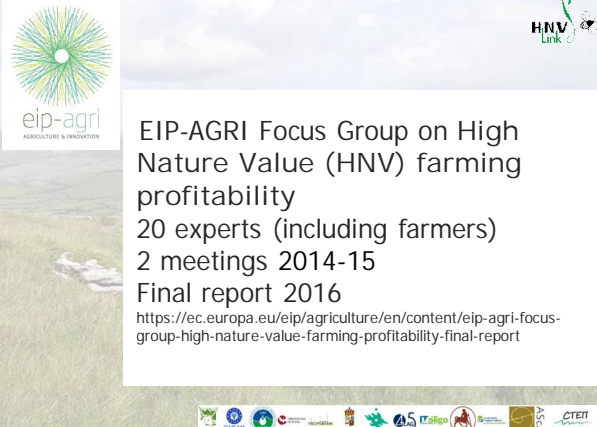
- HNV farmland
- No data
- Outside coverage

Data sources:  
Corine 2006, Nature 2000  
IBRA: BirdLife International  
PSAs: De Vries (2012) (NL)  
National biodiversity data  
(UK, CZ, LT, SE, ES)  
National HNV contributions  
(NL, SI, CH)  
Cartography: Umweltbundesamt  
Methodology: EEA & JRC 2007  
adapted by: ETC-SIA 2012  
© EuroGeographics for  
administrative boundaries

EIP-AGRI Focus Group on High  
Nature Value (HNV) farming  
profitability


20 experts (including farmers)  
2 meetings 2014-15  
Final report 2016

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-focus-group-high-nature-value-farming-profitability-final-report>



The Focus Group decided to  
widen its "profitability" focus:

"How to improve the social and economic  
sustainability of HNV farming without losing  
the HNV characteristics?"





### Focus Group ideas for further research on HNV farming

- Better understanding of HNV farming systems: socio-economic characteristics, economic performance, motivation, social dynamic, trends
- Analysing the role of innovation in HNV farming systems
- Developing technical and management solutions

This project is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme



## Horizon 2020 multi-actor network "...mutual learning, policy dialogue..."

# HNV-LINK

*High Nature Value farming: Learning, INnovation and Knowledge*

<http://www.hnmlink.eu/>

H2020-ISIB-2015-1

This project is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme



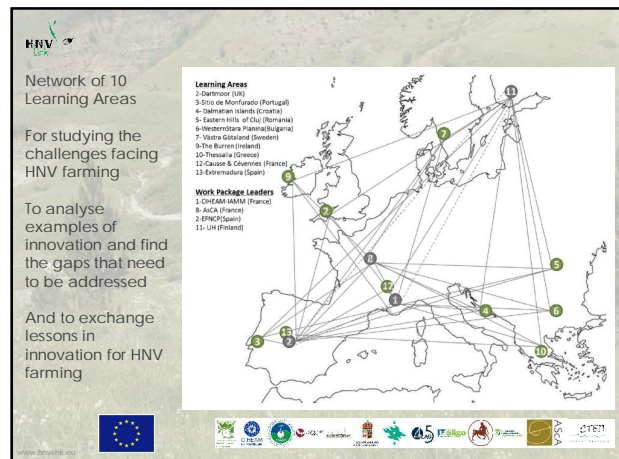
## HNV-LINK aims to:

Identify the types of innovation that improve the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of HNV farming.

Highlight the innovations that are needed but not yet implemented on a significant scale.

Promote the exchange and up-take of good innovation practice in support of HNV farming

This project is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme



## Network of 10 Learning Areas

For studying the challenges facing HNV farming

To analyse examples of innovation and find the gaps that need to be addressed

And to exchange lessons in innovation for HNV farming

**Learning Areas**

2. Garmire (UK)
3. Siro de Montfardo (Portugal)
4. Dalmatian Islands (Croatia)
5. Eastern Hills of Chi (Romania)
6. Western Transilvania (Romania)
7. Västmanland (Sweden)
8. The Burren (Ireland)
9. The Burren (Ireland)
10. The Burren (Ireland)
11. Causse & Cévennes (France)
12. Extremadura (Spain)

**Work Package Leaders**

1. Causse & Cévennes (France)
2. Extremadura (Spain)
3. Siro de Montfardo (Portugal)
4. Dalmatian Islands (Croatia)
5. Eastern Hills of Chi (Romania)
6. Western Transilvania (Romania)
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12. Extremadura (Spain)

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## All the Learning Areas (LA) are characterised by semi-natural pastures and extensive livestock

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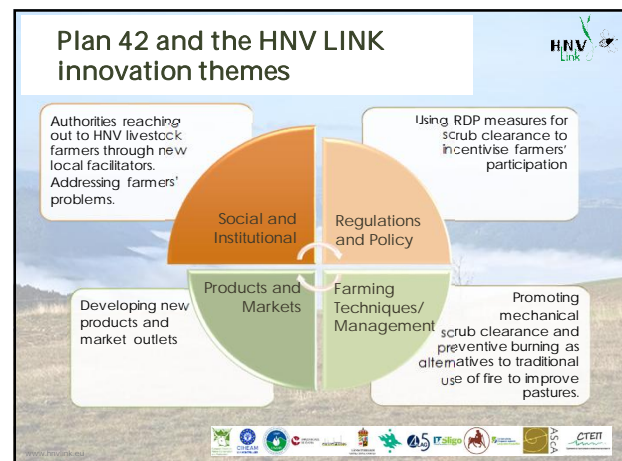


## Challenges and innovative solutions - for example in La Vera:

**La Vera, Extremadura**

This project is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme





### Examples of innovations for exchange across the HNV-LINK network

**Burren – results-based payments programme for HNV grassland farming**

**Learning Areas**

- 1. Dartmoor (UK)
- 2. Sado de Montebelo (Portugal)
- 3. Sado de Montebelo (Portugal)
- 4. Sado de Montebelo (Portugal)
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- 14. Sado de Montebelo (Portugal)
- 15. Sado de Montebelo (Portugal)

**Work Package Leaders**

- 1. Corbières (France)
- 2. Corbières (France)
- 3. Corbières (France)
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- 14. Corbières (France)
- 15. Corbières (France)

**Innovations:**

- New techniques and machinery for grassland management
- Agri-environment support for pastoralist groups
- Facilitating farmers' access to markets and milk collection points
- GPS monitoring of livestock to enable product certification

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### Preliminary conclusions (not official)

#### State of HNV grasslands and livestock farming

- Many areas are in crisis, but some areas are in recovery, thanks to innovation
- More research is needed into the state (social, economic and environmental) of HNV grasslands and the systems that farm them
- Monitoring systems are needed to track trends in the state of HNV grasslands and systems

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### Can innovation secure a future for HNV farming?

- Many successful innovations are available and are working in some places
- Expanding their usage is a major challenge, and requires innovative processes at all levels
- EIP Operational Groups and pilot projects are an opportunity for kick-starting innovative processes at local level
- But institutional and regulatory barriers are stifling innovation in many areas
- Institutional and regulatory innovation is needed, to enable and facilitate innovation at local and farm levels

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### Official conclusions?

...In 2019 on <http://www.hnvlink.eu/>

Thank you for listening...

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