



**REVIEW OF THE VISIT OF SPANISH AND GREEK PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE HNV-LINK PROJECT**  
AUMELAS MASSIF / LE VIGAN AREA / MOUNT AIGOUAL / FLORAC AREA – 3-5 OCTOBER 2018



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**DAY 1:** A day of meetings on the theme of pastoralism and fire risk management was proposed to the Spanish delegation (7 participants). Presentations and discussions took place around three pastoral farms on the Aumelas massif. This made it possible to highlight the role of each one, the partnerships in place (between Grouping of local authorities and their technical bodies, Chambers of Agriculture, etc.) and the devices allowing to maintain the open habitats to prevent the fire risks and / or preserve biodiversity in a context of climate change. The stakes then appeared numerous (accessibility of the land, cohabitation between users, natural constraints, evolution of public policies, technical and financial feasibility ...).



**DAY 2:** In the Cévennes, a Greek delegation (3) joined the group. A rich day made it possible to present the territory of Causses and Cévennes listed on the list of World Heritage of Humanity elaborated by Unesco thanks to its pastoral character and history. The visits and meetings led the delegations and local actors to question the possibility of maintaining production chains and collective infrastructures at a local scale, and to reaffirm the need for a collective approach (production, processing, marketing) and the role of farmers to maintain pastoral practices and activities within the territory. In parallel, the support of local authorities, public administration and general public seems to be very important. At the end of the day, many local and quality products have been presented.



**DAY 3:** The last day of visit around Mount Aigoual and Florac allowed to deepen themes previously treated: collective structuring of the actors for the management of summer pastures, maintenance of natural resources (biodiversity, pastures, water ...), partnership supporting projects, apprehension of predation risk, appropriation of regulations, valuation of products and activities, etc. The question of financial aid linked to agro-pastoral farms made it possible to see differences with the other Mediterranean countries, the need not to reduce the role of pastoral farms to the maintenance of landscapes and the necessity of a recognition of its specificities at a local scale as much wider, ie at the European level.

#### **COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS:**

##### - Delegation of actors from the Extremadura region in Spain:

Technical Organization Entretantos - partner HNV-Link, Regional Government of Extremadura, Local Development Agency, Expert in Sociology and Agroecology.

##### - Delegation of actors from Thessaly in Greece:

Tzoumerka National Park, Municipal Association, Goat milk farmer.

#### **LESSONS REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS CROSS-VISIT:**

##### - Difficulties overcome:

Harmonize the availability and expectations of multiple actors from different countries, and facilitate their arrival logistically.

Take into account particularities and particular expectations of different groups (daily break, free time, informal exchanges ...).

Provide a simultaneous translation system and identify bilingual actors to translate into several languages.

Respond to a wide range of expectations in a time constrained, avoiding a too busy program and too many trips.

##### - Successes observed:

Take advantage of the presence of external partners to mobilize local actors to promote actions, benefit from external points of view and draw inspiration from other contexts.

Explain clearly the national and local context for a better appropriation of the stakes by the European partners.

Let the actors present the actions and innovations on which they are invested for better customization.

##### - Highlights from European partners:

The visit program and the proposed meetings have largely satisfied the Spanish and Greek partners and have met their many expectations. They were particularly marked by the dynamics and the collective organization in place, within the territories and associating multiple actors; by the scales of the exploitations and the infrastructures in comparison of their respective countries; but also by the place of the women within the projects. Different perspectives of collaboration are emerging today to follow up these exchanges and work collectively to maintain and develop Mediterranean agro-pastoralism.

#### **THANKS:**

A big thank you to various actors mobilized to welcome these delegations, to present the stakes of the Mediterranean pastoral territories, in particular the Causses and the Cévennes, and to value the many actions and approaches developed: CEN L-R, Entente C&C, CRA Occitanie – service pastoralisme, CA 34/ADVAH, Conseil départemental 34, DDTM 34, PN Cévennes, Groupement pastoral – GP Massevaque, Fédération des GP 30/48, COPAGE, éleveurs mobilisés sur les visites, Abattoir du Vigan, Château Bas d'Aumelas, Gaufronomie, CFPPA de Florac, Terre d'Aigoual, Office du tourisme Col de la Serrereyde, Communauté de communes Causses Aigoual Cévennes – Terres Solidaires, Conseil départemental 48, La ferme des Cévennes.