

*Project IRIS - Inspiring rural heritage: sustainable practices to protect and  
conserve upland landscapes and memories  
Closing Conference Sinjajevina workshop  
19-21 October 2023, Kolašin, Montenegro*

# **TRADITIONAL ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AT THE MONTENEGRIN KATUNS**

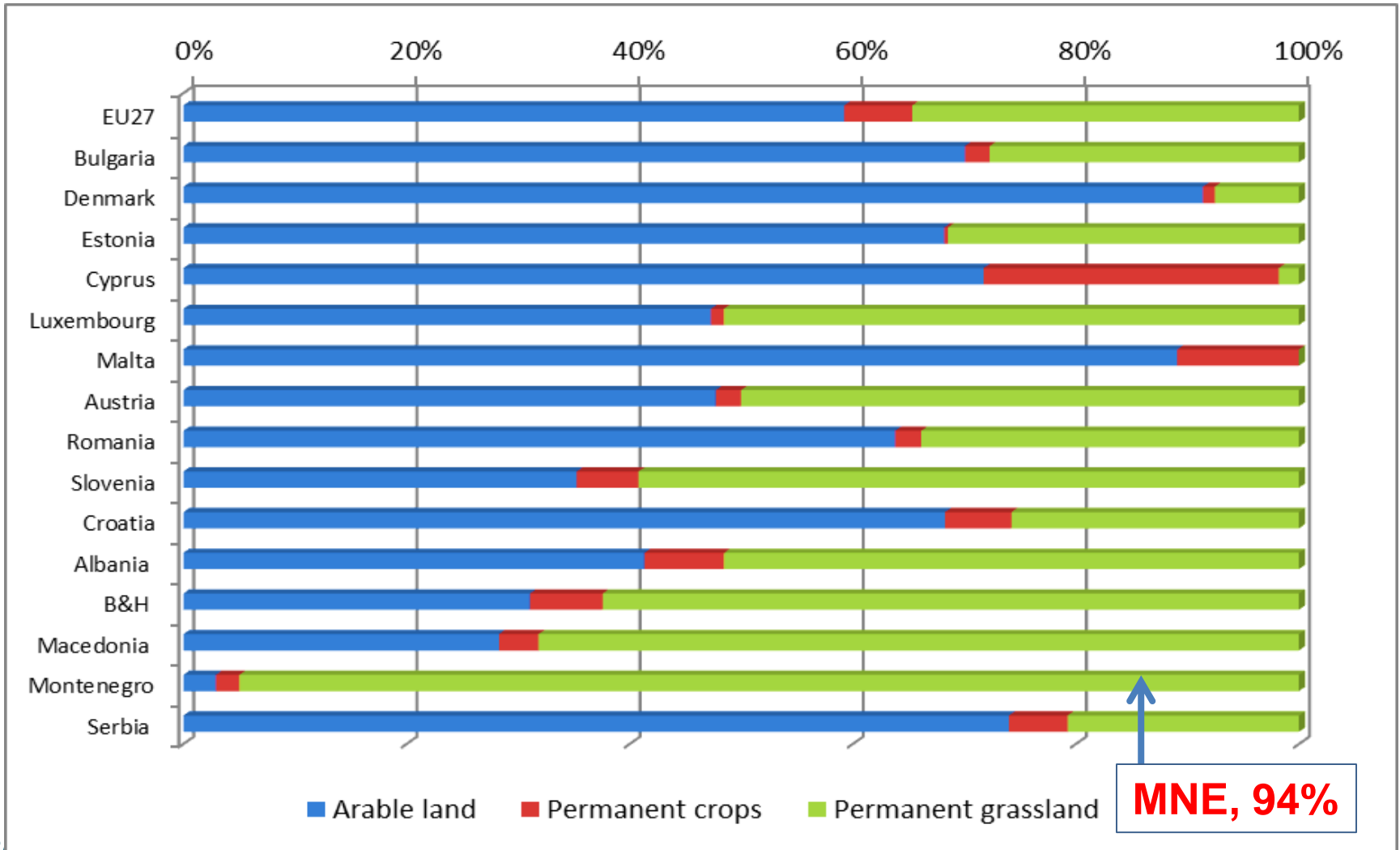
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# THE KEY FEATURES OF THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

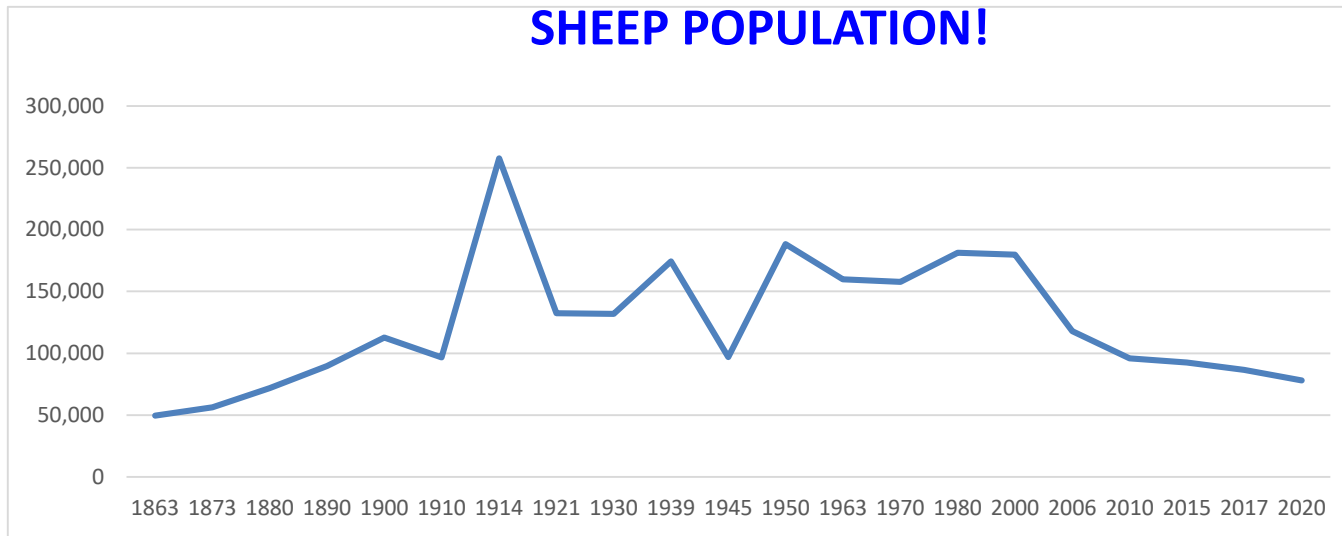
- Traditionally, animal husbandry is a main sector of the Montenegrin agriculture (more than 50% of the total production),
- Share of grassland (natural meadows and pastures) (243,305 ha) in the Used Agricultural Area (257,950 ha) is extremely high (over 94%) – this figures primarily determine rearing of ruminants (**cattle, sheep and goats**)
- Pig and poultry production are not well developed due to lack of cereals production
- Relatively small-sized family farms prevail (average size is 3 cows or 40 sheep), with a large share of mixed farms.
- Production of meat and milk are far bellow the consumption (incl. tourism), **self sufficiency** for meat is about **36%**, for milk is about **70%**



# The share of permanent grasslands (natural meadows and pastures) in total used agricultural areas

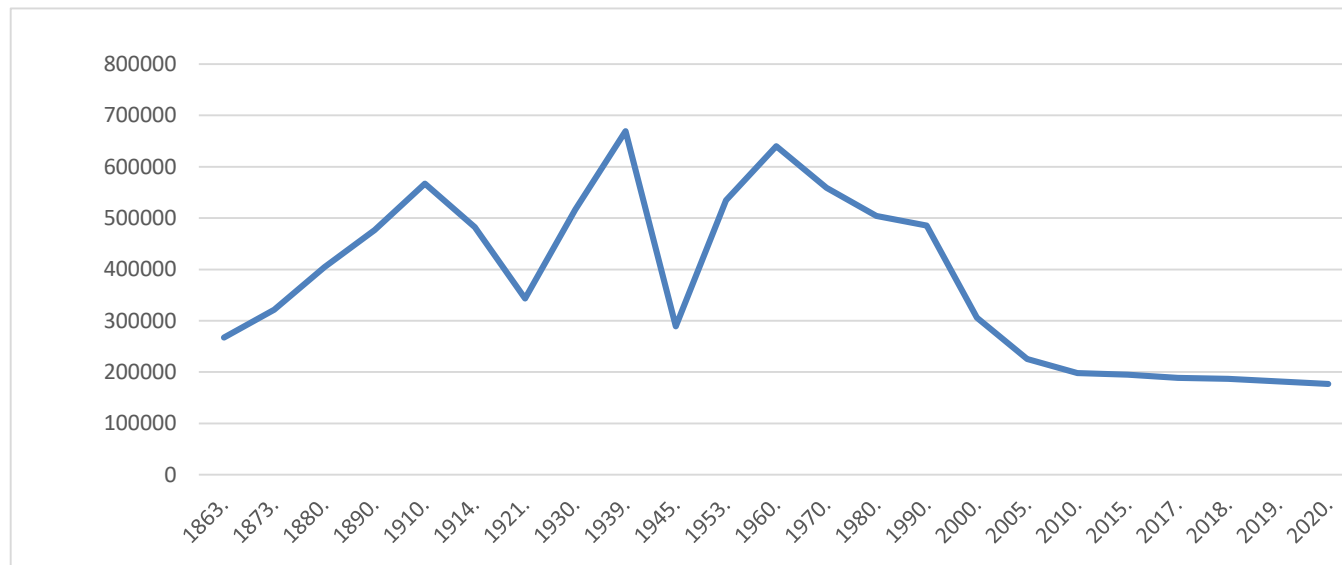


## LONG-TERM DECREASING TREND IN SIZE OF THE CATTLE AND SHEEP POPULATION!



In 2020:  
**77.900 heads**

### Cattle population of Montenegro, 1863-2020



In 2020:  
**176.580 heads**

### Sheep population of Montenegro, 1863-2020

## Traditional livestock rearing is closely linked to using the KATUNS

- The traditional way of production is mostly preserved in mountain areas – at katuns, where rearing of LIVESTOCK is by far the main branch of agriculture.
- There are around 500 *katuns* in Montenegro (Spasojević, 2006), significant number of them are still used, but at a much lower scale (smaller number of households).
- The KATUNS are extremely important – provide numerous economic and social benefits - ecosystem services; but they also have a huge potential for development (production, recreation, tourism)
- The growing interest and demand of tourists for the mountain beauties of Montenegro - imposes a need to find mechanisms that will enable sustainable economic development and preservation of rural heritage in the Montenegrin katuns.
- New challenges in front of rural society and opportunities of EU integration for mountain regions, at the same time new opportunities given by the new CAP 20214-2028;



# Map of the main mountain pastures of Montenegro



## Number of holdings and livestock units, which used mountain pasture - katuns in 2010 and 2020 (holdings above 5 LU were eligible for the subsidies)

Municipality	Number of holdings			No of Livestock units*		
	2010.	2020.	'20/'10, %	2010. g	2020. g.	'20/'10, %
Bar	3	1	33	64	45	70
Ulcinj	2	1	50	32	11	34
Kotor & Budva	1	2	200	8	10	125
Herceg Novi	4	2	50	74	26	35
Podgorica	121	92	76	1820	1372	75
Danilovgrad	66	37	56	1091	672	62
Cetinje	9	5	56	187	116	62
Nikšić	185	207	112	2209	2742	124
Plužine	139	113	81	2040	1671	82
Šavnik	119	103	87	1700	1639	96
Berane (incl. Petnjica)	314	269	86	3779	3581	95
Plav (incl. Gusinje)	179	137	77	1811	1867	103
Andrijevisa	92	75	82	940	741	79
Rožaje	144	73	51	1552	1084	70
Bijelo Polje	246	197	80	3391	2082	61
Mojkovac	141	116	82	1338	1032	77
Kolašin	155	113	73	2003	1431	71
Pljevlja	46	29	63	513	539	105
Žabljak	60	47	78	761	1064	140
<b>UKUPNO</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>26201</b>	<b>22445</b>	<b>86</b>

***Note:** Based on information from the field there are close to 500 households keep less than 5 LSU (noneligible for the subsidies), which also use the mountain pastures - katuns*

## ESTIMATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT LINKED TO THE KATUNS

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Number of agricultural holdings	43,791
Labor force on agricultural holdings	99,236
Average number of persons engaged	2.3
Total Annual Working Units - AWU in agriculture	46,473
Number of holdings used katuns in 2020	1618
Number of people involved in katun	3712
Farmers involved in commons in total, %	8.0
Number of people benefited directly from katuns	6552
Number of people benefited indirectly from katuns (other family members who come to katuns during summer to collect mushrooms, medicinal herbs, forest fruit etc.) + small households below thresholds for the subsidies	3276
<b>Total number of people benefited from the katuns</b>	<b>9828</b>

Note: The numbers in black color are statistical data, while in blue color are estimations

*Data Sources: MONSTAT - Agricultural Census 2010 - Book 2: STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS, Statistical Yearbook 202, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - subsidies for using katuns in 2020*



## Number of holdings and livestock units, which used Sinjajevina katun pastures in 2010 and 2020

Municipality	Year 2010			Year 2020			2020/2010, %		
	Holdings	Cattle	Sheep	Holdings	Cattle	Sheep	Holdings	Cattle	Sheep
Bijelo Polje	4	34	679	5	30	304	125%	88%	45%
Danilovgrad	18	97	2161	15	127	2019	83%	131%	93%
Kolašin	29	206	581	19	155	537	66%	75%	92%
Mojkovac	55	358	1383	46	305	978	84%	85%	71%
Šavnik	60	419	3293	50	463	2821	83%	111%	86%
Žabljak	21	134	229	19	158	491	90%	118%	214%
Other municip. – approx.	5	20	500	5	20	500	100%	100%	100%
<b>Sinjajevina total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>1268</b>	<b>8826</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>7650</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>87%</b>

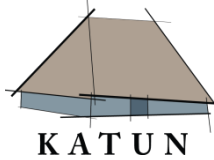
*In addition, there are roughly 400 goats and 130 horses at Sinjajevina katuns during summer*

# PHOTOS FROM SINJAJEVINA





# PRODUCTION ON KATUNS



- ✓ The main products from katuns are meat and milk.
- ✓ Meat: lambs and beef, placed to the market mainly as live animals.
- ✓ Milk is processed into different traditional dairy products (different types of cheese or skorup or both, depending of the region)
- ✓ Value of production at katuns (meat and milk), according to Biotech. Faculty estimation, is about 9 mil. € (6 mio € dairy products and 2.5 mio € live weight of animals)
- ✓ The katuns' products are of high nutritional value, characterized by specific sensory characteristics well accepted and recognized by consumers.
- ✓ The dairy products are not only an essential element in nutrition of the rural population; they represent cultural and historical identity of people from the katuns.
- ✓ Other products - vegetables for household needs, especially potatoes
- ✓ Other activities on katuns - collecting medicinal herbs, mushrooms, forest fruits, etc.



## KEY DRIVERS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE KATUNS

- Development of the **livestock sector in the valleys** and villages (katuns are highly dependent on the state of livestock sector generally);
- **Good infrastructure** - quality of roads to allow easy access to the village and market, especially for those katuns which are far away from the main roads;
- **The equipment** (supply of electricity, water) and improvement hygienic standards for milking ewes and cows, making and storing dairy products;
- Stable and **reliable channels for marketing** of products, including selling katun produce on the spot, as much as possible;
- **Labelling** of quality or particular products;
- Launching new activities: **rural tourism** and accompanied services and inclusion it in local economy;
- **The cooperation** between farmers (producers organisations)
- **Support from the government** (direct payments for using mountain pasture and implement. of the Eco schemes) and from local administration – cofinancing infrastructure

# SUSTAINABILITY OF THE KATUNS

Sustainability of katuns: the long-term trend in the use of katun is declining and if they are based only on the production of traditional products, their future is completely uncertain - are they threatened with extinction?

The issues that should be addressed to **the PRODUCERS** are:

- to improve hygienic conditions;
- to keep authenticity and originality in breeds of livestock, type of production, buildings;
- try to sell most of the katun produce 'on the place';
- to provide social life for young family members during stay at katuns;
- to enhance networking of the producers with tourist agencies, service providers, etc.

The main issues addressed to **the DECISION MAKERS** (*Min. of Agriculture and Rural Devel;* *Min. of Sust. Develop. and Tourism, local governments and local authorities*) are:

- recognition and acceptance of the values of katuns;
- KATUN infrastructure has to be unavoidable priority;
- increase support for using mountain pastures, including support for trainings, for young generation, females and shepherds;
- investment support in barns (in villages) and equipment at katun;
- to regulate legal frame for katuns, hence for agro tourism;
- improve status of the katuns in the national parks (NPs should be accelerators not inhibitors for the development).



## SUSTAINABILITY OF THE KATUNS

A significant number of the issues are addressed to **the EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** to the researchers and professionals in the extension service:

- Authenticity (traditional technologies, native breeds, ecosystem services) is of the prior interest;
- Societal challenges should be highly ranked in research agenda;
- To include mountain livestock production to regular educational programs of high schools and faculties;
- To provide knowledge exchange and innovation via different channels, primarily on spot trainings;
- Networking and constant dialogue with decision makers;
- Comparative studies on ways of support in other countries.

**Thank you for your attention!**

