



Supporting HNV farming in Western Stara Planina, Bulgaria

Yanka Kazakova

Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity

Workshop//CAP at a Crossroads: Unity in Sustainability Makes Strength
4 June 2018, Sofia

Тематична мрежа за земеделие с висока природна стойност

Обучение, Иновации и Знания

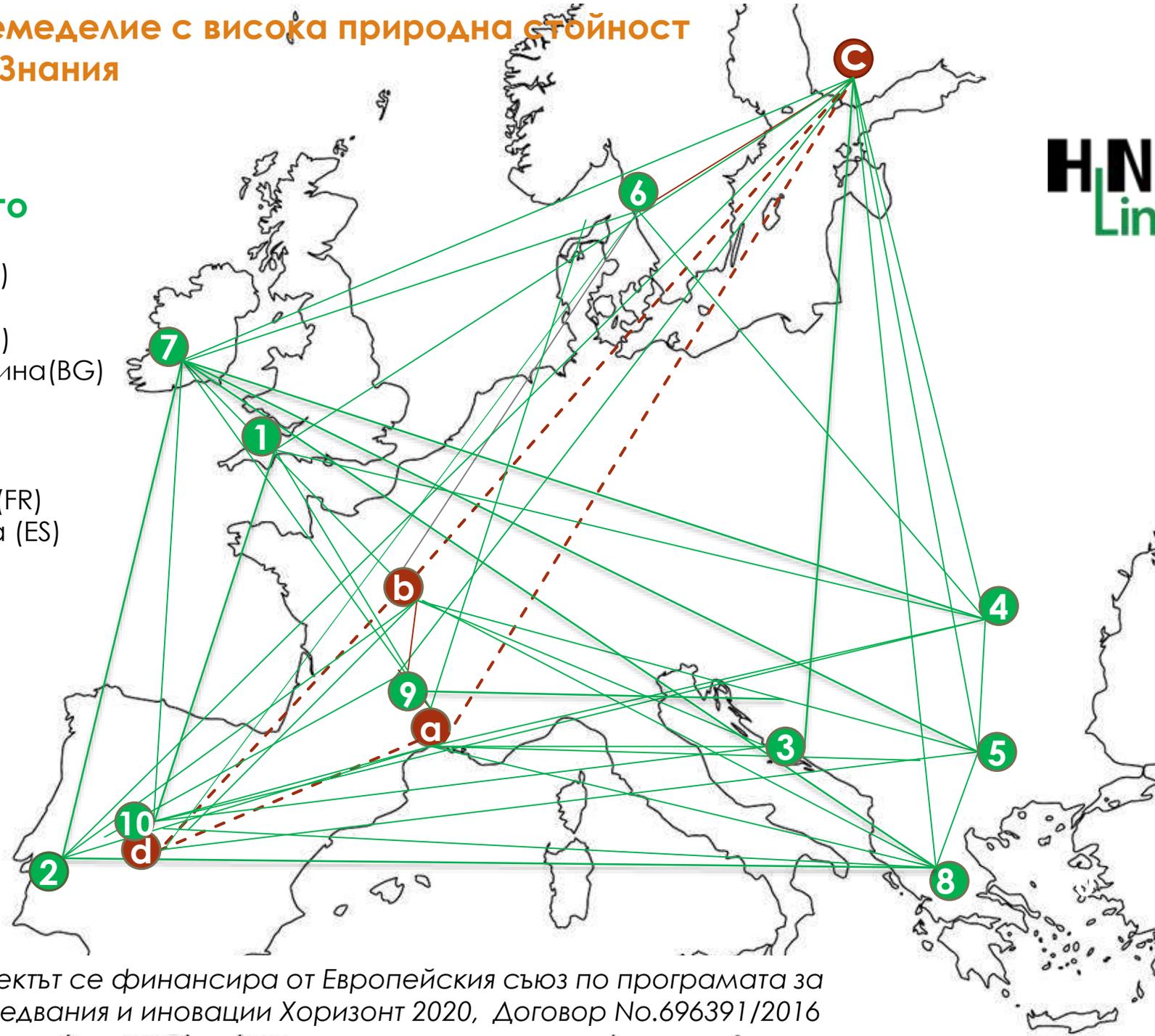


Райони на знанието

- 1) Dartmoor (UK)
- 2) Sitio de Monfurado (PT)
- 3) Dalmatian Islands (HR)
- 4) Eastern Hills of Cluj (RO)
- 5) Западна Стара планина (BG)
- 6) Västra Götaland (SE)
- 7) The Burren (IE)
- 8) Thessalia (GR)
- 9) Causses et Cévennes (FR)
- 10) La Vera, Extremadura (ES)

Ръководители на работни пакети

- a) CIHEAM-IAMM (FR)
- b) ASca (FR)
- c) UH (FI)
- d) EFNCP (ES)

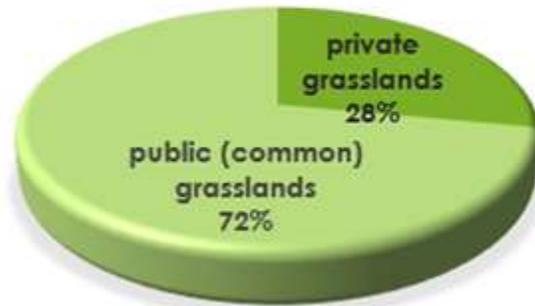
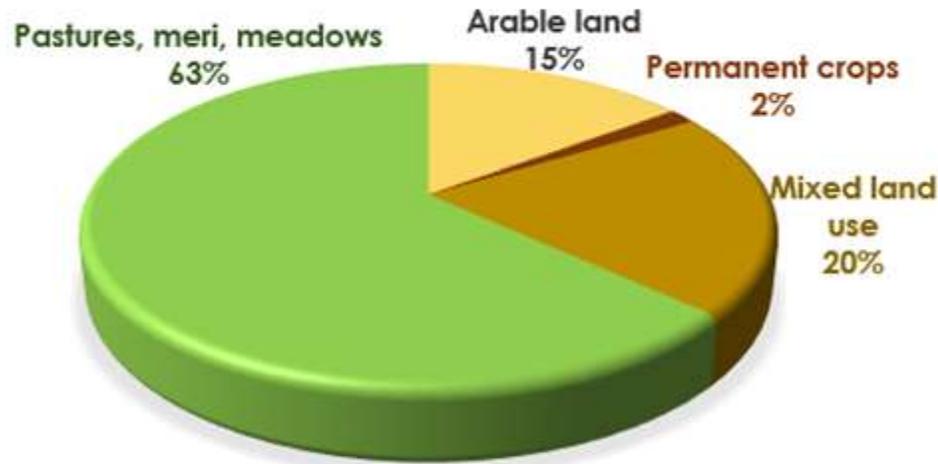


Проектът се финансира от Европейския съюз по програмата за изследвания и иновации Хоризонт 2020, Договор No.696391/2016

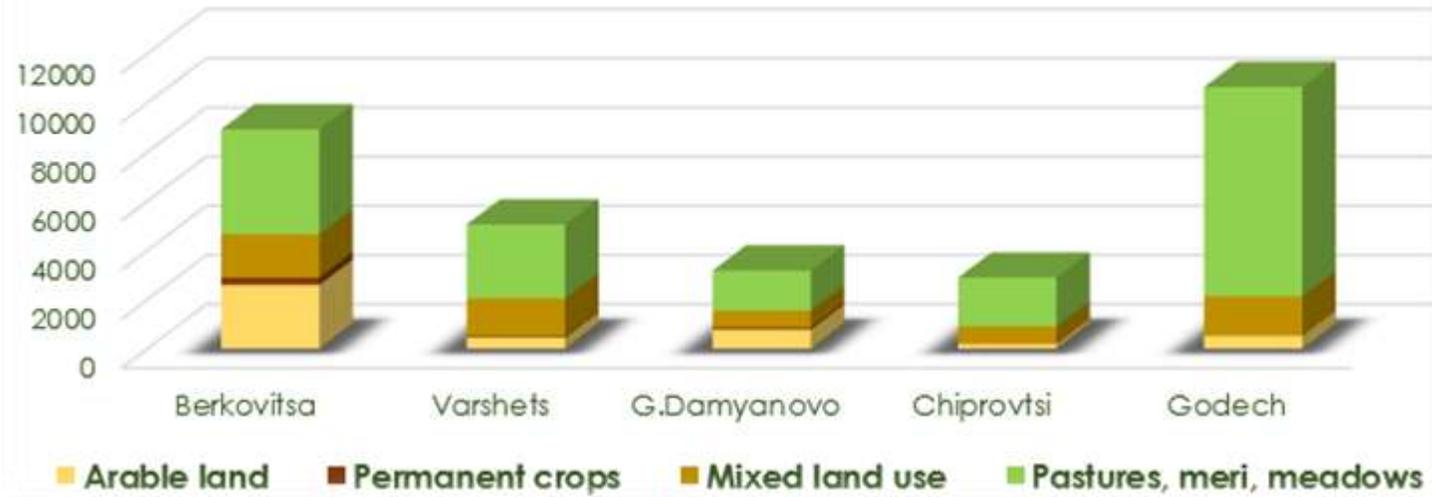
The High Nature Values of Western Stara Planina



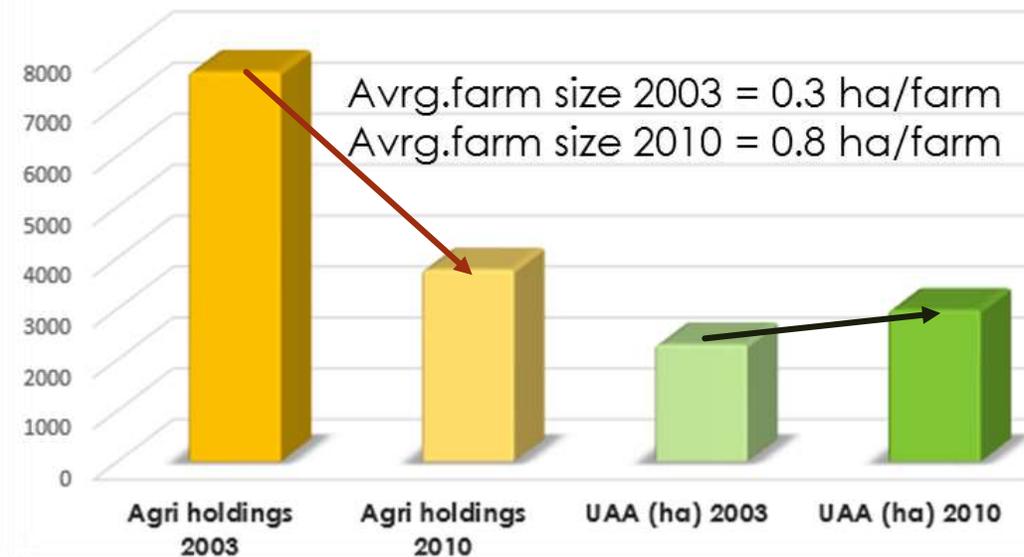
LAND USE IN THE LA, 2016



Agriculture land use in the municipalities of WSP, 2016 Total UAA 30 700 ha

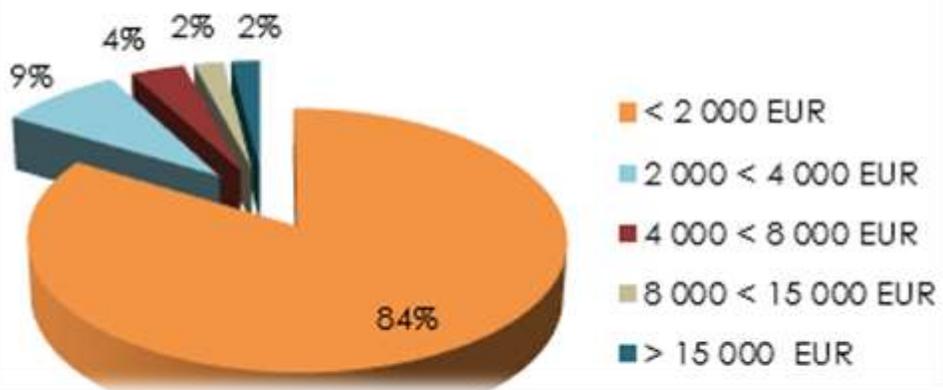


Agri Census data for the LA



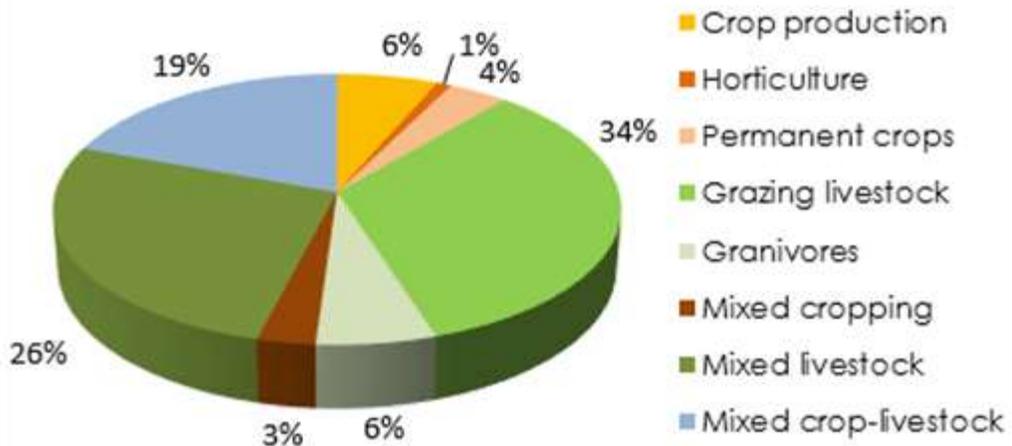
Farms economic size in the LA

Agri Census data 2010

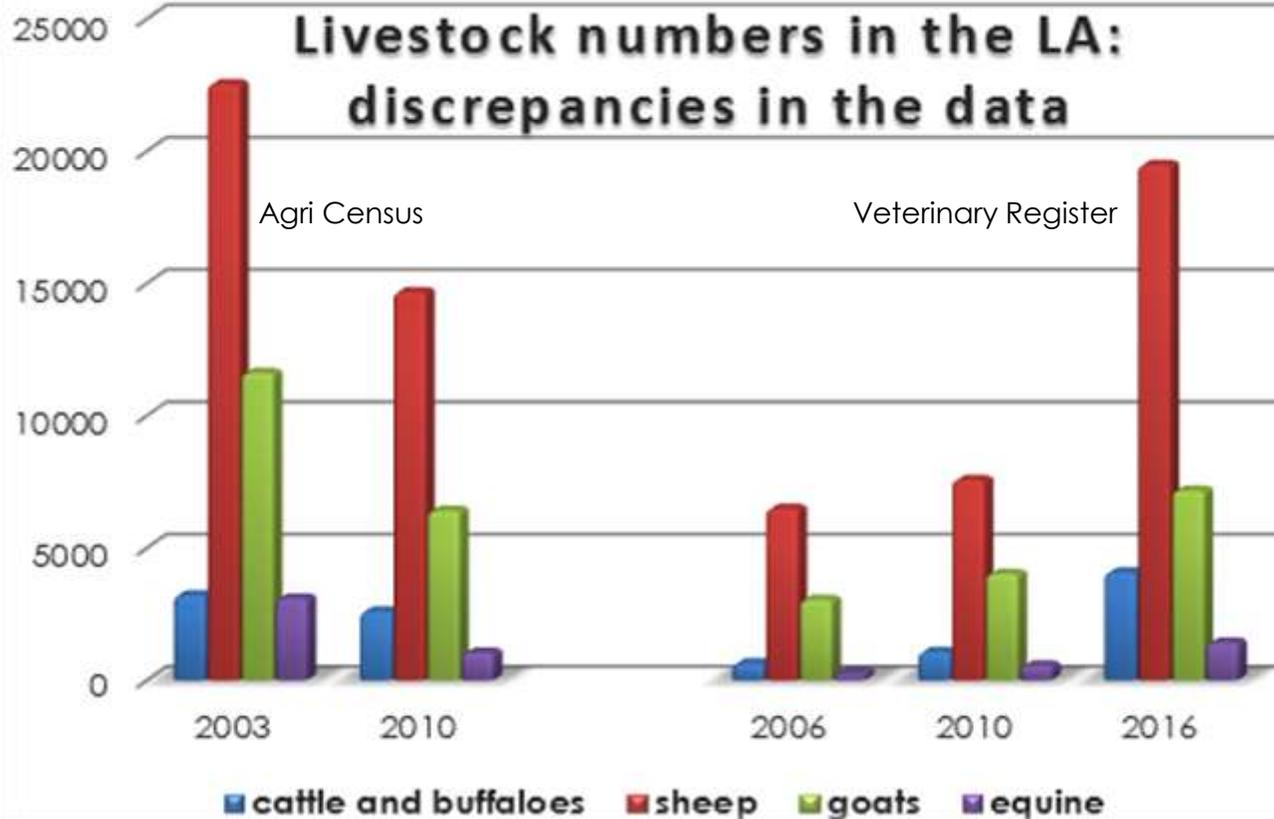


Farms specialization in the LA

Agri Census data 2010



Livestock numbers in the LA: discrepancies in the data



Western Stara Planina landscape and transect



(Larger) arable fields
on the southern hills
(400 -700 m)



Common grasslands in
the high mountains,
already allocated for
individual use



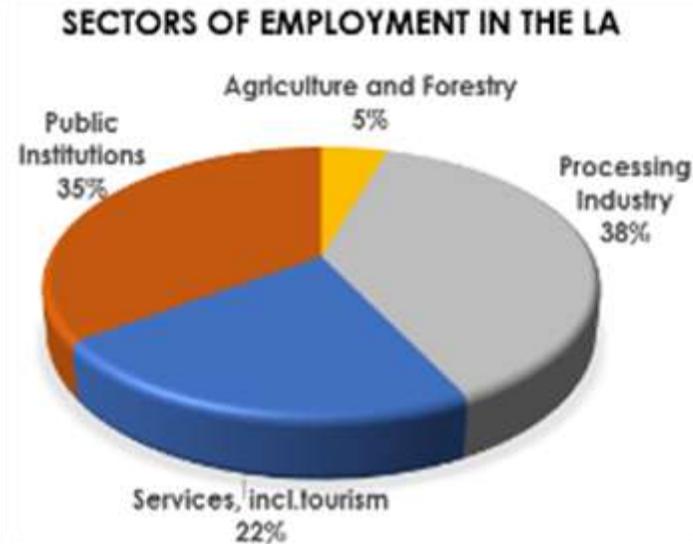
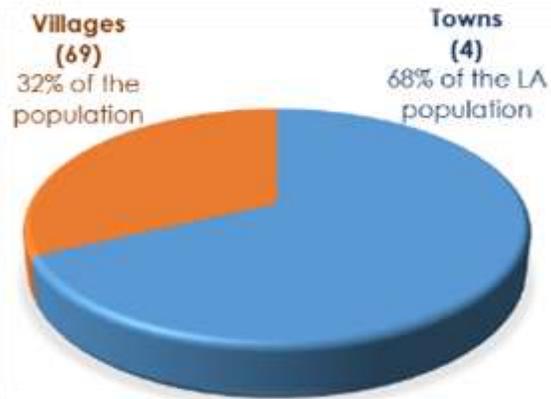
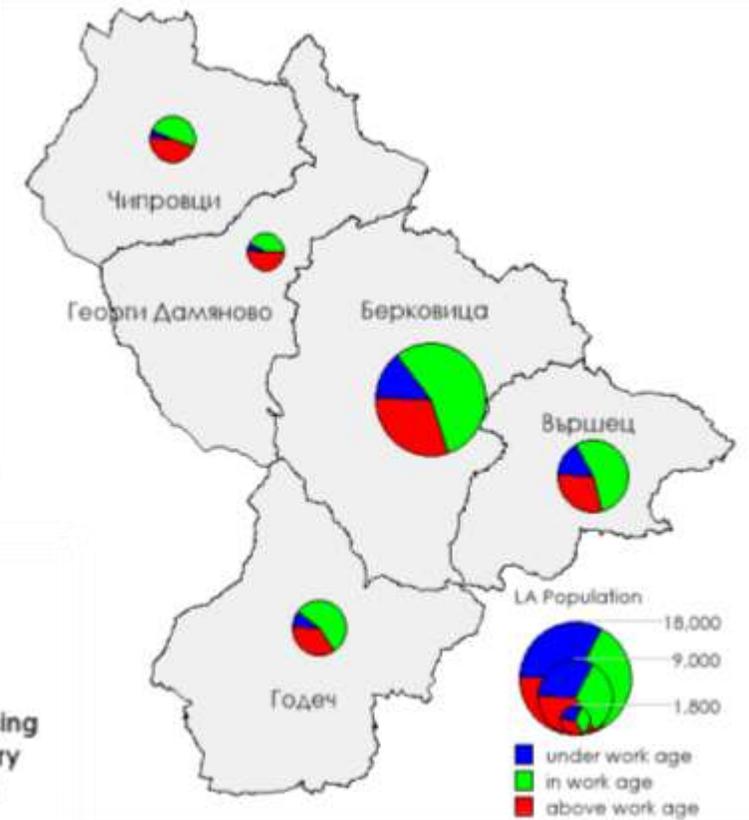
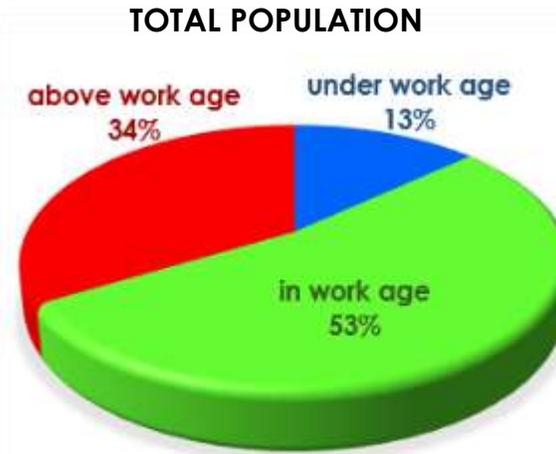
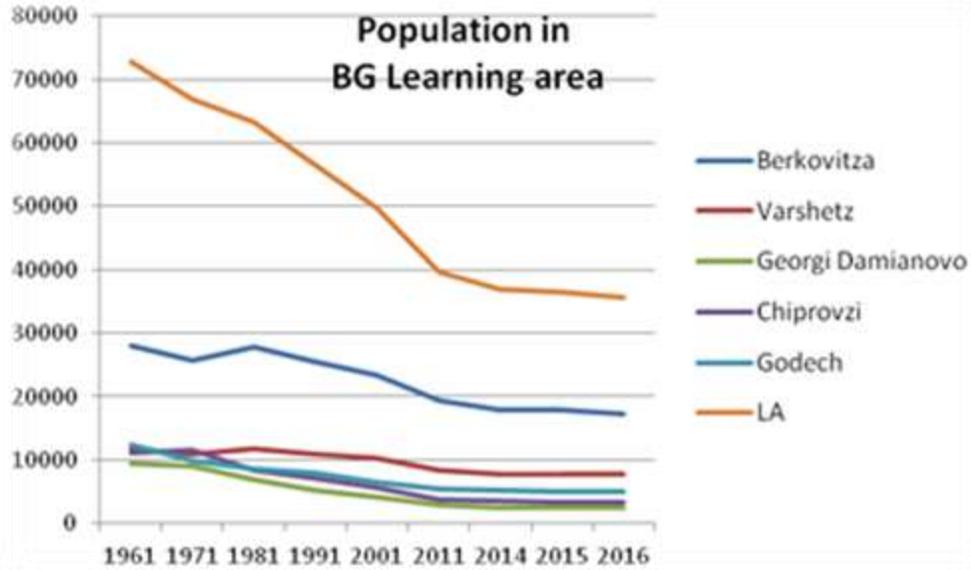
Forested northern
slopes and hills with
patches of grasslands
and small plots



Small scale farming in
the valleys surrounded
by grasslands and
forests



Human geography

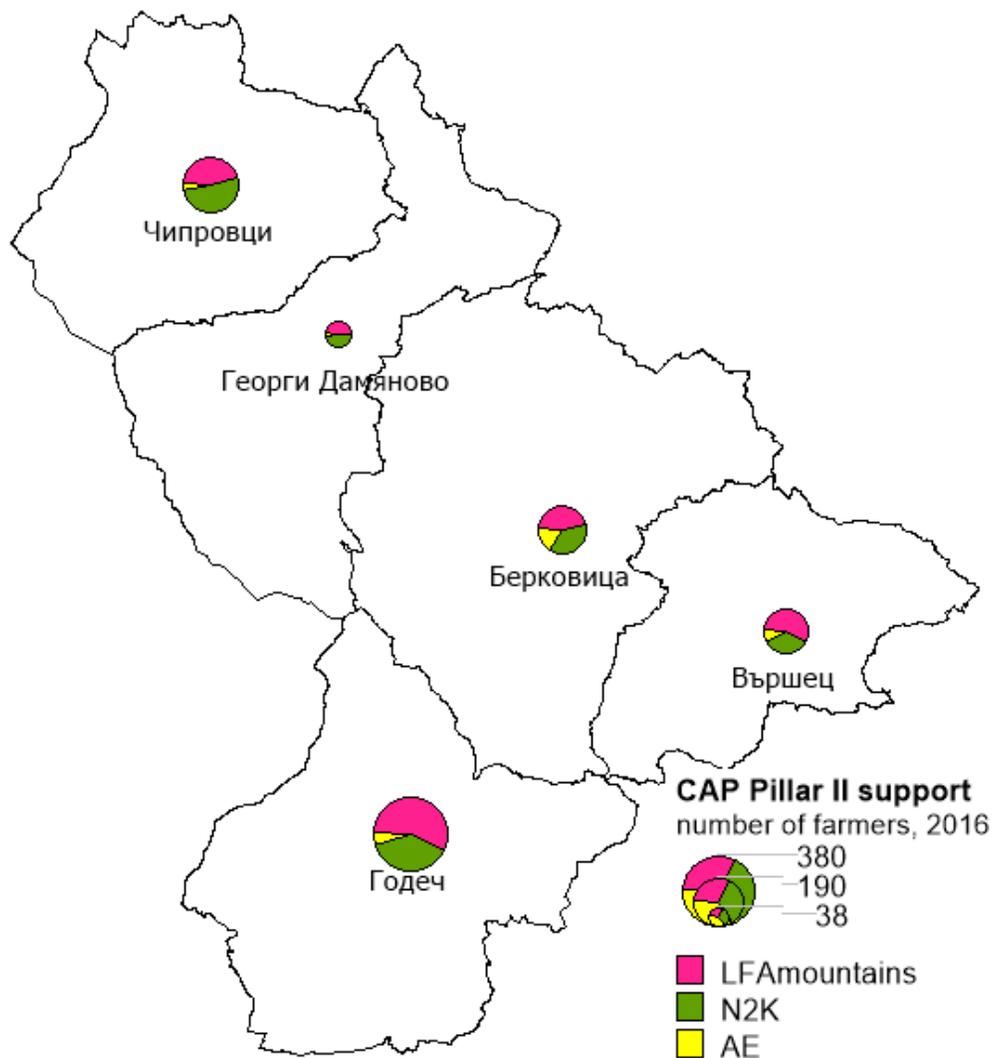


СТЕП

Сдружение за Териториален и Екологичен Просперитет



The policies and political driving forces



- ❖ AE HNV grasslands scheme CAN NOT be implemented in Natura 2000 areas with designation orders (SPAs)
- ❖ Natura 2000 compensatory measure is the only option BUT it pays only for restrictions, no positive management
- ❖ Natura 2000 payments for grasslands vary between €17 and €108/ha
AE HNV grassland payments: mowing €113.15/ha; grazing €126.8/ha
- ❖ Natura 2000 measure commitment is annual which is better for farmers given the contracting of public grasslands
- ❖ Neither measure provides for targeted improvement of grassland habitats (result-based payments)

Challenges facing HNV livestock farming in WSP

1. Allocation of municipal grasslands

- Still changing constantly. Currently, priority are livestock farmers from the municipality; duration for maximum 5 years after which the allocated land may change. This prevents farmers from investing in shelters and watering points for the animals.
- The rules (grazing area per livestock unit) still do not distinguish between grasslands that are HNV or are in Natura 2000, but only according to land quality.

2. Depopulation and ageing population

- Farm labour, especially for shepherding and livestock care is a fundamental problem
- Community and social vitality is being lost

3. Support for livestock breeding is insufficient in comparison to support for arable farming.

- Coupled support for livestock farmers was only introduced in the last couple of years and led to increase in the number of the grazing animals.
- However, the coupled support schemes are designed at national level and require equal productivity from the in-door animals and the grazing ones, which HNV farmers can't meet.

4. Adding value to farm products

- Direct sales legislation rules were recently changed, which enabled the on-farm processing of milk. Targeted investment support is needed to make it real for more farmers.

More information on HNV-Link project in Bulgaria and other EU countries on

➤ <http://www.hnvlink.eu/>

➤ <http://step-bg.bg/bg>

Thank you for your attention!

Yanka Kazakova

yanka.kazakova@gmail.com