

## CASE STUDY CZ-1

### BIODIVERSITY RICH MEADOWS (CZECH REPUBLIC)

#### BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CASE STUDY

- **White Carpathians** - the mountains are located on the border with **Slovakia**, in the South-East of the country and their total area is 715 km<sup>2</sup>. South part (case study area) represents 3 972 ha of grasslands managed by farmers.
- The management of biodiversity in rich meadows is done through partnerships of two ministries, NGO and farmers.
- Main stakeholders **on national level**: Ministry of Agriculture, Paying Agency, Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation Agency & **on local level**: local administration of the Landscape Protection Area, farmers, NGOs, regional office of the Paying Agency
- Main environmental and social benefit studied: **biodiversity of grasslands**



#### KEY FACTORS IMPACTING THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Action situation: Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment agreed to a **system of tailoring of agri-environmental measure under Common Agricultural Policy to complement national policies**. The agreement on tailoring of national and CAP measures (contracts) between administrations, farmers, and also with NGOs (complementing the government actions) happens also on **local level**.
- **Governance**: regulatory and scheme/contract design at national level but local delivery and partnership. An agreement between administration and farmers is necessary.
- For the provision of the main environmental and social benefit (**biodiversity of grasslands**), the economic driver lays in the extensive beef cattle grazing farming activity, which has been significantly decreasing for several years, and on the other environmental (national) and agri-environmental (EU) tools are much stronger policy drivers.
- The leading organization is the **Local Administration of Protected Landscape Area (LAPLA)** who orchestrates tailoring of agri-environmental schemes (AECM) and national environmental policy measure (both in form of contracts with farmers and NGOs).



#### EMERGING FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The biodiversity increased during last two decades.

**Barriers of collective action**: stakeholders do not share values over the environmental and social benefit sufficiently, farmers value economic viability more than environmental and social benefits values; there is low trust and low level of reciprocity. Cooperation is quite low even between farmers. Disagreements arise when LAPLA asks for too demanding contracts and farmers, who are dependent on the support, sometimes accept unfavorable prescriptions and feel dissatisfied. LAPLA representatives are not experienced enough to assess the real impact of contracts on farmers and stakeholders frequently misunderstand the purpose of CAP measures.

**Factors in favor of collective action**: stakeholders value good long term relationships, farmers have long term interest in farming and environmental and social benefits, LAPLA is active in looking for ways for improvement of collective action.

