



III. 1: The Grundtvig project group visiting the Romanian partner organization Fundatia ADEPT in Transilvania

Grundtvig European Learning Partnership „Our Agro Bio Diversity“

Report from Grundtvig-Workshop in Romania, 15. – 17. Of July 2013

Topic of the workshop: Agrobiodiversity in and for Nature Protection

Places of the excursion are in Tanssilvania: Sighisoara, Viscri, Moşna, Saschiz, Țopa

The village of Viscri

Viscrist is a typical saxon village, there we were accommodated. It was founded in the 12 th century by Transilvanian Saxons. The city and its fortified church are nowadays on the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage.



III. 2: cattledrive in the evening in Viscrist: every morning the cows are brought to a common meadow and in the evening they return to their stables

The village of Moșna



III. 3: Warm welcome in Moșna with bread, salt and spirit



In Moșna we were visiting an old community center, an old mill which is not in use anymore, the very oldest house of the village with an old wine cellar and the evangelic church. We had lunch on a wonderful piece of land where we could watch pigs, goats, sheep and horses coming to a nearby lake to drink water. The proprietor of the estate holds several hundreds of hectares of land and sells the meat of his animals.

III. 4: We get a traditional soup cooked on the fire for lunch.

Biodynamic agricultur of Willy und Lavinia Schuster, Moşna



III. 5: Biodynamic farmer Willy Schuster is an excellent contributor. On the day of our visit there was also a film team on the farm.



Willy and Lavinia Schuster had the first biodynamic agriculture in this area. Willy learned this philosophy in Switzerland. He has 6 cows, one of them is an old breed, the “Mocanica-cow” which was declared extinct. Some animals could still be found in the Carpatian mountains. The Mocanica breed is adapted to steep areas. Willy and Lavinia Schuster produce different kinds of cheese and sell them directly to the consumers.

III. 6: Willy Schuster is still working with old tools and horse but has also a tractor.

Charcoal-burner near Viscri

3 people work between April and November to produce charcoal. One pile produces about 15 – 18 tons of charcoal. The piles are stacked up by pieces of hardwood. It takes about one week to stack up one big pile. The whole construction has to be very precise, so that there is not too much oxygen while burning. It has to burn very slowly and the burning process takes about two weeks.



Ill. 7: left: setup of the pile with on the inside and hay and dirt on the outside to cover it; right: a burned down pile

Haymeadow near Viscri

The Sighisoara-Târnava Mare SCI (Natura 2000 site declared under the EU Habitats Directive) is characterized by dry grassland habitat types which are threatened in Europe. A significant part of these habitats in the project area is either abandoned or overgrazed, for economic reasons. Farmers do not get sufficient economic return for managing them traditionally. In both cases, loss of habitat condition grazing land and in hay meadows leads to loss of associated flora and fauna including important bird and butterfly species. These effects are obvious but still easily reversible by re-establishment of traditional management. ADEPT is telling the farmers which methods of management can be used to re-establish the area.



Abb. 8: A special thistle variety which is also used in the logo of Tarnava Mare products. A label which has been created by ADEPT to support farmers in direct marketing

ADEPT Office in Saschiz

The NGO ADEPT Transilvania is protecting Transylvania's unique farmed landscapes, their biodiversity, and the farming communities who live within them. These landscapes are a refuge for many threatened species and habitats, lost in much of Europe and provide ecosystem services that are of vital importance for a sustainable European future.

These high-biodiversity landscapes have been created by farmers over hundreds of years, and can only be preserved by continued traditional management by the farmers there today.

Saving such areas is of great importance for the public goods and ecosystem services they provide for Europe: for example, clean air, clean water, flood prevention, pollination, biodiversity and agrobiodiversity which are essential for our future.

Fundatia ADEPT has been working since 2002 with farmers, local communities, universities, other NGOs, and government at all levels in order to solve the range of problems threatening the survival of these remarkable landscapes and of the small-scale farming communities living within them.



III.9: Solar-drier which is propagated by ADEPT



„Ferma Ecologică“ managed by family Cismaș in Țopa

The Cismaș manage a ecological farm in Țopa. Starting with 2000 m² the farm has nowadays 40 hektars. They produce cereals, Damaszener-Roses, Calendula and different varieties of tomatoes (from which we get some seeds), sweet pepper and other vegetables. Most of the herbs they produce are dried.



III. 40: Mr. Cismaș shows us his regional varieties of tomatoes

Sheep pasture with very old oak trees



III. 51: It is said that oaks help you to re-energize

Near Sighisoara we visit an area with old oak trees. Some trees are estimated 600 years old. The area has about 117 hektares and is nowadays used as a pasture for sheep.

Beekeeper near Saschiz

The beekeeper has about 120 Carnica-hives. He produces varietal honey and sells it directly tot he consumers. This year he could also sell quite a lot of new colony of bees.



III. 62: The Senior bee-keeper shows us his bee colonies and his system of bee-hives.

Blacksmith in Viscri

The craft of the blacksmith has become quite rare, especially in western Europe. In Romania you can still find some blacksmiths. The two brothers produce iron-things by advance booking. The two brothers make a little show, they make a small horse shoe especially for us.



Ill. 73: Manipulation of a piece of iron with two hammers

Fortified church of Viscri

We are visiting the fortified church of Viscri. From the tower of the church we have a wonderful view over the whole village. A little bit outside of the village you can still see the buildings of the colchoses, which is nowadays in privately owned.



Ill. 84: The tower of the church in Viscri allows a wonderful view over the whole village.

Casa de pe Deal: Charly und Anca Dalmasso in Saschiz

Casa de pe Deal means "House on the hill". Anca and Charly cultivate on 1 ha of land different kinds of fruits and vegetables. They sell either directly to the consumer or via online-shop (www.casadepeddeal.com). Regional production is more important than biological production for the Dalmassos. Except for coffee, salt and vanilla everything is produced in Romania.

Thank you very much to the ADEPT members for the warm welcome, the very good organization of the possibility to meet real Transilvanians.