Habitat conservation through traditional farming in Romania

Overview
ADEPT Foundation has developed its landscape conservation approach and activities within the Târnava Mare area – a complex grassland and forest landscape of 85,000 ha which is home to many species as well as 5,000 small-scale farmer families. Previously much High Nature Value Farmland has been abandoned in Târnava Mar due to small-scale farming being no longer profitable. ADEPT creates long-term economic incentives for the local inhabitants to continue traditional biodiversity-friendly management.

Location
ADEPT works in the Sighișoara in the Târnava Mare region where aquatic, wetland, damp and dry grassland and forest habitats exist within and alongside cultivated areas.

Financial Mechanism
ADEPT uses a variety of funding sources to improve milk quality, quantity and price. It has established a Târnava Mare logo, marketed the label and created local farmers markets.

Environmental impact
Returning low-impact farming to abandoned agricultural areas and ensuring proper management and continuous farming practice protects farmland biodiversity and revokes natural succession on valuable open habitats.

Socio-economic benefits and beneficiaries
1. Local producers are now earning over €75,000 per year from branded products.
2. Milk collection improvement resulted in additional income of €350,000 per year to over 200 dairy farmers in the area.
3. Sales at the information centre managed by ADEPT brought an additional €15,000/year.

Main results
The project has already successfully established its financial mechanism: the farmers sustain themselves and produce an income of more than €2.5 million a year. The project was won the European Commission’s Natura 2000 Award.

More information: http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=default