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The economic performance of pastoral systems in the Mediterranean

Antonio Franca, Pasquale Arca, Sokratis Sokratous, Giovanni Altana, Dimitrios Skordos, Athanasios Ragkos, Alexandros Theodoridis, Jean-Paul Dubeuf, Ante Ivankovic, Nazan Koluman Darcan, et al.

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PASTINNOVA



The economic performance of pastoral systems in the Mediterranean



Dimitrios Skordos, Alexandros Theodoridis,
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Athanasios Ragkos



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XIV International Seminar
of FONCIMED Network

Project Identity

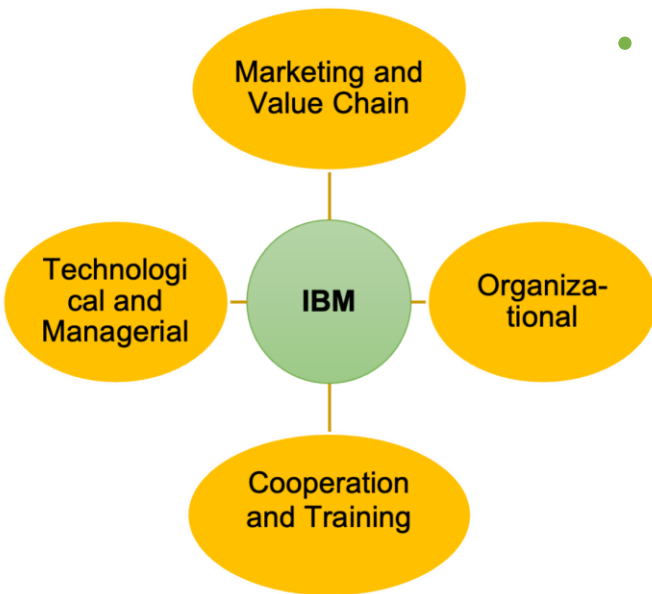
- PRIMA Call 2021 Section1 Farming Systems
- Innovation Action
- 20 Partners from 12 Mediterranean countries
- 43 Supporting Organizations
- *Total requested budget 2.750.000€*
- *Project duration 1 May 2022 – 30 April 2025 (36 months)*



PASTINNOVA - How we approach pastoral systems?

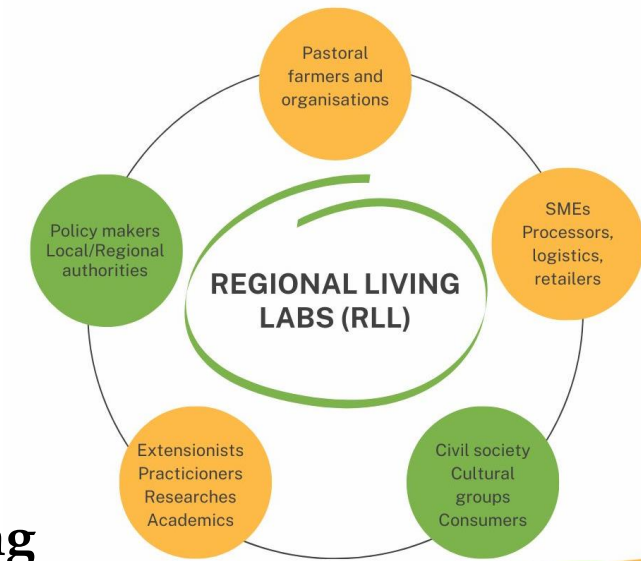
Common network on “Pastoral actors and VCP”

The mission of this common network will be to *pool existing pastoral resources with different levels of maturity* and to *re-adapt, replicate (at higher TRL) and transfer* the ones with high potential across Mediterranean Regions



- A participatory inclusive approach **based on Living Laboratories (LLs)**

- **Four Regional Living Labs (RLLs)**
- Co-creation, co-design, implement, assess, characterize innovative solutions (IBM)



- We already have ~100 IBM from all partners
- IBM were “shortlisted” by relevant partners
 - A pool of more than 35 IBM

Survey identity and outcomes

Toolkit of sustainability indicators and forecast analysis of future Scenarios

- Design a **farm typology** for pastoral sheep farms per country (based on local/national experience and particularities – Consultation with stakeholders)
- Farm **survey** to collect data from at least 10 sheep farms per country
- Questionnaire prepared and sent to partners
 - Collection of detailed technical and economic data
 - A guide with data from a Greek sheep farm was provided
- **Technical and economic analysis per farm type for each country**

7 countries involved: Italy (CNR), Cyprus (CIRRD), Turkey (CUNI), Algeria (INRAA), Croatia (UZ), Greece (ELGO-AUTH), France (INRAE) – **68 farms in total**

Some questions..... Are there responses?

“These farms are old and unproductive”

“Pastoral farmers live off subsidies”

“Higher feed costs are a disaster”

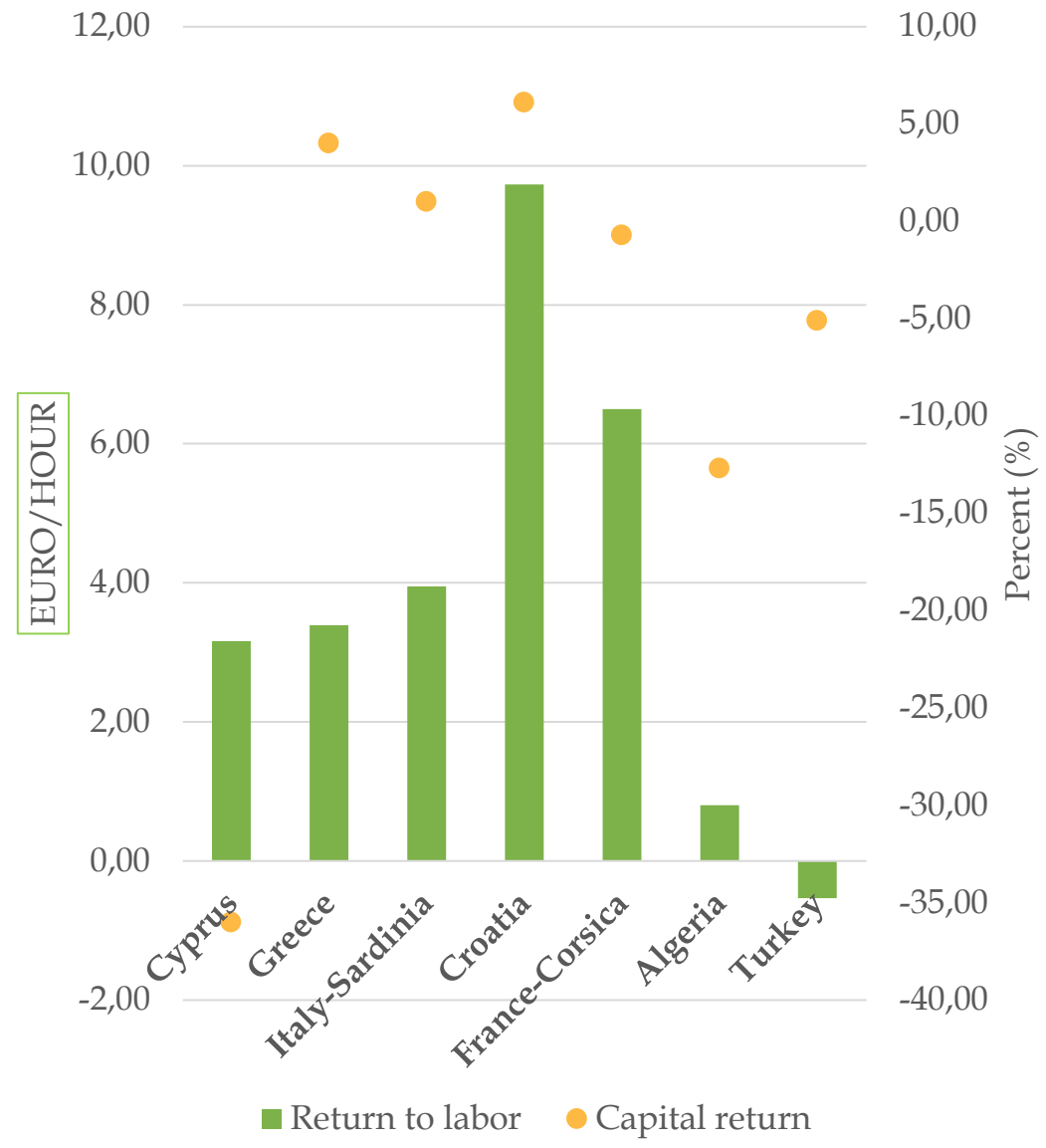
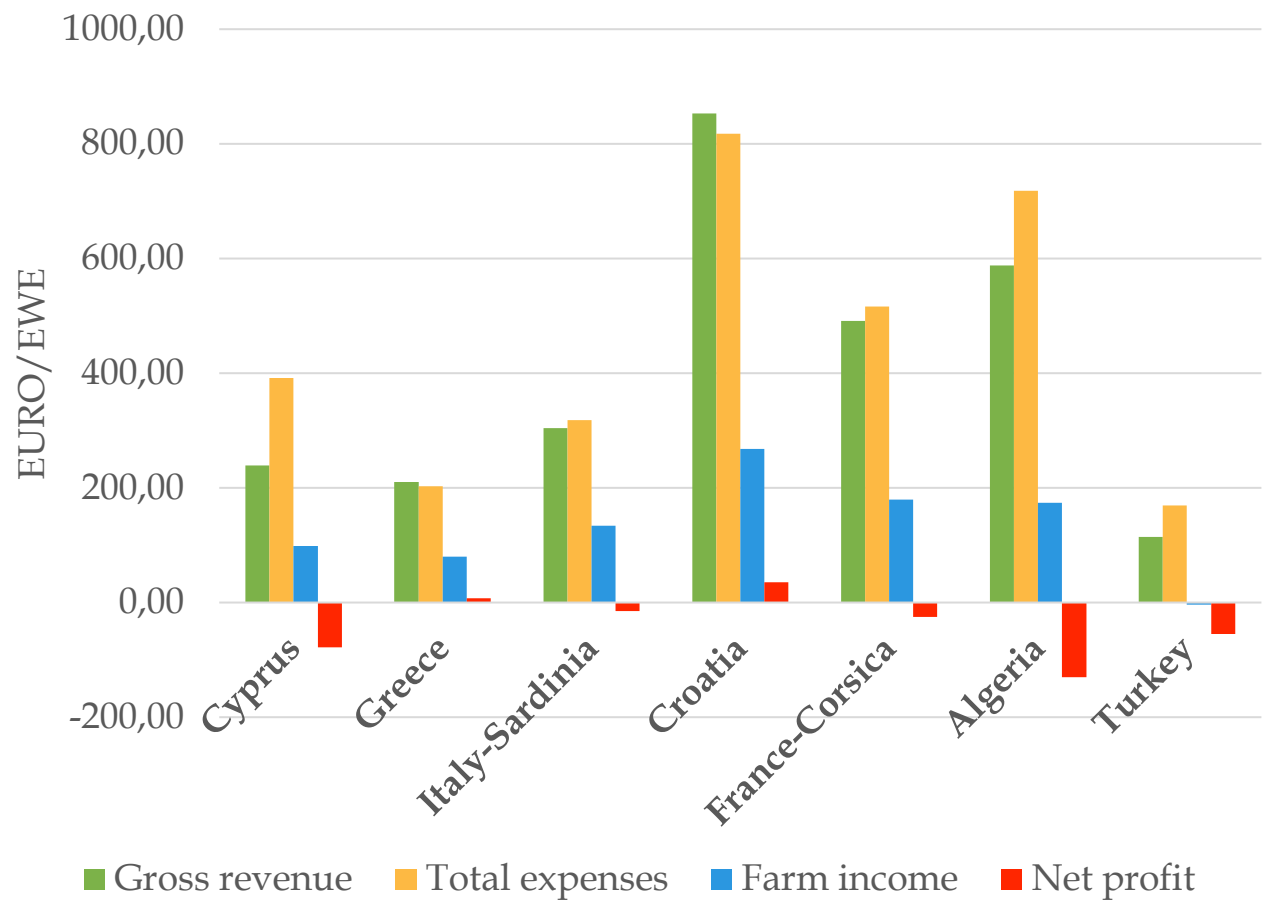
“It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism”

“Who needs salaried shepherds?”

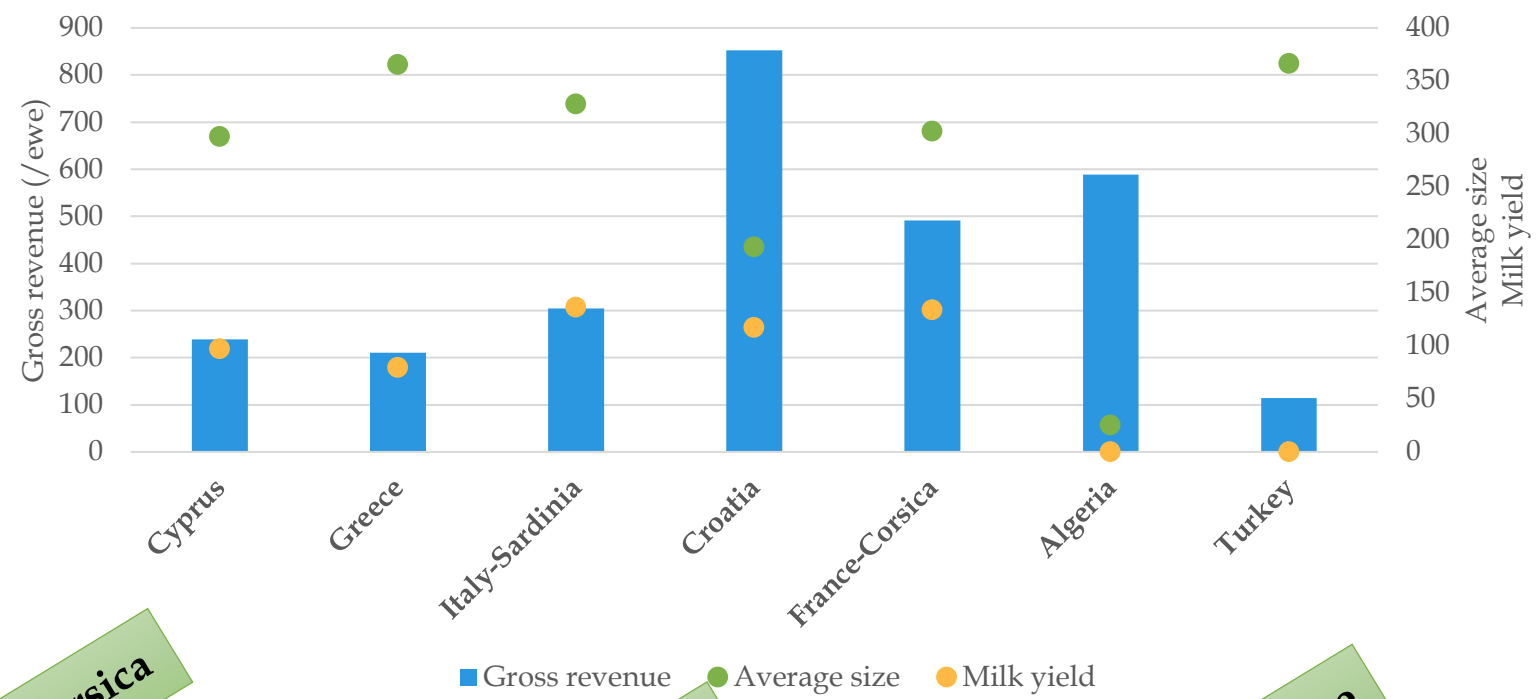
MYTHBUSTERS



“It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism”



"These farms are small and unproductive"



Croatia



Is productivity really the catch?

Corsica



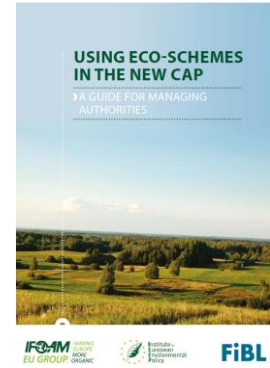
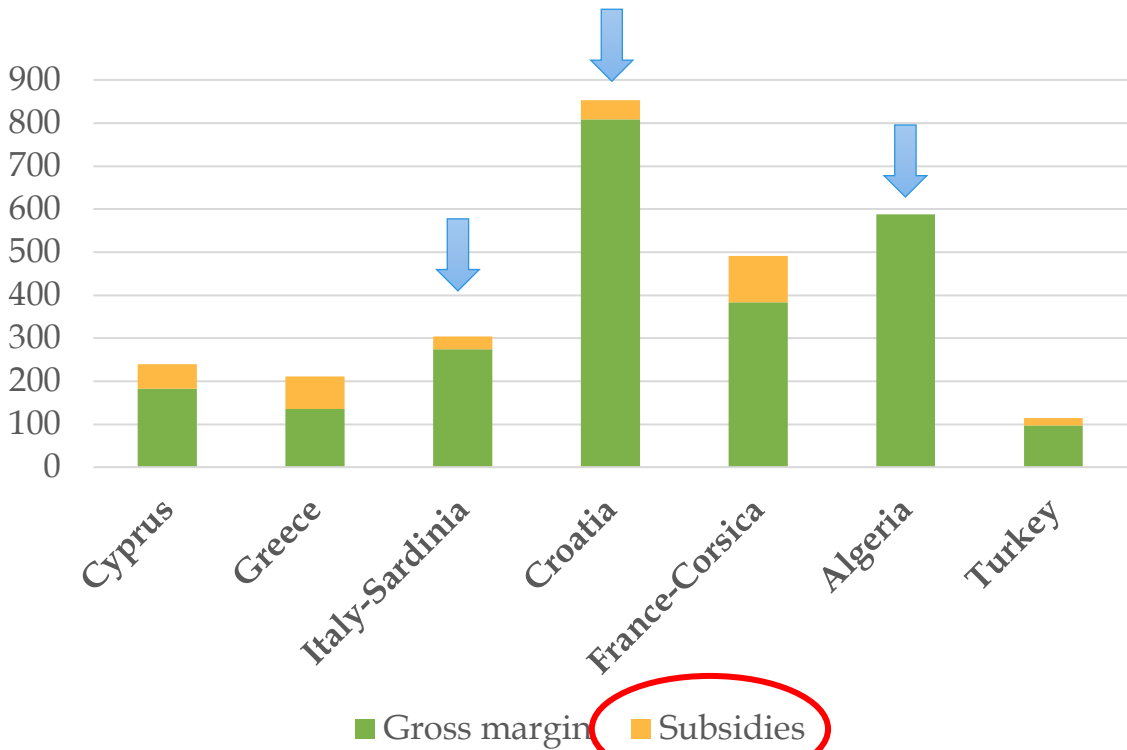
Cyprus



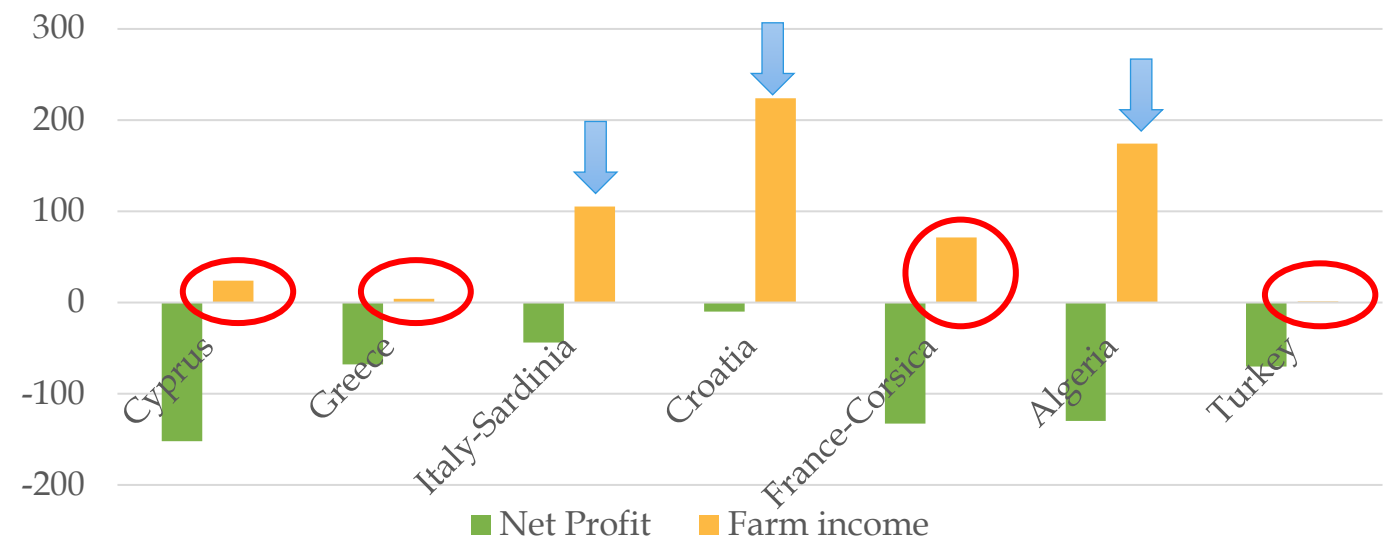
Greece



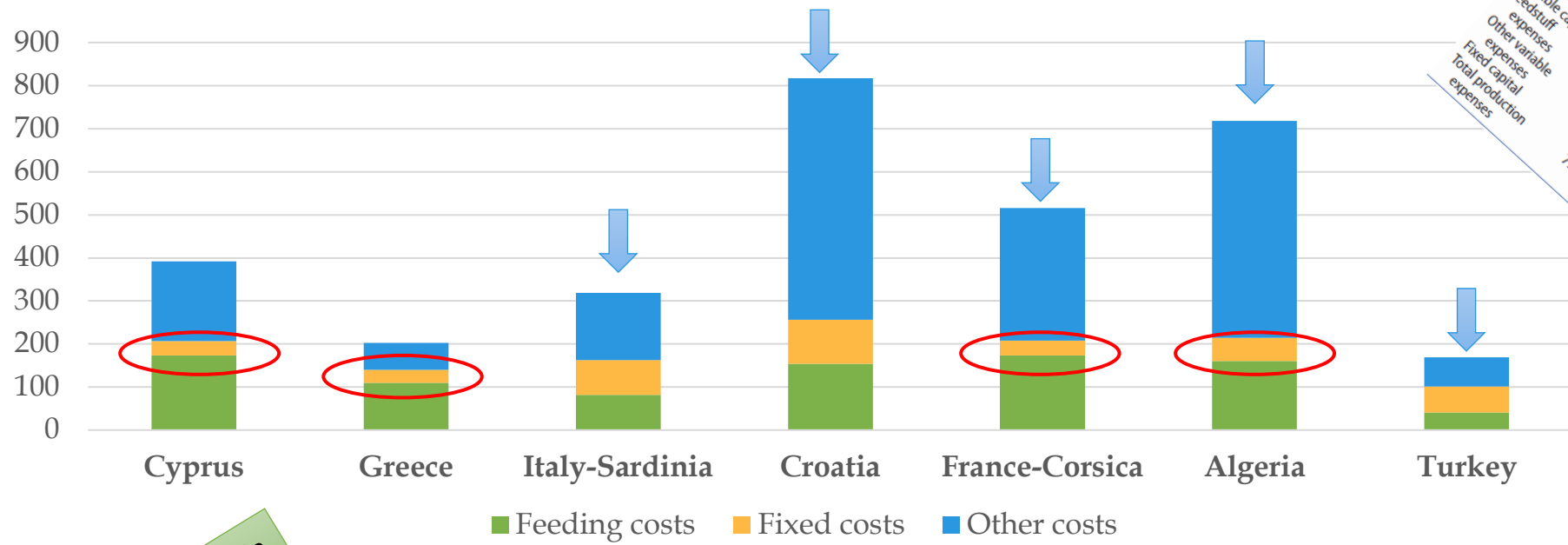
“Pastoral farmers live off subsidies”



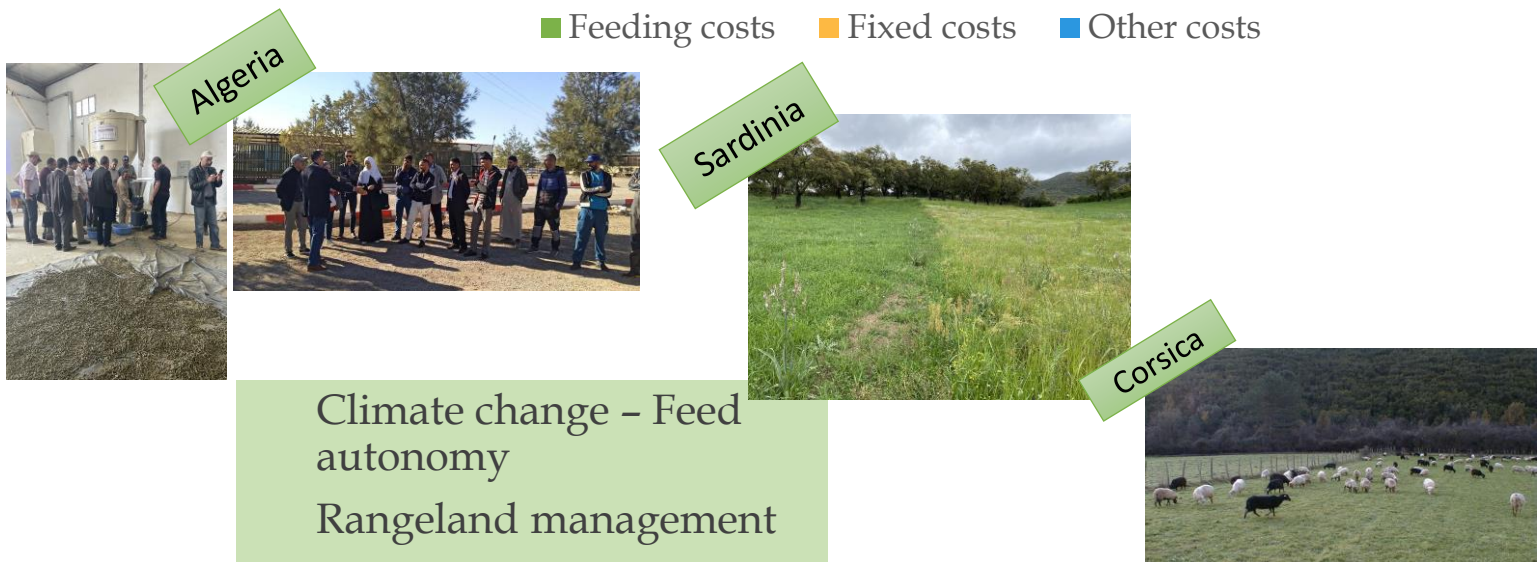
So many policy bottlenecks - NOT THE INCOME SUPPORT



“Higher feed costs are a disaster”



Expenses per farm(€)	2010		2014	
	€/ewe	% of total expenses	€/ewe	% of total expenses
Land rent	4,917.0	6.4	16.4	4.7
Labour expenses	18,620.1	23.9	24.5	23.3
Family labour	15,322.9	19.7	20.3	20.7
Hired labour	3,297.2	4.2	69.7	37.2
Capital expenses	54,199.5	69.7	28.9	28.9
Variable capital expenses	28,891.0	37.2	8.3	5.6
Feedstuff	22,437.8	28.9	31.5	28.9
Other variable expenses	6,453.2	8.3	102.5*	7.5
Fixed capital expenses	25,308.5	26.5	336	100.0
Total production expenses	77,766.6	103.8	319.0*	100.0



Climate change – Feed autonomy
Rangeland management

15 Collective and individual approaches to pastoral land governance in Greek silvopastoral systems

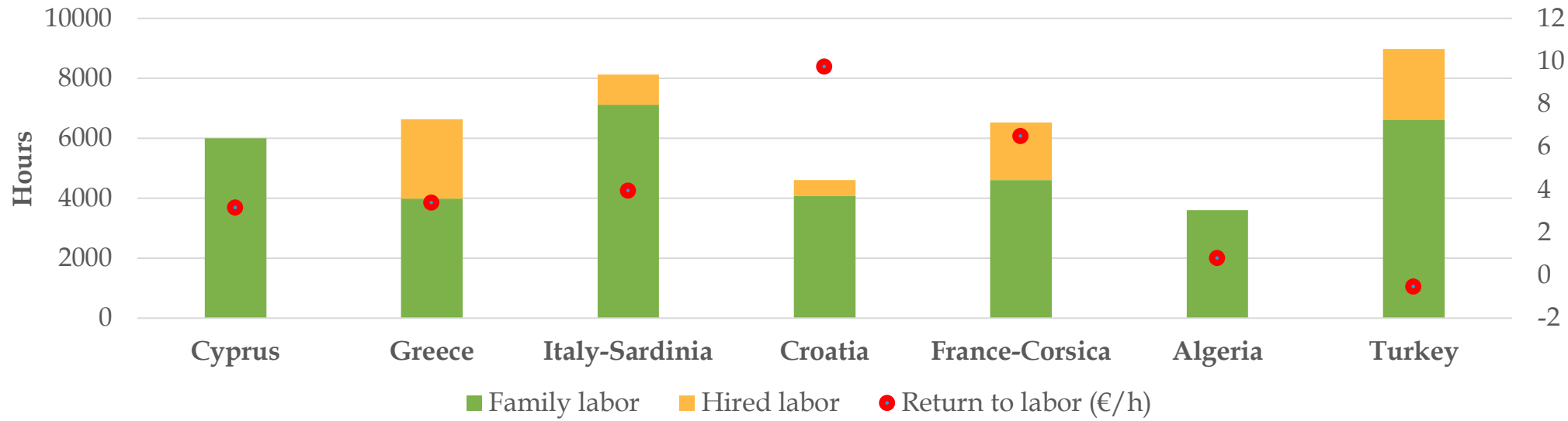
The case of sheep and goat transhumance

Athanasios Ragkos and Stavriani Koutsou

“Who needs salaried shepherds?”



Make pastoralism attractive for family members



Why stay in the family farm?

Some questions..... Are there responses?

"These farms are old and unproductive"

High quality products for creative marketing ideas

"Pastoral farmers live off subsidies"

Need for enabling frameworks and equal opportunities

"Higher feed costs are a disaster"

Emphasize local solutions - Big cost savings show the way to others

"It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism"

Accept and promote new activities, new products, more species....

"Who needs salaried shepherds?"

Passionate, happy, experienced people - New roles in inclusive societies



Some concluding remarks

- Need for informed, evidence-based opinions
- Stronger and rational voices in the policy debate
- Need for information flows – Deeper understanding

Huge diversity of farm types, species, products, practices, activities.....



Context-related analysis and specific solutions

Realization that pastoralism is evolving, adapting

“Pastoral photos are always black and white”

PASTINNOVA

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVraLCWhIFFcrtinXF2hepAUCVraLCW>



Pastinnova Website

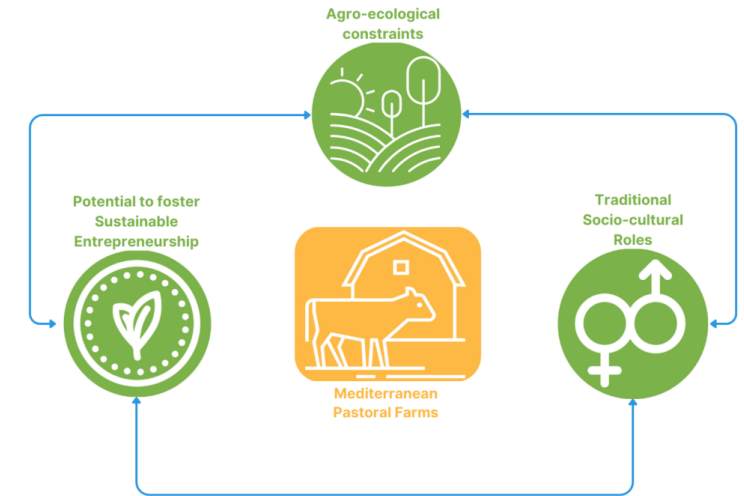
Concept - Pastoralism

A pastoral system is a complex structure emerging from interactions of raising livestock and utilizing natural resources, in which breeders share production purposes, traditions and cultural values

Extensive grazing is substantial but includes

- A gradient of **intensification** in the use of rangelands
- Diverse **species** and local **breeds**
- Livestock **movements** (sedentary, transhumance)
- Use of salaried **labour** and fixed/variable **capital** at different degrees

PASTINNOVA focuses specifically on **smallholders maintaining 'pastoral identities'**



- Social role
- Environmental role
- Cultural role