



WORKSHOP 3:
sMountain Pastures and Shepherds in
Albania: Challenges and Prospects
(Room: 201, FEA)
(Room 'Skënder Xhiku') (Chair: Prof. Lumturi Papa)

Veterinary Issues and Livestock Mobility Restrictions

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Veterinary Issues and Livestock Mobility Restrictions

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Migration challenges

Animal migration poses complex operational and veterinary challenges, especially for sheep.

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Veterinarian role

The veterinarian plays a critical role in managing movements to alpine and lowland pastures.

03

Structured planning

Migration planning and health measures follow a structured, step-by-step approach.



Key Measures





Prepare yourself and your migration team thoroughly.



Identify precise locations for migration, including animal, family, and transport arrangements.

Ready the animals for their transfer to alpine pastures.





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Pre-migration Preparation

Ensure animals
are fit and ready.

In-transit Management

Monitor health and safety
during movement.

Post-migration Care

Assess condition and
provide necessary support.





Pre-migration Preparation



The veterinarian implements all necessary treatments based on the work plan and local epidemiological conditions:

1. Vaccinate the herd according to schedule.
2. Apply internal and external antiparasitic treatments.
3. Vaccinate herd dogs, with emphasis on rabies prevention.
4. Treat vulnerable animals and provide situational guidance.
5. Shear sheep approximately two weeks before migration.
6. Treat hooves during shearing (trimming, corrections, other treatments).
7. Record all treatments in the farmer's register and prepare a movement certificate.



In-transit Management

During migration, careful planning and veterinarian oversight are essential to ensure the health and safety of the animals:

- 1. Animal movement is generally conducted on foot, without vehicles.**
- 2. Distances of 50–150 km require careful organization and veterinarian support as needed.**
- 3. The veterinarian must be equipped with necessary tools, aids, and medications.**
- 4. Male animals (rams) should travel separately from females to prevent conflicts or mechanical injuries during the breeding season.**
- 5. Travel should preferably occur in early morning hours on secondary roads, minimizing exposure to hazards.**
- 6. Pay close attention to the availability and quality of water sources.**



Post-migration Care



Upon arrival at the final destination, proper organization and oversight are essential to ensure animal welfare:

- 1. Arrange herds by type and category in adequately sized spaces.**
- 2. Avoid pens with restrictive wire fences whenever possible.**
- 3. Be aware of poisonous plants present in some pastures.**



General migration challenges





Migration of livestock faces multiple obstacles that impact animal health, logistics, and productivity:



1. Co-mingling of different animal species (cattle, equines, small animals, pigs, poultry) increases the risk of disease spread.
2. Herds arriving from different regions or countries (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Greece) pose a risk of cross-border disease transmission due to differing national strategies.
3. Neglect of vaccinations or antiparasitic treatments in one herd can endanger all others.
4. Poor infrastructure: lack of suitable roads, electricity, and milk collection/processing facilities.
5. Limited market access for products and by-products.
6. Insufficient local government support and weak migration policies.
7. Temporary or permanent absence of veterinary services in mountainous areas.
8. Threats from wild animals (wolves, bears, wild boars) and adverse weather conditions.

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Migration Benefits and Call to Action

Livestock migration to alpine pastures provides multiple benefits:

1. Improves animal health.
2. Enriches and maintains pasture ecosystems.
3. Supports low-cost, organic (BIO) production.
4. The inherited tradition continues.

Let's preserve this centuries-old tradition together.

Looking ahead:

1. International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists, Mongolia 2026 – an inspiration.
2. Wester Balkan Regional Gathering of Pastoralists, Shkodër (April 25–26, 2026) – a challenge for us.

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Thank you for your attention