

# WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL GATHERING OF PASTORALISTS – IYRP

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SHEPHERDS' SURVEY  
TO FEED THE PREPARATION OF  
WESTERN BALKANS DECLARATION OF PASTORALISTS

## SURVEY TEAM

**Name of Zone:**

**Name of Municipality:**

**Name of Zonal Coordinator:**

**Name of Municipality Coordinator:**

**Name of Field Interviewer:**

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### A. Respondent Profile (General Information)

*(tick or complete – anonymous responses possible)*

**Name / Pseudonym (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact details (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

#### A1. Gender

Male  Female

**A2. Municipality / Village / Region:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A3. Community/Ethnicity:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### A4. Livestock production system

- Free-range grazing / Transhumance & Pastoralism  
 Stable-based system *(If YES – the interview is terminated)*  
 Mixed system *(If YES – the interview is terminated)*

#### A5. Type of livestock owned or managed

- Sheep (number of adult animals): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Goats (number of adult animals): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cattle (number of adult animals): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pack animals (number of adult animals): \_\_\_\_\_

#### A6. Grazing areas used *(multiple answers possible)*

- Near-village grazing land  
 Alpine / highland pastures  
 Forests / National Park grazing areas  
 Municipal / communal land  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### A7. Transhumance practice

Yes  Occasionally  No

## 8. Transhumance related information

Summer pasture location: \_\_\_\_\_

Transhumance period: Start (month) \_\_\_\_\_ ; End (month) \_\_\_\_\_

Distance covered: \_\_\_\_\_ km; \_\_\_\_\_ days of travel

How many family members are involved? \_\_\_\_\_ members / Entire family: YES / NO

Employed persons outside the family ? \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

## 9. Animal produce related

Dairy processing in summer pastures: YES / NO

Sale of products in summer pastures: YES / NO

If YES, who are the buyers?

Tourism operators \_\_\_\_\_ Traders / Shops \_\_\_\_\_

Home delivery / direct orders \_\_\_\_\_

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## B. Access to Grazing Land

### B1. Basis of access to grazing land (*multiple answers possible*)

- Customary rights
- Traditional community access
- Informal permission / tolerance
- Lease agreement
- State allocation
- Private ownership

### B2. Perceived security of this access

- Very secure  Moderately secure  Insecure  No real rights

### B3. Have your access rights reduced in the last 10 years?

Compared to 10–15 years ago, your access to grazing land today is:

- Improved  Unchanged  Reduced  Difficult to say

If improved or reduced, please explain briefly:

### B4. Payments related to access

Do you pay to use grazing land?

- No  
 Yes → Approximate annual amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of payment:  Official  Informal

### C. Pressures, Restrictions and Conflicts

Please indicate the problems you face **and its level of severity**

<b><i>Issue</i></b>	<b><i>None</i></b>	<b><i>Moderate</i></b>	<b><i>Serious</i></b>	<b><i>Very serious</i></b>
Restrictions on grazing access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts with forestry services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts with tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fines or penalties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucratic hurdles / permit requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of traditional routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land privatization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National parks / protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydropower, mining or infrastructure projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please rank the three most serious problems:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Other pressures (please specify):**

## **D. Impacts on Livelihoods**

### **D1. Impact on income**

(Has reduced access to grazing land affected your income?)

None  Low  Moderate  High

### **D2. Impact on livestock productivity**

(Has livestock productivity changed due to grazing restrictions?)

Decreased  Stable  Increased

If productivity decreased, main reasons (*multiple answers possible*):

- Limited grazing resources
- Reduced mobility
- Animal health problems
- Higher labour costs
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **D3. Adaptation strategies**

Have you developed strategies to cope with these difficulties?

Yes (please describe briefly):

No

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## **E. Ecological and Social Role of Pastoralism**

Based on your experience, does pastoralism contribute to maintaining landscapes and pastures?

Yes  No  Partly

Does it help prevent wildfires or land degradation?

Yes  No  Not sure

Please explain briefly:

## **F. Qualitative Questions (Open-ended) - please write in as many pages as you want**

1. What are the biggest challenges you face in accessing grazing land today?
2. Have your traditional grazing routes changed in recent decades? If yes, how and why?
3. Do you face conflicts with authorities or other land users (forestry, tourism, national parks, hydropower, mining, windmills, other private projects)?
4. Have you experienced discrimination, harassment, or eviction from grazing land? Describe.
5. What traditional rights or customary practices existed earlier that are no longer respected?
6. In your view, what are the government policies that support or restrict your grazing activity?
7. How are protected areas and national parks affecting your grazing rights?
8. What solutions do you think would protect shepherds' rights to pastures?
9. What is the most important message you want your government should hear?
10. What do you need to continue being a shepherd in Albania, or what do you need to return to pastoralism if you have stopped being a shepherd by some reason?
11. What kind of incentives or help do you seek from your government, so that you can continue mobile pastoralism or your fellow shepherds can come back to this occupation?
12. Do you suggest measures to improve veterinary and breeding services? What can be done to conserve adapted/Indigenous breeds ?

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### **Thank you for your contribution.**

Your responses will help better represent the realities of pastoralism and support dialogue based on facts, rights and the public interest. Your answers will be integrated in the Western Balkans Declaration of Pastoralists, which will be the main outcome of forthcoming Western Balkans Regional Gathering of Pastoralists 2026.