



## **WORKSHOP of NETWORKING**

### **The prevention of wolf attacks on cattle**

**LIFE12 NAT/IT/000807 – LIFE WOLFALPS**

#### **Brief report of the visit and considerations about possible interventions for the protection of cattle on the pastures of Lessinia by the experts**

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The networking workshop and the visit in the field was successfully conducted, and fruitful discussions and considerations were made among the experts, farmers, stakeholders, and local public administrations. Given what was possible to understand in a 2-days visit, the experts are willing to suggest that the Lessinia is an area where preventive measures can be implemented.

First of all this consideration is due to the easy logistics, which allow facilitated intervention due to the well maintained dirt road system, the presence of recoveries and cleared view open pastures without bushes, which is not always the case in other pastures contexts.

Taking into consideration the difficulties given by the current cows management systems which favors calf and heifer attacks, we generally suggest to invest in a method to avoid the extreme dispersal of animals through the use of fences (also large, turned, or aided by added water points to meet the local management needs), helped by the use of well-trained livestock guarding dogs and an increase in the presence of the shepherd. However, every single situation needs to be evaluated with an ad-hoc prevention analysis that takes into account the management of the pastures (i.e. type of production, age of animals in the pasture, etc.).

Investment in preventive systems will primarily be of interest to the pastures that have shown a greater vulnerability to attacks, but the effectiveness of the strategy is subject to a strict local collaboration among the Natural Park, the CFS and the farms operating in the stable presence of the species and should include effective public awareness activities targeted to farmers and to all categories of users. Hence, we highly suggest to try to implement preventive methods in Lessinia, taking into consideration that no preventive measure can perfectly counter wolf depredations, that a continuous adaptation of measures over time and space is needed, and that the collaboration and interest of the owner is the assumption to allow the success of the process of minimizing conflicts in long term.