



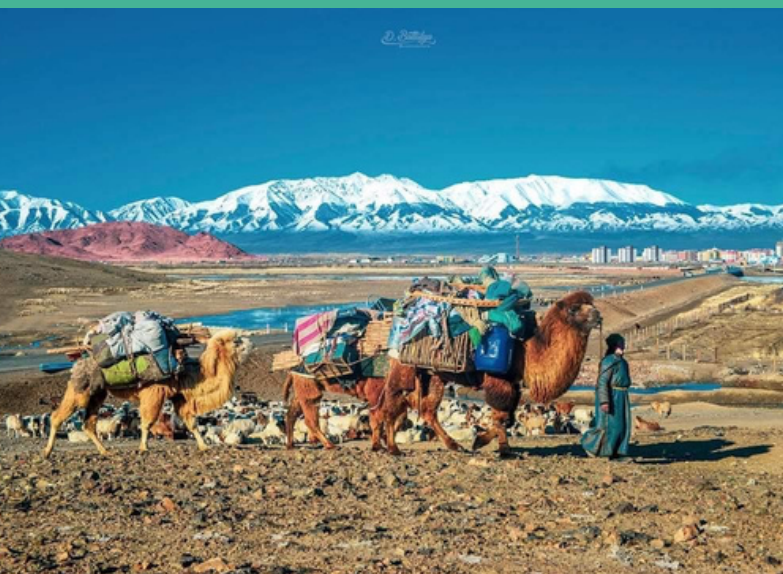
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026



ECO-TransH

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The Agroecosystem of the Transhumant Herd

NEWSLETTER

By the Eco-TransH partners



France



Greece



Italy



Morocco



Mongolia



Romania

A human adventure beyond borders

Beyond its educational and professional outcomes, ECOTRANS� has above all created connections between people, territories and cultures. Exchanges between young people, teachers, livestock farmers and partners have shown that transhumance is a common language, capable of bringing together communities that are sometimes very far apart.

This approach reflects UNESCO's values: intercultural dialogue, the transmission of living heritage, education, cooperation and the development of mutual understanding.

It also embodies the values of Erasmus+ — openness, inclusion, mobility, European citizenship and respect for diversity — by giving young people the opportunity to learn differently, through encounters and experience.

ECOTRANS� therefore comes to an end as it began: with the conviction that cooperation, education and human connections are essential to building a more sustainable future for pastoral territories and the generations who will keep them alive.

The ECOTRANS� adventure will not end here: the connections built over these three years, together with the challenges of preserving pastoral territories, transmitting knowledge and fostering cooperation between generations, are too strong and too important for this momentum to end with the project.

What I will remember:

On a human level: discovering first-hand the reality experienced by nomadic communities.

On a professional level: bringing students into contact with their socio-economic environment.

"A good shepherd always feeds his sheep first, even when he himself is hungry."

Matshona Dhliwayo (Canadian philosopher)
— Mohamed OUDADA — Morocco

I learned how to promote a centuries-old tradition by making it accessible to the general public while preserving its authenticity.

ECO-TRANS�: A life divided in two: the shepherd and his flock.

A quote from Romanian literature (Mihail Sadoveanu, "Baltagul"), ideal for a research project:

"We are with the sheep and the stars; we climb the paths and descend into the valleys..."
Cornelia NOURREDINE — Romania



ECOTRANSH at COP17: Sharing Knowledge, Cooperating and Taking Action for the Future of Pastoral Territories

Mongolia at the heart of COP17: restoring land, supporting pastoralists

From 17 to 28 August 2026, Mongolia will host the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification — UNCCD COP17 — in Ulaanbaatar. Organised around the theme “Restoring Land. Restoring Hope”, the conference will bring together governments, scientists, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists.

The challenges are particularly significant for Mongolia, where nearly 77% of the land is reportedly degraded. Desertification, droughts, dzud events — extremely harsh winters — and rangeland degradation are threatening both ecosystems and the livelihoods of herding families. COP17 will therefore need to promote concrete solutions: land restoration, sustainable water management, drought resilience, biodiversity protection and support for sustainable food systems.

COP17 is particularly significant as it takes place during the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, an initiative notably championed by Mongolia. Rangelands cover more than half of the world’s land surface and directly support the livelihoods of around 500 million people through livestock farming. Their preservation is therefore a major global ecological, economic, food security and cultural issue.

The conference is also expected to contribute to the launch of the Rangelands Flagship Initiative, an international initiative dedicated to rangeland restoration, livestock resilience, biodiversity, food security and the improvement of pastoral livestock value chains.

ECOTRANSH: Transmitting Pastoral Knowledge and Preparing for the Future

The Erasmus+ ECO-TransH project, led by Campus Pyrénées Comminges, is fully aligned with the priorities of COP17 and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. It is based on international cooperation around the agroecosystem of transhumant herds and on the exchange of expertise between educational institutions and professionals from different countries: Greece, Italy, Romania, Morocco and, of course, Mongolia.

Through mobility activities, exchanges of practices and the comparison of experiences, ECOTRANSH helps raise awareness of the value of pastoral systems. These systems combine livestock farming, landscape management, the sustainable use of natural resources and the transmission of knowledge and skills deeply rooted in local territories. They can also provide responses to current challenges: adaptation to climate change, prevention of land degradation, preservation of biodiversity and development of local value chains.

The project also addresses a key issue identified by COP17: generational renewal and the attractiveness of livestock farming professions. By promoting training, European mobility and dialogue between professionals, ECOTRANSH contributes to building a more sustainable and better recognised form of pastoralism that is open to the world.

The project thus creates a link between mountain territories and the vast Mongolian steppes. Despite their different contexts, pastoralists share common concerns — access to resources, herd mobility, adaptation to climate hazards, transmission of skills and recognition of their role in protecting landscapes.

By presenting ECOTRANSH at COP17, Campus Pyrénées Comminges aims to contribute to this international momentum and demonstrate that education and cooperation are essential tools for restoring land and supporting pastoral communities.

Project resources will soon be available on www.ecotransh.com

ECOTRANSH at COP17: Bringing the Project to a Close Through Sharing

From 24 to 27 August 2026, in Ulaanbaatar, Fabienne Gilot, project manager at Campus Pyrénées Comminges, will take part in COP17 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, alongside Francesca Pasetti, facilitator of the ECOTRANSH project and FAO Co-Focal Point for Europe for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, as well as their colleague and Mongolian partner Sukhtulga Tserennadmin from the University of Life Sciences.

The delegation will also include young shepherds and students who have taken part in the ECOTRANSH project. Thanks to the programme, they have had the opportunity to travel to Greece and Romania, discover other pastoral cultures and share knowledge and skills related to transhumance. These mobility experiences have enabled them to better understand the diversity of practices, as well as the common concerns faced by livestock farmers: transmission of skills, adaptation to climate change, preservation of territories and generational renewal.

Participation in COP17 will provide an opportunity to showcase the work carried out through ECOTRANSH, as the project comes to an end at the end of August 2026, following three years of exchanges, cooperation and international encounters. It will also be a valuable opportunity to highlight the experiences of young people and ensure that their voices are heard at a global event dedicated to land restoration and the resilience of pastoral communities.

First of all, ECO-TRANSH project has brought as many as project allowed youth of nomadic and sedentary civilizations to be together and share their own experiences. Secondly, allowing this many youth of nomadic cultures and civilizations for millennia (Mongolia and Morocco) to be in some European countries where similar living existed was a complete shock especially when Greece and Romanian later Italian rural cuisine (dairy products) were pretty much the same or natural. Thirdly, each and everyone of them came back with some new ideas and thoughts to testify themselves. So, we have to wait a bit when we can hear the changes coming from rural areas and people's. At last but not least, the unification of the the young people, was amazing and I felt like if I'm not away from home, but always be together and united for better purposes. This would be a good sign for saving the Pastoralism and Pastoralists with young people who are united for good deeds.