

A discussion on Prof Holzner's statements

Statement

- Nature is a playground for different experts and others

-
- Instead of **self-sustaining** ecosystem scientists (biologists) are producing more expansive menageries

Reaction

- I agree

- **Self sustainability** as an exogenous or endogenous idea: given by poverty, lack of education and weaknesses of autochthonous people, or imposed by external intellectual mentality

Statement

- Sustainability of natural systems as the goal
 - Ecosystem sustainability as a key
-
- Pastoralism has created and maintained a large part of the biodiversity in MA
 - MA as last refugees of human cultures for thousands years

Reaction

- Goal for whom?
 - What is the sense (reason) for this: ecology, economy, social needs, history?
 - How to implement it?
 - How to explain it to (old) people suffering of it and make them participate?
-
- The pastoralism has been distorted in modern ages even in Balkans, threatening biodiversity and making people leaving MA wherever has been possible (no reproduction, no reasons for staying only must!)

Statement

- MA as a refuge for humans making a living from their harsh environment without destroying it

Reaction

Either

- The idealistic vision feasible only there where no activities take place. Otherwise humans are misusing and abusing their harsh environment in their cruel struggle to survive by: changing agricultural land to pastures, subdividing land for commercial reasons, uncontrolled use of pesticides, neglecting fruits (nobody to pick it), littering, etc.

Or

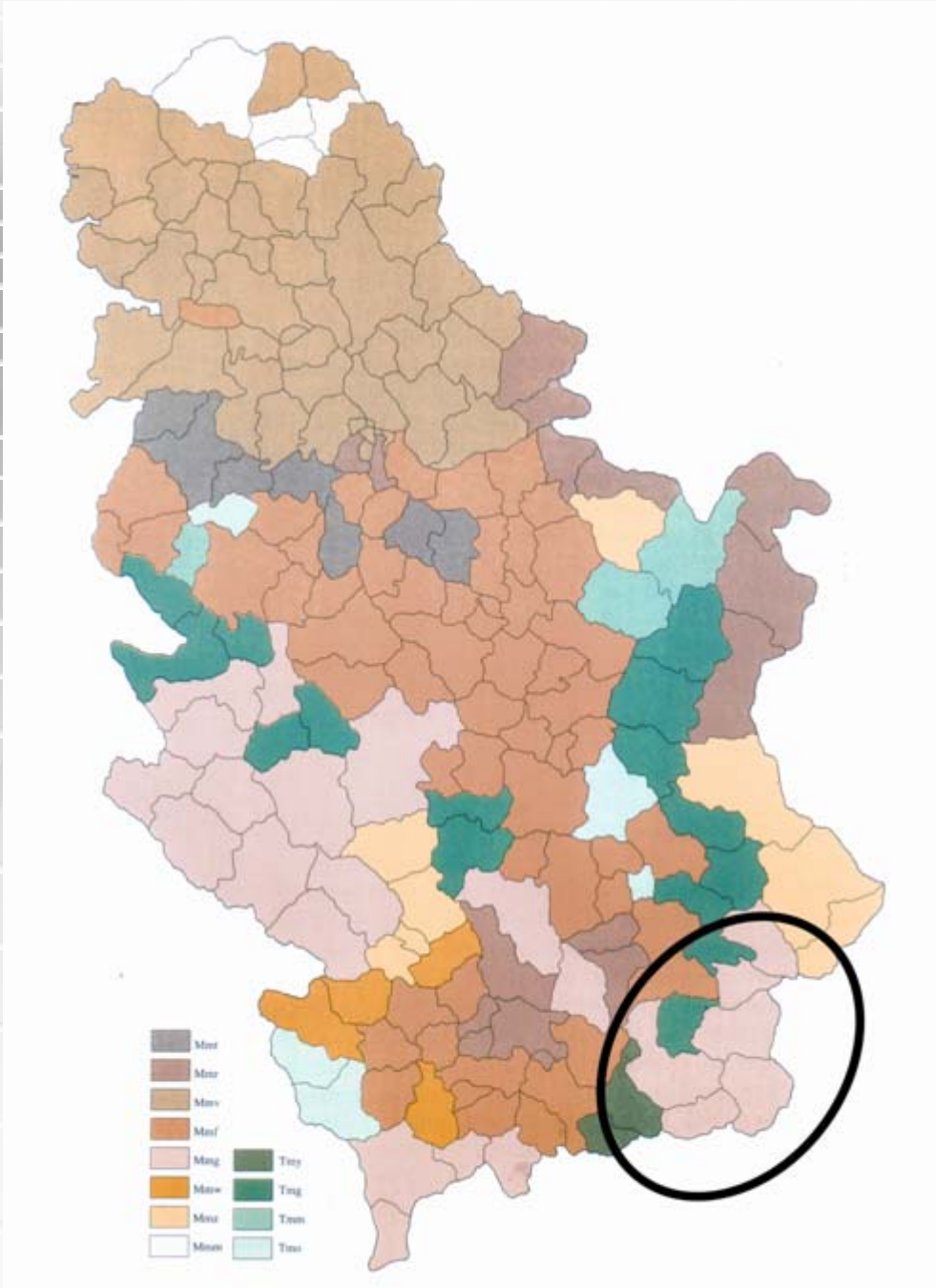
- No humans in well kept autochthonous environment (except few oldies and disabled)
- Civilization is taking over (autochthonous) culture in MA

Main issues in MA in Balkans

- Economic, demographic and educational lagging with informational vacuum
- How to keep and employ local population in better economic and social milieu
- Is the nature priority with its assets and biodiversity and how to mingle it with compatible activities
- Is agricultural land in advantage to forests, water land, minerals and other natural resources
- If agriculture (autochthonous) is priority what would be its role among other complementary activities

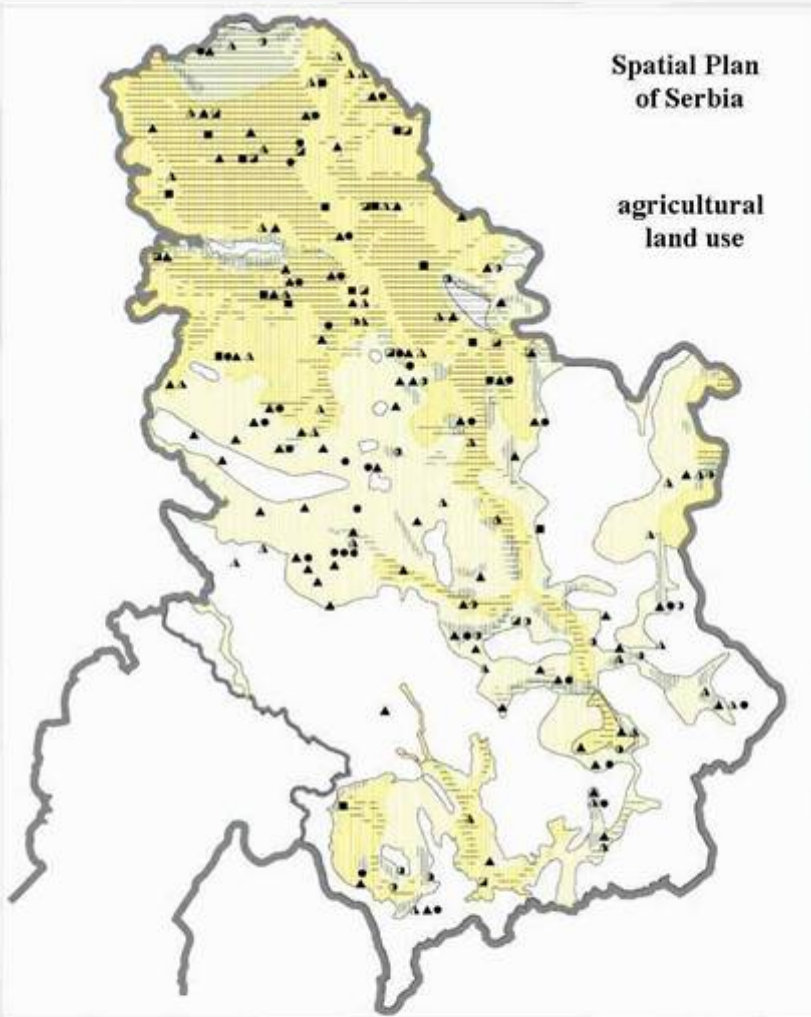
And the key questions:

- How to organize and finance realization of expensive agricultural policies in MA
- Whose concern (responsibility) is implementation of any reasonable concept
- The role and relation among local, regional (if any?) and national funds and authorities
- The role of EU funds (SAPARD)
- The role of autochthonous people



Spatial Plan of Serbia

agricultural land use



LEGENDA:

- wheat and husbandry producing
- husbandry, orchards and vineyards
- ▨ mountainous husbandry
- ▧ vineyards
- ▩ mountain pasture
- wine processing
- ▲ oil processing
- ▼ breeding plants
- milk production
- ◆ fruit and vegetable processing
- ★ wine processing

The Vlasina area as a case-study (1)

- Proposed policies in the spatial planning of the Vlasina area:
 1. Protecting and controlling the nature, biodiversity and autochthonous natural elements (nature as a system)
 2. Protecting and better organizing agricultural land (land consolidation)
 3. Harmonizing use of agricultural land with potentials and constraints of local environment (water land, forests, energy resources)
 4. Combining agricultural with other compatible activities (tourism, small industries, recreation, energy production, etc.)
 5. Supporting eco- and market-oriented agriculture
 6. Stopping fast decrease of arable land
 7. Increasing intensively used agricultural land

The Vlasina area as a case-study (2)

- Instruments for implementing the policies:
 - Contract on implementing spatial plan policies between local and state authorities (private partners?)
 - Establishing an agency for implementing plan policies (nature, water, energy, agriculture, tourism, etc. – VA as a system)
 - Educating local people
 - Expected EU support after 2007 (SAPARD) for agriculture enhancement