

UNESCO declares transhumance as Intangible Cultural Heritage for 10 European countries

On 5 December 2023, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Commission declared transhumance as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for ten countries in Europe: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Croatia, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg and Romania. This was the culmination of several years of collaboration by people in these countries, with Spain as team leader.

A video recording of the ceremony in Botswana to make the ICH Transhumance Declaration can be found here: <https://youtu.be/6qx-AYRltp8?t=35841>

A short multilingual film in which people from transhumant pastoralist communities from these countries express their thanks for this Declaration can be found: <https://youtu.be/6qx-AYRltp8?t=36167s> (1:35 min).

The film compiled for UNESCO “Transhumance: the seasonal droving of livestock” can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8BJfOs7R30> (21:20 min).

Description: *Each year, in spring and autumn, herders organise the movement, or transhumance, of thousands of animals along traditional pastoral paths. They move on foot or horseback, leading with their dogs and sometimes accompanied by their families. An ancestral practice, transhumance entails social practices and rituals related to the care, breeding and training of animals and the management of natural resources. Transmitted informally within families and communities, the practice strengthens cultural identity and ties between families, communities and territories while counteracting the effects of rural depopulation.*

The film can be freely used to promote pastoralism not only in Europe but also in other parts of the world.