

KATUN is an innovative research project proposed by the interdisciplinary team:



University of Montenegro:

- Biotechnical Faculty as the leading partner
- Historical Institute of Montenegro
- Faculty of Tourism and Hotel management

National commercial entities - SMEs

- HM Durmitor, Žabljak
- The Old House, Podgorica

International RTD entities:

- University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty (Slovenia)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences - Department of Forest Mycology and Pathology (Sweden)
- The National Research Council-Institute for Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage (Italy)
- University of Basilicata (Italy)

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Valorizing the Montenegrin Katuns through sustainable development of agriculture and tourism – KATUN

INVO HERIC No: 01-646

Duration: April 2015 – March 2017

Total project value: 334 827 €

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The main idea of the project is to create a knowledge base for a multipurpose use of the Montenegrin mountain resources, by combining the traditional agriculture with boosting tourism activities and protecting the cultural heritage of *katuns* (temporary settlements in mountainous regions where the agricultural households stay with livestock during the summer season).

The katuns are a unique social-cultural resource of Montenegro, that should be preserved and revitalized via implementing new activities to enable them to become distinctive and attractive tourism destinations.

Two distinct areas with recognizable type of katuns were chosen: Kuči Mountains and wider Durmitor area, both characterized by high diversity in landscapes, biodiversity, resources available for agricultural production, different type of dairy products and richness in cultural-historical heritage.

The main objective of KATUN is to provide knowledge bases for sustainability of the mountain agriculture, to enhance its competitiveness and boost the agro-tourism at the katuns.

The detailed objectives are:

- Transfer of knowledge and innovations to the agriculture and agro-tourism, enabling them to be more competitive;
- Generate entrepreneurship in the mountainous livestock production;
- Achieve a new level of sustainable cultural heritage protection and its incorporation in modern agricultural and tourism tendencies;
- Demonstrate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research approach by intensive collaborations of the Montenegrin research entities with industry and international partners.

The outcomes of KATUN project will be:

- Different forms of knowledge transfer and new farming practices;
- New dairy products;
- New types of tourism offer;
- Valuable data on cultural-historical heritage for the first time
- Two master thesis and several scientific papers;
- Different publications (monography, user-friendly manuals and brochures for the producers etc);
- Strong partnership and networking of the farmers (producer clusters and producer organisations).

Starting from the katuns' richness and importance in historical and cultural heritage, the project will be a perfect case study for holistic approach to sustainable development of Montenegrin mountain areas.

Work plan:

- WP1: Fostering the traditional production technologies and marketing of the products;
- WP2: Social dimension of the katuns – reinforcing their regional image;
- WP3: Diversification of economic activities at katuns;
- WP4: Strengthening the research capacities;
- WP5: Maximize the sustainable impact and visibility;
- WP6: Management.

The project activities will be focused on:

- Analysing of the current status of the production activities at katuns, with identification of the main weaknesses and opportunities;
- Knowledge transfer to the farmers and companies with an aim to improve production practices and technologies and increase the production;
- Investigation of quality of traditional dairy products (Kučki cheese, Durmitor skorup, and low-fat cheese *prljo*) for the purpose of protecting their designation of origin (PDO);
- Implementation of new technologies of livestock rearing and creation of new dairy products (different types of cheese);
- Support producers to establish producers associations, as well as for diversification of economic activities at katuns;
- Study of forest and biodiversity, valorization of the non-wood forest products (wild edible mushroom, berries, medical and aromatic herbs) and rising the awareness of rural society;
- Inventory of the katuns on the Mountains of Kuči, their characterization and cadastre, historical-social background and estimation of their cultural-historical value;
- Development of different tourism activities at the katuns.