**Carpathian Convention and IYRP consult with pastoralist women in European mountain areas**

European mountainous regions host pastoralist communities in which women play indispensable roles in maintaining and further developing local knowledge and skills, preserving ecological balance and fostering socio-economic development. These linkages were discussed on 12 March 2024 during an online Consultation Day under the 68th Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations’ annual gathering on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Presentations from women herders, researchers and policymakers from the Alps, Carpathians, Caucasus, Western Balkans, Pyrenees, and Apennines shed light on the challenges faced by pastoralist women in European mountain areas and explored strategies to help the women overcome these challenges.

Francesca Pasetti, one of the coordinators of the Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) in Europe, gave a presentation about the IYRP and its aim to raise global awareness of the importance of rangelands and pastoralists. She gave particular attention to the aims and key messages of the IYRP Working Group on Pastoralism & Gender.

Among the European pastoralist women who spoke at this event were Ibolya Sáfiánné (Hungary), Laura Martinez Nuñez (Spain) and Caterina De Boni (Italy).

Participation in this consultation emerged from the recent cooperation agreement between the IYRP alliance and the Carpathian Convention. The Convention’s press release on the Consultation Day can be found here: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/2024/03/14/pastoralist-women-in-european-mountain-areas-discuss-navigating-environmental-and-gender-challenges/>