INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

TRANSHUMANCE AS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY: A WAY FORWARD?

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Hautes-Alpes, France © MdT

APRIL 21 › 23, 2026

Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations Mucem
Marseille, France

Organized by the Maison de la Transhumance, in partnership with the CORAM, the Association Française de Pastoralisme, and the French Ministry of Culture

MAISON DE LA TRANSHUMANCE

CORAM races de massifs

ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE DE PASTORALISME

Soutenu par MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
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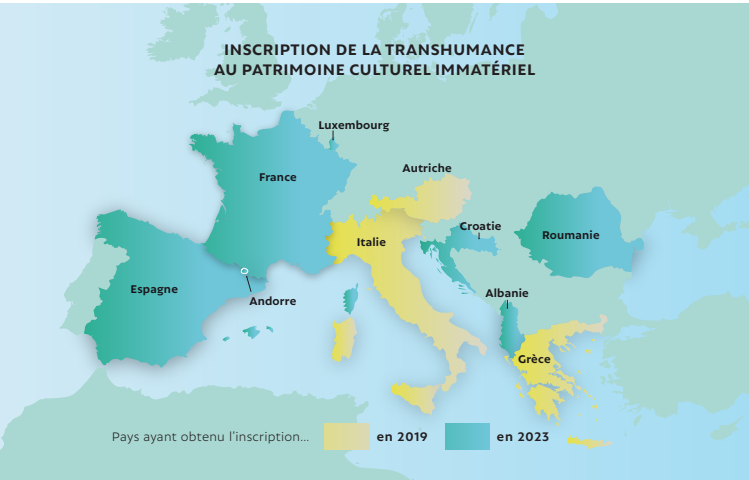
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

■ **The Maison de la transhumance,** in partnership with the Collectif des Races Locales de Massif, the Association Française de Pastoralisme, and the French Ministry of Culture, is organizing an international symposium on transhumance on 21, 22 and 23 April 2026, following its recent inclusion by UNESCO in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

■ **The aim of this symposium** is to take stock of the progress made in plans to safeguard and promote transhumance in the various countries involved in the inscription process, as well as to share experiences on topics relating to the future of the practice: shepherd training, adapting to new socio-economic and environmental contexts, common-pool resource management, promoting products from transhumant livestock farming, space sharing, and cultural mediation. It will primarily bring together representatives of professionals from the cultural and livestock (farmers, shepherds) sectors, and promoters of plans to safeguard and promote transhumance.

■ **The symposium will primarily bring together** delegations from the 10 listed countries (Albania, Andorra, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Spain), the six current candidate countries (Bulgaria, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine) and Southern Mediterranean countries.

■ **A motion will be put forward** for this first gathering to be the starting point for a biennial event, to be held in turn in the different listed countries, so as to foster dialogue and enable new perspectives to emerge, thereby contributing to the future of transhumance.



Cattle transhumance in Abruzzo, Italy © Nicola Lanese

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

MUCEM - AUDITORIUM

TRANSHUMANCE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

9.00 - 9.30 a.m.	*Welcome coffee*
9.30 a.m.	**Opening speech**
9.45 a.m.	**Introduction: "Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock"**
10.30 a.m.	*Break*
10.45 a.m.	**Progress report on the inscription of "Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock" on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list**
12.15 p.m.	*Pastoral buffet*
2.00 p.m.	**Progress report on plans to safeguard and promote transhumance**
3.00 p.m.	**Towards the creation of an international network of Transhumance Interpretation Centers?**
3.45 p.m.	*Break*
4.00 p.m.	**Mucem: missions and perspectives**
4.30 p.m.	*Working session for representatives of ministries of culture and officials responsible for safeguarding plans*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 MUCEM - AUDITORIUM

A WAY FORWARD

Focus areas for an International Safeguarding Plan

(round tables)

9.00 - 9.30 a.m.	*Welcome coffee*
9.30 a.m.	**Transfer of expertise - Training courses for shepherds/cowherds**
10.15 a.m.	**Transhumance and common-pool resources management**
11.00 a.m.	*Break*
11.15 a.m.	**Sharing pastoral space and cultural mediation - Innovative experiences**
12.00 p.m.	*Pastoral buffet*
2.00 p.m.	**Local breeds - Promoting products related to transhumant farming: milk, cheese, wool, meat, cultural landscapes**
2.45 p.m.	**Adapting transhumance practices to new socio-economic and environmental contexts - Climate change, mobility, health issues**
3.30 p.m.	**Concluding debates - Passing the baton**
4.00 p.m.	*Tour of Mucem exhibitions*

Southern Carpathians, Romania © Lucian David

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 EXCURSION TO THE CRAU PLAIN

DISCOVERING TRANSHUMANT SHEEP FARMING

8.30 a.m.	*Departure by coach from Marseille*
9.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	Tour of the Merle Domain and Training Centre (Salon-de-Provence) and the Euro-Mediterranean Resource Centre on Transhumance, in partnership with Institut Agro Montpellier
12.15 p.m.	*Pastoral buffet*
2.00 - 4.30 p.m.	Tour of the Crau Coussouls National Nature Reserve, in partnership with the Conservatory of Natural Areas of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the Bouches-du-Rhône Chamber of Agriculture – Meetings with farmers and transhumant shepherds

Return by coach to Marseille - *Estimated arrival 5.30 p.m.*

Merle Domain, Salon-de-Provence, France © MdT

Saint-Martin-de-Crau, France © MdT

Valensole Plateau, France © MdT

French-English translation provided over the entire 3 days

OVERVIEW OF EXHIBITIONS

Transhumance in France (MDT, CORAM)
Transhumances 360°: An immersive world tour (CIRAD, AFD)

REGISTRATION

INFORMATION

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS 2026

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