



VIAE project – Valuable Itineraries Across Europe



International Workshop

Pastoral routes in 21st-century Europe

Creating networks for the recognition and conservation of a shared ancestral heritage

9–11 April 2026

University of Lleida (Catalogne, Spain)





Pastoral routes in 21st-century Europe

Creating networks for the recognition and conservation of a shared ancestral heritage

Introduction

VIAE is framed within the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) and aims to promote the recognition, protection and valorisation of European pastoral routes as a shared cultural heritage.

For centuries, transhumance routes have functioned as essential territorial infrastructures for the economic, social and cultural development of many European regions. Beyond their historical value, these routes continue to play an important role today in the sustainable management of landscapes, the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of extensive livestock farming.

Promoted by Newcastle University (United Kingdom) and the University of Lleida (Catalonia, Spain), and made possible through coordinated work with Camí Ramader de Marina, IDAPA and ARCA, the initiative brings together invited experts from several European countries in Lleida in order to advance a shared strategy and the drafting of a European Protocol for the protection and valorisation of this heritage, in line with the principles of the Council of Europe Faro Convention. The meeting will combine open sessions with specialised working spaces among invited experts, as well as a final field visit linked to the local territory.

Workshop Structure

9 April – University of Lleida

Open sessions

10 April – University of Lleida

Morning: open sessions

Afternoon: closed working session with invited experts

11 April – Field visit

Activity subject to prior registration

Objectives and Areas of Work

The main objective of the VIAE project is to contribute to the definition of a shared European strategy for the protection and valorisation of European pastoral routes, understood as a key resource for the sustainable development of local communities and rural territories.

More specifically, the initiative aims to:

- Promote European cooperation among researchers, public administrations and local stakeholders involved in the management of pastoral routes.
- Draft the Lleida Declaration as a framework document for the recognition and protection of European pastoral routes.
- Develop a European Protocol of recommendations for their management, protection and valorisation.
- Lay the foundations for a future nomination of European pastoral routes as UNESCO World Heritage.

Date and Venue

Friday, 28 March 2025

Sala de Junes, 2nd Floor

Rectorat Building

University of Lleida

Plaça Víctor Siurana, 1

25003 Lleida

Registration

Registration is free of charge until 7 April 2026 via email at:

viaeproject@gmail.com

Organisation and Coordination

- Francesca Romana Del Fattore (Newcastle University, UK)
- Ariadna Nieto Espinet (ARQHISTEC– University of Lleida, Spain)
- Francesco Carrer (Newcastle University, UK)
- Marc Borrell (IDAPA, Spain)
- Eduard Trepas (ARCA, Spain)
- Ingrid Vilardaga (Camí Ramader de Marina, Spain)
- Sara Zecchinato (University of Sassari, Italy)

Organisers:



In collaboration with:



PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – Current situation and good practices



Thursday, 9 April 2026

Morning: Context and diagnosis

08.00–09.00 · Registration of participants

09.15–09.30 · Institutional opening

- **Eva Martín Fuentes** (Vice-Rector for Knowledge Transfer and Territory, University of Lleida)
- **Francesco Carrer** (Newcastle University)
- **Esther Marmaneu** (President of the *Camí Ramader de Marina*)
- **Eduard Trepát** (Associació d'Iniciatives Rurals i Marítimes de Catalunya - ARCA)
- **Amàlia Sanz Bonet** (Director of the *Institut per al Desenvolupament i la Promoció de l'Alt Pirineu i Aran* - IDAPA)

09.30–11.00 · Protecting European pastoral routes: motivations, challenges and perspectives

- **Véronique Ancey** (CIRAD - French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)
- **Concha Salguero** (Vice-President of Landcare Europe)

11.00–11.30 · Coffee break

11.30–12.00 · Presentation of the objectives of the workshop

- **Francesca Romana Del Fattore** (Newcastle University)
- **Ariadna Nieto Espinet** (Universitat de Lleida).

12.00–12.30 · Discussion and approval of the “Lleida Declaration”

12.30–14.30 · Pause Lunch

Afternoon: Experiences and legislative framework

14.30–15.30 · Legislative and heritage framework of pastoral routes

Moderators: Francesca Romana del Fattore & Ingrid Vilardaga

- **Elena Regodón** (Sub-Directorate General for the Management and Coordination of Cultural Heritage, Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture, Spain)
- **Orane Proisy** (Head of European Heritage Projects and Networks Unit, Directorate-General for Heritage and Architecture, French Ministry of Culture)
- **Italo Maria Muntoni** i **Francesca Spadolini** (Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le Province di Barletta-Andria-Trani e Foggia e L'Aquila-Teramo – Italian Ministry of Culture)

16.00–17.00 · Presentation of European projects and initiatives (Part I)

Moderators: Ariadna Nieto Espinet & Eduard Trepát

16.00–16.20 – **Felipe Monzón**. [Transhumance Trails](#) Project

16.20–16.40 – **Ingrid Vilardaga**. Associació [camí ramader de Marina](#) project

16.40–17.00 – **Claire Dallemagne** i **Patrick Fabre**. Maison de la Transhumance - [La Routo project](#)

17.00–17.20 · Coffee break

17.20–18.30 · Presentation of European projects and initiatives (Part II)

Moderators: Francesco Carrer & Sara Zecchinato

17.20–17.40 – **Flavio Camerata** (U-Space). PECUS – [European Landscapes of Transhumance](#)

17.40–18.00 – **Francesco Zullo**, **Anna Maria Felli**, **Cristina Montaldi**. Università degli Studi dell'Aquila. Innovative Methods Supporting Archaeological Heritage Protection: TheNew PQT for the Tratturo Magno in the Municipality of L'Aquila

18.00–18.20 – **Saša Čaval**. ZRC SAZU and Stanford University. ERC STONE project – Unde Venis. Unraveling the enigma of stećci tombstones

18.30–19.30 · Documentary screening

“Transhumant Cultures”, by **Anna Kauber**

A documentary inspired by Alberico Bojano's book *La ricchezza delle pecore**, focusing on the transhumant pastoral culture of southern Italy.*

19.30 · 20:00 · Discussion and closing of the first day of the workshop

Image credits:

- **Francesca Romana Del Fattore**. June 2023, transhumance of the Carrino family. The flock during the first day of movement between Borgo San Giusto and Faeto.
- **Francesca Romana Del Fattore**. June 2023, transhumance of the Carrino family. The Foggia-Camporeale drove road between Troia and Faeto (Foggia).

PROGRAMME

DAY 2 – Towards a European Strategy



Friday, 10 April 2026

09.00–11.00 · Guided tour of La Seu Vella of Lleida

(Only for invited experts (free of charge) or registered participants (€10 entrance fee))

Morning: Expert contributions and foundations for the European Protocol

Moderators: Marc Borrell & Ingrid Vilardaga

11.30–12.00 · Conferència invitada

Roberta Alberotanza (ICOMOS – University of Reggio Calabria); **Antonio Corrado** (Regione Abruzzo)

12.00–12.30 · Invited lecture

Michele Nori (European Commission – DG Agriculture and Rural Development)

12.30–13.00 · Presentation of the draft European Protocol and preliminary recommendations for the shared and sustainable management of pastoral routes in Europe

– **Francesca Romana Del Fattore** (Newcastle University)

– **Ariadna Nieto Espinet** (Universitat de Lleida)

– **Eduard Trepal** (ARCA)

13.00–15.00 · Pause Lunch

Afternoon: Collective work and drafting of the final protocol recommendations

15.30 - 18:30 · Closed working session, accessible only to invited experts

(Participatory dynamics facilitated by ARC-Mediació)

PLEASE NOTE: This afternoon session is a closed working meeting, reserved exclusively for the invited experts involved in the collective drafting of the European Protocol on Pastoral Routes. It is not open to the general public.

DAY 3 – Perspectives locals sobre les rutes pastorals: El Camí de Marina



Saturday, 11 April 2026

Please note: Participation in the Day 3 field trip is only possible with prior registration.

Places are limited. Registration is open until 07.04.2026. To register, please contact:

info@camiramaderdemarina.cat

Field trip – Excursion

08.00 · Departure from Lleida

09.45 · Meeting point at the Avinyó petrol station

Transfer by car to Pla de l'Oliva

10.00 · Pla de l'Oliva (Avinyó): guided walk along the pastoral route

Walk along the dry-stone section of the route, with:

– **Josep Solsona**, dry-stone wall restorer

– **Josep Salvans** “Cuca”, shepherd, compiler of the map of pastoral routes of Lluçanès, and member of the group Lluçanès, land of transhumance (Approx. 4 km walk. Comfortable footwear is recommended.)

13.00 · Santa Eulàlia de Puig-oriol: lunch at Cal Penyora

Lunch in a former shepherds' inn. Homemade tasting menu with local products.

Price: €25

15.00 · Centre for the Study and Resources of Transhumance (Santa Eulàlia de Puig-oriol)

– Presentation of the project by Glòria Colom, mayor and secretary of the association, and Eva Boixadé, former mayor and member of the group Lluçanès, land of transhumance.

16.00 · Opening of the exhibition “Abans miràvem la lluna per tot”

– Exhibition from the Natural Park of the Àneu Valleys

Introduction to the material and immaterial heritage of shepherds, guided by the shepherd Ernest Sitjes. Exhibition provided by the ECOMUSEU Valls d'Àneu.

17.00 · Closing of the day with shepherd songs and music

Image credits:

- Jordi Peiró. Summer pastures (Llessú, Lleida Pyrenees)

INVITED EXPERTS

International group of experts contributing to the collective drafting of the European Protocol on Pastoral Routes



Image credits

- Shepherd Ernest Sitjes with the herd (Sitjes-Rovira Archive)
- Transhumant horses heading to the pastures of Les Bouillouses (France) (Archive of the Camí Ramader de Marina Association)
- Livestock in the pastures of Pla d'Anyella (Sitjes-Rovira Archive)
- Herd in the eastern Catalan Pyrenees (Sitjes-Rovira Archive)

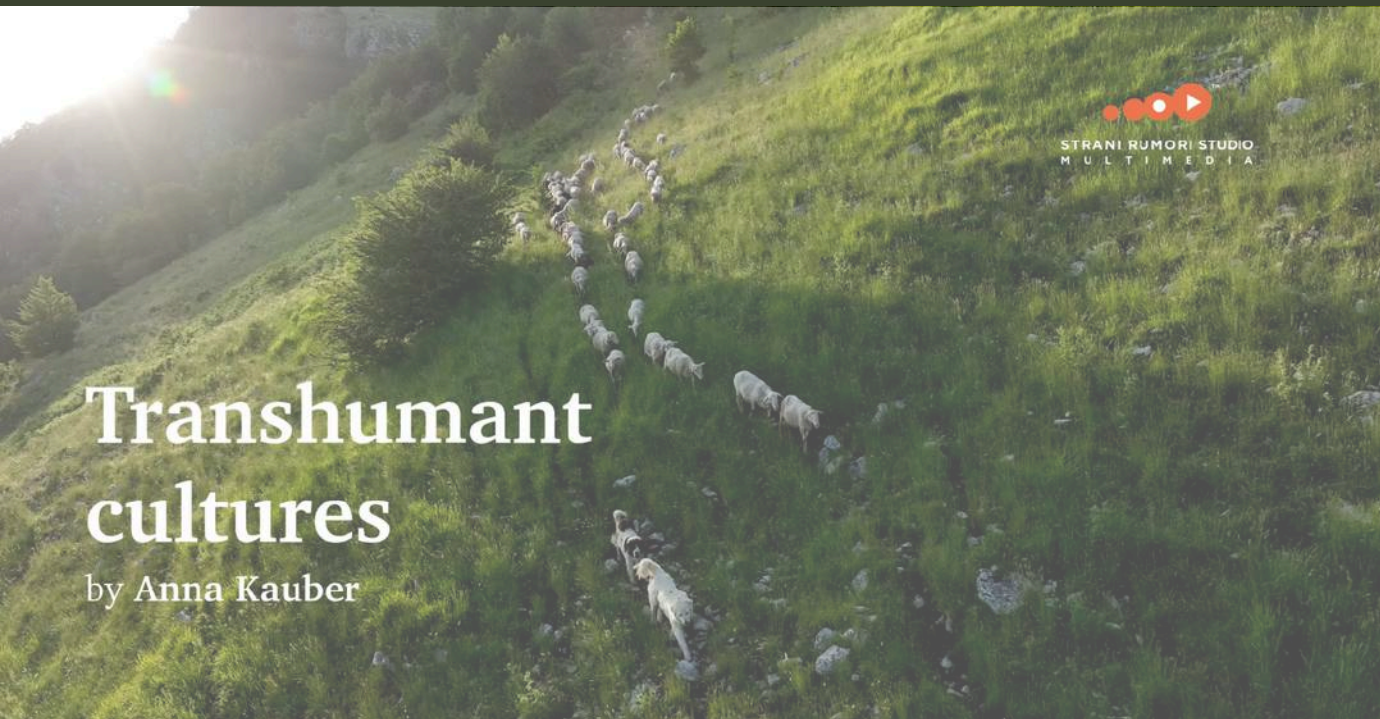
Participació presencial a Lleida

Roberta Alberotanza — ICOMOS / Università della Calabria
Pau Barrull — Transhumant shepherd (Pyrenees, Catalonia)
Marc Borrell — IDAPA
Ferran Estrada Bonell — University of Barcelona
Gerard Cardona — Transhumant shepherd (Pyrenees, Catalonia)
Flavio Camerata — U-Space
Francesco Carrer — Newcastle University
Saša Čaval — Stanford University / ZRC SAZU
Francesca Cornella — Newcastle University
Àlex Farnós — Former director of the Museum of the Terres de l'Ebre
Ermengol Gassiot — Autonomous University of Barcelona
Maialen Gauthier — Université Toulouse Jean-Jaurès (Framespa – Terrae)
Dani Giraldo — Transhumant shepherd, Camí Ramader de Marina
Christian Heitz — University of Innsbruck
Luigi Magnini — Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia
Nunzio Marcelli — Shepherd (Abruzzo, Italy)
Italo Maria Muntoni — Italian Ministry of Culture
Ariadna Nieto Espinet — University of Lleida
Elena Regodon — Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture, Spain
Christine Rendu — French National Centre for Scientific Research
Francesca Romana del Fattore — Newcastle University
Concha Salguero — Vice-President of Landcare Europe
Javier Sánchez García — European Cheese Route Association
Elena Scarsella — Barcelona Supercomputing Center
Eduard Trepát — ARCA
Íngrid Vilardaga — Camí Ramader de Marina
Daniel Villalba — Department of Animal Science, University of Lleida
Sara Zecchinato — University of Sassari (Italy)
Felipe Monzón — University of La Laguna (Spain)

Online participation

Véronique Ancey — CIRAD
Beatrice Bellavia — Euromontana
Francesco Calzolaio — Faro Italia Platform
Tommaso Campedelli — Shepherds School of Foreste Casentinesi
Antonio Corrado — Abruzzo Avventure
Claire Dallemagne — Maison de la Transhumance / La Routo
Patrick Fabre — Maison de la Transhumance
Anna Maria Felli — Università degli Studi dell'Aquila
Luisa Migliorati — Fondazione Roma Sapienza
Cristina Montaldi — Università degli Studi dell'Aquila
Michele Nori — European Commission – Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)
Luisella Pavan Woolfe — Europa Nostra
Francesca Spadolini — Italian Ministry of Culture
Greta Semplici — Università del Molise (UNIMOL)
Andrea Staffa — Former official, Italian Ministry of Culture
Francesco Zullo — Università degli Studi dell'Aquila

COMPLEMENTARY WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES



Transhumant cultures

by Anna Kauber



Image credits

- Top two images: stills from the documentary — Anna Kauber
- Centre: Signage of the Camí Ramader de Marina (Archive of the Camí Ramader de Marina Association)
- Bottom: Dry-stone walls delimiting the drove road (Sitjes-Rovira Archive)

Documentary screening: *Transhumant Cultures* Anna Kauber

As part of the workshop programme, *Transhumant Cultures* (Civiltà transumanti), a documentary by Anna Kauber inspired by the book *La ricchezza delle pecore* by Alberico Bojano, will be screened.

Set in San Gregorio Matese, on the Campanian side of the Matese massif (Italy), the film explores the long-term relationship between **community, landscape, and transhumant pastoralism**. Through the voices of shepherds and local inhabitants, it reflects on **memory, continuity, abandonment, and the transformations of mountain pastoral worlds**.

The screening will take place at the **end of the first day of the workshop**, as a cultural activity connected to the shared reflection on pastoral routes and transhumant heritage in Europe.

Trailer available on Vimeo: [Transhumant Cultures, d'Anna Kauber – oficial tràiler](#)

Technical visit to Camí Ramader de Marina



The third day of the workshop will include a technical visit linked to the **project Camí Ramader de Marina. De la Cerdanya al Penedès**, an initiative promoted by the municipalities of Llívia, Lluçà and Santa Margarida i els Monjos, with the support and guidance of the Associació d'Iniciatives Rurals de Catalunya (ARCA), the Institut per al Desenvolupament i la Promoció de l'Alt Pirineu i Aran (IDAPA) and Parc del Foix, as well as the participation of other local entities and public bodies.

The project aims to preserve, **strengthen and promote this historic transhumant route**, which for centuries structured the movement of herds between the eastern Pyrenees and the coastal lands of the Penedès and Garraf. Its actions are organised around three main axes: the recognition of **transhumance, pastoral culture and drove roads; the cultural and environmental protection of the territory; and the sustainable tourism promotion** of the places linked to the route.

It is also an itinerary of major historical and heritage significance. The **Camí Ramader de Marina is the Catalan drove road for which the oldest known documentary reference has been preserved, mentioned in 1055** in the Diplomatarium of the monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet under the name *via peccorad de Ceguiolas*. In the Pyrenean area it is known as *camí de Marina*, while in the coastal area it also appears under the name *cañada real de la Sardanya*.

The field visit will allow participants to learn directly about a concrete experience of recovery, **protection and enhancement of pastoral heritage**, and to connect the European framework of the workshop with a territorial initiative that is rooted, alive, and oriented both towards heritage safeguarding and the sustainable revitalisation of the territory.

More info : camiramaderdemarina.cat