# Romania Article Narrative

**Research question:**

What factors could enable a successful conservation programme in Romania for rare breeds?

**Main narrative points of the article from our empirical work:**

1. Only a limited number of respondents were actually aware of subsides for farming with rear breeds and even fewer actually qualified. This means EU subsidy approaches need better communication to local stakeholders and need to be better adapted to meet local circumstances.
2. Increases in intensive farming practices as noted by the increase in bovine and ovine farming practices. Farms are getting bigger and few youth are staying to continue farming. The acquisition of smaller farmers into larger mergers signifies an increase in intensification in Transylvanian agriculture. Increases in mechanisation are also evident.
3. Many farms are using off farm income sources to improve their incomes. This suggests farming is not sustainable for many as their sole income source and may be low in profitability. This is likely resulting in the acquisition of smaller farmers to larger enterprises.
4. Farmers were keen to support cattle and horse breeds in rare breed conservation programmes, but not the other species. This suggests a higher subsidy premium could better encourage rare breed conservation in these areas.
5. For covariates, farmers currently enrolled in AES schemes demand lower subsidy rates. Farmers not currently enrolled in AES schemes prefer higher levels of support for conservation (ovine farmers). Farmers with higher incomes prefer advisory support (i.e. see the potential of external influence to increase profitability).
6. Results suggest farmers in Transylvania are keen to participate in conservation programmes and yet breed diversity is declining. Farmers therefore need mobilizing through a state led national programme to conserve rare breeds in Romania by working to better link and educate farmers and breeders for improved conservation outcomes. Incentives can only work if a mobilizing landscape exists that is reciprocal.
7. Are there any examples of best practice in conservation scheme design?
8. A mix of market and non-market based approaches are likely to be important in addressing conservation. Conserving rare breeds through agrotourism is particular applicable to Transylvania where heritage agriculture is already common place in some areas. Tourism provides opportunities for valorisation of rare breed products.