

## EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LARGE CARNIVORES

### *Grosseto local platform on large carnivores – agreed joint actions*

#### EU Platform statement, May 2019

On 8 May 2019, the *Grosseto local platform on large carnivores* presented a list of agreed actions for improving the conditions for local livestock owners in areas where wolves are present in Grosseto. At a workshop in Florence, the stakeholder group presented the conclusions of their joint work to the Regional Government, the European Commission and the *EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores (EU Platform)*.

The Grosseto Platform brings together livestock owners, animal rights activists, conservationists, hunters and the regional administration. All members have recognised the essential role that extensive livestock grazing plays in maintaining the landscape and rural economy in the area, which has a largely rural character. All agree that livestock managers are those who have suffered most from the presence of the wolf and that additional support to the sector is essential.

The Grosseto Platform brainstormed, ranked and categorised their potential actions as part of an organised participative process. The discussed actions, split into four broad areas: incentives, damage prevention, monitoring, and promotion / communication, have been refined by working groups. Some actions will now be trialled in a testing phase as part of the same project.

The members of the EU Platform recognise the diversity of European situations related to large carnivore coexistence and that there are no solutions that can be applied in every context. It is therefore necessary to decide on combinations of measures which work best in different local situations. This is the reason why the EU Platform has been involved in the pilot project from the proposal phase. The EU Platform was glad to support the presentation of the actions proposed by the Grosseto Platform through joint-organisation of a workshop. The members welcome the actions agreed.

The EU Platform encourages the Tuscany Regional Government to consider how they can aid the Grosseto Platform in implementing those actions within their competencies. In particular they could:

- Highlight the need for greater support for livestock managers in coexisting with the wolf in their Priority Action Framework (PAF) which must be submitted to the European Commission by June.
- Include effective measures in their Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan. These could include protection measures for livestock (fencing, guarding dogs) and advice in implementing these measures, as well as broader socio-economic and environmental measures to maintain extensive grazing.

The EU Platform encourages the involved stakeholder groups to accept and work with the Grosseto Platform's agreed actions. In particular to:

- Disseminate the platform findings further amongst their own peers and colleagues;
- Defend and promote the agreed actions at meetings with government and other representative groups;
- Encourage consistent implementation by the government.

Finally, the EU Platform highlights the strength of the regional platform approach, demonstrated by the agreement between such different stakeholders. While the Grosseto actions are unique to the situation in Grosseto, the approach provides a model for other regions. The EU Platform encourages other regional groupings to learn from the experience in Grosseto and to use it as a model to come up with their own plans of action regarding large carnivore coexistence with people. It encourages the national and regional administrations to support fully the regional and local platforms.

***This statement was agreed by all members at the EU Platform at the plenary meeting, 13 May 2019***

## **Further information on the regional platform project**

The Grosseto Platform is organised through a pilot project on “*the establishment of regional/local platforms on coexistence between people and large carnivores*” funded by the EU and supported by the EU Platform. Three platforms have been established in the project. The Grosseto Platform is the first of the three regional / local platforms in the pilot to come up with agreed actions. The platform in Harghita, Romania is also discussing and ranking options and the platform in Avila, Spain is still in the initial meeting phase.

More information can be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional\\_platforms.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional_platforms.htm)