



# SAVE Focus

2005

## Special Edition Balkan

TRANSBOUNDARY OCCURRING BREEDS AND BREED GROUPS OF THE BALKAN



Version 1.2

INTRODUCTION	2	CATTLE	
		• Busha	16
		• Grey Steppe	18
SHEEP		BUFFALO	
• Pramenka	3	• Domestic Buffalo	20
• Tsigai / Cigaja	14		

## INTRODUCTION

The Balkan Peninsula is covered with the marks of different ethnic groups who have, over the centuries, spent time in the area. This is reflected in the richness of the many physical and geographical attributes - also in the many different breeds.

Some of the various breeds of the Balkans transboundary occur in several countries. The SAVE "Focus Special Edition Balkan" describes the crossborder occurring rare breeds and breed groups.

According to the SAVE-Monitoring project: "Balkans Network" the area of action is demarcated as follows in alphabetic order: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Greece and the European part of Turkey is also included in this investigation (*Romania will be investigated by the project "Conservation of Agro-Biodiversity in the Carpathians"*).

Often no breeding data exists. Therefore, it is listed in which country the breeds or varieties occur and - where possible - (estimated) population data are given.

The information and data are from different sources: A questionnaire sent to all known stakeholders in the different countries brought very little results. Sources like country reports, the DAD-IS database of FAO and various informative literature and Internet brought the following results.

We hope this work will initiate a lot of correspondence, discussion and concrete monitoring, identification and conservation work. Please do not hesitate to give us your comments, suggestions and opinions.

SAVE - Monitoring Institute Waltraud Kugler, winter 2005

Completed version 1.2, August 2006

Schneebergstrasse 17; CH-9000 St.Gallen, Switzerland; E-mail: [info@monitoring.eu.com](mailto:info@monitoring.eu.com)

This special edition of the SAVE Focus is realised in the frame of the project "Balkan Network for Agrobiodiversity" which is generously financed by:

- **Sonnenwiese Foundation, Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein (phase 1)**
- **Heidehof Foundation, Stuttgart, Germany (phase 2)**

# SHEEP

The breeding group of Pramenka sheep and of Tsigai sheep are representative of most of the autochthonous sheep varieties. These groups will be listed and described in the following chapter

## *Pramenka*

The coarse, open fleece of Pramenka sheep hangs in locks, often with a parting running along the middle of the back. Pramen means "lock" in some of the Balkan languages. So the Zackel type sheep of the Balkans got the name "Pramenka". Usually they are frugal and hardy animals, well adapted to their life outside all the year without any supplementary feed. Pramenka are late maturing and complete their body development usually not under an age of 4 or 5 years.



*Pramenks sheep in Croatia; source: Grunenfelder*

There are about 20 breeds recognised. During the wars a number of flocks of the improved and local Pramenka sheep have been lost in some Balkan countries. Herdbooks or another kind of census didn't run in most of the involved countries up to now. The following breeds are identified. Sources are a questionnaire to the responsible people, the DAD-IS FAO database and several sources of literature (e.g. country reports, FAO studies)

## BALUSHA / BALJUSHA



*Balusha sheep, Kosovo; source: Mehmeti; Bytyqui*

The Balusha sheep occurs in the Dukagjini plane in southwest Kosovo and in southwest Serbia. The name originates from the word (in Albanian language) "Bale-Spot". The Balusha sheep is bred as triple purpose (milk-meat-wool), with special accent for milk production. The Balusha sheep has a black head, while the color of the fleece and the legs is white. The males are horned and the females are polled, usually. This strain has advantages of natural grazing abilities and easily milked.

### Breed occurrence

---

#### Kosovo - UNMIK

long lactation length, the average production ranges from 200-250 kg per lactation; body weight of mature sheep averages of 40-5kg. From total number of sheep bred in Kosovo, this strain is represented with about 5%..

**Stock: 2005: 5120 animals status: stable**

**Contact:** MSc. Hysen Bytyqi;– Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK  
**E-mail:** [hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com](mailto:hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com)  
Dr. Sc. Hajrip Mehmeti; Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK  
**E-mail:** [hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com](mailto:hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com)

## Serbia & Montenegro

One of the biggest zackel sheep: Weight rams: 65kg; weight ewes: 55kg  
**Stock: 2003: 1000, status: decreasing;**  
**Risk status: endangered.**  
**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Min. of Agriculture & Water Management;  
Dep. f. Genetic Resources and GMO;  
Nemanjina 22-26; 11000 Belgrade; Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## BARDOKA / BARDHOKA

The Bardhoka sheep is a triple purpose sheep, milk-meat-wool. However, through natural and selective breeding this sheep became one of the most yielding strains of Pramenka breed. The average ewe lactation is over 200 kg milk per 270 days of lactation length, with about 6.0 % fat content. Its body weight is considered to be medium, female's individual averages 40 and male's 50 kg, respectively. The height at wither is 64.cm. The lamming is low, about 120%. The average body weight of the lambs at birth is 2.5 - 3 kg, and at weaning (after three months, approximately) they reach the live body weight of 20-22 kg. The grease fleece weight for females and males averages 2-2.5 kg and 2.5 – 3.5 kg, respectively. The males are horned and the females are polled, usually. Bardhoka sheep is well suited to a grazing production system, calm, easily milked and easy to work with.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

### Albania

**Stock:** 2004: about 30.000  
**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume  
Assoc. ALBAGENE  
Rr. "Abdyl Frasher" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5  
AL- Tirana  
**E-mail:** [kkume@icc-al.org](mailto:kkume@icc-al.org)  
Kosovo - UNMIK

The Bardhoka sheep, a strain of the Pramenka breed, since centuries in the southwest of Kosovo, in Prizreni, Gjakova, Peja, Istogu and Klina municipalities. The name originates from (Albanian language) "Bardhe = white", as the colour of the sheep is completely white.  
**Stock: 2005: 12.400 animals** (18% of the total no of sheep in Kosovo);  
**status: stable**



**Contact:** MSc. Hysen Bytyqi;– Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK  
**E-mail:** [hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com](mailto:hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com)  
Dr. Sc. Hajrip Mehmeti; Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK  
**E-mail:** [hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com](mailto:hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com)

## Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: 1999: 290, 6 rams, 284 ewes. In-situ conservation programme 2003**  
**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Min. of Agriculture & Water Management;  
Dep. f. Genetic Resources and GMO;  
Nemanjina 22-26; 11000 Belgrade; Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## BELA KRAIJNA PRAMENKA

The Bela Krajina Pramenka is an autochthonous sheep breed which was once bred on both banks of the river Kolpa, mainly in the rolling hills of the Karst regions of Bela Krajina. The farming conditions are poor here and for this reason the sheep are quite small.

**Description:** Weight rams: 65-70 kg; ewes: 50 kg. Colour: white flece. Thin bones.

Breed occurrence\_\_\_\_\_

Slovenia

**Stock: 2004: about 250 animals; conservation programme running**

**Contact:** M.Sci. Drago Kompan

Biotehniska fakulteta

Oddelek za zootehniko

Groblje 3

SI-1230 Domzale

Slovenia

**E-mail:** [drago.kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si](mailto:drago.kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si)



source: <http://www.bfro.uni-lj.si>; D. Kompan

## DUBSKA / DUBSKA-VLASICKA OVCA / VLASKO VITOROGA

From the village Dub near Travnik. Dubska is the most useful variety of the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka (Bosansko-Hercegovacka) in the mountainous areas of central and western Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly at mountain Vlasic. Also in Serbia Dubska sheep is occurring. Dubska sheep is adapted to high mountains, to harsh climatic conditions and poor pastures.

**Description:** Weight: rams about 60 kg, ewes about 30-40 kg; Fleece usually white; head and legs with black spots. Use: milk production for special cheese sold at local markets.

Breed occurrence\_\_\_\_\_

Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: 1991: about 140.000; stock today is unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba);

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: 2004. About 50 animals, only in community Vrsac at 2-3 breeders;**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Ministry of Agriculture & Water Management

Dep. For Genetic Resources and GMO

Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## ISTARSKA PRAMENKA / ISTARSKA MLJECNA / PRIMORSKA / ISTRIAN MILK SHEEP / ISTRJANKA / KRASKA OVCA / KARST SHEEP / ISTRIAN PRAMENKA /PRIMORSKA

Along the Peninsula Istria, the Mediterranean type of Pramenka occurs. In the region of Karst and Istria sheep breeders have traditionally bred domestic, autochthonous sheep which they called Istrianka, Karst Sheep, Primorska sheep and even a Rough Wool Sheep.

**Description:** The Istrian Pramenka is of quite a large frame, owing to the highly placed torso and long strong legs. Its udders are well-shaped, fastened high, with large teats. Its slim head, with the nose's crest and jutting out ears, is placed on a long neck. Thus, the sheep

can use their slim snout to find even the best hidden blades of grass in between the rocks and boulders of Karst. Colour: multicoloured, white, brown or black; convex profile of the head, rather long tail, all animals are polled; Heat resistance, tolerate of shortage of water supply; Head, legs, and usually belly, are bare; Height: rams: 65-70cm, ewes: 60 cm Weight: rams: 55-68kg, ewes: 35-50kg

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

### Croatia

**Stock: 2004:1500 animals in herdbook**

**Contact:** Ante Invankovic; Faculty of Agricultural, Univ. Zagreb; Department of Animal Sciences; Svetosimunska Cesta 25; HR-10 000 Zagreb

**E-mail:** [ante.ivankovic@agr.hr](mailto:ante.ivankovic@agr.hr)

### Slovenia

M.Sci. Drago Kompan

Biotehniška fakulteta

Oddelek za zootehniko

Groblje 3

SI-1230 Domzale

E-mail: [drago.kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si](mailto:drago.kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si)



Source: <http://www.istrianet.org> D. Kompan

## KARAKACHAN / KARAKACHANSKA/ KUKOVLASKA /

## KARAVLASKA / CRNA VLASKA / SARAKATSAN /

## SARAKATSANIKO

The Karakachan sheep is, besides the Karakachen dog and horse, a result of the most primitive type of livestock breeding - nomad livestock breeding. The Karakachans are nomadic people of livestock breeders, who are considered by most of the historians, as descendants of the ancient Thracian livestock breeding communities or Greek tribes. It is considered that thanks to their extremely conservative livestock breeding traditions, Karakachan people have saved primitive and pure domesticated forms of animals - a sheep type "tzakel", a mountain horse and a livestock guarding dog.

Karakachan sheep are active, hardy migratory sheep traditionally spending the summer on high mountains and the winter on lowland pastures. Occuring in several countries of the Balkan peninsula.

**Description:** Colour: black to dark brown, sometimes with coloured spots on face and legs, also white varieties are occurring; Horns: rams carry usually heavy spiral or semi-circular horns. Ewes are usually polled. The tail is short. Height: ram: 60-65cm, ewe: 55-60cm; Weight: ram: 35-45kg, ewe: 25-35kg.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

### Bulgaria

**Stock: 2004: about 300 animals**

**Contact:** Sider Sedefchev

Semperviva Society

kv. Tvardi Livadi, bl. 51, ap. 90

BG-2300 Pernik



*Bulgarian Karakachan sheep (source: Sedefchev)*

## FYR Macedonia

**Stock: 2005: less than 1000; a flock of 10 rams and 60 ewes is ex-situ conserved; replacement of rams is foreseen.**

**Contact:** Dr. Sreten Andonov  
University of Ss Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Agriculture - Skopje  
P.O. Box 297; MK-1000 Skopje  
FYR Macedonia

**E-mail:** [sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk)

## Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: about 40 animals; no conservation programme yet**

**Contact:** Natura Balkanika - Nature Society  
Dr. Sergej Ivanov  
Balkanska Street 68  
18320 Dimitrovgrad  
Serbia

**E-mail:** [balkanika@ptt.yu](mailto:balkanika@ptt.yu)

## Greece

**Stock: less than 1000 animals**

**Contact:**

phD stud. MSC. Dimitrios Dervisis  
Meteoron 42 Z  
GR- 57013 Oreokastro, Thessaloniki  
Greece

**E-mail:** [ddervisi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ddervisi2000@yahoo.com)



*Greek Sarakatsan sheep (source: D. Dervisis)*

## KOSOVO / KOSOVSKA

The Sharri sheep occurs around Sharri mountains in western Kosovo. About 60% of the total sheep population in Kosovo are crosses of Sharri X Merino (Württemberg).

**Description:** The Kosovo sheep is characterised with its triple milk-meat-wool, purpose. The tail is long, the colour of the head and the legs is black, while the fleece is of white colour. They can also be with black, grey spotted face. Usually the males are horned and the females polled. Lactation: 180 days, approximately, yield about 100 kg per lactation. The body weight of mature sheep: 37 - 50 kg.

This strain has advantages of natural hardiness and grazing abilities.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

Kosovo - UNMIK

**Stock: 20400; about 20% of all sheep; no conservation programme yet; status: stable**

**Contact:** MSc. Hysen Bytyqi;– Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK

**E-mail:** [hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com](mailto:hysenbytyqi@hotmail.com)

Dr. Sc. Hajrip Mehmeti; Univ. Prishtina, Fac. of Agriculture, Lidhja e Pejes NN 10.000 Prishtina, Kosovo – UNMIK

**E-mail:** [hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com](mailto:hajripmehmeti@hotmail.com)



## KRIVOVIRSKI SOJ PRAMENKE / KRIVOVIR

This short tail sheep occurs in Eastern Serbia, in the area of Crnorecki basin, partly in the valley of Morava river, Sokobanja and Zajecar basin.

**Description:** Weight: rams about 55 kg, ewes about 40 kg; wither height rams: 65 cm, wither height ewes: 60 cm. Uncoloured white; Head covered by a crown of that looks like a top-not on the forehead. Other parts of the head and legs to the knees covered with short yellow or yellow sprinkled coloured fleece. Males are horned.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: about 330 animals; 30 rams; 300 ewes; population is decreasing, no conservation programme yet, status: endangered**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)



## KUPRESKA OVCA

Belongs also to the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka Sheep (Bosansko-Herzegovacka). Occurring on the Kupres Highlands and the polja of Duvno, Livno and Glamoc

**Description:** Weight: rams about 52 kg, ewes about 48 kg; wither height rams: 63 cm. Off-white colour; erect ears, males horned. This variety is a little bigger than other Pramenkas in BiH. Use: very good milk production, meat and wool is also used.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

### Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Ministry of Agric. & Water Management

Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO

Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## LIPSKA / LIPE

North Serbia, lower Morava valley (village Lipe); a milk variety of Pramenka.

**Description:** Colour: white with black head and dark legs. Occasionally all black, head small with a convex profile, horns large and spiral, ewes usually polled; tail long; Weight: rams: 65 kg; ewes: 50 kg; Height: rams 70 cm; ewes: 65 cm; use: milk (made into Lipe cheese), meat.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

### Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: ca. 200 animals; status: at risk, In-Situ-conservation programme running**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Min. of Agriculture & Water Management

Dep. For Genetic Resources and GMO

Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## LICKA / GORSKI KOTAR / GATACKA / GACKA

From Lika province of Croatia, typical of the harsh limestone Karst, includes the Lika and Gacka valleys.

**Description:** one of the smallest Pramenkas; Colour: white with white, black, brown or part-coloured head. Sometimes black or brown; rams are usually horned, ewes polled. Height: ram: 58 cm; ewe: 55 cm; weight: ram: 30-40 kg; ewe: 25 kg; use: milk and meat (especially lamb is very aromatic).

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

### Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Ministry of Agriculture & Water Management

Dep. For Genetic Resources and GMO

Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

### Croatia

**Stock: 1998: 48500**

**Contact:** Ante Invankovic; Faculty of

Agricultural, Univ. Zagreb; Department of Animal Sciences; Svetosimunska Cesta

25; HR-10 000 Zagreb

**E-mail:** [ante.ivankovic@agr.hr](mailto:ante.ivankovic@agr.hr)

## PIROTSKA / PIROT

Occuring in central and southern Yugoslavia. It is one of the smallest Pramenka sheep varieties.

**Description:** Colour: white, black or grey with black spots on their face and legs. Males and females may be either polled or horned. Adult males weigh on average 60 kg and females 45 kg with an average wither height of 65 cm and 60 cm respectively. Wool: coarse/carpet type.

**Breed occurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

### Serbia & Montenegro

**Stock: 1999: less than 100 animals**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic

Ministry of Agriculture & Water Management

Dep. For Genetic Resources and GMO

Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)



*Pirotka ewe, Serbia; source: Stojanovic*

## PIVSKA / JEZERO-PIVSKA / PIVA / DURMITORSKA

Is the most important strain of Pramenka in Montenegro today. The animals are adapted to cold mountain conditions. It is named after the Piva mountains in the north of Montenegro and southern Herzegovina.

**Description:** Colour: White with spotted head and legs occasionally black or grey. Head with top-knot usually horned. Height: rams: 65cm; ewes: 60cm Weight: rams: 60kg, ewes: 45kg

**Breed occurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

### Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: about 4580, rams: 80, ewes: 3000, young animals: 1500, about 25 breeders**

**Remarks:** two flocks of about 400 heads are in a monitoring programme for on-farm conservation with governmental subsidies.

**Performance:** milk yield: up to 100kg; fertility: 120%

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic

Biotechnical Institute,

Dept. of animal science

Trg Kralja Nikole bb

81000 Podgorica

Montenegro

**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cg.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cg.yu)

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

## PRIVOR / PRIVORSKA OVCA / PRIJEVORSKA / PRAMENKA

Occuring around town Gornji Vakuf, and mountain Vranica.

**Description:** Weight: rams about 52 kg, ewes about 40 kg; wither height rams: 71 cm; ewes: 66 cm. Off- white; erect ears, males horned. Use: Privorska sheep is considered the best type of Pramenka by the production of milk. Meat and wool is also used. This variety has been used for improving Licka sheep, as well as Kupreska type of Pramenka.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba); [msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

## PODVELESKA OVCE

Originally found in the South Eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina where pasture is very pure.

**Description:** White except the hair on head and legs, which is black. Pure black sheep occur. Smaller than other types of Pramenka, erect ears. This type is smaller than the other Pramenka types: weight rams: 46 kg; weight ewes: 44 kg.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba); [msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

## SJENICKA OVCA / SJENICA / PESTERSKO-SJENICKA /

### VASOJEVIC / VASOJEVICKA (smaller type)

This Pramenka variety was traditionally kept in the eastern part of the country as a multi-purpose breed. Named after the village of Sjenica on the Pester plateau of western Serbia. It was bred in a wide area including parts of eastern Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. Sjenica also was used to improve other local coarse wool Pramenkas.

**Description:** One of the largest Pamenka types, but rather leggy. Colour: white, usually with dark spots around eyes and nostrils, on ear tips and legs.

Weight: rams: 60 kg; ewes: 45 kg; Height: rams: 65 cm; ewes: 60 cm. Horns: medium-long, spiral (5% are polled) at rams; ewes occasionally small horns; Tail long, hangs below hocks.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

## Serbia

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## Montenegro

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic  
Biotechnical Institute,  
Dept. of animal science  
Trg Kralja Nikole bb  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro  
**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cg.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cg.yu)

## STOLACKA OVCA

Also a variety of the Bosnian Mountain Pramenka (Bosansko-Hercegovacka). Like Podveleska ovce found in the south eastern part of the country where pasture is very pur (Stolac, Ljubuski).

**Description:** White except the hair on head and legs, which is black. Pure black sheep occur. Smallest type of Pramenka, erect ears, weight rams: 46 kg; weight ewes: 25 kg (in: Autohtone Pasmine Domach Zivotinja u Bosni i Hercegovini, 2004)

**Breed occurrence**

---

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic  
Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector  
Put zivota bb  
BH-71000 Sarajevo  
**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;  
[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

### Serbia

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## SVRLJISKA / SVRLJIG GULIJAN/ GULIJANSKA

Named after the village of Svrljig, eastern Serbia beyond Nis and also occurring in the Gulijanska mountains.

**Description:** Colour: yellowish-white, occasionally black or grey with black spots on the face and legs. Males and females may be either polled or have close spiral horns. Their head is naked with some wool on the forehead; long tail; Adult males weigh on average 60 kg and females 45 kg with an average wither height of 65 cm and 60 cm respectively. Wool: coarse/carpet type wool. Fleece weight and wool fineness have been improved by crossing with Corriedale since 1949.

**Breed occurrence**

---

### Serbia

**Stock: 1999: 131 animals; 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management

Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## ZETSKA ZUJA / PODGORICA / SCUTARI / SHKODRA / DELJA SHKODRANE

Pramenka of the Zeta-Bjelopavlic valley.

**Description:** It is one of the smallest Pramenkas and identical to the Scutari breed of Albania (Mason 1967) Colour: White with yellow or yellowish-brown head and legs. Horns usually absent; weight: rams: 35 kg; ewes 25 kg; height: rams: 60 cm, ewes: 55cm.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

### Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: about 188, rams: 8, ewes: 130, young animals: 50, about 3 breeders**

**Remarks:** two flocks of about 400 heads are in a monitoring programme for on-farm conservation with governmental subsidies.

**Performance:** milk yield: up to 100kg;  
fertility: 120%

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic  
Biotechnical Institute,  
Dept. of animal science  
Trg Kralja Nikole bb  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro

**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cq.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cq.yu)

### Albania

**Stock: 2002: about 53.000 (1.02% of the total sheep production) A nucleus herd is kept at a small ruminants breeding station located in Korça district.**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume  
Assoc. ALBAGENE  
Rr. "Abdyl Frasherri" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5  
AL- Tirana  
Albania

**E-mail:** [kkume@icc-al.org](mailto:kkume@icc-al.org)



*Zetska Zuja sheep, Montenegro source: Grunenfelder*

## *Tsigai / Cigaja*

Tsigai sheep are typical of the Pannonian plain of Romania, some Balkan countries and Hungary. It is also bred in Bulgaria and southern Russia. Already in c. 800 BC it originated from Asia Minor and was imported from Romania to the Balkan peninsula in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is the main breed of the fertile lowlands of the north-eastern of the Balkan peninsula: Slavonia and Baranija, Syrmia (Srem) and Vojvodina, also Bosnia and Sumadija.



'Staroplaninski Tsigai', Troyan; Photo by J. Frame

Tsigai sheep, of which there are two varieties (Cokanski and Pvinicki) are found in Vojvodina, northern Serbia. The animals are white with black head and legs and have semi- or lop ears. Adult males weigh on average 85 kg and females 60 kg with an average wither height of 75 cm and 67 cm respectively. These sheep have coarse/carpet type wool. Males and females may be either polled or horned.

## COKAN TSIGAI / COKANSKI / CHOCKEN

**Description:** Colour: unicolour white with a black head; large lop ears; legs: covered with black and brown shags; Weight: rams: 85kg; ewes: 55kg; Height rams: 75cm; ewes: 67cm;

**Breed occurrence**

### Serbia

**Stock: 2005: 550 animals; breeding rams: 30; breeding ewes: 500; in-situ conservation programme running**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia **E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

### Croatia

**Stock: 2004: 336 animals in herdbook**

**Contact:** Dr. Ino Curik  
Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. Zagreb

Animal Science Departement  
Svetosimunska 25  
HR-10000 Zagreb  
**E-mail:** [icurik@agr.hr](mailto:icurik@agr.hr)

### Albania

**Stock: purebred unknown; improved: about 30.000**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume  
Assoc. ALBAGENE  
Rr. "Abdyl Frasher" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5  
AL- Tirana  
**E-mail:** [kkume@icc-al.org](mailto:kkume@icc-al.org)

## KARNOBAT / KARNOBATSKA / THRAKI / KIVIRCİK

The *Karnobatska* sheep breed is a local strain of the Red-Brown sheep that has been bred in Eastern Bulgaria for ages. It is supposed that this breed's origins have much in common with those of the Tsigai sheep and sheep breeds of Asia Minor. It occurs in Greece under the name Thraki sheep and in Turkey as Kivircik sheep.

Description: small and compact body, Rams have heavy, whorled horns, while ewes are polled. Their fleece is mostly red and brown and very rarely pale. Height: 50-55 cm; weight: rams: 38-40 kg; ewes: 31kg.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

Bulgaria

**Stock: 2004: 200 animals;**

**Contact:** NCA

Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev  
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)

26 Bistrishko shose

BG- Sofia

Bulgaria

**E-mail:** [sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com](mailto:sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com)

Greece

**Stock: about 120 animals**

**Contact:** PhD stud. Msc. Dimitrios Dervisis

Meteoron 42 Z

GR- 57013 Oreokastro, Thessaloniki

Greece

**E-mail:** [ddervisi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ddervisi2000@yahoo.com)

Turkey

**Stock: about 100 animals**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. M. Ihsan Soysal

Trakya University

Tekirdag Faculty of Agriculture

TR-59100 Tekirdag

Turkey

**E-mail:** [misoysal@ttnet.net.tr](mailto:misoysal@ttnet.net.tr)



provided by Prof. Dr. M. Ihsan SOYSAL and  
Research Asst. Emel ÖZKAN

## COPPER-RED SHOUMEN / MEDNO-CHERVENA OVSTA

The **Copper-Red Shoumen** breed is distributed mainly in northeastern Bulgaria in regions with moderate continental climate conditions from 0 to 800 m above sea level.

**Description:** Colour: rusty-red fleece, also black individuals occurring; Rams have twisted horns, ewes are polled; legs are free of wool; Medium to large animals with a compact body; Weight: 43-45kg; Height: 59cm

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

Bulgaria

**Stock: 2004: about 800 animals; subsidized by government;**

**Contact:** NCA

Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev  
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)

26 Bistrishko shose

BG- Sofia

Bulgaria

**E-mail:** [sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com](mailto:sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com)

# CATTLE

Two kinds of cattle are of interest in the context to rare breeds of the Balkans: The brachyceros type of cattle, a kind of shorthorn cattle, and the Grey Steppe, descending from *Bos primigenius*.

## BUSHA CATTLE / ILLYRIAN CATTLE / BRACHYCEROS / RHODOPI / RODOPY SHORTHORN

Busha cattle is of brachyceros type. It is an autochthonous cattle of the Balkan Peninsula. According to some sources, it has existed here since Neolithic times. Sometimes it is also called Illyrian cattle. Busha is a small native breed with numerous strains found throughout Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and FYR Macedonia. In 1984, it represented about 20% of the cattle population of Yugoslavia. The average cow stands 104 cm at the withers and weighs between 230 and 270 kg, while the



*Busha cattle, Montenegro; source Grunenfelder*

average bull measures 115 cm at the withers and weighs between 340 and 430 kg. Colour varies according to the regional strain. Busha from the Metohija region, for example, are red, while the FYR Macedonian strain is blue-grey.

### Breed occurrence

---

#### Albania

**Stock: purebred unknown**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume

Assoc. ALBAGENE

Rr. "Abdyl Frasher" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5

AL- Tirana

**E-mail:** [kkume@icc-al.org](mailto:kkume@icc-al.org)

#### Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture

Livestock Sector

Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

**Remarks:** Besides the Busa cattle, that occurs in blue or brown colour in Bosnia & Herzegovina. During the war, a large population of Busa cattle was destroyed. Today there is no clear information of any larger population of pure bred Busa in the country.

#### Bulgaria

**Stock: 134 cows**

ABIB, Assoc. for Breeding Indigenous Breeds

8 Ekzarh Josef str. Plovdiv dstrct

BG-4300 Karlovo

**E-mail:** [abib@abibbg.com](mailto:abib@abibbg.com)

#### Greece

**Stock: 2005: about 1200 animals**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis  
Aristotle University

Dep. of Animal Production

GR-540 06 Thessaloniki

**E-mail:** [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)

#### KEA

A red brachyceros cattle; It seems to be lost. Probably some relict animals can be found for a re-creation as "New Kea Breed"

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis  
Aristotle University

Dep. of Animal Production

GR-540 06 Thessaloniki

**E-mail:** [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)

## Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: 5 bulls; about 60 cows, 15 young animals; 7 breeders**

**Remarks:** Under favourable conditions, the breed easily achieves bigger body weight and much better production.

**Performance:** Fertility: 10%; Yield of milk: max. 1500kg;

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic

Biotechnical Institute,  
Dept. of animal science

Trg Kralja Nikole bb

81000 Podgorica

Montenegro

**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cg.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cg.yu)

## Serbia

**Stock: 2003 officially estimated 1000 animals;**

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade

Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)

## UN entity Kosovo

**Stock: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Nuridin Mestani

HPI - Kosova

Agim Ramadani Street A-2/10

Pristina / UN-entity Kosovo

**E-mail:** [nmestani@yahoo.com](mailto:nmestani@yahoo.com)

## GATACKO CATTLE

Besides the pure Busa cattle a crossing between Tyrol and Busa exists since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is bigger than Busa, grey, with an average wither height of 112cm-115cm, weight: 300-350kg up to max. 500kg.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Salko Muratovic

Faculty of Agriculture, Livestock Sector  
Put zivota bb

BH-71000 Sarajevo

**E-mail:** [mlulo@utic.net.ba](mailto:mlulo@utic.net.ba) ;

[msalko@bih.net.ba](mailto:msalko@bih.net.ba)

### Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic

Biotechnical Institute,  
Dept. of animal science

Trg Kralja Nikole bb

81000 Podgorica

Montenegro

**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cg.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cg.yu)



*Gatacko Cattle in Montenegro; Photo: Grunenfelder*

GREY STEPPE / PODOLIAN / CROATIAN STEPPE /  
SLAVONSKI PODOLAC / PODOLSKO GOVECE / GREEK  
STEPPE / BOZ STEP / SLAVONIAN SYRMIAN / ISTRIAN GREY  
/ BOSKARIN / BULGARIAN GREY

Descending from Bos T. primigenius, also named "Tur". Originally Grey Cattle were widespread in the Carpathian basin. Grey Steppe is grey-white, grey or white in colour. It has round, smooth and long lyre horns. They are large, strong animals. Front part of the body is usually more developed than the back part.

Breed occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bulgaria

**Stock: 2002: 299 animals**

**Contact:** ABIB, Assoc. for Breeding Indigenous Breeds  
8 Ekzarh Josef str. Plovdiv dstrct  
BG-4300 Karlovo  
Bulgaria

**E-mail:** [sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com](mailto:sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com)

#### Croatia:

**Stock: 2004: 60-80 animals**

**Description:** The Slavonski Podolac is found in Slavonia and is an indigenous native breed of Podolic origin. The animals are grey in colour. They are very long animals with lyre-shaped horns. Adult males weigh on average 600 kg and females 460 kg with an average wither height of 135 cm and 128 cm respectively.

The breed is known for its adaptation to the locally extreme climatic conditions, calving ease and longevity. Only one herd remains. There are 12 females registered in the herd book, of which 100% are bred pure. The semen of 3 males is stored.

**Contact:** Ante Invankovic; Faculty of Agricultural, Univ. Zagreb; Department of Animal Sciences; Svetosimunska Cesta 25; HR-10 000 Zagreb

**E-mail:** [ante.ivankovic@agr.hr](mailto:ante.ivankovic@agr.hr)

#### Greece: KATERINI / SYKIA

Greek Steppe cattle is divided in Katerini, and Sykia cattle:

#### KATERINI

**Description:** variable from brown to black-brown mixed with yellow to black hair; lyre shaped horns; this breed is known for its low feeding requirements.

**Stock: 2005: 198 animals, 2 breeders**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis

Aristotle University  
Dep. of Animal Production  
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki

**E-mail:** [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)



provided by Dr Georgios Arsenos

#### SYKIA:

**Description:** multicolour: black (30%) and grey (70%); white, saddled ring around the nose; lyre-shaped horns; indigenous local breed, derived from Bos Taurus Primi-genius. Weight bulls: 210kg, cows: 119kg; Height: Bulls: 115cm, cows: 112cm;

**Stock: Officially extinct, only a "new Sykia" breed could be founded. Other sources say, that pure bulls in semi wild herds do occur.**

Investigations are urgently necessary.

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis

Aristotle University  
Dep. of Animal Production  
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki

**E-mail:** [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)

Serbia:

**Stock 2003: bulls: 8; cows: estimated 100; 4 breeders known;**

**Description:** unicoloured grey; males are darker, calves are reddish. Weight bulls: 800kg; cows: 500kg; wither height bulls: 150cm; cows: 135cm. Extremely huge hay-fork horns.

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia

**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)



## ISTURSKO GOVEDO / BOZ STEP / PLEVNE / ISKAR CATTLE / GREY ISKUR / THRACIAN

The Iskursko Govedo is found around the Iskar, Vitt and Ossam rivers and descends from local Grey cattle. The animals are light to dark grey, shading to black. Muzzles and eyelids are black. Horns are U- shaped, pale with black tips. Proportionate body, strong legs.

**Breed occurrence** \_\_\_\_\_

Bulgaria

**Stock 2005: 20 cows**

**Contact:** Ph D Hasan Ali  
Research Inst. of Mountain stockbreeding  
and Agriculture  
281, Vasil Levski Str.  
BG-5600 Troyan  
Bulgaria

**E-mail:** [hasan\\_ali\\_bg@yahoo.com](mailto:hasan_ali_bg@yahoo.com)



Turkey

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Remarks:** largest of the Turkish cattle breeds; grey, light silver to dark ash, black neck narrow breast, slow growing.

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. M. Ihsan Soysal

Trakya University  
Tekirdag Faculty of Agriculture

TR-59100 Tekirdag

**E-mail:** [misoysal@ttnet.net.tr](mailto:misoysal@ttnet.net.tr)

# DOMESTIC BUFFALO

The Crusaders brought the Water Buffalo to Europe in the Middle Ages, where it acclimated to the cooler conditions. Bulgaria and Italy are home to long established herds of Water Buffalo, and hence they are often called Mediterranean Water Buffalo.

Domestic buffalo of Mediterranean type is spread over several countries of the Balkans.

## Breed occurrence

---

### Albania

**Stock: 2002: 65 animals registered**

**Remarks:** (2003) In Albania there is a buffalo conservation program, which will financially support the farmers to keep and increase the animals. The program is compiled from MAF and is approved by the Albanian Government. The Animal Production Department is in charge of implementing the program

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume  
Assoc. ALBAGENE  
Rr. "Abdyl Frasher" Pall. 3/3 sh. 1, Ap. 5  
AL- Tirana  
Albania  
**E-mail:** [kkume@icc-al.org](mailto:kkume@icc-al.org)

### Bulgaria

**Stock: 1997: 120 cows, 5 bulls in Dragana, Troyan, Shumen and Chiflika**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Kostadin Zhelev  
EASRAB (animal breeding agency)  
26 Bistrishko shose  
BG- Sofia  
Bulgaria  
**E-mail:** [sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com](mailto:sdkrdj@mb.bia-bg.com)

### Greece

**Stock: 2005: about 1400 animals in 9 breeding groups**

**Contact:** Prof.Dr. Andreas Georgoudis  
Aristotle University  
Dep. of Animal Production  
GR-540 06 Thessaloniki  
**E-mail:** [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)

**Remarks:** The Mediterranean type of River buffalo, originating from the water-buffalo was imported from Asia in the 8th century; living in the Wetlands of Central and Eastern FYR Macedonia and Thrace. Unicoloured black grey, brown. White areas on the head, feet and tail, absence of pigment in the iris of the eyes; 2 big horns with large base, folded lower part and smooth upper part. The products are occasionally sold in the local market.

### FYR Macedonia

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Sreten Andonov  
University of Ss Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Agriculture - Skopje  
P.O. Box 297  
MK-1000 Skopje  
FYR Macedonia  
**E-mail:** [sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk)

### Montenegro

**Stock: 2005: unknown**

**Contact:** Dr. Bozidarka Markovic  
Biotechnical Institute,  
Dept. of animal science  
Trg Kralja Nikole bb  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro  
**E-mail:** [bmarkovic@cq.yu](mailto:bmarkovic@cq.yu)

### Serbia

**Stock: 2005: 5000 animals estimated;**  
no conservation programme running

**Contact:** DVM Srdjan Stojanovic  
Ministry of Agric. & Water Management  
Dep. for Genetic Resources and GMO  
Nemanjina 22-26  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
**E-mail:** [agrvet@hotmail.com](mailto:agrvet@hotmail.com)



Greek Buffalo; source: <http://www.ellinikazoa.gr/english/page2.htm>