



## The Mozaic Team

There are around fifteen people involved in the project, including local farmers, professors, postgraduates, students and freelance researches from Romania and Germany. An important feature of the team is its interdisciplinarity, providing expertise in botany, zoology, ecology, sociology, agronomics, farming and agricultural politics.

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MOZAIC

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Mozaic  
PROJECT

## Understand Mozaic

Visit our homepage ([www.mozaic-romania.org](http://www.mozaic-romania.org)) and facebook site (Mozaic Association) and explore the links between nature, extensive farming, traditional lifestyle, economy and the people!  
Here you will find our results and reports, information sheets and news of our activities.

**Come and get involved!**



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## The Mozaic Project

It all began with the discovery of the fivefold miracle: the hay meadows of Borșa and Dăbâca communes (Cluj County) are the only known site in Europe harbouring all 5 butterfly species belonging to the rare group of the Large Blues (*Maculinea* spp.). These butterflies have a remarkable ménage à trois life cycle involving a butterfly, an ant and a plant species.

But there is more: the extensively-farmed hay meadows are a valuable but threatened element of the cultural landscape of the new “Eastern Hills of Cluj” protected site within the Natura 2000 network and an important hotspot of plant diversity worldwide.

The Mozaic Project is studying the semi-natural grasslands, land use and socio-economic background of this landscape, in order to develop sustainable strategies to protect these important hay meadows and their exquisite inhabitants and to support low-intensity farming practices.



## Activities in the Mozaic Project

- Ecological studies of the vegetation and the rare *Maculinea* butterflies;
- socio-economic studies to understand the challenges facing farming households and find sustainable development possibilities;
- organising a pilot programme for hay meadows rewarding the farmers for mowing as a basis for suggestions of amendments of the national agri-environment programme;
- introduction of small hand mowing machines in order to keep the meadows actively used in a sustainable way;
- initiation of discussions and collaborations between the local farmers;
- participation and organisation of seminars with locals, specialists, students and politicians with the aim of education, knowledge exchange and dissemination of our results at the local and national level;
- publishing information sheets about the exceptional ecology of the region as well as traditional knowledge;
- environmental education - because sustainability begins with awareness.



## Project profile

First Phase: 08/2009 – 07/2012 (DBU no 27559)  
Second Phase: 06/2012 – 07/2013 (DBU no 30167)

Sponsors: German Federal Foundation for Environment (DBU) and European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP, European Commission Life NGO Support Scheme).

Cooperation partners: Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (Germany); Babes-Bolyai University Cluj; Mozaic Association; Lepidopterological Society Romania.



## And what happens after the project?

Our work and commitment continues! The Mozaic Association will take over and develop further the activities started in the Mozaic Project in the domain of nature conservation and rural development – for man and nature.

