

# ISSAE Summer School 2018

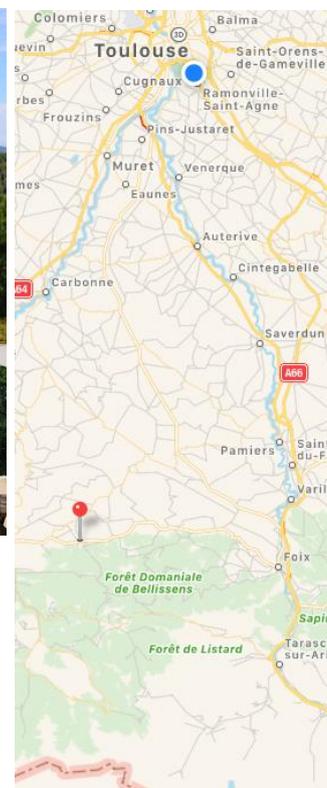
« Agroecology and the constraints of mountain agriculture »  
July 6 - 13, 2018

The Summer School will be held from July 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 in a lodge located in the foothills of the Pyrénées, at Rimont. This village is at about 100 Km South of Toulouse, close to the French - Spanish border.

The lodge offers an ideal setting to work at the verge of the Forest of Bellissens, which is part of the Natural Regional Park of the Ariège Mountains.



In this area, agriculture is facing several challenges, and the Summer School will question the opportunity that represents agroecology to reinvigorate it.



The **first** and probably most salient challenge is the return of large carnivores such as brown bears and wolves. Protected by European laws, they are seen as either an opportunity for rural development or a threat to existing activities. What are the possibilities of sustainable future for local shepherds?

**Second** challenge, dairy farming, which is one of the main activities in the area, is weakened by the lack of a distinctive quality brand. There are many excellent cheeses and other dairy products but none bears the Ariège or Ariège Mountain trademark. Would such a mark developed in the context of agroecology favour agriculture and the area?

**Third**, because of the mountainous terrain, and the history of land tenure, fields are generally small, and difficult to get access to, which are weaknesses in modern agriculture. However, small plots are compatible with community - supported agriculture. There are also particularly fit for animal power. Therefore, one can question the potential for agroecology to support new sustainable activities in the Ariège valleys.

If you are inspired by this kind of questions, and curious to know more about active learning to improve your knowledge in agroecology, this Summer School is for you!

Erasmus+ covers travel and accommodation expenses for students registered at the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland contact: [alexandre.aebi@unine.ch](mailto:alexandre.aebi@unine.ch)), the Swedish Landbouw University (Sweden contact: [Georg.Carlsson@slu.se](mailto:Georg.Carlsson@slu.se)), the University of Liège (Belgium contact: [p.stassart@ulg.ac.be](mailto:p.stassart@ulg.ac.be)), the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Formation de l'Enseignement Agricole (France contact: [alexandra.magro@educadri.fr](mailto:alexandra.magro@educadri.fr)), and the University Pablo de Olavide (Spain contact: [mgonnav@upo.es](mailto:mgonnav@upo.es)).

Students from other Universities or High Schools are also welcome as well as professionals (contact: [jean-louis.hemptinne@univ-tlse3.fr](mailto:jean-louis.hemptinne@univ-tlse3.fr)).

**Registration is now opened!**