



3. Report of the main results of the Seminar

This “Seminar on commons and communal properties: new and old tools for a sustainable land management” was organized within the framework of the SULANET project by the Faculty of Law and Business and Economic Sciences of the University of Cordoba and it took place in its premises.

Six different speakers took part in the Seminar, which was devised from a deep interdisciplinary approach. Among them, there were professors of Law, Economy and Sociology, as well as a public administrator from the Regional Government. As a result, topics were discussed from legal, economic, political and sociological perspectives.

The Seminar was focused on the relatively new concept of “commons” and on its application to natural resources used in agricultural activity.

Prof. Humberto Gosálbez, in the first place, explained that it has been suggested that “commons” could be an innovative tool to guarantee a sustainable land management. However, at the same time, he explained that some scholars have pointed out that “commons” are not a completely brand-new concept. On the contrary, some historical forms of property (namely, “communal properties”) could be seen as a useful precedent of “commons”.

Accordingly to this view, Prof. Antonio Bueno presented the Spanish current legal framework of “communal properties” and its evolution throughout history. His main conclusion was that the protection offered to this type of property by the Spanish legal order could be used to shelter sustainable methods of land management. These ideas were widely debated during the panel discussion.

During the evening session, Profs. Rafael Pizarro and Mar Delgado exposed some examples of good practices of land management based in commons and communal properties. In particular, they explained the situation of the Galician forests communally owned and the specific case of the “lucky lands” in the village of Vejer de la Frontera.

Prof. Angel Collado offered a different view of “commons”, explaining them from an economic and sociological approach. He outlined that the management of “commons” requires a special decision-making process in which public bodies and private parties are closely intertwined.

Finally, D. José García Cabello, from the “Agencia de Medio Ambiente y Agua” (Environment and Water Agency) of the Regional Government, shared several projects carried out by the regional public Administration in order to develop a sustainable management of public forests.

Every presentation was followed by a round of questions and answers, which made possible for the public to take part in the debate.