

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN AREA IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

Romania's mountain area constitutes a defined geographic, economic and social entity, with specific climate, relief, natural and socio-cultural heritage, an identity recognized in Europe and all over the world. The paper aims to analyze the main normative acts for the mountain area in Romania developed after 1990, focusing on the specific legislation of the last 7 years. The aim was to create the legislative framework created, starting with the delimitation of the mountain area - to which this legislation is addressed, the public institutions established for the mountain area, as well as the main provisions to support the mountain population, producers and entrepreneurs in this area. The study of documents was used as research methods: laws, government decisions, ministerial orders, as well as content observation or analysis. The data were collected and interpreted. Results obtained: The 3 official delimitations of the existing mountain area during the studied period were identified and presented, the normative acts by which they were legislated as well as the main criteria that were the basis of each of these delimitations. It should be noted that the delimitation has undergone changes over time, depending on the instruments, policies and legislation existing at each of the times when they were developed. The main public institutions, with a role in the development of mountain areas and the application of public policies, were also identified. The development of mountain areas is achieved through specific policies. The Law of the Mountain and the subsequent laws elaborated, aim to support mountain producers, entrepreneurs and implicitly to lead to the development of mountain areas. By acquiring the right to use the optional quality mention "mountain product", at the level of the mountain area in Romania a Register and a national logo were created and a number of 580 "certified" products were obtained on the end of April 2020. Another 5 laws that provide for investments in this area are being drafted and are waiting to be implemented.

Key words: mountain area, Law of the Mountain, delimitation of the Mountain Area, encouragement of activities, mountain product

INTRODUCTION

Mountain areas are distinguished from other regions by natural disadvantages, which cannot be changed: altitude, climate, slope, low soil fertility, shorter periods of vegetation, etc. and by structural disadvantages, such as: the decrease of the young population, the great distances from the decision-making and administrative centers, the isolation from the communication channels and the markets of the sale.

The mountain area of Romania [1], covers 1/3 of the country's surface and constitutes a special territory, of national interest, with a

huge economic, social, cultural and environmental potential.

Due to the considerable limitation of the possibilities of using the agricultural land, due to the climatic conditions, the slopes and the geological substrate, the mountain area is considered as underprivileged [17], aspects that give the agricultural producers of livestock, a natural right to difference and compensation.

The main resources of the Romanian mountains are represented by the forestry and biodiversity fund, the forage flora of the natural grasslands, mineral waters, landscapes and the native anthropic factor, carrying

economic and cultural traditions, determining for the responsible value of the resources.

Given their specificity, the mountains need tailored policies as a result of social, economic and environmental changes. Mountain areas need innovative solutions to diversify their economies and to be able to take care of their precious environmental and cultural resources [24].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research carried out mainly concerned the clarification and updating of some theoretical and legislative notions regarding the mountain area.

The main normative acts that were elaborated after 1989 were identified and analyzed for the mountain area in Romania, the existing institutional framework, as well as some opportunities for development of the mountain area, by diversifying the economic activities in the rural area.

The study of documents was used as research methods: laws, government decisions, ministerial orders, as well as content observation or analysis. The data were collected and interpreted. These come from official public sources: the Official Monitor of Romania, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Agency of the Mountain Area, the Eurolex website, the National Institute of Statistics.

At the same time, the databases of the Training and Innovation Center for Development in the Carpathians, the Mountain Area Agency and the National Agency of the Mountain Area were consulted. The aim was to update, transpose and adapt existing research, collecting, synthesizing and processing data from different sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Until 1990, there was no specific legal framework for the mountain area, through which, the specificity of the mountain would be subject to mountain policy, differentiated. Nor specialized public institutions for mountain development. After 1990, a number of institutions and bodies with a role in the field

were set up, reorganized or sometimes even abolished. Their situation is as follows [25]:

-In 1990, the Commission of the Mountain Area of Romania (CZM) was established - structure with legal personality subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, having a network of 28 county commissions in the 28 counties with mountain area, since that time;

-In 1993 the Mountain Area Commission was transformed into a General Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests;

-In 1994 the Mountain Area Commission was transformed into the National Agency of the Mountain Area (ANZM) becoming a directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (having a small staff);

-In 1994 the Training and Innovation Center for Development in the Carpathians-CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei was established, with headquarters in Vatra Dornei, Suceava county, according to HG Nr. 888 of December 9, 1994 on the establishment, organization and operation of the Training and Innovation Center for Development in the Carpathians; structure subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Its activity was guided, coordinated and monitored by the National Agency of the Mountain Area;

-In 2007, by Law 181/2007 (with effect from January 1, 2008), the National Agency of the Mountain Area becomes a General Directorate with territorial structures, subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The provisions of that law, however, have never been applied;

-Between 2007 and 2008 the National Agency of the Mountain Area worked as an office within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR);

-In 2009, by Law 329/2009, regarding the reorganization of some public authorities and institutions, the rationalization of public expenses, the support of the business environment and the respect of the framework agreements with the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund, the National Agency of the Mountain Area moved its headquarters from Bucharest (MADR) to Alba Iulia, Alba County and took over the staff of the Training and Innovation Center for

Development in the Carpathians - CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei [25].

-One year later, in 2010 the National Agency of the Mountain Area was abolished, according to GEO 70/2010 on some measures for the reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as of some structures subordinated to it. The patrimony was taken over by MADR, and a number of 12 specialists transferred to the General Directorate of Rural Development AM PNDR within the ministry;

-In 2014, the Mountain Area Agency - AZM (through GD 1189/2014) is established according to Law no. 139/2014 regarding some measures for the reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as of some structures under its subordination, with the subsequent modifications. Institution based in Vatra Dornei, Suceava county. Former adult training center for the mountain area - CEFIDEC thus becomes a direction within the AZM.

-In 2018, the National Agency of the Mountain Area is organized, according to the GD 1036/2018 for the organization and functioning of the National Agency of the Mountain Area (ANZM) by reorganizing the Agency of the Mountain Area, as well as for establishing measures regarding the regional centers and the offices of mountain development. At the same time, ANZM creates a territorial network for mountain development: 7 Regional Mountain Development Centers and 32 Mountain Development Offices [24].

Apart from the normative acts by which public institutions for the mountain area were created and reorganized, during the study period, a series of laws, government decisions and ministerial orders were adopted, which aimed to support mountain areas and their inhabitants. Regarding the delimitation of the mountain area in Romania, during the period under analysis, a series of studies and researches took place, responding to the requirements of the time followed by normative acts.

In the context of the International Year of the Mountain, 2002, the Government Decision no. 949, for the approval of the criteria for delimiting the mountain area.

According to the respective GD, the mountain areas are defined as those areas that are characterized by the considerable limitation of the possibilities of land use and by the appreciable increase of the costs of their works, due [25]:

-the existence of particularly difficult climatic conditions, determined by altitudes of over 600 m, the effect of which is the substantial shortening of the vegetation season;

- the presence at a lower altitude, on most of the agricultural land, of slopes over 20°, too steep for the use of agricultural machines or which require the use of expensive equipment; or

-the combination of the factors mentioned in letter. a) and b), where the disadvantage resulting from each factor taken separately is less acute, but their combination results in an equivalent disadvantage.

As a result of this GD, the Common Order of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and the Ministry of Administration and Interior with no. 328/321/2004, rectified by the Common Order no. 1019/1089/2005, regarding the delimitation of the mountain area, up to the level of municipalities, cities, communes and component villages [5]. Thus, of the 826 Territorial Administrative Units (UAT) included in this order, we have the following situation (Fig. 1):

- 28 counties have a mountain area;
- 199 UATs are fully classified;
- 627 UATs partially framed;
- There are 21 municipalities in the mountain area, of which: 14 are fully framed and 7 partially;
- 73 cities, of which: 53 are fully framed and 20 partially;
- 732 communes, of which 560 are fully framed and 172 partially.

The 28 counties with mountain area are:

Alba, Arad, Argeş, Bacău, Bihor, Bistriţa-Năsăud, Braşov, Buzău, Caraş-Severin, Cluj, Covasna, Dâmboviţa, Gorj, Harghita, Hunedoara, Maramureş, Mehedinţi, Mureş, Neamţ, Prahova, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiş, Tulcea, Vâlcea, Vrancea.



Fig. 1. The delimitation of the Mountain Area in Romania according to the Common Order 328/321/2004.

In 2004, the Parliament of Romania adopts law 347 - Law of the Mountain [16]. The main chapters of this law regulate:

- Purpose, principles and objectives of mountain policy;
- Specific institutional organization for the sustainable development of the area and supporting the forms of association of mountain farmers;
- Agromontaneous education;
- Development and protection of the mountain environment.

With Romania's entry into the European Union, in addition to Regulation (EU) no. 1257/1999 regarding the aid granted by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) for rural development, the provisions of art. 17 and 18 of Regulation (EU) 1698/2005, with reference to support for rural development, granted through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The regulation for establishing the delimitation criteria and the list of UATs framed in the mountain area was achieved by adopting the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 355/2007 regarding the approval of the criteria for the classification, delimitation and list of administrative-territorial units in the underprivileged mountain area [25].

According to this Order, the disadvantaged mountain areas are those areas, delimited at the level of UAT, which are characterized by the considerable limitation of the possibilities of

land use and by the appreciable increase of the costs of its works, due:

- the existence of average altitudes of over 600 meters, which determines particularly difficult climatic conditions, whose effect is the substantial shortening of the vegetation season;
- or
- the presence at an average altitude between 400 - 600 meters, which determines difficult climatic conditions, of average slopes of more than 15%, which make mechanization impossible or require the use of specific expensive equipment.

According to Order 355/2007, there are a number of 27 counties with mountain area (Tulcea county not fulfilling the conditions for this delimitation), in which there are 657 UATs, as follows [7] (Fig. 2):

- 17 municipalities;
- 62 cities;
- 578 communes.



Fig. 2. The delimitation of the Romanian Mountain Area according to the National Program for Rural Development 2007 - 2013/Order 355/2007.

Compared to the previous Order 328/321/2004, 206 UATs (of which 84 integral and 122 partial), respectively 6 municipalities, 13 cities and 187 communes are no longer part of the mountain area.

Also included were a number of 37 UATs that, according to the previous criteria were not in the mountain area (of which 2 municipalities, 2 cities, 33 communes).

After the appearance of Order 355/2007, according to Law no. 63/2007 regarding the establishment of Poieni-Solca commune, by reorganizing the city of Solca, was introduced in the list of UATs in the mountain area and the

city of Solca, Suceava county, code SIRUTA 146708, thus, the list includes a no. of 658 UATs.

The provisions of the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 355/2007 regarding the approval of the criteria for the classification, delimitation and list of the administrative-territorial units in the underprivileged mountain area were the basis for the payments granted by the EU Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (EAFRD) for the support measures of the disadvantaged areas with natural handicap - the area mountain, through APIA, valid until the entry into force of the Decision of the European Commission C (2008) 3831/16.07.2008, notified to Romania by address no. 204.671 / 17.07.2008, when the National Rural Development Programme of Romania was approved for the period 2007 – 2013 [7]. Starting with this date, the delimitation of the mountain area is the one included in the National Rural Development Programme, annex 4A - Disadvantaged area. 2.3 List of administrative-territorial units in Romania included in the disadvantaged mountain area. Starting with the EU financial year through the NRDP 2014 - 2020, the delimitation of the mountain area is the one included in the National Rural Development Programme, Annex 4A - Disadvantaged area. 2.3 List of administrative-territorial units in Romania included in the disadvantaged mountain area. The designation of the Mountain Area within the NRDP 2014-2020, has not undergone any changes compared to the period 2007-2013, having in its composition [15]:

- 17 municipalities;
- 63 cities;
- 578 municipalities,

being realized on the same criteria (altitude and slope) as in the programming period 2007 - 2013.

The designation of the mountain area is carried out at LAU2 level (formerly NUTS5) respectively Territorial Administrative Units (UAT) organized in accordance with the provisions of Law no.2 / 1968 regarding the administrative organization of the territory of the Socialist Republic of Romania,

republished, with subsequent amendments and completions.

As the Law 347/2004 - the Law of the Mountain came into force before Romania's accession to the European Union, and the vast majority of the provisions of that law no longer correspond to the current situations, in 2018, a new law of the mountain was drafted. Law 197/2018. Expected by the mountain communities, this law comes to regulate the modalities of protection and sustainable and inclusive development of the mountain area by: enhancing the natural and human resources, increasing the standard of living, stabilizing the population, maintaining the cultural identity, increasing the economic power at local level. and national, while maintaining the ecological balance and the protection of the natural environment.

This includes the following chapters [17]:

- Delimitation of mountain areas and mountain ranges;
- The institutional framework specific to the development of the mountain area;
- Infrastructure and development of the mountain territory;
- Economic and social development in the mountain area;
- Protection and development of the mountain environment, conservation of biodiversity;
- Education, training and research in the mountain area;
- Mountain culture and heritage;
- Program to encourage activities in the mountain area.

The newest delimitation of the mountain area in Romania, is based on Law 197/2018 - Law of the Mountain. In Chapter II it provides [17]: Art. 2 (1) The mountain area is characterized by natural limitations of agricultural productivity, which lead to reduced agricultural production, due to unfavorable climatic and biophysical conditions for the optimal conditions of agricultural activities.

(2) The mountain area is characterized by a limitation of the possibilities of use of the land and by an appreciable increase of the costs of its exploitation, caused by:

- a) the existence, at high altitudes, of difficult climatic conditions, low soil fertility, which

have the effect of substantially reducing the vegetation period and productivity;

b) the presence, at low altitudes, of steep slopes and morphological structures of mountain type, which do not allow the use of machined machines or that require the use of special, expensive equipment;

c) the combination of the factors mentioned in letter. a) and b), where the degree of unfavorability resulting from each factor is less severe, but by combining them results in a level of cumulative unfavorability, higher than the critical level.

(3) For the purpose of this law, "mountain locality" means the territorial administrative unit, municipality, city, municipality, with the territory situated wholly or partially in the mountain area, which falls within the criteria established by the slope and altitude, their limits being those of the physical blocks, identified in the Integrated Administration and Control System.

(4) The classification criteria and the list of localities in the mountain area are established by common order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, at the proposal of the National Agency of the Mountain Area.

The joint order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 97 / Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration no. 1332 establishes the criteria for the classification of the administrative-territorial units in the mountain area, as follows [6]:

The mountain area is characterized by natural limitations of agricultural productivity, which lead to reduced agricultural production, due to unfavorable climatic and biophysical conditions for optimal agricultural activities. The criteria used to define the mountain area are the following:

General delimitation criteria (physical criteria):

- average altitude greater than or equal to 500 m;
- average altitude between 350 and 500 m and an average slope greater than or equal to 15%;
- altitude below 350 m and an average slope greater than or equal to 20%.

The criterion of belonging to the Carpathian Convention by including the administrative-territorial units that fall within at least 50% of the territory within the limits of the Carpathian Convention.

Criterion of the combined score, taking into account the specific situation of the mountain area, based on the following algorithm:

- altitude score: average altitude/500 m (weight 30%);

- slope score: average slope/15% (30% weight);

- meadow score: pastures + hay/agricultural total (25% weight);

- forest score: forest area/total area administrative-territorial unit (weight 15%).

The localities that obtained from this algorithm a combined score of at least 7 (out of 10) are included in the mountain area, except for those that do not meet an elimination criterion related to geology (if the share of the quaternary formations is greater than 50% of the administrative units - territorial).

The criterion of inclusion in the delimitation of the mountain area within the Strategy of Territorial Development of Romania

Criterion for continuity of the mountain area

Considering that following the application of the above criteria, some situations arise in which administrative-territorial units that do not meet the criteria, but are surrounded by mountain administrative-territorial units, resulting in the so-called "non-mountain islands", except for continuity, a number of 10 administrative-territorial units are included in the mountain area.

Following the application of these criteria, the mountain area of Romania comprises 948 localities (Fig. 3).

According to the Common Order MADR no. 97 and MDRAP no. 1332/2019, there are a number of 947 UATs (947 UATs and 1 belonging locality), classified in 27 counties that have a mountain area (Fig. 3). Their situation is as follows [6]:

- 30 municipalities;
- 83 cities;
- 835 communes.

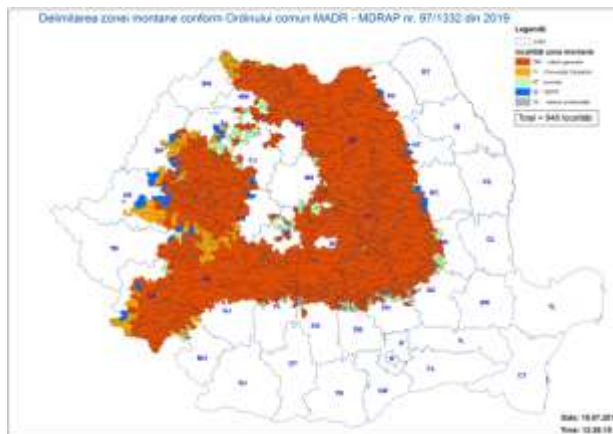


Fig. 3. The delimitation of the Romanian Mountain Area according to the Common Order MADR no. 97 and MDRAP no. 1332/2019.

It is noted that, out of the 28 counties with mountain area, initially existing, according to the Common Order 328/321/2004, at the boundaries of the Order 355/2007 (and implicitly from the National Rural Development Programme - PNDR – 2007-2013 and 2014-2020), respectively of the Common Order MADR no. 97 and MDRAP no. 1332/2019, are considered as having a mountain area only 27, Tulcea county (with the Măcinului mountains) no longer meeting the delimitation criteria from the specified normative acts. And out of the total of 826 UATs existing at the first delimitation, their number decreased to 658 (delimitation from the PNDR), so that later - to increase - according to the new criteria established nationally - to 948 (947 and 1 belonging village) [15].

Also, as a result of the provisions of Law 197/2018 - the Law of the Mountain, 6 subsequent laws have been elaborated, to encourage investments in the mountain area:

Law 334/2018 for the approval of the Program for the encouragement of investments in the mountain area, which aims to make investments in wool and leather processing centers, centers for collecting, washing and primary processing of wool, collecting and/or milk processing centers, slaughter centers for animals and/or small-capacity meat processing units, centers for primary processing and processing of forest fruits, mushrooms and/or medicinal and aromatic plants, from spontaneous flora and/or culture in the mountain area, the establishment of mountain

sheep in the localities in the counties that affect the mountain area, as well as other investments that lead to the maintenance and development of activities in the mountain area [2, 23];

Law 296/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for setting up milk collection and/or processing centers in the mountain area [18];

Law 330/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for setting up centers for primary collection, washing and processing of wool and leather in the mountain area [19];

Law 331/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for setting up low capacity units for the slaughter of animals and/or meat processing in the mountain area [20];

Law 332/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of mountain sheep [21];

Law 333/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of centers for primary collection and processing of wild fruits, mushrooms and/or medicinal and aromatic plants from spontaneous and/or culture flora in the mountain area [22];

All these laws, however, have not been enforced so far. They have been notified to the European Commission and its outcome is expected.

The development of high quality agri-food products in the mountain area was one of the priority concerns of the decision-makers. In this sense, the legislation was elaborated by which, the producers in the mountain areas can "certify" their food products of animal, vegetable and bee origin. The following normative acts were adopted:

Decision no. 506/of July 20, 2016 on establishing the institutional framework and measures for the implementation of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) no. 665/2014 of March 11, 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) no. 1.151 / 2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the conditions of use of the optional mention of "mountain product" [3];

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 52/2017 regarding the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the

specifications for granting the right to use the optional mention of "mountain product" quality and for verifying the compliance with the European and national legislation by the economic operators who obtained the right to use of the respective mention [8];

Order 321/2017, Order 31/2018, Order 49/2019, Order 328/2019, Order 585/2020 - normative acts that come to amend or supplement Order 52/2017 [9,10,11,12].

The mountain product (Fig. 4), represents the product intended for human consumption, where: raw materials, but also feed for farm animals come mainly from mountain areas, and in the case of processed products, processing also takes place in areas mountain.



Fig. 4. The logo for "Mountain product"
 Source: Order no. 49/2019 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development [11].

On the end of April 2020, they have acquired the right to use the optional mention of "mountain product" a number of 580 agri-food products, from a number of 157 producers (registered in the National Register of Mountain Products - [http://azm.gov.ro / product-mountain /](http://azm.gov.ro/product-mountain/)) [1], for the following product categories:

- Milk and milk products = 264
- Meat and meat products = 9
- Vegetable = 190
- Beekeeping = 107
- Fish products = 9
- Bread, bakery and pastry products = 1

In 2019, the Government Decision no. 332/2019 regarding the establishment of the composition, duties and responsibilities of the massive committee and the National Mountain Council [4].

In order to apply the policies and strategies for the development and protection of the mountain environment, a massive committee is

constituted at territorial level for each of the 9 mountain groups provided in the annex to the Mountain Law no. 197/2018 (Fig. 5), body without legal personality, with advisory role [17].

And, at the national level, the National Council of the Mountain is constituted, with advisory role, which will ensure the cooperation between the Government and the representatives of the mountain area, for the implementation of its specific strategies and policies.

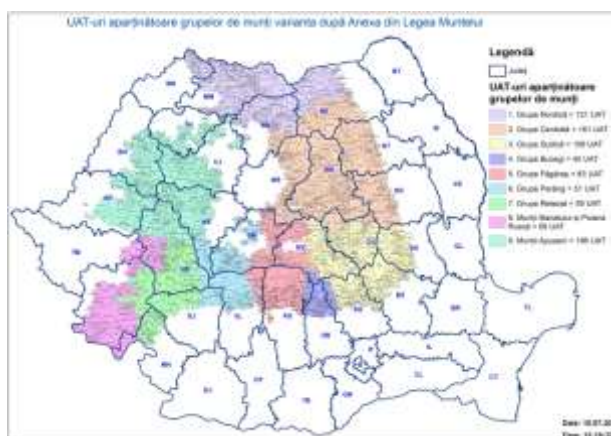


Fig. 5. Representation of mountain massifs, by mountain groups and related counties, according to the annex of the Mountain Law 197/2018.

Existing mountain groups [17]:

- the northern group
- the central group
- Southern group
- Bucegi group
- Fagaras group
- Parang group
- Retezat-Godeanu group
- the group of Banat Mountains and the Poiana Ruscă
- the Apuseni Mountains group

According to Chapter III, Art. 3 of the Law of the Mountain, specialized structures are organized at territorial level, as follows:

- at regional level, regional centers of mountain development;
- at the level of mountain basins, mountain development offices.

In this regard, the Ministerial Order no. 760/R/2019 regarding the approval of the regional centers of mountain development, of the offices of mountain development, of the place of activity as well as of the counties and

the territorial administrative units rounded up [13].

And Order no. 347/2019 comes to modify/complete Annex no. 2 to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 760/R/2019 [14].

According to these normative acts, in the mountain area there are a number of 7 regional centers of mountain development, to which a number of 32 mountain development offices are rounded up.

CONCLUSIONS

The mountains of Romania constitute a defined geographical, economic and social entity, having relief, climate, specific natural and social-cultural heritage, identity recognized in Europe and in the world. For this reason, the mountain area also needs a specific approach. The mountain areas are characterized by significant natural and social handicaps, which involve greater efforts, with restrictions in the exercise of economic activities, with the limitation of the possibilities of land use and a significant increase in the costs of the works due to the altitude, slopes or climatic conditions with periods of periods. lower vegetation. Mountain areas are ecologically fragile areas, which require support for protection, development and specific management, determined by the right to difference, being a common heritage, with a value that must be recognized and preserved.

In the last 30 years, specialized institutions have been created for the mountain area of Romania. Unfortunately, they did not have continuity, existing, over time, a series of restructurings, reductions of the attributions and / or the specialists trained in this field, or even cancellations. The main specialized institution - the National Agency of the Mountain Area, initially had structures with personnel, in the mountainous territory, then it was reduced to a minimum of existence, so that at one point it was even abolished. Re-established in 2014, it manages to restore, four years later, the territorial structures, but with a small number of personal. During the period studied, a series of normative acts are elaborated, some of them, never being applied.

Also from 2014, a series of normative acts necessary for the development of the mountain communities is elaborated. The emergence of the new Law of the mountain 197/2018, creates the specific legislative framework. Laws to encourage investments in the mountain area, aimed at investments in wool and leather processing centers, centers for collecting, washing and primary processing of wool, centers for collecting and/or processing milk, animal slaughtering centers and/or processing units of small capacity meat, centers for primary processing and processing of wild fruits, mushrooms and/or medicinal and aromatic plants, from spontaneous flora and/or culture in the mountain area, setting up mountain sheep in the localities from the counties that affect the mountain area, unfortunately, they have been elaborated and still implemented. And the delimitation of the mountain areas in Romania has undergone modifications and transformations, depending on the requirements of the moment when it was carried out, the specific legislation, and the instruments existing at that time. The three delimitations made, starting in 2004, failed to include the same administrative-territorial units, creating controversies, often by including, not including or excluding UATs.

The legislation elaborated for the acquisition of the optional quality mention "mountain product", has attracted the registration in a relatively short time of a significant number of quality agri-food products, mountain, creating an optimistic outlook for the future. More and more producers in the mountain area, being interested in registering their products.

The stability of the specialized institutions for the mountain area, the retention of experienced specialists, the attracting and training of young specialists, the elaboration of normative acts, in close connection with the needs and the specificity of the mountain area, reinforce our belief that this area can be valued and that the depopulation can be reduced.

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[8]Ministerul Agriculturii si Dezvoltarii Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2017, Ordinul 52/ 2017 privind aprobarea Procedurii de

verificare a conformității datelor cuprinse în caietul de sarcini în vederea acordării dreptului de utilizare a mențiunii de calitate facultative „produs montan” și de verificare a respectării legislației europene și naționale de către operatorii economici care au obținut dreptul de utilizare a respectivei mențiuni (Order 52/2017 on the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the specifications in order to grant the right to use the optional quality term "mountain product" and to verify compliance with European and national legislation by economic operators who have obtained the right to use of that statement).

[9]Ministerul Agriculturii si Dezvoltarii Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2017, Ordinul 321/2017 pentru modificarea anexei la Ordinul ministrului agriculturii și dezvoltării rurale nr. 52/2017 privind aprobarea Procedurii de verificare a conformității datelor cuprinse în caietul de sarcini în vederea acordării dreptului de utilizare a mențiunii de calitate facultative "produs montan" și de verificare a respectării legislației europene și naționale de către operatorii economici care au obținut dreptul de utilizare a respectivei mențiuni (Order 321/2017 amending the annex to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 52/2017 on the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the specifications in order to grant the right to use the optional quality label "mountain product" and to verify compliance with European and national legislation by economic operators who have obtained the right to use of that state).

[10]Ministerul Agriculturii si Dezvoltarii Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2018, Ordinul nr. 31/2018 pentru modificarea anexei la Ordinul ministrului agriculturii și dezvoltării rurale nr. 52/2017 privind aprobarea Procedurii de verificare a conformității datelor cuprinse în caietul de sarcini în vederea acordării dreptului de utilizare a mențiunii de calitate facultative "produs montan" și de verificare a respectării legislației europene și naționale de către operatorii economici care au obținut dreptul de utilizare a respectivei mențiuni (Order no. 31/2018 for the amendment of the annex to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 52/2017 on the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the specifications in order to grant the right to use the optional quality label "mountain product" and to verify compliance with European and national legislation by economic operators who have obtained the right to use of that statement).

[11]Ministerul Agriculturii si Dezvoltarii Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2019, Ordinul nr. 49/2019 pentru modificarea și completarea anexei la Ordinul ministrului agriculturii și dezvoltării rurale nr. 52/2017 privind aprobarea Procedurii de verificare a conformității datelor cuprinse în caietul de sarcini în vederea acordării dreptului de utilizare a mențiunii de calitate facultative "produs montan" și de verificare a respectării legislației europene și naționale de către operatorii economici care

au obținut dreptul de utilizare a respectivei mențiuni (Order no. 49/2019 for the amendment and completion of the annex to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 52/2017 on the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the specifications in order to grant the right to use the optional quality label "mountain product" and to verify compliance with European and national legislation by economic operators who have obtained the right to use of that statement).

[12]Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2019, Ordinul nr. 328/2019 pentru modificarea anexei la Ordinul ministrului agriculturii și dezvoltării rurale nr. 52/2017 privind aprobarea Procedurii de verificare a conformității datelor cuprinse în caietul de sarcini în vederea acordării dreptului de utilizare a mențiunii de calitate facultative "produs montan" și de verificare a respectării legislației europene și naționale de către operatorii economici care au obținut dreptul de utilizare a respectivei mențiuni (Order no. 328/2019 for the amendment of the annex to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 52/2017 on the approval of the Procedure for verifying the conformity of the data contained in the specifications in order to grant the right to use the optional quality label "mountain product" and to verify compliance with European and national legislation by economic operators who have obtained the right to use of that statement).

[13]Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2019, Ordinul nr. 760/R/2019 privind aprobarea centrelor regionale de dezvoltare montană, a oficiilor de dezvoltare montană, a locului de desfășurare a activității precum și a județelor și unităților administrativ teritoriale arondate (Order no. 760 / R / 2019 regarding the approval of the regional mountain development centers, of the mountain development offices, of the place where the activity takes place as well as of the counties and the assigned territorial administrative units),

[14]Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale, MADR, (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), 2019, Ordinul nr. 347/2019 pentru modificarea Anexei nr. 2 la Ordinul ministrului agriculturii și dezvoltării rurale nr. 760/R/2019 privind aprobarea centrelor regionale de dezvoltare montană, a oficiilor de dezvoltare montană, a locului de desfășurare a activității precum și a județelor și unităților administrativ teritoriale arondate (Order no. 347/2019 for the amendment of Annex no. 2 to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development no. 760 / R / 2019 regarding the approval of the regional mountain development centers, of the mountain development offices, of the place of activity as well as of the counties and the assigned territorial administrative units).

[15]National Institute of Statistics, 2020, <https://insse.ro/cms/>, Accessed on 10.03.2020.

[16]Parlamentul României (Romania's Parliament), 2004, Legea 347/2004 - Legea Muntelui (Law 347/2004 - Mountain Law).

[17]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 197/2018 - Legea Muntelui (Law 197/2018 - Mountain Law).

[18]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 296/2018 privind aprobarea Programului de investiții pentru înființarea centrelor de colectare și/sau prelucrare a laptelui în zona montană (Law 296/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of milk collection and / or processing centers in the mountain area).

[19]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 330/2018 privind aprobarea Programului de investiții pentru înființarea centrelor de colectare, spălare și prelucrare primară de lână și piei în zona montană (Law 330/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of centers for the collection, washing and primary processing of wool and hides in the mountain area).

[20]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 331/2018 privind aprobarea Programului de investiții pentru înființarea unităților de capacitate mică pentru sacrificarea animalelor și/sau prelucrarea cărnii în zona montană (Law 331/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of small capacity units for slaughtering animals and / or meat processing in the mountain area).

[21]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 332/2018 privind aprobarea Programului de investiții pentru înființarea stânelor montane (Law 332/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of mountain sheepfolds).

[22]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 333/2018 privind aprobarea Programului de investiții pentru înființarea centrelor de colectare și prelucrare primară a fructelor de pădure, a ciupercilor și/sau a plantelor medicinale și aromatice din flora spontană și/sau de cultură în zona montană (Law 333/2018 on the approval of the Investment Program for the establishment of centers for the collection and primary processing of berries, mushrooms and / or medicinal and aromatic plants from spontaneous flora and / or culture in the mountain area).

[23]Parlamentul României, (Romania's Parliament), 2018, Legea 334/2018 pentru aprobarea Programului de încurajare a investițiilor din zona montană (Law 334/2018 for the approval of the Program to encourage investments in the mountain area).

[24]Ungureanu, D., Gițan, D., 2018, The delimitation of the mountain area in Romania. A current, at times controversial, issue. Journal of Montanology Vol X, 21-33. Eurobit Publishing House, Timișoara.

[25]Ungureanu, D., Gițan, D., 2019, Coordonate ale cadrului legislativ privind delimitarea Areei montane din România. Dezvoltarea economico-socială durabilă a Euroregiunilor și a Arealor Transfrontaliere (Coordinates of the legislative framework regarding the delimitation of the Romanian Mountain Area. Sustainable economic and social development of

