

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE MOUNTAIN AREAS, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA

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Abstract. *Considering the fact that mountain areas occupy an important area of our country but also a considerable area at the European level, the paper approaches their role with a special analysis on the development of the sustainability of the area by increasing the number of mountain producers, mountain products and local gastronomic points. the legislation and some activities specific to the mountain area in our country are analyzed in comparison with some European countries. the legislative framework for carrying out and monitoring specific activities, existing successful activities in the mountain area and strategies for the development of mountain areas are analyzed in particular, with an emphasis on mountain producers and products.*

Keywords: mountain area, mountain products, development strategies, legislative framework, Romania, Europe

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1. Introduction

The mountains represent the backbone of our country from a geographical but also a social point of view. Geographically, the whole country is spread around the mountains and socially the mountains were the ones that contributed to the preservation and formation of the Romanian people, the mountains being shelter, source of food and places of defense against the waves of peoples that devastated our country throughout the ages.

The mountain area in our country is 90.24 thousand km², which represents 37.9% of the total area of the country, being in the 14th place in Europe, compared to the 1st place Norway (91.3%), the 5th place Austria (73.4%), 9th place Bulgaria (53.3%), 11th place Sweden (50.6%). In 2008, the population living in the mountainous areas of our country was 5.54 million, representing 24.9 of the country's population [10].

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