

National Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

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The strategic guidelines propose objectives that target the less favoured mountain area (LFMA), as clearly defined in the National Rural Development Programme, in an integrated approach, gathering under the same umbrella the funding priorities, both from national budget and European funds.

The LFMA comprise around 20% of the total population and cover 30% of the national territory. More than half of the Carpathians are located inside the borders of Romania (53%).

The strategic guidelines are being elaborated within an inter-ministerial committee bringing together the ministries responsible in the area of agriculture, culture, tourism, environment and regional development and this process of consultation will be extended to other areas of interest such as education and labour. Important institutions such as the Romanian Academy (e.g. Centre for Mountain Economy, Grassland Research and Development Institute), Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences and National Statistics Institute have been also involved. The document will be open for public debate in the next period and the input of the NGO sector and other interested parties would be most useful and welcomed.

The main objectives that have been identified, target the growth of economic competitiveness, the enhancement of the attractiveness, stabilization of population in the mountain areas and the improvement of environmental characteristics, as well as the conservation and valorisation of the cultural assets.