



ROMANIA

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

SENATE

LAW

of the Mountain

The Romanian Parliament adopts the present law.

CHAPTER I

General dispositions

Art. 1. - (1) This law regulates the modes of sustainable and inclusive development and protection of the mountain area by: making use of natural and human resources, increasing living standards, stabilizing the population, maintaining cultural identity, increasing local and national economic power, in keeping with the ecological balance and the protection of the natural environment.

(2) Romania's mountain area is a territory of special national, strategic, economic, social and environmental interest.

(3) The mountain area, due to the limited possibilities of using the agricultural land, thanks to the altitude and climatic conditions, the slopes, the geological substratum and the high costs of working with it, the living conditions, the infrastructure, the business environment, the access to education and medical services, is considered to be disadvantaged.

(4) With this law, the Romanian state recognizes the existence of

specific natural conditions, of the differences between the mountain area communities as well as the application of the principle of solidarity for these territories.

(5) What is understood through *the sustainable and inclusive development of the mountain area* is a process initiated, led and controlled by the population of the mountain area with the support of the Romanian state via the development of specific economic activities that ensure the preservation of the traditions, of the cultural identity, the protection of the cultural heritage, the maintenance of the biodiversity and the protection of nature and landscapes in order to increase the attractiveness and quality of life in mountain areas.

(6) With this law, the Romanian state, through its institutions, applies specific policies, which have the role of:

a) preserving the dwelling conditions in the mountain area, threatened by migration, climate change, ecological imbalances, due to the inadequate exploitation of resources and poor urban designs;

b) taking into account the demographic disparities and the diversity of the territories and encouraging the economic development of the mountain area by supporting agricultural and non-agricultural activities;

c) supporting the compensation of additional costs and income losses incurred by farmers following the implementation of certain measures for extensive management, biodiversity conservation, water and soil protection, as a result of the natural and specific constraints in the areas with influence on agricultural production, for the continuous use of land in the areas with limited agricultural potential;

d) encouraging and supporting the sustainable management of forests, other forest resources and the development of wood processing activities and capitalization in the form of finished products, and ensuring a steady agro-forestry balance;

e) creating quality of life by expanding and generalizing public services for the mountain area population and ensuring the sustainability, quality, content, accessibility and proximity of social, medical, educational and transport services;

f) encouraging the technical, economic, institutional, social and development innovations of information and communication digital services, adapted to the usage needs resulting from the constraints faced by the mountain population;

g) stimulating and promoting scientific research, development, innovation and technological transfer activities to support the progress in

the mountain area, the adaptation of the research activities and results to the needs of the local communities;

h) carrying out the assessment of foreseeable natural hazards in the mountain area and ensuring the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural disasters;

i) ensuring the adaptation of gymnasium and vocational education to the specific requirements of the mountain economic, agricultural and zootechnical activities, environment and way of life;

j) encouraging and supporting producers and/or processors of agri-food products in the mountain area in order to connect them in associative forms, producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, producer groups, technology-oriented associations, aiming at:

i) advantageous use of the obtained products;

ii) business expansion and capital accumulation;

iii) development of investments in storage and processing facilities;

(iv) obtaining advantageous prices for inputs;

k) supporting the promotion of food products labeled with the mention “mountain product”, which come from the producers and/or processors of agri-food products who carry out their activity in the mountain area, subject to observance of the sanitary-veterinary norms, observing the conditions stipulated in the attestation-certification documents and the rules imposed by the European Commission;

l) providing easy access to adequate financial instruments for farmers, processors, small entrepreneurs from the mountain area;

m) protecting, preserving and promoting the material and immaterial cultural heritage;

n) implementing measures to combat poverty and to prevent the depopulation of mountain villages, as a permanent and priority objective for the Government and local communities;

o) protecting, preserving and promoting the natural heritage;

p) developing sustainable tourism in its specific forms.

CHAPTER II

Delineating mountain areas and mountain massifs

Art. 2. - (1) The mountain area is characterized by natural limitations of agricultural productivity, which lead to reduced agricultural output due to climatic and biophysical conditions that are unfavorable for agricultural activities to take place in optimal conditions.

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

a) the existence, at high altitudes, of difficult climate conditions, low soil fertility, which have the effect of substantially reducing the vegetation period and the productivity;

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

c) the combination of the factors stipulated in letters a) and b), where the degree of unfavorability resulting from each factor is less severe, but through their combination results a cumulative disadvantage level above the critical level.

(3) For the purpose of the present law, by *mountain village* is understood the administrative-territorial unit, the municipality, the town, the parish, with its territory wholly or partially situated in the mountain area, which meets the established criteria of slope and altitude, their limits being those of the physical blocks identified in the Integrated Administration and Control System.

(4) The listing criteria and the list of mountain area localities shall be established by joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and of the Minister of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, at the proposal of the National Mountain Area Agency.

(5) *The mountain basin*, in the understanding of the present law, is a mountainous territory, consisting of several administrative-territorial units with territorial continuity, usually constituted along a valley, a water course or a way of communication, with common geo-climatic characteristics and similar traditional economic and cultural activities around a local development center.

(6) Romania's mountain area comprises of 9 mountain groups, according to the annex, which is an integral part of the present law.

(7) Each mountain group consists of several mountainous masses, each mountain massif comprising of areas in the immediate vicinity to each other and forming a single geographic, economic and social entity with similar characteristics.

CHAPTER III

The specific institutional framework for the development of the mountain area

Art. 3. - (1) For the elaboration and implementation of the Government strategy and policies in the field of protection and development of the mountain area, areas marked by specificity, ecologically fragile and socially and economically disadvantaged due to natural causes, with a specific management, the National Mountain Area Agency, further called NMAA, functions, through the reorganization of the Mountain Area Agency, established under Law no. 139/2014 regarding some measures for the reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with subsequent modifications and completions, as well as some subordinated structures, as a specialized body with legal personality, financed entirely from the state budget.

(2) Within the NMAA, specialized structures will be organized at the territorial level, as follows:

- a) at regional level, regional centers for mountain development;
- b) at the level of mountain basins, mountain development offices.

Art. 4. - (1) For each mountain group, a massif Committee is formed at the level of the respective territory, with an advisory role in the implementation of policies and development and protection strategies for the mountain environment.

(2) At the national level, the National Mountain Council is established, with an advisory role, hereinafter referred to as *NMC*, with the purpose of ensuring the link between the Government and the representatives of the mountain area, in order to implement its specific strategies and policies.

(3) NMC is chaired by the Prime Minister of Romania.

CHAPTER IV

Mountain territory infrastructure and landscaping

Art. 5. - (1) Mountain infrastructure is the key support for the socio-economic, intelligent, sustainable and inclusive development of the mountain area.

(2) Roads represent the main route of communication in the mountain area; the Romanian state ensures their modernization, rehabilitation and extension in order to facilitate access in the settlements, to homes, farms, tourist accommodation establishments with room and board functions, tourist attractions, sheepfolds, thus contributing to the improvement of the living conditions within the communities, the development of trade relationships, passenger and goods transport, promotion of local products and local tourism.

(3) In order to increase the living standards of the inhabitants of the mountain area, the Romanian state, through this law, ensures the following:

a) the development of the technical and public infrastructure through the development, extension, rehabilitation, modernization of water resources, sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants, as well as the implementation and extension of integrated waste management systems;

b) the connection to the electricity network of mountain villages and isolated areas, dwellings, farms, settlements, summer camps, sheepfolds, tourist chalets, tourist attractions, and where this is not possible, to secure electricity from renewable sources;

c) the extension of the gas distribution network to the mountain area;

d) facilitating access to the Internet, telephony and other forms of communication for the mountain area population, especially to broadband infrastructure.

(4) In order to facilitate the mountain area population's access to educational, health and social assistance services, the Romanian state shall ensure the following:

a) the setting up, rehabilitation, modernization and endowment of medical dispensaries and sanitary facilities in mountain settlements;

b) the organization of mobile intervention teams and medical caravans, especially in isolated mountain villages lacking primary care;

c) the rehabilitation, modernization and adequate endowment of the primary and secondary education units in mountain villages.

(5) In order to prevent natural risks and to reduce human and material losses, the mountain area infrastructure is realized by the Romanian state from funds from the state budget and/or from external funds, for:

a) the execution of the consolidation and stabilization of the lands, terraces and slopes in the mountain area exposed to the risk of landslides;

b) regularization of water courses, prohibiting construction in the floodplains of mountain area rivers, especially in areas with significant potential flood risk, in situations where there are no other ways of defending against floods;

c) the construction of aqueducts and small tanks used for consumption and irrigation;

d) the construction, improvement and maintenance of public works related to soil conservation, water drainage, water dams, water supply and distribution, for public utility purposes;

e) building, improving and maintaining sports and recreational facilities for the purpose of public utility for the mountain area;

f) construction and endowment of mountain area Salvamont bases and refuges in order to prevent accidents and for the safety of the people in parks, hiking, walking and horse-riding, or in picnic and recreation areas, ski slopes, or mountain chalets;

g) investment for chalets in isolated mountain areas to provide shelter for occasional tourists in cases of extreme natural phenomena caused by climate change.

(6) The Romanian state ensures/supports the raising of the citizens' living standard and safety level, the prevention of accidents, the search, rescue and evacuation of persons in distress, the prevention and combating of antisocial deeds, the protection of public and private fortune, the conservation of hunting, fish, fauna and forest funds specific to the mountain, via:

a) investments in infrastructure and financing of projects for the establishment/dimensioning, endowment and proper functioning of the Romanian Gendarmerie structures with specific attributions to this area;

b) the construction, rehabilitation or expansion of spaces in the administration or use of public order structures;

c) continuous professional training of public order structures' staff in order for them to acquire the skills necessary for the mountain area.

(7) The Romanian state encourages and supports the mountain population through the central and local public authorities empowered to

implement projects on:

- a) the energy development of the mountain area and exploitation of the potential for renewable energy production: biomass, solar energy, hydro power and energy savings by thermal insulation of buildings;
- b) the sustainable use of waterways without affecting the ecosystems and the fish stock.

(8) The Romanian state will apply special measures for the development of areas for sustainable and competitive development, such as ecological reconstruction concentrations and industrial waste and water pollution prevention, outside the tourist areas.

(9) Local public administrations will designate local economic development areas through the General Urbanism Plan, which have the following roles:

- a) to identify economic activities with a capacity that exceeds the level of households and outside the residential areas;
- b) to create functioning facilities: utilities, water treatment plants, emergency intervention means;
- c) to preserve the traditional rural cultural specificity;
- d) to enable the youth entrepreneurial spirit to manifest, in accordance with the aspirations and competences acquired at school;
- e) to capitalize on the tourism potential.

(10) The state, through local authorities, supports the construction of drinking water collection basins. The water supply at farm level is the responsibility of the interested producers.

CHAPTER V

Economic and social development in the mountain area

Art. 6. - (1) The Romanian state gives financial support to the animal breeders in the mountain area, to stimulate the growth of the flocks in order to preserve the ecological attributes of the mountain meadows which are a strategic priority. The amounts and conditions for granting these facilities will be determined by Government decision, at the proposal of NMAA.

(2) In the mountain area, the passage of animals through the forests to and from the areas of grazing, watering, for shelter and shade, in the forest fund, the public property of the state, shall be approved on request, annually but not later than 1 May, by the competent county forest authorities, at the proposal of the local public administration.

(3) By way of derogation from the provisions of art. 53 of Law

no. 46/2008 - The forestry code, republished, with subsequent modifications and completions, during the grazing period, the access of sheep and cattle to mature forests and young trees aged over 15 years around sheepfolds and cattle farms up to a distance of 1000m, for shade, food supplements and shelter in case of weather - rains, thunderstorms, hail, etc. - is permissible, with the agreement and under the supervision of the local forestry bodies, of the owners or administrators, as the case may be, establishing the access perimeter for the animals.

(4) The Romanian state shall grant differentiated payment to livestock farmers in the mountain area, depending on the severity of natural handicaps and altitude gradient, in order to maintain farmers in high mountain areas, to increase livestock numbers and to keep and improve the productivity of pastures.

(5) The Romanian state hereby grants capital investment subsidies, bank credits, bank interest rates, preferential bank loans, reduced interest rates, for the development of farms and/or agricultural holdings in the mountain area.

(6) In the mountain area, at mountain massif territorial level, shall be established animal breeding and selection centers for ruminants, which will carry out selection and adaptability programs to the mountain conditions, in collaboration with the research-development-innovation units.

(7) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shall ensure the specialized personnel and the necessary equipment for the optimal functioning of the Animal Breeding and Selection Territorial Centers for ruminants in the mountain area.

(8) The conservation and improvement of bovine and sheep breeds adapted to mountain conditions and avoidance of inappropriate breeds are of interest to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

(9) Ensuring the reproduction and improvement of livestock in the mountain area is carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Zootechnics Law no. 72/2002, republished.

(10) The organization of inter-communal fairs for animals and agricultural exhibitions, at the level of basins, valleys, in the mountain regions, is supported by the local public administration, with the support of the county councils and the county agricultural directorates.

Art. 7. - The development of agricultural activities requires a unitary approach, as well as a harmonization with other strategies, through:

a) financial and material support for the establishment and development of associative forms of agricultural producers and processors in the mountain area, in order to sell products with significant economic, social and environmental impact;

b) financial and material support of producer associations in order for them to gain access to markets with the aim to promote and spread mountain products around, for their superior capitalization, in the priority interest of the agricultural producers;

c) supporting integrated investments for the development, modernization and profitability of agricultural holdings, livestock shelters, the purchase of equipment and work equipment, the establishment and development of agricultural cooperatives, in order to promote and capitalize mountain products;

d) subsidizing purchases of productive breeds that adapt easily to the existing conditions, climate, slope, altitude, geological substrate, in the mountain area, registered in the Genealogical Register;

e) supporting farmers who practice transhumance;

f) supporting producers to improve the production and nutritional characteristics of feed by adopting farm practices compatible with the mountain area and that have a low impact on the environment, animals and wastewater;

g) facilitating and strengthening practices of direct use of mountain flora on mountain pastures by grazing the animals that protect the mountain landscape;

h) supporting small-scale infrastructure projects for the maintenance and preservation of mountain pastures, as well as for individual or associate farmers;

i) support from the state, through subsidies, of grazing arrangements in accordance with the grassland management objectives for maintaining the high natural value of the mountain area (HNV);

j) encouraging milk production in the mountain area to allow farmers in this area to obtain adequate incomes designed to provide them with a decent living and to diminish the population migration process;

k) the establishment of collection, storage and slaughtering points and raw material processing units: milk, meat, fruit, wool, animal skins, wood, as well as equipping them properly, in compliance with the rules in force for the capitalization of the entire production, avoiding losses and increasing the incomes of agricultural producers;

l) supporting the producers and/or processors of agri-food products from the mountain area in order to promote the products obtained,

certified as: “mountain product”, “traditional product”, “ecological product”, and those certified at European level, via the systems from the field of agricultural and food quality; the products obtained have the significant capacity to contribute to the development of local communities economically and socially, and to maintain biodiversity and traditional agricultural practices;

m) providing incentives to support elderly people living in remote settlements/isolated households in the mountain area, including for the families that care for them.

Art. 8. - (1) Young mountain farmer families who set up households and raise livestock equivalent to 5 large cattle units, hereafter referred to as *LCU*, are exempted from agricultural tax and income tax for agriculture for 5 years from setting up and then for 50% of the revenue, in the following years, during the holder's existence.

(2) The Romanian state supports young entrepreneurs in order to encourage the diversification of their activities, to stabilize them in the communities they come from, through: counseling, professional training, financial support.

(3) Agricultural specialists, doctors, teachers who establish themselves in the mountain area and commit themselves to work for a period of at least 5 years in the mountain area will receive an installment premium and financial support for purchasing and building a home. The amount, procedure and sources of financing will be determined via Government decision.

(4) Farmers with more than 5 LCUs may request and receive timber, free of charge, for the construction of shelters and household annexes.

(5) In the mountain area, the construction of individual manure management platforms on farms with a load of up to 10 LCU is not required.

Art. 9. - (1) The Romanian state, through the local public authorities, applies specific financial measures for the development of forestry activities in order to facilitate access to hard-to-reach forest resources through multi-purpose forestry, tourism, agrozootechnics, sanitation, access to firefighting.

(2) This law encourages the diversification of the local economy and the creation of jobs for legal entities in the rural mountain area who perform activities related to the collection, preparation and/or processing

of forest-related products: mushrooms, forest fruits, medicinal plants.

(3) Residents who have their households in areas with a high degree of isolation, as well as those with social needs in the mountain area, are entitled to an annual amount of firewood, free of charge, for the heating of the dwelling, with the approval of the local council.

Art. 10. - (1) The non-agricultural activities specific to the mountain area, supported by this law, are:

a) mountain tourism, agrotourism and ecotourism, through specific services;

b) craftsmanship: handicrafts and other traditional activities specific to the mountain area;

c) services in the following fields: medical, social, sanitary-veterinary, consultancy, trade in food and non-food products, accounting, transport, information technology, communications, energy and other services destined for the population of the mountain area;

d) production: manufacture of textile products, leather goods, pharmaceuticals, woodworking.

(2) For the development of tourism and agrotourism in the mountain area, the Romanian state, directly or through the local authorities, as appropriate, provides investments in tourism and tourist leisure infrastructure: renovation/rehabilitation of accommodation units, camping areas/refuges/shelters/lodges, creation of new leisure facilities, marking of mountain tourist routes, creation of thematic routes/paths, installation of interpretative panels as well as signs.

(3) In order to increase the economic potential of the mountain area, the Romanian state ensures the financing of projects in the mountain area aimed at promoting ecotourism and agrotourism activities in order to expand the global tourism offer and to favor the creation of jobs in these areas.

(4) In agrotourism farms, sheepfolds and boarding houses, food intended for tourists, in the form of fresh or processed products, must come from their own farm or from other farms in the area, except those which cannot be made in them.

(5) Individuals, individual businesses and family businesses, licensed under the law, who carry out tourism activities in reception facilities such as boarding houses and agro-touristic farms, may benefit from being given some of the available land by local councils, subject to the conditions of the law, in order to build, develop and exploit them.

(6) Young people in the mountain area can request and receive

timber to build tourist accommodation structures: agro-touristic hostels, rooms and/or hosting apartments.

(7) The local public administration authorities shall support annually the persons certified as artisan craftsmen, domiciled in the mountain area, with a quantity of wood, to be processed, in order to practice traditional crafts.

Art. 11. - (1) The authorities of the local public administration in the places where the agricultural producers and/or processors are associated, as well as those who carry out non-agricultural activities in the mountain area, will make available to them, with priority as far as possible, under the provisions of the law, various assets for their headquarters, for the purpose of carrying out the activity of production, commerce, social activities and for setting up spaces such as competitive economic concentrations or mini industrial parks.

(2) The associations, foundations, federations with activities in support of the mountain population, economic development and environment shall receive financial support from the state budget for their organization and functioning, as public utility bodies, in accordance with the legal provisions.

(3) The Romanian state applies special measures to farmers in the mountain area by granting bank facilities, consisting of differentiated and adapted access from the point of view of the required guarantees, the interest rates charged and the credit conditions.

(4) The creation of a Loan Program, micro-credit, especially for the mountain area, in order to ensure co-financing for accessing European or national funds.

Art. 12. - (1) Urban settlements with up to 10,000 inhabitants are part of the integrated and balanced mountain development vision.

(2) The urban settlements in the mountain area referred to in paragraph (1) shall promote balanced development and guide their economic activities towards competitiveness attributes.

(3) The Romanian State supports urban mountain development and the creation of economic and social opportunities through:

a) facilitating some sites for processing plant, animal, forest, mineral resources from the neighboring rural area;

b) supporting the entrepreneurial spirit for the establishment and development of small and medium businesses, specific to the manufacturing and service industries;

c) promotion of local consumption forms for domestic products: public alimentation, tourism and agrotourism, individual and family consumption;

d) capitalizing specific mountain resources, water and air, for health and spa services.

(4) (4) The local public administration authorities support the establishment of park-style industrial platforms for hosting companies that carry out local resource processing activities.

(5) The urban settlements in the mountain area, referred to in paragraph (1), represent the first consumer market for mountain products. The Romanian state supports financially and stimulates by appropriate measures the support of consumption by organizing local markets, hosting, with priority and free of charge, the producers who prove they are selling mountain products.

CHAPTER VI

Protection and development of the mountain environment, conservation of biodiversity

Art. 13. - (1) In order to capture and protect the water resources needed for rural and urban communities in the mountain area and its vicinity, it is necessary to encourage and support partnerships between local public authorities.

(2) The protection of habitats specific to the mountain area in order to maintain and restore biodiversity and the development of ecosystem services is mandatory for all the actors involved.

(3) The Romanian state, through the local public administration, supports the implementation of projects for the sustainable management of agricultural and forest land in the mountain area, the setting up of pastures and the transformation of poorly productive arable lands into extensive meadows to maintain biodiversity and to prevent negative impact on the environment and the landscape.

(4) The investments in the mountain area regarding energy sources and their exploitation shall be made in compliance with the provisions of the specific legislation in force regarding the environmental protection and the preservation of the natural ecosystem.

(5) This law prohibits the collection of waters, springs and brooks to use them for micro-hydroelectric plants, without first and foremost ensuring the need for water for domestic and wild animals, granting exploitation rights to those who ensure the reinvestment of profits

in projects for the development of the land's productive quality. When drawing up the documentation for the projects regarding the construction of micro-hydroelectric plants, the opinions issued by the county agricultural directorates and the county forestry departments and the administrative-territorial units are mandatory.

(6) Natural persons and legal entities governed by public or private law, associations, foundations and federations, which own and/or manage forest fund, are under an obligation to ensure the proper management thereof, in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 46/2008 - Forest Code, republished, with subsequent modifications and completions, in order to prevent/mitigate floods and torrents, mainly in areas near inhabited zones or in areas with economic objectives.

(7) The Romanian state pays damages, in a speedy manner, to the mountain population that has suffered losses as a result of damages caused by wild animals by destroying crops and/or livestock.

(8) The Romanian state provides compensation to the mountain population for the installation of effective systems for the prevention of damages caused by wild animals.

(9) Livestock owners have the obligation to respect the traditional grazing seasons in the mountain area, both ecologically and economically.

(10) For the protection of the mountain soil and, as the case may be, for the restoration of its production capacity, natural and legal persons, who own or use land with agricultural or forestry purpose, shall apply preventive and combating measures for soil degradation via:

a) preserving and supporting the development of microflora and microfauna, in order to ensure the biological balance of the soil;

b) conservation and improvement of the soil's humus content, depending on its structure, especially by the proper application of organic substances or by reducing the intensity of soil work;

c) storing manure in specially designed landfills and purine collection basins to reduce the nutrient pollution of surface and underground waters;

d) to implement this measure, NMAA offers standard projects to the applicants.

(11) In order to ensure the hay quality in the mountain area, by avoiding molds and the occurrence of aflatoxins, and to ensure the quality of the milk, the Romanian state supports animal breeders that do not have mechanized means for packing and storing the hay to construct haylofts.

(12) The Romanian state grants, by this law, financial

compensation in accordance with the provisions of the regulations in force to landowners in the mountain area, located in Natura 2000 sites, natural parks, national parks, biosphere reserves and other protected natural areas.

(13) The forms of support established by the present law, the amount of financial support and the manner of application will be established by Government decision, initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

CHAPTER VII

Education, professional training and research in the mountain area

Art. 14. - (1) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of National Education will collaborate in order to introduce a package of study subjects in secondary and vocational education which will include basic notions about the socio-economy of the mountain area.

(2) The form of organization of preschool and primary education in the mountain area will be established by methodological norms approved by Government decision.

(3) The practical training of pupils will be carried out at attested pedagogical facilities belonging to gymnasiums, based on a public-private partnership.

(4) A special program of methodical and didactic modernization of pedagogical farms in the mountain area shall be established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with 100% subsidy from the state budget. The training of selected farmers will be carried out by NMAA through centers accredited by NMAA.

(5) The Romanian state, through this law, applies incentive measures to reduce the school dropout rate in the mountain area, as follows: ensuring student transport, meals, additional allowances, counseling pupils and their parents, also involving social assistance and health services.

(6) For the groups of households with a high degree of isolation in the mountain area, special forms of itinerant education for primary education will be organized, as classes organized in close proximity to these households or as distance learning.

(7) The Romanian state encourages and supports the continuous training of adults in order for them to acquire the competences necessary for the management, development and modernization of the agricultural holdings in the mountain area by organizing, via NMAA's Center for Training and Innovation for Development in the Carpathians - CEFIDEC

Vatra Dornei and other providers of vocational training, vocational training programs tailored to the mountain specificity, in accordance with the legislation on adult vocational training, for farmers and other relevant occupational categories from Romania's mountain settlements.

(8) The staff with agriculture and rural development attributions within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and its subordinated institutions, with responsibilities in the mountain area, as well as the staff from other public institutions with decisional, executive and consultative role in terms of mountain development, participate in periodic training/specialization/improvement courses provided by NMAA, through centers accredited by NMAA, which collaborate with scientific research institutes specialized for the mountain area and higher education institutions.

(9) NMAA inventories the training needs and consults and monitors the professional training process in the mountain area.

(10) The Romanian state supports, through the present law, the development of the Romanian montanological research from the network of the "Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești" Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, of the Romanian Academy, of the specialized universities and of the national institute, in order to capitalize on the sustainable and inclusive intelligence of mountain resources: agricultural, forestry, energy, non-agricultural, health and human, by allocating funds for this purpose.

(11) The local public administration shall ensure, as a priority, the free allocation of agricultural land for experimental lots intended for research, in accordance with the provisions of the law, for school and scientific research institutions in the mountain area, at their request, if they prove that, through their activity, they contribute to the development of the mountain area.

(12) The Romanian state supports the agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine universities and other universities in Romania interested in the sustainable development of the mountain area, to introduce montanology specializations, ensuring the necessary credits for training specialists.

CHAPTER VIII

Mountain culture and heritage

Art. 15. - (1) Mountain culture represents an ensemble of elements of identity, stability, continuity of the values of the mountain civilization.

(2) The Romanian state, through the central and local public administration authorities, supports and sustains the material cultural heritage of the mountain area through special programs aimed at preserving it and capitalizing on it, as follows:

a) restoration of historical monuments and buildings with cultural, architectural and historical value;

b) improving accessibility to infrastructure destined for tourism and documentation to archaeological sites and other historical objectives;

c) supporting initiatives from the civil society and the local public administration regarding the creation of rural museums and some cultural, ethnographic, historical, memorial tourism;

d) initiation of regular actions for information, promotion and presentation of the mountain cultural heritage through: information points, fairs, festivals, “open doors” day;

e) stimulating private initiatives for the sale of craft products;

f) supporting the inventory and restoration of old rural houses in order to preserve the appearance of the mountain village.

(3) The Romanian state protects the immaterial cultural values of the mountain area through the initiatives of the local public authorities and encourages the civilian population through financial support to apply and implement special programs, which aim to:

a) stimulate local and regional initiatives for the preservation and transmission of folk crafts and traditions;

b) give development and institutional support to cultural activities in the mountain area;

c) create a digital cultural heritage library, accessible to the general public;

d) organize fairs/festivals/gatherings with local flair in mountain area settlements;

e) inventory and capitalize mountain gastronomy as an element of the immaterial heritage.

CHAPTER IX

Program to encourage activities in the mountain area

Art. 16. - (1) This Law approves the Program for the encouragement of activities in the mountain area, for which 1 billion Euro is allocated for a period of 10 years from the entry into force of this law, from the state budget, through the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

(2) The program for the encouragement of activities in the

mountain area is a sustaining source of sustainability for performance in the agricultural and non-agricultural sector.

CHAPTER X

Transitional and final provisions

Art. 17. - (1) Within 90 days of the entry into force of this law, the Government, upon proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, will approve by decision the reorganization of the Mountain Area Agency.

(2) The composition, duties and responsibilities of the Massif Committee provided for in art. 4 par. (1) and the National Mountain Council stipulated in art. 4 par. (2) shall be established, within 90 days from the date of entry into force of this law, by a Government decision, at the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, of the “Gheorghe Ionescu Şişeşti” Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, and of the Romanian Academy.

(3) The number of regional mountain development centers and mountain development offices provided for in art. 3 par. (2), the number of positions belonging to each structure, the professional structure of the positions and the attributions of the specialized personnel shall be established by a decision of the Government.

Art.18. - On the date of entry into force of this law, Mountain Law no. 347/2004, republished, in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 448 of June 30, 2009, with subsequent modifications, is repealed.

This law was adopted by the Parliament of Romania, in compliance with the provisions of art. 75 and art. 76 par. (2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

p. PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

SENATE

FLORIN IORDACHE

CALIN POPESCU-TARICEANU

MOUNTAIN MASSIFS BY MOUNTAIN GROUPS AND CORRESPONDING COUNTIES

ORIENTAL CARPATHIANS	County	MERIDIAN CARPATHIANS	County	OCCIDENTAL CARPATHIANS	County
1. Nordic Group (M. Oaş, Gutâi, Țibleș, Bârgău, Maramureșului, Rodnei, Suhard)	Maramureș Bistrița Năsăud Suceava Satu Mare	4. Bucegi Group (M. Bucegi, Leaota, Piatra Craiului)	Prahova Brașov Argeș Dâmbovița	8. Banatului and Poiana Ruscă Mountains (M. Semenic, Almăjului, Aninei, Locvei, Dognecea)	Caraș Severin Hunedoara Timiș
2. Central Group (M. Călimani, Gurghiu, Harghita, Bistriței, Rarău, Giupalău, Giurgeu, Hășmașul Mare, Ceahlău, Tarcău, Ciuc, Nemira, Stînișoarei, Goșmanu, Berzunț)	Suceava Harghita Bistrița- Năsăud Neamț Bacău Covasna Mureș	5. Făgăraș Group (M. Făgăraș, Cozia, Frunții, Ghițu, Iezer- Păpușa)	Argeș Vâlcea Dâmbovița	9. Apuseni Mountains (M. Bihor, Vlădeasa, M. Gilău, Muntele Mare, Trascău, Găina, Metaliferi, M. Crișurilor, Zărand, Codru Moma, Pădurea Craiului, Plopiș, Meseș)	Bihor Cluj Alba Arad Hunedoara Sălaj
3. South Group (M. Vrancei, Buzăului, Ciucaș, Baiului, Brețcu, Întorsura Buzăului, Piatra Mare, Postăvaru, Perșani, Baraolt, Bodoc)	Buzău Brașov Prahova Vrancea Covasna	6. Parâng Group (M. Șureanu, Parâng, Cindrel, Lotrului, Lătoriței, Căpățâni)	Alba Hunedoara Sibiu Vâlcea		
		7. Retezat Godeanu Group (M. Retezat, Godeanu, Țarcu, Muntele Mic, Cernei, Mehedinți, Vâlcan)	Hunedoara Gorj Mehedinți Caraș Severin		