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National Report: Social Farming in Romania

CPIP, Romania



National Report Romania

Social farming or **care farming** or **green care** describes those farming practices aimed at *promoting disadvantaged people’s rehabilitation and care* and/or at *integrating people with “low contractual capacity”*.

The mechanism of a social farming is rather simple (Figure 1).

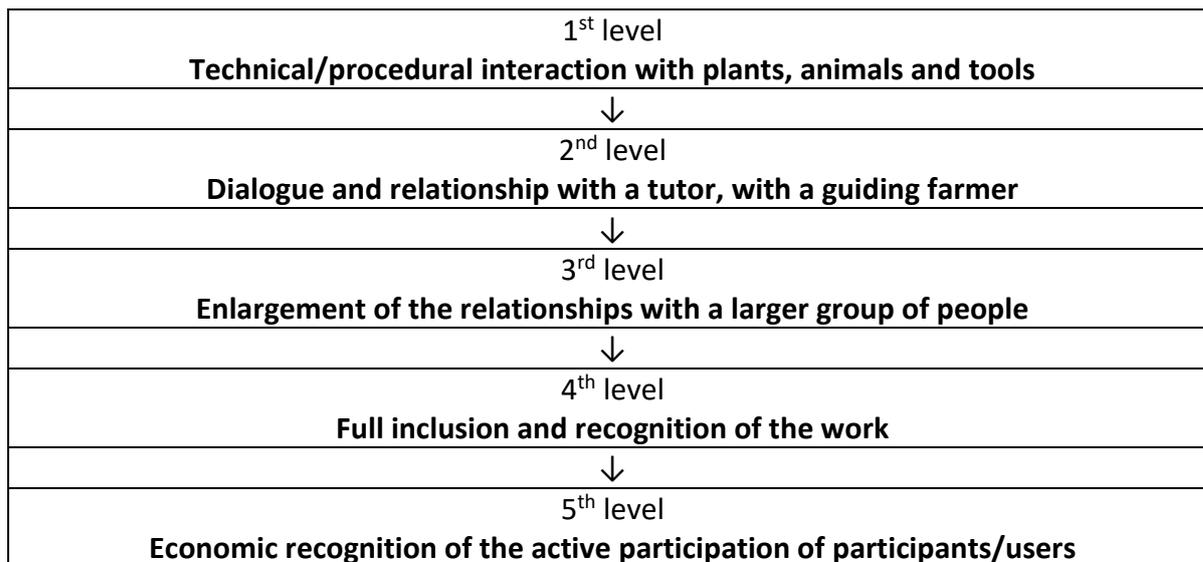


Figure 1. The five levels of the social farming route map (Source: FAO, 2015)

The **CPIP National Report on Social Farming Policy and Practice** covers five levels: *International Level*, the *EU Level*, the *National Level*, the *Regional Level*, and the *Local Level*.

1. International Level

At **International Level**, the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** aims at promoting, protecting and ensuring “the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity” based on the following principles: respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons; non-discrimination; full and effective participation and inclusion in society; respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; equality of opportunity; accessibility; equality between men and women; and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities (*Convention...*, 2006).



2. EU Level

The documents available on the site of the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** (<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/>) were posted back in 2009 and 2012. The most important of these documents is the “Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on *Social farming: green care and social and health policies*” (2012), a document acknowledging that:

- Social farming is an innovative approach that brings together two concepts: multipurpose farming and social services/health care at local level;
- Social farming has spread throughout Europe in a variety of guises that have some similarities but also numerous differences in terms of approach, how they relate to other sectors, and funding;
- A definition of social farming is needed at European level in order to identify the activities that comprise it and to define a framework and criteria – including quality criteria – that these activities must meet in order to benefit from support under the various policies;
- There is a lack of coordination between the various policies or institutions concerned since there is no EU or national regulatory framework for social farming;
- Available statistics on social farming are few and partial.
- Social farming must be underpinned by interdisciplinary research in different spheres in order to validate empirical results, analyse its impact and benefits from different perspectives (social, economic, health, individual, etc.) and ensure the dissemination of experience on the ground;
- It is crucial to put in place and bolster social farming networks in order to share lessons learned, pool experience and raise awareness;
- Particular attention should be devoted to the training of those involved – those with particular needs and benefiting from these services as well as service providers – in order to ensure a high level of quality and skills in social farming operations;
- If it is to become entrenched throughout Europe, social farming needs a conducive environment, greater civil society involvement and fruitful collaboration between different policy areas and administrations (health/social affairs, farming, employment) at European, national, regional and local levels;
- It could be useful for the European Commission to erect a permanent system bringing together all the directorates-general concerned;
- The Commission's proposals for the 2014-2020 period opened up new avenues for social farming;
- The Common Strategic Framework makes it possible to combine funds as a part of a multiple financing strategy.

Several EU countries have adopted Social Farming (and, implicitly, Animal-Assisted Therapy, Animal-Assisted Pedagogic Therapy, and Horticultural Therapy) as a multifunctional innovative strategy: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (Braastad *et al.*, 2007; Di Iacovo & O'Connor, 2009; Harbison, 2010; Brites *et al.*, 2012; Conto, Fiore & di Matteo, 2013; Krom & Dessein, 2013; Leck, 2013; Cofini, 2014; Hassink, Hulsink & Grin, 2014; Todorova & Ikova, 2014; Tulla *et al.*, 2014; Parzonko & Siczko, 2015; Hemingway, Ellis-Hill & Norton, 2016; Tulla *et al.*, 2017; Ujj, 2017; Hassink, Grin & Hulsink, 2018).



The **target groups at EU level** consist of the following (*Social Farming in Europe, 2017*):

- Asylum seekers, people who have applied for asylum, who are waiting for a residence permit or deportation, and that are aimed at integration (especially concerning language and culture) and assistance in trying to find work;
- Child care, day nursery (for children with a disability) for children from 0 to 4 and out-of-school care for children up to the age of 12;
- Elderly people suffering from dementia, people mostly older than 55 who have an indication for the spectrum of dementia;
- Elderly people, people over 55 who need support to find a meaningful way of spending their time;
- (Ex-)addicts, people who, as a result of addiction problems, have no connection with the social and working community;
- (Ex-)detainees, people who, after having committed a criminal offence, have lost their freedom and (in most cases) need support for a new chance in society;
- Immigrants;
- Long-term unemployed, people who are long-term unemployed and have no prospects of finding a job in the year to come;
- People suffering from autism, young people or grown-ups with a disorder from the autistic spectrum, either or not accompanied by other disabilities (Ferwerda-van Zonneveld, Oosting & Kijlstra, 2012);
- People with burn-out syndrome, people suffering from burn-out symptoms through work and/or private life as a result of which (full-time) work is (temporarily) impossible;
- People with disabilities, people with intellectual, mental, physical or sensory impairments with sometimes linked behavioural problems that may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (Loue, Karges & Carlton, 2014; Rotheram, McGarrol & Watkins, 2017);
- People with non-congenital brain damage, people who have sustained brain damage through an accident or disease as a result of which they experience limitations when trying to function in society;
- Young people from special education, young people attending special education because of mental limitations and/or behavioural problems;
- Youth welfare work, young people in the age-group up to 18 that receive extra care, support, guidance and such in various fields (young people in need of youth aid and young people with a light mental disability).

Care / Health / Social Farms are characterised by the following (*Social Farming in Europe, 2017*):

- They are operated by social cooperatives of work integration;
- They are operated on common ground;
- They are operated on residual land resources left in condition of abandonment;
- They employ a significant number of women;
- They integrate a large number of local outer networks;
- They practice biological production;
- They produce added high value products;
- They produce multiple products;
- They provide a sharply “open” reality to territory and local community;



- They request a lot of manual labour;
- They support connected activities (didactic-educative activities, direct sale of products, hospitality and catering industry, transformation inside the company, etc.);
- They support small-medium farming activities;
- They use eco-compatible productive techniques.

3. National Level

Back in 2014, the **National Rural Development Program (NRDP)** published a booklet on the **adaptation and implementation of social farming** (*Rețeaua Națională de Dezvoltare rurală*, 2014) in which it is seen as a way to reduce disparities between regions through the consolidation of economic, social and territorial cohesion. It is seen as playing an important role in rural development programmes by supporting the setting up of rural enterprises involved in co-therapy, social development and inclusion on the labour market, and services for disadvantaged people using agricultural resources. Thus, through cooperation between different administrative and political entities (agriculture, education, employment, health, justice, social affairs), agricultural services turn into social services: in addition to basic agricultural activities, social farms invite people from disadvantaged groups to participate in agricultural activities, and social farmers are rewarded.

According to Mihalache (2015), the main specific activities traditionally operating in the social economy are: animal husbandry, beekeeping, crafting, farming, and agri-tourism activities. These activities operate mainly in areas with greater openness to entrepreneurship and social economy. Special organic agricultural and food activities are promoted, such as daily cart or peasant basket, organically reared livestock and poultry and their products, vegetables, fruits and herbs, preserves and drinks. These also include crafts pottery, making clothing, weaving and handmade items.

At National Level:

- They adopted two important laws – **Law No. 221 from November 11, 2010** (Law for the ratification of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and **Law No. 219 from July 23, 2015** (Law regarding Social Economy);
- They adopted the national strategy “A barrier-free society for people with disabilities 2016-2020” (*HOTĂRÂRE...*, 2016);
- They developed guides to setting up social enterprises for beneficiaries of guaranteed minimum income (Stănescu *et al.*, 2013a), for persons with disabilities (Stănescu *et al.*, 2013d), for Roma people (Stănescu *et al.*, 2013b), and for young people over 18 who leave the institutionalised child protection system (Stănescu *et al.*, 2013c);
- They conducted studies on social economy developing occupations, including their growth potential in agriculture, with gender mainstreaming on the labour market (Mesogeiaiko Symvouleftiko Systema S.A. & Moldovan-Tselios, 2011);
- They established 247 LAGs in 17 counties: 18 (Alba), 19 (Argeș), 11 (Brăila), 12 (Constanța), 23 (Dâmbovița), 14 (Dolj), 13 (Galați), 14 (Gorj), 8 (Hunedoara), 24 (Iași), 4 (Ilfov), 18 (Maramureș), 8 (Neamț), 10 (Satu Mare), 14 (Sibiu), 15 (Suceava), 11 (Timiș);
- They published a brochure on **Social Farming** (*Agricultura socială: reducere disparităților dintre regiunile Europei prin consolidarea coeziunii economice, sociale și teritoriale*, 2014), but that was a unique occurrence of the term in both official and non-official approaches.



However, the current state of Social Farming in Romania should be assessed from the following points of view:

3.1. Dimension

What is to say about the number of farms taking part?

Romania has experienced the development of social farming since the end of the 20th century as a new, economically sustainable practice and experience. Though they do not use such phrases as **care farming**, **farming for health**, **green care**, **green therapies**, or **social farming**, the Romanians have unknowingly practiced **social farming** under the form of different practices or operations in the care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and training of the disadvantaged or of people with particular needs, aiming at enabling them to boost self-esteem and participation in the life of society, to contribute to their well-being, to facilitate learning, to improve health and social inclusion, to re-establish contact with the natural environment and productive activity. One last mention: **it takes place on farm-like sites**.

How is the public perception of Social Farming?

In Romania, they are familiar with **social economy**, **social entrepreneurship** and **social housing** rather than with **social farming**. However, **social farming** belongs to both **social economy** (since agriculture is a main branch of economy), **social entrepreneurship** (since entrepreneurship also belongs to agriculture) (*Studiu de caz: Asociația Village Life*, 2014), and **social housing** (because it also refers to people without homes in the rural area).

3.2. Stakeholders

What are the main institutions and organizations dealing with aspects of Social Farming?

Ideally, **social economy** relies on the following entities (Medeleanu, 2013), but only black-faced ones are operating in Romania (Nicolăescu *et al.*, 2013):

- **Authorised Protected Entities;**
- **Cooperatives;**
- **Family farms;**
- **Houses of mutual economic aid;**
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (associations and foundations);**
- **Small and Medium Enterprises.**

In January 2019, in Romania:

- There were 304 **Authorised Protected Entities**, of which none agriculture-related;
- There were 1644 **Houses of Mutual Economic Aid**, of which 6 agriculture-related;
- There were 114,363 **Non-Governmental Organisations (associations and foundations)** (<http://www.just.ro/registrul-national-ong/>):
 - Of the 92,403 NGOs labelled **associations**, only 3,860 are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related;
 - Of the 19,707 NGOs labelled **foundations**, only 880 are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related.

The **Non-Governmental Organisations** that we contacted and analysed are concerned with:



- **Associations (12):**
 - Addressing issues related to living and public spaces in 10 primarily Roma rural communities;
 - Building healthy and accessible buildings and new community centres;
 - Developing Romania's first community-based travel social enterprise;
 - Developing senses in the sensory garden;
 - Encouraging and supporting rural communities with natural and cultural potential for tourism to practice community-based, responsible tourism;
 - Exchanging knowledge in organic farming;
 - Facilitating collaboration between volunteers and host farmers;
 - Finding active citizens and developing community-based organizations;
 - Integrating children in loving families;
 - Organising annual horse-riding contests for children;
 - Organising annual international conferences on complementary therapies in children with disabilities.
 - Promoting children's rights;
 - Promoting community-supported agriculture;
 - Providing building materials;
 - Providing consultancy and training;
 - Providing cultural exchange;
 - Providing education until adulthood;
 - Providing food and accommodation to volunteers in exchange for labour;
 - Providing health care particularly to the elderly (including home visits);
 - Providing information about organic and traditional farms;
 - Providing positive examples of people who overcome their limits, and know they can live an ordinary life;
 - Reducing disaster risks and responding to disasters;
 - Repairing and rehabilitating buildings;
 - Revitalising horse-riding as a sport for children and teenagers;
 - Raising awareness on the society that we live, regarding the difficulties a person with disabilities has to face;
 - Selling produce directly from the producer;
 - Supporting art production (icons on wood and glass, souvenirs);
 - Supporting social integration of young people aged 18+ that can no longer be institutionalised and that are involved in fruit, vegetable, herbs, and Italian cheese production (fresh and matured cheeses), in preserving fruit and vegetables, and in animal breeding (cows, rabbits, chickens);
 - Supporting vulnerable families;
 - Training horses;
 - Treating children through horse-assisted therapy;
 - Treating people with special needs through horse-assisted therapy;
 - Treating children through horse and dog therapy for neuro-motor disorders (ataxia, dystonia, hemiparesis, infantile cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, muscular



hypotony, paraparesis, post-traumatic sequelae, Prader-Willi syndrome, pyramidal syndrome, spastic tetra-paresis); psycho-motor disorders (attention deficit hyperactivity syndrome, Down syndrome, psychomotor retard); psychiatric disorders (autism, autistic spectrum disorder, behavioural disorders, depression, mental retard, psychosis, schizophrenia, self-harming);

- Treating through horse-riding therapy: arthritis, autism, behavioural disorders, depression, encephalitis, hydrocephalus, polio sequelae; orthopaedic conditions (amputation, congenital hip dislocation, scoliosis); neurological disorders (cranio-cerebral trauma, Down syndrome, emotional disturbance, epilepsy, growth disorder, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, paralysis, Spina Bifida, spinal cord diseases, visual disturbance).

- **Foundations** (6):

- Building Community-Based Organisations capacity;
- Conducting instructive-educational programmes;
- Improving housing and living conditions;
- Organising summer camps for children in foster care or at risk;
- Preventing family abandonment;
- Preventing school dropout;
- Promoting children's rights to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Promoting juvenile justice;
- Promoting migrants' integration and social inclusion;
- Protecting children's rights to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Providing access to health services;
- Providing community prevention services;
- Providing education for children;
- Providing education for youth;
- Providing educational support for children with disabilities;
- Providing employment services for young people from vulnerable groups;
- Providing entrepreneurship and financial education for disadvantaged people;
- Providing family houses and children's access to hosting, care, breeding, education, emotional support, counselling, independent life skills, preparation for family, social, and professional re-integration or integration;
- Providing family placement;
- Providing lobby and advocacy for the NGO sector;
- Providing protected employment for people with disabilities;
- Providing services for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities;
- Providing special services for children and their parents;
- Providing specialised social services for people from vulnerable groups;
- Providing vocational counselling and pre-professional training;
- Supporting children in trafficking and migration situations;
- Supporting children with severe, medium, and light mental handicap;
- Supporting inclusion of Roma and other minorities communities;



- Supporting young people aged 18+ to integrate socially and professionally;
- Taking care of foundlings;
- Training foster parents;
- Training teachers;
- **Local Action Groups (9):**
 - Creating and promoting local brands and association in the agri-food sector;
 - Creating associative forms, networks and clusters, operational groups to diversify rural activities;
 - Creating support centres for rural and small urban population: starting associative organisations;
 - Developing and modernising villages;
 - Developing associative forms for the diversification of rural activities;
 - Developing non-agricultural activities;
 - Developing rural and micro-urban localities through investments in small scale infrastructure, basic services for population and investments associated to cultural and natural patrimony;
 - Developing social infrastructure;
 - Developing the micro-region through investments in infrastructure and equipment;
 - Developing the social and health infrastructure;
 - Developing villages;
 - Encouraging cooperation through association aiming at finding innovative solutions and at facilitating market access;
 - Establishing and developing farms;
 - Establishing non-agricultural activities;
 - Improving the performance of agricultural holdings;
 - Increasing access to affordable services;
 - Integrating ethnic minorities (including the Roma);
 - Integrating minorities through culture and traditions;
 - Investing in broadband infrastructure.
 - Investing in creating and developing activities;
 - Investing in infrastructure and equipment;
 - Investing in renewable energy and energy saving;
 - Investing in social and education infrastructure for marginalized groups;
 - Investing in social and health infrastructure;
 - Modernising agricultural and agri-tourism businesses;
 - Modernising agricultural and fruit holdings;
 - Preventing depopulation through job creation in non-agricultural domains;
 - Promoting associativity, innovation and transfer of knowledge;
 - Promoting innovative solutions for competitive agriculture / food industry;
 - Promoting multiethnicity;
 - Promoting social inclusion;



- Promoting sports, cultural and local activities and supporting the administrative capability of civil society;
- Providing innovative solutions for competitive agriculture;
- Providing services and renewing the GAL area;
- Renewing farmer generations through support for young farmers;
- Restoring, consolidating and promoting ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Setting up and developing businesses;
- Setting up non-agricultural activities;
- Supporting associative structures through investments in real estate;
- Supporting innovative solutions for competitive agriculture / food industry;
- Supporting small and medium farms;
- Supporting the establishment of non-agricultural activities;
- Supporting the integration and promotion of quality schemes for local products;
- Supporting young farmers;
- Transferring knowledge, training and lifelong learning.

Based on the case studies carried out on the 25 Romanian stakeholders, we can say that, of the three main **approaches in social farming** at EU level – *institutional approach* with the prevalence of health/public institutions, *private approach* based on therapeutic farms, and *mixed approach* based on social cooperatives and private farms – only the second and third seem to somehow fit social farming in Romania: the *private approach* rarely concerns therapeutic farms and the *mixed approach* concerns LAGs and private farms.

Social farming in Romania seems to be more connected with the **social and health systems** than with agriculture.

Financing of social farming in Romania relies on charity based on voluntary associations, on direct access to food markets for ethical products and direct selling, on public projects, on rural development policies to support the launch and development of social farms, and on social cooperatives.

Social farming in Romania takes a number of forms: it involves NGOs (associations, foundations, social enterprises) and privately-run farm businesses for which it provides an alternative source of income while still producing for the market **taking place on farm-like sites**. Social farming in Romania consists in activities that use agricultural resources – animal and plant – to generate social services (lifelong learning, rehabilitation, sheltered jobs, therapy) in semi-rural and rural areas

The main institutions dealing with aspects of social farming are: the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** (<http://www.madr.ro/en/>) (see <http://www.pndr.ro/en/> for the National Rural Development Programme Romania); the **Ministry of Justice** (<http://www.just.ro/>) (see <http://www.just.ro/registrul-national-ong/> for lists of organisations involved in some aspects of social farming); the **Ministry of Labour and Social Justice** (<http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/index.php/en>) (see http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/Documente/MMJS/Minister/11_09_2018_PSI_actualizat2018_aprobat.pdf for the Institutional Strategic Plan of the Ministry regarding employment); the **Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration** (<http://www.mdrap.gov.ro/>) (see <http://www.mdrap.gov.ro/lucrari-publice/pndl> for the National Programme of Local Development).



3.3. Network

How are the stakeholders linked?

The stakeholders are linked individually since there is no national database.

Is there any official network for Social Farming in the country?

No, there is no official network for Social Farming in the country.

3.4. Support

Is there any kind of state or at least public support for Social Farming activities (in general, not according to target groups)?

Yes, there is both state and public support for Social Farming activities in general (see 3.2. above).

4. Regional Level

In a Romanian context, speaking of **Regional Levels** means referring to both *development regions* and *historical regions*. Given the location of C.P.I.P., we present below the dimensions of **social farming** at both *development region (West Development Region)* and *historical region (Banat)*.

4.1. West Development Region

In January 2019, in the **West Development Region**:

- There were 28 **Authorised Protected Entities**: 8 (Arad), 1 (Caraş-Severin), 6 (Hunedoara), and 13 (Timiș);
- There were 233 **Houses of Mutual Economic Aid**: 81 (Arad), 54 (Caraş-Severin), 48 (Hunedoara), and 50 (Timiș), of which none agriculture-related;
- There were 3,649 **Non-Governmental Organisations (associations and foundations)**:
 - Of the 2,988 NGOs labelled **associations**, only 240 (57 in Arad County, 9 in Caraş-Severin County, 57 in Hunedoara County, 107 in Timiș County) are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related;
 - Of the 661 NGOs labelled **foundations**, only 50 (18 in Arad County, 2 in Caraş-Severin County, 7 in Hunedoara County, 23 in Timiș County) are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related.

The **West Development Region** covers 19 LAGs in the current counties of Arad, Bihor, Caraş-Severin, Hunedoara and Timiș distributed by **territorial structures** as follows: In Hunedoara County (cdri.hd@madr.ro): Asociația GAL CĂLUGĂRA (Caraş-Severin); Asociația GAL CARAȘ TIMIȘ (Caraş-Severin); Asociația GAL CLISURA DUNĂRII (Caraş-Severin); Asociația GAL PĂDUREA CRAIULUI (Bihor); Asociația GAL ȚARA BEIUȘULUI (Bihor); Asociația GAL ȚARA GUGULANILOR (Caraş-Severin); Asociația MICROREGIUNEA ȚARA HAȚEGULUI-ȚINUTUL PĂDURENILOR (Hunedoara); Asociația SARGETIA GAL 1 – (Hunedoara); In Timiș County (cdri.tm@madr.ro): Asociația GAL BANAT-VEST (Timiș); Asociația GAL



BANATUL DE NORD (Timiș); Asociația GAL COLINELE RECAȘ (Timiș); Asociația GAL DEPRESIUNEA SEBIȘ-GURAHONȚ-HĂLMAGIU (Arad); Asociația GAL LUNCA MUREȘULUI DE JOS (Arad); Asociația GAL PODGORIA MINIȘ MADERAT (Arad); Asociația GAL TIMIȘ TORONTAL BÎRZAVA (Timiș); Asociația GAL TIMIȘUL DE CENTRU (Timiș); Asociația GAL TRIPLEX CONFINIUM (Timiș); Asociația MICROREGIONALĂ ȚARA FĂGETULUI (Timiș); Asociația MICROREGIUNEA VĂILOR CRIȘURILOR ALB ȘI NEGRU (Arad).

4.2. Banat

In January 2019, in **Banat**:

- There were 14 **Authorised Protected Entities**: 1 (Caraș-Severin) and 13 (Timiș);
- There were 104 **Houses of Mutual Economic Aid**: 54 (Caraș-Severin) and 50 (Timiș), of which none agriculture-related;
- There were 2,859 **Non-Governmental Organisations (associations and foundations)**:
 - Of the 2,529 NGOs labelled *associations*, only 97 (1 in Caraș-Severin County and 96 in Timiș County) are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related;
 - Of the 330 NGOs labelled *foundations*, only 25 (2 in Caraș-Severin County and 23 in Timiș County) are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related.

The historical **Region of Banat** covers the current counties of **Timiș** (11 LAGs) and **Caraș-Severin** (1 LAG) (<http://www.agal.ro>).

5. Local (County) Level

In January 2019, in **Timiș County**:

- There were 13 **Authorised Protected Entities**;
- There were 50 **Houses of Mutual Economic Aid**, of which none agriculture-related;
- There were 795 **Non-Governmental Organisations (associations and foundations)**:
 - Of the 718 NGOs labelled *associations*, only 100 are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related;
 - Of the 81 NGOs labelled *foundations*, only 23 are related to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged people, but none of them social-farming related.

At **Local Level**, there are 4 **LAGs** (<http://www.agal.ro/judet-timis>) in the Timiș County alone (without the associations with Arad County): Asociația Microregională Țara Făgetului; GAL Banatul de Nord; GAL Banat-Vest; GAL Triplex Confinium.

Conclusions

The answers to the questions in the SoEngage Questionnaire & Report template are:

- **What is to say about the number of farms taking part?** – Social farms are almost inexistent, except for 2-3 cases.
- **How is the public perception of Social Farming?** – The public has never heard about Social Farming: HOWEVER, NUMEROUS ORGANISATIONS PRACTICE **SOME KIND OF SOCIAL FARMING** UNKNOWINGLY.



- **What are the main institutions and organizations dealing with aspects of Social Farming?** – Authorised Protected Entities, Cooperatives, Family Farms, Houses of mutual economic aid, Non-Governmental Organisations (associations, foundations, local action groups).
- **How are the stakeholders linked?** – Individually, since there is no national database.
- **Is there any official network for Social Farming in the country?** – No.
- **Is there any kind of state or at least public support for Social Farming activities (in general, not according to target groups)?** – Yes, according to legislation.

In conclusion, **social farming in Romania** needs:

- Recognition at national level;
- Establishment of a social farming regulatory framework;
- Building up of social farming networks;
- Creation of a social farming database;
- Inclusion in education programmes;
- Inclusion in research programmes;
- Inclusion in the sustainable development strategy;
- Strengthening of the role of civil society.

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