

Covasna County (Romania)



We love functional food!

KEY FIGURES AGRIFOOD REGION

- The Central Region is situated in the central area of Romania, within the great curves of the Carpathian Mountains, on the upper and middle courses of Mures and Olt. Natural resources are diverse and include important reserves of natural gas, salt, non-ferrous metals, building materials (basalt, andesite, marble, travertine), small coal deposits and many mineral water springs
- The agricultural area of the Center Region is 1909 thousand hectares representing 55.5% of the the total area of the region and 13% of the agricultural area of Romania
- Total number of agrifood firms in this region: 2775 with >21.000 employees and a total production volume of 3,2 mln.
- Main agricultural products: dairy and meat.



THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- Cluster Consortium 6 "TRANSYLVANIA"** in the Central Region, currently has 21 main clusters areas of activity being: tourism and health care, food industry and agriculture, renewable energy, creative industry, wood and furniture industry, textiles and textiles clothing, aerospace, mechatronics, electrotechnical industry, manufacturing
- An important place within industrial structures have industrial parks, in the Central Region operating **11 industrial food parks** as supporting business structures.
- In the context of the intelligent specialization of the Center Region, the development or creation of new one's niches is essential, and this can be achieved through an inter- and transsector.
- Keyplayers and cooperations in agrifood:
 - Dairy:** HOCHLAND ROMANIA SRL, COVALACT, ALBALACT
 - Meat:** SCANDIA FOOD SRL and AVICOD
- Local action groups GAL: meal, agricultural, food**
- AgroFood Cluster Covasna**
- AgroFood Tara Barsei**
- Camera de Comerț și Industrie Sibiu**
- Angustia Gal**

Targeted policy instrument

The National Spatial Development Strategy of Romania along with the Structural Fund Regulations define the main policy principles and operative actions of integrated territorial development in Romania. The Structural Fund resources serving regional development are allocated via the Regional Operational Programme (POR) for 2014-2020.

The relevant OP related PI for Covasna County is the Central Region Development Strategy for 2014 – 2020. Within the six priorities Priority 2 aims to Increase economic competitiveness, stimulate research and innovation. Measure 2.2 deals is most relevant for food innovation and clusterization: Expansion and diversification of regional and local infrastructure, business clusters and networks for economic cooperation. This is intended to be implemented through projects for construction and development of industrial, technology, agroindustrial parks and technology transfer and business incubator centers, cluster development, and projects to improve the economic performance of firms. Funding for the 2nd priority represents only 2,95% of the overall regional budget frame, being the smallest among the priorities.

The region primarily aims to make the innovative organizations in food sector more prepared and cohesive and properly backed by innovation infrastructure. The targeted OP does not respond to this need soundly. The use of funding should be more fitted to the conditions prevailing in Romania so that more stakeholders can benefit from SFs.

Engines for Change!

STRING topic	Learning needs	Good practices
1. Food industry innovation ecosystem frames (open labs, technopoles etc.)	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and by encouraging the creation of new businesses, including through business incubators.	
2. Cross-sectoral cooperation able to favour cross fertilisation especially with High Tech and Health Sectors		Europe first gluten-free fibres enriched natural mineral water developed by cooperation. Formation of the Transylvania Cluster Consortium in the Central Region of Romania.
3. Promote added value by linking innovation and production to real consumer needs by improving the commercialisation of R+D outputs and stimulate a demand driven instead of supply driven production	Investments for SME's to implement a research-innovation outcome from the partnership with a technology transfer institute. Measures are not specified for the agri-food sector, but Agri-food is one of the main topics of the RIS3. There is a need for the improvement of the legislation. There is no priority support for the added value production SMEs. (traditional, bio-, functional, etc)	Healthy Vibes – new mentality
4. Integration of SMEs in clusters and intercluster cooperation between the participating food regions	There is a lack of cooperation practice between the stakeholders.	



Research & Innovation

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