

## **AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL PAYMENTS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR SETTING IN PRACTICE OF PASTURES' MULTIFUNCTIONALITY CONCEPT IN ROMANIA**

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### **SUMMARY**

In Romania the agricultural land represents approximately 14.741,2 thousand hectares from the landed fund surface. Among the main utilization's categories of agricultural land in our country, can be mentioned: arable land (63,9%), pastures (22,8%) and hay lands (10,2%). Pastures can play an important role as forage source for animals, as sinks for biodiversity conservation, for traditional landscapes conservation and for atmospheric carbon storage. The diversity of species, habitats and the variety of traditional rural landscapes existing in the pastures from our country's territory are due to both its geographical position and to the existence of three great relief forms but not in the last turn to the extensive system of agriculture, practiced in Romania. On the other hand, agricultural activities abandonment, inadequate agricultural practices and the decrease of livestock influence in a negative way the biodiversity and determine the apparition and the emphasis of pastures' degradation phenomena (apparition of some invasive species, soil erosion).

In the frame of Rural Development National Program 2007-2013, starting with 2007, Romania puts in practice Single Area Payment Scheme, which is available for all categories of agricultural land. This will contribute to the practice of a competitive, sustainable and marketable agriculture, through the observance of cross-compliance conditions (maintenance of agricultural land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions - GAEC). Environmental conditions are actions which are supported through more measures in the frame of II Axis – The improvement of environment and rural space – pillar II of Commune Agricultural Policy. Among these measures, financed through European Agricultural Fond for Rural Development (EAFRD), it can be mentioned the Measure 214 “Agro-environmental payments”, special orientated on pastures through Sub-measure 2 – Extensive Management of pastures, which includes 5 packets. Farmers' knowledge of 214 Measure and subscription of one or more engagements for one or more packets assure the setting in practice, in Romania too, of pastures' multifunctionality concept with all its advantages: economic, social and environmental, toward we all tend, farmers and society.

### **Bibliography**

\*\*\* Rural Development National Program 2007-2013