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RESEARCH REGARDING TRADITIONAL AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS FROM THE BANAT MOUNTAINS

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Abstract: *In this paper we aim to present the possibilities of knowledge and extension of the production of some traditional products in the households of two areas in the South of Mountainous Banat - the Danube Plain and the Almăj Valley - and their economic effects on rural tourism in these areas.*

• Introduction

The Romanian rural economy in general, and rural tourism - an important component of sustainable rural development - in particular, have been confronted in the last three decades with the strongest international economic and social trends of globalisation and standardisation, by taking over and generalising agricultural, food and gastronomic practices, procedures and processes laid down in European framework regulations. Due to the unprecedented increase in the speed of movement of information, people and capital, this phenomenon, generically referred to as globalisation, has had and continues to have a number of positive economic, social and cultural aspects, the effects of which cannot be disputed. Parallel to the phenomenon of globalisation, standardisation, phenomena opposite to globalisation and standardisation have also emerged in many countries, regions, areas and communities, areas of economic and social-cultural activities, tendencies of return, promotion and expansion of traditional, identity-based activities. This phenomenon has become increasingly evident in the last two or three decades in European countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Austria and, more recently, in the Eastern European countries that joined the EU after 2005 and 2007.

• Material and method

Phasellus semper efficitur sapien, vitae eleifend tellus tristique vitae. Pellentesque vitae elit nec sapien molestie fermentum. Nulla pharetra augue vel eleifend iaculis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas The traditional products we present are fig jam and fig brandy in the Danube Plain and plum brandy, prunes and plum jam in the Almăj Valley, and are obtained from the raw material - the fruit - from two fruit species

• Results and discussions

The plum trees grown in the Patriarchal Almshouse (but also in part today) belong to four local populations: **summer aubergine**, very productive, juicy, with a high sugar content, specific to the production of țuja (grape brandy), **summer yellow** (cork tree or boboloașă) for țuja (but of poorer quality), **autumn aubergine**, with a higher consistency, the flesh of which separates from the stone (bone) when ripe, suitable for jam, jam, prunes and liqueurs, and **round autumn yellow** for liqueurs.

• Conclusions

The price of agricultural products obtained and consumed in the agri-tourism guesthouse (farm) does not include commercial additions, VAT, excise duties, transport, storage and preservation costs, etc. Meat, meat products, eggs, cheese, milk, butter, jams, jam, jam, prunes, pickles, mushrooms, teas, wine, brandy, sour cherries, blueberries, etc., prepared according to traditional processing methods, are delivered from the agri-tourism farms' own production directly to the table of the rural tourist consumer. On the other hand, rural tourism services (accommodation, services, etc.) do not incur indirect additional costs (royalties, commissions, etc.) which make the price of the agri-tourism product much lower than the price of the urban tourism product



Figure 1. Delimitation of the mountain area under investigation in Caras-Severin county and Mehedinți county



Figure 2. Fig genotypes in the Danube Belt