



**Laboratorul de Solidaritate** is a non-profit association, established in Romania in 2013 grouping researchers and experts in social economy, social enterprises and cooperatives. It conducts various activities of applied research, consulting & training, project management, stakeholder engagement and consultation, and network development & facilitation for social enterprises & coops, work integration social enterprises, credit unions, cooperatives, commons, agriculture & forestry coops, local development & rural development participatory planning and strategy development.

Since 2018 Laboratorul de Solidaritate is member for Romania of the International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC International).

#### **Main projects**

- **SOCEC – 2014-2015 Local development through social economy, green enterprises in 3 villages on Danube banks** - Ecotourism – Camping facilities, accomodation in wooden cabins, fishing contests, to combat ilegal fishing and promote environmental management of river banks, composting and fishing baits, building and civil works

*Partner:* County Council Calarasi

- **FinCare 2017-2019** - combatting financial exclusion and over indebttness through financial education provided by credit unions, develop competences of credit union staff as educators' for effective teaching of numeracy/financial decision making and improving member participation in management of cooperative enterprises - improved governance of social finance institutions

*Partners:* National Union of Credit Unions in Romania, Liverpool John Moores University, The Co-operative Family Credit Union, Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione

- **Agricoop 2019-2021** - developing curricula for Higher Education on cooperative business models in the agriculture sector and promoting excellence in teaching and skills development of academics from the participating HEI in the field of cooperative business models in the agri-business sector and exchange of good practices in new and innovative pedagogies of the related topics.

*Partners:* University of Agricultural Sciences Bucharest – Romania, University of Almeria, Spain Coexphal Chair on Agricultural, Cooperative Studies in Sustainable Development, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany - Raiffeisen Chair "Economics of Agricultural Cooperatives"

#### **ALS hosts the ROMANIAN MOUNTAIN COMMONS PROJECT**

Unprecedented research - database including 329 surveyed cases of commons (20% of the existing 1 500 forest and pasture commons in the Romanian Carpathian Mountains and along the foothills,

873.000 ha of forest, 14% of the total forested surface of the country) accounting for nearly 1/2 of the forests and nearly 1/3 of the surface of pasture owned by the commons.

A project of the Sociology Institute of the Romanian Academy in cooperation with ALS 2017-2019

<http://www.solidaritate.eu/index.php/obstale-si-composesoratele-romanesti/>

ALS manages the Facebook Group on social economy in Romania <https://www.facebook.com/groups/intreprinderi.sociale/> – having over 1,500 members of which 1,100 active members.

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