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## 2<sup>nd</sup> NEWSLETTER

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LOC Food-Local Development and Cross Border Cooperation  
In the area of Agricultural Products and traditional Food

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## LOC-FOOD project

Welcome to the second LOC-FOOD project newsletter. If you missed the first one, which describes the project and the partners, it is available from [www.locfood.eu](http://www.locfood.eu). Here we present summary reports from Romania and Moldova on the market for traditional foods and the current state of the agri-food sector in those countries, including a brief description of Moldova's changing relationship with the European Union. We report on the major project activities – the scientific conference, two international food festivals in Bulgaria and Romania and training days for local government staff held in Greece. Lastly, we present an analysis of a Eurobarometer survey on consumer food choices with particular reference to the EU member states that are participating in the LOC-FOOD project.



### Reports on the current market situation for agricultural products

One of the deliverables at the start of the project was for each country to prepare a report on the current market situation for traditional products. In the first newsletter we presented a summary of the Greek report. In this newsletter we present summaries from Romania and Moldova.

## Romania



The way of the nations depends on the way they know how to eat.”

[Bacalbaşa C., Dictatura gastronomică, 1935]

Romania is a country with a large agricultural sector that has a long history. There are documents that mention that our ancestors the Getae and then the Dacians cultivated millet, wheat, barley (for brewing), pumpkins, peas, onions, lentils and garlic, a species of wild garlic - leurda (*Allium ursinum*) and herbs such as thyme, dill, majoram and sage. The pastoral economy ensured the production of milk, butter, cheese and meat. These activities continued throughout the Middle Ages and into the modern era. In the fifth century Herodotus mentioned that "the lands north of the Danube are littered with bees and no one can pass by." Honey is another product characteristic of the area.

The vineyards covered large areas and the Dacians were known as masters of wine. All these productive activities have been preserved over time, they have been passed from one generation to another, and continue delighting the taste buds of gourmets even today.

In the SE area of Romania, all these crops are found on larger or smaller farms, as well as herds of animals with unique breeds. Buzău - Vrancea area has beautiful hills (Istrița) ideal for growing grapes and wine production, while the Galați - Brăila area is known for milk, cheeses, and traditional meat dishes. The Dobrogea area with Tulcea - Constanța is located at a intersection of Romanian, Greek, Turkish, and Russian cultures.

Romania, one of the largest Balkan countries, is located on the shores of the Black Sea and has as neighbours Ukraine in the north, Bulgaria with which it borders along the Danube in the south and the Republic of Moldova in the east. There are common traditions with Greece, since ancient times when colonies (apoikiai) and commercial settlements (emporía) were established in Dobrogea.

Romania has a population of around 19 million and a population density of around 80 people per square kilometre, which is below the EU average of 110 people / km<sup>2</sup> but not exceptionally low. It is notable however that Romania has by far the largest number of farms of all the EU countries: 3.4 million, roughly the same number as the next three countries - Poland, Italy and Spain - combined (data from Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/> ).



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# Romania

Since 2014, products declared as ‘traditional’ must meet the requirements imposed by the joint order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Health and National Consumer Protection Authority regarding the attestation of the traditional products (2013). Up until 2014 there was a permissive legislation which allowed easy registration for more than 4000 products, many of which were registered by industrial producers. After the changes to legislation, the rules became stricter, the control procedures more severe, and after October 2014 almost 90% of the products declared as traditional did not receive the necessary certification.

The evolution of traditional products registered annually at MARD in the National Registry of Traditional Products is presented in figure no. 1.

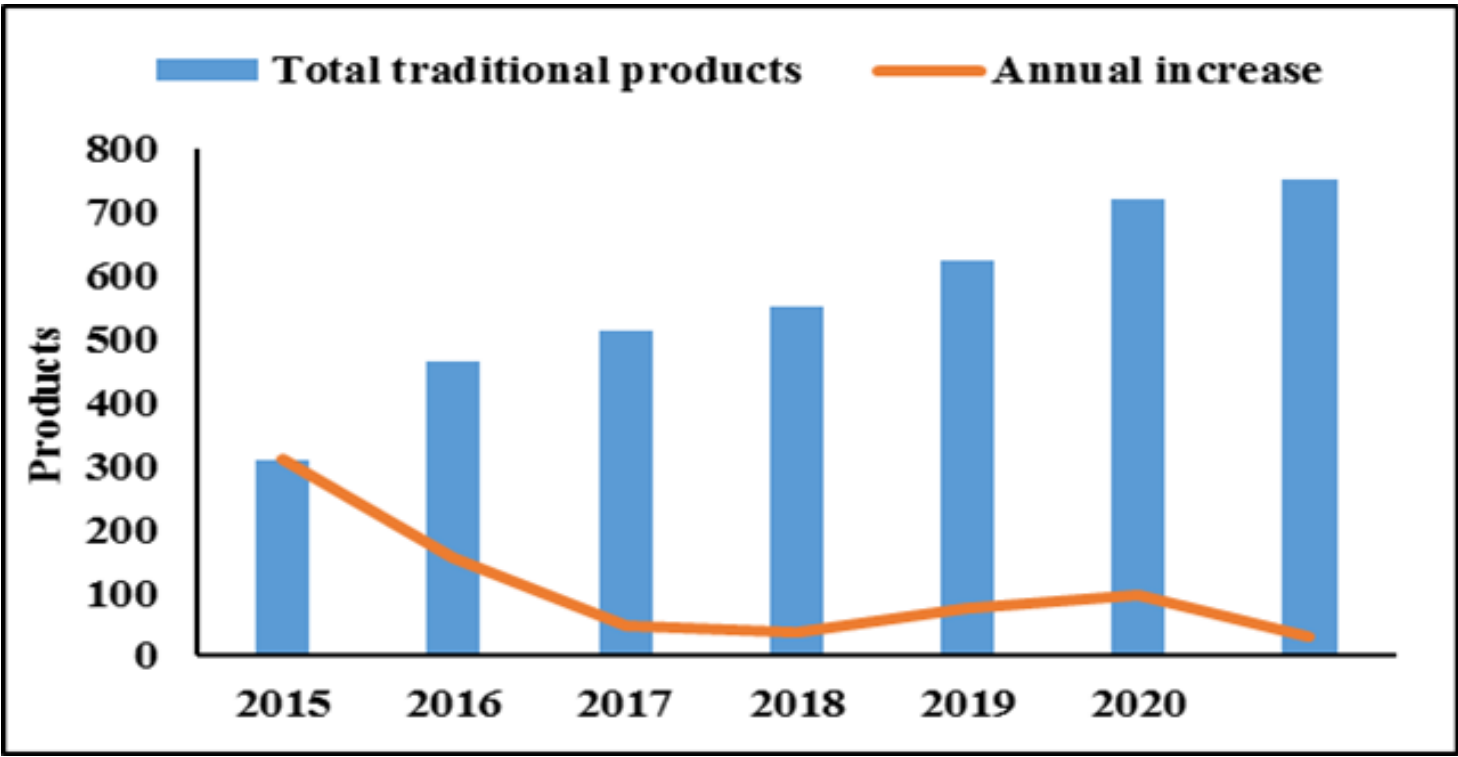


Figure no. 1. Products in the National Registry of Traditional Products  
Source: Author, data from MARD, 2020

# Romania

The distribution of the registrations of traditional products between 2014-2020 in NRTP, in development regions of Romania, is presented in figure no. 2.

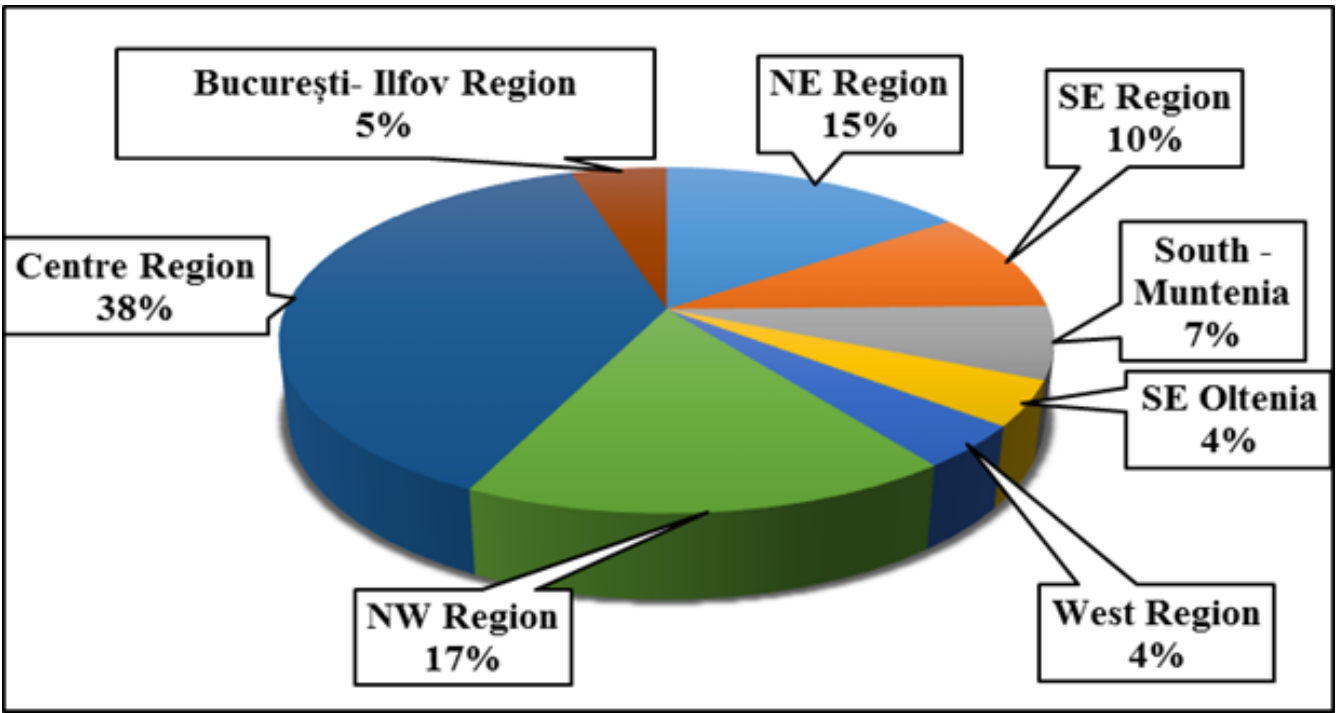


Figure no. 2. Products registered in NRTP by regions (2014-2020)  
Source: Author, by using MARD, 2020d





## Romania

In Table 1 the EU certified products in Romania are presented. Numbers 8-10 are from the South-East area that is included in the LOC-FOOD project.

Table no. 1. Certified traditional products, in Romania (2014-2020)

No.	Product	Category	Product code	Type
1.	Salam de Sibiu (Sibiu salami)	1.2 Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)	PGI-RO-01280	PGI
2.	Cârnați de Pleșcoi (Plescoi sausages)	1.2 Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)	PGI-RO-02174	PGI
3.	Telemea de Ibănești (Ibanesti Feta)	1.3 Cheeses	PDO-RO-01182	PDO
4.	Telemea de Sibiu (Sibiu Feta)	1.3 Cheeses	PGI-RO-02473	PGI
5.	Cașcaval de Săveni (Saveni cheese)	1.3 Cheeses	PGI-RO-02361	PGI
6.	Magiun de prune Topoloveni (Topoloveni plum jam)	1.6 Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed	PGI-RO-0763	PGI
7.	Novac afumat din Țara Bârsei (Smoked Bighead carp from Barsa Country)	1.7 Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom	PGI-RO-01183	PGI
8.	Scrumbie de Dunăre afumată (Smoked Danube mackerel)	1.7 Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom	PGI-RO-02234	PGI
9.	Salată tradițională cu icre de crap (Traditional carp roe salad)	1.7 Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom	TSG-RO-2457	TSG
10.	Salată cu icre de știucă de Tulcea (Tulcea Pickerel roe salad)	1.7 Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom	PGI-RO-02476	PGI
11.	Plăcintă dobrogeană (Cheese pie Dobrogeana style)	2.3 Bread, pastry, cakes, confectionery, biscuits and other baker's wares	PGI-RO-02510	PGI

Source: Authors, by using EC, 2021

The traditional products may represent business opportunities for the local producers, but there is a need for financial support and legal advice from specialized government agencies. For preliminary identification and promotion there is a need for viable strategies, for a real and well-rounded plan for each region at national and EU level.

The above information was provided by Partner 3, Dunărea de Jos University, with minor edits.



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## Moldova



The Republic of Moldova is located between Romania and Ukraine. It is a landlocked country, although it has a port on the River Danube that gives it indirect access to the Black Sea. The population is around 3.3 million, and the population density is around 85 people per square kilometer, slightly higher than that of its neighbor Romania.

The study on the agri-food sector in Moldova was divided into three main sections. Initially, a comprehensive analysis of the national legislation relating to the sector and the way of regulating the procedures related to the conversion to organic farming was presented. The national strategic documents that create the general framework for the functioning of organic farms and the production of organic agri-food products are also examined. Some topics more specific to the study were addressed, such as protected geographical indications (PGI), protected designations of origin (PDO), and traditional specialties guaranteed (TSG), which have a well-defined legislative field. Also in this context, we analyzed the legislative documents on the subsidy mechanisms in the field of agriculture and rural development, including those for obtaining geographical certification.

In the second part, the study provides information on the physical and demographic aspect of the project area (in this case the whole of the Republic of Moldova) and the state of the food production system. These materials present the current state of organic farming and organic agri-food, the level of preparation of the state and agricultural entrepreneurs as the economic branch of the Republic of Moldova to change the approach of the sector.

Most of the country is a moderate hilly plateau, intersected by many springs and rivers, with an average altitude of 200 m and a maximum of 250 m, divided into the Balti steppe and the middle Prut valley. The landscape of the Republic of Moldova is diverse, conditioned by a variety of natural factors (geological, orographic, climatic, edaphic, hydrographic, etc.). Due to its position and physical-geographical conditions, two primary natural areas are present - forest-steppe and steppe, which include 5 landscape regions. Three agro-climatic zones are recognized: North, Center and South.

The territory of the country has over time been recognized for its fertile lands and agriculture is the backbone of its economy. Black soils (chernozems) in Moldova are among the most fertile soils in the world. Arable land accounts for about 74% of the total agricultural land area, with an area of 3,4 million ha, the highest percentage in Europe.

After independence and as a result of land reform in the 1990s, the structure of agricultural land use changed. Following privatization, a large part of the agricultural land is made up of small individual agricultural plots. Around 1 million agricultural landowners had an average area of 1.4 ha, subdivided into lots separated by type of land (arable, orchard, animals). In many cases, the efficient use of these plots is not possible. The production of traditional crops such as cereals, sunflower or sugar beet depends on the scale of production and the level of mechanization and can therefore only be carried out in agricultural work on larger fields.

In terms of production volume, households and small farms (less than 10 ha) produce 72% of total agricultural production and 80% of all horticultural products, defined as high value agricultural products, classified into three main groups: (i) Vegetables, including fresh / chilled vegetables, frozen and dried; (ii) Fruit and nuts, including fresh / chilled, frozen and dried fruit, and; (iii) Processed fruit and vegetable products, including fruit and vegetable juices and preserves.

The agri-food sector in the Republic of Moldova is one of the basic branches of the national economy. The main branches of regional specialization are: wine making, sugar, canned fruits and vegetables, natural juices, essential oils, etc.

Wine is the most exported agri-food product in the Republic of Moldova, which in 2022 ranks 21st in the world in terms of wine production and export indicators. Wine tourism is also promoted as a cultural activity for visitors to the country (<https://wineofmoldova.com/en/wine-tourism/>). Exports of honey, nuts and cereals are also significant.



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## Moldova

The third part of the study gives answers to the question about the level of preparation of the Republic of Moldova and its experience in organic farming for traditional products and agri-food production and involvement in the registration process for PDO, PGI and TSG. It is an important topic that reflects the country's adaptability and potential for competing on quality with EU countries. From 2019 the Republic of Moldova began promoting 'baskets' of Moldovan organic products abroad. The Eco Moldova basket has already been exhibited in 34 diplomatic missions abroad and 6 local partners (MEI, MAFI, USAID, EU Delegation, GIZ, State Chancellery). In this way, domestic producers of traditional eco-friendly products will be more easily targeted by consumers abroad and will be able to establish partnerships with representatives from these countries.

Agreement concluded between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union provides for the mutual recognition and protection of both European GI products on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Moldovan products on the territory of EU member states. However, at the time of the conclusion of this Agreement (2014) there were no Moldovan agricultural and food products in this list, only wines, spirits and aromatized wines, in particular the wines Ciumai and Românești.

At the moment, the State Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) manages the registration of PDO, PGI and TSG products. As of 2020 we have registered at AGEPI products in 4 categories:

- Drinks (7 products);
- Vegetables and fruits (5 products);
- Dairy products (3 products);
- Bee products (1 product).

These include Ciumai and Românești wines, which were the first to be included in the list of wines from the Republic of Moldova, which are protected in the EU.

The most visible progress in promoting designations of origin and geographical indications is in the field of viticulture. Two Designations of Origin "Ciumai" and "Românești" are already protected on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and the EU; five Geographical indications were registered by AGEPI (three geographical indications "Codru", "Ștefan Vodă" and "Valul lui Traian" - for wines, and a new geographical indication "Divin" - for aged wine brandy, which is being worked on in order to ensure the protection on the territory of the EU and the PGI "Rachiu de caise de Nimoreni". In the category of dairy products we have registered PDO "Brânza de Popeasca" and PGI "Brânză de Măgura" (the last one being made with the support of the UE SARDPI project). In the category of vegetables and fruits the registered products are PGI "Dulceață din petale de trandafir CĂLĂRAȘI", PGI herbal infusions "Zabriceni", PGI "Prune Deosebite de Lalova" and TSG "Prune umplute cu miez de nucă", PGI "Pistil din Valea Răutului" (also made with the support of the UE SARDPI project), PDO "Agrișe de Marinici". From bee products we have only one protected product - PGI "Miere din Codrii Moldovei" (UE SARDPI project).

We reiterate that all these products were registered by AGEPI between 2013 and 2020, in some cases with support from an EU-funded project. Another 114 products have been identified as candidates for obtaining PGI, PDO, or TSG.



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Moldova

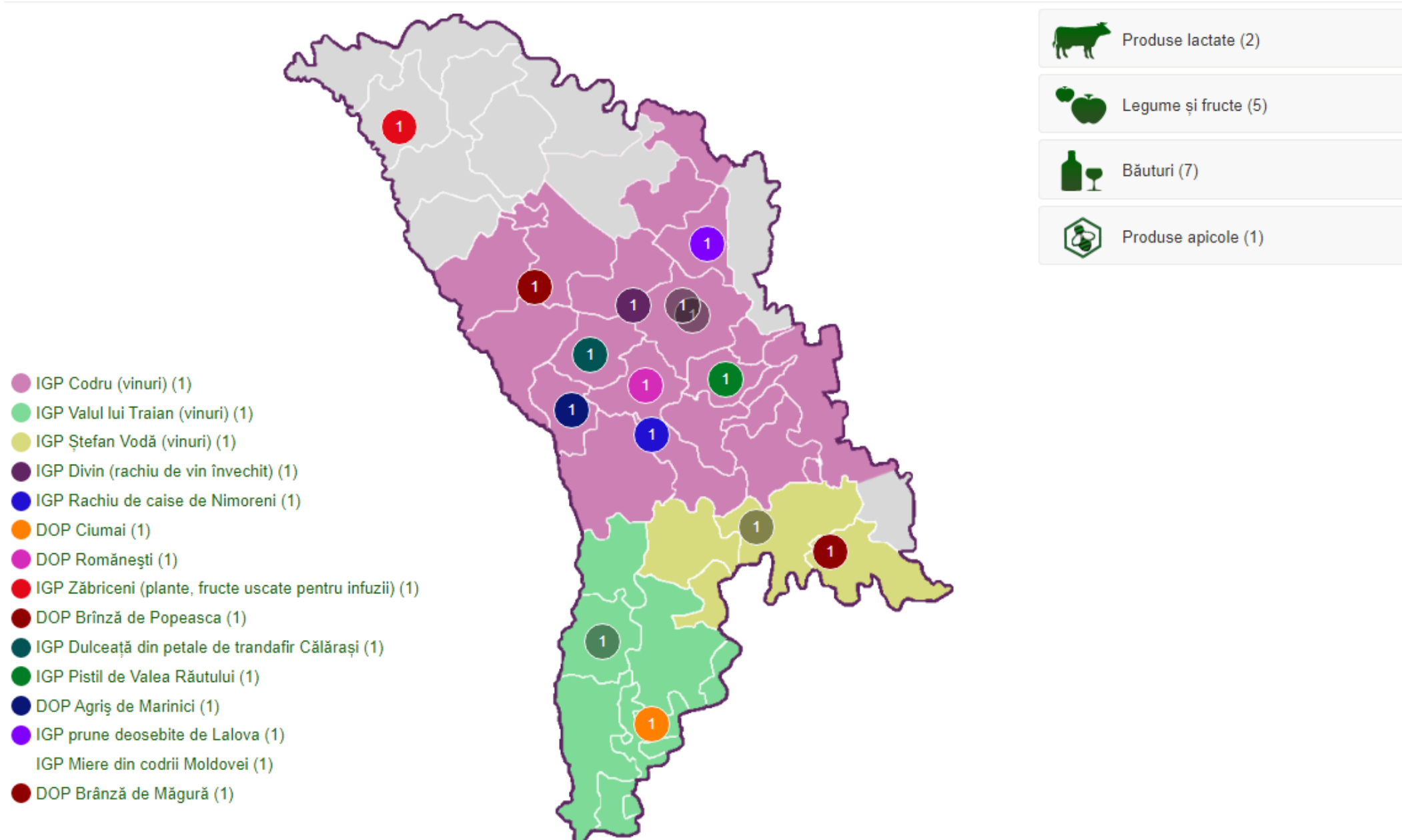


Figure 1: Map of geographical indications and designations of origin protected in the Republic of Moldova

Following the study, the challenges facing traditional foods were highlighted, as well as the future prospects of the traditional food sector in the Republic of Moldova. The importance of gastronomic tourism as a driving force for promoting traditional food was emphasized. Hospitality, traditions and culinary habits are the basis for the development of this form of tourism. The gustatory qualities and the specificity of the dishes can serve as an important motivation for the tourists who aim to feed themselves with selected dishes characteristic of the area they are visiting. Gastronomic tourism can be greatly boosted if it operates in coordination with wine tourism, which is somewhat better established. In this way a complete gastronomic package can be offered to visitors. The gastro-cultural circuit as part of an experience trip is on the third place in the top of the occupational preferences of the tourists after light adventure tourism and rural tourism (with accommodation) for which the tourists spend the most on average. It is necessary for the state to actively promote both domestic and foreign tourism in order to increase visitor numbers and facilitate the promotion of gastronomic traditions.

Overall, a positive trend can be seen in the improving practices in the field of agriculture and the organic agri-food industry, the adjustment of national legislation to the provisions of the Association Agreement with the EU, and the increase in the number of products registered at national level as PDO, PGI or TSG. The increase of quotas for export of agricultural products from the Republic of Moldova on the EU market will continue to stimulate the increase of product quality and the conversion of agricultural lands from conventional to organic, as they used to be in the first half of the 20th century.



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## Moldova

At the same time, educating the local consumer and increasing the importance of gastronomic tourism and maintaining the importance of wine tourism will greatly increase the importance of organic products, products registered as BIO and with geographical indications or protected designations of origin. The possibility of registering traditional dishes and processed products as Traditional Specialties Guaranteed will stimulate the process of revival and preservation of the original traditional recipes. And the implementation of the LOC-FOOD project on the territory of the Republic of Moldova allowed the establishment of another list of over 300 local producers and products that also deserve to be protected and promoted as local traditional products. At the moment, with the support of the B4 Association of Tourism Development in Moldova team, the registration process of 3-5 Guaranteed Traditional Specialties for the Lower Dniester tourist area is underway.

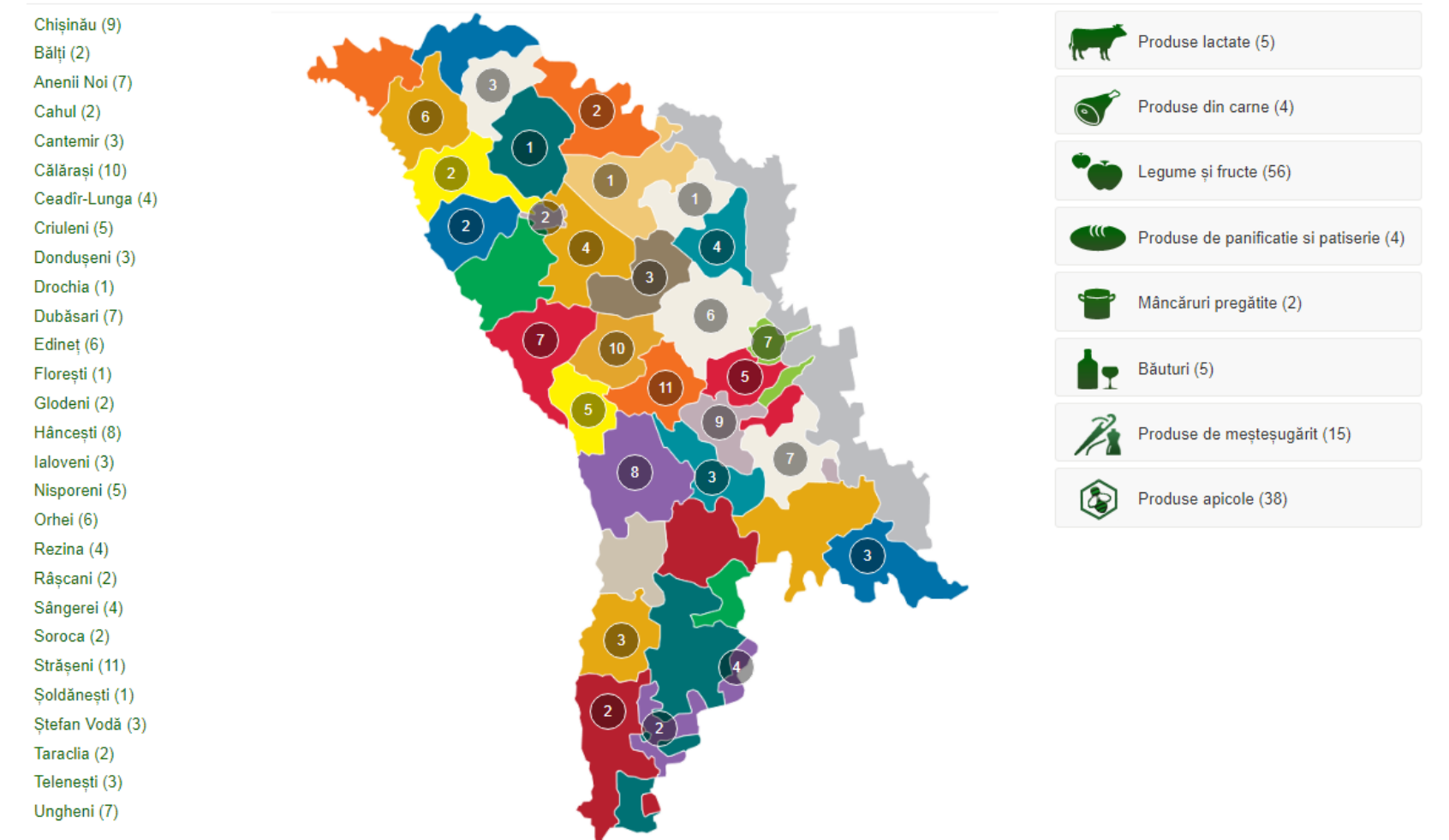


Figure 2. 2. Map of potential geographical indications and protected designations of origin in the Republic of Moldova: Products listed by the LOC-FOOD producer survey.

The above information was provided by Partner 4, Association of Tourism Development in Moldova, with minor edits.□



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## Moldova and the European Union

The Republic of Moldova is not a member state of the European Union. However it has close formal ties to the EU via the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement that has been in force since 2016. This allows tariff-free trade with the EU for almost all agricultural (and other) goods. Seven products are still subject to tariff rate quotas (i.e. tariffs are imposed on imports once a certain tonnage has been exceeded): Tomatoes, garlic, table grapes, apples, fresh cherries, plums and grape juice. The EU is an important trading partner for Moldovan agricultural goods, but a significant percentage of production was until recently exported to the countries of the former Soviet Union, notably Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. This trade has been severely disrupted by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions imposed on Russia. To show solidarity and to help support the Moldovan agri-food sector, the EU has proposed a large temporary increase of the tariff-free quotas on the seven products listed above in order to increase the ability of Moldovan producers to export their products.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, said: “Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression is not only severely affecting the economy of Ukraine, but also that of its and our neighbours, in this case Moldova. Today's decision, more than doubling seven quotas for key Moldovan agricultural exports, is a tangible sign of EU solidarity.” European Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, Valdis Dombrovskis, said: “Moldova's ability to trade with the world has been dealt a severe blow by Russia's brutal and illegal war. By facilitating market access for key agricultural products, the EU is helping Moldova to redirect affected trade. This will directly help Moldovan producers, supporting the country's economic resilience in current difficult circumstances.”

Moldova has also taken an important step on the long road towards full membership of the European Union. On June 17th 2022 the European Commission voted to support Moldova's bid for membership and will recommend that candidate status be granted to the country at the summit meeting on 23-24 June. Although the process is expected to take several years, it seems that exciting opportunities and new challenges are ahead for the Moldovan agri-food sector.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-moldova-deep-and-comprehensive-free-trade-area>

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/eu-facilitates-increased-exports-moldovan-agricultural-products-2022-06-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/eu-facilitates-increased-exports-moldovan-agricultural-products-2022-06-09_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_3790](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3790)



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## Project Activities

### International Scientific Conference

The first conference of the LOC-FOOD project took place in Black Sea city of Varna, Bulgaria, on 28th April 2022. It was hosted by our partners Varna University of Management at their campus in the city. A very interesting programme of talks included the following:

- The LOC-FOOD project - Concept, objectives, results (Kalliroi Papathoma, project communications manager, Ministry of Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace), Greece).
- European quality policy and geographical indications (pre-recorded video address by Ivo Hristov MEP).
- Quality policy for agri-food products in Bulgaria -Bulgaria's geographical indications and national program for local traditional and regional traditional foods in Bulgaria (Georgi Sabev, Policy Advisor to Ivo Hristov MEP).
- Geography, potential and sustainability for food (Dessislava Dimitrova and Teodora Ivanova, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Research at BAS, Slow Food Bulgaria).
- Products with geographical indications in Greece (Maria Papageorgiou, International Hellenic University).
- Local Food Systems in Northern Greece (Jonathan Rhoades, International Hellenic University).
- Traditional food in Romania. Present and future perspectives (Carmen Bolea, Dunărea de Jos University).
- Ukranian food system of local products - Overview, challenges and perspectives (Kateryna Khvostenko, Odessa National Academy of Food Technologies, via live video link).
- Traditional, neglected and introduced cereal crops as a food source (Hristo Stoyanov, Dobrudhza Agricultural Institute).

Following the scientific and technical presentations the various stakeholder groups that were attending the conference were able to introduce themselves and to raise issues that particularly concerned or interested them. This led to an interesting discussion on many aspects of agricultural development and the promotion of traditional local products.

### International Food Festivals

One of the tasks of the LOC-FOOD project, part of the Communication work package, is the holding of international food festivals in each country. A group of four producers from each participating country participates in the festival. They can display their goods to the public, offer samples, and provide informative materials and contact information to interested parties. Direct sales are not permitted, but there are opportunities to make contacts which could lead to future business. For this reason, the festivals are usually of most benefit to those producers that have an internet presence and the possibility of online sales, and those who can offer other services such as agrotourism and hospitality to those visiting their home countries.

Two food festivals have taken place recently. The first was in Galati, Romania, in May 2022 and the second in Dobrich, Bulgaria, in June 2022. In both cases there was considerable interest from the local population in the products on offer by the visitors and lively interaction between consumers and producers. It was also an opportunity for the international visitors to see the local products of the host country. This was particularly the case in the Dobrich festival, as the LOC-FOOD stalls were attached to an existing farmers' market in the town. At the Galati festival, a tasting session for products was organized by the sensory analysis team at Dunărea de Jos university, the host institution. Both festivals were interesting, enjoyable, and a great way of boosting cross-border communication in the agri-food sector.

The next international food festival will take place in Moldova, on 23 July 2022. Check our website, [www.locfood.eu](http://www.locfood.eu), for updates. Participating producers have all their travel and accommodation expenses paid by the project. To be eligible to apply, producers must have filled in the questionnaire about their products that was sent out by International Hellenic University last year and to have filled in the application for attending the festival. As places are limited, participation is not guaranteed. The last festival will be held in Greece in the autumn.



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Scenes from the Dobrich international food festival



Scenes from the Galati international food festival



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## Information days for public authorities in Greece

Two information days for public authorities were held in Greece in May and June 2022, one in each of the two administrative regions of Central Macedonia and of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. The seminars took place in the cities of Thessaloniki and Drama. They were primarily targeted at officials from local public administration (at municipal and regional level) who are involved with the agri-food sector, but other interested parties also attended. Before the main presentations, greetings and good wishes were extended by spokespersons from the Regional Authorities, a representative of Mr. Kalafatis, Deputy Minister of the Interior with responsibility for Macedonia and Thrace, and the Dean of the Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences at International Hellenic University, Prof. Petros Samaras. In the main presentations, those present were informed about the LOC-FOOD project, some of the main deliverables were presented, and subjects for discussion were raised. The main presentations were as follows:

- An overview of the LOC-FOOD project (Anastasios Zafeiridis, MATHRA, LOC-FOOD project manager).
- Greek products with geographical indications (Prof. Maria Papageorgiou, IHU, lead scientist).
- Public opinion research relating to traditional food products (Dr. Adriana Skendi, IHU, researcher).
- An overview of the agri-food market in the Greek LOC-FOOD area (Dr. Adriana Skendi, IHU, researcher).
- Best practices in the promotion of local foods and local food systems from other European countries (Dr. Jonathan Rhoades, IHU, researcher).
- The local food system in Northern Greece (Prof. Maria Papageorgiou, IHU, lead scientist).
- The role of local government in the promotion of local products and the development of the local economy (Parthena Konstantinidou, Drama Regional Administrative Unit).
- The example of the Agronutritional Cooperation of the Region of Central Macedonia - Challenges and opportunities for agri-food sector businesses (Konstantinos Kiltidis, President, ACRCM).

After the presentations there was a lively and useful discussion about the ways that local authorities can best promote their local foods and how the challenges facing local producers can be overcome.



The information days in Greece.

(Clockwise from top left)

Professor Maria Papageorgiou, Dr Adriana Skendi, Anastasios Zafeiridis, and the Thessaloniki seminar room.



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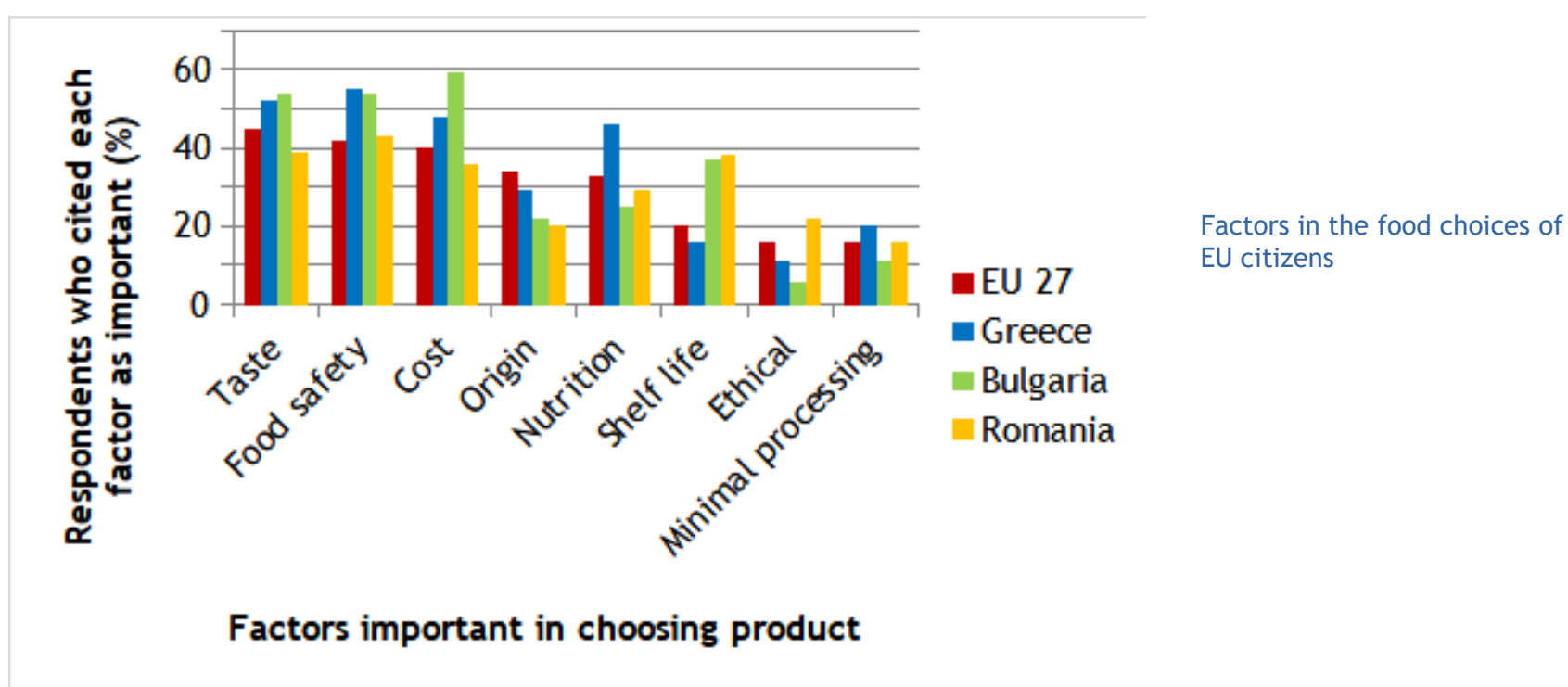


## Consumer choices and food in the European Union

The European Union, via its Eurobarometer service, regularly conducts consumer surveys to learn about the attitudes and priorities of the citizens of the member states. Some of these surveys are related to food and agriculture. One such survey was conducted in August and September 2020 with the title “Making our food fit for the future - Citizens’ expectations”. A total of 27 237 face-to-face interviews were conducted throughout the 27 member states (EU27). In the three EU member states that are in the LOC-FOOD project, 1016 interviews were conducted in Greece, 1057 in Bulgaria and 1103 in Romania.

In the first question, respondents were asked to name up to three considerations that are important to them when they buy food. In the EU27, the three most common responses were taste (45%), food safety (42%) and cost (40%), closely followed by geographical origin (34%) and nutritional content (33%). Less common answers were the available shelf-life (20%), ethical and religious considerations (16%), that the food is not heavily processed (16%), the environmental impact (15%), and convenience (9%). It is notable that no single factor was cited by more than 45% of respondents, suggesting that the reasons behind people’s food choices are highly diverse.

There were some differences between the three LOC-FOOD EU member states. Taste and food safety were important concerns in all three countries, although taste was notably less so in Romania (39%, compared to 52% and 54% in Greece and Bulgaria respectively). Bulgarians were more concerned about cost than the other two nations (59%, vs. 48% in Greece and 36% in Romania), while Greeks showed an increased interest in nutritional value (46%, compared to 25% in Bulgaria and 29% in Romania).



The concern people have about the geographical origin of their food is of particular interest to the LOC-FOOD project. Of the EU27 countries, geographical origin was the most popular answer in three (Germany, Slovenia and Sweden) and the second most popular in another five (France, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria and Finland). In the LOC-FOOD EU member states, geographical origin was the 4th most popular answer in Greece, 5th in Bulgaria and 7th in Romania. This suggests that there is some work to be done in encouraging the citizens of these countries to choose local products whenever possible. However, the fact that geographical origin is not in the top three priorities for most consumers when choosing food does not necessarily mean that no importance is given to it at all. It should also be noted that, although in most cases an interest in geographical origin probably indicates an interest in local foods, it does not necessarily mean this - someone might just want their food to be from the EU for example.

A demographic analysis of those giving geographical origin as one of their three answers revealed that there was no significant effect of gender, or of educational attainment level for those who had finished studying. For the socio-professional categories, there was little difference between categories (manual workers, white collar workers, managers etc.) with the exception of two - students and the unemployed - for whom cost is clearly a more important issue than it is for many others. The tendency to consider geographical origin when choosing products increased with age and financial security (two parameters that are closely related to each other).

The LOC-FOOD project has also carried out public opinion research into people’s food choices and their knowledge of product certifications and symbols. The results of this research will be presented in a future newsletter and the data from the participating countries compared.



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## LOC-FOOD on the internet



The LOC-FOOD project has a new website, <https://locfood.eu/>, where more information on the project can be found. The website will also host the database and GIS map once these have been completed.

In addition, there is an official Facebook page for the project and separate Facebook pages for most of the partners. These are listed below:

Official project page: <https://www.facebook.com/locfoodofficial>

ONAFI, Ukraine: <https://www.facebook.com/LOCFOODONAFI>

UDJ, Romania <https://www.facebook.com/LOC-FOOD-UDJ-Romania-101970308339821>

VUM, Bulgaria <https://www.facebook.com/LocFoodBulgaria/>

ATDM, Moldova <https://www.facebook.com/Loc-Food-project-104479128360052>

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