



## **New GMO Free Zones in Romania - Hartibaciu Micro-region**

*No Genetically Modified Organisms in Our fields!*

*Press release – for immediate distribution*

23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2010. The Local Action Group (GAL) Hartibaciu Micro-region, together with the GMO Information Centre (InfOMG), is officially launching a new Zone Free of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Romania.

An assessment study conducted by the “Hartibaciu Microregion Local Action Group” for the sustainable development strategy of the area, concluded that the best option for the Hartibaciu Area is organic agriculture. The landscape, soil structure, climate and specific air currents of the Hartibaciu Valley are not suitable for practising intensive agriculture. The lack of a developed industrial economy and the lack of financial resources have kept this area unpolluted and have contributed to the opportunity to develop organic agriculture. The production of clean foodstuffs without chemical residues is the best option for the local producers from the Hartibaciu Area.

Based on this fact, The GAL Hartibaciu Micro-region supports the initiative of the GMO Information Centre to prevent the cultivation of genetically modified organisms in Hartbaciua area.

“The possible advantages of those who cultivate GMOs are shallow compared to the damage done to other producers. The only chance of Hartibaciu area is to be clean, and for this we have a duty not to allow contamination with products that are not proven to be safe”, declares Ilarion Barsan, president of GAL Hartibaciu Micro-region.

Therefore, the GAL Hartibaciu Micro-region takes a public stance through this:

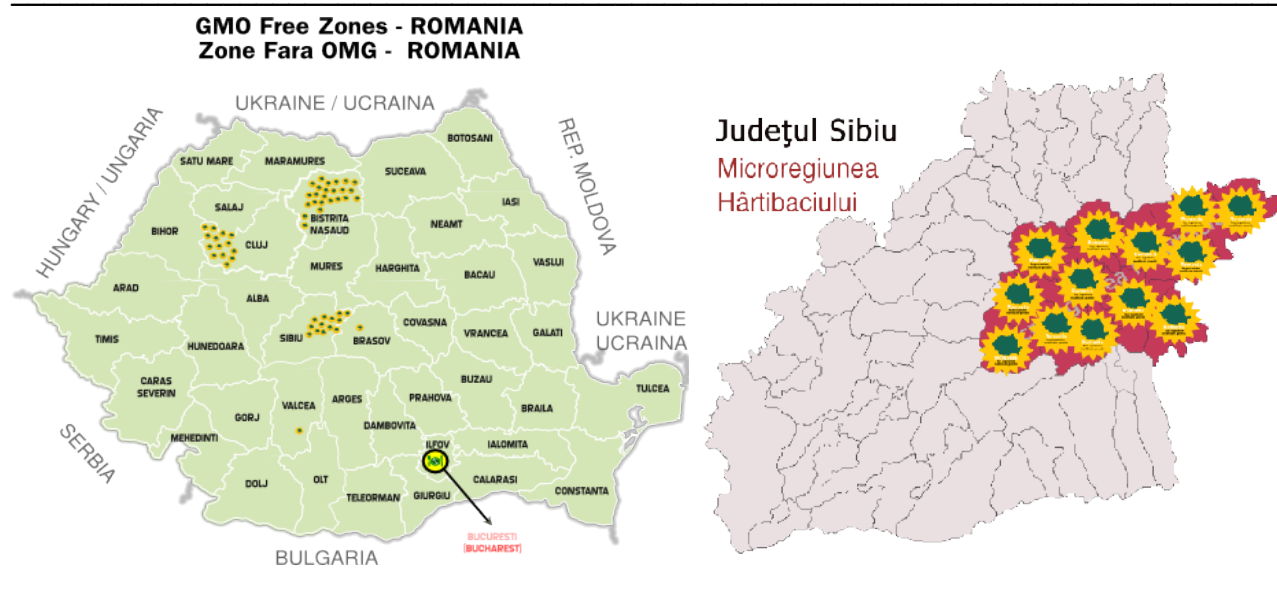
### **Declaration:**

1. The GAL Hartibaciu Micro-region publicly states that it does not want any genetically modified organisms to be cultivated (GMO) on fields within the range of the undersigned Local Action group.
2. The undersigned Local Action Group has decided to use all democratic measures in the future, such as educational discussions and activities, to convince the farmers and land owners of the area NOT to cultivate genetically modified organisms on their fields.
3. The undersigned Local Action Group demands that the responsible regional and local authorities and relevant politicians take legal measures and rigorously apply inspections in the fields and markets, to assure that no genetically modified organisms are cultivated or will be cultivated in Romania.
4. The undersigned Local Action Group states that genetically modified crops can NOT coexist with conventional crops. We are demanding that national and regional politicians to protect the farmers' and consumers' interest who do not want GMOs, taking strict measures to avoid any contamination of the land and the food with GMOs.
5. The undersigned Local Action Group supports the total ban of genetically modified organisms in Romania, as a step towards sustainable agriculture for the present and future generations.

The Local Action Group “GAL Hartibaciu Micro-region” gathers members from the public / private / non-governmental sectors as follows:

- 21 public partners – 12 communes and 1 city (Cornatel - commune, Rosia - commune, Vurpar - commune, Nocrich - commune, Mihaileni – commune, Altina - commune, Chirpar - commune, Bruiu - commune, Merghindeal - commune, Birghis - commune, Iacobeni - commune, Bradeni - commune, Agnita - city);

- 40 private / non-governmental partners – 13 commercial companies, 15 NGOs, 9 persons, 2 Roma initiative groups, 1 group of volunteers.



GMO Free Zones in Romania: [http://www.infomg.ro/web/en/Programs/GMO\\_Free\\_Zones/](http://www.infomg.ro/web/en/Programs/GMO_Free_Zones/)

Detailed Maps of the Hartibaciu Micro-region: <http://www.gal-mh.eu/harti.html>

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*Other references (in Romanian):* „Gazeta Hârtibaciului”, page. 8.

<http://www.infomg.ro/storage/files/Zone%20fara%20OMG/Gazeta%20Hartibaciului%20iulie%202010.pdf>