

BEFARMEX

The final meeting of BEFARMEX project took place in Craiova, a town in the south-west part of Romania, in the Oltenia region, between 10th and 13th July.

The 34 participants were as follows: 7 from Turkey, 8 from Hungary, 4 from Italy, 12 from Spain and 3 from Greece.

The first day, 10th July, was the day of the arrival of all the participants in Craiova. The accommodation was at "La Izvoare" and "Carul din Stele"- Beharca.

Two study visits were made during **the 2nd and 3rd day** of the meeting: the first visit was at The Vineyard Centre Vânu Mare – Orevița, in 11th July, and then, in 12th July, the Isalnita Greenhouses Complex was visited.

1) Study visit at The Vineyard Centre "Vie Vin" Vânu Mare



The vineyard centre Vânu Mare – Orevița is part of the wine-growing region of Wallachia and Oltenia Hills, being located in the Mehedinți County, in the parallel between 44-45 °. Vineyard growing ecosystem is characterized by a temperate continental climate with Mediterranean accents, where vines occupy the hills in the southern part and their plateaus at an altitude of between 280-325m. Soils predominantly brown and forest reddish brown characteristic of the Getic Plateau have their reputation based on the quality of wines of aromatic Tămâioasă Românească and Sauvignon, while the warm and lightweight ones, rich in limestone composed of alluvial gravel are known for the famous red wines they produce. Vânu Mare wine vineyards was established with the acquisition of 240 hectares of vineyard plantations in the terraced vineyard of Drâncei. Vânu Mare Vineyard Centre is the "Romanian heart region of the red wines and beyond". The company has purchased the wine-making centre of Vânu Mare, which was modernized through the acquisition of modern machinery, of stainless steel, which allows automated processing of the grapes, producing and storing wines under conditions stipulated by international standards of quality. At present the work is organized in three directions: wine grape production, wine production and sale of wines. The wines are produced only from grapes carefully grown and selected in their own farms of Orevița, Bucura, Nicolae Bălcescu and Poroinița farms and are sold both through their own network of stores and through major specialized distributors. The wine-making center

is equipped with an automatic bottling line in 750 ml bottles, a semi-automatic bottling plant in 250 ml bottles sealed with metal dishes ("Piffer") and a semi-automatic line for bottling in the "bag-in-box" system.

2) Study visit at Isalnița Greenhouses Complex



On 1st September 1969, the largest complex of greenhouses in the world was inaugurated at Isalnita, in the village of Almaj. Founded as the State Agricultural Enterprise Isalnita Greenhouses, becoming then Isalnita Greenhouses Enterprise, the complex was composed of 200 hectares of greenhouses under glass. The reason of building such large greenhouses was, on the one hand, the neighbourhood with the power station at Isalnita, which could deliver the necessary heating agent for heating them, and on the other hand, the use of the Jiu river water for irrigation, without neglecting the local tradition for vegetables. The greenhouses from Isalnita had, besides the 33 farms of greenhouses, three production sorting halls, an internal railway, its own ice plant, mechanical repair workshops, laboratories for agrochemical analyses, platforms for mixing seedlings, but also related agricultural machinery: tractors, trailers, fertilisation and treatment installations. The annual production surpassed 30,000 tons of vegetable, more than 25,000 tons going to export, which means the value of goods shipped abroad of 12-15 million dollars annually.

During the afternoon, the participants were welcomed to the Oltenia Museum of Craiova, where, in the conference room, the final discussions of the meeting took place. In the evening, the participants visited the city centre.

The 4th day, 13th July, all the participants left Craiova.

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