

Romania, Dairy

A Romanian entrepreneur married to a Swiss national bought the abandoned premises of a former state-owned milk farm near Sibiu, Romania where she founded a dairy manufacturing company, Carpalat SRL in 2003. She imported dairy equipment from Switzerland and Italy, and started to rebuild the complete infrastructure including power equipment and water supply system. The project sponsor will get a steady supply of milk from a newly established producer near her farm and begin the milk processing in 2005.

A local supermarket in Sibiu is interested to buy Carpalat's entire production. If the project is able to establish permanent sales channels and a high-quality milk supply, Carpalat plans to produce products with a higher added value, such as cheese, cream and assorted yoghurts. The project will create some jobs locally and there will be know-how transfer in milk, cheese and yoghurt manufacturing techniques. Carpalat will also provide veterinary services to local cattle farmers who will only need to pay for the medical supplies. This will help to improve the hygiene and health of the district's cattle.

Carplalat SRL received a credit from the SECO Start-up Fund to finance renovation of the farm's buildings in the start-up phase of the project.