

Buzau County officials are looking for investors to develop the industrial exploitation of the largest salt deposit in the country. The deposit is near Lopătari - Mânzălești, Buzau County, and hasn't been exploited so far, although explorations were conducted during the years. According to specialists, the salt deposit would be enough to supply entire Europe for one hundred years. Local officials are thus looking for investors in view of industrial exploitation. They say Bulgarian investors showed interest in 2012, but eventually they gave up the idea due to the poor infrastructure. Archaeologist Marius Constantinescu says the deposit is 1,800 metres in diameter and is slowly going up due to underground pressures, due to tectonic movements. The deposit includes 47 salt caves and lies up to the border with Vrancea County. The elderly remember that in 1972 an engineer and a team came to study the area. They planned to drill 44 wells, however they drilled only 7 wells and concluded it is a large salt deposit. The large salt deposit is hosted by the largest cavern cave in Europe and the second in the world, located on the Meledic Karst Plateau. The plateau's micro relief consists of single or twin sinkholes extremely broad and deep with steep slopes, deep ditches cut in salt and clay, deep ravines and 34 caves. This geographical area was declared a geological, speleological, botanical and zoological reserve protected by law and covers an area of approximately 136 hectares. One can admire here numerous attractions both for researchers and for travelers, such as salt hills, canyons, caves, lakes, wooden statues and a specific fauna consisting of species which include scorpions or turtles. The Meledic plateau is a geomorphic reserve of great scientific, aesthetic and touristic complexity.

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