

RESUME

Thesis entitled “**Research on the potential Agrotouristic Mountain Zone of Arad County**” is composed of two parts: one part of a theoretical and research foundation. Structure of the thesis is as follows: summary (in Romanian and English), introduction, six chapters, references and conclusions.

Part I, which constituted between the first two chapters of the thesis is a summary of existing specialized information in bibliographic sources in the country and abroad.

The first chapter of the thesis, “**Study on the concept of Tourism and its development**” focuses on clarifying the concept of tourism and monitoring developments at national level.

Tourism plays an important role in economic and social life, acting as a more dynamic element of the global economic system, as a mean of diversifying the economic structure as a lever to mitigate imbalances between regions or active means of education, to raise education, culture and people.

Tourism is of growing complexity in economic summarizes the results of a large number of activities the psycho-social level, it is a superior way of organizing leisure.

While tourism development is lost in the mists of time and therefore lack of historical data can not establish a precise date of his posting as a separate activity, it seems that some early forms of tourism have been practiced from time immemorial.

Tourism phenomenon is extremely difficult to distinguish because, like any human activity is subject to interdisciplinary study, rendering both economists, geographers, psychologists and sociologists. The first references to the concerns of the journey, the works appear in ancient geographer Strabo.

Tourism is considered first, “a form of entertainment among other activities and forms of entertainment”. It involves the temporary movement of people to destinations outside the residence and activities obtained in the time spent in those destinations.

Thus, tourism is presented as a complex activity with many alternatives with significant economic load, positioned at the crossroads of many industries and economic sectors.

There is a temporal evolution of categories of accommodation, from classical composition, villa (existing since ancient times Roman), known as the home for rest and treatment, characteristic by mid-century and touristic spa dominant in almost all resorts in Romania; cottage, adapted unit mountain tourism; hotel, originally present especially in large cities, then expanded and often become dominant as the volume of seats, but also impact.

In the postwar period was reconsidered another form of traditional accommodation - travel inn - motel became functional adaptations to the specific automobile tourism; touristic location, also adapted for mass tourism with increased road mobility.

Number of housing units increased in recent years mainly due to the emergence of new forms of accommodation (hostels rural, urban and agro hotels, youth).

However, places of accommodation on all types of units and categories, the last ten years, decreased due to restitution of nationalized properties (including villas) and a change of destination structures.

Chapter two, “**Research and development on Agrotourism**” follow the development of rural tourism in Romania, underlining the following steps to go:

- Step guidance on rural tourism activities;
- Making-stage appropriate forms of organization and development of rural tourism and agrotourism;
- Stage development of rural tourism.

Romanian space is among the few in Europe where there are still, still unspoiled, traditional valences, spiritual, especially the ethno-folkloric, socio-economic life and the environment.

Romanian villages have wide variety of tourist resources: ethno-folkloric traditions and values, historical monuments and art, the potentially diverse and unspoilt nature.

Agrotourism, rural tourism as a particular form must be practiced by farmers and householders as a secondary activity, agriculture remains the main occupation and source of income. Agrotourism, rural tourism as a particular form, is limited to the peasant, by exploiting the natural environment, the provision of accommodation and services, agro, having a narrower range of coverage than rural tourism.

They can be seen in the following ways:

- Structure of tourist reception: as part of the recovery of excess accommodation space existing in a household, which is equipped and ready to receive guests, tourists;
- Activities: as a set of household goods and services for consumption by customers-tourists arriving in the countryside with the desire to satisfy the motivations of arrival through direct involvement, active but unpaid;
- The local economy: as a source of accomplishment and increase local revenue.

First “initiatives” and “search” in Romanian rural, nature tourism with sharper, dates from the years 1920-1930, the trial was halted in early form, future developments, adverse political.

Between 1968-1975, were introduced forms of tourist development, similar to those of the French model (creation of local associations of hosts) and rural areas have been identified in terms of tourism representative, selected in terms of ethno-folk and cultural values and held attractiveness of the landscape.

A feature of rural tourism is that the presence of favorable conditions for conducting more than 60% of the country helps to usher in national and international circuit of a significant part of our country's tourism potential.

Agrotourism has some peculiarities:

- Is an economic activity that builds on the existing surplus of accommodation in the farm household;

- Owner of the place, usually in parallel with specific agricultural activities (crop production, livestock etc.).

- The tourists are offered the opportunity, recreational purposes, to participate in household activities (Dry hay, picking fruit, milking cows, fishing, agricultural products processing, food preparation etc.).

- In many cases is a secondary activity, agricultural activity in their household, leaving the main occupation and source of income;

- Contribute to sustainable development of tourist resources, maintaining natural diversity, cultural, ethnographic, etc..;

- Constitute a full recovery of the countryside, with its natural potential, agricultural, economic, tourist, social and human.

Chapter three of the thesis titled, “**Study of Romanian Agrotouristic Mountain Zone and its potential**” makes the switch to the second part of the doctoral thesis and is directed to clarify some aspects of the concept of tourism potential and mountainous areas.

In the first part of the chapter is defined tourism potential and stressed the important role it plays in the development and diversification of tourism activities, therefore, was necessary to establish criteria for the classification of tourist attractions.

The most used classification is performed after contents tourism potential:

- Anthropogenic Potential;
- Natural Potential.

I also made a detailed description of potential natural and anthropogenic activities are important for Agrotourism.

Mountainous area of Romania is 32.7% of the total. Delimitation of mountain areas in Romania is regulated by national legislation.

This includes areas in 28 counties, with 826 communes and 3536 villages components.

Mountainous area populated by 2,905,377 people (about 13.2% of population) of which 1,307,869 farmers. Number of households is 954,922, of which 815,813 owners of agricultural land.

The mountain area in our country have been carried out over time many observations, studies and research of geography, geology, climatology, hydrology, soil, vegetation, flora, ecology, forestry, animal husbandry, sociology, ethnography, arts, medical, architecture, economics and more.

That is more disadvantaged rural areas in terms of agriculture is supplemented by other assets, such as geography unrivaled.

Because of these advantages may occur in rural areas, complementary activities that generate additional revenue for expanding livelihoods.

Among these possible activities fall rural tourism and agri-tourism, which determines the population of urban areas to know the traditions, agro-food.

Accommodation rural tourism in mountain areas can be a business visitor. Range of guest services can be extended by organizing trips, visits to craftsmen, riding, conducting summer schools, etc..

In some mountain areas, such as Bran Moeciu competition began to have their say, and tourists have increasingly demands older.

Arad County research subject of the fourth chapter of the thesis, “**Researches regarding the development potentials Agrotouristic natural and anthropogenic related Arad county**”. Arad County is the sixth largest in Romania, is situated in the western and covers 7754 km², representing 3,2% of Romania's surface.

It is bordered on the north Bihor County, east of the counties of Hunedoara and Alba, in Timis county and south west Hungary. Arad County tourism potential is one of great value. Harmonious blending of the relief, favorable climate, fauna and flora elements, the presence of water, mineral abundance of historical monuments and architecture make this area a real tourist area of convergence.

Representative of the natural attractions of the county of Arad. Runcu-thick (Barzava village), and Pond Glade Rovina Rovina Narcissus (city Ineu) Soimos Pond (city Lipova) Sic Forest (village Carand), Mures Floodplain Natural Park taking place both within the county of Arad and Timis County territory.

Anthropic Fund County tourism may be the high value tourist attractions such as City of Arad (Arad municipality) Soimos City (city Lipova) Hodos monastery Bodrog (Commune Pecica), Church of the Assumption (common Halmagiu), church Radnor (city Lipova), fortification Santana (Santana city) however as historical and architectural heritage belonging to national, but also factors such as population or economy.

Dynamics of tourism activities will be pursued by many descriptive indicators of this type of economic activity, namely: elements which makes the development of tourism, tourist areas and local tourism functions, types of tourism, elements which makes the development of tourism, local tourism and tourist areas functions, categories of units to receive tourists, the number and places of accommodation development and tourism activity in the existing units.

During chapter five, the “**Agrotouristic dynamics and potential description of Arad County**” is tracked in a first stage dynamic tourist activity in the county of Arad. In the second part seeks an ethnographic description of the areas of real Arad and the last part seeks mountain area.

Development of tourism activities conducted in Arad county is subject to both elements of favorability and restrictive factors.

- Tourism potential of natural (physical and geographical conditions) favors specific Arad County tourism, Existence of a varied landscape, relatively proportioned (although prevailing plains), which decreases from east to west elevation, A climate and ocean influences temperate-continental many areas with housing topoclimate (depressions Halmagiu Almas-Gurahont, Moneasa corridor Mures), considerable extension of forest areas, the presence of nature reserves (natural reserve Hill mixed - Ineu Mocreca of 107.2 ha under management Romsilva SA Moneasa mixed natural reserve)

and parks dendrological (Dendrology Park Mocrea-Ineu 8 ha formed with a mansion in the village Mocrea attractive resort for tourists, city Ineu Dendrology Park, 12 ha), the existence of mineral (carbonated water alkaline Moneasa, Carbonated Hills ferruginous in Lipovei) creates natural prerequisites positive impact directly on the running of interest activities;

- Tourism potential is anthropogenic is another element of interest and favorability for economic activities is represented by the historical (Stone fortresses from Soimus, Dezna, Siria, more than 20 castles (to Macea Court, Sofronea, Siria, Pancota, Conop, Savarsin, etc. Birchis, Monasteries and architectural monuments (Hodos, Bodrog, Lipova, Radna, etc.) Churches (Bodesti, Halmagiu Luncusoara, Shores, Ionesti etc.) ethnographic (ceramics manufacturing centers in Barsa, Tarnavita, costumes to Sicula, Barsa, Buteni, traditional folk customs, such as Fair Mount hen girls, kiss from Halmagiu Fair) and the rural economy (Radesti water mills, Big Valley, Jacobin, Peaks, red), municipal, industrial artifacts (class train, steam, warehouses, industrial plants in Arad);

- The geographical location of the county of Arad in the west of the country, the presence of border crossing points (Nadlac, pouring, Turnu - Road and Curtici - The most important rail crossing point in the country), there is a dense network of roads (E68, E671, DN7A) European and national railway (important point in the national network and bus Paris - Istanbul), the Arad International Airport (recently upgraded) Arad County make the main entrance gate of tourist flows in Europe and promote tourist traffic and transit business;

- Developing the concept of tourism has prompted some owners of houses in rural areas to provide services in the field of tourism in rural areas currently Arad Agri-Poiana Brasov. There are 13 operating units, of which 11 are classified by 3 and 2 flowers, they concentrating 78% of all places;

Despite the factors identified as being favorable for tourist activities, such economic activity is not, as the amount of revenues, largest flows of labor involved, the population served by the various tourism products, the ones held in other counties.

Mountain area includes the eastern half of the county and is noted by two mountain massifs: Foreign-Moma Mountains and mountains Zarand.

Highlands of the eastern half of the county, from depression to Mount Gurahont and hen, Romanian remained solid, being and the most conservative in terms of ethnography.

The main occupations of the inhabitants of villages and Arad County were left farming and cattle breeding.

Naturally, depending on the conditions it offers the natural share of these occupations is higher or lower. Among the crafts that were practiced and is still practiced in Arad County deserve to be mentioned pottery, weaving, wattle, wood, leather processing. These crafts have emerged and developed due to raw material wealth was in the area, but sometimes that represent the largest source of income for villagers budget.

Landform diversity, ethnicity living in this county, and the influence of historical and ethnographic neighboring regions, giving rise to rich traditions continue today. It notes in this regard, Fair Mount hen whose seniority is lost in the mist of ages, is an opportunity meeting between residents

of five counties (Alba, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Cluj). He takes every year, the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Elijah.

The old are respected and Nedeia Zarand Mountains (Nedeia the otter - April Nedeia from Tacasele - in July) prayers of the Mures Valley (at Barzava Savarsin, Petris, etc.) day of the monasteries or (Hodos, Bodrog, Feredeau, Izbuc, Maria Radna).

The last chapter of the thesis, “**The potential of Tourist Mountain Zone of Arad County through a management plan**” propose a management plan for tourism potential of the mountain Arad zone.

Arad in the mountain area is not emerging, currently only one area of favorability for economic and social development:

- F2. Sebis - Gurahont: Sebis town and villages Dezna, Gurahont, Almas. The area is distinguished by the presence of manufacturing (garment machinery and equipment) tourism relatively developed (Moneasa), technical infrastructure relatively well developed.

Areas with low favorability in development are in the north (part D3 North) and the south-east and east (Eastern and South-Eastern D2)

- D2. Eastern - Eastern South: Barsa municipalities, Sistarovat, Birchis, Halmagel, trees, Buteni, Chisindia, Conop, clerks, Halmagiu, Petris, Savarsin, Taut, Varadia of Mures, Peaks, Barzava Bata, Halmagel, Plescuta, forcing, Sistarovat, Ususau. The area is distinguished by weak development of industrial activities, agriculture underperforming, mountain type, poor technical and social infrastructure, poor tourism development in relation to the area, high infant mortality, low birth rates, aging population, low population density. Yet in this area is emerging from a range of possible output state of underdevelopment of the localities situated on the Mures: Varadia of Mures, Savarsin, Bata, Barzava.
- D3. (2) North - in part: Archis municipalities, Beliu, carrying, Craiva, Hasmas, Ignesti.

Characterized by weak development of industrial activities, tourism potential insufficiently predominantly forestry activities, poor development of social services decreases in population growth high migration, low birth rate, aging population, reduced accessibility, transport infrastructure.

The very people who live in rural areas should be the main actors in rural tourism activities to be major beneficiaries, however, the traditional hospitality of the peasant must accompanied by a specific training activity for tourist accommodation, it offers consumers civilized and satisfaction while accommodating the possibility of discovery of places and people.

The main objective of this plan is the proposed new tourism potential of the mountain area of the county of Arad. Central to this achievement compete more specific objectives:

- Improvement of tourism infrastructure;
- Study the possible existence and centralization of existing resources;
- Involving people in mountainous areas of the county in activities that can bring alternative revenue;

- Implementation of holiday villages with campsites, including the displacement of traditional houses of architectural valuable;

- Training young people in the field of tourism;

- Advice for owners of guesthouses in rural areas.

Expected results is the purpose of the plan, justify its existence. Usually they are quantitative and qualitative. Must be measurable, visible and specific, representing, in fact, achieve goals. To ensure smooth operation of the plan is that each target originally set to coincide and results for validation.

It is clear that something needed to implement the plan and adequate human resources.

All objects which contribute to the implementation of that plan, including technical equipment, are subject to an essential factor: financial resources.

Transformations are not easy to achieve, “steps” to anything other than what is now seem to be held with shyness and little support, lacking safety. Coordinating bodies in general Romanian tourism, rural tourism particularly activity, will make their presence felt more by professionals working in the field.

If we consider that many tourism activities are carried out almost at random, guidance, advice and coordination occurs on appropriate action.

The thesis ends with a series of conclusions and references.