

TOURISM – AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PETROȘANI DEPRESSION

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Petroșani Depression, situated in Romanian Southern Carpathians, is confronted today with varied problems of economic and social nature, due in special to activity's cessation at some mining objectives from the area, which led to the decline on multiple plans of the region. Having a weak developed infrastructure and a low quality of the environment, inclusively problems of cultural orders, the tourism - through its different forms, becomes a prerequisite alternative for egression from the impasse in which this area is, on economic, social and cultural plans, through its coordinator character and the standards on which shall impose.

Keywords: tourism, Petrosani Depression, sustainable development

Introduction

The touristic management of an area can be seen as a continual process of designing new touristic facilities, of reconditioning the existing ones, of redimensioning them according to the fluctuations of touristic offer and demand, and of rendering touristic activity economically profitable.

Alongside with the study of touristic resort management, emphasize the importance of territory's diagnose analysis which highlights the factors favorable to tourism in a certain area, as well as the restrictive ones.

Touristic exploitation of mountain areas represented another point of interest of the present study. Through numerous examples provided by countries having an established tradition of winter sports, we highlighted the importance of this share of the world's touristic market. From the international experience, in the broader process of managing the mountain areas, it is retained the fact that the management of skiable areas represents the starting point in achieving a touristic resort for winter sports.

Petroșani Depression is situated on Jiu Valley, its geographic position defining the macro territorial integration of the zone in the general scenery of the Romanian Southern Carpathians. With a surface of 1032,46 km², the depression has a longitudinal development on the general direction east-west, just in the core of the biggest and compact Carpathian sector, the lower part, depressionary, being circumfluent from all parts of mountainous peaks what exceeds frequently 2000 m altitude.

The Natural Components of Favorable and Restrictive Factors in the Zone

The area of Petroșani Depression was affected by the collapse of economic model which contoured it and on the base on what evolved within 1989 (whither the exploitation of the pit coal and the industry developed on the base of mining was situated on first position, mobilizing over 50% from the employee population), is identified today with a geographic space configurationed from meshes of placements what contains a town (Petroșani) and 5 towns with the structure of the mono industrial

production (Aninoasa, Lupeni, Petrila, Uricani, Vulcan), whereupon is added the 13 component villages of the towns.

The majority of the employees (above 40 %) still works in mining, more and more turn towards the specific activities of tertiary sector. Petroșani Depression concentrate 146,750 urban inhabitants, from which over 65 % has between 15 and 60 years, constituted in potential active population, the most part unengaged, due to massif disposability, by collective dismissals, after liquidation of the unprofitable exploitations and by implementation of the industrial reconversion programs.

For the inhabitants of montane zone of Petrosani Depression, the touristic development of this area shall constitute a profitable fact through:

- the new investments from tourism shall leads to the appearance of new places of secure labor, with permanent character, with profile and economic high efficiency;
- the planning of constructions activities for tourism shall amplify, on short-term, the places of labor in constructions and infrastructure;
- by the touristic new created activities, the zone shall permit a major stability of young population, reduction of unemployment, reduction of migrations;
- the bulk volume of new created places of labor shall addressing to many segments of population, differentially after specialization, professional experience, age, etc;
- the newest investments shall solicit the quick qualification of local inhabitants in new crafts;
- the female population and the youth have many chances to work in the sector of touristic jobs and on sale;
- the possibility of amplifying the places of labor in the activities adjacent to the tourism;

- amplifying the culture and training level of the young population (from the desire of being prepared in professions from tourism, with different levels of qualification).

Stirring out of crisis of the most “urbanized” geographic space from Romania presupposes a very attentive analysis of the problems of social and economic development of the localities, the settlement of a coherent ensemble of objectives, the identification of the measures and the proper instruments of recovery and by attenuate the unbalances appeared. In this sense, intensification of the animal husbandry, the development of small and medium industry based on the local resources and the development of the tourism under multiple forms what can constitute worthy of note directions.

An opinion survey were undertook for this study, having as purpose the analysis of the tourist’s opinion concerning the local appearances of tourism and its role in the future development of the zone, based on a questionnaire with 18 questions, from which were selected, afterwards, respondents’ answers at 4 questions (Figure no. 1, 2, 3, 4).

The overwhelming majority of respondents sees in tourism an extremely important element, even indispensable for future development of the zone and stirring out from the economic and social impasse in which is found out.

The contribution of tourism on valorification of local resources is found out in direct proportionate report with the presence of touristic natural or anthropic resources, presenting - in this sense - some similarities with the montane agriculture and even with the extractive industry. In time is achieved a tight relation between the localization of specific resources and the development of tourism, between these resources variety and the forms of what tourism can be practiced.

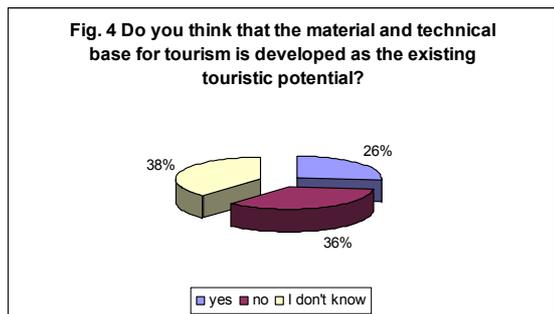
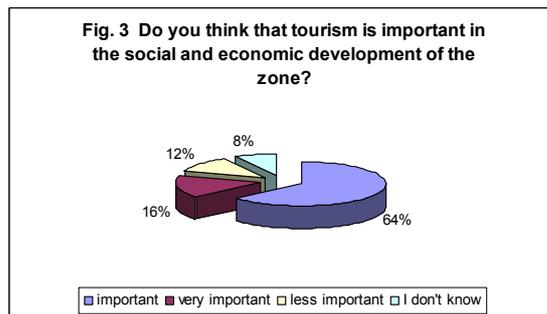
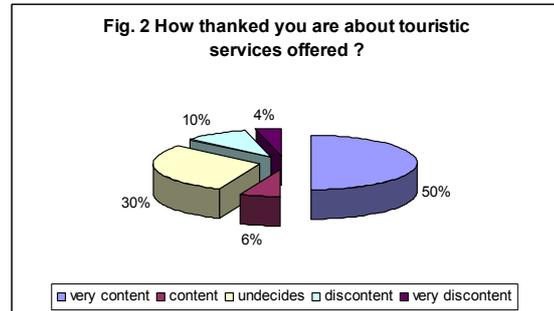
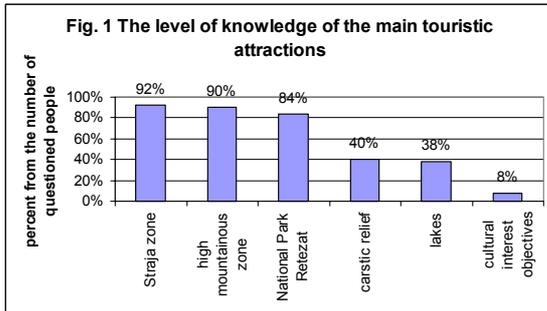


Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4 Questionnaire Results

That is why, in the vision of touristic marketing, the touristic existing potential is prompted to be studied in the interdependence offer-demand, respectively resources and degree of capitalization, with the resultant forms of tourisms and the population participating to touristic activities. Follow the analysis effectuated in area, the components of touristic offer were identified and analyzed in the next succession: the natural and anthropic resources

(Figure 5), the degree of capitalization of the resources, forms of tourism.

Touristic resources of the depressionary area and the montane limitrophe zones containing , in the main, those natural elements and results of the human activity which , through their value and attractiveness, justifies the movements of population for visiting, and lead, by default, to settlements of touristic order.

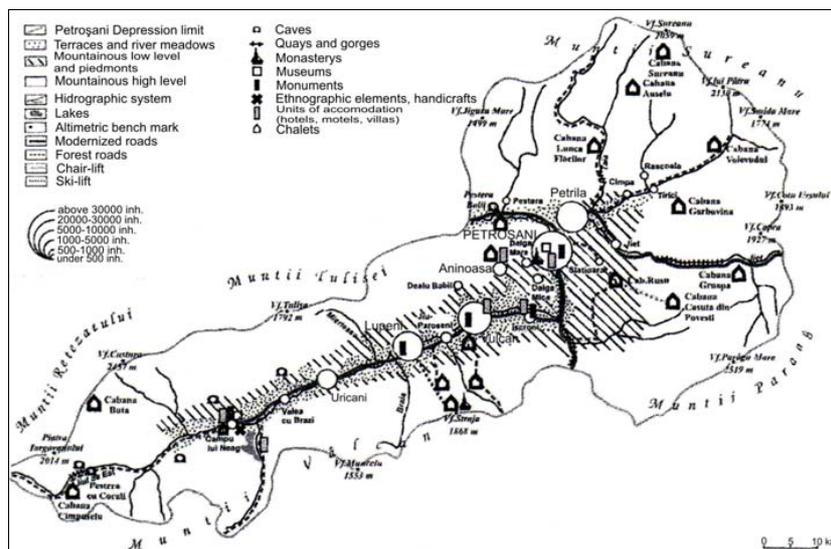


Fig. 5 Touristic Objectives from Petrosani Depression

- the high sectors of Parâng, Retezat, Şureanu Mountains, what carry on their peaks the traces of Pleistocene glaciating - with circus and glacial valleys, sharp crests, with numerous peaks what exceeds 2000 m, where the snowy layer is maintained from December within April, and presence of the soft slopes, in certain section, offers favorable conditions for practicing of winter sports;
- the sectors characterized by the presence of calcareous rocks, which favored the development of the carst relief (gorges, caves, sinkholes), multiple crests, (Custurilor crest, the Oslei crest), the surfaces of erosion of large stretch, the tame peaks of the low mountains (Tulişa Mountains, most part of Vâlcan Mountains), a vast depressionary zone limited to the contact with the piedmonts mountain;
- specific invigorator bioclimate, with certain locale gradations, constitutes natural elements in great demand and adequate for the treatment of nervous system affections.

The touristic anthropic potential comes to the natural potential completion, distinguishing especially through the ethno-folkloric component which, although severe affected and degraded in the industrialization period and constrained urbanization, can stand also to the base of tourism development in this zone.

Capitalization of touristic resources is achieved by the touristic existing equipments, or by touristic fluxes oriented toward objectives implemented to the geographic analyzed space.

From the range of touristic equipments (material touristic base) definitive for accentuation of touristic

functionality is remarked, in forerank, the units of accommodation, dispersed in a large number of localities from the heart of this depression along touristic picturesque routes what furrows depression and versants of Şureanu, Parâng, Retezat or Vâlcan Mountains.

Base of accommodation is characterized by:

- the low comfort degree of the capacity of accommodation, reflected by the fact that the large majority from the total number of places of accommodation has 1 or 2 stars, what fact has negative implications for the touristic demand of montane tourism and tourism of circulation, for what the region hold a valuable touristic potential;
- the reduced ponderosity (inside forms of accommodation) of the camping and touristic inns reflect a weak touristic fitting-out for tourism of circulation;
- the chalets, as unique existing form of accommodation in the montane tourism, although it holds a very large percent from total units of accommodation, have in most of the cases closed or semi closed circuits;
- the inadequate distribution of the capacity of accommodation, the zones and the touristic areas with illustrative touristic potential being slightly or not at all fitted with capacities of accommodation.

The base of touristic recreation is weakly developed, undiversified, represented in the main part by skiing and small slide slopes in the zone Rusu - Parângu Mic, the zone Aninoasa -Anena, the recreation zone of "Pasul Vâlcan".

The realization of individual or in group access toward the zones and the points of touristic interests

is difficult, absencing the touristic conveyances, the transport on cable being insured just toward Rusu and the zone Straja.

Premises for Tourism Development

Tourism is an alternative and a necessity for the dislodgment of the zone from the social and economic impasse in which is found out, its development depending by the support of national and local authorities, but mostly of the will and potency of change of the local communities.

Being aware of the benefits on which a well thought and organized tourism can bring to the zone constitute the first step in the touristic capitalization of the immense existing potential.

Existence of some strong points such as presence of National Park Retezat – Reservation of Biosphere, the future modernized road what shall bind up the Jiu Basin to the Cerna Basin, presence of some elements with potential touristic characters were possibly capitalized for the development of new types of tourism (ex: tourism of adventure), the financial facilitations offered through different programs, all these not only that “can be” but “must be” capitalized maximally, the main aim being diminish, up to disappearance, of the dependency of local economy by the mining exploitations.

- **Favorability factors** (strengths) which support the development of touristic activities:
- existence, on the studied territory, of some touristic -natural and man made- resources, very various and with a touristic elevated value, some being representative at country level: valuably skiing areas, comprised between 800 m - 1200 m and 1850 m - 2050 m altitude, with favorable

exhibitions of the sustentation of snow skiing layer (over 150 days/year, 20-50 cm average thickness), slopes with longueurs what permit set up of all of categories of ski slopes for recreation and competition; montane sceneries and rivers with real touristic potential; venatorial and fishy representative fund; tonic and stimulant bioclimate, hard negative ionized air, etc;

- possibilities of capitalization of the resources through a large palette of tourism forms and touristic programs with a large addressability, which to permit the staying for attractive sojourns. It imposes the tourism forms as: rest and recreation, practicing the sports of adventure, itinerant tourism with cultural valences and others;
- the geographic position of the zone, in the central-westerly side of the country, has important consequences for the development of tourism, as follows:
 - crossing of the zone by E79 and get closer to the European thoroughfares E-68 (84 km), E70 (124 km) and E81 on Olt Valley (120 km) and on Mureş Couloir's (138 km), road arteries on which is conducted international touristic fluxes;
 - presence of the zone in the circulation ring of big touristic interest “Porțile de Fier” (The Iron Gate), with departures and arrivals at The Danube and circulate through Cerna (DN 67 D), Jiul de Vest (DN 66 which shall be prolonged toward Cerna Valley), Jiul of Est (DN 7) Valleys, following afterwards “Oltenia de sub Munte” (DN 7 A) toward Drobeta-Turnu Severin;

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- presence of the Filiaș - Simeria railway which connects the zone with the railway thoroughfares from the south, center and to the west of the country;
 - existence of a dense meshworks of forest roads (partially modernized) and montane footways (partially set up and marked), which wander through the montane massifs toward touristic objectives or to the skiing areas from here.
 - the favorable position of the zone towards:
 - the main zones with high touristic potential and what in the future shall be certain destinations for the international tourism: “Porțile de Fier” (The Iron Gate), Băile Herculane and Cerna Valley; the Retezat National Park etc. More, a part of the montane massifs from zone is continued on the territory of other counties and shall be capitalized through conjugated actions;
 - the economic and social elements what can support the development of the tourism are:
 - existence of some trading companies which have qualification and availability for the realization of investment objectives, especially teleferics;
 - advantage of the existence of a qualified personnel and experienced in the industrial constructions, as also the low cost of the capacity of work;
 - existence of Mining Designing and Research Institute, which has experience in the elaboration of projects of studies and technical investments;
 - starting the process of re-qualification of the work force disposable from mining in crafts like agent of tourism, waiter, cook, animator, etc., and the realization, in the areas of touristic attraction, of some touristic structures or rest-homes what can be used-up also for the general tourism etc;
 - legislative favorable elements:
 - promulgation of the Law for Defavored Areas and constitute the National Agency for Development and Implementation of the Reconstruction Programs in Mining Zones.
 - **Weakness and restrictivity factors** in tourism development:
 - In local development and mainly in the tourism development it is remarked some dysfunctions related, especially, to the economic monoindustrial development, the unsatisfactory technical state of the general infrastructure and technical-edilitary endowments, by the absence of concernment for the capitalization of the natural cadre in tourism, relaxation and recreation - essential elements in the social politics of recover and retrieve of the work force from mining, etc.:
 - the absence of the modernized roads what accedes to Jiu Valley and accessing the touristic objectives;
 - low concernment for the capitalization of touristic potential of the montane zone and maintaining the montane routes;
 - the inadequate touristic fitting-out of urban localities, of their urbane areas and the road arteries what transit the zone;
 - modernization-less of the touristic structures from Petroșani (hotels, restaurants), but also the chalets Rusu, Voievodu and Lunca Florii;
 - deficiencies in the feeding with water and thermic energy of hotels from Petroșani; non

implication in ecologization of the zone (dirt-heaps and ash, scrap irons), non higienization of the forests and weak struggle of the process of degradation (by land clearing), the absence of the afforestations – non-respecting thus foresees of the Law no. 50/1991 concerning the protection and the preservation of the sites, the regime of constructions and territory's management and Law no. 137/1995 concerning environment protection;

- impediments in the activity of reconversion of the disposable work force;
- the absence of Norms for Implementation of the Defavorized Areas Law's produces confusions in what regards the applicability of the law; financing access, etc.

Touristic management shall bring forward, in future, a dynamic and complex process of

organization of the touristic space, integrated on the systemic ensemble of the Romanian tourism. The structure of touristic zones must conceived as a transformable system, multifunctional, what to permit the contiguous development and adaptations depending on the mutations stepped in the structure and motivations of demands.

First of all, it must be delimited those territories which is or can be used exclusively or preponderant in touristic aims, as opposed to those which have a functional profiles more large, more diversified, where tourism appears as one of the territory's functions - without being in contradiction to the realization of the other functions, or the territories which cannot acquire touristic function. Starting from this classification shall be established then the types of endowments and their amplitude.

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