

TOURISM POTENTIAL AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE RURAL AREAS FROM VRANCEA DEPRESSION

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The research undertaken aims to analyze the potential of tourism and the authenticity studied. Area of Vrancea Depression analysis 12 communes: Bârsești, Jitia, Năruja, Negrilești, Nereju, Nistorești, Paltin, Păulești, Soveja, Spulber, Tulnici and Vrâncioaia. Were emphasized the authenticity and heritage tourism area to emphasize the beauty and riches of the required type of rural tourism. Attracting tourists to the area analyzed contribute to the development of host communities through rural tourism and agrotourism. Natural environment is strongly affected by uncontrolled deforestation in the last decade, is doubled by the lack of activities to limit landslides. The whole rural area is characterized by serious problems to development of migration of young people to big cities or abroad and lack of basic infrastructure. Area of Vrancea Depression and neighboring mountain has a tourist interest has so tourist resources are real and significant potential for developing the area analyzed. Locals need to promote the area to attract tourists. It is well known that area of Vrancea Depression is an area of recreation, relaxation and leisure for tourists. On the Vrancea Depression point out Soveja resort spas, villages Nistorești, Năruja, Tulnici, respectively Nereju which are famous for their tradition and etnofolcloric vaults and monuments of religious art. Promotion in Europe provide attracting tourists and investors in the area covered by the project and the development of several forms of tourism (by integrating the proposed destination of excellence in an international tourist circuit): ecotourism, cultural tourism, business, spatourism, ecumenical and sports tourism.

Key words: *Natural tourism potential, anthropogenic tourism potential, authenticity*

Knowledge of the Romanian rural area is an experiment, a permanent research and a constant passion, always maintained the desire to relive the moments of youth. Words can not always play the variety of impressions, thoughts, feelings that are born under the sway of emotions lived in the crossed of mioritic places. When talking about the authenticity of an area should be discussed the following items: traditions, customs, vestimentatie, lifestyle of locals, their culture and beliefs, the architectural style of houses and constructions in the area, language and cultural manifestations.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Scientific approach has been developed using existing data in official documents (*Fișele de sinteză a Comunelor* - at Consiliul Județean Vrancea), existing dates from the National Institute of Historical Monuments (*Lista monumentelor istorice 2004 – Județul Vrancea*), and dates field. To realise this paper it was used also the reference material.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Elements to be recovered through the use of natural heritage tourism are:

- *recreational esthetic and landscape of value*, determined by the choice of destinations;
- *curative value* (Spas) of the bioclimatic about natural factors of area;
- *the operation of the moments of relaxation or hobbies* (mirrors of water, mountain massifs, caves, torrents, resources hunting, snow, etc.);
- *the cognitive components* designated as parks, botanical or zoological gardens, scientific reserves and natural monuments, etc.

Natural tourism potential

Existing water resources in rural areas in Vrancea Depression is classified into two categories:

- 1) water resources area (in Vrancea Depression, water resources originate in the large majority of river basin of the river Putna and Soveja common has water resources of river basin of the river Sușița);
- 2) underground water resources (in this area there is underground water resources, besides Soveja that has underground water resources of small and powerful mineralizate - chloride, hydrogen sulfide).

Water main which cross the rural Vrancea Depression:

- Bârsești Commune – Putna River;
- Jitia Commune – Râmnicelu Brook, Moldoveanul Brook; Sărat Brook; Pucioasele Brook; Păcurii Brook; Cerbu Brook and Râmnicu Sărat River;
- Năruja Commune - Zăbala Brook and Năruja Brook;
- Negrileşti Commune - crossed by more brooks to meet Dej Brook and Valea Satului Brook, both affluents of the Putna River;
- Nereju Commune – Zăbala Brook that collects the brooks from the left slope, Țipău Brook and Lapoșul Brook;
- Nistorești Commune – crossed by Năruja Brook which arises from the top of Mount Paisele and gather all of the many affluents flow with small and variable (with torrential);

- Paltin Commune - Zăbala Brook high collects water from the flood and brooks;
- Soveja Commune has a rich hydrographic network - Negru Brook which flows into Sușița, Sușița Brook with length of 75 km., Dragomira Brook with length of 5 km., Chirca Brook, Cocoșilă Brook, Dumicuș Brook, Cârligata Brook, Valea Boului Brook and Mazilu Brook;
- Tulnici Commune – Putna River, Lepșa Brook, Ciuta Brook, Greșu Brook, Tișița Brook, Coza Brook;
- Vrâncioaia Commune – Putna River, Văsui Brook, Hăulișca Brook, Sărățelu Brook, Leadova Brook and Algheanu Brook.

Natural reserves protected by law and existing in area of Vrancea Depression are:

- *Zăbala-Raoaza, Vârful Goru – unic jnepeniș Vrancea* (388 m.), *Cheile Nărujei II - Pădurea Verde* (769 m.), *Căldările Zăbalei - Pârâul Negru* (1,061 m.), *Cascada Misina* (183 m.) – hidrogeomorfologice forests, flora, fauna and landscape reserves, on the territory of Năruja;
- *Căldările Zăbalei, Zarna Mică, Lacul fără fund, Răoaza* - hidrogeomorfologice forests, flora, fauna and landscape reserves, on the territory of Nereju;
- *Cheile Nărujei I - Lacul Negru* (1.061 m.), *Rezervația forestieră Pădurea izvoarele Nărujei* (78 m.), *Cascada Misina* (183 m.), *Cheile Nărujei II* (769 m.) - hidrogeomorfologice forests, flora, fauna and landscape reserves, on the territory of Nistorești;
- *Cheile Tișiței* – geological and forest reserve that connects Văii Tișiței which crosses them a true canyon characterized by a microrelief apart (walls, rock, polite, beetle, troughs, etc.), on the territory of Tulnici;
- *Lepșa-Zboina* – forest and floriculture reserve in the territory of Tulnici;
- *Păstrăvăria Lepșa*, natural reserve located on the territory of Tulnici;
- *Cascada Putnei* – geological and landscape reserve, characterized by a series of spectacular marmi on long cca.76 m., on the territory of Tulnici;
- *Zona Algheanul* – located on the territory of Vrâncioaia.

Anthropogenic tourism potential

Anthropogenic tourism potential represents all tourist resources results of human creation from a cultural-historical and technical-economic territory or a human settlement, considered as having tourism value constituting the basis of existence for tourism.

The antropogenetic resources from the rural areas from Vrancea Depression are presented in table 1.

Table 1

**Monumente antropice existente în localitățile rurale
din Depresiunea Vrancea**

Localitatea rurală	Denumirea și amplasarea monumentului
Bârsești	Tumulary necropolis of incinerators, located in Lake Dumbrăvii
	Location of Bârsești, <i>point Gogoi</i> , located at <i>Gogoi</i> , at 1 km to village
	Location of Bârsești, <i>point Podul Vâlcelei</i> , located at <i>Podul Vâlcelei</i>
	Location of Bârsești, <i>point Varnița</i> , located at <i>Varnița</i>
Jitia	<i>Heroes Monument</i> (1916-1918), located in Jitia de Jos village
Năruja	<i>Church Cuvioasa Paraschiva</i> , located in the middle of the village
Negriștești	Archaeological site from Negriștești, located on coping
	Location located on <i>coping</i> , on left road Bârsești-Negriștești
	Location located on <i>coping</i> , on left road Bârsești-Negriștești
Nereju	<i>Heroes Monument</i> (1916-1918), located inside the church in the village
Nistorești	Church of wood <i>Sântul. Nicolae</i> , located in the middle of the village
	Church of wood <i>Sfinții Voievozi</i> , located at leaving of the village
	Hermitage <i>Valea Neagră</i> , located at 1,5 km. Towards Herăstrău
	Church <i>Adormirea Maicii Domnului</i> , near Schitul <i>Valea Neagră</i>
	Bell tower, located near Schitul <i>Valea Neagră</i>
Păulești	Church of wood <i>Sfinții Voievozi</i> , located to Păulești village
	<i>Trinity Hoeroes</i> (1916-1918), located to Hăulișca village
Soveja	Archaeological site from Soveja, located south-east of the village
	Location located south-east of the village, near Sușita River
	Location located south-east of the village, near Sușita River
	Location located south-east of the village, near Sușita River
	<i>Monastery Soveja</i> , located at entrage of Soveja resort
	Church <i>Nașterea Domnului</i> , located at entrage of Soveja resort
	Bell Tower, located at entrage of Soveja resort
	Fragments of the enclosure wall, located at entrage of Soveja resort
	<i>Heroes Mausoleum</i> (1916-1919), located at entrage of Soveja resort
	German soldiers cemetery (1916-1919), located to Soveja resort
Tulnici	Church Sfântul Ioan Botezatorul"
	Church of wood „Adormirea Maicii Domnului”, located to Lepșa village
Vâncioaia	Church of wood <i>Sfântul Nicolae</i> , located in middle of the village

Source: *Institutul Național al Monumentelor Istorice – Lista monumentelor istorice 2004 – Județul Vrancea*] – processing dates

Authenticity area from Vrancea Depression

When talking about the authenticity of an area should be discussed the following items: traditions, customs, vestimentatie, lifestyle of locals, their culture and beliefs, the architectural style of houses and constructions in the area, language and cultural manifestations.

The 12 rural localities from Vrancea Depression is being noticed by the authenticity of the tourist area.

Table 2

Authenticity area from Vrancea Depression

Authenticity	Events
Traditional customs	<i>Chipărușul</i> (practiced in hundreds of years to a person deceased) - Putna, Năruja și Zăbala
	<i>Moșul și Baba, Ursul și Capra</i> - masks choreography mark down the thread of life, fire and purifier characters crossing over/through the fire express purification desire and chasing of evil spirits
	<i>Boteitul oilor</i> - a habit practiced in April when stop grazing
	<i>Valaritu</i> - a traditional custom of spring proper of arhaic Vrancea - Năruja, Spulber, Nistorești, Nereju
	<i>Boboteaza</i> , 6 January - tradition specific connecting to consecration of water, the wet with holy water the houses of people, chasing evil spirits in their places, high purity
	Exposition of icons and painting eggs - reunites amateur artists and popular creators who noted with works of real value
	<i>Paretarul și cergile</i> - the parts used in the rooms. Ornaments used are: diamond, rake, creanga (can be considered a local interpretation of the tree of life)
	Popular seamless wool, rug, popular bark, etc.
Popular artistic creations	The art of painting the egg on Easter
	Crafts (seamless, fabrics)
	Processing wood (a school for learning craft)
	Masks and port that popular acts in the days of celebration
	Architecture (Peasant House) - the old wooden houses with traditional architecture
	Popular musical instruments
Traditional events	Vrancean Festival folk, 15 August - Poiana Neagră
	Fair creators and masters of traditional, 27 July - Bârsești
	<i>Festival Comoara Vrancea</i> - June, Năruja;
	<i>Întâlnirea dintre ani</i> – Năruja, Nereju
	<i>Hora Fetelor</i> - Negrilești;
	<i>La muchea Bradului</i> - Nereju
	<i>Sfânta Maria</i> on 8 th September - Nistorești
	Traditional Folk Ensemble <i>Nistoreanca</i> - Nistorești;
	<i>Festival of popular songs and dances</i> - Paltin;
	<i>La izvoarele Mioriței</i> - Soveja;
	Commemorative Events - Soveja.

Source: Institutul Național de Statistică - Direcția Județeană de Statistică Vrancea – Fișele localităților] – processing dates

CONCLUSIONS

Natural environment is strongly affected by uncontrolled deforestation in the last decade, is doubled by the lack of activities to limit landslides. The whole rural area is characterized by serious problems to development of migration of young people to big cities or abroad and lack of basic infrastructure.

Area of Vrancea Depression and neighboring mountain has a tourist interest has so tourist resources are real and significant potential for developing the area analyzed. Locals need to promote the area to attract tourists.

As review proposals for the area may be:

- 1) restoration/renovation/rehabilitation of the tourism-related cultural heritage and historical tourism exploiting them;
- 2) increased international interest for cultural tourism, (including treatment for prevention of type wellness/spa), ecotourism, agrotourism and rural tourism, adventure;
- 3) perspectives to exploit the mountain throughout the year by hiking, riding, climbing, extreme sports, skiing;
- 4) increasing the number of tourists who have the motivation different cultural forms of tourism;
- 5) financing tourism through structural funds provided by the European Union;
- 6) implementation of tourism infrastructure projects by local government and county.

Threats to area of Vrancea Depression may be:

- 1) Increasing soil erosion due to reduced opportunities for the land improvement works;
- 2) Unsuitability of transport infrastructure to the standards imposed by European Union;
- 3) infrastructure utilities (water, sewerage, waste management) in poorly developed rural area;
- 4) Degradation of rural architectural heritage through the depopulation of villages and rural communities;
- 5) Urbanization of rural population - a loss of authenticity and a specific local;
- 6) Unfavorable weather conditions, natural calamities.

It is well known that area of Vrancea Depression is an area of recreation, relaxation and leisure for tourists. On the Vrancea Depression point out Soveja resort spas, villages Nistorești, Năruja, Tulnici, respectively Nereju which are famous for their tradition and etnofolcloric vaults and monuments of religious art. Promotion in Europe provide attracting tourists and investors in the area covered by the project and the development of several forms of tourism (by integrating the proposed destination of excellence in an international tourist circuit): ecotourism, cultural tourism, business, spatourism, ecumenical and sports tourism.

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