

# PRESENT AND PROSPECTS FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGES FROM OBCINA MESTECANIS REGION

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## Abstract

Obcina Mestecanis represents a region with a high natural and anthropic potential, which gives the possibility to create a geopark structure in this region. The communes benefit from numerous, attractive landscapes and cultural elements, but from an economic perspective, many of them have an inferior status, compared to the county average. The purpose of this study consists in the emphasis of natural and anthropic potential, the existent economic context in the villages from Obcina Mestecanis region, Suceava county, in order to propose a feasible model of rural tourism. The analysis of economic and human resource is based on several indicators, among which the most important ones are: the economic, natural and human indexes, as well as the correlation with infrastructure quality. The aim of the analysis focuses on finding the most suitable model for each village, related to its specificity and capability of implementing future plans.

Human activities have developed on and in a natural environment, creating unique shapes. The natural potential of the area was analyzed by assigning and classifying areas of touristic interest and, by using known indexes, the rates of ecological degradation for each village we established.

Considering previous analyses, we find it necessary to present different scenarios of touristic development which include the multitude of touristic variables, based on rural reality, models which are shaped in the third objective of this study.

**Key words:** geopark, Obcina Mestecanis, rural tourism, rural development, tourist facilities, GIS

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