

# THE MONOGRAPH OF COMMUNE TULNICI – RURAL SPACE WITH RELEVANT IMPORTANCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF VRANCEA DEPRESSION

## MONOGRAFIA COMUNEI TULNICI – SPAȚIU RURAL DE O IMPORTANȚĂ RELEVANTĂ PENTRU DEZVOLTAREA RURALĂ A DEPRESIUNII VRANCEA

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**Abstract.** *The research carried out proposes the analysis of the rural space of area Tulnici by the opportunities and threats of area. The aim of the scientific demarche is to identify factors contributing of the rural development of the area referred in view of complying with the demands imposed by the European Union. Information sources that have contributed to the research are: official statistical documents, Files of localities - Vrancea County Statistics, Summaries of localities - Vrancea County Council, feasibility studies and projects at the area level and direct investigations in the field. Tulnici area is leading by nature reserves and existing mineral water, which is a real wealth for rural tourism and agricultural tourism in Vrancea Depression. SWOT analysis used the scientific approach revealed that the area is predominantly agricultural, with an extremely important woody fund for national wealth. There is a low endowment of infrastructure, especially quality of communication channels and unreliable media.*

**Key words:** rural space, rural development, tourism potential, rural tourism, agricultural tourism, SWOT analysis

**Rezumat.** *Cercetarea întreprinsă își propune analiza spațiului rural al comunei Tulnici, prin evidențierea oportunităților și amenințărilor zonei. Scopul demersului științific constă în identificarea factorilor care contribuie la dezvoltarea rurală a zonei amintite pentru alinierea la cerințele impuse de Uniunea Europeană. Sursele de informare care au contribuit la realizarea cercetării sunt: documente statistice oficiale, Fișele localităților – Direcția Județeană de statistică Vrancea, Fișele de sinteză ale localităților – Consiliul Județean Vrancea, studii de fezabilitate și proiecte realizate la nivelul comunei, precum și investigațiile directe de pe teren. Comuna Tulnici se remarcă prin rezervațiile naturale și a apelor minerale existente, care reprezintă o reală bogăție pentru practicarea turismului rural și a agroturismului în Depresiunea Vrancea. Analiza SWOT utilizată în demersul științific a relevat faptul că zona este predominant agricolă, cu un fond forestier foarte important pentru bogăția națională. Se menține o slabă dotare a infrastructurii, în special, calitatea căilor de comunicații și precaritatea mijloacelor media.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** spațiul rural, dezvoltare rurală, potențial turistic, turism rural, agroturism, analiza SWOT

## INTRODUCTION

According to Law no. 351/2001 is a common „basic administrative territorial unit comprising rural population met by community interests and traditions, composed of one or more villages, depending on economic, social, cultural, geographic and demographic. Villages which are located in the government of the municipality are rural residence.”

Tulnici village (villages components: Tulnici, Coza, Lepşa and Gresu) is located in the southwest of the Vrancea County, 65 km. The city of Focsani, in the Carpathian foothills of curvature in Tulnici - Bârseşti depression. It is bordered to the north - Soveja village and commune Bârseşti south - Nistoreşti village, east - Bârseşti shared and west - Covasna.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

Scientific approach was developed by collecting data in official documents (Summary sheet of the village Tulnici - existing in Vrancea County Council), official data from the National Institute of Historical Monuments (list of historical monuments in 2004 - Vrancea) and analysis field data. Article achieve was consulted and used the literature.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tulnici village is known by the natural resources they have (natural and mineral reserves):

- Tişita Gorge - which includes geological and logging the lower valley Tişita crossing a canyon really characterized by a distinct microrelief (rocky walls, shelves, beetle, gutters etc.);
- Lepşa-Zboina - reserve forest and flora;
- Waterfall Putna - geological and landscape, characterized by a spectacular series of marmite on cca.76 m long;
- important resources hunting (bear, chamois, deer, deer, wild boar) and fish - Patravaria Lepşa (nature reserve);
- existing hydrography: Putna river, brook Lepşa (mineral) Ciuta brook, brook Gresu (mineral) Tişita brook, brook Coza;
- 15 montain routes, marked: tourist route - starting Coza village, through sylvan pine forest - nature reserve - Galaciuc kids camp, the road continues along the former railway route on Putna river left, cross the tunnel Moceanu - Putna WaterFall;
- bioclimat tonight - facets incentive therapeutic;
- spectacular mountain scenery with deciduous and coniferous forests, gorges and canyons isolated rocks;
- existence in the area of approximately 500 holiday homes, 25 boarding houses, 7 hotels and motels.

Depression is known that the Vrancea area is an area of recreation and leisure. Vrancea Depression territory stands Soveja spa villages Nistorești, Naruța, Nereju Tulnici and are known for their ethno-folkloric tradition and treasures and monuments of religious art. Existing human objects are presented in table 1.

Table 1

**Tourism potential anthropogenic existing in village Tulnici**

	<b>Anthropic goals</b>
<b>Tulnici</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Saint Ioan Botezatorul Church, located on the right bank of the river Coza, 1 km from the national road DN Focsani - Gresu (timing: in 1873)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Orthodox Church Wall Sfintii Voievoyzi (1809), rebuilt in 1899 - Tulnici village (in some cultural events are organized commemorative dates relating to the life and work of the researcher Ion Diaconu);</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wooden Church <i>Adormirea Maicii Domnului (1780) Vasile abbot founded together with Prince Constantine Mavrocordat, totally restored in 1930-1936;</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lepșa Monastery - reinstated in 1990 (initially sec.al monastery of nuns in eighteenth century).</li> </ul>

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

The analysis on rural infrastructure Tulnici found that it is poorly developed under EU standards but there are projects that will contribute to development, as shown in table 2.

Table 2

**Common infrastructure Tulnici**

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Common Tulnici</b>
Existing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lepșa village treatment plant</li> <li>▪ Paving roads (7300 ml.)</li> <li>▪ Asphalt on DJ 205 L - 1,00 km</li> </ul>
Infrastructure in implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paving roads on DC 68 Coza - Alunu (3.000 ml.)</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of national road DN 2L Lepșa – Soveja</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of national road DN 2 D 118 km., which 98 km. on Vrancea</li> </ul>
The proposed infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rehabilitation and expansion of water supply in the area Tulnici</li> <li>▪ Water supply and sanitation Lepșa and Gresu</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of roads</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation communal road Streiu</li> <li>▪ County road upgrading DJ 205L, Grumaz (DJ 205D) – Tulnici - Negrilesti - Soveja (37,60 km.), commons: Vrâncioaia, Păulești, Tulnici, Negrileşti and Soveja</li> </ul>

[Source: Processing dates from *Fișa de sinteză a comunei Tulnici* existing at Consiliul Județean, județul Vrancea]

Based on the analysis of existing and heritage tourism data collected in the field was carried out SWOT analysis of rural area Tulnici which is shown in tab.3.

Table 3

**SWOT Analysis of Tulnici area**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agriculture: cultivation of agricultural land, livestock, fruit;</li> <li>▪ Existence of forest fund important for national wealth;</li> <li>▪ Many historical monuments of national importance;</li> <li>▪ Existence of ethnographic and folklore treasury of great originality;</li> <li>▪ The existence of mineral springs in SPAS resorts;</li> <li>▪ Exploitation and processing of raw wood and locally finite;</li> <li>▪ Potential of natural tourism: nature reserves, flora and fauna, landscape, sulphurous water, etc..</li> <li>▪ Attractive tourist area;</li> <li>▪ Development of mountain tourism, rural tourism, agrotourism;</li> <li>▪ Possibility of recovery of local traditions, county;</li> <li>▪ Handicrafts (weaving, sewing different);</li> <li>▪ Existence of economic activity;</li> <li>▪ Reduced pollution in rural areas;</li> <li>▪ Promoting traditional cuisine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low skilled labor or unskilled;</li> <li>▪ Underdeveloped rural infrastructure compared to urban infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ Poor recovery of natural tourism potential due to poorly developed access routes;</li> <li>▪ Decrease in foreign tourists because of underdeveloped infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ The treatments have a high degree of wear and are not adapted to European standards;</li> <li>▪ Lack of an organized system of indicators for objectives and tourist routes in the region;</li> <li>▪ Activities of tourism marketing and destination management underdeveloped;</li> <li>▪ Public transport to sights is poorly organized and promoted;</li> <li>▪ Poor development of specific architectural monuments facilities;</li> <li>▪ Poor recovery of recreational facilities;</li> <li>▪ Low greening of areas within tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development and modernization of villages;</li> <li>▪ Develop and promote programs that are eligible for local and regional structural funding EAFRD;</li> <li>▪ Restoring tourism values associated with cultural and historical heritage and tourism in their recovery;</li> <li>▪ Looking to exploit the mountain throughout the year by hiking, riding, climbing, extreme sports, skiing;</li> <li>▪ Increased international interest in cultural tourism, spa, ecotourism, agrotourism and rural tourism, adventure;</li> <li>▪ Implementation of tourism infrastructure projects by local and county government;</li> <li>▪ Tourism funding provided by EU structural funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weak competitiveness of companies in the area compared with those of EU member states;</li> <li>▪ Increased soil erosion due to reduced opportunities for making land reclamation works;</li> <li>▪ Reduced access to grants with loans grants (poor access to information).</li> <li>▪ Underdeveloped transport infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ Poorly developed infrastructure facilities in rural areas;</li> <li>▪ Migration of young labor force in urban areas or abroad;</li> <li>▪ Deterioration of rural depopulation of the rural heritage;</li> <li>▪ Urbanization of rural population - loss of authenticity and local specificity;</li> <li>▪ Adverse weather conditions, natural disasters.</li> </ul>

SWOT Analysis highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the area studied, and the opportunities and threats to the countryside.

Geodynamic manifestations which occur in the village Tulnici currently characterized by landslides, floods, erosion of banks of water. Landslides occurred over time and affected homes, roads and power lines. Some landslides have been stabilized, but they can be reactivated after rainfall, such as those of July-August 2005. Inhabitants at risk for Tulnici are Coza the brook, the brook Lepşa, Streiu creek area. The degree of seismicity of the village Tulnici is 8 on the Richter scale.

Project „VRANCEA COUNTRY – destination of european excellence aims to promote the european level of local cultural values, tourism potential and unique and original items that tourists can find in each of the villages included in the analysis: Vidra Valley salt Naruja, Maple, Spulber, Nereju, Vrâncioaia, Bârsesti, Negrileşti and Tulnici.

Promoting an european level will ensure attracting tourists and investors in the said zone and development of several forms of tourism (by integrating the proposed area as a destination of excellence in international tourist route): ecotourism, cultural tourism, business, spa, tourism, ecumenical tourism and sports.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the SWOT analysis can be proposed a series of measures and actions to improve quality of life in rural areas as:

1. *SMEs development* - there is a rather small number of local entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship is still below the European Union; entrepreneurs are not guarantees to obtain financing and therefore, many existing businesses are undercapitalized and have discontinuities in the flow of cash; related facilities management and technology are limited and there is a shortage of suitable premises for offices; in terms of demand, half of the rural population lives at subsistence level, leading to a reduced demand for goods and services for personal consumption.

2. *Attracting foreign investment* - foreign investors creating jobs, contributing to lower unemployment caused by restructuring of the economy, yet they provide a market for goods and services provided by Romanian SMEs.

3. *Tourism development* - sample area have great potential for tourism development at local niche (spa, tourism, cultural and religious tourism, rural tourism, etc..), But it requires a corresponding development of necessary infrastructure.

4. *ICT development* - expanding employment in services to less developed areas, providing public services in a more efficient, including vocational training.

5. *Development of agriculture and food industries* - agriculture inefficient is mainly practicing subsistence agriculture for own consumption, the market for process standardization and quality control can be achieved.

6. *Transport infrastructure and labor mobility* - internal transport network is poorly developed, which can seriously affect growth prospects, in no area highways, and county and municipal road network is generally underdeveloped and poor.

7. *Environmental infrastructure* - much of the environmental infrastructure does not meet EU standards.

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