

## THE ANALYSIS OF AGROTOURIST POTENTIAL OF HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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*Abstract: Hunedoara County is a very important national tourist component, if we take into account the exceptional natural resources, as well as a cultural and historical heritage of national and even European importance. In the county, there are also many vestiges of the past, historical monuments that can attract the interest of some competent tourists. A new form of tourism, agrotourism has made place here, thus capitalizing the picturesque of this territory, the traditions and customs that have been preserved over the years, the traditional gastronomy and why not, the agricultural production of the inhabitants of these lands.*

**Key words:** *agrotourism, tourism accommodation, agrotourist boarding*

### INTRODUCTION

Hunedoara County is located in the Central-Western part of the country, on the middle course of Mures and its main tributary - Strei and in the upper area of Jiu and Crisul Alb and is crossed by the 46 degrees parallel of north latitude and by the meridian of 23 east longitude. So, it is located at the intersection of the four roads: Mures and Banat, Oltenia (through the Jiu Gorge) and the Cris Land (over the mountain ridges in the Valley of Crisul Alb). [6,7]

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the realization of the present scientific paper we have used a series of information sources for the description of the analyzed area. The analysis of agrotourism activity specific to Hunedoara County is based on a statistical interpretation of the existing data, which allowed us to formulate suggestions for improvement of the agrotouristic activity from the studied area.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

The variety of relief forms present on the territory of the county, make it possible to practice various forms of tourism, from the rural ones, ecological or cultural to business or transit ones. [8] The types of tourism practiced in the County are especially those related to nature, namely mountain tourism, sports and adventure tourism, balneary and recreational tourism, as well as those related to cultural-historical and economic activities, cultural-historical tourism, rural tourism, industrial tourism, transit tourism. The main tourist areas of the County are represented by the area of Retezat - the Hateg Depression, the Orastie Mountains, the Mures Corridor comprising Deva and its surroundings (Hunedoara, Simeria), Parang – Valcan-Sureanu Mountains, Metaliferi Mountains. [7]

Mountain tourism, hiking and excursions can be practiced throughout the year in all seasons. The natural tourism resources are based on the particularly attractive forms of mountain and depression relief (Meridionali Carpathians - Retezat-Godeanu and Sureanu groups, Poiana Rusca and Apuseni Mountains), natural protected areas from

which two national parks and two natural parks (PN Geo Park of the Dinosaurs – Hateg Country, PN Gradistea Muncelului - Cioclovina), ski resorts (Straja, Parang).

Anthropic tourist resources are numerous and varied and include Roman archeological remains (Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacia Sarmizegetusa, Sarmizegetusa Regia), castles and medieval castles (Corvin Castle, Deva Fortress), historical monuments and religious art (Deva, Hunedoara, Calugara), museums and art galleries, ethnography and folklore.

In the Retezat Massif there are many alpine trails, including the Peleaga, Bucura, Judea Mare, the Turnul Portii peaks or the Stinisoara and Pintenul Slavei crests, all situated in the central area of the massif. The chalets from Retezat and Parang (Pietrele, Gura Zlata, Buta, Lunca Florii, The Dry Hole, Fish Valley, Montana, Brazi) are also places for rest and recreation. [6]

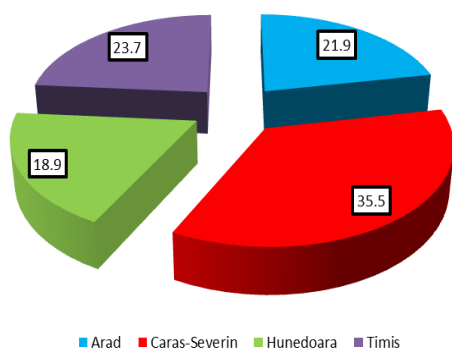
The tourist routes go through some of the gorges such as those on Crisul Alb (near Vata de Jos), the Jiu and Mures gorges (the Deva - Zam corridor), the Iron Gates of Transylvania, the key gorges from the Cerna river (Teliuc - Hunedoara) from Zlasti and the three "gates" of Strei from Ohaba de sub Piatra, from Ciopeia and Subcetate. [1,2]

The mountain lakes, of glacial origin are tourist attractions of great value. Most of them are in the Retezat Mountains (82), in Parang, Godeanu, Tarcu and Sureanu. The watercourses, the bulbs from Izvorul Crisului, Bulzesti, Bampotoc, Sibisel, etc. give a special charm to the landscape. [7]

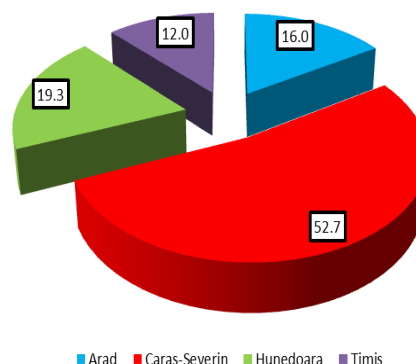
### The analysis of agrotourism activity

The accommodation infrastructure plays an important role in the development of tourist activity. In the analysis at national level of tourist accommodation establishments, West Region, ranks on sixth place, both in terms of total accommodation units (662 units) and agrotourist boarding-houses (150 agro-tourist boarding-houses).

The distribution by counties component of West Region, in terms of accommodation units, is different, from one county to another, in Hunedoara County, being found 18.88% from the total of own accommodation infrastructure of the region and 19.33% (29 boarding houses) from the total of agrotourist boarding houses (Figure 1). [1, 4, 9]



**Figure 1. The distribution of tourist accommodation structures by counties, West Region**



**Figure 2. The distribution by counties of the agrotourist boarding houses, West Region**

The 29 agrotourist boarding houses existent at the level of Hunedoara County concentrate a number of accommodation places unevenly distributed on the territory of the County.

Table 1.

**The evolution of the number of agrotourist boarding houses,  
Hunedoara County, 2005-2016**

	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total</b>	11	26	19	17	16	16	24	29
<b>Deva</b>	1	3	:	:	:	1	2	2
<b>Lupeni</b>	:	:	1	1	1	:	:	3
<b>Uricani</b>	:	1	:	:	:	1	1	1
<b>Baia de Cris</b>	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Baita</b>	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Baru</b>	:	:	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Beriu</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	1	1
<b>Bosorod</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	2	2
<b>Dobra</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	1	1
<b>Gurasada</b>	:	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
<b>Harau</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	1	1
<b>Luncoiu de Jos</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Rau de Mori</b>	3	7	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Sarmizegetusa</b>	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Oimus</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Teliucu Inferior</b>	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
<b>Zam</b>	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>

The evolution of the agrotourist boarding houses number, in the period 2005-2015 shows the same level recorded at national and regional level. By the year 2010 there are significant increases, in those five years, the number of accommodation units doubles from 11 units to 26. There is a 4 year decrease period, with 38.5% of the number of accommodation units, and in the last two years, there is seen a new growth of 81.2% in the year 2016 compared to 2014. [2,5]

In 2016, the distribution of the agrotourist boarding houses on the localities of the County is presented as follows: Rau de Mori - 5 agrotourist boarding houses, Lupeni - 3 agrotourist boarding houses, Deva, Bosorod, Gurasada and Teliucu Inferior - 2 agrotourist boarding houses and the other settlements with one agrotourist boarding houses.

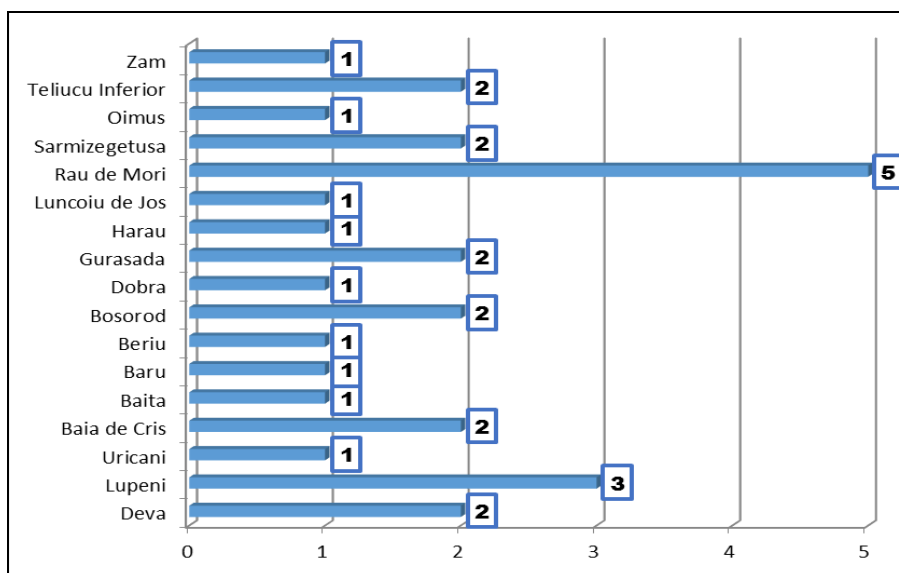


Figure 3. Existing agrotourist boarding houses in Hunedoara County, year 2016 [9]

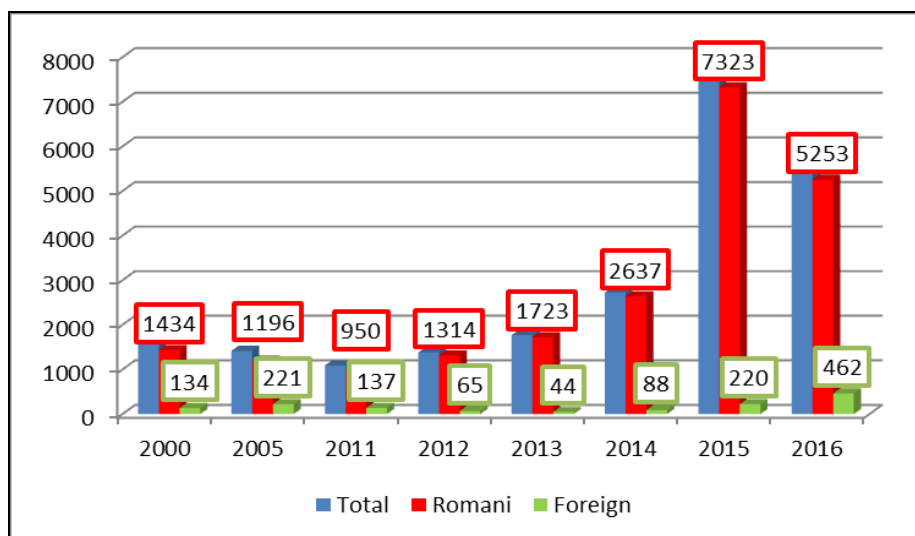


Figure 4. Tourists arrivals in accommodation units in Hunedoara County [9]

Regarding the evolution of tourists' arrivals in agrotourist boarding houses of the County it can be seen a decrease in the number of tourists in the period 2000-2011, followed by a significant increase in the following years, in the year 2015 reaching 7323 tourists. If in the year 2016 there is a decrease in the total number of tourists, with 28.3%, however, there is a significant increase in the number of foreign visitors, 110%. [1, 3]

Table 2.

Tourist arrivals in agrotourist boarding houses from Hunedoara County, by localities

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1568</b>	1417	1087	1379	1767	2725	7543	5715
Deva	:	:	:	:	:	:	504	3104	2101
Simeria	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	750	803
Uricani	:	:	:	:	:	85	513	292	:
Baru	:	:	192	169	143	155	184	233	242
Bretea Romana	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	199	42
Certeju de Sus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	30
Dobra	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	678	425
Gurasada	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	341	444
Harau	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	299	415
Rau de Mori	<b>15</b>	<b>410</b>	1210	883	751	782	1497	1030	839
Salasu de Sus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	25
Soimus	:	<b>450</b>	:	:	20	20	15	20	74
Teliucu Inferior	:	:	:	20	445	556	:	564	:
Zam	:	<b>259</b>	15	15	10	:	12	16	:

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>

The largest arrivals of tourists accommodated in agrotourist boarding houses were registered in the town of Deva, 20101 tourists, followed by the Rau de Mori - 839 people. Situated in the mountains from the foot of the Retezat Mountains, this locality being the most representative for rural tourism practiced in Hunedoara County, having in the year 2016 a number of 43 agrotourist boarding houses.

The distribution of tourist arrivals throughout the year at County's level is uneven, mainly due to the distribution of the relief on Hunedoara County's territory, but also to the

type of tourism practiced and to the different events and traditions that attract tourists in areas with high potential. At County level there is a tourist activity characterized by the presence of one peak of the season, during the summer period of the year, the months of May-September, with a stronger intensity in July and August. In case of the Rau de Mori, tourist activity is characterized by the existence of two seasons, during the winter, in January-February and summer, in the months of July-August. [1,4,5]

Being a land of historical importance, Hunedoara County offers to tourists a part of the history of the place, through the multitude of monuments and sites, meaning 24.7% from the total of these cultural elements existing in the region. Reported to the value group, of national importance, Hunedoara County groups, at the regional level, the most important monuments, meaning almost a half.

Due to the fact that the West Region overlaps with three old historical regions, customs, traditions, the way of life are diverse and diversified among the inhabitants of the region, bringing together at regional level a rich cultural heritage gathered in centuries of existence of the Romanian people.

The ethnography and folklore constitute an important immaterial tourist resource, of Hunedoara County. On the territory of the county we encounter ethnographic areas known for the traditions and customs that have been preserved over the centuries by the inhabitants of these places: Padureni Land, Zarand Land, Orastie Land and Mureș Valley area. [6]

All these elements of the tourist patrimony, whether material or immaterial, come to give a high tourist value to the studied area

## CONCLUSIONS

Hunedoara County, a land of legend, history and work, is a special area that must be preserved, capitalized and promoted at national level. So, we can say that tourists arriving in these lands want to spend as much time here, in an area full of history, cultural elements and special natural resources. If the tourists' time is limited, they would have to choose some of the tourist attractions from here, and this thing will be quite difficult.

Some of the methods that can help a tourist to extend his leisure stay can be: an extended tour package that involves movement to a withdrawn area and then returning to the boarding house for one more night, creating weekend events that can determine the client to stay in order to participate to them, developing packages of 3,5 or 7 accommodation nights with special prices for families with children and for couples.

The mountainous area of Hunedoara County has a great wealth of cultural and historical values, a harmonious and diversified natural landscape that responds to a variety of travel motives and highlights the beauty and value of the mountain village. Based on these aspects, the tourism capitalization of rural village heritage, unaltered remains an important factor in the development of agrotourism in these areas

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