



## **Tourism – Dynamising Element in the Sustainable Development of South-West Oltenia Region**

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**Abstract.** The study examines the touristic potential of South-West Oltenia region. It proves that on territorial profile, the South-West Oltenia region might substitute for the problems of development of the National economy, through a good touristic capitalization. Natural touristic resources, being inexhaustible and uniformly distributed in the territory, become the defining elements of the analyzed geographical space. Their role can be maintained in superior parameters, having a polarizing effect of the territorial organization phase.

**Keywords:** tourism, sustainable development, South-West Oltenia region.

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## 1. Introduction

The eco-development or the concept of sustainable development has been introduced and registered in the year 1978, in the rapport of the World Commission for Environment and Development (under aegis of UNO): *a development satisfying the requirements of the present, without compromising the necessities of future generations to satisfy own needs and aspirations.*

The theory of sustainable development imposes the establishment of interdependencies between environmental elements, establishing limits (restrictions) concerning space exploiting, from the ecological point of view, the investigation of perspectives of sectorial assertion and optimization of some solutions concerning technical equipments of the territory, in its assembly.

The administrative-territorial delimitation in some sustainable development regions, subordinated to the criteria of functional efficiency, according to the pattern of developed countries, has been imposed in Romania as a necessity. Therefore, the analyze of regional framing determines the adoption of some measures as adequate as possible in the area of economic, ecological and social interventions, directly proportional with existing resources and afferent financial aspects. In the process of territorial arrangement are accentuated direct, reverse and reciprocal connections of areas of activity, through their component elements. At the beginning of the division of the territory in regions have been taken into consideration natural, socio – economic, technological and geopolitical factors. The action of dividing the territory in regions, should be seen as a grouping of natural and socio-economic phenomena, depending on their degree of complementarities, of interrelations between actions and the space (Ionescu, 2013; Vlăduțescu, 2014; Trasitaru, 2013).

## 2. Touristic potential of South-West Oltenia region

The analyze of the touristic potential of the region emphasizes the unique character of natural touristic resources, existing in County of Vâlcea, Gorj and

Mehedinți, being able to implement some specific development strategies. Striking differences have been generated by Counties Dolj and Olt, being at an inferior standard of touristic assertion. It might seem that, under touristic aspect, the Getic Plateau and the Romanian Plane, registering their surface also in the analyzed region, presents more monotony. But, the image is apparent, given the complementary character, in the sense of harmonization between natural landscapes and the anthropic ones. Here we can find important urban centers with their specific potential, but the valence of these units reside in the architecture of rural spaces, customs and tradition of the population, their ethnographic specific, etc.

The personality note of the South – West Oltenia region is given by the presence of a segment in the Carpathian – Subcarpathian Branch that might generate the functional equilibrium of touristic activity, on one side and the existence of that sector of Danube, of great importance in the Balkan and Central – South – European space, as well as in the history of Europe, generally.

The forms of relief, interesting from scenic point of view through the variety and relief forms: the presence of some glacial (circus, buildings, braces, “U” form valleys, as well as beautiful glacial lakes) as well as an interesting glacial-carst relief (numerous caves, avena, kettles realized on limestone and slate, ditches eroded by glaciers, valleys with eroded ditches and declivities, detritus, etc).

The climate factor has an important role for tourism, at the mountain, especially through the duration of the snow layer and in the subcarpathian area, by creating a shelter climate and apparition of some climatic resorts (stimulated tonic climate) (Bosun, Teodorescu & Teodorescu, 2014).

The surface waters as important touristic objectives. The sector of Danube river, the passes of Jiu and Olt, the Sohodol and Oltet Keys, etc, being areas of great attraction due to their imposing aspect. At the same time, mineral waters are interesting from the functional (balneotherapy) and scientific point of view. The balneoclimateric resorts exploiting mineral waters from the subcarpathian areas present a special interest in tourism development of all types (Ionescu, 2014;

Vlăduțescu, 2014). The most visited resorts of general interest, with permanent functioning, of the type Băile Olănești, Călimănești, Căciulata, Băile Govora and so on. These are tradition resorts, having the statute of cities.

The vegetation is also important recreational and not only. From the touristic point of view, at vegetation chapter, of great importance is the forest (a real “oxygen factory” that especially the inhabitants of the cities look for) but also the pastures from the alpine area, to which have access only a part of the tourists. The forests of durmast and beech have a recreational – social value, role of geomorphologic protection of the lithological layer and of air purification, and a part of the vegetal associations of the district have been declared natural reservations. The forest is also a biotope for different species of animals, many of them having a venatorial value (the bear, deer, boar) of fishy (trout, perch) (Dima & Vlăduțescu, 2012; Avram & Traistaru, 2014).

The natural area, offers tourism, especially the specialized one, numerous natural reservations with floral, endemic and rare elements (edelweiss, blackcock, white ivy, Cozia rose, forest lily, over 20 species of orchids), of fauna, forest (ex. Latoriței forest with centennial trees: larches and Aurochs or the Forest of Chestnuts Pocruia-Tismana, with species of foodstuff chestnuts) and spelean objectives (Polovragi Cave, Muierii Cave, Cloșani Cave and so on), geological (es. „Cozia Gneiss”, oval layers), scenic, etc.

Besides the picturesque natural frame, the touristic offer of the South – West Oltenia region is completed with numerous anthropic objectives. The social factors represent an integrant element of the space, being underlined the cultural particularities, the standard of civilization of the population and the spiritual heritage of collectivity with its ethnic- folklore manifestations. Is necessary to know the favorability and restrictive topography, climate, hydrographic network in achieving socio-cultural tourism, the preservation of their and the extent to which the altered or destroyed by the need for space or unconsciousness or simple climate, vegetation with passing years determined this (Frunză, 2014).

The anthropic, touristic potential of South – West Oltenia region has been shade in historic time, being gradually enriched during human creative ascension that always produced values, shaping the anthropic treasure, according to the increase of culture and civilization expectations (Adamescu, Costoiu, Corocăescu, Pleșu, Iancu, Adamescu... & Tălpuș, 2010; Costoiu, Plesu, Isopescu, Soriga, Alesincu & Arsene, 2012). The anthropic touristic objectives, that presently exist had initially other destinations, being realized for other purposes, but have reach this phase of „touristic attractions” gradually, while becoming representative for a certain tourism form. The archeological excavations have discovered numerous traces of locations, from the inferior Paleolithic, replenished by a series of Roman castrum, certifying the ancientness and continuity of living in the analyzed space. The first is about local history and objectives still visible (Smarandache & Vlăduțescu, 2013; Smarandache & Vlăduțescu, 2014).

In the South-West Oltenia region there are many physical – geographical and social – economic complexities, with all vestiges that testify direct contacts of Dacia and Roman Empire, showing specific elements of the touristic potential. Numerous historic monuments and of religious art are situated around South – West Oltenia region. The architecture is distinguished by shape and size. Here inhabit a part of the wonderful treasures of Oltenia: Monastery Arnota, founded by Matei Basarab, is special by small and sober line and there are two graves pronasus (of Matei Basarab and Danciu of the governor); Monastery Cozia, first called Nucet, was built by craftsmen of Moravia after serb church model Crușevăț, hard white stone, founder as Mircea the Old; Monastery Cosun, ocated on the ruins of the former camp Pelendava, and many others (Dima, 2013; Grabara, Kolcun & Kot, 2014; Bajdor & Grabara, 2014).

The architectonic monuments of civil aspect are represented by museum complexes (with sections of history, ethnography, plastic arts, etc.) from the great cities, ethnographic museums and numerous memorial houses (Constantin Brâncuși-Hobița, Anton Pann- RâmnicuVâlcea, Ecaterina Teodoroiu, Tudor Vladimirescu, Ion PopescuVoitești, Maria Lătărețu- Gorj, Elena Farago, Amza

Pellea- Băilești and not only). Popular art is reflected into architecture, organization of the interior, ceramic (Horezu), tools, adornments, processing metals, painting on the glass. Despite the lack of advanced technology, we can see the skill of the sculptors here. They had no other role than to impose to the masses of people. Always these things should be left to be explored by any visitor. In another train of thoughts, by dint of intermedium cultural tourism, capitalized worth ethnography and folklore. There can be remarked the fairs and popular festivals having a powerful echo in the country and abroad: for example *Rhapsody Festival from Oltenia*, „*Shakespeare*” *Theatre Festival* - Craiova, *Wine Festival* - Băilești, *Pageant of the winter feasts* TârguJiu, Festivalul „*Descending sheep from the mountain*” – Baia de Fier, *Herdsman’s day*- Novaci, *Mountains song*- Lainici, *Festival of Gorj folklore*- Tismana and so on.

Also remember, under monuments in the landscape architecture, Romanescu Park in Craiova, a point of great attraction with its graphical, one of the most exciting accomplishments of its kind in Europe. For urban planning project, under the french architect, at the initiative of the mayor and human culture N. Romanescu, were used bold solutions: acclimatization and implantation of valuable species of trees and achieving a romantic setting by building constructions (Suspension Bridge, Castle ruin or concrete bridge that mimics tree trunks) (Neacșu, 2005; Stoica, 2007; Cotoc & Traistaru, 2013; Teodorescu, 2014).

The technological factors represent a major potential of landscape reorganization, but the general and touristic infrastructure is, generally, poorly developed, not maintained and non-capitalized, the touristic base (touristic accommodation structures, public alimentation, agreement, transportation, etc) is old, not maintained, has not been modernized, poorly diversified. This way, the capitalization of touristic resources in the South - West Oltenia region represent a challenging aspect of the regional actions, bringing together the characteristics of some factors of great territorial importance, of gravitation, infiltration and capillarity, subordinated to the concept of sustainable development, it should be indicated the idea that its touristic aspects are far from being considered capitalized

ones (Mihnea Costoiu, Plesu, Arsene, Alesincu & Iancu, 2009; Costoiu, Adamescu, Svasta, Nicola, Pleșu, Iancu,... & Tălpuș, 2010).

### **3. Conclusion**

There are all premises that, by extension of the tourism forms, based on some corresponding technical arrangements, the development region South-West Oltenia be able to ensure the implementation of some specific strategies in order to register this national territory in proper places of the national economy, especially, of the European culture and civilization, generally. Alongside with ensuring the development of the touristic infrastructure and over-structure, necessary for the development of the tourism, subordinated to the sustainable development, it is imposed: the realization and promotion of a favorable image (touristic brand) own to South - West Oltenia Region, as a touristic destination, ensuring the recognition of the tourism as an incipient element in the process of economic development and work places absorbent, the development of the rural tourism, generally and agro-tourism especially (Vaideeni- jud. Vâlcea, the paradise of herdsmen and ewe cheese, is for example, among the first touristic villages in Romania – 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1973).

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