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Tourism in the Era of Digital Transformation





THEMATIC PROCEEDINGS



UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC FACULTY OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM IN VRNJAČKA BANJA



CONSIDERATIONS ON AGROTOURISM IN NORTH-EAST REGION OF ROMANIA

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Abstract

The paper presents an analysis of the tourist potential of Suceava County in the North Region of Romania, as well as at country level, aspects related to relief, climate, network hydrography and tourism potential. Based on these considerations, we analyzed the number of boarding houses, the existing accommodation structures and the number of Romanian and foreign tourists from the analyzed period 2012-2016. The purpose of this paper is to determine the opportunity to build or modernize an agro-tourist hostel in the NE Region of Romania, more precisely in Suceava County.

Key Words: agritourism, boarding houses, tourists

JEL classification: R11, R12, Z32

Introduction

Within European countries, Romania ranks 12th, with about 3% of the continent's surface. Being in the center of Europe, Romania has a temperate continental climate and a varied and balanced relief, with large relief forms (mountains, hills and plains) each occupying approximately 33% of the country's surface. From the territorial administrative point of view, Romania is divided into 40 counties. Since 2004, eight development regions have been created in accordance with Law no.315, by bringing together several counties. The purpose of creating these development regions was to be able to apply European regional development policies, which aim at reducing regional imbalances, linking sectoral policies, stimulating interregional cooperation.

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The North-East Region is the largest development region of Romania, a NUTS 2 territorial-statistical unit, according to EUROSTAT classification. The North-East Region of Romania is one of the eight development regions and consists of six counties: Suceava, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi, Bacau, Vaslui. It has an area of 36,850 km2, representing 15.46% of the country's total area, and the external borders of the region are with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

LINGARIA

BEPUBLICA MOLDOVA

UCRAMA

Photo 1: The development Regions of Romania

Source: https://goo.gl/vnbG8j

The North-East Region of Romania has a varied, harmonious relief: 30% of mountains, 30% of sub-Carpathian relief, 40% of plateaus. The landscape varies from west to east, descending as altitude from the mountain to the plateau, rich in lakes, vineyards and agricultural areas. With a rich history and culture, the North-Eastern Region of Romania perfectly combines traditional with modern, its tourism potential being the basis for the development of rural tourism in the area.

Suceava County occupies 4% of Romania's territory, ranking second after Timis County. The size of Suceava County (8,553 sq. Km) explains the geological variety of landscape as well as of natural resources, being formed in 65% of the mountains with average heights between 1,500-2,000 m and 35% hills and plateaus with average heights between 460-520. In relation to the major geographical units of Romania, Suceava County overlaps partially with the Oriental Carpathians and the Suceava Plateau. From the west to the east, the relief has a gradual decrease in altitude, the types of relief being oriented in north-south direction and

generally parallel, imparting to it the shoring and diversification of natural environment components. The Suceava Mountains are covered by extensive forests and natural meadows and are rich in balneo-tourism resources. Within the mountain range, a number of depressions have been developed, of which the most important is Dornei Depression, where the famous resort Vatra Dornei is located, as well as a number of tourist attractions such as meadows, terraces, and peatlands.

The climate in Suceava County is almost equally a continental climate (in the eastern part) and a moderate continental climate (in the western part). Coming from the west, the air masses gradually lose their moisture during the Eastern Carpathians crossing, so that in the eastern part of the county the climate suffers a process of continentalization. Nordic air brings snow in winter and cold rain in spring and autumn. From the east, the county receives continental climate influences with summer drought, with clear sky, frost and snow in winter. Minimum temperatures sometimes drop to -38.5°C and the highest temperature was +39.8°C. Precipitation varies from year to year and ranges from 800 to 1,200 mm, depending on the area.

The flora is composed of softwood and hardwood forests occupying more than 52% of the county. The ratio between the two types of forest is 80% for conifers and 20% for hardwoods (beech, oak, hornbeam, ash, linden, birch). Among the shrubs, we mention raspberries, blueberries, rosehips and cranberry. There are also a few protected trees: Oak from Cajvana (500 years), Oak from Botosana (350 years), Elms from Campulung Moldovenesc (500 years). The Bucovina Mountains are home to many rare flora species: sângele voinicului (the Blood of the brave man - Calimani Mountains), floarea de colt (the edelweiss - Rarău, Călimani), bujorul de munte (mountain peony - Călimani, Suhard), papucul doamnei (the Slipper of the Lady), brusturul negru (the Black Rust), argințică (dryas - Rarău-Giumalău) creating a scenic landscape.

On the territory of Suceava County there are over 20 natural reserves: floristic, forestry, geological and mixed. The fauna is rich and precious, including many species of high hunting value: carpathian bears and deer, roebuck, lynx, wolf, fox, squirrel, wildcat, marten, hermina, ferret, blackcock, pheasant, species of eagles and owls. Mountain rivers shelter rare species of fish: the huchen (*Hucho hucho*), the rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), the grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), the common

barbel (Barbus barbus), the common chub (Squalius cephalus), the common nase (Chondrostoma nasus).

The hydrographic network of Suceava County consists of rivers (Suceava, Moldova, Bistrita and Dorna), lakes (natural, anthropic, hydroelectric storage), ponds, swamps and important underground water reserves, totaling a length of 3.092 km, being tributaries of the Siret. The territory of the county includes inexhaustible amounts of mineral and mineralized, carbonated, sulphated, sulphurous and chlorinated waters. Only in Dorna Depression, there are more than 40 mineral springs, the most famous being the ones from Vatra Dornei, Şaru Dornei, Poiana Negri, Coşna, etc. Numerous springs in Broşteni, Gura Humorului, Solca areas are not yet harnessed.

Photo 2: Vatra Dornei, Suceava County



Source: https://goo.gl/kuCMGL

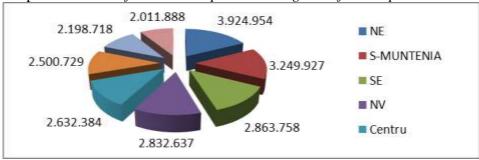
Suceava County is an ancient and dense heart of civilization and Romanian culture. The Suceava millennials have been inscribed in the history of the Romanians by the decisive role their forefathers had at the beginning of the Middle Ages in setting up and affirming the first fairs and pre-state political formations in organizing and finalizing the struggle against the rule of the Tartars and Hungarians, chosen in the consolidation, development and consolidation of the Romanian feudal state from the East of the Carpathians.

Here were the first three capitals of Moldavia: Baia, Siret and Suceava, the towns of Şcheia and the Citadel of Suceava, a durable and impressive collection of monuments and voivodean and boyar necropolises: Putna, Voroneţ, Moldovita, Sucevita, Humor, Dragomirna, Arbore, monuments

and centers of art and culture with invaluable national and universal heritage values, comparable to Italian Renaissance or Western European art.

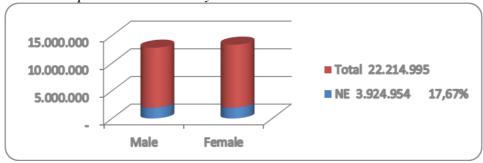
Together with the majority Romanian population, on the territory of Suceava County, other nationalities live in full understanding. Their share in the total population is 3.4%, the Ukrainians, Germans, Poles, Russians, Lipovans, Jews and other nationalities being representative.

Graph 1: Number of inhabitants per Macroregions of development



Source: NIS data processing

Chart 2: Population structure by sex



Source: NIS data processing

On July 1, 2016, Romania had a population of 22,214,995 inhabitants. The NE Region of Romania led detached in the Macroregions with 3,924,954 inhabitants (17.67%), and in terms of density it occupies the second place after the Bucharest-Ilfov Region (Chart 1). Chart 2 shows that the share of men is 49.73% (1,951,730 males) and that of women of 50.27% (1,973,224 women) with the same trend as the whole country (Chart 2).

Of the total population of the North East Region of Romania, 55,02% live in rural areas. The employed population is close to the country average of 33.8%. A very large share is held by the employed population in agriculture (42.7%), especially in Botoşani County (52.9%) and in Vaslui County (51.2%). The share of the employed population in industry and services is below the national average (23.5%), respectively 19.4%, Botoşani (15.1%) and Suceava (16.8%) with the lowest employment rate in the industry sector, and Vaslui County (30.0%) in services (Chart 3)

15.000.000
10.000.000
5.000.000
Urban Rural

Chart 3: Population structure by residence area

Source: NIS data processing

Also, these counties face a marked lag behind in terms of industrial and agrarian technology, as well as a low level of population qualification. In recent years, there has been a fall in the share of the employed population (from 64.2% in 2000 to 33.8% in 2005). Many older people in this region work temporarily or permanently in economic activities in Bucharest, Banat, Transylvania, Western Europe and Israel.

The first group of villages was made according to the natural-geographic environment, these being divided according to the relief form, where they are located in: the villages of the plain, the hill villages, the mountain villages. According to the economic profile of the locality and the main activities of the population, the villages are divided into: villages with agricultural profile, villages with forest profile, villages with tourism profile. All rural localities have a number of specific features determined by certain indicators, such as: land use; the form of land ownership; the share of agricultural output produced by peasant farms; employment; demographics; the way of living; degree of urbanization and modernization of localities. (Marin, A., 2013).

From a morpho-structural point of view, the Bukovina villages fall into the category of the scattered villages, being less influenced by the relief and more by the occupation of the inhabitants. They can be of three kinds: linear: those that develop along the water and/or roads; areola: having a polygonal or circular shape; alveolar: with polynuclear form. The core is the center of the village where the City Hall, the school and the church are. (Marin, A., 2013).

In the villages of Bucovina, after the departure of the young male working population, there is also a tendency for emigration of women to work abroad, so that in many localities there are only elderly people and children. In many of these localities the construction activity is impressive, the raw material used being wood. In this way, the discrepancies between the localities of the region from the point of view of the general level of development and especially of the infrastructure facilities have been emphasized. Unemployment is higher (6.8%) than national (5.9%). The female unemployment rate is below the national unemployment rate in all counties in the region. The causes can be found in the existence of more jobs for women (clothing and hotel industry) and the fact that many women are already working abroad. For this paper we have made an analysis of Suceava County as an integral part of Romania's Northeastern Region.

Tourism in the NE Region of Romania

Tourism exploits the natural and human potential of a country, enriching them continually, satisfying multiple human motivations. It has a multiplier effect, introducing into the economic circuit unusual sides such as landscape (for its "consumption" being necessary to go the site), hospitality, solicitude and information (geographical, cultural, historical, culinary, artistic, etc.) (Creţu, R.,2013).

The rural tourism, in its entirety, includes a wide range of ways of accommodation, activities, events, celebrations, sports and entertainment, all taking place in a typical rural environment. It is a concept that includes tourist activity organized and led by local rural population and is based on a close connection with the natural and human environment. The rural tourism represents the type of tourism, focusing on destinations in rural areas, providing a functional structure of accommodation and other heterogeneous services (Gheorghilas, A., 2014).

The practice of mountain tourism in Suceava County is favored by the potential offered by the varied relief (culvanic, karst), the favorable climate and the diverse flora, offering conditions for hiking, climbing, mountaineering, equitation, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, via ferrata, rafting, paragliding, winter sports.

Spa tourism is used by a large category of tourists, this being the part of tourism where the motivation is to preserve or regain health. Suceava County has a high natural potential for balneary treatment of various diseases in resorts such as Vatra Dornei (carbonated mineral waters), Tinovul Mare, Poiana Stampei (peat mud), Iacobeni (sulphurous waters).

As far as *cultural tourism* is concerned, there are numerous historical and military objectives (Scheia Citadel, Suceava Fortress and Zamca Castle). civil buildings (Princely Court and Princely Inn in Suceava), as well as over 25 museums among which: Suceava History Museum, Bucovina Village Museum in Suceava, Museum of Natural Sciences in Suceava, Suceava Ethnographic Museum, etc. Bucovina is famous for its ethnographic museums (Suceava, Rădăuți, Gura Humorului, Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Solca, Vatra Dornei, Vama, Marginea), as well as for the important creation centers or individual workshops of the famous craftsmen for their crafts: icons, knitwear, leather, woodworking. The existence of the eight monasteries and churches included in the UNESCO heritage: Moldovita, Voronet, Humor, Probota, Arbore, Patrauti, St. Gheorghe of the Monastery, St. John the New in Suceava, Sucevita, as well as the other places of worship, such as Putna, Dragomirna, Slatina, Rasca, Bogdana, Bailesti, Baia, determine the manifestation of religious tourism in two forms: visits to holy places and religious pilgrimages celebrations of worship, monasteries and churches patrons.

Ecotourism is that form of tourism where the main motivation of the tourist is to observe and appreciate nature. The uniqueness of Călimani National Park, the Bogdăneasa Natural Park and the dendrological one from Radauti, as well as the beauty of nature reserves are potential for the practice of ecotourism at the local level.

Rural tourism and agritourism have become particularly important in the last decade, as more and more tourists come to settle in the homes of locals, attracted by the possibility of discovering the environment, changing the way of life, as well as sports activities in nature. The recreational offer in rural tourism is represented by horseback riding,

pedestrian walking, cycling, fishing and hunting, visits to the sheepfolds, tasting of products specific to peasant cuisine.

Rural tourism is an exciting alternative, especially for teambuilding programs, for groups that do not exceed 30 people, because it offers a much wider range of entertainment such as campfire, outdoor grill, food flavor "as in mother's home", practicing various sports, excursions and hiking. As in all countries of the world, the economic crisis has also affected Romania. This has particularly affected the agricultural sector, with the population having to shift to other areas of activity. Thus, agritourism was an opportunity for locals who are willing to try other activities to ensure their living by receiving tourists in their homes. It can also be a good business for those living in big cities who want to give up stressful life in favor of the quiet rural environment. Agrotourism contains a great variety and uniqueness in delivering services to people who love nature, culture and peasant art.

From the point of view of entertainment, agritourism is a form of tourism with a wide variety and uniqueness in delivering services to people who love nature, culture and peasant art. Agrotourism is therefore closely linked to agricultural activities which can be a complementary solution to directly support its development with good social and economic results (Marin, A., Godja (Dănilă), D. I., 2017).



Graph 4: Number of agro-touristic pensions in 2012

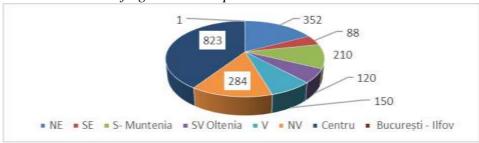
Source: NIS data processing

From the data published by the National Institute of Statistics we have collected and processed the information regarding the number of agritourist pensions with accommodation possibilities in Romania. Graph 4 shows that the region with the most agrotourist hostels in Romania in 2012 was in the Center (594), followed by NE Region (265). The share of

pensions in the NE Region of Romania in the total of the country represents 17, 89%, ensuring it a comfortable place 2. The variations in the analyzed period were not very high from one year to the next, but comparing the beginning and end of the interval (2012/2016), the differences are significant.

Thus, at country level, there is an increase in the number of agrotourist pensions by 459, which is 29.25%. On the first place is located the Center Region with 823 agrotourist hostels. The increase was 229 accommodation units, representing 38.55%. On the 2nd place is maintained NE Region with 352 agrotourist hostels. The increase, in this case, was 87 pensions, representing 32.83%. (Chart no. 5)

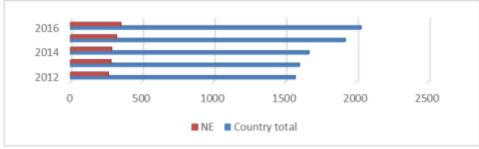
Chart 5: *Number of agro-touristic pensions in 2016*



Source: NIS data processing

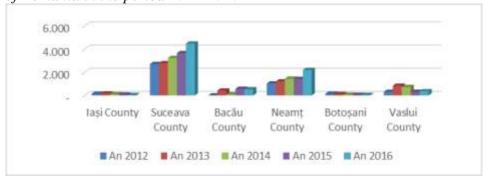
Regarding the number of agro-touristic pensions in the NE Region of Romania, which is the subject of this study, we observe two things: the first is that due to the increase at the country level, in the NE region there is an increase in the number of pensions from 265 in 2012 to 352 in 2016 (Chart 6).

Graph 6: The number of agro-touristic pensions in NE Region compared to the total per country



Starting from the number of agrotourist hostels registered in the period 2012-2016, we analyze their structure in the six counties of the NE Region. Thus, in the region studied on the first place on the number of agrotouristic pensions is located Suceava County, followed by Neamt County (Chart no.7).

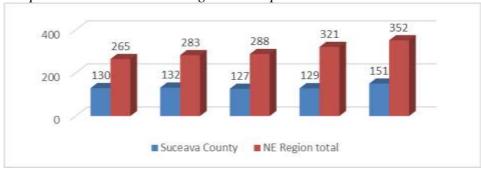
Chart 7: Number of agro-touristic pensions on counties in the NE Region of Romania in the period 2012-2016



Source: NIS data processing

In 2012, out of the total of 265 agro-tourism hostels in NE Region, 130 (49%) were registered in Suceava County. In 2013, out of 283 agrotourist hostels 132 (46.64%) were registered in Suceava County. In 2014 and 2015, their number dropped to 127 and 129 respectively, with shares in the region totaling 44% and 40%, respectively. In 2016, the situation is remedied, the number of agrotouristic pensions in Suceava County reaching 151 (42.9%), exceeding by 21 the number of the reference year 2012 (Chart 8).

Chart 8: The number of agrotourist pensions in Suceava County compared to that in the NE Region in the period 2012-2016



According to the data analysis, at the NE region the trend registered by the number of agrotourist hostels was increasing over the whole analyzed period, while in Suceava County it had a sinusoidal form (increase in 2012 and 2013, followed by a decrease in 2014 and a spectacular comeback in 2015 and 2016).



Figure 9: Number of reception facilities in Suceava County in 2012-2016

Source: NIS data processing

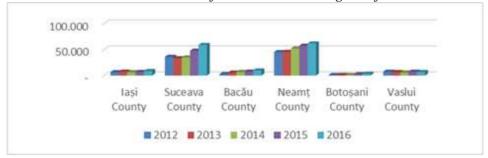
In Suceava County, in the analyzed period 2012-2016, the share of agrotourist pensions varied between 40-42% of the total number of reception units, while the total number of reception facilities increased continuously throughout the period, from 662 in 2012 to 833 in 2016 (Chart 9). A possible explanation for the fact that agro-touristic pensions have a high share in the total accommodation structures in Suceava County is the fact that existing buildings that have been upgraded and adapted according to the norms in force could be used. The second explanation might be that it provides tourists with welcoming accommodation, the hospitality of the Bucovina hosts being renowned. From Table no.1 and Chart no.10 we have the situation of Romanian tourists staying in the agro-touristic hostels in the North-East Region of the country; their number increased by 50,725 persons (51.49%) in the analyzed period. Most Romanians preferred Neamt County, then Suceava County, and on the 3rd place was Iasi County.

Table 1: The number of Romanian tourists accommodated in the agrotouristic pensions located in the counties of the NE Region of Romania

| | Iași | Suceava | Bacău | Neamţ | Botoșani | Vaslui | TOTAL |
|------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| | County | County | County | County | County | County | IOIAL |
| 2012 | 6.391 | 36.076 | 2.729 | 45.116 | 945 | 7.248 | 98.505 |
| 2013 | 7.429 | 33.286 | 5.597 | 45.688 | 1.120 | 6.601 | 99.721 |
| 2014 | 6.407 | 34.828 | 7.007 | 52.087 | 942 | 5.801 | 107.072 |
| 2015 | 6.853 | 47.946 | 7.430 | 57.453 | 2.404 | 7.381 | 129.467 |
| 2016 | 8.696 | 58.869 | 9.775 | 61.830 | 3.296 | 6.764 | 149.230 |

Source: NIS data processing

Graph 10: The number of Romanian tourists staying in the agro-touristic hostels located in the counties of the North-East Region of Romania



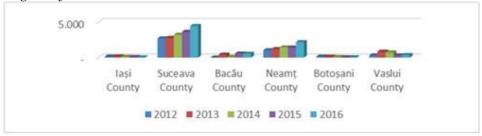
Source: NIS data processing

From the analysis and interpretation of the data from Table 2 and Graph 11 it results that at the level of the North-East Region of Romania there was a much smaller number of foreign tourists compared to the Romanian ones. However, their number in the period 2012-2016 increased by 3,290, which represents 43,20%.

Table 2: The number of foreign tourists accommodated in the agrotouristic pensions located in the counties of the North-East Region of Romania

| | Iași | Suceava | Bacău | Neamţ | Botoșani | Vaslui | TOTAL |
|------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-------|
| | County | County | County | County | County | County | IOIAL |
| 2012 | 135 | 2.709 | 2 | 1.033 | 139 | 306 | 4.324 |
| 2013 | 156 | 2.781 | 416 | 1.206 | 111 | 833 | 5.503 |
| 2014 | 105 | 3.232 | 90 | 1.441 | 66 | 725 | 5.695 |
| 2015 | 68 | 3.649 | 564 | 1.414 | 42 | 306 | 6.043 |
| 2016 | 31 | 4.470 | 529 | 2.190 | 39 | 355 | 7.614 |

Chart 11: The number of foreign tourists accommodated in the agrotouristic boarding houses located in the counties of the North-East Region of Romania



Source: NIS data processing

Table 3: Number of tourists staying in the agro-touristic pensions in Suceava County compared to the total number of tourists accommodated in the North-East Region of Romania

| | Romanian tourists Suceava County | Foreign tourists Suceava County | TOTAL TOURISTS SUCEAVA COUNTY | Percent of tourists in Suceava County in total tourists in N-E Region | Romanian tourists NE Region | Foreign tourists NE Region | TOTAL TOURISTS NE REGION |
|------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2012 | 36.076 | 2.709 | 38.785 | 37,72% | 98.505 | 4.324 | 102.829 |
| 2013 | 33.286 | 2.781 | 36.067 | 34,28% | 99.721 | 5.503 | 105.224 |
| 2014 | 34.828 | 3.232 | 38.060 | 33,75% | 107.072 | 5.695 | 112.767 |
| 2015 | 47.946 | 3.649 | 51.595 | 38,07% | 129.467 | 6.043 | 135.510 |
| 2016 | 58.869 | 4.470 | 63.339 | 40,38% | 149.230 | 7.614 | 156.844 |

Source: NIS data processing

Chart 12: Structure of tourists in Suceava County accommodated in agrotourist hostels during 2012-2016



Table 3 and Figure 12 show that the number of Romanian tourists who visited Suceava County and settled in agrotouristic hostels in this area during the analyzed period far exceeded that of foreign tourists, the percentages varying between 1077% and 1331%. The most plausible explanation is the lack of interest in promoting abroad this picturesque area in Romania.

SWOT Analysis of the Suceava County

STRENGTHS:

- clean environment due to its location in an unpolluted area;
- varied geological structure, which generated types of relief with a special tourist function;
- the existence of 27 protected areas: geological (Twelve Apostles, Devil's Mill, Lady's Rocks, etc.), oligotrophic marshes (Poiana Stampei, Şaru Dornei), floral (Fănețele Seculare from Ponoare, Tinovu Găina birch trees, Crujana forest oak trees, Codrul Slatioara spruce trees, Făgetul Dragomirna, juniper trees with Pinus Cembra, etc.), paleontological (Pojorâta) Lucavei Gorges, Zugrenilor Gorges;
- the existence on the territory of the county of the NATURA 2000 Network;
- the existence of economically and ecologically valuable tree species;
- rich hydrographic network through rivers and streams forming the Siret tributary network;
- the existence of grasslands and meadows that led to the development of livestock in the area;
- the existence of springs with mineral and carbonated waters;
- increasing the number of jobs by setting up accommodation facilities in the area;
- varied and rich vegetation and the presence of rare fauna;
- the creation of a material and spiritual heritage of great richness and originality through religious, cultural, monuments and works of art, proper tourist objectives, ethnographic tourist patrimony, economic objectives with tourist attractions;
- large and diversified resources in wood and flora, from hardwood trees to many species of medicinal plants;
- traditions and customs have spiritual continuity and further forward customs, technologies and various information, including historical;
- culinary diversity and international recognition of traditional cuisine;

- the existence of a network of well-dispersed tourist reception facilities.

WEAKNESSES:

- improper exploitation of the natural potential;
- strong winds that endanger spruce forests;
- high pluviometric regime leading to frequent flooding;
- the existence of forest exploitations using obsolete technologies that degrade the environment;
- decrease in the number of large enterprises;
- decrease of cultivated areas;
- decrease in birth rate that led to a negative natural spore
- natural resources and cultural and historical heritage are capitalized disorganized;
- the human resources involved in local tourism are not trained and qualified in the field of tourism / agritourism;
- the loss of traditional spiritual character by migrating locals leads to the disappearance of traditional elements in housing and household activities.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- the adoption of measures to extend the forest fund through afforestation;
- efficient use of local resources: deciduous and coniferous forests, mineral and carbonated waters;
- tourism development through European funding;
- creating organic products;
- promoting local products;
- promoting local tourism;
- decrease of unemployment by redistribution of staff made available in other branches of tourism and agritourism.

THREATS:

- the disappearance of some plant and animal species;
- the dependence of the county economy on the wood market;
- bureaucracy in accessing funding;
- competition with neighboring tourist areas (Maramureş County);
- increasing the ageing of the population;
- low motivation for young people to participate in vocational training programs;
- migrating local people to countries with a different standard of living.

Conclusions

The North-East Region is the largest development region of Romania, a territorial-statistical unit, according **NUTS** to **EUROSTAT** classification. The North-East Region of Romania is one of the eight development regions and consists of six counties: Suceava, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi, Bacau, Vaslui. Here are some of the most picturesque places in Romania, with special tourist resources that fit it among the regions with important development perspectives. From the data published by the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, it results that in the analyzed period, 2012-2016, there is an increase in the number of agrotourist pensions in Suceava County from 127 in 2014 to 151 in 2016 (18,89%), while at the level of the Northeast Region registered growth is 32.83%. Agrotourist pensions represent a part of the total reception structures at the NE Region level, respectively in the county of Suceava. This number increased in the NE Region from 662 in 2012 to 833 in 2016 (25.83%). The structure of accommodation registered increase in hotels (from 104-121), the number of motels (from 22-26), the number of villas (from 27-39), boarding (from 187 to 215) and the number of agrotourist boarding houses (from 265 to 352), but also the decrease in the number of hostels (from 27 to 24). The number of tourist cottages, as well as that of school camps, remained constant throughout the analyzed period (23) cottages, respectively 7 school camps).

Regarding the same period, it is noticed that there is an important increase in the number of tourists both at the country level and at the level of development regions. In the North-East Region of Romania, the number of Romanian tourists increased from 98,505 in 2012 to 149,230 in 2016 (51,49%), while the number of foreign tourists visiting NE Romania increased from 4,324 in 2012 to 7,614 in 2016 (43,20%). Thus, in the Northeast Region of the country, the most visited county was Neamt by the Romanian tourists and Suceava by the foreign tourists. From the present paper, its result a number of reasons why you should set up a hostel in the Northeast Region of Romania or at least to visit it.

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