



**JOINT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020**

Silk Road Local Culture – SILC

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**Activity A.T1.1: Study on the cultural and tourism value of the
Silk Road**

**Deliverable D.T1.1.1: STUDY FOR THE LOCAL SILK
ROAD CULTURES FOOTPRINT**

ANTREC Tulcea inputs

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D.T1.1.1. REPORT OF THE STUDY FOR THE LOCAL SILK ROAD CULTURES

1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND – REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1.1. Importance of the tourism sector and the development of Silk Road cultural heritage

1.1.1. Silk Road and UNESCO and other International Initiatives

In 1988 UNESCO launched a ten-year project entitled 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue'¹. As part of the project, several expeditions were organized to retrace, by land and by sea, some of these routes, with the participation of experts from all the countries involved. The purpose of the project, which uses a multidisciplinary approach, was to carry out field studies of the scientific, technological and cultural exchanges which took place between the East and the West along these routes with a view to stimulating further research at the international and national levels and promoting the concept of multiple identities and a common heritage.



Photo © UNESCO / N. Burke

The medal² was struck in 1990 when the project entered its operational phase. Two scientific expeditions set off that year: the desert route in China followed by the maritime route from Venice to Osaka, the latter covering 27,500 kilometers and

¹ UNESCO, *Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue*, newsletter, issue no. 1, October 1989, Source: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000159312>

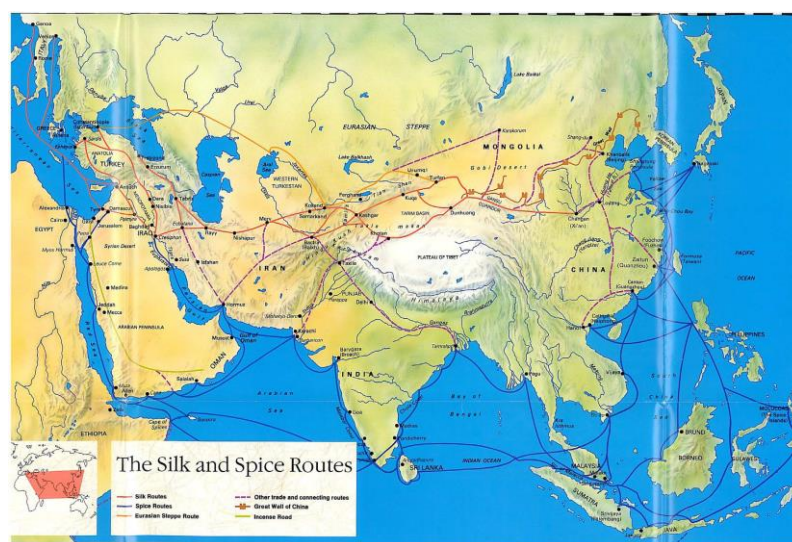
² http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=26462&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

stopping at 21 ports in 16 countries. The steppe route in Central Asia followed in 1991, the nomads' route in Mongolia 1992 and the fifth, the Buddhist route, took off in Nepal in 1995. The obverse side of the medal features the project logo, showing the three initial routes in intertwined letters "S" and "R" for "silk" and "road", within a laurel wreath. The circle also evokes the globe and the human brain. On the edge of the medal is inscribed "Silk Roads - Roads of Dialogue." The reverse bears the UNESCO logo.

The basic purpose of this project initiated by UNESCO in 1988 as part of the World Decade for Cultural Development was to highlight the complex cultural interactions arising from the encounters between East and West and helping to shape the rich common heritage of the Eurasian peoples.

Human beings have always moved from place to place and traded with their neighbors. Thus, through the ages, the immensity of Eurasia was crisscrossed with communication routes which gradually linked up to form what are known today as the Silk Roads.

Maritime Routes, or Spice Routes, linking East and West by sea were also developed. These vast networks carried more than just merchandise and precious commodities: the constant movement and mixing of populations also brought about the transmission of knowledge, ideas, cultures and beliefs, which had a profound impact on the history and civilizations of the Eurasian peoples. Many travelers ventured on to the Silk Roads drawn by the attractions of trade, adventure and also knowledge and, in the nineteenth century, by new archaeological discoveries.



Nevertheless, these ancient roads, used for thousands of years and considered to have been 'opened up' by the Chinese General Zhang Qian in the second century BC, had no particular name. 'Silk Road' is a relatively recent designation dating from the mid-nineteenth century when the German geologist, Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen, named the trade and communication network *Die Seidenstrasse* (the Silk Road). The term, also used in the plural, has remained to stir our imagination with its evocative mystery.

Through international scientific expeditions, seminars and meetings and by adopting a multidisciplinary approach, the project promoted research on subjects related to the study of the Silk Roads and encouraged the awarding of fellowships to young researchers, the production of specialized works and publications for the general public such as the children's series 'The Silk and Spice Routes', documentary films and exhibitions, and a broader understanding of the concept of a common heritage and multiple identities.

By virtue of the synergy established at every stage between researchers and the media and the concrete nature and visibility of its activities and results, the project has renewed interest in the Silk Roads worldwide. In this way UNESCO contributed to establish the conditions under which people will become more aware of the need to renew intercultural dialogue and become more aware of their mutual ties, with a view to promoting a culture of peace and tolerance.

Expeditions

Combining science with media coverage, five international scientific expeditions were carried out, adding an innovative aspect to the project³:

³ UNESCO, *The Silk Roads Project: Integral study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue, 1988-1997*, 2002, p. 4, Source: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000159189>



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Silk Road Local Culture



THE DESERT ROUTE FROM XIAN TO KASHGAR IN CHINA

(20 July-3 August 1990)

THE MARITIME ROUTE FROM VENICE TO OSAKA
(13 October 1990-9 March 1991)

THE STEPPE ROUTE IN CENTRAL ASIA
(18 April-17 June 1991)

THE NOMADS' ROUTE IN MONGOLIA
(10 July-5 August 1992)

THE BUDDHIST ROUTE, PART I - NEPAL
(21-30 September 1995)

THE DESERT ROUTE FROM XIAN TO KASHGAR IN CHINA (20 July-3 August 1990)

The international team was made up of 21 foreign experts, four members of the International Consultative Committee for the Silk Roads, eight Chinese experts and eight representatives of the foreign press.

Nineteen countries were represented in all.

An international seminar was held in Urumqi on the theme 'Land Routes of the Silk Roads and Cultural Exchanges between East and West before the Tenth Century' and a symposium at Dunhuang on 'Dunhuang and the Silk Roads'.

The expedition gave rise to the exhibition 'Serindia, Land of Buddha. Ten centuries of art on the Silk Road', held in Paris from 24 October 1995 to 19 February 1996.

THE MARITIME ROUTE FROM VENICE TO OSAKA (13 October 1990-9 March 1991)

A voyage covering 27,000 kilometers in the ship 'Fulk alSalamah', graciously loaned by His Majesty Qaboos, Sultan of Oman. Nearly 100 scientists and 45 journalists, representing 34 countries, were on board for all or part of the voyage.

During the 154-day trip, the expedition called at 21 ports in 16 countries and spent 54 days at sea. Regional and national authorities organized 17 international seminars and two symposia where experts presented several hundred papers.



The exhibition 'In Search of Sinbad: The Maritime Silk Route', held at the Musée de la Marine in Paris from 18 March to 15 June 1994, was based on the expedition.

THE STEPPE ROUTE IN CENTRAL ASIA (18 April-17 June 1991)

Duration: nine weeks.

Distance covered: 5,000 kilometres, from Ashkhabad (Turkmenistan) to Almaty (Kazakhstan).

The international team was composed of 46 foreign experts, 74 Soviet experts and 26 representatives of the media. Twenty-three countries were represented. Two international seminars took place: Khiva (2-3 May 1991) on the 'Importance of caravanserais and cities built along the ancient Silk Route' and Almaty (15-17 June 1991) on 'Relations between sedentary and nomadic cultures along the major Silk Roads'. Many art objects from Central Asia were included in the exhibition 'Serindia, Land of Buddha: Ten centuries of art on the Silk Road', held in Paris from 24 October 1995 to 19 February 1996. Also, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) was established in August 1995 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) as a direct outcome of the UNESCO Silk Roads Expeditions (website: <http://www.unesco-iicas.org/>).

THE NOMADS' ROUTE IN MONGOLIA (10 July-5 August)

UNESCO organized the Nomads' Route Expedition in Mongolia in summer 1992, which composed of an international team of 44 foreign experts, 11 Mongol specialists and 28 representatives of the press, from some 25 countries in all, travelled the 3,500 kilometres of dust or grass tracks that separate Khobdo, in the West, from Ulan Bator, in the East. In order to highlight the difficulties involved in nomadic life, an international seminar was held at the end of the Expedition in Ulan Bator (3-5 August 1992,) on the theme "The Nomads of Central Asia and the Silk Roads".

Mongolia is the only steppe nation where such a large number of people still lead a nomadic existence and practice a culture particularly suited to a mobile way of life. Although sheep provide a lot of their needs: skins for clothing, mutton, milk and cheese for food; dung for fuel; and wool for the manufacture of the characteristic felt gears, or

yurts (the nomads' mobile homes), most Mongolian nomads also possess large herds of horses, camels, goats and in the high regions, yaks.

During the Expedition, participants were able to experience some of the difficulties of nomadic life, due, amongst other things, to the harsh and very rapidly changing climate.

They were also able to see some of the more pleasant aspects, such as the traditional arts, crafts and games, knowledge of which has been passed down from generation to generation, like Mongolian wrestling, archery, horse riding as well as a great deal of music, and particularly the famous Altay "double tone" singing.

One of the important outcomes of this Expedition was the creation, in Ulan Bator in September 1998, of the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (website: <http://www.nomadic.mn>).

THE BUDDHIST ROUTE, PART I – NEPAL (21-30 September 1995)

The expedition to Nepal was organized and the programme designed for UNESCO by the Lumbini Development Trust, on behalf of the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO and the Department of Archaeology of Nepal. Dr Corneille Jest, Director of Research at the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), also contributed as scientific adviser to the preparations for the expedition.

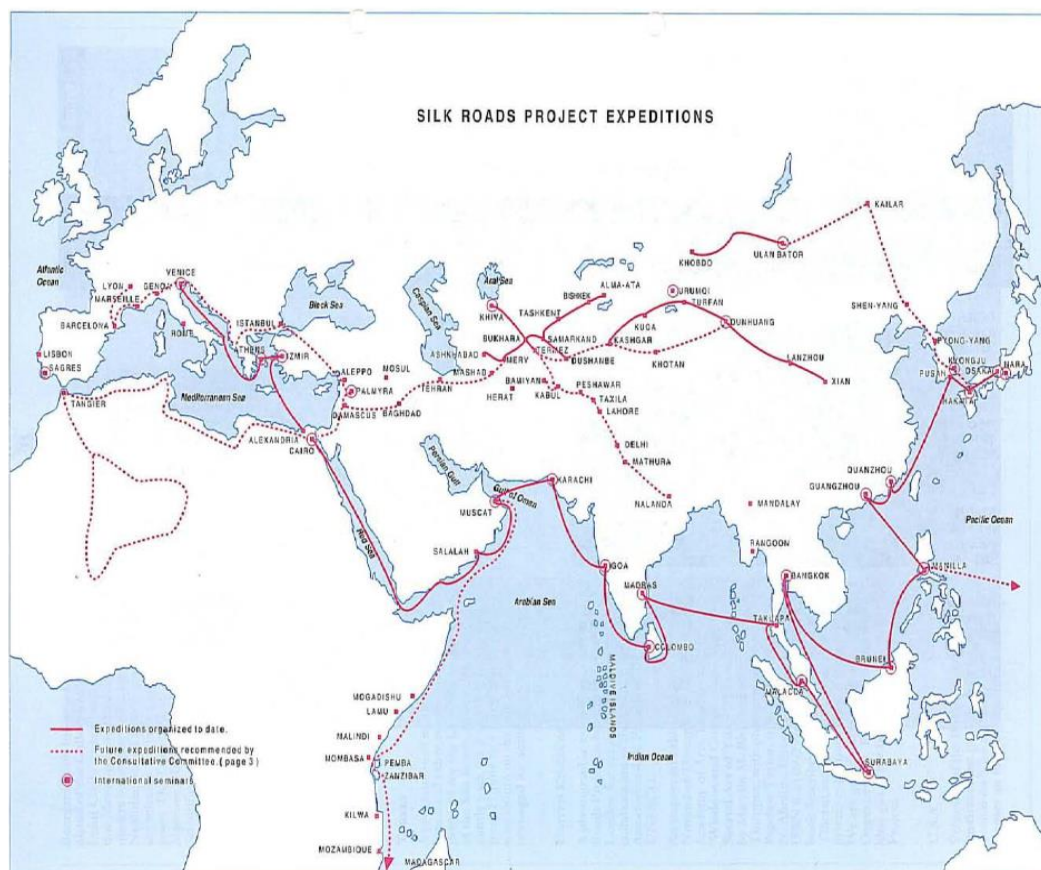
Duration: 10 days 21 - 30 September 1995.

International Team: 72 participants from 17 countries, 44 experts (25 from Nepal), 11 media representatives, 5 UNESCO organizers, 12 Nepalese organizers.

Programme:

- Two international seminars 'Lumbini - birthplace of the Buddha', Lumbini, 25 September 1995;
- (10 communications presented) 'Buddhism in the Himalayas: yesterday and today' Kathmandu, 20 September 1995;
- (12 communications presented) 16 major study trips in the region of Lumbini and the Kathmandu Valley 6 monument areas, 6 archaeological sites 3 museums, the Lumbini Master Plan site.

Other activities: Cultural event Visit to a Buddhist religious community, 2 press conferences (22 and 29 September 1995).



Among the exhibitions generated by the project were:

- *Serindia, Land of Buddha. Ten centuries of art on the Silk Road*

This exhibition was inspired by the Desert Route expedition in China (1990) in which Jacques Giès, Head Curator of the National Museum of Asian Arts (Musée Guimet), participated as a member of the international team. The exhibition, held at the Grand Palais in Paris from 24 October 1995 to 19 February 1996, presented for the first time in the western world major pieces from collections of Central Asian Buddhist art, which are held in several museums around the world.

Jacques Giès and Monique Cohen, the organizers of the exhibition, explain: 'We are concerned here with a region for which we have no specific name; hence the use of several terms including 'Serindia', 'Central Asia' and even 'Silk Roads'. Each conjures up a multitude of images yet they all fail to convey the distinctiveness of their subject. The exhibition traces a phenomenal period in the region's history: the Buddhist

'millennium' during which Buddhism used the oases of the Tarim Basin as staging posts in order to win over to its philosophical and religious doctrine the major countries of the Far East, China first and then, through China, Korea and Japan. Federico Mayor, the Director General of UNESCO, adds: 'What precisely does Buddhist art bring to us from centuries past? Memories of ancient times and lost sites, naturally, but above all an ethic to live by, and, at all times, a sense of mystery, something that our technically-minded civilizations have not managed to take away from us'.

- *In Search of Sinbad: The Maritime Silk Route*

held at the Musée de la Marine in Paris from 18 March to 15 June 1994, was inspired by the Maritime Silk Route expedition.

In his introduction to the exhibition catalogue, Rear Admiral François Bellec, Director of the Musée de la Marine, writes: 'From the magic of the seas skirting the land routes, universal nautical science was born. From China to Arabia, through the Indonesian archipelago, ships of all kinds manned by crews speaking every language and from every culture opened up the high sea routes, carrying the fabulous cargoes the West dreamed of.

Plying the routes of incense, jade, perfume, gems, exotic woods, silk, spices, porcelain and tea, the fleets of the eastern seas, of which only a few astonished voyageurs ever caught a glimpse and which were practically ignored until the Renaissance, established a classic commercial monopoly. More importantly, they developed an advanced naval science at a time when Europe was still living in dread of the murky depths ... Striving to reconstitute the material and cultural aspects of the Maritime Silk Routes, "In Search of Sinbad" also pays tribute to the millions of unknown sailors who sailed with the silk fleets'.

- *Photographs of Mongolia by J.-F. Gaillard*

An exhibition of photographs of Mongolia by J.-F. Gaillard and paintings by Franyo Aatoth was organized with the Permanent Delegation of Mongolia and displayed in UNESCO house from 24 February to 03 March 1998.

By organizing academic meetings and symposia for researchers from the countries along the Silk Roads, UNESCO brought a true cultural dimension to the international scientific programmes under the project, which dealt with the following subjects:

- ✓ Study of the languages and scripts of the Silk Roads;
- ✓ Study and preservation of caravanserais and postal systems;
- ✓ Corpus and study of the Petroglyphs of Central Asia;
- ✓ Use of remote sensing to study archaeological sites;
- ✓ Epics along the Silk Roads.

The artist and teacher Prof. Ikuo Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and the President of the National University of Tokyo for the Fine Arts and Music, provided the Organization with a one million dollar fund to enable UNESCO to offer ten yearly fellowships over a ten year period (1990-1999) aimed at helping 100 young scholars to undertake research in various fields relative to the Silk Roads.

- *UNESCO International Symposium on the Silk Roads 2002*

In commemoration of the completion of the UNESCO Hirayama Fellowships Programme, Prof. Hirayama, UNESCO and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO jointly organized an International Symposium on the Silk Roads 2002 in Xi'an from 18 to 20 November 2002 in the framework of the United Nations Year of Cultural Heritage and on the 30th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Among 100 Hirayama fellowship beneficiaries, 39 fellows and International Experts on Silk Roads from 29 nations participated in the Symposium. The participants adopted the Xi'an Declaration and an official letter was signed on behalf of the participants by Mr Jalali, President of the UNESCO General Conference and Prof. Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador "requesting UNESCO and the relevant Member States to consider inscribing the Silk Roads on the World Heritage List. This would be the first time that a designated World Heritage "site" crosses the boundaries of many nations. The cooperation between Member States necessary to put forward this proposal would in itself be a manifestation of international cooperation and a contribution to dialogue between peoples".

At the request of the republics of Central Asia, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and UNESCO launched a joint cultural tourism programme on the Silk Roads in Central Asia based on the Steppe Route expedition. During a meeting in Uzbekistan in October 1994, WTO and UNESCO issued the Samarkand Declaration on Tourism along the Silk Roads, which appealed to the governments concerned to work towards developing cultural tourism along those routes and encouraging a type of tourism that respect not only the cultural and natural environment, but also the traditions of the countries along the Silk Road, and which could increase awareness of the value of their heritage and benefit local communities. In addition to a number of promotion activities further meetings were organized in Germany (Berlin), Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (Khiva and Bukhara).

More info on the Silk Road project (cultural tourism) could be found at WTO's website:
<http://www.unwto.org>.

The documentary films made by the television companies participating in the various expeditions have mainly been shown in the countries concerned, especially in China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. Others have been produced or co-produced by UNESCO on particular themes in response to specific requests.

➤ The Silk Roads (PAL) Roads of Encounter

A unique documentary in its wealth and depth of information. The Silk Roads documentary film based on the UNESCO Silk Roads land expeditions co-produced by UNESCO and NDR, Germany, "Sur la Piste des Caravanes : l'Endroit de toutes les Rencontres", was shown on French/German TV channel ARTE on 19 February 1998 in the framework of a theme evening on "The Silk Roads" (Les Routes de la Soie).

The original documents were filmed by local television teams of nine countries in Central Asia as the expedition, organized within UNESCO's programme 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Route of Dialogue' retraced the 2,000-year-old 20,000 km silk and spices route linking East and West and thus ideas, religions, people, products and cultures in both directions. John Lawton composed later a fascinating kaleidoscope, where, from Xian in China to Constantinople at the doors of Europe, the legendary and the present meet and the dialogue is still alive.



UNESCO Publishing: http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=3115

➤ Silk, Scents and Spice – DVD

Tracing the world's great trade routes throughout history and around the globe. This DVD, based on a documentary co-produced with Arté, traces the history of peoples along the Incense Trail, the Silk Road and the Spice Route. These routes left an everlasting imprint on the history of ideas, technologies and religion. An excellent complement to the book of the same name, it offers viewers the chance to see the history and sights of these fascinating regions and cultures unfold before their eyes.

UNESCO website: http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=16325&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

The UNESCO project has fired the imagination of writers and publishers and a large number of books are now available. In addition, the Organization's publishing house has published on its own or jointly various works intended essentially for the academic community, or for children.

➤ UNESCO – Belitha publications on the Silk Road

(http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36922&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Inventions and Trade

Cultures and Civilizations

Exploration by Land

Exploration by Sea

Address by Federico Mayor, Director-General of Unesco, Seminar on Sri Lanka as the Mid-point in the East-West Silk Route and the Centre of Convergence of the Crosscurrents of Buddhist Philosophy; Colombo; 1990
(<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0008/000894/089458eo.pdf>)

Address by Federico Mayor, Director-General of Unesco, at the ceremony to launch the Maritime Route Expedition of the Unesco Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue; Venice, 23 October 1990
(<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0008/000880/088051eo.pdf>).



➤ *Les routes de la soie - Patrimoine commun, identités plurielles*

(in French, available at the UNESCO library) - Road Silks – Common heritage, plural identities

This book is dedicated to the study of the ancient silks, petroglyphs in Central Asia, papermaking workshops, Buddhist iconography in the Imperial China and Asian epics of oral traditions.

(<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?catno=97729&gp=1&mode=e&lin=1>)

➤ *Diogene, N° 171, 1995*

(available at the UNESCO library)

Diogene is a quarterly publication by Gallimard Publishing, edited by ICPHS jointly with UNESCO. The publication N°171 is entirely dedicated to the Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road and includes seven articles of well-known specialists such as Denis Sinor, Edwards Tryjarski, James Hamilton, Louis Bazin, Wolfgang-Ekkehard Scharlipp, Stephen Wurm and Nahal Tajadod. In addition, further materials are included in the annex section: a synoptic chart, some alphabets of the Silk Roads, the Empires of the Steppes, a presentation of the UNESCO project, a map and an interview on Mongolia with Pierre-Henri Giscard.

To purchase Diogenes: <http://dio.sagepub.com/>

The passage of expeditions organized by UNESCO has inspired several countries to establish or make plans for research institutes or international institutes in fields closely linked to the Silk Roads:

Maritime Silk Roads Study Centre (Fuzhou, China);

Buddhist Research Centre, Pali University (Colombo, Sri Lanka);

<http://www.pgipbs.net/>

International Institute for Central Asian Studies (Samarkand, Uzbekistan);

<http://www.unesco-iicas.org/>

International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Cultures (Ulan Bator, Mongolia);



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<http://www.nomadic.mn/>

Hirayama Institute of Silk Road Studies (Kamakura, Japan)

Nara International Centre for Silk Roads Studies, (Nara, Japan).

<http://www.nifs.or.jp/>

The UNESCO Silk Roads Project

The Silk Roads have connected civilizations and brought peoples and cultures into contact with each other from across the world for thousands of years, permitting not only an exchange of goods but an interaction of ideas and cultures that has shaped our world today. In the light of this enduring legacy, the *UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform*⁴ revives and extends these historic networks in a digital space, bringing people together in an ongoing dialogue about the Silk Roads in order to foster a mutual understanding of the diverse and often inter-related cultures that have sprung up around them.

The historic Silk Roads were a network of trade routes across land and sea that spanned much of the globe from prehistoric times until the present day, along which people of many different cultures, religions and languages met, exchanged ideas and influenced each other. It is this unique history of mutual exchange and dialogue that the Silk Road Online Platform seeks to promote, in line with the 2013-2022 International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures and as part of UNESCO's commitment to creating a culture of peace. In the words of UNESCO's Director General, Irina Bokova, "promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is a most powerful way to build bridges and lay the ground for peace".

The Silk Road Online Platform therefore aims to reopen dialogue along these historic lines of communication by collecting and making accessible worldwide scholarship about the Silk Roads and engaging a global audience in a deeper understanding of the diversity and interdependency of the cultures and peoples along these routes. It displays and explains the routes and their timeless significance, and provides a unique source of original information, scholarship and news about them, enriched by the

⁴ <https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/unesco-silk-road-online-platform>



contributions of partner institutions from all over the world and by a committee of Silk Road experts.

Various aspects of the routes are explored through a series of Themes, covering subjects ranging from festivals and creative industries along the Silk Roads, to world cultural heritage, museums, underwater heritage and many more. These Themes are also displayed visually on the platform's interactive Silk Roads map. The Knowledge Bank provides a unique reservoir of expert information and the latest research on the Silk Roads, in the form of articles and studies, brought together by UNESCO and its network of partners. This can be searched thematically, by route or by country, and as such stands as a vital tool for all who wish to study any aspect of the routes in detail. Similarly, a list of Publications displays a variety of works intended to provide a helpful guide for visitors of all levels of interest. The platform also provides details of Institutions from across the world whose work relates closely to the Silk Roads.

This online platform is committed to building active links between people from different communities along the length of these routes. Local engagement ensures the cultural vitality of Silk Roads societies, promoting sustainable development via creative industries, education and sustainable tourism. Traditional craftsmanship, such as silk weaving, social rituals like Nowruz celebrations, and sporting events such as horsemanship displays, all emerged over millennia through continual exchange and interaction along the Silk Roads, and their vitality today stands as a testimony to this remarkable history, with traditions often being passed down through generations for centuries. The platform's commitment to such traditions will raise awareness of their importance to visitors and promote an appreciation of how these cultures and customs are linked. A plethora of World Cultural and Natural Heritages Sites, living traditions (many on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage list), museums and movable heritage, creative products and languages enrich the lengths of the Silk Roads, but it is only by bringing communities together in this way that their similarities, as well as their unique value, can be appreciated and preserved. In this way, the legacy of the Silk Roads lives on, and they remain a crossroads of dialogue, exchange and sustainable development.

The International Network for the Silk Road Online Platform

In order to ensure the full participation of various partners in Members States in the project, an International Network⁵ of focal points was established for the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform. Major countries along the historical Silk Roads and beyond have designated Focal Points to participate actively in and to follow up on the project's activities. The Focal Points are in charge of:

- To collect, analysis and transmit information and data on the Silk Roads heritage and activities in their respective countries to be integrated in the UNESCO Silk Roads Online Platform;
- To inform national stakeholders about the activities related to Silk Roads undertaken by UNESCO and its partners;
- To encourage and advise national authorities and stakeholders in initiating, implementing and promoting activities related to Silk Roads;
- To exchange experience and expertise with other members of the Network and facilitate cooperation and partnership;
- To contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation among nations and people sharing the Silk Roads common heritage.

16+1 initiative and China – CEE countries cooperation

Cooperation⁶ between China and 16 CEE countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia), also called the “16+1” platform or format, was formalized in Warsaw in 2012. Thus, since 2012, China is more and more present in the CEE, in a framework of economic cooperation organized around three axes: trade, investment and human

⁵ <https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/international-network-silk-road-online-platform>

⁶ Andreea Budeanu (PhD candidate, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO)), *THE “16+1” PLATFORM, CHINA’S OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE*, THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC AFFAIRS, Asia Focus, no. 86, October 2018, Online Source <https://www.iris-france.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Asia-Focus-86.pdf>

exchanges. Apart from these three axes, China declares itself reluctant for any cooperation in the political or military field.

While China's first post-Maoist economic ties with the CEE lay on China's "Going out policy" launched in 1999, its relations with the EU's Eastern border progressively developed in the following years, especially starting with China's accession to the World Trade Organization. However, the "16+1" cooperation appears in the context of the "multilateral diplomacy" strategy launched by President Xi Jinping. Closely related to the project of the new Silk Road and inseparable from China-EU relations, the "16+1" platform is designed to express a strategy of a great power *dàguó wàijiāo* 大国外交, promoting win-win relationships *shuāngyíng* 双赢 and inter-nation friendship ties *huǒbàn guānxì* 伙伴关系.

When assessing the historical levers, it is worth paying attention to the beginnings, historical and economic context preceding the emergence and the institutionalization of the "16+1" cooperation, as for both CEE and China's sides. In the context of the former tight relationship with Mao's China and the relatively little ties during the last three decades of the 20s, some of the CEE countries turned back towards China starting in the late 1990s, way before the creation of the "16+1" platform. This is, for instance, the case of Serbia, whose relations with Beijing have greatly deepened especially since the late 1990s, after the episode of the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Another example is that of Hungary which in 2011 launched the "Eastern opening policy"⁷, aiming to concentrate its external links on the Eastern major powers. The Hungarian strategy provides for economic diversification (including trade, investment and education) with the aim of reducing the heavy dependency of Western Europe in these sectors. On the basis of their tight economic ties with Budapest, China, Russia and India naturally became the three main countries targeted by this strategy. In early 2000s other CEE countries have also begun to develop or revive their trade relations with China, encouraged by the Chinese rapid economic growth and favored

⁷ MOLDICZ Csaba (Istvan), NOVAK Tamas, "China's Effort to Boost Globalization in a Hungarian Perspective: How Hungary Perceives the Belt and Road Initiative and the 16+1 Cooperation", *China-CEE Institute Working Paper*, 2017, No.15, Online Source: https://china-cee.eu/working_papers/chinas-effort-to-boost-globalization-in-a-hungarianperspective-how-hungary-perceives-the-belt-and-road-initiative-and-the-161-cooperation/

by their membership of the EU single market, especially after the EU's 2004 and 2007 enlargement waves.

In this context, the institutionalization of the "16+1" format was welcomed with the greatest hopes in the CEE region, the format being seen by most of the CEE as the only opportunity to do business with China, "this economic giant with whom we do not often have the opportunity to discuss"⁸.

According to sources from CEE states Embassies in Beijing, for most of the CEE countries, the Chinese strategy seeks to take advantage of the region's economic development potential and its geostrategic position that could play a key satellite role in the One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative. For few of the CEE states, the region's need of infrastructure investment could even place it as "the real destination of China's One Belt One Road"⁹. As for some Chinese scholars' point of view¹⁰ with regard to the limits and objectives of the "16+1" platform, China affirms itself reluctant to include new members in the platform, in order to first allow the platform's consolidation in its current shape. Therefore, alike the new Silk Road, the "16+1" remains compatible, complementary and inclusive for any local project and any actor wishing to participate as an observer (EU, European Development Bank, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, Belarus). But unlike the new Silk Road, the "16+1" is reluctant to the inclusion of other members beyond the 16 CEE states. However, satellite or destination of the One Belt One Road, the "16+1" platform appears to embody Beijing's great power ambitions combined with the CEE states' old Soviet solidarities and new development perspectives.

Presented and promoted as compatible and complementary to any regional project, the new Silk Road becomes a very effective mechanism in the creation of "satellite" projects, which the "16+1" platform is sometimes considered. However, China's cooperation with the CEE was institutionalized in 2012, a year before the OBOR Initiative's launch in Astana and this could fuel debates on the platform's belonging to the OBOR Initiative. Nevertheless, the "16+1" is very much in line with the objectives of the OBOR aiming at broader economic cooperation, beyond the field of

⁸ Interviews, CEE Embassies in Beijing, April 2018

⁹ Ibidem.

¹⁰ Interviews with scholars from Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, April 2018

infrastructure. Therefore, beyond the China-CEE's economic cooperation, seen as the main collaboration stream, the "16+1" platform, by its structure and design, embodies strong political and diplomatic potential links.

To some extent, the EU is worried by exactly these political implications and deepening diplomatic relations between China and the CEE states. When selecting the countries invited to join the "16+1" platform, China proposed a viewpoint of the European continent that contrasts the EU's one. In the strategic choice of its CEE partners, China does not comply to the EU borders, nor with those of the Euro zone.

Therefore, when assessing the "16+1" platform's structure, it is worthy to observe the dialogue between the region's past and future orientations. Firstly, the format betrays the borders of the former Eastern bloc, since it "includes" the countries of the former Yugoslavia (not aligned after 1948) and "excludes" former Soviet countries such as Moldova, Ukraine or Belarus. Secondly, the format does not follow the borders of the EU. However, it should be noted that the CEE states that are not EU full members are, according to the EU statutes¹¹, either official candidate countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia) or potential candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Furthermore, the format does not follow the borders of the Euro zone either, only the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Slovakia and Slovenia being part of the monetary union. As a result, two coexisting characteristics appear to bring together the sixteen CEE countries: (i) a shared communist past and (ii) a current pro-EU orientation.

Institutionalized with a Secretariat within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the "16+1" cooperation is particularly noticeable by the abundance of high-level meetings and bilateral agreements, at the expense of genuine regional cooperation. Summits at Prime Minister level (one per year, in November, rotating in different member countries); meetings of the Ambassadors of the sixteen CEE states in Beijing (four per year in Beijing); National Coordinator meetings (two per year, one in Beijing, the second in the country to host the annual summit) trace the framework of meetings that drive the "16+1" decision-making forums. In addition to these initiatives, thematic or academics meetings are organized at different

¹¹ European Union Countries, European Commission Official Website, Online Source
https://europa.eu/europeanunion/about-eu/countries_en

frequencies in different CEE countries or in China, within think tanks or thematic cooperation forums.

Under the label of regional cooperation, the “16+1” operates mainly on the basis of the bilateral cooperation China has with each of the sixteen countries. Therefore the “16+1” shows up to be what some diplomats name as “16 x (1 + 1)”¹². In order to bridge the bilateral cooperation level to the regional one proposed by the “16+1” format, each of the sixteen CEE states assigned to the management of a regional cooperation folder. In this sense and following a type of “one country, one policy”¹³ strategy, Hungary manages the tourism promotion file; Romania - cooperation around energy; Poland – maritime cooperation; Macedonia - cultural cooperation; Serbia - cooperation on transport infrastructure, Bulgaria - cooperation in the field of agriculture¹⁴. In addition to the bilateral relations, the “16+1” cooperation is organized around sub-regional cooperation between China and the different subgroups of the sixteen CEE states (e.g. cooperation with the Visegrad countries, with the Baltic countries, etc.).

Despite Beijing’s efforts to cover all three bilateral, sub regional and regional levels of cooperation, the China-CEE cooperation economic results remain very modest compared to China’s achievements in the Western Europe. However, the “16+1” format generates numerous non-economic results, since it emerges as a prosperous platform for cultural and diplomatic ties with China.

The first six years of cooperation show that the political profit surpasses the economic progress. As a result, the “16+1” is the subject of multiple studies aimed at identifying threats and risks for Europe. Debates over the idea of China’s intention to divide the old continent arise up to the EU's decision-making forums, creating tensions among EU members and fueling a climate of mistrust over Sino-European relations.

The pro-EU orientation of the sixteen CEE states is a vital factor that Beijing is cultivating for its projects in the region. However, Brussels stays worried about the Chinese presence in this region. While pointing out the existence of certain opacity in trade with the CEE, Brussels is wary of the interests that the PRC declares in the region

¹² Interviews, CEE Embassies in Beijing, April 2018

¹³ Interviews at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, European Studies Institute, April 2018

¹⁴ LIU Zuokui, “China-CEEC Cooperation: China’s Building of a New Type of International Relations”, Croatian International Relations Review, 23(78), 2017, pp. 19-34, Online Source <https://www.degruyter.com/downloadpdf/j/cirr.2017.23.issue-78/cirr-2017-0005/cirr-2017-0005.pdf>

but also the evolution of the political position of these states within the EU-China Dialogue. The emergence of the “16+1” format worries Brussels especially as the format continues to consolidate in the context of a tense Sino-European relations (e.g. issues on the status of a market economy, human rights in China, Tibet, Taiwan, failure to lift the arms embargo, widening European trade deficit, intellectual property rights, the South China Sea, etc.).

Besides the EU, other regional powers could have a role to play in the “16+1” geopolitical landscape. Germany itself has a firm stance on China's presence in Eastern Europe. While pointing out the threats that the Chinese presence in Eastern Europe would represent for the unity and cohesion of the EU, Berlin stays sensitive to any factor likely to change the status quo of the region or likely to impact Germany's strong economic ties with the CEE states. Except Germany, the other EU founding members remain silent on the “16+1” issue, prompting Chinese researchers to question the relevance of the fears expressed by Brussels or Berlin (“If the 16 + 1 really threatens the stability and unity of the EU, why do we see and hear only Germany's position? Why would other founding member states such as France or Italy remain silent in the face of so-called potential danger?”¹⁵).

Beyond European borders, major powers such as the United States or Russia also remain silent about the Chinese presence in the CEE. Moscow appears to have no worries, since Ukraine, Belarus or Moldova is not included in this initiative. The United States maintain their historic military presence in the region via the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) security network and haven't expressed any official position on the “16+1”. However, some of these silent powers' strategies meet China's interests in the CEE region. For instance, the Three Seas strategy (Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas)¹⁶ aims to develop a regional energy security solidarity network, independent of the EU, in order to better cope with the Russia. Although the Three Seas project was launched by Poland in 2016, it came back to light only after the coming to power of Donald Trump and his participation in the 2nd forum of this

¹⁵ Interview at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, department of Central and Eastern European Studies, Beijing, April 2018

¹⁶ O RICHARD Dorota, “L'Initiative de « Trois mers » – la coopération Nord-Sud au centre de l'Europe, le nouvel axe de la politique étrangère polonaise”, *Institut des Relations Internationales et Stratégiques –Analyses*, 2 décembre 2016, Online Source: <http://www.iris-france.org/84654-initiative-de-trois-mers-la-cooperation-nord-sud-au-centre-de-leurope-le-nouvel-axe-de-la-politique-etrangere-polonaise/>

strategy, in July 2017. A few months after, at the 5th China-CEE Summit in November 2017, Beijing proposed the deepening of maritime cooperation and sets the Three Seas strategy as a priority for the “16+1” format. In this context, China’s argument on the 16+1 platform’s contribution to the EU’s integration wears out, fueling EU’s fears of a Chinese Trojan horse¹⁷.

For the EU and the CEE side, the focus on threats overpasses the one on the opportunities. The abundant literature and research underlying threats are certainly of undeniable importance and utility. However, as they are very unlikely to prevent China’s rising presence in the CEE, a focal shift towards opportunities will be of a great value in EU and CEE states’ efforts to design their common strategy towards China.

Firstly, in the context of China’s growing presence in the East, CEE states have the opportunity to assert themselves as a vehicle for negotiation with China in the EU. There are no doubts about Beijing’s expectations of CEE support China in the negotiations with the EU. Whether on sensitive topics (e.g. South China Sea, human rights, arms embargo, Tibet, Taiwan) or on more pragmatic issues (e.g. award of market status, negotiations on the agreement on investments), China is certainly gaining support in Central and Eastern Europe and this could benefit not only China but also the CEE states.

Secondly, the Chinese presence is enhancing the regional integration of Central and Eastern Europe that could benefit both the CEE region and the EU. Despite criticism, the Chinese presence in Central and Eastern Europe is successful in favoring a certain centrifugal dynamic in the CEE. Within the format, the CEE states meet regularly around annual summits and many other diverse meetings organized at different frequencies during the year. As a result, CEE leaders meet far more often than if they were not part of this cooperation with China. Apart from differences, or even competition within the “16+1” format, the Chinese presence brings the sixteen countries to deepen their reflection on their membership of the EU and to reconsider their geopolitical position in international affairs.

¹⁷ TURCSÁNYI Richard, “Central and Eastern Europe’s courtship with China: Trojan horse within the EU?”, EU-Asia at Glance, European Institute for Asian Studies, January 2014, Online Source: <http://www.eias.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/02/EU-Asia-at-a-glance-Richard-Turcsanyi-China-CEE.pdf>

Finally, the Chinese initiative could be exploited as a unique opportunity to catch up with the economic backwardness of the CEE region. China offers an alternative model of economic development to countries in Asia, Africa, South America and Central and Eastern Europe. The economic and infrastructural development might be the most important opportunity to be seized, both by the CEE and the EU, next to the increasing human exchanges that will definitely bring long-term benefits to the EU's economy.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

UNESCO and the Chinese Academy of Sciences formalized their long-standing collaboration by signing a partnership agreement, on the occasion of an official visit by Ms. Flavia Schlegel, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, from October 31st to November 6th 2018¹⁸. The partnership aims to improve cooperation among centers under the auspices of UNESCO, two of which were renewed this week, support policy advice for engineering education and capacity building, and facilitate joint actions for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Their shared interest in promoting science for development has fostered long-standing ties between UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector and the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS). Mr. Bai Chunli, President of CAS, is also the President of UNESCO's The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS). The Academy manages the Chinese National Committee for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), and UNESCO will be a member of CAS' Advisory Board on STI for the Belt and Road Initiative, an effort to improve regional cooperation and connectivity on a trans-continental scale between more than 60 countries.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia faces an infrastructure funding gap of estimated USD 26 trillion through 2030¹⁹. To address this gap, various regional and sub-regional initiatives aim to develop better transport connectivity within Asia. This includes, among others, the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) Connectivity initiative, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)

¹⁸ <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-strengthens-collaboration-science-key-chinese-institutions>

¹⁹ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/227496/special-report-infrastructure.pdf>

Program, the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) Cooperation Program, the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

BRI is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program which aims at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the route of the historic Silk Road.

The Initiative was unveiled in 2013 by China's president Xi Jinping and until 2016, was known as OBOR – One Belt One Road. On March 28, 2015, the official outline for the Belt and Road Initiative was issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), with authorization of the State Council.

According to the official outline, BRI aims to “promote the connectivity of Asian, European and African continents and their adjacent seas, establish and strengthen partnerships among the countries along the Belt and Road, set up all-dimensional, multi-tiered and composite connectivity networks, and realize diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable development in these countries.”²⁰

BRI²¹ is a global initiative but by its nature of building on the historic Silk Road puts a major focus on countries in Asia, Eastern Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, a region mainly composed of emerging markets. According to the Belt and Road Portal, currently 71 countries are taking part in the Initiative, together representing more than a third of the world's GDP and two thirds of the world's population.

The Belt and Road Initiative combines two initiatives:

1. The (land based) Silk Road Economic Belt, comprising six development corridors
2. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road

Additionally, the map shows the Polar Silk Road, referring to the Northern Sea Route (NSR), as officially mentioned in China's Arctic policy.

²⁰ http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/newsrelease/201503/t20150330_669367.html

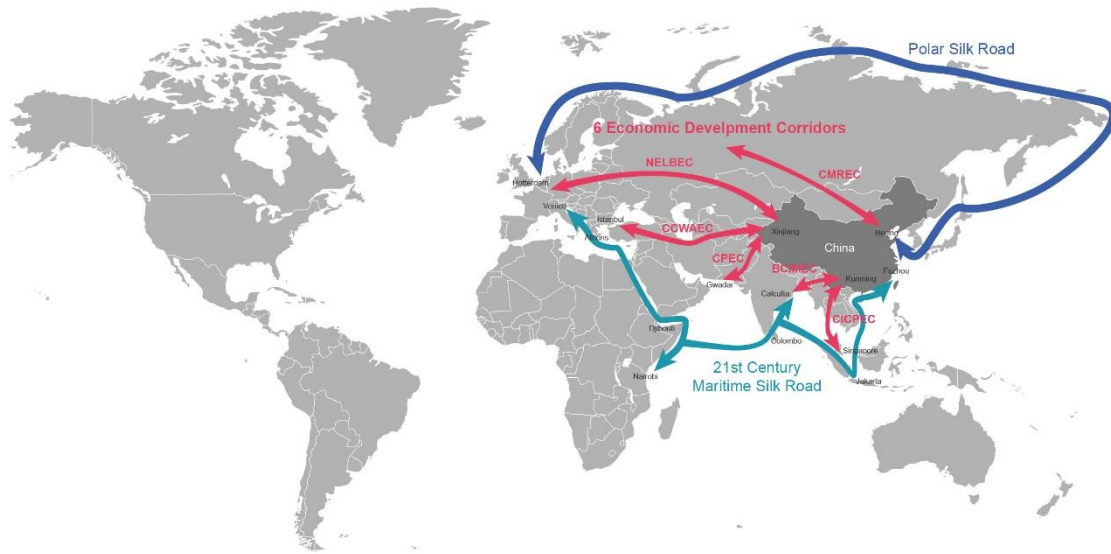
²¹ <https://www.beltroad-initiative.com/belt-and-road/>



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The Silk Road Economic Belt is a long-term vision for the infrastructural development, connectivity and economic cooperation of Eurasia and is spanning six development “corridors”, namely:

1. New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor (NELBEC)
2. China – Mongolia – Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC)
3. China – Central Asia – West Asia Economic Corridor (CCWAEC)
4. China – Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC)
5. Bangladesh – China – India – Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIMEC)
6. China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road connects China to Southeast Asia, Indonesia, India, the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia, Egypt and Europe, encompassing the South China Sea, Strait of Malacca, Indian Ocean, Gulf of Bengal, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

On January 26, 2018, the State Council Information Office of the People`s Republic of China published a white paper, titled “China`s Arctic Policy”, vowing to actively participating in Arctic affairs. The document is a blueprint for China`s Arctic strategy and its ambition to develop a “Polar Silk Road” under the “Belt and Road Initiative”.

The land-based Silk Road Economic Belt, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the Polar Silk Road cannot be considered separately and need to be understood as complement to each other regarding the strategic integration of the regions under BRI.



The official Belt and Road Initiative outline promotes the joint formulation of development plans and measures for advancing cross-national or regional cooperation between countries involved in BRI. This includes intergovernmental cooperation and multi-level macro policy exchange, communication mechanisms and policy support for the implementation of large-scale projects and the coordination in monetary policy.

1.2. Silk Road cultural heritage in the SILC Partners' countries

1.2.1. Brief historical overview highlighting Romania's cultural assets connected with the Silk Road

The culture of Romania

The culture of Romania is the product of its geography and its distinct historical evolution. It is theorized and speculated that Romanians and the Vlachs (Aromanians, Megleno-Romanians, and Istro-Romanians) are the combination of descendants of Roman colonists²² and people indigenous to the region who were Romanized. The Dacian people, one of the major indigenous peoples of southeast Europe are one of the predecessors of the Proto-Romanians. It is believed that a mixture of Dacians, Romans, Slavs and Illyrians are the predecessors of the modern Romanians, Aromanians (Vlachs), Megleno-Romanians, and Istro-Romanians. Modern Romanian culture visibly reflects a tremendous amount of Eastern European influences. In addition, Romanian culture shares several similarities with other ancient cultures such as that of the Armenians²³. The most striking thing about Romanian culture is the strong folk traditions which have survived to this day due to the rural character of the Romanian communities, which has resulted in an exceptionally vital and creative traditional culture. Romania's rich folk traditions have been nourished by many sources, some of which predate the Roman occupation. Traditional folk arts include wood carving, ceramics, weaving and embroidery of costumes, household decorations, dance, and richly varied folk music.

The Romanian landscape²⁴ is approximately one-third mountainous and one-third forested, with the remainder made up of hills and plains. The climate is temperate and marked by four distinct seasons. Romania enjoys a considerable wealth of natural resources: fertile land for agriculture; pastures for livestock; forests that provide hard and soft woods; petroleum reserves; metals, including gold and silver in the Apuseni

²² Gábor, Vékony (2000). Dacians, Romans, Romanians (1st English ed.). Matthias Corvinus, online source: <https://archive.org/details/daciansromansrom0000veko>

²³ Marc Haber, Massimo Mezzavilla, Yali Xue, David Comas, Paolo Gasparini, Pierre Zalloua & Chris Tyler-Smith, Genetic evidence for an origin of the Armenians from Bronze Age mixing of multiple populations, European Journal of Human Genetics volume 24, pages 931–936, 2016, online source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/ejhg2015206>

²⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania>

Mountains; numerous rivers that supply hydroelectricity; and a Black Sea coastline that is the site of both ports and resorts.

The Romanian people derive much of their ethnic and cultural character from Roman influence, but this ancient identity has been reshaped continuously by Romania's position astride major continental migration routes. Romanians regard themselves as the descendants of the ancient Romans who conquered southern Transylvania under the emperor Trajan in 105 CE and of the Dacians who lived in the mountains north of the Danubian Plain and in the Transylvanian Basin. By the time of the Roman withdrawal under the emperor Aurelian in 271, the Roman settlers and the Dacians had intermarried, resulting in a new nation. Both the Latin roots of the Romanian language and the Eastern Orthodox faith to which most Romanians adhere emerged from the mixture of these two cultures²⁵.

From the arrival of the Huns in the 5th century until the emergence of the principalities of Walachia and Moldavia in the 14th century, the Romanian people virtually disappeared from written history. During this time Romania was invaded by great folk migrations and warriors on horseback who traveled across the Danubian Plain. It is believed that in the face of ceaseless violence the Romanians were forced to relocate, finding safety in the Carpathian Mountains.

For the next 600 years the Romanian lands served as battlegrounds for their neighbours' conflicting ambitions. The Romanians were unable to withstand the imperial pressures first from the Byzantines and then from the Ottoman Turks to the south in Constantinople (now Istanbul), or later from the Habsburg empire to the west and from Russia to the east.

In 1859 the principalities of Walachia and Moldavia were united, and in 1877 they proclaimed their independence from the Ottoman Empire as the modern Romania.

Romania connected to the Silk Road

The Danube, the European Silk Road

Around 8000 years ago, the Danube Valley introduced the Neolithic revolution into Europe, spreading the civilization of agriculture. Some archeologists consider the lower Danube region as the "Old Europe". Today the Danube can serve for introducing

²⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania>

into Europe the “New Silk Road” revolution and to set a new standard for international relations, based on mutual benefit and the common aims of mankind²⁶.

The navigable Danube, 2,588-km long, defines a space of cooperation between 10 countries from Central and Eastern Europe where nobody can be a lone player: no nation can navigate alone, everybody has to join to insure its navigability. Today, with the advent of the New Silk Road Initiative, the Danube region has to be placed in the bigger Eurasian development frame. Big infrastructure projects can unlock all bottlenecks, ensure connection to Western Europe and create a space of East-West shared technology and experience.

Triggering shared development, the Danube can become the backbone of the East-West freight transport on the future Maritime Silk-road. Its navigable part goes from Germany, through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine into the Black Sea opening up Transcaucasia, Central Asia and the Extreme Orient to Eastern and Central Europe, and also to Western Europe, through the Rhine-Danube Canal.

Romania’s destiny is tied to the Danube and to the Black Sea. The Romanian-Bulgarian part with the Serbian one, until Belgrade, is the only class VII CEMT navigable corridor in Europe, that means more than 1000 km in the heart of Europe²⁷. Romania has the only navigable connection between the Danube and the Black Sea: the Danube-Black Sea Canal with its Constanța port. Referring to the 19th century Romania, the great powers used the name “The Danubian Principates” because 47% of the navigable Danube, that means 1,075-km, are running through Romania. Having a long tradition in navigation, Romania has 20 river ports, from which 4 are also maritime and has a solid maritime studies tradition.

Romania has a past of mutual cooperation with developing countries around the globe. In the '70 it played an active role in technology transfer for non-aligned countries. As Romania has no colonial culture, it can be today a credible initiator of the “new paradigm” of the New Silk Road Initiative.

²⁶ Alexandra Bellea-Noury, The Danube, a European silk route and the role of Romania, Neue Solidarität, No. 41, October 11, 2018, online source:

<https://www.solidaritaet.com/neuesol/2018abo/41/donau.htm>, (Translated in English)

²⁷ http://voies-hydrauliques.wallonie.be/opencms/export/sites/met.dg2/images/fr/promotion/cartes/carte_france_europe_VNF.jpg



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Constanța Port, gateway to Europe

The gateway from the Black Sea to the Danube is the bivalent port of Constanța, Romania, a river and a maritime port directly connected to the Danube through the Danube-Black Sea canal. It is the largest port on the Black Sea. The Port of Constanța gives access to the black Sea also for the riparian states of the Danube which are landlocked: Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Moldova and Hungary and for other states connected to the Danube.



The Danube connects the Maritime Silk Road with Central Europe, the port of Constanța on the Danube-Black Sea Canal becomes the gateway to Europe²⁸.

The Shipyards

Romania has more than 150 years of ships building tradition and has marine schools with highly qualified specialists in different domains.



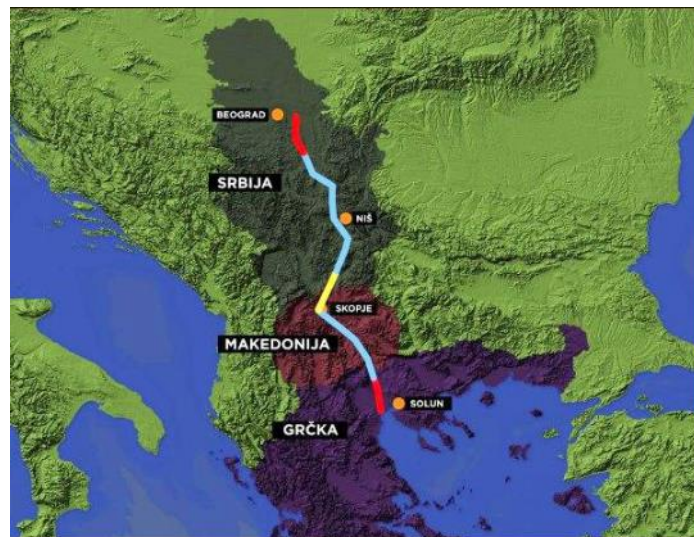
²⁸ Alexandra Bellea-Noury, The Danube, a European silk route and the role of Romania, Neue Solidarität, No. 41, October 11, 2018, online source: <https://www.solidaritaet.com/neuesol/2018abo/41/donau.htm>, (Translated in English)

Shipyard in Constanta port

Putting to contribution its shipbuilding capacity, Romania's merchant fleet counted until 1990 up to 300 ships, with an additional fleet of 100 ocean and river fishing ships. Before 1989, Romania's fleet was the 4th in Europe²⁹. After 1989, with the passage from planned economy to market economy, almost all Romanian ships were liquidated and the ports privatized, but the ship-building capacity still exists today. The ships built in Romania's shipyards are destined for maritime or fluvial freight transport, bulk carriers, oil tankers, convoy pushing crafts, barges, but also trailers, fishing ships, inland waterways vessels, platform supply vessels, deep sea pontoons. The biggest floating crane in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean (St. Mykolai floating crane) was made in Constanța.

Importance of Constanța and of the Danube-Rhine corridor

The port of Constanța and the Danube-Rhine corridor have the potential to become the main East-West fluvial connexion for the European part of the maritime Silk Road³⁰.



Chinese companies are interested in the construction of the Vardar-Morava Canal, which is supposed to connect the Danube with the Aegean³¹

China has expressed a clear interest in developing a Danube connexion, engaging in 2013 in a feasibility study for a Vardar Morava Danube canal which could link the Adriatic Sea to the Danube. China also launched with the CEEC countries a wider strategy, the The Adriatic-Baltic-Black Sea Seaport Cooperation framework.

²⁹ Id.

³⁰ Id.

³¹ Id.

The Adriatic-Baltic-Black Sea Seaport Cooperation overlaps with the Three Seas Initiative, including 12 member states of the European Union, situated between Baltic, the Adriatic and the Black Seas. This initiative aims to build the N-S « Via Carpathia » highway, connecting the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea and to the Black Sea. Another aspect is the diversification of gas supplies in order to diminish imports from Russia, a geostrategy plan backed by the USA. The financial question is less clearer for the three Seas Initiative.

Another future path-breaking development is the future Eurasian Silk Road Canal planned by Russia, China and Kazakhstan in order to connect the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea and it should be taken into account when dealing with the future of Romanian waterways.



The Eurasian Silk Road Canal is said to connect the Black Sea with the Caspian Sea³². Through this connexion, the Black Sea would become central on the Maritime Silk Road. According to the Professor Nuraly Bekturganov, Vice President of Academy of Natural Sciences of Kazakhstan, from the presentation delivered for the Schiller Institute Conference in Bad Soden in 2018, this canal would connect one million people from China, Russia, Central Asia and that it would be designed for extremely heavy loads with a depth of 11,5 m, potentially passing 120 million tons/year. It would redirect a part of the ocean transport passing today through the Suez Canal³³.

Austrians are also interested in the potential of what they call «the Eastern Neighborhood». A study released in 2018 by the Vienna Institute for International

³² Id.

³³ Id.



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Silk Road Local Culture



Economic Studies (WIIW) on the European Silk Road (Die Europäische Seidenstraße) proposes a push in infrastructure investments in the Eastern Neighbourhood of Western Europe³⁴. The study notes that 480 millions people live in this Eastern Neighborhood, almost as many as in the European Union: 30 millions live in the Western Balkans and the other European Free Trade countries, around 200 millions live in the European former Soviet Republics, almost 90 millions live in the Republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and 80 millions each live in the two riparian states of the Black and Caspian Seas, Turkey and Iran. As the southern route of the "European Silk Road", as the proposal is called in the study, Western Europe is to be connected from Milan along the Danube and via the port of Constanta with the "eastern neighborhood".

The Black Sea-Baltic Canal

The proposed Baltic Sea-Black Sea waterway is intended to significantly shorten the route from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea:



Alexander Hartmann (Baltic Sea-Black Sea waterway)³⁵

³⁴ Philipp Heimberger, Mario Holzner and Artem Kochnev, A 'European Silk Road', Research Report No. 430, August 2018, pp. 43, online source: <https://wiiw.ac.at/a-european-silk-road--p-4608.html>

³⁵ Alexandra Bellea-Noury, The Danube, a European silk route and the role of Romania, Neue Solidarität, No. 41, October 11, 2018, online source: <https://www.solidaritaet.com/neuesol/2018abo/41/donau.htm>, (Translated in English)



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The Bucharest-Danube Canal



The Bucharest-Danube Canal is supposed to connect the Romanian capital with the Danube³⁶

This 73 km canal connecting the political and economical capital of Romania to the Danube and to the Black Sea has been dug at 70% during communism and has been stopped after the revolution in 1990. Its evident benefit is to boost Bucharest economy, as being addressed at the Bucharest Forum “Dialogue of Political Parties” from the 16+1 cooperation format, saying “Bucharest can really become the portal through which the New Silk Road can enter into the European Union area” and that Bucharest had to become “a commercial and transport hub on this New Silk Road between China and Europe”³⁷.

This Canal needs to be build in a coherent re-industrialisation plan, so goods made in the Bucharest area would be transported on this canal westward on the Danube and eastward through the Black Sea. Transforming Bucharest into a transport hub of the New Silkroad can be made reality if the port is designed from the start on as an automatized and intelligent port.

Creating a waterway link between Bucharest, the capital of Romania and the Danube waterway was the subject of concerns over the last decades of the nineteenth century. Linking the capital of the country to the main IWT system of the trans-European navigation, will allow direct connection of Bucharest with the capitals and large city

³⁶ Id.

³⁷ <https://wccscotland.com/event/bucharest-danube-inland-waterway-the-missing-link/>

centers in Europe: Belgrade, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Frankfurt, Duisburg, Rotterdam.

The complex engineering of the Arges River has been proposed since the late 19th century. The project was conceived and partly implemented with the contribution of several generations of Romanian specialists, as it has been considered a key project for Romania.

History of the Black Sea

The Black Sea is a body of water and marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean between Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Western Asia³⁸. It is supplied by a number of major rivers, such as the Danube, Dnieper, Southern Bug, Dniester, Don, and the Rioni. The watersheds of many countries drain into the Black Sea beyond the six that immediately border it. Thus, the Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, and Russia.

The Black Sea was a busy waterway on the crossroads of the ancient world: the Balkans to the west, the Eurasian steppes to the north, the Caucasus and Central Asia to the east, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia to the south, and Greece to the south-west.

The oldest processed gold in the world was found in Varna, Bulgaria, and the Black Sea was supposedly sailed by the Argonauts. The land at the eastern end of the Black Sea, Colchis, (now Georgia), marked for the Greeks the edge of the known world.

The Black Sea became an Ottoman Navy lake within five years of Genoa losing the Crimean Peninsula in 1479, after which the only Western merchant vessels to sail its waters were those of Venice's old rival Ragusa. This restriction was gradually changed by the Russian Navy from 1783 until the relaxation of export controls in 1789 because of the French Revolution³⁹. The Black Sea was a significant naval theatre of World War I and saw both naval and land battles during World War II.

³⁸ UNEP/GRID-Arendal Maps and Graphics Library (2001). "Socio-economic indicators for the countries of the Black Sea basin", https://web.archive.org/web/20110210044702/http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/socio_economic_indicators_for_the_countries_of_the_black_sea_basin_giwa

³⁹ David Nicolle (1989). The Venetian Empire 1200–1670. Osprey Publishing. p. 17.



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A medieval map of the Black Sea by Diogo Homem,

In the years following the end of the Cold War, the popularity of the Black Sea as a tourist destination steadily increased. Tourism at Black Sea resorts became one of the region's growth industries⁴⁰. The following is a list of notable Black Sea resort towns: 2 Mai (Romania), Agigea (Romania), Ahtopol (Bulgaria), Amasra (Turkey), Anaklia (Georgia), Anapa (Russia), Albena (Bulgaria), Alupka (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Alushta (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Balchik (Bulgaria), Batumi (Georgia), Burgas (Bulgaria), Byala (Bulgaria), Cap Aurora (Romania), Chakvi (Georgia), Constantine and Helena (Bulgaria), Constanța (Romania), Corbu (Romania), Costinești (Romania), Eforie (Romania), Emona (Bulgaria), Eupatoria (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Foros (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Feodosiya (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Giresun (Turkey), Gagra (Abkhazia, Georgia), Gelendzhik (Russia), Golden Sands (Bulgaria), Gonio (Georgia), Gurzuf (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Hopa (Artvin, Turkey), Istanbul (Turkey), Jupiter (Romania), Kamchia (Bulgaria), Kavarna (Bulgaria), Kiten (Bulgaria), Kobuleti (Georgia), Koktebel (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Lozenetz (Bulgaria), Mamaia (Romania), Mangalia (Romania), Năvodari (Romania), Neptun (Romania), Nesebar (Bulgaria), Novorossiysk (Russia), Ordu (Turkey), Obzor (Bulgaria), Odessa (Ukraine), Olimp (Romania), Pitsunda (Abkhazia, Georgia), Pomorie (Bulgaria), Primorsko

⁴⁰ <http://www.bulgariansearesorts.com/>



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(Bulgaria), Rize (Turkey), Rusalka (Bulgaria), Samsun (Turkey), Saturn (Romania), Sinop (Turkey), Sochi (Russia), Sozopol (Bulgaria), Sudak (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Skadovsk (Ukraine), Sulina (Romania), Sunny Beach (Bulgaria), Şile (Turkey), Sveti Vlas (Bulgaria), Trabzon (Turkey), Tsikhisdziri (Georgia), Tuapse (Russia), Ureki (Georgia), Vama Veche (Romania), Varna (Bulgaria), Venus (Romania), Yalta (Crimea, Ukraine/Russia (disputed)), Zonguldak (Turkey).



Modern map of the Black Sea

The Danube played a vital role in the settlement and political evolution of central and southeastern Europe. Its banks, lined with castles and fortresses, formed the boundary between great empires, and its waters served as a vital commercial highway between nations⁴¹.



Modern map of the Danube (in German). Galați is the first dot upstream from the Black Sea, and the Sulina channel is the middle one in the delta (right).

⁴¹ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Danube-River>

The Danube is of great economic importance to the 10 countries that border it—Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany—all of which variously use the river for freight transport, the generation of hydroelectricity, industrial and residential water supplies, irrigation, and fishing. The movement of freight is the most important economic use of the Danube. Among the major ports are such cities as Izmayil, Ukraine; Galați and Brăila, Romania; Ruse, Bulgaria; Belgrade, Serbia; Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; Vienna, Austria; and Regensburg, Germany. Since World War II, navigation has been improved by dredging and by the construction of a series of canals, and river traffic has increased considerably. The most important canals—all elements in a continent wide scheme of connecting waterways—include the Danube–Black Sea Canal, which runs from Cernovadă, Romania, to the Black Sea and provides a more direct and easily navigable link, and the Main–Danube Canal, completed in 1992 to link the Danube to the Rhine and thus to the North Sea⁴².

During the 7th century BCE, Greek sailors reached the lower Danube and sailed upstream, conducting a brisk trade. They were familiar with the whole of the river's lower course and named it the Ister. The Danube later served as the northern boundary of the vast Roman Empire and was called the Danuvius. A Roman fleet patrolled its waters, and the strongholds along its shores were the centres of settlements, among them Vindobona (later Vienna), Aquincum (later Budapest), Singidunum (later Belgrade), and Sexantaprista (later Ruse)⁴³.

During the Middle Ages the old fortresses continued to play an important role, and new castles such as Werfenstein, built by Charlemagne in the 9th century, were erected. When the Ottoman Empire spread from southeastern to central Europe in the 15th century, the Turks relied upon the string of fortresses along the Danube for defense. The Habsburg dynasty recognized the navigational potential of the Danube. Maria Theresa, queen of Hungary and Bohemia from 1740 to 1780, founded a department to oversee river navigation, and in 1830 a riverboat made a first trip from Vienna to Budapest, possibly for trading purposes. That trip marked the end of the river's importance as a line of defense and the beginning of its use as a channel of trade⁴⁴.

⁴² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Danube-River>

⁴³ Id.

⁴⁴ Id.

Regulated navigation on the Danube has been the subject of a number of international agreements. In 1616 an Austro-Turkish treaty was signed in Belgrade under which the Austrians were granted the right to navigate the middle and lower Danube. In 1774, under the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, Russia was allowed to use the lower Danube. The Anglo-Austrian and the Russo-Austrian conventions of 1838 and 1840, respectively, promoted free navigation along the entire river, a principle that was more precisely formulated in the Treaty of Paris of 1856, which also set up the first Danubian Commission with the aim of supervising the river as an international waterway. In 1921 and 1923, final approval of the Danube River Statute was granted by Austria, Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Greece. The international Danube Commission was thus established as an authoritative institution with wide powers, including its own flag, the right to levy taxes, and diplomatic immunity for its members. It controlled navigation from the town of Ulm to the Black Sea and kept navigational equipment in good repair⁴⁵.

Chilia (a port on the Black Sea) – a vital link between Europe and the Orient

The youngest arm of the Danube Delta stretches for some 72 miles along the border with Ukraine and has the greatest flow of water (approximately 60%) of the three arms. Its shores are home to several scattered villages – Patlagean, Ceatalchioii, Pardina, Tatanir – and Chilia Veche, a settlement with a long history (initially a Greek colony called Achillea)⁴⁶.

Centuries ago, Chilia was a port on the Black Sea, a vital link between Europe and the Orient. In time, the alluvium deposited by the Danube has extended the land ever further into the Black Sea. Today, Chilia stands more than 25 miles from the sea. First documented in 1241 in the works of the Persian chronicler, Rashid al-Din, Chilia Veche was the site of a battle between the armies of Mahomed II, the conqueror of Constantinople, and forces led by Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler). A town on the Ukrainian side of the Danube, known as Novo Kilia (Chilia Noua, or 'Newer Chilia,' in

⁴⁵ Id.

⁴⁶ <http://romaniatourism.com/danube-delta.html>

Romanian) was founded by Stephen the Great of Moldavia in the 15th century in order to counteract the Ottoman Empire⁴⁷.

The Chilia arm, which flows along the northern rim of Danube delta, has successively built three lobes⁴⁸ and it was first mapped in detail at the end of the 18th century, as shown in the figure below.



The depositional architecture of these lobes was controlled by the entrenched drainage pattern formed during the last low stand in the Black Sea, by the pre-Holocene loess relief developed within and adjacent to this low stand drainage and by the development of Danube's own deltaic deposits that are older than Chilia's⁴⁹. The oldest Chilia lobe filled the Pardina basin, which, at the time, was a shallow lake located at the confluence of two pre-Holocene valleys (i.e., Catlabug and Chitai) incised by minor Danube tributaries.

⁴⁷ <http://romaniatourism.com/danube-delta.html>

⁴⁸ Antipa, G., 1910. Das U^{nt}erschwemmungsgebiet der unteren Donau, vol. 4. Anuarul Inst. Geol. Romaniei, Bucharest, pp. 225–496.

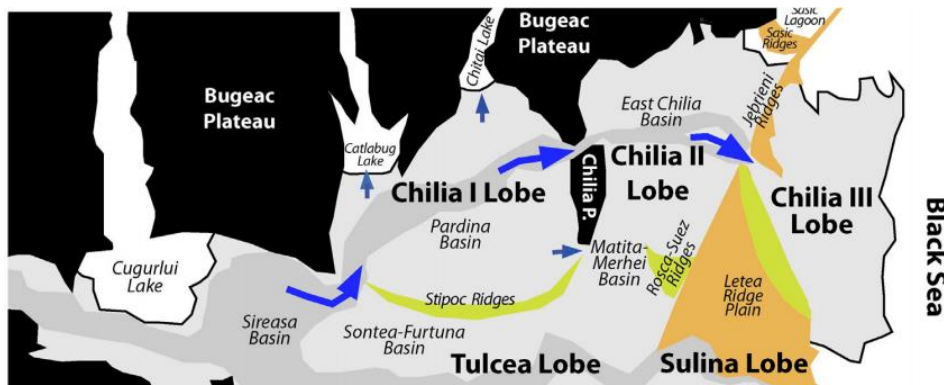
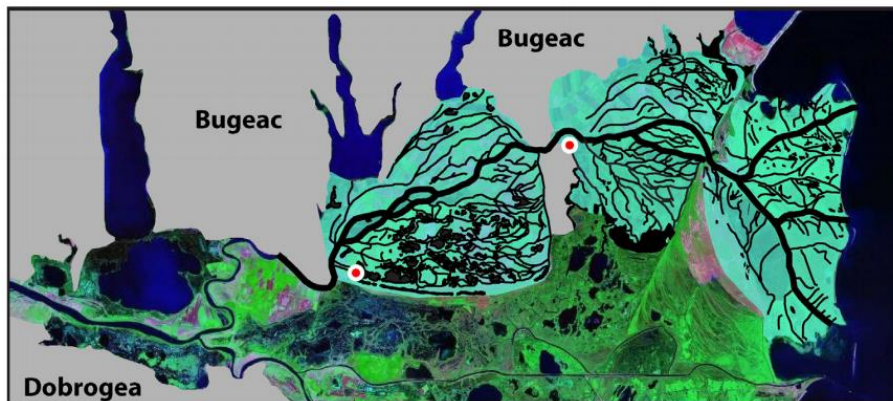
⁴⁹ Carozza, J.-M., Micu, C., Florian, M., Carozza, L., 2012a. Landscape change and archaeological settlements in the lower Danube valley and delta from early Neolithic to Chalcolithic time: a review. Quat. Int. 261, 21–31, online source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1040618210002879>



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This basin was probably bounded on all sides by loess deposits including toward the south, where the Stipoc lacustrine strand plain overlies a submerged loess platform⁵⁰. Bounded by well-developed natural levee deposits, the main course of the Chilia arm is centrally located within the lobe running WSW to ENE. Secondary channels bifurcate all along this course rather than preferentially at its upstream apex. This channel network pattern suggests that the Chilia I expanded rapidly as a river dominated lobe into the deepest part of the paleo Pardina lake. Only marginal deltaic expansion occurred northward into the remnant Catlabug and Chitai lakes and flow leakage toward the adjacent southeastern Matita-Merhei basin appears to have been minor. Secondary channels were preferentially developed toward the south of main course into the shallower parts of this paleo-lake⁵¹. All in all, this peculiar channel pattern suggests that the Chilia loess gap located between the Bugeac Plateau and the Chilia

⁵⁰ Ghenea, C., Mihailescu, N., 1991. Palaeogeography of the lower Danube Valley and Danube Delta during the last 15,000 years. In: Starkel, L., Gregory, K.J., Thornes, J.B. (Eds.), *Temperate Palaeohydrology; Fluvial Processes in the Temperate Zone During the Last 15,000 Years*. Wiley, New York, p. 548.

⁵¹ Id.

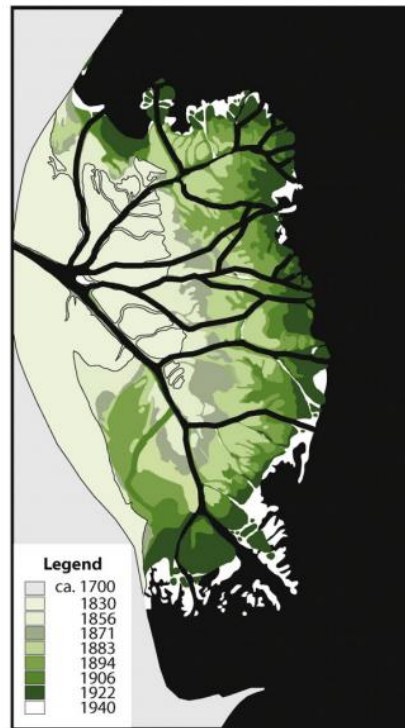
Promontory already existed before Chilia I lobe started to develop. A closed Chilia gap would have instead redirected the lobe expansion northward into Catlabug and Chitai lakes and/or south into the Matita-Merhei basin.

Chilia II lobe presents a typical bayhead delta morphology⁵² with multiple distributaries bifurcating primarily at its apex at the Chilia loess gap. This channel network pattern, along with a lack of interdistributary ponds, suggests that the new lobe developed by filling the East Chilia basin in a sweeping and rapid west-to-east migration. Although most of the Chilia water flows now along several central anastomosing channels, natural levee deposits are less developed than in the older upstream lobe. Lack of secondary channels intruding into the basins south or north of the East Chilia basin suggests that the basin was completely confined as the Chilia II lobe grew. The Letea strand plain and the Jebrieni spit separated the East Chilia basin from the Black Sea whereas the Tulcea lobe extension into the Matita-Merhei basin along with the Rosca-Suez strand plain confined the basin in the south and the lagoonal Sasic strand plain confined it in the north. The presence of marine fauna such as foraminifera (*Ammonia* sp.) and bivalves (*Cardium edule*) above loess deposits at the base of our core collected at the apex of the Chilia II lobe indicates that the East Chilia basin was initially a lagoon connected to the Black Sea. Once it filled the East Chilia basin, the rejuvenated Chilia distributary began to flow directly into the Black Sea building its third lobe.

The Chilia III lobe begun developing at the open coast sometimes around 1700 AD. Although still primitive, the earliest realistically detailed map of the Danube delta region dating from 1771⁵³ provides important information about the earliest growth phase of the lobe. Subsequently, as recorded in numerous maps and charts since, the Chilia III lobe evolved as a typical river-dominated delta in a frictional regime, which has led to repeated bifurcations via formation of middle-ground bars:

⁵² Bhattacharya, J.P., Walker, R.G., 1992. Deltas. In: Walker, R.G., James, N.P. (Eds.), *Facies Models: Response to Sea Level Change*. Geological Association of Canada, pp. 195–218.

⁵³ Panin, N., Overmars, W., 2012. The Danube delta evolution during the Holocene: reconstruction attempt using geomorphological attempt using geological data and some of the existing cartographic documents. *Geo-Eco-Marina* 18, 75–104.



The influence of the longshore drift, expressed as a southward deflection of main distributary of Old Stambul, remained noticeable until the end of the 19th century. Throughout the history of Chilia III growth, deltaic progradation was favored at northern Oceacov mouth, which advanced into the dominant direction of the waves, and the southern Old Stambul distributary mouth, which grew in the direction longshore drift. Slower progradation is evident along the central coast fed by eastward directed distributaries that had to contend with the strong longshore drift removing sediments southward⁵⁴. The decrease in new fluvial sediment delivered per unit shoreline as the lobe grew larger and advanced into deeper water resulted in progressively slower growth of the entire lobe in the 20th century. By 1940, clear signs of erosion were apparent, and a general erosional trend continues until today leading to a wave-dominated morphology characterized by barrier islands and spit development:

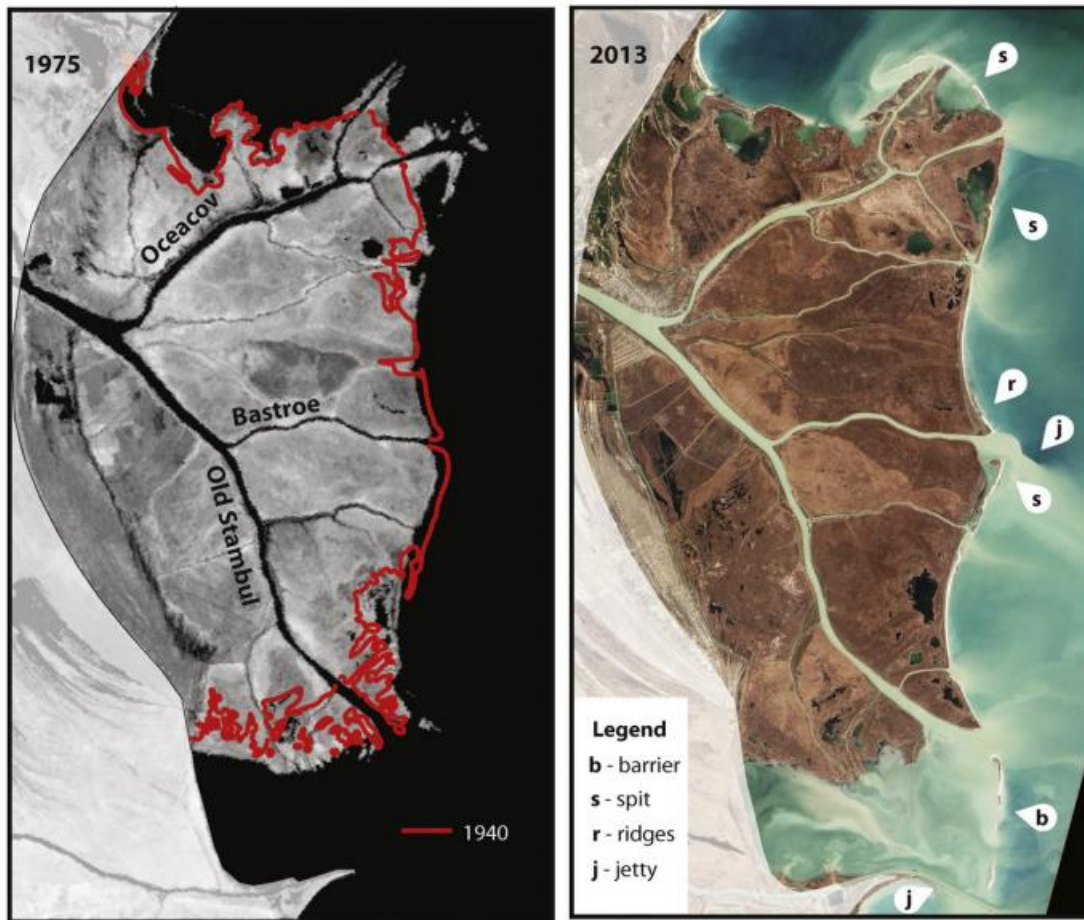
⁵⁴ Giosan, L., Donnelly, J.P., Vespremeanu, E.I., Buonaiuto, E.S., 2005. River delta morphodynamics: examples from the Danube delta. In: Giosan, L., Bhattacharya, J.P. (Eds.), *River Deltas-Concepts, Models and Examples*, vol. 83. SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Special Publication, pp. 87–132, online source: http://archives.datapages.com/data/sepm_sp/SP83/River_Delta_Morphodynamics.htm



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This reconstruction of the Chilia lobe evolution supports the idea that the rapid Danube delta growth in the late Holocene⁵⁵ led to its radical reorganization via flow redistribution across the delta. Initially the southernmost St. George branch was reactivated around 2000 years BP and constructed the bulk of its wave-dominated open coast lobe in the last 1000–1500 years⁵⁶, which is roughly the same time that the Chilia distributary was reactivated. Thus, Danube's partial avulsion that reactivated the Chilia branch was gradual since the 8th century BC and its discharge reached its maximum only around 1700 AD.

This sustained increase in sediment load brought down by the Danube to the delta was explained by Giosan et al. (2012) by an increase in erosion in the lower watershed. Ecological changes in the Black Sea best constrain the age of the maximum sediment

⁵⁵ Giosan, L., Coolen, M., Kaplan, J.O., Constantinescu, S., Filip, F., Filipova-Marinova, M., Kettner, A.J., Thom, N., 2012. Early anthropogenic transformation of the Danube-black sea system. *Sci. Rep.* 2, 1–6.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

load to the last 700–600 years, when an upsurge in soil-derived nutrients lead to the makeover of the entire marine ecosystem⁵⁷.

Past hydroclimate changes in the lower Danube basin are currently little known but detailed reconstructions in the Alps⁵⁸ document repeated intervals of higher precipitation in the last thousand years associated with cooler periods in Central Europe⁵⁹. Stronger and higher floods during this period may help explain the successive Danube avulsions, first toward the St George, and then toward the Chilia branch. However, the lack of a strong sensitivity to changes in discharge in a large river like Danube⁶⁰ leaves the dramatic increase in sediment load unexplained without a late deforestation of the lower watershed⁶¹, which provides the bulk of the Danube's load⁶².

What could explain the rapid deforestation in the lower Danube basin since the 15th century⁶³, hundreds of years later than in the upper watershed of Central Europe⁶⁴? The Columbian Exchange⁶⁵, which led to the adoption of more productive species such as maize probably led to “a demographic revival”⁶⁶, which certainly required the expansion of agricultural lands. However, this alone cannot explain the extensive

⁵⁷ Coolen, M., Orsi, W.D., Balkema, C., Quince, C., Harris, K., Sylva, S.P., Filipova-Marinova, M., Giosan, L., 2013. Evolution of the plankton paleome in the Black Sea from the Deglacial to Anthropocene. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 110, 21, online source:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/110/21/8609.full.pdf>

⁵⁸ Glur, L., Wirth, S.B., Buntgen, U., Gilli, A., Haug, G.H., Schar, C., Beer, J., Anselmetti, F.S., 2013. Frequent floods in the European Alps coincide with cooler periods of the past 2500 years. *Sci. Rep.* 3, 2770, online source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep02770>

⁵⁹ Buntgen, U., et al., 2011. 2500 years of European climate variability and human susceptibility. *Science* 331, 578–582, online source: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/331/6017/578>

⁶⁰ McCarney-Castle, K., Voulgaris, G., Kettner, A.J., Giosan, L., 2012. Simulating fluvial fluxes in the Danube watershed: the ‘Little Ice Age’ versus modern day. *Holocene* 22, 91–105, online source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0959683611409778>

⁶¹ Giosan, L., Coolen, M., Kaplan, J.O., Constantinescu, S., Filip, F., Filipova-Marinova, M., Kettner, A.J., Thom, N., 2012. Early anthropogenic transformation of the Danube-black sea system. *Sci. Rep.* 2, 1–6.

⁶² McCarney-Castle, K., Voulgaris, G., Kettner, A.J., Giosan, L., 2012. Simulating fluvial fluxes in the Danube watershed: the ‘Little Ice Age’ versus modern day. *Holocene* 22, 91–105, online source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0959683611409778>

⁶³ Giurescu, C.C., 1976. *Istoria Padurii Romanesti* (Editura Ceres).

⁶⁴ Kaplan, J.O., Krumhardt, K.M., Zimmerman, N.E., 2009. The prehistoric and preindustrial deforestation of Europe. *Quat. Sci. Rev.* 28, 3016–3034, online source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S02737910900331X>

⁶⁵ Crosby, A.W., 2003. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*. Praeger, Westport, CT, online source: https://books.google.ro/books?id=n-y_bn3ZM4EC

⁶⁶ White, S., 2011. *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge University Press, New York, pp. 2011.

clearing of forest in agriculturally marginal highlands of the Carpathian and Balkan mountain ranges⁶⁷. Furthermore, the rapid population increases in Romania and northern Balkans began at the end of 17th century⁶⁸ and postdate the augmentation in sediment load on the Danube by over two centuries.

F. Filip and L. Giosan propose instead a cultural explanation for this late deforestation: the expansion of the Ottoman Empire in Bulgaria (1396), Romanian Principalities (1417 for the Wallachia; 1498 for Moldavia; 1526 for Transylvania) and Serbia (1455)⁶⁹. The Ottoman ruled Bulgaria and Serbia and especially the vassal Romanian principalities provided a significant part of the empire's resource provisioning including "wheat, honey, timber, and above all, sheep"⁷⁰. The authors propose that deforestation of highly erodible alpine settings that led to the five-fold increase of sediment load on the Danube⁷¹ reflects this increased demand for timber and especially for sheep by the Ottoman Porte. Indeed, zooarchaeological evaluations for medieval Moldavian towns⁷² shows that before the Ottoman expansion in the region, cattle and pig dominated the local diet. In a short time, by the end of the 16th century, Moldavia alone may have provided 300,000 sheep to Constantinople (Istanbul), out of an estimated 400–500,000 sent by the entire northern Balkans and Romanian principalities⁷³. Such radical changes in animal husbandry suggest that the region adapted to meet the religious dietary requirements and the huge demand of the suzerain Islamic empire by deforesting alpine lands for pasture.

The open coast Chilia III lobe coming under increased wave dominance due to the sediment deficit has become the most dynamic coast of the entire Danube delta.

⁶⁷ Feurdean, A., et al., 2012. Trends in biomass burning in the Carpathian region over the last 15,000 years. *Quat. Sci. Rev.* 45, 111–125, online source:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277379112001424>

⁶⁸ Murgescu, B., 2010. Romania si Europa: Acumularea decalajelor economice (1500–2010). Polirom Press, Bucuresti, pp. 523.

⁶⁹ Filip, F., Giosan, L., Evolution of Chilia lobes of the Danube delta: Reorganization of deltaic processes under cultural pressures. *Anthropocene* (2014), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2014.07.003>

⁷⁰ White, S., 2011. *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge University Press, New York, pp. 2011.

⁷¹ Giosan, L., Coolen, M., Kaplan, J.O., Constantinescu, S., Filip, F., Filipova-Marinova, M., Kettner, A.J., Thom, N., 2012. Early anthropogenic transformation of the Danube-black sea system. *Sci. Rep.* 2, 1–6.

⁷² Stanc, M.S., Bejenaru, L., 2013. Domestic mammals in Eastern Romania during the Early Middle Ages. *Quat. Int.*, online source:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1040618213008136>

⁷³ White, S., 2011. *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge University Press, New York, pp. 2011.

Besides the Old Stambul mouth that advances into a shallow lagoon, the only other stable stretch of the coast is linked to the construction of a protecting jetty at the Bastroe mouth, built as a part of a large navigation project. This led to updrift beach ridge progradation as the southward longshore drift is trapped by the jetty and downdrift spit extension under a reversed drift in the lee of the jetty. However, intense erosion has remodeled the northern Oceacov mouth into flying barrier spits and led to the emergence of Musura barrier island in front of the southern Old Stambul mouth⁷⁴. This erosive regime straightens the coast and steers a large southward longshore drift to the Sulina mouth. If the elongation of the Musura barrier will connect it to the northern protective jetty of the Sulina navigation canal, the fluvial sediment load of the main secondary distributary, the Old Stambul, may be redirected from the shallow infilling lagoon behind the barrier toward the offshore.

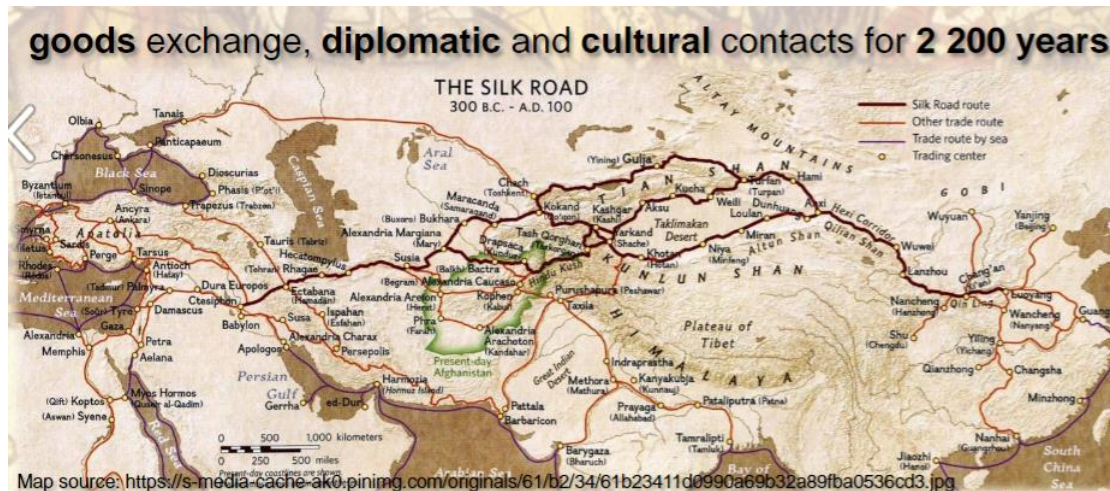
As a conclusion, the growth of Chilia deltaic lobes reflects a drastic reorganization of the Danube delta that accompanied its rapid expansion in the late Holocene. Using new cores collected at the apices of the two older Chilia lobes, together with historical maps and satellite photos, we find that a partial avulsion since 1500 years BP led to a gradual rejuvenation of the Chilia distributary. This process led to the successive infilling of a lake and a lagoon and subsequently to the construction of an open coast lobe at the Black Sea coast. The Chilia branch became the largest Danube distributary, reaching its maximum sediment load in the last 300 years. The authors F. Filip and L. Giosan⁷⁵ propose that the intensive deforestation of Danube's lower watershed leading to this delta reorganization has historical cultural causes: an increase in sheep and timber demand associated to the Ottoman Empire expansion in Eastern Europe followed by the adoption of maize agriculture as a result of the Columbian Exchange. Rapid industrialization-driven damming during the Communist Era led to the current generalized sediment deficit for the Danube.

⁷⁴ Giosan, L., Donnelly, J.P., Vespremeanu, E.I., Buonaiuto, E.S., 2005. River delta morphodynamics: examples from the Danube delta. In: Giosan, L., Bhattacharya, J.P. (Eds.), *River Deltas-Concepts, Models and Examples*, vol. 83. SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Special Publication, pp. 87–132, online source:

http://archives.datapages.com/data/sepm_sp/SP83/River_Delta_Morphodynamics.htm

⁷⁵ Filip, F., Giosan, L., Evolution of Chilia lobes of the Danube delta: Reorganization of deltaic processes under cultural pressures. *Anthropocene* (2014), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2014.07.003>

Danube Delta history on trading



In the 19th-century Danube region, the Ottoman, Russian and Habsburg Empires pursued different interests with regard to Danube navigation. The main objective was safeguarding or obtaining influence on the Balkan, which was also connected to the possibility to control Danube navigation and trade. Russia wanted to free itself from its continental isolation in the direction of the Black Sea and already reached its shores in the 18th century. In 1794, to foster trade, the city of Odessa was founded, whose most important role it was to put the Russian grain on the world market. Among the chief interests of the Russians were free rein and trade at the Black Sea and in the straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, likewise safeguarding the interests of the young grain trade port of Odessa⁷⁶.

Due to expansion, conflicts emerged early between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire ruling on the Balkan and thus also along the Danube, which led to a series of wars in the 18th–19th centuries. At the same time, the Ottoman Empire monopolized trade and thus also Danube trade; only vis-à-vis Austria did it make certain concessions.

Prior to 1829 the most important function of the Danube for Austria was grain transport, on one hand from the Hungarian Lowlands to the center of the empire in Vienna, on the other hand – with reloading – to the Adriatic ports. Downstream transport on the

⁷⁶ LeDonne, J. P.: Geopolitics, Logistics, and Grain: Russia's Ambitions in the Black Sea Basin, 1737–1834. In: *The International History Review* 28 (2006) 1, pp. 1–41.

Danube towards the Black Sea, however, was impeded by the Ottoman Empire as it held on to its trade monopoly.

After the Napoleonic Wars free river navigation through several states had been proclaimed at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, but only in principle, for the question of the Danube was not explicitly addressed back then. Corresponding to the transport directions, plans had already been made earlier to build canals in order to correct the unfavorable geographic conditions. Previously it had only been possible to transport the grain from the Hungarian lowlands via a long detour, first down the Tisza and then up the Danube, but after completion of the 118-kilometer Great Bačka Canal in 1802 this could be done twenty days faster due to saving a distance of 227 kilometers. At the beginning of the 19th century plans were made to build a Danube-Save Canal, which would have meant saving 420 kilometers; in addition, the river Kolpa was also supposed to be canalized.

The beginning of the next period (1829–1856) is associated with the Russian Turkish Peace Treaty of Edirne, as at that time the Russian Empire became the ruler over the territory along the Danube delta. At the same time, this date marked the end of the Ottoman trade monopoly not only along the Danube, but also in the Bosphorus strait. The previous grain export ban on the Balkan was lifted, which contributed to the upswing of Danube trade.

As ruler over the Danube delta and in the interest of its own grain trade, however, Russia prevented the possibility of reaching the ocean via the Danube: it imposed quarantine on the Sulina Channel, and all ships were sent to Odessa for inspection⁷⁷. In 1840 an agreement was concluded with Austria assuring free navigation and trade, but Russia did not comply with these terms⁷⁸.

The next prominent event concerning Danube transport was the emergence of steam navigation. The engine ship revolutionized river ship transport, as laden barges were now able to go relatively fast upstream as well, and the ships' ever-increasing load capacity made transport more economical.

⁷⁷ Krehbiel, E. D.: European Commission of the Danube: an experiment of international administration. In: Political Science Quarterly 33 (1918) 1, pp. 38–55.

⁷⁸ Palotás E.: A nemzetközi Duna-hajózás a Habsburg Monarchia diplomáciájában 1856–1883. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984.

These political and technical changes increased the significance of water trade considerably, and in 1829 under the leadership of István Széchenyi the First Imperial Royal Danube Steamship Company (DDSG) was founded, which should later gain strategic importance.

On the middle and lower courses of the river the aim was to sidestep the estuary under Russian rule. As early as 1834, therefore, DDSG suggested building a canal that would have taken on the role of today's Danube-Black Sea Canal⁷⁹.

As this plan was thwarted by the Ottoman Empire, which ruled the Dobruja, under pressure from Russia, in 1840 the Danube Steamship Company established a mailing route between Ruse and Varna.

In political terms, the time between 1856 and 1914 can be labeled as the age in which the Danube gained an international standing. Economically it may be characterized as the era of industrialization and development of national economic areas. The year 1856 marks an important date for the region, as a coalition of European powers succeeded in temporarily driving back Russian expansion in the Crimean War. From the perspective of the Danube it is important that with this free navigation all the way to the estuary became possible. In the interest of free access to the estuary, the victorious powers initiated – first only provisionally – the European Danube Commission (EDC), in which the victorious powers and Russia took part. The Habsburg monarchy remained the “organizing power” of the route via Brăila; under its leadership and involving also the Danube riparian countries the International Danube Commission was founded, which, however, existed only by name as attempts at pushing cooperation between Austria and the emancipating Danube principalities remained unsuccessful. By creating a body of regulations for a territory belonging to different countries, the EDC, on the other hand, established a special regime, and it was also permitted to enforce and sanction these regulations.

Thus, in the second half of the 19th century the Habsburg Empire played a quasi-colonialist role along the Danube which was primarily based on the work of DDSG. By the 1880s, the latter had grown into the largest inland navigation company in the world, maintaining coal mines, railroads and shipyards (cf. Erdősi 2008). On the lower

⁷⁹ Turnock, D.: The Danube–Black Sea Canal and its impact on Southern Romania. In: GeoJournal 12 (1986) 1, pp. 65–79.

Danube its task was to organize the trade system between center and periphery; simultaneously it brought all modernizations to the regions along the lower Danube, where agriculture dominated (cf. Erdősi/Gál/Hajdú 2002). Navigation on the tributaries, by contrast, continued to remain underdeveloped – and this even despite the fact that the largest grain turnover was registered in the ports of tributaries, such as in Makó, Sziszek/Sisak and Szeged; only then followed Győr and Brăila⁸⁰.

At that time expansion of the railroad network also began, establishing a serious rivalry with the waterway. The competition now setting in was reflected in the fact that integrating the economic areas of the forming national states was based on the railroads rather than the waterway, for railroads could be developed faster and more spectacularly than the waterway, thus depriving the latter of capital (Hoszpötzky 1908).

From the 1860s onwards, the existing rivalry between railroad construction and navigation added a new dimension to the struggle for dominance. A first sign of this was the Danube and Black Sea Railway and Kustendje Harbour Company, Ltd. starting railroad construction in the Dobruja to shorten the long waterway in the estuary and speed up grain transport (cf. Jensen-Rossegger 1978); based on a similar initiative, the first Turkish railroad was built between Ruse and Varna.

On the waterway, navigation conditions on the main arm were improved: from 1886 to 1896 the navigable main riverbed between Dévény/Devín and Gönyű/Szigetköz was extended. A second important point of extension was the Iron Gate. The Danube Conference held in London in 1871 had decided that the riparian states were permitted to collect a toll from passing vessels to keep the navigation route in order. Until the Russo-Turkish War in 1877–1878, however, the riparian states made no further arrangements. Therefore, after the end of the war the following Berlin Congress put the Habsburg monarchy in charge of the tasks, responsibility for which was subsequently delegated to Hungary. The regulation and repair work of the navigation route was carried out between 1890 and 1898 (cf. Tóry 1954; Deák 1998); it was considered a tremendous achievement and secured shipping traffic on the Danube for more than 70 years to come.

⁸⁰ Der Schiffs- und Waaren-Verkehr auf der Donau und ihren Nebenflüssen. In: Zeitschrift für die gesamte Staatswissenschaft 24 (1868) 1, pp. 166–169.

Around the turn of the 20th century attention refocused on canal construction as it became clear that despite the expanded rail network water transport offered cost advantages for certain classes of goods. Expanding the waterway network was thus realized in all canal construction plans along the Danube. The canals served first to expand and connect the individual parts of the inland waterway; second, to link the Danube with other waterways, such as Rhine, Elbe, Oder, and Weichsel; third, they should also facilitate reaching the ocean. To realize these plans, in 1901 the Austrian Waterway Act, in 1907 the Hungarian public river canalization plan, and in 1917 the Bavarian Canal Act came into being. Apart from grain transport, these state initiatives were meant to provide strong infrastructural support for industry⁸¹.

After World War II, various political powers deemed it necessary to establish a new Danube regime. The members of the Council of Foreign Ministers from the Danube countries came to the agreement that free navigation on the Danube had to be guaranteed for all citizens, trade ships and merchants of all states on the basis of equality and under the same rules.

Soviet influence now became manifest in the founding of joint enterprises with the national shipping companies and navigation almost entirely belonging to the Soviet sphere of interest; the newly initiated Danube Commission and the Belgrade Agreement of 1948 also came about under strong Soviet influence. The geo-economics' situation changed fundamentally: while earlier center-periphery trade had been conducted in the direction of the Austrian and later German economic center, now the political and economic center shifted to the East, and the geographic features of the Danube were much better suited for these trade flows. As raw materials from the East were brought to the middle and lower Danube region, the political center-periphery relationship was by no means reflected in the character of the shipments. Nevertheless, the Danube thus became an important pillar of Soviet hegemonial endeavors. This orientation also determined developments such as the building of the Danube-Black Sea Canal, which reduced shipping times, or the final solution of the Iron Gate question⁸².

Beyond the Iron Gate, the lower Danube flows across a wide plain; the river becomes shallower and broader, and its current slows down. To the right, above steep banks,

⁸¹ Tellyesniczky, J.: A német birodalmi víziutak. In: Vízügyi Közlemények (1918) 1, pp. 149–171.

⁸² Hardi, T.: Duna Stratégia és területi fejlődés. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó 2012.

stretches the tableland of the Danubian Plain of Bulgaria. To the left lies the low Romanian Plain, which is separated from the main stream by a strip of lakes and swamps. The tributaries in this section are comparatively small and account for only a modest increase in the total runoff. They include the Olt, the Siret, and the Prut. The river is again obstructed by a number of islands. Just south of Cernavodă, the Danube heads northward until it reaches Galați, where it veers abruptly eastward, its left bank briefly traversing Moldovan territory. Near Tulcea, Romania, some 50 miles (80 km) from the sea, the river begins to spread out into its delta. The river splits into three channels: the Chilia, which carries 63 percent of the total runoff; the Sulina, which accounts for 16 percent; and the Sfântu Gheorghe (St. George), which carries the remainder. Navigation is possible only by way of the Sulina Channel, which has been straightened and dredged along its 39-mile (63-km) length.

Romanian areas of interest

Thus, the Romanian area of interest connected to the Silk Road consists of the South-East region with the main cities and ports: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea and Vrancea. Also, according to the International Conference on Applied Sciences held at Wuhan, China, on June 3-5 2015⁸³, Romania may offer on the Modern Silk Road, the following:

- Constanța Maritime Harbor and Calafat Fluvial Harbor
- Constanța, București, Arad, Calafat railway stations
- OTP and TSR airports.

⁸³ Roxana Botis, Radu Botis, Flavius Pater, *Attaching Romania to the Silk Road, International Conference on Applied Sciences ICAS2015, 3-5 Iunie 2015, Wuhan, China*, created by Research Center for Urban Planning Timișoara, online source:
https://issuu.com/rcupt.ccput/docs/a_t_t_a_c_h_i_n_g_r_o_m_a_n_i_a_t



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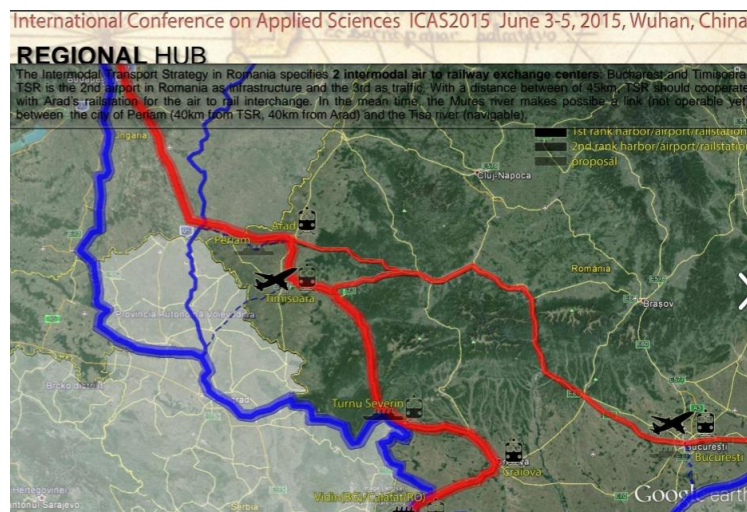


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Source: https://issuu.com/rcupt.ccput/docs/attaching_romania_t

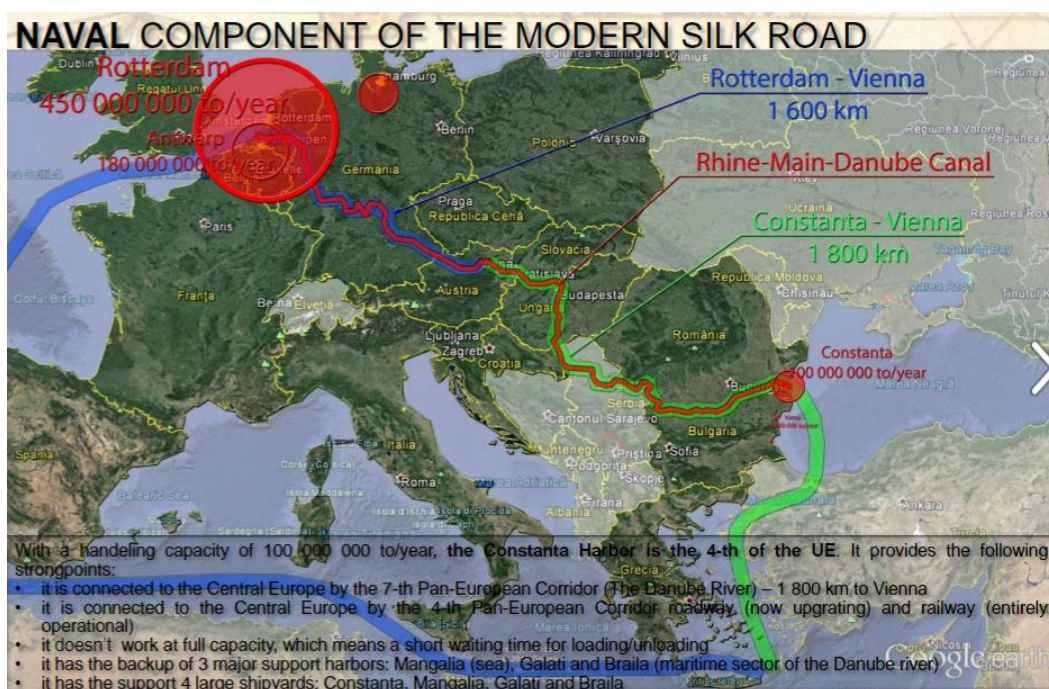
The Intermodal Transport Strategy in Romania specifies 2 intermodal air to railway exchange centers: Bucharest and Timisoara. TSR is the 2nd airport in Romania as infrastructure and the 3rd as traffic. With a distance between of 45 km, TSR should cooperate with Arad's rail station for the air to rail interchange. In the meantime, the Mures river makes possible a link (not operable yet) between the city of Periam (40 km from TSR, 40 km from Arad) and the Tisa river (navigable)



Source: https://issuu.com/rcupt.ccput/docs/attaching_romania_t

The naval component of the modern Silk Road would be Constanta Harbor, the 4th of the UE, and it provides the following strongpoints, as you can also see in the picture below:

- It is connected to the Central Europe by the 7th Pan-European Corridor (The Danube River)
- It is connected to the Central Europe by the 4th Pan-European Corridor roadway (now upgrading) and railway (entirely operational)
- It doesn't work at full capacity, which means a short waiting time for loading/unloading
- It has the backup of 3 major support harbors: Mangalia (sea), Galati and Braila (maritime sector of the Danube river)
- It has the support of 4 large shipyards: Constanta, Mangalia, Galati and Braila.



Source: https://issuu.com/rcupt.ccpur/docs/attaching_romania_t

Brăila city

Brăila is a southeastern Romania city, on the Danube River, 105 mi (170 km) from its mouth, it is the country's second largest port. First mentioned by the name of Drinago

in a Spanish geographical work of 1350, it was referred to as Brayla in 1368 in a transportation and trade license granted to Braşov merchants. It was occupied by the Turks from 1554 until the end of the Russo-Turkish War of 1828–29, when it was returned to Walachia. The scene of much fighting during the war, it was heavily damaged by 1829, and a new street plan was initiated in 1835⁸⁴.

Streets radiating from near the port at Brăila's center are crossed at symmetrical intervals by concentric streets following the geometric design of the old Turkish fortifications. Accessible to small and medium-sized oceangoing ships, it has large grain-handling and warehousing facilities. It is also an important industrial centre, with metalworking, textile, food-processing, and other factories. Historic buildings include the Art Museum in the Palace of Culture, the History Museum, the Greek Church (1863–72), and the Orthodox Church of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel (a mosque until 1831).



The Danube River at Brăila, Romania

Consisting mostly of lowlands, the county contains the Bărăgan Plain in the west. The Siret River, which flows southwestward; is the northern border of the county. The Danube and its tributary, the Dunărea Veche, drain northward.

⁸⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Braila-Romania>

Following the fall of Vicina, Brăila developed as the main harbour of Wallachia, gaining the town status around 1400⁸⁵. In 1396, Johann Schiltberger writes that Brăila was the place where ships docked, bringing "goods from heathen lands"⁸⁶. Foreign merchants bringing goods were forced to unload their merchandise in Brăila, as it can be understood from a 1445 account of Walerand de Wavrin. A 1520 Ottoman account tells about the arrival of 70-80 ships in Brăila, bringing goods from Asia Minor and Crimea. The town was also an important center of the fish trade: Polish merchants came to purchase it (1408) and this lucrative trade was taxed by the rulers following Vladislav I⁸⁷.

In 1711, the city was besieged and conquered by a Wallachian-Russian army during the Pruth River Campaign. In 1829, it was granted to Wallachia by the Akkerman Convention. During the 19th century, the port became one of the three most important ports on the Danube in Wallachia, the other two being Turnu and Giurgiu. The city's greatest period of prosperity was at the end of the 19th century and in the early 20th century, when it was an important port for most of the merchandise coming in and going out of Romania.

Buzău city⁸⁸

The written history of the city begins with that of Wallachia. It was certified as a market town and customs point during the reign of Dan II. Archeological sites belonging to Gumelnita and Monteoru cultures prove the presence of human inhabitants before the Christian era. During the Middle Ages, there was also a fortress of Buzău, but only a few passing mentions in foreign documents are kept.

In the 17th century, an era of war and foreign invasions began, that affected the town and its surroundings. They began with Michael the Brave's participation in the Long Turkish War and ended with the Wallachian uprising of 1821. Natural disasters (epidemics, earthquakes) also took their toll, leading to destruction and depopulation of Buzău. However, the inhabitants always returned and rebuilt the city, which led early

⁸⁵ Laurențiu Rădvan, *At Europe's Borders: Medieval Towns in the Romanian Principalities*, Brill, 2010, p. 252.

⁸⁶ Id.

⁸⁷ Id.

⁸⁸ <https://www.themayor.eu/en/romania/buzau>

18th century local authorities to use the Phoenix bird on the city seal, as a symbol of rebirth.

The 19th century brought a time of cultural and economic development. The Communal Palace, the city's main landmark, was built at the time, after the city developed its industry and became a railway hub in the 1870s. Schools were open, and theatre plays were produced, the "Moldavia" theatre house was built in 1898 and used throughout the first half of the 20th century as the main concert and theatre hall.

During World War I, Buzău came under German occupation after mid-December 1916, and many inhabitants took refuge in the nearby villages or in Western Moldavia. The city resumed its development after the war. The interbellum brought about the first sport matches (association football and boxing) and the "Metalurgica" factory, a private business that was to be later confiscated by the communists, which continues to this day as part of a joined venture.

After World War II, the industrialization of Buzău was forcefully accelerated, and its population tripled in less than 50 years. New inhabitants were brought to work in newly-built factories mainly in the South of the city. Buzău has profoundly changed its appearance, working class quarters being built instead of the old commercial streets, some historical buildings, such as the Moldavia Theatre, were demolished. Their cultural role was taken over by the Labor Unions' Cultural Center and then by "Dacia" Cinema.

The city of Buzău is the county seat of Buzău County, Romania, in the historical region of Muntenia. It lies near the right bank of the Buzău River, between the south-eastern curvature of the Carpathian Mountains and the lowlands of Bărăgan Plain. The population is 115,494 (2011).

The largest Buzău-based company is Romet, a holding company made up of multiple firms that produce insulation materials for water and gas pipes, water filters, fire extinguishers and other related products. Milling is still present on the local market: the largest local producer is Boromir Prod.

The economy of Buzău is still more oriented towards industry rather than services. Most of the labor force in the city came from within the county, as Buzău is the center of a highly rural, compact and densely-populated area. The city was found to be in competition with larger cities for the labor force from other counties, a feature it shares

with Alexandria. The proximity of Bucharest makes Buzău itself a source of internal migration, thus orbiting the capital city.

Eight historical monuments classified as having national importance exist in Buzău: the church of the Birth of Christ (1649, also known colloquially as the "Greeks' church" or the "Merchants' church") along with its belfry; the courthouse (20th century); the church of the Annunciation from the former Banu monastery (16th century); the church of the Dormition in Broșteni district, (1709, along with the belfry erected in 1914); the headquarters of the orthodox bishopric with the church of the Dormition (1649), the chapel (1841), the episcopal palace (secolul al XVII-lea), the old seminary (1838), the chancellery (19th century), gate belfry and the compound wall (18th century); the Vergu-Mănăilă mansion (18th century, which currently hosts the ethnography exhibit of the County Museum); Vasile Voiculescu County Library (1914); and the Communal Palace (city hall, 1899–1903).



Buzău Municipality

The Buzău Mountains are an endless source of legends and mysteries, a place where history has left numerous traces in stone. Here you will find an assortment of 29 rupestrian dwellings, some of them dating back to the Neolithic age, carved into the stones and shaped by the waters descending into the valley. Hidden in the wildest parts of the wood, they have served as living spaces or as sanctuaries since the



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earliest times. They are surrounded by many stories including tales of mysterious disappearances, treasures hidden by the boyars, time travel. Both Christian and pre-Christian inscriptions can be found on their walls⁸⁹.



The area is also known as the “Romanian Mount Athos” because of the existence of many places of worship, monasteries or hermitages. One of the oldest is the “Fundul Peșterii” Cave inhabited before Christianity, whose walls contain around 200 inscriptions including Maltese crosses, arrows, daggers, and other specific signs of prehistoric stone art. Equally impressive is the Dionis cell, built in stone, which can only be accessed by a stairs but also the Church of Iosif dug in the fourth century. To discover them you will have to pass through many difficulties, because the routes are very poorly marked.

⁸⁹ <https://www.themayor.eu/en/explore-the-stunning-landscapes-of-buzau>

At only 110 km from Bucharest, the capital of Romania, Buzău has the chance to be located at the intersection of the three major historical regions of Romania - Transylvania, Moldova and Muntenia (being a part of it), a fact that helped its development in history as a commercial town⁹⁰.

The mayor said: "We are constantly trying to recover our local history, in order to be more confident as inhabitants of Buzău. Thus, only last year we rehabilitated the largest Cemetery of Heroes in Romania, in which there are buried alongside Romanians, Germans, Russians, Austrians, Italians, Bulgarians, Turks, Jews, and we inaugurated probably the world's largest open-air historical photo gallery (632 m) on the new street, The Heroes Way".

As a major hub and road junction, Buzău has developed a strong food industry (the largest brewery and the only beer malt producer in Romania, the largest canned vegetable factory in the country, but also the largest sunflower oil factory in Romania), a metal industry, an important textile industry, and also the largest recycling company in South East Europe.

In fact, 95% of all money raised in the local Treasury is from companies and only 5% from the population.

The mayor also declared: "Together with a team of 40 valuable volunteers, we set up a Buzău Development Council, and after 18 months and many public debates, with hundreds of people, we launched a "12-year Strategic Plan for the Development of the City" - 2018-2030. We have a Vision: "Buzău - magnet city!" We have a Mission: "Buzău to achieve so much attractiveness and competitiveness for its inhabitants, for investors and for visitors, so that it becomes the most important city in South East Romania", where there are about 3 million inhabitants within 120 km! We have 70 goals to be met, divided into four pillars: local economy, education, social, culture.

One important objective is turning Buzău into the first permacultural city in Romania. Buzău has the greatest tradition in Romania in growing vegetables and care for land, plants, animals and care for man can be put in harmony by this healthy permacultural agriculture concept. The mayor declared: "We have begun several studies to salvage as much rainwater as possible and from the city's wastewater treatment plant, and, in

⁹⁰ <https://www.themayor.eu/cs/we-have-a-mission-buzau-to-become-the-most-important-city-in-south-east-romania>

future years, we want to make as many lakes around Buzău and as many water reservoirs as possible in the city. We plan to develop an educational center for permaculture and healthy food, as well as several permaculture gardens inside the city”⁹¹.

Constanța city⁹²

The city was named Constantiana in honor of the half-sister of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. The city lay at the seaward end of the Great Wall of Trajan, and has evidently been surrounded by fortifications of its own. Having been part of the Bulgarian Empire for over 500 years, and later of the independent principality of Dobrotitsa and of Wallachia under Mircea I of Wallachia, Constanța fell under the Ottoman rule around 1419.

A railroad linking Constanța to Cernavoda was opened in 1860. In spite of damage done by railway contractors, there are considerable remains of ancient masonry walls, pillars, etc. An impressive public building, thought to have originally been a port building, has been excavated, and contains the substantial remains of one of the longest mosaic pavements in the world.

In 1878, after the Romanian War of Independence, Constanța and the rest of Northern Dobruja were ceded by the Ottoman Empire to Romania. The city became Romania's main seaport and transit point for many of Romania's exports. The Constanta Casino, which is both a historic monument and a modern symbol of the city, was the first building constructed on the shore of the Black Sea after Dobruja came under Romanian administration, with the cornerstone being laid in 1880.

On October 22, 1916 (during World War I), the Central Powers (German, Turkish and Bulgarian troops) occupied Constanța. According to the Treaty of Bucharest in May 1918, Constanța remained under the joint control of the Central Powers. Allied troops liberated the city in 1918 after the successful offensive on the Thessaloniki front knocked Bulgaria out of the war.

In the interwar years, the city became Romania's main commercial hub, so that by the 1930s over half of the national exports were going through the port. During World War

⁹¹ <https://www.themayor.eu/cs/we-have-a-mission-buzau-to-become-the-most-important-city-in-south-east-romania>

⁹² <https://www.themayor.eu/en/romania/constanta>

II, when Romania joined the Axis powers, Constanța was one of the country's main targets for the Allied bombers. While the town was left relatively undamaged, the port suffered extensive damage, recovering only in the early 1950s.

Considered the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania, Constanta provides a mix of culture and perpetual change. Its strategic position by the Black Sea makes it one of the largest ports in Europe, a gateway between the East and the West. Constanta is located in the South-East side of Romania, on the Black Sea Coast, with a population of about 310,000 people. Constanța is the administrative center of the county with the same name and the largest city in the Southeastern development region of Romania.

Known as one of the largest port cities in Europe with a variety of intermodal connections, Constanța evolved over time into one of the most promising business opportunity location the CEE can offer. With a rich history of culture, business and trade, Constanța became one of the most competitive and dynamic cities in the European Union during the last decade.

The main sectors that have driven the Constanța economy in recent years are: oil production; tourism; ship building; retail; an real estate. Real estate, entertainment (arts and recreational activities), and oil refining have registered the most dynamic growth in recent years. Main exports include: oil products; ships; agricultural products (one of the main products handled by the Constanța Port); and metals (also handled by the Port).

The existent port infrastructure, as well as the good connective infrastructure (ring road, highway to Bucharest, high-speed rail to Bucharest, channel to the Danube) make Constanța an ideal investment site for logistics companies and manufacturing companies. Constanța is actually an ideal investment site for assembly work (particularly for bulky products, such as automobiles or electronics), for companies outside the EU looking to get access to the EU markets.

Constanta is a perfect mix between old and new, between history, tradition and modernism, between summer fun and quality multiculturalism, a unique religious mosaic in Europe and a city full of business opportunities.

Here there are unique archaeological vestiges, iconic Romanian and international heritage buildings, and one can spend an ideal holiday on the large and sunny beaches of the Black Sea.



The Casino

The Casino, the Aquarium, the Roman Edifice with Mosaic, the Roman Thermae, the museums, the cultural institutions, the Ovid Square, the Old City Centre, the Archaeological Park, Constanta Port are just some of the touristic and economic attractions that should not be missed.

The Natural Sciences Museum Complex is considered an important reference point for the cultural and scientific image of the municipality, with a high emblematic value in the summer offer of the Romanian seacoast. It consists of **Dolphinarium, Planetarium, Exotic Birds Exhibition, Micro Delta.**

Constanța's tourism based and substantial potential for growth make it an ideal location for public-private investments in tourism infrastructure with a focus on expanding the international tourism market.

According to a World Bank survey, half of the Romanian population (around 10 million people) has visited Constanta at least once in the past 5 years. **Mamaia Resort**, which is part of Constanta, has a beach with fine sand that extends 8 kilometers and is 100



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meters wide. There are more than 30,000 formal and informal accommodation units in Constanta. More than 80% of the city's accommodation is concentrated in the Mamaia Resort, where over 1.1 million square meters of lodging units are built, most with functions of accommodation, catering, and leisure.



Mamaia Resort

Galați city⁹³

Galați is a port town on the Danube River and an economic center based around the port of Galați, the naval shipyard, and the largest steel mill in Romania, Galați steel works. The name Galați is derived from the Cuman word galat. This word is ultimately borrowed from the Persian word کلات kalat, "fortress". Other etymologies have been suggested, such as the Serbian galac. However, the galat root appears in nearby toponyms, some of which show clearly a Cuman origin, for example Gălățui Lake, which has the typical Cuman -ui suffix for "water".

Archeological evidence points to occupation of the region in the neolithic period. For example, north west of the town of Galați, on the eastern shores of the Malina marshes, fragments of ceramic-type Stoicani Aldeni, stilex and tools made of bone have been

⁹³ Galați City Hall about the city's geography and history, online source
https://www.primariagalati.ro/portal/pagini.php?page_id=1&cap=1

found. A stone sceptre, from the late Bronze Age, belonging to the Coslogeni culture was found on the marshes' southern bank. Galați town itself developed from an ancient Dacian settlement of the sixth and fifth centuries BCE where there was a ford across the Danube river. In 101 to 102 and 105 to 106, the Dacians fought wars against the Romans and the area became part of the Roman empire. A strong Roman fortress was built at Barboși to defend the ford across Danube. From the 300s a Daco-Roman settlement developed at a ford south of the site of the Church of the Virgin.

There is evidence of continuous inhabitation of Galați since the 600s. A treasure hoard consisting of 12 silver coins issued between 613 and 685 was found in a Byzantine tomb near the Church of the Virgin. Western and Byzantine coins from the time of Emperor Michael IV (1034–1041) were also found. At one time, the city became part of the Republic of Genoa Territories and was called "Caladda". In 1445, a document signed by Stephen II of Moldavia mentions Galați. In 1484, Chilia was conquered by Ottomans. Galați township remained Moldova's only port, not only for domestic trade but also for trade with Turkey and Poland. In 1590, the Galați Jewish cemetery was opened.

The Ukrainian folk hero, Ivan Stepanovich Mazeppa was a Hetman who died on 1709 in Varnița, Bessarabia, and was buried in Galați. Hetman Mazeppa was buried in a brick tomb. In 1710, Tatars plundered Galați after the Battle of Stănilești. In 1775, Russia established a consulate in Galați. However, in 1789, during the Russo-Turkish war of 1787–92, Galați was burned by the armies of the Russian general Mikhail Kamensky.



Galați in 1826

Due to unrest in this part of Europe, Galați port became a site for the construction of large warships. Abbot Boskov, a Romanian traveller, stated: "I saw a large boat, the way those who say Turks caravels, which is on site, ready to be launched into the

water. He was commissioned by Isaac-aga, big tax collector of Constantinople. The ship was huge, seventeen seventy steps, and loaded with eighty-four bronze cannons."

In the Greek–Turkish war of 1821, Ottoman subjects were killed in Galați (and in other towns). This was the result of a series of rebellions by members of the port workers' association and city clerks.

Despite the wars and unrest, Galați developed based on trade (especially grain exports). In 1805, France and England established vice-consulates. In 1832, the School of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel is founded. Two years later, in 1834, Austrian ships were having scheduled arrivals and in 1837, Galați was declared a free port (this was revoked in 1882). In 1850, James Buchanan, the U.S. president, sent a vice-consul to Galați and the U.S. opened a consulate in 1858. Galați was also a trading port for German lands. When the Crimean War (1854–1856) finished, Galați became a seat of the Danube European Commission. In 1869, the Mihai Eminescu municipal park opened and by 1870, factories were opening. By, 1908 they numbered 41. On 13 September 1872, the King Charles I railway station and northern city rail tunnel opened. The River station opened shortly after on 24 September 1880. In 1889, the V. A. Urechia library opened.

After the union of the Romanian principalities in 1859, with Alexandru Ioan Cuza as leader, development in Galați increased. Zeletin wrote, "The birth of the modern Romanian state must distinguish two main currents – one exuberant but superficial, based on liberal ideas which depart from Paris to Bucharest and Iași. The other is quieter but deep, leaving from London to Galați and Brăila: English is the current capitalist economy." (Romanian Bourgeoisie, Zeletin, Stephen.)

Between 1900 and the beginning of World War I, Galați continued its trade in grain and timber with sixteen consulates. Galați was part of Covurlui County.

In 1907, social unrest among the peasant classes precipitated intervention by the Romanian army. In 1911, a statue of the poet Mihai Eminescu was erected.

In 1919, a high school for Jewish students opened. A first air race between Galați and Bucharest was held in 1926. The 1930 Romanian census recorded 100,000 residents in Galați. After Bucharest, Chișinău, Iași and Cernăuți, Galați was Romania's fifth city. In 1938, the Ținutul Dunării de Jos (Lower Danube Land) was established.

During World War II, Galați was bombed by the Soviet Air Forces and Luftwaffe. The railway station, inaugurated on 13 September 1872, was destroyed as were many other historic buildings and most of the old town. On 27 August 1944, Galați was captured by Soviet troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Front in the course of the Jassy–Kishinev Offensive.

Before World War II Galați hosted 22 synagogues and in 1926, it was the base for the Zionist Revisionist Organization of Romania. Although Galați's Jewish community suffered persecution by the pro-Nazi authorities during World War II, the community was not destroyed in the Holocaust. Since the 1940s the community has gradually diminished through emigration.

After World War II, Galați was rebuilt along communist lines. The town's population was about 80,000. In 1956, a proposal to join Brăila and Galați was made and the building of a speed tram pier was proposed with a Swiss company. The plans never materialized. Construction of the Galați steel works began in 1960 and the plant opened in 1966. The population at this time was 151,000. In 1971, the Făurei – Galați railway capacity was increased, and, in 1982, it was electrified.

In 2004, Romania's first information technology park opened in Galați.

From 1959 to 1962, archeological excavations were carried out at the **Roman castellum** in Barbosi. The site lies north of the Danube, near the mouth of the Siret. A comparison can be made to the fortress at Dinogetia. The archeologists found clear stratigraphy in the excavation. They located the Tirighina Dacian fortress, reinforced by an earthen bank. Finds included Dacian pottery from an import business. Also found was a silver coin dating the Dacian fortress to the first century BCE. A burning layer suggested damage to the fortress by fire. Also found were coins dating from the rule of Augustus (63 BCE – 14 AD) through to Nero (37AD – 68AD).

Lambrinidi House is located near the university, at 51 Royal Street. It was built by Lambrinidi Epaminonda, a Greek mill owner. He owned a machine shop to repair ships. The Prince Charles stayed at the house on a visit to Galați, in April 1879. It has served as the seat of the Court of Appeals; the Mihail Kogalniceanu High School and, after the earthquake of November 9, 1940, the city hall.



Robescu House was built about 1896. The architect was Ion Mincu. A Romanian tourist website describes the building: "Robescu House has an elevated basement, two levels with two turret-balcony on the first floor and another balcony at the ground floor, to the street. The exterior decorations are made in Brancoveanu style, glossy ceramic plates. The glossy ceramic is used to decorate the floral upper register. Today it serves as the "Children's Palace"⁹⁴.

Palace of Navigation (River Station) was designed by Petre Antonescu. It dates to the late 19th century. It is the office of "Maritime Danube Ports Administration" and Navrom, which controls Romania's navigable waterways.

University Palace is a former "Palace of Justice" and a prominent architectural monument in the Galați old town. It was built between 1911 and 1913. Now, it is the university headquarters.

Lupa Capitolina, meaning "Capitoline Wolf", this statue was erected in 1995 and reflects Roman influence in Galați.

Administrative Palace building was erected in 1904 and 1905 and opened on 27 April 1906. Like Robescu House, it was designed by Ion Mincu. Frederick Storck contributed white marble sculptures of "industry" and "agriculture" at the top of the main façade. Other features are two bronze flags and a large clock which plays the waltz, "Danube Waves" by Joseph Ivanovich (1845–1902).

⁹⁴ "Robescu House, Galati, Romguide tourism Romania", online source
https://web.archive.org/web/20160303235243/http://www.romguide.net/Visit/Robescu-House_vt12e



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Monasteries:

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Lower Danube – St. Andrew

The cornerstone of the cathedral of the archbishop of Galați was placed on 27 April 1906 by Prince Ferdinand and Queen Mary. Also present was the Bishop of the Lower Danube, Pimen Georgescu. Construction continued from 1906 to 1917. The architects were Petre Antonescu and Stephen Burcuș. The church has one dome and no side isles. From 1989, restoration work has been underway at the church. This includes cleaning of the 1957 paint work, paving around the cathedral and the construction of the St John Cassian centre, a building for cultural, pastoral and missionary work. At the church's centennial in 2006, the relics of St. Nectarios of Aegina were brought to Galați.



Fortified Monastery of the Holy Virgin

This is the oldest building in Galați. It was consecrated as a place of worship in September 1647 during the reign of Vasile Lupu. The church was dedicated to the Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos. It was built from local materials including stone, forest wood, brick and lime, sand from the beaches of the Danube and so on. As well as its typical Romanian church architecture, the monastery has some specific elements of interest such as a bell tower with battlements for observation of the Danube valley and for defense. The tower has two levels and a room to hide assets. There are two ramparts and a door to a balcony. The second floor is fitted with windows and battlements. Another of the church's defences is a reinforced bridge consisting of two parts, one above the nave and one above the altar. The bridge has 28 battlements. The church survived the turbulent periods of Galați's history and was rebuilt and restored in 1829 and again in 1859. From 1953 to 1957, the church was used as a museum. It was restored in the period 1991–1994. There may be a tunnel from the church beneath the Danube.



Bulgarian Church

Construction of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church of Saint Pantaleon began in 1861 under the guidance of Bulgarian National Revival figure Archimandrite Maxim Raykovich (1801–1874) of Dryanovo. However, the lack of funds prolonged the

construction works and the church was only consecrated in 1887. The Bulgarian Church of Saint Pantaleon features a Neo-Byzantine design with Slavic influences⁹⁵.



Along with the church, Raykovich also founded a Bulgarian school which occupied an adjacent house. The same house would become a hub for Bulgarian revolutionaries persecuted by the Ottoman authorities. In 1871–72, Bulgaria's national poet Hristo Botev lived in the house during a part of his exile, as a commemorative plaque still reminds.

Raykovich died in Galați in 1874 and was buried in the courtyard of the Bulgarian Church, where his tombstone still stands.

Greek Church

The cornerstone of the Greek Church was laid on 6 August 1866. The church was dedicated to the "Transfiguration" on 17 September 1872 by the Bishop Melchizedek and the Archimandrite Eughenie Xiropotamo. In the nave is a marble plaque with the names of the founders and two marble plates with the names of the founders and major benefactors. The church is a cruciform tower with two bell towers on the west side. Papadopoulos of Adrianople was the artist. There are large icons representing the holy virgin Mary with child, the resurrection, St. Gerasimos, St. Sophia, St. Gregory and St.

⁹⁵ Cilincă, Victor (11 July 2015). ""Comori de patrimoniu": Biserica "Sf. Pantelimon", o Atlantidă bulgărească pe o insulă a libertății", online source <http://www.viata-libera.ro/vlg-cultura/68475-comori-de-patrimoniu-biserica-sf-pantelimon-,-o-atlantida-bulgareasca-pe-o-insula-a-libertatii>

Basil the great. There are eight stained glass church windows containing the holy apostles Peter, Andrew, Mark, Thomas, Bartholomew and Luke on the northern side and Paul Simon, John, James, Philip, on the southern side.

St. Paraskeva Cathedral

This church is located together with the Cătușa cemetery in the southern part of Galați. Its general construction was completed but the interior layout is not. The basement of the Cathedral is a very small space, which will serve as a mortuary chapel. The official opening of the interior was planned for 2012.

Church Mavromol

Mavromol is a former monastery. Its name means "black rock" in Greek. It was built in 1669 and dedicated to the Assumption by George Ducas (died 1685) and his son. There was rebuilding between 1700 and 1703. During the revolution of 1821 the church was burned by the Turks. The current building dates from 1858 to 1861 and respects the original plan. Interior murals and other valuable elements were restored between 1973 and 1975. The monks of the church taught at Galați's first school in 1765. They taught in Greek. (In 1803, teaching was conducted in Romanian under the orders of Constantin Moruz). During the Russo-Turkish War (1768–1774), and the Russo-Austrian-Turkish War (1787–1792), Mavromol church was damaged and teaching ceased until 1803. The church is constructed in the style of a basilica with apses beyond the main walls. The church has a carved wooden icon of the "Virgin Mary" from the church of St. Sava Monastery in Bucharest. The ceiling is composed of three parts separated by double arches. The entrance is on the south side through a door marked by an icon and heraldic symbols: a bull's head and two lions. Also on the south side is the coat of arms of Moldova, carved in a stone medallion. During communist rule, the church, as a sacred place, was improperly appropriated.

The Church of St. Spyridon

Built in 1817, this church has four buttresses, three towers and a dome supported by crossed arches. Although its murals are not maintained, it contains valuable icons.

Synagogue of Galați

There is only one remaining synagogue in Galați (near the Museum of History on Domnească street).

Masonic Temple

The temple was built in 1896 on the site of a synagogue dating from 1806.

Schitul Vovidenia

This church was built in 1790. It is the site of the burial tomb of Smaranda Cuza, the mother of Alexandru Ioan Cuza. The original church was burned in the unrest of 1821 then renovated in 1851. Above the nave, a dome is supported by arches crossed in the traditional Moldovan style. There is a bell tower above the main dome, a smaller one above the altar and another above the porch added in 1901.

Roman Catholic Church

Galați's Roman Catholic church was built in 1844 and expanded in 1873. It contains objects of artistic as well as sacred value including a high altar made of marble; a painting of "St. John the Baptist preaching"; a "Most Holy Heart" statue of Jesus Christ; Pietà statues and a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi. The church was strengthened and renovated to its current state between 1985 and 1988.

Gardens, parks and recreation areas:

Mihai Eminescu Municipal Park

This park was designed in 1869 in honour of Mihai Eminescu, who visited the area, particularly in his later life. Some of the trees are from the time of Eminescu. There is a small lake and a place for recitals once used, for example, by military bands. People visit the park to see a statue of Eminescu.

Galați Public Gardens

This park is located near the student complex. It looks over Lake Brates, the railway station and train depot.

C.F.R. (Romanian State Railways) Park

The railway park is located north of the railway, near the railway tunnel, the terminus of railway lines (102 and 104) and a nursing home.

Botanical Garden

The Botanical Garden dominates the left bank of the Danube at Galați. Its southern slope is the site of the Museum of Natural History in Galați. The museum has

collections of tropical and subtropical plants (cactuses, euphorbias, palms, crotons, geraniums, begonias, etc.) rosary chic, over 200 varieties of roses, flora and vegetation. There are over 3000 specimens of tree species and shrubs, an oak area with more than 50 examples of birch and conifers, and a replica Japanese garden.

Garboavele Zoo and Reserve

Both are located at the northern exit of town. Garboavele Forest Zoo is included in the Natural Sciences Museum Complex. The zoo keeps various exotic species. Riding enthusiasts can practice their sport at the zoo. The zoo theme was developed together with experts from European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, and aims to preserve rare animals and provide conservation education.

Hunters Lake

Hunters Lake is located in Galați's far north-east. It covers 28 hectares of land including an 11 hectare natural lake; a 10 hectare forest of acacia; and 10 hectares of developed parkland for recreation.

Danube leisure complex

This park is located outside Galați proper on the road to Brăila. The complex has three swimming pools, houses, camping sites and a restaurant. There is also a western club that is equipped with a pool, restaurant, bar and cafe.

Waterfront

The waterfront is a green recreational area for walking, sports competitions and recitals. Boats moored on the shores of the Danube are converted into restaurants. Also, there are many original iron relics and a statue of Nicolae Balcescu.

Danube Waves Beach

The beach is located in south-west Galați. Popular in the summer, it has two large pools and three smaller pools for children, each with a slide. There is a beach, some restaurants and shower facilities.

Brateș beach

This is a private beach with clean sand situated on the left bank of Lake Brates. Nearby is the Galați–Bereștiul Barlad railway line.



Museums:

Natural Sciences Museum Complex

The Botanical Gardens on the south bank, hosts a 7-meter (23 ft) planetarium. There is also an aquarium displaying rare species of the Danube basin and the Mediterranean Sea as well as exotic fish.

Galați History Museum

The museum was inaugurated on 24 January 1939. This was the 80th anniversary of the union of the Romanian principalities. It is housed in the residence of Cuza, Galați's chief magistrate. In 1951, after World War II, scientific activity resumed at the museum. In 1956, some items were donated to the Natural History museum and the museum of art. The finds from Tirighina-Bărboși are housed in this museum.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza Memorial House

Cuza's former residence houses a retrospective display of his life.

Visual Arts Museum

When the Galați visual arts museum opened in 1967, it was the first contemporary arts museum in Romania. It has halls and outdoor exhibit spaces. There are also spaces for artists' workshops. The heritage section exhibits Romanian art in the second half of the nineteenth and avant-garde art from the twentieth century.

Galați Village Museum

This museum at the entrance to the Garboavele forest has small village buildings to display the traditional Romanian life in the Lower Danube.

Tulcea city

Tulcea is a city in the southeastern Romania (Dobruja), situated on the St. George arm of the Danube River. Tulcea is an ancient city, the Greeks and Romans called it Aegissus (Aegyssus).



Ruins of Aegyssus

It is an important inland port, accessible from the Black Sea via the main Danube channels, and it is a centre for fishing and tourism along the smaller delta channels⁹⁶.



Tulcea inland port

⁹⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tulcea-Romania>



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Tulcea port in 2016

Near Tulcea city, which is the county capital, the Danube branches into the Sulina and St. George tributaries, which empty into the Black Sea. The Sulina is navigable by seagoing vessels. An area of scientific investigation, the Danube delta in Tulcea county has water lilies, among other flora, and fauna including pelicans and minks. The Măcin Massif, the oldest mountain range in Romania, rises in the western portion of the county, and Lake Razelm lies in the southeast.

Industrial activities in Tulcea and other towns in the county consist mostly of fish canning and barite and granite mining. Reeds are harvested from the Danube delta for use in the manufacture of cellulose and paper, and vineyards are cultivated in the northwest. Gorgova, Mila, and Victoria are fishing villages. The town of Chilia Veche was built on a former Greek settlement dating from the 5th century BC, and the towns of Sulina and Mahmudia were former Roman settlements. A research station and museum, containing exhibits about the reed industry, are found in Maliuc. Highways and a railway connection extend through Tulcea⁹⁷.

Vrancea

The name of "Vrancea"⁹⁸ comes, just like the legend says, from that of "Baba Vrancioaia", mother of seven brave and handsome men. The legend says that Baba Vrancioaia has sent the seven sons to fight next to the Moldavian voivode Steven the Great in order to help him in one of the wars led against the Turks. As a reward for the

⁹⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tulcea-Romania>

⁹⁸ http://www.prefecturavrancea.ro/fisiere/Vrancea/vrancea_site_ENG.pdf, p. 1.

bravery that they have shown in the battle, the voivode has offered seven mountains to reign over, with the desire of creating a county that should bear the name “Vrancea County”.

The present county of Vrancea has developed on the former administrative settlement, the County of Putna, which was situated along the valley of Putna River, officially recognized by the voivode Steven the Great, in 1482, as being the border of Moldavia with Muntenia. In the 19th century, the unionists have considered the river as a symbol of the union between Muntenia and Moldavia.

Vrancea, also called the County of Wines and Vineyards, is situated outside the Curvature Carpathians, at the crossroad of the three historical regions: Moldova, Muntenia and Transylvania. Extraordinary connection point between the three regions, from Vrancea you can easily reach the Danube's harbors from Galati (90 km) and Braila (100 km) or to the Black Sea (Constanta – 280 km) and Danube Delta (Tulcea – 215 km)⁹⁹.

The county of Vrancea, an ancient hearth of Romanian ethnography and folklore and of some remarkable cultural values, is completed by a natural landscape of a special picturesque, in which are protected monuments of nature of a wonderful beauty: Putna Waterfall, Tisita Gauges Reservation, Lepsa Trout Farm, Lepsa Hermitage, Soveja Mausoleum, the Alive Fire from Andreiasu, unique in the country – former volcano of Vrancea that is one of the most attractive tourist's point.

Vrancea County has a varied and attractive tourist-spa potential. The geographical position, as well as the natural and cultural landscape favors the different forms of tourism¹⁰⁰: of circulation, for weekends, cultural, rural, for hunting and fishing, at the mountain, etc. The tourism for weekend is favoured by the picturesque landscapes, unpolluted and by the special clima (Soveja – one of the places with the most ozonated air from the country or Vizantea, with its mineral waters). The wine tourism is practiced during the fall when harvesting and permanently, per wine tasting (Panciu, Odobesti, Cotesti and its surroundings). The rural, the ecologic and cultural tourism, in a continuous development is carried on in homologated village pensions, included in the ANTREC circuit, as well as in the 900 holiday houses.

⁹⁹ Ibidem, pp. 2-3.

¹⁰⁰ Ibidem, p. 7.



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Putna Waterfall – Natural Reserve (<https://www.romanian-journeys.com/en/attraction/putna-waterfall-nature-reserve>)

1.3. Tourism Development: challenges and prospects

1.3.1. Tourism development in Romania

The tourism industry is nowadays one of the best developed industries worldwide and brings annual profits at the level of billions of dollars. It creates new jobs, determines the country's economic growth and supports the infrastructure development. In Europe, tourism is considered one of the sectors with the best growth prospects, with positive effects on the number of new working places, being the subject of specific primary measures that stipulate infrastructure modernization in all its complexity, development and diversification of tourism-related services (new information and communication technologies, cultural networks, training of qualified personnel and so on). The influx of tourists and visitors in different regions is, of course, determined by the attractiveness, value, quantity and quality of tourist attractions in these areas, and the level of knowledge and presentation, i.e. advertising and ingenuity of its composition¹⁰¹.

Romania offers a wide range of tourist products, starting with cultural tours in the major historical places and ending with the holidays on the Black Sea border. The tourist agencies and the connected companies set up these last years are well aware that they can become major employers in the services sector in Romania, creating jobs for thousands of Romanians. Achieving a high performance in this sector is conditioned by the multiple efforts to be undertaken expected by the - internal and international - consumers of tourist services, in terms of service quality, transport infrastructure and the behavior of the tourism businessmen¹⁰². In line with the balanced regional development, there are counties in Romania that have already inventoried the entire natural and cultural dowry available as tourist attractions, so that a heritage reassessment of priorities is sufficient for promoting or re-promoting, in order to appropriately determine the necessary funds. Regional policy on the maximum use of tourist attractions of definite value at European level correctly ranked in terms of

¹⁰¹ Virgil Nicula, Simona Spanu, Roxana Elena Neagu, Regional Tourism Development in Romania - Consistency with Policies and Strategies Developed at EU Level, *Procedia Economics and Finance* 6, 2013, p. 531.

¹⁰² Maria Viorica Bedrule - Grigoruta, Tourism Industry in Romania - Efforts for Development and Performance, *Rejuvenating the Tourism Destination*, SSRN Electronic Journal · May 2006, pp. 181-189.

attractiveness, intrinsic value, national importance and so on, must provide funds to protect them¹⁰³.

Romania is an attractive destination for many foreign tourists, as the landscape and the originality of the customs determine them to spend wonderful holidays here. The revitalization of the Romanian tourism began a while ago, and important steps are now being made to improve the transport infrastructure and to bring service quality higher. Entertainment parks have appeared, rural tourism has begun to be known and wanted, and the small pensions and hotels have clients from all over Europe. The increased competition at a global, but also at a national level determines all those who offer touristic services, whether they are hotel or restaurant owners or tour-operators, specialized agencies or air companies to take decisive measures of readjustment and redirection in order to maintain this market by diversifying and by correlating the quality with the price of the touristic product¹⁰⁴.

The professionals in the Romanian tourism industry understand the new tendencies in the development of international tourism and realize that the ever-higher exigencies of the clients force them to use new management and marketing instruments. The important thing for the companies in the field is to find ways of putting these ideas and instruments into practice.

Romania's promotion as a touristic destination by identifying various offers may create important chances of success with regards to the effort of increasing the touristic circulation towards our country. The companies' possibilities are sustained by the organization of symposia and conferences, folk art exhibitions and artistic programmes which create interesting holiday plans for foreign tourists, but also a new image of Romania.

Given that tourism enterprises are mainly SMEs, it should be appropriate to promote their development by building clusters. Aids to improve productivity, competitiveness, training and quality play an equally important role. In this respect, it is recommended to create tools to support SMEs in tourism, especially in relation to all aspects of

¹⁰³ Virgil Nicula, Simona Spanu, Roxana Elena Neagu, Regional Tourism Development in Romania - Consistency with Policies and Strategies Developed at EU Level, *Procedia Economics and Finance* 6, 2013, p. 531.

¹⁰⁴ Maria Viorica Bedrule - Grigoruta, Tourism Industry in Romania - Efforts for Development and Performance, *Rejuvenating the Tourism Destination*, SSRN Electronic Journal · May 2006, pp. 181-189.

training of their staff. We should not neglect the important role of tourism sector in creating jobs and the fact that most of them are for young people, allowing them to use a range of skills useful in their professional development.

In developing tourism products specific to a region, which may increase the attractiveness of the area, making the ion of tourism-related activities such as: encourage the pursuit of folk art and craft fairs, traditional folk cultural performances and religious events. Supporting tourism investments that promote traditional cuisine from different regions or tourism maximum use initiatives of local resources can also be topics for future projects and even the financial support of manufacturing activities of handicrafts and traditional crafts. Initiatives to develop sports tourism activities will be supported as well: mountain bike, descending fast mountain rivers with boats - rafting, paragliding, hang gliding, and so on¹⁰⁵.

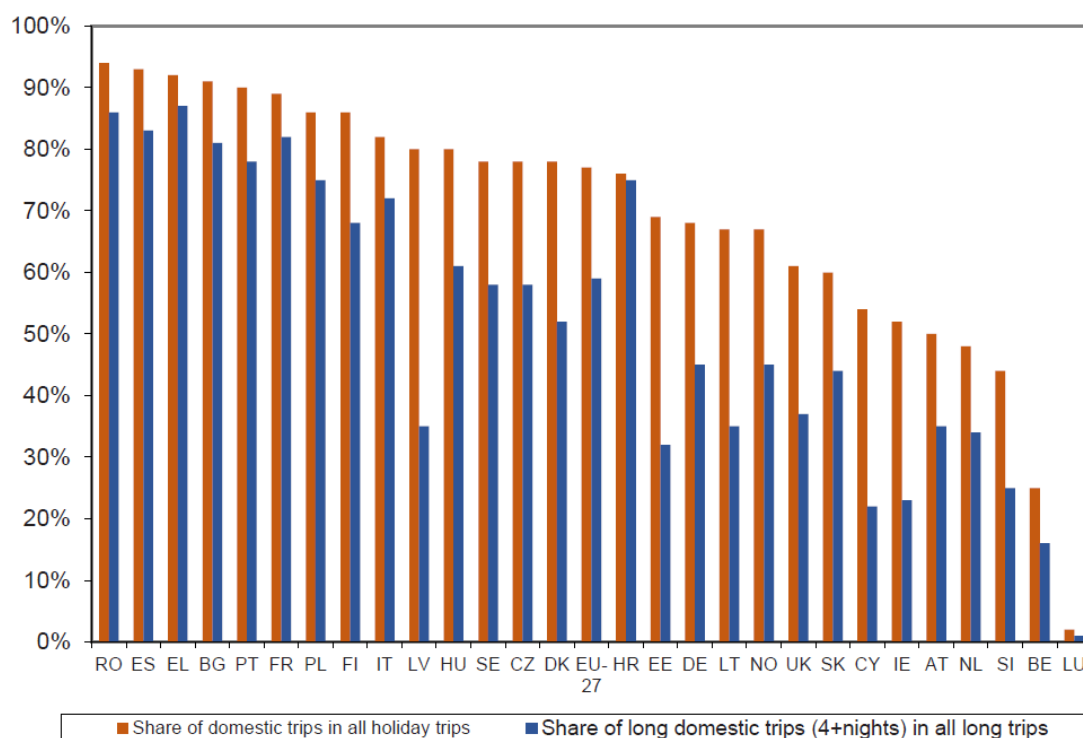
The preserving and protecting natural tourist destinations particularly aims to increase tourist attractiveness of regions by exploiting the existing natural potential, protecting and improving conservancy areas and other types of natural spaces in local heritage, awareness of the importance of natural heritage protection, promoting natural tourist destinations in different regions. This measure aims to finance, identify and promote natural areas with tourism potential and to include them in national and international tourist circuit, public awareness campaigns and campaigns for people living nearby natural objectives targeted, especially on the importance of protecting these areas. The involvement of environmental NGOs is required in development, protection and promotion activities¹⁰⁶.

The Eurostat report on tourism says that Europeans have made in 2010 over 1 billion holiday trips. More than three quarters were domestic trips and only one fourth were international trips. Romania is the first in Europe in this respect, 94% of Romanian citizens spending their holidays in the countryside. Regarding long holiday trips (i.e. the proper holidays), Romania is listed with a share of 34% nationally and only 5%

¹⁰⁵ Virgil Nicula, Simona Spanu, Roxana Elena Neagu, Regional Tourism Development in Romania - Consistency with Policies and Strategies Developed at EU Level, *Procedia Economics and Finance* 6, 2013, p. 534.

¹⁰⁶ Id.

abroad. The rest are short trips, weekends generally subject to cheap airline tickets or other convenient means of transport¹⁰⁷.



Share of domestic holiday trips in all holiday trips (any duration; only trips of 4 or more nights),
2010

Source: Eurostat Report, 2011

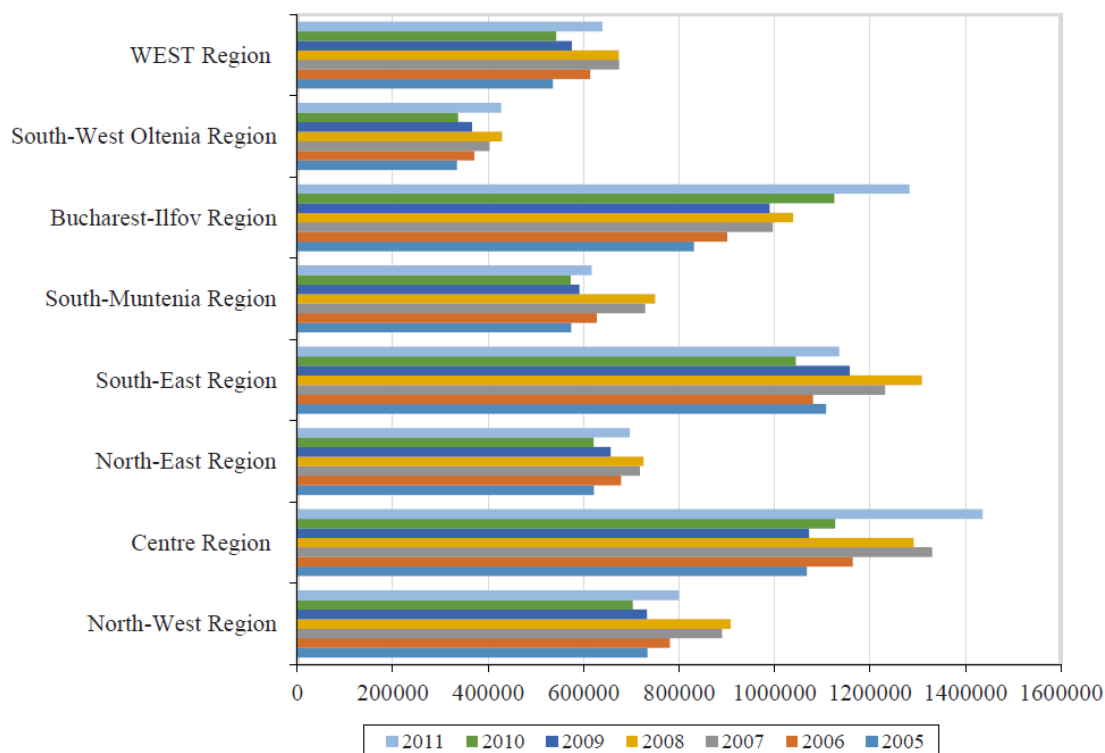
In Romania, the number of Romanian residents who have made national and international tourism trips increased by 12.8% in 2011 compared to 2010. During the same period, the number of trips made by residents increased by 12.6% compared to 2010. Holiday trips showed a peak in December for domestic destinations and in August for external destinations¹⁰⁸.

As in previous years, the Romanian tourists prefer short trips of less than 4 nights and stay with relatives or friends. The number of Romanian residents who made tourist trips in 2011 was 12146,2, an increase of 12.8% compared to 2010. Persons aged 25-44 years accounted for the largest share of the total number of tourists 48.9%, followed by the age group 45-64 years (24.4%), 15-24 years (19.5%) aged 65 and over (7.2%).

¹⁰⁷ Ibidem, p. 535.

¹⁰⁸ Ibidem, p. 536.

The number of tourism trips made by residents in 2011 was 13480.5, an increase of 12.6% compared to 2010.



Evolution of the number of tourist arrivals in tourist accommodation structures in the Romanian eight development regions (no. of persons)

Source: NIS (National Institute of Statistics), 2012

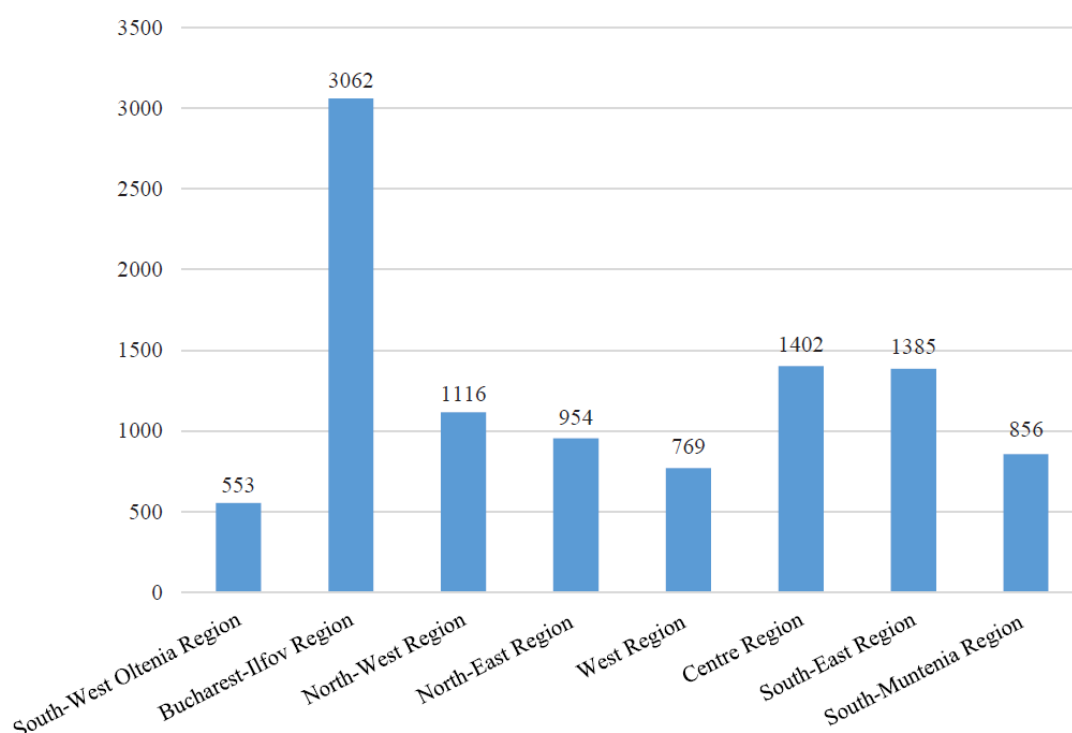
During the analyzed period, the share of holiday trips in all holidays was 92.7%, being comparable with the period of 2010, while travelling for business and professional reasons accounted for 3.0%. Most holiday trips in year 2011 were those between 1-3 overnight stays. In 2011 compared to 2010, the growth rate of tourist arrivals in the South-West Oltenia region accelerated compared to previous years, and this is evidenced by the fact that it has exceeded arrival growth from other regions¹⁰⁹.

Investments to modernize tourist infrastructure and resorts can certainly revive tourism in many regions, which in its turn can help the economic growth of regions. Thus, European funds are a source of "first aid" for "tourism revival," but, besides modernization of tourist resorts, one should also consider the European standards of

¹⁰⁹ Id.

tourism services, create original, attractive and innovative programmes in order to target important tourist flows to various areas through sustained promotion activity¹¹⁰.

An effective management of the local government and an aggressive promotion by advertising companies and travel agencies will certainly help tourism to reach the desired result. The next figure shows the evolution of turnover in hotels and restaurants sector in 2010, by development regions:



Evolution of turnover in hotels and restaurants sector in 2010, by development regions

Romania National Tourism Development Master Plan 2007-2026

To embrace the principles of sustainable tourism development as defined by the World Tourism Organization, namely, "Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems", a team of World Tourism Organization experts in conjunction with Romanian

¹¹⁰ Ibidem, p. 539.

counterparts on behalf of the Government of Romania elaborated an Executive Summary of the National Tourism Development Master Plan for Romania.

The objective of this tourism development master plan is to identify the weaknesses in the Romanian tourism industry and provide strategic directions as to how it can be restructured, resourced and regenerated in order to compete effectively in the global marketplace. The plan addresses the grassroots deficiencies of weak and unintegrated physical planning; the ineffective coordination and leadership provided by the public sector; the outdated processes for human resource development; the lack of a robust statistical basis for analysis, planning and marketing purposes; and an outmoded approach to destination marketing. All of these areas must be addressed if the industry is to be given a firm foundation on which to develop and progress.

Romania has a wealth and diversity of **natural resources**, which form much of the "raw product"¹¹¹ of tourism. This includes the Black Sea coast, the Danube and other river systems, the Carpathian and other mountain ranges and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. There are 13 National Parks and 13 Natural Reserves encompassing 7% of the country's surface. There is a great biodiversity with many species of flora and fauna unique to Europe. Romania has the greatest range of large mammals in Europe and is a major bird migration route. Romania remains largely an agricultural country with numerous villages and attractive countryside offering excellent opportunities for rural tourism. A third of Europe's natural springs are in Romania. There are 117 localities with identified therapeutic factors – water, muds, gases, etc. – which form the basis for the country's numerous spas. There are 29 spa resorts designated as of national importance and a further 32 of local importance. These are a major resource for health and beauty tourism as well as medical treatments. The Romanian coast stretches 245 kilometers from the Danube Delta in the north to the Bulgarian border and features long stretches of beach with major tourist resorts and ports. Over half of the country's accommodation stock is on the coast.

¹¹¹ Romania National Tourism Development Master Plan 2007-2026, elaborated by a team of World Tourism Organisation experts in conjunction with Romanian counterparts on behalf of the Government of Romania, p. 4, online source:

https://www.academia.edu/16802056/Master_Plan_27_06_2007_Executive_Summary_Action_Plan

When it comes to **cultural heritage**, the religious built heritage is a particular strength¹¹². There are 30 UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the wooden churches of Maramures, the painted monasteries of Moldavia and the Dacian fortresses in the Orastie Mountains. There is a network of towns featuring a wealth of architectural monuments with several well-preserved historic town centers. There are over 6,600 monuments of national significance and over 670 museums. There is a vibrant folk culture and numerous traditional events and festivals. The performing arts are strong and of international standard. There are 146 major venues staging well over 17,000 performances annually.

Regarding the **transport**, the rail network is one of the most extensive in Europe¹¹³. There is an extensive network of regional airports, many with international scheduled as well as charter services. Bucharest has two airports and direct connections and frequent services to most European and regional capitals. There is increasing cruise traffic on the Danube and sea-going cruise ships visiting Black Sea harbors.

About **accommodation**, in 2006 there were 4,710 accommodation units offering 281,000 bed spaces. 70% of accommodation units are, however, 2 star or lower. There has been an increase in the numbers of city hotels and particularly rural and urban guest houses in recent years. A high percentage of accommodation is on the coast, which has a short season¹¹⁴.

Seaside accommodation has the shortest operational season, open less than three months on average. Danube Delta accommodation also operates for less than six months of the year on average. Occupancy levels during operational periods are not high.

Regarding the **human resources**, there were 151,000 employees in the hotel and restaurant sector in 2005. There are 2,822 registered travel agencies, 2,638 of which are also licensed to operate as tour operators. There are 937 licensed tour guides.

The vision of the tourism industry is to establish Romania as a quality tourism destination based on its natural and cultural heritage which matches EU standards of

¹¹² Ibidem, p. 5.

¹¹³ Id.

¹¹⁴ Ibidem, p. 6.

product and service delivery and to generate environmentally sustainable growth in tourism at a rate in excess of other European destinations.

The strengths of Romania as a tourist destination are¹¹⁵:

1. Geographic and Environmental

- Danube Delta's biodiversity (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Diversity of National Parks and Reserves - 7% of the country – with pristine forest, lakes and rivers
- Rich and varied countryside with picturesque villages
- Black Sea coast and beaches
- Carpathian Mountains
- The River Danube and extensive river network throughout the country
- Extensive cave networks
- Rich diversity of flora and fauna, many unique or most populous in Europe, especially large carnivores
- 35% of Europe's natural springs and "mofeta" providing wide range of spa treatments
- Temperate continental climate
- Good natural conditions for tourism activities – skiing, hiking, riding, cycling, mountaineering, watersports, etc,

2. Culture and Heritage

- Diversity of heritage sites – monasteries, archaeological sites, fortified villages etc. including 6 UNESCO World Heritage sites/areas
- Medieval towns
- Rural villages featuring traditional way of life and festivals
- Museums – diverse themes

¹¹⁵ Ibidem, pp. 8-10.

- World class performing arts - both classical and modern
- Wide range of traditional and folklore Festivals
- Legends – Dracula etc.
- Sibiu – Cultural Capital of Europe 2007

3. Infrastructure, Transport and Communications

- Good network of airports
- Extensive rail network – fourth largest in Europe
- Extensive road network with many border-crossing points
- National air carrier with good network of destinations and many other carriers
- Good quality intercity coach services and other tour operator transport
- Well-developed network of river harbors
- Well-developed telecommunications networks – telephone, radio, GSM, satellite
- Electrical power supply in 95% of country
- Significant private sector investment in new accommodation

4. Human Resources

- Country of welcoming people and a tradition of hospitality
- Young population with linguistic skills providing many potential tourism
- employees
- Well-developed networks of high schools and universities as a basis for
- tourism education and training
- National Centre for Tourism Education established and overseeing hospitality industry training

- Tourism courses offered at many tertiary education institutions
- Nucleus of skilled and experienced destination management organizations

5. Legal Framework and Organization

- Tourism product and supplier licensing system operational
- Extensive legal framework controlling National Parks, Protected Areas, the environment and the cultural heritage
- Government recognition of tourism through the National Development Plan and National Tourism Authority
- Liberal visa regime

6. Marketing and Promotion

- Active tour operator sector
- National Institute for Tourism Research and Statistics (INCDT)
- Network of NTA promotional offices abroad
- Extensive promotional programme of activity abroad – advertising, fairs, media and operator visits
- Existing brands – Dracula and Transylvania

7. Other

- Increasing interest in tourism development among foreign investors

Thus, the goals for tourism development in Romania are:

- To establish a heightened awareness both domestically and internationally of Romania's positive appeals as a tourist destination and its tourism brand image;
- To ensure that tourism is developed in a sustainable manner so that the environmental, cultural and heritage appeals are both appreciated today and preserved for future generations;



- To ensure tourism is recognized as a key sector within the economy and as a generator of an increasing number of jobs;
- To create an awareness among the population of Romania of the tourism appeals of the country and a desire to share these with visitors;
- To restructure the NTA as an efficient and effective national tourism organization, marketing the tourism products and services of Romania, ensuring quality product and service standards, providing information to visitors and supporting all sectors of the country's tourism industry in the development of tourism;
- To develop and implement annual collaborative public/private sector destination marketing plans targeting all major markets with potential for Romania
- To offer coordinated support mechanisms to regional and local tourism organizations in the development of area tourism policy, strategies and plans;
- To expand the system for the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of tourism statistics and research to assist in the creation of a Tourism Satellite Account for Romania and facilitating investment and marketing decision-making;
- To establish a network of coordinated tourist information centers in all main tourist areas in order to extend a warm welcome to visitors, providing appropriate information to assist in their orientation, enjoyment and appreciation of the destination;
- To develop a nationwide database of tourism products, facilities, events and services with both tourism industry and public access;
- To upgrade and expand the role of the national tourism website as a major promotional, information, reservations and e-marketing tool;
- To develop a refined system of product and service classification and grading to ensure the provision of quality products and services to meet visitor needs and expectations;
- To introduce mechanisms and incentives to facilitate investment in tourism by both Romanian and foreign investors;

- To consolidate the legal framework for tourism so that it will ensure good practice and guarantee high standards without undue bureaucracy;
- To encourage town, county and regional authorities to develop integrated tourism development plans including all infrastructure elements to avoid uncoordinated and incompatible development;
- To develop the provision of pre-vocational and vocational training for the hospitality sector so that curricula evolve to meet changing market needs and sufficient staff are qualified to meet employment demand / fill employment vacancies;
- To facilitate the development of a national convention center enabling the capital and country to compete for international meetings;
- To develop Romania's spa resorts to offer the range of treatments, facilities and services demanded by a rapidly changing customer base;
- To develop mountain areas and resorts to offer year-round facilities and attractions for visitors;
- To identify season lengthening development opportunities for Black Sea coastal resorts and facilitate their introduction;
- To ensure the requirements of tourists are given prominence in the development of the national transport system including road and rail networks, airport and harbor infrastructure;
- To expand the national tourism signage system in conformity with EU standards and introduce themed tourism routes;
- To assist the development of ecotourism in the Danube Delta, national parks and reserves and rural areas legislation;
- To train and assist major national museums and monuments in improving their visitor facilities, especially welcome and interpretation and marketing, as an example to all such monuments.

- The creation of a national cultural events database to facilitate the promotion of visual and performing arts, and particularly traditional festival and folklore events;
- To establish cooperative and collaborative frameworks within and between public and private sectors.
- To develop an effective Implementation Strategy to ensure the Master Plan goals are realized.

It is the responsibility of the Local and County planning authorities and National Park and Nature Reserve administrators to develop tourism plans to meet current and future visitor requirements and to integrate these into overall plans for their areas of responsibility. For the most part the private sector is expected to invest in specific tourism product improvements and new developments. These should comply with local tourism planning guidelines and any application for external funding shall be contingent on compliance with local tourism plans.

There are products which require public sector support and coordination. These include the following¹¹⁶:

Accommodation

Customers are consistently demanding higher quality accommodation and the majority of the serviced accommodation stock is below standard. There is a major imbalance between the current supply of serviced accommodation and the projected demand. Based on a notional 65% room occupancy rate there is an immediate demand for more High-grade rooms (5 and 4 star); there is sufficient Mid-grade accommodation (3 and 2 star) until nearly 2020; whereas there will still be double the requirement of Low grade (1 star and unclassified) rooms in 2026.

The current classification system for accommodation is unnecessarily complex and onerous to assess. The criteria need rationalizing and a revised quality assessment system should be introduced incorporating service standards as well as facilities.

The following actions are required:

¹¹⁶ Ibidem, p. 17.

- Continued construction of new 4- and 5-star properties in selected areas with designs compatible with the environment and surroundings
- Upgrading of Mid-range accommodation to meet higher visitor expectations
- Conversion of some Low-grade accommodation for other purposes – student accommodation, offices, etc. - or complete removal from the sector
- Significant upgrade of some Low range accommodation to at least 3-star level
- Continued improvements to all levels of accommodation including units in national parks and nature reserves
- Review of the classification system and introduction of a star rating system based on quality of service standards.

Attractions

A diversity of attractions offering a variety of visit opportunities are required. These may be either conveniently on a tourist's itinerary or an excursion from a base where he is staying. Improvements to existing attractions and the introduction of "new" ones in tourism circuits is recommended, including¹¹⁷:

Museums and Heritage Attractions

The interpretation, hospitality and retail facilities in many museums, galleries and heritage buildings are antiquated and neither do justice to the cultural and historic assets, nor encourage additional visitors. To improve the appeal and outreach of these cultural and heritage institutions the directors and administration agencies are encouraged to:

- Provide customer care training to staff
- Introduce innovative presentation techniques
- Provide catering facilities where appropriate
- Expand retail operations

¹¹⁷ Ibidem, p. 18.

Museums and memorial buildings designated as of National or Local importance should receive preferential consideration in respect of resources and technical assistance.

Salt Mines

Romania's salt mines are operated on behalf of the government by Salrom. Apart from mineral extraction, several mines attract visitors for medical treatment and tourism purposes. To improve the visitor experience and expand visitor numbers Salrom should:

- Expand and implement the Praid mine tourism development project including visitor reception facilities, the mine visit experience and interpretation and marketing
- Develop feasibility studies and business plans for other accessible mines and secure donor and/or commercial investors for their implementation

Caves

Romania has a wealth of caves, which have great potential for development as visitor attractions. There are significant safety and environmental impact implications inherent in expanded access. In order to meet both the opportunities and challenges it is proposed to develop a number of "show caves". A number of suitable caves have been identified in conjunction with speleological specialists. Administrators of these caves suited to general public visits are encouraged:

- to develop visitor access, thematic lighting, interpretation and visitor reception facilities and promote them as visitor attractions

Narrow Gauge Railways

Narrow gauge railways have a particular appeal to visitors combining heritage with activity and enjoyment of the countryside all at once. Viseu de Sus is the only narrow-gauge railway currently operating on a regular basis. Trains based at Moldovita and Abrud-Campeni operate for groups on demand. Operational overheads are high, which makes the viability of these heritage attractions difficult.

The Sibiu – Agnita line has recently been designated as an historical monument, which is hopefully a first step to the re-introduction of trains on this route both for tourist and resident use.

Business Tourism (MICE)

In order to establish Romania as a competitive destination for international meetings and conventions commensurate with its membership of the European Union and to improve the seasonality of tourism action is to be taken to¹¹⁸:

- Research the optimum size and configuration of multi-purpose convention centres for Bucharest and Constanta to meet potential market demand
- Develop purpose-built convention centres in Bucharest and Constanta as private / public sector partnerships
- Upgrade the marketing of Romania as a destination for international meetings through a collaboration between the NTO and the Romanian Convention Bureau.

Rural Tourism

Rural tourism¹¹⁹ can be considered in its broadest sense as comprising recreation in rural settings or rural environments for the purpose of participating in or experiencing activities, events or attractions not readily available in urbanized areas. This includes national parks and nature reserves, open countryside, villages and agricultural areas. It embraces ecotourism and agritourism.

Rural tourism is becoming increasingly attractive as tourists become more mobile and seek a change from urban life. The degree of their immersion in rural life varies. Some visitors will purely wish to spectate. Others will want direct involvement in environmental protection and conservation projects or in agricultural activities. There are developmental challenges and promotional challenges to be met if the appropriate products are to be provided and communicated to potential visitors.

¹¹⁸ Ibidem, p. 19.

¹¹⁹ Ibidem, p. 20.



There has been a significant increase in recent years in both the quality and quantity of rural accommodation thanks to individual investors and SAPARD funding. Activities of organizations such as ANTREC are assisting rural suppliers reach the market.

Organizations such as ADEPT and the Ecotourism Association are helping rural communities appreciate what tourism means and how they can benefit from it. The formation of more local cooperatives of rural tourism products – attractions, accommodation, activities and retailers – are needed to focus visitor attention on particular areas of the country.

More non accommodation product development is required in order to improve the range of visitor attractions and activities on offer. In particular opportunities exist for the environmentally sustainable expansion of visitor activities in the protected areas. These can have a significant beneficial impact on local community suppliers in or around the protected areas.

Better advance publicity of traditional rural events is needed to facilitate visitor planning. It is recommended that national parks and nature reserves prepare sustainable tourism development plans following the Retezat model and seek funding for identified visitor facilities.

It is also recommended that the NTO give priority public relations and promotional assistance to the various rural associations as the range of products and activities they foster represents some of the most important core values of Romania's brand image.

The proposed network of NTO regional development officers will assist individual rural suppliers with development advice in a broader regional and national context. They will also facilitate the establishment of local promotional consortia. At the same time, they will facilitate the collection of event, attraction and activity data through the local TIC network for inclusion in the national tourism database and relevant promotional activity.

Coastal Tourism

The coastal resorts are experiencing a decrease in visitor traffic as the product offer has failed to match increased visitor expectations¹²⁰. The reasons behind this situation are deep rooted. What had previously been integrated resort developments under state control and management have evolved into hundreds of medium to small commercial operations with little relationship one to the other. In the period since privatization both the domestic and international tourist markets have matured and are now demanding a more sophisticated range of products and services. With fragmented ownership and no clear strategic direction, the seaside resorts have found it difficult to respond to changing markets and have suffered as a result.

The difficulties faced by the resorts are numerous and include:

- A predominance of low-quality accommodation mostly in large units
- A very short season, which means uncompetitive prices have to be charged even to break even
- Impossibility of attracting and retaining professional staff for a short season
- Great competition between hotels for the available business rather than collaboration to grow the business
- Insufficient activities and entertainments in and around hotels and resorts to meet the requirements of today's market
- Short sightedness among hoteliers capitalizing on the growing weekend visitor demand at the expense of losing longer stay group business over an extended season
- Beach erosion – in some resorts there are now more than twice as many bed spaces as beach spaces
- Poorly maintained public infrastructure
- Transport congestion and insufficient parking
- Conflicting interests of beach concessionaires and accommodation suppliers
- Loss of most charter operations to Kogalniceanu Airport

Continued efforts are required to attract low cost carriers to Constanta airport to increase destination publicity as well as passengers. The proposed establishment of

¹²⁰ Ibidem, p. 21.

two hospitality training institutes on the coast may alleviate the personnel problem somewhat. The proposed large-scale conference center for Constanta may also contribute to off season business. Studies into solutions of the beach erosion problem are on-going, but even if they provide successful solutions there will still be a need for an increase in off beach activities to fulfill the demands of today's market, which requires 'beach plus' – not just beach activities, but additional excursions, inland activities, attraction visits, shopping, etc.

Individual operator initiatives in upgrading and diversifying their product offer are essential but can only partly resolve the fundamental problems. To resolve these individual resorts, local authorities need to develop, on the one hand, integrated tourism development plans to give their resorts a clear direction, which will meet today's market needs and provide season extending reasons to visit. On the other hand, resort management companies with all stakeholders as shareholders should be formed in order to overcome the disputes and deterioration in quality and variety of service provision that fragmented ownership has created.

Cultural Tourism

Romanian culture forms a significant motivation for many visitors¹²¹. The architectural and religious monuments, many of them still living cultural assets, are major attractions. The wealth of monasteries, churches and other religious buildings form the backbone of many group and individual tours. Their maintenance and improvement for visitor enjoyment and appreciation is imperative. This requires improvement in visitor reception facilities, interpretation, as well as the provision of retail facilities and catering where appropriate.

The visual arts, whether in museums or galleries, require similar presentation support. Cultural events and traditions offer significant potential for tourism growth, which can assist in their being sustained and not lost to future generations. There are many festivals and traditional annual events that do not attract the visitor interest they warrant.

¹²¹ Ibidem, p. 22.

There is a deficiency in advance publicity for many such events, in time to permit tour planning and promotion. Better event data collection and dissemination is required. The range and caliber of performing arts, particularly in major cities, is excellent. Prices and late availability of tickets are appealing to foreign visitors in particular. However, both publicity and ease of booking need to be improved significantly. Centralized and computerized box offices for performing arts, ideally with Internet booking options, are required.

Danube Cruise Ship Facilities

The cruise traffic on the Danube has been increasing rapidly and giving many tourists their first impressions of Romania. The reception facilities at the docking points in Romania do not meet the standards of those provided by other countries through which the river flows. To enhance these visitors' experience the following action is required:

- Provision of a central information point for cruise operators to communicate ship manifests, etc.
- Coordination of harbor fees and charges into a uniform system that is competitive with other Danube countries
- Improvement of docking facilities, harbor reception facilities and landside access to and from docking facilities

Destination Marketing

The NTA does not currently have a clear strategy based on full and deep understanding of market characteristics and trends for the marketing of Romania¹²². A series of market surveys was carried out in 2006 but no use has so far been made of the findings and conclusions in shaping a coherent marketing and promotional strategy or programme, based on a ranking of source markets.

The mix of current marketing and promotional activities (i.e. offices abroad, tourism fair participation, website, collateral materials, advertising) is not coordinated or designed to fulfil specific strategic objectives. These activities tend to be undertaken in an ad hoc, scattergun manner.

¹²² Ibidem, p. 25.

The NTA does not provide either strategic direction to its offices abroad – in respect of market positioning and segmentation targeting – or sufficient support for their operations. There is also no performance benchmark criteria system for offices abroad or evaluation of the cost effectiveness of their operations.

Consumers in tourist source markets are increasingly using website research and booking engines for their travel requirements. The operation of street level destination promotion offices is consequently no longer a cost-effective system for market penetration and is increasingly being abandoned by other destinations.

Romania's representation on tourism websites is poor: the style and design of www.romaniatourism.com is dated in appearance and the country is not as well represented on other relevant websites as are competitor countries.

The extensive and recently expanded programme of attendance at tourism fairs abroad is not monitored or evaluated in terms of any resultant increased tourist flow/income to the country. The programme's impact and effectiveness is unknown.

There is insufficient exposure of Romania and its tourist product offering in the media of main tourist source markets, leading to - at best – an unclear perception of the country as a serious and bona fide tourist destination. In consequence, tour operators do not recognize a groundswell of demand for Romania from their customer base and do not actively consider introducing new programmes to the country.

In-depth knowledge of Romania and its tourist product offering is poor among tour operator and travel agency personnel in main tourist source markets. These personnel cannot “sell” a destination on which they have at best only a superficial knowledge.

Romania does not have either a clear or strong image in the marketplace, and its destination branding gives mixed messages. “Simply surprising” encultures the fact that visitors typically find their experiences in the country exceed their expectations, but fails to recognize that surprises can also be unpleasant.

The NTA is currently not regarded positively as a marketing organization either by the Romanian tourism private sector or by regional or local administrations around the country. Left unchanged in terms of structure, personnel and systems, it will not achieve the necessary close and productive working partnerships necessary to lead the establishment of Romania as a major tourism destination.

The following changes in marketing approach are recommended:

- Tourist source markets should be categorized on the basis of the scale of market opportunity for Romania in the short, mid and long terms according to a three-tier rating system:

Primary/priority Markets i.e. Germany, Austria, Italy, France, UK/Ireland, Hungary, Russia and the USA,

Secondary Markets i.e. Scandinavian countries, Benelux countries, Iberian Peninsula and other EU countries,

Opportunity Markets i.e. China, Japan, other countries (as identified through research).

- A strategy based on a number of target market segments is recommended drawn up from a study of international tourism trends – these to be verified and modified as indicated through the market research studies proposed below. The principal market segments identified are:

International & Domestic

- short breaks to Bucharest and, in time, other cities to which low cost carriers operate

- business (including conferences) to Bucharest and other industrial/commercial locations in line with the rise in business activity following Romania's accession to the EU

- Black Sea coastal resorts – both among domestic tourists and from principal international markets of Germany, France and Scandinavia as the resorts upgrade and diversified activities are developed

- health and wellness market – with existing spas developed to target the most appropriate sub-segments of the market

- cultural/heritage tourism – probably the largest market opportunity focused on a series of “hubs” or “gateways” and featuring “tour circuits” either around “clusters of attractions” close to a single hub or linking together multiple hubs

- adventure/sports – principally targeted at younger age groups

International (mainly)

- nature and local community-based activities, lodging etc. (collectively termed ecotourism, or more accurately, geotourism) i.e. small-to-mid scale operations in various parts of the country (especially in the Carpathians and the Danube Delta) and marketed as individual attractions and as part of an ecotourism circuit

- young travelers – no European country has sought to identify itself as the principal destination for young travelers. Romania offers a good range of outdoor activities – both in summer and winter; it has a growing programme of music, sports and other events in Bucharest and elsewhere in the country; and it offers relatively low costs. These are all attributes that have appeal to young travelers

Domestic (mainly)

- winter sports – in line with the growing interest for outdoor winter recreation among Romanians. However, little growth potential in international markets because of the low height of slopes and lack of guaranteed snow and relatively difficult access compared with other European ski centers

- recreation/theme parks – developed on the outskirts of major urban centers and resort areas (e.g. Bucharest, Constanta) to provide diversified entertainment facilities. Examples might include water parks, thrill rides, and folk/culture parks (the last named also being an attraction for international tourist markets).

The optimistic forecasts published in Romania's Tourism Master Plan

The tables below summarize some of the optimistic forecasts published in Romania's Tourism Master Plan, namely:

- Goals target on international and domestic visitors' expenditure in the period 2005-2026 (in EUR million):

Year	International Visitors Expenditure	Domestic visitors expenditure	Total expenses
2005	877	1878	2755
2011	1726	2385	4561
2016	2947	4058	7005
2021	4798	5914	10712
2026	7740	8329	16069

Source: Tourism Development Master Plan, p. 166

- Goals target on the use by visitors of the accommodation in the period 2005-2026 (million nights):

Year	International Visitors	Domestic visitors	Total
2005	3,46	14,91	18,37
2011	<i>6,37</i>	<i>21,11</i>	<i>27,48</i>
2016	<i>10,22</i>	<i>27,69</i>	<i>37,91</i>
2021	16,01	37,25	53,26
2026	23,78	48,76	72,54

Source: Tourism Development Master Plan, p. 168

Tourism development in Dobruja (Constanța and Tulcea)

Rural areas in the European Union are currently undergoing significant economic and social changes, mostly induced by the international trade liberalization and the strengthening of the role of rural development policy. There is an increasing awareness of the need to accompany changes in rural areas by the diversification of their economic base, which seems to be the only solution for their socio-economic survival¹²³. In this context, rural tourism has been considered a means of achieving such economic and social development due to its capacity to generate local employment and stimulate external investment into the communities¹²⁴.

The synergies and interrelationships between tourism, agriculture and the other sectors of economic activity are increasingly important, with many different players getting involved. Rural tourism has become a “development tool” for many communities seeking to diversify their economies due to its capacity to generate local employment, stimulate external investments into the communities and supplement traditional industries¹²⁵.

Romania has excellent conditions to develop rural tourism because 44% of the population is living in the rural area and together with the incomes coming from

¹²³ Elena Sima, “Sustainable development in Dobruja by promoting tourism activities in rural areas”, Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, New Series, Year XIII, no. 2, p. 239–252, 2016.

¹²⁴ OECD, (1994), Tourism strategies and rural development, Paris.

¹²⁵ Giannakis Elias, (2014), The role of rural tourism on the development of rural areas: the case of Cyprus, Romanian Journal of Regional Science, Vol. 8, Issue 1, p. 38–53.

agriculture, the incomes from rural and agrotourism are welcome to any farmer and any household¹²⁶.

In the last years, tourism became one of the socio-economic sectors that experienced a major transformation, being a diverse and complex activity. Although the mass tourism remains the predominant form, preferences for other tourism forms also emerged, satisfying the need to be close to nature, to exercise outdoors, to explore and to learn new things linked to plants and animals.

Rural tourism, agrotourism and ecotourism are alternative income gaining activities, providing opportunities for rural area development and economic and social competitiveness increase. The development of these activities largely depends on the existence and quality of tourist boarding houses, as well as on the tourism attractions (of folklore and ethnographic, historical and religious and gastronomic nature) and on the farming activities practiced on the household.

The rural tourism and agro-tourism have a motivational base, represented by: return to nature; getting familiar with folk tradition and culture; healthcare; playing sports - hunting, fishing, climbing etc.; fresh food and fruit consumption.

For Romania, rural tourism is a priority area in the revival of economic life, considering that in our country rural tourism has continuously developed, mainly after 2004, with the development of associative forms of support and creation of the legal framework regulating the activities of this sector.

From an economic perspective, tourism in general and rural tourism in particular illustrate the economic area with the highest potential in terms of international competitiveness for Romania. In other words, Romania has to benefit from it and convert the existing potential into a source of income.

At present, rural tourism is an important part of the Romanian tourism sector¹²⁷. We draw particular attention upon the fact that the tourism potential of rural areas in Romania is far from its effective realization, showing a poor use of natural, historical

¹²⁶ Popescu Agatha, (2016), The position of tourist and agro-tourist guesthouses in Romania's accommodation structures, Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 16, Issue 1, p. 417–424.

¹²⁷ Elena Sima, "Sustainable development in Dobruja by promoting tourism activities in rural areas", Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, New Series, Year XIII, no. 2, 2016, p. 240.

and cultural tourism resources, as well as a low use of the existing material base. As regards tourism potential, we note that our country has diverse attractions, distributed in a balanced throughout the country, such as the Carpathians, the Black Sea, the Danube Delta or areas with old cultural traditions.

Dobruja's tourism patrimony is evaluated according to the normative acts, which regulate tourism organization, coordination, promotion and development (strategic importance area and priority branch of the national economy of Romania), as well as the management of tourism resources in conformity with the principles of equity, competitiveness, sustainability and sustainable development¹²⁸.

Dobruja's tourism is put into value and developed on the basis of and within the annual/multiannual programs for the development of tourism destinations and products, elaborated by the Local and Central Public Administration Authority in charge of tourism and approved by Government's Decision.

The tourism patrimony elements are inscribed in the General Register of Tourism Patrimony, owned and administered by the Central Public Administration Authority in charge of tourism. The list of natural and anthropic resources is inscribed in the National Cultural Heritage of Romania and is maintained and periodically updated by the Ministry of Culture, Cults and National Patrimony of Romania.

The natural landscape and the way of "living in the countryside" are closest to the traditional image that could be preserved in Western Europe. The patrimony of the Dobruja's rural tourism can be approached from the experts' point of view, i.e. geographers and economists, researchers or analysts of the tourism phenomenon, who include the following in the patrimony concept: the (natural and anthropic) tourism potential, the tourism technical-material base (tourism endowments and tourist reception structures with accommodation functions), the tourism services and the general technical infrastructure.

Dobruja is a historical and geographical province located both on the Romanian and Bulgarian territory, known in the past as "Dacia Pontica" or "Scitia Minor". From the administrative point of view, at present Dobruja contains two counties in Romania: Tulcea and Constanta and two counties in Bulgaria: Dobrici and Silistra.

¹²⁸ Ibidem, p. 241.

Located in South-Eastern of Romania, between the Danube and the Black Sea, Dobruja's territory benefits from a diversified tourism patrimony, with natural and anthropic resources distributed on the entire area of 15,570 km², divided between the Constanta county and Tulcea county¹²⁹.

The most important cities are: **Constanta**, **Medgidia**, **Mangalia** and **Tulcea**. The region includes both spa resorts (Eforie Nord, Techirghiol, Saturn) and leisure resorts such as Navodari, Mamaia, Eforie Sud, Olimp, Neptun, Jupiter, Aurora, Venus, Mangalia. Numerous holiday villages can be found on the sea shore (Histria, Corbu, Agigea, Tuzla, Costinesti, 2 Mai, Vama Veche and Limanu) or in the Danube Delta (Crisan, Jurilovca, Mahmudia, Malliuc, Murighiol, Sfantu Gheorghe).

The average density (inhabitants/km²) is one of the most relevant indicators of the territorial distribution of population. The population density is conditioned both by physical-geographic and economic factors, with different distributions of the population in the territory.

The network of human settlements has distinct characteristics in the two counties, due to natural particularities. Thus, in the county Tulcea, 40.54% of its area (i.e. 3446 km²) is covered by the newest relief units, represented by the Danube Delta and the lagoon complex Razim–Sinoe, with limited dwelling possibilities¹³⁰.

In the county Constanta, the size of the rural area is marked by the presence of Constanta municipality and by the entire network of urban localities on the southern Black Sea shore.

Dobruja's tourism vocation is equally conferred by its geographic position, characterized by a beautiful and diverse landscape, as well as by the cultural–historical profile of the region, with rich and various archaeological remains and historical monuments.

Another important characteristic is represented by the harmonious blending of the old and new, of tradition and modernity. This complementarity makes Dobruja more attractive to tourists and gives them the possibility to know and understand the history and tradition of the places they are visiting.

¹²⁹ Id.

¹³⁰ Ibidem, p. 242.

In Dobruja, the natural tourism resource is determined by:

- The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, with a great diversity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, where there are real opportunities for ecotourism activity;
- The Măcin Mountains National Park, situated in the North–West of the county Tulcea, with maximum 467 m (the peak Greci–Tuțuiatul), which is fascinating through its unique geo-morphology and bio-geography;
- The Romanian Black Sea Coast, with its specific ecotourism potential represented by Sites of Community Interest, as: sea dunes from Agigea and sea zones from Tuzla, Costinesti, Vama Veche;
- The Northern Dobrujan Plateau, with an ecotourism potential, yet totally unexplored (large forests and a rich hunting fund).

The territory of the Tulcea and Constanta, from north to south and from east to west, is characterized by an important number of natural and seminatural habitats with a vast diversity:

- aquatic habitats (freshwater habitats, saltwater habitats, marine and coastal habitats),
- terrestrial habitats (forests habitats, steppe pastures and bushes, forest-steppe habitats, moorland and peatland habitats) and
- underground habitats (cave habitats – Limanu and Dobrudgea Gorges).

At present, on the lists of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000, there are 64 sites in Dobruja, out of which 31 sites are Special Protection Areas (SPA) and 33 are Sites of Community Interest (SCI).

The anthropic resource of the Dobruja's tourism patrimony is enriched by the multitude of monuments and archaeological sites, of architectural ensembles and reserves, of memorial monuments and ensembles, of technical and art monuments, of museums and other elements of folk art located both in the urban and rural areas.

Thus, analyzing the Dobruja's rural space, we will find that this is the keeper and preserver of an inestimable treasure of art and architecture, with historical artifacts, vestiges and monuments, as well as of a veritable ethnic folklore heritage of unique

value and purity, which “makes out of Dobruja a genuine museum in open air, with many monuments, archaeological sites and architectural assemblies that are included in the protected areas”¹³¹.

The monuments and archaeological sites of ancient times can be known by visiting the remains of human settlements established by the pre-historical, Geto–Dacian, Greek and Roman civilizations both on the territory of Constanța county and of Tulcea county.

Dobruja was one of the most multicultural parts of Romania, at least by mid-20th century¹³². In 1930, its population consisted of Romanians (44.2%), Bulgarians (22.8%), Turks (18.5%), Tatars (2.7%), Germans (3.4%) and Greeks (less numerous). In those times, Dobruja was one of the most multicultural spaces of the continent, with a rich diversity of languages, religions and customs¹³³.

The many ethnical communities created an original material and spiritual culture in which we can notice the traditional houses from reed and earth from the Danube Delta.

Of great importance for the cultural tourism, we can mention the archaeology museums (Adamclisi, Istria), art museums (Limanu, Topalu), ethnographic museums (Enisala), scientific and technical museums, memorial houses (Panait Cerna, in Tulcea county).

The hydro-tech constructions (bridges, lighthouses, the Danube – Black Sea Canal and Sulina) stand out in the landscape of the areas where they are located.

According to the above-mentioned attractive elements, Ionașcu and Cianga in 2006 identify two areas for the rural tourism practice in Dobruja¹³⁴:

– A compact area located in the wet regions of the river plain, delta, lagoon complex and seashore, with prevailing piscicultural specificity, which is used for the practice of mass summer tourism, balneary, recreational, sport, business, cruise and itinerary tourism;

¹³¹ Ionașcu, V., (2011), Dobrogea. Studiu de geografia turismului, București, Editura Universitară.

¹³² Elena Sima, “Sustainable development in Dobruja by promoting tourism activities in rural areas”, Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, New Series, Year XIII, no. 2, 2016, p. 246.

¹³³ Boia, L., (2007), România țară fără frontieră a Europei, Editura Humanitas, București.

¹³⁴ Ionașcu, V., Ciangă, N., (2006), The tourist regionalisation of Dobrudja, Romanian Review of Regional Studies, vol. II, no. 3, p. 81–86.

– A hilly and plateau area with prevailing fruit–viticultural, apicultural and agro-pastoral specificity, which use the rural tourism potential for the gastronomic, ethnographic, historical, religious and scientific tourism practice.

In the year 2004, in the National Territorial Plan, section VI Tourism, the researchers identified the rural settlements with tourism potential in Dobruja that cover the largest part of Dobruja (72%)¹³⁵. In the case of Tulcea county, 83% of the territory is represented by natural areas of high scientific and landscape value (the Danube Delta and the lagoon complex Razim-Sinoe, the Măcin Mountains, the Danube river plain) and the cultural-historical heritage (the relics alongside the Danube, Niculițel, Enisala, Baia centers). Constanța county, by the balneary and cultural potential from the southern part of the Romanian coastline and the historical, cultural and religious resources from Oltina Plateau, accounts for 59% of the remarkable tourism potential.

Each rural locality represents an entity with personal particularities and specific activities, which has to be identified and valorized as efficiently as possible in terms of tourism potential.

The rural settlements are of tourism interest depending on the natural environmental factors, on the historical and cultural conditions in which they evolved; putting into value the tourism attractiveness elements is strongly influenced by the access possibilities, which most often represent an important constraint.

In most villages of tourism interest, mainly in those located in zones with complex high value tourism potential, there are more than two–three potential travel motivations (villages of balneary, fishing and hunting, cultural-historical and religious, ethnographic, viticultural interest). Most rural localities have a complex tourism potential and the differences between these stems from the main attractive elements. The isolated settlements have a strictly tourism function and put into value the natural potential from their proximity.

Thus, a relatively new field of interest in the Danube Delta, tourism has good development chances due to the unique landscape of an amazing wealth and diversity¹³⁶. The Biosphere Reserve status of this area is also an asset. Tourism may

¹³⁵ Elena Sima, “Sustainable development in Dobruja by promoting tourism activities in rural areas”, *Agricultural Economics and Rural Development*, New Series, Year XIII, no. 2, 2016, p. 247.

¹³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 247.

become an important part of life and a means of empowerment. High tourist potential areas are: Matița–Bogdaproste; Mila 35 Canal – Mila 23 Village; Gorgova–Uzlina; Roșu–Puiu and Sulina–Sfântu Gheorghe, a particular attraction being Sfântu Gheorghe Arm, Sulina Arm, Razim–Sinoie Lakes and Chilia Arm (Damian and Dumitrescu, 2009).

Tourism developments are found in the perimeter of resorts, of the urban or rural localities or on isolated basis, depending on the potential resources that require their existence. The most popular tourist activities in the villages were fishing, hunting, swimming, horse riding and boating, cooking traditional meals, landscape watching and photo taking.

The tourist accommodation structures represent the most important component of the specific technical-material base, as it responds to one of the fundamental needs of tourists, i.e. rest and lodging. The Black Sea shore and the Danube Delta are destinations where the tourist accommodation capacity has been significantly enlarged. The Black Sea is the main tourist attraction in the region and Constanța county had 755 accommodation units with a capacity of 87,848 places in the year 2015. Thus, it appears that 84.36% of the total accommodation capacity of Dobruja is located in this county; Tulcea county has 140 accommodation units with a capacity of 3,973 places (<http://www.insse.ro/>).

The types of rural tourism identified on Dobruja's territory are the following:

- tourism for helio-marine cure on the seashore;
- recreational tourism, for fishing purpose or for nautical sports on certain lakes from the Black Sea shore or alongside the Danube river;
- eco-tourism, in the Danube Delta and the protected areas from continental Dobruja;
- cultural tourism in the settlements with high value historical objectives (Adamclisi, Enisala, Istria) or religious objectives (Celic Dere, Cocos, Dervent, Saint Andrew Cave, Casian Cave, Saon, Uspenia);
- agro-tourism by putting into value the viticultural, fishery, apicultural, local agro-pastoral resources, traditional cuisine or horse riding.

In the specialty literature, the rural settlements with tourism function from Dobruja or those with tourism function besides their basic function can be classified as follows:

- tourism rural settlements for recreation and helio-marine cure: Agigea, Corbu, Tuzla, Vama Veche, 2 Mai, 23 August;
- eco-tourism rural settlements: Crișan, Caraorman, Mila 23, Maliuc, Murighiol, Mahmudia;
- cultural tourism rural settlements: Adamclisi, Enisala, Istria, Slava Cercheză;
- agro-tourism rural settlements: Jurilovca, Niculițel, Oltina, Ostrov, Sarichioi;
- multifunctional tourism rural settlements: Sfantu Gheorghe, Costinești.

In the tourism region Dobruja, tourism programs can be established for leveraging the tourism potential in the rural areas, throughout the year, with a higher frequency in the warm season for the tourists who come to the seashore.

The following tourism routes can be identified:

- Wine Way: Murfatlar, Niculițel, Ostrov;
- eco-tourism routes on the arms and canals from the Danube Delta and the Măcinului Mountain National Park;
- cultural, ecumenic, historical or scientific tourism routes;
- mixed tourism routes.

The successful and sustainable rural tourism development depends not only on the attractive scenery and facilities but also on the competitive quality services¹³⁷. At present, due to the favorable natural conditions, the tourism sector can develop in the rural area of Constanta and Tulcea counties and the farms can benefit from this potential, on the condition that the inhabitants of these areas get involved in tourism activities.

All these cannot be achieved in the absence of the involvement of the state, through the intervention of local authorities to implement a county development system, laying the foundations of rural tourism development in Dobruja. This assistance should be

¹³⁷ Ibidem, p. 248.

primarily manifested by infrastructure planning, mainly through a tax and credit system that makes it easier to implement the necessary actions.

There is a multitude of actors involved in the development of rural tourism in Dobruja. Some of them play a more important role compared to others, but each of them brings a special contribution in tourism development.

In this context, an important role in the rural tourism development in Dobruja is played by the Local Action Groups (LAGs), a public-private partnership with an essential role in the implementation of a local rural development strategy.

In the year 2012, there were 5 LAGs in Dobruja, out of which 2 LAGs in Tulcea county and 3 LAGs in Constanta county¹³⁸:

The list of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the area covered at commune level,
in Tulcea and Constanta counties, in the year 2012

LAG name	LAG communes	Total area km ²	Number of Inhabitants
Tulcea county			
LAG Association <i>Delta Dunării</i>	Murighiol, Nufăru, Bestepe, Mahmudia, Valea Nucarilor, Sarichioi, Ceamurlia de Jos, Jurilovca, Mihai Viteazu	2,068.2	33,632
LAG Association <i>Valea Teliței</i>	Frecăței, Somova, Mihail Kogălniceanu	383.73	11,597
Constanta county			
LAG Association <i>Constanța Sud</i>	Chirnogeni, Agigea, Amzacea, Comana, Mereni, Pecineaga, Topraisar, Town Negru Vodă	811.69	31,897
LAG Association <i>Constanța Centru</i>	Cuza Vodă, Lumina, Pantelimon, Târgușor, Nicolae Bălcescu, Siliștea, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Vulturii	780.5	34,177
LAG Association <i>Dobrogea Centrală</i>	Casimcea, Saraiu, Horia, Crucea, Seimeni, Tortoman, Saligny, Mircea Vodă, Rasova, Peștera, Ciocărlia,	1,330.92	33,516

Source: www.madr.ro

<http://mdrap.ro/studii-de-fundamentare-privind-patn-sectiunea-a-vi-a-zone-cu-resurse-turistice>.

¹³⁸ Ibidem, p. 249.

The practice and development of rural tourism in Dobruja is facing many shortcomings, out of which:

- the population is not educated for this activity (in terms of behavior, foreign languages known, management, organization),
- rural homes were not built for the purpose of eventual tourism activities,
- lack of adequate infrastructure (telecommunications, sewerage system, water and gas supply network, heating network),
- lack of funds and strategies to develop tourism.

For a successful rural tourism activity, it is necessary to remove these negative aspects and focus on the following priorities:

- development of proper infrastructure,
- training and specialization of rural tourism service providers,
- participating in training and foreign language courses,
- creation of a material base for the rural tourism practice,
- publicity of guesthouses and agro-tourism farms,
- creating programs and funds for regional development projects,
- linkages with the national programs of local interest,
- promoting Dobruja's area alternative tourism potential through participation in the tourism fairs, advertising campaigns, preparation of brochures.

This cannot be achieved without the contribution of the state and local authorities to implement a local development system. This assistance must primarily target infrastructure planning, with the development of a tax and credit system facilitating the implementation of the action.

As regards the sustainable development of the tourism in Dobruja's rural area, the following main aspects must be taken into consideration¹³⁹:

¹³⁹ Ibidem, p. 250.

- environment degradation diminution,
- conservation of the natural and anthropic resources,
- ensuring additional incomes for the people from the rural communities with tourism potential,
- creation of global alliances between several rural localities for the development of a single development policy,
- the improvement of the general infrastructure, equipment of certain model/pilot farms, boarding houses, tourism households,
- development of the national reservation system,
- establishment of local public administrations as promoters of profitable management of the tourism patrimony through the initiation of programs providing support to rural tourism.

Development strategies for rural tourism in Dobruja

In view of the above, some strategies are needed for the development and exploitation of the rural tourism potential in the Dobruja area, such as:

Developing transport routes by:

- building roads in areas where they do not exist;
- maintenance, upgrading and proper signaling of the existing road network;
- maximum use of "Mihail Kogalniceanu" International Airport;

Capitalizing on the natural tourism potential by:

- preserving and protecting the natural areas;
- construction and modernization of recreational facilities;
- construction, modernization and information of camping sites;
- arranging, maintenance and upgrading of parking areas;
- development and arrangement of holiday villages and tourist villages;
- location of tourist signs, proper marking of tourist routes;

Capitalizing on historical and religious potential by:

- preserving the existing historical and religious potential;
- diversifying and organizing thematic touristic circuits;

Capitalizing on the anthropic potential by:

- preserving and preserving the architectural style specific to each area;
- preserving traditional crafts, capitalizing on local raw materials;
- the preservation of traditions and customs, the popular harbor;
- initiation and development of new tourism products and services, respecting local identity;
- valorization of traditional local products (agricultural products, craft products);
- keeping traditional cuisine;

The valorization of the spa and recreation base by:

- maximizing the healing effect of the sea water, the highly mineralized sapropelic sludge, the springs from Mangalia (these springs contain mezothermal, sulphurous, bicarbonate, sodium, calcium);
- building new treatment bases and modernizing existing ones;
- keeping and upgrading existing beaches;
- setting up new beaches (e.g. Wedding Lake - here is therapeutic mud and a treatment base can be built);
- from a qualitative point of view, the services rendered are clearly superior;
- increasing the qualification of the staff involved in tourism;
- developing attractive thematic holiday packages;
- development and upgrading of related services (dispensaries, pharmacies, repair shops, etc.);

- the development of thematic programs and trekking (eg. cycling, wagon, horseback riding, fishing, water sports, etc.);
- internal and international promotion of treatment bases, as well as recreational facilities (fairs, exhibitions, congresses)¹⁴⁰.

As a conclusion, the sustainable development of the rural region is a present and future option of the rural policy aiming at its preservation and improvement, economic competitiveness growth and improvement of the quality of life¹⁴¹.

In Romania, rural tourism as priority sector of the Romanian tourism consists of the total tourism activities, products and services organized and developed in the rural area by the local population, in close connection with the natural environment and local people's basic activities, which put into value the tourism resources, the cultural heritage, traditions, tourism structures and local products.

As a multifunctional space, Dobruja has been and will continue to be mainly a human living territory (rural settlements) and a social space (resting, recreation, conviviality/tolerance relations) for the local communities. At the same time, the Dobruja's space is also an economic space, providing agricultural land and other resources as production and existence means.

Although at a first glance the landscape from Dobruja is rather dull, there are natural resources and objectives in the rural areas, which could be put into value for tourism purposes. An advantage could be represented by the rustic buildings, with traditional architecture, typical for this region.

A space identity results from the topographic, landscape, historical, cultural and economic identities that have to be taken into consideration in the territory management actions for tourism purposes. The rural area development actions focus on the southern part of the seashore, the low seashore area, the localities alongside the Danube and those from the Danube Delta.

¹⁴⁰ The Strategy of Development of the Metropolitan area of Constanța, 2015, The integrated Plan of Development for the Growth Pole Constanta-Zona metropolitană Constanta, http://www.stpse.ro/atasamente/250_Programul%20Integrat%20de%20DezvoltareZona%20Metropolitana%20Constanta.pdf.

¹⁴¹ Ibidem, p. 251.

In addition to the natural landscape of the Black Sea and the Danube Delta, there are many key tourist attractions, such as a priceless treasure of architecture and art with historical monuments and relics, as well as of high value ethno-folkloric heritage. The tourism patrimony reunites the material and spiritual culture of the past and present, which makes out of Dobruja a genuine museum in open air, with many monuments, archaeological sites and architectural assemblies included in protected areas.

In this context, the rural tourism, as alternative to the seasonal seashore tourism, does not depend to the same extent on the seasonality that characterizes the classical tourism from Dobruja, and it can also contribute to the socioeconomic development of the rural area.

At present, the specificity of the economic system and the functional typology of the Dobruja settlements are determined by putting into value the local resources, as well as by the level of the territorial distribution and absorption of the funding sources for investments. The protection of the rural heritage is extremely important in relation to the rural tourism development, as a modality to promote the Dobruja's villages, with a positive effect on the attraction of tourists and with economic benefits for the local population.

Tourism development in Brăila

The port city on the Danube, Braila has a long tradition in travel. This Danubian port appears named "Drinago" in an old Spanish geographical description and travels, "Libro del conocimiento/Book of Knowledge" (1350) and several Catalan maps (Angellino de Dalorto, 1325-1330 and Dulcert Angelino, 1339). Intense commercial transactions carried out in port, the opportunity of achieving high and quick results have attracted many foreign merchants - Bulgarian, Macedonians, Albanians, Greeks, but also French, Belgian, Austrian, Italian, Hebrew, and many Romanians from Transylvania, thus Braila became a multiethnic entity. Future activities, specific to the trade from ports enlist it on the tourist map of Romania. Tourism resources are the most diverse. The natural resources combine the picturesque ponds and lakes with

the charm of wild beaches or protected areas such as the “Balta Mica a Brailei/The Small Pond of Braila”¹⁴².

Numerous studies concerning the origin of Braila show that the region was inhabited since ancient times, this is confirmed by the archaeological remains dating from 5000 BC, relics that testify the continuity of life and civilization in this region. Traditions, habits and their beliefs were integrated into the cultural and spiritual life of the city. Panait Istrate, Panait Cerna, Fratii Minovici, Maria Filotti, Ana Aslan, Mihail Sebastian, D.P. Perpessicius are outstanding personalities of science and culture, world-renowned reputation that made the city famous and they are the proud and joy of its inhabitants.

The anthropogenic resources are concentrated in a relatively small number of centers, among them most notably being Braila City. Braila, the oldest and largest urban center of the county, is unique by a number of sights of great value such as “Maria Filotti” Theatre, Puppets Theatre, History Museum with numerous objects and documents on the evolution of the city and surroundings. The museum has a model of the Braila citadel, which was located in the area of the current Central Park in the Traian Square, and a copy of the urban plan elaborated during 1831-1835, in the plans it was set up the basis of systematizing the city in the shape of an amphitheater. The Museums from Braila have a rich collection of paintings, sculptures and graphics of Roman masters. Braila is also famous for its architecture and we should mention: The “Buna Vestire” Church known as the “Greek Church” with numerous frescoes painted by Gh. Tatarascu, the Church “Sf. Arhangheli Mihail si Gavril” former mosque, converted in 1831 into Orthodox Church. In Braila it is the world headquarters of the Lipovan community and the Episcopal Church of the old rite Orthodox Christians. Other objectives of historical value are presented in the network of cellars and city wall fragments of the Braila citadel. In the southwestern part of the city is the largest park of Braila, the Monument Park, recreation area and beyond, as here it can be visited the Museum of Natural Sciences, but also there may be practiced sports on specially designated fields.

¹⁴² Anca Gabriela Turtureanu, 2015. "The Exploitation of Tourism Resources in Braila City, Port on the Danube River," Acta Universitatis Danubius. OEconomica, Danubius University of Galati, issue 11(6), pages 151-160, December.

The natural resources are dominated by the Danube.

Braila County, although it is not located in an area of utmost importance for tourism, offers many possibilities for the development of active partnerships due to, in part, resources of natural factors: the opening of the Danube and the presence of lakes, many of them rich in salts slightly soluble, with therapeutic qualities, for which some of them are used in the treatment of diseases. There are salt lakes, shallow, present in the floodplains of Ialomita and Siret in full steppe. Being stationed on the bottom of near oval depressions (the ones in the plain between Buzau and Ialomita) or within elongated depressions such as valleys, it explains their origin as meander and left arm lakes. They have got into the attention of specialists geologists, balneologist botanists for some time due to particular properties of water and mud of some lakes, such as Salt Lake/Lacu Sărat, Căineni, Movila Miresii/Bride's Mound.

By the Law no. 5/2000 on the approval of the National Landscaping Plan - Section III of protected areas, there are identified three protected areas: the Small Pond Natural Park of Braila within the list of "Biosphere Reserves, the National or Natural Park with an area of 17 529 ha"; it was originally established as a nature reserve in 1979 and reconfirmed it in 1984. It has global avifauna value, which is designated as a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. In 1999 it was observed a total of 101 bird species that nest here; the Camnita Forest, a protected area of national interest with a surface of 1.30 ha; the forest reservation is located in Buzau River floodplain and the entire forest is protected by an elongated parcel of pure Fraxinus; the Ornithological reserve Lake Jirlău-Vișani, a protected area of national interest on a surface of 930 ha; the aquatic vegetation has favored nesting or only stopover for many species of birds.

Subsequently there were identified new natural treasures of county interest, contributing to the development of the protected areas network: Popina Blasova - natural monument, located in Balta Braila, witnessing the Hercynic erosion; Blasova Lake - oxbow lake, located in Balta Braila; Movila Miresii Salt lake, as ornithological reserve; Zăton Lake - oxbow lake, located in Balta Braila; Căineni Lake as ornithological reserve; Vișoara forest as forest reserve, with a surface of 1693.6 hectares.

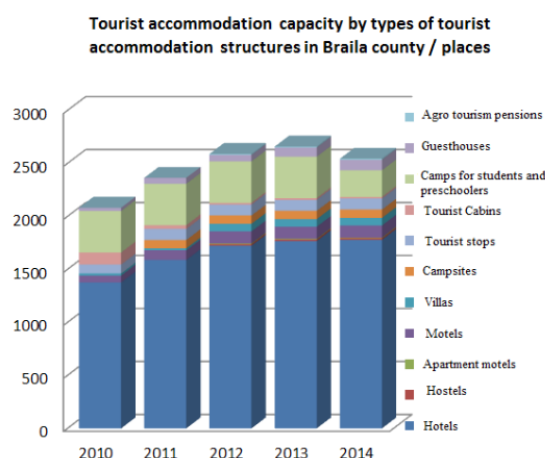
Of particular importance in the domain of tourism exploitation of the Braila territory are the balneary resources that are based on curative mud from the salt lakes. The salt Lakes from Bărgănelui Plain have waters with high content of chlorides and alkali sulphates, to which it is added bromide and sodium iodide, along with significant quantities of therapeutic mud, which is why they have been recommended for nearly a century by the balneologist researchers for spa treatment. Numerous geomorphological and geological, hydro chemical studies aimed at explaining the origin of lakes and their salinity. It is known that in terms of genesis, the lakes can be grouped into three categories - lakes located in the water meadow of the Danube and rivers, located at the confluence of rivers or located in depressions without drainage and the salinity comes from contributions salts via groundwater (springs), from the inflow of surrounding ground water or runoff waters washing the salts deposited in the capillaries of the rocks. In the county of Braila, they were exploited in various periods or were exploited partly by simple arrangements or by appropriate facilities, therapeutic resources of Salt Lake / Braila, Lake Căineni and Lake Movila Miresii.

At a distance of only 5 km from Braila, on the lakeside of Salt Lake, it is the balneary resort spa Salt Lake, located 16 m above the sea level and it is surrounded by 70 hectares of forest that mitigate the climate steppe thus making from the resort a pleasant resting place. The lake with high salinity is an old course of the Danube, being now blocked. The bottom of the lake is covered with therapeutic shore. The therapeutic value of the water and mud from Salt Lake resort is known for a long time by the inhabitants of this region, but lately, many tourists come here for treatment. Danube also attracts tourists due to specific flora and fauna related the hydrographical network that give a special note to tourism offering the opportunity to hunt and fish. The tourism offer of the Braila County consists also in cruises on the Danube, with accommodation and special tourist programs (fishing, hunting, etc.) on the Small Island of Braila, Fundu Mare, Corotisca, Blasova and Zaton.

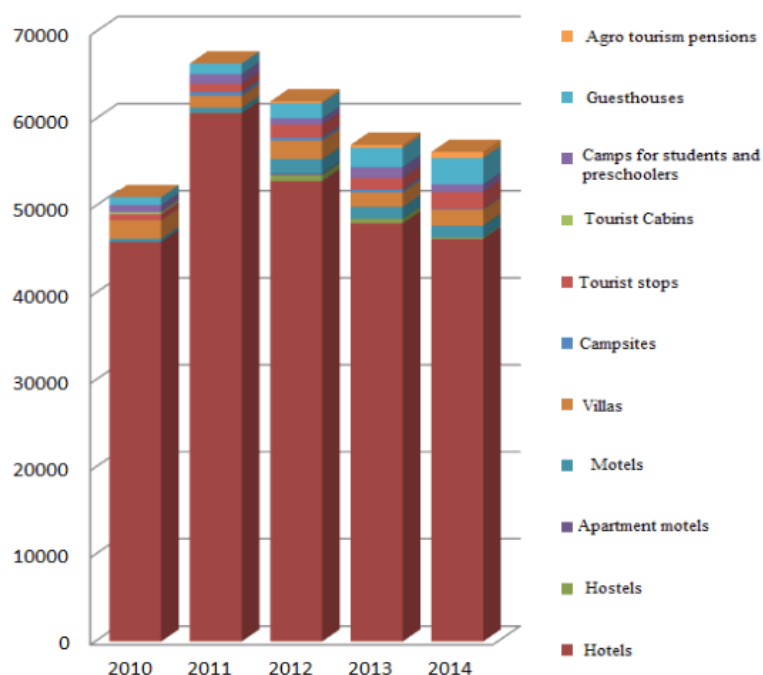
The Tourism in Braila area reunites well-known forms of tourism – the balneary and circulation tourism has the largest share. Other types of tourism: treatment, recreation, sport fishing, nautical tourism – which are achieved spontaneously, picnic and as an included non-dissociated form, valid for all types knowledge tourism, confused at some point with cultural tourism.

Tourism transport on nautical ways has been noticed since the beginning of the century, especially by high-income tourism consumers. The appeal of traveling on water as the main leisure and not only as a possibility of accessing a tourism destination has giving birth to “cruise” - travel arrangements comprising transport and other tourism services provided during the trip. Braila, a Danube port, was until recently linked to other river ports from the downstream up to Sulina and upstream up to Hirsova by scheduled passenger ships. In the recent years, however, due to high costs and fewer passengers, these cruises have been canceled, so as currently Braila no longer benefits from river transport of passengers. Nevertheless it is maintained the link with Dobrogea via ferries that carry passengers and vehicles. For recreational cruise there are used two passenger ships: “Salt Lake” and “Borcea”, the only ship with paddle driven by a steamer engine built in 1845.

The tourism accommodation capacity indicator can highlight the possibility of promoting the tourism flow.

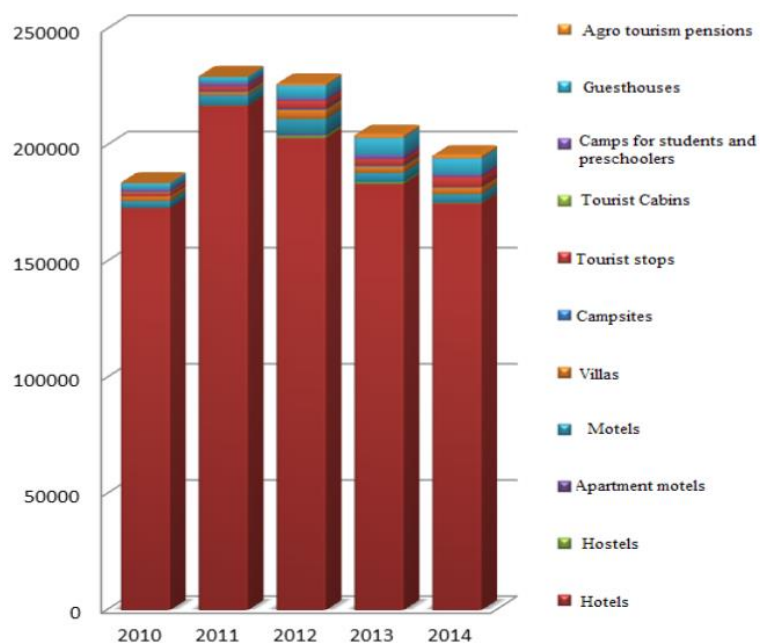


Braila County is among the counties with a small, in operation accommodation capacity. In the statistical data presented in the above table it can be noticed an increase in arrivals in hotels, insignificant compared to the number of arrivals in motels and villas that has skyrocketed.



Arrivals of tourists in the structures of tourists' reception by type of establishment, in Braila County / No. of tourists

Also in the case of overnight stays it is kept the same trend, a growth in the first part of the analyzed interval and a slight decline in the final period.



The special nature of the environmental framework representative for Braila is necessary to protect and preserve, but also to be known, becoming an important pole in terms of tourism and functionality intensely frequented by either county residents, visitors or tourists.

Braila's diverse tourism potential of the area should be popularized and promoted, not only nationally, but also internationally, the foreign tourism market could be a significant source of potential tourists, especially for balneary tourism. But in order to boost this tourism demand it is vital to make known the tourism offer. A special emphasis should be on the most current ways of promoting tourism services area both nationally and internationally, the Internet is a priority in this regard by making tourism sites more attractive for the inclusion of Braila area in the international tourist flows.

Another major objective in order to increase the capitalization of tourism resources in the region should be diversifying the leisure possibility.

Tourism development in Buzău

For its historical significance and especially for the very beautiful mountain and hill areas, Buzau County is a special attraction for the tourists who come to spend their spare time here. Regarding tourism potential, Buzau County stands out because of some landscapes of a beauty that is rarely seen in Romania. When you say Buzau, you think, first of all about the Mud Volcanoes, about the cave settlements and about Sarata Monteoru resort from Merei Parish¹⁴³.

The Merei Parish has a special sightseeing potential, due to the existence of the Sarata Monteoru balneary resort, of the oil mine, unique in Europe, of the arboretum set in the Monteoru mansion's yard.

Sarata Monteoru was chosen to be the representative headquarters in Buzau County, because of the fact that it is one of the main tourism attractions in the County, this destination having an enormous potential in attracting foreign tourists, but it's

¹⁴³ Necula, Diana and Necula, Raluca, Analysis of the importance of the Merei Parish in the tourism and agrotourism in Buzau County, MPRA Paper No. 61768, posted 03 Feb 2015, online source <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/61768/>

conditioned by the service offerings which has to be adapted to the international demands and standards.

The resort is famous for its salted, iodided, brominated, magnesian, sulphurous, calcic mineral water springs and for the submission mineral mire from the natural sulphurous springs. These are indicated in the treatment of the locomotor apparatus conditions, in the gastrointestinal conditions, hepatobiliary.

Another point of attraction for the extreme sport lovers, is the biggest zip line in the country, 200 meters and another of 40 meters for children. Also, a climbing wall, as well as a bike renting center in order to be able to visit all the attractions in the area.

Unlike other counties, whose relief consists only of plains (Teleorman, Ialomița), mountains or hills (Brașov, Sibiu, etc.), Buzău county has plain, hill and mountain, what makes it distinctive from other counties¹⁴⁴. Buzău county region is one of the important areas in terms of tourist potential in its natural, historic, and effective architecture monuments, folk art, people living here, householders, good preservers of old traditions. In Buzau County, there is a fairly developed agroturistic network, supported mainly by ANTREC, most hostels are in the area Sarata Monteoru, and then in the Buzău Valley (Berca, Nehoiu, Gura Teghii, Siriu). Most tourists and agroturistic pensions of Buzau County are small, indicating that they only bring complementary tourist income for their owners. There are few agroturistic pensions deriving income from this activity only.

County is located in the South-Eastern part of the country, it is bordered by the counties of Covasna and Brașov in North-West, in North -Vrancea, East - Brăila, Prahova in West and Ialomița to the South. The County area is 6103 km² (2.6% of Romania's surface), being on 17 place among the other counties.

Agrotourism is a form of rural tourism practiced in rural areas which uses (as a touristic structure) households with all amenities. As such, this form of tourism uses for the accommodation and dining only tourist and agroturistic pensions farm, benefiting from an unpolluted environment and natural attractions, cultural-historical values,

¹⁴⁴ Necula, Diana, The evolution of the agroturistic pensions in Buzau county, The 3rd International Symposium "Agrarian Economy and Rural Development – realities and perspectives for Romania", Bucharest, Romania, October 11-13, 2012, ICEADR, Bucharest, online source <https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/76847>

traditions and customs of the countryside. It represents the most effective way of exploiting local resources existing in rural areas¹⁴⁵.

Agrotouristic pension is defined as a touristic structure, accommodation with a capacity of up to 10 rooms, totalizing not more than 30 available seats in rural areas and up to 20 rooms in urban areas. This works in the house of the citizens or in stand-alone buildings, providing accommodation in specially arranged places for tourists and preparation and serving of meals.

Agrotouristic pensions (the equivalent of agrotouristic farms) can ensure (beside the accommodation) the meals of the tourists with the nourishment of its own production, without any obligation to for serving it.

Due to the demand of accommodation higher than supply, the provision of accommodation is to be located in the vicinity of tourist resorts. In these areas there are many factors that contribute to the development of rural tourism: modern roadways; more natural and anthropogenic objectives¹⁴⁶.

In Buzau County there is a very valuable tourism potential, with a natural richness in all its components, but also by significant anthropogenic and varied tourist attractions, plus the maintenance of old occupations and crafts, folk customs and beautiful habits.

Touristic anthropic fond impose increasingly more in the tourist circuit through his qualities of diversity, originality and uniqueness. The number of tourists arriving (tourists stay) in agrotouristic pensions, has an ascending evolution, this is due to the increase from year to year of the number of tourists. Other reasons that could cause this increase in the number of arrivals are: quality of services offered to tourists, the tourism potential of the region, the tariffs in accommodation, sightseeing, etc.

In County Buzau arrive more Romanian tourists than foreign tourists, this is because the County promotion is not organized at the international level, organizations are looking for ways so the tourism to release his agrotouristic potential.

¹⁴⁵ Alecu, I. N., ș.a ., 2006, Agroturism și Marketing agroturistic, Ed. Ceres, București.

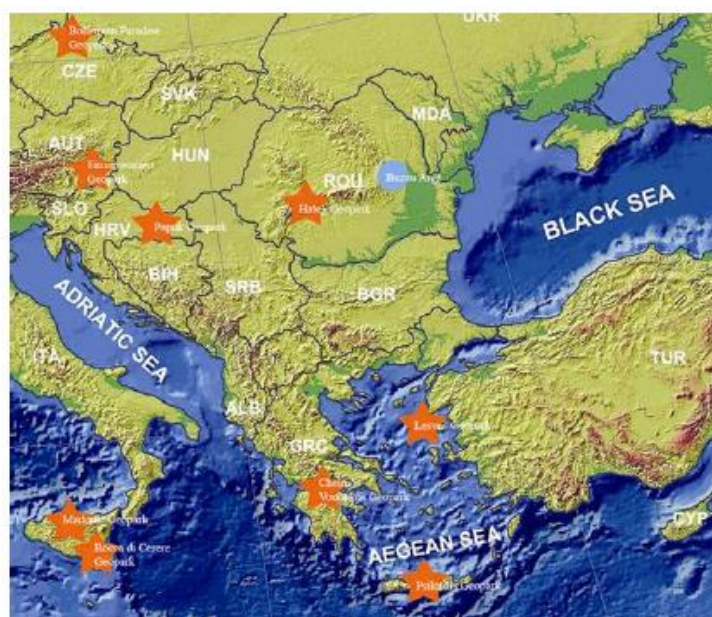
¹⁴⁶ Necula, Diana, The evolution of the agrotouristic pensions in Buzau county, The 3rd International Symposium "Agrarian Economy and Rural Development – realities and perspectives for Romania", Bucharest, Romania, October 11-13, 2012, ICEADR, Bucharest, online source <https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/76847>

Regarding the evolution of the number of overnight stays recorded in the agrotouristic pensions, it has an increasing trend to both Romanian and foreign tourists. The practice of rural tourism involves a development of the infrastructure and a sustainable urban-rural balance, the use of unconventional forms of energy, less polluting techniques, depending on the types of landscape and environment.

Local authorities have a responsibility to draw up a strategy to support the culture, tradition and agrotourism, which can valorize the local attributes, in line with the principles of the sustainable development.

The Buzău Land Geopark

Rapid development of geopark concept and positive results of existing geoparks have generated in Romania both the official recognition of geopark as distinctive protected area and the increase of interests of new territories to develop geoparks. Based on a local initiative and a grass root effort a new geopark project has been launched in Romania: The Buzău Land Geopark. Located in the South-eastern part of Romania, the territory covers about 1100 sq. kilometers, comprises 18 mayoralities and a population of 45000 inhabitants. Unique geological sites like: mud volcanoes, amber deposits, salt caves and oil springs are present. Sedimentary rocks folded and over thrustured are depicting a geological history covering more than 70 million years.



Location of the Buzau Geopark area. The stars point geopark members of the European Geoparks Network (modified after EGN map, 2009).

A. Andrasanu is presenting in the paper „Buzau land geopark. steps in building a new geopark in Romania” the main steps taken so far in building the new geopark¹⁴⁷. The approach is based on our previous experience in Hateg Geopark and in other geoparks members of the European Geoparks Network. The process comprises: interdisciplinary research studies, stakeholder's identification, local heritage evaluation, and sustainable development strategy design, establishing the basic requirements for a brand development, correlation with local projects and initiatives and design of training courses for the geopark team. This approach allowed us to identify the optimal territory for the geopark, to create a framework for partnership, local needs identification and to set-up clear objectives for sustainable use of local resources. The commitment of local communities has generated national projects dealing with public awareness, cultural events, promotion, and informal education. All these are valuable elements to prove the rightness of the geopark concept and its capacity to join around groups and stakeholders from different areas of interest.

The beginning of European Geoparks Network (EGN) started in 1996, and was clearly stated in 2000 as a result of an international project among four territories focused on their geological heritage.

UNESCO's division of Earth Sciences supported from the beginning the process and had a first attempt to launch a new programme and a geopark label in 1997 when a first guidelines was issued. UNESCO watched and sustained the process and, based on the European experience and results, extended the concept worldwide in 2004 (UNESCO, 2004, 2008) when the Global Geopark Network (GGN) was set up. The geopark approach of geoconservation proved to be very efficient and now EGN has 35 members from 13 countries and GGN has 63 members from 19 countries.

A Geopark creates appropriate methods to raise the awareness for the geological heritage of our planet and develops new strategies in nature conservation and local development. During the 2nd UNESCO International Conference on Geoparks, held in Belfast, in 2006, Guy Martini (2006) launched the provocation of a completely new vision of geopark concept and management and suggested to some of the oldest

¹⁴⁷ A. Andrasanu, Buzau land geopark. Steps in building a new geopark in Romania, Scientific Annals, School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Proceedings of the XIX CBGA Congress, Thessaloniki, Greece, Special volume 100, pp. 503-512, 2010.

geoparks to develop inside their territory experimental zones called “geopark - phase II”.

Hateg Country Dinosaurs Geopark (HCDG) was the first geopark in Romania. Established in 2004 as a natural park, it joined EGN and GGN in 2005. HCDG is the result of a grass root effort which started in 2001. It's development followed since the beginning the EGN Charta, and UNESCO's recommendations but adapted to local social and economic realities¹⁴⁸. The territory of Hateg Geopark is a good example of the geodiversity of Carpathian–Balkan region. Geological evolution of the area covers more than 500 million years and the network of geosites comprises: granite outcrops and boulders, bauxite quarries, reef limestone, volcanic structures, Mesozoic and Cenozoic continental and marine fossils, karst and cave systems. The territory contains one of the latest assemblages of dinosaurs in the world, internationally unique and commonly known as the "dwarf dinosaurs of Transylvania"¹⁴⁹.

According to the experience of Grigorescu and Andrasanu, Hateg Geopark set-up and management and in other geoparks revealed that for the South East European countries there are special economic and social conditions we have to take into consideration in the process of building a geopark¹⁵⁰.

Hateg Geopark experience generated in Romania a new approach in nature conservation, Romania being one of the first countries to recognize the geopark as a distinct protected area according to the Act no. 57/ 2007. Also, geodiversity become part of management plans in several natural and national parks and new geopark initiatives and projects were launched: Mehedinti Plateaux Geopark (South Carpatians) is already recognized as natural park, Buzau Land Geopark (southern part of East Carpathians) is near to become official a geopark¹⁵¹. and a new initiative for

¹⁴⁸ Grigorescu D., Andrasanu A., 2003. Hateg Dinosaurs Geopark – A new strategy for sustainable development in Romania. In: Proceedings of the 4th European Geoparks Network Meeting on the development of Geoparks, Crete, pp. 123 – 127.

¹⁴⁹ Grigorescu D., 2005. Rediscovery of a “forgotten land”. The last three decades of research on the dinosaurbearing deposits from the Hateg Basin, Acta Palaeontologica Romaniaae, 5, Ars Docendi, Bucuresti, pp. 191-204.

¹⁵⁰ Grigorescu D., Andrasanu A., 2006. European Geoparks and sustainable development of the regions: a case study Hateg Country Dinosaurs Geopark of Romania. In: Proceedings of The Second UNESCO International Conference on Geoparks, Ireland de Nord, Belfast, 7.

¹⁵¹ Andrasanu A., 2008. Buzau Geopark. Building a new aspiring geopark, Proceedings of the 3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Osnabruck, Germania: 15.



Baia Mare Geological and Mining Park (northern part of East Carpathinas) was launched in 2009¹⁵².

The Buzău Land Geopark project is an initiative of the Buzau County Council in partnership with the University of Bucharest and is supported by other local and national bodies and institutions. Located in South East of Romania, in the Carpathian bend zone, the territory endorses unique geological places and phenomenon, a high biodiversity, five Natura 2000 sites, and a well-preserved cultural heritage. All these assets recommend the area to be well fitted to become a geopark.

Cooperation and partnership development between institutions and private individuals, both from the public and private sectors, together with governmental and non-governmental organizations was the first step. Three levels of partnerships and working groups were created: i) first one is that of decision makers and stakeholders; ii) the second one comprises national and local institutions with specialists from different areas of competence able to develop and sustain research studies; iii) and the third group is made of local enthusiastic people able to create a link among different teams and between specialists and local communities.

The second step was the evaluation of the partner's interest and a work plan development.

¹⁵² Kovacs M., Fulop A., 2009. Baia Mare Geological and Mining Park – a potential new Geopark in north western part of Romania. In: Studia Universitas Babes-Bolyai, series Geologia, 27 – 32.



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Objectives	Results	Assumptions
R1. Mapping proposed Geopark with relevant levels of protection	Map provided and endorsed by relevant local, national and international authorities and institutions	Results of surveys provide bulk of necessary technical information Realistic available data
R2 Complete inventory of geological, biological archaeological, cultural assets	Inventory provided and endorsed	Results of surveys provide bulk of necessary technical information
R3 Recreation / tourism opportunities (carrying capacity & infrastructure) analysed and sustainable financing resources identified	Identify the main element to support tourism development (tangible and intangible); SWOT Analysis for existing tourism activities Design the framework for a Management visitor plan; Identification of a brand	Appropriate co-operation with stakeholders; Funding opportunities available; Existing strategies for tourism development, commitment to apply them and appropriate local and national fund resources or chemes
R4 Small business development, analyse opportunities for small business development within Geopark framework, training and funding opportunities identified	Analyse of different local initiatives, projects, strategies, web pages; Questionnaires, interviews with stakeholders, decision makers, local people; Intercommunal association to support the projects	Appropriate co-operation with stakeholders; Funding opportunities available; Realistic local development plans and political commitment; Previous co-operation projects of local stakeholders
R5 Provision of all necessary documents / guidelines and costs for registration and management of the geopark	Structure of the geopark documentation; Develop a Charta (Strategical framework) for the local communities; Develop the geopark brand : Buzau Land Geopark; Partnership with mass-media	Appropriate co-operation with stakeholders; Local initiative, existing associations and community projects; Policy makers and local stakeholders support the brand development and incorporate it in other initiatives
R6 Provision of all necessary documents for registration of the geopark as a protected area	Documents provided and endorsed; Local and national partnership for education, research and management	Local resources for geopark management; Project team; Charismatic person to represent the geopark
R7 Provision of all necessary documents for joining national network, EGN, GGN	Documents provided and endorsed; Management structure, financial resources, development plans, local partnerships	Commitment of local communities; Results and impact in geopark management

Interdisciplinary teams of specialists in geology, biology, anthropology, ethnography, sociology, tourism, education was established in order to produce detailed research studies of the whole area. The objective was to identify the territorial system components, their relationships, social and economical needs, and to assign a role and relative priority to each identified need.

The third step was to analyze the results of preliminary studies for 36 mayoralities (more than 200 villages) foreseen to be part of the geopark. This activity offered us the possibility to evaluate the potential of geopark development and further management in the frame of the Buzau County and its neighboring areas. This evaluation is important if we take into consideration that a geopark territory overlaps an organic context of tangible and intangible realities. Physical structures, such as geodiversity and biodiversity, are linked to local cultural identity. In respect to that the geopark area has to be coherent from the social, administrative and cultural point of view and to be a key element to support and strengthen local identity. The results of all these analyses

indicated the need to select for the Buzau Land Geopark only 18 mayoralties (about 156 villages) from the 36 foreseen initially.

The fourth step was dedicated to detailed interdisciplinary studies for the selected villages and a SWOT analysis for tourism and community projects. The fifth step was to provide and endorse documentation for geopark official recognition and to set up a strategy to support local sustainable development. The sixth step was to identify the basic elements required to create the “Buzau Land Geopark” Brand and to sustain the project by national partnership projects. The Buzau Geopark Intercommunity Association was created to foster the geopark project in partnership with local and national institutions, universities and museums.

Field research and documentation allowed for mapping and inventory the components of the geopark geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural assets and to provide documents for further plans and projects.

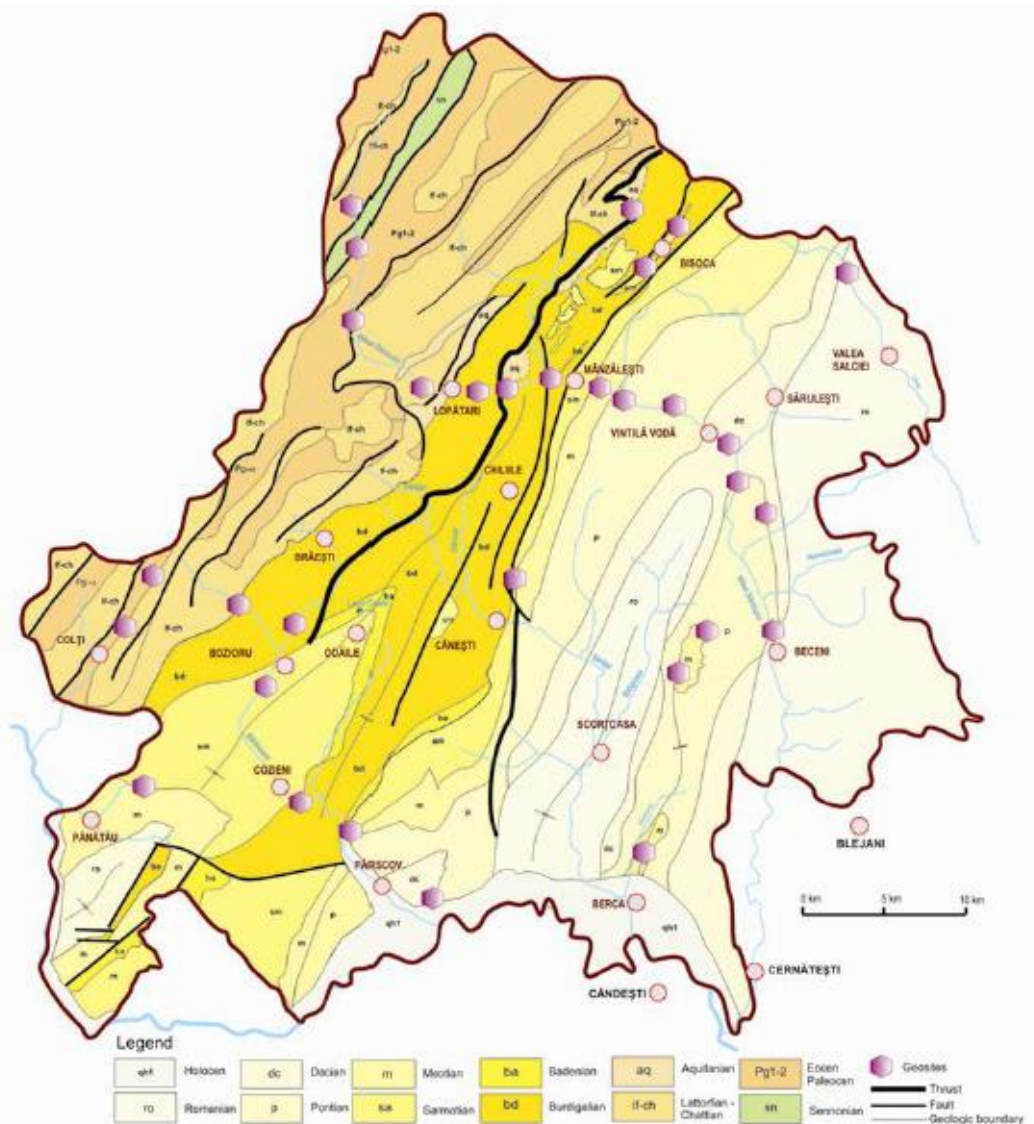
The Romanian Carpathians are part of a complex structure formed in response to the Triassic to Tertiary evolution of three continental blocks. The first two are represented by Tisza (the Internal Dacides) and Dacia (the Median Dacides) the third one by Eastern European, Scythian and Moesia platforms. The blocks were separated by two oceanic domains, the Transylvanides and the Outer Dacides (Ceahlau – Severin). Cretaceous and Miocene events led to the deformation of these units and their related sediments. According to different interpretation several structural units were identified: Transylvanides, Piennides, Median Dacides, Outer Dacides, and Moldavides. The geopark territory is partially overlapping the Moldavides (Tarcau Nappe and Subcarpathian nappe) and the thrust internal foredeep. The geologic map shows a faulted and folded geological setting of flysch deposits of the Tarcau Nappe (Sannonian – Lower Miocene), marls, sandstone, salt and gypsum of mollase type deposits of Subcarpathian Nappe (Lower – Middle Miocene) and sandstone, marls of marine, lacustrine, deltaic and fluvial environments of the thrust internal foredeep (Upper Miocene – Holocene).



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Geologic map of the Buzau Land Geopark territory (after IGR, Covasna and Prahova maps, Sc. 1:200000).

Associated fauna of invertebrate's fossils and sedimentary structures are characteristic for the last part of Tethys Basin Evolution, the transition to Paratethys (Dacic Basin) and the intermittent connections with other basins. A well-documented sedimentary record of Messinian Crisis event and of the Miocene / Pliocene boundary in Paratethys are well represented along the Slanicul de Buzau Valley. The area is well known for its comprehensive Pontian, Dacian and Romanian deposits and also for few outstanding geological assets like Romanian amber, salt diapirs and mud volcanoes.

The Colti amber, Oligocene in age, is famous for its variety in color from yellow to black and insect's fossils remains and was described for the first time as rumanit. Samples of amber and a collection of documents and tools from a former local mine are exhibited in Colti Museum.



The salt deposits (Aquitanian) outcrop along faults and diapir structures in different locations. The largest area is in Meledic hill where salt like exo and endo karst structures could be seen, fresh water lakes and typical salt habitats, all of them quite well preserved. The salt was a local trade product but also an important factor in generating natural hazards.

The biggest mud volcanoes in Romania are located on the Berca-Arbanasi hydrocarbon bearing structure (Eastern Carpathians Foredeep). The Paclele Mari (PMA) and Paclele Mici (PMI) areas were declared natural reserves since 1924 and now are part of a larger Natura 2000 SCI site. Their activity is generally quiescent with some intermittent explosive activity up to one-meter high generating a peculiar landscape and a special habitat for halophile plants.

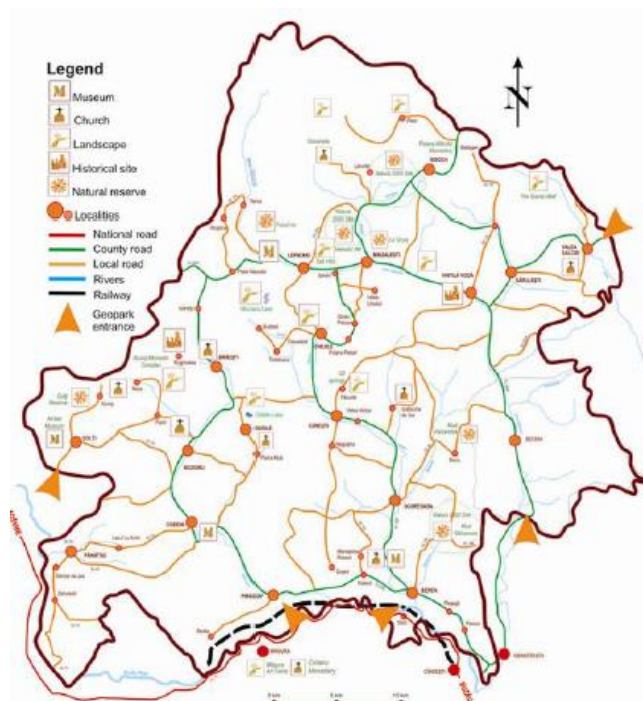
Geopark biodiversity was shaped by the geological and climatic evolution of the Carpathians in connection to North Dobrogea and Black Sea areas.

The geopark territory is covering three biogeographic regions: steppic, alpine and continental. Field studies allowed us to identify 77 habitats types, a great number of species listed in different national and European directives for nature conservation and few endemic species: *Euscorpius carpathicus*, *Nitraria shoberi* and *Artemisia santonicum*. One of the most impressive historical and archeological characteristics is done by the 30 caves dug in the past VI century by orthodox Christians in soft Oligocene sandstone beds. Hard living conditions and isolation of this small monastic community made people to call the area „Romanian Athos”.



Entrance of the “Dionisie Torcatorul Cave” part of an ancient orthodox monastic settlement
(photo credit M Mincu).

The map also presents a selection of natural and cultural sites of the Buzau Land Geopark.



Natural and cultural sites of the Buzau Land Geopark

Thus, as a conclusion, Rich geological and biological diversity often coincides with cultural diversity, and the conservation and management cannot be undertaken without the involvement of people closest to these resources. The main objectives of a geopark are: i) to respect and protect local cultural values; ii) to strengthen identification of the population with their area; iii) to foster socio-economic development that is culturally and environmentally sustainable. A successful geopark has a balanced construction, in terms of surface, resources and support and a good management structure. To build a Geopark means a bottom-up process, based on a strong multi task-force concept and political will with long-term financial support. Effective management requires a strong commitment of local communities and administrations. To create a successful geopark one of the key points is to identify its optimum territory. An optimum territory could be defined by the following conditions:

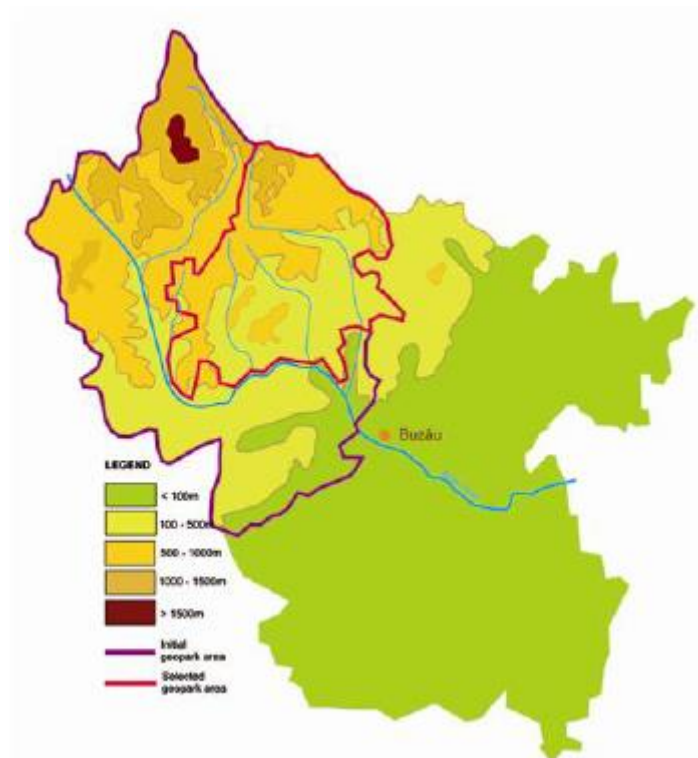
- 1) Relevant network of significant and valuable geological, biological, cultural sites, with a balanced distribution and worthen to be preserved in a sustainable way;
- 2) A territory enough large to foster sustainable socio-economic development. A small territory of few communities has no natural, social and financial resources to support a geopark. A large territory is difficult to be managed in a sustainable way and generates conflicts with other development projects or land use plans;
- 3) A geopark territory has a cultural value being a distinct place of interaction between nature and people, a record of past and present activities and a place of local identity made by tangible and intangible values.
- 4) The associate communities have strong cultural, social and economic affinities. The management process requires a continuous consultation with relevant statutory bodies, to guarantee effective conservation and to adopts its own territorial policy for sustainable regional socio-economic and cultural development;
- 5) Geopark`s border is overlapping the administrative border of associate communities. Geopark management needs organizational arrangements to involve public authorities, local communities, private interests, and both research and educational bodies in partnership projects that cover the whole geopark territory.

The Buzau Land is a territory of continuous cultural influence of the three Romanian provinces: Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia. Being mainly a remote rural area,

these influences were continuously adapted and transformed to local characteristics in different degrees and generated cultural, social and economic differences among the communities. Field research, meetings of partners, public debates allowed us to identify local values, cultural affinities and the commitment of different structures to participate in geopark development.

The results indicate that the initial territory of 36 mayoralties foreseen by county administration for a future geopark is not an optimum one due to the following considerations:

The initial territory is too large, about 30% of the county surface, being a potential source of unbalanced development and conflicts. The high mountain area in Northwest is very sparsely populated and our recommendation is for that part to be integrated into a regional national park;



Buzau County relief map presenting the borders of the initial and the selected geopark areas

There is an unbalanced distribution of the geological, biological and cultural sites. The Eastern and Southern parts left out are mostly agricultural areas with less geological and biological sites of interest;



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Due to geographical position and historical evolution there are communities with strong influence, cultural affinities and commercial connections in the neighboring regions Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia. This context generates a lack of commitment or interest for different communities to work together within a geopark.



Local identity is a key issue in geopark management and common projects implementation.

For Buzau Geopark heterogeneous areas with strong influence from neighboring regions were lifted apart after cultural and socio-economic analysis.

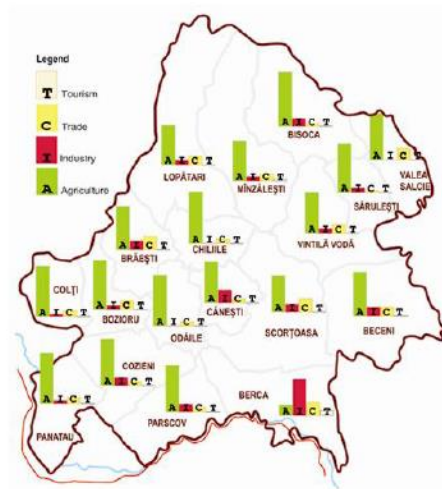
The selected territory considered being optimum for geopark development and management comprises 18 mayoralities representative for what was historically called "Buzau Land". These communities are strongly bound by cultural, commercial, social activities and traditions, and already developed common projects. The selected territory for Buzau Land Geopark is quite homogenous from the economic point of view, is covering an area of about 1100 sq. km and a population of 45000 inhabitants, most part of them still living in a traditional way.



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Synthesis of the main incomes for local communities of the geopark. The sum of the four activities represents 100%



Local people are still living in a traditional way (photo credit I. Piturescu).

Each territory has its own identity, and also is part of a national and international context. For Romania and other South East European countries is important to adapt the geopark concept to their context of socio-economic evolution, European development programs and the need to foster local identity. This approach has generated in Buzau area a framework for partnership, local needs identification, set-up of clear objectives for sustainable use of local resources. Strong support of local communities generated partnerships for national projects dealing with public awareness, cultural events, promotion, and informal education.

Buzau Land Geopark territory is fulfilling the requirements to become a geopark and all the steps we have already taken so far created the base for its official recognition.

The geopark territory comprises a rich geodiversity and peculiar geological phenomena are representatives for the established geological framework items of Carpato-Balkan area and Europe, as were defined by different Pro-GEO initiatives and can aspire to play its own role as an international geopark.

Tourism development in Galați

In recent decades, due to the increasing competition between cities, the municipalities started to give more importance to urban planning, including green infrastructure problems. The main issues covered in urban development projects are: the spirit of place, the local history and the environment. Improving green infrastructure is essential to highlight the attractive elements of the city¹⁵³.

Assuming that the attractiveness of a city varies depending on the diversity and multiplicity of touristic interest points, creating new attractions and related infrastructure to support the interest for existing objectives is one of the main tasks for municipalities. To enhance the quality of the natural frame, there may be proposed projects and programs on urban green systematization and improvement of the physical environment. The most attractive urban areas are: the places where historical events occurred, commercial areas, cultural and educational places, recreational and entertainment facilities, sports arenas, events and special events, iconic buildings and monuments.

The city of Galați offers a relatively wide range of landscapes with a diverse touristic potential, poorly exploited at present. The main types of landscapes found in Galați neighborhoods can be classified as:

a) Mostly natural landscapes:

- Riparian landscape – consisting of streams and characterized by a high biodiversity;
- Lacustrine landscape - with large areas of water, spontaneous vegetation and valuable natural environment;
- Rivercape - dominated by water and boats, providing a wide field of view;

¹⁵³ Vladimir Ionuț BOC, Robert Mihai IONESCU, Galați 2030: a tourism development strategy focused on landscape valorisation and protection, UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA, Vol. XIX (LV) – 2014.

- Floodplain landscape – located across the river, mostly used for recreational activities.

b) Mostly anthropogenic landscapes:

- Infrastructure landscape – the main visually elements are the compositional lines of railways and bridges;
- Industrial landscape – high density of built areas and visual landmarks (industrial buildings), having a negative impact on the environment;
- Late communist urban landscape - high buildings with uniform architectural style and high density of built areas;
- Early communist landscape – medium height buildings with large green spaces between them, offering an open appearance of the landscape;
- Old urban landscape – low height buildings, patriarchal ambiance;

c) Suburban landscapes:

- Agricultural landscape – wide views, without notable elements;
- Fallow landscape – wide views, damaged aspect;
- Recent suburban landscapes – various buildings without stylistic unity, color and density, irregular green areas character.



Landscape typologies plan

Of these, the mostly natural landscapes (riparian, lacustrine, riverscape, floodplain) and fallow lands, near which is considerable territorial development availability, have the highest potential for tourism development.

Threatened landscapes that require protection are located close to the Siret River and Danube riverbank. These landscapes are threatened and require special attention, according to the tourism development strategy which aims to valorise the "blue" areas in the surroundings of Galați.

Tourism resources

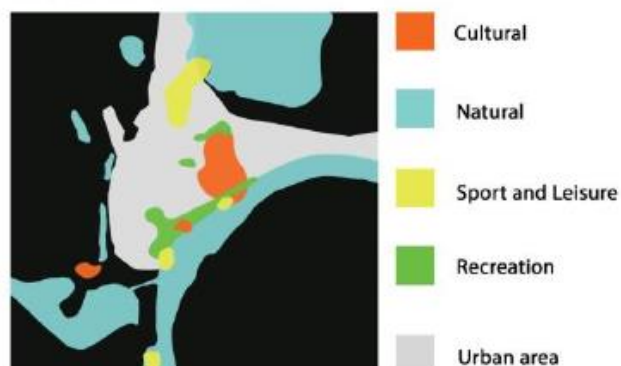
Tourism resources located in or near Galați include four major categories:

- a. Cultural resources** - places of worship, historical buildings, theaters, museums.
- b. Natural resources** - Gârboavele Nature Reserve, "Siret Valley" Nature Reserve, Prut's Ostrov, Trighina Bărboși fossils place, Brateș Lake, Vânători Lake, Seromgal Marsh, Cătușa Lake and the Danube River.
- c. Sports and leisure resources** - "Waves of the Danube" Beach, Brateș Lake Beach "Briza Dunării" Complex, "Viva" Complex, "Danube" Rink.
- d. Recreation resources** - Danube Promenade, Mihai Eminescu Park, Zoological Garden, Botanical Garden, Cloșca Park, Rizer Park, Liberty Park.

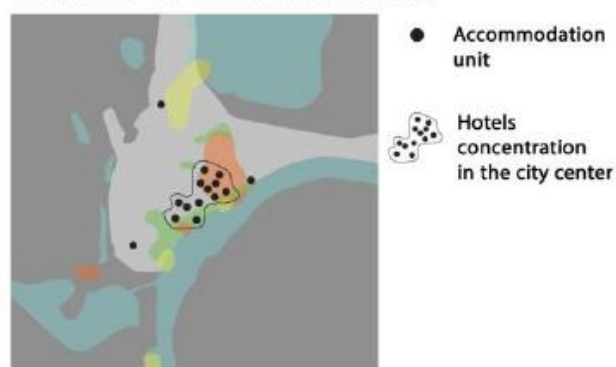
Thus, Galați has four categories of tourist resources: cultural - concentrated in the central area; Natural - located around the city; leisure and sports - present especially near the Danube river and in the city center; recreation resources - located on the Danube shore and near Brateș Lake.

As shown in resources classification, the main types of tourism in Galati are cultural, natural, leisure-sports and recreation. In terms of accommodation units, we can notice a strong concentration of hotels in the city center, while in the rest of the city there is a lack of tourism structures.

TYPES OF TOURISM



EXISTING TOURISM STRUCTURES

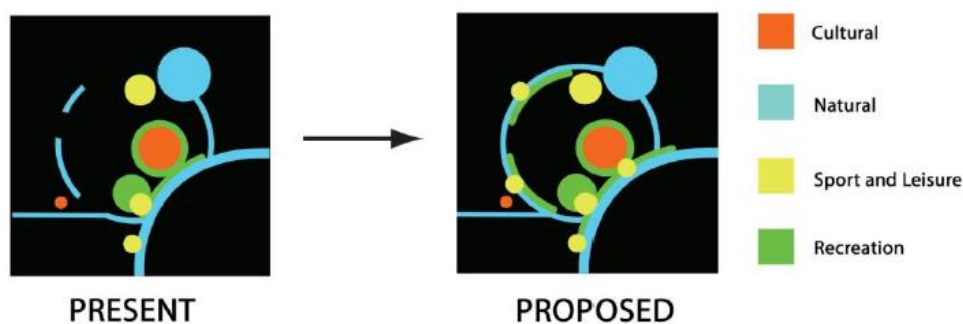


Types of tourism and existing tourism structures

Tourism development strategy

The concept, entitled “Enclosing the Blue Ring” proposes to develop Galați as a touristic attraction in Danube cruise circuits by creating navigable "blue ring", located around the city, to facilitate access to the major points of interest.

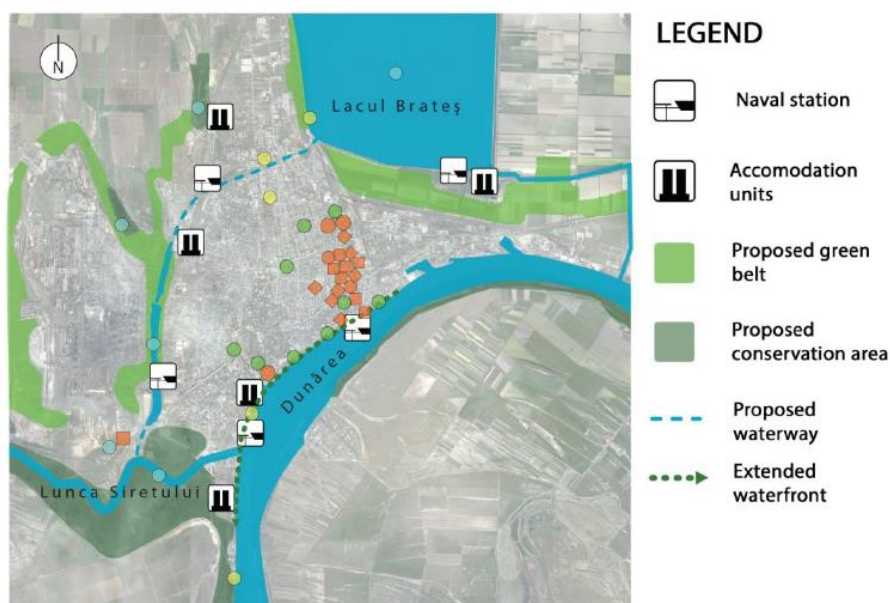
CONCEPT: ENCLOSING THE “BLUE RING”



The Concept of the Tourism Development Strategy

The main directions regarding tourism development are:

- Naval and nautical tourism development;
- Create a "green-blue" network;
- Environmental awareness among residents and tourists;
- Promoting and strengthening the international image of the city;
- Enhancing the local identity by using "blue" infrastructure;
- Increasing the attractiveness of urban infrastructure;
- Rehabilitation and improvement of the quality of green areas;
- Increasing the dendrological fund;
- A stronger relationship with other cities across Danube River and the Delta;



Tourism Development Strategy Plan

Specific proposals:

- Establish a continuous peripheral water circuit by creating waterways to connect water surfaces around the city;
- Redevelopment and expansion of Danube promenade;
- Creating a network of tourist information points;
- Establishment of jetties for water sports;

- Creating of city tours;
- Construction of new accommodation units on the waterfront areas, located in the proximity proposed "blue ring";
- Introducing a public transport ship between Galați and nearby cities (Brăila, Tulcea, Sulina, Cernavodă);
- Proposing a planted embankment with different types of vegetation, arranged gradually to combat the effects of floods (Danube);
- Creation of new parking spaces in outlying areas;
- Extending green areas in order to create a green belt.

Protection and valorization measures related to the landscape tourism development strategy in 2030

Policies related to landscape tourism development strategy aim to integrate and protect the suburban landscapes of Galați. Specific measures have been proposed in order to improve the relation between the suburban areas and the rest of the city, through several main directions:

1. Reducing environmental degradation:

- Encouraging alternative energy - use of agricultural land in the proximity of the city in order to obtain biomass crops;
- Promoting "industrial symbiosis", a process by which waste products are turned into industry resources for one or more types of industries;
- Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity by planting trees;
- Waste management;
- Wastewater treatment by phyto-treatment plants;
- Limiting and preventing infiltration of pollutants in the soil;

2. Recovery natural suburban landscapes and unused areas:

- Redeveloping abandoned or degraded areas - conversion of former industrial areas, greening the landfill located in the south of the city;



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- Programs for greening the affected areas, especially those adjacent industrial areas;
- Protecting and preserving the natural environment;
- Consolidation of banks subject to erosion – in the case of Danube River and Brateş Lake;
- Draft study and analysis regarding various panoramic points and their arrangement;
- Guiding spatial expansion of the city and urban dispersal limitation in areas with natural character;
- Reshaping the landscape of Danube promenade;

3. Improving the quality of life in the city:

- Creating a system of suburban greenbelt;
- Increasing access to green spaces by creating pedestrian and biking trails closely with urban public transport stations;
- Creating physical connections, the suburban green spaces by creating and filling greenways leading to peripheral landscaped areas;

4. Awareness of existing landscape values;

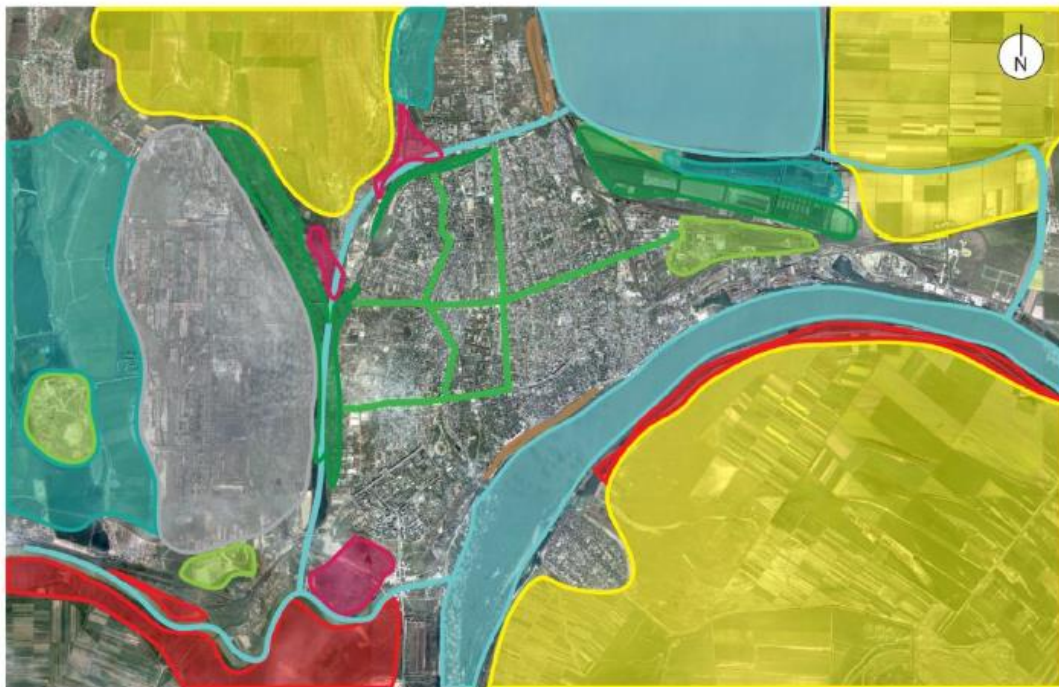
- Increasing the public interest for ecological tourism in natural areas;
- Involving urban actors in the implementation of various programs and projects;
- Organizing information campaigns and environmental education and aesthetics;
- Introducing sports and recreational activities on the river banks.



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LEGEND

	Agricultural land for energy production		Strengthening banks exposed to erosion
	Landscape preservation		Physical links with the suburban areas
	Encouraging "industrial symbiosis"		Green belt
	Conversion or greening the degraded landscapes		Biodiversity conservation
	Sports and leisure areas		Highlighting perspectives to "blue" areas

Landscape Protection and Valorization Measures

Green infrastructure development through strategies associated with tourism development measures may contribute significantly to the sustainable growing of cities. Such actions generate benefits both economically, environmentally and socially. In economic terms, it can reduce planning and development costs, by increasing investment attraction. At ecological level, it reduces negative environmental impacts and natural resources are exploited for tourism. In social terms, local communities' benefit from new facilities and take advantage at the same time upon the arrival of tourists.

Few places in the world have all the elements of attraction, but each economic sector can provide local development in certain directions. An essential way to increase the level of local attractiveness is to enhance the landscape values through urban regeneration measures and thus, to improve the image of the city.

Tourism development in Vrancea

Vrancea territory owns the most various attractive touristic resources in Romania, both natural and anthropic. On Vrancea territory there are displayed in steps all the national elements at small scale, forms of relief beautifully sculptured, from the highest to the lowest, with a climate that is specific to each step and with 10°C on average, natural therapeutic factors in the form of the chlorinated, sulphurous, iodinated mineral springs, but also a large forest area with protected species of flora and fauna, an area that is ideal for forest tourism. Besides the protected fauna, there is also rich wildlife hunting with special areas arranged as hunting backgrounds where hunting tourism can be practiced, as well as fishing along the rivers¹⁵⁴.

Vrancea represents a real folk, ethnographic and cultural hearth. 'Tara Vrancei' region and not only, with its scattered villages over the waters and hillock depressions or the slopes of the subcarpathic glacis are all revealed to tourists through its historical monuments, its traditional activities, costumes, rustic houses completed with the wine and fruit-growing countryside and nice neat orchards. The traditions and the cultural values of villages in Vrancea were studied endlessly by very many scientists from different fields: historians, geographers, philologists and most of them drew the conclusion that all these values ought to be kept and promoted: 'Folk art and peasant folklore have lived together for such a long time and they have the same origins'¹⁵⁵.

The evaluation of the touristic potential concerning both the main territorial administrative regions in Romania and those in Vrancea County but also the area hereby analyzed led from the identification of the main parts in order to delimit the touristic areas taking into account the following: the natural touristic potential, the cultural patrimony, the general infrastructure, the mainly touristic infrastructure and the quality of the environment. Inside the touristic area of Romania, which is regarded as a possibility of superior exploitation as far as the touristic resources are concerned, Vrancea County occupies the 18th place if we take into account nine groups of criteria (natural touristic resources, anthropic touristic resources, ways and means of communication, the technical-material touristic basis, the touristic activities, the

¹⁵⁴ Tătaru Alexandra, 2008, Organisation of the rural space in the Putna basin, Transversal Publisher, Bucharest.

¹⁵⁵ Stahl H. Paul, 1968, Romanian folklore and folk art, Meridiane Publisher, Bucharest.

demographic potential, the economic potential, urban and rural localities, the degree of pollution and environmental degradation.)¹⁵⁶.

The territory is characterized by various forms of tourism that sustain and complete each other within different kinds of specific destinations: mountaineering, spa tourism, cultural tourism, weekend tourism, rural tourism and agritourism, transit tourism, sports tourism hunting and fishing, ecotourism, scientific tourism, social tourism, business travel¹⁵⁷.

The touristic areas superimpose over the main subunits relief and concentrate both natural or anthropic landmarks and touristic localities¹⁵⁸:

- The mountainous area is unique by its attractive high natural potential, its natural wild, reduced accessibility, lack of visitor facilities. There can be practiced foot tourism, hiking tour and the camping is possible inside sheepfolds and abodes or in personal tents, and at Lepsa-Gresu depression there is great accommodation base, and also the setting off to the mountains is easy. The hiking tour must be done following the fifteen marked tourist trails.

- The touristic area called 'Tara Vrancei' consists of Vrancea depression and the Carpathian hills, an area with remarkable cultural potential, kept and promoted abroad, an area with a potential for developing agrotourism in unspoilt nature. The evaluation of tourism attractiveness in this area reflect a high to medium potential with restrictiveness related to tourist and technical infrastructures. Accommodation is possible only at peasant establishments or you can choose the transit tourism.

- The piedmont area is unique by its high cultural potential and also its potential of practicing viticultural tourism especially during the harvest. The tourists can taste different wines or take part in the harvest of the grapes, with accommodation at the peasant establishments or at the cellar type hostels (Jaristea, Cotesti).

¹⁵⁶ Tătaru Alexandra, 2008, Organisation of the rural space in the Putna basin, Transversal Publisher, Bucharest.

¹⁵⁷ Nedelcu Adrian, 2014, Wine Tourism in Romania. Case Study: Dealu Mare Vineyard, Vol.3, International Journal of Sustainable Economies Management (IJSEM), April-June, No.2, pp. 20-31.

¹⁵⁸ Căndea Melinda, Simon Tamara, Tătaru Alexandra, 2007, Rural space, rural tourism and agritourism, Transversal Publisher, Bucharest.

- The plain area is defined by its low natural potential with very few cultural and historical objectives in the rural area, high accessibility and many localities near town have proper technical urban equipping. The accommodation base is ensured by the hotels and the motels situated beside the national roads which means that the transit tourism is facilitated. The leisure facilities are barely present within the areas around beaches by the Putna (Vinatori) and Milcov (Golesti) rivers, fact which determines flows of weekend tourists for recreation especially during summer.

The localities whose natural and anthropic potential can be included in the touristic circuit, where the degree of touristic and urban equipping can be improved for practicing different forms of tourism, might be organized into touristic villages¹⁵⁹.

The development of tourism is not achievable without good touristic infrastructure, proper accommodation base, proper food administration, a recreation base and last but not the least a communication network that would provide full access to all touristic points¹⁶⁰. We should also add and take into account the quality of the technical infrastructure (water supply, power, sewerage, telecommunications and others) which is strongly related to providing comfort in the accommodation base, food¹⁶¹ and recreation as well¹⁶².

As to the accessibility in the areas with attractive touristic resources, the county is favorably located being situated at the intersection of the most direct roads which unify four of the touristic areas identified in 'The Master Plan for Developing the National Tourism', 2007, as having the maximum potential for attracting tourists: the European road E85 that connects Bucharest with Northern Moldavia/Bucovina and DN2D which is the most direct route from Transylvania to the South-East of Romania. The European road E85 is modernized and it is a constituent part of the European corridor 9, being doubled by an electrified double railway. The national road DN2D, the one making the connection with the touristic mountainous part of the county, is in rehabilitation and

¹⁵⁹ Id.

¹⁶⁰ Tătaru Alexandra, Nedelcu Adrian, 2015, Territorial and agricultural resources from the rural Vrancea area with decisive role in the development of the local economy, in volume *Agricultural Management Strategies in a Changing Economy*, IGI Global, U.S.A.

¹⁶¹ Toderoiu Filon, 2010, Ecological Footprint and biocapacity in rural areas, in: Otiman, P. I., Florian, V., Ionescu, C. (coord.), *Economic, social, environmental matrices and sustainable development strategies in Hateg - Retezat*, Vol. 2, Romanian Academy Publisher, Bucharest

¹⁶² Hera Cristian, 2006, *Rural world - today and tomorrow*, Romanian Academy Publishing House, Bucharest.

modernization and at the end of the works it would allow satisfactory conditions on the Eastern-Western route as well¹⁶³.

In the year 2007 the internal accessibility of the county to the touristic areas was ensured by¹⁶⁴:

- four national roads crossing East-West which do not reach the necessary quality standards (with a partial exception of DN2L Panciu-Soveja), some portions with special touristic attractiveness (DN2L: Soveja-Lepsa, DN2N: Jitia – the boundary of Buzau County) being even closed to public circulation or unsuitable for traffic (DN2M: Andreiasu-Nereju) but they are in view of modernization and/or rehabilitation; a rich network of county and communal roads under an advanced degree of degradation (DJ205D, DJ205B, with a potential for wine tourism);
- the network of remarkably picturesque forest roads in the mountain and depression areas with high attractiveness especially for hiking and cycling but unfortunately massively damaged by natural calamities and/or neglect due to the inadequate status of their property, insufficiently marked or unmarked and improperly mapped;
- 15 tourist trails in the mountain area, totally or partially marked.

According to statistics, during 2006-2011 the accommodation base in the rural area was represented by a medium number of 32 accommodation units with variability given by the economic efficiency of the unit, the maximum number being 35 in 2009 and after this year 3 units closed the tourist access.

Among all the accommodation structures it was the 23 agrotouristic pensions that were best represented in 2011 followed by motels, inns and only one hotel. In 2006 there were 3 preschool and student camps but later two of them were shut down and the only available permanent camp at present is Galaciuc.

All the classified rural tourist pensions are included in the Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism. Beside these accommodation units, officially recorded, in the area Tulnici-Lepsa-Gresu were built more holiday homes not included in the touristic circuit, but offering temporary accommodation. Tourists can benefit from accommodation at

¹⁶³ The Development Strategy of Vrancea County 2007 – 2013

¹⁶⁴ Id.

peasant establishments which provide minimum comfort with rustic environment and mountain landscape.

In 2011 the spread of the accommodation structures in the rural area was 68 % of their total number at county level. By classification, the widest spread is represented by tourist pensions ranked with 2 daisies (flowers) followed by one-flower pensions.

As for the capacity of the accommodation structures it is observed the same regression within the analyzed time interval, a regression imposed by the low tourist request and by the economic conditions experienced after 2009 and mostly by a rise in tourism seasonality and lack of attractive package all year round.

The biggest number of places for accommodation is with the tourism pensions with 449 places in 2011 thus outnumbering the total places in the student camps and lowering the accommodation capacity to 37% in contrast with 2009 (Figure 1).

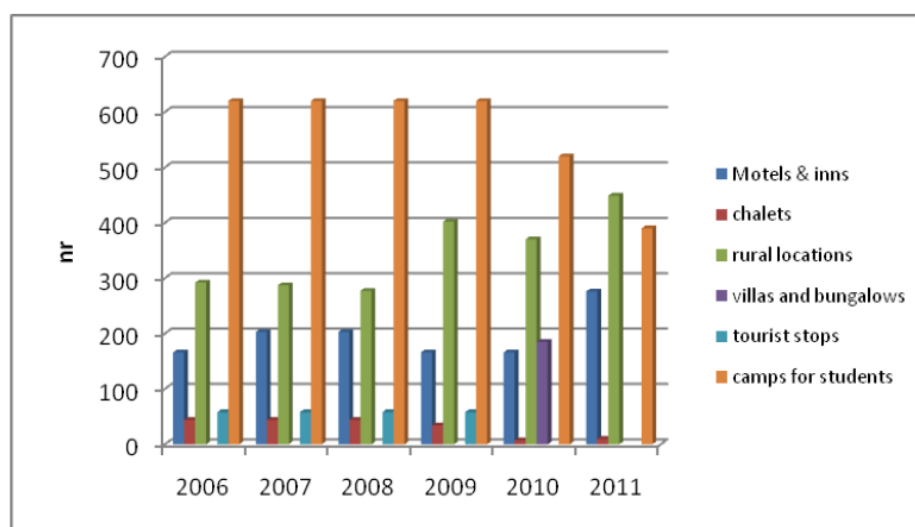


Figure 1: Evolution of the existing accommodation capacity (processing according to statistics)

Vrancea County, through its specific physical-geographical region of Romania is replete with natural elements with unique value¹⁶⁵. The diversity of species and natural habitats, the high density of large carnivores are the main reasons that led to the establishment of protected natural areas. As regards the Natura 2000 European network, in the county were declared a number of 11 Sites of Community Importance

¹⁶⁵ Andreea Georgiana Stănilă, Constantin Ionuț Barbu, Analysis of the tourism activities in the protected natural areas of Vrancea county, Annals of Valahia University of Targoviste. Geographical Series (2016), 16(2): 33-43.

and Sites of Special Protection 3 as a reconfirmation of the value of biodiversity. These have given rise to some touristic activities becoming tourist attraction places for nature lovers. The presence of tourists in a protected area can threaten the environment, but if tourism is managed according to sustainability principles can bring a number of benefits to both the environment and local communities. From this point of view, Vrancea stays at tourist underdevelopment, so economical, due to poor promotion nationally and underinvestment. Thanks to the initiative of associations and relevant organizations were implemented European sustainable development programs that have had a real impact on protected areas in Vrancea County. The results obtained have resulted in actions for biodiversity conservation, tourism planning of the territory and contribute to increased quality of life for local communities. These projects are proof that this region of the country presents all the strengths to develop ecotourism plan.

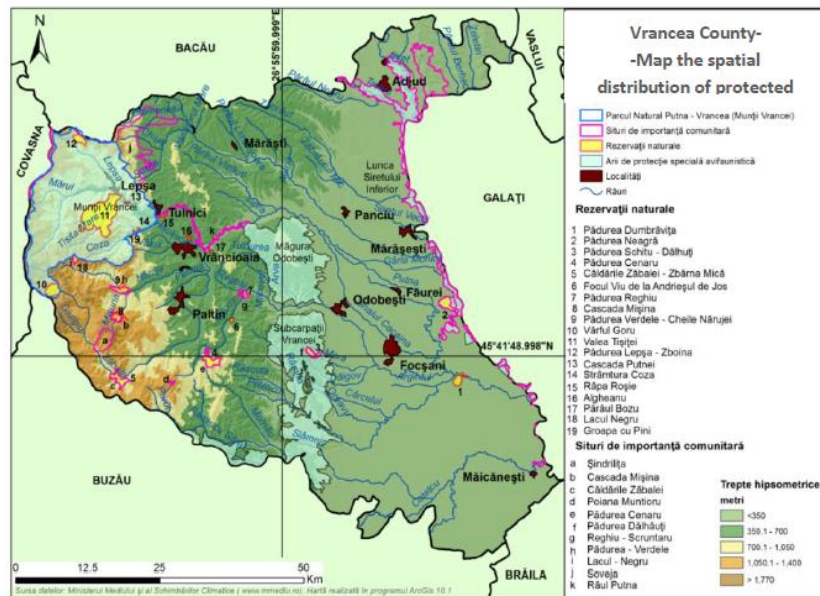
The theme on biodiversity protection and conservation occupies in recent times, an important place in the global policy agenda for sustainable development. Tourism development in protected natural areas can create controversy among naturalists who argue about the negative impact that it exercises on the environment. However, proper management of tourism activities in these areas can generate considerable benefits not only for the elements under protection, but also for the human component operating within or living in their neighborhood. To highlight the extent of the tourism phenomenon in protected areas of the analyzed environment, first of all, the assessment of the natural potential was achieved, as an argument for designating the 28 protected areas covering all levels of elevation of the County landform, from the meadow area to the mountain area. The tourist activity was also analyzed in the most visited protected areas, making an assessment of the access infrastructure, accommodation and catering, the recreational facilities of tourist interest, but also tourist traffic. The problems identified at the accommodation and catering units are the small number and uneven distribution at the county level, the mismatch between sustainable development and the shape, appearance, size, techniques and materials used in construction, services. A big minus of protected natural areas in terms of tourism development, is insufficient recreational facilities which could generate much higher tourist flows than today.



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Spatial distribution of protected areas in Vrancea County

Planning a protected natural area for a touristic purpose lays down special measures of intervention on an environment through the constructions available to visitors. The theory of planning the territory recommends that the practice should follow a series of basic principles regarding the creation of new instalment systems or the improvement of the existing ones.

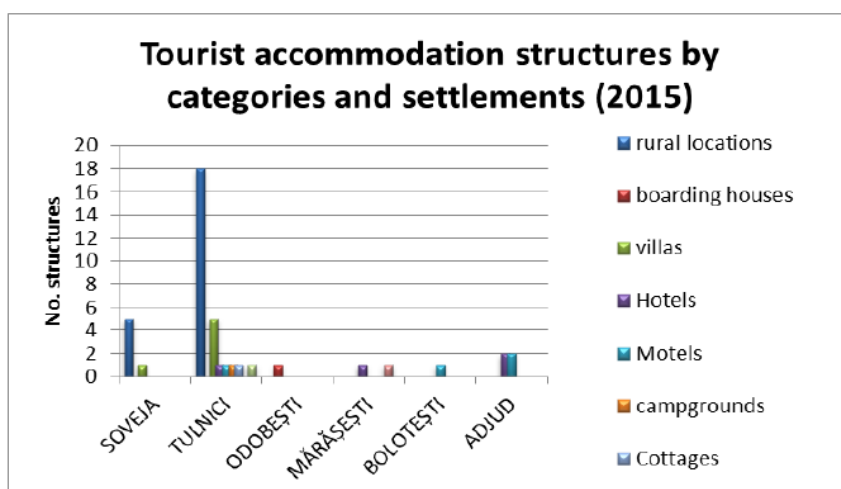
Including services and touristic infrastructure in the natural environment in a harmonious manner is a basic requirement in this direction. Fitting the touristic structures in the scenery doesn't only offer a pleasant design for the place, but also emphasises the natural and cultural resources, helping enrich their originality.

Sustainable planning will generate beneficial effects on the environment, local community and tourists. The flexibility of touristic buildings offers the possibility of improvement, progressive evolution of a touristic area without jeopardising the elements belonging to the natural environment or the touristic activity. Another principle places the accent on the recreational aspect of a touristic site, together with basic touristic services (accommodation, food service and transport).

At an overview analysis of specific equipment regarding the accommodation, food service and recreation in the natural areas from Vrancea, some inadvertences regarding their projection clearly stand out. The strictness regarding the prevention of the negative impact of touristic activities on the environment is reduced, taking into

account the location, place, dimensions, architecture and the design of the named equipment. The uncontrolled spread of accommodation facilities has led specifically to the formation of an attraction pole for tourists, being detrimental to the underdevelopment of other areas with a high potential. Tulnici area (Lepșa) - belonging to Soveja area. It wasn't long ago when Soveja resort, considered Vrancea's Pearl, used to attract tourists from all the corners of the country for the ozonized air coming from the coniferous forests, which has currently been neglected and abandoned as a result of the disappearance on the main accommodation facility in the area, Zboina Hotel. Although the touristic phenomenon seems to flourish in Lepșa, tourism is far from being as developed as the standards require. If this area is remarkable in the district for the large number of tourists it attracts, at a national level is far beyond other touristic destinations of the same type, as a consequence of tourists' preferences. If we turn out attention to other natural or national parks from our country, such as Retezat, Cheile Bicazului-Hășmaș, Călimani, Bucegi, Apuseni, Vânători-Neamț it becomes obvious that Putna Natural Parks is among the last one in terms of tourist attendance. This fact can be in itself a consequence, but it can also be the result of poor touristic infrastructure.

According to the Institute of National Statistics (INS), in the year 2015, the touristic structures with accommodation facilities from Vrancea were as high as 45 units, with a total capacity of 1391 places. In the topology of accommodation structures boarding houses are predominant (10) in Tulnici parish.



Number of tourist accommodation, according to INS Romania statistics (Source: INS Romania, Tempo-online)

Most of the accommodation units are in Lepșa locality from Tulnici parish, which are 28, among which predominant are touristic villas (11) and boarding houses (18). The administrative units presented in the graphic are at the parish level, since many of the accommodation structures belong to Tulnici with its related villages, Lepșa, Tulnici, Greșu, representative from a touristic point of view.

To these we should add the holiday houses with a private property status which usually don't only receive the owners during the holiday seasons, but also the tourists. Therefore, it is nearly impossible to put together an exact and accurate statistics of accommodation facilities that correspond 100% to the conditions imposed by the tourism.

Most of them were built by people from Galați, predominantly in the period 1991-2001, for a total, over the 25 years, of 268 holiday homes. Residents of Focsani city, with some residents of villages in Vrancea Tulnici, Bârsești and Vulturu, rank second with 188 holiday homes. Tulnici was a point of interest for Constanta County's residents who built 119 holiday homes. Also, a significant number of such constructions, 81, is owned by residents from Brăila. They are joined, in a smaller number by owners in the counties of Buzau (Buzau, Râmnicu Sărat), Tulcea, Călărași, Suceava, Bacău, Iași, Neamț, Covasna.

Most of the villas and holiday homes were built in the village Lepșa, and only recently, expanded to the immediately adjacent village Greșu. It can be said that the real estate boom has forced Lepșa's expanding construction wave to the north of the village, the village Greșu, taking some of the applications for building holiday homes, due to owners' willingness to avoid overcrowding the former.

The environment politics recommend placing the accent on quality and not on quantity when the aim is to develop recreation facilities and services in a protected area. It is not desirable to have a protected natural area „suffocated” by recreation equipment meant to service a large number of tourists, but to design them in order to cover the existing or potential touristic demand of an area. By quality it shall be understood enhanced capacity, efficient functionality, strategic localization so that this type of establishment to be in accordance with the objective of protection and preservation of natural environment.

In year 2014, touristic establishments with a leisure and recreational purpose from protected natural areas from Vrancea are reduced to those offered by those offered by the accommodation units (tennis and pool tables, SPA centers, indoors or outdoors pools, sleighing slides, special arranged camping fireplaces) and some marked hiking trails where tourist circulation doesn't have an organized character. If we're referring to the meadow area, along the river Siret pools are arranged for recreational fishing, while the forests belonging to the protected area, as well as the mountainous forests, offer the possibility of practicing hunting.

According to a classification of recreation activities based on the period of time they require for being accomplished, the activities characteristic to the protected natural areas from Vrancea can be included in the medium duration period of time, corresponding in other words with the tourism taking place during the weekends. This means that apart from satisfying the need for accommodation and food, there is also a need to arrange some spots for recreation, as well as camping area with fireplaces, paths for hiking, special means of transportation.

Paradoxically, the locality with the most tourist arrivals during the year, Lepșa, does not have its own terrain for sports activities and no swimming pool. This may be due to the haste that the owners of villas and boarding houses have showed for becoming part of the touristic circuit, based on little investment and a short time to cover their debts. Therefore, the local touristic offer is limited to the minimal admitted standards, and the natural environment remains the central element in terms of touristic attraction.

Some hint of dynamism is given by Lepșa's trout farm, which dates since 1955 and represents the main supplier of fish for the local restaurants, but also for other restaurants in the district or the country. In the central area there are few souvenir shops properly stocked for the buying potential, but few of the objects meant to be sold are specific for the local tradition.

As a result, the fittest alternative for accomplishing the recreational function of the protected areas is represented by long strolls in the nature, on marked hiking trails towards points of major interest. In this respect, different types of trails have been marked in the area, especially in the mountains (due to the picturesque nature of the scenery), with different degrees of difficulty in order to cover all the levels of physical endurance levels of the visitors.

At the level of protected natural areas, there isn't available a clear statistic, mainly because touristic circulation is difficult to monitor due to different types of reasons:

- the access in the national park is available from nine different points which can't be supervised, both from the National Roads (DN2D Focșani – Târgu-Secuiesc cuts the park from south to north through the east half, DN2L ensures the link between Lepșa and Soveja), as well as from the paths in the forest or those in the villages. This situation is also available for the specially protected areas, such as the Inferior Siret Meadow as well as Magura-Odobesti, and also for areas which are fully protected.

- many natural reservations don't require a visiting fee; therefore, no tickets are given in order to keep track of tourists.

- some tourists choose to stay in some private accommodation facilities, which are more affordable, or they choose to camp in unauthorized spaces, which are not officially included in the touristic circuits.

For acquiring a clearer picture of touristic circulation inside the protected natural areas it is necessary to make an overview analysis of this phenomenon in the entire district, for reasons which suggest the theory that each administrative unit from this area which accommodates tourists can represent a transmitting pole of touristic waves towards nearby protected areas.

The capital of the district has the most arrivals of tourists, and can therefore be considered the main center from where tourists are spread towards the nearby protected natural areas, together with the administrative units from the immediate neighborhood, Mărășești, Garoafa, Golești. Therefore, the tourists checked in the previously mentioned localities can visit the Lower Siret Meadow with Dumbrăvița Forest, The Black Forest, Schitu-Dălăuți Forest, but also the natural reservations situated in Vrancea's Subcarpathian, such as The Live Fire (Focul Viu) from Andreiașu de Jos, Reghiu - Scruntaru Forest, Cenaru Forest, as well as the communal importance site Măgura Odobești. To Focșani City must be added the cities Panciu and Odobesti, even if they register lower numbers of tourists. The northern part of Lower Siret Meadow can be visited by tourists who are checked in accommodation units from the city of Adjud.

In terms of mountainous areas, domineering in terms of the favourite tourist destination chosen by people is Tulnici parish with the villages Lepsa and Gresu, followed at a considerable distance by Soveja, due to the presence of Putna Natural Park Vrancea and the included natural reservations, but also due to the vicinity of other important attractions: Cheile Tisitei (Tisita Canyon), Putna Waterfall, Stramtura Coza, Lepsa-Zboina Forest, The Black Lake, The Red Ravine, Algheanu, Goru Peak, The Pine Pit, Bozu Creek, Verdele-Cheile Nărujei Forest, Mișina Waterfall.

The lack of information regarding touristic circulation on protected natural areas raises great problems when trying to build a database about the touristic flow and the touristic phenomenon in general. The evaluation of the number of tourists is approximate and realized based on direct observations made by the personnel looking after the protected areas. For example, representatives from the administration of The Putna National Park Vrancea estimate a number of 35.000-40.000 tourists a year who visit the park, having as a reference the entrances at the most visited attractions of the park: Putna Waterfall and Tișița Natural Reservation.

In present, after the direct observations accomplished by Administration of Putna-Vrancea Natural Park was been identified next types of visitors:

- visitors which prefer the services offered by accommodations (guesthouses and agritourism houses, hotels, children and youth camp), to spend the free time in a weekend but also in vacations. The maximum number of this type of visitors it's recording with the occasion of Winter holiday and Easter holiday;
- visitors and tourists which they are used to come in weekend or in free days declared national days, at picnic or to camp in the areas near the localities Lepsa and Gresu. The next areas which are preferred by visitors to develop this kind of activity but which also requires properly management plans are: Lepsa Monastery and Gresu dam.
- hikers in small groups (2-19 persons) including foreign visitors which use the existing tourism routes across the park;
- users of ATV, groups which until present they have an incidence negative major and which they were been observed around the localities Lepsa and Gresu. This activity it is stimulated by the presence of four companies which have the main activity renting ATV;

- members and contributors of non-governmental organizations (e.g. ADDA Live Fire-Focsani, A.C.D.B), which they came in an organized way inside of a specify educational or research camp;
- families with caravans or personal cars which they have been noticed in the area of Lepsa Monastery;
- groups organized by students which are in transit during some big trips, or in a summer camp in children and youth center Galaciuc or in study tours like students from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, that has an accommodation in Tulnici;
- groups of persons which participate at some diferent meetings, hearings;
- working teams who deploys activities in parquet logging in a private or state forest district;
- visitors of Lepsa Monastery;
- visitors of natural sights, like naturals reservations Putna Falls and Tisita Gorge;
- visitors of Lepsa trout farm; etc.

Areas for picnic and camping	Approximate number of people/year	Observations	Description
Lepsa Monastery	3 000	Citizens of localities from Vrancea, Brăila, Galați, Tulcea, Constanța, Vaslui și Bucuresti county.	Peak activity in sunny days, in days from orthodox Easter, May 1, days dedicated to Monastery Lepsa.
Greșu Dam	1 000	Citizens of localities from Vrancea, Brăila, Galați, Tulcea, Constanța, Vaslui și București county.	In sunny days, May 1, Orthodox Easter
Creek Lepșuleț - limitrophe DN 2L Lepșa-Soveja	500	Citizens of localities from Vrancea, Brăila, Galați, Tulcea, Constanța, Vaslui și București county.	In sunny days, May 1, Orthodox Easter

Areas used for picnic and camp activities in the area of Putna-Vrancea Natural Park



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Putna-Vrancea Natural Park and its protected areas¹⁶⁶.

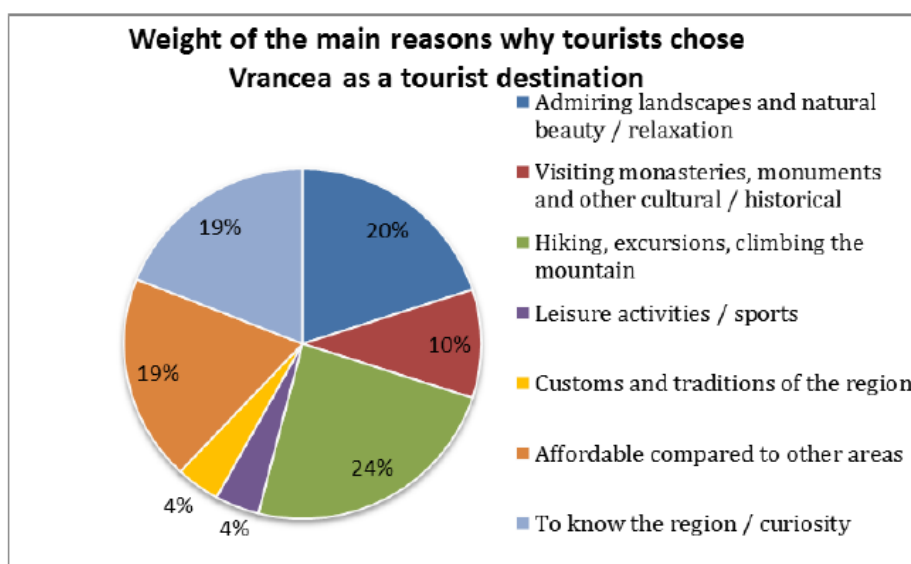
Author: Cristina Lupu, 2014, ArcGIS 9.3

Referring to Vrancea parish, and mainly to Putna Natural Park Vrancea, the main reasons which have determined the tourists to choose this tourist destination in approximately equal proportions, were hiking in the park, relaxing by admiring the

¹⁶⁶ Cristina Lupu, Gabriel Camară, The impact of the tourism in protected areas in Vrancea Mountains, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Faculty of Geography and Geology, Department of Geography, Lucrările seminarului geografic "DIMITRIE CANTEMIR" nr. 41, 2016 p. 80.

surrounding scenery, visiting historic and cultural objectives as well as making affordable the fees for the places of accommodation and dining, but also getting acquainted with a new area. Short strolls and hikes follow the marked touristic trails in the PNPV, but the most frequented one is that from Tișița Natural reservation, which also represents the most visited spot in the park.

An unexpected preference for relaxing by admiring the landscape shows that tourists from Vrancea prefer static activities, which do not require too much physical effort, but most of the times these two activities are joined. For example, if a tourist is spending two days in Lepsa, he'll dedicate one day to hiking and the other one he'll spend relaxing (within the accommodation facility, at the side of a pool, by taking a walk or making a short visit).



The criteria which have led tourists to choose tourist destinations in Vrancea

At the moment, tourist activities developed in county Vrancea, which are focused both on preserving the environment and increasing the local's welfare, are very underdeveloped, but the existing activities, like the ones included in developing programs are meeting the requirements imposed by national and worldwide specialized organizations.

Basically, the prefix „eco” which defines the tourism in the protected natural areas from the studied space is misused, but the existing natural, social and cultural conditions offer opportunities for developing real ecotourism services. If we consider the

spectacular evolution of the ecotourism phenomenon worldwide, it is very likely that in our country, especially the one which is developed in protected areas, to gain a large number of followers in the near future.

Regarding the protected areas system from Vrancea, the activities developed by tourists, in towns with a great tourism potential and surroundings, are consisting of:

- **hiking** individually or in group on a trail, especially in the mountains, with the advantage of having varied landscapes. This activity is undergoing at the moment, without the guidance of qualified guides. It targets the youth, which is showing a great interest in activities, recreation, release from the urban stress, reason why it is called „backpacking”. There are also trails with a lower difficulty, which are preferred by elders and the families with children. These activities are followed by other activities, such as photography, filming and picnics.

- **observing the landscape and the wild life** from points arranged for this purpose („belveder” points) is a closely related activity to the first activity mentioned, meaning that in order to observe the landscape it is required to go hiking. Areas with special faunal protection such as Putna-Vrancea, Măgura Odobești and Lower Siret meadow offer the opportunity of observing bird species (birdwatching) such as grouses, long-eared owls, owls, finches, black storks, corncrakes and many others. Lately, in some preserved areas such as Lower Siret meadow, thematic tours are organized with educational purpose for students, stipulating this aspect¹⁶⁷. Observing and photographing the animals are carried out purely by chance. Even though in other states, observing large animals is considered a usual activity, in our country it is in leading phase and is based on observing large carnivorous such as the black bear, wild boar and bison (in reservations)¹⁶⁸.

- **trips** to local communities aiming the participation to cultural and traditional events, filled with local icons (The International Festival of the Wine „Bachus”, The Folkloric Festival „Baba Vrâncioaia”, The masks game, Exhibition of wooden masks, Pastoral

¹⁶⁷ Let's understand nature! – The fifth trip, 2015, organized by The Association for Preserving The Biological Diversity.

¹⁶⁸ Photo safari or Fotohunting („Hunting pictures”) can be carried out at the moment in Mountains Ciucaș, the boundary between the County Buzău and Brașov implies that special pavilion for photo shooting should be placed, off-road vehicle should be provided, followed by trained guides.

Festivals: Sheep on the mountain climbing¹⁶⁹, Village Negrilești), tasting and purchasing the traditional food sold by the local producers, which doesn't have traditional certificates because of the strict accreditation rules (smoked cheese¹⁷⁰ from Negrilești or Soveja, smoked trout From Lepșa in fir tree), purchasing traditional items (masks crafted from rawhide or wood¹⁷¹)

- **Observing spectacular events** such as the gas emanations from the town Andreiașu de Jos, Focul Viu.

- **Mountaineering:** the Crest of Ciuta, Lepșa's Towers¹⁷² (The Big Tower)

- **Sport fishing:** Putna, Milcov, Siret.

- **Hunting**¹⁷³ is allowed only outside of the restricted and protected areas, in the existing hunting areas from the Mountains of Vrancea (Lepșa, Condratu, Macradău), becoming possible only after obtaining the hunting permit for wildboars, foxes, rabbits, badgers, wild cats, deer and special exemption for bears and wolfs.

¹⁶⁹ Sheep on the mountain climbing has been an old traditional activity for centuries, which takes place every year in May, around the 21 st, when it is celebrated „The emperors Constantin and Elena”. The locals from Negrilești gather in front of the church with their flock of sheep for receiving blessings which will keep them safe from the dangers and bad weather through the sheep's mountain travel until October, when we celebrate „Saint Dumitru”. Thus, the transhumance from the „The Country Vrancea” receives a sacred and divine signification, which is a proof of the bond between God and man, in every activity that man accomplishes.

¹⁷⁰The cheese from the region Soveja -Negarilești is prepared after a natural recipe, without preservatives, from low fat cottage cheese and has a distinguish shape given by the carves from the both sides. Having a circular or rectangular shape, the cheese is pressed into maple wood moulds, called „păpușare” , after which is smoked with cold smoke from dust and fir-tree branches. The patterns from the cheese date from the paleochristian era and contain the ram's horn, which symbolises fertility, the braided rope symbolises continuity, wolf fangs from margins symbolise the fir tree's eternity, the sun from centre – divinity. The moulds are also used for decorations, being hung from the house's beam.

¹⁷¹Masks with funeral signification were used in the past at funerals, symbolising the deceased's ancestors who came at the funeral. These days, the masks are worn by youth during winter holidays for amusement.

¹⁷² Although this activity is not recommended in any location from the Mountains Vrancea, due to loose rocks, it is carried out by many climbers near the town Tulnici, first trails for climbing being opened by Galatians in the early 90's.

¹⁷³ Photo safari or Fotohunting („Hunting pictures”) can be carried out at the moment in Mountains Ciucaș, the boundary between the County Buzău and Brașov implies that special pavilion for photo shooting should be placed, off-road vehicle should be provided, followed by trained guides.

The natural environment from County Vrancea, as the central element of the nature tourism, offers many other opportunities for developing the ecotourism without the use of additional preparations:

- Cycling: forest trail in PNPV
- Nordic walking: Mountain Coza, Mountain Zboina, Mountain Goru, Vrancea Subcarpathians.
- Learning traditional crafts such as: wood carving and iron forging in Vrâncioaia, crafting pyrography vessels at Nereju, manufacturing traditional fabrics in Bârsești, pottery and bootmaking in Vidra, woodworking in Tulnici, woolworking in Răcoasa, sewing, embroidering and weaving mats and towels in Năruja, crafting flutes and bagpipes, also masks for winter holidays in Nistorești and many others.
- Wine tours: in Odobești, Panciu, Ctești and Jariștea.
- Food tours: in Lepșa, Tulnici and Soveja.

The tourism represents a very important economical source as well as an ecological and cultural impact and precisely for these reasons it should be included in the management plans of the protected areas for long term durability. Through the development of the tourist activities in the protected areas from Vrancea Mountains, these areas have met a way of promotion of sustainable development and also the income had increased for these areas. If the tourism will activate better in the future for these areas from Vrancea Mountains, the income could contribute to the achievement of some goals like: conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, substantial development of local economy, the raising of living standards of the population but also the satisfaction of the tourists. The positive impact of tourism concerning the protected areas it is manifesting in different ways, having effects in economic and also in physical and social plan.

Economic effects suppose: the growth of income (the localities which they have protected areas in their territory they can develop in different ways, like economical plan, and it can improve their standard of live; the increasing of the number of persons who works directly in tourism (hotels, restaurants, recreation), for this benefit the young people can profit because in this way they can find easier a place to work, making the emigration in rich localities or cities to decrease; the increasing of the number of

persons who works indirectly in tourism (agriculture, telecommunications), contributing at the increase of local economy, the jobs in other areas also will increase and indirectly the localities will be modernize.

The physical effects are concretized by beautification of environment (with the attraction of the tourists, the environment will be more conserved and more tidy), the restoration of the old building it is necessary because in this way the place would be a touristic attraction and not just a natural touristic attraction and also one anthropic; the survival of the historical buildings induce the fact that the historical heritage it is very important because the knowledge of the historical past could implement the necessary information for the interested tourists.

Social effects: the increasing of the diversity of touristic activities and for the recreation, the monotony of visiting the protected areas is replaced by recreation activities which produce happiness to the tourists and make them to lose the notion of the time; the growth of the numbers of the services offered and the improving of their quality, the diversification of the services and the improvement of their quality go to qualitative touristic services and for great demand for the tourists.

Regarding the impact produced by the protected areas from Vrancea Mountains and from their near area, it can be say that the development in the last years from touristic activities from Gresu and Lepsa localities had determined a positive effect on economic plan:

- benefits of Local Council Tulnici by charching taxes and by the attraction of the investors;
- the increasing of the number of people who works directly in tourism (hotels, restaurants, guesthouses);
- the increasing of the number of people who works indirectly in tourism (retail sales, work buildings, transport, supply)
- the opening of a marketplace for the local food and handicraft;
- the supply for the opportunities making investment for the local capital (the development of the entrepreneurship), which does not exist before in the area.

Beside the economic impact it can be notice positive changes of the social environment:

- the increasing of the gain and the improvement of the standard of live at the local population;
- the growth of the number of the services and their quality;
- the producing of the new jobs, especially for the young population which it a has secondary effect the reduce of the emigration of the workforce.

As a conclusion, the network of protected natural areas from County Vrancea offers all the opportunities for developing the ecotourism, which is at the moment a role key for our community. The possibility of becoming more popular and attractive to public should determine the local authorities to capitalize something that nature has already offered, by finding and applying the best developing strategies for tourism in these areas. A first condition will be solving the problems that limit the activities of this type, especially promoting the protected natural areas nationwide and afterwards, international wide. The revitalization of „The Country of Vrancea” in terms of tourism will bring benefits not only for tourists, but also for the local community such as: infrastructure development, rebuilding the collective cultural identity, increasing the incomes of the locals, and many others.

1.3.2. Romania's regional development for 2020-2030

The main objective for 2020-2030 is to support sustainable and territorially balanced economic and social development of the Romanian regions according to their specific needs and resources by concentrating on urban poles for growth. Also, improving infrastructure and business environment so as to make Romanian regions, especially those lagging behind, more attractive places to live, visit, invest in and work¹⁷⁴.

For the purpose of meeting this overriding objective the main emphasis will be on enhancing the economic and social role of urban centers by taking a polycentric approach leading to a better-balanced development of the regions. The sectoral

¹⁷⁴ Government of Romania, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, *National Sustainable Development Strategy, Romania 2013-2020-2030*, Bucharest, 2008, p. 107.

interventions at a national level will be supplemented by specific regional, sub-regional and local actions in support of the principles of sustainable development. The balanced development of all regions will be achieved through integrated action combining public investment in local infrastructure with proactive policies aiming to encourage business activities and to support the rational use of local resources along the following priority axes:

To support the sustainable development of urban centers as poles of growth¹⁷⁵

Envisaged actions will concentrate on improving the quality of life and creating new jobs through the rehabilitation of urban infrastructure, improvement of urban services, including social services, and development of support structures for businesses and entrepreneurship. In order to achieve a balanced spatial development and to avoid the widening of disparities among regions, investments will be focused on those cities that play the role of regional and/or local poles of growth and are able to project development into adjacent areas; priority will be given to the growth poles located in the regions and counties having a lower development level in terms of GDP per person and unemployment rates. Considering the current condition of Romania's cities and towns, it is envisaged that the funds allocated to urban development be spent as follows: 60% for urban public infrastructure, 25% for social infrastructure and 15% for improving the business environment.

The experience acquired in the European Union through the implementation of Urban I and Urban II programmes showed that an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental issues in depressed urban areas was successful in ensuring the sustainable development of those areas. The implementation of integrated urban development plans, which will have to be prepared in a broad participative framework, will assist such activities as physical renewal of urban environment, rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, economic development, improved competitiveness and job creation, integration of ethnic groups and underprivileged categories, while ensuring the conservation and adequate protection of the environment. The integrated plans shall comprise projects addressing the following types of activities:

¹⁷⁵ Ibidem, p. 108.

- Rehabilitation of urban infrastructure and improvement of municipal services, including in-city transport, by means of: physical and functional renovation of buildings having historical, cultural or artistic value; planned demolition of abandoned structures or badly deteriorated buildings that are not listed as belonging to the national heritage; modernization of public areas and related infrastructure (street network, pedestrian areas, sidewalks, public lighting, etc.); rehabilitation of polluted sites (abandoned industrial areas, vacant lots); regulation of car traffic in order to reduce city congestion (traffic lights, street signs, parking lots) and sustainable modernization of urban transport.

- Development of the business environment by cultivating entrepreneurship, improving business infrastructure and supporting economic activities that make optimal use of the local human and material resources.

- Modernization of social infrastructure by means of physical and thermal rehabilitation of multi-family housing owned by the city administration and support for house owners' associations to undertake such work; provision of premises and proper endowment for social services (child-care centers, old people's homes, centers providing assistance to disabled persons, youth centers, etc.); measures in support of public order and citizens' safety.

To improve access to regions by upgrading regional and local transport infrastructure¹⁷⁶

The development of transport infrastructure linking the urban centers and providing connections to the neighboring areas is an essential requirement for meeting the objectives of European territorial cohesion and those of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. The establishment of a modern national transport network is vital for the development of counties and regions, location of companies, improved business climate and tourism.

Increased investment in infrastructure upgrading will facilitate the mobility of persons and goods between and inside the regions, reduce transport costs for freight and persons, improve access to regional markets, enhance the effectiveness of business

¹⁷⁶ Ibidem, p. 109.

activities, save energy, reduce travel time and encourage trade and productive investment.

The envisaged priorities focus on the rehabilitation and upgrading of rail, river and air links and county roads, including the construction or rehabilitation of ring roads. The county road network will be rehabilitated and upgraded over a length of 877 kilometers and the urban street network (411 km) by 2015, ring roads (up to 219 km) will be built or upgraded, leading to an increase of road freight and passenger traffic by 10%, while improving safety conditions.

Taking into account the specific needs and the development level of each Romanian region and considering that the regions have an insufficient and uncompetitive transport infrastructure, which does not meet the requirements of the EU Single Market, it is expected that the profitability, value added and lateral benefits of investments in infrastructure will be considerable.

To improve the social infrastructure of the regions¹⁷⁷

Further steps will be taken to provide essential public services with a view to meeting the EU objectives on economic and social cohesion by improving the infrastructure for health, educational and social services, for public safety and emergencies. The measures and targets that are envisaged in the short and medium term in order to decentralize health and education services, to improve their effectiveness and to strengthen the accountability of regional, county and local authorities are:

- (a) Improved access to health services¹⁷⁸
- (b) Improved quality of medical services
- (c) Improved healthcare financing
- (d) Decentralization of the healthcare system
- (e) Institutional streamlining of the Ministry of Public Health and of the structures under its supervision or control.
- (f) The development of social economy by actively involving all relevant stakeholders (public institutions, business or professional associations, labour unions, etc.) and by encouraging the social action of non-governmental

¹⁷⁷ Ibidem, p. 110.

¹⁷⁸ Ibidem, p. 64.

organisations and groups of the civil society (social cooperatives, self-help associations, foundations, charities and voluntary services, etc.)¹⁷⁹. Such actions will support the development of strong local communities, will provide useful services to the people, will encourage citizens' activism and will help the emergence of new businesses resulting in further employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, while promoting social cohesion and solidarity.

- (g) Improved access to, and participation in the labour market for vulnerable groups through measures that are additional to those provided to the general population, in particular through targeted, personalized approaches, including awareness initiatives for the problems facing the ethnic Roma population.
- (h) Promoting gender equality on the labour market by facilitating women's access to traditionally male occupations, to leadership positions and involvement in politics by deterring gender stereotypes, combating human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual discrimination and harassment in the workplace, by creating an inclusive labour market, securing work schedules adapted to women (work from home, flexible schedules, etc.), including re-training for alternative occupations of persons employed in industries at risk of relocation (textiles, garment industries).
- (i) Trans-national initiatives for inclusive labour markets by expanding the areas of cooperation with the other EU Member States and exchanging experience and information on primary and secondary legislation, operational procedures and methodologies for performance evaluation in the sphere of social protection and inclusion, adaptation of training schemes to address the use of newly emerging technologies. Since Romania has one of the largest segments of Roma population among the EU Member States, it appears necessary to initiate and promote concrete actions, including the adoption of uniform legal dispositions and administrative practices, to be harmonized at EU level, regarding the problems facing that ethnic group in particular.
- (j) Restructuring of the educational cycles according to specific training profiles and re-formulation of syllabuses in keeping with the reference levels to be set by the National Qualifications Framework, so that the transparency of the life-

¹⁷⁹ Ibidem, p. 69.

long learning system and occupational mobility are ensured¹⁸⁰. Restructuring operations must ensure access to all forms of education and a substantial improvement of the quality of the educational offer through the acquisition of competences that could support personal advancement, competitiveness and sustainable development;

- (k) Development of institutional capacity and innovation relying on knowledge management; establishment of cooperation networks, including public-private partnerships, while promoting decentralization of the educational system and upholding university autonomy;
- (l) Professional upgrading of educational governance and school management through human resource development for effective leadership, promotion of participative, pro-active and anticipatory attitudes, and development of specific competences, while giving equal priority to social and personal aspects;
- (m) More openness in the formal education system by recognising the knowledge acquired through informal or non-formal training. It is expected that effective access to centres for the validation of competences acquired through such forms of training will be achieved by 2020. This will acknowledge the importance of life and work experience and the relevance of a diverse educational offer both to the learners' personal aspirations and to the needs of social and economic development;
- (n) The development of the institutional and logistical foundation of the national educational system, including opportunities for physical education, sports and recreation activities, will go hand in hand with the diversification of the non-formal and informal training offer. The enrolment in life-long learning systems, re-training and professional recycling will rise to a minimum of 15% in the 25-64 age group;
- (o) The improved quality of initial and continued training of teaching staff and managers using flexible systems for the renewal of knowledge will emphasize attitudes specific to a 'reflexive practitioner' who is able to promote interdisciplinary approaches in support of knowledge acquired through learning, particularly those skills that fit the socio-cultural, economic and environmental requirements of sustainable development;

¹⁸⁰ Ibidem, p. 84.

- (p) Enhanced preparation of young people for life-long learning in order to acquire the social and emotional intelligence and the versatility that are required to become competitive on the labour market of the European Union;
- (q) Development of syllabuses that are differentiated according to regional characteristics and students' needs, providing for a broad and balanced coverage of the fields of knowledge, making it possible to acquire a deeper understanding of correlations and linkages between economic, social and environmental aspects of development, including learning of foreign languages, using the opportunities for inter- and trans-disciplinary learning, acquiring abilities for planning and research through individual effort and team work, participative involvement in community services, enhancing the sense of responsibility toward shared global issues, respect for universal values, multiculturalism and specific identity; promoting creative curiosity and continuous self-interrogation;
- (r) Expansion of quality education and training to rural areas, promotion of gender equality and bringing young people from underprivileged groups into the education system;
- (s) Expanding international cooperation through the initiation of, and participation in European, bilateral and cross-border projects and programmes; promoting the presence of Romanian educators in representative European and international institutions; encouraging the participation of the Romanian scientific diaspora in educational projects implemented in Romania and in the evaluation of those projects, programmes and policies that are relevant for sustainable development.

Investments in that area will be aimed at improving the quality of services and raising them to European standards so as to have a positive impact on the personal accomplishment, well-being and access to the labor market for all citizens, while enhancing the attractiveness of the regions.

To strengthen the regional and local business environment¹⁸¹

Action will be taken to establish and develop business structures at regional and local levels, to rehabilitate industrial sites and to assist entrepreneurial initiatives suited to

¹⁸¹ Ibidem, p. 110.

the requirements of each region, in particular in the less developed areas and in those that experience economic decline.

- Development of sustainable business support structures of regional and local importance, drawing on the positive experience of the industrial park projects, business centers and logistical platforms: building, rehabilitation or expansion of buildings devoted exclusively to production and service activities, except for those hosting business incubators; rehabilitation and expansion of the street networks within the business structures and of access roads; provision of basic utilities (water treatment plants, energy and gas supply, sewerage systems) and broadband cabling and connection; demolition of redundant buildings inside business areas, rubble and waste removal, garbage collection services; promotion activities.

- Rehabilitation of unused polluted industrial sites and preparation of such sites for new activities (brownfield development): clean-up and ecological rehabilitation; demolition of unusable buildings and levelling the ground; rehabilitation and expansion of buildings that can be used for production or services; making the public utility infrastructure fully operational; cabling and Internet connection, etc.

- Support for the development of micro-enterprises in order to revitalize the underdeveloped areas, especially small and medium-size towns, with a view to using the specific potential of the regions (natural resources, raw materials, human resources) and promoting new technologies and innovation by facilitating the acquisition of state-of-the-art technologies for production, services and construction, as well as of digital equipment and software; re-locating the micro-enterprises into business structures; providing logistical services.

Promotion and sustainable development of tourism¹⁸²

The envisaged measures are aimed at turning to good account those elements of the cultural heritage and natural resources that have a potential for tourism, and improving the quality of accommodation and leisure infrastructure in order to increase the attractiveness of the regions, to develop local economy (trade, construction, transport, catering, small industries and crafts) and to create new jobs.

¹⁸² Ibidem, p. 111.

In this way the zones and localities acquire and reinforce their own identity and improve their competitive advantages in sectors that yield higher value added, quality and cognitive effects on both traditional and emerging markets. To a significant extent the newly created jobs offer better opportunities for the employment of women and persons belonging to underprivileged groups.

- Restoration and promotion of cultural heritage and development or upgrading of related infrastructure;

- Development and upgrading of tourism infrastructure in order to capitalize on natural resources and to improve the quality of travel services by opening access to natural sites that have a tourism potential (canyons, gorges, caves, glacial lakes, the Danube Delta and other wetlands, etc.), while constantly monitoring the pressures on the environment in compliance with the management plans for natural protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites; enhancing the commercial value of mountain tourism by improving access ways, camping sites and alpine shelters, signposting hiking paths, setting up mountain rescue posts (Salvamont); development of spa tourism; establishment, upgrading and expansion of accommodation and leisure facilities, as well as of the related utilities;

- Promotion of tourist potential and development of the necessary infrastructure in order to increase Romania's attractiveness as a travel destination by projecting a positive image of Romania, shaping and promoting the national tourism brand, developing domestic tourism through a more diversified offer of services and specific marketing activities, including the establishment of an integrated national tourist information service and statistics system online.

In addition to the specific provisions of the Programme for spa tourism, it was suggested to expand and diversify the offer of natural therapy procedures in spas, to develop a network of spa centers offering complex wellness services, to promote the original Romanian medication and treatment procedures for senior citizens.

In order to accomplish the objectives of the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013, the eligible expenditures may be financed up to 85% (about Euro 3.7 billion) from the European Regional Development Fund, with national public co-financing of Euro 657.56 million and an estimated financial contribution from private funds of Euro 184.76 million.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

2.1. Study Area Profile Analysis: Study Area – Southeastern Region of Romania

2.1.1 Location-Administrative Profile of the Region

The Southeastern Region of Romania is a magical corner because of the people who receive and give so many things, due to their warmth and hospitality, but especially to the unique character offered by the relief forms. It is the only region of Romania where all forms of relief merge into divine perfection. From the Black Sea shore, in Constanța and Tulcea counties, we pass through the Dobrogea plateau, bordered to the north by the Măcin Mountains, so that we then cross the Danube meadow in Brăila and Galați counties, and reach the Subcarpathians, in Vrancea and Buzău counties. The eastern part of the region is guarded by the Danube Delta, the only one in Europe, which attracts tourists from all over the world through its charm. And as if that were not enough, nature offered us the privilege of the old Danube river crossing the region through Constanța, Brăila and Galați counties, so that later, in Tulcea county, it would be poured through the Delta directly into the Black Sea. Whether you are a focused tourist or a lover of nature and its beauty, or if you are a fan of the two, here you have found the place you are looking for. The place where you will receive the blessing of nature, but also the aroma of wines, especially of the red ones, such as Fetească Neagră, rightly considered to be the blood of the Lord, both because of their divine taste and their healing qualities. The Vrancea, Buzău or Dobrogea wines have made the Southeastern Region as well as Romania famous, delighting and cheering through their taste and perfume, since ancient times, the senses of the courtiers of the big European royal houses. All these are crowned by the rich fruit of the lands in the plains, the Danube meadow, or the hills and plateaus in the region. It is also worth mentioning that the Southeastern Region is the second largest in Romania and, in the context of integration into the European Union, will represent an important border with Moldova and Ukraine, thus constituting the eastern extremity of continental Europe. The border with these states, but also with Bulgaria to the south, as well as the opening to the Black Sea, both through the Romanian coast and through the mouths of the Danube,



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gives the Southeastern Region a special geopolitical and geostrategic importance, both for the EU, as well as for NATO¹⁸³.



The Southeastern Region of Romania, Online source:

<http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Regiunea.aspx#>

The Southeastern Region of Romania has the following administrative profile: Brăila County, Buzău County, Constanța County, Galați County, Tulcea County, and Vrancea County.

The Brăila County has 1 municipality, 3 towns and 40 communes.

Municipality:

1. Brăila

Buzău County has 2 municipalities, 3 towns and 82 communes.

Municipalities:

1. Buzău

¹⁸³ (in Romanian) <http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Regiunea.aspx>

2. Râmnicu Sărat

Constanța County has 3 municipalities, 8 towns and 58 communes:

Municipalities

1. Constanța
2. Mangalia
3. Medgidia

Galați County has 2 municipalities, 2 towns and 61 communes

Municipalities:

1. Galați
2. Tecuci

Tulcea County has 1 municipality, 4 towns and 46 communes.

Municipality:

1. Tulcea

Vrancea County has 2 municipalities, 3 towns and 68 communes

Municipalities:

1. Adjud
2. Focșani

2.1.2 Geographical and geophysical characteristics

Geographically and historically, the Southeastern Region is the mix of several cultures, located to the confluence of history and national culture¹⁸⁴.

The Southeastern Region is located in the south-east area of Romania and is bordered to the north by the North-East Region, to the west by the Center Region, to the southwest by the South-Muntenia Region and Bucharest-Ilfov Region, to the south by Bulgaria, to the east with the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Black Sea. Covering 35,762 km² or 15% of the total area of the country, the region is the second

¹⁸⁴ <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/6372446.pdf>



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largest in the 8 regions of Romania. A key aspect of the geographical location of the Southeastern Region is the fact that it is constituted on the eastern border of the European Union, with major implications regarding the security of the border crossing points, but also the involvement in cross-border regional cooperation actions¹⁸⁵.

Brăila county has a total area of 4,766 km².



Neighbours of Brăila County: Tulcea County in the east, Buzău County in the west, Galați County and Vrancea County in the north, Ialomița County and Constanța County in the south.

Buzău county has a total area of 6,103 km².



Neighbours of Buzău County are: Brăila County to the east, Prahova County and Brașov County to the west, Covasna County and Vrancea County to the north, Ialomița County to the south.

Constanța county has a total area of 7071,3 km². The county is located in the extreme south of Romania.

¹⁸⁵ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx



To the North, it is separated from Tulcea County by a conventional line, which runs between the Danube and the Black Sea, crossing the Casimcea Plateau and the Razim-Sinoe lagoon, Zmeica and Sinoe liman complex.

The Danube is an important water route for domestic shipping, as well as international trade and tourist cruises. The main port, both for trade and tourism, is Constanța, linked to the Danube by a canal build in 1984.

The Razim-Sinoe lagoon is the largest marine lagoon in Romania (700km²). Marine lagoons are former gulfs of the Black Sea that have been blocked by sediments brought by sea currents. It is the largest lagoon in Romania, with an area of 71,500 hectares. The name of the lake Razim comes from the Turkish-Tatar razi iim that means: I am happy, satisfied – regarding the lake’s good production of fish, while Sinoe – from the Slavic sin –sinii (blue)-the color of the water. Its hydrographic characteristics allow the navigation with any type of boat, from kayaks to sailing ships. But the most important fact is that the lagoon’s waters confer easy access to the Black Sea and to the Delta’s channels. It is the geographical, biological, historical and ethnographical complexity that makes this area unique. The diversity of birds (312 important bird species) and fish species (about 90 fish species, including populations of sturgeon), the archeological traces and the ethno-cultural multitude make the lagoon and its surroundings perhaps the most spectacular touristic location over the Romanian’s seacoast¹⁸⁶.

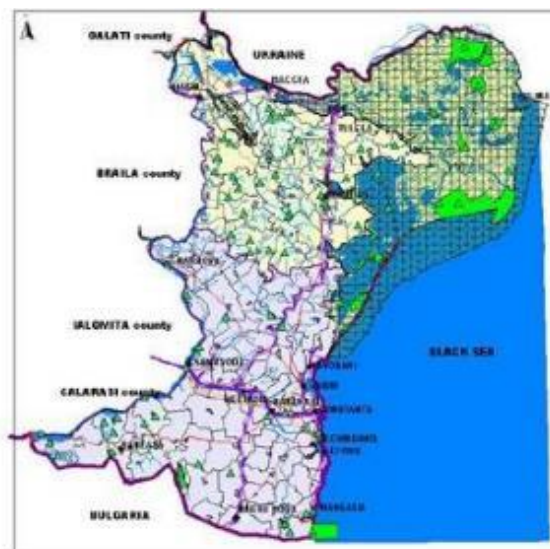
To the South, Constanța County it is bordered by the Romanian-Bulgarian state border that crosses the South Dobrogea Plateau between Ostrov (to the west) and Vama Veche (to the east).

¹⁸⁶ <https://www.romaniajournal.ro/travel/razim-sinoe-the-largest-lagoon-in-romania/>

To the West - the Danube river separates Constanța county from Calarasi, Ialomița and Brăila counties, running along the high bank of Dobrogea.

To the East - between Gura Portița and the town of Vama Veche, the area is bathed by the waters of the Black Sea. From the shore line, 12 nautical miles (equivalent to 22 km), the area of Romanian territorial waters established according to international conventions is extended. Constanța lies on the western coast of the Black Sea, 185 miles north of Istanbul and Bosphorus Strait (Turkey) and 99 miles north of Varna (Bulgaria).

The seaside is 245km long, divided between a low sector with wide beaches and lagoons (Chilia to Midia) and a high sector with narrow beaches (Midia to Vama Veche). The coastal area has a low shoreline in the northern part, where lagoons and maritime limanines appear, and a high shoreline, with a cliff, in the southern part¹⁸⁷.



Romanian coast GIS Database, Source: <http://www.plancoast.eu/php/ppp-romanian-coast-cis-database.php>

Neighbours of Constanța County: Călărași County and Ialomița County are to the west, Tulcea County and Brăila County are to the north, Bulgaria (Dobrich Province and Silistra Province) are to the south.

Galați county has a total area of 4,466 km².

¹⁸⁷ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx



Neighbours of Galați County: Republic of Moldova in the East – Cahul raion, Vrancea County in the West, Vaslui County in the North, Brăila County and Tulcea County in the South.

Tulcea county has a total area of 8,499 km².



MAP OF THE FLUVIAL AND MARINE AREA OF TULCEA COUNTY, online source:
Territorial analysis and identification of Tulcea County Council, p. 3,
[https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/tx_tevprojects/library/Territorial%20analysis%20and%20%20identification%20Tulcea%20County%20\(RO\).pdf](https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/tx_tevprojects/library/Territorial%20analysis%20and%20%20identification%20Tulcea%20County%20(RO).pdf)

The most significant feature of Tulcea County is the **Danube Delta**, which occupies about 1/3 of the entire surface and is located in the North-East side of the county. The Delta has three main branches: the Sulina branch (the only one navigable by large ships) in the middle, the Chilia branch in the North (the border with Ukraine) and the Sfântu Gheorghe branch (Saint George) in the South.

In the South-East of the county there are two lagoons: Razim Lake and Sinoe Lake. In the Danube Delta and in the South—in the area between the Sfântu Gheorghe Channel and Razelm Lake—there are countless channels and small lakes. The entire area is included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites and Biosphere reserves.

The Danube River flows around the county in the West and North side. In the West there is the Măcin Branch which flows on the East side of the Great Brăila Island. From Smârdan (on the opposite side from Brăila) to Pătlăgeanca (close to Tulcea), the Danube has only one big flow of water, around which there are an immense number of lakes and small channels.

The Danube Delta, situated in Southeastern Romania, begins at Tulcea, where the Danube splits into three main distributaries: Chilia, Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe (St. George). Chilia – is the longest and has the greatest water flow of all three; Sulina – is the shortest one but the only navigable waterway for maritime vessels; Sf. Gheorghe – the second one in length and flow, connected to the Razim-Sinoe lake through canals and distributaries.

Neighbours of Tulcea County: Black Sea in the East, Brăila County in the West, Galați County in the North-West, Ukraine in the North - the Odessa Oblast, Constanța County in the South.

Vrancea County's area is of 4,857 km².



The area is a seismically active one, with yearly earthquakes whose focal depths are between 80 and 160 km and therefore affect wide regions.

Neighbours of Vrancea County: Vaslui County and Galați County to the East, Covasna County to the West, Bacău County to the North, Buzău County to the South and Brăila County to the South-East.

Danube Delta and Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

The Danube is the second longest river in Europe, after the Volga. It originates in the Black Forest Mts. in Germany and passes through ten countries and four European capitals before emptying into the Black Sea via the Danube Delta in Romania. The Danube is 2,872 km long, 29% of which represents its length through Romania¹⁸⁸.

The River crosses:

- 10 countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine
- 4 capital cities: Viena, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrad.

The Danube enters Romania at The Iron Gates (in Romanian: Porțile de Fier) and forms the Danube Meadows until reaching Călărași. From Călărași to Isaccea the Danube successively splits into several distributaries, creating marshy lands (Ialomița Marsh, Brăila Marsh, Isaccea Marsh) that are 20-25km wide.

The Danube Delta, situated in Southeastern Region of Romania, begins at Tulcea, where the Danube splits into three main distributaries: Chilia, Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe (St. George). The Danube Delta is triangle shaped and has an average altitude of 0.5m. Most of it (82%) is situated in Romania and the rest in Ukraine. Most of its territory is floodable during rainy seasons. Its maximum altitude is 12m on the Letea Levee where the Letea forest is also situated. The minimum altitude is -39m below sea level on the Chilia branch. The landforms found in the Danube Delta belong to the deltaic system, which includes distributaries, levees, plains, marshy lowlands, brooks, backwaters, canals, secondary deltas, sand bars and islands that are parallel to the shore. Due to its rich but frail ecosystem, the Danube Delta is a natural reserve. It is a paradise for migratory birds from all continents and it is also famous for its fish species

¹⁸⁸ Costel Coroban, *The Geography of Romania*, Cambridge School of Constanța, Constanța, 2013, p. 41.

(especially sturgeon and mackerels). Its marshy nature encourages rich vegetation such as water lilies and reeds. The continental shelf represents the extension of the land of Dobrogea beneath the Black Sea, until approximately a depth of -130m, where the continental slope begins. The continental shelf is 170-130km wide, becoming narrower from North to South.



The Danube Delta, Source: Costel Coroban, The Geography of Romania, Cambridge School of Constanța, Constanța, 2013, p. 43. Thus, at the end of a course of over 2,860 km, collecting the water from a vast hydrological basin that exceeds 8% of the area of Europe, the Danube (the second largest river of the Continent) has during the last 16,000 years built at its mouth with the Black Sea one of the most beautiful deltas in Europe, perhaps in the whole world¹⁸⁹.

The Danube Delta is famous as one of the greatest wetlands of the earth. The wonderful natural habitats formed here offer good living conditions for an impressive number of plants and animals. Among these, reeds form one of the largest single expanses in the world, amid Letea and Caraorman forests represent the northern limit for two rare species of oak that are more frequently met in the south of the Italian and Balkan peninsulas. Together with the great number of aquatic and terrestrial plants, there are also many important colonies of pelicans and cormorans, which are characteristic of the Danube Delta, as well as a variety of other waterbirds which reside in or visit the delta for breeding or wintering. The large number of fish is also notable, with species of both high economic and ecological value.

Without doubt, the impressive range of habitats and species which occupy a relatively small area makes the Danube Delta a vital center for biodiversity in Europe, and a natural genetic bank with incalculable value for global natural heritage.

Many of the plant and animal species found in the delta are also important natural resources for economic use as food, building materials and medicines, they have

¹⁸⁹ <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta>

attracted people to the area since ancient times. The human dwellings were chiefly based on the use of these natural resources, so developing traditional economic activities and characteristic cultural and social habits. Later, there was a tendency to overexploit some of these natural resources.

This tendency, which is still seen at the present, time, put increasing pressure on the resources, especially fish and grasslands, and was compounded by the development of economic activities which were not in harmony with the environment; for example, sand mining at Caraorman upset the ecological balance, causing the loss of some areas of natural fish spawning grounds through the sedimentation and eutrophication (or nutrient enrichment) of water channels and lakes. Because of the cumulative negative effects of human activity in the delta, together with those occurring around the delta itself, there was an increasing danger that the natural ecological balance would become irreparably harmed if appropriate measures were not taken to reduce these impacts, to restore already damaged areas, to protect the existing unaffected areas, and to harness local and regional support for these measures.

The factory briefly described above provided arguments for the designation of the **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR)** by the Romanian Government in 1990, a decision then confirmed by the Romanian Parliament through law 82 of 1993. The universal value of the reserve was recognized by the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO in 1990 through its inclusion in the international network of biosphere reserves.

The geographical position has the following coordinates¹⁹⁰: 28° 10' 50'' longitude East (Cotul Pisicii), 29° 42' 45'' longitude East (Sulina), 45° 27' latitude North (Chilia Branch, km 43), and 44° 20' 40'' latitude North (Midia Cape). The 45° Parallel is marking the half-distance between Equator and the North Pole.

¹⁹⁰ <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta/location>



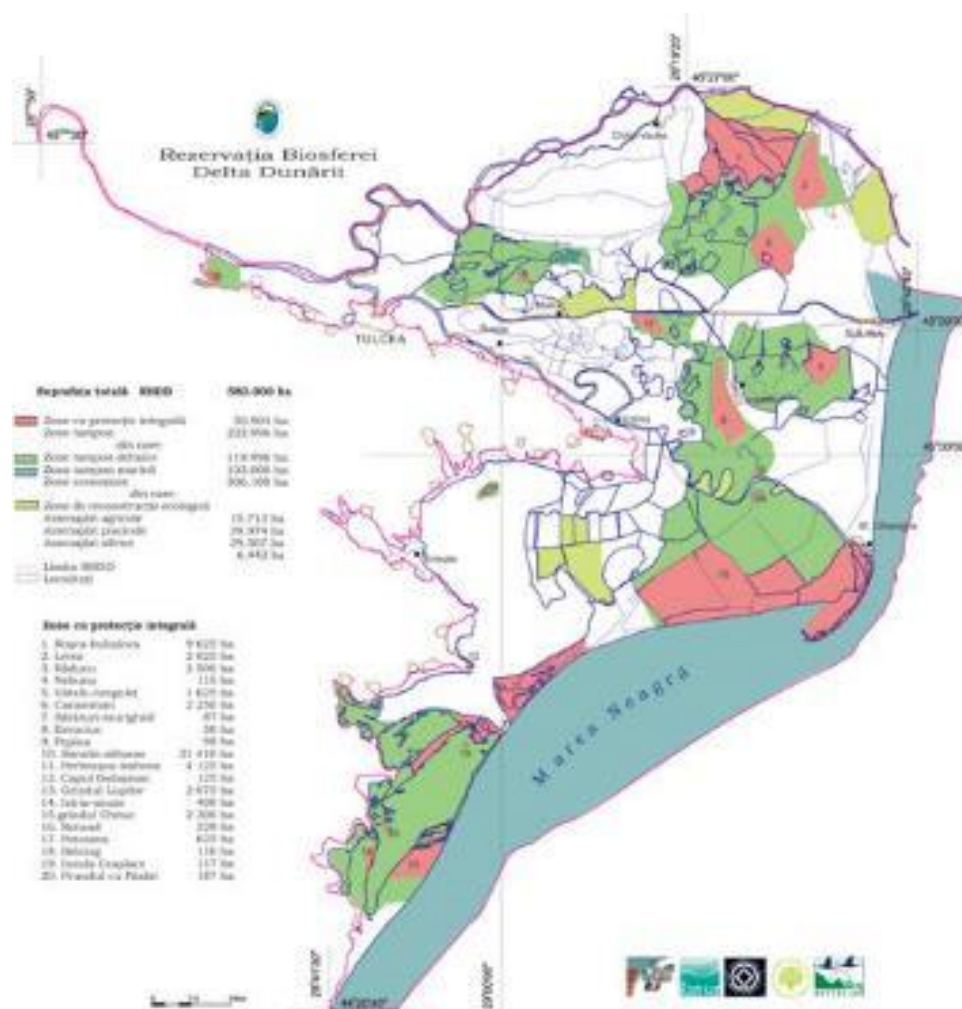
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Map DDBR position in Europe



Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

The main geographic divisions of the DDBR are as follows¹⁹¹:

- Danube Delta
- Maritime Danube to Cotul Pisicii
- Isaccea- Tulcea sector of the Danube flood plain
- Sărăturile Murighiol - Plopu brackish lake
- Razim- Sinoie lagoon complex
- The coastal Black Sea from Chilia Branch to Midia Cape
- The coastal marine waters up to 20 m depth

Danube Delta is the largest component of the reserve, with a total area of about 4,178 km², of which 3,510 km² (about 82%) lies in Romania, and the remainder in Ukraine, mostly comprising a secondary delta at the mouth of Chilia branch. On the basis of landforms, morphometric and hydrographical characteristics, the Danube Delta is divided in two main subunits: the fluvial (riverine) delta and the fluvial-marine (or marine) delta. The fluvial (riverine) delta represents the oldest part which was developed within the former gulf of the Danube river. Its main characteristic is the relatively large extension of riverine levees, while the depressionary lacustrine areas are generally smaller, dispersed and partly subjected to an intensive silting process. The fluvio-marine (or marine) delta includes the marine levees Letea, Caraorman and Sărăturile and one of most important lacustrine complexes (Rosu-Puiu-Lumina). It is affected by major morphohydrographic changes in the contact zone with the Black Sea¹⁹².

The Black Sea

Romania is situated at the intersection of the 46° N parallel and the 25° E meridian. This explains the temperate climate of the country, positioned halfway between the Equator and the North Pole. Another major land form that defines Romania, besides Danube Delta, is the Black Sea¹⁹³. Because of its position near the Black Sea basin the country is an important element in the political and economic relations between Europe and Asia¹⁹⁴. The Black Sea is an inter-continental sea, situated at the South-

¹⁹¹ <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta/general-presentation/main-geographic-units-a552>

¹⁹² (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx

¹⁹³ Costel Coroban, *The Geography of Romania*, Cambridge School of Constanța, Constanța, 2013, p. 7.

¹⁹⁴ Ibidem, p. 8.



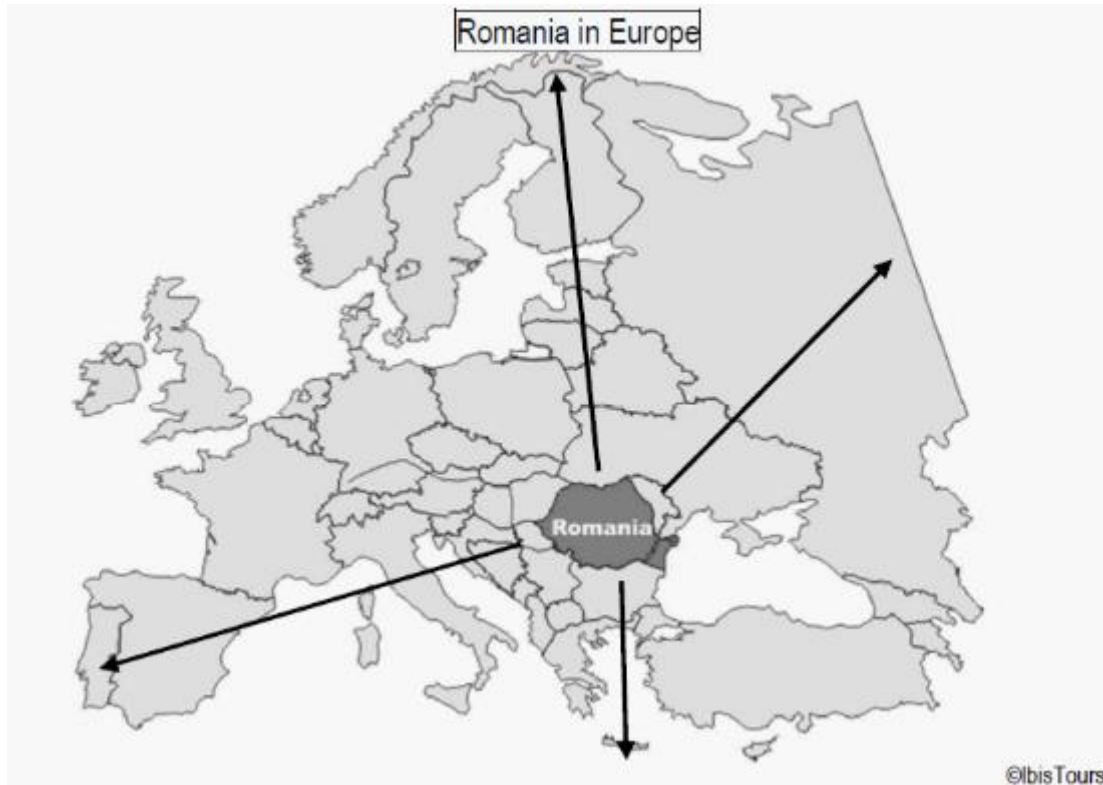
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East limit of Europe, connected to the Planetary Ocean through the Mediterranean Sea (via the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits). Its shores are easily jagged (by the Crimean Peninsula and the Gulf of Odessa).



The landforms of the Black Sea include the continental platform (lasting up to depth of 200m and broader in the NW part of the Black Sea), the continental slope (200-2000m) and the Black Sea basin. The Black Sea was originally a lake that was not connected to the Mediterranean Sea. When the Bosphorus ridge broke away, the waters of the Mediterranean Sea flooded the Black Sea. Because Mediterranean waters are saltier, they did not mix with the Black Sea waters, which are sweeter due to the Danube, Dnieper and other tributaries. Thus, even today, the Black Sea has two layers of water. The deeper layer lacks oxygen, is saltier and richer in hydrogen sulphide (H_2S , due to the living organisms that decompose here); the surface layer is rich in living beings and its waters are less salty (it has a salinity of 17g per thousand milliliters). There are no vertical currents of water in the Black Sea, so there is little exchange between its two layers of water.

The Black Sea has surface circular currents which are created by winds. At the surface there is a current oriented towards the Mediterranean Sea (an “unloading” current),



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while in the deep there is the opposite compensating current. The sea only has insignificant tides (less than 12cm), because it is an almost isolated sea.

The Black Sea contains phytoplankton (algae), zooplankton (protozoa and inferior shellfish), and larger animals as well: mammals (dolphins) and fish (sharks, thistles, and mackerel). A special feature of the Black Sea is the presence of sturgeon species.



Romanian Black Sea coastline stretches over a length of about 240 km, between Ukraine and Bulgaria, from the Danube Delta in north to Vama Veche coastal town, situated on the border with Bulgaria. The coastline is arranged and exploited for tourist purposes only for a distance of about 82 km, from Cape Midia (the North) and to the Bulgarian border (the South) where there are 18 coastal localities of which 13 are tourist resorts of national interest¹⁹⁵. Most coastal tourist resorts in Romania were developed 4-5 decades ago to meet two important segments of the tourist market: the passive segment (type "sunlust"), consisting in demand for sun and beach and spa tourism segment (of balneotherapy). The attractiveness of the Romanian seaside is given by the orientation of the beaches towards the east and the south-east, with almost 10 hours of sunlight per day, the light slopes of the beaches, the shallow waters around the shore, sand with fine granulation, the reduced salinity of the water, very small tides, the lack of strong currents, the constant presence of the marine aerosols.

¹⁹⁵ Ionescu Silvia, Iorga Florentina (2001), The Black Sea seaside and the Danube Delta Guide, Sc.Publirom SRL, pg. 8-9, Bucharest.

The seaside is identified by the two distinct sectors: the north sector, between Sulina - Cape Midia, and the south sector, between Cape Midia and Vama Veche¹⁹⁶. In Mangalia there are mineral water springs, predominantly sulphurous, or organic mud in the seaside lakes. On the coastal space there are a series of natural reservations - Hagieni Forest with 392.90 ha, Limanu Cave, Movile Cave, the Marine Aquarium from Vama Veche - 2 Mai with 5000 ha and 7 km long. An interesting aspect of the coastal area is the presence of more maritime and river lakes and lagoons, with fresh water, scattered along the seaside, separated by narrow stripes of land, some having mud with therapeutic value - Siutghiol, Tatlageac, Techirghiol. The aquatic surfaces of these lakes constitute ways of diversifying the nautical leisure activities¹⁹⁷.

2.1.3 History of the Region

Early Human Settlement¹⁹⁸

Human settlement first occurred in the lands that now constitute Romania during the Pleistocene Epoch, which began about 600,000 years ago. About 5500 B.C. the region was inhabited by Indo-European people, who in turn gave way to Thracian tribes. Today's Romanians are in part descended from the Getae, a Thracian tribe that lived north of the Danube River. During the Bronze Age (about 2200 to 1200 B.C.), these Thraco-Getian tribes engaged in agriculture, stock raising, and trade with inhabitants of the Aegean Sea coast. As trading relations grew with Greek colonies on the western shore of the Black Sea, Greek culture made inroads in the Thraco-Getian settlements. After withstanding invasions by the Scythians, the Persians, and the Macedonians under Alexander the Great, by about 300 B.C. the Getae had forged a state along the lower Danube. From 112 to 109 B.C., the Getae joined Celts who had settled in their state in invading Roman territory in the western Balkans. In the ensuing decades,

¹⁹⁶ Rădulescu A. Scorpan C. & colab. (1980), The tourist guide of Constanța County, "Sport-Turism" Publishing House, pg. 11-15, Bucharest.

¹⁹⁷ Tamara Simon, Mirela-Elena Mazilu, Madalina-Teodora Andrei, Roxana-Cristina Severineanu, Costin Dumitrascu, Aspects of the Tourist Development on the Romanian Black Sea Coastline, Recent Researches in Geography, Geology, Energy, Environment and Biomedicine, 2011, p. 65, online source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262270112_Aspects_of_the_tourist_development_on_the_Romanian_black_sea_coastline/link/004635384b2755888a000000/download

¹⁹⁸ Library of Congress – Federal Research Division, Country profile: Romania, December 2006, p. 1, online source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/cs/profiles/Romania.pdf>

Roman influence in the region grew as punitive Roman campaigns sought to limit Getian interference in Roman affairs.

After Trajan became Roman emperor in A.D. 98, he launched campaigns to seize control of Getian territory¹⁹⁹. In A.D. 105 Roman legions captured the Getian capital, Sarmizegetusa (present-day Grădiștea Muncelului). Trajan organized the newly conquered land as the province of Dacia. During the next 200 years, a Dacian ethnic group arose as Roman colonists commingled with the Getae and the coastal Greeks. In A.D. 271 the Emperor Aurelian concluded that Dacia could not be defended from an invasion and ordered his army and colonists to withdraw across the Danube. Without Rome's protection, Dacian settlements were exposed to plunder by invading tribes. The Visigoths, Huns, Ostrogoths, Gepids, and Lombards swept through the land from the third to the fifth centuries. The Avars arrived in the sixth century, along with a steady influx of Slavic peasants. Unlike other tribes, the Slavs settled the land and intermarried with the Dacians. In 676 the first Bulgarian Empire, a unified state to the south, absorbed a large portion of ancient Dacia.

Before 14th century, a small village existed in the place of today's Brăila, probably inhabited by fishermen and small merchants²⁰⁰. The village fell to the Mongols during the 1241 Mongol invasion of Europe and it was under direct control of the rulers of Argeș in mid-14th century²⁰¹.

A settlement called Drinago was found in several 14th century Catalan and Spanish portolan charts (Angelino de Dalorto, 1325/1330 and Angelino Dulcert, 1339), as well as in the *Book of Knowledge of All Kingdoms*. This may have been an erroneous transcription of Brillago, a name which was later used in 15th century traveller's journals²⁰².

In Greek documents of roughly that time, the city is referred to as *Proilabum* or *Proilava*, a Greek language adaptation of its Slavic name, *Brailov*. In German language sources, it is mentioned as *Uebereyl*. The origin and meaning of the name is unknown, but it is thought to be an anthroponym.

¹⁹⁹ Ibidem, p. 2.

²⁰⁰ Laurențiu Rădvan, *At Europe's Borders: Medieval Towns in the Romanian Principalities*, Brill, 2010, p.248.

²⁰¹ Id.

²⁰² Ibidem, p. 249.

The first certain document mentioning Brăila is a privilege act, given by Vladislav I of Wallachia to German merchants of Braşov, who were exempt of customs duties when they followed the road from Braşov to the Danube via Braylan²⁰³.

Following the fall of Vicina, Brăila developed as the main harbor of Walachia²⁰⁴, gaining the town status around 1400.

In 1396, Johann Schiltberger writes that Brăila was the place where ships docked, bringing "goods from heathen lands"²⁰⁵. Foreign merchants bringing goods were forced to unload their merchandise in Brăila, as it can be understood from a 1445 account of Walerand de Wavrin. A 1520 Ottoman account tells about the arrival of 70-80 ships in Brăila, bringing goods from Asia Minor and Crimea. The town was also an important center of the fish trade: Polish merchants came to purchase it (1408) and this lucrative trade was taxed by the rulers following Vladislav I²⁰⁶.

In 1462, Mehmed the Conqueror's fleet of 25 triremes and 150 other ships burnt the city to the ground²⁰⁷. The city was also caught in the conflict between Wallachia and the Moldavian prince Stephen the Great, as the Moldavians destroyed the city during the retaliation campaign against Wallachian prince Radu the Fair. An account of the Moldavian attack is found in *Cronica breviter scripta*:

"much blood was shed, and the town burned to the ground, not leaving even the children of mothers to live, and sliced open the breasts of mothers and ripped the children from them".

The conflict was not just political, as the town of Brăila competed against Moldavian town of Chilia²⁰⁸. Nevertheless, Brăila recovered, soon becoming the gateway for Levantine goods into Wallachia. The town was burnt again by Bogdan III of Moldavia in 1512.

Around 1538-1540 (perhaps during the Suleiman the Magnificent's military expedition against Petru Rareş), the city became a part of the Ottoman Empire, being organized

²⁰³ Ibidem, p. 250.

²⁰⁴ Id.

²⁰⁵ Ibidem, p. 252.

²⁰⁶ Id.

²⁰⁷ Ibidem, p. 253.

²⁰⁸ Ibidem, p. 254.

as a kaza. The town was part of the Empire's northern defensive network and the Ottomans built a stone stronghold in the town²⁰⁹.

The Ottoman Empire ruled it from 1538–1540 until 1829; the Ottomans called it *Ibrail* or *IBrăila*. It was briefly ruled by Michael the Brave, prince of Walachia (1595–1596).

In 1711, the city was besieged and conquered by a Wallachian-Russian army during the Pruth River Campaign.

The city was occupied by the Turks from 1554 until the end of the Russo-Turkish War of 1828–1829, when it was returned to Walachia²¹⁰. In 1829, it was granted to Wallachia by the Akkerman Convention.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Transylvanian émigrés founded two principalities, Walachia to the south of Transylvania along the Danube and Moldavia to the northeast. These regions steadily gained strength in the fourteenth century, a peaceful and prosperous time throughout southeastern Europe, and Walachia freed itself from Hungarian sovereignty in 1380. In 1417 Walachia became a principality of the Ottoman Empire, which was in the process of enveloping southeastern Europe. Although Transylvania eventually became an autonomous principality of the empire in 1541, in the fifteenth century Moldavia and Walachia slid into severe decline, and under Ottoman rule all the regions of modern Romania became isolated from the outside world. A notable rebel against the Ottomans in the fifteenth century was Vlad Țepeș, who as the ruler of Walachia (1456–1462) gained a reputation for cruelty on which the Dracula legend was built. The Moldavian prince Stephen (1457–1504) led campaigns to keep his territory free of Hungarian and Ottoman control. He succeeded against the Hungarians but failed against the Ottomans²¹¹. Throughout the 1700s and early 1800s, Ottoman rule over Walachia and Moldavia had been interrupted by periods of Russian occupation. Although the Peace of Bucharest nominally returned the principalities to the Ottomans in 1812, complete Russian withdrawal occurred only in 1834. The scene of much fighting during the war, Brăila was heavily damaged by 1829, and a new street plan was initiated in 1835. Streets radiating from near the port

²⁰⁹ Ibidem, p. 255.

²¹⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brăila-Romania>

²¹¹ Library of Congress – Federal Research Division, Country profile: Romania, December 2006, online source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/cs/profiles/Romania.pdf>



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at Brăila's center are crossed at symmetrical intervals by concentric streets following the geometric design of the old Turkish fortifications.

During the 19th century, the port became one of the three most important ports on the Danube in Wallachia, the other two being Turnu and Giurgiu. The city's greatest period of prosperity was at the end of the 19th century and in the early 20th century, when it was an important port for most of the merchandise coming in and going out of Romania.



Brăila in an early 1900s postcard showing the St. Archangels Square.

During World War II, Brăila was captured on 28 August 1944 by Soviet troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Front in the course of the Jassy–Kishinev Offensive. After the 1989 Revolution, Brăila entered a period of economic decline.



An overview of Brăila in late 19th century or early 20th century.

The city Buzău is named after the nearby river. In turn, the river is mentioned under the name Μουσεος (Mouseos) in a document written in Greek and dated 376 AD, recounting the martyrdom of Sabbas the Goth. Historian Vasile Pârvan thought that this name is a Greek misspelling of the Thracian word Bouzeos (by losing a π from the Μπ group, which is pronounced like a Latin B). He suggested that the name comes from the Thracian root Buzes, with the addition of the -eu suffix, a form of the Greek-Latin suffix -aios²¹².

The written history of the city begins with that of Wallachia. It was certified as a market town and customs point during the reign of Dan II²¹³. Archeological sites belonging to Gumelnița and Monteoru cultures prove the presence of human inhabitants before the Christian era²¹⁴. During the Middle Ages, there was also a fortress of Buzău, but only a few passing mentions in foreign documents are kept. The market that was already flourishing in 1431, has also become an Orthodox episcopal see in the early 16th century²¹⁵.

In the 17th century, an era of war and foreign invasions began, that affected the town and its surroundings. They began with Michael the Brave's participation in the Long Turkish War²¹⁶ and ended with the Wallachian uprising of 1821²¹⁷. Natural disasters (epidemics, earthquakes) also took their toll, leading to destruction and depopulation of Buzău. However, the inhabitants always returned and rebuilt the city, which led early 18th century local authorities to use the Phoenix bird on the city seal, as a symbol of rebirth²¹⁸.

The 19th century brought a time of cultural and economic development²¹⁹. The Communal Palace, the city's main landmark, was built at the time²²⁰, after the city developed its industry and became a railway hub in the 1870s. Schools were open, such as the Theological Seminary în 1836, and the B. P. Hasdeu high school in 1867,

²¹² Petcu, Gheorghe; Constantin Stan; Doina Ciobanu; Constanța Tănase; Doina Filoti (2002). *Municipiul Buzău. Monografie (in Romanian)*. Buzău: Editura Alpha., p. 19.

²¹³ Ibidem, p. 20.

²¹⁴ Editor Eugen-Marius Constantinescu, *Buzău, mică enciclopedie istorică*, Volume 2 of Biblioteca Mousaios, Alpha MDN, 2000, pp. 23–24.

²¹⁵ Petcu, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

²¹⁶ Ibidem, p. 120.

²¹⁷ Ibidem, p. 35

²¹⁸ Ibidem, pp. 30–34.

²¹⁹ Ibidem, pp. 123–124.

²²⁰ Ibidem, p. 53.

and theatre plays were produced (starting 1852)²²¹: the "Moldavia" theatre house was built in 1898 and used throughout the first half of the 20th century as the main concert and theatre hall, where artists such as George Enescu, C. I. Nottara and Nae Leonard performed²²². For short periods of time, Ion Luca Caragiale and Constantin Brâncuși have lived and worked here²²³.

During World War I, Buzău came under German occupation after mid-December 1916²²⁴, and many inhabitants took refuge in the nearby villages or in Western Moldavia.



German occupation troops, 1916

Source: Albert Reich - Extract from the book: Albert Reich, *Durch Siebenbürgen und Rumänien: ein Gedenkwerk für "Gruppe Krafft" und rumänische Kriegsteilnehmer* ; mit 130 Bildern, Karten und Begleitwort

The city resumed its development after the war. The interbellum brought about the first sport matches (association football and boxing)²²⁵ and the "Metalurgica" factory²²⁶, a

²²¹ Ibidem, pp. 43–44.

²²² Ibidem, p. 58.

²²³ Ștefan, Corneliu (1985). *La noapte, Cotidianul (in Romanian)*. Bucharest: Editura Eminescu, pp. 58–61.

²²⁴ The Mesopotamian Front Awakens – Joseph Joffre Gets Sacked I THE GREAT WAR Week 125 on YouTube, The Great War by Indy Neidell. Time index 7:44, source:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GY8cNXQbFg>.

²²⁵ Petcu, *op. cit.*, pp. 69, 74.

²²⁶ Editor Eugen-Marius Constantinescu, *Buzău, mică enciclopedie istorică*, Volume 2 of Biblioteca Mousaios, Alpha MDN, 2000, p. 255.

private business that was to be later confiscated by the communists, and continues to this day as part of a joined venture.

After World War II, the industrialization of Buzău was forcefully accelerated, and its population tripled in less than 50 years; new inhabitants were brought to work in newly-built factories mainly in the South of the city. Buzău has profoundly changed its appearance, working class quarters being built instead of the old commercial streets, some historical buildings, such as the Moldavia Theatre, were demolished. Their cultural role was taken over by the Labor Unions' Cultural Center and then by "Dacia" Cinema. The communist regime after World War II brought forced industrialization and the tripling of the city's population. Some of the factories open at the time are still functioning within the framework of market economy.



Buzău in early 20th century

Source: Alexandru Antoniu - General album of Romania: composed of 300 paintings representing historical and contemporary monuments, picturesque positions, Crown Domain and national costumes with historical and picturesque description, Dresden, C. G. Röder, 1901-1904

Constanța, historically known as Tomis (Ancient Greek: Τόμις)²²⁷, is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania. An ancient metropolis, Romania's oldest continuously inhabited and the country's largest sea port, Constanța traces its history some 2,500 years.²²⁸ The city is located in the Northern Dobruja region of Romania, on the Black Sea coast.

²²⁷ Strabo (1877). "Book 7, Chapter 6". In Meineke, A. (ed.). Geographica (in Greek). Leipzig: Teubner.

²²⁸ <http://romaniatourism.com/Constanta.htm>

According to Jordanes (after Cassiodorus), the foundation of the city was ascribed to Tomyris the queen of the Massagetae (The origin and deeds of the Goths)²²⁹:

"After achieving this victory (against Cyrus the Great) and winning so much booty from her enemies, Queen Tomyris crossed over into that part of Moesia which is now called Lesser Scythia - a name borrowed from Great Scythia -, and built on the Moesian shore of the Black Sea the city of Tomi, named after herself."

In 29 BC the Romans captured the region from the Odryses, and annexed it as far as the Danube, under the name of Limes Scythicus ("Scythian Frontier").

In AD 8, the Roman poet Ovid (43 BC-17) was banished here by Augustus and it was where he spent the remaining eight years of his life. He laments his exile in Tomis in his poems: *Tristia* and *Epistulae ex Ponto*. Tomis was "by his account a town located in a war-stricken cultural wasteland on the remotest margins of the empire"²³⁰.

A statue of Ovid stands in the Ovid Square (Piața Ovidiu) of Constanța, in front of the History Museum (the former City Hall).



Statue of Ovid in front of the Museum of National History

A number of inscriptions found in the city and its vicinity show that Constanța lies where Tomis once stood. Some of these are now preserved in the British Museum in London²³¹. The city was afterwards included in the Province of Moesia, and, from the

²²⁹ Jordanes. "The origin and the deeds of the Goths, Chapter X", online source:

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~vandersp/Courses/texts/jordgeti.html#X>

²³⁰ The Cambridge Companion to Ovid ed. Philip Hardie p.235.

²³¹ "Collection search: You searched for". British Museum, online source:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx?people=95085&peoA=95085-3-9

time of Diocletian, in Scythia Minor, of which it was the metropolis. After the 5th century, Tomis fell under the rule of the Eastern Roman Empire. During Maurice's Balkan campaigns, Tomis was besieged by the Avars in the winter of 597/598.

Founded by Greek colonists from Miletos in the 6th century BC, Tomis was conquered by the Romans in 71 BC and later renamed to Constantiana in honor of Constantia, the half-sister of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (274-337). The earliest known usage of this name was "Κωνσταντία" ("Constantia") in 950. The city lay at the seaward end of the Great Wall of Trajan, and has evidently been surrounded by fortifications of its own. The city successively became part of the Bulgarian Empire for over 500 years, and later of the independent principality of Dobrotitsa/Dobrotici and of Wallachia under Mircea I of Wallachia.



Ruins of Tomis

Constanța flourished during the 13th century, when Genoese merchants dominated the Black Sea but, the city began to decline two centuries later, when it fell under Turkish rule. During the Ottoman era its name was shortened to Constanța²³².

A railroad linking Constanța to Cernavodă was opened in 1860. In spite of damage done by railway contractors there are considerable remains of ancient masonry walls, pillars, etc. An impressive public building, thought to have originally been a port

²³² <http://romaniatourism.com/Constanta.html>



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building, has been excavated, and contains the substantial remains of one of the longest mosaic pavements in the world.

In 1878, after the Romanian War of Independence, Constanța and the rest of Northern Dobruja were ceded by the Ottoman Empire to Romania. The city became Romania's main seaport and transit point for much of Romania's exports.

The Constanța Casino, which is both a historic monument and a modern symbol of the city, was the first building constructed on the shore of the Black Sea after Dobruja came under Romanian administration, with the cornerstone being laid in 1880²³³.



Casino after the occupation of the port of Constanța by Soviet sailors in 1944.

²³³ "Cazino Constanța", Online source: <https://www.litoralulromanesc.ro/cazino.htm>



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Constanța panorama in 1910

On October 22, 1916 (during World War I), the Central Powers (German, Turkish and Bulgarian troops) occupied Constanța. According to the Treaty of Bucharest of May 1918, article X.b.²³⁴ (a treaty never ratified by Romania), Constanța remained under the joint control of the Central Powers. Allied troops liberated the city in 1918 after the successful offensive on the Macedonian front knocked Bulgaria out of the war.

In the interwar years, the city became Romania's main commercial hub, so that by the 1930s over half of the national exports were going through the port. During World War II, when Romania joined the Axis powers, Constanța was one of the country's main targets for the Allied bombers. While the town was left relatively unscathed, the port suffered extensive damage, recovering only in the early 1950s.

Fine mansions and hotels were built in the 19th century when King Carol I decided to revive Constanța as a port and seaside resort²³⁵. The third largest city in Romania, Constanța is now an important cultural and economic center, worth exploring for its archaeological treasures and the Old Town's architecture. Its historical monuments, ancient ruins, grand Casino, museums and shops, and proximity to beach resorts make it the focal point of Black Sea coast tourism. Open-air restaurants, nightclubs and cabarets offer a wide variety of entertainment. While in the area, one can relax on

²³⁴ "Article X of the Treaty", online source: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/routreat.html>

²³⁵ <http://romaniatourism.com/Constanta.html>

the sandy beaches of the Black Sea or visit old villages, wineries, ancient monuments and the Danube Delta, a bird-lover's paradise.

The name Galați is derived from the Cuman word *galat*. This word is ultimately borrowed from the Persian word کلات *kalat*, "fortress". Other etymologies have been suggested, such as the Serbian *galac*. However, the *galat* root appears in nearby toponyms, some of which show clearly a Cuman origin, for example Gălățui Lake, which has the typical Cuman -ui suffix for "water". Another toponym in the region is *Galicia*, with its town of Halych, locally associated with the jackdaw (Kawka, Halka). Before the Mongol invasion of Rus, Galați was known as Malyi Halych (Little Halych) as part of the Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia²³⁶. Other similar place names are Galich, Russia and Galația in Turkey. Galați has several exonyms: Greek: Γαλάτσι, romanized: Galátsi; German: Galatz; Hungarian: Galac; Polish: Gałacz; Turkish: Kalas; Bulgarian: Галац, romanized: Galac; Ukrainian: Галац, romanized: Halac; and Russian: Галац, romanized: Galac.

Archeological evidence points to occupation of the region in the neolithic period. For example, north west of the town of Galați, on the eastern shores of the Malina marshes, fragments of ceramic-type Stoicani Aldeni, stilex and tools made of bone have been found. A stone sceptre, from the late Bronze Age, belonging to the Coslogeni culture was found on the marshes' southern bank. Galați town itself developed from an ancient Dacian settlement of the sixth and fifth centuries BCE where there was a ford across the Danube river. In 101 to 102 and 105 to 106, the Dacians fought wars against the Romans and the area became part of the Roman empire. A strong Roman fortress was built at Barboși to defend the ford across Danube. From the 300s a Daco-Roman settlement developed at a ford south of the site of the Church of the Virgin.

There is evidence of continuous inhabitation of Galați since the 600s. A treasure hoard consisting of 12 silver coins issued between 613 and 685 was found in a Byzantine tomb near the Church of the Virgin. Western and Byzantine coins from the time of Emperor Michael IV (1034–1041) were also found. At one time, the city became part of the Republic of Genoa Territories and was called "Caladda"²³⁷.

²³⁶ Paliy, O. Halychyna from sea to sea or Where have 'vuiky' came from. Ukrayinska Pravda. 28 February 2013, online source: <http://www.istpravda.com.ua/columns/2013/02/28/114906/>

²³⁷ "Map of Repubblica di Genova", online source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/Repubblica_di_Genova.png

In 1445, a document signed by Stephen II of Moldavia mentions Galați. In 1484, Chilia was conquered by Ottomans. Galați township remained Moldova's only port, not only for domestic trade but also for trade with Turkey and Poland. In 1590, the Galați Jewish cemetery was opened.

In 1710, Tatars plundered Galați after the Battle of Stănilești. The main and decisive event of the conflict was the four-day Battle of Stănilești (beginning on 18 July 1711), an ill-prepared operation on the Prut floodplain during which the joint Moldavian and Russian troops, the former under the command of Cantemir and the latter under Peter the Great and Boris Sheremetev, were surrounded and forced to surrender (on 22 July) to the larger Ottoman army commanded by Grand Vizier Baltacı Mehmet Pasha²³⁸.

In 1775, Russia established a consulate in Galați. However, in 1789, during the Russo-Turkish war of 1787–1792, Galați was burned by the armies of the Russian general Mikhail Kamensky.

Due to unrest in this part of Europe, Galați port became a site for the construction of large warships. Abbot Boskov, a Romanian traveller, stated:

"I saw a large boat, the way those who say Turks caravels, which is on site, ready to be launched into the water. He was commissioned by Isaac-aga, big tax collector of Constantinople. The ship was huge, seventeen seventy steps, and loaded with eighty-four bronze cannons."

In the Greek–Turkish war of 1821, Ottoman subjects were killed in Galați (and in other towns). This was the result of a series of rebellions by members of the port workers' association and city clerks.

Despite the wars and unrest, Galați developed based on trade (especially grain exports). In 1805, France and England established vice-consulates. In 1832, the School of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel is founded. Two years later, in 1834, Austrian ships were having scheduled arrivals and in 1837, Galați was declared a free port (this was revoked in 1882). In 1850, James Buchanan, the U.S. president, sent a vice-consul to Galați and the U.S. opened a consulate in 1858. Galați was also a trading port for German lands. When the Crimean War (1854–1856) finished, Galați became a seat of the Danube European Commission. In 1869, the Mihai Eminescu municipal park opened and by 1870, factories were opening. By 1908 they numbered

²³⁸ Russo-Ottoman War of 1711 (The Pruth Campaign), Conflict and Conquest in the Islamic World: A Historical Encyclopedia, Vol.1, ed. Alexander Mikaberidze, (ABC-CLIO, 2011), p. 772.

41. On 13 September 1872, the King Charles I railway station and northern city rail tunnel opened. The River station opened shortly after on 24 September 1880. In 1889, the V. A. Urechia library opened.

After the union of the Romanian principalities in 1859, with Alexandru Ioan Cuza as leader, development in Galați increased. Zeletin wrote,

"The birth of the modern Romanian state must distinguish two main currents – one exuberant but superficial, based on liberal ideas which depart from Paris to Bucharest and Iași. The other is quieter but deep, leaving from London to Galați and Brăila: English is the current capitalist economy."²³⁹

Between 1900 and the beginning of World War I, Galați continued its trade in grain and timber with sixteen consulates. Galați was part of Covurlui County.

In 1907, social unrest among the peasant classes precipitated intervention by the Romanian army. In 1911, a statue of the poet Mihai Eminescu was erected.

Galați remained under Romanian control during World War I. Romanian soldiers fought alongside those of Russia against the army of the Central Powers. Galați was bombed by retreating Russian troops in January 1918²⁴⁰.

In 1919, a high school for Jewish students opened. A first air race between Galați and Bucharest was held in 1926. The 1930 Romanian census recorded 100,000 residents in Galați. After Bucharest, Chișinău, Iași and Cernăuți, Galați was Romania's fifth city. In 1938, the Ținutul Dunării de Jos (Lower Danube Land) was established.

During World War II, Galați was bombed by the Soviet Air Forces and Luftwaffe. The railway station, inaugurated on 13 September 1872, was destroyed as were many other historic buildings and most of the old town. On 27 August 1944, Galați was captured by Soviet troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Front in the course of the Jassy–Kishinev Offensive.

Before World War II Galați hosted 22 synagogues and in 1926, it was the base for the Zionist Revisionist Organization of Romania. Although Galați's Jewish community suffered persecution by the pro-Nazi authorities during World War II, the community was not destroyed in the Holocaust. Since the 1940s the community has gradually diminished through emigration.

²³⁹ Zeletin, Stephen, *The Romanian Bourgeoisie: Its Origin and Historical Role*, Bucharest, Cultura Națională, 1925.

²⁴⁰ Stoica, Vasile (1919). *The Roumanian Question: The Roumanians and their Lands*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Printing Company. p. 88.

After World War II, Galați was rebuilt along communist lines. The town's population was about 80,000. In 1956, a proposal to join Brăila and Galați was made and the building of a speed tram pier was proposed with a Swiss company. The plans never materialized. Construction of the Galați steel works began in 1960 and the plant opened in 1966. The population at this time was 151,000. In 1971, the Făurei – Galați railway capacity was increased, and, in 1982, it was electrified.

On September 11, 1989, a Bulgarian ship collided with a cruise ship near Galați. 151 passengers and crew died (only 18 passengers and the ship's 13 crew members had been rescued)²⁴¹.

In 2004, Romania's first information technology park opened in Galați.

On 14 July 2005, Galați was affected by widespread flooding. The Siret river reached record levels and across Romania, the death toll reached 21²⁴². In 2010, broken flood barriers caused flooding of the Valley City area of Galați.

The city of Tulcea, laid out on seven hills like Rome, has been an important harbor since ancient times. Tulcea was founded in the 7th century B.C. under the name of Aegyssus, mentioned in the documents of Diodorus of Sicily (3rd century BC). In his *Ex Ponto*, Ovid recorded a local tradition that ascribed its name to a mythical founder, Aegisos the Caspian. The town was successively under Byzantine (5th - 7th century), Genoese (10th - 13th century) and Ottoman rule before finally being reunited with Romania in 1878. Some of the highlights include St. Nicholas' Church (1865), the Azzizie Mosque (1924), the Danube Delta History Museum, the Art Museum, and the History and Archeology Museum. The local Lipovani Russian and Turkish minorities lend the city a multi-ethnic flavor.

After the fights from 12–15 A.D. the Romans conquered the town. They rebuilt it after their plans, their technique and architectural vision, reorganizing it. The fortified town was mentioned as late as the 10th century, in documents such as *Notitia Episcopatum* or *De Thematibus*.

Under Byzantine rule beginning with the 5th century A.D. the town was abandoned by the first half of the 7th century due to the Barbarian invasions²⁴³. The former

²⁴¹ "Ships crash on Danube" Associated Press. 11 September 1989, online source: <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-09-11-mn-1478-story.html>

²⁴² "ADRC DisasterReport". www.adrc.asia, online source: https://www.adrc.asia/latestinfo/View_E.php?lang=en&KEY=852

²⁴³ Stănică, Aurel (2004). "Tulcea. Un centru economic la Dunărea de Jos în secolul al XVI-lea". Peuce. S.N. Tulcea: Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale. II(XV): p. 199.

settlement's territory fell under the rule of the Bulgarian Empire (681-c.1000; 1185-14th century)²⁴⁴. Inhabitation was restored in the second half of the 10th century, as the Byzantines built a fortress on the spot after reconquering the region. The fortress was soon destroyed in 1064 by an attack of the Uzes, however some inhabitation continued. A settlement, larger than the one in the 11th century, is archaeologically attested beginning with the 14th century. The Ottoman rule was imposed around 1420, and would last for the following four centuries. The town was first documented under its modern name in 1506, in the Ottoman customs records. On that occasion it was described as an important center for the transit trade.

Around 1848, it was still a small shipyard city, being awarded city status in 1860, when it became a province capital. It became a sanjak centre in Silistre Eyaleti in 1860 and Tuna Vilayeti in 1864.

In 1853, The Times of London noted that "Toultcha" was "the last fortified place held by the Turks on the Danube, and which has a garrison of 1,200 men."²⁴⁵

In 1878 Tulcea was eventually awarded to Romania, together with the Northern Dobruja. Tulcea was occupied by the Central Powers between 1916-1918 during World War I and part of their condominium following the Treaty of Bucharest in May 1918 (until November 1918).

The name of "Vrancea" comes, just like the legend says, from that of "Baba Vrancioaia", mother of seven brave and handsome men²⁴⁶. The legend says that Baba Vrancioaia has sent the seven sons to fight next to the Moldavian voivode Steven the Great in order to help him in one of the wars led against the Turks. As a reward for the bravery that they have shown in the battle, the voivode has offered seven mountains to reign over, with the desire of creating a county that should bear the name "Vrancea County".

The present county of Vrancea has developed on the former administrative settlement, the County of Putna, which was situated along the valley of Putna River, officially recognized by the voivode Steven the Great, in 1482, as being the border of Moldavia with Muntenia.

²⁴⁴ Laiou, A. E. Constantinople and the Latins (Foreign Policy of Andronicus II, 1282-1328). Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1972.

²⁴⁵ "The Seat of War on the Danube," The Times, December 29, page 8, online source: http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/viewArticle.arc?articleId=ARCHIVE-The_Times-1853-12-29-08-004&pageId=ARCHIVE-The_Times-1853-12-29-08

²⁴⁶ http://www.prefecturavrancea.ro/fisiere/Vrancea/vrancea_site_ENG.pdf

In the 19th century, the unionists have considered the river as a symbol of the union between Muntenia and Moldavia (eg: the poem “Hora Unirii” by Vasile Alecsandri). The border from Milcov has remained until 1859, when Muntenia and Moldavia were united under the voivode Alexandru Ioan Cuza, forming the Principality of Romania.

The Union of the Principalities from 1859 is an event of a great importance in Vrancea’s history, the town of Focsani being the symbolic capital of the Union. The World War I represent another important stage in the history of Vrancea, as here were led the historic battles from the summer of 1917, which culminated with the great battle and defeat of the German troops from August 6, 1917.

The citizens of Vrancea are honoring the memory of the heroes that have died during World War I, testimonies standing the 41 monuments dedicated to the ancestors, from which we recall: The Heroes Mausoleum from Focsani, the Heroes Mausoleum from Marasti, Marasesti, Soveja.

As a town on the Moldavian-Wallachian border, Focșani developed into an important trade center halfway between the Russian Empire and the Balkans. A congress between Imperial Russian and Ottoman diplomats took place near the city in 1772. Nearby the town, the Ottomans suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the allied forces of the Habsburg Monarchy under Prince Frederick Josias of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld and Imperial Russia under Alexander Suvorov in 1789. The Battle of Focșani (also Battle of Fokschani or Battle of Focsani; Hungarian: Foksányi csata) was a battle in the Russo-Turkish War (1787–1792) fought on 1 August 1789 between the Ottoman Empire and the alliance of the Russian Empire and the Habsburg Monarchy near Focșani, Moldavia (now in Romania).

In the 1850s (after the Crimean War), Focșani grew in importance as the center of activities in favor of the union between Wallachia and Moldavia (the Danubian Principalities), leading to the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Iași and Bucharest. Following this, it housed a Central Commission regulating the common legislation of the two countries, as well as the High Court of Justice. Both institutions were disestablished in 1864, when the Romanian Principality was founded as a unified state. Focșani's role in the forming of the modern Romanian state is immortalized in the Union Square Obelisk.

On 30–31 December 1881, following the impact of Zionism on the Romanian Jewish community, the First Congress of all Zionist Unions in Romania for the promotion of the colonization of Eretz Israel was held at Focșani. It was attended by 51 delegates,

representing 32 organizations, two press editors, three newspaper reporters and important guests. This 1881 Congress, the first ever held, 16 years before the World Zionist Organization's First Zionist (held in Basel), had a major influence on the Romanian Jews, and its proceedings also became known outside the borders of Romania.

In 1917, during the Romanian Campaign of World War I, Focșani and Galați were part of a line of fortifications known as the Siret Line. The Armistice of Focșani was signed in the city on 9 December 1917, between the Kingdom of Romania and the Central Powers.

In 1944, during World War II, Focșani was supposed to be part of the fortified Focșani-Nămoloasa-Galați line, where 9 elite divisions were preparing to resist the Soviet Red Army's advance after the Battle of Târgul Frumos. However, due to the turn of events on 23 August 1944, this never materialized.

In the northern part of the town a settlement from the Bronze Age was discovered which dates roughly to the second millennium BC and belongs to Monteoru culture. Geto-Dacian vestiges of 5th century BC were also found here.

The first mention of the town is made by its Hungarian name Egyedhalm (‘‘in oppido nostro Egydhalm’’ meaning ‘‘in our city Gilles’ Hill’’) in a Latin language document from 1433²⁴⁷ where Iliaș of Moldavia granted commercial privileges to Transylvanian Saxon merchants. The Romanian name derives from the Hungarian one. The original name supports the idea that the town was established by Hungarian Csángós settled in Moldavia as part of a systematic Hungarian imperial policy to settle Hungarian and partly German population in places of strategic economic, commercial and military importance with the task to control and defend the eastern frontier of Hungary²⁴⁸. Adjud was declared a city in 1948.

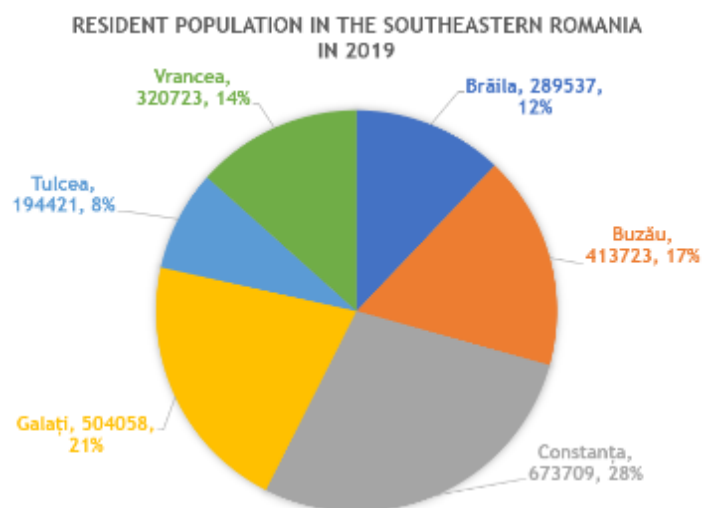
2.1.4 Demographic characteristics: Real – Resident Population, Population Change, Age Structure of Population, Household Structure

The population of the Southeastern Region is concentrated in 390 territorial administrative units as follows: 35 urban localities (of which 11 municipalities) and 355

²⁴⁷ Giurescu, CC (1975). Istoria românilor (2 volumes).

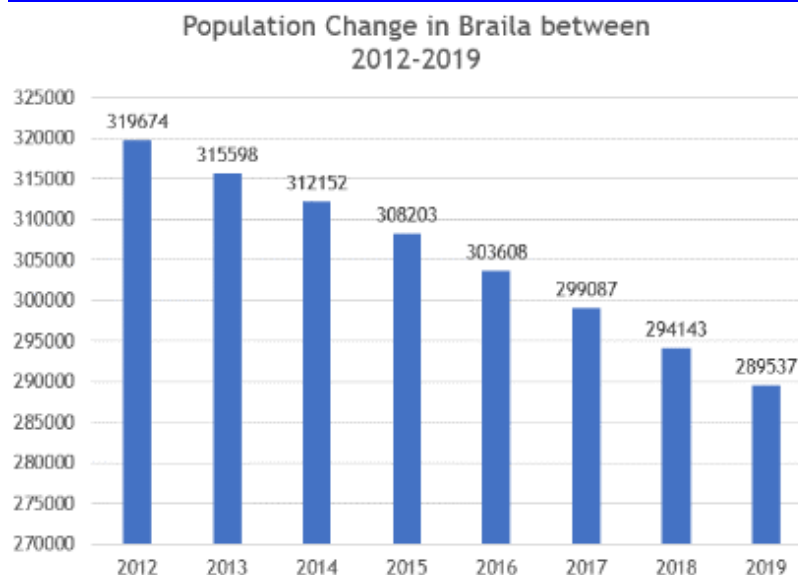
²⁴⁸ László Mikecs. ‘‘Kárpátokon túli magyarság (Hungarians beyond the Carpathians)’’, p. 458, online source: http://adatbank.transindex.ro/html/alcim_pdf3477.pdf

municipalities (with 1,447 villages). The Southeastern Region comprises three of the 10 most populated cities in Romania: Constanța, Galați and Buzău²⁴⁹. The number of inhabitants of the Southeastern Region registered at the 2019 Census was 2,396,171 persons, representing 11.3% of the population of Romania.



Resident Population in the Southeastern Romania in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



Population Change in Brăila between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

²⁴⁹ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx



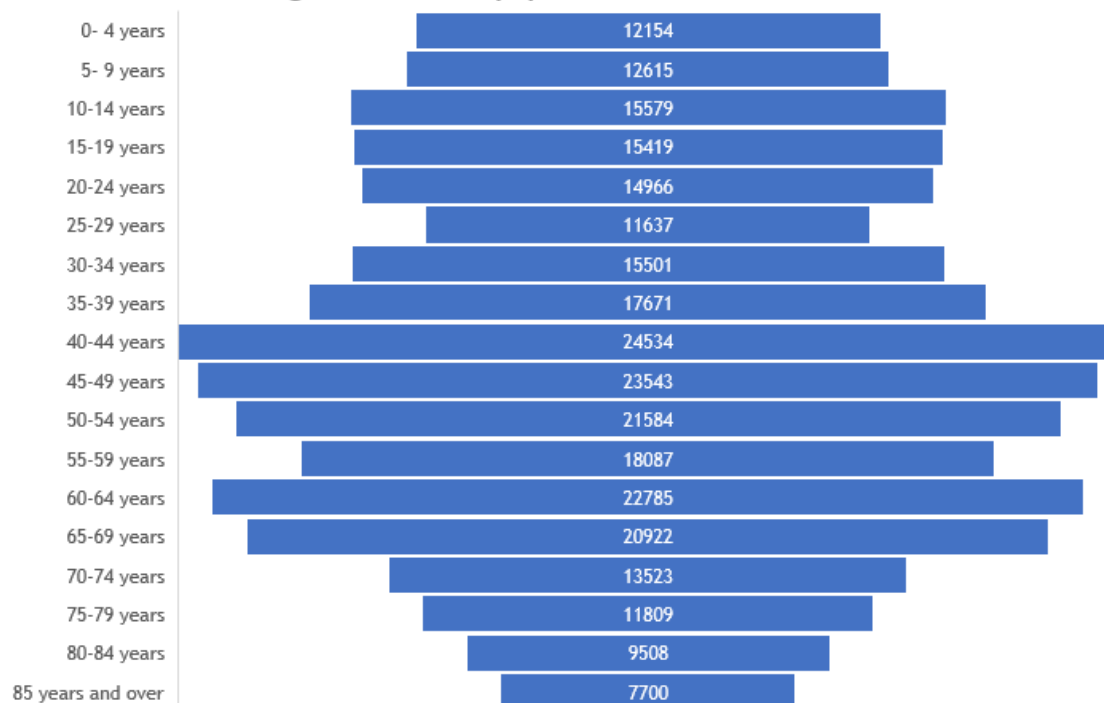
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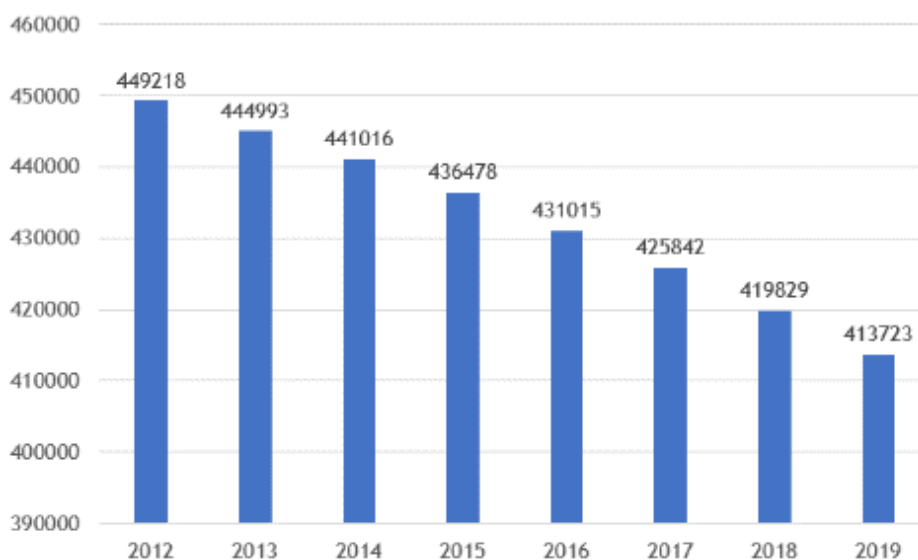
Age structure of population in Brăila in 2019



Age structure of population in Brăila in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Population Change in Buzău between 2012-2019



Population Change in Buzău between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



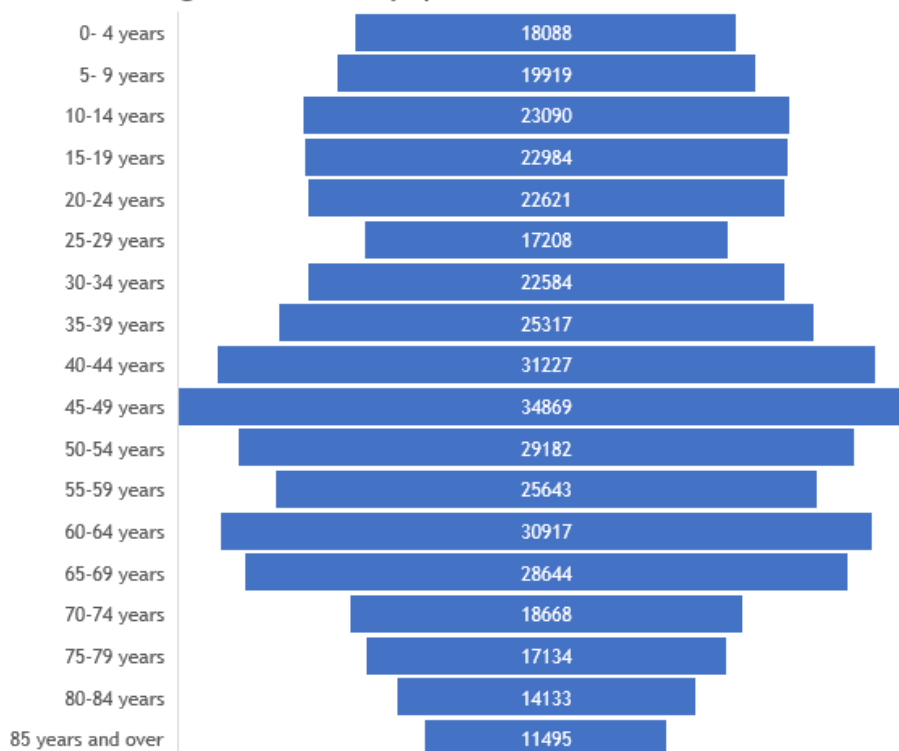
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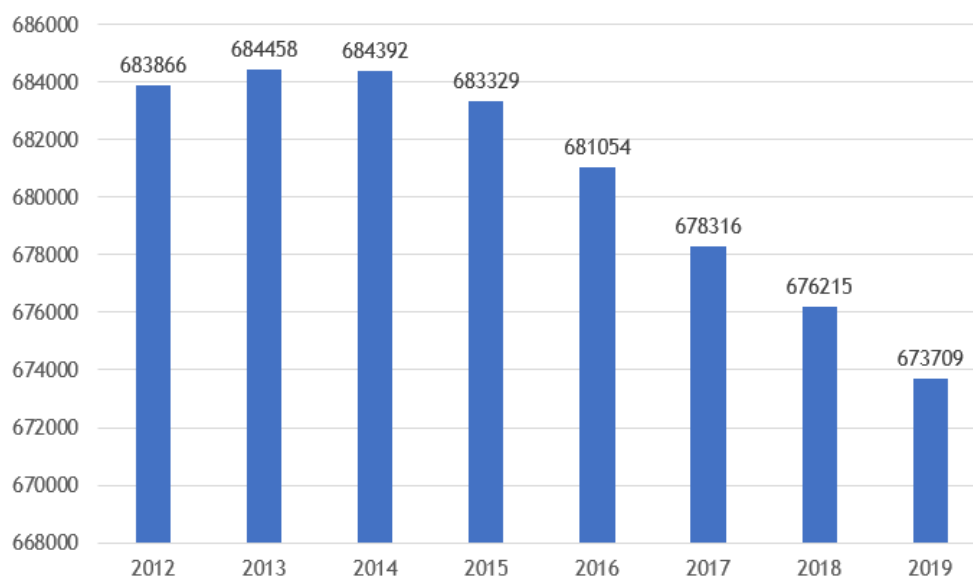
Age structure of population in Buzău in 2019



Age structure of population in Brăila in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Population Change in Constanța between 2012-2019



Population Change in Constanța between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



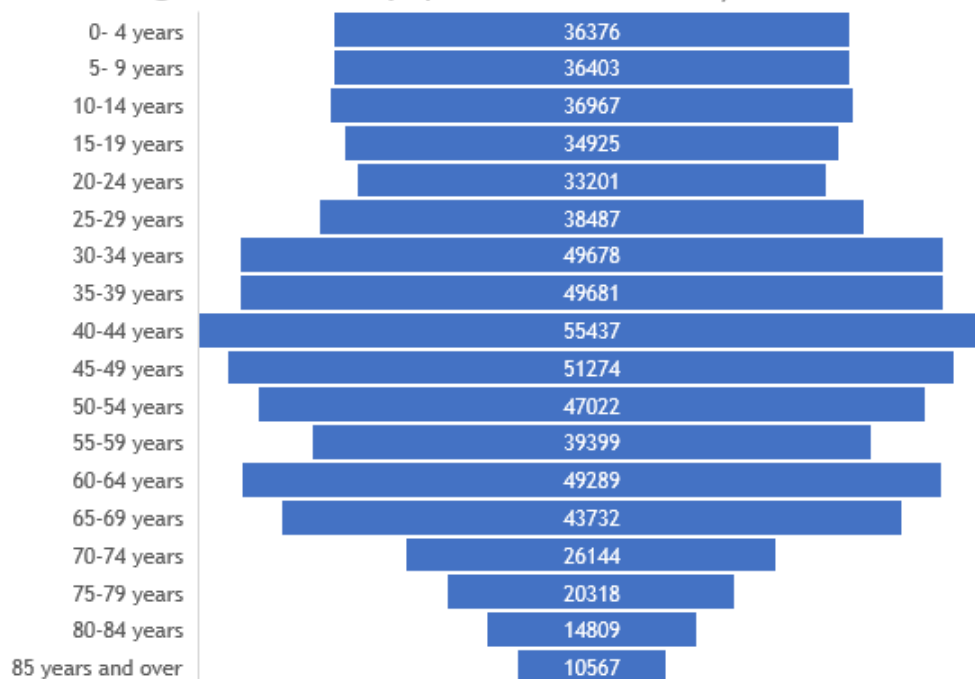
Project funded by
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Slik Road Local Culture



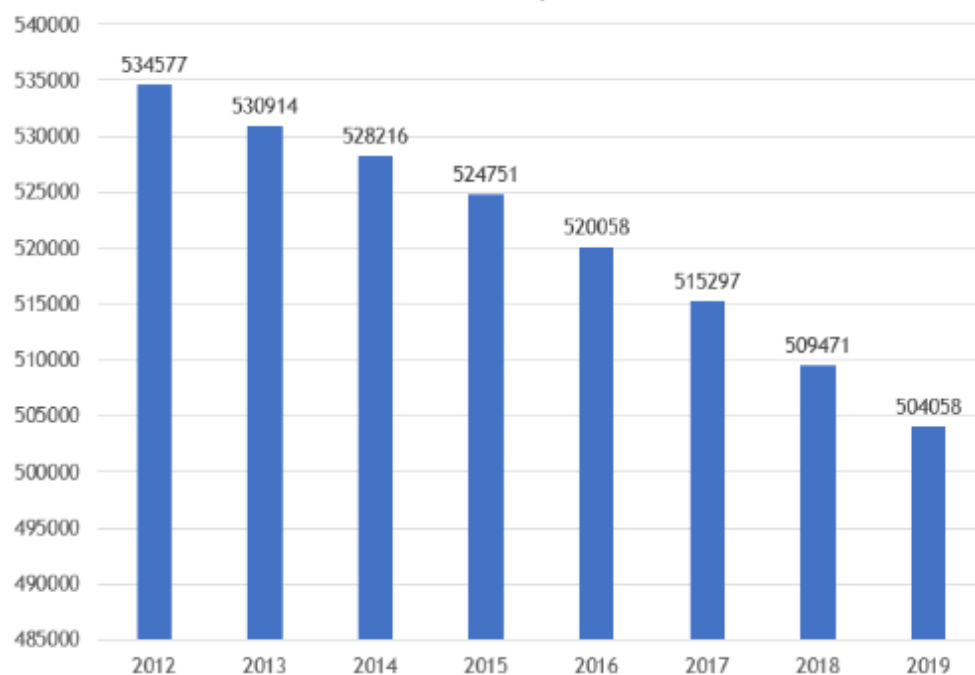
Age structure of population in Constanța in 2019



Age structure of population in Constanța in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Population Change in Galați between 2012-2019



Population Change in Galați between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



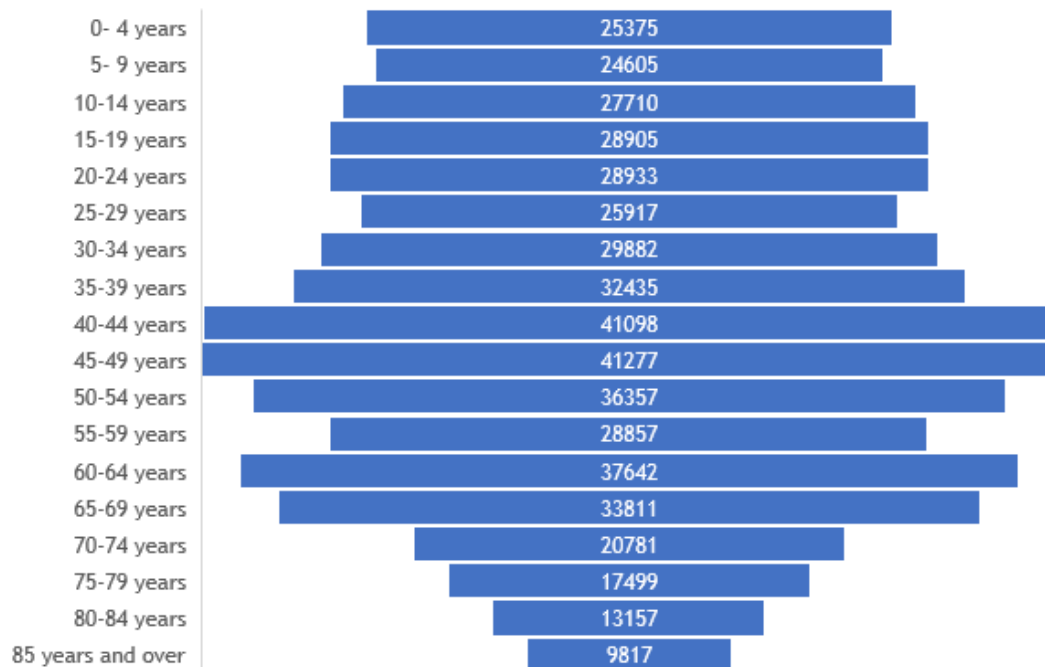
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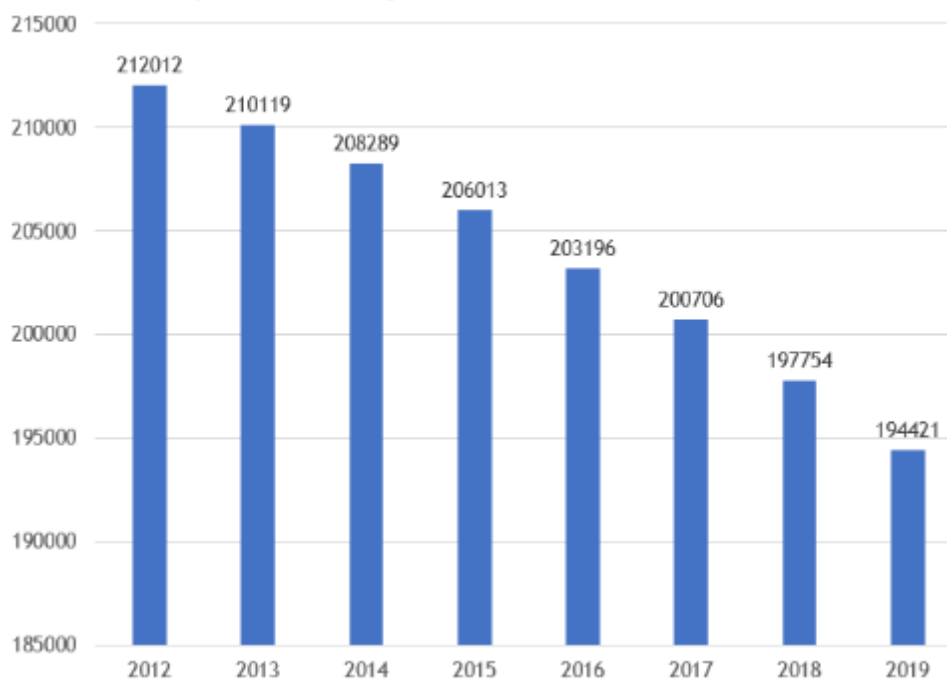
Age structure of population in Galați in 2019



Age structure of population in Galați in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Population Change in Tulcea between 2012-2019



Population Change in Tulcea between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



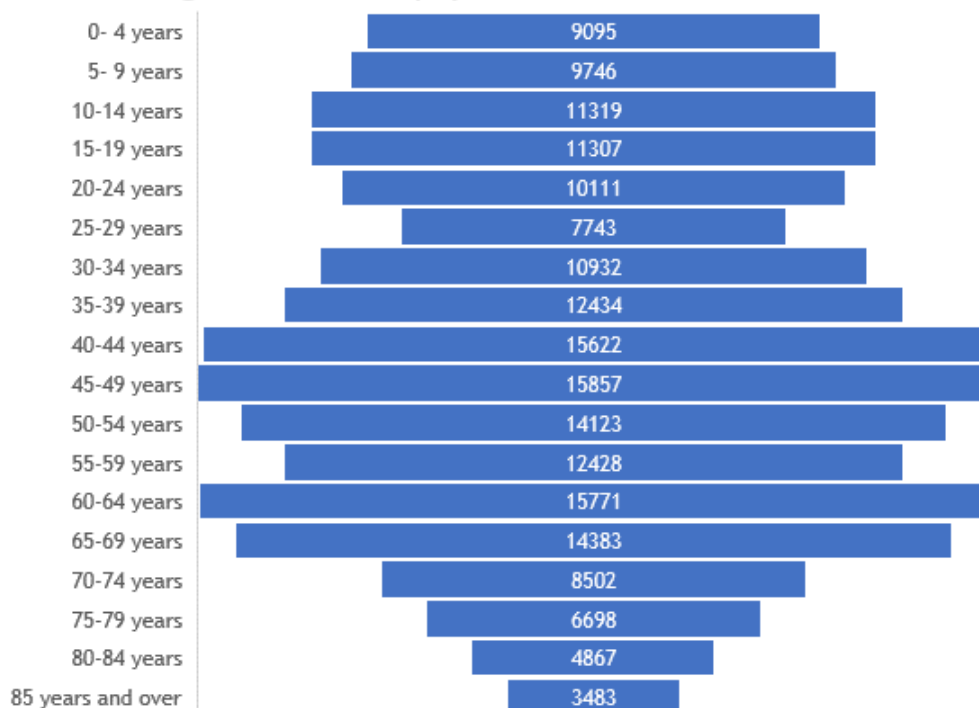
Project funded by
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Slik Road Local Culture



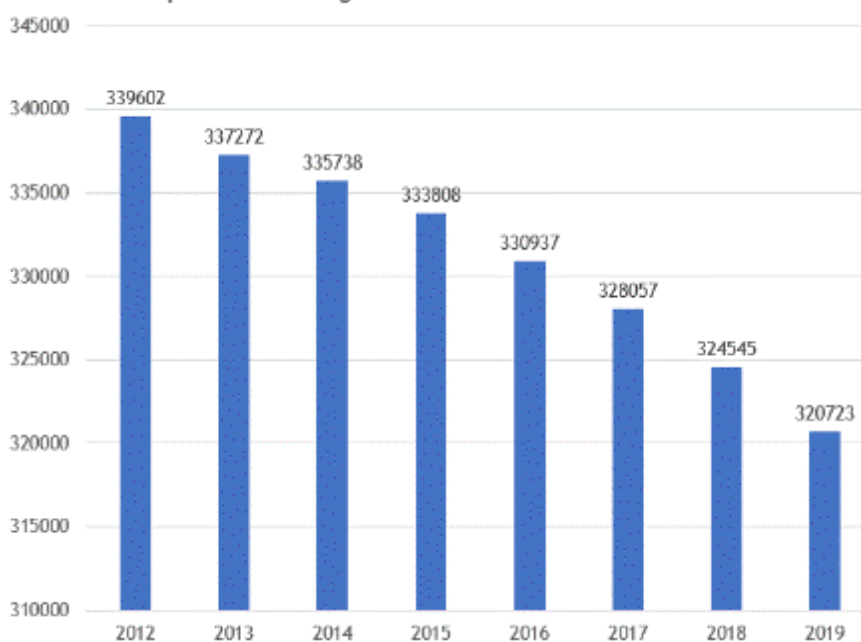
Age structure of population in Tulcea in 2019



Age structure of population in Tulcea in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Population Change in Vrancea between 2012-2019



Population Change in Vrancea between 2012-2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



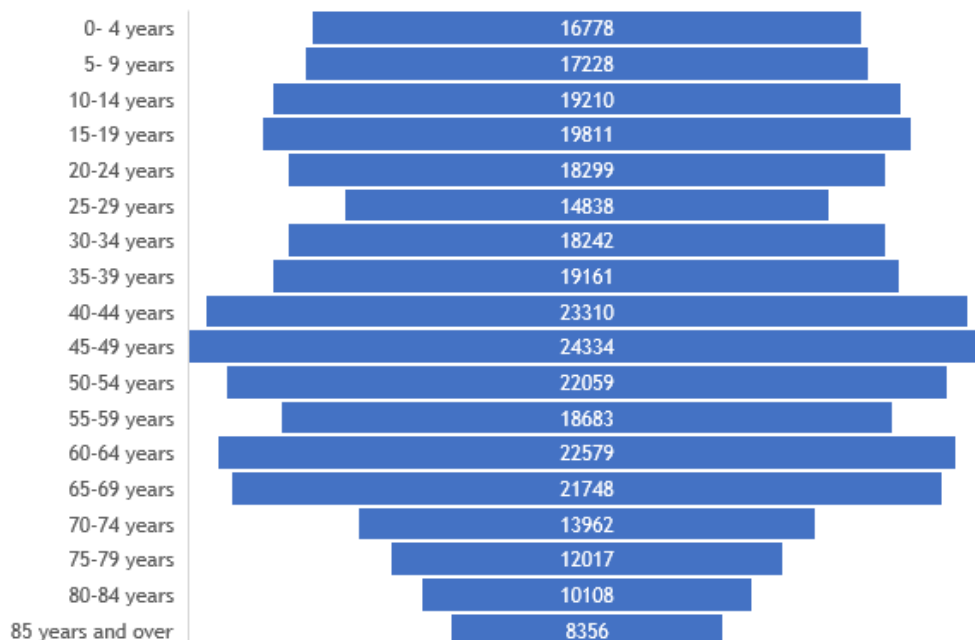
Project funded by
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Slik Road Local Culture



Age structure of population in Vrancea in 2019

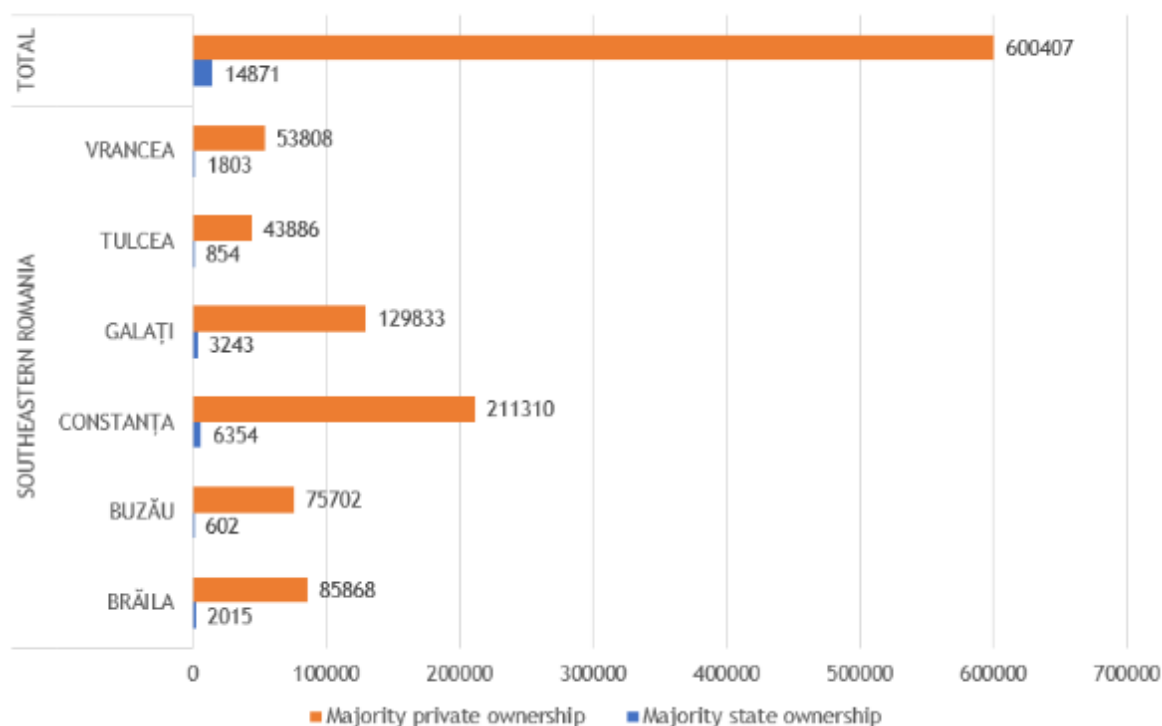


Age structure of population in Vrancea in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:

<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Household Structures at the end of 2018



Household structure at the end of 2018, Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA,

Online source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

In terms of population dynamics by areas, there is a decrease in the share of population in urban areas throughout the region. The trend is especially observable in Brăila, Constanța, Galați and Vrancea counties. The analysis of the population structure by age groups in the Southeastern Region reveals a tendency of aging of the population by decreasing the weight of the age groups under 35 and increasing the weight of the age groups over 35 years. According to the statistical data obtained in the general Census of the population, the Southeastern Region presents a great diversity in the ethnic structure, here being represented the majority of the ethnic groups present in Romania. The major differences between the weights of certain ethnic groups in this region compared to the national average are noted, well represented nationally, such as Hungarians, but poorly represented in the Southeastern Region and poorly represented nationally, such as Turks or Tatars, and well represented in the region. It is also found that the highest share is held by Romanians (88.13%), followed by Roma (2.74%), Turks (0.90%), Tatars (0.78%) and Russians-Lipovans (0.63%)²⁵⁰.

2.1.5 Economic profile of the Region

The Southeastern Region economy consists of the traditional branches of agriculture, trade, tourism and services and also several branches of developed industries. In this region are represented almost all branches of industry: petrochemical industry, metallurgical, machine building, textile and clothing industry of construction materials, food industry²⁵¹.

The agricultural production is significant, accounting for 15.86% of the national production. Agriculture holds an important share in the region's economy, 40.4% of the region's employed population being employed in this sector. The agricultural land owns 65% of the total area of the region. The private sector holds the largest share of agricultural land and also produces the largest share of agricultural production (95% in 2011). The South-East region is the first place in the country, in terms of the area of the fruit trees, owning 40.3% of the wine area of the country, mainly located in Vrancea county. The region is recognized, both internally and externally, by the quality of the wines from the famous vineyards, which are found throughout the region: Panciu,

²⁵⁰ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx

²⁵¹ <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/6372446.pdf>

Odobești, Pietroasele, Nicorești, Niculițel, Murfatlar, Insselor. Agricultural crops are a main feature of the region, the region occupying in 2011, first place in maize production, second place in wheat production, legumes for grains, vegetables and third place in sunflower production. Horticulture is well developed throughout the region (especially in Galați County), which is the first county in Romania, in terms of vegetable production. Fisheries and aquaculture, along with fish processing and trade in fish and fish products, are traditional activities in the South-East Region. In some isolated areas, such as the Delta and the Danube Cliff, the Danube Clisura area, fishing is one of the main activities, which offers jobs and sources of income for the local population. The fisheries sector in the Southeastern Region includes:

- marine fishing activities on the Black Sea, practiced along the Romanian coast;
- fishing activities in the inland waters, which are practiced on the Danube as well as in the Danube Delta area;
- Aquaculture. In the Southeastern Region there are 129 fish farms registered in the Register of Aquaculture Units, of which 39 nurseries and 90 farms. The largest number of fish farms is located in Tulcea County (54) and Constanța County (34).
- An important sector for the region with a significant number of employees is the naval one. There are 5 shipyards in the region, in Brăila, Galați, Tulcea, Mangalia, Constanța²⁵².

2.1.5.1. Economic Structure: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Sector

The agriculture is the main occupation in **Brăila County**. Industry is almost entirely concentrated in the city of Brăila. The predominant industries in the county are:

- Food industry.
- Textile industry.
- Mechanical components industry.

In Brăila there is an important harbour, once the biggest cereal harbour in Romania. Accessible to small and medium-sized oceangoing ships, Brăila has large grain-handling and warehousing facilities. It is also an important industrial center, with metalworking, textile, food-processing, and other factories. The naval industry is one of the focus of Brăila's revenue bringers.

²⁵² (in Romanian) <http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Economia.aspx>

During the Middle Ages, **Buzău County** economy was based on trade, as the market town began as a customs and exchange point, and developed due to its position at the curvature of the Carpathians, in a place where roads that connected Wallachia to Moldavia and Transylvania met. The old market town tradition is still preserved in the Drăgaica fair, held every June around Midsummer, bringing together small producers and merchants from diverse regions of Romania.

The agricultural reform during Alexandru Ioan Cuza led some of the Bulgarian gardeners to rent in 1897 și 1898 some land acquired by the state from the bishopric. The developed a distribution network for their produce both in Buzău, and in other nearby cities such as Braşov, Ploieşti or Râmnicu Sărat. Their activity became even more lucrative after the land reform of 1921²⁵³.

After the period of repeated invasions and destruction ended in the 19th century, the economy began to industrialize as well. Towards the end of that century, the development of a Romanian railway network made Buzău one of its important hubs and pushed the small craftsmen's shops to evolve into industrial installations. The first such facility was the Garoflid mill, open in 1883, that worked also as a cloth factory²⁵⁴. În 1894, an oil refinery of the Saturn society was built; this refinery was to function for 50 years.

After a dramatic nationwide decrease caused by the First World War (the 1919 output was a quarter of the one in 1913²⁵⁵), the industrial development picked up steam during the interbellum. One of the main components of the local industry was milling. The first industrial mill in the city, Garoflid, renamed Zangopol after its new owner, had reached a capital of 5 million lei in 1928 and, 30 de million in 1938, while the company that operated it had around 100 employees²⁵⁶. Another business started at this time was Metalurgica și Turnătorie – S.A. (Metallurgy and Foundry), founded in 1928 with a capital of over 9 million lei. Although it had an initially difficult period, as it was closed during the Great Depression, it was reopened in 1933, only to be closed again in 1940 and 1944, during World War II²⁵⁷.

After World War II, on 11 June 1948 all factories were requisitioned by the Communist government, who also began a program of forced industrialization, even though some

²⁵³ Petcu, *op. cit.*, 2002, p. 134.

²⁵⁴ Ibidem, p. 135.

²⁵⁵ Id.

²⁵⁶ Ibidem, p. 136.

²⁵⁷ Buzău. Mică enciclopedie istorică, p. 255

of the industries that were being developed were unfit to the region²⁵⁸. In 1965, the 318 ha Buzău South industrial platform began to be built around the old location of the Saturn refinery, blown up during the war. It was the location of the city's most important factories that were developed at the time: the Steel Wire and Steel Wire Products Enterprise (after 1990, Ductil), the Railway Machinery Enterprise (after 1990, Aparom), Metalurgica (the one founded in 1928), the Glass and Windows Factory (after 1991, Gerom S.A.). Other facilities were located in other parts of the city, such as the Contactors Enterprise, in the North-East, and the Plastic Works (after 1990, Romcarbon S.A.) in the North.

Despite the forced industrialization, Buzău was spared from becoming dependent on a single industry, and there was no single point of failure for the city's economy. According to the new law of commerce of 1990, that came after the fall of Communism, these factories were organised as state-owned companies, and were privatised. Most of them survived the transition to a market economy, as many of them thus became viable. Currently, the largest Buzău-based company is Romet, a holding company made up of multiple firms that produce isolation materials for water and gas pipes, water filters, fire extinguishers and other related products. It was successful in the 1990s, with the Aquator home water purifier. In 1999, it also acquired Aromet S.A., the company that operated the 1928 Metalurgica factory²⁵⁹. Milling is still present on the local market: the largest local producer is Boromir Prod, controlled by businessman Constantin Boromiz, owner of the Boromir group, who also owns Boromir Ind Vâlcea, Panmed Mediaş and Comcereal Sibiu²⁶⁰.

The economy is still more oriented towards industry rather than services, which, according to a 2016 survey of the World Bank, made it more attractive to the labor force of lower qualification (at best with a high school degree). The same survey showed that most of the labor force in the city came from within the county, as Buzău is the center of a highly rural, compact and densely-populated area. The city was found to be in competition with larger cities for the labor force from other counties, a feature it shares with Alexandria. The proximity of Bucharest makes Buzău itself a source of internal migration, thus orbiting the capital city. Buzău is the second city (closely after

²⁵⁸ Petcu, *op. cit.*, 2002, p. 137.

²⁵⁹ Ibidem, p. 141.

²⁶⁰ <https://www.wall-street.ro/tag/boromir-prod-Buzău.html>

Ploiești, a city with almost double the population), by the number of employees in Bucharest coming from other cities between 1991 and 2011.

Thus, predominant industries in the Buzău county are:

- Mechanical components; railway and automotive components
- Metallurgical parts
- Glass
- Food
- Textiles
- Wood
- The hilly area is well-suited for wines and fruit orchards.
- Salt and oil are the main resources extracted in the county.

As of 1878, **Constanța County** was defined as a "poor Turkish fishing village." As of 1920, it was called "flourishing", and was known for exporting oil and cereals²⁶¹. Constanța is one of Romania's main industrial, commercial and tourist centers²⁶². During the first half of 2008, some 3,144 new companies were established in Constanța and its neighboring localities, a number surpassed only in Bucharest and Cluj County.

The Port of Constanța is the largest port in Romania, the most important of the Black Sea and the 4th in Europe. It is linked with the Danube by the Danube-Black Sea Canal – the widest and deepest navigable channel in Europe.

The city also boasts a comparably large shipyard²⁶³.

Tourism has been an increasingly important economic activity in recent years. Although Constanța has been promoted as a seaside resort since the time of Carol I, the development of naval industry had a detrimental effect on the city's beaches²⁶⁴. Nevertheless, due to its proximity to other major tourist destinations, Constanța receives a significant number of visitors every year, who discover and visit the city's monuments and attractions. Also, Constanța is a center of commerce and education, both of which significantly contribute to the local economy.

²⁶¹ Stoica, Vasile (1919). The Roumanian Question: The Roumanians and their Lands. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Printing Company. p. 77.

²⁶² "GhidTuristic.Ro: Județul Constanța" (in Romanian), <http://www.ghidulTuristic.ro/zone.php?i=13>

²⁶³ http://www.snc.ro/index.php?page=about_us

²⁶⁴ Juler, Caroline. Rumunia. Przewodniki National Geographic (in Polish). National Geographic Polska.

Agriculture is an important part in the county's economy, with Constanța being the county with the largest irrigation systems in the, cereals being the most important products. Also, the county is famous for its wines from the Murfatlar region.

At Cernavodă there is a nuclear power plant with two reactors, each of the CANDU type of Canadian design. The plant covers over 15% of the country's power demand.

Thus, the predominant industries in Constanța county are:

- Tourism
- Chemicals and petrochemicals
- Food and beverages
- Textiles
- Shipbuilding
- Construction materials
- Mechanical components
- Paper

Galați County is among one of the biggest economic centres in Romania. The economic environment has developed around the ship yard, the port, and the Arcelor-Mittal steel plant²⁶⁵. The vessel construction industry, enriches the river and maritime fleet with vessels of up to 65.000 dwt (barges, bulk carriers, push-tug boats, oil tankers) and sea drilling platforms.

Due to the relief, the majority of the population in the rural areas work in agriculture. Fishing is another profitable occupation along the Danube and the Siret River. Galați is Romania's second harbour after Constanța, the navigable channel on the Danube allowing the passage of large ships.

In Galați there exist the biggest metallurgical complex in Romania – the Mittal-Sidex Complex. The city Galați has the largest iron and steel plant in Romania, the Galați steel works, which was state-owned until 2001. It is still commonly referred to as "Sidex", its old name.

Also, the second biggest shipyard can be found also at Galați allowing ships up to 55,000 tdw to be built. It benefits from easy access to the Black Sea and from its co-location with the Mittal Plant.

²⁶⁵ Danube Transnational Programme (DAPhNE), Portinfrastructure & industrial development, D.5.1.1: Status of port infrastructure development along the Danube, Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA), p. 144, online source: http://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_public/0001/27/73f53f59745d05389b91577ed0a17ed0f17a6b07.pdf

The predominant industries in the county are:

- Metallurgy – 55% of Romania's steel production.
- Food industry.
- Textile industry.
- Ship building industry.

The county of Galați is also an important transport hub. The city Galați is also a border checkpoint to Moldova.

The city of Galați is one of the most important Romanian commercial hubs as it is connected to the main European corridors - the Rhine-Maine-Danube canal connecting the North Sea to the Black Sea; the railways make the transition from large gauge tracks specific to the former Soviet Union countries to normal gauge; Galați Free Zone is a strategic point in the eastern part of the city, on whose territory all of the above communication means specified: road, railways and river.

In **Tulcea County**, agriculture and fishing are the main occupations, involving about 48% of the population. Industry is concentrated in the large towns only.

The predominant industries in Tulcea county are:

- Food industry.
- Textile industry.
- Ship building industry.
- Metallurgy - aluminium.
- Chemical industry.
- Construction materials.

Tulcea is an important industrial center. This is where shipbuilding and repairs are carried out. An airport is located near the city, on the Tulcea-Constanța road, 15 km away. There is also a reef exploitation center in Tulcea. Also, the only manufacturer of calcined alumina in the country, ALUM SA, as well as an important shipyard, VARD in Tulcea. Being also nicknamed the City of the Gates of the Danube Delta, part of the economy has developed around tourism, a fact attested by the constructions and investments that have been made for the construction of new hotels. In this area, wine production is an occupation dating back to the 7th century BC. The abundance and quality of the wines produced by the Dacians (the inhabitants of this part of Thrace) was so famous that the great Dacian king Burebista, in order to put an end to the incursions of the migrating peoples, ordered the destruction of all vineyards. Of course, not all vineyards were uprooted, and soon, other vines were planted. After Dacia was

conquered by the Romans (in the year 106 CE), on the coins struck in the new province was represented a woman whose two children offered her grapes, as a symbol of the main wealth of the country.

In more recent times, the evolution of the Romanian wine industry has been influenced by four important moments in the country's history: the close links with France during the 19th century, the close links with Germany and Austria from the interwar period, the establishment of communism in 1948 and the economic liberalization since 1989. The vineyards in the patrimony of the agricultural cooperatives have been privatized, and the state-owned wine companies and companies have already been or are about to be privatized.

The town Isaccea has long been a station in the trade between the eastern Mediterranean and the continental eastern Europe. The Greeks built their first trade post around 2700 years ago and trade continued after the Roman and later Byzantine and Ottoman takeovers. In the 16th century, the town was located on the Moldavian-Ottoman border and its bazaar was one of the four most important trading posts in the Dobruja, with tradesmen coming from distant places, such as Chios or Ragusa²⁶⁶. The main traded goods were cattle, sheep, wine, cloth and wood²⁶⁷. The town lost its influence in the 19th century, as the sea and river transport was mostly replaced by train and later road transport and as the Danube traffic navigates on the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

Nowadays, in Isaccea, much of the local economy is based on agriculture, especially animal husbandry and fishing. The town's farms have a number of 2595 sheep, 728 cows, 510 pigs, 240 horses and 16,000 birds²⁶⁸. Industry is based on extraction of rock from a nearby quarry and woodworking, a tobacco processing factory and a winery. Since 2004, the town is also home for a beluga reproduction research station, financed by the Romanian state. The world's first in vitro fertilisation research station for the beluga, it is fish farm, but also raises beluga to be freed into the Danube, freeing around 3000 belugas.

²⁶⁶ (in Romanian) Robert Stănciugel and Liliana Monica Bălașa, *Dobrogea în Secolele VII-XIX. Evoluție istorică*, Bucharest, 2005, p. 138

²⁶⁷ (in French) Nicoară Beldiceanu; Jean-Louis Bacque-Grammont; Matei Cazacu, *Recherches sur les Ottomans et la Moldavie ponto-danubienne entre 1484 et 1520*, Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (ISSN 0041-977X), Vol. 45, No. 1. (1982), pp. 55.

²⁶⁸ Isaccea city hall - Economic data, <http://isaccea.romclub.ro/economie.html>

In *Măcin town*, the main share of the local economy is taken by agriculture, especially animal husbandry, cereal growing and in less extent, fishing. Industry is centered on surface mining – extraction of granite rocks, from quarries situated on southern slopes of Măcin Mountains, while light industries like textile and clothing manufacturing are still well represented. A large part of city and surroundings population (especially women) is involved in textile industry. There is also a factory of electrostatic air purifiers and ventilation systems.

Since the mid-2000s, the wine industry has grown in importance, as new vineyards have been planted on Carcaliu Hill along the DJ222L road, six kilometers outside city limits to the southeast. The local wine producer sells white and red wines with the "D.O.C." designation, "Controlled term of origin", from Sarica-Niculitel region.

The town has also an "inland port" on the Danube, operated by two local fixed cranes and sometimes depending on the freight fluxes, by additional floating cranes brought in from Brăila. The port has grain-handling and some warehousing facilities.

Vrancea County is famous for its wines, being the biggest wine producer in Romania. Over 11% of the county surface is covered with vines. The county's best-known wine regions are Panciu - 8100 ha, Odobești - 7000 ha, and Cotești.

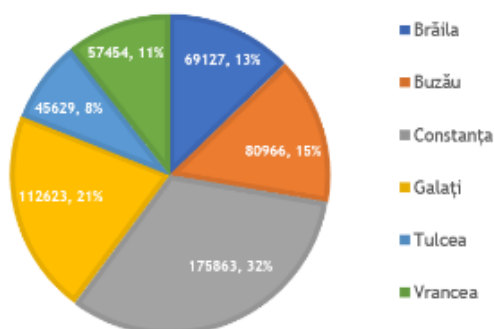
County's main industries are:

- Foods and beverages;
- Textiles;
- Paper manufacturing and furniture making;
- Mechanical parts and components.
- Cookware and bakeware production

In *Focșani*, in the years after the revolution, industrial production has undergone profound structural changes, so that since 2000 the predominant production is made up of textile garments which increased by 46% compared to 1990, and compared to 1996 about 4 times, to the detriment of the other branches. of the industry, respectively the production of wine for consumption, the processing of agri-food products, wooden furniture, knitwear of wool and cotton, etc. Agriculture is materialized in the breeding of animals and the cultivation of vines, in Mândrești-Munteni.

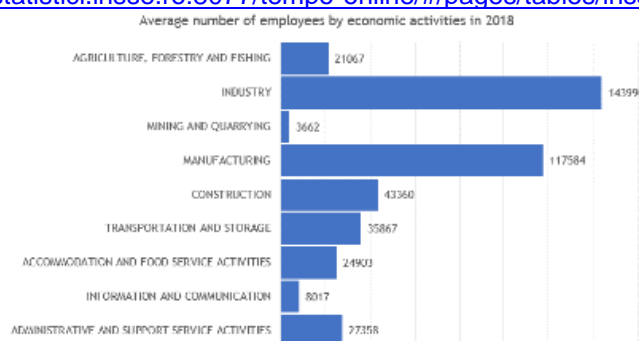
2.1.5.2. Employment-Unemployment

AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY
COUNTIES IN SOUTHEASTERN ROMANIA, IN
2018 (NR. OF PERSONS)



Average number of employees by counties in Southeastern Romania, in 2018

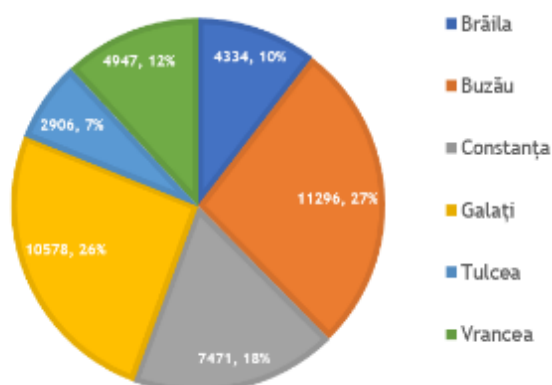
Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>



Average number of employees by economic activities in 2018

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

TOTAL REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED (PAID AND
UNPAID) IN SOUTHEASTERN ROMANIA, AT THE END OF
DECEMBER 2019



Total registered unemployed (paid and unpaid) in Southeastern Romania, at the end of
December 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

2.1.5.3. Development potential

A peculiarity of the Southeastern Region is that it comprises almost all forms of relief, some of them being specific only to this region, which imprints certain particularities of the economic, social, cultural, educational life of this area. The Southeastern Region is the only one that has openness to the sea, this aspect giving it the opportunity to develop the maritime and fluvio-maritime transport but also to the related activities and not only (storage, trade, etc.). In this region are found the seaports Constanța (the largest in the Black Sea), Mangalia and Midia, as well as the fluvio – maritime ports (Brăila, Galați, Tulcea and Sulina). The strategic location of the Black Sea is an element of attracting foreign investments that can lead to an increase in the competitiveness of the area. The large agricultural areas and the fertile soils in the Southeastern Region offer favorable conditions for organic farming. The Danube Delta (one of the world's largest nature reserves) and the Island of Brăila, whose flora and fauna are considered unique in Europe, are natural areas with a special tourist attraction. Another feature of the region is the high tourist potential. The tourism sector is relatively well developed. The Black Sea coast and the Danube Delta, the spa-climatic resorts Salt Lake, Techirghiol, Sarata Monteoru, some agro-tourist pensions in the mountain areas and in the Danube Delta, the northern monasteries of Dobrogea and the Buzău, Măcin and Vrancea mountains represent tourist attractions. The area of Danube Delta has a high forest potential and a very high degree of attractiveness for leisure, itinerant, scientific tourism in the Danube Delta, but also through the diversity and unique biotopes, the historical and religious monuments (especially the triangle of the three monasteries located in the north of the county, namely, Celic-Dere, Cocos-Niculițel, Saon and the Paleo-Christian Basilica located in the village of Niculițel, Roman, Italian, Byzantine fortresses, such as Troesmis, Arrubium, Dinogetia, Noviodonum, Halmyris, Arganum, Enisala)²⁶⁹. Another feature of the region is the presence of the most famous vineyards and wine production centers in Romania, which are found in all the counties of the region. The South-East region ranks first in the country with regard to the area of the vineyards. Murfatlar, Odobești, Panciu,

²⁶⁹ (in Romanian) Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Sud-Est, *Planul de Dezvoltare Regională Sud-Est 2014-2020 (PDR)*, p. 13, online source: http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/PDR/2014/PDR.Sud_Est_2014.pdf

Nicorești vineyards, Bujorului Hills, Pietroasele vineyards produce renowned wines both nationally and internationally²⁷⁰.

From the perspective of the natural resources, the region has oil (hydrocarbon deposits from Berca, Sărata - Monteoru, Pâclele, Oprișenești, Ianca), natural gas in the counties of Brăila and Buzău and also in the continental platform of the Black Sea. Other natural resources of the region are: granite in the Măcin Mountains, limestone in Dobrogea Plateau, iron ore, copper pyrite, complex lead and zinc sulphides, quartz, granite, marble and varieties of lime, kaolin, barite from Tulcea hills, loess deposits, salt in Buzău. A special category of subsoil riches is the sulphurous, ferruginous, chlororheic waters (Brăila, Buzău, Constanța). The continental platform of the Black Sea contains significant reserves of minerals and hydrocarbons, exploited with marine drilling equipment, produced in Romania. Reserves of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons are also in Brăila, Vrancea and Galați counties. The only surface oil deposit in Europe is in the Berca and Monteoru areas of Buzău county²⁷¹.

The Southeastern Region has a very good potential for the production of energy from renewable sources, largely still unexploited. The northeast of Tulcea County is one of the sites with the highest potential in Europe, the conditions are very favorable for the production of wind energy, also the potential is very high for the electrical applications of the solar energy, as well as for the production of energy from the biomass (especially in the counties of Brăila and Constanța)²⁷². Thus, this area has high wind potential, which significantly contributes to Romania's obligations in the field of renewable energy and in the field of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Solar energy is one of the basic sources of the development of this millennium, falling within the concept of renewable and ecological energy. According to the European Commission's Institute of Energy and Transport (EIT), the Southeastern Region is in an area with high energy potential (1700kWh / m²), which favors investments in the field of electricity and thermal energy production, irrigation, allowing saving conventional energy resources and reducing environmental pollution²⁷³.

The Danube River contributes to the definition of the high territorial potential of the Southeastern Region. Accessibility is a key element for regional development, given

²⁷⁰ Ibidem, p. 12

²⁷¹ Ibidem, p. 14.

²⁷² Ibidem, p. 186.

²⁷³ Ibidem, p. 14.

the strategic potential of the Southeastern Region as a transit area for international freight flows, as well as the importance of accessibility for connecting regional growth poles / economic poles in the region, including high tourism potential areas, with markets from other regions of Romania, as well as with international markets, through access to international networks. The Danube is part of the TEN-T-18 priority axis: the Rhine / Meusia-Main-Danube river transport axis, and provides Romania and other countries with major new opportunities for developing water transport²⁷⁴. The road link between the western border and the port of Constanța is a priority for Romania, along with the development and modernization of the national road network, including the bypass variants and the connections with the TEN-T network. Overall, trans-European networks will encourage competitiveness and economic growth, stimulate the labor market, improve transport safety and reliability, reduce the negative impact on the environment by introducing stricter standards of protection and strengthen inter-regional cooperation²⁷⁵.

The strategic position of the Southeastern Region of Romanian ports offers the potential to become the main gateway for freight traffic between the West and Asia. Crossed by the most important European river, the Danube, the area has an exit to the Black Sea, the Romanian ports in the south-east being an important component of the river maritime European network. Ports such as Galați, Tulcea, Giurgiu and Constanța are located on the Pan-European Corridor VII and provide the Eastern connection for goods entering the Old Continent through some of the most important ports in Europe and even in the world, such as Rotterdam, Vienna, Mainz or Strasbourg²⁷⁶. For example, Constanța port provides all types of transport (road, rail, sea, air, pipeline transport), being also equipped with warehouses and terminals for all types of goods, having the potential to become the main gateway to the Europe-Asia Corridor²⁷⁷. Through its location and infrastructure, Tomis Port offers a high potential for capitalizing on nautical tourism, sports and leisure activities, constituting a shelter for sailing sports boats. The port capacity allows the organization of a wide range of sporting activities, such as kingdoms, which take place over several days²⁷⁸.

²⁷⁴ Ibidem, p. 75.

²⁷⁵ Ibidem, p. 76.

²⁷⁶ Ibidem, p. 92.

²⁷⁷ Ibidem, p. 99.

²⁷⁸ Ibidem, p. 101.

Danube Delta Airport from Tulcea County serves an area with a wide area of interest for both business people and tourists and researchers in the Danube Delta area and archaeological sites, thus representing an area with economic potential. The airport provides the requirements for carrying out the control activity for the border (customs), sanitary (human, veterinary and phytosanitary) having spaces and the possibility of organizing the flows of passengers and cargo under very good conditions²⁷⁹.

The Southeastern Region is characterized by high tourist potential. The rich patrimony of natural resources as well as the cultural patrimony represented by historical vestiges, monasteries, favored the development of the sector. The variety of existing resources has allowed a good level of diversification: there are many types of tourism in the region, such as coastal, mountain, cruise, rural and ecological tourism, cultural and religious tourism²⁸⁰.

Among the priority areas of cooperation are also included areas of intervention related to the activity of coastal and maritime economic development identified in the EU Strategy for "blue development". Its implementation helps to realize the potential of sustainable development of the Black Sea basin, taking into account the local economic, social, cultural, oceanographic and climatic factors, thus contributing to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive development. Aquaculture and fisheries have been identified as one of the five priority areas of the "blue development" strategy with the potential to generate sustainable economic growth and jobs²⁸¹.

2.1.6 Infrastructures

2.1.6.1. Transportation Infrastructure: Road network, Rail network, Sea Transport – Ports, Airports, and transportation within destination, access and proximity to cities, airports, other destinations

Brăila County features one of the oldest electrical tram lines in Romania, inaugurated at the end of the 19th century and still in use. Brăila's bus system is operated by the town hall in cooperation with Braicar Company, with four primary bus configurations available servicing most of the city. The Brăila city has a polycentric development,

²⁷⁹ Ibidem, p. 116.

²⁸⁰ Ibidem, p. 305.

²⁸¹ Ibidem, p. 376.

clearly differentiated by neighborhoods, a flat topography, with equal possibilities of expansion in all directions²⁸². Although there is an increase in the number of new buildings in the municipality, areas with urban, architectural, cultural and historical value are preserved. Unfortunately, many historical monument buildings are privately owned and many are in a state of degradation due to lack of funds (such as those located on the current Mihai Eminescu street, as well as in the old historical center of the municipality). The city, dominated by the presence of the Danube, enjoys the existence of green areas (Monument Park, Public Garden, Danube Cliff, Salt Lake), of a total area of green spaces of 471.46 ha, of which 350.37 ha represent parks, leisure areas, squares, alignments streets, green spaces in apartment complexes. However, in accordance with the legislation the area of green spaces must be expanded.

The character of a garden city, the natural environment and the existence of areas with historical architectural heritage (especially the old central area) are favorable premises for the development of an attractive pedestrian infrastructure. Moreover, to improve this infrastructure, the City Hall of Brăila has implemented and is implementing a series of projects financed from European non-reimbursable funds / state budget, which have directly targeted it:

- The pedestrian crossing Platou Independence Square,
- The promenade area between Calea Călărașilor street and Danube Waterfront,
- The park in the Dulce Lake neighborhood,
- Monument Park,

or indirectly, by rehabilitating / modernizing the sidewalks of the main *road arteries*:

- Grivița Street,
- Calea Călărașilor Street,
- Calea Galați Sstreet,
- Dorobanților Boulevard.

Also, through the National Program of Local Development, two entry arteries will be modernized in the Brăila Municipality, Calea Călărașilor and Buzău Road.

*Public transport*²⁸³ In 2014, the average age of the car park under 10 years was 44%. In order to improve the public transport fleet with new, high performance vehicles, the

²⁸² STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BRĂILA MUNICIPALITY 2014 – 2020, Chapter 5 - Infrastructure, equipping the territory, p. 53, online source: <http://www.primariabr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/documentePDF/Proiecte%20si%20strategii/Strategia%20Brăila%202014-2020.pdf>

²⁸³ Ibidem, p. 54.

project "Acquisition of 10 new city buses" was implemented, financed from the local budget. Also, the tram line has been rehabilitated and modernized, along a length of 11.3 km. In order to make public transport more efficient, it would be useful to set up dedicated traffic lanes, allowing for a high commercial traffic speed. In addition, passenger services need to be improved (for example satisfactory passenger information, e-ticketing services), as well as the quality of specific urban furniture.

In Brăila there are only underground parking spaces (consuming public space), with reduced capacity. Also, the distribution of parking spaces is uneven, especially in the block neighborhoods.

The concern of the City Hall of Brăila for solving this problem was materialized by the arrangement of parking places, within some road infrastructure projects, where there was the possibility, following that in the 2014-2020 programming period projects will be submitted to carry out this desideratum.

*Road and rail network*²⁸⁴ The roads that facilitate access to the municipality of Brăila are the following:

- E 584 (DN 21) (Poltava –Slobozia) Slobozia - Brăila
- DN 2B Buzău - Brăila
- DN 22 Râmnicu Sărat - Brăila
- DN 23 Focșani - Brăila
- DN 22B (Dig Brăila - Galați)
- E 87 (Odessa –Antalya), on the territory of Romania, connect the cities: Galați, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanța)

The length of the public roads in the region was 10,898 km in 2011, being the sixth place at the national level. Of the total of the regional public roads, only 27.2% were modernized, which placed it in the last place at the national level. % with light road clothing. A major problem for the Brăila - Galați sector was the lack of a bridge over the Danube. Thus, a member of IHI Group, IHI Infrastructure Systems Co., Ltd. (IIS, Location: Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture; President: Akira Inoue), in a joint venture with the Italian construction company Astaldi, received an order for construction of the Brăila suspension bridge from Romania's National Company for the Administration of Road Infrastructure and signed a construction contract on January 15, 2018. This will be a fast road connection of the cities Brăila and Galați with Tulcea, the connection of

²⁸⁴ Id.

the SE region with the Nordic ones, as well as with the European transport corridors. At the same time, access to the Black Sea Coast and the Danube Delta would be improved.

The Brăila Bridge is a road suspension bridge in Romania, under construction over the Danube river, between Brăila, a major city in the east of Romania, and the opposite bank of the river in Tulcea County. It will be the first bridge over the maritime Danube sector, and the fourth bridge over the Romanian section of the river. The bridge will improve road traffic accessibility of the Galați-Brăila area to Constanța and Tulcea, and connections between Moldavia and Dobruja regions. Crossing to the opposite bank of the Danube at Brăila City is limited to using road detours exceeding 100 km or crossing by ship. However, the construction of the suspension bridge will simplify crossing the Danube and significantly improve the convenience of transportation. In addition, as the connecting road that is part of this project leads to an existing highway, it contributes to the efficiency of cargo distribution between the Port of Constanța, the largest port in the country, and the eastern region of Romania. It can contribute to economic revitalization within the EU²⁸⁵.

The municipality of Brăila is crossed by an important railway line: Bucharest-Galați (through Urziceni-Făurei-Brăila) and Bucharest-Ploiești-Buzău-Făurei-Brăila, the locality being an important railway hub in the south-east region, but also in the interregional relationship²⁸⁶.

The Port of Brăila is located on the maritime sector of the Danube River. There is growth potential at the Port of Brăila if river transport could be carried out to a greater extent by the industrial units in the region with the increase in the port's capacity to handle cargo. The Port of Brăila is an important port of Romania for the handling and transport of cereals. The port is a part of the TEN-T comprehensive network. Main objective is the modernization of port infrastructure in the Port of Brăila.

Buzău County is crossed by national road DN2 (part of European Road E85), which connects the city to Bucharest to the South and to Râmnicu Sărat and the main cities of Western Moldavia to the North. National road DN1B (European Road E577) branches out of DN2 in Buzău. This road connects the city to Ploiești. In the North of the city, DN10 also branches from DN2. It crosses the Carpathians at their South-

²⁸⁵ IHI Infrastructure Systems Co., Ltd., online: <https://www.ihl.co.jp/iis/en/news/2017/180117.html>

²⁸⁶ Ibidem, p. 55.

Eastern curvature through Buzău Pass towards Braşov. The South of Buzău is also crossed by national road DN2B, which branches from DN2 în the neighboring commune of Costeşti, leading eastward to Galaţi and Brăila. In Buzău, county road DJ203D branches from DN2B. It leads South to Ținteşti and Smeeni, where it ends in DN2C, a road along which it helps connect Buzău to Slobozia. In the Buzău city area, the only functional road bridge over Buzău River is the one crossing with DN2 to Mărcineni. There is another road bridge, connecting the city to Vadu Paşii, near the railway bridge. It was however closed after it was destroyed by a flash flood in 2005, and repairs kept being postponed, which had an impact on the economy of the neighboring communes, North-East of the city, as it remains used only by pedestrians and cyclists. Works began in the fall of 2017.

Two main bust stations, one in the North and one in the South next to the railway station, as well a few other secondary bus stops, are used by private transportation companies that operate services to other cities or nearby villages.

Buzău is one of the country's main important railway hubs, as it connects Bucharest and Ploieşti with Focşani, Galaţi and Constanţa. The city railway station was open in 1872, along with the Bucharest-Galaţi railway.

A branch of this railway, from Buzău to Mărăşeşti was opened a few years later, on 13 June 1881,[82] and it was the first railway designed by Romanian engineers.

The Buzău-Nehoiăşu line, open in 1908, connects Buzău to the smaller towns and villages along the Buzău River valley, including Nehoiu and Pătărlagele.

Buzău has no civil airport. The only air transport infrastructure present in the city is the military airport and heliport South-West of the city, but it is used only by emergency sanitary flights. Civil air traffic for Buzău is performed through Henri Coandă International Airport in Otopeni, Bucharest, 110 km away, the main air hub.

10 bus lines connect residential areas to industrial areas (including Buzău South industrial platform), the city center and the railway station. There are a few taxi companies licensed by the city also operating in the surrounding villages.

The opening, in 1895, of the *railway* to Bucharest, which crosses the Danube River at the bridge at Cernavodă, brought Constanţa County considerable transit trade in grain and petroleum, which are largely exported; coal and coke head the list of imports, followed by machinery, iron goods, and cotton and woollen fabrics.

The A2 motorway provides a rapid road link between Constanța and Bucharest, while the A4 motorway acts as the city's outer traffic ring, diverting heavy traffic to and from the Port of Constanța and to Mangalia.

The Port of Constanța includes the North Port and the South Port, and is the fourth largest in Europe. It is protected by breakwaters, with a lighthouse at the entrance. The port is sheltered from the northerly winds, but southerly winds can prove highly dangerous at times. The Black Sea squadron of the Romanian fleet is stationed here. A large canal (the Danube-Black Sea Canal) connects the Danube River to the Black Sea at Constanța.

The city is served by Mihail Kogălniceanu International Airport.

Constanța's public transport system is run by Regia Autonomă de Transport în Comun Constanța (RATC), and consists of 23 year-round bus lines, and one summer sightseeing double decker open top bus line to tourists.

In the early 2000s, the city bought 130 new MAZ buses to replace the aging fleet of DAC buses. The entire fleet is now made up of buses from the 2000-2008 period, which are painted in distinctive bright colors, such as pink, yellow and green. There is also a fleet of double decker Volvo buses that run in the summer, providing access to and from the resort of Mamaia²⁸⁷.

Trams were active until the early 2000s. By this time, however, the cars were almost 25 years old and with the difficulties in maintenance, were decommissioned in favor of long-wheelbase buses. Two trolley bus lines were active until the late 2000s - now also decommissioned and replaced by buses.

At the end of March 2014, all public buses were upgraded with Wifi for free use by all passengers. Speeds fall into the 3G HSDPA mobile range. Also, as an upgrade to the ticketing system, since the same time, tickets and per day all bus lines subscriptions can be bought via SMS, accepted by all national operators.

In July 2018 Constanța municipality signed a contract to acquire new buses manufactured by the Turkish company Anadolu Isuzu.

There are also plenty of private minibuses (similar to a share taxi) which run along longer and more intricate lines.

Galați County railway station has straight train services to cities such as Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Brașov and Iași all year and in the summer to Constanța.

²⁸⁷ ILiNC. "Regia Autonomă de Transport în Comun Constanța | Home". www.ratc.ro.

Public transport in Galați is provided by a combination of trams, trolleybuses, autobuses (all of which are operated by TRANSURB, an agency of the municipality).

Ports²⁸⁸. Galați, located on the left bank of the Danube, 80 Km away from the Danube Delta, has 4 ports, one for passenger transport and three for cargo transport. Galați is Romania's second important port, having the possibility to connect to the Black Sea; it is located on the maritime stretch. Port of Galați is the biggest Romanian river-sea port, located on the left bank of the Danube river, between Km 157+600 and Mm 78+1300. It has 4 anchorage areas, near the right bank of the Danube river.

Port of Galați consist of 4 terminals, as follows:

1. *Mineral Terminal* specialized in loading and discharge of bulk cargos and also steel rolled products.
2. Commercial Terminal
3. Docks Terminal
4. New Basin Terminal.

Tulcea County. The city of Tulcea has a bus network, operated by S.C. Public Transport S.A .. The main bus line is line 1, which links A. Saligny High School to Neptune Neighborhood, but there are several bus lines that cover almost the whole city. The succession intervals are about 20 minutes, but the central area, the most requested, is crossed by several routes (1, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 4b), their circulation graphs making, on this portion of route to run a bus every 6 to 7 minutes. Also, the local transport operator also carries out transport to Babadag, Nalbant, Iazurile, Nufăru, Visterna and Zebil, but also to Tulcea Airport.

Close to Tulcea (in Mihail Kogălniceanu commune, Tulcea-Constanța road, at kilometer 15) is the Danube Delta airport.

Access roads in Tulcea

By car

- Brăila - 92 km
- Bucharest - 283 km (via Hârșova - DN2)
- Constanța - 126 km
- Galați - 113 km (via Brăila)

²⁸⁸ Danube Transnational Programme (DAPhNE), Portinfrastructure & industrial development, D.5.1.1: Status of port infrastructure development along the Danube, Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA), p. 145, online source: http://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_public/0001/27/73f53f59745d05389b91577ed0a17ed0f17a6b07.pdf

- Vaslui - 290 km (via Galați)

With train

- Tulcea City Railway Station

There are two stations in Tulcea: Tulcea Cargo and Tulcea City. The latter is the most important and is the end of line 804, which connects Tulcea to Medgidia (144 km). Every day, two pairs of personal trains leave for Constanța and a pair of accelerated trains for Bucharest, the latter being served by Siemens Desiro (Blue Arrow) cars.

By bus

- Bucharest - Tulcea (minibuses)
- Constanța – Tulcea
- Iasi - Tulcea-Alba Iulia

By plane

- Mihail Kogălniceanu Constanța International Airport (~ 105 km from Tulcea) - ~ 15 km from Constanța city
- Tulcea Danube Delta Airport - 15 km from Tulcea city

By boat in Danube Delta

- Tulcea - Sf. Gheorghe
- Tulcea – Sulina
- Tulcea – Chilia
- Tulcea - Periprava

The Isaccea town is also a port on the Danube, having two mooring places for ships. It is mostly used for loading cereals and stone onto cargo ship. Isaccea is the entry point in Romania of the Isaccea-Negru Vodă gas pipeline (built between 2000-2002 to replace a smaller pipeline built in the 1980s) linking Ukraine and Bulgaria, bringing natural gas from Russia to Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. The town is also the entry point of the 400 kV Isaccea-Vulcănești electrical transmission line, through which Romania imports electricity from the Russian-owned Cuciurgan powerplant in the Transnistria region of Moldova.

Vrancea county is crossed by the European road E85 (the national road DN2 that connects the road with Bacău, Roman and Suceava (towards the north) and with Buzău, Bucharest and Giurgiu (towards the south)). Also, the county is crossed by the railway line CFR 500 (Bucharest-Suceava). Adjud municipality is crossed by the National road E 85 for a length of 11 km, from km 226 at the Troțuș Bridge up to 237 km to Bacău running in downtown for a section of 3 km. It is also crossed by the

national road 11A, from the agro-food market towards Onești - Bacău, for a length of 4 km from km 37 + 450 to km 33 + 450. The national road E 85 branches out to Adjudu Vechi, while 11A goes to Bârlad, from km 42 to 46, for a length of 4 km running in the downtown area for a section of 1.5 km.

2.1.6.2. Health Infrastructure: Hospitals, Health Centers

Brăila County Emergency Hospital

The unit works since 1981 aimed at ensuring emergency care for adults, children and citizens of the city and county of Brăila, as well as neighboring counties. Since 2002, two sections from the Hospital "St. Panteleimon" (current psychiatric hospital) were taken over, and in 2003 the County Hospital took over the entire "St. Spiridon" hospital. In 2011 the Hospital of Obstetrics-Gynecology was reorganized in the Hospital District resulting in the current structure of Brăila County Emergency Hospital²⁸⁹:

- Pavilion A - Brăila County Hospital Emergency - Buzău Street, no. 2



- Pavilion B - Former Emergency Hospital "St. Spiridon" - Pietatii Street, no. 2



- Pavilion C - Department of Infectious Diseases - Buzău Street, no. 2

²⁸⁹ http://www.spitalBraila.ro/about_Braila_county_emergency_hospital.html



- Pavilion D - The former Hospital of Obstetrics-Gynecology - Independence street, no. 251



- Ambulatory



The Hospital of Pneumophysiology in Brăila

The administrative headquarters: R.S.Campiniu Street No. 21.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0239 613 665, 0239 613 113.

The Hospital of Pneumophysiology in Brăila is a sanitary unit with legal personality established in 1999 by the Order of the Minister of Health no. The hospital provides medical assistance in the phytology and pneumology specialties for the citizens of the

municipality and of the county as well as for the neighboring counties. The hospital operates in:

- Pavilion A from R.S. Campiniu no.21 (Children's compartment and TBC Brăila Dispensary)
- Pavilion B from R.S. Campiniu no. 21 (Sections of the hospital)
- Pavilion C of Belvedere Street. No. 12 (Radiological point)
- TBC Faurei Dispensary - City Faurei, Republic Street no. 9²⁹⁰.

Buzău County Emergency Hospital

The administrative headquarters: Stadionului Street no. 7, Buzău.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0238720689, 0238719132, 0749025201.

Buzău County Emergency Hospital is a sanitary unit with beds, of public utility with legal personality, subordinated to the Buzău County Council, public property, which provides medical services, (preventive, curative and recovery), operating on the principles provided in Law no.95 / 2006 with subsequent amendments and completions. The priority task of the Hospital is to provide specialized medical care (hospital and outpatient). Established in order to provide specialized medical services, the hospital has in its structure separate sections for the treatment and care of patients with clinical conditions. The sections can be operated under continuous or daily hospitalization, for acute and chronic patients, providing conditions for medical investigations, treatment, accommodation, hygiene, nutrition and prevention of nosocomial infections, according to the norms approved by order of the minister of public health. Also, the hospital is responsible, according to the law, for the quality of the medical act, for respecting the conditions of accommodation, hygiene, food and prevention of nosocomial infections, as well as for covering the damages caused to the patients²⁹¹. The Hospital carries out medical education for doctors, nurses and other personnel, respecting the rights of patients, ethics and medical ethics. Within the Hospital, post-secondary education / medical practice activities can be carried out under the guidance of the teaching staff of the educational unit under the coordination and supervision of the specialized personnel of the hospital. These activities are organized in such a way as to strengthen the quality of the medical act, respecting the rights of the patient, the confidentiality of the data, the ethics and the medical

²⁹⁰ <https://www.spitalultbcbcr.ro/>

²⁹¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.spitalulBuzău.ro/despre.php>

deontology. The hospital has the obligation to provide first aid and emergency medical assistance to any person who comes to the hospital, if the person's health is critical. The hospital will be permanently prepared to provide medical assistance in case of war, disasters, terrorist attacks, social conflicts and other crisis situations and is obliged to participate with all the resources to eliminate the effects²⁹².



Râmnicu Sărat Municipal Hospital

The administrative headquarters: Nicolae Bălcescu Street no. 2

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0238562780, 0238561231, 0238561232.

The Râmnicu Sărat Municipal Hospital is located at a distance of 34 km from Buzău County Hospital and 160 km from Bucharest University Center. The hospital provides medical care for a population of approx. 90,000 inhabitants, from the urban area Râmnicu Sărat, the rural area from Buzău county, emergency assistance for the neighboring communes of Vrancea and Brăila counties. Within the unit, specialized medical care is provided, preventive, curative, recovery, care in case of pregnancy and maternity and newborns. The hospital has a new building on 4 levels, the old pavilion as well as two exterior buildings (pneumophysiology and TB dispensary). In total, the hospital operates with 405 beds. From the point of view of the organizational structure, it is a general hospital for acute patients and has treatment possibilities for the following conditions: cardio-vascular, digestive, respiratory, renal, neurological, ophthalmological, osteoarticular, dermatological, otorhinolaryngology, nutrition disorders and metabolism for adults, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics²⁹³.

Constanța County Clinical Emergency Hospital (SCJU)

The administrative headquarters: Tomis Boulevard no. 145, Constanța.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0241-660331, 0241-662222, 0241-503444.

²⁹² Id.

²⁹³ <http://www.spitalrms.ro/prezentare%20spital%20site.pdf>

Established in 1969, the County Emergency Clinical Hospital Constanța is the largest medical unit in the Southeastern region of Romania. Thus, the hospital provides permanent curative medical services for a population of over 760,000 inhabitants of Constanța county and takes over most cases that exceed the jurisdiction of the territorial hospitals in the county. SCJU Constanța directly serves Constanța and Tulcea (with a population of over 245,000 inhabitants), which results in an addressability of almost one million inhabitants. Moreover, as a feature, the hospital provides medical assistance to tourists, Romanians and foreigners, throughout the summer season. During the summer the statistics showed that the SCJU directly serves over one million tourists visiting the Romanian coast. Thus, in the summer season, over 500 patients are registered in the Emergency Unit every 24 hours. County Emergency Clinical Hospital is a public hospital financed entirely from its own revenues and operates on the principle of financial autonomy. The hospital's own revenues come from the amounts collected for the medical services provided on the basis of contracts concluded with the County Health Insurance House, as well as from other sources²⁹⁴.



Online source: <http://www.spitalulConstanta.ro/>

Constanța Clinical Hospital of Pneumophysiology

The administrative headquarters: Santinelei Street no. 40, Palazu Mare neighborhood
Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0241652893, 0241486300, 0241486340.

The Clinical Hospital of Pneumophysiology Constanța is a monospecialty public hospital with legal personality, subordinated to the Public Health Authority of Constanța county. With more than 50 years activity, the hospital, through its staff, is recognized for providing high-quality medical care in respiratory diseases. Over time, the health care unit has evolved from the hospital of phthisiology, with a dominant activity in pulmonary tuberculosis, to the pneumology hospital with trained and competent

²⁹⁴ (in Romanian) <http://www.spitalulConstanta.ro/prezentare/>

medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of respiratory disorders. The broadening of the spectrum of pleuro-pulmonary disorders and the over-specialization of the superior medical staff increased the addressability of patients at our hospital. The hospital is of pavilion type, being made up of a set of 5 buildings out of which 3 have a medical destination. In the other two buildings are the pharmacy, the laboratory, the service spaces and the technical-administrative services. It was established in 1959 with a profile of chronic pulmonary diseases and continues to provide specialized medical services for pneumophysiological disorders in children and adults. Superior medical staff is made up of 20 doctors, of which 15 pneumologists (10 on 185 beds, 7 in the specialized ambulatory), 1 laboratory doctor, 1 radiologist, 3 resident doctors. With 185 beds, it has a university clinical section which, besides medical assistance, carries out educational activity and scientific research, two medical sections and the specialized ambulatory. The main areas in which clinical research activities are carried out are those of chronic obstructive pulmonary pathology (asthma and COPD), neoplastic pathology, acute or chronic pulmonary infections (pneumonia and pulmonary tuberculosis), severe systemic infections (sepsis) as well as in the field of tobacco and imaging and bronchoscopic investigation²⁹⁵.



Online source : <https://pneumoConstanța.ro/scurt-istoric/>

Hospital for Infectious Diseases Constanța

The administrative headquarters: Ferdinand Boulevard no. 100.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0241484501, 0241484529.

²⁹⁵ (in Romanian) <https://pneumoConstanța.ro/scurt-istoric/>

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases Constanța represents a reference hospital in the county, both due to the addressability existing throughout the year (outbreaks of food poisoning, epidemics, quarantine diseases, tropical diseases for those traveling in the respective areas, navigators, etc., the Regional HIV Center / AIDS, prophylaxis and anti-rabies treatment for Tulcea county), and in summer for tourists, as well as due to the recognized quality of the medical staff. Recently, the hospital has also become a regional reference center for respiratory infections (especially influenza). The hospital has many partnerships with national and international organizations such as Americares, which has been providing substantial donations in medicines and health supplies for many years, which greatly relieves drug costs, especially within the National HIV Program, with Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, Abbot Fund, existing within the hospital Clinical Center of Excellence for the treatment of HIV-infected patients, with only 7 other such centers in the world²⁹⁶.



Online source: <https://www.Constantadeazi.ro/spitalul-de-boli-infectioase-Constanța-va-avea-linie-de-garda-pe-terapie-intensiva-se-vor-face-angajari/>

Clinical Hospital for Recovery, Physical Medicine and Balneology Eforie Nord

The administrative headquarters: Aleea Speciala no. 1, Republic Boulevard.

Phone numbers: 0241741082, 0766079544, 0241741800.

The Clinical Hospital for Recovery, Physical Medicine and Balneology Eforie Nord has the following medical equipments and devices: radiodiagnostic equipment and medical imaging, the tools and equipment necessary to perform the medical analyzes of hematology, biochemistry, as well as microbiology, immunology and, as the case may be, toxicology. The hospital carries out activities of education and scientific-medical research, as well as of continuing medical education, in accordance with the provisions

²⁹⁶ (in Romanian) <http://infectioaseConstanta.ro/despre-noi/>

of its organization and functioning regulation, approved by order of the Minister of Health²⁹⁷.



Online source: <https://www.institutiimedicale.ro/spital/spitalul-recuperare-medicina-fizica-balneologie-eforie-nord/>

Sanatorium and Rehabilitation Mangalia

The administrative headquarters: Mircea cel Bătrân Street no. 2.

Phone numbers: 0241751337.

A spa-climatic resort of national and international interest, located on the coast of the Black Sea, Mangalia, combines ancient Callatian vestiges (6th century BC) with the richness of the natural therapeutic factors. This unique association in Europe of the richness of the natural therapeutic factors gives the city of Mangalia a special reputation. Tourists and patients who choose the health and rest on the Black Sea coast meet at the Mangalia Spa Sanatorium a group of exceptional medical staff, modern equipment and affordable rates. This special combination of natural factors and medical professionalism gives you the desired health and vigor. Located on the promenade, 50 m from the large beach of the city, the Sanatorium has a two-star hotel, with a capacity of 200 places, two clinical sections with 75 beds and two modern treatment bases, which serve both the sections with beds of the sanatorium, and a specialized ambulatory located in Matei Basarab Street, no. 3, Mangalia, with a total capacity of 1000 patients per day²⁹⁸.

²⁹⁷ (in Romanian) <https://www.institutiimedicale.ro/spital/spitalul-recuperare-medicina-fizica-balneologie-eforie-nord/>

²⁹⁸ (in Romanian) <https://www.balnear.net/>



Online source: <https://www.balnear.net/>

Techirghiol Spa and Recovery Sanatorium

The administrative headquarters: Dr. Victor Climescu Boulevard no. 34-40.

Phone numbers: (0241) 481 711, (0241) 481 723.

Techirghiol Spa and Recovery Sanatorium, with adult locomotor profile and gynecology, operates throughout the year and benefits from the existence of one of the most modern spa-physical-kinetic treatment bases in our country. Here the treatment of the patients admitted in the three adult sections of the sanatorium as well as outpatient treatments is ensured. Being arranged on two levels, the treatment base can treat up to 1,000 patients daily and over 6,000 medical services can be performed daily. Also, the sanatorium benefits from the existence of a children's recovery unit, one of the few sections available to us in the country, considering that the specialists in pediatric recovery are very small in Romania. Over 900 patients every 10 days come to Techirghiol in the summer for treatment with sapropelic sludge and salt water. Of these, over 15% are foreign tourists, mainly Europeans, from countries such as Germany, France, Italy and Russia²⁹⁹.

The miraculous therapeutic effects of Techirghiol sapropelic sludge are well known in Southeastern Romania. Legend has it that old Techir, a crippled and blind man, who, along with his donkey full of wounds, miraculously healed after bathing in Lake Techirghiol. But the use of sludge as a therapeutic factor has been known for thousands of years, being one of the oldest treatments used in ancient Egypt. The legend is supported by a great truth, the sludge treatment successfully passing the

²⁹⁹ (in Romanian) <https://sbtghiol.ro/features/oaza-de-sanatate/>

hardest sample, that of time. Thus, for hundreds of years, locals and people from all over the world have benefited from the healing effects of Techirghiol sludge, forgetting about rheumatic pain, skin conditions or daily fatigue. Techirghiol sludge has been the subject of numerous research and clinical studies performed by the doctors of the Techirghiol Spa and Recovery Sanatorium, these being rewarded with numerous national and international awards, the most recent distinction being the gold medal obtained at the 65th International Conference on Balneology and Climatotherapy, organized in Nanjing and Chongqing in southeastern China. Currently, the tradition is continued at the Techirghiol Spa and Recovery Sanatorium, where many conditions can be treated³⁰⁰.



Online source: Facebook - Sanatoriul Balnear si de Recuperare Techirghiol, profile
<https://www.facebook.com/Sanatoriul-Balnear-si-de-Recuperare-Techirghiol-489817967696029/>

Galați County St. Apostle Andrei Emergency Clinical Hospital

The administrative headquarters: Brailei Street no. 177.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0236301115, 0236301111, 0236301112.

Galați County St. Apostle Andrei Emergency Clinical Hospital was founded in 1972, a building with 9 floors, basement and basement, built according to an English model. The hospital has a specialized ambulatory, organized in a building with 3 floors, common body with the hospital. It operates with a number of 1,222 beds, it is the largest and most important medical unit in Galați county and in the whole bordering region. The institution serves both patients from Galați County, as well as from Vrancea, Vaslui, Buzău, Brăila and Tulcea counties, through Sections of inter-county interest such as: Neurosurgery, Thoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Oral and

³⁰⁰ (in Romanian) <https://sbtghiol.ro/features/namol-sapropelic/>

Maxillofacial Surgery, Plastic Surgery. Through the Cobalt Therapy section, the hospital serves the entire area of Moldova. The hospital is dedicated to the health of all patients, through medical treatments offered with professionalism and efficiency, contributing to the continuous increase of the performance of the medical act³⁰¹.



Online source: <https://www.spitalulurgentaGalati.ro/despre-noi/prezentare-istoric.html>

Tulcea County Emergency Hospital

The administrative headquarters: 1848 Street no. 32.

Emergency calls at: 112. Phone numbers: 0240532209, 0240532210, 0240532211.

Tulcea County Emergency Hospital provides continuous hospitalization, specialized ambulatory services, day hospitalization services or paraclinical services in the following specialties: anesthesia and intensive care, infectious diseases, cardiology, dermatovenerology, endocrinology or diabetes, nutrition and metabolic diseases, internal medicine, nephrology, neonatology, neurology, medical oncology, pediatrics, pneumology, psychiatry, general surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics and traumatology, otolaryngology, urology, pathological anatomy, laboratory medicine and radiology - medical imaging. Specialist doctors from Tulcea County Emergency Hospital ensure continuity through separate guard lines in the following specialties: anesthesia and intensive care, internal medicine, neurology, pediatrics, psychiatry, general surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, orthopedics and traumatology, laboratory medicine, radiology - medical imaging. The Tulcea County Emergency Hospital is equipped with the following medical equipment and devices: digital radiodiagnostic equipment and medical imaging, computerized tomography

³⁰¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.spitalulurgentaGalati.ro/despre-noi/prezentare-istoric.html>

apparatus, conventional ultrasonography, instruments and equipment necessary for performing medical analyzes of hematology, biochemistry, microbiology, immunology³⁰².



Online source: <https://ziaruldelta.ro/2019/08/01/spitalul-judetean-tulcea-modernizat-cu-circa-60-de-milioane-de-euro/>

Focsani County St. Pantelimon Emergency Hospital

Focsani County St. Pantelimon Emergency Hospital is a public health unit with Emergency Reception Unit, providing first aid and emergency medical assistance to people whose health is critical and which enhances the quality of the medical act, respecting patients' rights, ethics and medical deontology. The component also has the Integrated Specialty Ambulator. For the hospitalized patients, the hospital ensures and is responsible for the quality of the medical act, accommodation conditions, hygiene, nutrition and prevention of nosocomial infections, according to the norms approved by order of the minister of health. The hospital aims to improve the health of the population and to develop a modern and efficient health system, compatible with the health systems in the European Union, permanently placed in the service of the citizen, having a structure of medical-surgical specialties and providing specialized medical care including for cases. serious issues in the county that cannot be solved at the level of local hospitals³⁰³.

³⁰² (in Romanian) <https://www.institutiimedicale.ro/spital/spitalul-judetean-urgenta-tulcea/>

³⁰³ (in Romanian) <http://www.spitalvn.ro/>



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Online source: <https://monitoruldevrancea.ro/2019/08/17/angajari-masive-la-spitalul-judetean-focsani-sunt-disponibile-pest-60-de-posturi/>

Adjud Municipal Hospital

Adjud Municipal Hospital is a sanitary unit of public utility, with legal personality, which provides medical services to the residents of Adjud Municipality and the neighboring localities. Established in 1875, the medical unit has 11 sections and compartments - Orthopedics, Medical Rehabilitation, Pediatrics, Neonatology, Cardiology, Surgery, Hematology, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Surveillance Department, Sterilization Unit, Laboratory of Medical Analyzes, Operating Block, Anesthesia and Intensive Care, TB, Emergency unit, 2 guard lines and 14 specialty outpatient clinics: ENT, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Psychology, Internal Medicine. Obstetrics-Gynecology, Pediatrics, Orthopedics-Traumatology, General Surgery, Recovery Medicine, Hematology and Cardiology. Adjud Municipal Hospital has, within the Medical Imaging Laboratory, a CT scan³⁰⁴.

³⁰⁴ (in Romanian) <https://adjud.ro/spitalul-municipal-adjud/>



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Online source: <https://www.vrancea24.ro/spitalul-municipal-adjud-singura-unitate-medicala-din-vrancea-cu-sectie-de-ingrijiri-paliative/>

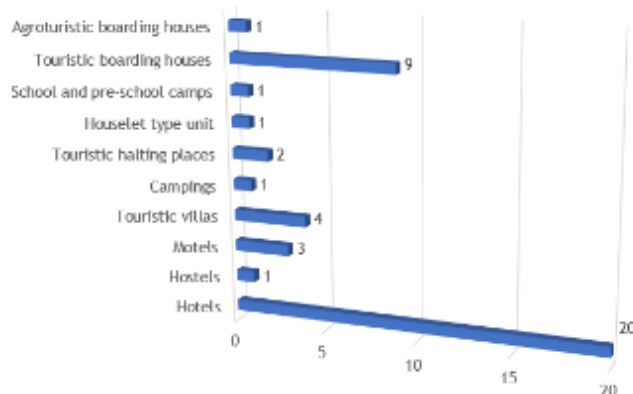
2.1.7 Tourism infrastructure and services

Many destinations have tried to recover by enhancing their offer by innovation and creating an artificial experience of tourism. But the opportunity of new offer, its variety and novelty are strictly based on the leisure component. Beaches, marinas, cruises, casinos, ski areas, theme parks etc. represent the leisure infrastructure that becomes an attraction by itself, turning into new forms of tourism for the more experienced and exigent modern tourist. The fruitful experience offered by many countries can establish that the leisure component is more appealing to the modern consumer in regard to the general tourism services³⁰⁵.

³⁰⁵ Dridea Catrinel Raluca, *The Perspectives of Leisure Tourism in Romania Based on Mountain Tourism Infrastructure and Services*, "Ovidius" University Annals, Economic Sciences Series, Volume XIII, Issue 1/ 2013, p. 308.

2.1.7.1. Accommodation

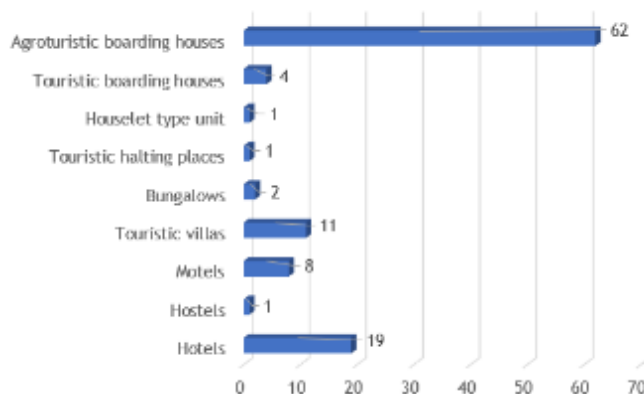
Tourists accommodation in Brăila County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Brăila County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

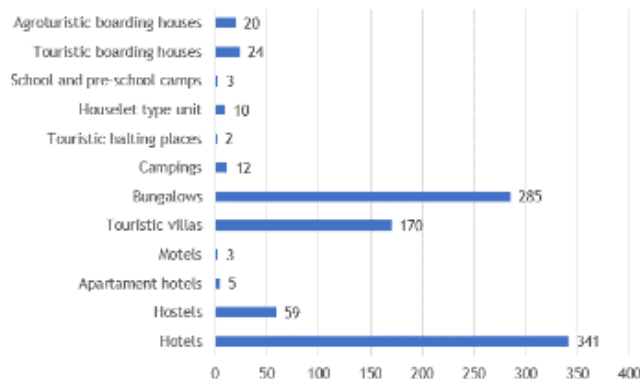
Tourists accommodation in Buzău County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Buzău County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

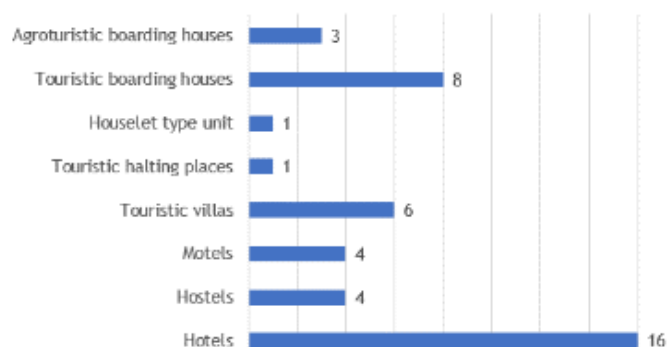
Tourists accommodation in Constanța County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Constanța County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

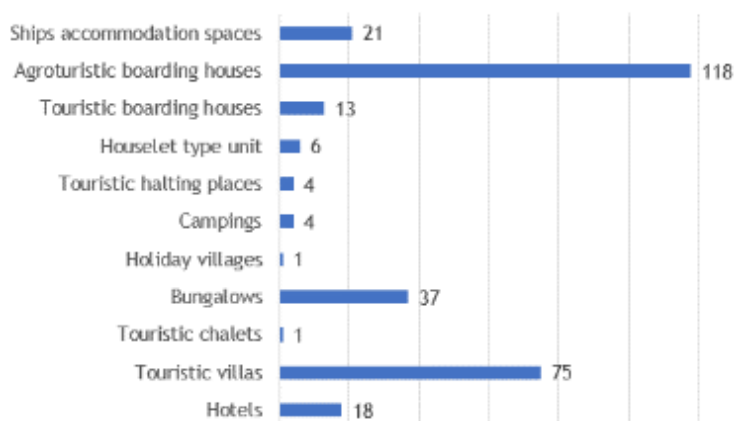
Tourists accommodation in Galați County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Galați County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

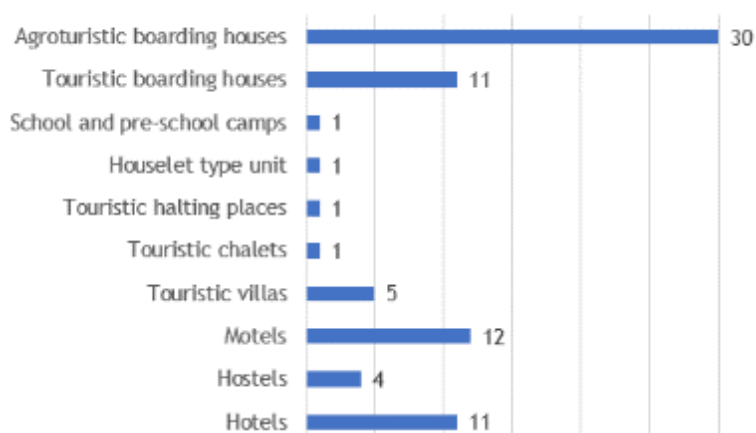
Tourists accommodation in Tulcea County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Tulcea County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Tourists accommodation in Vrancea County in 2019



Tourists accommodation in Vrancea County in 2019

Source: National Institute for Statistics - ROMANIA, Online source:
<http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

2.1.7.2. Leisure facilities (restaurants, cafes etc.)

The Reset Irish_Pub Restaurant

The Reset Irish_Pub Restaurant is located opposite the Brăila Tribunal, opened in the summer of 2009, being a special location through the arrangement and variety of the menu. From spring to late autumn, the restaurant's terrace is also equipped with heaters for cold days and air coolers for hot summer days. The menu of the restaurant is varied, containing dishes from the international cuisine that we invite you to taste. Besides the diversity of culinary preparations, you will also find a wide range of wines, cocktails that respect the original recipes, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. The restaurant is intended exclusively for organizing events, weddings, christenings, corporate and private parties, product launches, openings, presentations³⁰⁶.



Online source: <http://www.restaurant-reset.ro/>

Swing Restaurant

The Swing Restaurant is an oasis of real gastronomic joy. The venue is located exactly on the Danube Cliff in Brăila, the city that boasts huge names in Romanian culture - from here started Hariclea Darclee and Yannis Xenakis in music, Panait Istrati, Mihail Sebastian and Fanus Neagu in literature, Maria Filotti in theater. It has the great advantage of allowing you to feel, not necessarily the smell of the barbecue or other culinary delights, but also the air of the pond, the smell of the water of the old Danube

³⁰⁶ <http://www.restaurant-reset.ro/>



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and even the sound of the water. In the clear evenings, you can soak up the charm of the cliff, warmed in a golden light³⁰⁷.



Online source: <https://Brăilachirei.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/restaurant-swing-Brăila-oaza-de-reala-bucurie-gastronomica/>

Matthew's fishery (in Romanian: Pescaria lui Matei)

After the second bridge from Agigea was built over the Danube-Black Sea Canal, it became more accessible, and "Matei's Fishery" became in just four years one of the most popular fishing restaurants on the coast, with constant customers regardless of season or season. The restaurant is not in the tourist area, but on a more commercial route, which can be confused with a truck parking, but its location on the rocks and the sea view have quickly gained its popularity. As well as its own source of fresh fish, which made those who passed the threshold recommend the fishery in Agigea³⁰⁸.

³⁰⁷ (in Romanian) <https://Brăilachirei.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/restaurant-swing-Brăila-oaza-de-reala-bucurie-gastronomica/>

³⁰⁸ (in Romanian) <https://www.pescarialuimatei.ro/>



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Online source: <http://pink-blog.ro/pareri-despre-pescaria-lui-matei-agigea/>

Serbian Tavern (in Romanian: Taverna Sârbului)

Serbian gastronomy is the strongest example that the tastes of a nation can cross the ages not by altering themselves, but by enriching themselves from those who have been along the way. In the crucible of this national cuisine, with a thousand unmistakable flavors, history has thrown the tastes of other recipes. The Ottoman one - in turn a mixture of culinary cultures. The Greek - old since the world and always renewed. The Austrian or the Hungarian - because while men were fighting their wars, women shared recipes. The Italian - gentle delights. But especially those of the Slavic nations from the southwest of the ripple water of the Danube. The restaurant is perhaps one of the richest gastronomies of the Eastern half of Europe, having for each client a dish to be savored, sweeter or spicier, but always tasty! Among the delicacies, we find a strong Slivovitz, the drink of the ancient heroes of Serbia, the traditional preparations of Serbia and of the Slavic world of the Balkans: ćevapčići - Serbian correspondent of



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the Romanian “mititei”, the pljeskavica (to which some call it The Serbian hamburger) sausages, Sarma and moussaka, in Serbian style³⁰⁹.



Online source: <https://Constanta.tavernasarbului.ro/despre-taverna-sarbului/>

Life Harbour Restaurant

The restaurant consists of two areas, the first one includes a club and terrace located near the checkpoints and with a capacity of 50 people, inside, and 60 outside, and the second, a floating restaurant, with a capacity of 70 people. The spectacular location, between yachts, of the two areas of the restaurant, offers a unique setting and makes this location a trend-setter in the tourist field. Life Harbor Restaurant offers international-specific menus and cuisine, including freshly caught Black Sea fish. During the warm season, room-service also works, both for accommodation spaces and for those who want to dine on their own boats³¹⁰.

³⁰⁹ (in Romanian) <https://Constanta.tavernasarbului.ro/despre-taverna-sarbului/>

³¹⁰ (in Romanian) <http://lifeharbour.ro/club-restaurant>



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Online source: <http://lifeharbour.ro/club-restaurant>

Ovid Island Restaurant

Nature created Ovidiu Island thousands of years ago, and people created legends around it. This is a modern and traditional place at the same time. Ovidiu island located on Lake Siutghiol at 5000m from the shore of Mamaia resort and 500m from Ovidiu city, is one of the most unique places of the Romanian coast, being the only tourist objective that operates on an island. Currently, the tourist complex has 20 accommodation places for tourists, in 10 3-star cottages, each equipped with double bed, own bathroom, air conditioning, television, cable, minibar.

The rustic restaurant also satisfies the most demanding tastes through the ambiance and the traditional Romanian dishes and the fish specialties. It is the ideal place for business dinners, different special family or professional events. In addition to the 400-seat restaurant, the complex also includes a Country Terrace with 150 seats that complement the island's enchanting environment. The "Ovidius" ship is a novelty for the Romanian coastline, with 3-star facilities that transport tourists to the island, but at the same time offers unique walks on the lake. The steam being functional throughout the year, festive or mundane events can be organized within the restaurant, which holds 50 seats, but also on the terrace, which has 80 seats³¹¹.

³¹¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/insulaovidiumamaia/about/>



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Online source: Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/insulaovidiumamaia/>

Nikos Greek Taverna

All those who walked along the shore of the great Aegean fell in love with the preparations of the Greek taverns. That is why Nikos Greek Taverna tried their best to bring the flavor of these dishes to the Black Sea shore. After countless beautiful and unique experiences of the chain of taverns opened in Constanța, Nikos Greek Taverna want to take the story of the tavern further. The smell of authentic spices and the multitude of preparations made after Greek recipes will convince you that you are truly on Greek lands. At Nikos Greek Tavern you will be greeted with the fusion of flavors of a diversified menu, which will guarantee an authentic Greek culinary experience³¹².

³¹² (in Romanian) http://Constanta.nikosgreektaverna.ro/#about_nikos



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Nikos Greek Taverna on the Bd. Tomis Boulevard no. 44, online source:

<http://Constanța.nikosgreektaverna.ro/>



Nikos Greek Taverna on Mamaia Nord, online source: <http://Constanța.nikosgreektaverna.ro/>

The Fishermen's Stop (in Romanian: Popasul pescarilor)

The Fishermen's Stop is one of the oldest fishery restaurants on the south of the Romanian coast, being opened in 1996. The fish served is fished in the early hours of the Black Sea in the morning by our fishermen or in the lake behind the restaurant³¹³.

³¹³ <http://www.popasul-pescarilor.ro/restaurant/>



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Online source: <http://www.popasul-pescarilor.ro/restaurant/>

Babel - Mediterranean Fish and Lebanese Restaurant

Babel is a Lebanese restaurant, located in a picturesque place in Năvodari, secluded, discreet, right by the sea. The magnificent view accompanies the Lebanese dishes, prepared with great care according to the original recipes. It is the place where you can discover Lebanese cuisine from A to Z. Fish is always fresh, and vegetables, eggs, rams and poultry come from their own Bioferma³¹⁴.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BabelRestaurantLibanez/photos/>

³¹⁴ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BabelRestaurantLibanez/about/>

Mediterranean Seafood Restaurant - Caru' cu Scoici

A place of story, a destination for gourmets, a magical land for children and a garden with a great fragrance, this is what best describes the relaxed universe within the Caru' cu Scoici, a Mediterranean fishing restaurant. Located on the seafront, in the Venus resort, at the exit towards Cap Aurora, the restaurant offers a varied menu inspired by the famous cuisines in the Mediterranean area. Preparations of fish and seafood, but also other delicacies are prepared with great skill by the chefs of the restaurant. The fishing restaurant is arranged in the form of an airy terrace, lined with flowers and greenery, which descend smoothly towards the beach. At every visit, the sea keeps you company with its smooth breeze and the waves you can admire in the area. Even for children, the visit to this restaurant is delicious! For them, the restaurant created tasty menus and set up a colorful playground where time is measured by laughter, fun and appetite³¹⁵.



Online source: <https://carucuscoici.ro/galerie.html>

Island Restaurant from Neptun

The Island Restaurant, opened in 1968, is located on the island of a lake from Neptune. It is one of the few places where fish from Delta, seafood, but also classic dishes of beef, pork, chicken, pasta and many other Romanian dishes can be served. But what it is special about this restaurant is the unique location on the coast. Once you arrive on the island you can choose to serve a meal on the little ships, on one of the pontoons

³¹⁵ (in Romanian) <https://carucuscoici.ro/despre.html>

on the water, near the waterfall, under a willow tree, in a booth or a verandah. The coolness of the lake and the sea breeze are felt all over the island³¹⁶.



Online source: <https://www.insulaneptun.ro/restaurant/>

The Gulf Fishermen's Restaurant

The Gulf Fishermen's Restaurant was born from the need to enjoy the beauty of nature and from a great desire to express the culinary art through tasty dishes of fresh fish and seafood. Located on Agigea beach, far from the bustle of urban civilization, the restaurant has a Mediterranean style and it keeps its tradition³¹⁷.



Online source: <https://www.golfulpescarilor.ro/>

³¹⁶ (in Romanian) <https://www.insulaneptun.ro/restaurant/>

³¹⁷ (in Romanian) <https://www.golfulpescarilor.ro/>

Water Gate – A Fish Restaurant near the Black Sea

The Water Gate (in Romanian: Poarta Apelor) is a restaurant with a fishery specific, located in Eforie Sud, near the Black Sea. The varied fish products are lovingly prepared by the chefs for all tastes. You will find in the menu a variety of fishery products that will delight the taste buds, prepared on the plate or fried, tasty brine, fish salads, fish soups and soups, in aromatic herb crust or salt crust. The seafood is prepared with great care to conquer you from the first bite, but also the tagliatelle with seafood that can delight your senses. You can also delight in preparations of chicken, beef, pork or rat. Water Gate is a restaurant ready to delight you with fresh fish products and a pleasant atmosphere near the Black Sea!³¹⁸



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/PoartaApelor/>

³¹⁸ <https://www.eforieonline.ro/restaurantul-pescaresc-poarta-apelor-eforie-sud.html>

Blue Aqua Restaurant

The organic architecture of the restaurants in Galați represents a combination of the natural elements with the service areas, in a perfect symbiosis that are mutually enhancing. Asymmetrical groups in the open plan, is a feature of the design applied by one of the owners, Sorin Dragan being in love with the organic shapes and nature, continuously developing a concept in which they filter light and punctuate the colors, creating a coherent and seductive ensemble for tasting. The central terrace offers intimacy to those who cross our threshold, eliminates the separation of the interior and exterior space, thus achieving the maximum freedom of expression of those who taste our preparations, while maintaining harmony with the environment. With the passage of time and the evolution of the culinary techniques of preparing fish products, from smoking the products until their marination (the process of soaking foods in a seasoned, often acidic, liquid before cooking), the owners thought to transport the wild fish to the more remote areas, to satisfy even the most demanding gourmets. The owners took the initiative to take advantage of the rich freshwater fish and opened the first restaurants, where they gathered classic or traditional recipes, original and innovative. Later, they combined them with other bio-certified products, in a tasteful explosion with seafood and other wonders on the shores of the Mediterranean. Because there is plenty, taken directly from the fishermen on the banks of the Danube, we can delight the taste buds with the most refined dishes or the most common recipes, using exclusively extra virgin olive oil, olives harvested from the hills of Tuscany or vegetables grown in a bio environment by the Romanian villagers³¹⁹.

³¹⁹ (in Romanian) <https://www.blueacqua.ro/Galați/povestea-blue-acqua>



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Online source: <https://www.blueacqua.ro/Galați/galerie-foto-Galați>

Kingfisher Bar (in Romanian: Ivan Pescar Fish Bar)

Ivan Pescar Fish Bar from Tulcea offers fresh fish dishes from Danube Delta and Black Sea, cooked by Lipovans chefs. Ivan Pescar is a small bird of an almost electric blue, a kind of Delta hummingbird, known internationally as Kingfisher. The owner borrowed his name because Ivan Pescar is not only an exclusive fish restaurant, but a declaration of love for Danube Delta. The restaurant is a project born from friendship and shared passion for delta tastes and scents, local gastronomy and the delta's intangible heritage. Ivan Pescar offers a sincere experience, based on the quality and freshness of the fish. The dishes are cooked respecting the recipes of the place and the prohibition periods, from fresh, local and seasonal fish, from responsible catches, because we protect our future fish sources³²⁰.

³²⁰ (in Romanian) <https://www.ivanpescar.ro/povesteanoastra>



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Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/IvanPescar/photos>

Aqua Magic Park from Mamaia Resort

Aqua Magic Park from Mamaia Resort in Constanța is one of the important attractions on the Romanian coast, it has an impressive area of 27200 square meters. The most emblematic water park in the country reveals the secret of an exceptional holiday: the diversity of events, the aquatic attractions and a lot adrenaline. Aqua Magic addresses all age categories, satisfying the desire to relax some but also the adventure and adrenaline rush of the others, being able to host 3000 visitors a day. This park offers you 15 endless sources of activities³²¹:

³²¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/aquamagic/>

- **Waterplayground** is a playground specially designed for children, with an area of 1400 sqm, consisting of pools and multiple slides, where the water depth is 40 cm.
- **Baby pool** is a children's pool, with an area of 800 square meters, the water depth is maximum 20 cm, it is noticed by the multitude of colorful mini-slides, the characters from the stories, the blue whale, the playful dolphins, the turtle frogs, the sea bass, the octopus, which accompany the children on the great adventure in a magical world.
- **River ride** is a spectacular experience, an attraction that guarantees the joy being the largest canyon circuit with a diameter of 1700 mm, a starting height of 5 meters and a running length of 50 meters.
- **Multislide** invites you to compete with 3 friends for the fastest landing in swimming pools. The departure is made from 8 meters high, on a length of 41 meters.
- **Space bowl** gives you three different sensations in one slide; at first a rapid slip from a height of 11 meters through a tubular slide, then you will reach a huge funnel where with the help of the centrifugal power you will circle in a circle, then by free fall you will land in a swimming pool with a depth of 2 meters.
- **Mega pipe** is a curved and restless slide, designed for those who have the speed and pleasure of curves; is presented as a closed tube, with a diameter of 800 mm, starts from a height of 11.4 meters and runs on a length of 45 meters.
- **Twister** offers you twists, turns, fast gliding and adrenaline as it comes in two braided tubes, of different colors, with a diameter of 800 mm, starting from a height of 11.4 meters and has a running length of 50 meters.
- **Kamikaze** is an expert in creating strong sensations, being reserved for the bravest! With an open tube, 700 mm wide, it descends abruptly from a height of 11.4 meters and continues running on a length of 50 meters and its configuration ensures easy landing and maximum safety. This adrenaline slide is a favorite of waterparks.
- **Super Crater** always gives you an extraordinary ride! See the world from 11 meters high and slide slowly through a closed tube with a diameter of 1400 mm, after which the speed increases and you are thrown into the giant crater where gravitational forces take control, you circle, then descend into the middle crater that leads you to the landing.
- **Turbo slide**. If the speed is the one that produces you the most adrenaline, throw yourself in a closed, red tube, with a diameter of 800 mm starting from a height of 11 meters, 50 meters running in which it makes a loop, then pass through a transparent tube with drops in the landing pool.

- **Black hole** is the completely closed, circular tube, with a diameter of 1400 mm, starting from a height of 10 meters, in which you are allowed to slide only with a swimbelt which gives you a rolling length of 70 meters. Black hole is the most popular slide, a mixture of speed and fun that offers an incredible experience.
- In Aqua Magic Mamaia you find the only **Side Winder slide** in Romania! This attraction has been developed for lovers of maximum fun who are looking for high speed experiences, starting from a height of 14 meters, offering unique sensations of free fall!
- **Lazy river** is the best guide in Aqua Magic, with a length of 360 meters, 3 meters wide, 1.3 meters depth, communicates with all the swimming pools and shows you the whole story of the park in the most relaxing way.
- **Relax Pool** is everyone's favorite place, a refreshing escape when the sun's rays warm the atmosphere. The pool is the ideal option to spend your sunny summer days, in a holiday atmosphere, tasty cocktails, harmony and music.
- **Aqua Bar** is an aquatic bar that combines the coolness of the water in the pool with tasty cocktails.
- **Jacuzzi** - The jacuzzi have a capacity of 7 people each. The jacuzzi therapy gives the skin the most coveted care and helps to regain the well-being, to treat discomforts such as poor circulation, arthritis symptoms or back pain. Water jets offer a variety of options, from an in-depth, revitalizing massage, to an extremely relaxing, easy massage. Using this type of massage, different points of the body will be stimulated, thus benefiting not only from a relaxing massage but also a therapeutic one.



Online source: Facebook Aqua Magic, online source: <https://www.facebook.com/aquamagic/>

Danube Delta Resort

The 4-star Danube Delta Resort, located in Crisan, right in the heart of Danube Delta, was inaugurated in June 2010 and awarded at the FashionTV Tourism Awards Gala

for the most fashionable hotel in the Danube Delta, as well as for the best tourist services offered. The special position in which it is located (the center of the Delta - gives you the opportunity to reach in any one hour in any place you want to visit from the Danube Delta), recommends it for fishermen and hunters as well as for those keen on adventure and relaxation, for those who want to enjoy the beauty of the Danube Delta - unique in Europe and in the world³²².



Online source: <https://www.helloromania.com/hotels-crisan/hotel-danube-delta-resort-218>

Among the leisure activities in specially arranged places are: cruises with the floating hotel, trips with motor boats, water sports, themed parties organized every evening, beach on the floating hotel terrace or in the Danube Delta Resort complex, bathing in the pool complex, relaxing in the jacuzzi, in the canopies in the garden, smoking the hookah and enjoying a fortifying tea. Other leisure activities are: pétanque, mini golf, table tennis, darts, fishing parties in the natural environment or fishing facilities, photo-hunting, heated pool equipped with underwater massage facility, chromotherapy and hydrotherapy installation, helicopter rides or light aircraft over the Delta, massage and reflexotherapy services, wine tasting, fishing rod with live cooking, private transfers, romantic dinners, special events (weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, marriage proposals), business meetings, other artistic programs with special guests³²³.

³²² (in Romanian) <https://www.danube-delta-resort.ro/>

³²³ (in Romanian) <https://www.danube-delta-resort.ro/relaxare-activitati/>



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Online source: <https://www.danube-delta-resort.ro/galerife-foto-video/>

Alexandru & Alexandra House

The Alexandru & Alexandra House is a small guesthouse, for family, clean, quiet, has only 8 rooms, located right on the bank of the Old Danube in the middle of the village Mila 23. More than an accommodation in the Danube Delta, there is an opportunity to discover more aspects of the Danube Delta, especially the local gastronomy. The owners of the pension flawlessly cook the traditional recipes of the Russians Lipovans from Mila 23 from fresh or processed fish (salted, dried, marinated). The name of this guesthouse has been built year by year, based on the exceptional cuisine, the fresh and tasty dishes, beautifully presented and served on time³²⁴.

³²⁴ (in Romanian) <https://www.descoperadeltadunarii.ro/casa-alexandru-alexandra/>



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Online source : <https://www.descoperadeltadunarii.ro/casa-alexandru-alexandra/>



Online source: <http://casaalexandrusialexandra.ro/>

At The Lipovan Pension (in Romanian: La Lipoveanu)

At The Lipovan Pension offer the guests accommodation in fully equipped twin and matrimonial rooms. In each unit you can find a traditional restaurant that has a capacity of 40 people. There is also a playground for children, a terrace, a lawn and a safe parking lot. The unit also has an outdoor pool. The staff is at your disposal 24/7 to make sure you spend your time in the best way. You can spend your time on a boat ride in the Danube Delta, relaxing in the sun, enjoying a cold drink on the terrace, fishing on the Delta canals or birdwatching. Murighiol area is composed of both Murighiol village and Dunăvațul de Jos village, the localities being 8 km apart from each other. Murighiol is located on the right bank of St. George's Danube branch, 4 km away from Uzlina. Near the village you can visit ruins of the ancient town Halmyris, former port of the Danube Delta (1st - 4th centuries BC). Here you can see the defense wall with towers and gates, Roman baths and a small museum beside other ruins. In the near area there is the Hamlyris Monastery and a Paleozoic Basilica³²⁵.



Online source: https://www.turistinfo.ro/dunavatul_de_jos/cazare-dunavatul_de_jos/pensiunea_la_lipoveanu-c78465.html

³²⁵ <https://www.lalipoveanu.ro/en/about-us>

2.1.7.3. Shopping facilities (local crafts etc.)

County Center for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture

County Center for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture is a public cultural institution under the authority of Brăila County Council, which initiates and carries out cultural projects and programs in the field of traditional culture of lifelong learning, consistently pursuing:

- the protection and treasuring representative values of popular contemporary creations, constituting the base of data and values;
- the elaboration programs for the recovery of traditions, in order to stimulate creativity in all genres of performing unprofessional arts;
- the initiation of supporting and affirmation projects for the creators and performers of popular and authentic tradition, protecting against distortions and falsifications;
- the promotion of multiculturalism and protection of minority cultures;
- the elaboration of attractive and useful projects of continuing education;
- the development of cultural knowledge activities for youth and promoting projects to meet these needs;
- the revitalization and promotion of traditional crafts and trades and support those who are practicing them (artisans and craftsmen etc.);
- the stimulation of the perpetuation and value of cultural traditions and customs;

A well-known saying goes like this: “Who does not know his past cannot build his future” – an additional argument to justify, if needed, the necessity of returning to tradition³²⁶.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/Centrul.de.Creatie.Brăila/photos>

³²⁶ <http://centruldecreatieBrăila.ro/despre-noi/>

ARTT - The Traditional Weaving Revitalization Workshop

Since 2006, ARTT - The Traditional Weaving Revitalization Workshop of the Brăila Creation Center is one of the few places where the traditions, customs and duties of women from the ethnographic-folkloric area of Brăila are revived, promoted and preserved. They work on horizontal, archaic looms (a device used to weave cloth and tapestry), creating true ornamental jewelry. The products of the workshop are admired at all the trade fairs or those dedicated to domestic and international tourism, where every time the fabrics created with imagination, soul and love are always sought and appreciated. The growing interest of the contemporary world for the work done by hand and especially the development of domestic and international tourism are well-founded motivations for the further development of popular art meant to ensure the preservation of the traditional specificity and the character of authenticity³²⁷.

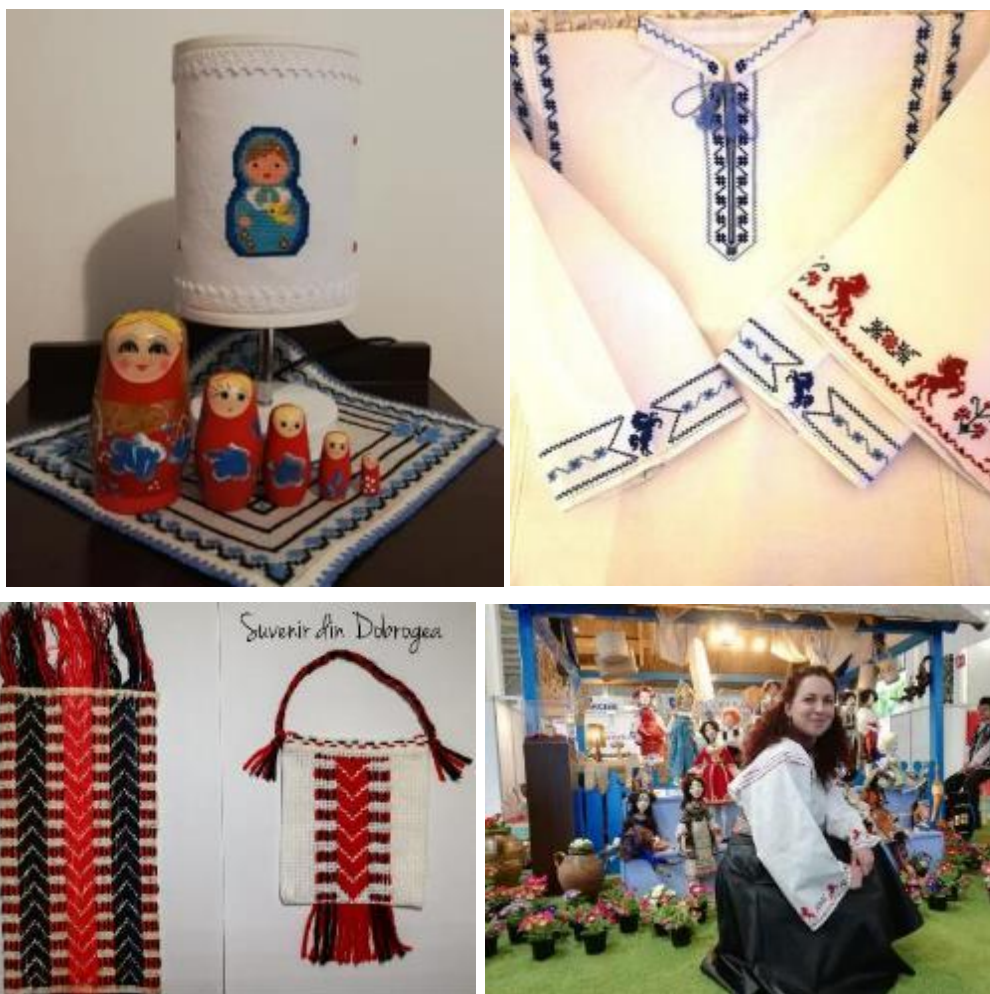


Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/arttBrăila/photos>

³²⁷ <http://centruldecreatieBrăila.ro/artt-atelier-de-revitalizare-a-tesaturilor-traditionale/>

Souvenir from Dobrogea

Traditional welcoming Dobrogea household, good host for crafts and art, for non-formal education and movement, for relaxation and rest and support of a healthy lifestyle³²⁸.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/SuvenirdinDobrogea/photos>

Contemporary folk art gallery/shop store

Apart from the exceptional patrimony of vernacular architecture exhibited on the open-air expo, the „Dimitrie Gusti” National Village Museum from Bucharest is on a quest to continually support folk creation, be it anonymous in nature, or the works of master craftsmen skilled in traditional techniques, to advocate an artistic genre most cherished by specialists and all people alike, to protect the objects of yesteryear, as still asserting themselves today. The contemporary popular arts gallery hosts a permanent sale expo

³²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/SuvenirdinDobrogea>

featuring objects crafted by contemporary folk masters, sculptors, painters and artistic societies centered on popular arts and crafts. The objects exhibited illustrate the rich heritage of folk creations – ceramics, textiles, weavings, wood, painted eggs, wood and glass paintings, popular rugs and carpets, toys, furniture, masks, popular adornments, costume pieces, sheepskin waistcoats, leather objects etc. The visitors will discover the famous red and black ceramics, rough or enameled, representative of (still) active pottery centers³²⁹.



Online source: <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>

Textile art is represented with a rich variety of fabric pieces to fit the wants and needs of our public. Pieces ranging from napkins, towels, table cloths, traditional wear like chemises and blouses, vests, fabric belts, aprons etc., made from cotton, flax, hemp or wool. Noteworthy fabrics to peruse are Avrig cotton scarves, mini Bucovina scarves, Dobrogea region borangic scarves, cotton chemises and Breaza blouses.

³²⁹ <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>



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We feature wooden items, objects such as – cupels, forks, curd cheese patterns, stampers, spoons, musical instruments, coffers, furniture pieces – handmade by talented folk craftsmen and painters.

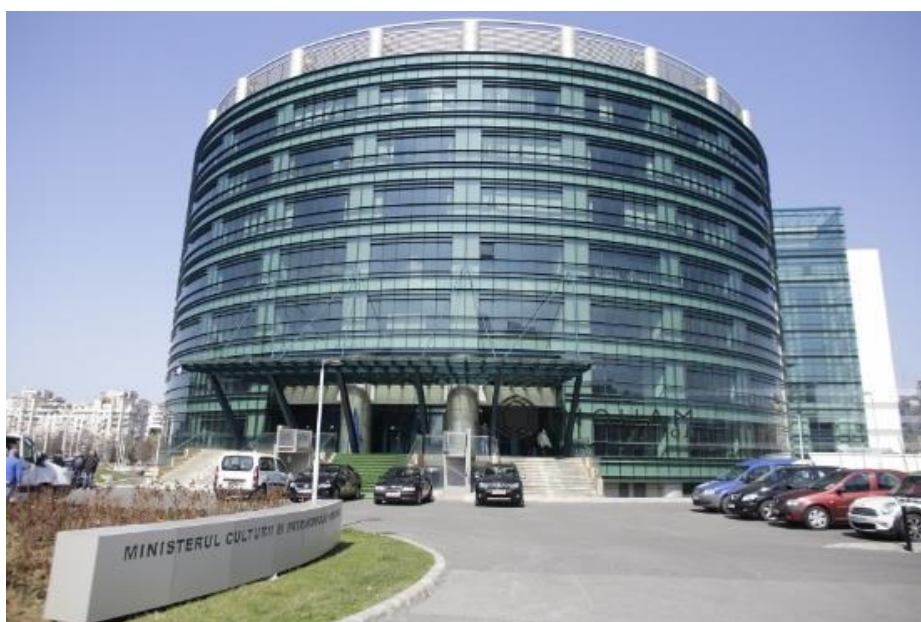


Online source: <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>

2.1.7.4. Current channels of tourism information and marketing

The tourism potential of the Southeastern Region

The Ministry of Culture and National Identity is responsible for the support and encouragement of cultural life and cultural institutions throughout the country. In the early years of the communist period, Romania's cultural institutions were generously supported by the government as it sought to gain prestige and to maintain control of the arts. For example, the Museum of Natural History and Archaeology in Constanța has an important collection of Greek and Roman artifacts from the ancient city of Tomis (7th century BCE). In addition to subsidizing cultural institutions, the Romanian government awards scholarships and other grants to artists, composers, and writers³³⁰. Also, the National Museum of Romanian History, with a surface of over 8,000 square meters, the museum has approx. 60 valuable exhibition rooms. The permanent displays include a plaster cast of the entirety of Trajan's Column, the Romanian Crown Jewels, and the Pietroasele treasure. As of 2012, the museum is undergoing extensive restoration work and it is only partially open; a late medieval archaeological site was discovered under the building³³¹.



The Ministry of Culture and National Identity, Online source:

<https://www.agerpres.ro/cultura/2020/02/14/ministerul-culturii-anunta-lansarea-sesiunii-2020-a-programului-tezaure-umane-vii--449136>

³³⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Cultural-institutions>

³³¹ (in Romanian) <http://www.mnir.ro/index.php/muzeul-national-de-istorie-a-romaniei/>



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The National Museum of Romanian History, Online source:

<https://bucurestiulmeudrag.ro/fotografii/575f06a3-cc90-4d51-99c8-5afd592b13d5>

The tourism potential of the Southeastern Region is related to the cultural heritage, which includes historical vestiges, religious and cultural buildings, monuments and museums. The religious objectives include a significant number of monasteries, located in all counties. Established for the most part in the past centuries, some of the monasteries in the South-East Region are often very valuable historically and / or artistically, some also offering accommodation facilities. Numerous historical vestiges, religious buildings, museums, monuments and tourist attractions attract tourists every year:

- The Pietroasele Treasure in Buzău;
- Dacian settlement - Monteoru Culture (in the "Cetățuia" point), Dumbrăveni Commune, Căndesti village, Vrancea county;
- The Histria Fortress (Constanța), the oldest Greek settlement on the territory of Romania, founded in 657 BC by Greek colonists, who came from Asia Minor. Now, it is called the "Romanian Pompeii";
- Tomis Fortress in Constanța (6th century BC), which preserves valuable vestiges from the ancient port city; Constanța Aquarium, the first section of the Natural Science Museum Complex, located on the seafront on the Casino's cliff, in its immediate

vicinity, is also the first public aquarium in Romania and was inaugurated on May 1, 1958. It is the largest institution of this kind in the country, although later other museums of natural sciences have set up sections with the same profile;

- The Dolphinarium in Constanța, which started its activity on June 1, 1972, constituting the first museum-type of its kind in the country and the first in southeastern Europe at that time. In the amphitheater with swimming pool and in the covered basin, demonstrations with dolphins and sea lions are organized;

- The Danube cliffs in the municipalities of Brăila and Galați is a promenade place where the modern constructions blend harmoniously with the architecture of the beginning of the 20th century (Brăila river station), the river landscape being completed by a rich collection of art monuments (sculptures);

- The Botanical Garden in the municipality of Galați is part of the Museum Complex of the Natural Sciences of Galați, where 260,846 specimens of trees, shrubs and flowers can be admired, of 1,542 species, some very rare, which are on the way to extinction³³².

Concerts, national and international festivals, competitions and other traditional events that take place in the South-East Development Region are another tourist attraction.

The Black Sea coast - balneoclimatic tourism & leisure tourism

The tourist landscape of the Black Sea coast is rarely found along the coast of the European continent, being of a specific uniqueness. The Black Sea coast is also famous for practicing balneoclimatic tourism. The complex consisting of water, sand, air and sun has therapeutic effects, doing miracles for people who are looking for a beneficial place for health. The air is well ionized with marine aerosols which, together with the influence of the waves, generate special thalassotherapy treatments; moreover, some resorts such as Eforie Nord, Mangalia, Costinesti, Neptun, Techirghiol are both recreational and balneoclimatic resorts. The numerous services offered on the coast (children's clubs, indoor and outdoor pools, children's pools equipped with slides, playgrounds, green spaces set up for outdoor sports activities, facilities for SPA services and fitness rooms, etc.) have led to the development of leisure tourism. With

³³² (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Turism_Patrimoniul.aspx

a low salinity compared to other continental seas (only 17%), tourists can practice underwater and nautical sports³³³.

The towns of Năvodari, Mamaia, and Eforie were erected after World War II, and the older settlements of Mangalia and Techirghiol have undergone extensive redevelopment. Lakes—among which Lakes Taşaul, Siutghiol, Agigea, Techirghiol, and Mangalia are the most significant—further enhance the attractions of the region. Several of them contain deposits of mud and sulfurous hot springs believed to have therapeutic properties.

Danube Delta - great scientific value and high tourist potential

The Danube Delta, the second largest delta in Europe (after that of the Volga River), is a special attraction of great scientific value and high tourist potential, especially after its inclusion in 1990, together with other adjacent natural areas, in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The natural and cultural values of the Danube Delta are valuable resources by practicing the following types of tourism:

- Tourism for rest and recreation (practiced through the services of tour operators);
- Knowledge tourism (itinerant), practiced either individually or through organized excursions exploring the variety of the wild landscape, combining rides with manually propelled boats on picturesque canals with hiking along canals or on river and marine ridges, etc;
- Specialized - scientific tourism (for specialists, researchers, students);
- Agrotourism (tourists are hosted and accompanied by locals to visit the Danube Delta);
- Tourism for water sports (Crişan locality);
- Tourism for practicing sport fishing highly appreciated by visitors of all ages, in any season, for any species of fish, and sport hunting.
- Specific for the Danube Delta is niche tourism (eg bird watching, photo-safari). In the Danube Delta there are rare species that are missing from other areas of the continent: 30 types of ecosystems and 5,429 species - of which 1,839 species of flora and 3,590 species of fauna, considering that in the Danube Delta 331 species of water

³³³ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Turism_Patrimoniul.aspx

birds live which include most of the European population of common pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) and crested pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), 60% of the world population of small cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) as well as 50% of the world population of red-tailed goose (*Branta ruficollis*) (during winter)³³⁴.

The Danube Delta has become increasingly popular, because of the growing worldwide interest in ecology and conservation. Special features of interest to tourists include the lakes and underground cave systems and the fine churches and monasteries, with frescoes dating from the 14th to the 16th century, that are found in Southeastern region. More generally, the folk costumes and the ancient folklore of Romanians, notably in the Southeastern region, provide a reminder of the country's long traditions³³⁵.

National Tourist Information Centres

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion Nehoiu

The National Centre for Information and Tourism Promotion Nehoiu was opened in December 2015. The overall objective of the national centre is to promote Romanian tourism potential, especially the tourism potential anthropogenic city Nehoiu (heritage ecumenical, cultural, historical, traditional and recreational), both domestically and abroad, in order to increase the number of tourists³³⁶. The centre aims at building a specific information center and tourism promotion in the city of Nehoiu, creating a website to promote tourism and human resources in the city and neighboring towns Nehoiu, more visible landmarks in the city of Nehoiu. By making complex travel, original, attractive, competitive and creating an attractive image of the city Nehoiu Romanian tourism market by promoting sustainable tourism based on a variety of forms of tourism³³⁷.

³³⁴ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Turism_Patrimoniu.aspx

³³⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Trade#ref276015>

³³⁶ <https://www.carpathian-gardens.com/cnipt-nehoiu.html>

³³⁷ <http://www.cniptnehoiu.ro/index-4.htm#>



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Online source: <https://www.carpathian-gardens.com/cnipt-nehoiu.html>

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion Cernavodă

Cernavoda town is situated in the Plateau of the Lower Dobruja, at Danube's confluence with the Danube- Black Sea Channel, respectively with the Carasu, Tibrin and Silistea valleys. The defining element of the city and of its administrative territory is the Danube- Black Sea Channel, as an axis of urban structuring of the town, dividing it in two different regions³³⁸.



Online source: <https://visitorcenter.ro/cernavoda-tourist-info>

³³⁸ <https://www.cernavoda-turistica.ro/en/>

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion Murfatlar

The main characteristic from the point of view of the settlement and which offers a great advantage to the city of Murfatlar is the fact that it is on the main road, rail, naval and air traffic arteries, which connects the whole country with Europe, the seaside resorts and the port Constanța. The Danube-Black Sea Canal crosses the locality, thus the city becoming a sea and river port. The geographical position in which it is located, what is called today, the city of Murfatlar, gave it special importance, because it was on the isthmus between Cernavodă and Constanța and due to the construction of the first railway from Dobrogea in 1860 meant to facilitate trade and exchanges, it developed from a simple stop where the world stopped to feed the horses, feed the animals and rest, to a small permanent settlement. Along with the native population, the mocans who came in transhumance, especially from Transylvania, and settled here, a Turkish garrison also appeared in 1877, and in the following years numerous Tatars from Crimea settled. The first name under which the town was known was that of Murfatlar in 1855. The name Murfatlar comes from the Tatar word "Murvet" (generous man)³³⁹.



Online source: <https://www.ziuaConstanța.ro/stiri/ziua-in-judet/lucrarile-la-centrul-national-de-informare-turistica-in-toi-orasul-murfatlar-promovat-intens-pentru-comorile-turistice-573688.html>

³³⁹ (in Romanian) <http://cniptmurfatlar.ro/descopera-murfatlarul/>

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion South Eforie Sud

South Eforie has potential natural tourist complex within which the necessary resources spas. The beach is open down gentle slope into the sea, favoring large bathrooms and "walking on water". A thick layer of sand provides optimum conditions for sunbathing - sunbathing and sand - arinoterapie. The sea water with a salinity reduced 17%, with the water-air heat contrast with the action of waves and marine aerosol floating in the air, generating a special form of course - wave therapy - used in the treatment of certain disorders. Along with these factors, there are other natural tourist attractions that enhance the seaside potential, namely³⁴⁰:

- Techirghiol mud
- original fish fauna - the existence of sturgeon and dolphins, sharks and other species lack of concern;
- recreational lakes, natural or artificial, for water sports;
- forests, parks and nature reserves, which help maintain a microclimate tonic for the body.



Online source: <https://www.info-eforiesud.ro/despre-eforie/informatii-generale/>

³⁴⁰ <https://www.info-eforiesud.ro/despre-eforie/informatii-generale/>

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion Eforie Nord

Eforie Nord is the second largest resort of Romanian seaside. Located about 15 km from Constanța, on the road linking the city of Mangalia, Eforie Nord is a seaside resort famous both at home and abroad. Joining recreational tourism with the treatment makes the resort to be open to tourists all year round. The treatment facilities of the resort annually attract a large number of Romanian and foreign tourists, offering them modern treatments and cures using natural factors in the area. Being a resort continuously expanding Eforie Nord appearance changes from year to year. Besides hotels and terraces renowned resort arise from season to season and guest houses, terraces and restaurants prepared to meet the needs of tourists. Out of hours spent on the beach, in the sun, or waves, Eforie Nord offers other opportunities for fun and relaxation. The resort can find sports courts and miniature golf, playgrounds for children, recreation, pool halls, summer theater, swimming pools, etc. Water sports enthusiasts can rent sailboats and other boats or take diving lessons in the Europa Yacht Club, the first private pleasure port in Romania. It is a few minutes from the resort on the beach next to the Hotel Europe. The resort complex there are several shops and bazaars, both in the center and in the cliff. From here you can buy products and beach accessories (towels, bathing suits, buoys, mattresses, umbrellas, lotions etc.), souvenirs and clothing and footwear³⁴¹.



Online source: <https://www.info-eforienord.ro/despre-eforie/informatii-generale/>

³⁴¹ <https://www.info-eforienord.ro/despre-eforie/informatii-generale/>

National Centre for Tourism Information and Promotion Tulcea

The National Centre for Tourist Information and Promotion (CNIPT), which promotes tourism in the county, will guide you in your discovery of Tulcea, but also of the Danube Delta, the mountains Măcin, etc. Here you will find all the information you need to organize your stay: accommodation offers, transport, presentation of tourist objectives, up-to-date maps, events, contacts and packages from local operators, excursions and guided tours³⁴².



Online source: <https://www.cnipttulcea.ro/>

The National Centre of Tourist Information and Promotion Măcin

Specific objectives of this center are measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound:

- Promotion of Romanian tourism potential by improving the image of the country, aiming to promote the region abroad Macin and increase its attractiveness for tourism
- Improving the flow of tourists to the city Macin
- Developing local tourism print a better information to potential visitors.

Măcin is located at the western extremity of Tulcea County, in the northwest of the territory between the Danube and the Black Sea, 12 km from the confluence of the Danube and the Danube Old Nine. Tulcea, administrative and political center of the

³⁴² <https://www.cnipttulcea.ro/>



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county of Tulcea is 80 km away from the city center, 25 km from the city of Galați. The city is approaching Brăila, Măcin 14 km away. The city is situated on a plateau terrace that output overland or by river west to Smârdan and Brăila, exit road in the east to Greece, Cerna, Tulcea and Constanța, exit River south to Carcaliu Turcoaia, Peceneaga and north to Jijila, Isaccea, Tulcea on the road. Macin has many natural and anthropogenic resources, so this centre is an important step towards the harmonization of development disparities between regions and economic interest, thus increasing networking of commercial, economic and social relations³⁴³.



Online source: <https://turism-macin.ro/ro/>

³⁴³ <https://turism-macin.ro/en/macin/cnipt/>

2.1.8. Tourism resources

Tourism in the Southeastern Region is characterized by the existence of specific natural resources, such as the Black Sea coast and the Danube Delta, the renowned spa-climatic resorts in the country and abroad, agro-tourist pensions (especially in the mountain areas of Vrancea and Buzău and in the Danube Delta). Also, ecumenical tourism is present in the region, especially through the monasteries in the north of Dobrogea, from the Buzău and Vrancei mountains, the Galați area, as well as through the cultural tourism present through the existence of cultural vestiges (archaeological sites, memorial houses)³⁴⁴.

2.1.8.1. Natural and Environmental Tourism Resources

2.1.8.1.1. Protected areas (nature reserves, national parks)

The Brăila Small Puddle Natural Park

The Brăila Small Puddle Natural Park (in Romanian: *Parcul Natural Balta Mică a Brăilei*) is a protected area in Brăila County, on the administrative territory of communes Berteștii de Jos, Chiscani, Gropeni, Mărașu and Stăncuța³⁴⁵. The Natural Park is located in the inferior course of the Danube, between the Brăila Plain (Wallachian Plain) and Great Brăila Island, based on the Small Brăila Island, in the south-eastern part of country.

The Brăila Small Puddle Natural Park, an area of 17.529 ha, was declared protected area by the Law Number 5 of March 6, 2000 (published in Romanian Official Paper Number 152 of March 12, 2000)³⁴⁶ and is a wetland of international importance especially a waterfowl habitat (aquatic ecosystem) and terrestrial species. The species of fish are: Black Sea shad (*Alosa pontica*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*), zander (*Stizostedion lucioperca*), wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*) or common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The species of birds are: red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus criptus*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), pygmy cormorant

³⁴⁴ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Turism_Patrimoniu.aspx

³⁴⁵ protectedplanet.net - Balta Mică a Brăilei Natural Park, <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/63626>

³⁴⁶ (in Romanian) cdep.ro - Legea Nr.5 din 6 martie 2000, http://cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.htm?act_text?id=22636

(*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)³⁴⁷.

The access for The Brăila Small Puddle Natural Park is: European route E60 București - Movilița - Urziceni - National road DN2A Slobozia - Țândărei - Giurgeni - bridge Giurgeni-Vadu Oii. Also, the access to the park can be done by ferry or small boats, through the Danube branches.

From June 15, 2001, this area is protected by The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as a wetland of international importance³⁴⁸.



Danube at Brăila. Măcin mountains in the background.

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/people/8628950@N06>

³⁴⁷ visitdanubedelta.com - Species of birds, <http://www.visitdanubedelta.com/ro/fauna/birds/>

³⁴⁸ The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (All sites in Romania - Small Island of Brăila, <http://www.ramsar.org/wetland/romania>)



Source: <https://bmb.ro/#>

Protected Nature Reserve Jirlău-Vișani

The Protected Nature Reserve Jirlău-Vișani was established by Law no. 5/2000 regarding the approval of the National Territory Planning Plan - Section III - Protected areas, and corresponds to the category of IV IUNC³⁴⁹, being an area of special avifauna importance.



³⁴⁹ (in Romanian) Legea Nr. 5 din 6 martie 2000, Publicat în Monitorul Oficial al României, Nr. 152 din 12 aprilie 2000, online source: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.http_act_text?idi=22636



Source: <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-jirlau-visani/>

Situated on the territory of three administrative-territorial units - Jirlău, Vișani, Galbenu, Protected Nature Reserve Jirlău-Vișani presents one of the largest haven rivers along the Buzău river. The surface of the ponds occupies approximately 1249 ha (Jirlău - 566 ha, Vișani - 336 ha, to which is added also the nursery Vișani with 347 ha), and the depth varies between 1 and 4 m³⁵⁰.

Jirlău Lake is a river haven, located in the western part of the Brăila Plain. It was formed near the Buzău river by blocking the course called Valea Mare, known locally as Valea Boului. Crossed by a rail embankment (the railway section of Făurei-Tecuci) over 1.2 km long, the lake is divided into two parts, which resulted in a differentiated evolution, causing the installation of the vegetation and the appearance of eutrophication processes, in the eastern part, and from the analysis of the satellite images we can see the occurrence of these phenomena in the western part, in island form. On the shores of the lake are Jirlău and Drogu communes. Jirlău Lake was set up for fishing purposes³⁵¹.

Species observed in the area:

³⁵⁰ <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-jirlau-visani/>

³⁵¹ (in Romanian) Ghinea, D. (2002), Enciclopedia geografică a României, Editura Enciclopedică, București.



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Source: <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-jirlau-visani/>

Protected Nature Reserve Jirlău-Vișani is specific in that although the two ponds (Jirlău and Trup Vișani) are separated by a pier, they can be considered as a single biogeographic unit, especially since they have a communication channel between them. The feeding is done from underground springs and through a culvert channel from the Buzău river, made after the arrangements for fishing purposes.

More than 100 species of birds, aquatic and non-aquatic, nesting or in the passage, whose presence varies depending on the season, have been reported in this reserve. Thus, during the summer most birds are confined in the area of Vișani pond, while in winter they can be observed in large numbers on the Jirlău pond. Among the species of birds that nest in the area of the Jirlău-Vișani pond complex and which are of

particular importance, we mention: the yellow stingray, the crawling duck, the red duck, the evening sucker, the field mackerel, the squirrel with the cheeks³⁵².

Camnița Forest Nature Reserve

Camnița Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Camnița) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (nature reserve, forest type), located in Brăila county, on the administrative territory of Șuțești commune³⁵³.

The nature reserve located in the northern part of the village of Țuțești, has a surface of 1.30 ha, and represents a forest area, covered with vegetation in the category of deciduous forests. It is populated with white and black poplar trees, acacia, willow, ash, etc.



Source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/padurea-camnita/>

The White Pond Nature Reserve

The White Pond Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Rezervația naturală Balta Albă) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to category IV IUCN (nature reserve of geological and zoological type) located in the administrative territories of

³⁵² <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-jirlau-visani/>

³⁵³ ProtectedPlanet.net - Pădurea Camnița - delimitarea ariei protejate, online source: http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Padurea_Camenita_Nature_Reserve

Buzău and Brăila counties³⁵⁴. The natural area with an area of 1,167 hectares is located in the Râmnicului Plain, in the eastern extremity of Buzău county and the northwestern part of Brăila county, on the eastern territory of Balta Albă commune and the northwestern part of Grădiștea commune, near the national road DN22 Buzău – Brăila³⁵⁵.

The White Pond Nature Reserve represents a natural lake (water gloss) and its surrounding area (peat and meadows), located in the north-eastern part of the Romanian Plain, which provides feeding, nesting and living conditions for several species of migratory, passage or sedentary birds³⁵⁶.



The White Pond, online source: <https://balta-alba.ro/>

The legend of the White Pond has it that long ago there was a village with quiet people. One day, on the eve of the holiday, two hikers arrived in the village that asked for hosting but no one wanted to receive them. But, at the edge of the village, they found a widowed woman, with two children who received them in her house, gave them food and offered them a bed where they could sleep. It is said that the next day, the hikers went to a party in the village but no one paid attention. In order to punish the inhabitants

³⁵⁴ (in Romanian) Legea Nr. 5 din 6 martie 2000, Publicat în Monitorul Oficial al României, Nr. 152 din 12 aprilie 2000, online source: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.http_act_text?id=22636

³⁵⁵ Protectedplanet.net - Balta Alba Nature Reserve, online: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/183853>

³⁵⁶ (in Romanian) Natura2000.mmediu.ro - Biodiversitatea în România - Balta Albă - Amara – Jirlău, online source: <http://natura2000.mmediu.ro/site/26/rospa0004.html>

of the village, the two threw a stick into the ground, asking the people to remove it. Nobody could do that and everyone started laughing. Then, one of the strangers, with only one finger, removed the stick from the ground and, from that place where the stick had been, there was pouring so much water that spread all over the village. Only the house of the woman who hosted them was not touched by water. At that place, a mound was raised, which exists today under the name of "The mound of the old woman" (in Romanian: *Movila babei*). This explains the formation of this lake with beneficial water. Year after year, thousands of people come to the White Pond to enjoy the healing effects of the lake³⁵⁷.

There are some Romanian cosmetics and pharmaceutical products that have their history from the salty and healing sludge from the salt lakes of the White Pond. Forgotten for a while, these lakes are the main material support of a small resort that is reborn now from its ashes.



Source: <https://balta-alba.ro/>

The Amara Pond Protected Nature Reserve

The Amara Pond (in Romanian: Balta Amara) is a natural lake in the Râmnicului Plain, located near the town of the same name. It is important both by the fact that:

³⁵⁷ (in Romanian) <https://www.primariagradiateaBraila.ro/lacul-cu-apa-miraculoasa-balta-alba>

- it hosts important herds of protected bird species
- it serves as a wintering place for pond birds and a resting place during the migration period

It is part of the group of rivers of the Buzău River, the category of mesoeutrophic, with fish use, with a hydrographic basin of about 115kmp. Its saline and brackish waters, with hydrophilic and marsh species, are highly conservative³⁵⁸.

Amara Pond has been designated as a protected natural area for the purpose of protecting and conserving the habitat of continental salt meadows and restoring a favorable conservation status to the specific habitats designated for the protection of the species of wild migratory birds³⁵⁹.

The reservation corresponds to the category of IUNC IV, being located on the huge main avenue of bird migration, which starts from the wetlands of the 1000 lakes and reaches, after about 5000 km, to the heart of Africa, near Lake Tanganyika. On this corridor, the Danube Delta is one of the two refueling and restoration bases³⁶⁰.



Source: <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-balta-amara/>

³⁵⁸ Sit Natura 2000 Balta Albă – Amara – Jirlău – Lacul Sărat Căineni, online source: <http://natura2000.mmediu.ro/site/33/rosci005.html>

³⁵⁹ <https://paradisul-pasarilor.ro/rezervatia-naturala-protejata-balta-amara/>

³⁶⁰ Id.

The Forest with English Yew

The Forest with English Yew (in Romanian: Pădurea cu tisă) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (forest type nature reserve) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Chiojdu commune³⁶¹. The forest is a protected natural reserve of forest type which can be found at the foot of the Monteoru Mountains. It has 197 hectares and the natural area represents a forested area with a protective role for the arboreal species of *Taxus Baccata*, known under the popular name of the English Yew (Tisă)³⁶².



Source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/padurea-cu-tisa/>

³⁶¹ (in Romanian) Legea Nr. 5 din 6 martie 2000, Publicat în Monitorul Oficial al României, Nr. 152 din 12 aprilie 2000, online source: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/legis/legis_pck.http_act_text?id=22636

³⁶² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/padurea-cu-tisa/>



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Source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/padurea-cu-tisa/>

Meledic Plateau Protected Nature Reserve

Meledic Plateau is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (mixed geological, speleological, botanical and zoological nature reserve) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Lopătari and Mânzălești communes. The declared area is 136 ha³⁶³.



View towards Meledic Plateau, Source: <http://www.descoperalocuri.ro/descopera-romania/frumusetea-de-sub-ochii-nostri-platoul-meledic.html>

On the surface of the Meledic plateau are small conglomerates of salt resembling pips. The spectacular karst relief is due to the dissolution of the salt at shallow depth or

³⁶³ (in Romanian) ProtectedPlanet.net Platoul Meledic - delimitarea ariei protejate, online source: http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Platoul_Meledic_Nature_Reserve

surface, thus giving rise to the most interesting phenomenon of saline karst relief in Romania, which strikingly resembles the relief formed on limestone³⁶⁴.



Meledic salt karst plateau, Source: <http://www.descoperalocuri.ro/descopera-romania/frumusetea-de-sub-ochii-nostri-platoul-meledic.html>

The Berca Mud Volcanoes (Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mici)

The Berca Mud Volcanoes (in Romanian: **Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mici**) is a geological and botanical protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th IUCN category³⁶⁵, located in Scorțoasa commune close to Berca in Buzău County³⁶⁶. This reservation is unique in Romania. The Berca Mud Volcanoes are at an altitude of 341 m and have an area of 16.5 ha.



General view of the Berca Mud Volcanoes

³⁶⁴ <http://www.descoperalocuri.ro/descopera-romania/frumusetea-de-sub-ochii-nostri-platoul-meledic.html>

³⁶⁵ Protected Planet - Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mici - delimitarea ariei protejate, online source: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/555531432>

³⁶⁶ (in Romanian) "Harta sensibilă Valea Buzăului- Vulcanii Noroioși- Barajul Siriu", online source: <http://www.itinerar.ro/Harta/VIBz.htm>

Its most spectacular feature is the mud volcanoes, small volcano-shaped structures typically a few metres high caused by the eruption of mud and natural gases. As the gases erupt from 3000 metres deep towards the surface, through the underground layers of clay and water, they push up underground salty water and mud, so that they overflow through the mouths of the volcanoes, while the gas emerges as bubbles. The mud dries off at the surface, creating a relatively solid conical structure resembling a real volcano. The mud expelled by them is cold, as it comes from inside the Earth's continental crust layers, and not from the mantle. There are several sites (the main tourist sites being Pâclele Mari and Pâclele Mici), and gas analysis shows that the composition varies from site to site, but is mainly methane, with 10-25% Helium, and 2-15% nitrogen. Some carbon dioxide was also detected.



A bubble of gas bursting through the mouth of a Mud Volcano

The mud volcanoes create a strange lunar landscape, due to the absence of vegetation around the cones. Vegetation is scarce because the soil is very salty, an environmental condition in which few plants can survive. However, this kind of environment is good for some rare species of plants, such as *Nitraria schoberi* and *Obione verrucifera*.

The Mud Volcanoes from Pâclele Mari

The Mud Volcanoes from Pâclele Mari (in Romanian: **Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mari**) are a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (natural fauna and floristic geological type reserve), located in

Muntenia, on the territory of Buzău county³⁶⁷. The natural area is in the central part of Buzău county (at an altitude of 322 m.), on the administrative territory of Scorțoasa commune, near the county road DJ108 that connects the village Policiori and the village Pâclele. The muddy volcanoes grow on a barren circular plateau (162 ha), being occupied by many active devices of 2-3m and fossils of 6-8m, developed on an area of 22ha. Here prevails the volcanoes that produces viscous mud with traces of oil. The reservation represents an area of geological interest (due to the two craters of mud volcanoes on the plateau), floristic (plants that develop in salted environment) and faunistic (mammals, reptiles and amphibians). At the base of the reservation designation are several wildlife species (mammals, reptiles and amphibians) that are on the IUCN Red List and listed in Annex I of EC Directive 92/43 / EC of 21 May 1992 (on the conservation of natural habitats and of wildlife species and wild flora)³⁶⁸. The natural area harbors a natural habitat of community interest of type: Meadows and salt marshes of the Pannonian and Ponto-Sarmatic salt marshes. Protected wildlife species reported in the natural reserve area: European poppy (*Spermophilus citellus*), pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*)³⁶⁹, yellow-bellied ivy (*Bombina variegata*)³⁷⁰, forest lizard (*Lacerta praticola*) and Elaphe sauromates, a popular reptile known in the folklore as the big dragon.

³⁶⁷ ProtectedPlanet.net - Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mari - delimitarea ariei protejate, online source : http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Vulcanii_Noroioși_Paclele_Mari_Nature_Reserve

³⁶⁸ (in Romanian) Directiva Consiliului European 92/43/CE din 21 mai 1992, privind conservarea habitatelor naturale și a speciilor de faună și floră sălbatică, online source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:RO:PDF>

³⁶⁹ Iucnredlist.org - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - *Emys orbicularis*, online source: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/7717/0>

³⁷⁰ Iucnredlist.org - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - *Bombina variegata*, online source: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/54451/0>



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Ravines in the Mud Volcanoes from Pâclele Mari



The Mud Volcanoes from Pâclele Mari

Crivineni Forest Nature Reserve

Crivineni Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Crivineni) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (forest type nature reserve) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Pătârlagele city. The natural area is at the foot of the Carpathians of Curvature (at an average altitude of 400 m.) In the

Pătărlagele depression (in the northwestern part of the homonymous city), on the right side of the Buzău river, near the national road DN10, Nehoiu - Întorsura Buzăului³⁷¹.



Crivineni Forest from Patarlagele, Buzău county, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/padurea-crivineni/>

The nature reserve represents a forested area with a protective role for an arboreal species of oak, known as downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*).



Crivineni Forest from Patarlagele, Buzău county, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/padurea-crivineni/>

³⁷¹ Protectedplanet.net - Padurea Crivineni Nature Reserve, online source: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/padurea-crivineni-nature-reserve>

Lilac Hill from Cernătești

Lilac Hill from Cernătești (in Romanian: Dealul cu Lilieci Cernătești) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (nature and fauna nature reserve) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Cernătești commune. The natural area with an area of 10.59 hectares is located in the central part of Buzău county and the western part of Cernătești village, at the foot of the Buzău mountains, in the right side of the Slănic valley (left tributary of the Buzău river), near the county road (DJ3)) that connects the village Săpoca and the village Vlădeni³⁷².



Lilac Hill from Cernătești, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/dealul-cu-lilieci-cernatesti/>



Lilac Hill from Cernătești, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/dealul-cu-lilieci-cernatesti/>

³⁷² Protectedplanet.net - Dealul cu Lilieci Cernatesti Nature Reserve, online source: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/dealul-cu-lilieci-cernate-ti-nature-reserve>

Bisoca Lakes Forest Nature Reserve

Bisoca Lakes Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Lacurile Bisoca) is a mixed botanical and geological forest reserve of category IV IUCN, which is located within the radius of the commune of Bisoca in Buzău county³⁷³. The reserve is important through the wild pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Between the pines we see successions of herbaceous species, from the mesophiles to the subtermophiles - due to the thinning of the arboretum (through the cuts of the last decade), and as an expression of the change of the general climate (in the sense of the increase of the temperatures). The forest houses a natural amphitheater in which there is a scene built of stone in combination with wood and where local folklore actions take place.

From the initial locations of freshwater lakes, formed in dolines that were developed on sandstone with sedimentary sludge bottom, today, as a negative effect of surface erosion, only the **Black Lake** (in Romanian: Lacul Negru) and the **Clear Lake** (in Romanian: Lacul Limpede) remained. The dolines, in the beginning phase of development, have slopes slopes and shallow depth. The Clear Lake is the only one that survived the flood.



Bisoca Lakes Forest, online source: <https://turismBuzău.ro/lacurile-din-bisoca/>

³⁷³ Protectedplanet.net - Pădurea Lacurile Bisoca Nature Reserve, online source: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/padurea-lacurile-bisoca-nature-reserve>

Brădeanu Forest Nature Reserve

Brădeanu Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Brădeanu) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (forest type nature reserve) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Brădeanu commune. The natural area is located in the southern part of Buzău county and the northeastern part of the village of Brădeanu, near the county road (DJ203C) that connects the locality of Pogoanele with the village Florica. The Brădeanu forest has an area of 5.80 hectares and represents a forested area, with a protective role for the arboreal oak species (*Quercus pedunculiflora*)³⁷⁴.



Brădeanu Forest, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/padurea-bradeanu/>

Bădila Limestone Blocks Natural Monument

Bădila Limestone Blocks (in Romanian: Blocurile de calcar de la Bădila) is a monument of nature and a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the third category IUCN (nature reserve of geological and paleontological type) located in

³⁷⁴ Apmbz.anpm.ro - Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Buzău, online source: <http://www.anpm.ro/documents/16687/34390631/Regulament+Padurea+Bradeanu.doc/d7f40f3a-f4be-4a39-8b35-a9633da00812>

Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Viperești commune. The natural area with an area of 3.02 hectares is located in the central-western part of Buzău county, in the Subcarpathian area of Curbură, on the Buzău Valley, in the immediate vicinity of the national road DN10 Buzău – Covasna³⁷⁵.



Bădila Limestone Blocks, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/blocurile-de-calcar-de-la-badila/>

On the territory of the reserve there are several geological formations, over 40 rocky blocks (of different sizes and shapes) consisting of limestone and conglomerates (gray in color), dating from the Mesozoic. From the paleontological point of view in the area of the reservation, in the sedimentary rock layers were discovered several fossil remains of gastropods (snails), corals, ammonites (molluscs) or foraminifers, all attributed to the Jurassic³⁷⁶.

Buzău Amber Nature Reserve

The Buzău Amber (in Romanian: Chihlimbarul de Buzău) is a protected area of national interest in the area of the Carpathians of Curvature - which corresponds to the third category IUCN (nature reserve of geological and paleontological type), located in

³⁷⁵ Protectedplanet.net - Blocurile de calcar de la Badila Natural Monument, online source: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/183694>

³⁷⁶ (in Romanian) Apmbz.anpm.ro - Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Buzău, online source: <http://apmbz.anpm.ro/arii-naturale-protejate-de-interes-national>

Buzău county on the administrative territory of the Colți commune³⁷⁷. The reservation covers an area of 2.52 hectares and is located in the northwestern part of Buzău county, at the foot of Ivănețu Massif at an altitude of 500-600 m, in the northeast of Colți village, near the county road that connects the town Colți with Aluniș village. The access is made on DN10 Buzău- Întorsura Buzăului until Pătârlagele, then right towards Colți and then on DC71 towards Aluniș.



Pieces of raw amber

At the level of the protected area in the uncovered layers or in the soil, amber rocks (yellow amber) were discovered with a special value, both qualitatively and quantitatively, due to the over 160 colors and predominantly dark colors, from red to black. Some of them have a rich content of fossil remains of arachnids, coleoptera, dipterans, crustaceans, myriapods or hymenoptera, (micro) lepidoptera, reptiles, bird feathers, animal bristles. On the protected territory is the former Strâmba amber mine, known as one of the most productive³⁷⁸.

³⁷⁷ (in Romanian) Regulamentul Rezervației naturale cod 2.275 – Chihlimbarul de Buzău, Agenția Pentru Protecția Mediului Buzău, online source: <http://apmbz.anpm.ro/files/APM%20Buzău/Biodiversitate/Planuri%20management/Regulamente/RegulamentChihlimbaruldeBuzău.doc>

³⁷⁸ (in Romanian) Cezar Radu Butierez, Posibilități de valorificare turistică a unor componente ale spațiului rural. Studiu de caz: Comuna Colți, Geograful – Anul III Nr. 1-2 Ianuarie – Iunie 2011, p. 75-78, online source: http://www.apgr.eu/downloads/Geograful%20_1_2_2011.pdf

Buzău Salt Natural Monument

Buzău Salt Natural Monument (in Romanian: Sarea lui Buzău) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the third category IUCN (natural reserve of geological and botanical type) located in Buzău county, on the administrative territory of Viperești commune³⁷⁹. The natural area with an area of 1.77 hectares is located in the central-western part of Buzău county, on the Buzău Valley, in the immediate vicinity of the national road DN10 (Buzău - Covasna), near the Bădila Limestone Blocks Natural Monument. The reserve represents a surface with salt springs, an area with saline efflorescences that prove the existence of a salt mass in the basement.

From a floristic point of view, in the area of the natural area are found several halophilic plant species, among which the shrub species known as river hippophae (*Hippophaë rhamnoides* L.) and a grassy species of salt known by the locals under the popular name of weeping alkaligrass (in Romanian: bălănică) - (*Puccinellia distans*).



Buzău Salt Natural Monument, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/sarea-lui-Buzău/>

The Living Fires from Lopătari

The Living Fires from Lopătari (in Romanian: Focul Viu – Lopătari) is a natural phenomenon due to the emission of natural gas that comes to the surface through the cracks of the earth's crust, forming flames that burn, ignited by the sun's rays (or by humans if the flame goes out). The foundation of the phenomenon is represented by the existence of underground hydrocarbon deposits³⁸⁰.

³⁷⁹ Protectedplanet.net - Sarea lui Buzău Natural Monument, online source : <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/14592>

³⁸⁰ (in Romanian) Analiza privind situația actuală a ariilor naturale protejate din Regiunea de Dezvoltare Sud – Est, "Inovare în domeniul managementului sustenabil al ariilor naturale protejate", Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Sud-Est, Institutul Național de Cercetare - Dezvoltare "Delta



Living Fire, a natural phenomenon from Buzău County, online source:

<https://cartitaplimbareata.ro/index.php/2554/focul-viu-de-la-terca-comuna-lopatari-Buzău/>

You can see flames bursting from the earth rising in the wind, sometimes with a higher height, sometimes just blinking - it depends a lot on the gas pressure inside and on the weather: just as well they can be temporarily extinguished. If it rains heavily you can see how the water is bubbling in the places where the gas comes out. The area where the phenomenon takes place has a relative area of 25 square meters.

The name comes from the fact that the flames burn almost permanently and are sometimes visible from a distance, especially at night and during the times when the foliage of the trees is in small quantity.

White Rock of Grunj Nature Monument

White Rock of Grunj Nature Monument (in Romanian: Piatra Albă „La Grunj”) is a nature monument (category III IUCN) with geological reservation status, which is located on the radius of Mânzălești commune in Buzău county, at the confluence of the Slănic river with the Jgheab stream³⁸¹. The reservation has a pyramidal shape and occupies an area of 0.025 ha at the base, has a height of 18 m and a diameter of 15 m and is located laterally in front of the main watercourse. The ensemble has a cross at the top and the name "Grunj" has the meaning of "throat" or "shrinking". By its shape (comparable to another scale), it reminds of the Sugarloaf Mountain from Brazil.

The land is a control of (differential) hydraulic and wind erosion, consisting of white - gray - yellowish of Badenian age, the whole being trapped between layers of marl

Dunării”, Tulcea, 2014, p. 19, online source:

http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/DIP/4GreenInn/Analiza_zone_protejate_Regiunea_SE.pdf

³⁸¹ ProtectedPlanet.net, Piatra Albă "La Grunj" in Romania, online source:

<https://www.protectedplanet.net/piatra-alba-la-grunj-natural-monument>

(cineritic) and sandstone with an almost vertical position and micropediment aspect. It originates from the southern end of a small, narrow eastern strip with bushes, from the Lopătari anticline³⁸².



White Rock of Grunj Nature Monument in Mânzălești

Marine Reservation 2 Mai - Vama Veche

Marine Reservation 2 Mai - Vama Veche (in Romanian: Rezervația marină 2 Mai – Vama Veche) is a natural reserve located in the south of the Romanian coast, between the locality 2 Mai and Vama Veche, on the border with Bulgaria, covering an area of about 5,000 ha, along 7 km of coast, extending from the coast line to the 40 m isobate. On a relatively small surface, it houses a large variety of habitats and biocenoses specific to the Romanian marine area, rare or endangered species, habitats of European importance³⁸³.

³⁸² (in Romanian) Analiza privind situația actuală a ariilor naturale protejate din Regiunea de Dezvoltare Sud – Est, "Inovare în domeniul managementului sustenabil al ariilor naturale protejate", Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Sud-Est, Institutul Național de Cercetare - Dezvoltare "Delta Dunării", Tulcea, 2014, p. 20, online source:

http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/DIP/4GreenInn/Analiza_zone_protejate_Regiunea_SE.pdf

³⁸³ <http://www.rmri.ro/VV2M/index.html>



Marine Reservation 2 Mai - Vama Veche, Online source: <https://www.infopeniuni.ro/cazare-2-mai/obiective-turistice-2-mai/rezervatia-naturala-acvatoriul-litoral-marin-vama> 4190

The purpose of the reservation is to protect and conserve important marine habitats from a floristic and wildlife perspective. The protection and conservation of the marine landscape are also considered. Reservation management is differentiated, depending on the characteristics of existing habitats and species. In addition to the scientific activities, scientific, educational and recreational research activities, diving activities, as well as some activities of sustainable use of traditional natural resources are allowed. The objectives of this reservation are: studying the marine environment in an area with a low anthropogenic impact; maintaining the harmonious interaction of man with nature; protection of habitats and diversity of the underwater marine landscape; promoting the traditional use of resources and activities in the marine area; opportunities for recreation and ecological tourism, concurrently with the development of scientific activities³⁸⁴.

Chituc Spit Nature Reserve

Chituc Spit Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Grindul Chituc) is a sandy lagoon-spit located between Lake Sinoe and the sea, south of the Danube Delta, and is one of the last wild beach segments in the country. At its level, a protected area of national interest was established, which corresponds to the 4th IUCN category, located on the

³⁸⁴ (in Romanian) Planul de management al rezervației marine 2 Mai - Vama Veche, online source: http://www.rmri.ro/VV2M/plan_management_rezervatie.pdf

administrative territory of Corbu commune in Constanța county³⁸⁵. In the north of the Chituc spit there are about 7 places where the boundary between the lagoon and the sea has a character, naturally intermittent (where the strip of sand is narrow and slightly high, at strong storms opening mouths of communication between the sea and lagoon waters). The protected area encloses typical coastal sandy habitats, very little affected by anthropogenic activities and aquatic habitats undisturbed by man. The spit is an important area for passage and wintering for birds, being declared a special bird protection area³⁸⁶.



Chituc Spit, online source: <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2011/11/04/grindul-chituc/>

The Wolves Spit Nature Reserve

The Wolves Spit Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Grindul Lupilor) is a spit that separates the waters of Lake Sinoe from those of Lake Zmeica, more precisely it is located in the middle of the lagoon complex Razelm-Sinoe, bounded on the northwest by the lakes Zmeica and Golovița, on the north by channel 5 and on the south and east - southeast of Lake Sinoe, and 40 km north of Constanța. At its level was constituted a strictly protected area of national interest that represents a mixed scientific reserve within the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The reserve covers an area of 2075 hectares and corresponds to the 4th IUCN category³⁸⁷.

³⁸⁵ Grindul Chituc Nature Reserve; protectedplanet.net (World Database on Protected Areas – a joint project of IUCN&UNEP), online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/grindul-chituc-nature-reserve>

³⁸⁶ Török, Zsolt, Grindul Chituc (broșură), Petarda nr. 10, Ed. Aves, 2002, p. 4, online source: http://ddni.ro/portal/attachments/article/4/Petarda_10.pdf

³⁸⁷ Grindul Lupilor Nature Reserve; protectedplanet.net (World Database on Protected Areas – a joint project of IUCN&UNEP), online source: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/grindul-lupilor-nature-reserve>



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The Wolves Spit Nature Reserve, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/grindul-lupilor--112.html>

Dobrogea Mouth Nature Reserve

Dobrogea Mouth Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Rezervația naturală Gura Dobrogei) is a protected area of national interest corresponding to the IUCN IV category (mixed nature reserve) situated in Constanța county, Târgușor commune. It was declared a protected area in 2007 and offers conditions of habitat for various species of birds, animals and flowers. Moreover, the reservation has a great geologic and spelean importance. It has a surface of 242 hectares³⁸⁸. The natural area represents an area of geological, floristic and faunal interest in the Casimcei Plateau consisting of limestone cliffs (attributed to the Jurassic), gorges and banks of valleys, which houses a diverse range of flora (with halophilic, hygrophilous, mesohygrophilic species) and provides conditions of hosting, feeding and nesting for several species of migratory and passage birds. The natural area overlaps the Dobrogea Gorges site, a natural area of special bird protection.

³⁸⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-naturala-gura-dobrogei/>



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Dobrogea Mouth Nature Reserve, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-naturala-gura-dobrogei/>

Dobrogea Gorges

Dobrogea Gorges (in Romanian: Cheile Dobrogei) are a protected area (special avifaunistic protection area) located on the territory of Constanța county. The natural area is located in the north-central part of Constanța county, on the administrative territories of the communes Cogealac, Grădina, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Pantelimon, Săcele, Siliștea and Târgușor and is crossed by the national road DN22³⁸⁹.



Dobrogea Gorges, online source: <https://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/cheile-dobrogei-poftiti-e-deschis/>

³⁸⁹ Protectedplanet.net - Cheile Dobrogei Special Protection Area (Birds Directive), online source: http://protectedplanet.net/sites/Cheile_Dobrogei_Special_Protection_Area_Birds_Directive

The area of the Dobrogea Gorges has been declared a Special Avifauna Protection Area in 2007 regarding the declaration of special bird protection areas as an integral part of the European ecological network Natura 2000 in Romania, and it covers an area of 10,929 hectares. This includes Dobrogea Mouth Natural Reservation, Adam Cave and Dobrogea Mouth Cave³⁹⁰.

Marine Dunes from Agigea

Marine Dunes from Agigea (in Romanian: Dunele marine de la Agigea) make up a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the IV category IUCN (botanical nature reserve), located in Constanța county, on the administrative territory of Agigea commune. The natural area represents an area (of botanical interest) of the Romanian coast, with sand dunes fixed to the ground by thermophilic plant species, with fauna characteristic to arid areas (Dobrogean steppe) and floristic elements constituted by associations of vascular plants³⁹¹.



Online source: <https://lataifas.ro/destinatii-turistice-unice/65819/rezervatia-naturala-dunele-marine-de-la-agigea/>

³⁹⁰ Agenția Națională pentru Protecția Mediului - Aree de Protecție Specială Avifaunistică, online source : http://www.anpm.ro/upload/3690_HG_1284_2007_SPA.pdf

³⁹¹ Protectedplanet.net Dunele marine de la Agigea Nature Reserve, online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/9390>

Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park

Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park (in Romanian: Parcul Natural Lunca Joasă a Prutului Inferior), is a protected area situated in Galați County³⁹². The Natural Park is situated in the inferior course of Prut River, in the administrative territory of Berești-Meria, Nicorești, Cavadinești, Oancea, Suceveni, Vlădești, Tulucești, Vânători communes, in the north-eastern part of Galați county.

The Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park with an area of 8.247 ha was declared natural protected area by the Government Decision Number 2152 on November 30, 2004 (published in Romanian Official Paper Number 38 on January 12, 2005)³⁹³ and represents a wetland (with canals, lakes, swamps, floodplains) of international importance especially for waterfowl habitat, or mammals, fish and plant species.

Protected areas included in the park are: Ostrovul Prut, Pochina Lake and Vlășcuța Lake.



Source: <http://www.skytrip.ro/parcul-natural-lunca-joasa-a-prutului-inferior-din-judetul-galati-ob-1987.html>

³⁹² protectedplanet.net - Lunca Joasă a Prutului Inferior, <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/196473>

³⁹³ (in Romanian) muntiimaramuresului.ro - Hotărârea de Guvern Nr.2152 din 30 noiembrie 2004, publicată în Monitorul Oficial al României, Nr.38 din 12 ianuarie 2005, <http://www.muntiimaramuresului.ro/docs/hg2151.pdf>

The Sand Dunes from Hanu Conachi Nature Reserve

The Sand Dunes from Hanu Conachi (in Romanian: Dunele de nisip de la Hanu Conachi) are a protected area (site of community importance) located in the south of Moldova, on the territory of Galați County³⁹⁴. The natural area extends in the south-western extremity of Galați County (close to the border limits with Brăila and Vrancea counties), on the administrative territory of Fundeni commune and is crossed by the national road DN25, which connects Tecuci with Fundeni³⁹⁵. The protected area is a natural area (fluvial sand dunes, deciduous forests, meadows and cultivated arable land) within the steppe bioregion at the contact between the Tecuciului Plain and the Lower Siret Plain. The site was created for the purpose of protecting biodiversity and maintaining a favorable conservation status of the flora and fauna, as well as some habitats of community interest located in the northeastern extremity of the Romanian Plain³⁹⁶.



The Sand Dunes from Hanu Conachi, online source:
<https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2017/06/24/dunele-de-nisip-de-la-hanu-conachi/>

³⁹⁴ Protectedplanet.net - Dunele de nisip de la Hanu Conachi Nature Reserve, online source:

http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Dunele_De_Nisip_De_La_Hanu_Conachi_Nature_Reserve

³⁹⁵ (in Romanian) Lista siturilor de importanță comunitară (suprafețe și unități administrativ-teritoriale în care este localizat situl), online source:

http://www.natura2000.ro/files/public/cms/file_684_fhpLWTY.pdf

³⁹⁶ (in Romanian) Natura2000.eea.europa.eu - Dunele de nisip de la Hanu Conachi, online source:

<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=ROSCI0072>

In Tulcea County, the natural resources, building rocks and other useful mineral substances that have been exploited for a long time are far from exhausted, providing interesting prospects for exploitation. The construction rocks represented by volcanic rocks of porphyry and granite are processed to obtain sieve and sand. Porphyries from the Consul, Cârjelari and Camena hills are exploited; the granites from Măcin area, Turcoaia, Cerna. Limestones are exploited as building rocks in the quarries of Zebil, Bididia, Trei Fântâni, Malcoci Sud. Dolomitic limestone from Mahmudia is exploited for the steel industry and the manufacture of lime. As ornamental rocks, rough limestone is exploited from Nicolae Bălcescu, dolomitic limestone from Mahmudia, Cârjelari and Codru Babadag. From Niculițel - Revărsarea area, basic rocks are used in road and railway construction. For the local needs many other categories of rocks are exploited in the perimeters of the local councils on the county territory: Nalbant, Ciucurova, Baia.



In Romanian, Tulcea County website, online source:

<https://www.cjtulcea.ro/sites/cjtulcea/PrezentareaJudetului/DateGenerale/Pages/Resurse-naturale.aspx>

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR)³⁹⁷

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a labyrinth of water and land shared between Romania and Ukraine. It is made up of countless lakes, channels and islands at the end of a 2,860 km-long river³⁹⁸.

At the end of a course of over 2,860 km, collecting the water from a vast hydrological basin that exceeds 8% of the area of Europe, the Danube (the second largest river of the Continent) has during the last 16,000 years built at its mouth with the Black Sea one of the most beautiful deltas in Europe, perhaps in the whole world. The Danube Delta is famous as one of the greatest wetlands of the earth. The wonderful natural habitats formed here offer good living conditions for an impressive number of plants and animals. Among these, reeds form one of the largest single expanses in the world,

³⁹⁷ <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta>

³⁹⁸ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/romaniaukraine/danube-delta/>

and Letea and Caraorman forests represent the northern limit for two rare species of oak that are more frequently met in the south of the Italian and Balkan peninsulas. Together with the great number of aquatic and terrestrial plants, there are also many important colonies of pelicans and cormorans, which are characteristic of the Danube Delta, as well as a variety of other waterbirds which reside in or visit the delta for breeding or wintering. The large number of fish is also notable, with species of both high economic and ecological value.

Without doubt, the impressive range of habitats and species which occupy a relatively small area makes the Danube Delta a vital center for biodiversity in Europe, and a natural genetic bank with incalculable value for global natural heritage.

Many of the plant and animal species found in the delta are also important natural resources for economic use as food, building materials and medicines, they have attracted people to the area since ancient times. The human dwellings were chiefly based on the use of these natural resources, so developing traditional economic activities and characteristic cultural and social habits. Later, there was a tendency to overexploit some of these natural resources.

This tendency, which is still seen at the present time, put increasing pressure on the resources, especially fish and grasslands, and was compounded by the development of economic activities which were not in harmony with the environment; for example, sand mining at Caraorman upset the ecological balance, causing the loss of some areas of natural fish spawning grounds through the sedimentation and eutrophication (or nutrient enrichment) of water channels and lakes. Because of the cumulative negative effects of human activity in the delta, together with those occurring around the delta itself, there was an increasing danger that the natural ecological balance would become irreparably harmed if appropriate measures were not taken to reduce these impacts, to restore already damaged areas, to protect the existing unaffected areas, and to harness local and regional support for these measures.

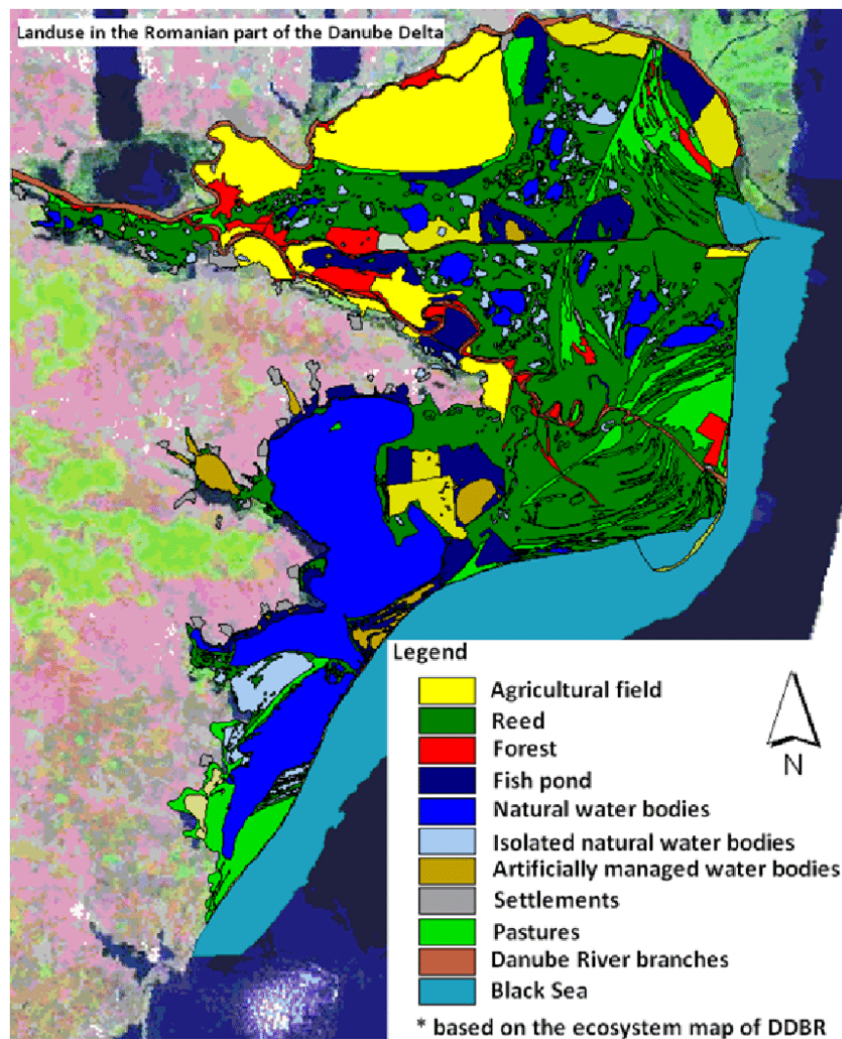
The factory briefly described above provided arguments for the designation of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR) by the Romanian Government in 1990, a decision then confirmed by the Romanian Parliament through law 82 of 1993. The universal value of the reserve was recognised by the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO in 1990 through its inclusion in the international network of biosphere reserves.



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Land use map of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve-Romania³⁹⁹

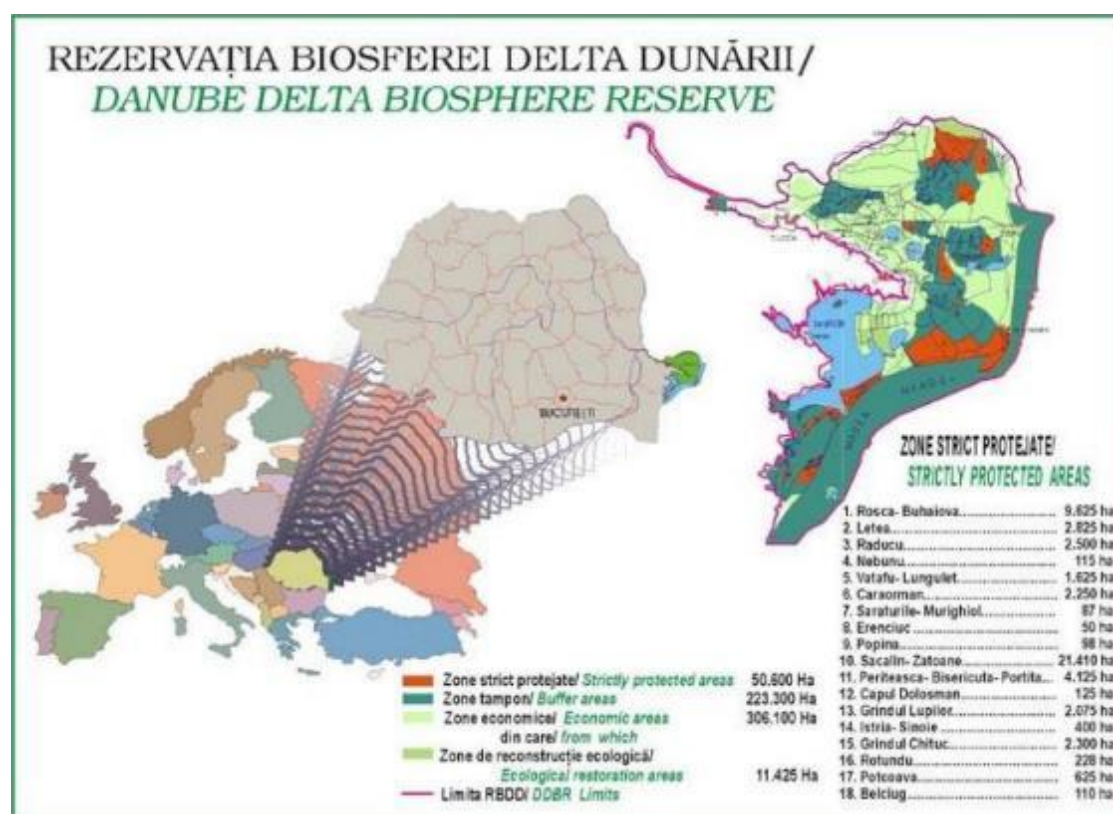
In fact, DDBR possesses all the main features of a biosphere reserve, namely:

- a) it conserves examples of characteristic ecosystems of one of the world's natural areas and contains strictly protected core areas, traditional use areas, e.g. for fishing and reed harvesting, and buffer zones to reduce external impacts;
- b) it is a land and coastal/marine area in which people are an integral component, and which is managed for objectives ranging from complete protection to intensive yet sustainable production;

³⁹⁹ Doroftei, Mihai & Mierla, Marian & Silviu, Covaliov & Nanu, Cristina & Lupu, Gabriel, HABIT-CHANGE, Climate change adapted management plan for Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, 2016, This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF, online source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292616339_HABIT-CHANGE_5_3_1g_DDNI_CAMP_for_Danube_Delta_BR

- c) it is a regional center for monitoring, research, education and training on natural and managed ecosystems;
- d) it is a place where government decision-makers, scientists, managers and local people cooperate in developing a model programme for managing land and water to meet human needs while conserving natural processes and biological resources;
- e) it serves as a symbol of voluntary cooperation to conserve and use resources for the well-being of people everywhere.

From September 1990, the DDBR was listed as a wetland of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat under the Ramsar Convention, and is among the largest of the 600 or so wetlands recognized. The universal natural heritage value of the reserve was recognized in December 1990 by the inclusion of the strictly protected areas in the World Heritage List under the World Heritage Convention.



Romanian Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Zones, Online source:
<https://willzuzak.ca/lp/danube/map-zone-strict-protejate.html>

The Danube Delta comprises 20 strictly protected areas, totaling a total area of over 50,000 ha, representing about 9% of the total area of the reservation. The most important of these are⁴⁰⁰:

Roșca – Buhaiova Nature Reserve (9 625 ha) is characterized by a complex of ponds and lakes, currently the largest colony of common pelicans in Europe.

Sărăturile Murighiol Nature Reserve (87 ha) is home to a colony of Black-winged stilt, woodpecker, duck and other wader species.

Periteașca-Leahova National Reserve (4,125 ha) is a stopping and feeding place for red-necked geese, pelicans, ducks and caliphs. It includes a series of sandy shores, the Church Island, the lakes Leahova Mare and Mică, Periteașca and Coșna.

The Complex Sacalin - Zătoane (21410 ha) offers favorable conditions for swan nesting, and the Sacalin Island provides shelter and nesting place for several wader species.

Măcin Mountains National Park

Măcin Mountains National Park is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the IUCN II category (national park, special conservation area), located in the south-eastern part of Romania, on the north-western territory of Tulcea county⁴⁰¹. It was created for the purpose of conservation and scientific and tourist exploitation of the area, given that the Măcin Mountains represents the oldest geological formation in the country⁴⁰².

The natural area extends to the northeast of the Dobrogea Plateau (in the central part of the Măcin Mountains) in Tulcea county, on the administrative territories of Cerna, Greek, Hamacearca, Jijila, Luncavița and Turcoaia communes. The park is bordered in the eastern part by the county road DJ222A, which connects the village Nifon with Luncavița.

⁴⁰⁰ (in Romanian) <https://romaniasalbatica.ro/ro/rezervatie-biosfera/delta-dunarii>

⁴⁰¹ Protectedplanet.net - Parcul Național Munții Măcinului,
<http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/184172>

⁴⁰² (in Romanian) Unibuc.ro - University of Bucharest - The Dobrogea Plateau (physico-geographical framework) - Geological survey and paleogeographic evolution, online source:
http://www.unibuc.ro/prof/sandulache_m_i/Podisul_Dobrogei.php

The national park includes the natural reserve The Beech Valley Forest (Pădurea Valea Fagilor) and overlaps both the site of community importance Măcin Mountains and the special avifaunistic protection area Măcin – Niculițel.



Măcin Mountains National Park

<http://www.parcmacin.ro/en/acasa>

In this region, several tectonic movements took place (hundreds of millions of years ago) which led to the formation of a mountain chain with a high geological complexity. Here crystalline shale outcrops consisting of metamorphic rocks (quartzites, micaschists, amphibolite, filites) attributed to the Paleozoic are encountered; herculean magmatic rocks; magmatites formed from intrusive rocks (diorites, granodiorites, granites), effusive rocks (rhyolites, basalts), rocks formed by cementing sediments (volcanic tuffs) and sedimentary rocks; slates and tiles. From the geomorphological point of view, the Măcin Mountains presents a relief diversity (erosion witnesses rounded on volcanic rocks, irregular rock assemblages with different geomorphic dimensions and shapes, groats, ridges on quartzite shales, hills, elongated ridges, depressions) consisting of hills, peaks and valleys⁴⁰³.

Other nature reserves in Tulcea County are:

Korum Tarla Botanical Reserve

Korum Tarla Botanical Reserve (in Romanian: Rezervația botanică Korum Tarla) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (nature reserve of forest and ornithological type), located in Tulcea county on the

⁴⁰³ Id.

administrative territory of the city of Babadag⁴⁰⁴. The wooded area includes: beech, hornbeam, mountain elm, silver linden, gorun, velniş, juniper, lime, maple or mountain ash. The area protects a floristic species of Ponto-Anatolian origin, known by the locals under the popular name of bead.



Korum Tarla Botanical Reserve, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/rezervatia-botanica-korum-tarla/#>

The Agighiol Geological Reserve

The Agighiol Geological Reserve (Nature monument), in Romanian Rezervația geologică Agighiol, is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the IUCN III category (natural, geological, paleontological and floristic type reserve) located in Tulcea county, on the administrative territory of Valea Nucarilor commune⁴⁰⁵. The natural area represents a natural area (limestone slopes of low heights, meadows with steppe vegetation) in the southeast of Agighiolului Hills, which houses fossil remains (ammonites, cephalopods, shells, crustaceans) attributed to the Middle

⁴⁰⁴ Protectedplanet.net - Rezervatia botanica Korum Tarla Nature Reserve (geolcation), online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/183939>

⁴⁰⁵ Protectedplanet.net - Rezervatia Geologica Agighiol Nature Reserve (geolcation), online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/14605>

Triassic, deposited in the subtropical reserve⁴⁰⁶. The paleontological reserve is represented by a famous fossiliferous point in Northern Dobrogea, which is home to a rich mediotriatic fauna. Here we meet the Middle Triassic in complex development. Morphologically, the characteristic of the relief is the insularity of the limestone massifs with long slopes, covered with loess and with low altitudes (206 m). There is no permanent watercourse in the area. The hydrographic network is represented only by a series of short and torrential streams with intermittent drainage (Tulcei Valley). The vegetation is characterized by the existence of grasslands of pontic steppe, petrophilic steppe and saxicolous vegetation, but no systematic studies have been performed. The object of protection is the fossil fauna of the Middle Triassic (Cephalopoda, Brachiopoda, Bivalva)⁴⁰⁷.



The Agighiol Geological Reserve, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/rezervatii-naturale-53/rezervatia-geologica-agighiol-320.html>

⁴⁰⁶ (in Romanian) Rezervații naturale din județul Tulcea - Rezervația geologică Agighiol, online source: http://apmtl.anpm.ro/rezervatii_naturale_in_judetul_tulcea-4048#agighiol

⁴⁰⁷ (in Romanian) Consiliul Județean Tulcea – Obiective turistice, Rezervații naturale, <https://www.cjtulcea.ro/sites/cjtulcea/PrezentareaJudețului/Obiective%20Turistice/Pages/RezervatiiNaturale.aspx>

The Peony Hill Natural Reserve

The Peony Hill Natural Reserve (in Romanian: Rezervația naturală Dealul Bujorului) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (nature reserve of floristic type), located in Tulcea county on the administrative territory of Ciucurova commune⁴⁰⁸. The natural area is an area with meadows and sluice forests located on the southern slope of the Peony Hill (west of the Babadag Plateau), which houses and protects a rare flower species (belonging to the Paeoniaceae family), known as the Romanian peony (*Paeonia peregrina* Mill. var. *romanica*)⁴⁰⁹.



The Peony Hill Natural Reserve, online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/rezervatia-naturala-dealul-bujorului-36>

Siret Meadow Nature Reserve

Siret Meadow Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Lunca Siretului) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (mixed type nature reserve) located in Vrancea county, on the administrative territory of Focșani municipality⁴¹⁰. The reserve represents an area made up of forested areas (Black Forest, Dumbrăvița Forest), meanders (formed by the Putna River), deserted arms of the Siret river, alluvial meadows, groves, meadows and grasslands; which harbor a

⁴⁰⁸ Protectedplanet.net - Rezervația naturală Delul Bujorului Nature Reserve (geolcation), online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/183941>

⁴⁰⁹ (in Romanian) Rezervații naturale din județul Tulcea - Rezervația naturală Dealul Bujorului, online source: http://apmtl.anpm.ro/rezervatii_naturale_in_judetul_tulcea-4048#dealul_bujorului

⁴¹⁰ Protectedplanet.net - Lunca Siretului Nature Reserve (geolocalisation), online source: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/182874>

great variety of flora and fauna. The Siret Meadow Nature Reserve has several types of habitats consisting of: natural grasslands, alluvial meadows, forests, sandy beaches, grasslands, steppes and natural areas with marshes and peatlands.



Siret Meadow Nature Reserve, online source:

<https://www.ziaruldevrancea.ro/actualitatea/stiri-locale/galerie-foto-aria-protejata-lunca-siretului-inferior-din-vrancea-locul-care-ti-poate-alina-dorul-de-delta>

Putna-Vrancea Natural Park

Putna-Vrancea Natural Park (in Romanian: Parcul Național Putna-Vrancea) is a protected area (natural park category V IUCN) situated in Romania, in administrative territory of Vrancea County⁴¹¹. The Natural Park is located in Vrancea Mountains (Eastern Carpathians), in the hydrographical basin of the Putna River, in the north-west part of Vrancea county. The natural park represents a mountainous area (crevasses, mountain peaks, valleys, canyons, waterfalls, forests, pastures), with a large variety of flora and fauna⁴¹². The natural park is superimposed on the site of community importance - Putna - Vrancea and includes the following natural reserves: Putnei Waterfall (Cascada Putnei), Pine Forest (Groapa cu pini), Goru Mountain (Muntele Goru), Lepșa - Zboina Forest (Pădurea Lepșa – Zboina), Strămtura - Coza and Tișitei Valley.

⁴¹¹ protectedplanet.net - Putna-Vrancea Natural Park (location), online source:
<http://protectedplanet.net/sites/196474>

⁴¹² (in Romanian) apmvn.anpm.ro - Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Vrancea, online source:
<http://apmvn.anpm.ro/>



Putna-Vrancea Natural Park, online source: <https://lepsi.ro/parcul-natural-putna-vrancea-amfiteatrul-din-muntii-vrancei/>



Putnei Waterfall, online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/vrancea/cascada-putnei-524>



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Pine Forest, online source: <https://wildcarpathiaadventure.ro/obiective-turistice/rezervatia-naturala-groapa-cu-pini/>



Tișitei Valley, online source: <https://blog.hotelguru.ro/cheile-tisitei-raiul-din-judetul-vrancea/>

Căldările Zăbalei

Căldările Zăbalei is a site of community importance (SCI) designated for the purpose of protecting biodiversity and maintaining a favorable conservation status of spontaneous flora and fauna, as well as of natural habitats of community interest in the protected area area. It is located in the southwest of Moldova, on the territory of Vrancea county⁴¹³. The natural area extends to the western extremity of Vrancea county (close to the border with Buzău county), on the administrative territory of Nereju commune, near the county road DJ205D, which connects Prisaca with Nereju village⁴¹⁴.



Căldările Zăbalei, online source: <https://povestea-locurilor.ro/2018/09/10/caldarile-zabalei/>

⁴¹³ Protectedplanet.net - Căldările Zăbalei Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive), online source: http://protectedplanet.net/sites/Caldarile_Zabalei_Site_Of_Community_Importance_Habitats_Directive

⁴¹⁴ Eunis.eea.europa.eu - Situl de importanță comunitară - Căldările Zăbalei (geolocalizare), online source: <http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites/ROSCI0018/geo>

The Living Fire from Andreiașu de Jos

The Living Fire from Andreiașu de Jos (in Romanian: **Focul Viu de la Andreiașu de Jos**), (monument of nature) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the third category IUCN (mixed type nature reserve) located in Vrancea county, on the administrative territory of Andreiașu de Jos commune⁴¹⁵. The natural area is a hilly surface (Tilia Hill with ravines and erosion forms) consisting of sedimentary rocks (marls and sandstone) and subjected to landslides due to excessive deforestation, in whose perimeter natural gas emissions (hydrocarbons) are reported. They spontaneously ignite and burn themselves⁴¹⁶.



The Living Fire from Andreiașu de Jos, online source:

<https://monitoruldevrancea.ro/2012/06/22/aria-protejata-focul-viu-de-la-andreiasu-un-miracol-natural/>

⁴¹⁵ Protectedplanet.net - Focul Viu de la Andreiasu de Jos (geolocalisation), online source:

<http://protectedplanet.net/sites/14603>

⁴¹⁶ Ampvn.anpm.ro Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Vrancea, online source: <http://apm.vn.anpm.ro/>

Algheanu Reserve

Algheanu Reserve (in Romanian: Rezervația Algheanu) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (nature reserve of geological and landscape type) located in Vrancea county, on the administrative territory of Vrâncioaia commune⁴¹⁷. The reserve is an area crossed by the waters of the Algheanu stream, with pebbles (relief microforms formed as a result of the action of the water) dug in friable rocks and in saliferous deposits and represents an area of particular geological and landscape interest in Vrancea⁴¹⁸. Friable rocks consist of sands, gravels, clays, marls or Piedmont accumulations.



Algheanu Reserve, online source: <http://ananp.gov.ro/rezervatia-algheanu/>

2.1.8.1.2. Caves

6S Mânzălești Cave

6S Mânzălești Cave (in Romanian: Peștera 6S de la Mânzălești) is located at the bottom of a moat, which is part of an oval in which 4 other caves have been identified. The cave is located north of the Meledic Lake, at the base of a steep slope with a

⁴¹⁷ Protectedplanet.net - Rezervatia Algheanu Nature Reserve (geolocalisation), online source: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/183893>

⁴¹⁸ Apmvn.anpm.ro - Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Vrancea, online source: <http://apmvn.anpm.ro/>

height of 15m⁴¹⁹. In 1980, the cave reached the world record for being the longest salt cave. In 1983, however, the ICRC cave (MALHAM) in Israel was discovered, becoming the longest, the 6S Mânzălești Cave passing to the second place in the world in length. This cave is noted for the abundance, variety and beauty of salt concretions⁴²⁰.

The cave has a length of 1220 m and an elevation of 32 m. The main entrance is almost blocked by the slip caused by rain. Also, the cave contains different types of formations: white, pink, yellow, bright red, gray and brown stalactites and a small number of stalagmites with heights of several centimeters and thicknesses of 5 - 8 cm. The stalactites reach up to 1.5 m long with thicknesses of 30 cm, at the base, often changing their position from vertical to tips in a broken line (aberrant stalactites). The stalagmites are reduced to a few cm high and approx. 8 cm diameter at the base. The anemolites are approx. 1 m and with small diameters.



⁴¹⁹ [http://www.citBuzău.ro/platoul-meletic-\(lacul-pesterele-in-sare-tabara-de-sculptura-in-lemn\)-2-1.htm](http://www.citBuzău.ro/platoul-meletic-(lacul-pesterele-in-sare-tabara-de-sculptura-in-lemn)-2-1.htm)

⁴²⁰ (in Romanian) Caiet de practică de vară pentru studenții Facultății de Știința Mediului - Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj Napoca, online source:
http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/23155035/393985486/name/Caiet_practica_vara.pdf

Source: <http://www.descoperalocuri.ro/descopera-romania/frumusetea-de-sub-ochii-nostri-platoul-meledic.html>

Dobrogea's Mouth Cave

Dobrogea's Mouth Cave or The Bats Cave (in Romanian: Peștera Gura Dobrogei sau Peștera Liliecilor) is a nature monument located in the northeast of the village of Dobrogea Mouth, being part of the Dobrogea Mouth Nature Reserve, Constanța County⁴²¹. The existence of the cave was reported in 1926 by the historian and archaeologist Vasile Pârvan. Geologist E. Jekelius appreciated that the age of its formation is at the beginning of the Quaternary or the end of the Pliocene, and its excavation was done at the boundary between two categories of limestone - some more compact and some softer - representing the plan of minimum resistance rich in fissures⁴²².

The cave has 3 entrances and several galleries, the length of the galleries being over 480 m. In this cave there have been numerous testimonies of human activity, tools of paleolithic and Neolithic flint, fragments of Neolithic ceramics, as well as more recent metal objects belonging to the ages of iron. The cave offers optimal conditions for the bat colonies, which also gave the name of the cave, the Bats Cave. Thus, most of the galleries and rooms of the cave are bathing areas in summer and hibernating in winter. The large bat colonies belong to the Mediterranean species *Rhinolophus mehelyi* and *Myotis mystacinus*⁴²³.

⁴²¹ (in Romanian) Agerspres, „Monumente ale naturii din România: Peștera Liliecilor sau Peștera Gura Dobrogei”, online source: <https://www.agerpres.ro/flux-documentare/2015/11/18/monumente-ale-naturii-din-romania-pestera-liliecilor-sau-pestera-gura-dobrogei-14-04-44>

⁴²² Id.

⁴²³ (in Romanian) Histria-cheiledobrogei.ro, „Peștera Gura Dobrogei sau Peștera Liliecilor”, online source: <http://www.histria-cheiledobrogei.ro/Turism-3/Cheile-Dobrogei-6,Peștera-Gura-Dobrogei-sau-Peștera-Liliecilor-29>



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Dobrogea's Mouth Cave or The Bats Cave, online source: <http://www.99tour.ro/timp-liber/gura-dobrogei/pe-ter/pestera-liliecilor-de-la-gura-dobrogei-576>

Monastery Cave of St. Ioan Casian

Monastery Cave of St. Ioan Casian (in Romanian: Peștera Sfântului Ioan Casian)

is located in the commune of Târgușor from Constanța county, on the northern slope of the Casian Hill, in a limestone wall, above the Casimcea valley⁴²⁴. The cave is at the end of a path that runs from behind the monastery. On its path, there is the Holy Rock, with the inscription: "Ὅροι Κασιάνου Και Σπηλούχα", that is to say: "The Borders of the Cassian and the Cave". It was discovered in 1912 by the archaeologist Vasile Pârvan⁴²⁵. At the entrance of the cave, a small opaque or candle pole is arranged in the left wall. The cave continues through narrow and long galleries of several meters. In the beginning, the cave was used as a cell by the needy shakers in the land of the Cassian. Gradually, it was set up as a liturgical ministry. Through two steps dug in the limestone, the cave is divided into the ecclesial space. The walls of the glossy limestone cave still retain traces of inscriptions, a few letters from deleted words are engraved in the limestone wall. The word "ἅγιος" (holy) is also distinguished from an inscription⁴²⁶.

⁴²⁴ (in Romanian) <https://doxologia.ro/viata-bisericii/locuri-de-pelerinaj/pestera-sfantului-ioan-casian>

⁴²⁵ Id.

⁴²⁶ Id.



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Monastery Cave of St. Ioan Casian, online source: <https://www.romaniajournal.ro/travel/top-six-cave-monasteries-across-romania/attachment/21-pestera-sfantul-ioan-casian/>

At Adams' Cave

At Adams' Cave (in Romanian: Peștera La Adam) is a nature monument located in the northeast of the village of Dobrogea Mouth, part of the Dobrogea Mouth Nature Reserve, Constanța county, only a few kilometers from Târgușor commune⁴²⁷. In the cave were identified, by specialists, over 70 species of Jurassic fossils and quaternary animals. Here was found a special piece, a molar that belonged to a homo sapiens fossilis, an individual who probably lived, or found its end in this cave, more than 100,000 years ago. Beyond all this, however, this cave stands out because it is one of the few places in Dobrogea that has a direct connection with that archaic cult of the god Mithras, a deity of Persian origin, extremely popular during the height of the Roman Empire. Thus, in the cave were discovered 5 pieces of carved stone that almost 2 millennia ago composed the altar of the aforementioned deity. Mithras was a god of light introduced into the Persian Empire about 4 centuries before Christ and who

⁴²⁷ (in Romanian) „Peștera "La Adam"”. Unitatea Administrativ Teritorială Istria. 2013, online source: <http://www.histria-cheiledobrogei.ro/Turism-3/Cheile-Dobrogei-6,Peștera-La-Adam-28>

became extremely popular among the soldiers of the Roman empire, attracting many worship practitioners from the 1st century AD to the 4th century⁴²⁸. Generally celebrated in underground or caves, Mithras was a deity of soldiers, who often saw him as a god of sincerity and loyalty. The worship of Mithras reached Scythia Minor with the first Roman legions (many veterans later settled here) and was widely practiced for almost three centuries, until it went into decline when Emperor Constantine the Great converted to Christianity⁴²⁹.



At Adams' Cave, online source: <http://www.povestilemariinegre.ro/targusor-in-pestera-la-adam-la-altarul-zeului-mithras/>

Limanu Cave

Limanu Cave (in Romanian: Peștera Limanu) is a nature monument located in the southern part of Romania, in the area of Limanu commune, not far from the village of Limanu, on the shore of Lake Mangalia. The area of the protected area is 1 hectare. It's 3.64 km long⁴³⁰. A strange thing about the cave is the dizzying branching of the galleries. Unlike most of the caves where the water has formed its main galleries to which the secondary galleries converge, as in a city the side streets exit into the boulevards, the designer of Limanu Cave had no systematic thought⁴³¹. Even more bizarre is the appearance of galleries, which have a very regular rectangular section,

⁴²⁸ (in Romanian) <http://www.povestilemariinegre.ro/targusor-in-pestera-la-adam-la-altarul-zeului-mithras/>

⁴²⁹ Id.

⁴³⁰ (in Romanian) National Geographic Romania, Peștera Limanu, un adevărat labirint prin timp, online source: <https://www.natgeo.ro/articole/natura/9855-petere-limanu-labirint-prin-istorie>

⁴³¹ Id.

as if they were carved by man. In reality it is a morphology specific to caves developed in limestone with horizontal stratification, in what geologists call tabular structures. Digging in the past of this cave, archaeologist Vasile Boroneanț discovered incisions and drawings in coal that he appreciated as being very old, possibly neolithic. Others possibly Dacian. Some even think that Limanu Cave would be the Keirys cave, which Dio Cassius talks about in Roman history. He says that after the war between the rulers of Rholes and Dapix the latter were defeated, they hid in a cave, with families, cattle and all their possessions. Upon finding out, the enemies built them there, transforming the cave into a huge tomb⁴³². In a more accessible part of the cave was discovered Greek pottery and opaque, showing that the inhabitants of Callatys fortress, almost two millennia ago carved altars where they could worship the god Mithras.



Limanu Cave, online source: <https://www.natgeo.ro/articole/natura/9855-petera-limanu-labirint-prin-istorie>

Mobile Cave

Mobile Cave (in Romanian: Peștera Mobile) is a cave near Mangalia, Constanța County, Romania discovered by Cristian Lascu in 1986 a few kilometers from the Black Sea coast⁴³³. It is notable for its unique groundwater ecosystem abundant in hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide, but low in oxygen. Life in the cave has been separated from the outside for the past 5.5 million years and it is based completely on

⁴³² Id.

⁴³³ Fox-Skelly, Jasmin. "The bizarre beasts living in Romania's poison cave", online source: <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150904-the-bizarre-beasts-living-in-romania-poison-cave>

chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis⁴³⁴. The air in the cave is very different from the outer atmosphere. The level of oxygen is only a third to half of the concentration found in open air and about one hundred times more carbon dioxide. It also contains 1–2% methane and both the air and waters of the cave contain high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide and ammonia⁴³⁵.

The cave is known to contain 48 species, among them leeches, spiders and a water scorpion. Of these, 33 are endemic. The food chain is based on chemosynthesis in the form of methane- and sulfur-oxidizing bacteria, which in turn release nutrients for fungi and other bacteria. This forms microbial mats on the cave walls and the surface of lakes and ponds which are grazed on by some of the animals. The grazers are then preyed on by predatory species⁴³⁶. *Nepa anophthalma* is the only known cave-adapted water scorpion in the world⁴³⁷. While animals have lived in the cave for 5.5 million years, not all of them arrived simultaneously. The most recent animal recorded is the cave's only species of snail, which has inhabited the cave for slightly more than 2 million years⁴³⁸.

In 1986 a group of Romanian researchers made one of the greatest discoveries of the century, while doing soil research, in order to build a power plant near the Black Sea. The discovery of the Movila Cave would astonish the entire scientific world with the discovery of an underground world hostile to humans, animals or plants on the surface. It was not for the first time that life was discovered in a cave, but in previous cases the underground life depended on the surface. But in the Movile Cave, the researchers discovered a completely closed circle, an ecosystem itself, completely independent of the surface. This led one of the researchers to assert that if following a nuclear war life on Earth would disappear, this ecosystem would be a survivor.

⁴³⁴ BBC Earth. The bizarre beasts living in Romania's poison cave, online source:

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150904-the-bizarre-beasts-living-in-romania-poison-cave>

⁴³⁵ Kumaresan, Deepak; Wischer, Daniela; Stephenson, Jason; Hillebrand-Voiculescu, Alexandra; Murrell, J. Colin (2014). "Microbiology of Movile Cave – A Chemolithoautotrophic Ecosystem". *Geomicrobiology Journal*. 31 (3): 186–193.

⁴³⁶ "Abstract:Microbial food webs in Movile Cave". Research Councils UK Gateway to Research, online source: <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/project/BEFCDE85-0C8C-43FD-978D-9DDF3AAF607A>

⁴³⁷ Vasile Decu; Magdalena Gruia; S. L. Keffer; Serban Mircea Sarbu (1994). "Stygobiotic Waterscorpion, *Nepa anophthalma*, n. sp. (Heteroptera: Nepidae), from a Sulfurous Cave in Romania". *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*. 87 (6): 755–761.

⁴³⁸ Movile Cave – An Oddity Of Romania. WorldAtlas.com, online source: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/movile-cave-an-oddity-of-romania.html>

One of the theories of Genesis claims that the cave's population was isolated five and a half million years ago, when the Black Sea level dropped sharply. At that time, the closest ancestors of humans today were the monkeys in southern Africa.

Larry Lemke from NASA's research center likened the living conditions in the Movila cave to those on Mars. Lemke, who is on a mission to research the existence of life on the Red Planet, believes it may have been life forms on it, 3.5 billion years ago, when Mars was warmer. The case of Movila cave has restored the hope of finding incipient life forms in the underground of the planet, where there are sources of hot liquid water⁴³⁹.



Movile Cave, online source: <https://www.mangalianews.ro/2018/06/visit-dobrogea-pestera-movile-aflata-in-nord-vestul-municipiului-mangalia/>

The Cave from the Rock

The Cave from the Rock (in Romanian: Peștera de la Stânca), the corner of the cave is in a patch of Triassic limestone not too thick. The entrance is of avenue type (well) and a staircase of 5 m is required to approach the jump. It is a labyrinthine cavity, fossil type, with a development of 60 m in the direction of NNE-SSV, with many

⁴³⁹ (in Romanian) Comorile subterane ale Dobrogei, 2008, Descopera in Romania, online source: <https://www.descopera.ro/descopera-in-romania/2338419-comorile-subterane-ale-dobrogei>



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entrances, short and wide galleries, which combine spacious and brightly lit rooms, due to the collapsed ceilings⁴⁴⁰.



The Cave from the Rock, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/pesteri-dobrogea-52/pestera-de-la-stanca--360.html>

The Tunnel Cave

The Tunnel Cave (in Romanian: Peștera Tunel) can be found near the Mahmudia, locality that is on the right bank of the St. George's arm⁴⁴¹.



⁴⁴⁰ <https://www.info-delta.ro/pesteri-dobrogea-52/pestera-de-la-stanca--360.html>

⁴⁴¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/pestera-tunel-mahmudia/>

The Tunnel Cave, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/pestera-tunel-mahmudia/>

2.1.8.1.3. Mountains - Forests

Viișoara Forest

Viișoara Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Viișoara) is a relic of the oak woods that populated the sands of fluvial origin on the right bank of the Calmatui river⁴⁴².



Viișoara Forest, online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/Brăila/padurea-viisoara-390>

Penteleu Massif

Penteleu Massif (in Romanian: Masivul Penteleu) is a mountainous group, belonging to the mountain range of the Eastern Carpathians. The highest peak is Penteleu Peak, 1,772 m. The Penteleu massif is declared a forest reserve and is a protected area, considered a management area for habitat or species⁴⁴³.

⁴⁴² <http://www.skytrip.ro/rezervatia-naturala-padurea-viisoara-din-judetul-Brăila-ob-1271.html>

⁴⁴³ Masivul Penteleu în baza de date a ariilor protejate din lume, online source: <http://www.wdpa.org/siteSheet.aspx?sitecode=11156>



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Hagieni Forest

Hagieni Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Hagieni) has its limestone plateaus, steppe and xerothermal forests, its spiny shrubs and their associated fauna⁴⁴⁴.



Hagieni Forest, online source: <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/padurea-hagieni-dobrogea/>

⁴⁴⁴ <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/padurea-hagieni-dobrogea/>

Dumbrăveni Forest

Dumbrăveni Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Dumbrăveni) presents a lush sub-Mediterranean forest landscape, extended spatially and slightly overgrown, with limestone cliffs with fossils and several caves, grassy steppe vegetation areas (both natural primary steppes and secondary steppe / agro-pastoral pastures), with several temporary valleys. as well as a relatively permanent watercourse, so this mosaic of habitats preserves a biodiversity of forest steppes that was once widespread throughout the region⁴⁴⁵.



Dumbrăveni Forest, online source: <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/padurea-dumbraveni-dobrogea/>

Gârboavele Forest

Gârboavele Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Gârboavele) houses the Zoological Garden, the Village Museum and the Fisheries Museum, being an important recreational area for the Galați residents. Located in the southeastern part of Galați county, on the administrative territory of Tulucești commune, near the national road DN24D, Gârboavele Forest was declared a site of community importance in 2007, occupying an area of 219 ha⁴⁴⁶.

⁴⁴⁵ <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/padurea-dumbraveni-dobrogea/>

⁴⁴⁶ <https://Galaticityapp.ro/places/padurea-garboavele-zhkliexgfcxcpa>



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Gârboavele Forest, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/rezervatia-naturala-padurea-garboavele/>

Breana - Roșcani Forest

Breana - Roșcani Forest (in Romanian: **Pădurea Breana – Roșcani**) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th IUCN category (nature reserve, forest type), located in the northeastern part of Galați county, on the administrative territory of Băneasa commune, in Roșcani village⁴⁴⁷.



Breana - Roșcani Forest, online source: <https://www.viata-libera.ro/politica-administratie/52670-viata-libera-Galați-cotidian-aria-naturala-breana-roscani-padure-in-pericol-de-sarbatoarea-bujorului>

⁴⁴⁷ ProtectedPlanet.net - Pădurea Breana – Roșcani, online source: http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Padurea_Breana_Roscani_Nature_Reserve

Letea Forest

Letea Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Letea) is the oldest natural reservation in Romania. It was established in 1938, when the Romanian Council of Ministers passed Decision No. 645 declaring the forest a nature reserve. It is located between the Sulina and Chilia branches of Danube in the Danube Delta. It covers an area of approximately 2,825 ha (6,980 acres). This forest was the initial foundation of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, which has been declared a World Heritage Site. It was internationally recognized as a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme in 1992⁴⁴⁸. It has a subtropical aspect, due to the presence of the tropical creeper named *Periploca graeca*. This is a Mediterranean plant which finds its most northern refuge in the Danube Delta. Along with this, types of liana and other climbing plants are woven on the branches of the trees, such as the wild vine, common hop and the ivy⁴⁴⁹.



Letea Forest, online source: <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/padurea-letea/>

Caraorman Forest

Caraorman Forest (kara orman meaning "dark forest" in Turkish; in Romanian: Pădurea Caraorman) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the

⁴⁴⁸ UNEP-WCMC Protected Areas Programme - Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, online source: <https://archive.is/20011205025007/http://www.unep-wcmc.org/sites/wh/danubed.html>

⁴⁴⁹ Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve - General Presentation. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, online source: <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/general-presentation.php>



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IUCN category (strict mixed nature reserve), located in Tulcea county on the administrative territory of Crişan commune⁴⁵⁰.



Caraorman Forest, online source: <https://www.travelguideromania.com/ro/delta-dunarii-letea-caraorman/rezervatia-biosferei-delta-dunarii-stejarul-ingenunchiat-padurea-caraorman/>

The Beech Valley Forest

The Beech Valley Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Valea Fagilor) is located in the territory of Luncaviţa, Tulcea County. On an area of 154 ha in a narrow valley, the impressive beech species can be admired, it is a unique forest in Romania. This relic from the Tertiary Age is the remanence of the old beech forest which used to cover this land a long time ago. The reserve is a place most sought after by beekeepers who spend here a few weeks per season and collect delicious linden honey⁴⁵¹.

⁴⁵⁰ Eunis.eea.europa.eu - Padurea Caraorman (general information), online source:

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites/31706>

⁴⁵¹ <https://www.romanian-journeys.com/en/attraction/beechn-valley-forest-nature-reserve>



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The Beech Valley Forest, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/rezervatii-naturale-53/padurea-valea-fagilor-295.html>

Niculițel Forest

Niculițel Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Niculițel) is a hilly, rugged plateau landscape, where the geological substratum is represented by rocks of the heather-filled herringic mountains at an altitude of 150-300 m, eroded by hundreds of millions of years, where basalts, granitoids, lava shaped as cushion, dolomitic limestone, over which is deposited on large surfaces a blanket of loess formed in Quaternary. Although there are also steep rocky slopes, a few small pools, however the hilly aspect of the rounded peaks predominates. The compact forests are bordered by silvosteppe and steppes, and the rocky areas have saxicolous vegetation. The Danube meadow with its vast quantities of water are in the vicinity, however this landscape of Niculițel is relatively arid⁴⁵².

⁴⁵² <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2012/01/05/padurea-niculitel-valea-teilor/>



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Niculițel Forest, online source: <https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2012/01/05/padurea-niculitel-valea-teilor/>

Babadag – Codru Forest Nature Reserve

Babadag – Codru Forest Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Pădurea Babadag – Codru) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the IUCN IV category (forest and floristic nature reserve), located in Tulcea county on the administrative territory of the city of Babadag⁴⁵³.

⁴⁵³ Protectedplanet.net - Pădurea Babadag - Codru Nature Reserve (geolocation), online source: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/193257>



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Babadag – Codru Forest Nature Reserve, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/rezervatii-naturale-53/rezervatia-naturala-padurea-babadag---codru-297.html>

Goru Mountain

Goru Mountain (in Romanian: Muntele Goru) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th category IUCN (mixed type nature reserve) located in Vrancea county, on the administrative territory of Năruja commune⁴⁵⁴. The natural area has several types of habitats (boreal forests, alpine meadows, juniper associations, juniper associations, vegetal rock associations, shrub associations with species of cranberries and blueberries, grassy associations, watercourses) that shelter a variety of flora and fauna.

⁴⁵⁴ Protectedplanet.net - Muntele Goru Nature Reserve (geolocalisation), online source: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/183886>



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Goru Mountain, online source: <http://www.skytrip.ro/rezervatia-naturala-muntele-goru-din-judetul-vrancea-ob-1893.html>

Vrancea Mountains

The Vrancea Mountains (in Romanian: Munții Vrancei) are a mountain range in the Curvature Carpathians of eastern Vrancea County. The 1977 Vrancea earthquake had its epicenter there⁴⁵⁵.



The Vrancea Mountains, online source: <https://www.ziaruldevrancea.ro/actualitatea/stiri-locale/muntii-vrancei-muntii-sub-care-dorm-balaurii>

Reghiu – Scruntaru Forest

Reghiu – Scruntaru Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Reghiu – Scruntaru) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the 4th IUCN category (wildlife,

⁴⁵⁵ Pandea, Razvan-Adrian (2 July 2016). "4 March 1977 Earthquake". Agerpres, online source: <http://www.agerpres.ro/english/2014/03/04/march-4-1977-earthquake-14-38-04>

forest, geological, landscape and paleontological nature reserve) located in Vrancea county, on the administrative territory of Reghiu commune⁴⁵⁶.



Reghiu – Scruntaru Forest, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/padurea-reghiu-scruntaru/>

Lepşa – Zboina Forest

Lepşa – Zboina Forest (in Romanian: Pădurea Lepşa – Zboina) is a natural protected area of floristic type which is situated in Tulnici commune from Vrancea county. It has a surface of 210.10 hectares and is included in Putna – Vrancea National Park⁴⁵⁷.



Lepşa – Zboina Forest, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/padurea-lepsa-zboina/>

⁴⁵⁶ Protectedplanet.net - Padurea Reghiu - Sruntaru Nature Reserve (geolocalisation), online source: <http://protectedplanet.net/sites/183902>

⁴⁵⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/padurea-lepsa-zboina/>

2.1.8.1.4. Coasts

The Romanian coastline of the Black Sea is between Midia head at the north and Old Vama at the south, having a length of 245 km. The northern part is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Europe's largest nature reserve. The southern part consists of an almost uninterrupted chain of tourist resorts, alternating with towns and harbours⁴⁵⁸. The Black Sea coast is inherently connected to the region of Tulcea and Constanța counties that had a strategic location on the ancient map of Europe. It was on the route of main commercial roads that linked the Northern Sea and the Black Sea, but also the Mediterranean ports with the Eastern world of the continent. The Greeks were the first to seize the opportunity and colonize this land, sometime in the 7th century BC, followed in a few centuries by the Roman Empire. Visiting the ancient ruins from Histria and Jurilovca is, in fact, a great half-day trip away from the noisy beaches. If you have more time take a detour to Adamclisi to admire the monument built in the honor of victorious Traian, the Roman Emperor who defeated the Dacians almost two thousand years ago⁴⁵⁹.

On the Romanian coastline there are more than 150.000 of seats for hosting in hotels, boarding houses and country houses. placed on the length of the european road E 87, the stations of the Romanian coast line are: Navodari, Mamaia, North Eforie, South Eforie, Neptun-Olimp, Venus, Saturn, Vama Veche, 2 Mai, Mangalia, Techirghiol, Costinesti. In this moment, the Romanian Coastline is in a competition with the Mediteranean coastline, being famous for his high quality, soft dust. The Black Sea has a low saltness compared to other continental seas, and , allows the tourists to swim under the water in good conditions.

⁴⁵⁸ Stănică, A., Panin, N. and G. Caraivan, 2013. Romania. In: Pranzini and Williams (eds), Coastal erosion and protection in Europe, Routledge, Oxon, pp. 396-412.

⁴⁵⁹ <https://www.uncover-romania.com/attractions/nature/black-sea/>



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Online source: <https://www.thehotelspecialist.it/the-romanian-summer-in-Constanța/#.XoM71ogzaUk>

The southern zone of the coastline is frequented by tourists even in the ending of the XIX century. Starting with 1959 the stations of the coastline have been permanently modernized: Mamaia, Eforie North, Eforie South, Techirghiol, Costinesti, Neptun, Olimp, Aurora head, Venus, Saturn, Mangalia are the favorite destinations of the tourists from everywhere. In this moment, the capacity of hosting of the coastline is of approx 150.000 seats. Famous for a vacation festivals dedicated to the teenagers, Costinesti is situated at 31km south from Constanța, near the Costinesti and Schitu villages. Those had been created at the end of XIX century by the German colonists. The watering place has been constructed in 1949, when it was arranged for the first camping vacation for kids. Archeologic objectives to visit in the coastline are: Histria Stronghold situated on the seaside of the Sinoie lake, the ruins of Cetatea Tomis and Callatis, the Archeologic museum from Mangalia, the history museum from Constanța, Moscheia from Constanța and from Mangalia, the church Saint Petru and Pavel from the historic zone of the Constanța City. The seaside of the Black Sea offers very good conditions of the tourism festival in order of the mineral waters, therapeutic muds

offered from the lakes from the neighbourhood of the coastline: Techirghiol, Tatlageac, Neptun, Belona, Siutghiol, Corbu, Sinoe, Navodari and Tasaul⁴⁶⁰.

Mangalia Tourist Port is the only tourist port in the Black Sea arranged with non-reimbursable European funds destined for pleasure boats, at European technical and quality standards that will allow it to be included in the most prestigious networks of Mediterranean tourist ports and the Black Sea. The final result of the project is a modern marine, designed according to a design that combines the particularities of the area with all the specific advantages, in the lines of the general prescriptions regarding a port arrangement, the prescriptions respected by all the major tourist ports in the area⁴⁶¹.



Online source: <http://mangalia.ro/index.php/2012/10/04/portul-turistic-2/>

One of the major projects implemented in Mangalia was the realization of the tourist and leisure port. Direct access from the docks, direct connection to the city, positioning in a space protected from strong winds and storms, the wide area suitable for water sports, all these features make Mangalia a second Monte Carlo and one of the largest tourist ports from the Black Sea area. The nautical tourism acquires an internal

⁴⁶⁰ <https://www.infoghidromania.com/coastline.html>

⁴⁶¹ (in Romanian) <http://mangalia.ro/index.php/2012/10/04/portul-turistic-2/>

character, but also international, including the Mangalia Tourist Port in a circuit of the Black Sea. For example, the route Istanbul-Varna-Mangalia-Odessa-Yalta is considered, which can be done by coastal navigation. This kind of circuit can be extended, including other localities - tourist ports - on the Black Sea shore. From Mangalia Port there are 2 days of sailing to Odessa, 1 day to the Bulgarian port of Varna and a few hours to Constanța or the Danube Delta, which will surely attract many tourists of this type of travel. Increasing the port's mooring capacity will certainly allow Mangalia to be included in the Black Sea water tourism circuit by organizing a wider range of sports and larger activities. For example, in August 2008 the Mangalia Tourist Port successfully hosted the first edition of the Bavaria Yachting Expo, for small and large vessels, for sale. Another event organized by Mangalia City Hall in collaboration with the Romanian Yachting Federation took place on September 3-8, 2008 under the name of the Balkan Yachting Games, which was attended by 21 participants from 9 countries, with over 150 boats. Between 13 and 14 September 2008, the National Offshore Sailing Championship was also held, an event organized by the Royal Romanian Yacht Club. At the same time, the Mangalia Tourist Port can be a base for the coastal tourist ships that will sail along the Romanian coast, with stops at Neptune, Costinesti, Eforie, Constanța, Mamaia or Midia. The membership of Mangalia Municipality in the Union of Old Greek Ports in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins since 1998 will facilitate the inclusion of the Tourist Port in the line of such offers in Europe. Due to its location, the Mangalia Tourist Port offers ideal conditions for stationing and maintaining boats in winter and even using them on Lake Mangalia during periods when the Black Sea is impractical due to weather conditions⁴⁶².

2.1.8.1.5. Islands

The Great Brăila Island

The Great Brăila Island (Romanian: Insula Mare a Brăilei) is an island on the Danube river in the Brăila County, Romania. It has on average 57.9 km length and 18.6 km width, with a total area of 710 km². The two river branches which separate it from the mainland are Măcin Branch and Vâlcui Branch⁴⁶³. Adjacent to the West across the Vâlcui branch is the Small Brăila Island (Romanian: Insula Mică a Brăilei, actually

⁴⁶² Id.

⁴⁶³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20051202042012/http://www.jurnalul.ro/articol.php?id=3391>

a chain of several islands within swampy area), separated from the mainland by Vâlcui and Cremenea Branch.



The Great Brăila Island, online source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/8628950@N06>

Ceaplace Island

Ceaplace Island (in Romanian: Insula Ceaplace) is located in the north of Lake Sinoe, near the boundary of the The Wolves Spit protection area. With an area of 0.6 ha and a length of 4,514m, the island in the form of an atoll delimits in the northwest of the lake a small bay. As territorial-administrative classification belongs to the commune Mihai Viteazu, Constanța county⁴⁶⁴. Since 2010, a scientific reserve has been established around the island, consisting of the gloss of water of Lake Sinoe, up to a distance of about 1km from its center. The total area of the reserve is 117 ha, including the water slide. The scientific reserve is one of the three places in Romania that shelter colonies of pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) and the third largest colony of pelicans in Europe, a species in danger of extinction worldwide. The island is an important stopping place for the common pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), but also for other species, especially aquatic birds. Access by unauthorized persons is prohibited on the island and in the reservation area⁴⁶⁵.

⁴⁶⁴ Insula Ceaplace - info-delta.ro, online source: <http://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/insula-ceaplace-409.html>

⁴⁶⁵ Official Record for Insula Ceaplace - protectedplanet.net, online source:



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Ceaplace Island, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/insula-ceaplace-409.html>

The Prundu Islands with birds

The Prundu Islands with birds (in Romanian: Insulele Prundu cu păsări) are two nearby islands located in the southwestern part of Lake Sinoe, near the shore. With an area of approximately 1.4 ha and a length of 5,468m, the islands are shaped like atolls. As territorial-administrative classification belong to the commune Mihai Viteazu, Constanța county⁴⁶⁶.



The Prundu Islands with birds, online source: <https://greatnews.ro/7-locuri-spectaculoase-din-romania-in-care-nu-ai-voie-sa-intri/insulele-prundu-cu-pasari/>

⁴⁶⁶ Insulele Prundu cu păsări - info-delta.ro, online source: <http://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/insulele-prundu-cu-pasari-408.html>

Popina Island

Popina Island (in Romanian: Insula Popina) is a Romanian island in the northern part of the Razelm Lake (Razim). The island spans 98 hectares and it is a protected reserve, hosting an important nesting area for shelducks. Razelm Lake is the largest natural lake in Romania⁴⁶⁷, and the largest permanent water expanse in the Danube Delta, separated from the Black Sea by two long grinds, and flows into Lake Golovița through a 1.9 miles (3.1 km) channel to the south. Geologically speaking, Popina Island consists of Triassic limestones which crop out over the island. Some parts are covered by loess.



Popina Island, online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/insula-popina--107.html>

Sacalin Island

Sacalin Island (in Romanian: Insula Sacalin) is a newly formed island in the Black Sea, right off the coast of the Romanian Danube Delta, off the Sfântu Gheorghe branch⁴⁶⁸. Initially Sacalin was made up of two smaller islands, Sacalinu Mare (Greater

⁴⁶⁷ 2017 Romanian Statistical Yearbook, online source: http://www.insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/anuarul_statistic_al_romaniei_carte_en.pdf

⁴⁶⁸ Carp, Erik (1980). Directory of wetlands of international importance in the Western Palearctic. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. p. 342

Sacalin) and Sacalinu Mic (Lesser Sacalin). In time, however, the two merged into one continuous landmass. The Romanian government has declared the area an ecological reserve and no settlement is permitted on the island.



Sacalin Island, online source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2puGk2w0mw>

Ovid Island

Ovid Island is located in the center of Siutghiol Lake, at 500 meters distance from the city of Ovidius and 5 kilometers away from Mamaia Spa Resort. It has a surface of 26,000 square meters. Half of it was set up as a tourist resort. The Island has a limestone origin and was formed thousands of years ago. It is said that, Ovid – the famous Roman poet – during his exile in Tomis came here often to write. This is why the island has his name⁴⁶⁹.

⁴⁶⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/insula-ovidiu/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/insula-ovidiu/>

2.1.8.1.6. Hot Springs

Siriu Hot Spring at Băile Siriu

Siriu Lake is considered an important tourist attraction in the region, as the lake with its clear waters is surrounded by hills covered by forests offering tourists arriving in the area a breathtaking landscape. Moreover, travelers can practice various water sports here; they can ride the raft or sunbathe on the beach. The lake is also appreciated by those who love fishing, because the waters here are full of goldfish, trout, carp and chub. Near the lake there is a small resort appreciated for its thermal springs: Baile Siriu and a lesser-known attraction, the Vultures' Lake, a rare beauty, located at 1,420 meters altitude, filled with trout. The thermal waters have very weakly mineralized springs based on three ferrous mineral – low bicarbonate, chlorine, sulfur⁴⁷⁰.

⁴⁷⁰ <https://www.romaniajournal.ro/travel/siriu-barrier-lake-a-picturesque-scenery/>



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Siriș Hot Spring, online source: <https://turismBuzău.ro/baile-siriș/>

Sulphurous Thermal Springs "Puturoasa"

Hidden in the heart of a forest on the Danube Delta's shore, in the Hârșova area, Constanța county, the sulphurous thermal springs "Puturoasa" are a unique place of relaxation. They were accidentally discovered more than 50 years ago and have been attracting tourists ever since. The asphalt splits into two deep valleys between the hills at the entrance to Hârșova. In the distance, the forest that hides in its heart the sulphurous springs, named by the locals "Puturoasa" because of the strong odor of brimstone that emanates, resembles the mouth of a mythological giant⁴⁷¹. The water has a natural thermality of up to 40 degrees Celsius. It is a mesothermal oligomineral water. Substances such as calcium, sulfur and magnesium are included in the water composition. It is very good for rheumatic problems.

⁴⁷¹ https://adevarul.ro/locale/slobozia/izvoarele-termale-puturoase-capatul-dobrogei-atrag-mii-oameni-turistii-vin-relaxeze-inima-padurii-1_5722fdaa5ab6550cb8711d69/index.html



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Sulphurous Thermal Springs "Puturoasa", online source:

https://adevarul.ro/locale/slobozia/izvoarele-termale-puturoase-capatul-dobrogei-atrag-mii-oameni-turistii-vin-relaxeze-inima-padurii-1_5722fdaa5ab6550cb8711d69/index.html

2.1.8.1.7. Flagship species or habitats (e.g. bears, bogs)

Romania is the ideal habitat for several species of animals due to the diversity of ecosystems and extensive forests, but illegal hunting and deforestation continue to cause havoc among wildlife⁴⁷².

Saiga antelope (in Romanian: Antilopa Saiga)

The only species of antelope that populated the territory of Romania is now in critical condition of extinction. Some specimens live in the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park (in Romanian: Parcul Natural Lunca Joasă a Prutului Inferior), but they can no longer be found in the wild⁴⁷³.

⁴⁷² (in Romanian) <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

⁴⁷³ Id.



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Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

The Dalmatian pelican (in Romanian: Pelican creț)

The Dalmatian pelican is an endangered species that is protected by law. The disturbance and poaching, associated with the degradation of wetlands and the loss of nesting areas are the main threats. For the Dalmatian pelican, a national Action Plan has been developed which regulates the measures necessary for the conservation of the species (Danube Delta Biosphere Administration together with SOR / BirdLife Romania). Also, the artificial platforms installed in the lagoon complex Razim-Sinoe have proved their efficiency by their occupation by the pelicans⁴⁷⁴.



Online source: <https://destepti.ro/pelicanul-cret-pelecanus-crispus>

⁴⁷⁴ (in Romanian) <http://pasaridinromania.sor.ro/Pelican-cret>

Egyptian vulture (in Romanian: Hoitar)

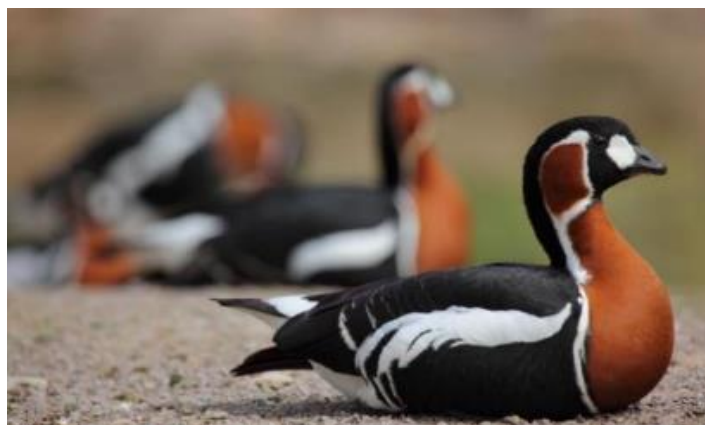
Egyptian vulture (Hoitar) is a noble bird that does not nest in Romania anymore and is in danger in the rest of Europe. 1-2 more specimens are observed annually in the Dobrogea area⁴⁷⁵.



Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

Red-breasted goose (in Romanian: Gâscă cu gât roșu)

The red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) is a brightly marked species of goose in the genus *Branta* from Eurosiberia. Their habitat has changed since the 1950s, which has altered their migration habits. Most of the population of 55,000 copies from all over the world in the coastal area of Romania and Bulgaria⁴⁷⁶.



Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

⁴⁷⁵ (in Romanian) <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

⁴⁷⁶ Id.

Danube Delta Sturgeons

Originating 200 million years ago, sturgeons are an ancient migratory fish which is today teetering on the brink of extinction. Currently, 27 sturgeon and paddlefish species inhabit the coastal waters, rivers and lakes of the northern hemisphere and the Danube River basin preserves some of the most important sturgeon populations in the world today. Danube sturgeons play an important role as indicators of healthy ecosystems. They live mostly in the Black Sea, migrating up the Danube and other major rivers to spawn. In the past, they grew up to 4.5 meters long and lived up to 100 years. Due to their long life cycles and late maturity, sturgeons are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and to other threats, including pollution and habitat fragmentation, with stocks taking many years to recover⁴⁷⁷.

Beluga (in Romanian: Morun)

The population of the largest water fish in Europe decreased by 93% in just 15 years, which led to the species being included on the list of some of the most endangered animals in Romania. The species is now in danger due to overfishing and pollution⁴⁷⁸. The Beluga migrates further upstream to spawn than any other sturgeon. However, this migration has been interrupted – as for all other sturgeons – by the Iron Gates dams.



⁴⁷⁷ LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS | A project of DDBRA, IZW and WWF. WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, online source: <https://danube-sturgeons.org/danube-sturgeons/>

⁴⁷⁸ (in Romanian) <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

Russian Sturgeon (in Romanian: Nisetru)

Russian Sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*) was formerly the most widely distributed sturgeon species in the Danube river. Today Russian Sturgeons are listed as Critically Endangered. More than 200,000 individuals were feeding in the north-western part of the Black Sea in the period 1966-1974. The current stock size is unknown but regarded as very low⁴⁷⁹.



Online source: <https://www.britannica.com/animal/sturgeon-fish>

Stellate Sturgeon (in Romanian: Păstrugă)

The Stellate Sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*) has always been rare on the Middle and Upper Danube, but has also reached some tributaries such as the Prut, Tisa, Drava, Sava and Morava rivers. Migrates in spring and autumn. Males stay in breeding places for up to six weeks, and females only 10-12 days. Stellate Sturgeons are listed as Critically Endangered⁴⁸⁰.

⁴⁷⁹ <https://danube-sturgeons.org/sturgeon/russian-sturgeon/>

⁴⁸⁰ <https://danube-sturgeons.org/sturgeon/stellate-sturgeon/>



Online source: <https://www.novarainvest.ro/pastruga-acipenser-stellatus>

Sterlet (In Romanian: Cegă)

The Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*) lives exclusively in freshwater and, unlike other sturgeons, does not migrate from the Black Sea. Tagging has revealed a maximum migration distance in the Danube of just over 300 km. Nowadays it is the most widely distributed sturgeon species in the Danube River basin. The average reproductive age of this species is comparably low, about 8 years. In the Danube it is even lower – about 7 years. It is listed as a Vulnerable species⁴⁸¹.



Online source: <https://www.britannica.com/animal/sterlet>

European Sturgeon (in Romanian: Șip)

European Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) was always the rarest sturgeon species in the Black Sea basin and its presence was only documented until the beginning of the 20th century. We know that this species spawned in the Lower Danube because hybrids

⁴⁸¹ <https://danube-sturgeons.org/sturgeon/sterlet/>



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with other Danube sturgeon species were described in the 1930s. Today it is listed as Critically Endangered⁴⁸².



Online source : https://sco.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_sea_sturgeon

Romanichthys (in Romanian: Aspretele)

Romanichthys valsanicola, known as the sculpin-perch, asprete, or Romanian darter, was scientifically discovered and described in 1957 by the Romanian scientists M. Dumitrescu, P. Bănărescu and N. Stoica. Endemic to a very restricted area in southern Romania, it was found in the upper reach of the Argeș river and in two of its tributaries: Râul Doamnei and Vâlsan. Due to hydrotechnical constructions and deterioration of its habitat, it survived only in the tributary Vâlsan⁴⁸³.



Online source: <https://jurnaluldearges.ro/valea-valsanului-singurul-loc-din-lume-unde-supravietuieste-aspretele/>

⁴⁸² <https://danube-sturgeons.org/sturgeon/european-sturgeon/>

⁴⁸³ "Romanichthys valsanicola Dumitrescu, Bănărescu & Stoica, 1957: Asprete". FishBase, online source: <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/Romanichthys-valsanicola.html>

Lynxes (in Romanian: Râs)

Once widespread throughout Europe, the feline almost disappeared in the last century from the west and center of the continent, being reduced to a few isolated populations, with a small number of individuals. In the last hundred years, the lynxes population in Romania has undergone a positive evolution (from about 150 copies in the period 1930-1940, to over 1,500 copies at present). In 2005, a study was conducted on lynxes in Vrancea county and infrared video cameras and motion sensors were used for monitoring. In the last years, in this county an number of about 80 copies was evaluated (5.5% of the population of Romania and 3.5% of the population of Europe). At the end of the projects for large carnivores in Vrancea, in 2010, after long studies, in order to conserve the lynxes in the county, large enough surfaces must be protected to ensure the perpetuation of the species, paths of movement between the different habitats must be ensured and buffer zones must be delimited, where large carnivores could coexist with anthropogenic activities. All these are currently being done in the local ecological protection network, in which the Putna-Vrancea Natural Park plays a key role⁴⁸⁴.

Although it has been declared a monument of nature, the largest European feline is still hunted in Romania, by derogations⁴⁸⁵.

⁴⁸⁴ (in Romanian) National Geographic, *Râsul, vânătorul invizibil*, August 3, 2010, online source: <https://www.natgeo.ro/articole/natura/9151-rasul-vanatorul-invizibil>

⁴⁸⁵ (in Romanian) <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>



Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

Marbled polecat (in Romanian: Dihor pătat)

The marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*) is a small mustelid, very thin and agile, with a sharp nose, thick fur, with thin, soft and glossy hair. With only 500 specimens in the wild and protected since 1993, the sparrow lives in arid and steppe areas in the Dobrogea area. The only populations in the European Union of this species are in the territory of our country and it is a conservation objective in ROSCI0201 Northern Dobrogean Plateau and a strictly protected species⁴⁸⁶.

⁴⁸⁶ (in Romanian) <https://apnd.ro/biodiversitate/mamifere/vormela-peregusna-dihor-patat-samsar-dihor-pestrit-dihor-marmorat/>



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Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

The Romanian hamster (in Romanian: Hamster dobrogian)

It is a unique and endemic species for a small area in Dobrogea and the northern part of Bulgaria. The Romanian hamster is very little known, and the intensification of agriculture and the destruction of habitats in Dobrogea are the most serious threat. In Romania, there are probably about 2,000 individuals⁴⁸⁷.



Online source: <https://apnd.ro/biodiversitate/mamifere/mesocricetus-newtoni-grivanul-hamsterul-dobrogian-grivanul-mic-grivanul-de-dobrogea/>

⁴⁸⁷ (in Romanian)

http://elearning.masterprof.ro/lectiile/biologie/lectie_19/specii_periclitare_din_romania.html

Saker falcon – The Danube falcon (In Romanian: Șoim dunărean)

The Danube falcon is not only the rarest bird species in Romania, but also one of the most impressive birds of prey, and certainly one of the most imposing and interesting falcons in the world⁴⁸⁸. It is a rare summer bird, widespread in Dobrogea and in the Măcin Mountains where it nests. The silhouette gives the impression of solidity, with a rather short tail and wide wings at the base and very narrow at the tip. The back feather is brownish-rusty, with blue gloss, each with a reddish edge. The crest is reddish-rust and the chin and whitish whiteness. The tail feathers are gray-brown. Abdominal is whitish with dark brown, longitudinal stripes. The beak is blue with a black tip. The young specimens have a brown back⁴⁸⁹.



Online source:

http://elearning.masterprof.ro/lectiile/biologie/lectie_19/specii_periclitare_din_romania.html

European mink (in Romanian: Nurcă europeană)

The European mink (*Mustela lutreola* L.) is one of the rarest and most endangered mammal species on our continent, currently surviving only in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR), one of the last refuges of this species at the area level. In the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, the European mink is widespread. Basically, except for the large aquatics, the localities, the agricultural and forest polders, the presence of the

⁴⁸⁸ (in Romanian) <https://www.descopera.ro/natura/13399434-soimul-dunarean-ce-se-va-intampla-cu-cea-mai-rara-pasare-din-romania>

⁴⁸⁹ (in Romanian) <http://archive.is/20121210181528/ecomuntiimacinului.wordpress.com/fauna/pasari/>

species has been confirmed in most areas of the DDBR. The European mink population in the RBDD was evaluated to a minimum of 1,130 copies, respectively a maximum of 2,280 copies⁴⁹⁰.



Online source: <https://www.acdb.ro/specii-cheie/nurca-europeana-mustela-lutreola>

2.1.8.1.8. Diversity of ecosystems

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve biodiversity and ecosystems⁴⁹¹

The Danube Delta maintains its enormous biodiversity in a better state than most other deltas in Europe, even in the world. It contains a greater range of habitat types, lower and higher plants, invertebrates and vertebrates than all other deltas in Europe. Many of the species that live within the delta are unique to it, these include plants and animals. The static freshwater ecosystems provide the base for the food chain in much of the delta. The contribution they make „spills over” in canals, rivers and other moving waters. Protozoa, micro-algae, algae and macrophytes are the primary producers, on which zooplankton, oligochaetes, mollusks, insects, fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds and mammals feed in ascending order within the food chain. Terrestrial ecosystems have suffered less than aquatic ones, because they are less easy to pollute and over fish. Exploitation by grazing, arable cropping, forestry, reed cutting is limited to areas where this is possible and in much of the delta these potentially damaging activities are

⁴⁹⁰ (in Romanian) <https://stiintasitehnica.com/nurca-europeana-din-rezervatia-biosferei-delta-dunarii/>

⁴⁹¹ Petre Gastescu, THE DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE. GEOGRAPHY, BIODIVERSITY, PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT, Papers / Études et communications, Rom. Journ. Geogr., 53, (2), p. 139–152, 2009, Bucureşti, p. 145.

impossible. The Dobrogea region that adjoins the Danube Delta provides habitats for 50 % of the 3,800 plant species recorded in Romania. Compared with this, the delta itself and the Razim-Sinoie lake complex supports 1839 species. Their distribution is as follows: euroasiatic (30 %), continental asiatic (15 %), cosmopolitan (10 %). Euroasiatic and cosmopolitan plants dominate the aquatic, swamp and marsh communities. Among these is the reed (*Phragmites australis*), which has a worldwide distribution. From an ecological standpoint, the most interesting and valuable plant communities occur within the larger dune systems, like Grindul Letea and Grindul Caraorman. There are areas of steppe grassland associated with the sandy soils of Letea and Caraorman and these support a range of interesting grasses more often encountered in the Mediterranean. Many of the plants that survive on these hot and dry soils are xerophilous and therefore drought resistant. The woodland associated with dune slacks are particularly important in that species of oak, ash and poplar provide the canopy above rich shrub and field layers. Whilst some of the trees and shrubs are commonplace elsewhere in Europe, the fluffy ash and the grey oak are special within this area. A climber with a Mediterranean distribution, Greek liana (*Periploca graeca*) grows within Letea Forest. Also unique to this forest is the rare steppe viper (*Vipera ursinii*). The final plant assemblage is great interest and value, are the salt rich depressions that occur in association with the larger dune systems. Most of the species found in the delta are typical of salt marshes across Europe. An enormous diversity of species – 3586 – is found within the delta. Over 190 species of copepod and cladoceran crustaceans have been recorded; 418 species of freshwater rotifer, nematode worms and oligochaete worms have been identified, along with 90 species of molluscs (some of these are marine); 18 species of mollusc are endangered⁴⁹².

Insects are represented by an enormous diversity (2,244 species), though 196 are listed as endangered.

Fish represent the fauna of the delta, more than any other type of animal, 135 species have been recorded within the Biosphere Reserve. The sturgeons are the most primitive type of fish caught in the delta and three species run into the river to spawn. There are 31 species of fish that are able to live in both seawater and freshwater. They come into the rivers and canals to spawn and they include the Danube mackerel (*Alosa*

⁴⁹² Ibidem, p. 146.

pontica), Black Sea salmon (*Salmo trutta labrax*). Some of the carp, perch, zander and Danube catfish are able to withstand small dilutions of salt water. There are 44 fish species that live exclusively in the freshwaters of the delta. These include pike, tench, rudd, orfe, barbel and bream. Many of these fish are very important commercially and they provide the main source of income for people who live in the delta.

Amphibia there are two species of newts, seven species of frogs and four species of toad⁴⁹³.

Reptiles are well represented in the delta – 11 species – with terrapins (*Emys orbicularis*) and tortoise (*Testudo graeca ibera*). The latter is more common in the south-western sector of the Biosphere Reserve. Four species of lizard are found, as are five species of snake.

Birds. There is no other place in Europe where such a great diversity of land and water birds can be found. 375 bird species are recorded in Romania and, of these, 320 live in the delta or migrate to it in the summer or the winter. 166 species nest in the Biosphere Reserve and most of these are summer migrants, which spend the winter in Africa or the Mediterranean. Among these are the common and Dalmatian pelicans, white storks, herons, egrets, spoonbill, ibis, swallows, house martins, sand martins, swift, bee-eater, roller, golden oriole and numerous warblers.

A large number of passage migrants pass through the delta in the autumn, en route from breeding to their winter feeding grounds. Five migration routes from the south cross the DDBR, in the spring, while six migration routes from the north-east pass over the delta in the autumn. These, together with resident and nesting populations of birds, make this a very important area within Europe.

A number of bird species have been declared a strictly protected in Romania as „monuments of nature”. These are the common and Dalmatian pelicans, raven, spoonbill, great white egret, little egret, black-winged stilt, shelduck, ruddy shelduck, little bustard, red-breasted goose. The delta provides a habitat for around 60 % of the world population of pygmy cormorant and a significant proportion of the world’s population of red-breasted geese overwinter in the Dobrogea. Of the 325 species recorded within the DDBR, 224 species are currently given strictly protected status.

Mammals, 44 species have been recorded within the DDBR. There are large numbers of native rodents, rabbits are commonplace in Letea and Caraorman forests, the otter

⁴⁹³ Ibidem, p. 147.

and European mink are both protected, due to over trapping for their pelts. Amongst the larger predators the wolf is now extinct as a breeding species within the delta, though individuals have been known to move into the territory from Ukraine in particularly cold winters when they are able to cross the ice – this is not a usual event. Three species of dolphin are recorded in the Black Sea and of these, the common dolphin is the most frequent.

2.1.8.1.9. Geological features such as lakes, rivers, cliffs

The Salt Lake

The Salt Lake (in Romanian: Lacul Sărat), known worldwide as a source of health, is located in the Chișcani rural town, only 5 km from the Brăila municipality. It's said that the miraculous therapeutic properties of the lake's water were discovered centuries ago by Prince Vlad the Impaler (Vlad Tepes)⁴⁹⁴. This place is appreciated from a tourist point of view for its good positioning in nature and for the healing properties that have the sapropelic sludge and the hypertonic mineral water, the source being the Salt Lake itself. There is also a spa complex that operates throughout the year and offers accommodation, meals served in the restaurant, soccer field, tennis⁴⁹⁵. The lake, formed on an old Danube river course, which is now completely isolated, is surrounded by 70 forest hectares that mitigate the steppe climate. The water depth varies between 0.6 and 1.80 meters, and the bottom of the lake is entirely covered by healing sludge highly mineralized⁴⁹⁶. The lake contains significant reserves of sapropelic mud and hypertonic mineral water, with sulfur, chlorine, magnesium and bromine compounds, mineralization of 70-84 grams per liter. The main natural curing factors of the resort are: the lake's water with high contents of sulfate, chloride, sodium, magnesium, a mineralization of 83.955 mg/liter, sapropelic mud that contains 41 percent mineral substances and 39 percent organic substances rich in hydrogen sulfide⁴⁹⁷.

⁴⁹⁴ <https://www.agerpres.ro/engleza-destinatii-romania/2014/09/23/destination-romania-salt-lake-near-Braila-miraculous-place-where-tepes-used-to-cure-his-troops-12-59-33>

⁴⁹⁵ <http://www.romanianresorts.ro/statiunea-lacu-sarat>

⁴⁹⁶ <https://www.agerpres.ro/engleza-destinatii-romania/2014/09/23/destination-romania-salt-lake-near-Braila-miraculous-place-where-tepes-used-to-cure-his-troops-12-59-33>

⁴⁹⁷ Id.



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The Salt Lake of Brăila, online source: <http://walkthiswayBrăila.ro/salt-lake-of-Brăila/>

The Vulture Lake

The Vulture Lake (in Romanian: Lacul Vulturilor) in the Siriu Massif is one of the main natural tourist attractions of Buzău County. Vultures Lake is not only the only glacial lake in the Carpathian Mountains, but the only glacial lake in the Carpathians, between the Călimani Mountains and the Făgăraș Massif, that is on a distance of 500 km from the ridge⁴⁹⁸.



The Vulture Lake, online source: [https://turismBuzău.ro/lacul-vulturilor/#iLightbox\[gallery_image_1\]/1](https://turismBuzău.ro/lacul-vulturilor/#iLightbox[gallery_image_1]/1)

⁴⁹⁸ <https://turismBuzău.ro/lacul-vulturilor/>

Meledic Lake

It is also known as "The Great Lake" or "Bottomless Lake" and represents a unique phenomenon in Europe in that it is a freshwater gloss on a mass of salt. Legend has it that there is a treasure at the bottom of the lake, but no one has been able to find it until now. During summer, Lake Meledic is the perfect destination for the beach and for fishing, but not for swimming. It is not the only lake on the Meledic plateau, there are still 5 lakes, but none larger than this one⁴⁹⁹.



The Meledic Lake, Source: <http://www.descoperalocuri.ro/descopera-romania/frumusetea-de-sub-ochii-nostri-platoul-meledic.html>

The Black Lake

The Black Lake (in Romanian: Lacul Negru), a name taken due to the color of the water given by the abnormal eutrophication, is located 200 m from The Clear Lake, is covered by vegetation in over 70%⁵⁰⁰. From the initial locations of freshwater lakes, formed in dolines developed on sandstone with sedimentary sludge bottom - today, as a negative effect of surface erosion, only Black Lake and The Clear Lake remained. The dolines, which are in the early stages of development, have slopes and shallow slopes. Lake Limpede is the only one that survived the clogging.

⁴⁹⁹ <https://blog.hotelguru.ro/descopera-platoul-carstic-salin-meledic/>

⁵⁰⁰ Informații publice Buzău, online source : <http://www.informatiipublice.ro/turism/Buzău-Buzău>



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The Black Lake, online source: <http://www.montaniarzi.ro/lacul-negru-coltul-de-rai-din-muntii-vrancei/>

The Bucur's Table

Bucur's Table (in Romanian: Masa lui Bucur) is a huge rock that has an altitude of 1,000 m and has 150 tons. The legend says that from here the shepherd Bucur left, the one who founded the city of Bucharest, today the capital of Romania. Bucur's table is located on a mountain plateau and sits on three smaller boulders, like a traditional Romanian table. It is said that Bucur sat on this plateau from the top of the mountain and watched over the pastures where the sheep grazed.⁵⁰¹



The Bucur's Table, online source: <https://www.ziaruldevrancea.ro/actualitatea/stiri-locale/galerie-foto-obiective-turistice-naturale-din-muntii-vrancei>

⁵⁰¹ <https://turismBuzău.ro/masa-lui-bucur/>

The Giants' Wall

The Giants' Wall (in Romanian: Zidul Urișilor) is a layer of hard rocks which includes shells from 11 million years ago beach (from the prehistoric sea Paratethys), in the form of a wall of 6-7m located to the springs of Călnău river, in Valea Salciei commune in Buzău county⁵⁰².



The Giants' Wall, online source: [https://turismBuzău.ro/zidul-uriasilor/#iLightbox\[gallery_image_1\]/2](https://turismBuzău.ro/zidul-uriasilor/#iLightbox[gallery_image_1]/2)

Prunceea Waterfall

Prunceea Waterfall (in Romanian: Cascada Prunceea – Cașoca) the most beautiful waterfall in Buzău county, is located in the Massif of Podul Calului, about 10 km from the Siriu Dam⁵⁰³.



Prunceea Waterfall, online source: [https://turismBuzău.ro/cascada-casoca/#iLightbox\[gallery_image_1\]/1](https://turismBuzău.ro/cascada-casoca/#iLightbox[gallery_image_1]/1)

⁵⁰² Ghid turistic Buzău, online source: <https://turismBuzău.ro/zidul-uriasilor/>

⁵⁰³ <https://cronicaromana.net/2018/12/12/cascada-prunceea-casoca-una-dintre-comorile-Buzăului/>

Camp Măgura

Camp Măgura (in Romanian: Tabăra Măgura) represented the homage to the 16 centuries since the first documentary attestation of Buzău, as well as the ancient local tradition of stone carving. According to the archives, over 160 sculptors worked here, with countless stone carvers in the area. As a raw material the cochiliferous limestone extracted from the quarries from Năeni, Ciuta and Pietroasele was used⁵⁰⁴.



Camp Măgura, online source: [https://turismBuzău.ro/tabara-de-sculptura-magura/#iLightbox\[gallery_image_1\]/2](https://turismBuzău.ro/tabara-de-sculptura-magura/#iLightbox[gallery_image_1]/2)

The Old Ladies from Ulmet

The Old Ladies from Ulmet are found in Buzău Mountains and represent a few trovants with strange forms. They are located in Bozioru commune from Buzău county. Trovants are also known to be "alive stones", people considering they have magic properties because of their rare shapes. They are generally round, sometimes with a sphere shape, and were formed on the bed of the ancient sea Paratethys, which existed thousands of years ago in this area. Trovants grow 4 – 5 centimeters every 1,200 years and due to this they are also called "the stones which grow"⁵⁰⁵.

⁵⁰⁴ <https://turismBuzău.ro/tabara-de-sculptura-magura/>

⁵⁰⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/babele-de-la-ulmet/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/babele-de-la-ulmet/>

Lake Techirghiol

Lake Techirghiol (in Romanian: Lacul Techirghiol) The name of the lake comes from the Turkish Tekirgöl, meaning "Tekir's lake". The name also means (in Turkish) "Striped Lake" (tekir - striped, and göl - lake). This is because of the salinity of the lake; when the wind blows, white salt stripes appear on the surface of the lake. The legend says that once upon a time a crippled and blind old man named Tekir, riding on the back of his donkey, reached the shore of this lake by mistake. The old man tried to get out of that smelly mud for hours on end, but his stubborn donkey didn't want to move at all, as if a mysterious force was not letting him out of the lake. It was with great wonder and joy that the old man realized, when getting out of the lake, that his eyes could see light again, and that his feet, which had stopped working a long time ago, began to obey him. As for his wise donkey - its bad wounds on the back had healed, and his body was younger than ever. When they found out about this, lots of people rushed to the shore of the lake, bathing and putting mud all over their bodies so that they'd be cured. Tekir and his donkey are featured in a statue located in the center of the town of Techirghiol.⁵⁰⁶

⁵⁰⁶ "Lake Techirghiol". Ramsar Sites Information Service, online source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/1610>



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Lake Techirghiol, online source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOO3Df1XsCE>

Lake Agigea

Agigea Lake (in Romanian: Lacul Agigea) is located northeast of the Black Sea Danube Canal and southwest of Agigea commune. The surface of the lake is 35 ha and is part of Lake Agigea Nature Reserve, a zoological reservation, a valuable national monument. An important lake of fluvio-maritime liman, Lake Agigea, together with its surroundings, houses between 5,000 - 10,000 birds, many of them considered very valuable. In 1985, the lake was transformed into a fishing arrangement, which greatly reduced the number of birds in the area. The access to the lake is on DN 39 Constanța - Vama Veche⁵⁰⁷.



Lake Agigea, online source: <http://turism-agigea.ro/obiective/agigea/>

⁵⁰⁷ https://www.infopeniuni.ro/cazare-agigea/obiective-turistice-agigea/lacul-agigea_4621

The Tălăbasca Pond Nature Reserve

The Tălăbasca Pond Nature Reserve (in Romanian: Balta Tălăbasca) was designated by Law 5/2000 on the approval of the national territory planning plan (Section III - protected areas - Mon. Of. 152 / 12.IV.2000). The code of the protected area is 2412, belongs to the commune of Tudor Vladimirescu, Galați County and the surface of the reservation is 139 ha⁵⁰⁸. Geomorphologically, the region is a lake and geologically is from a sedimentary domain. The geomorphology is characteristic of lakes in areas with low humidity. The geology is characterized by fine alluvial deposits, predominating sands and loess - Holocene (Quaternary) deposits. Pedologically, the soils are alluvial glazed. Hydrologically, Tălăbasca Lake is a meadow lake in the lower Siret Plain. In its northwest part is the outlet of the intermittent valley of Călmățui. Genetically, it is a freshwater meadow lake, naturally fed from Călmățui stream⁵⁰⁹.



The Tălăbasca Pond Nature Reserve, online source:
<http://romaniaturism.com/2013/08/10/balta-talabasca/>

⁵⁰⁸ (in Romanian) Rezervatia Balta Talabasca, online source:
<http://luncasiretului.biodiversitate.ro/rezervatia-balta-talabasca/>

⁵⁰⁹ Id.

The Horseshoe Pond Nature Reserve

The Horseshoe Pond (in Romanian: Balta Potcoavă) is situated in Brăniștea locality, at about 25 kilometers away from the city of Galați. It is 4 meters deep and its name comes from its shape – a horseshoe. The Pond is filled with all species of fish, making it an attraction for people who love fishing.



The Horseshoe Pond, online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/listing/balta-potcoava/>

Nebunu Lake

Nebunu Lake (in Romanian: Lacul Nebunu) is a protected area of national interest that corresponds to the IUCN (mixed nature reserve) category, located in Tulcea county on the administrative territory of Pardina commune⁵¹⁰.



Lake Nebunu, online source: <https://www.povestilemariinegre.ro/legende-din-delta-lacul-nebunu/>

⁵¹⁰ Info-delta.ro - Zone strict protejate în Delta Dunării - Lacul Nebunu, online source: <http://www.info-delta.ro/delta-dunarii-17/lacul-nebunu--115.html>

"Black Lake" Natural Reservation

"Black Lake" Natural Reservation (in Romanian: Lacu Negru) is located in Vrancea Mountains, on the upper basin of Naruja river. It is a natural protected area of mixed type, which has a surface of 20 hectares. The reservation comprises valleys, gorges, grass lands, etc. The Black Lake is the most important sight of the protected area. It is situated at an altitude of 1,250 meters and its maximum depth is 7.50 meters⁵¹¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-naturala-lacul-negru/>

2.1.8.1.10. Other interesting or representative wildlife

European bison (n Romanian: Zimbru)

The largest terrestrial animal in Europe has been hunted to extinction in our country. After the introduction of 5 copies in 2012, their number has increased to a few tens, living in reserves, according to National Geographic⁵¹².



Online source: <https://www.digi-animalworld.tv/stiri/biodiversitate/specii-pe-cale-de-disparitie-in-romania-unele-mai-au-doar-cateva-exemplare-in-salbaticie-4318>

⁵¹¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-naturala-lacul-negru/>

⁵¹² (in Romanian), <https://www.natgeo.ro/articole/natura/9659-topul-celor-mai-periclitare-animale-din-romania>

The gray wolf (in Romanian: Lupul)

Naturally, the wolf (*Canis lupus*) is found in Romania in the Danube Delta, in the alpine gulf, presenting a great ecological amplitude, due to its special intelligence, as is the case with the crow. The area for the spread of wolves was in the past in the Danube Delta. Although they preferred the wooded areas more, the wolves were also found in the delta conditions of survival in the reefs. Unfortunately, the excessive hunting caused this noble animal to disappear from the Danube Delta. Older people remember the wolves passing the frozen Danube. There are only toponyms as the Wolves Spit that reminds of this animal in the parts of the Delta. In 2011, three wolf families were introduced to the Măcin Mountains in order to repopulate this protected area⁵¹³.



Online source: <https://www.tulceanoastra.ro/delta/disparitia-lupilor-din-delta-dunarii/>

The brown bear (in Romanian: Ursul brun)

Romania has the largest population of brown bears in the European Union, but nonetheless the species is increasingly rare in us in the country. According to official data, in the country there are 6,000 brown bears, about 40% of the total in the EU, but despite the large number, the animals are in danger due to habitat destruction, illegal deforestation, construction or destruction of the ecosystem. Until the first half of the century XIX was found throughout the country, from the Danube Delta to the Carpathians. Unfortunately, it was exterminated from the plains, so as not to hinder

⁵¹³ (in Romanian) <https://www.tulceanoastra.ro/delta/disparitia-lupilor-din-delta-dunarii/>

extensive farming and extensive livestock breeding, extensive fishing and other similar practices from the 19th century⁵¹⁴.



Online source: <https://romaniasalbatica.ro/ro/articole/ursii-din-romania>

Eurasian otter (in Romanian: Vidra)

The Eurasian otter always lives in the vicinity of the waters, especially in the Danube Delta ponds, feeding on fish, frogs, crabs and aquatic mammals, which they skillfully hunt especially during the night and rarely during the day. The Eurasian otter swims with ability and withstands underwater 6-7 minutes and it moves with the weight on the ground, jumping. Because of the food mainly composed of fish, the Eurasian otter represents a real danger for ponds. Vidra moves easily from one aquatic basin to another, exclusively for the search of food⁵¹⁵.

⁵¹⁴ (in Romanian) <http://www.ziare.com/social/administratia/ursul-brun-o-specie-in-mare-pericol-in-romania-1061053>

⁵¹⁵ (in Romanian) <http://dindeltadunarii.blogspot.com/2016/02/vidra.html>



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Online source: <http://dindeltadunarii.blogspot.com/2016/02/vidra.html>

The Wildcat (in Romanian: Pisică sălbatică)

Also known as the little tiger in the forests of our country, the wildcat is very similar to the house cat, especially the gray-tiger specimens of the Norwegian forest cat breed. It is a predator endowed with excellent senses, and the hearing and sight are truly remarkable. Attack like any classic feline, after a long chase, or after a clever sneak, followed by an explosive leap. If it fails, it no longer pursues its prey, but retains its energy for a new hunting attempt. In Romania, it lives mainly in the plains and hills, having a great ecological amplitude, being spread from the Danube Delta to the mountain⁵¹⁶.

⁵¹⁶ (in Romanian) <https://www.descopera.ro/natura/12086115-pisica-salbatica-o-umbra-prin-padurile-romaniei>



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Online source: <https://www.descopera.ro/natura/12086115-pisica-salbatica-o-umbra-prin-padurile-romaniei>

The wild horses (in Romanian: Caii sălbatici)

In the Danube Delta live about 4,000 semi-wild horses. They are the descendants of horses released in the 1980s from a livestock farm in Sfântu Gheorghe, which exported animals to Italy. The Letea Forest Nature Reserve from Danube Delta is an important spot due to its rich fauna and flora, in recent years, there have been concerns that the growing population may overgraze and cause imbalances in biodiversity⁵¹⁷. Abandoned by masters in a natural environment, the wild horses from Letea Forest are monitored by local and national sanitary-veterinary authorities, together with the animal protection NGO, Vier Pfofen. It is estimated that between 1000 and 2000 wild horses live in that area, and these populations must be kept under control, to limit abusive grazing. Obviously, the biosphere from that perimeter must also be maintained and protected, especially since Letea Forest is the oldest nature reserve in our country⁵¹⁸.

⁵¹⁷ (in Romanian) <https://www.natgeo.ro/articole/natura/9166-caii-semi-salbatici-din-delta-dunarii>

⁵¹⁸ (in Romanian) <https://publimix.ro/blog/eco/Letea-padurea-cailor-salbatici>



Online source: <https://publimix.ro/blog/eco/Letea-padurea-cailor-salbatici>

2.1.8.1.11. Climate

Romania's location in the Southeastern portion of the European continent gives it a climate that is transitional between temperate regions and the harsher extremes of the continental interior. In the Southeastern Region, the continental influences of the Russian Plain (East European Plain) make themselves felt and in the extreme southeast there are even milder sub-Mediterranean influences. This overall pattern is substantially modified by the relief, however, and there are many examples of climatic zones induced by changes in elevation⁵¹⁹.

The climate of the Southeastern Region is part of the general characteristics of the temperate temperate climate of transition, with a series of local features, given by certain factors (relief, Black Sea, Danube). The average annual temperatures vary quite a bit, especially due to the relief. Thus, if in the Danube, the south of Dobrudja, the coastal area and the Danube Delta the multiannual average exceeds 11°C (11.2°C Mangalia and Murfatlar), in the mountain area the average temperature reaches values between 0 and 6°C, and on the highest peaks below 0°C. The prevailing winds are from the eastern and northern sectors, mainly the brood, in winter. Local winds such as sea breezes and mountain breezes also appear. The amount of precipitation is influenced, primarily by altitude, but also by the continental climatic influences from the

⁵¹⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Drainage#ref42837>



east. Thus, in the southern area, on the coast and in the Danube Delta the amount of precipitation is below 400mm / year and reaches over 1000mm / year in the mountain area. The bioclimate in the Black Sea is temperate-continental, with few marine influences, with reduced thermic changes in 24 hours, good thermic stability in the summer season, reduced precipitations, uniform degree of atmospheric humidity⁵²⁰.

⁵²⁰ (in Romanian) http://www.adrse.ro/Regiunea/Geografie_Demografie.aspx

2.1.8.2. Cultural Resources

2.1.8.2.1. Archaeological Sites

The archaeological site Roman Castrum from Pietroasele

The Roman Camp from Pietroasele is located in Pietroasele village from Buzău county. It is a historical monument that was not dated with certainty. Specialists believe it was built by the Emperor Constantin the Great in 332. The Castrum was occupied by the Roman Legion No. XI Claudia, brought from Durostorum (an area that today is close to Ostrov, Constanța county). The Roman Castrum from Pietroasele, discovered in the `90s, is an important archaeological and historic site. Archaeologists found a necropolis, coins dated during the reign of the emperor Constantin the IInd and other objects which formed the famous Pietroasa Culture⁵²¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castrul-roman-de-la-pietroasele/>

The archaeological site Dacian Fortress from Gruiu Dării

The Dacian Fortress from Gruiu Dării is located on the way to Pietroasa Mica, Buzău county. After they lived here for a period of time, the Dacians transformed this fortress into a religious center. The archaeological research revealed a 4th century a. Ch. tomb and, in the northern side of the fortress, a Neolithic settlement, which confirms the

⁵²¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castrul-roman-de-la-pietroasele/>



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theory that underneath this fortress there was a Neolithic settlement which disappeared after a fire or a war⁵²².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dacica-de-la-gruiul-darii/>

The archaeological site Durostorum Fortress

Durostorum Fortress was both a fortress and a Roman city, located on the right bank of the Danube, in Silistra which today belongs to Bulgaria. It can be easily reached from Ostrov commune, Constanța county. The Fortress was built between the ancient cities Sucidava and Axiopolis and was part of the Roman fortress complex that defended the Lower Danube from north-eastern European invasions⁵²³.

⁵²² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dacica-de-la-gruiul-darii/>

⁵²³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-durostorum/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-durostorum/>

The archaeological site Histria Fortress

The antique city of Histria or Istria was a Greek colony in today's Constanța county. Histria Fortress is considered the oldest urban settlement from Romania. Specialists say it was founded around 630 b. Ch. The entire complex is a whole of layers that "talk" about various cultures that lived here. The city of Histria had a continuous development of 1,300 years, from the Greek period to the Byzantine period. Today, tourists can visit the defensive wall with towers and bastions and ruins of some basilicas, Roman thermae and a few settlements. In 1982 was created The Histria Archaeologic Museum, which is subordinated to The Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța. The museum from Histria exhibits objects found across time by archaeologists in the site of Histria⁵²⁴.

⁵²⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-histria/>



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Online source: <https://www.romanian-journeys.com/en/attraction/histria-fortress>

The archaeological site Capidava Fortress

The Capidava Fortress is located near the village with the same name, in Constanța county. Originally, the fortress was an important Dacian center, located on the right bank of the river Danube. After the Roman conquest, however, it became a castrum and part of Moesia Inferior. The name means old settlement in the Goth language. The fortress was destroyed by the Goths in the 3rd century and rebuilt in the next. In the 10th century, the fortress was modernized by the Byzantines, but the 1306 fire caused by nomads led to its permanent abandonment⁵²⁵.

⁵²⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-capidava/>



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Online source: <https://elements.envato.com/capidava-fortress-romania-CPBJAWN>

The archaeological site Turkish Gate from Galați

The history of the Turkish Gate is close related to the history of Galați. It is a historic monument and dates from the end of the 18th century – the beginning of the 19th century. Made of bricks, the Gate was the entry point to an old inn from the city. Unfortunately, today, only the Gate exists⁵²⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/poarta-turceasca-din-Galati/>

The archaeological site Aegyssus Fortress

Located on the Monument Hill in the North-Eastern section of Tulcea, the fortress was built at the end of the 4th century B.C. Its name, of Celtic origin, derived from a legendary founder, Caspios Aegyssos. Reporting the events of the year 12 A.D., when the town was attacked by the Getae, Ovidius called it the attribute uetus urbs (old

⁵²⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/poarta-turceasca-din-Galati/>

town). At the beginning of 2nd century, the town was included in the Danubian limes (boundary). Then, starting with the 3rd century, it became an important military headquarters. The 6th century finds it as an episcopal residence. Urban life knows an end in the first quarter of the 7th century and a revival in the 10th and 11th centuries. Currently, on the Monument Hill, several archaeological complexes from the late Roman epoch can be visited. Many archaeological materials, discovered during the research organized in the second half of the 20th century, can be found in the permanent exhibition of the Museum of History and Archaeology found nearby⁵²⁷.



Online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-aegyssus-25>

The archaeological site Dinogetia Fortress

Dinogetia was a Geto – Dacian settlement and then a Roman fortress situated on the southern bank of the Danube river. It is situated 11 kilometers from Galați. Its military structure was formed by thick stone walls, 14 towers, grain cellars, Roman baths, one church and a praeotrium. Specialists say that this Fortress was often attacked by barbaric populations. Across time, the archaeological research revealed various objects from that time, which have a great scientific value. The archaeological site is situated in Jijila village, Tulcea county⁵²⁸.

⁵²⁷ <https://www.icemtl.ro/aegyssus-en/>

⁵²⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dinogetia/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dinogetia/>

The archaeological site Argamum Fortress

The Argamum Fortress (its Latin name) or Orgame (its Byzantin name) is an archaeological site in the eastern part of Tulcea county, Jurilovca commune. Most part of the archaeological site, of almost 100 hectares, is still covered, but discoveries and archaeological research are being made constantly. The Argamum Fortress is the oldest settlement from Romania because it dates from the beginning of the 6th century B. C⁵²⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-argamum/>

⁵²⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-argamum/>

The archaeological site Enisala Fortress

The name of Enisala comes from the Turkish “yeni” (which means “new”) and the regional word “settlement” or “village”, meaning “new settlement”. The purpose of the medieval fortress was defensive, military and to supervise the area. It was built under the Byzantin Empire between the 13 – 14th centuries. Then, The Fortress entered into the defensive system of Valachia and after that it became an Ottoman Empire garrison. However, it was abandoned by the Turks, but it was the only medieval fortress which resisted the Russian-Turkish wars throughout Dobrodja⁵³⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-enisala/>

The archaeological site Noviodunum Fortress

The Noviodunum Fortress is situated 2 kilometers from Isaccea, Tulcea county. It is a Roman castrum and is considered one of the oldest fortresses in the region. Nowadays, the castrum is almost entirely covered, but archaeological research is regularly done in order to reveal this important monument. Due to research, archeologists found important objects with great stientific value⁵³¹.

⁵³⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-enisala/>

⁵³¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-noviodunum/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-noviodunum/>

The archaeological site Halmyris Fortress

Halmyris Fortress is located in the area of Murighiol village in the village with the same name. It was under the occupation of both the Romans and the Byzantines. It is assumed that here the first Roman fortification was built, most probably by two detachments of the Roman legions "Italica" and "Claudia", around the period 101-106 AD. The name of the fortress is of Greek origin and would be it translates as "brine", which refers to the salt water of the water on which it was raised. It was the easternmost point of the Ottoman Empire on the Danube border. It had 15 defense towers, three gates and covered 2 hectares. On August 15, 2001, Romanian researcher and archaeologist Mihail Zahariade, who dedicated his entire career to studying the fortress, discovered a crypt with the oldest remains of Christian martyrs on Romanian soil (Saints Epictetus and Astion), which gives it a unique apart from the fortress⁵³².

⁵³² <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-halmyris-34>



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Online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-halmyris-34>

2.1.8.2.2. Monuments

The Sphinx from Buștea

Mânzălești commune is 50 kilometers from the city of Buzău, on the Slănicului Valley. Some historians say that the Sphinx from Buștea is one of the oldest human settlements in our country and they even have the courage to believe that it is the cradle of European civilization, because, they say, this is the only place on the continent where salt is found on the surface, a mineral from which the body human is dependent⁵³³.

⁵³³ <http://romaniamegalitica.blogspot.com/2010/12/sfinxul-din-bustea-com-manzalesti-jud.html>



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Online source: <http://romaniamegalitica.blogspot.com/2010/12/sfinxul-din-bustea-com-manzalesti-jud.html>

The Genoese Lighthouse from Constanța

The Genoese Lighthouse from Constanța was built at the beginning of the 14th century by the merchants from Genoa, Italy, that came to the seaport of Tomis for business. They built two more lighthouses – one in Sulina and the other one in Mangalia. The lighthouse was destroyed by the weather across the years, but was restored between 1858 – 1860 with British funds. Its octagonal base was made of stone. Above the base a small room with a metal dome was designed⁵³⁴.

⁵³⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/farul-genovez/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/farul-genovez/>

Tropaeum Traiani

The Tropaeum Traiani is a monument in Roman Civitas Tropaensium (site of modern Adamclisi, Constanța County), built in 109 in then Moesia Inferior, to commemorate Roman Emperor Trajan's victory over the Dacians, in the winter of 101-102, in the Battle of Adamclisi. Before Trajan's construction, an altar existed there, on the walls of which were inscribed the names of the 3,000 legionaries and auxilia (servicemen) who had died "fighting for the Republic". (Latin: Tropaeum from Greek: Tropaion, source of English: "trophy"). Trajan's monument was inspired by the Augustus mausoleum, and was dedicated to Mars Ultor in AD 107/108. On the monument there were 54 metopes depicting Roman legions fighting against enemies; most of these metopes are preserved in the museum nearby. The monument was supposed to be a warning to the tribes outside this newly conquered province⁵³⁵.

⁵³⁵ F.B Florescu Das Siegesdenksmal von Adamclisi: Tropaeum Traiani (1965)



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Online source: <https://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/complexul-arheologic-tropaeum-traiani-adamclisi/>

The Genoese lighthouse from Mangalia

The Port of Mangalia is situated on the Black Sea, close to the Southern border with Bulgaria, and over 260 km N of Istanbul⁵³⁶. An architectural jewel built in the 1950s on the Black Sea coast was refurbished in 2018. What locals in Mangalia call the Genoese lighthouse or the old lighthouse, one of the main attractions of the resort located south of the Romanian coast, has a story that begins in 1952. It was the period when the Soviets had restored to Romania the ships confiscated as a prey of war, and the economic development required the modernization of the port and the creation of a new dock and lighthouse. In this context, the officials from SOVROM (the Romanian-Soviet joint ventures established at the end of the war with the official purpose of recovering Romania's debt to the Soviet Union) built a canal, which would connect Lake Mangalia to the Black Sea port, and a modern navigation light, designed according to a legendary model. It is a lighthouse built around the 13th century by the Genoese merchants who came to Callatis (the old name of Mangalia). The construction disappeared afterwards, being swallowed by the drying of the sea water, but the references have been preserved in history. However, in 1958 a new lighthouse, built by the Romanian Army, was built in Mangalia, and the architectural jewelry built

⁵³⁶ <http://www.aries-shipping.ro/port-directory/port-information/mangalia-port.php>

six years earlier lost its usefulness, remaining only a symbol of the city. Cracks appeared on the walls of the building, and the paint cracked. The huge lens that generated the strong light was removed from the tower and transported to the National Museum of the Romanian Navy in Constanța. The presence of the Genoese lighthouse is linked to a less happy naval event. In the spring of '57, a Yugoslav ship failed in Mangalia. Probably, the commander did not have an updated map and entered the ruins of the old underwater Genoese dam which the ancient writings say it stretched from north to south, parallel to the shore, for several hundred meters⁵³⁷.



Online source: <https://www.mangalianews.ro/2018/09/farul-de-la-mangalia-in-septembrie-foto-video/>

County Court from Constanța

The building of the present County Court was designed by the architect E. Lescovar in an eclectic style and built between 1908 – 1912. It was the summer residence of the royal Romanian family. Known as the Royal Palace, the building was managed by the Ministry of Justice from 1922. It is a historic monument⁵³⁸.

⁵³⁷ (in Romanian) https://adevarul.ro/locale/Constanta/povestea-farului-genovez-mangalia-fost-salvata-bijuteria-arhitectonica-construita-infamil-sovrom-1_5d8b4ebd892c0bb0c6f03dd2/index.html

⁵³⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tribunalul-judetean-Constanta/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tribunalul-judetean-Constanta/>

Monument of Serbian Heroes

The Monument of Serbian Heroes from Medgidia, Constanța county, was erected by the Romanian-Serbian League for Friendship on January 30, 2007. It is an homage brought to the Serbian soldiers who died in Dobrogea in 1916, during the 1st World War⁵³⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-eroilor-sarbi/>

⁵³⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-eroilor-sarbi/>

Casino from Constanța

The Casino from Constanța was built in 1909 and is located on the banks of the Black Sea. It is built in Art Nouveau style. During the First World War, it served as a military hospital and it returned to its original destination after the creation of the Great Union of Romanian provinces. Although the Casino is a symbol for Constanța, the conflicts between the Ministry of Culture and the City transformed the edifice into ruins. Nevertheless, the Casino remains a reference point for Constanța. It is a historic monument⁵⁴⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cazinoul-din-Constanța/>

Statue “Woman with Harp”

Statue “Woman with Harp” is located in Decebal Square from Medgidia city, Constanța county. The statue was created in 1933 by the sculptor Ion Jalea (1887 – 1983). It represents a woman playing a cordless harp. The idea behind the cordless harp is that the cords represent parts of nature – either the water that pours down the statue when

⁵⁴⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cazinoul-din-Constanța/>



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it rains or the wind when it blows – creating a symbolic connection between the work of art and the environment⁵⁴¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-femeia-cu-harpa/>

Danube Cliff from Galați

The Danube Cliff from Galați was built in the 20th century and is one of the most important relaxation areas from the city. Some of the vessels across the cliff were transformed in restaurants, where people can have a quiet meal. The cliff has two levels, the upper level and the lower level, which were built to strengthen an unstable soil layer. Periodically, the cliff hosts various events, such as: sports competitions, concerts, art exhibitions, etc⁵⁴².

⁵⁴¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-femeia-cu-harpa/>

⁵⁴² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/faleza-dunarii/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/faleza-dunarii/>

Independence Monument in Tulcea

As one of the most imposing structures in Tulcea, the Independence Monument is one of the main attractions of the city. It is located on the North-East side of Tulcea, on top of a hill where you can also find the ruins of the ancient roman city of Aegyssus. The monument was erected as homage to the heroic soldiers who fought to free the country from the Ottoman rule between 1877 and 1888. The war also brought Dobrogea back to Romania and established it as one of the most flourishing regions of the country in the next few decades. Sculptor George Vasilescu created the concept and supervised the works. Construction began on 17 October 1879 with King Carol I present. The structure consists of a 22 meters tall obelisk, made of Ravenna granite, with two sculptures on the sides: a bronze soldier on the right and a vulture on the left. Both were forged in Milan. During the First World War, the frontline was pretty much set on the Danube and Tulcea sustained heavy damage. The monument was almost completely destroyed and remained for years. In 1932, it was rebuilt, but without the soldier and the vulture. It was finally restored to its original form in 1977, for the celebration of a century on independence⁵⁴³.

⁵⁴³ <https://www.trecator.ro/europa/romania/dobrogea/monumentul-independentei-tulcea/>



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Online source: <https://www.trecator.ro/europa/romania/dobrogea/monumentul-independentei-tulcea/>

The Statue of Mircea the Elder (Mircea I of Wallachia)

The Statue of Mircea the Elder (Mircea I of Wallachia), in Romanian: Mircea cel Bătrân, was built in the name Voivode of Wallachia. The byname "elder" was given to him after his death in order to distinguish him from his grandson Mircea II ("Mircea the Younger"), although some historians believe the epithet was given to him as a sign of respect by later generations. He is considered the most important Wallachian ruler during the Middle Ages and one of the great rulers of his era, and starting in the 19th century Romanian historiography has also referred to him as Mircea the Great (in Romanian: Mircea cel Mare)⁵⁴⁴. The statue of Mircea the Elder, Tulcea was erected in 1900 - 1902 on the place named until 1947 Mircea Square (today, Civic Square). The monument had a 5 m base, made of granite blocks. The statue, 4 m high, represented the ruler in armor, with the mantle on his shoulder, with the crown prince on the head, with the sword in the left hand and the mace in the right hand. At the base, there were

⁵⁴⁴ Dr. Brackob, A.K. (2018). *Mircea the Old: Father of Wallachia, Grandfather of Dracula*. Buffalo, U.S.A.: Center for Romanian Studies / Histria Books. pp. 9–11.



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placed two lions holding trophies obtained by the ruler in the battles with the enemy. In front of the monument was placed a bronze plaque on which was engraved the title of the ruler "I, The Great Mircea, Voivode and Ruler of both parts across the Danube to the Great Sea and the fortress of Darstor." Destroyed by the occupation troops in 1916-1918, only the remains of the monument still remain in the park today⁵⁴⁵.



Online source: <https://destepti.ro/statuia-lui-mircea-cel-batran-din-tulcea-tulcea>

Victory Statue

Victory Statue from Tisita, Vrancea county, is a historic monument, created in honor of Marasesti fights from 1917. The sculptor of this statue is Oscar Han. It represents the goddess of victory impersonated by a woman who has a sword over her head. The monument was inaugurated in September, 1934⁵⁴⁶.

⁵⁴⁵ (in Romanian)

<https://www.citulcea.ro/sites/citulcea/PrezentareaJudetului/Obiective%20Turistice/Pages/CetatiMonumente.aspx>

⁵⁴⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-victoriei/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-victoriei/>

Steven the Great Commemorative Monument

Steven the Great Commemorative Monument was built in 1904 and is located in Barsesti commune from Vrancea county. It commemorates the death of Steven the Great and consists in an obelisk on which is placed the Christian cross. One of the sides of the monument has the following inscription: "Steven the Great, ruler of Moldavia, 400 years after his death. Admiration and gratitude from the inhabitants of Vrancea on July 2nd 1904"⁵⁴⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-comemorativ-stefan-cel-mare/>

⁵⁴⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-comemorativ-stefan-cel-mare/>

Union Monument from Focsani

The Union Monument from Focsani was erected in homage of the 1859 Union created by Alexandru Ioan Cuza. It is situated in the center of the city. The Monument was built in 1976 and was made by the sculptor Ion Jalea. On the bronze plaque from the main side of the obelisk it is written "Union of the Romanian Principalities, 1859"⁵⁴⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-unirii-de-la-focsani/>

2.1.8.2.3. Museums

Brăila Clock

Brăila Clock is a precious work of art situated at the cross point between the old and the new city. The monument was built in 1909 with the support of P. Naum Petru, a philanthropist of Brăila, who donated 8,000 gold lei to build a clock in the center of the city. Its architectural style impresses with grandeur and majesty. Although the clock functioned for many years, it was never a minute slow⁵⁴⁹.

⁵⁴⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/monumentul-unirii-de-la-focsani/>

⁵⁴⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/orologiul-Brăila/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/orologiul-Brăila/>

Brăila Kinetic Fountain

The Kinetic Fountain is the main attraction of Brăila city, being built in 1989. It is placed in the center of the city and was made by Constantin Lucaci, a Romanian sculptor known for his kinetic fountains and his monuments of steel or stone⁵⁵⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-cinetica/>

Brăila County Museum

The museum of Brăila (also known as „Carol I” Museum of Brăila) was established in 1881 by a decree of King Charles I. It functioned in the former Ceaparu Inn, and since 1959 has been located in the present premises. In 1968 the permanent exhibition of

⁵⁵⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-cinetica/>

the museum was structured into two departments: history and art. It underwent reorganization in 1985 so that it should illustrate the history of the county on a national level. The museum occupies a building representing an architectonic monument, built in 1870, that over the time had various destinations (hotel - restaurant, other public utilities). The building was badly damaged by the earthquake from May 1990 and was restored. The archaeology department presents its collections by sites, which offers two advantages: on the one hand, the visitor can look at all the vestiges of a community and can develop a full image upon its occupations and lifestyle; on the other hand, the evolutionary process becomes more and more obvious, as one can notice the changes in all fields, from artefacts to spiritual life. One can remark the sites of Brăilița, Lișcoteanca, Grădiștea, Însurăței, Siliștea, where the multi-millenary historical evolution can be looked into. One can admire the vessels and figure depictions from the Neolithic, adornment and rank pieces from the Bronze Age, the inventory of the grave from Găvani, the workshop of a jeweller from Grădiștea, Roman glass vessels. The structure of the history department collections runs as follows: Romanian and foreign rare books; Romanian and foreign manuscripts and documents; Romanian and foreign numismatic items (seal rings, seal matrices, coins and banknotes, medals and booklets); Romanian and foreign decorations (orders and medals); military history items (uniforms, side and fire weapons); metrology items; clocks; sound recording and rendering devices; period photographs and glass negatives. Besides the archaeology and history departments, the museum has art departments (House of Collections), ethnography folk art, natural sciences and memorials departments. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure⁵⁵¹.

⁵⁵¹ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=178&imgord=8&-Muzeul-Brailei-BRĂILA>



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Online source: <https://exploremag.ro/muzeul-brailei-angajeaza-%EF%BB%BFsef-de-sectie/>

"Panait Istrati" Memorial House

It was established on the occasion of Panait Istrati's centenary famous writer born in Brăila (1884 - 1935). It is located in a building raised at the end of the 19th century, having administrative functions (Gardener's House). The exhibits include: manuscripts, personal belongings, pieces of furniture, autographed books, rare editions, first editions, document photographs, items purchased from the last wife of the writer Panait Istrati, Margareta Istrati. In the attic of the house a documentary fund regarding the life and works of Panait Istrati is available⁵⁵².

⁵⁵² <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=175&-Casa-Memoriala-Panait-Istrati-BRĂILA>



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Online source: <https://locuridinromania.ro/judetul-Brăila/orasul-Brăila/casa-memoriala-panait-istrati.html>

"Maria Filotti" Theater from Brăila

"Maria Filotti" Theater from Brăila was founded in 1896 under the name of "Rally Theater". From 1969 it has the name of Maria Filotti, a great actress of Romania who was born in Brăila county. The building that hosts the theater is a UNESCO world heritage monument.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maria-filotti/>

"D. P. Perpessicius" Memorial House

The building wing housing the permanent exhibition was rebuilt in 1971 according to the design and plan of the construction raised on the same location during the last quarter of the 19th century, a construction that belonged to D. P. Perpessicius' parents, where he was born and grew. In 1977 the Museum of Brăila opened the "D.P. Perpessicius" Memorial House. In 1994, when the new building wing, in its turn, was



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rebuilt according to the original plans, the permanent exhibition reopened, following the refurbishment. The memorial found includes items acquired from the family of the poet, literary critic and historian Dimitrie Panaitescu Perpessicius (1891 - 1971): manuscripts, personal belongings, furniture, autographed books, rare issues, first issues, document-photographs of the writer⁵⁵³.



Online source: <http://cniptBrăila.ro/test16/dumitru-panaitescu-perpessicius/>

Marghiloman Park from Buzău

Marghiloman Park from Buzău was created from the garden of the old noble mansion of Marghiloman family. The Park comprises the Marghiloman Mansion, a lake, a bridge, stone statues, playgrounds, etc. A large part of the park is surrounded by the "Marghiloman wall"⁵⁵⁴.

⁵⁵³ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=173&-Casa-Memoriala-D.-P.-Perpessicius-BRĂILA>

⁵⁵⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-marghiloman/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-marghiloman/>

"Vasile Voiculescu" Memorial House

Documents, letters, photographs, books, wood and glass icons, furniture recreating the atmosphere and various stages of the life and work of the writer Vasile Voiculescu (1884 - 1963). The house reconstructs the lodgings where the great poet was born. In the hall several paintings can be admired, including the portrait of the writer. In a room the exhibits include the birth certificate, family photographs and a window with book and translations editions. Another window shelters personal belongings and manuscripts of poems and stories, and in the other one there are objects of decorative art and magazines with which the author worked. Many of the volumes bear dedications of fellow writers, such as Al. Vlahuță, Ion Pillat, etc⁵⁵⁵.

⁵⁵⁵ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=692&-Casa-Memoriala-Vasile-Voiculescu-PARSCOV-Buzău>



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Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=692&imgord=1&-Casa-Memoriala-Vasile-Voiculescu-PARSCOV-Buzău>

Communal Palace from Buzău

The Communal Palace from Buzău hosts the City Hall and the Local Counselors' Commission. It was built between 1899 – 1903 and at the official inauguration King Carol the 1st was also present. The Palace is decorated in Art Nouveau style combined with New Romanian elements. Its most important hall is the Reception Hall, which is decorated in Venetian style. The Communal Palace is a historic monument⁵⁵⁶.

⁵⁵⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-comunal-Buzău/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-comunal-Buzău/>

Michael the Brave`s Fountain

Michael the Brave`s Fountain is a monument built in 1985, at 375 years from the passing of Michael the Brave through Buzău Valley on his way to Transylvania. It is located in Ciuta village from Magura commune, Buzău county. The monument was placed right in the area where Michael the Brave camped for a night with his army in October 1599 and was created by the sculptor George Coman, one of the founders of Magura Sculpture Camp⁵⁵⁷.

⁵⁵⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-lui-mihai-viteazul/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-lui-mihai-viteazul/>

Năeni Sculpture Camp

The Sculpture Camp from Năeni commune, Buzău county, is unique in the world. The sculptures from this camp are created by children who are not more than 14 years old. The camp was created by Gabriel Manole, an Art teacher, and among the works created by the children we can mention: musical instruments, stairways to heaven, Dacian tombs, snail shells, etc., all of them being inspired by the reality of the place⁵⁵⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tabara-de-sculptura-naeni/>

⁵⁵⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tabara-de-sculptura-naeni/>

The Manaf's Cross

The Manaf's Cross is a stone cross situated in Breaza commune from Buzău county. It is located on the old road that used to link Buzău to Bucharest. The Cross was built in 1846 by the family of a Turkish merchant who converted to Christianity and settled in Wallachia. It is decorated with Muslim and Christian symbols, is 4 meters high and is surrounded by 4 tall pillars⁵⁵⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/crucea-manafului/>

Museum of Amber

The Museum of Amber from Colti commune, Buzău county, is the only amber museum from Romania. It exhibits over 300 pieces of raw and worked amber. The variety of colors is wide and unique in the world – from opaque black to greenish black, yellowish black, pearly brown, bright yellow, etc. Amber is a fossilized resin of different colors that comes from various species of pine trees. It's 50 – 60 million years old and many times contains animal or plant fossils⁵⁶⁰.

⁵⁵⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/crucea-manafului/>

⁵⁶⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-chihlimbarului-de-la-colti-judetul-Buzău/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-chihlimbarului-de-la-colti-judetul-Buzău/>

Thracian Necropolis from Năeni

The Thracian Necropolis from Năeni commune, Buzău county, is an ensemble of old tombs. They were dated to over 2,000 years ago. In this area, around 800 – 600 B. Ch., the inhabitants buried their relatives in stone carved tombs. The archaeological research in this site started in 1981 and the found artifacts are now exhibited in museums from Buzău and Bucharest⁵⁶¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/necropola-tracica/>

Ambrozie`s Cell

Ambrozie`s Cell, situated on Iștrita Hill, Buzău county, is formed by two rooms in which a few bays and porches were carved, either with domestic or religious destination. Ambrozie was a monk from Breaza commune who, as a layman, was named Tanase

⁵⁶¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/necropola-tracica/>

Rizea. He spent a few years at Athos Mountain, Greece, and when he came back home he decided to isolate himself in a cell that he himself carved in the Stone. He lived 50 years in the cell that today has his name⁵⁶².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/chilia-lui-ambrozie/>

Prehistoric Caves from Naeni

The Prehistoric Caves from Naeni commune, Buzău county, are very close to the Church Made of One Stone. Inside this caves were discovered traces of ash, bones and rupestral drawings that date back to Dacian times. Specialists also found objects that are now exhibited in museums. According to archaeologists, these caves are 5,000 – 7,000 years old⁵⁶³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/grotele-preistorice/>

⁵⁶² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/chilia-lui-ambrozie/>

⁵⁶³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/grotele-preistorice/>

„George Ciprian” Theater

„George Ciprian” Theater from the city of Buzău was founded in 1995 at the initiative of Paul Ioachim, playwright, actor and director. It is the first Romanian project theater, meaning that all the actors are employed on projects⁵⁶⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-george-ciprian-Buzău/>

"Vergu - Mănăilă House" Ethnografic and Folk Art Collection

The building of the museum was reconstructed between 1971 and 1974, on the ruins of an earlier manor documented in 1794. The themes of the permanent exhibition illustrate the fundamental trades (agriculture and animal breeding), the secondary ones (viticulture, sericulture, fishing, hunting) and the domestic occupations (food preparing, textiles processing, and clothing manufacturing), as well as the traditional folk craftsmanship (pottery art, wood processing, stone cutting). The exhibition includes two halls displaying folk costumes, both structurally (cuts, ornaments, according to categories) and the male and female costumes specific of the Buzău ethnographic area⁵⁶⁵.

⁵⁶⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-george-ciprian-Buzău/>

⁵⁶⁵ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=182&-Colectia-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-Casa-Vergu-Manaila-BUZĂU>



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=182&-Colectia-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-Casa-Vergu-Manaila-BUZĂU>

Archaeological Park from Constanța

The Archaeological Park from Constanța or the City Hall Park exhibits the remains of Tomis, the ancient city of Constanța. The archaeological objects date from the Roman-Byzantine period. Tourists can admire the remains of the Butchers' Tower restored by Emperor Justinian and other ancient objects from the old Tomis⁵⁶⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-arheologic-din-Constanța/>

Ovid Statue from Ovidius Square (Constanța)

The Statue of the Latin poet Ovid from Constanța was created by the Italian sculptor Ettore Ferrari in 1887, as an homage to the poet who was exiled in Tomis. The statue was placed on a white marble base, on which a text from "The Sorrows" was written. The monument is located in Ovidius Square from Constanța⁵⁶⁷.

⁵⁶⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-arheologic-din-Constanța/>

⁵⁶⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-lui-ovidiu-Constanta-2/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-lui-ovidiu-Constanța-2/>

Folk Art Museum from Constanța

The Folk Art collection of Constanța was created in 1975 at the Art Museum. From 1990, this collection becomes a distinct museum and grows larger. The museum has ethnographic pieces from all around Romania and is situated in an important building of Constanța. It has over 15,000 cultural objects, such as: folk costumes, glass or wood icons, rugs, etc⁵⁶⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>

House with Lions

The House with Lions from Constanța was built by a rich Armenian businessman at the end of the 19th century. Its architectural style has New Renaissance and New

⁵⁶⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>



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Classical elements combined. The building has four columns on which four lions are standing and this is why the locals call it the “House with Lions”. After the first world war the building hosted a bank, after that it became a restaurant, then an enterprise headquarter and a lawyers` Bar⁵⁶⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-cu-lei/>

Royal Palace from Mamaia

The Royal Palace from Mamaia, Constanța county, was built in 1923 at the initiative of Queen Mary of Romania. The Queen was very involved in this project, adding to the Palace a minaret (tower), setting the style for future constructions in the young sea resort of Mamaia. However, the Queen never stayed at the Palace, and in 1927 the Palace belonged to Queen Helen and then to her husband Carol the 2nd. Across time, the Palace had many functions, representing a symbol of Mamaia Sea Resort⁵⁷⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castelul-regal-mamaia/>

⁵⁶⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-cu-lei/>

⁵⁷⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castelul-regal-mamaia/>



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“King Ferdinand the 1st” National Military Museum

“King Ferdinand the 1st” National Military Museum from Constanța was created in 1985. Its exhibitions display collections of weapons, archaeological objects, clothing accessories, decorations, dioramas, photographs and vintage documents, representing different moments of the Romanian military, either in war, retreat, attack or in the trench⁵⁷¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-militar-national-din-Constanta/>

Carol the 1st Lighthouse

Today, Carol the 1st Lighthouse is part of Costanta Seaport. It was built by the king Carol the 1st in 1909 and is also known as the White Lighthouse. The edifice is decorated with the bass relief of the king Carol the 1st on its southern side and the bass relief of the emperor Trajan on the northern side⁵⁷².

⁵⁷¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-militar-national-din-Constanta/>

⁵⁷² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/farul-carol-i/>



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Online source: <http://www.romanianresorts.ro/farul-carol-i>

Romanian Navy Museum

The Romanian Navy Museum was officially open on August, the 3rd, 1969, in Constanța and is hosted by the ex-headquarter of the Naval School. The museum presents the history of the Romanian Navy throughout the years. At the entrance, in the Honor Foyer, a double steering wheel that was used on the “Alexandru Lahovari” ship was placed. The collection includes, among other cultural objects, Roman amphorae, ship models, the Navy uniform from 1860, etc⁵⁷³.

⁵⁷³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-marinei-romane/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-marinei-romane/>

Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța

The Museum of National History and Archaeology is located in the city of Constanța and was created at the initiative of the great archaeologist Vasile Parvan in 1911. The museum exhibits many cultural objects that remind us of the existence of Tomis Fortress. It has a collection of over 430,000 objects which date back from Paleolithic to the Modern Age⁵⁷⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanta/>

⁵⁷⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanta/>

Archaeology Museum from Callatis

Callatis (Mangalia, Constanța county) was, across the years, an important trade, sea port and strategic center. The Archaeology Museum from Callatis displays archaeology objects that date from prehistory to the Greek-Roman age. It also has the only papyrus from Romania, a very old document dating from the 4th century B. Ch⁵⁷⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arheologie-callatis/>

Histria Archaeology Museum

Histria Archaeology Museum was created in 1982 and is subordinated to the Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța. It is situated in Istria village from Constanța county. The museum includes the remnants of the ancient Greek fortress, Histria and displays objects of Greek, Roman or Byzantine archaeology⁵⁷⁶.

⁵⁷⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arheologie-callatis/>

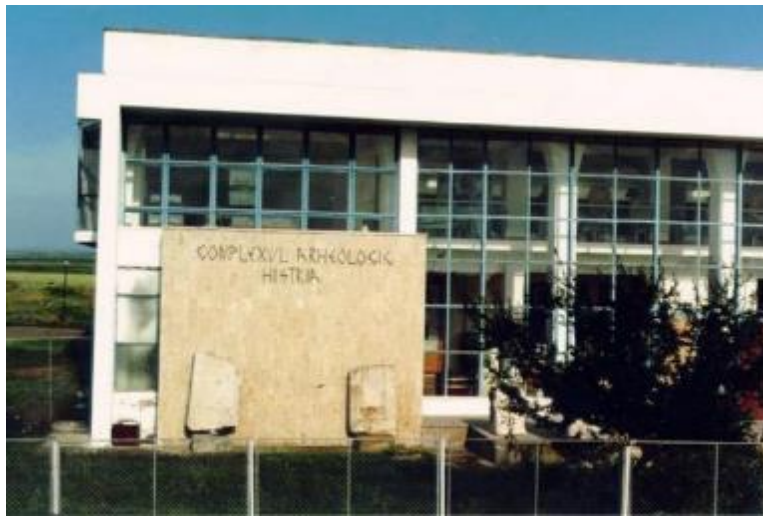
⁵⁷⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-arheologic-histria/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-arheologic-histria/>

Museum of Vineyard and Wine from Murfatlar

The Museum of Vineyard and Wine from Murfatlar is an homage brought to the traditional viticulture from Dobrogea, which started 2000 years ago. The museum is managed by the Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța and hosted by Murfatlar Wine Cellars⁵⁷⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-viei-si-al-vinului/>

⁵⁷⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-viei-si-al-vinului/>

Dolphinarium from Constanța

The Dolphinarium is part of the Museum Complex of Natural Sciences from Constanța. It was open in 1958, when the Aquarium was also inaugurated. Visitors can see shows with dolphins and sea lions guided by their trainers, see exhibitions with exotic birds or other temporary exhibitions⁵⁷⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/delfinariu/>

Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța

The Museum of National History and Archaeology is located in the city of Constanța and was created at the initiative of the great archaeologist Vasile Parvan in 1911. The museum exhibits many cultural objects that remind us of the existence of Tomis Fortress. It has a collection of over 430,000 objects which date back from Paleolithic to the Modern Age⁵⁷⁹.



⁵⁷⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/delfinariu/>

⁵⁷⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanta/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanta/>

Roman Edifice with Mosaic

The Roman Edifice with Mosaic was accidentally found in 1959 while renovating Ovidius Square from Constanța. Today, only 850 square meters are preserved from the initial 2,000 square meters of the mosaic. It dates from the end of the IIIrd century and the beginning of the IVth century after Christ. The mosaic is a historic monument, being part of the ancient Tomis city⁵⁸⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/edificiul-roman-cu-mozaic/>

“Society of Craftsmen” Temple

The “Society of Craftsmen” Temple from Galați was built in 1875 by the “Society of Craftsmen”. It is the largest Jewish religious edifice from Galați and had suffered a lot throughout the years. For example, in the Second World War the temple was a detention camp for Jewish prisoners. It was reopened in 2014, after five years of renovations⁵⁸¹.

⁵⁸⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/edificiul-roman-cu-mozaic/>

⁵⁸¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/templul-societatii-meseriasilor-2/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/templul-societatii-meseriasilor-2/>

Botanic Garden from Galați

The Botanic Garden from Galați was founded in 1990 on the left bank of the Danube river. It is part of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați. The Garden has six sectors – ornamental plants, green houses, common plants, rosarium, vegetation of Romania and world vegetation. It also has a citric plants collection, a Japanese garden and an aquarium⁵⁸².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gradina-botanica-2/>

Episcopal Palace of the Lower Danube

The Episcopal Palace of the Lower Danube was built between 1897 and 1900 after the plans of the architect Toma Dobrescu. In the left wing of the edifice was designed

⁵⁸² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gradina-botanica-2/>



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a chapel for the episcopal residence. It is dedicated to the “Presentation of Lord Jesus”, which is celebrated, every year, on February, the 2nd. Today, the Episcopal Palace hosts the Museum of History, Culture and Christian Spirituality⁵⁸³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-episcopal-al-dunarii-de-jos/>

“Fani Tardini” Theater

“Fani Tardini” Theater is named after the actress Fani Tardini Vladicescu, who settled to Galati from 1872. It was founded on August 8th, 1886, at the initiative of the actress. The performing arts institution annually organizes The National Festival of Comedy, where various troupes from the country or abroad are invited to perform theater plays⁵⁸⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-dramatic-fani-tardini/>

⁵⁸³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-episcopal-al-dunarii-de-jos/>

⁵⁸⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-dramatic-fani-tardini/>

Gulliver Puppet Theater

Gulliver Puppet Theater was created on October 1st, 1952. Initially, it was a theater for children, but in recent years, the institution also started to develop plays for youngsters. The most important event of the theater is The Gulliver Festival, one of the most important festivals of its kind from Romania, when Galați is transformed into the “capital of the puppet theater”⁵⁸⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-de-papusi-gulliver/>

“V.A. Urechia” Public Library from Galați

“V.A. Urechia” Public Library from Galați is one of the largest Romanian libraries. It was founded starting with the donation of the Romanian Academician Vasile Alexandrescu Urechia. He donated 3,000 books to initiate a public library in Galați. Today, the library has over 6,000 books. It also has borrowing departments for adults or children, encyclopaedia halls, studying halls, media halls, etc⁵⁸⁶.

⁵⁸⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-de-papusi-gulliver/>

⁵⁸⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biblioteca-v-urechia/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biblioteca-v-urechia/>

Visual Art Museum from Galați

The Visual Art Museum from Galați was founded in 1967 and is specialized on Romanian contemporary art. It is located in a building which is a historic monument – The Episcopical Palace. Its collections include paintings of some of the most important Romanian artists, such as: Nicolae Grigorescu, Theodor Pallady, Nicolae Tonitza or Corneliu Baba⁵⁸⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-vizuala/>

House of Collections Museum

The House of Collections Museum beautifully captures the lifestyle of Galați elite from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It is situated in a

⁵⁸⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-vizuala/>



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building that dates from 1900 which, initially was a pharmacy. The permanent exhibition of the museum displays history, photographic art objects, old books, stamps, etc⁵⁸⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-casa-colectiilor/>

“Rasvan Angheluta” Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați

“Rasvan Angheluta” Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați was built in 1990 and is one of the largest museums from Romania. It comprises: a Botanic Garden, an Aquarium, an Astronomic Observatory and Planetarium, a Zoo and exhibiting halls for temporary or permanent exhibitions⁵⁸⁹.



⁵⁸⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-casa-colectiilor/>

⁵⁸⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complex-muzeal-al-stiintelor-naturii-Galați/>

Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complex-muzeal-al-stiintelor-naturii-Galați/>

"Paul Paltanea" History Museum from Galați

"Paul Paltanea" History Museum from Galați was inaugurated in 1939 in the house which belonged to the Romanian ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza. It exhibits objects specific to the history of Galați county – from Dacian period findings to objects from the late 19th century⁵⁹⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-Galați/>

Institute for Eco-Museum Researches "Gavrilă Simion"

Tulcea Museum was established in the year 1950 by the foundation of the Natural Sciences Museum. Since 1965 it has been the "Danube Delta" Museum with four departments: history and archaeology, ethnography, natural sciences and art. It is the first and only theme museum in Romania accepted at that time, under the name of Danube Delta Museum. In time the museum has grown due to the emergence of other museum units. The most significant achievement is the 1975 emergence of the History and Archaeology Department in the "Independence Monument" Park, inside an initial pavilion, later extended due to the construction of the second edifice. Other important achievements involve the emergence of the Art Museum (1972) and the Ethnography and Folk Art Museum (1989). The endeavours of the Tulcea Museum institution towards diversifying the forms of valorisation of the entire cultural heritage in the end led to a changed organizational structure of the Old Danube Delta Museum and its turning into an Institute for Eco-Museum Researches. Tulcea Museum was

⁵⁹⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-Galați/>

reorganized by the decisions nos. 118, 119/the 19th of March 1993, as the Institute would conduct its activity in the fields: ecology, ethnography, art history, history and archaeology. Currently, each museum of the Institute conducts its own activity trying to rigorously mingle the scientific activity of cultural heritage research, conservation, restoration, valorisation and enriching with actions pointing to synergic domains. The new strategy of the institution considers that its cultural product has to develop in an integration context involving education, tourism, regional development, international cooperation, aiming at creating diverse effects by multidisciplinary actions. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure⁵⁹¹.

"Old Lighthouse of Sulina" Museum

ICEM Tulcea (Institute for Eco-Museum Researches "Gavrilă Simion" from Tulcea) has managed the Sulina Lighthouse since 2003, when it turned into a museum. The experts of the Archaeology and History Museum in Tulcea which governs the museum have arranged the two rooms on the ground floor. One of them is dedicated to the memory of Jean Bart - a personality that at the beginning of the 20th century was at Sulina a sea commissary. The second one is dedicated to the European Danube Commissions - an international organization that transformed the small fishing settlement from the beginning of the 19th century into an important harbour with a flourishing economy. The exhibits of the Sulina Lighthouse Museum belong to the modern and contemporary history collection of the History and Archaeology Museum that belongs to the Eco-Museum Research Institute. One can remark the pieces of furniture that belonged to the writer Jean Bart and his family photographs, the weaponry collection from the 18th - 20th centuries, the medals, documents, maps and photographs relating to the activity of the European Danube Commission. As the name indicates, the Sulina museum was organized in a lighthouse, that was built by the European Danube Commission between 1869 and 1870. The project was designed by M. Engelhardt, a doctor, a collaborator outside the Technical Office of the European Danube Commissions. The project was managed by Sir Charles A. Hartley. Over the years the construction underwent several changes on the outside and inside, which did not affect the original structure. After 1989 the Sulina Great Lighthouse was restored by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, and in 2003 was taken over by ICEM Tulcea. The building has historic value and was listed in 2004 with the

⁵⁹¹ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=623&-Institutul-de-Cercetari-Eco-Muzeale-TULCEA>

indicative TL II mA06023. The construction is 17.34 m high, in the shape of a truncated cone, has two large rooms on the ground floor, arranged for the museum, and the exhibition space is 70 sq.m. The rooms built around the Lighthouse, at number 7, that functioned as homes for the staff and deposits for the materials necessary for the operation of the lighthouse, are currently used as museum annexes. At the same time the inner courtyard confers a special atmosphere to the museum⁵⁹².



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1536&imgord=1&-Muzeul-Farul-Sulinei-SULINA-Tulcea>

"Avramide" House - Collections House

The building is renovated; it presents aspects of the urban life of Tulcea town between the end of the XIX and beginning of the XX centuries. Carrying on this project aims at highlighting Tulcea identity within the Dobrogea regional one. Also, the complex is foreseen to have an interactive component, through diverse cultural and artistic activities intending to connect the past to the future. The complex, composed of the Avramide House and the Art Museum (in no.2, Grigore Antipa street), will exhibit: art (paintings and sculpture) with works of consecrated Romanian painters and, also,

⁵⁹² <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1536&-Muzeul-Farul-Sulinei-SULINA-Tulcea>

works by contemporary painters; painting and engraving workshops for children and amateurs; oriental art exhibition; Dobrogea art exhibition; art exhibition of the national minorities; small concerts, associated to important cultural events; cultural events. The museum (owned by Mr. Emil Kindlein) is atypically located – inside a shopping mall – and presents the history of watchmaker and jeweller craftsmanship of the early thirties. The exhibits belonged to the owner's grandfather, Mr. Petru Kindlein, who recreated the workshop and the store. Also, the museum has a section where documents are exhibited, vintage photos and personal objects. It has a collection of more than 2000 watches, wooden miniatures by Bajko Attila and multimedia elements. Partners in the museum arrangement project were: Bega Shopping Center and Timisoara National Theatre⁵⁹³.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1827&-Casa-Avramide-TULCEA>

Danube Delta Eco-Touristic Centre

The botany collection comprises herb plants species from Dobrudja and the Danube Delta (no water species) both common species and endangered endemic ones, rising to 13,609 items. The entomology collection comprises insect species (coleoptera, hymenoptera, dipters) from the Danube Delta, Dobrudja, other regions of the country

⁵⁹³ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1827&-Casa-Avramide-TULCEA>

and exotic species rising to 21,000 items. The mineralogy and palaeontology collections comprise minerals from Dobrudja, Baia Mare and ammonite, echinoderm, fish fossils from Dobrudja rising to 1,104 items. The ornithology collection comprises day and night birds of prey species, water, steppe and Passeriformes species. The collection comprises rare, accidental and endangered species. The collection pieces are naturalized or under the form of casts (690 naturalized pieces and 760 pieces under the form of casts). The oology collection comprises 320 eggs belonging to water birds and birds of prey. The mammals collection comprises species characteristic of the Danube Delta and Dobrudja rising to 50 items. The skulls and breast bones collection comprises pieces under the form of mammal skulls and water and prey bird breast bones rising to 220 skulls and 150 breast bones. The ichthyology collection (wet specimens) comprises fish species of the ichthyofauna from the Danube Delta, the Black Sea, the Atlantic Ocean (south - east and centre) and the Indian Ocean (west); the conserved specimens rise to 153. The live fish collection comprises local prey and domestic species, from lakes, rivers or seas, as well as exotic species from the lakes or rivers of Latin America, South America (north part), South - West Asia, Central Africa (over 90 local specimens, 17 species and over 50 exotic specimens, 28 species)⁵⁹⁴.



Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/tarife/>

⁵⁹⁴ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=624&-Centrul-Ecoturistic-Delta-Dunarii-TULCEA>

Art Museum from Tulcea

The Art Museum is hosted by a neoclassical building, raised between 1863 and 1865, as an administrative palace of Tulcea Sangeac, called at the time Pasha's Mansion, that underwent changes in time. After Dobrudja reunited with Romania, it became the headquarters of the Tulcea County Prefecture in 1878. On the ground floor there were the County Court of Justice, the quarters of the bailiffs and the Jury Court. Between 1950 and 1970, it functioned as the Tulcea District Council. It became the quarters of the Art Museum on the 23rd of August 1982. The Tulcea Art Museum takes pride in holding a significant heritage that constantly grew over the last ten years, from 4,365 by the end of the year 1991, to 7,015 works currently, so that it owns seven collections, as follows: the modern and contemporary painting collection, counting 932 works; the modern and contemporary sculpture collection, counting 420 works; icon collection from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, counting 797 works; modern and contemporary graphics collection, counting 4,016 works; engraving plates collection (unique in this country), counting 400 works; the Oriental decorative art collection from the 18th and 20th centuries, counting 311 pieces; the decorative art collection from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, counting 139 pieces. Following the theme of "Dobrudja Reflected in Romanian Fine Art", the museum presents in the galleries of the permanent exhibition works of great national and international value, that could engender the envy of the great museums. The heritage also comprises outstanding paintings and graphics by contemporary artists. In one room of the first floor are exhibited items originating from the transfer of Oriental Art Museum collections. Also other items in the collection are reflecting aspects of ethnic minorities' life⁵⁹⁵.

⁵⁹⁵ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=620&-Muzeul-de-Arta-TULCEA>



Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/complexul-muzeal-de-patrimoniu-cultural-nord-dobrogean/muzeul-de-arta/>

History and Archaeology Museum

The museum holds archaeology collections of Northern Dobrudja, from prehistory, protohistory, the Graeco-Hellenistic period, the Daco-Roman period, the Middle Ages (pottery, glassware, tools, weapons, ornaments), ancient, mediaeval and modern coins (hoards with Roman, Genoese and Tartar pieces), a lapidarium (epigraphic and sculptural monuments)⁵⁹⁶. The Museum of History and Archaeology is a main component of the Gavrilă Simion Eco-Museum Research Institute Tulcea. Its foundation act is considered to be the organization of the permanent exhibition of history and archaeology, in 1975, on the place of the ancient fortress Aegyssus. But its history is obviously totally identified with the over 50 years' evolution of the museum institution in Tulcea County.

Taking into consideration the evolution of the legislation regarding the organization and functioning of the museums, the institution structured its activity following the next lines:

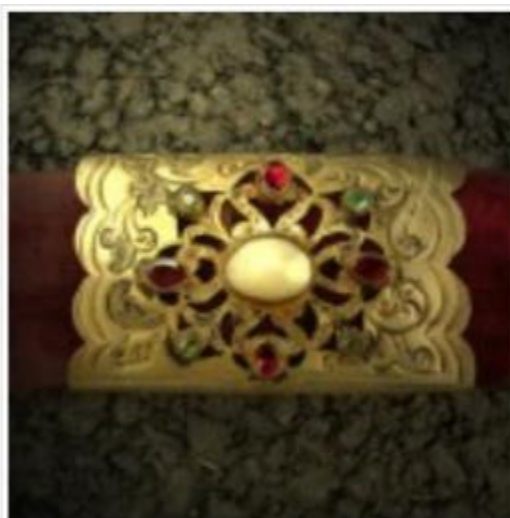
1. the scientific constitution, administration, conservation and restoration of the museum patrimony. A permanent concern of the Museum of History and Archaeology was the constitution of a rich and valuable archaeological patrimony. This objective led to the initiation of a research program which developed in a remarkable way on the

⁵⁹⁶ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=626&imgord=2&-Muzeul-de-Istorie-si-Arheologie-TULCEA>

entire territory of the Northern Dobrudja – one of the most important archaeological zones in Romania.

2. scientific research, accounting, documentation, protection and development of the museum patrimony. No doubt, the most important investment has been done in the scientific research. As a matter of fact, it is considered the base of the entire activity of the history and archaeology section's personnel. The research program, together with the acquisitions and donations politic led to the constitution of an over 90 000 pieces estimated patrimony.

3. the valorization of the museum patrimony. The specialists of the museum contribute to the Peuce publication as well as to other numerous studies and specialty volumes which are addressed to the scientific world. The institution benefits of generous spaces for exhibitions (2 pavilions in Tulcea, the Old Lighthouse Museum in Sulina, the Museum Complex in Niculițel), which can offer the support for various projects⁵⁹⁷.



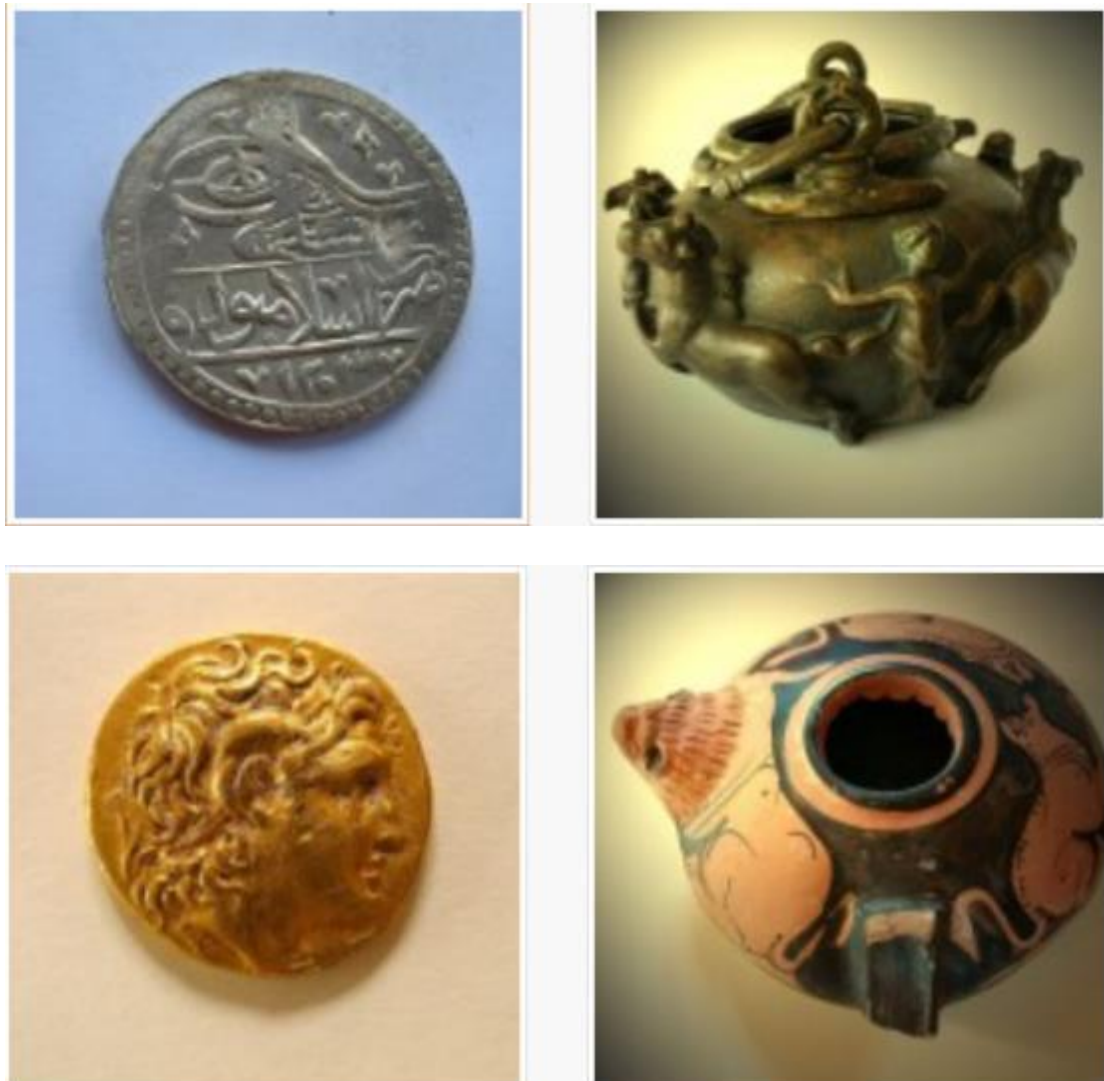
⁵⁹⁷ <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-de-istorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>



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Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-de-istorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>

Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art

The museum emerged in 2005 in a new location. It shelters ethnography and folk art collections from northern Dobrudja. The ethnography collection comprises a movable heritage presenting the practice of traditional trades and crafts, the lifestyle by the end of the 19th century and early 20th century up to 1950. It includes agricultural and animal breeding artefacts; artefacts for the practice of various trades and for daily life; icons. The folk art collection includes common and decorative fabrics representative for all the ethnic groups; costumes and ornaments. The ethnographical collection includes about 1,600 artefacts representing the tools used at practising the traditional trades and crafts. In the field of the processing of animal and vegetable produce for nourishment, the collection presents tools, devices, instruments, weapons, artefacts

for fishing, bee-keeping, tree growing, vinegrowing, seed processing, agriculture, flour-milling, animal breeding, and hunting. The ethnographic heritage comprises a remarkable metal vessel collection (267 pieces). The collection is diverse due to the metal used (copper, iron, silver, and lead) and owing to the manufacturing and decoration technique (cutting, boring, hammering, rolling, polishing, incision, filing, riveting, bending, and casting). The museum holds a carpet collection (155 pieces) of a special documentary and artistic value. The woollen carpets were manufactured at the weaving loom and they beautified the traditional interior. The collection comprises carpets of various sizes, from narrow ones to long ones set on the wall or covering one of the pieces of traditional furniture to large ones rectangular in shape usually covering a wall (rug or carpet). The collection includes remarkable carpets with complex compositions made up of bunches of flowers, birds, town life scenes, depicted in a naturalist manner and arranged as medallions. The colours ranged from discrete ones (green, ochre, and dark blue) to strong ones (yellow, orange and red). Black (a background colour) and white (used to emphasize motifs) balance the colour composition. The presence of the Aromanians in Dobrudja is revealed by their contribution to the preservation of the traditions reflected in the heritage owned by the museum: 670 pieces (household and decorative fabrics, costumes). The thick woollen or goat's-hair fabrics of various colours used to prevail in the Aroman traditional house. The traditional male and female Aromanian costumes are made up of numerous diverse pieces (peasant woollen skirts, shirts, long coats a.s.o.). The one hundred ornaments were executed by ancient techniques (filigree, "au repoussé" hammering, engraving, and intarsia)⁵⁹⁸.

⁵⁹⁸ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=625&-Muzeul-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-TULCEA>



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Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=625&-Muzeul-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-TULCEA>

Palaeo-Christian Monument from Niculițel

The museum houses a paleo-Christian basilica from the end of the 4th century, situated above several martyr tombs. It has a projecting semicircular apse, a rectangular naos divided into three naves by individual pillars, that used to support, in the vertical part of the edifice, a wooden ridged roof, covered by gutter tiles. It had no narthex, instead it used to have pilasters fastened at the south ends of the lateral valves, in order to sustain some transversal archways, and compartmentalized the interior space of the lateral naves, on both sides of the entrance to the central nave, a wide entrance situated on the apse axis. In the central zone of the apse, under the altar pavement, there is a monumental martyr crypt, completely buried, housing a group of four martyrs at the upper part of the martyrion - Zotikos, Attalos, Camasis and Philippos, and two martyrs on the lower level, that originate in an earlier martyr tomb. The martyrion at Niculițel is a unique monument in Europe. The protecting edifice creates an elegant, aired and pleasant interior. The perimetral gallery destined to the inflow of visitors ensures a permanent visual contact with the monument, and the permanent exhibition of paleo-Christian artefacts, colour photographs and slides complete the museum collection. The discovery of the monument is due to torrential rain in the spring of 1971 that uncovered a part of the crypt cupola. As it is in a sloping

position, in an inhabited area, and at a crossroads, the monument needed to be long studied during the years 1971, 1975, 1985 and 1994⁵⁹⁹.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=697&imgord=3&-Monumentul-paleocrestin-NICULITEL-Tulcea>

Museum of Vrancea

The Museum of Vrancea was founded in 1931 and comprises the following departments: history and archaeology, ethnography, natural sciences and the mausoleums from Marasesti, Marasti and Soveja. Moreover, the museum manages the memorial houses of Ion Roata and Alexandru Vlahuta. It has a collection of over 50,000 cultural objects⁶⁰⁰.

⁵⁹⁹ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=697&imgord=3&-Monumentul-paleocrestin-NICULITEL-Tulcea>

⁶⁰⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-vrancei/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-vrancei/>

Sihleanu-Gradisteanu-Ghica Memorial Ensemble

Sihleanu-Gradisteanu-Ghica Memorial Ensemble was created by Helen and Constantin Gradisteanu between 1880 – 1886. The ensemble comprises: Sihleanu-Gradisteanu-Ghica Castle, the bust of the poet Alexandru Sihleanu and the Church "Saints Emperors Constantin and Helen"⁶⁰¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ansamblul-memorial-sihleanu-gradisteanu-ghica/>

⁶⁰¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ansamblul-memorial-sihleanu-gradisteanu-ghica/>

Reservation of Folk Architecture and Crafts from Petresti Forest

The Reservation of Folk Architecture and Crafts from Petresti Forest is part of the Museum of Vrancea and is declared a historic monument. This department was created to preserve and promote the values of Vrancea ethnographic heritage. It was inaugurated in 1977 and is an open-air museum that recreates the old Vrancea village, with 73 houses and over 6,000 cultural objects⁶⁰².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-de-arhitectura-si-tehnica-populara-din-crangul-petresti/>

"Mos Ion Roata" Memorial House

"Mos Ion Roata" Memorial House is a museum from Campuri commune, Vrancea village. The house in which Ion Roata lived was restored and transformed in a museum. The building is a country house with one room. It was inaugurated in January, 24th 1959, the same day when we celebrated 100 years from The Union of the Romanian Principalities. The permanent exhibition of the museum reveals objects specific to the social and family life in which Mos Ion Roata lived and also documents that show his activity in the Ad-Hoc Divan of Moldavia, as a deputy and representative of the peasants from Putna. The building is a national historic monument and belongs to Vrancea County Museum⁶⁰³.

⁶⁰² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-de-arhitectura-si-tehnica-populara-din-crangul-petresti/>

⁶⁰³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-memoriala-mos-ion-roata/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-memoriala-mos-ion-roata/>

Soveja Mausoleum

Soveja Mausoleum is a monument situated in Dragosloveni commune from Vrancea county. It was built in 1929 in homage of the soldiers who died in the First World War. A small museum was founded behind the monument which exhibits pictures and weapons used by the Romanian soldiers in the First World War⁶⁰⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-soveja/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasti

The Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasti is a monument dedicated to the Romanian soldiers who died in the First World War, in the battle of Marasti. The Mausoleum is located in Marasti, Vrancea county, and was built in 1928. A small museum was created at the ground floor of the monument which exhibits objects that belonged to General Vaitoianu and weapons from the First World War⁶⁰⁵.

⁶⁰⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-soveja/>

⁶⁰⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-de-la-marasti/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-de-la-marasti/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasesti

The Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasesti, Vrancea county, is dedicated to the heroes of the First World War. Its building started in 1924, was stopped and restarted after 12 years, in 1936. The Mausoleum is erected on the place where Marasesti battle took place in 1917. Today, the Mausoleum hosts 5,073 soldiers and officers that fought in the First World War. It is one of the most important mausoleums from Europe and was declared a historic monument⁶⁰⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-de-la-marasesti/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Focsani

The Heroes' Mausoleum is located in the southern part of the city of Focsani, Vrancea county. Its building started in 1927 and was finished in 1936. The Mausoleum is

⁶⁰⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-de-la-marasesti/>

created after the plans of the architect State Balosin. It hosts 2,422 Romanian heroes who fought in the First World War⁶⁰⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-romani-din-primul-razboi-mondial/>

“Major Gheorghe Pastia” Theater

“Major Gheorghe Pastia” Theater is located in Focsani, Vrancea county. It was built between 1909 – 1913. The name of the theater comes from Major Gheorghe Pastia who had the initiative of building this cultural institution in Focsani. The building in which the theater activates is a reference point of the city and a historic monument⁶⁰⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

⁶⁰⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-romani-din-primul-razboi-mondial/>

⁶⁰⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

2.1.8.2.4. Traditional Settlements

The natural environment of Romania long has offered favourable conditions for human settlement. The accessibility of the region to the movements of peoples across the Eurasian landmass has predisposed the region to absorb cultural influences from many countries and peoples, and this too is reflected in the contemporary patterns of Romanian life. Romania's urban settlements were situated at points of commercial or strategic significance, and the great majority of present-day towns are either on or in the immediate neighbourhood of the ruins of ancient settlements, whether fortress or market towns.

The oldest towns were founded on the Black Sea shores, and urban development spread only later to the plains and then to the mountains. In fact, the turbulent history of the country favoured some of these early settlements, which grew into modern towns and cities.

The ancient commercial trade between these old market towns lends support to the view that the Danube Delta have served as much as a link in the country's development. A dispersed type of rural settlement is generally found in the foothill, tableland, and upland regions. The scattered village is found at the highest elevations and reflects the rugged terrain and pastoral economic life. The population maintains many traditional features in architecture, dress, and social customs, and the old market centres, or *nedei*, are still important. Small plots and dwellings are carved out of the forests and on the upland pastures wherever physical conditions permit.

Where the relief is less difficult, the villages are slightly more concentrated, although individual dwellings still tend to be scattered among agricultural plots. Mining, livestock raising, and agriculture are the main economic activities, the latter characterized by terrace cultivation on the mountain slopes, a legacy of Roman times. Ethnic Romanians traditionally inhabited the countryside, while the cities were home to minorities: Hungarians, Germans, Jews, Greeks, and Armenians. This pattern began to change in the 19th century with the start of industrialization, and ethnic Romanians have become the majority in the larger cities⁶⁰⁹.

The Southeastern region of Romania, with hills and valleys covered by plowed fields, vineyards, orchards, and pastures and dotted with dwelling places, typically has this

⁶⁰⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Settlement-patterns>

type of settlement. More-familiar concentrated villages, marked by uniform clustering of buildings, are found in the plains, particularly those given over to cereal cultivation⁶¹⁰.

A systematization of the medieval settlement and the land oriented in the form of an amphitheater towards the Danube

Brăila is the only city that can offer, on a natural scale, the image of the historical, economic and urban development of a Romanian settlement of the modern period. It evolved from the fishing village that was around the year 1300, to the port of intense commercial exchanges, with the opening of the main road of the country, which connected Brasov with Brăila and from here with the Black Sea. The historical center of the municipality of Brăila is a reserve of architecture and urbanism, included in the national list of historical monuments. During the Turkish administration (1540-1829) the fortress of Brăila, the strongest Turkish fortress in the Danube River was built, but the port retained its importance, maintaining the traditional commercial links. At the same time, Brăila was the spiritual center of all Christians in the territories occupied by the Turks. Here is the Metropolis of Proilavia. The year 1829 marked the beginning of the emancipation of the city and the port, the foundation of which was the demolition of the fortress. Brăila was rebuilt following a modern urban plan, which gives the city its uniqueness. It systematized the medieval settlement and highlighted the slope, oriented in the form of an amphitheater towards the Danube. The city took on the appearance of a fan that the Danube opens to the plain. The cosmopolitanism of the Brazilian population (one third of the city's inhabitants were foreigners in 1891), its prosperous situation, the attraction exerted by the western civilization, especially the French one, determined the urban design and the architecture of the city. Clear legislation, a detailed construction regulation and an administrative structure that followed the observances, made it possible to elevate, at the mouths of the Danube, a European city⁶¹¹.

⁶¹⁰ Id.

⁶¹¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.scribd.com/document/156693603/arhitectura-brailei>



Online source: <https://www.scribd.com/document/156693603/arhitectura-braila>

The site of the old / historical center of the city of Brăila, characteristic for the Romanian year 1900, is unique throughout the extra-Carpathian area. It covers the perimeter of the medieval city, bounded by the left bank of the Danube and by Bd. Al.I. Cuza. To this day, the city retains, on the whole surface, one of the most complex urban textures in the country, with all the dowry of the building fund from the first half of the 19th century until the middle of the 20th century. Also, the city is included entirely in the category of historical monuments of local interest, a city-museum representative for the medieval era⁶¹².

Circumscribed to the historical center of Brăila, Traian Square represents the old city center and Brăila had, for 150 years, a monocenter, where the old architecture of the city is concentrated. A city that has no "center", where people gather, does not allow a social life. And Traian Square was the agora of Brăila, with its original meaning of "public market in which the business and all the civic life of a city in ancient Greece, especially of Athens, were concentrated". The market is also a "natural reserve", during the time of the building planting rare vegetation specimens: magnolia, originally from China, with large, white and lilac flowers, which appear before the leaf; black pine, blueberry, two specimens of plaice, which can reach the impressive 3000 years old, Paulownia, the tree of Judah, the Japanese plum⁶¹³.

⁶¹² Ioan Munteanu, *Monumentele istorice ale oraşului Brăila. O istorie ilustrată*, Proilavia, 2016, p. 9, online source: https://www.academia.edu/29902439/Monumentele_istorice_ale_or%C8%99ului_Br%C4%83ila._O_istorie_ilustrat%C4%83

⁶¹³ Ibidem, p. 21.

The construction of the Maria Filotti municipal theater has a monumental volume and is decisive for the expression of the market. Stylistically, its architecture illustrates the Baroque. Compositionally, the form is developed on three levels, symmetrical to the center of the two facades, highlighted by a slight overlap, a special decoration and the presence of an attic with balusters. This differentiation also occurs at the roof level, raised and vaulted, signaling the space for the theater. The facades of the building have a sumptuous decor, but it is balanced and is subordinate to the function of the space, which draws attention⁶¹⁴.

The Manos House building comprises two bodies with ground floor and first floor. The entrance to the building is opened by a portico, with four ionic columns in front and two sides, which support, on the floor level, the balcony of masonry limited by balusters. At the ground floor, the central element forms the rectangular hall, richly decorated, from which it enters the grouped rooms two by two, on both sides, through high doors, crowned with Art Nouveau billboards. The decorative plastic is concentrated towards the tops of the walls and towards the ceilings. The passage from the walls to the ceilings is done through hinges, treated in frieze. Each metapope of the frieze contains a painted landscape, in the center of which you can see the image of a monument of ancient or Christian architecture from Greece⁶¹⁵.

The courtyard of the Boys School of the Hellenic Community stretched to the cliff of the Danube, in front being the playground and in the back, the caretaker's house and the garden. The entire building has elements of classical Hellenic architecture. At the windows and at the top of the exterior walls, the ornamentation of acanthus leaves is visible and the capital contains elements of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian styles. At the main entrance is a porch with stone steps, mosaic, with Greek meander on the edge and with 4 columns in ionic style, which support a metope in the style of Greek temples. This architecture can also be seen in the columns on the sides of the school. The school, a prismatic volume, affirms today its function through the large openings and the belonging to the ethnicity through the neoclassical style of ionic invoice clearly expressed through the portico in the center of the facade⁶¹⁶.

⁶¹⁴ Ibidem, p. 31.

⁶¹⁵ Ibidem, p. 101.

⁶¹⁶ Ibidem, p. 107.



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Online source:

https://ro.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fi%C8%99ier:Fosta_Scoala_de_Baieti_a_Comunitatii_Elene.jp
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A traditional architecture with the advent of the two-storeyed house

The sub-Carpathian region of Buzău is host since the XVIII to XIX century to monumental folk architecture with distinct features, illustrated on Museum premises by a house rebuilt in 1936 after a specimen from the beginning of the XVIII century. The village of Chiojdu Mic is a scattered settlement clustered towards the center, set on a depression shaped as a corridor on both sides of river Bâsca Chiojdului. In the olden days, the forests used to cover the hilltops and the mountains around the area, having constituted a rich source of income for the dwellers. Pomiculture is a dominant occupation in this area, a fact reflected by traditional architecture with the advent of the two-storeyed house. The first storey features ample basements with functional divisions for fresh fruit storage and brandy barrels, the second storey hosts the living quarters. The house from the Museum is partnered by a large stave barrel (Romanian: „zăcătoare”) with a shingled roof supported on pillars, used for the storage of fruit for fermentation. The house is erected on a fundament of river stone masonry to shelter the cellar and the tool shed. The walls of the house are made with round fir beams small in diameter, set up horizontally with the ends extended over the wall lines, with

prominent corners. A beautiful open pavilion is stretched out across the basement to shield the entrance. The hipped roof is covered in a shroud designed like fish scales. The access inside the upper storey is made by means of an exterior rock stairway, situated on the front side of the house. The main decorative elements on beams, pavilion pillars and porch handrails are sculpted and graved, headed with fretted boards. The household plans feature an arrangement as follows – the vestibule (Romanian: „sala”), the big room, the small room, the balcony porch. The vestibule is narrow and dark, with a flooring of glued earth; it is used as a hallway room and a storage space for household items. The hallway holds the entrances to each lateral room – the guest room and the living room. The interior of the household is customized with a display of woolen carpet and cotton towels, adorned with ample decorative compositions, embroidered and woven with folk motifs. The hallway and the small room features various objects specific to pastoral lifestyle: containers for milk processing (buckets, wooden milking crates and vessels), two cherry bark horns (traditional instruments used by shepherds to signal by sound), curd pots etc⁶¹⁷.



Online source: <https://muzeul-satului.ro/en/planifica-vizita/ce-pot-vedea/expozitia-permanenta-arhitectura-vernaculara/gospodarii/chiojdu-mic-Buzău/>

⁶¹⁷ <https://muzeul-satului.ro/en/planifica-vizita/ce-pot-vedea/expozitia-permanenta-arhitectura-vernaculara/gospodarii/chiojdu-mic-Buzău/>

Danube Delta traditional architecture

The Danube Delta has a special status, being a unique area in the Southeastern region. As a Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is the place which shaped the habitat and the man of the traditional communities. Besides the ethnic diversity, the particular geographical configuration of the Delta has led to unusual associations of some forms, materials and textures, resulting in villages with a strong local specificity and an architecture rooted in the topography of the place, made with perishable materials, but perennial in spirituality. As in most rural areas, the mirrored heritage in the built environment of the Delta villages belongs to a type of vernacular architecture, and, of course, shares the general characteristics of the genre: a close communion with the natural landscape and the society in which it was "born". The rural localities of the Danube Delta have a special atmosphere, created, on the one hand, by the exoticism of the landscape in which they were configured and, on the other, by the human scale to which they are related. Found between successions of water and streams, the villages are structured taking into account only nature and the man, because the difficult access kept the cars away. Therefore, the roads do not differentiate the pedestrian space from the road, the sand lanes invite us to walk them step by step⁶¹⁸.



Traditional settlement in Danube Delta, online source : <https://stiintasitehnica.com/delta-dunarii-fisa-descriptiva-de-arhitectura/>

⁶¹⁸ (in Romanian) <https://stiintasitehnica.com/delta-dunarii-fisa-descriptiva-de-arhitectura/>

The traditional house in the Danube Delta has walls built out of the land where they bury their foundation (depending on location and possibilities, from walls, slopes or squares). The roof is made of a wooden frame, and, most of the time, covered with reeds. The house is on one level, raised on a rectangular plan. The main façade develops on the long side, while the short side is usually oriented towards the street. The volume, though simple in composition, is customized by the space of the porch, with or without a scaffold, delimited by the thin columns of painted wood, which surround the house on one or two sides. Instinctively, the masters have found unstudied proportions, but they satisfy the eye. Through the intermediate space of the porch, a subtle and clever way is realized, the passage from the outside inwards, this becoming an element of connection between the outside and the inside⁶¹⁹.

Built with hard work and soul, the traditional houses in the Danube Delta attract tourists as a magnet. Regardless if they are Romanian or foreign visitors, they all go to the Danube Delta to discover the charm of the area, the gastronomy, the history, but also the simple architecture and the houses that preserve their natural appearance. Many of the houses raised in the Danube Delta in the last years with European funds are restored, still preserving the traditional architecture. When building houses, traditional materials such as reed, natural stone and wood predominate⁶²⁰.

In addition to the "reed cap", what gives them a clear visual identity are the paintings in bright colors, even strident for those who do not know them, taken from the traditional Slavic style. The walls are whitewashed and personalized with strong accents of blue, green or red. The windows have wooden joinery painted in the same specific colors. The wooden eardrums have symbolic decorative elements, inspired by nature (rays of the sun, siren, fish, bird in flight, rush, heart) or in relation to the occupations of the inhabitants. The traditional house is characterized by a dominance of the horizontality, determined by three main registers, treated with different materials: the base, the walls and the roof. This reiteration of the horizontal axes helps to a more discreet insertion in the natural environment, because Delta is a relatively flat space, without too many vertical dominants. In contrast to the urban built environment, through the characteristics of its composition, the human habitat in the deltaic communities betrays a humble attitude towards nature and an obvious subordination to it. The

⁶¹⁹ Id.

⁶²⁰ (in Romanian) <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/arhitectura-caselor-traditionale-din-dobrogea-o-atractie-pentru-turisti/>

tendencies, so current in architecture, integration into the site, merging with nature, ecological construction are found here in their primary, authentic form⁶²¹.

For example, the Filip House in Sarichioi, built in 1870, has retained its identity even after the restoration, out of respect for traditional values and to carry on the tradition of the Lipovan houses. The walls of squares given with natural lime, the blue carpentry from the windows and doors, with perforated architectural ornaments (flower shop as the locals say), the generous porch and the reed roof, are architectural elements specific to areas of the Danube Delta⁶²².



Online source: <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/arhitectura-caselor-traditionale-din-dobrogea-o-atractie-pentru-turisti/>

Also, Letea is considered a living museum of deltaic traditions, more specifically in C.A. Rosetti. C.A. Rosetti locality was the first permanent settlement in the Danube Delta, initially known as the New Village, being populated largely by Moldovan shepherds. The Russian rule after 1826 changed its name to Satanov, and the current name was given after the takeover of the Delta by the Romanian state. Here lives a herd of wild horses near the village, about which the builders say that they can become an important attraction if they are protected in a suitable space. The traditional houses from Letea are built from ciamur, squares and slope - the traditional materials

⁶²¹ (in Romanian) <https://stiintasitehnica.com/delta-dunarii-fisa-descriptiva-de-arhitectura/>

⁶²² (in Romanian) <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/arhitectura-caselor-traditionale-din-dobrogea-o-atractie-pentru-turisti/>



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recommended including in the Urbanism Framework Regulation for the Danube Delta. The same regulation provides the colors accepted for the construction of houses: blue, green and gray⁶²³.



Online source: Facebook - Letea in UNESCO, profile
<https://www.facebook.com/leteainunesco>

The typology of the Romanian folk dwelling in Vrancea County

Following the development of civilization and culture over time, the people from this region intervened, producing changes in the initial structure of the village and the household. Developing in a premontane region, with settlements of various types, the popular architecture of Vrancea presents a unitary, integrated typology of the Romanian architecture, but with forms closer to those specific to Moldova. The Vrancea household reflects, by its structure, the initial main occupation of the inhabitants, based on the cattle breeding. Thus, near the house, one can notice the

⁶²³ (in Romanian) https://adevarul.ro/locale/tulcea/foto-casele-traditionale-letea-atractie-delta-dunarii-reguli-unice-constructie-1_5bb5f49adf52022f75285c83/index.html

existence of stables, baskets and large sheds. Solid, wooden constructions, covered with shingle, these attached component units of the household constitute a point of resistance in the economy of the population. Moving to other forms of economy and expanding settlements, inhabited areas, raising cattle begins to take place on more remote grazing places. In this way, the stables and sheds within the household lose their importance and sometimes even disappear, being replaced with beds and hay fields, even on the pasture. Each household is surrounded by fences sometimes with imposing gates. They have, in most cases, a large, central gate for carts, flanked at the edge of a small gate, for people, with shingle roofs. Of the constructions of a household, the most important is the house that always occupies a central position and in which the mastery of the peasant craftsmen is concentrated. An integral part of the Moldovan folk architecture, the peasant house from Vrancea, especially the traditional one, enriches the typology of the Romanian folk dwelling through particularities, which refers to both the overall appearance and the details⁶²⁴.



Online source: <https://www.ziaruldevrancea.ro/rubrici/puls/1588826353-un-exemplu-de-reinviere-a-arhitecturii-traditionale-la-soveja.html>

Being integrated in the whole of the Romanian popular architecture, both concerning building materials and the interior arrangement, and regarding the decorative work the folk architecture in Vrancea land has also some characteristic features, which contribute to the creation of a specific image. This specific features are especially in

⁶²⁴ (in Romanian) Gh. Constantinescu, Tradiție și inovație în arhitectura populară din Țara Vrancei, pp. 279 - 280, online source: <https://biblioteca-digitala.ro/reviste/Vrancea-Studii-si-Comunicari/dl.asp?filename=04-Vrancea-Studii-si-Comunicari-IV-1981-18.pdf>

the drawing of the drafts of the houses and in the structure of the roofs. The usual structure of the roof of the Vrancea County is the general Romanian structure, which is the one of the four water quatered roofs. Also, in the villages in Vrancea County there are a great number of buildings, such as dwellings, simple domestic manufacturing machinery and facilities. Village facilities, which witness the high degree of the artistic and technical perfection, was reached by the popular architecture of that time. The preservation of the architectural patrimony along with the context of the renewing transformations of the villages into towns, is a main objective for the specialized county institutions⁶²⁵.

2.1.9.2.5. Churches – Monasteries

Salt Lake Monastery

Salt Lake Monastery is situated in Lacu Sarat Resort from Brăila county and was built in 1996. It is dedicated to Saint Pantelimon. The religious complex is formed by a wooden church of Maramures type with a 24 meter high tower-bell and the cells of the nuns.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfantul-pantelimon-2/>

Aluniș Rupestral Church

The Church of Aluniș village, Buzău county, which is more that 700 years old, is one of the few edifices carved in stone which is still functional. It was carved in stone around 1274 – 1275 by two shepherds. According to the legend, one of the shepherds dreamed that he needed to carve a stone because he will find an icon. After he found

⁶²⁵ Ibidem, p. 291.



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the icon he was helped by the other shepherd to carve the church. Alunis Rupestral Church is dedicated to "The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist"⁶²⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-rupestra-alunis/>

Church Made of One Stone

The Church Made of One Stone, situated in Naeni commune, Buzău county, was built, just as its name suggests, from one stone – travertine extracted from a mine close to Naeni. It is dedicated to "Palm Sunday" and its painting was made with a Byzantine influence. The iconostasis is also made of travertine, which is very rare in European orthodoxy⁶²⁷.

⁶²⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-rupestra-alunis/>

⁶²⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-dintr-o-piatra/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-dintr-o-piatra/>

Brâncoveanu Complex from Râmnicu Sărat

Brâncoveanu Complex from Râmnicu Sărat is an ensemble of buildings which comprises a monastery and a large court with thick walls. The Complex was built by Mihail Cantacuzino, uncle of the Wallachian ruler Constantin Brancoveanu, in the 17th century. The Monastery is dedicated to the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary". It is a historic monument⁶²⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complexul-brancovenesc-dela-Râmnicu-sarat/>

⁶²⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complexul-brancovenesc-dela-Râmnicu-sarat/>

Cetatuia Skete

Cetatuia Skete is located in Tisau commune from Buzău county and dates from the 18th century. Its oldest church was dedicated to the "Holy Face of Jesus" and was built between 1857 – 1865. The new chapel of the Skete, dedicated to the "Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary", was built between 2007 – 2008, when a summer altar and a new tower-bell were also added⁶²⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-cetatuia/>

"Holy Trinity" Monastery (Bridge of the Bulgarian)

The "Holy Trinity" Monastery or the Bridge of the Bulgarian Monastery is located in Podgoria commune from Buzău county. It was founded in 1946, but was dissolved in 1959 by the communists.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfanta-treime-podul/>

⁶²⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-cetatuia/>

The religious edifice was reopened again in 1990 when various buildings were added. The folk name of the monastery is the Bridge of the Bulgarian, because, according to a local legend, a Bulgarian, who fled from the Ottomans` occupation, built, in this place, a bridge to help the locals cross a ramp and thus, avoid the attacks of burglars⁶³⁰.

Berca Monastery

Berca Monastery is situated in Berca locality from Buzău county. It was built by a family of local noblemen in 1694. The initial built skete became a monastery and fortress in the 18th century. Across time the monastery was enlarged by other buildings. It is dedicated to "Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel" and is a historic monument. Only a few walls can be seen today from the old fortress⁶³¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-berca/>

“Saint Nifon” Skete

“Saint Nifon” Skete was built in 1811 by the Deacon Nifon from Ciolacu Monastery. It is situated in Magura commune from Buzău county. The religious edifice was dissolved in 1864, due to changes brought by the wars, but was reopened at the end of the 19th century, when a hospital was built near it. The Skete became a monastery again in 1990⁶³².

⁶³⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfanta-treime-podul/>

⁶³¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-berca/>

⁶³² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-sfantul-nifon/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-sfantul-nifon/>

Găvanu Monastery

Găvanu Monastery is located in Manzalesi commune from Buzău county. It is dedicated to the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and was built in 1707 from wood beams supported by a stone base⁶³³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-gavanu/>

Poiana Mărului Monastery

Poiana Mărului Monastery is situated in Bisoca commune from Buzău county. It is dedicated to "All Saints Sunday" and was built in 1730 at the initiative of Constantin

⁶³³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-gavanu/>



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Mavrocordat, ruler of Walachia. The monastery is one of the few Romanian wooden monasteries, painted both on the outside and on the inside⁶³⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-poiana-marului/>

Ciolanu Monastery

Ciolanu Monastery from Tisau commune, Buzău county, dates from the 16th century. It has two churches, the first one being built in the second half of the 16th century, dedicated to "Saint George" and the other one built in 1828, dedicated to "Saints Archangels Peter and Paul"⁶³⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-ciolanu/>

⁶³⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-poiana-marului/>

⁶³⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-ciolanu/>

Great “Carol the Ist” Mosque from Constanța

The Great Mosque from Constanța is also known as Carol Mosque. The Muslims call it “Kral Camisi” or the King’s Mosque. The construction was made following the architecture of Konya Mosque from Anatolia, Turkey. Its building started in 1910, at the initiative of the King Carol the Ist, as an homage to the Muslim community from Constanța. Initially, the mosque was called Mosque “Carol the Ist” and later Mosque “Mahmud the IInd”. The minaret of the mosque was built in Moorish style and is 47 meters long⁶³⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/marea-moschee-carol-din-Constanța/>

Buried Church from Istria

The Buried Church from Istria commune, Constanța county, was built by Bulgarians in 1857. The religious edifice is half buried and the stones used in its construction were brought from the ancient fortress of Histria.

⁶³⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/marea-moschee-carol-din-Constanța/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-ingropata-din-comuna-istria/>

During the invasions, the Turks decided to bury the church one meter into the ground because it should not have been mixed with their mosques. The building of the church has a cross shape and is one of a kind in Romania because of its architectural style and construction techniques⁶³⁷.

“Saints Peter and Paul” Cathedral from Constanța

“Saints Peter and Paul” Cathedral from Constanța was built between 1883 – 1885. It is erected in New Byzantine style and impresses the viewer by its large facade and 35 meters tall tower. It is a historic monument⁶³⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-sfintii-petru-si-pavel-din-Constanța/>

“Saint Ioan Casian” Monastery and Cave

“Saint Ioan Casian” Monastery and Cave from Dobrogea is dedicated to Saint Ioan Casian who was born in this region. It was built in 2001 and comprises the monastery

⁶³⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-ingropata-din-comuna-istria/>

⁶³⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-sfintii-petru-si-pavel-din-Constanța/>

ensemble, a library, a small museum and a few small buildings to accommodate Christians. The Cave of Saint Ioan Casian is located on Casians Hill, Targusor commune, Constanța county. It was used as a place for prayer in the past, and today, was set up for religious masses⁶³⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-si-pestera-sfantului-ioan-casian/>

“Assumption of Mary” Church from Constanța

“Assumption of Mary” Church from Constanța was built between 1906 – 1911, in Romanian Byzantine style. Its interior fresco was made in Renaissance style. In 2000, this beautiful religious edifice was enriched with a 60 square meter mosaic⁶⁴⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-adormirea-maicii-domnului/>

“Saint Mina” Wooden Church from Constanța

“Saint Mina” Wooden Church from Constanța is situated in a beautiful landscape, between Tabacarie Lake and the Danube Delta. It was built between 1994 – 1997 and

⁶³⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-si-pestera-sfantului-ioan-casian/>

⁶⁴⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-adormirea-maicii-domnului/>



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is made of wood. Its architectural style follows the design of Maramures wooden churches. The church is 43 meters high and can be seen from various areas of the city⁶⁴¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-sf-mina/>

Metamorphosis Greek Church

Metamorphosis Greek Church from Constanța was built between 1862 – 1867, with the approval of sultan Abdul Aziz, when Dobrogea was part of the Ottoman Empire. It is a small church, dedicated to the "Holy Face of Jesus". The liturgy is done both in Romanian and in Greek⁶⁴².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-greaca-metamorfosis/>

⁶⁴¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-sf-mina/>

⁶⁴² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-greaca-metamorfosis/>

King`s Mosque

King`s Mosque from Constanța is also known as Carol the 1st Mosque. It was built between 1910 – 1913 as a gift of the king Carol the 1st to the Muslim community from Dobrogea. Its minaret is 40 meters high and people can reach the top of it by climbing 140 stairs. From up there they can see the view of Constanța⁶⁴³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/moscheea-regelui/>

Constanța Aquarium

The Aquarium from Constanța is located near the famous Casino and was open in 1958. It displays aquatic flora, fauna organized in permanent exhibitions and temporary exhibitions of biology and ecology. The Aquarium is part of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Constanța. It is organized on three departments: Marine Section, Fresh Water Section and Exotic Fish⁶⁴⁴.

⁶⁴³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/moscheea-regelui/>

⁶⁴⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/acvariul-Constanța/>



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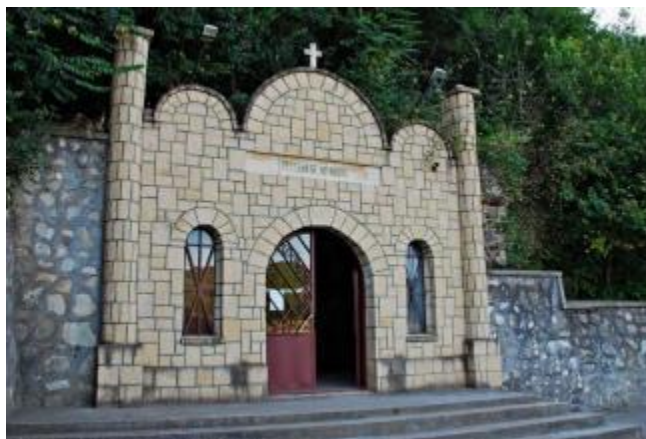
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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/acvariul-Constanta/>

Saint Andrew`s Cave Monastery

The Saint Andrew`s Cave Monastery from Ion Corvin village, Constanța county, is formed by three churches and a few cells. The Cave is like a church and the icon of Saint Andrew was put in lieu of the iconostasis. It was transformed in a church in 1944. The nave and the narthex are caved in a rock. In a bay, there is the famous “bed of Saint Andrew”. This bed caved in rock is considered to be the Apostle`s sleeping place. The stream of Saint Andrew can be seen near the Cave. According to the legend, the stream was created by a cane bat in the rock because the place was without water⁶⁴⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-pestera-sfantului-andrei/>

The Rupestral Churches from Basarabi

This archaeological site, discovered in 1957, is situated 15 km away from Constanța, near the chalkstone mine from Basarabi. The Rupestral Complex dates from the end

⁶⁴⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-pestera-sfantului-andrei/>

of the 10th century and has 6 little paleochristian churches (the oldest from Romania), cells, galleries and early christian tombs, among which archaeologists found 2 skeletons of Viking origin (they probably belonged to Viking merchants from the Black Sea). The artifacts from the site can be seen at the National History and Archaeology Museum from Constanța⁶⁴⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/bisericile-rupestre-de-la-basarabi/>

Mavromol Church

Mavromol Church from Galați was built by the ruler Gheorghe Duca in 1669. Its name comes from Greek, meaning the “Black Cliff”. It is dedicated to the “Assumption of the Virgin Mary” and has an exquisite architecture. The church also has a great medieval art collection⁶⁴⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-mavromol/>

⁶⁴⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/bisericile-rupestre-de-la-basarabi/>

⁶⁴⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-mavromol/>



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“Saint Hierarch Nicholas” Archiepiscopal Cathedral

“Saint Hierarch Nicholas” Archiepiscopal Cathedral from Galați city was built between 1906 and 1917 by Prince Ferdinand and Queen Mary. In 1950, the building had to be restored because one of its towers collapsed due to the 1940 earthquake. The church was erected in New Byzantine style, with Moldavian and Vallachian influences⁶⁴⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-arhiepiscopala-sf-ierarh-nicolae/>

Roman Catholic Church from Galați

Roman Catholic Church from Galați was first mentioned in official documents in 1622. Like most of religious edifices, it went through many challenges, for example in 1806 both the church and the parochial house were burned down by the Turks. Across the years it was rebuilt and restored, being in a good condition today. The church is dedicated to the “Nativity of John the Baptist” and is a historic monument⁶⁴⁹.

⁶⁴⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-arhiepiscopala-sf-ierarh-nicolae/>

⁶⁴⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-romano-catolica-5/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-romano-catolica-5/>

Buciumeni Monastery

Buciumeni Monastery was built between 1420 – 1430, by a few nuns who erected a church dedicated to Saint Nicholas. The church resisted across the years, although it went through many fires. In 1750 the church was moved to a newly founded skete – Buciumi Skete. Therefore, Buciumeni Monastery is situated in Buciumeni commune from Galați county. It is dedicated to the "Holy Trinity" and is a historic monument⁶⁵⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buciumeni/>

Saon Monastery

The monastic establishment from Saon was initially built in 1846 as a cell. It was built by the monks that had left the Celic-Dere Monastery. At first, two cells and a chapel were built and after entering the jurisdiction of Lower Danube Bishopric from Galați,

⁶⁵⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buciumeni/>

the bishop Iosif Gheorghian decided to bring the rest of the monks here from Lower Celic, making Saon Cell independent. Afterwards the actual old wooden church was built with the dedication day “The Entrance of Virgin Mary in the Church”. The construction of the new church started in September 1909, under the supervision of bishop Nifon Niculescu. The dedication day of this new church made of stone with three derricks is “The Holy Virgin’s Protection” and, unfortunately, it took 50 years to get built. The first thing that stopped the construction was the First World War, then the earthquake of 1940 that led to the ruin of the three derricks. Their reconstruction took three years, from 1956 to 1959. In the meanwhile the paintings were finished. The church was sanctified only in 1959, during the pastorate of Saint Bishop Chesarie Paunescu. In 1972 it became the Branch (Metoc) of the Archbishopric of Tomis and Lower Danube, and in 1990 it became an independent monastery⁶⁵¹.



Online source: <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/saon>

The Celic Dere Monastery

The Celic Dere Monastery is situated in Frecatei Commune, in Tulcea County and is one of the most well known monasteries in Dobrogea, considered the center of Orthodoxy of the area. It is named after the nearby river, which translated from Turkish means “River of Steel”. According to the existing documents, the first church was built here at the beginning of the 19th century by the bishop Athanasie Lisivencof. Today, a cemetery can be found on this land. The people that built the church were

⁶⁵¹ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/saon>

priests from Transylvania and Basarabia, who had lived on the Athos Mountain, in Greece. The little church burnt around the 1840s, the sultan Abdul-Medgid (1839-1861) from Constantinople approved to the building of a new church. Thus, in 1846, the first church was built, with “The Assumption of the Holy Virgin” as its dedication day and a chapel with “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel” as its dedication day. After a short time, the monks were moved to Saon, where they built another monastery. At Celic Dere the monks were replaced by nuns. In time, the hierarchs of Lower Danube supported the efforts of the nuns and thus, in 1901 the bishop Partenie Clinceni started to build the monumental church with semi-basement. For some time this served as a winter chapel. The construction, whose architect was Toma Dobrescu, was only completed in 1932, and was dedicated on the 22nd of October of the same year. The interior was painted by Gheorghe Eftimiu, and the altar screen covered in gold, was done by Ion Dinea. During the next years, a studio for religious painting, a primary school for adults under the age of 40, a workshop for rugs and traditional sewing, were founded under the care of bishop Nifon⁶⁵².



Online source: <https://doxologia.ro/locuri-sfinte/manastirea-celic-dere-unul-dintre-cele-mai-importante-centre-de-spiritualitate-dintre>

⁶⁵² <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/celic-dere>

The Monastery Cave of St. Andrew the Apostle

Few things are known about the cave of Saint Andrew the Apostle. One of those things that can be said with certainty is that it was discovered in 1918 by Jean Dinu, a lawyer. After dreaming one night, he came in this area to find the cave in an advanced state of degradation. After cleaning it of the vegetation inside, he built a couple of cells and the first monks came in a short time. It was sanctified in 1943 by the bishop Chesarie Paunescu but during the communist period it was destroyed and turned into a shelter for animals. Only in 1990, with the blessing of IPS Lucian, father Nicodim Dinca, the monarch of Sihastria Monastery, along with the hieromonarch father Victorin Ghindaoanu, started to restore the cave and to build the monastery. The cave shelters the icon of Saint Andrew, known as the apostle who Christianized the lands at the North of the Danube. There is a bed carved in stone in a niche of the pronaos. It is said that that was used as a resting place by Andrew the Apostle. In the course of time this has been a place to light candles, and now it is used by those in need of comfort from disease. Here, the priests also read prayers for sick people and the Mass of Saint Basil the Great. Today the monastery has a smaller church built during the years of 1994 – 1995, sanctified with the Holy Virgin's Protection as its dedication day and the third bigger church was built during the years of 1998 – 2002. In the small church are kept the relics of Saint Andrew. A cross in the shape of "X" can be found, on the left, in front of the altar of the smaller church. In the center of this cross is placed a part of the finger belonging to Saint Andrew. The finger was brought from the Trifiliei Metropolitan Church of Greece. On the four extremities of the cross there are the relics of the martyr saints of Niculitel from Dobrogea: Zoticos, Attalos, Kamasis and Filippus, Epictet the priest and Astion the monk. Near the cave there is a spring about which the legend tells that it appeared after Saint Andrew struck the rock with his staff in search of water. Tens of thousands of pilgrims come each year to the Cave of Saint Andrew and this made this place to be rightfully named the Bethlehem of Romanian people. To get here, the pilgrims must first reach Cernavoda, afterwards head south to Ostrov. In the locality Ion Corvin, an indicator points them to a side road that takes them to the monastery in a forest, after 3 – 4 km⁶⁵³.

⁶⁵³ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cave-st-apostle-andrew>



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Online source: <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cave-st-apostle-andrew>

Cocos Monastery

The monastery is situated at the foot of Dealul Cocosului, surrounded by linden tree forests in Tulcea County, 6 km from Niculitel Commune. The legend says that once, on that hill, could be heard the sound of a rooster and a bell board and this is where its name came from. This area is said to have attracted three monks by their names of Visarion Fagarasanu, Gherontie and Isaia. In 1833 they were on their way to the Athos Mountain. This place was so beautiful that they decided to build a monastery. They bought the land from a local woman and with the consent of the local Moslem administration of that time, they built a halidom from twigs and clay. Panaret, the Archbishop of Tulcea, named prior Visarion the new archimandrite. The Ottoman Empire took the Monastery in its evidence in 1841 and it was recognized to be the spiritual center of the Romanian people from Dobrogea. A new church was built in 1853; this one was made of stone and placed next to the first one. Then, a belfry of 30 meters high and the West cells were added in 1870. Because of their age, the two halidoms could not be restored, therefore, in 1911, they were demolished, and under the supervision of archimandrite Roman Sorescu, with the help of Bishop Nifon Nicolescu the construction of a new and bigger church started. This church was finished two years later, with its paintings made by the Italian painter F. de Biasse in the Neo-Byzantine style. By mistake, in 1971, an important discovery was made on a

road of Niculitel Commune, after a pouring rain brought to light the dome of a crypt covering the relics of four martyrs: Zotic, Attal, Kamasie and Filip. The archeologists established that they dated back to the years of 303 – 304, from the time of the great persecution of Diocletian. For this reason, the relics have been placed with honor in the church of the Cocos Monastery. Thousands of pilgrims come every year to bow here, especially on the 4th of June when the four Saints are celebrated⁶⁵⁴.



Online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/manastiri-42/manastirea-cocos-129.html>

Hermitage St. Athanasius

The Hermitage St. Athanasius is located on the Stipoc Spit, halfway between Chilia and Mila 23 and is the only monastery in the Danube Delta Reserve. The place of worship is a hermitage of ancient Orthodox rite monks, populated by 9 monks, who lead their lives in prayer, among reeds and wild birds. Although they celebrate the old Julian style, the religious services are held in Romanian, not Slavic. When you walk into the courtyard of the monastery, you are greeted by a lot of flowers, of all colors, especially roses, which delight you with their fragrance. Of a special beauty, the church, made of wood both on the outside and inside, was built relatively recently, 15 years ago. In the construction of the monastery were included a few cells of the monks who live here, the monastery porch (the place where the meal is taken) and a garden with a greenhouse⁶⁵⁵.

⁶⁵⁴ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cocos>

⁶⁵⁵ <http://sosdelta.ro/schitul-stipoc-singura-manastire-din-rezervatia-delta-dunarii/>



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Online source:

https://www.citulcea.ro/sites/citulcea/PrezentareaJudetului/Obiective%20Turistice/PublishingImages/stipoc_mare.jpg

Buluc Monastery

Buluc Monastery is a religious edifice from Jaristea commune, Vrancea county. It was built by the Boyar Isaia Caragea in the 17th century. Across time, the Monastery had many challenges, being destroyed almost completely after the earthquake from 1940. Although it was restored in the following years, few monks stayed, which ultimately led to its abandonment. It was reopened in 1991⁶⁵⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buluc/>

⁶⁵⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buluc/>

"Saint Paraschiva" Wooden Church from Salt Valley

"Saint Paraschiva" Wooden Church from Salt Valley village, Vrancea county, was built between 1772 – 1773 and is a historic monument. The religious edifice was made of wooden beams put on a river boulder foundation⁶⁵⁷.



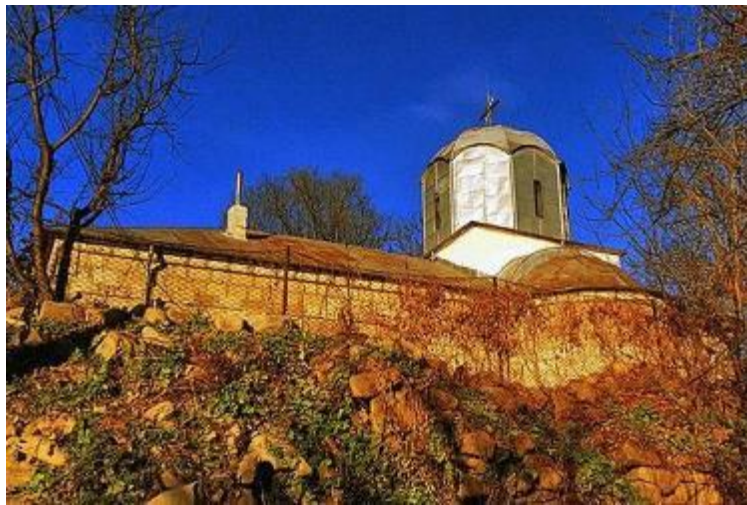
Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-cuvioasa-paraschiva-2/>

Ancient Vizantea Monastery

Ancient Vizantea Monastery is an Orthodox monastery from Vizantea-Livezi commune, Vrancea county. Some sources indicate the fact the the monastery was built at the end of the 16th century, but there is no clear evidence of the exact year of its building. The ensemble of the monastery was declared a historic monument, being the oldest religious edifice from Vrancea county. The monastery's church was built between 1850 – 1854 and was dedicated to the "Ascension of the Holy Cross"⁶⁵⁸.

⁶⁵⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-cuvioasa-paraschiva-2/>

⁶⁵⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fosta-manastire-vizantea/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fosta-manastire-vizantea/>

Mera Monastery

Mera Monastery is located in Mera commune from Vrancea county. It is a historic monument and is considered the most important historical and architectural edifice from Vrancea county. The Monastery dates from the 17th century. Its old form was built by Boyar Motoc. In 1717, the ensemble from Mera was transformed in a fortress for protection against the Habsburgs. During the fights with the Habsburgs the surrounding wall of the monastery was destroyed and its church was set on fire. It is dedicated to "Saint Emperors Constantin and Helen"⁶⁵⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-mera/>

The Black Valley Monastery

The Black Valley Monastery (in Romanian: Mănăstirea Valea Neagra) is situated in Nistoresti commune, Vrancea county. It was founded in 1775 by the priest Maței from

⁶⁵⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-mera/>

Spinesti and two monks from Poiana Marului Monastery. For many years, the Monastery was known as Vrancea Skete. It was closed in 1960, but was open again a few years later. The "Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary" Wooden Church of the Monastery is a historic monument⁶⁶⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-valea-neagra/>

Muntioru Skete

Muntioru Skete is situated in Poiana Muntioru, near Vintileasca commune, Vrancea county. The Orthodox Skete is located at an altitude of 1,300 meters and is managed by Poiana Marului Monastery. It was founded by the priest Macarie Besliu in 1999 and is dedicated to "The Holy Face of Jesus"⁶⁶¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/scithul-muntioru/>

⁶⁶⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-valea-neagra/>

⁶⁶¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/scithul-muntioru/>

Cotesti Monastery

Cotesti Monastery, dedicated to the "Holy Trinity", was first officially attested in 1720. It is situated in Cotesti village from Vrancea county, only 12 kilometers away from the city of Focsani. The religious edifice was closed in 1959 by the communists. The original church of the monastery had many challenges across time, such as wars or earthquakes, but it survived and was restored in 1991, when the monastery was open again⁶⁶².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-cotesti/>

Hermit's Monastery

Hermit's Monastery is located in Ploscuteni village from Vrancea county. It was built in 1748 by the boyar Sandu Sendrea and Sebastian, a hermit monk. The name of the religious edifice comes from the hermit Sebastian. The present church of the monastery is dedicated to "Saints Apostles Peter and Paul"⁶⁶³.

⁶⁶² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-cotesti/>

⁶⁶³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sihastru/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sihastru/>

Soveja Skete

Soveja Skete is an Orthodox skete situated near Soveja Mountain Resort, on the shores of Susita stream. It was dissolved in 1864 as the result of Cuza's secularization, but recreated in 2001 by Constantin and Maria Nistoroiu from Focsani. In 2003, the skete became a monastery. Between 2004 – 2005 a new church was built which was dedicated to "Saints Emperors Constantin and Helen"⁶⁶⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-soveja/>

⁶⁶⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-soveja/>



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Lepsa Monastery

Lepsa Monastery is situated on the shore of the river Putna, in Vrancea Mountains, Tulnici commune. It was built in 1774. Its oldest wooden church is dedicated to the "Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary" and was rebuilt between 1930 – 1936 on a river boulder foundation⁶⁶⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-lepsa/>

2.1.8.2.6. Built heritage (industrial heritage, castles etc)

Lyra Palace from Brăila

Lyra Palace from Brăila was built between 1924 – 1926 at the initiative of George Cavadia, songwriter and president of Lyra Society. Today, the Palace hosts Lyra Symphonic Orchestra and is a place to see classical music concerts⁶⁶⁶.

⁶⁶⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-lepsa/>

⁶⁶⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-lyra/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-lyra/>

The Palace of Agriculture from Brăila

The Palace of Agriculture from Brăila was built in 1923 and open for the public in 1929. It was erected in New Romanesque style. The idea of this palace belonged to Serban Raducan, the Prefect of that time, who was supported by Alexandru Constantinescu, Minister of Agriculture. A European stock exchange for wheat functioned here for a few years. The Palace is an homage to the Romanian peasant from Baragan Plain, to hard work and sacrifice⁶⁶⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-agriculturii/>

⁶⁶⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-agriculturii/>



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Brăila River Station

Brăila River Station is a historic monument situated on no. 4, Anghel Saligny street. It was built between 1904 – 1906 and is also known as the Old Commandment. The Station is an important sight of Brăila and one century ago it represented the main point of river transportation. Today, Brăila River Station was restored and will be included in the touristic circuit of the city⁶⁶⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-fluviala/>

The Anghel Saligny Bridge from Constanța

The Anghel Saligny Bridge (formerly King Carol I Bridge) is a railroad truss bridge in Romania, across the Danube River, and it is listed in the National Register of Historic Monuments⁶⁶⁹.

⁶⁶⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-fluviala/>

⁶⁶⁹ Meltem Toksoz, Biray Kolluoğlu, *Cities of the Mediterranean: From the Ottomans to the Present* Day, I.B.Tauris, 2014, p. 170, online source: https://books.google.ro/books?id=HS8BAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA172&redir_esc=y



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Online source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Podul_lui_Saligny.jpg

Constanța Naval Station

The Naval Station of Constanța Seaport was inaugurated in 1933 by king Carol the 2nd. It was both a naval and railway station, being the link between the West and the East. It is built in Art Deco style and is a historic monument. After 1945, the Naval Station becomes the headquarter of Constanța Seaport Management⁶⁷⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-maritima/>

Administrative Palace from Galați

The Administrative Palace from Galați was built between 1904 – 1905, after the plans of the architect Ion Mincu, the founder of the Romanian School of Architecture. It is a

⁶⁷⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-maritima/>



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big building with many ornaments and white marble statues. The Palace hosts, in the present, the Galați county Prefecture⁶⁷¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-administrativ/>

Navigation Palace from Galați

The Navigation Palace from Galați is situated on the Danube Quay and was built between 1909 – 1912. The edifice was erected on New Romantic style after the plans of the architect Petre Antonescu. It hosts the Administration of the Maritime Danube Ports and Navrom Romanian River Navigation Company⁶⁷².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-navigatiei/>

⁶⁷¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-administrativ/>

⁶⁷² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-navigatiei/>

University Palace from Galați

The University Palace from Galați or the Justice Palace, after its initial destination, is situated on Domneasca Street, no. 56. It was built between 1911 – 1913 and is a historic monument. Today, the Palace hosts the board of the “Lower Danube” University⁶⁷³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-universitatii/>

„Major Gheorghe Pastia” Folk Atheneum

“Major Gheorghe Pastia” Folk Atheneum is a cultural institution from Focsani, Vrancea county, which organizes musical shows, workshops, art exhibitions, conferences, etc. Its building started in 1927 at the initiative of Major Gheorghe Pastia⁶⁷⁴.

⁶⁷³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-universitatii/>

⁶⁷⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ateneul-popular-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ateneul-popular-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

Palace of the European Commission of the Danube from Sulina

The Palace of the European Commission of the Danube is a historical monument located on I Street in the city of Sulina, Romania. The palace was the seat of the European Danube Commission until 1921, then entering the administration of the Romanian state. The building is now the headquarters of the Sulina Waterway Section within the Lower Danube River Administration⁶⁷⁵.



Online source: <https://www.dobrogeanews.ro/anul-european-al-patrimoniului-cultural-mai-multe-obiective-din-sulina-inscrie-in-lista-monumentelor-istorice-din-romania/>

⁶⁷⁵ <https://www.dobrogeanews.ro/anul-european-al-patrimoniului-cultural-mai-multe-obiective-din-sulina-inscrie-in-lista-monumentelor-istorice-din-romania/>

3. SILK ROAD TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.1. Silk Road Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage Resources: Study Area in Romania

3.1.1 Archaeological sites, Ancient settlements related to the Silk Road

The archaeological site Roman Castrum from Pietroasele

The Roman Camp from Pietroasele is located in Pietroasele village from Buzău county. It is a historical monument that was not dated with certainty. Specialists believe it was built by the Emperor Constantin the Great in 332. The Castrum was occupied by the Roman Legion No. XI Claudia, brought from Durostorum (an area that today is close to Ostrov, Constanța county). The Roman Castrum from Pietroasele, discovered in the '90s, is an important archaeological and historic site. Archaeologists found a necropolis, coins dated during the reign of the emperor Constantin the IInd and other objects which formed the famous Pietroasa Culture⁶⁷⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castrul-roman-de-la-pietroasele/>

⁶⁷⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castrul-roman-de-la-pietroasele/>

The archaeological site Dacian Fortress from Gruiu Dării

The Dacian Fortress from Gruiu Dării is located on the way to Pietroasa Mica, Buzău county. After they lived here for a period of time, the Dacians transformed this fortress into a religious center. The archaeological research revealed a 4th century a. Ch. tomb and, in the northern side of the fortress, a Neolithic settlement, which confirms the theory that underneath this fortress there was a Neolithic settlement which disappeared after a fire or a war⁶⁷⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dacica-de-la-gruiul-darii/>

The archaeological site Durostorum Fortress

Durostorum Fortress was both a fortress and a Roman city, located on the right bank of the Danube, in Silistra which today belongs to Bulgaria. It can be easily reached from Ostrov commune, Constanța county. The Fortress was built between the ancient cities Sucidava and Axiopolis and was part of the Roman fortress complex that defended the Lower Danube from north-eastern European invasions⁶⁷⁸.

⁶⁷⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dacica-de-la-gruiul-darii/>

⁶⁷⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-durostorum/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-durostorum/>

The archaeological site Histria Fortress

The antique city of Histria or Istria was a Greek colony in today's Constanța county. Histria Fortress is considered the oldest urban settlement from Romania. Specialists say it was founded around 630 b. Ch. The entire complex is a whole of layers that "talk" about various cultures that lived here. The city of Histria had a continuous development of 1,300 years, from the Greek period to the Byzantine period. Today, tourists can visit the defensive wall with towers and bastions and ruins of some basilicas, Roman thermae and a few settlements. In 1982 was created The Histria Archaeologic Museum, which is subordinated to The Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța. The museum from Histria exhibits objects found across time by archaeologists in the site of Histria⁶⁷⁹.

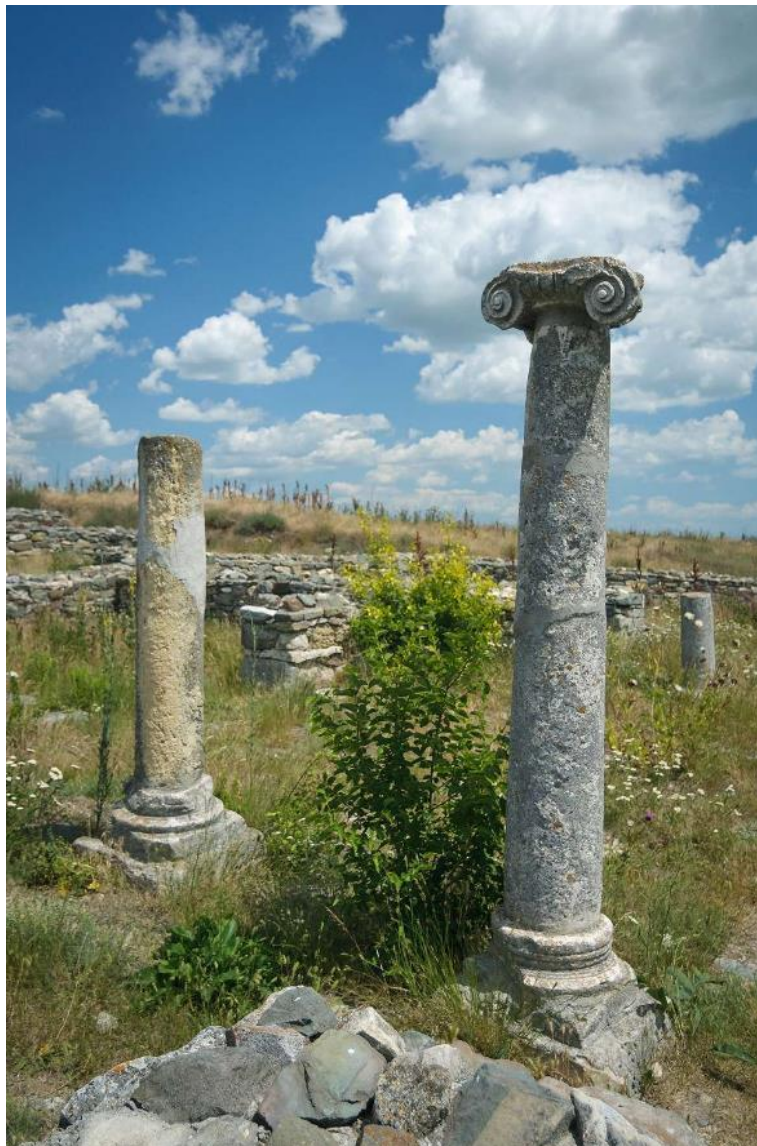
⁶⁷⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-histria/>



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Online source: <https://www.romanian-journeys.com/en/attraction/histria-fortress>

The archaeological site Capidava Fortress

The Capidava Fortress is located near the village with the same name, in Constanța county. Originally, the fortress was an important Dacian center, located on the right bank of the river Danube. After the Roman conquest, however, it became a castrum and part of Moesia Inferior. The name means old settlement in the Goth language. The fortress was destroyed by the Goths in the 3rd century and rebuilt in the next. In the 10th century, the fortress was modernized by the Byzantines, but the 1306 fire caused by nomads led to its permanent abandonment⁶⁸⁰.

⁶⁸⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-capidava/>



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Online source: <https://elements.envato.com/capidava-fortress-romania-CPBJAWN>

The archaeological site Turkish Gate from Galați

The history of the Turkish Gate is close related to the history of Galați. It is a historic monument and dates from the end of the 18th century – the beginning of the 19th century. Made of bricks, the Gate was the entry point to an old inn from the city. Unfortunately, today, only the Gate exists⁶⁸¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/poarta-turceasca-din-Galati/>

The archaeological site Aegyssus Fortress

Located on the Monument Hill in the North-Eastern section of Tulcea, the fortress was built at the end of the 4th century B.C. Its name, of Celtic origin, derived from a legendary founder, Caspius Aegyssos. Reporting the events of the year 12 A.D., when the town was attacked by the Getae, Ovidius called it the attribute uetus urbs (old

⁶⁸¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/poarta-turceasca-din-Galati/>

town). At the beginning of 2nd century, the town was included in the Danubian limes (boundary). Then, starting with the 3rd century, it became an important military headquarters. The 6th century finds it as an episcopal residence. Urban life knows an end in the first quarter of the 7th century and a revival in the 10th and 11th centuries. Currently, on the Monument Hill, several archaeological complexes from the late Roman epoch can be visited. Many archaeological materials, discovered during the research organized in the second half of the 20th century, can be found in the permanent exhibition of the Museum of History and Archaeology found nearby⁶⁸².



Online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-aegyssus-25>

The archaeological site Dinogetia Fortress

Dinogetia was a Geto – Dacian settlement and then a Roman fortress situated on the southern bank of the Danube river. It is situated 11 kilometers from Galați. Its military structure was formed by thick stone walls, 14 towers, grain cellars, Roman baths, one church and a praeotrium. Specialists say that this Fortress was often attacked by barbaric populations. Across time, the archaeological research revealed various objects from that time, which have a great scientific value. The archaeological site is situated in Jijila village, Tulcea county⁶⁸³.

⁶⁸² <https://www.icemtl.ro/aegyssus-en/>

⁶⁸³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dinogetia/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-dinogetia/>

The archaeological site Argamum Fortress

The Argamum Fortress (its Latin name) or Orgame (its Byzantin name) is an archaeological site in the eastern part of Tulcea county, Jurilovca commune. Most part of the archaeological site, of almost 100 hectares, is still covered, but discoveries and archaeological research are being made constantly. The Argamum Fortress is the oldest settlement from Romania because it dates from the beginning of the 6th century B. C⁶⁸⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-argamum/>

⁶⁸⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-argamum/>

The archaeological site Enisala Fortress

The name of Enisala comes from the Turkish “yeni” (which means “new”) and the regional word “settlement” or “village”, meaning “new settlement”. The purpose of the medieval fortress was defensive, military and to supervise the area. It was built under the Byzantin Empire between the 13 – 14th centuries. Then, The Fortress entered into the defensive system of Valachia and after that it became an Ottoman Empire garrison. However, it was abandoned by the Turks, but it was the only medieval fortress which resisted the Russian-Turkish wars throughout Dobrodja⁶⁸⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-enisala/>

The archaeological site Noviodunum Fortress

The Noviodunum Fortress is situated 2 kilometers from Isaccea, Tulcea county. It is a Roman castrum and is considered one of the oldest fortresses in the region. Nowadays, the castrum is almost entirely covered, but archaeological research is regularly done in order to reveal this important monument. Due to research, archeologists found important objects with great stientific value⁶⁸⁶.

⁶⁸⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-enisala/>

⁶⁸⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-noviodunum/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/cetatea-noviodunum/>

The archaeological site Halmyris Fortress

Halmyris Fortress is located in the area of Murighiol village in the village with the same name. It was under the occupation of both the Romans and the Byzantines. It is assumed that here the first Roman fortification was built, most probably by two detachments of the Roman legions "Italica" and "Claudia", around the period 101-106 AD. The name of the fortress is of Greek origin and would be it translates as "brine", which refers to the salt water of the water on which it was raised. It was the easternmost point of the Ottoman Empire on the Danube border. It had 15 defense towers, three gates and covered 2 hectares. On August 15, 2001, Romanian researcher and archaeologist Mihail Zahariade, who dedicated his entire career to studying the fortress, discovered a crypt with the oldest remains of Christian martyrs on Romanian soil (Saints Epictetus and Astion), which gives it a unique apart from the fortress⁶⁸⁷.

⁶⁸⁷ <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-halmyris-34>



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Online source: <https://planiada.ro/destinatii/tulcea/cetatea-halmyris-34>

3.1.2 Museums

Brăila Clock

Brăila Clock is a precious work of art situated at the cross point between the old and the new city. The monument was built in 1909 with the support of P. Naum Petru, a philanthropist of Brăila, who donated 8,000 gold lei to build a clock in the center of the city. Its architectural style impresses with grandeur and majesty. Although the clock functioned for many years, it was never a minute slow⁶⁸⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/orologiul-Brăila/>

⁶⁸⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/orologiul-Brăila/>

Brăila Kinetic Fountain

The Kinetic Fountain is the main attraction of Brăila city, being built in 1989. It is placed in the center of the city and was made by Constantin Lucaci, a Romanian sculptor known for his kinetic fountains and his monuments of steel or stone⁶⁸⁹.



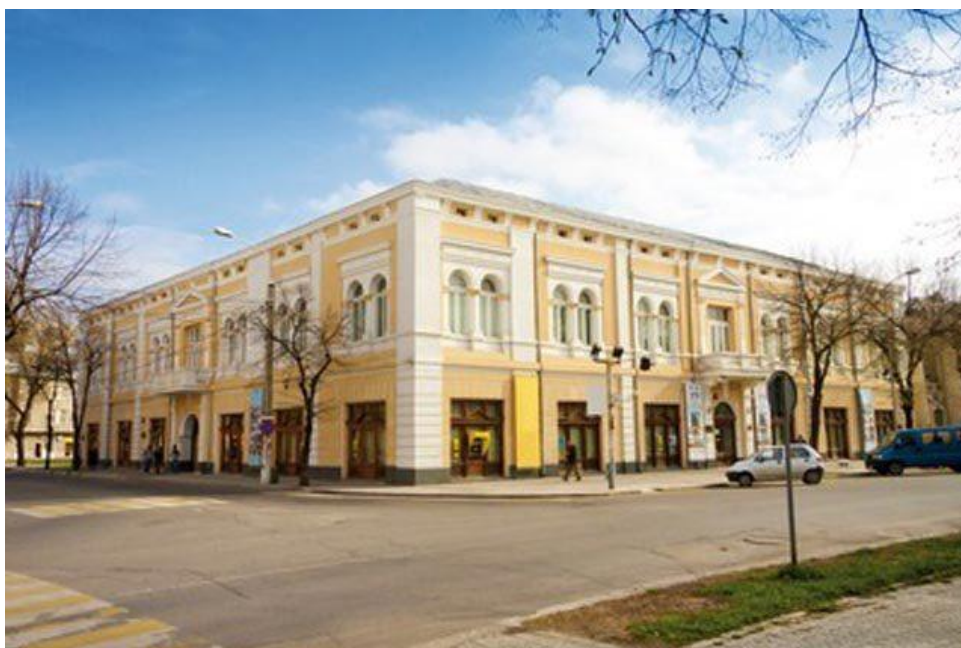
Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-cinetica/>

Brăila County Museum

The museum of Brăila (also known as „Carol I” Museum of Brăila) was established in 1881 by a decree of King Charles I. It functioned in the former Ceaparu Inn, and since 1959 has been located in the present premises. In 1968 the permanent exhibition of the museum was structured into two departments: history and art. It underwent reorganization in 1985 so that it should illustrate the history of the county on a national level. The museum occupies a building representing an architectonic monument, built in 1870, that over the time had various destinations (hotel - restaurant, other public utilities). The building was badly damaged by the earthquake from May 1990 and was restored. The archaeology department presents its collections by sites, which offers two advantages: on the one hand, the visitor can look at all the vestiges of a community and can develop a full image upon its occupations and lifestyle; on the other hand, the evolutionary process becomes more and more obvious, as one can notice the changes in all fields, from artefacts to spiritual life. One can remark the sites of Brăilița, Lișcoteanca, Grădiștea, Însurăței, Siliștea, where the multi-millenary historical evolution can be looked into. One can admire the vessels and figure depictions from

⁶⁸⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-cinetica/>

the Neolithic, adornment and rank pieces from the Bronze Age, the inventory of the grave from Găvani, the workshop of a jeweller from Grădiştea, Roman glass vessels. The structure of the history department collections runs as follows: Romanian and foreign rare books; Romanian and foreign manuscripts and documents; Romanian and foreign numismatic items (seal rings, seal matrices, coins and banknotes, medals and booklets); Romanian and foreign decorations (orders and medals); military history items (uniforms, side and fire weapons); metrology items; clocks; sound recording and rendering devices; period photographs and glass negatives. Besides the archaeology and history departments, the museum has art departments (House of Collections), ethnography folk art, natural sciences and memorials departments. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure⁶⁹⁰.



Online source: <https://exploremag.ro/muzeul-brailei-angajeaza-%EF%BB%BFsef-de-sectie/>

"Panaït Istrati" Memorial House

It was established on the occasion of Panaït Istrati's centenary famous writer born in Brăila (1884 - 1935). It is located in a building raised at the end of the 19th century, having administrative functions (Gardener's House). The exhibits include: manuscripts, personal belongings, pieces of furniture, autographed books, rare editions, first editions, document photographs, items purchased from the last wife of

⁶⁹⁰ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=178&imgord=8&-Muzeul-Brailei-BRĂILA>

the writer Panait Istrati, Margareta Istrati. In the attic of the house a documentary fund regarding the life and works of Panait Istrati is available⁶⁹¹.



Online source: <https://locuridinromania.ro/judetul-Braila/orasul-Braila/casa-memoriala-panait-istrati.html>

"Maria Filotti" Theater from Brăila

"Maria Filotti" Theater from Brăila was founded in 1896 under the name of "Rally Theater". From 1969 it has the name of Maria Filotti, a great actress of Romania who was born in Brăila county. The building that hosts the theater is a UNESCO world heritage monument.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maria-filotti/>

⁶⁹¹ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=175&-Casa-Memoriala-Panait-Istrati-BRĂILA>

Communal Palace from Buzău

The Communal Palace from Buzău hosts the City Hall and the Local Counselors` Commission. It was built between 1899 – 1903 and at the official inauguration King Carol the 1st was also present. The Palace is decorated in Art Nouveau style combined with New Romanian elements. Its most important hall is the Reception Hall, which is decorated in Venetian style. The Communal Palace is a historic monument⁶⁹².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-comunal-Buzău/>

Michael the Brave`s Fountain

Michael the Brave`s Fountain is a monument built in 1985, at 375 years from the passing of Michael the Brave through Buzău Valley on his way to Transylvania. It is located in Ciuta village from Magura commune, Buzău county. The monument was placed right in the area where Michael the Brave camped for a night with his army in October 1599 and was created by the sculptor George Coman, one of the founders of Magura Sculpture Camp⁶⁹³.

⁶⁹² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-comunal-Buzău/>

⁶⁹³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-lui-mihai-viteazul/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fantana-lui-mihai-viteazul/>

Năeni Sculpture Camp

The Sculpture Camp from Năeni commune, Buzău county, is unique in the world. The sculptures from this camp are created by children who are not more than 14 years old. The camp was created by Gabriel Manole, an Art teacher, and among the works created by the children we can mention: musical instruments, stairways to heaven, Dacian tombs, snail shells, etc., all of them being inspired by the reality of the place⁶⁹⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tabara-de-sculptura-naeni/>

The Manaf's Cross

The Manaf's Cross is a stone cross situated in Breaza commune from Buzău county. It is located on the old road that used to link Buzău to Bucharest. The Cross was built in 1846 by the family of a Turkish merchant who converted to Christianity and settled

⁶⁹⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/tabara-de-sculptura-naeni/>

in Wallachia. It is decorated with Muslim and Christian symbols, is 4 meters high and is surrounded by 4 tall pillars⁶⁹⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/crucea-manafului/>

Museum of Amber

The Museum of Amber from Colți commune, Buzău county, is the only amber museum from Romania. It exhibits over 300 pieces of raw and worked amber. The variety of colors is wide and unique in the world – from opaque black to greenish black, yellowish black, pearly brown, bright yellow, etc. Amber is a fossilized resin of different colors that comes from various species of pine trees. It's 50 – 60 million years old and many times contains animal or plant fossils⁶⁹⁶.



⁶⁹⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/crucea-manafului/>

⁶⁹⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-chihlimbarului-de-la-colti-judetul-Buzău/>

Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-chihlimbarului-de-la-colti-judetul-Buzău/>

Thracian Necropolis from Năeni

The Thracian Necropolis from Năeni commune, Buzău county, is an ensemble of old tombs. They were dated to over 2,000 years ago. In this area, around 800 – 600 B. Ch., the inhabitants buried their relatives in stone carved tombs. The archaeological research in this site started in 1981 and the found artifacts are now exhibited in museums from Buzău and Bucharest⁶⁹⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/necropola-tracica/>

Ambrozie`s Cell

Ambrozie`s Cell, situated on Istrita Hill, Buzău county, is formed by two rooms in which a few bays and porches were carved, either with domestic or religious destination. Ambrozie was a monk from Breaza commune who, as a layman, was named Tanase Rizea. He spent a few years at Athos Mountain, Greece, and when he came back home he decided to isolate himself in a cell that he himself carved in the Stone of the Hawk. He lived 50 years in the cell that today has his name⁶⁹⁸.

⁶⁹⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/necropola-tracica/>

⁶⁹⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/chilia-lui-ambrozie/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/chilia-lui-ambrozie/>

Prehistoric Caves from Naeni

The Prehistoric Caves from Naeni commune, Buzău county, are very close to the Church Made of One Stone. Inside this caves were discovered traces of ash, bones and rupestal drawings that date back to Dacian times. Specialists also found objects that are now exhibited in museums. According to archaeologists, these caves are 5,000 – 7,000 years old⁶⁹⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/grotele-preistorice/>

"Vergu - Mănăilă House" Ethnografic and Folk Art Collection

The building of the museum was reconstructed between 1971 and 1974, on the ruins of an earlier manor documented in 1794. The themes of the permanent exhibition illustrate the fundamental trades (agriculture and animal breeding), the secondary

⁶⁹⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/grotele-preistorice/>



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ones (viticulture, sericulture, fishing, hunting) and the domestic occupations (food preparing, textiles processing, and clothing manufacturing), as well as the traditional folk craftsmanship (pottery art, wood processing, stone cutting). The exhibition includes two halls displaying folk costumes, both structurally (cuts, ornaments, according to categories) and the male and female costumes specific of the Buzău ethnographic area⁷⁰⁰.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=182&-Colectia-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-Casa-Vergu-Manaila-BUZĂU>

Archaeological Park from Constanța

The Archaeological Park from Constanța or the City Hall Park exhibits the remains of Tomis, the ancient city of Constanța. The archaeological objects date from the Roman-Byzantine period. Tourists can admire the remains of the Butchers' Tower restored by Emperor Justinian and other ancient objects from the old Tomis⁷⁰¹.

⁷⁰⁰ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=182&-Colectia-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-Casa-Vergu-Manaila-BUZĂU>

⁷⁰¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-arheologic-din-Constanța/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/parcul-arheologic-din-Constanța/>

Ovid Statue from Ovidius Square (Constanța)

The Statue of the Latin poet Ovid from Constanța was created by the Italian sculptor Ettore Ferrari in 1887, as an homage to the poet who was exiled in Tomis. The statue was placed on a white marble base, on which a text from “The Sorrows” was written. The monument is located in Ovidius Square from Constanța⁷⁰².

⁷⁰² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-lui-ovidiu-Constanta-2/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/statuia-lui-ovidiu-Constanța-2/>

Folk Art Museum from Constanța

The Folk Art collection of Constanța was created in 1975 at the Art Museum. From 1990, this collection becomes a distinct museum and grows larger. The museum has ethnographic pieces from all around Romania and is situated in an important building of Constanța. It has over 15,000 cultural objects, such as: folk costumes, glass or wood icons, rugs, etc⁷⁰³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>

⁷⁰³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>



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House with Lions

The House with Lions from Constanța was built by a rich Armenian businessman at the end of the 19th century. Its architectural style has New Renaissance and New Classical elements combined. The building has four columns on which four lions are standing and this is why the locals call it the “House with Lions”. After the first world war the building hosted a bank, after that it became a restaurant, then an enterprise headquarter and a lawyers` Bar⁷⁰⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-cu-lei/>

Royal Palace from Mamaia

The Royal Palace from Mamaia, Constanța county, was built in 1923 at the initiative of Queen Mary of Romania. The Queen was very involved in this project, adding to the Palace a minaret (tower), setting the style for future constructions in the young sea resort of Mamaia. However, the Queen never stayed at the Palace, and in 1927 the Palace belonged to Queen Helen and then to her husband Carol the 2nd. Across time, the Palace had many functions, representing a symbol of Mamaia Sea Resort⁷⁰⁵.

⁷⁰⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/casa-cu-lei/>

⁷⁰⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castelul-regal-mamaia/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/castelul-regal-mamaia/>

“King Ferdinand the 1st” National Military Museum

“King Ferdinand the 1st” National Military Museum from Constanța was created in 1985. Its exhibitions display collections of weapons, archaeological objects, clothing accessories, decorations, dioramas, photographs and vintage documents, representing different moments of the Romanian military, either in war, retreat, attack or in the trench⁷⁰⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-militar-national-din-Constanta/>

Carol the 1st Lighthouse

Today, Carol the 1st Lighthouse is part of Costanta Seaport. It was built by the king Carol the 1st in 1909 and is also known as the White Lighthouse. The edifice is

⁷⁰⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-militar-national-din-Constanta/>



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decorated with the bass relief of the king Carol the 1st on its southern side and the bass relief of the emperor Trajan on the northern side⁷⁰⁷.



Online source: <http://www.romanianresorts.ro/farul-carol-i>

Romanian Navy Museum

The Romanian Navy Museum was officially open on August, the 3rd, 1969, in Constanța and is hosted by the ex-headquarter of the Naval School. The museum presents the history of the Romanian Navy throughout the years. At the entrance, in the Honor Foyer, a double steering wheel that was used on the “Alexandru Lahovari” ship was placed. The collection includes, among other cultural objects, Roman amphorae, ship models, the Navy uniform from 1860, etc⁷⁰⁸.

⁷⁰⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/farul-carol-i/>

⁷⁰⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-marinei-romane/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-marinei-romane/>

Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța

The Museum of National History and Archaeology is located in the city of Constanța and was created at the initiative of the great archaeologist Vasile Parvan in 1911. The museum exhibits many cultural objects that remind us of the existence of Tomis Fortress. It has a collection of over 430,000 objects which date back from Paleolithic to the Modern Age⁷⁰⁹.

⁷⁰⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanta/>



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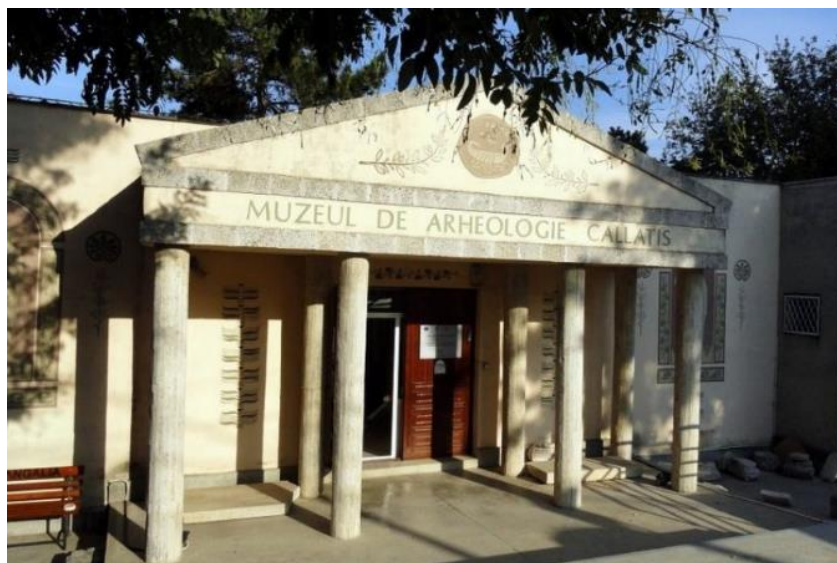
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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanța/>

Archaeology Museum from Callatis

Callatis (Mangalia, Constanța county) was, across the years, an important trade, sea port and strategic center. The Archaeology Museum from Callatis displays archaeology objects that date from prehistory to the Greek-Roman age. It also has the only papyrus from Romania, a very old document dating from the 4th century B. Ch⁷¹⁰.

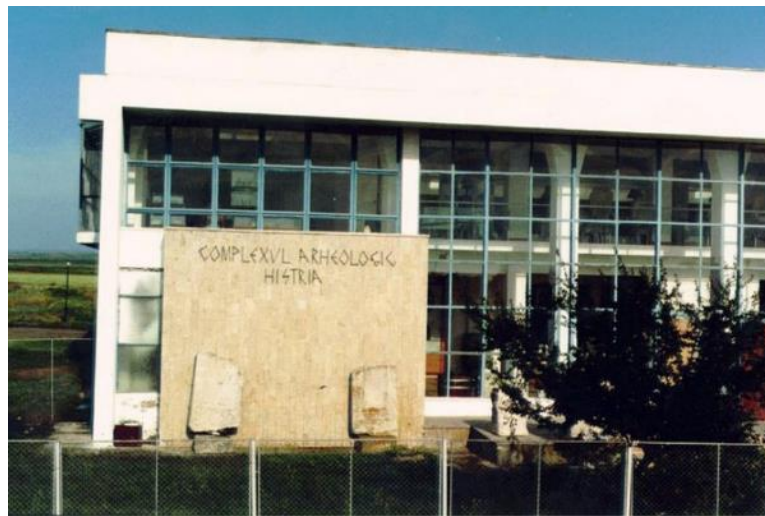


⁷¹⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arheologie-callatis/>

Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arheologie-callatis/>

Histria Archaeology Museum

Histria Archaeology Museum was created in 1982 and is subordinated to the Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța. It is situated in Istria village from Constanța county. The museum includes the remnants of the ancient Greek fortress, Histria and displays objects of Greek, Roman or Byzantine archaeology⁷¹¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-arheologic-histria/>

Museum of Vineyard and Wine from Murfatlar

The Museum of Vineyard and Wine from Murfatlar is an homage brought to the traditional viticulture from Dobrogea, which started 2000 years ago. The museum is managed by the Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanța and hosted by Murfatlar Wine Cellars⁷¹².

⁷¹¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-arheologic-histria/>

⁷¹² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-viei-si-al-vinului/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-viei-si-al-vinului/>

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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanța/>

Roman Edifice with Mosaic

The Roman Edifice with Mosaic was accidentally found in 1959 while renovating Ovidius Square from Constanța. Today, only 850 square meters are preserved from

⁷¹³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-nationala-si-arheologie-Constanța/>



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the initial 2,000 square meters of the mosaic. It dates from the end of the IIIrd century and the beginning of the IVth century after Christ. The mosaic is a historic monument, being part of the ancient Tomis city⁷¹⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/edificiul-roman-cu-mozaic/>

“Society of Craftsmen” Temple

The “Society of Craftsmen” Temple from Galați was built in 1875 by the “Society of Craftsmen”. It is the largest Jewish religious edifice from Galați and had suffered a lot throughout the years. For example, in the Second World War the temple was a detention camp for Jewish prisoners. It was reopened in 2014, after five years of renovations⁷¹⁵.



⁷¹⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/edificiul-roman-cu-mozaic/>

⁷¹⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/templul-societatii-meseriasilor-2/>

Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/templul-societatii-meseriasilor-2/>

Botanic Garden from Galați

The Botanic Garden from Galați was founded in 1990 on the left bank of the Danube river. It is part of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați. The Garden has six sectors – ornamental plants, green houses, common plants, rosarium, vegetation of Romania and world vegetation. It also has a citric plants collection, a Japanese garden and an aquarium⁷¹⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gradina-botanica-2/>

Episcopal Palace of the Lower Danube

The Episcopal Palace of the Lower Danube was built between 1897 and 1900 after the plans of the architect Toma Dobrescu. In the left wing of the edifice was designed a chapel for the episcopal residence. It is dedicated to the “Presentation of Lord Jesus”, which is celebrated, every year, on February, the 2nd. Today, the Episcopal Palace hosts the Museum of History, Culture and Christian Spirituality⁷¹⁷.

⁷¹⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gradina-botanica-2/>

⁷¹⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-episcopal-al-dunarii-de-jos/>



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-episcopal-al-dunarii-de-jos/>

Visual Art Museum from Galați

The Visual Art Museum from Galați was founded in 1967 and is specialized on Romanian contemporary art. It is located in a building which is a historic monument – The Episcopical Palace. Its collections include paintings of some of the most important Romanian artists, such as: Nicolae Grigorescu, Theodor Pallady, Nicolae Tonitza or Corneliu Baba⁷¹⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-vizuala/>

House of Collections Museum

The House of Collections Museum beautifully captures the lifestyle of Galați elite from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It is situated in a

⁷¹⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-vizuala/>



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building that dates from 1900 which, initially was a pharmacy. The permanent exhibition of the museum displays history, photographic art objects, old books, stamps, etc⁷¹⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-casa-colectiilor/>

"Rasvan Angheluta" Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați

"Rasvan Angheluta" Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Galați was built in 1990 and is one of the largest museums from Romania. It comprises: a Botanic Garden, an Aquarium, an Astronomic Observatory and Planetarium, a Zoo and exhibiting halls for temporary or permanent exhibitions⁷²⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complex-muzeal-al-stiintelor-naturii-Galați/>

⁷¹⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-casa-colectiilor/>

⁷²⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complex-muzeal-al-stiintelor-naturii-Galați/>

"Paul Paltanea" History Museum from Galați

"Paul Paltanea" History Museum from Galați was inaugurated in 1939 in the house which belonged to the Romanian ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza. It exhibits objects specific to the history of Galați county – from Dacian period findings to objects from the late 19th century⁷²¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-Galati/>

Institute for Eco-Museum Researches "Gavrilă Simion"

Tulcea Museum was established in the year 1950 by the foundation of the Natural Sciences Museum. Since 1965 it has been the "Danube Delta" Museum with four departments: history and archaeology, ethnography, natural sciences and art. It is the first and only theme museum in Romania accepted at that time, under the name of Danube Delta Museum. In time the museum has grown due to the emergence of other museum units. The most significant achievement is the 1975 emergence of the History and Archaeology Department in the "Independence Monument" Park, inside an initial pavilion, later extended due to the construction of the second edifice. Other important achievements involve the emergence of the Art Museum (1972) and the Ethnography and Folk Art Museum (1989). The endeavours of the Tulcea Museum institution towards diversifying the forms of valorisation of the entire cultural heritage in the end led to a changed organizational structure of the Old Danube Delta Museum and its turning into an Institute for Eco-Museum Researches. Tulcea Museum was reorganized by the decisions nos. 118, 119/the 19th of March 1993, as the Institute would conduct its activity in the fields: ecology, ethnography, art history, history and

⁷²¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-istorie-Galati/>

archaeology. Currently, each museum of the Institute conducts its own activity trying to rigorously mingle the scientific activity of cultural heritage research, conservation, restoration, valorisation and enriching with actions pointing to synergic domains. The new strategy of the institution considers that its cultural product has to develop in an integration context involving education, tourism, regional development, international cooperation, aiming at creating diverse effects by multidisciplinary actions. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure⁷²².

"Old Lighthouse of Sulina" Museum

ICEM Tulcea (Institute for Eco-Museum Researches "Gavrilă Simion" from Tulcea) has managed the Sulina Lighthouse since 2003, when it turned into a museum. The experts of the Archaeology and History Museum in Tulcea which governs the museum have arranged the two rooms on the ground floor. One of them is dedicated to the memory of Jean Bart - a personality that at the beginning of the 20th century was at Sulina a sea commissary. The second one is dedicated to the European Danube Commissions - an international organization that transformed the small fishing settlement from the beginning of the 19th century into an important harbour with a flourishing economy. The exhibits of the Sulina Lighthouse Museum belong to the modern and contemporary history collection of the History and Archaeology Museum that belongs to the Eco-Museum Research Institute. One can remark the pieces of furniture that belonged to the writer Jean Bart and his family photographs, the weaponry collection from the 18th - 20th centuries, the medals, documents, maps and photographs relating to the activity of the European Danube Commission. As the name indicates, the Sulina museum was organized in a lighthouse, that was built by the European Danube Commission between 1869 and 1870. The project was designed by M. Engelhardt, a doctor, a collaborator outside the Technical Office of the European Danube Commissions. The project was managed by Sir Charles A. Hartley. Over the years the construction underwent several changes on the outside and inside, which did not affect the original structure. After 1989 the Sulina Great Lighthouse was restored by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, and in 2003 was taken over by ICEM Tulcea. The building has historic value and was listed in 2004 with the indicative TL II mA06023. The construction is 17.34 m high, in the shape of a truncated cone, has two large rooms on the ground floor, arranged for the museum, and the

⁷²² <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=623&-Institutul-de-Cercetari-Eco-Muzeale-TULCEA>



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exhibition space is 70 sq.m. The rooms built around the Lighthouse, at number 7, that functioned as homes for the staff and deposits for the materials necessary for the operation of the lighthouse, are currently used as museum annexes. At the same time the inner courtyard confers a special atmosphere to the museum⁷²³.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1536&imgord=1&-Muzeul-Farul-Sulinei-SULINA-Tulcea>

"Avramide" House - Collections House

The building is renovated; it presents aspects of the urban life of Tulcea town between the end of the XIX and beginning of the XX centuries. Carrying on this project aims at highlighting Tulcea identity within the Dobrogea regional one. Also, the complex is foreseen to have an interactive component, through diverse cultural and artistic activities intending to connect the past to the future. The complex, composed of the Avramide House and the Art Museum (in no.2, Grigore Antipa street), will exhibit: art (paintings and sculpture) with works of consecrated Romanian painters and, also, works by contemporary painters; painting and engraving workshops for children and amateurs; oriental art exhibition; Dobrogea art exhibition; art exhibition of the national

⁷²³ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1536&-Muzeul-Farul-Sulinei-SULINA-Tulcea>

minorities; small concerts, associated to important cultural events; cultural events. The museum (owned by Mr. Emil Kindlein) is atypically located – inside a shopping mall – and presents the history of watchmaker and jeweller craftsmanship of the early thirties. The exhibits belonged to the owner's grandfather, Mr. Petru Kindlein, who recreated the workshop and the store. Also, the museum has a section where documents are exhibited, vintage photos and personal objects. It has a collection of more than 2000 watches, wooden miniatures by Bajko Attila and multimedia elements. Partners in the museum arrangement project were: Bega Shopping Center and Timisoara National Theatre⁷²⁴.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1827&-Casa-Avramide-TULCEA>

Danube Delta Eco-Touristic Centre

The botany collection comprises herb plants species from Dobrudja and the Danube Delta (no water species) both common species and endangered endemic ones, rising to 13,609 items. The entomology collection comprises insect species (coleoptera, hymenoptera, dipters) from the Danube Delta, Dobrudja, other regions of the country and exotic species rising to 21,000 items. The mineralogy and palaeontology collections comprise minerals from Dobrudja, Baia Mare and ammonite, echinoderm,

⁷²⁴ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1827&-Casa-Avramide-TULCEA>

fish fossils from Dobrudja rising to 1,104 items. The ornithology collection comprises day and night birds of prey species, water, steppe and Passeriformes species. The collection comprises rare, accidental and endangered species. The collection pieces are naturalized or under the form of casts (690 naturalized pieces and 760 pieces under the form of casts). The oology collection comprises 320 eggs belonging to water birds and birds of prey. The mammals collection comprises species characteristic of the Danube Delta and Dobrudja rising to 50 items. The skulls and breast bones collection comprises pieces under the form of mammal skulls and water and prey bird breast bones rising to 220 skulls and 150 breast bones. The ichthyology collection (wet specimens) comprises fish species of the ichthyofauna from the Danube Delta, the Black Sea, the Atlantic Ocean (south - east and centre) and the Indian Ocean (west); the conserved specimens rise to 153. The live fish collection comprises local prey and domestic species, from lakes, rivers or seas, as well as exotic species from the lakes or rivers of Latin America, South America (north part), South - West Asia, Central Africa (over 90 local specimens, 17 species and over 50 exotic specimens, 28 species)⁷²⁵.



Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/tarife/>

Art Museum from Tulcea

The Art Museum is hosted by a neoclassical building, raised between 1863 and 1865, as an administrative palace of Tulcea Sangeac, called at the time Pasha's Mansion, that underwent changes in time. After Dobrudja reunited with Romania, it became the

⁷²⁵ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=624&-Centrul-Ecoturistic-Delta-Dunarii-TULCEA>

headquarters of the Tulcea County Prefecture in 1878. On the ground floor there were the County Court of Justice, the quarters of the bailiffs and the Jury Court. Between 1950 and 1970, it functioned as the Tulcea District Council. It became the quarters of the Art Museum on the 23rd of August 1982. The Tulcea Art Museum takes pride in holding a significant heritage that constantly grew over the last ten years, from 4,365 by the end of the year 1991, to 7,015 works currently, so that it owns seven collections, as follows: the modern and contemporary painting collection, counting 932 works; the modern and contemporary sculpture collection, counting 420 works; icon collection from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, counting 797 works; modern and contemporary graphics collection, counting 4,016 works; engraving plates collection (unique in this country), counting 400 works; the Oriental decorative art collection from the 18th and 20th centuries, counting 311 pieces; the decorative art collection from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, counting 139 pieces. Following the theme of "Dobrudja Reflected in Romanian Fine Art", the museum presents in the galleries of the permanent exhibition works of great national and international value, that could engender the envy of the great museums. The heritage also comprises outstanding paintings and graphics by contemporary artists. In one room of the first floor are exhibited items originating from the transfer of Oriental Art Museum collections. Also other items in the collection are reflecting aspects of ethnic minorities' life⁷²⁶.



⁷²⁶ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=620&-Muzeul-de-Arta-TULCEA>

Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/complexul-muzeal-de-patrimoniu-cultural-nord-dobrogean/muzeul-de-arta/>

History and Archaeology Museum

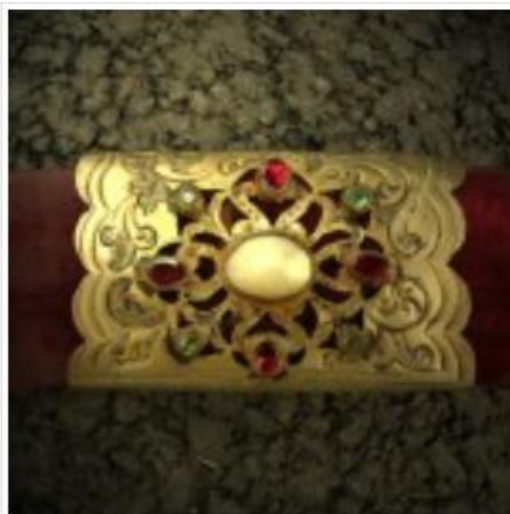
The museum holds archaeology collections of Northern Dobrudja, from prehistory, protohistory, the Graeco-Hellenistic period, the Daco-Roman period, the Middle Ages (pottery, glassware, tools, weapons, ornaments), ancient, mediaeval and modern coins (hoards with Roman, Genoese and Tartar pieces), a lapidarium (epigraphic and sculptural monuments)⁷²⁷. The Museum of History and Archaeology is a main component of the Gavrilă Simion Eco-Museum Research Institute Tulcea. Its foundation act is considered to be the organization of the permanent exhibition of history and archaeology, in 1975, on the place of the ancient fortress Aegyssus. But its history is obviously totally identified with the over 50 years' evolution of the museum institution in Tulcea County.

Taking into consideration the evolution of the legislation regarding the organization and functioning of the museums, the institution structured its activity following the next lines:

1. the scientific constitution, administration, conservation and restoration of the museum patrimony. A permanent concern of the Museum of History and Archaeology was the constitution of a rich and valuable archaeological patrimony. This objective led to the initiation of a research program which developed in a remarkable way on the entire territory of the Northern Dobrudja – one of the most important archaeological zones in Romania.
2. scientific research, accounting, documentation, protection and development of the museum patrimony. No doubt, the most important investment has been done in the scientific research. As a matter of fact, it is considered the base of the entire activity of the history and archaeology section's personnel. The research program, together with the acquisitions and donations politic led to the constitution of an over 90 000 pieces estimated patrimony.
3. the valorization of the museum patrimony. The specialists of the museum contribute to the Peuce publication as well as to other numerous studies and specialty volumes

⁷²⁷ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=626&imgord=2&-Muzeul-de-Istorie-si-Arheologie-TULCEA>

which are addressed to the scientific world. The institution benefits of generous spaces for exhibitions (2 pavilions in Tulcea, the Old Lighthouse Museum in Sulina, the Museum Complex in Niculițel), which can offer the support for various projects⁷²⁸.



⁷²⁸ <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-de-istorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>



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Online source: <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-de-istorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>

Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art

The museum emerged in 2005 in a new location. It shelters ethnography and folk art collections from northern Dobrudja. The ethnography collection comprises a movable heritage presenting the practice of traditional trades and crafts, the lifestyle by the end of the 19th century and early 20th century up to 1950. It includes agricultural and animal breeding artefacts; artefacts for the practice of various trades and for daily life; icons. The folk art collection includes common and decorative fabrics representative for all the ethnic groups; costumes and ornaments. The ethnographical collection includes about 1,600 artefacts representing the tools used at practising the traditional trades and crafts. In the field of the processing of animal and vegetable produce for nourishment, the collection presents tools, devices, instruments, weapons, artefacts for fishing, bee-keeping, tree growing, vinegrowing, seed processing, agriculture, flour-milling, animal breeding, and hunting. The ethnographic heritage comprises a remarkable metal vessel collection (267 pieces). The collection is diverse due to the metal used (copper, iron, silver, and lead) and owing to the manufacturing and decoration technique (cutting, boring, hammering, rolling, polishing, incision, filing, riveting, bending, and casting). The museum holds a carpet collection (155 pieces) of a special documentary and artistic value. The woollen carpets were manufactured at the weaving loom and they beautified the traditional interior. The collection comprises carpets of various sizes, from narrow ones to long ones set on the wall or covering one of the pieces of traditional furniture to large ones rectangular in shape usually covering a wall (rug or carpet). The collection includes remarkable carpets with complex

compositions made up of bunches of flowers, birds, town life scenes, depicted in a naturalist manner and arranged as medallions. The colours ranged from discrete ones (green, ochre, and dark blue) to strong ones (yellow, orange and red). Black (a background colour) and white (used to emphasize motifs) balance the colour composition. The presence of the Aromanians in Dobrudja is revealed by their contribution to the preservation of the traditions reflected in the heritage owned by the museum: 670 pieces (household and decorative fabrics, costumes). The thick woollen or goat's-hair fabrics of various colours used to prevail in the Aroman traditional house. The traditional male and female Aromanian costumes are made up of numerous diverse pieces (peasant woollen skirts, shirts, long coats a.s.o.). The one hundred ornaments were executed by ancient techniques (filigree, "au repoussé" hammering, engraving, and intarsia)⁷²⁹.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=625&-Muzeul-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-TULCEA>

Palaeo-Christian Monument from Niculițel

The museum houses a paleo-Christian basilica from the end of the 4th century, situated above several martyr tombs. It has a projecting semicircular apse, a rectangular naos divided into three naves by individual pillars, that used to support, in the vertical part of the edifice, a wooden ridged roof, covered by gutter tiles. It had no narthex, instead it used to have pilasters fastened at the south ends of the lateral

⁷²⁹ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=625&-Muzeul-de-Etnografie-si-Arta-Populara-TULCEA>

valves, in order to sustain some transversal archways, and compartmentalized the interior space of the lateral naves, on both sides of the entrance to the central nave, a wide entrance situated on the apse axis. In the central zone of the apse, under the altar pavement, there is a monumental martyr crypt, completely buried, housing a group of four martyrs at the upper part of the martyrion - Zotikos, Attalos, Camasis and Philippos, and two martyrs on the lower level, that originate in an earlier martyr tomb. The martyrion at Niculițel is a unique monument in Europe. The protecting edifice creates an elegant, aired and pleasant interior. The perimetral gallery destined to the inflow of visitors ensures a permanent visual contact with the monument, and the permanent exhibition of paleo-Christian artefacts, colour photographs and slides complete the museum collection. The discovery of the monument is due to torrential rain in the spring of 1971 that uncovered a part of the crypt cupola. As it is in a sloping position, in an inhabited area, and at a crossroads, the monument needed to be long studied during the years 1971, 1975, 1985 and 1994⁷³⁰.



Online source: <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=697&imgord=3&-Monumentul-paleocrestin-NICULITEL-Tulcea>

Museum of Vrancea

The Museum of Vrancea was founded in 1931 and comprises the following departments: history and archaeology, ethnography, natural sciences and the

⁷³⁰ <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=697&imgord=3&-Monumentul-paleocrestin-NICULITEL-Tulcea>

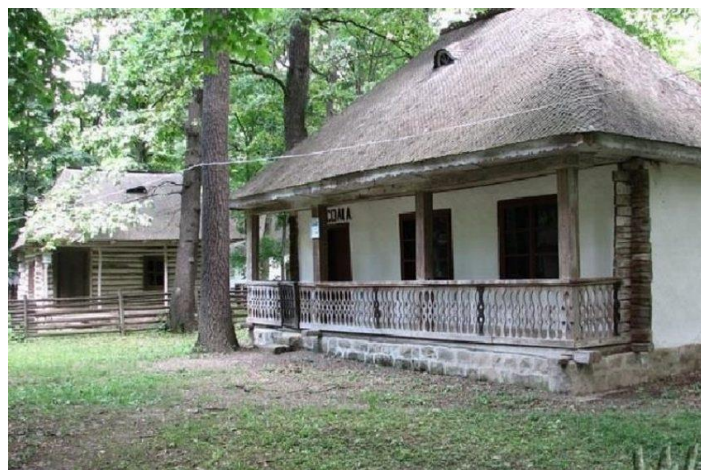
mausoleums from Marasesti, Marasti and Soveja. Moreover, the museum manages the memorial houses of Ion Roata and Alexandru Vlahuta. It has a collection of over 50,000 cultural objects⁷³¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-vrancei/>

Reservation of Folk Architecture and Crafts from Petresti Forest

The Reservation of Folk Architecture and Crafts from Petresti Forest is part of the Museum of Vrancea and is declared a historic monument. This department was created to preserve and promote the values of Vrancea ethnographic heritage. It was inaugurated in 1977 and is an open-air museum that recreates the old Vrancea village, with 73 houses and over 6,000 cultural objects⁷³².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-de-arhitectura-si-tehnica-populara-din-crangul-petresti/>

⁷³¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-vrancei/>

⁷³² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/rezervatia-de-arhitectura-si-tehnica-populara-din-crangul-petresti/>



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Soveja Mausoleum

Soveja Mausoleum is a monument situated in Dragosloveni commune from Vrancea county. It was built in 1929 in homage of the soldiers who died in the First World War. A small museum was founded behind the monument which exhibits pictures and weapons used by the Romanian soldiers in the First World War⁷³³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-soveja/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasti

The Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasti is a monument dedicated to the Romanian soldiers who died in the First World War, in the battle of Marasti. The Mausoleum is located in Marasti, Vrancea county, and was built in 1928. A small museum was created at the ground floor of the monument which exhibits objects that belonged to General Vaitoianu and weapons from the First World War⁷³⁴.

⁷³³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-soveja/>

⁷³⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-de-la-marasti/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-de-la-marasti/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasesti

The Heroes' Mausoleum from Marasesti, Vrancea county, is dedicated to the heroes of the First World War. Its building started in 1924, was stopped and restarted after 12 years, in 1936. The Mausoleum is erected on the place where Marasesti battle took place in 1917. Today, the Mausoleum hosts 5,073 soldiers and officers that fought in the First World War. It is one of the most important mausoleums from Europe and was declared a historic monument⁷³⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-de-la-marasesti/>

Heroes' Mausoleum from Focsani

The Heroes' Mausoleum is located in the southern part of the city of Focsani, Vrancea county. Its building started in 1927 and was finished in 1936. The Mausoleum is

⁷³⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-de-la-marasesti/>

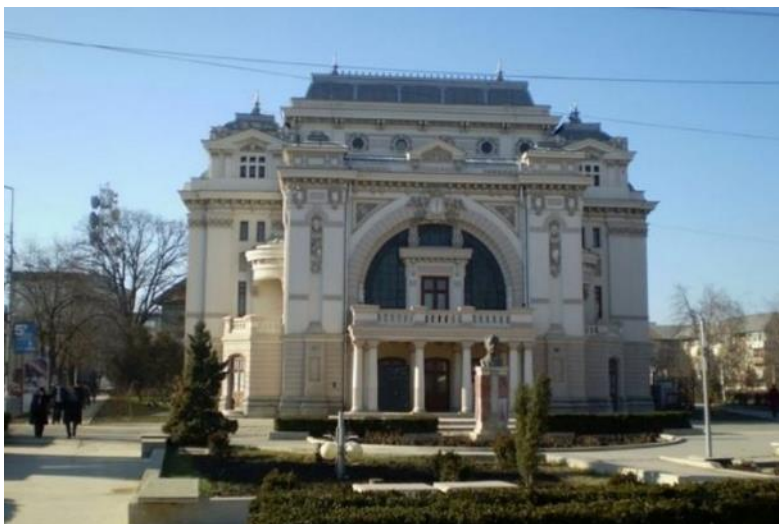
created after the plans of the architect State Balosin. It hosts 2,422 Romanian heroes who fought in the First World War⁷³⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-romani-din-primul-razboi-mondial/>

“Major Gheorghe Pastia” Theater

“Major Gheorghe Pastia” Theater is located in Focsani, Vrancea county. It was built between 1909 – 1913. The name of the theater comes from Major Gheorghe Pastia who had the initiative of building this cultural institution in Focsani. The building in which the theater activates is a reference point of the city and a historic monument⁷³⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

⁷³⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/mausoleul-eroilor-romani-din-primul-razboi-mondial/>

⁷³⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

3.1.3 Spiritual sites (i.e. monasteries), places of other knowledge as a result of contact and exchange

Salt Lake Monastery

Salt Lake Monastery is situated in Lacu Sarat Resort from Brăila county and was built in 1996. It is dedicated to Saint Pantelimon. The religious complex is formed by a wooden church of Maramures type with a 24 meter high tower-bell and the cells of the nuns.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfantul-pantelimon-2/>

Aluniș Rupestral Church

The Church of Aluniș village, Buzău county, which is more than 700 years old, is one of the few edifices carved in stone which is still functional. It was carved in stone around 1274 – 1275 by two shepherds. According to the legend, one of the shepherds dreamed that he needed to carve a stone because he will find an icon. After he found the icon he was helped by the other shepherd to carve the church. Aluniș Rupestral Church is dedicated to "The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist"⁷³⁸.

⁷³⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-rupestra-alunis/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-rupestra-alunis/>

Church Made of One Stone

The Church Made of One Stone, situated in Naeni commune, Buzău county, was built, just as its name suggests, from one stone – travertine extracted from a mine close to Naeni. It is dedicated to "Palm Sunday" and its painting was made with a Byzantine influence. The iconostasis is also made of travertine, which is very rare in European orthodoxy⁷³⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-dintr-o-piatra/>

Brâncoveanu Complex from Râmnicu Sărat

Brâncoveanu Complex from Râmnicu Sărat is an ensemble of buildings which comprises a monastery and a large court with thick walls. The Complex was built by Mihail Cantacuzino, uncle of the Wallachian ruler Constantin Brancoveanu, in the 17th

⁷³⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-dintr-o-piatra/>

century. The Monastery is dedicated to the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary". It is a historic monument⁷⁴⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complexul-brancovenesc-dela-Râmnicu-sarat/>

Cetatuia Skete

Cetatuia Skete is located in Tisau commune from Buzău county and dates from the 18th century. Its oldest church was dedicated to the "Holy Face of Jesus" and was built between 1857 – 1865. The new chapel of the Skete, dedicated to the "Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary", was built between 2007 – 2008, when a summer altar and a new tower-bell were also added⁷⁴¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-cetatuia/>

⁷⁴⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/complexul-brancovenesc-dela-Râmnicu-sarat/>

⁷⁴¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-cetatuia/>



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"Holy Trinity" Monastery (Bridge of the Bulgarian)

The "Holy Trinity" Monastery or the Bridge of the Bulgarian Monastery is located in Podgoria commune from Buzău county. It was founded in 1946, but was dissolved in 1959 by the communists.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfanta-treime-podul/>

The religious edifice was reopened again in 1990 when various buildings were added. The folk name of the monastery is the Bridge of the Bulgarian, because, according to a local legend, a Bulgarian, who fled from the Ottomans' occupation, built, in this place, a bridge to help the locals cross a ramp and thus, avoid the attacks of burglars⁷⁴².

Berca Monastery

Berca Monastery is situated in Berca locality from Buzău county. It was built by a family of local noblemen in 1694. The initial built skete became a monastery and fortress in the 18th century. Across time the monastery was enlarged by other buildings. It is dedicated to "Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel" and is a historic monument. Only a few walls can be seen today from the old fortress⁷⁴³.

⁷⁴² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sfanta-treime-podul/>

⁷⁴³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-berca/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-berca/>

“Saint Nifon” Skete

“Saint Nifon” Skete was built in 1811 by the Deacon Nifon from Ciolacu Monastery. It is situated in Magura commune from Buzău county. The religious edifice was dissolved in 1864, due to changes brought by the wars, but was reopened at the end of the 19th century, when a hospital was built near it. The Skete became a monastery again in 1990⁷⁴⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-sfantul-nifon/>

Găvanu Monastery

Găvanu Monastery is located in Manzalești commune from Buzău county. It is dedicated to the “Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary” and was built in 1707 from wood beams supported by a stone base⁷⁴⁵.

⁷⁴⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-sfantul-nifon/>

⁷⁴⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-gavanu/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-gavanu/>

Poiana Mărului Monastery

Poiana Mărului Monastery is situated in Bisoca commune from Buzău county. It is dedicated to "All Saints Sunday" and was built in 1730 at the initiative of Constantin Mavrocordat, ruler of Walachia. The monastery is one of the few Romanian wooden monasteries, painted both on the outside and on the inside⁷⁴⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-poiana-marului/>

⁷⁴⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-poiana-marului/>



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Ciolanu Monastery

Ciolanu Monastery from Tisau commune, Buzău county, dates from the 16th century. It has two churches, the first one being built in the second half of the 16th century, dedicated to "Saint George" and the other one built in 1828, dedicated to "Saints Archangels Peter and Paul"⁷⁴⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-ciolanu/>

Great "Carol the Ist" Mosque from Constanța

The Great Mosque from Constanța is also known as Carol Mosque. The Muslims call it "Kral Camisi" or the King's Mosque. The construction was made following the architecture of Konya Mosque from Anatolia, Turkey. Its building started in 1910, at the initiative of the King Carol the Ist, as an homage to the Muslim community from Constanța. Initially, the mosque was called Mosque "Carol the Ist" and later Mosque "Mahmud the IInd". The minaret of the mosque was built in Moorish style and is 47 meters long⁷⁴⁸.

⁷⁴⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-ciolanu/>

⁷⁴⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/marea-moschee-carol-din-Constanța/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/marea-moschee-carol-din-Constanța/>

Buried Church from Istria

The Buried Church from Istria commune, Constanța county, was built by Bulgarians in 1857. The religious edifice is half buried and the stones used in its construction were brought from the ancient fortress of Histria.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-ingropata-din-comuna-istria/>

During the invasions, the Turks decided to bury the church one meter into the ground because it should not have been mixed with their mosques. The building of the church has a cross shape and is one of a kind in Romania because of its architectural style and construction techniques⁷⁴⁹.

⁷⁴⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-ingropata-din-comuna-istria/>

“Saints Peter and Paul” Cathedral from Constanța

“Saints Peter and Paul” Cathedral from Constanța was built between 1883 – 1885. It is erected in New Byzantine style and impresses the viewer by its large facade and 35 meters tall tower. It is a historic monument⁷⁵⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-sfintii-petru-si-pavel-din-Constanța/>

“Saint Ioan Casian” Monastery and Cave

“Saint Ioan Casian” Monastery and Cave from Dobrogea is dedicated to Saint Ioan Casian who was born in this region. It was built in 2001 and comprises the monastery ensemble, a library, a small museum and a few small buildings to accommodate Christians. The Cave of Saint Ioan Casian is located on Casians Hill, Targusor commune, Constanța county. It was used as a place for prayer in the past, and today, was set up for religious masses⁷⁵¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-si-pestera-sfantului-ioan-casian/>

⁷⁵⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-sfintii-petru-si-pavel-din-Constanța/>

⁷⁵¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-si-pestera-sfantului-ioan-casian/>



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“Assumption of Mary” Church from Constanța

“Assumption of Mary” Church from Constanța was built between 1906 – 1911, in Romanian Byzantine style. Its interior fresco was made in Renaissance style. In 2000, this beautiful religious edifice was enriched with a 60 square meter mosaic⁷⁵².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-adormirea-maicii-domnului/>

“Saint Mina” Wooden Church from Constanța

“Saint Mina” Wooden Church from Constanța is situated in a beautiful landscape, between Tabacarie Lake and the Danube Delta. It was built between 1994 – 1997 and is made of wood. Its architectural style follows the design of Maramures wooden churches. The church is 43 meters high and can be seen from various areas of the city⁷⁵³.

⁷⁵² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-adormirea-maicii-domnului/>

⁷⁵³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-sf-mina/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-sf-mina/>

Metamorphosis Greek Church

Metamorphosis Greek Church from Constanța was built between 1862 – 1867, with the approval of sultan Abdul Aziz, when Dobrogea was part of the Ottoman Empire. It is a small church, dedicated to the "Holy Face of Jesus". The liturgy is done both in Romanian and in Greek⁷⁵⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-greaca-metamorfosis/>

King`s Mosque

King`s Mosque from Constanța is also known as Carol the 1st Mosque. It was built between 1910 – 1913 as a gift of the king Carol the 1st to the Muslim community from

⁷⁵⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-greaca-metamorfosis/>



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Dobrogea. Its minaret is 40 meters high and people can reach the top of it by climbing 140 stairs. From up there they can see the view of Constanța⁷⁵⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/moscheea-regelui/>

Saint Andrew`s Cave Monastery

The Saint Andrew`s Cave Monastery from Ion Corvin village, Constanța county, is formed by three churches and a few cells. The Cave is like a church and the icon of Saint Andrew was put in lieu of the iconostasis. It was transformed in a church in 1944. The nave and the narthex are caved in a rock. In a bay, there is the famous “bed of Saint Andrew”. This bed caved in rock is considered to be the Apostle`s sleeping place. The stream of Saint Andrew can be seen near the Cave. According to the legend, the stream was created by a cane bat in the rock because the place was without water⁷⁵⁶.

⁷⁵⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/moscheea-regelui/>

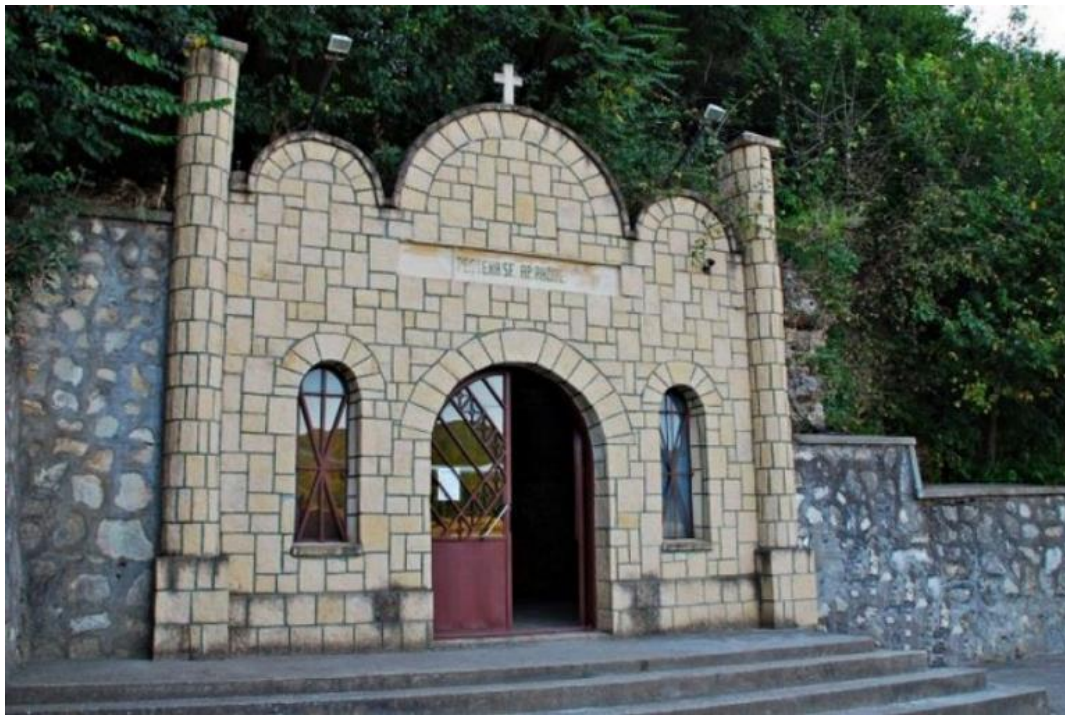
⁷⁵⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-pestera-sfantului-andrei/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-pestera-sfantului-andrei/>

The Rupestral Churches from Basarabi

This archaeological site, discovered in 1957, is situated 15 km away from Constanța, near the chalkstone mine from Basarabi. The Rupestral Complex dates from the end of the 10th century and has 6 little paleochristian churches (the oldest from Romania), cells, galleries and early christian tombs, among which archaeologists found 2 skeletons of Viking origin (they probably belonged to Viking merchants from the Black Sea). The artifacts from the site can be seen at the National History and Archaeology Museum from Constanța⁷⁵⁷.

⁷⁵⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/bisericile-rupestre-de-la-basarabi/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/bisericile-rupestre-de-la-basarabi/>

Mavromol Church

Mavromol Church from Galați was built by the ruler Gheorghe Duca in 1669. Its name comes from Greek, meaning the “Black Cliff”. It is dedicated to the “Assumption of the Virgin Mary” and has an exquisite architecture. The church also has a great medieval art collection⁷⁵⁸.

⁷⁵⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-mavromol/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-mavromol/>

“Saint Hierarch Nicholas” Archiepiscopal Cathedral

“Saint Hierarch Nicholas” Archiepiscopal Cathedral from Galați city was built between 1906 and 1917 by Prince Ferdinand and Queen Mary. In 1950, the building had to be restored because one of its towers collapsed due to the 1940 earthquake. The church was erected in New Byzantine style, with Moldavian and Vallachian influences⁷⁵⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-arhiepiscopala-sf-ierarh-nicolae/>

⁷⁵⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/catedrala-arhiepiscopala-sf-ierarh-nicolae/>



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Roman Catholic Church from Galați

Roman Catholic Church from Galați was first mentioned in official documents in 1622. Like most of religious edifices, it went through many challenges, for example in 1806 both the church and the parochial house were burned down by the Turks. Across the years it was rebuilt and restored, being in a good condition today. The church is dedicated to the “Nativity of John the Baptist” and is a historic monument⁷⁶⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-romano-catolica-5/>

Buciumeni Monastery

Buciumeni Monastery was built between 1420 – 1430, by a few nuns who erected a church dedicated to Saint Nicholas. The church resisted across the years, although it went through many fires. In 1750 the church was moved to a newly founded skete – Buciumi Skete. Therefore, Buciumeni Monastery is situated in Buciumeni commune from Galați county. It is dedicated to the “Holy Trinity” and is a historic monument⁷⁶¹.

⁷⁶⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-romano-catolica-5/>

⁷⁶¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buciumeni/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buciumeni/>

Saon Monastery

The monastic establishment from Saon was initially built in 1846 as a cell. It was built by the monks that had left the Celic-Dere Monastery. At first, two cells and a chapel were built and after entering the jurisdiction of Lower Danube Bishopric from Galați, the bishop Iosif Gheorghian decided to bring the rest of the monks here from Lower Celic, making Saon Cell independent. Afterwards the actual old wooden church was built with the dedication day “The Entrance of Virgin Mary in the Church”. The construction of the new church started in September 1909, under the supervision of bishop Nifon Niculescu. The dedication day of this new church made of stone with three derricks is “The Holy Virgin’s Protection” and, unfortunately, it took 50 years to get built. The first thing that stopped the construction was the First World War, then the earthquake of 1940 that led to the ruin of the three derricks. Their reconstruction took three years, from 1956 to 1959. In the meanwhile the paintings were finished. The church was sanctified only in 1959, during the pastorate of Saint Bishop Chesarie Paunescu. In 1972 it became the Branch (Metoc) of the Archbishopric of Tomis and Lower Danube, and in 1990 it became an independent monastery⁷⁶².

⁷⁶² <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/saon>



Online source: <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/saon>

The Celic Dere Monastery

The Celic Dere Monastery is situated in Frecatei Commune, in Tulcea County and is one of the most well known monasteries in Dobrogea, considered the center of Orthodoxy of the area. It is named after the nearby river, which translated from Turkish means “River of Steel”. According to the existing documents, the first church was built here at the beginning of the 19th century by the bishop Athanasie Lisivencof. Today, a cemetery can be found on this land. The people that built the church were priests from Transylvania and Basarabia, who had lived on the Athos Mountain, in Greece. The little church burnt around the 1840s, the sultan Abdul-Medgid (1839-1861) from Constantinople approved to the building of a new church. Thus, in 1846, the first church was built, with “The Assumption of the Holy Virgin” as its dedication day and a chapel with “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel” as its dedication day. After a short time, the monks were moved to Saon, where they built another monastery. At Celic Dere the monks were replaced by nuns. In time, the hierarchs of Lower Danube supported the efforts of the nuns and thus, in 1901 the bishop Partenie Clinceni started to build the monumental church with semi-basement. For some time this served as a winter chapel. The construction, whose architect was Toma Dobrescu, was only completed in 1932, and was dedicated on the 22nd of October of the same year. The interior was painted by Gheorghe Eftimiu, and the altar screen covered in gold, was done by Ion Dinea. During the next years, a studio for religious painting, a

primary school for adults under the age of 40, a workshop for rugs and traditional sewing, were founded under the care of bishop Nifon⁷⁶³.



Online source: <https://doxologia.ro/locuri-sfinte/manastirea-celic-dere-unul-dintre-cele-mai-importante-centre-de-spiritualitate-dintre>

The Monastery Cave of St. Andrew the Apostle

Few things are known about the cave of Saint Andrew the Apostle. One of those things that can be said with certainty is that it was discovered in 1918 by Jean Dinu, a lawyer. After dreaming one night, he came in this area to find the cave in an advanced state of degradation. After cleaning it of the vegetation inside, he built a couple of cells and the first monks came in a short time. It was sanctified in 1943 by the bishop Chesarie Paunescu but during the communist period it was destroyed and turned into a shelter for animals. Only in 1990, with the blessing of IPS Lucian, father Nicodim Dinca, the monarch of Sihastria Monastery, along with the hieromonarch father Victorin Ghindaoanu, started to restore the cave and to build the monastery. The cave shelters the icon of Saint Andrew, known as the apostle who christianized the lands at the North of the Danube. There is a bed carved in stone in a niche of the pronaos. It is said that that was used as a resting place by Andrew the Apostle. In the course of time this has been a place to light candles, and now it is used by those in need of comfort from

⁷⁶³ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/celic-dere>

disease. Here, the priests also read prayers for sick people and the Mass of Saint Basil the Great. Today the monastery has a smaller church built during the years of 1994 – 1995, sanctified with the Holy Virgin's Protection as its dedication day and the third bigger church was built during the years of 1998 – 2002. In the small church are kept the relics of Saint Andrew. A cross in the shape of "X" can be found, on the left, in front of the altar of the smaller church. In the center of this cross is placed a part of the finger belonging to Saint Andrew. The finger was brought from the Trifiliei Metropolitan Church of Greece. On the four extremities of the cross there are the relics of the martyr saints of Niculitel from Dobrogea: Zoticos, Attalos, Kamasis and Filippus, Epictet the priest and Astion the monk. Near the cave there is a spring about which the legend tells that it appeared after Saint Andrew struck the rock with his staff in search of water. Tens of thousands of pilgrims come each year to the Cave of Saint Andrew and this made this place to be rightfully named the Bethlehem of Romanian people. To get here, the pilgrims must first reach Cernavoda, afterwards head south to Ostrov. In the locality Ion Corvin, an indicator points them to a side road that takes them to the monastery in a forest, after 3 – 4 km⁷⁶⁴.



Online source: <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cave-st-apostle-andrew>

⁷⁶⁴ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cave-st-apostle-andrew>

Cocos Monastery

The monastery is situated at the foot of Dealul Cocosului, surrounded by linden tree forests in Tulcea County, 6 km from Niculitel Commune. The legend says that once, on that hill, could be heard the sound of a rooster and a bell board and this is where its name came from. This area is said to have attracted three monks by their names of Visarion Fagarasanu, Gherontie and Isaia. In 1833 they were on their way to the Athos Mountain. This place was so beautiful that they decided to build a monastery. They bought the land from a local woman and with the consent of the local Moslem administration of that time, they built a halidom from twigs and clay. Panaret, the Archbishop of Tulcea, named prior Visarion the new archimandrite. The Ottoman Empire took the Monastery in its evidence in 1841 and it was recognized to be the spiritual center of the Romanian people from Dobrogea. A new church was built in 1853; this one was made of stone and placed next to the first one. Then, a belfry of 30 meters high and the West cells were added in 1870. Because of their age, the two halidoms could not be restored, therefore, in 1911, they were demolished, and under the supervision of archimandrite Roman Sorescu, with the help of Bishop Nifon Nicolescu the construction of a new and bigger church started. This church was finished two years later, with its paintings made by the Italian painter F. de Biasse in the Neo-Byzantine style. By mistake, in 1971, an important discovery was made on a road of Niculitel Commune, after a pouring rain brought to light the dome of a crypt covering the relics of four martyrs: Zotic, Attal, Kamasie and Filip. The archeologists established that they dated back to the years of 303 – 304, from the time of the great persecution of Diocletian. For this reason, the relics have been placed with honor in the church of the Cocos Monastery. Thousands of pilgrims come every year to bow here, especially on the 4th of June when the four Saints are celebrated⁷⁶⁵.

⁷⁶⁵ <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/other-monasteries/dobrogea-monasteries/cocos>



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Online source: <https://www.info-delta.ro/manastiri-42/manastirea-cocos-129.html>

Hermitage St. Athanasius

The Hermitage St. Athanasius is located on the Stipoc Spit, halfway between Chilia and Mila 23 and is the only monastery in the Danube Delta Reserve. The place of worship is a hermitage of ancient Orthodox rite monks, populated by 9 monks, who lead their lives in prayer, among reeds and wild birds. Although they celebrate the old Julian style, the religious services are held in Romanian, not Slavic. When you walk into the courtyard of the monastery, you are greeted by a lot of flowers, of all colors, especially roses, which delight you with their fragrance. Of a special beauty, the church, made of wood both on the outside and inside, was built relatively recently, 15 years ago. In the construction of the monastery were included a few cells of the monks who live here, the monastery porch (the place where the meal is taken) and a garden with a greenhouse⁷⁶⁶.

⁷⁶⁶ <http://sosdelta.ro/schitul-stipoc-singura-manastire-din-rezervatia-delta-dunarii/>



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Online source:

https://www.cjtulcea.ro/sites/cjtulcea/PrezentareaJudetului/Obiective%20Turistice/PublishingImages/stipoc_mare.jpg

Buluc Monastery

Buluc Monastery is a religious edifice from Jaristea commune, Vrancea county. It was built by the Boyar Isaia Caragea in the 17th century. Across time, the Monastery had many challenges, being destroyed almost completely after the earthquake from 1940. Although it was restored in the following years, few monks stayed, which ultimately led to its abandonment. It was reopened in 1991⁷⁶⁷.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buluc/>

⁷⁶⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-buluc/>



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"Saint Paraschiva" Wooden Church from Salt Valley

"Saint Paraschiva" Wooden Church from Salt Valley village, Vrancea county, was built between 1772 – 1773 and is a historic monument. The religious edifice was made of wooden beams put on a river boulder foundation⁷⁶⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-cuvioasa-paraschiva-2/>

Ancient Vizantea Monastery

Ancient Vizantea Monastery is an Orthodox monastery from Vizantea-Livezi commune, Vrancea county. Some sources indicate the fact the the monastery was built at the end of the 16th century, but there is no clear evidence of the exact year of its building. The ensemble of the monastery was declared a historic monument, being the oldest religious edifice from Vrancea county. The monastery's church was built between 1850 – 1854 and was dedicated to the "Ascension of the Holy Cross"⁷⁶⁹.

⁷⁶⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/biserica-de-lemn-cuvioasa-paraschiva-2/>

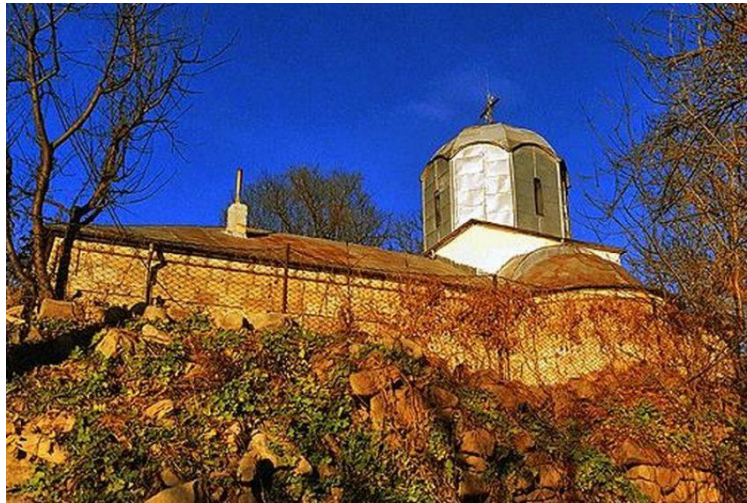
⁷⁶⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fosta-manastire-vizantea/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/fosta-manastire-vizantea/>

Mera Monastery

Mera Monastery is located in Mera commune from Vrancea county. It is a historic monument and is considered the most important historical and architectural edifice from Vrancea county. The Monastery dates from the 17th century. Its old form was built by Boyar Motoc. In 1717, the ensemble from Mera was transformed in a fortress for protection against the Habsburgs. During the fights with the Habsburgs the surrounding wall of the monastery was destroyed and its church was set on fire. It is dedicated to "Saint Emperors Constantin and Helen"⁷⁷⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-mera/>

The Black Valley Monastery

The Black Valley Monastery (in Romanian: Mănăstirea Valea Neagra) is situated in Nistoresti commune, Vrancea county. It was founded in 1775 by the priest Maței from

⁷⁷⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-mera/>

Spinesti and two monks from Poiana Marului Monastery. For many years, the Monastery was known as Vrancea Skete. It was closed in 1960, but was open again a few years later. The "Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary" Wooden Church of the Monastery is a historic monument⁷⁷¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-valea-neagra/>

Muntioru Skete

Muntioru Skete is situated in Poiana Muntioru, near Vintileasca commune, Vrancea county. The Orthodox Skete is located at an altitude of 1,300 meters and is managed by Poiana Marului Monastery. It was founded by the priest Macarie Besliu in 1999 and is dedicated to "The Holy Face of Jesus"⁷⁷².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/scithul-muntioru/>

⁷⁷¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-valea-neagra/>

⁷⁷² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/scithul-muntioru/>

Cotesti Monastery

Cotesti Monastery, dedicated to the "Holy Trinity", was first officially attested in 1720. It is situated in Cotesti village from Vrancea county, only 12 kilometers away from the city of Focsani. The religious edifice was closed in 1959 by the communists. The original church of the monastery had many challenges across time, such as wars or earthquakes, but it survived and was restored in 1991, when the monastery was open again⁷⁷³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-cotesti/>

Hermit's Monastery

Hermit's Monastery is located in Ploscuteni village from Vrancea county. It was built in 1748 by the boyar Sandu Sendrea and Sebastian, a hermit monk. The name of the religious edifice comes from the hermit Sebastian. The present church of the monastery is dedicated to "Saints Apostles Peter and Paul"⁷⁷⁴.

⁷⁷³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-cotesti/>

⁷⁷⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sihastru/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-sihastru/>

Soveja Skete

Soveja Skete is an Orthodox skete situated near Soveja Mountain Resort, on the shores of Susita stream. It was dissolved in 1864 as the result of Cuza's secularization, but recreated in 2001 by Constantin and Maria Nistoroiu from Focsani. In 2003, the skete became a monastery. Between 2004 – 2005 a new church was built which was dedicated to "Saints Emperors Constantin and Helen"⁷⁷⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-soveja/>

⁷⁷⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/schitul-soveja/>

Lepsa Monastery

Lepsa Monastery is situated on the shore of the river Putna, in Vrancea Mountains, Tulnici commune. It was built in 1774. Its oldest wooden church is dedicated to the "Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary" and was rebuilt between 1930 – 1936 on a river boulder foundation⁷⁷⁶.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-lepsa/>

3.1.4 Silk Road Built Heritage. Caravanserais, inns/khans, silk mills, textile factories, wineries, pottery factories, forums, tobacco warehouses

Murfatlar Winery

Murfatlar Winery is situated in the south-eastern part of Romania. The vineyard stretches across a surface of over 3000 hectares. The continental climate, the diverse territory the vineyard covers, the sheltering effect of the relief against the cold currents coming from the north-east, and the unique and extremely favorable influence of the Black Sea that results in less aggressive summer heat and less frosty winters, offer Murfatlar vineyard the perfect microclimate to produce a large variety of quality wines. Our portfolio includes dry, semi-dry, sweet and semi-sweet red, white and rose wines⁷⁷⁷.

King Carol II fell in love with the Murfatlar wines and he ordered in 1939 the transition of the nursery from state property of the royal domain. Dobrudja, the region caressed

⁷⁷⁶ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/manastirea-lepsa/>

⁷⁷⁷ <https://www.crameromania.ro/en/gallery/murfatlar-winery-284.html>

by the sunrays, lying between the Black Sea and the Danube, has a wine history that dates back from the days of the Dacians. It is said that Burebista, the King of the Getae and Dacians, urged his people to abstinence because he did not tolerate abusive wine consumption. The Dacians had a real worship for wine, a drink they considered a gift from gods. Let's not forget that the poet exiled at the Pontus Euxin more than 2000 years ago, Ovidius Publius Naso drowned his sadness in a jug of wine. In addition, it is said that in the past it was believed that the god of wine, Dionysus or Bacchus, as many know him, was born in our lands.



Online source: <https://iglooarchitecture.ro/portfolio-item/murfatlar-winery/>

When Dobrudja joined the country, the majority population was composed of Muslims. In 1878, in northern Dobrudja there were 71,000 Tatars and 49,000 Turks, 47,000 Romanians, 30,000 Bulgarians, and the rest were Jews, Greeks, Russians, and Germans. It is not difficult to infer that many Muslims lived in Murfatlar, considering the name of the locality, which translates "The Murfats, Murfat's descendants". It was only after Dobrudja was annexed and after the Ottoman rule was overrun that the vineyards were created in Murfatlar. Many say Muslims have not been interested in vineyards by then since they do not drink alcohol. Around 1880, the first vineyard appeared in Murfatlar, but it did not resist too much, the plantation being attacked by the phylloxera insect, which reached the Dobrudja area all the way from America. King Carol II fell in love with the Murfatlar Research Resort's wines after attending a wine tasting in



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Constanta on Navy Day. At that time, the French wines Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Merlot were fashionable, generally sweet and flavoured. King Carol II loved Bacchus's drink created in Murfatlar so much that he asked, "Why do you bring me vinegar-like sour Austrian wines if you have such good wines here?" At that time, he was brought wines from Germany and Austria, but later Murfatlar Winery became the official supplier of the Royal House. The Romanian state set up Murfatlar Nursery in 1907, those were the names of the first experimental plantations of vines back then. They were set up after the invasion of the 1886 phylloxera insect, which decimated vineyards all over Europe. Subsequently, the vineyards were re-established by grafting the varieties on a rootstock to be more resistant. In 1939, King Carol II ordered the transition of the nursery from state property to that of the royal domain. Murfatlar locals have since begun to call it a "royal vineyard" and it was an honour for them to work there. Since 1942 the domain has gone back to the state as an experimental resort. Currently, Murfatlar is no longer the official wine supplier of the Royal House. The oldest wines we now find in Murfatlar Winery were produced in 1950⁷⁷⁸.



Online source : <http://www.buyromanianwines.com/WINERY/crama-murfatlar/>

⁷⁷⁸ <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/en/murfatlar-wines-carol-ii/>

Martens SA Galati brewery

The brewery in Galati was founded in 1978. From the very beginning, they put consumers first in the production of our beer. For two decades, the factory operated as a producer with fully Romanian capital, reaching a strong regional presence. In 1998 Martens Brouwerij took over the majority stake in the factory. The history of Martens Brouwerij begins in 1758, in Bocholt, Belgium. More than 250 years have passed since then and the tradition has been passed down over eight generations. All this time, their values have remained unchanged: they have transformed the art of fermenting simple and natural ingredients into the art of giving people the opportunity to share a moment of joy together.



Online source: http://www.martens.ro/?page_id=6

The Belgian partners had the same dedication to perfecting the art of brewing, the same desire to bring a touch of joy to the table of the people who represent us. Together and after considerable efforts, they believe that they have managed to bring to Romania at least part of the Belgian tradition of brewing. They are currently with consumers together with their retail partners with whom they have developed competitive and fair products at an affordable price. At the same time, they are obliged to share part of the Belgian heritage in the art of brewing⁷⁷⁹.

China Tobacco International Europe Company

China Tobacco International Europe Company is a producer of cigarettes belonging to the China National Tobacco, with a long experience in tobacco and manufacturing cigarettes. Because they belong to China National Tobacco, they have access to the

⁷⁷⁹ http://www.martens.ro/?page_id=6

best blends of tobacco from around the world that we use in the production process. They work with the best experts from China Tobacco Research Center to create various mixtures of tobacco and flavors depending on the specific demands of consumers and markets worldwide. In the present they are focused on innovating, delivery superior quality products and growing international scale and profitability. They continuously invest in improving production to provide quality of the products equal to European competitors, but at a lower cost. The factory is located in Buzau County, owning an area of about 40,000 square meters with an annual production capacity of approximately 4.5 billion cigarettes and consists of:

- top quality primary, with a capacity of up to 3 tons/h
- modern secondary, having modern packers/makers like Molins and GD
- all the necessary warehouses, steam plant, etc.⁷⁸⁰.



Online source: <https://www.ctiec.cc/our-products/>

3.1.5 Military posts, garrison stations, fortifications

⁷⁸⁰ <https://www.ctiec.cc/our-factory/>

Alexandru Ioan Cuza National Military College

The history of the national naval high school education began on February 1, 1882 when, in the famous barracks of the Țiglina Flotilla, the solemnity of the inauguration of the courses of the Marine Children's School, established for the first time in Romania, took place. The schooling lasted three years, during which general culture knowledge is taught at the upper level of the gymnasium course (Romanian language, mathematics, geography, cosmography, physics, chemistry, Italian language) and marine knowledge (naval mechanics, naval machines, on-board artillery, signaling means, etc.). Each year of study included one part of theoretical education (October-April) and one part of practice on board ships (April-September). From August 1882, the school benefited from the logistical support of the training ship "Mircea"⁷⁸¹, a school ship specially ordered and built in the "Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company" Shipyards in London⁷⁸².



Online source: <https://www.gazetadenavodari.ro/colgiul-national-militar-alexandru-ioan-cuza-din-constanta-incepe-procesul-de-selectie-a-candidatilor/>

⁷⁸¹ <https://www.anmb.ro/eng/files/bric/bric.html>

⁷⁸² (in Romanian) <http://www.cmilaicuza.ro/despre-noi/>

Constanta Military Circle

Since 1949, the Constanta Military Circle fulfills the role of Army House of Culture, imposing itself over time in the top of such institutions in the country. He carried out a prodigious activity in the service of active military personnel, veterans, reservists, their families, for the military in term, pupils and military students. The Military Circle has evolved permanently becoming an institution with plurivalent concerns in the education of the people in the army, and not only⁷⁸³.



Online source: <http://bazanavala.ro/istoric-cercul-militar-constanta/>

Naval Petty Officers School Admiral Ion Murgescu

By acquiring access to the sea following the return of Dobrogea between the natural national borders, Romania quickly moves to the development of the military and civilian navy, which required the organization of specific forms of education. Thus, on October 8, 1897, King Carol I approved the "Rules of Procedure of the School of Sub-Mechanics and Sub-Masters of the Navy", a precursor institution of the current school and which, at its establishment, recruited its students only from the sons of sailors in the navy. or civilians and sons of soldiers. The school operated in Galați, and its first commander was appointed Commander Constantin Bălescu. In 1908, the school moved to Constanța, in the current building of the Navy Museum. From August 21, 1965, the institution will be called the Military School of Naval Foremen, lasting three years. Since 1986, only high school graduates with a baccalaureate degree can participate in the admission competition. Starting with 1987, the school functioned as a section of the "Mircea cel Batran" Naval Academy and was re-established as an

⁷⁸³ (in Romanian) <http://bazanavala.ro/istoric-cercul-militar-constanta/>

independent institution on March 15, 1990. The following period recorded new developments in the implementation of military education reform. The school went through different stages of structural reorganization: starting with the 2002-2003 school year, the duration of the schooling period was reduced to two years; since July 2004 it becomes subordinated to the "Mircea cel Batrân" Naval Academy; since September 2008 it is subordinated to the General Staff of the Naval Forces. Since 2008, doctrinal and technological changes have required the development of the new model of the military foreman who thus becomes a multidimensional man with specialist skills, military leader of small organizations, with a rich general culture, civic, seafaring, attached to national values⁷⁸⁴.



3.1.6 Traditional markets (bazars), places of trading goods (mining, metal working, manufacturing and handicrafts, and other industrial and production sites)

County Center for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture

County Center for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture is a public cultural institution under the authority of Brăila County Council, which initiates and carries out cultural projects and programs in the field of traditional culture of lifelong learning, consistently pursuing:

- the protection and treasuring representative values of popular contemporary creations, constituting the base of data and values;

⁷⁸⁴ (in Romanian) <https://www.smmmf.n.ro/istoric.html>

- the elaboration programs for the recovery of traditions, in order to stimulate creativity in all genres of performing unprofessional arts;
- the initiation of supporting and affirmation projects for the creators and performers of popular and authentic tradition, protecting against distortions and falsifications;
- the promotion of multiculturalism and protection of minority cultures;
- the elaboration of attractive and useful projects of continuing education;
- the development of cultural knowledge activities for youth and promoting projects to meet these needs;
- the revitalization and promotion of traditional crafts and trades and support those who are practicing them (artisans and craftsmen etc.);
- the stimulation of the perpetuation and value of cultural traditions and customs;

A well-known saying goes like this: “Who does not know his past cannot build his future” – an additional argument to justify, if needed, the necessity of returning to tradition⁷⁸⁵.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/Centrul.de.Creatie.Brăila/photos>

ARTT - The Traditional Weaving Revitalization Workshop

Since 2006, ARTT - The Traditional Weaving Revitalization Workshop of the Brăila Creation Center is one of the few places where the traditions, customs and duties of women from the ethnographic-folkloric area of Brăila are revived, promoted and preserved. They work on horizontal, archaic looms (a device used to weave cloth and tapestry), creating true ornamental jewelry. The products of the workshop are admired at all the trade fairs or those dedicated to domestic and international tourism, where

⁷⁸⁵ <http://centruldecreatieBrăila.ro/despre-noi/>

every time the fabrics created with imagination, soul and love are always sought and appreciated. The growing interest of the contemporary world for the work done by hand and especially the development of domestic and international tourism are well-founded motivations for the further development of popular art meant to ensure the preservation of the traditional specificity and the character of authenticity⁷⁸⁶.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/arttBraila/photos>

Souvenir from Dobrogea

Traditional welcoming Dobrogea household, good host for crafts and art, for non-formal education and movement, for relaxation and rest and support of a healthy lifestyle⁷⁸⁷.



⁷⁸⁶ <http://centruldecreatieBraila.ro/artt-atelier-de-revitalizare-a-tesaturilor-traditionale/>
⁷⁸⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/SuvenirdinDobrogea>



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Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/SuvenirdinDobrogea/photos>

Contemporary folk art gallery/shop store

Apart from the exceptional patrimony of vernacular architecture exhibited on the open-air expo, the „Dimitrie Gusti” National Village Museum from Bucharest is on a quest to continually support folk creation, be it anonymous in nature, or the works of master



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craftsmen skilled in traditional techniques, to advocate an artistic genre most cherished by specialists and all people alike, to protect the objects of yesteryear, as still asserting themselves today. The contemporary popular arts gallery hosts a permanent sale expo featuring objects crafted by contemporary folk masters, sculptors, painters and artistic societies centered on popular arts and crafts. The objects exhibited illustrate the rich heritage of folk creations – ceramics, textiles, weavings, wood, painted eggs, wood and glass paintings, popular rugs and carpets, toys, furniture, masks, popular adornments, costume pieces, sheepskin waistcoats, leather objects etc. The visitors will discover the famous red and black ceramics, rough or enameled, representative of (still) active pottery centers⁷⁸⁸.



Online source: <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>

Textile art is represented with a rich variety of fabric pieces to fit the wants and needs of our public. Pieces ranging from napkins, towels, table cloths, traditional wear like chemises and blouses, vests, fabric belts, aprons etc., made from cotton, flax, hemp

⁷⁸⁸ <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>

or wool. Noteworthy fabrics to peruse are Avrig cotton scarves, mini Bucovina scarves, Dobrogea region borangic scarves, cotton chemises and Breaza blouses.



We feature wooden items, objects such as – cupels, forks, curd cheese patterns, stampers, spoons, musical instruments, coffers, furniture pieces – handmade by talented folk craftsmen and painters.



Online source: <http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/magazin/>

The Palace of Agriculture from Brăila

The Palace of Agriculture from Brăila was built in 1923 and open for the public in 1929. It was erected in New Romanesque style. The idea of this palace belonged to Serban Raducan, the Prefect of that time, who was supported by Alexandru Constantinescu, Minister of Agriculture. A European stock exchange for wheat functioned here for a few years. The Palace is an homage to the Romanian peasant from Baragan Plain, to hard work and sacrifice⁷⁸⁹.

⁷⁸⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-agriculturii/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-agriculturii/>

Brăila River Station

Brăila River Station is a historic monument situated on no. 4, Anghel Saligny street. It was built between 1904 – 1906 and is also known as the Old Commandment. The Station is an important sight of Brăila and one century ago it represented the main point of river transportation. Today, Brăila River Station was restored and will be included in the touristic circuit of the city⁷⁹⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-fluviala/>

⁷⁹⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-fluviala/>



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Folk Art Collection from Constanța

The Folk Art collection of Constanța was created in 1975. From 1990, this collection becomes a distinct museum and grows larger. The museum has ethnographic pieces from all around Romania and is situated in an important building of Constanța. It has over 15,000 cultural objects, such as: folk costumes, glass or wood icons, rugs, etc⁷⁹¹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>

The Anghel Saligny Bridge from Constanța

The Anghel Saligny Bridge (formerly King Carol I Bridge) is a railroad truss bridge in Romania, across the Danube River, and it is listed in the National Register of Historic Monuments⁷⁹².

⁷⁹¹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/muzeul-de-arta-populara/>

⁷⁹² Meltem Toksoz, Biray Kolluoğlu, *Cities of the Mediterranean: From the Ottomans to the Present* Day, I.B.Tauris, 2014, p. 170, online source: https://books.google.ro/books?id=HS8BAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA172&redir_esc=y



Online source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Podul_lui_Saligny.jpg

Constanța Naval Station

The Naval Station of Constanța Seaport was inaugurated in 1933 by king Carol the 2nd. It was both a naval and railway station, being the link between the West and the East. It is built in Art Deco style and is a historic monument. After 1945, the Naval Station becomes the headquarter of Constanța Seaport Management⁷⁹³.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-maritima/>

Administrative Palace from Galați

The Administrative Palace from Galați was built between 1904 – 1905, after the plans of the architect Ion Mincu, the founder of the Romanian School of Architecture. It is a

⁷⁹³ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/gara-maritima/>



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big building with many ornaments and white marble statues. The Palace hosts, in the present, the Galați county Prefecture⁷⁹⁴.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-administrativ/>

Navigation Palace from Galați

The Navigation Palace from Galați is situated on the Danube Quay and was built between 1909 – 1912. The edifice was erected on New Romantic style after the plans of the architect Petre Antonescu. It hosts the Administration of the Maritime Danube Ports and Navrom Romanian River Navigation Company⁷⁹⁵.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-navigatiei/>

⁷⁹⁴ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-administrativ/>

⁷⁹⁵ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-navigatiei/>

Palace of the European Commission of the Danube from Sulina

The Palace of the European Commission of the Danube is a historical monument located on I Street in the city of Sulina, Romania. The palace was the seat of the European Danube Commission until 1921, then entering the administration of the Romanian state. The building is now the headquarters of the Sulina Waterway Section within the Lower Danube River Administration⁷⁹⁶.



Online source: <https://www.dobrogeanews.ro/anul-european-al-patrimoniului-cultural-mai-multe-obiective-din-sulina-inscrise-in-lista-monumentelor-istorice-din-romania/>

3.1.7 Events and Festivals

Lyra Palace from Brăila

Lyra Palace from Brăila was built between 1924 – 1926 at the initiative of George Cavadia, songwriter and president of Lyra Society. Today, the Palace hosts Lyra Symphonic Orchestra and is a place to see classical music concerts⁷⁹⁷.

⁷⁹⁶ <https://www.dobrogeanews.ro/anul-european-al-patrimoniului-cultural-mai-multe-obiective-din-sulina-inscrise-in-lista-monumentelor-istorice-din-romania/>

⁷⁹⁷ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-lyra/>



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Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/palatul-lyra/>

Gulliver Puppet Theater

Gulliver Puppet Theater was created on October 1st, 1952. Initially, it was a theater for children, but in recent years, the institution also started to develop plays for youngsters. The most important event of the theater is The Gulliver Festival, one of the most important festivals of its kind from Romania, when Galați is transformed into the “capital of the puppet theater”⁷⁹⁸.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-de-papusi-gulliver/>

Constanța Aquarium

The Aquarium from Constanța is located near the famous Casino and was open in 1958. It displays aquatic flora, fauna organized in permanent exhibitions and

⁷⁹⁸ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/teatrul-de-papusi-gulliver/>

temporary exhibitions of biology and ecology. The Aquarium is part of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Constanța. It is organized on three departments: Marine Section, Fresh Water Section and Exotic Fish⁷⁹⁹.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/acvariul-Constanța/>

Dolphinarium from Constanța

The Dolphinarium is part of the Museum Complex of Natural Sciences from Constanța. It was open in 1958, when the Aquarium was also inaugurated. Visitors can see shows with dolphins and sea lions guided by their trainers, see exhibitions with exotic birds or other temporary exhibitions⁸⁰⁰.



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/delfinariu/>

⁷⁹⁹ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/acvariul-Constanța/>

⁸⁰⁰ <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/delfinariu/>

Aqua Magic Park from Mamaia Resort

Aqua Magic Park from Mamaia Resort in Constanța is one of the important attractions on the Romanian coast, it has an impressive area of 27200 square meters. The most emblematic water park in the country reveals the secret of an exceptional holiday: the diversity of events, the aquatic attractions and a lot adrenaline. Aqua Magic addresses all age categories, satisfying the desire to relax some but also the adventure and adrenaline rush of the others, being able to host 3000 visitors a day. This park offers you 15 endless sources of activities⁸⁰¹:

- **Waterplayground** is a playground specially designed for children, with an area of 1400 sqm, consisting of pools and multiple slides, where the water depth is 40 cm.
- **Baby pool** is a children's pool, with an area of 800 square meters, the water depth is maximum 20 cm, it is noticed by the multitude of colorful mini-slides, the characters from the stories, the blue whale, the playful dolphins, the turtle frogs, the sea bass, the octopus, which accompany the children on the great adventure in a magical world.
- **River ride** is a spectacular experience, an attraction that guarantees the joy being the largest canyon circuit with a diameter of 1700 mm, a starting height of 5 meters and a running length of 50 meters.
- **Multislide** invites you to compete with 3 friends for the fastest landing in swimming pools. The departure is made from 8 meters high, on a length of 41 meters.
- **Space bowl** gives you three different sensations in one slide; at first a rapid slip from a height of 11 meters through a tubular slide, then you will reach a huge funnel where with the help of the centrifugal power you will circle in a circle, then by free fall you will land in a swimming pool with a depth of 2 meters.
- **Mega pipe** is a curved and restless slide, designed for those who have the speed and pleasure of curves; is presented as a closed tube, with a diameter of 800 meters, starts from a height of 11.4 meters and runs on a length of 45 meters.
- **Twister** offers you twists, turns, fast gliding and adrenaline as it comes in two braided tubes, of different colors, with a diameter of 800 mm, starting from a height of 11.4 meters and has a running length of 50 meters.
- **Kamikaze** is an expert in creating strong sensations, being reserved for the bravest! With an open tube, 700 mm wide, it descends abruptly from a height of 11.4 meters

⁸⁰¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/aquamagic/>



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and continues running on a length of 50 meters and its configuration ensures easy landing and maximum safety. This adrenaline slide is a favorite of waterparks.

- **Super Crater** always gives you an extraordinary ride! See the world from 11 meters high and slide slowly through a closed tube with a diameter of 1400 mm, after which the speed increases and you are thrown into the giant crater where gravitational forces take control, you circle, then descend into the middle crater that leads you to the landing.

- **Turbo slide.** If the speed is the one that produces you the most adrenaline, throw yourself in a closed, red tube, with a diameter of 800 mm starting from a height of 11 meters, 50 meters running in which it makes a loop, then pass through a transparent tube with drops in the landing pool.

- **Black hole** is the completely closed, circular tube, with a diameter of 1400 mm, starting from a height of 10 meters, in which you are allowed to slide only with a swimbelt which gives you a rolling length of 70 meters. Black hole is the most popular slide, a mixture of speed and fun that offers an incredible experience.

- In Aqua Magic Mamaia you find the only **Side Winder slide** in Romania! This attraction has been developed for lovers of maximum fun who are looking for high speed experiences, starting from a height of 14 meters, offering unique sensations of free fall!

- **Lazy river** is the best guide in Aqua Magic, with a length of 360 meters, 3 meters wide, 1.3 meters depth, communicates with all the swimming pools and shows you the whole story of the park in the most relaxing way.

- **Relax Pool** is everyone's favorite place, a refreshing escape when the sun's rays warm the atmosphere. The pool is the ideal option to spend your sunny summer days, in a holiday atmosphere, tasty cocktails, harmony and music.

- **Aqua Bar** is an aquatic bar that combines the coolness of the water in the pool with tasty cocktails.

- **Jacuzzi** - The jacuzzi have a capacity of 7 people each. The jacuzzi therapy gives the skin the most coveted care and helps to regain the well-being, to treat discomforts such as poor circulation, arthritis symptoms or back pain. Water jets offer a variety of options, from an in-depth, revitalizing massage, to an extremely relaxing, easy massage. Using this type of massage, different points of the body will be stimulated, thus benefiting not only from a relaxing massage but also a therapeutic one.



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Online source: Facebook Aqua Magic, online source: <https://www.facebook.com/aquamagic/>

„Major Gheorghe Pastia” Folk Atheneum

„Major Gheorghe Pastia” Folk Atheneum is a cultural institution from Focsani, Vrancea county, which organizes musical shows, workshops, art exhibitions, conferences, etc. Its building started in 1927 at the initiative of Major Gheorghe Pastia⁸⁰².



Online source: <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ateneul-popular-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>

3.1.8 Folklore Traditions (skills, know-how, customs), places of associations with transfer of ideas, language, music, dance etc.

Traditional Romanian folk costumes

The structure of Romanian traditional clothing has remained unchanged throughout history and can be traced back to the earliest times. The basic garment for both men and women is a shirt or chemise, which is made from hemp, linen or woolen fabric. This was tied round the waist using a fabric belt, narrow for women and wider for men.

⁸⁰² <http://www.informatii-romania.ro/en/listing/ateneul-popular-maior-gheorghe-pastia/>



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The cut of this basic chemise is similar for men and women. In the past those worn by women usually reached to the ankles while men's shirts were shorter and worn over trousers or leggings made from strips of fabric. Women always wear an apron over the chemise. This was initially a single piece of cloth wrapped round the lower part of their bodies and secured by a belt at the waist, as is still seen in the east and south east of Romania⁸⁰³.



Online source: <http://unirea.org.au/index.php/blog/item/71-traditional-romanian-folk-costumes>

Lipovan Russians stand out in the Romanian society by their unconditional attachment to the Christian Orthodox faith inherited from their ancestors, down to the smallest details. Even their rituals and folk customs follow closely the Christian teachings and morals, with a special religious emphasis. National folklore festivals have been organized to revive traditions, also national and international scientific symposia, Olympiads of Russians, school camps, and creation camp for Lipovan students.

⁸⁰³ <http://unirea.org.au/index.php/blog/item/71-traditional-romanian-folk-costumes>



For quite a time now, Lipovan Russians did Romania proud in international sports competitions, reaping gold medals and having Romania's anthem intoned. To mention thus Ivan Patzaichin, Dumitru Alexe, Vasile Daba, Sergei Covaliov, Lavrenti Sidorov, Alexe Iacovici, Haralambie Ivanov, Elena Lipalit, Gheorghe and Toma Simionov, Sidor Lifere (kayak-canoe), the Simion and Calistrat Cutov brothers (boxing), Petre Astafei and Alina Astafei (track-and-field)⁸⁰⁴.



⁸⁰⁴ <https://www.icr.ro/pagini/the-lipovan-russians-of-romania/en>

Traditional occupations in Danube Delta

Since the ancient times, fishing has been the main occupation of the inhabitants of Danube Delta. Although today the supply of fish has diminished and changed in quality, this occupation continues to be a basic one. The localities where fishing is the main trade are Crisan, Mila 23, Gorgova, and Sfântu Gheorghe (the last mentioned is also involved in sea fishing). The second main occupation with great extension has been (and still is) sheep and cattle breeding, which, from a temporary condition (being practiced by the shepherds coming there with their flocks in wintertime from the Eastern Carpathians and the Moldavian Tableland), became a permanent occupation in the last decades of the 19th century. The localities with traditions in cattle breeding are Letea, Periprava, C.A.Rosetti, Sfistofca and Caraorman. Traditional agriculture has been practiced successfully by the inhabitants of those localities which have good supplies of arable land: Chilia, Pardina, Plaur, Salceni, Ceatalchioi and Patlageanca, all working on alluvial soils of the riverside levees with a low risk of inundation. Owing to poor soils (sandy soils) agriculture has been practiced to a lesser extent on the marine levees of Letea and Caraorman. After 1960, these traditional occupations of fishing and agriculture were drastically modified by extending reed exploitation (abandoned later on), fish ponds and large agricultural and forestry polders⁸⁰⁵.



Online source: <https://ziarulamprenta.ro/agricultura/prohibitia-pescuitului-in-delta-dunarii-in-2020-incepe-mai-devreme/46208/>

⁸⁰⁵ <http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta/population/traditional-occupations-a908>

Easter painted eggs - an art of its own

Romanians, the majority of whom adhere to Orthodox Christianity, treat Easter with a higher significance than any other holiday, including Christmas. But it's not just about the Sunday that marks the resurrection of Jesus; rather, there are a slew of holy days leading up to and following the main event. You'll want to know which days are celebrated and why if you plan to spend your Easter in this southeastern European country⁸⁰⁶.

Throughout time, painting Easter eggs became an art of its own in Southeastern Region of Romania's villages, the painter's role being initially reserved only for women. While painting eggs is even today a skill very few masters as the process is long and meticulous, some Romanian artisans have transformed these hollowed-out eggs into unique works of art, exhibited all around the world. Although the colors and symbols used to decorate the eggs vary according to the region, usually three-four colors are used, each with its own meaning. Red symbolizes love and solar light, black is the eternity, yellow is about youth and rich crops while green relates to nature and blue to health and sunny skies. The decorative motifs are also very diverse, mixing symbols like the cross or the star with vegetal and animal representations and traditional elements from the rural culture. The use of symbols is also influenced by regional and local elements⁸⁰⁷.

Good Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is the day for painting eggs in the traditional Romanian manner. In the past, red eggs were the norm due to the color's association with Christ's blood. Those who are familiar with the Romanian egg-painting tradition, however, know that they have adopted a rather ornate aesthetic over time. Sometimes they are decorated using the wax-resist and dye-bath method; other times, they are adorned with hundreds of tiny beads that form traditional patterns. Romanian Easter eggs are called "ouă încondeiate" and are sometimes blessed at church⁸⁰⁸.

⁸⁰⁶ <https://www.tripsavvy.com/easter-in-romania-1502161>

⁸⁰⁷ <https://www.uncover-romania.com/attractions/history-culture/traditions/romania-painted-eggs/>

⁸⁰⁸ <https://www.tripsavvy.com/easter-in-romania-1502161>



3.1.9 Heritage objects (tools, clothes, furniture, tapestries, etc.), documentary heritage, movable heritage and artifacts

From the repertoire of craftsmen from Southeastern Region of Romania's heritage, we can mention⁸⁰⁹:

Weaving – sewing by Iustina Mother at Saint Pantelimon Monastery

Address: STAȚIUNEA LACUL SĂRAT, ALEEA MĂNĂSTIRII NR 3, JUD. BRĂILA, BRĂILA

Phone: 0723117006

Email: iustina.andreea.maica@gmail.com

Mother Iustina is always in the tailoring workshop of the monastery, where she sews church clothes. It has been 11 years since the woman found her peace in the Monastery, where, she says, she was helped and encouraged to express herself freely and to arrange this museum as she thinks fit. An idea born out of passion for folklore, which was nourished over time as a duty to the past, to ancestors, as described by Mother Iustina, and this is also seen in her paintings on wood, another passion of the mother with whom she nourishes her soul whenever she has the opportunity⁸¹⁰.

Products: religious and traditional embroidery, priestly vestments.

⁸⁰⁹ <https://repertoriulmesterilor.patrimoni.ro/mestesuguri-artistice/>

⁸¹⁰ (in Romanian) <http://obiectivbr.ro/content/m%C4%83n%C4%83stirea-lacu-s%C4%83rat-oaza-de-lini%C5%9Fte-din-buza-br%C4%83ilei>



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Woodworking: carving, sculpturing by Piron Valeriu

Address: Bld. DOROBANȚILOR, BRĂILA, BRĂILA

Phone: 0727398447

Email: pironvaleriu@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PironValeriuTheSculptor/>



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Wood / glass religious icons, or other materials by Baciú Elena-Ecaterina

Address: STRADA LEONARD TENOR NR.9, BUZAU, BUZĂU, COD POȘTAL:
120218

Phone: 0742 094 897

Email: coriniana@yahoo.com



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Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/baciu.ecaterina/photos>

Sewing traditional folklore clothes by Copăcel Viorica

Address: COM. MÂNZĂLEȘTI, JUD. BUZĂU, BUZĂU, COD POȘTAL:

Phone: 0764963699

Products: shirts, dresses, children's suits, men's shirt





Online source : https://adevarul.ro/locale/buzau/video-mama-fiica-dintr-o-comuna-buzoiana-expun-costume-populare-tesaturi-targuri-festivaluri-1_5b263076df52022f7539c5c4/index.html

Pottery by Bănică Dumitru-Aurel

Address: COMUNA RĂCOASA, SAT VARNIȚA, JUD VRANCEA, VRANCEA, COD
POȘTAL: 627280

Phone: 0237680617

Products: pots, jugs, plates, toys, vases



Painted eggs by Ochiar Silvia

Address: NĂRUJA, JUD. VRANCEA, VRANCEA

Phone: 0732576948



The most widespread Christian Easter tradition is the painting of red eggs, whose presence is obligatory on the Easter table, is an ancient custom in Năruja village. If, for young people, the art of Easter eggs is unknown, in Năruja there are some old people who still keep this great technique from ancestors. And the most important thing is that they are not used chemically, but the eggs are reddened and environmentally friendly, like 100 years ago. The ecological paint for the reddening of the eggs is made from wildflower flowers and wild apple leaves that are macerated for three days with warm water⁸¹¹.

3.1.10 Gastronomy (local products, recipes, production methods)

Matthew's fishery (in Romanian: Pescaria lui Matei)

After the second bridge from Agigea was built over the Danube-Black Sea Canal, it became more accessible, and "Matei's Fishery" became in just four years one of the most popular fishing restaurants on the coast, with constant customers regardless of season or season. The restaurant is not in the tourist area, but on a more commercial route, which can be confused with a truck parking, but its location on the rocks and the sea view have quickly gained its popularity. As well as its own source of fresh fish, which made those who passed the threshold recommend the fishery in Agigea⁸¹².

⁸¹¹ (in Romanian) https://adevarul.ro/locale/focsani/Incondeierea-oualor-pasti-obicei-strabun-saptamana-mare-vrancea-arhaica-1_5523d512448e03c0fd4f8691/index.html

⁸¹² (in Romanian) <https://www.pescarialuimatei.ro/>



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Online source: <http://pink-blog.ro/pareri-despre-pescaria-lui-matei-agiea/>

Serbian Tavern (in Romanian: Taverna Sârbului)

Serbian gastronomy is the strongest example that the tastes of a nation can cross the ages not by altering themselves, but by enriching themselves from those who have been along the way. In the crucible of this national cuisine, with a thousand unmistakable flavors, history has thrown the tastes of other recipes. The Ottoman one - in turn a mixture of culinary cultures. The Greek - old since the world and always renewed. The Austrian or the Hungarian - because while men were fighting their wars, women shared recipes. The Italian - gentle delights. But especially those of the Slavic nations from the southwest of the ripple water of the Danube. The restaurant is perhaps one of the richest gastronomies of the Eastern half of Europe, having for each client a dish to be savored, sweeter or spicier, but always tasty! Among the delicacies, we find a strong Slivovitz, the drink of the ancient heroes of Serbia, the traditional preparations of Serbia and of the Slavic world of the Balkans: ćevapčići - Serbian correspondent of the Romanian "mititei", the pljeskavica (to which some call it The Serbian hamburger) sausages, Sarma and moussaka, in Serbian style⁸¹³.

⁸¹³ (in Romanian) <https://Constanta.tavernasarbului.ro/despre-taverna-sarbului/>



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Online source: <https://Constanta.tavernasarbului.ro/despre-taverna-sarbului/>

Life Harbour Restaurant

The restaurant consists of two areas, the first one includes a club and terrace located near the checkpoints and with a capacity of 50 people, inside, and 60 outside, and the second, a floating restaurant, with a capacity of 70 people. The spectacular location, between yachts, of the two areas of the restaurant, offers a unique setting and makes this location a trend-setter in the tourist field. Life Harbor Restaurant offers international-specific menus and cuisine, including freshly caught Black Sea fish. During the warm season, room-service also works, both for accommodation spaces and for those who want to dine on their own boats⁸¹⁴.

⁸¹⁴ (in Romanian) <http://lifeharbour.ro/club-restaurant>



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Online source: <http://lifeharbour.ro/club-restaurant>

Ovid Island Restaurant

Nature created Ovidiu Island thousands of years ago, and people created legends around it. This is a modern and traditional place at the same time. Ovidiu island located on Lake Siutghiol at 5000m from the shore of Mamaia resort and 500m from Ovidiu city, is one of the most unique places of the Romanian coast, being the only tourist objective that operates on an island. Currently, the tourist complex has 20 accommodation places for tourists, in 10 3-star cottages, each equipped with double bed, own bathroom, air conditioning, television, cable, minibar.

The rustic restaurant also satisfies the most demanding tastes through the ambiance and the traditional Romanian dishes and the fish specialties. It is the ideal place for business dinners, different special family or professional events. In addition to the 400-seat restaurant, the complex also includes a Country Terrace with 150 seats that complement the island's enchanting environment. The "Ovidius" ship is a novelty for the Romanian coastline, with 3-star facilities that transport tourists to the island, but at the same time offers unique walks on the lake. The steam being functional throughout the year, festive or mundane events can be organized within the restaurant, which holds 50 seats, but also on the terrace, which has 80 seats⁸¹⁵.

⁸¹⁵ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/insulaovidiumamaia/about/>



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Online source: Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/insulaovidiumamaia/>

Nikos Greek Taverna

All those who walked along the shore of the great Aegean fell in love with the preparations of the Greek taverns. That is why Nikos Greek Taverna tried their best to bring the flavor of these dishes to the Black Sea shore. After countless beautiful and unique experiences of the chain of taverns opened in Constanța, Nikos Greek Taverna want to take the story of the tavern further. The smell of authentic spices and the multitude of preparations made after Greek recipes will convince you that you are truly on Greek lands. At Nikos Greek Tavern you will be greeted with the fusion of flavors of a diversified menu, which will guarantee an authentic Greek culinary experience⁸¹⁶.

⁸¹⁶ (in Romanian) http://Constanta.nikosgreektaverna.ro/#about_nikos



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Nikos Greek Taverna on the Bd. Tomis Boulevard no. 44, online source:

<http://Constanța.nikosgreektaverna.ro/>



Nikos Greek Taverna on Mamaia Nord, online source: <http://Constanța.nikosgreektaverna.ro/>

The Fishermen's Stop (in Romanian: Popasul pescarilor)

The Fishermen's Stop is one of the oldest fishery restaurants on the south of the Romanian coast, being opened in 1996. The fish served is fished in the early hours of the Black Sea in the morning by our fishermen or in the lake behind the restaurant⁸¹⁷.

⁸¹⁷ <http://www.popasul-pescarilor.ro/restaurant/>



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Online source: <http://www.popasul-pescarilor.ro/restaurant/>

Babel - Mediterranean Fish and Lebanese Restaurant

Babel is a Lebanese restaurant, located in a picturesque place in Năvodari, secluded, discreet, right by the sea. The magnificent view accompanies the Lebanese dishes, prepared with great care according to the original recipes. It is the place where you can discover Lebanese cuisine from A to Z. Fish is always fresh, and vegetables, eggs, rams and poultry come from their own Bioferma⁸¹⁸.



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BabelRestaurantLibanez/photos/>

Mediterranean Seafood Restaurant - Caru' cu Scoici

A place of story, a destination for gourmets, a magical land for children and a garden with a great fragrance, this is what best describes the relaxed universe within the Caru' cu Scoici, a Mediterranean fishing restaurant. Located on the seafront, in the Venus resort, at the exit towards Cap Aurora, the restaurant offers a varied menu inspired by

⁸¹⁸ (in Romanian) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BabelRestaurantLibanez/about/>

the famous cuisines in the Mediterranean area. Preparations of fish and seafood, but also other delicacies are prepared with great skill by the chefs of the restaurant. The fishing restaurant is arranged in the form of an airy terrace, lined with flowers and greenery, which descend smoothly towards the beach. At every visit, the sea keeps you company with its smooth breeze and the waves you can admire in the area. Even for children, the visit to this restaurant is delicious! For them, the restaurant created tasty menus and set up a colorful playground where time is measured by laughter, fun and appetite⁸¹⁹.



Online source: <https://carucuscoici.ro/galerie.html>

Island Restaurant from Neptun

The Island Restaurant, opened in 1968, is located on the island of a lake from Neptune. It is one of the few places where fish from Delta, seafood, but also classic dishes of beef, pork, chicken, pasta and many other Romanian dishes can be served. But what it is special about this restaurant is the unique location on the coast. Once you arrive on the island you can choose to serve a meal on the little ships, on one of the pontoons on the water, near the waterfall, under a willow tree, in a booth or a verandah. The coolness of the lake and the sea breeze are felt all over the island⁸²⁰.

⁸¹⁹ (in Romanian) <https://carucuscoici.ro/despre.html>

⁸²⁰ (in Romanian) <https://www.insulaneptun.ro/restaurant/>



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Online source: <https://www.insulaneptun.ro/restaurant/>

The Gulf Fishermen's Restaurant

The Gulf Fishermen's Restaurant was born from the need to enjoy the beauty of nature and from a great desire to express the culinary art through tasty dishes of fresh fish and seafood. Located on Agigea beach, far from the bustle of urban civilization, the restaurant has a Mediterranean style and it keeps its tradition⁸²¹.



Online source: <https://www.golfulpescarilor.ro/>

Water Gate – A Fish Restaurant near the Black Sea

The Water Gate (in Romanian: Poarta Apelor) is a restaurant with a fishery specific, located in Eforie Sud, near the Black Sea. The varied fish products are lovingly prepared by the chefs for all tastes. You will find in the menu a variety of fishery products that will delight the taste buds, prepared on the plate or fried, tasty brine, fish salads, fish soups and soups, in aromatic herb crust or salt crust. The seafood is

⁸²¹ (in Romanian) <https://www.golfulpescarilor.ro/>



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prepared with great care to conquer you from the first bite, but also the tagliatelle with seafood that can delight your senses. You can also delight in preparations of chicken, beef, pork or rat. Water Gate is a restaurant ready to delight you with fresh fish products and a pleasant atmosphere near the Black Sea!⁸²²



Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/PoartaApelor/>

Blue Aqua Restaurant

The organic architecture of the restaurants in Galați represents a combination of the natural elements with the service areas, in a perfect symbiosis that are mutually enhancing. Asymmetrical groups in the open plan, is a feature of the design applied by one of the owners, Sorin Dragan being in love with the organic shapes and nature, continuously developing a concept in which they filter light and punctuate the colors, creating a coherent and seductive ensemble for tasting. The central terrace offers intimacy to those who cross our threshold, eliminates the separation of the interior and

⁸²² <https://www.eforieonline.ro/restaurantul-pescaresc-poarta-apelor-eforie-sud.html>



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exterior space, thus achieving the maximum freedom of expression of those who taste our preparations, while maintaining harmony with the environment. With the passage of time and the evolution of the culinary techniques of preparing fish products, from smoking the products until their marination (the process of soaking foods in a seasoned, often acidic, liquid before cooking), the owners thought to transport the wild fish to the more remote areas, to satisfy even the most demanding gourmets. The owners took the initiative to take advantage of the rich freshwater fish and opened the first restaurants, where they gathered classic or traditional recipes, original and innovative. Later, they combined them with other bio-certified products, in a tasteful explosion with seafood and other wonders on the shores of the Mediterranean. Because there is plenty, taken directly from the fishermen on the banks of the Danube, we can delight the taste buds with the most refined dishes or the most common recipes, using exclusively extra virgin olive oil, olives harvested from the hills of Tuscany or vegetables grown in a bio environment by the Romanian villagers⁸²³.



Online source: <https://www.blueacqua.ro/Galați/galerie-foto-Galați>

⁸²³ (in Romanian) <https://www.blueacqua.ro/Galați/povestea-blue-acqua>



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Kingfisher Bar (in Romanian: Ivan Pescar Fish Bar)

Ivan Pescar Fish Bar from Tulcea offers fresh fish dishes from Danube Delta and Black Sea, cooked by Lipovans chefs. Ivan Pescar is a small bird of an almost electric blue, a kind of Delta hummingbird, known internationally as Kingfisher. The owner borrowed his name because Ivan Pescar is not only an exclusive fish restaurant, but a declaration of love for Danube Delta. The restaurant is a project born from friendship and shared passion for delta tastes and scents, local gastronomy and the delta's intangible heritage. Ivan Pescar offers a sincere experience, based on the quality and freshness of the fish. The dishes are cooked respecting the recipes of the place and the prohibition periods, from fresh, local and seasonal fish, from responsible catches, because we protect our future fish sources⁸²⁴.



⁸²⁴ (in Romanian) <https://www.ivanpescar.ro/povesteanoastra>



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Online source: <https://www.facebook.com/IvanPescar/photos>

4. SURVEY IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

4.1. Survey areas

4.1.1. Survey area Romania

The survey area in Romania includes: The Southeastern Region of Romania which comprises the following counties: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, and Vrancea. The main target groups to record the tourism and culture stakeholders of the study areas that are interested in the SILC project, by use of questionnaires are:

- Regional public authorities (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 2)
- NGOs (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 3)
- National Tourism Information Centers (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 4)
- Accommodations – Hotels (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 5.1)



- Accommodations – Guesthouses (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 5.2)
- Food places (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 6)
- Tourism agencies (all the local stakeholders can be found in Annex 7)

The major local tourism and culture stakeholders that showed interest in the SILC project by answering the questionnaires are displayed in the following table below.

Table 1. Major local stakeholders for the Southeastern Region of Romania

<i>N</i>	<i>Target group</i>	<i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>Contact person</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Website</i>
1	Regional public authorities	Buzău County Council	Claudiu - Tourism Department Counselor	claudiu.bz21@gmail.com	http://cjbuzau.ro/en/home-2/
2	Regional public authorities	Cosmești City Hall		cosmesti@gl.e-adm.ro	http://primaria-cosmesti.ro/
3	Regional public authorities	City Hall of Galați	Dr. Arh. Dragoș Horia Buhociu (Chief Architect institution)	arhitectsef@primariagalati.ro	https://www.primariagalati.ro/portal/index.php
4	Regional public authorities	Guidance counselor at Administrative Territorial Unit of the Isaccea Municipality		secretariatisaccea@gmail.com	https://www.isaccea.ro/
5	Regional public authorities	Ostrov City Hall		secretariat@primariaostrovtulcea.ro	https://www.primariaostrovtulcea.ro/
6	Regional public authorities	Ceatalchioi City Hall		primariaceatalchioi@gmail.com	https://www.primariaceatalchioi.ro/
7	Regional public authorities	Constanța City Hall	Alina Bădilă (Tourism department)	compartiment.turism@primaria-constantina.ro	http://www.primaria-constantina.ro/
8	Regional public authorities	Chilia Veche commune town hall	Oprisan Daniela Corina	primaria_chilia_veche@yahoo.com	https://www.primariachilia.ro/
9	Regional public authorities	Crișan Commune Hall		primariacrisan@gmail.com	https://www.primariacrisan.ro/



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10	NGOs	FLAG Delta (Local Group Association for Sustainable Fisheries Danube Delta)		flag.delta@yahoo.com	http://www.flagdelta.ro/
11	NGOs	Anticus Multicultural Association	Taner Murat	taner@anticusmulticultural.org	https://www.anticusmulticultural.org/
12	NGOs	Association of the Ecological Tourist Club MONT-DELT-MAR	President	mdm.cornel@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/mont.delt.mar/
13	NGOs	ANTREC Constanța	Florentina Dospinescu (President)	constantina@antrec.ro / florentina.dospinescu@gmail.com	http://www.antrec-se.ro/index.php/ro/judete/constantina
14	NGOs	Foundation of the Romanian School of Business of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Tulcea Branch	Florentina Jelescu (Director)	sraftl@yahoo.com	https://www.sraftl.ro/
15	NGOs	Golovița Fishermen's Association	Cătălin Balaban	asociatia.golovita@gmail.com	https://asociatiagolovita.wordpress.com/
16	NGOs	DAKIA Association for Sustainable Development, the project "Integrated Management of the North Dobrogea Plateau"	Tiberiu Cazacioc	comunicare@dakia.ro	www.dakia.ro www.apnd.ro
17	NGOs	Alpin Club Brasov	Marcel-Marian Radu (president)	marian@alpinclubbrasov.ro	http://alpinclubbrasov.ro/
18	National Tourism Information Centers	CNIPT Nehoiu	Florea Florina (Director of the tourist information center)	cniptnehoiu@yahoo.com	http://www.cniptnehoiu.ro/
19	National Tourism Information Centers	CNIPT Băneasa		cniptbaneasa@yahoo.com	http://www.baneasacnipt.ro/



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20	Accommodations – Hotels	Club D'or tourist complex in Vama Veche (SC TANDER MAXX SRL)	Manager Hotel	office@clubdor.ro	http://www.clubdor.ro/
21	Accommodations – Hotels	Delta Hotel (SC COMPLEX DELTA SRL)	Alina Dima (Front Desk Department)	receptiedelta3@gmail.com	https://www.hoteldelta.eu/
22	Accommodations – Hotels	Esplanada Hotel (SC TRIDENT SRL)	Cimpoesu Oana Raluca (Front Desk Department)	office@hotelesplanada.ro	www.hotelesplanada.ro www.esplanadaparc.ro
23	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Agrotourism Bunica Maria Guesthouse		contact@bunicamaria.com	https://www.bunicamaria.com/
24	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Andreea 2 Mai Guesthouse		casaandreea2mai@yahoo.com	https://casaandreea2mai.ro/
25	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Mariana Guesthouse	Mariana Brudaru	casamariana.murighiol@gmail.c om	https://www.booking.com/hotel/ro/casa- mariana.ro.html
26	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Agrotourism guesthouse Valea Fagilor (Ilie Marian Agro I.I.)	Ilie Marian (Manager)	iliemarian07@yahoo.com	https://www.pensiuneavaleafagilor.ro/
27	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Vasiliu Guesthouse (Ecoturism Delta SRL)	Petre Vasiliu (Manager)	petrerotl@yahoo.com	https://www.ecoturismdelta.ro/
28	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Cormoran Resort (SC Inpro Romania SRL)	Cornel Găină (General Director)	cornel_gaina@yahoo.com	http://www.cormoran.ro/
29	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Puiu Guesthouse	Băncioiu Rodica (Administrator)	pensiunea.puiu@yahoo.com	http://www.pensiuneapuiu.ro/
30	Accommodations – Guesthouses	4 Willows Guesthouse (Pensiunea 4 Sălcii)	Scurtulescu Răzvan (Administrator)	scurtulescurazvan@yahoo.com	http://pensiunea4salcii.ro/
31	Accommodations – Guesthouses	Danube's Shore House (Casa Malul Dunării)	Panschi Nicoleta	casamaluldunarii@gmail.com	https://casamaluldunarii.ro/
32	Tourism agencies	Alternative Travel (SC Dobrogea Misterioasa SRL)	C.E.O. (lawyer)	contact@alternativetravel.ro	https://www.alternativetravel.ro



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33	Tourism agencies	Verada Tour	Marcel Mocanu (Director)	contact@veradatour.ro	http://veradatour.ro/en
34	Tourism agencies	Chettusia Tours	Mihai Baci	info@chettusia.com	https://www.chettusia.com/
35	Tourism agencies	Descopera Delta Dunării	Andreea Zaharcu (tourism agent)	newstravelromania2012@yahoo.com / contact@descoperadeltadunarii.ro	www.descoperadeltadunarii.ro
36	Certified tour guide in Danube Delta	Ionuț Călin	Ionuț Călin	ionutcalin125@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/ionut.calin.165
37	Higher Education and Research Institutions	Jean Bart Theoretical High School Sulina	Valentin (educational coordinator - tour guide)	valentinropl@yahoo.com	http://liceuljeanbartsulina.info/
38	SMEs	Souvenir from Dobrogea	Bianca Cristina Folescu (Administrator)	suvenirdindobrogea@gmail.com	http://suvenirdindobrogea.ro/
39	Cultural Centers	Cultural center in Mahmudia, Tulcea	Domnița Maftei (Director)	domnitamatfei@yahoo.ro	-
40	SMEs	TONIDEL BLUE SRL in Mahmudia commune, Tulcea County	Efimov Hariton (sailor)	tonidelblue@gmail.com	-

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