

## ***International Day of Tourism***

### **Book of Abstracts**

***The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of ETDS***  
**International Online Conference 2021**



# **Pro Mountains**

**Environment - Tourism - Sustainable Development**

***“Science, society, environment in global pandemic time:  
together for a sustainable future”***

September 27, 2021

Bucharest, Romania



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## Pro Mountains Book of Abstracts

**Editors: Mihaela VERGA, Elena MATEI, Iuliana VIJULIE, Andreea ANDRA-TOPÂRCEANU, Roxana CUCULICI, Elena BOGAN, Ana Maria TALOŞ**

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**Content**

Content.....	1
CONFERENCE PROGRAM.....	3
Timothy COOLEY - <i>Sustaining Music Traditions in the Polish Tatras</i> .....	5
Alexandru ANDRĂȘANU - <i>Romanian Geoparks as Sustainable Tourism Destinations</i> .....	5
Roxana BOJARIU - <i>Mountains and Climate Risks</i> .....	6
Gabriela Elena BACIU, Cristina GARLEA, Romeo ILIE - <i>Ecotourism in mountain areas, as a solution for sustainable development of the tourism activities, simultaneously with the preservation of biodiversity</i> .....	6
Elena BOGAN, Andreea-Loreta CERCLEUX- <i>Sustainability analysis of human settlements in Trascău Mountains</i> .....	7
Donatella CARBONI, Andreea ANDRA-TOPÂRCEANU, Giampietro MAZZA - <i>Sustainability, good practices and tourism development of mountain areas. The case of Mamoiada in Sardinia (Italy)</i> .....	7
Alexandru Cosmin CĂLIN - <i>Tourists' perception of the attractiveness of national and natural parks in the Southern Carpathians</i> .....	8
Siya Dimitrova CHOLAKOVA - <i>Climate change vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation strategies of the ski industry - the case of Pamporovo, Bulgaria</i> .....	9
Alexandra CIOCLU - <i>Geomorphological risk in Sasca Montană (Banat Mountains, Nera Gorges - Beușnița National Park, Romania)</i> .....	10
Florentina Violeta COJOCARU, Mirela Elena MAZILU - <i>"Corona crises" and its effects on the Romanian tourism</i> .....	10
Bogdan-Tudor CONSTANTINOV - <i>Political-administrative measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and restore tourism in Lushan (China)</i> .....	11
Roxana CUCULICI, Răzvan-Constantin OPREA, Laurențiu CIORNEI, Iuliana VIJULIE, George MURĂTOREANU - <i>Impact of the afforestation process on carbon flow in the Eastern Carpathians. Case study: Broșteni Forest District, Suceava County</i> .....	11
Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINCĂ, Mihaela PREDA, Iuliana VIJULIE, Ana-Maria TALOȘ, Alina MARECI, Camelia SURUGIU, Marius-Răzvan SURUGIU - <i>Silver Tourism and Seniors' Well-Being – Challenges in the Post Covid-19 Era</i> .....	12
Alessandro GALLO - <i>The abandonment of the Italian mountains: origins, consequences and the possible role of tourism</i> .....	13
Ruxandra-Luminița GHEORGHE - <i>Measures and policies for the revitalization of mountain tourism in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Case Study: Wudang Mountains (P. R. of China)</i> .....	13
Romeo ILIE, Cristina GARLEA, Gabriela Elena BACIU- <i>System Theory and Thermodynamic System Principles Used for Ecotourism Behavior Assessment</i> .....	14
Elena MATEI, Iuliana VIJULIE, Tania Florentina PÂRGHIE, Gabriela MANEA, Daniela NICOLAIE - <i>Resilience issues in tourism. An analysis of the tourist demand for the Romanian Carpathian destination during the COVID 19 Pandemic</i> .....	15
Florentina-Cristina MERCIU, Dumitru Ioan PUȘCAȘU, George-Laurențiu MERCIU - <i>Actions and challenges to increase the visibility of mining heritage. Case study: Petroșani Municipality (Romania)</i> .....	16
Daniela NICOLAIE, Elena MATEI - <i>Population's perception on tourist destinations generated by genius people of the Romanian culture</i> .....	16

Amalia NIȚĂ, Liliana POPESCU - <i>Sustainable tourism development of mountain destinations. Case study: Romanian-Serbian cross-border sector</i> .....	17
Robert PAWLUSIŃSKI, Magdalena KUBAL-CZERWIŃSKA - <i>Tourism and national parks: economic aspects on the example of national parks in the Polish Carpathians</i> .....	17
Cosmin-Gabriel PORUMB-GHIURCO - <i>The tourist image of Transylvania's natural resources from the sustainable development point of view</i> .....	18
Mihaela PREDA, Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINCĂ, Iuliana VIJULIE, Alina MARECI - <i>The role of Saxon architecture in tourist promotion. Case study: Bunești, Brașov County</i> .....	18
Silvia PUIU, Mihaela Tinca UDRIȘTIOIU, Alessandro GALLO, Liliana VELEA - <i>The interest of generation Z for sustainable tourism</i> .....	19
Radu SĂGEATĂ, Mihaela PERȘU, Bianca MITRICĂ, Nicoleta DAMIAN, Irena MOCANU - <i>Traditional and modern in the pastoral economy of Mărginimea Sibiului, Romania</i> .....	19
Iulia Mihaela STOICAN, Alina MARECI, Iuliana VIJULIE - <i>Understanding wine tourism issues in Romania</i> .....	19
Marius-Nicolae TRUȚESCU - <i>Sentiment analysis through emotional feedback expressed online - case study Călimănești Resort</i> .....	20
Mihaela Tinca UDRIȘTIOIU, Liliana VELEA, Silvia PUIU - <i>Education for sustainable development</i> .....	21
Mihaela VERGA, Andreea ANDRA-TOPÂRCEANU - <i>Methodological Approach of Applied Geomorphology Research in Highly Vulnerable Mountain Regions</i> .....	21
Iuliana VIJULIE, Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINCĂ, Mihaela PREDA, Alina MARECI, Elena MATEI, Roxana CUCULICI, Ana-Maria TALOȘ - <i>Certeze village – the dilemma of traditional vs modern architecture in Țara Oașului, Romania</i> .....	22

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**9:00-9:20 Opening Ceremony, Elena Matei-CARTEDD. Link: [meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig](https://meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig)**

**Mr. Terente CIUI**, Minister Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

**PhD. Mioara CLIUS**, Vice Dean, Faculty of Geography, Bucharest University

**PhD. Ion PÂRGARU**, President, Romanian Tourism Marketing Organization

**9:20-9:30 Fotogeografica Presentation, Mr. Paul Bordaș**, Bucharest Student Culture House, *The enigmas of Buzau Country at a coffee*

**9:30-10:30 Plenary Session, Elena Matei-CARTEDD. Link: [meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig](https://meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig)**

**PhD. Timothy J. COOLEY**, Professor, University of California, USA – *"Sustaining Music Traditions in the Polish Tatras"*

**PhD. Alexandru ANDRĂȘANU**, Director, Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark & Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, Bucharest University, Romania – *"Romanian Geoparks as Sustainable Destinations"*

**PhD. Roxana BOJARIU**, Senior Researcher, National Meteorological Administration, Romania – *"Mountains and Climate Risks"*

## Thematic Sessions

**Session 1: Toward carbon neutrality in mountains life, GIS solutions for mountains development, Mountain land abandonment & Silver and YG Tourism**

**Chairs: Alessandro Gallo & Ana-Irina Lequeux-Dincă**

*Chair assistant: Marius-Nicolae Truțescu*

**10:35-12:00 Link: [meet.google.com/cuc-xeqn-cwg](https://meet.google.com/cuc-xeqn-cwg)**

**Alessandro Gallo** - *The abandonment of the Italian mountains: origins, consequences and the possible role of tourism*

**Siya Dimitrova Cholakova** - *Climate change vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation strategies of the ski industry - the case of Pamporovo, Bulgaria*

**Silvia Puiu, Mihaela Tinca Udriștioiu, Alessandro Gallo, Liliana Velea** - *The interest of generation Z for sustainable tourism*

**Ana-Irina Lequeux-Dincă, Mihaela Preda, Iuliana Vijulie, Ana-Maria Taloș, Alina Mareci, Camelia Surugiu, Marius-Răzvan Surugiu** - *Silver Tourism and Seniors' Well-Being – Challenges in the Post Covid-19 Era*

**Marius-Nicolae Truțescu** - *Sentiment analysis through emotional feedback expressed online - case study Călimănești Resort*

**Roxana Cuculici, Răzvan-Constantin Oprea, Laurențiu Ciornei, Iuliana Vijulie, George Murătoreanu** - *Impact of the afforestation process on carbon flow in the Eastern Carpathians. Case study: Broșteni Forest District, Suceava County*

**Session 2: Sustainable local communities in mountain areas & Sustainable management of tourism destinations**

**Chairs: Donatella Carboni, Andreea Andra-Topârceanu**

*Chair assistant: Alexandra Cioclu*

**10:35-12:00 Link: [meet.google.com/uiy-kvyq-znf](https://meet.google.com/uiy-kvyq-znf)**

**Donatella Carboni, Andreea Andra-Topârceanu, Giampietro Mazza** - *Sustainability, good practices and tourism development of mountain areas. The case of Mamoiada in Sardinia (Italy)*

**Florentina-Cristina Merciu, Dumitru Ioan Pușcașu, George-Laurențiu Merciu** - *Actions and challenges to increase the visibility of mining heritage. Case study: Petroșani Municipality (Romania)*

**Romeo Ilie, Cristina Garlea, Gabriela Elena Baci** - *System Theory and Thermodynamic System Principles Used for Ecotourism Behavior Assessment*

**Amalia Niță, Liliana Popescu** - *Sustainable tourism development of mountain destinations. Case study: Romanian-Serbian cross-border sector*

**Iulia Mihaela Stoican, Alina Mareci, Iuliana Vijulie** - *Understanding wine tourism issues in Romania*



**Session 3: Mountain resilience and risks****Chairs: Elena Matei & Elena Bogan***Chair assistant: Florentina Parghie***10:35-12:00** **Link:** [meet.google.com/gqb-qumy-zif](https://meet.google.com/gqb-qumy-zif)**Elena Matei, Iuliana Vijulie, Tania Florentina Pârghe, Gabriela Manea, Daniela Nicolaie** - *Resilience issues in tourism. An analysis of the tourist demand for the Romanian Carpathian destination during the COVID 19 Pandemic***Mihaela Verga, Andreea Andra-Topârceanu** - *Methodological Approach of Applied Geomorphology Research in Highly Vulnerable Mountain Regions***Alexandra Cioclu** - *Geomorphological risk in Sasca Montană (Banat Mountains, Nera Gorges - Beuşniţa National Park, Romania)***Florentina Violeta Cojocaru, Mirela Elena Mazilu** - *Corona- crises and its effects on the Romanian Tourism*  
**Bogdan-Tudor Constantinov** - *Political-administrative measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and restore tourism in Lushan (China)***Ruxandra-Luminiţa Gheorghe** - *Measures and policies for the revitalization of mountain tourism in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Case Study: Wudang Mountains (P. R. of China)***Coffee break: 12:00-12:10****Session 4: Protected areas for sustainable development & ESD****Chairs: Magdalena Kubal-Czerwińska & Mihaela Verga***Chair assistant: Daniela Nicolaie***12:10-13:30** **Link:** [meet.google.com/bqo-bdka-uhj](https://meet.google.com/bqo-bdka-uhj)**Robert Pawlusiński, Magdalena Kubal-Czerwińska** - *Tourism and national parks: economic aspects. On the example of national parks in the Polish Carpathians***Alexandru Cosmin Călin** - *Tourists' perception of the attractiveness of national and natural parks in the Southern Carpathians***Daniela Nicolaie, Elena Matei** - *Population's perception on tourist destinations generated by genius people of the Romanian culture***Mihaela Tinca Udriştiou, Liliana Velea, Silvia Puiu** - *Education for sustainable development***Gabriela Elena Baci, Cristina Garlea, Romeo Ilie** - *Ecotourism in mountain areas, as a solution for sustainable development of the tourism activities, simultaneously with the preservation of biodiversity***Session 5: Sustainable local communities in mountain areas****Chairs: Cosmin-Gabriel Porumb-Ghiurco & Iuliana Vijulie***Chair assistant: Ana-Maria Talos***12:10-13:30** **Link:** [meet.google.com/fmj-ytrk-vds](https://meet.google.com/fmj-ytrk-vds)**Radu Săgeată, Mihaela Perşu, Bianca Mitrică, Nicoleta Damian, Irena Mocanu** - *Traditional and modern in the pastoral economy of Mărginimea Sibiului, Romania***Cosmin-Gabriel Porumb-Ghiurco** - *The tourist image of Transylvania's natural resources from the sustainable development point of view***Iuliana Vijulie, Ana-Irina Lequeux-Dincă, Mihaela Preda, Alina Mareci, Elena Matei, Roxana Cuculici, Ana-Maria Talos** - *Certeze village – the dilemma of traditional vs modern architecture in Ţara Oaşului, Romania***Mihaela Preda, Ana-Irina Lequeux-Dincă, Iuliana Vijulie, Alina Mareci** - *The role of Saxon architecture in tourist promotion. Case study: Buneşti, Braşov County***Elena Bogan, Andreea-Loreta Cercleux** - *Sustainability analysis of human settlements in Trascău Mountains***13:30-14:00** **Photo Presentation & Closing Ceremony, Mihaela Verga, Bucharest University** **Link:** [meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig](https://meet.google.com/oiu-kwir-wig)**13:30-13:40** **Photo Presentation, Mr. Petru Paul Torac, Ethnographic museum in Brodina, Bukovina:** *The Hutsuls' Heritage***13:40-14:00** **Closing Ceremony, Photos shoot**

## Sustaining Music Traditions in the Polish Tatras

Timothy COOLEY<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Departments of Music and Global Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA*

\*e-mail address: [cooley@ucsb.edu](mailto:cooley@ucsb.edu)

Tourism in the Tatra Mountains has historically played a role in forming conceptions of mountains themselves and of the human societies that develop within mountain regions. While preindustrial village social structures in the Tatras, as in much of the Carpathians, tended to be ecologically sustainable (Angelstam et al. 2013: 394), tourism to the Polish Tatra region known as Podhale began to change relationships to mountain ecologies by facilitating casual temporary interactions with the landscape that did not require mutual sustainability for survival. While one result was loss of many sustainable land-use traditions, tourism also encouraged the continued practice by the local *Górale* (mountain people or highlanders) of their distinctive poetry, music, and dance traditions. This, in turn, contributed to the resilience of those performative traditions in Podhale as well as among the *Górale* diaspora. In this brief presentation, I show that *Górale* musicking, or *muzyka po góralsku* (music, dance, poetry in the mountain way) both expresses and enacts profound relationships with mountain ecosystems (Cooley 2005). Effectively a living repository of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, how might we use *Górale* musicking to develop new/old standards of tourism that engage actively the beautifully daunting yet fragile mountain ecosystems?

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- Angelstam, P., et al. (2013). "Maintaining Cultural and Natural Biodiversity in the Carpathian Mountain Ecoregion: Need for an Integrated Landscape Approach." In *The Carpathians: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability*. Edited by J. Kozak, K. Ostapowicz, A. Bytnerowicz, & B. Wyzga. Pp 393-424. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-12725-0\\_28](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-12725-0_28).
- Cooley, T. (2005). *Making Music in the Polish Tatras: Tourists, Ethnographers, and Mountain Musicians*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press).

## Romanian Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations

Alexandru ANDRASANU<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geoparks, Romania*

UNESCO Global Geoparks are well defined territories where unique geological, natural and cultural assets are used as resources for sustainable development of local communities. The concept was developed in Europe then became global and in 2015 UNESCO adopted the new Geosciences and Geoparks Program in partnership with the Global Geoparks Network Association. In 2021 the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network is comprising 169 territories from 44 countries and is continuous growing. The Geoparks are territories of sustainable tourism based on collaboration with local entrepreneurship and family jobs, promoting local products and local gastronomy, supporting the use of traditional techniques. A geopark is offering to their visitor the chance to discover the Earth history and the strong connections between people and their territory. Located in the Southwest of Transylvania, Romania, Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark is the result of a grass-root effort which began in 2000 and was initiated and coordinated by the University of Bucharest, now a major partner in the Geopark's management. In Hateg Country stories about the dwarf dinosaurs of Transylvania, as well as the tales of the earth, nature and people, have been developed as geoproducts made available in a network of visitor centres and sites designated as "Houses of the Geopark" and

“DinoStops”. The tourists are invited to enjoy a 600 million years’ time travel and discover the geological and cultural history of the territory. Due to its socio-economic impact Hateg Geopark became a model for other aspiring geoparks project in Romania: Buzaul Land, Oltenia de sub Munte and Carpaterra.

## Mountains and Climate Risks

Roxana BOJARIU<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Meteorological Administration, Romania, USA

\*e-mail address: [bojariu@meteoromania.ro](mailto:bojariu@meteoromania.ro)

Climate risks have been defined as the superposition of probability of hazards’ occurrence with the associated impact on human systems. We have to consider both climate and socio-economic aspects within the current and future socio-economic context, and to evaluate the associated impact and risks in order to adapt to them and limit their effects. Future projections under climate change scenarios reveal that temperature increase will be larger in Romanian Carpathians than in the rest of the country resulting in an upward shift of plant and animal species. Future-projected seasonal snow depths (October to April) show a strong downward trend all over Romania with magnitude depending on time horizon, scenario, altitude and other local factors. The impact of snow depth reduction on ski-related tourism, in the Romanian Carpathians is identified as reduced number of days with ski conditions and reduced number of months with adequate conditions for artificial snow production during the ski season (from 1 December to 15 April next year). Extreme precipitation episodes (daily amount greater than 20 mm) will be slightly more frequent, especially Western, Southern and North Eastern areas of Carpathians which have the potential to make the associated river basins prone to more flash floods. Other risks in Carpathians are related to hail episodes, rock falls and landslides. Adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects (by reducing GHG emissions) involve smart climate actions, defined as those that simultaneously bring benefits to adaptation, mitigation, the environment (by preserving / restoring biodiversity) and the economy. A better understanding of climate risks can open up a wider range of responses and adaptive solutions. Institutional capacity building and education are important measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. But even with the improvement of knowledge, uncertainty will remain inherent during decision-making processes related to adaptation and mitigation and should be taken into account by both providers of scientific knowledge and decision-makers.

## Ecotourism in mountain areas, as a solution for sustainable development of the tourism activities, simultaneously with the preservation of biodiversity

Gabriela Elena BACIU<sup>1\*</sup>, Cristina GARLEA<sup>2</sup>, Romeo ILIE<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Romanian Academy, National Institute of Economic Research - Center of Mountain Economy -CEMONT

<sup>2</sup>Romanian Academy, National Institute for Economic Researches "Costin C. Kirişescu", Center for Study and Research for AgroForestry Biodiversity "Acad. David Davidescu"

<sup>3</sup>Alpina Carpatica Association, Romania

\*e-mail address: [gabriela\\_baciu@yahoo.com](mailto:gabriela_baciu@yahoo.com)

Arisen in the framework of sustainable development as a concept for turn tourism into conservation and development issues, ecotourism can be a solution for mountain natural ecosystems for a better



and healthier life of their inhabitants, flora and fauna. The objectives of the paper are to provide answers to questions such as: Which are the latest methodologies, methods and tools for analysing and assessing the value (monetary and non-monetary) of mountain natural ecosystem services (NMS)? Are they sufficient in number and coverage and provide acceptable accuracy for assessments, individually or in a combined form? What are the types of tourism activities that present challenges with both negative and positive impact on natural mountain ecosystems and to what extent mountain ecosystems are affected by these disruptive actions? Taking into account the increasing pressures on mountain ecosystems we consider that in depth studies to estimate their total value to be used for elaborating public policies are needed. We provide recommendations for further studies and public decision makers for ensuring the sustainable economic development of tourism activities- in mountain areas.

**Keywords:** *mountain tourism, conservation and sustainable development, ecosystems, biodiversity, ecotourism, public policies*

### **Sustainability analysis of human settlements in Trascău Mountains**

*Elena BOGAN<sup>1\*</sup>, Andreea-Loreta CERCLEUX<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [elena.bogan@geo.unibuc.ro](mailto:elena.bogan@geo.unibuc.ro)*

Life in the rural environment, more than in any other social environment, lies on a series of rules emanated by century life, traditions, habits and local culture. The way of rural life in Trascău Mountains, traditions and habits, which is an unparalleled wealth, forms together the local rural culture, social life of rural settlements being close related with the spiritual life and culture. Unfortunately, lots of social life and culture elements have been lost from rural environment. Even if certain traditions have disappeared, however in the rural space of Trascău Mountains are maintained some ethnography and folklore treasures, crafts which are a great wealth, all these being a wealth which must be saved. The small numbered rural communities from Trascău Mountains are the primary communities, with deep imbalances between major age groups, being characterized by a concern ageing tendency, without the chance of initial numeric stock restoration on natural way. The viability problem in Trascău Mountains involves, besides demographic aspects and economic, cultural, psychological and political aspects which are, mainly, the ones which requires the settlements sustainability in time. The main goal of this study is knowledge of particular features, potential, restrictions and future directions of development of human communities in Trascău Mountains, as support in developing a model of integration and functionality in regional context.

### **Sustainability, good practices and tourism development of mountain areas. The case of Mamoiada in Sardinia (Italy)**

*Donatella CARBONI<sup>1\*</sup>, Andreea ANDRA-TOPÂRCEANU<sup>2</sup>, Giampietro MAZZA<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Sassari, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Italy*

<sup>2</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [carbonid@uniss.it](mailto:carbonid@uniss.it)*

Mountain regions have been shaped by human activity over time, resulting consequent and significant changes in relation to the original ecosystems, either at a material level, being environmental and

landscape changes, or at a immaterial level, affecting identities and traditions. As far as these fragile are concerned, also in Sardinia, have been mainly characterized by a continuous population and agriculture land abandonment, especially in the last 50 years, with a consequent spatial reorganization and reshaping. Since that time, mountain areas have been characterized by de-ruralisation which as a consequence of the spread of uncultivated land, has led to the transformation of landscapes, especially agro-pastoral ones, resulting in a relative social, cultural and economic degradation of the Sardinian mountains. Today, the tourism phenomenon has limited depopulation in the mountain areas of Sardinia and favours sustainable development strategies for these areas. A very good example of the increasing of the positive tourism impact on territory development, over the past few years, is given by the current state of tourism phenomenon of the municipality of Mamoiada in central Sardinia. The promotion and the role of The Museum of Mediterranean Masks of Municipality of Mamoiada (Museo delle Maschere Mediterranee del Comune di Mamoiada), beside the rich, diverse cultural and traditional heritage, the increasing quality of the wine production (winery) are the most important factors in the growth of cultural and oenogastronomic tourism. The paper highlights the role of the new shapes of land use (land planning of the territory) that have played in enhancing the valorisation of local and peculiar features, as well as the role of the environmental, cultural and identity tourism resources of Sardinian territory.

### **Tourists' perception of the attractiveness of national and natural parks in the Southern Carpathians**

*Alexandru Cosmin CĂLIN<sup>1</sup>\**

*<sup>1</sup>University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

*\*e-mail address: cosmin.calin@drd.unibuc.ro*

The attractiveness of a tourist destination is an attribute of the respective destination which expresses the ability to attract and satisfy potential tourists. The analysis of the attractiveness of a tourist destination can be done from two different perspectives. A first approach focuses on the features of the destination (generally on physical features, but not only that), while the other type of analysis can be done from the perspective of consumer psychology (tourists), representing the ability of destinations to meet individual needs. In other words, attractiveness can be measured from two perspectives: supply and demand. The questionnaire method was used to analyse the perception of tourists. It was made using the Google Forms application and was applied online, during May and June 2021, using the "snowball" technique. 543 responses were collected from people from all counties of the country, gender, age, educational level and miscellaneous income. The data were processed in SPSS Statistics v. 28 by quantitative research - descriptive statistics (frequency, crosstabs), correlations (Pearson coefficient), chi square test and graphical functions. The results reveal a strong visibility deficit in the case of Grădiştea Muncelului - Cioclovina Natural Park and Buila - Vânturariţa National Park. At the opposite pole are the Retezat and Piatra Craiului national parks and the Bucegi natural park, since they contain mountain massifs recognized nationally as having a great attractiveness. It is quite clear that accessibility is a key attribute for attractiveness, having a high influence on it. However, there are two protected natural areas whose attractiveness exceeds the barrier imposed by accessibility, respectively Retezat National Park and Bucegi Natural Park, where tourists choose to go irrespective of the distance from their domicile. Among the

attributes of the tourist attractiveness, the relief and the flora are perceived as the most important elements that determine the choice of a destination.

### **Climate change vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation strategies of the ski industry - the case of Pamporovo, Bulgaria**

*Siya Dimitrova CHOLAKOVA<sup>1</sup>\**

<sup>1</sup>*Sofia University 'Sv. Kl. Ohridski', Bulgaria*

*\*e-mail address: [siya@gea.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:siya@gea.uni-sofia.bg)*

The already observed and expected in the near future climate changes present a challenge for the tourist destinations as the physical manifestations of this phenomenon will lead to many other socio-economic changes. The mountain areas, and the ski industry respectively, are one of the first and most studied example of the climate change impacts on tourism. Still, there are a lot of gaps in knowledge, as well as different, often confronting, approaches and methodologies. Each tourist system consists of unique combination of many different factors. They would define the specific context vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the destination towards the effect of climate changes. The PhD thesis attempts to carry out a practical assessment of the vulnerability of a ski destination in Bulgaria, as well as its adaptive capacity. It also aims to identify the possible adaptation strategies and to rank them according to a set of sustainability criteria. Using a case study approach, in the dissertation there is rich secondary information, mainly climatological, statistical and financial. The primary research was carried in two stages – first, a questionnaire survey was conducted among the tourists in the resort and the local population, and then a set of interviews were performed with representatives of the key stakeholders groups. This way both quantitative and qualitative information was included in the analysis. The thesis starts by a detailed literature review on the existing theoretical frameworks in the sphere of tourism and climate change and suggests a methodology for assessment of the vulnerability and adaptive capacity that could be applied to any destination. The first stage of the proposed framework includes an analysis of the history and trends during the years from the establishment of the resort by today, as the ‘path dependency’ forms to a big extend its current problems. It is followed by a review and appraisal of the combination of diverse physical, social, economic and political factors for the development of tourism in the destination. This mixture, summarized in a quantified situation analysis forms its current climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity. In order to draw an effective sustainable development strategy for climate change adaptation of the destination, the perceptions of all stakeholder groups regarding the main adaptation strategies in the ski industry are presented. Conclusion regarding the suitability of the three most popular of them are made and a sustainability score given to each of them. The results in this PhD dissertation should be treated as an exploratory study as its main limitation is the small sample sizes of the questionnaire survey. Still, as it is done for the very first time for the Bulgarian ski industry, these results reveal interesting insights and allow some conclusions to be made. A team of experts would also give more accurate quantification of the assessments.

## **Geomorphological risk in Sasca Montană (Banat Mountains, Nera Gorges - Beușnița National Park, Romania)**

*Alexandra CIOCLU<sup>1</sup>\**

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [alexandracioclu2@gmail.com](mailto:alexandracioclu2@gmail.com)*

The area proposed for the study is part of the Nera Gorge-Beușnița National Park and focuses on the areas with great tourist attraction within Sasca Montană. Although relatively small, the area is full of invaluable natural and cultural values. The aim of the study is to analyse geomorphological risk, especially to collapses. The analysed parameters are slopes, aspect, geology and land use. The methodology to derive Geomorphological risk is based on GIS techniques and the results we obtained point out that the study area is a region where parameters such as geomorphological risk have small incidence. This fact is due to the large homogeneous areas from the standpoint of geology and land cover, but also as an effect of large surfaces with a planar aspect as karstic plateaus. The results reveal that Sasca Montană represents a space with small surfaces which are prone to risks associated with geomorphological process due to the large areas where vegetation is present and also due to large plateaus where the primary processes are related to karstification. This study may be useful for local authorities in elaborating tourist and developing strategies.

## **"Corona crises" and its effects on the Romanian tourism**

*Florentina Violeta COJOCARU<sup>1</sup>\*, Mirela Elena MAZILU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*Universitatea din Craiova, Facultatea de Științe, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [violetacojocaru24@gmail.com](mailto:violetacojocaru24@gmail.com)*

The COVID - 19 pandemic had a strong impact on the global economy, so all sectors of activity suffered. The tourism sector was hit hardest by the pandemic, due to travel restrictions. The objectives of this research focused on the following directions: 1. Assessing the impact that the COVID - 19 crisis on tourism in Romania and 2. Finding solutions in support of the Romanian tourism industry. Other thematic articles online mined, were used in the writing of the paper, and their content was interpreted and synthesized. Global, European and national tourism is facing the biggest economic and health crisis due to the pandemic caused by the COVID virus - 19, due to which tourism has come to rest and the borders have been closed for a long time. The study aims to conduct a detailed analysis of the situation of Romanian tourism, because the number of tourists decreased sharply in 2020, compared to 2019, the new rules imposed limited the type of tourists, so most tourists were domestic (96.7% of total arrivals), and international ones with a small percentage (3.3% of total arrivals). The data included in the analysis came from the specialized literature, which does not cover the topic in Romania, from the media and statistical data, for which we used the statistical resources provided by INSS (National Institute of Statistics) which were subsequently processed, compared and analyzed. Another method used is the questionnaire ("Perception of Romanian tourists before and after COVID -19"), which aimed to collect information and data on how the perceptions were affected and changed in the way they travel. The study then shows the solutions regarding the lifting of travel restrictions, the restoration and rethinking of the Romanian tourism sector for the future. The measures designed and applied for the relaunch of European and national tourism were: the Green Electronic Certificate;

Restaurant safety guide; State aid guide for HORECA. In order to safely reopen Romanian tourism, quite large investments must be made in this field, as well as a lot of involvement in promoting it, both internally and externally. Romanian tourism should not be summarized, only on the practice of coastal and mountain tourism, but should include other types suitable for the current situation, such as: rural tourism, agrotourism and ecotourism.

### **Political-administrative measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and restore tourism in Lushan (China)**

*Bogdan-Tudor CONSTANTINOV<sup>1</sup>\**

<sup>1</sup>*Cabinet de avocat Constantinov Bogdan-Tudor, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [bconstantinov@outlook.com](mailto:bconstantinov@outlook.com)*

Based on large-scale five-year plans aimed at economic growth and the fight against poverty, Jiangxi Province in the People's Republic of China is trying to attract as many tourists, both domestic and foreign, through its tourism objectives. With the SARS-Cov2 Coronavirus pandemic, the number of tourists decreased a lot, which affected the local economy and, implicitly, the tourism industry. Lushan Touristic Complex, one of the most valuable resorts, has managed, on the basis of central and local orders, to overcome these pandemic problems with flying colors. The understanding of some laws and administrative acts, the punishment of some officials who did not obey the law, led to a sudden return of tourism, although in some areas of China it is still a lockdown. The study reveals how, through a mechanism of coercion and propaganda, China has managed to overcome, in part, the negative situation created by COVID-19 and move forward in the development of its national programs.

**Keywords:** *tourism, five-years plan, pandemic, law, China, Lushan*

### **Impact of the afforestation process on carbon flow in the Eastern Carpathians. Case study: Broșteni Forest District, Suceava County**

*Roxana CUCULICI<sup>1</sup>\*, Constantin-Răzvan OPREA<sup>1</sup>, Laurențiu CIORNEI<sup>2</sup>, Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1</sup>, George MURĂTOREANU<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>2</sup>*Romanian Academy, Centre of Biodiversity*

<sup>3</sup>*"Valahia" University of Târgoviște, Faculty of Humanities Sciences, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [roxanacuculici@gmail.com](mailto:roxanacuculici@gmail.com)*

Over the millennia, forest ecosystems have had and still have a major role in the protection of the planet against extreme weather events, of the increasing pollution generated by a multitude of natural or anthropogenic sources. At the level of the 1990s, there was only 2.6% forest area of the total dry land area so a decrease of almost by half compared to the prehistoric period. In the current context of climate change and rising global pollution levels, considers the forest a particularly important element of biodiversity with a major role in air purification through the consumption of carbon dioxide and the generation of oxygen in the atmosphere, thus, 1 ha of forest consumes annually about 18 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and produces at the same time 30 tons of O<sub>2</sub>. The purpose of this study was to highlight the impact of the afforestation process on the carbon flow in mountainous areas of Romania, with the complex analysis of the situation of the Broșteni Forest District in Suceava County chosen as a case study. The



objectives of the study focused on many aspects such as diachronic analysis of forest areas over about 10 years, calculating the carbon storage capacity, and highlighting the benefits brought by the afforestation processes of the last years within the Broșteni Forest District. The methodology included GIS techniques, fractal analysis, and forest econometrics. The results of this study highlighted several major changes that occurred in the wooded areas as a result of the extreme phenomena recorded during the analysed time interval, changes in the health of the stand, and fluctuations in the carbon storage and sequestration capacity in the study area. The conclusions of this study highlight the need to continue and improve the afforestation process in the area and its extension at the national level.

### **Silver Tourism and Seniors' Well-Being - Challenges in Post Covid-19 Era**

*Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINCA<sup>1\*</sup>, Mihaela PREDA<sup>1</sup>, Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1</sup>, Ana-Maria TALOȘ<sup>1</sup>, Alina MARECI<sup>1</sup>, Camelia SURUGIU<sup>2</sup>, Marius-Răzvan SURUGIU<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania

<sup>2</sup> University of Bucharest, Faculty of Administration and Business, Romania

<sup>3</sup> Romanian Academy, Institute of National Economy

\*e-mail address: [ana.dinca@g.unibuc.ro](mailto:ana.dinca@g.unibuc.ro)

Facing important demographic challenges as a consequence of population ageing, the design and implementation of economic and social policies in the EU gradually defined in the last years silver tourism and seniors' well-being as an essential stake in the leisure market. The current COVID-19 pandemic generated unprecedented impacts upon travelling and hospitality industry and exposed important vulnerabilities for some sectors particularly connected to the well-being (e.g. dine-in services) also emphasizing a high risk of lethal consequences for aged people diagnosed with the virus. The current study *aims* to assess both opportunities and challenges for planning silver tourism and seniors' well-being in Romania in the post COVID-19 era. The *research questions* addressed the pre-COVID-19 tourism consumption trends and well-being activities of Romanian seniors and the possible post-COVID-19 future trends and solutions for silver leisure consumers. The research used *both desk study and field study methods*. Desk study methodology comprised text and data mining techniques for analysing relevant statistics, academic articles and legislation related to the topic. Field research referred to an extended survey on Bucharest residents age 65 and over, to identify their main preferences regarding recreational activities and leisure tourism destinations before COVID-19 pandemics. The *main results and discussions* focus on the senior travelling segments and silver consumers' preferences for well-being activities in Romania, often encountering restrictive factors (e.g. income, education level) and consequently requesting for tailor-made products. Because of COVID-19 sanitary and travel restrictions the development of silver economy for leisure products seems however particularly vulnerable and adapted products should be designed accordingly. The challenge of the growing potential for silver leisure market in the post-COVID-19 era is obviously a key domain for future sustainable, integrated development policies and requires for further in-depth researches and appropriate regional solutions.

## **The abandonment of the Italian mountains: origins, consequences and the possible role of tourism**

*Alessandro GALLO<sup>1</sup>\**

<sup>1</sup>*University Ca'Foscari Venice, Dept. of Humanities, Italy*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: alekos@unive.it*

35% of the Italian territory is mountainous. This large area, corresponding to the Alpine arc and the Apennine ridge, suffers, after the World War 2 onwards, from some negative distortions compared to the rest of the national territory. The most striking phenomena are those of the pronounced demographic decline, the abandonment of cultivated areas, an infrastructural level lower than that of the plains and hills. The inland areas (largely coinciding with the mountainous ones) have some common characteristics: difficult access to services (education, health, transport), a demographic structure characterized by a high seniority index, low economic indices, an increase in cases of environmental instability often linked to depopulation and the consequent lack of care of the territory. It should be noted, however, that in a general negative panorama there are exceptions represented, for example, by the Trentino - Alto Adige and Valle d'Aosta Regions as a whole, and by other areas that have developed forms of tourism, sustainable or not, linked to winter sports, growing interest in food and wine, the development of glamping, agro-tourism, and trekking. There is a substantial increase in the organization of these activities of the local component, often by the younger part of the population. The disadvantage of mountain areas is not caused only by the "orographic factor" but by the type of management policies of the territory both locally and nationally. The two levels are, in fact, in direct relationship: industrial development after the Second World War took place in the plains and hills. The subsequent interpretation of territorial gaps according to a North-South scheme (later expanded with the recognition of a third partition: the North-East) has diverted attention from other types of geographical metaphors, hiding the issues relating to the marginalization of the mountain.

**Keywords:** *mountain areas depletion – sustainable tourism – land management*

## **Measures and policies for the revitalization of mountain tourism in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Case Study: Wudang Mountains (P. R. of China)**

*Ruxandra-Luminița GHEORGHE<sup>1</sup>\**

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: ruxandra.gheorghe80@yahoo.fr*

This study analyzes the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism situation in the Wudang Mountains, a mountain range with a beautiful natural landscape and a rich architectural landscape, located in the northwest of Hubei Province, in the center of the People's Republic of China. Considering the impact of the global pandemic, the Wudang Mountains are even at a relatively short distance (about 450 km) from the center of this pandemic - Wuhan City. Although the location of this destination would not be favorable for tourism during this period, and the foreign tourist demand decreased due to the difficulty of obtaining a visa to enter China, respectively the mass departure of its borders by foreigners, the information provided by the Bureau of the Administrative Committee for the Wudang Mountains Special Zone shows that in 2020, tourist demand and tourism revenues increased compared to the previous year. The article describes the main strengths of the Wudang

Mountains, which were used in the marketing of this destination by the departments of tourism, health, emergency, transportation, etc. from Hubei Province, in close collaboration with the population and travel agencies, as well as with representatives of accommodation and dining structures. Important in the current context are the work plans of the authorities for the prevention and control of the epidemic, tourism safety and quality of services in order to provide tourists with safe, attentive and comfortable services, presented along with the impact of the pandemic on the local population. Very important in the recovery of local tourism was the involvement of the authorities, using effective methods and policies of promotion, through special packages of offers for tourists and by supporting businesses in the field. The analysis of the evolution of tourists' circulation and revenues during the pandemic versus the one before it highlights the results of the applied measures, which have a special role in the authorities' plans for further development of tourism in the area, focused on reviving international tourism.

**Keywords:** *cultural heritage, prevention and control, pandemic, tourist traffic, tourist revitalization.*

## System Theory and Thermodynamic System Principles Used for Ecotourism Behavior Assessment

*Romeo ILIE<sup>1\*</sup>, Cristina GARLEA<sup>2</sup>, Gabriela Elena BACIU<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*Alpina Carpatica Association, Romania*

<sup>2</sup>*Romanian Academy, National Institute for Economic Researches "Costin C. Kirițescu", Center for Study and Research for AgroForestry Biodiversity "Acad. David Davidescu"*

<sup>3</sup>*Romanian Academy, National Institute of Economic Research - Center of Mountain Economy –CEMONT*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [romeo\\_ilie2003@yahoo.com](mailto:romeo_ilie2003@yahoo.com)*

Ecotourism is an anthropogenic ecosystem, reflecting a continuous interaction between nature and man, either as a tourist or as a host, either as an investor or as a promoter of some entertainment technologies. Modern technologies add elements of satisfaction for tourists, but they can affect the structure of natural systems. The biotic and abiotic components of the natural ecosystem can provide human services as ecosystem services, but they are certainly affected by human actions that cause significant changes in the environment to ensure well-being and additional comfort to everyday life events. Ecotourism can be seen as a complex ecosystem, which includes two components (ecosystems): a human component (anthropogenic) with a large dynamic, often uncontrolled (the system is in a permanent change and shift to a state of equilibrium that hardly can be achieved), constituted in a tourism ecosystem and a natural one, an ecosystem usually in a quasi-static equilibrium (with small oscillations around a state of equilibrium or with slow transitions between consecutive states considered of equilibrium). The presence and activities of man in the natural environment pose a continuous threat to the latter, some components of the tourist ecosystem can produce "deformations" of the natural ecosystem, many of them irreversible, especially on some components "vulnerable" (defenceless) of the natural ecosystem. It rarely happens and vice versa. The complex human-nature interaction, in fact the interaction between the two ecosystems of above, makes ecotourism a system that should be analysed from several points of view and to provide answers to the following questions: -what are the most aggressive components of the anthropogenic tourism ecosystem (with the identification and analysis of at least the most important 3 of them) that can significantly (reversibly or not) affect the components of the natural ecosystem with which it interacts, changes that can lead to the imbalance of the natural ecosystem? -which are the most

vulnerable components of the natural ecosystem (with the identification and analysis of the most important 3 of them), which can be affected by anthropogenic actions, changing the values that characterize these components can affect the balance of the natural ecosystem, decrease its resilience and of its ability to absorb shocks from the outside or? -what are the links between the "aggressive" factors of the anthropogenic tourism ecosystem (at least the three described) and the "vulnerable" ones of the natural ecosystem (the three identified and described), the determination of some regression correlation functions between the two categories? The paper proposes an approach to the behaviour of the tourism ecosystem through the general theory of systems, and in particular, the theory of automatic control systems. The main disturbances that can affect the stability of the systems will be identified and characterized (a correlation will be made between them and the drivers of change of an ecosystem). At the same time, properties and rules of functioning of these ecosystems will be emphasized through the principles of thermodynamic systems theory, an ecosystem can be assimilated with an open thermodynamic system. There will be identified forms of some transfer functions (in the sense of automatic control systems theory). Conclusions will be drawn and recommendations will be made on how to use these theories, as well as on the higher degree of objectivity and control of the phenomena that take place within the natural – tourism ecosystems interaction.

**Keywords:** *closed vs. open loop control systems, ecosystems, ecotourism, disturbances, drivers of change, system theory, thermodynamic systems, transfer function, regression.*

### **Resilience issues in tourism. An analysis of the tourist demand for the Romanian Carpathian destination during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Elena MATEI<sup>1</sup>\*, Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1</sup>, Tania Florentina PÂRGHIE<sup>1</sup>, Gabriela MANEA<sup>1</sup>, Daniela NICOLAIE<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania

\*e-mail address: [elena.matei@g.unibuc.ro](mailto:elena.matei@g.unibuc.ro)

The Carpathian Mountains represent for Romania a destination that holds about a third of tourist's flow of the country, the other two being allocated to the Black Sea coast and big cities. However, during the COVID-19 Pandemic the situation has been changed. Although the Romania's tourist flow has halved, the Carpathians have become a perceived destination to be safer, so that its participation in the tourist movement has increased considerably. There have also been changes in spatial tourist demands. Thus, the preferred micro-destinations, which have registered exceedances of their characteristic flows, are those that combine: isolation, the presence of lakes, dispersed and exclusive accommodations, large areas of forests. A second orientation was towards five-four stars' accommodation units that promoted strong anti-COVID-19 measures, and the third category includes winter resorts with one-day arrivals or those that support camping, especially during the summer. In order to reveal these aspects, the study involved statistical spatial analysis methods applied in GIS, corroborated with the survey method on selected groups from several destinations. The study is useful for the application of the resilience program in tourism and for tourism entrepreneurs, who can better adapt their business in conditions of health risk.

**Keywords:** *health risk, COVID 19 pandemic, Carpathians, resilience, tourism*

## **Actions and challenges to increase the visibility of mining heritage. Case study: Petroșani Municipality (Romania)**

*Florentina-Cristina MERCIU<sup>1</sup>\*, Dumitru Ioan PUȘCAȘU<sup>2</sup>, George-Laurențiu MERCIU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>2</sup>*Mining Museum of Petroșani, Romania*

\*e-mail address: [cristina.merciu@geo.unibuc.ro](mailto:cristina.merciu@geo.unibuc.ro)

The history of Petroșani municipality was deeply marked by the coal industry, being the most important center of the homonymous mining basin. Although the extractive activity has diminished considerably within the mining basin since the end of the '90s, Petroșani Municipality is one of the few functional exploitation centers. The extractive activity marked in the urban landscape various elements of industrial heritage, to which are added the socio-cultural elements (the historical nucleus of the city represented by the 19th century "Colonia" working class neighborhood, the workers' casino, communist working class neighborhoods, the Mining Museum, the theater). The purpose of this study is to highlight the recent actions to capitalize on the elements of local industrial culture (rearrangement of the Mining Museum, attempt to inscribe on the route of European industrial heritage of industrial buildings in the city, organizing cultural activities related to mining history: photographic exhibitions, insignography exhibitions). The authors also analyze the challenges associated with the process of capitalization of mining heritage (economic aspects: low budget of local public administration and limited capacity to absorb European funds, legal issues that limit the cultural reuse of civil and industrial buildings). The actions of highlighting the mining patrimony were also carried out with the involvement of the local population due to its constant need to relate to the elements of the local culture, but also out of the desire to make them known to the general public.

## **Population's perception on tourist destinations generated by genius people of the Romanian culture**

*Daniela NICOLAIE<sup>1</sup>\*, Elena MATEI<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

\*e-mail address: [daniela.nicolaie@drd.unibuc.ro](mailto:daniela.nicolaie@drd.unibuc.ro)

Culture, as a product of human mind's imagination and genius, has been always regarded as a rich and attractive resource for cultural tourism. Famous people in the world created masterpieces of arts and science along the mankind's history and this heritage has been operated in tourism as attractive destinations. Thus, national cultural tourism can be enriched with new interesting sites inspired by Romanian geniuses' life and activity. The aim of this article is to analyse population's perception on tourist destinations generated by genius people of the Romanian culture as a tour package. The research method was based on online interviews. Quantitative numerical data has been charted as statistical output performed by SPSS v.17. The results show that destinations related to Romanian geniuses can enrich cultural tourism resources as long as relevant institutions revitalize, rehabilitate, preserve and promote them properly. Likewise, the geniuses travel package is a welcomed tourism product, which must be capitalized and managed by the proposing host, in order to sustain local community involvement and development. It would also revive the national values which makes a new opportunity for educational tourism.

**Keywords:** *perception, cultural tourism, Romanian geniuses, cultural heritage, national values*



## **Sustainable tourism development of mountain destinations. Case study: Romanian-Serbian cross-border sector**

*Amalia NIȚĂ<sup>1</sup>, Liliana POPESCU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Craiova, Geography Department, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: amalia.nita@edu.ucv.ro*

Sustainable tourism activities in mountain areas become more and more attractive and the practice demonstrated that tourism is one sector of the economy that can bring sustainable development of these areas and of their local communities. The study aims at highlighting the necessary sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the mountain region of the Southern part of the Carpathian Mountains located in Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți counties, Romania and Bor district in Serbia. More and more visitors were recorded due to the high tourism potential of this area in terms of resources, historical and cultural values. An improper usage of the existing touristic resources will affect the environment and the income generators of the business sector in the target area. Thus, without an effective sustainable management of these destinations and a proper products development, the area is prone to unsustainable development and to a short-term activity of tourism. A focus-group was conducted, involving 23 stakeholders of the Romanian-Serbian cross-border area in order to reveal the main strengths for developing recreational and other tourism activities that can bring advantages to local communities and also the weak points that need intervention or improvements. There were no such initiatives in the target area and within this context, it was observed the necessity of the introduction of new mountain based-tourism products in a cross-border approach. The study focuses on developing 4 mountain tourism products (wildlife, adventure tourism, culture and rural lifestyle) in order to support the development of local tourism businesses and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage. This guideline represents one of the first steps of sustainable planning of the cross-border area, trying to highlight the uniqueness and identity of this mountain destination, leading to the growth of the cross-border tourism sector in the next years.

**Keywords:** *cross-border destinations, mountain destinations, tourism products, local communities*

## **Tourism and national parks: economic aspects on the example of national parks in the Polish Carpathians**

*Robert PAWLUSIŃSKI<sup>1\*</sup>, Magdalena KUBAL-CZERWIŃSKA<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [robert.pawlusinski@uj.edu.pl](mailto:robert.pawlusinski@uj.edu.pl)*

Nature protection coexists with many socio-economic functions, especially with the tourist function. The very designation of a protected area as a national park is a magnet for tourists. These two words "national park" have a marketing value which translates into clear economic benefits related to tourism. The authors try to answer the question to what extent the revenues from tourism finance the broad activities of the national park. The research covered 6 out of 23 national parks in Poland. They are all located in the Polish part of the Carpathians. Due to the natural values of the mountain landscape and the deficit of mountain areas in Poland, the Carpathians are very popular among tourists. Financial documents for the years 2012-2018 were analyzed. In terms of nature and landscape attractiveness, not all national parks in the Polish Carpathians achieve significant benefits related to tourist traffic. However, the share of income from tourism in the total budgets of national parks is growing year by year.

## **The tourist image of Transylvania's natural resources from the sustainable development point of view**

*Cosmin-Gabriel PORUMB-GHIURCO<sup>1\*</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [pggcosmin@gmail.com](mailto:pggcosmin@gmail.com)*

We are talking about Transylvania as an ex-province of Romania and a current geographical and historical region which encompasses 10 counties: Alba, Bistriţa, Braşov, Cluj, Covasna, Mureş, Harghita, Hunedoara, Sălaj, Sibiu. Because of the multitude and variety of tourist resources, complementarity stands out as a specific attribute of the tourist attractiveness of this multicultural region, which bears the mark of the 3 great cohabitant ethnic groups: Romanians, Hungarians and Germans. The natural tourist resources assure the background for the anthropic ones. A sustainable and unitary development of Transylvania for tourism could not be carried out without an enterprise of shaping a new and unique destination image, prior to the development itself, according to the mental individualisation through geographical and historic landmarks and based on the natural and anthropic tourism resources of the area. As a conceptual framework for this paper, we specify the geography and tourism literature.

## **The role of Saxon architecture in tourist promotion. Case study: Buneşti, Braşov County**

*Mihaela PREDA<sup>1</sup>, Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINĂ<sup>1</sup>, Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1\*</sup>, Alina MARECI<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

<sup>\*</sup>*e-mail address: [iuliana.vijulie@g.unibuc.ro](mailto:iuliana.vijulie@g.unibuc.ro)*

The multiculturalism owed to the presence, on the Romanian territory of numerous ethnic groups, led to an architectural puzzle that urged tourism development in the last years. The villages including Saxon architecture have attracted more and more attention in the last decade, many of them developing successful tourist activities. The architecture of traditional Saxon houses, to which the fortified churches are added, preserved to a great extent their authenticity and historical cultural character. Both domestic and foreign tourist demand developing rural tourism and sometimes agro-tourism in the region, manifest obvious preferences for these heritage attractions. The study *aims* to compare the types of tourism promotion and their role in tourism development for the four villages of Buneşti commune (Buneşti, Criţ, Meşendorf, Roadeş and Viscri). *The objectives* of the paper consist in identifying the main forms of tourism promotion and their role in terms of tourism development, the significance of the main characteristics displayed by the local Saxon architecture, their tourist capitalization and presence in the current national and international tourism promotion and marketing strategies and products. *The research methodology* comprised direct observations and the usage of the inquiry method (semi-structured interview). *The results of the study* emphasized a considerable development of tourism, especially in the intensely promoted areas; the preservation of Saxon architecture by adapting its use to tourism; the premises to define cultural routes that may further support the development of tourism with positive consequences on local communities.

## The interest of generation Z for sustainable tourism

*Silvia PUIU<sup>1</sup>, Mihaela TINCA UDRISTIOIU<sup>2</sup>, Alessandro GALLO<sup>3</sup>, Liliana VELEA<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Craiova, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Romania*

<sup>2</sup>*University of Craiova, Faculty of Sciences, Romania*

<sup>3</sup>*University Ca'Foscari Venice, Dept. of Humanities, Italy*

\*e-mail address: [silviapuiu@yahoo.com](mailto:silviapuiu@yahoo.com)

The paper aims to better understand the way the youngsters between 18 and 25 years old perceive sustainability and how they apply these principles when they travel. The concept refers to all the three pillars of sustainability: economic, social and environment. Also, tourism refers to accommodation, transportation, hospitality industry and sustainable tourism to preserving natural environment as much as possible, reducing waste, applying the principles of circular economy, reducing the carbon footprint and thus the impact of climate change. The research methodology consists in applying a questionnaire to representatives of Generation Z. The results of the research are helpful for companies developing their activities in the tourism industry because they can adjust their strategies to offer a more sustainable tourism that is more appealing especially to younger generations who are more preoccupied of sustainability.

## Traditional and modern in the pastoral economy of Mărginimea Sibiului, Romania

*Radu SAGEATA<sup>1</sup>, Mihaela PERȘU<sup>\*1</sup>, Bianca MITRICA<sup>1</sup>, Nicoleta DAMIAN<sup>1</sup>, Irena MOCANU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*Romanian Academy, Institute of Geography*

\*e-mail address: [persu\\_mihaela@yahoo.com](mailto:persu_mihaela@yahoo.com)

Transhumance, a periodical, seasonal movement of sheep flocks, implies, on the one hand, finding some summering places where the flocks remain and graze in the mountain throughout summer-time, and on the other hand, some wintering places in the lowlands, far away from the former sites, where the flocks are wintering. Transhumance would enlarge considerable the shepherding area, the Mărginimea shepherds moving at remarkable distances to the Caucasus and the Precaspian depression. As shepherding kept developing, forest-cutting would intensify to make room for pastures and hay-fields. Sheep flocks and the herds of cattle are being moved from the village to the mountain pastures, along the age-old roads, known and strictly observed by the rural communities. Currently, transhumance at Mărginimea Sibiului is still practiced only in four villages: Poiana Sibiului, Tilișca, Jina and Rășinari.

## Understanding wine tourism issues in Romania

*Iulia Mihaela STOICAN<sup>1</sup>, Alina MARECI<sup>1</sup>, Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

\*e-mail address: [iulia.stoican96@gmail.com](mailto:iulia.stoican96@gmail.com)

Even though wine tourism is an integral part of the Romanian tourism industry and contributes significantly to any region's economic development, locals often overlook it. Furthermore, it is not, at least for the time being, one of the country's main attractions. Romania has one of the oldest wine-making traditions in the world, and its viticulture dates back to Geto-Dacian times. It has a remarkable wine heritage, with a multitude of famous wineries, that can be merged with rural tourism

to revive the country's potential as a tourism destination. A favourable natural environment, cultural specificities and good marketing strategies are all equally needed for the development of this tourism branch. Lately, however, Romania's wine industry and tourism have constantly been declining, based on the vineyard area gradually decreasing up to 183,200 ha from 299,872 ha, behind countries that cultivate more than 400,000 hectares. The following paper will attempt to outline the causes for this fall off, as well as finding solutions to bring back Romania's wine tourism to its full potential. The methodology used included several studies conducted on specific segments of the population and online interviews with representatives of different wineries so that a clear opinion might be formed on why the wine tourism industry is not as thriving as we would want it to be. The main conclusions showed some solutions, such as specific ideas on how to attract tourists online: promoting the winery on social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok) or by collaborating with celebrities in marketing campaigns, but also the expectations of possible future wine tourists. Should these issues be fixed, wine tourism will be an essential source of financial revenue for Romania for the foreseeable future.

### **Sentiment analysis through emotional feedback expressed online - case study Călimănești Resort**

*Marius-Nicolae TRUȚESCU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

*\*e-mail address: trutescu.marius@yahoo.com*

In the context of the changing society, the demands of tourists have increased, thus the meeting tourists' expectations becomes the most important task which can both contribute to customer loyalty and increase business success in the hospitality industry. The present study aims to identify tourists' emotional feedback regarding tourist services in Călimănești national resort, expressed on Booking.com, Tripadvisor and Turistinfo.ro. The research is based on data mining and data processing in the "R" program. The results reveal that most tourists, although they express themselves online, do not venture to tell the truth, remaining to a positive evaluation, while the negative reviews are written under anonymity. The dominant positive feelings belong to the emotional groups of "Joy", "Surprise", "Trust", and the negative are grouping in "Anger", "Disgust", "Fear", "Sadness". Hotels staff or owners still strive to respond individually to online tourists' feedback mainly to try trying to defend their business when they meet negative reactions, while they do not respond to positive feedback or just use a few words, such as "thank you". Therefore, this kind of tourist satisfaction feedback does not work justly for parties involved. There is certainly a tendency do not keep the sincerity in tourist reviews, probably for psycho-social reasons and for the hospitality staff a lack of professionalism in communication, which does not use emotional feedback to improve its offer which means an unsustainable approach from the business domain.

### Education for sustainable development

*Mihaela TINCA UDRISTIOIU<sup>1\*</sup>, Liliana VELEA<sup>2</sup>, Silvia PUIU<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Craiova, Faculty of Sciences, Romania*

<sup>2</sup>*National Meteorological Administration, Romania*

<sup>3</sup>*University of Craiova, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Romania*

*\*e-mail address: [mihaela\\_udristioiu@yahoo.com](mailto:mihaela_udristioiu@yahoo.com)*

The aim of this paper is to highlight the contribution of some projects to the development of the target group's professional and transversal skills, so appreciated by the employers. Some perspectives, implications and advantages for tourism about the information provided by an independent network of air pollution sensors that was developed in such a project will be presented. From the communities' perspective, the universities have a moral responsibility to deliver graduates capable of facing current technological challenges and crisis, into an environment in a continuous changing environment. Besides all these things, universities are vectors of change for a sustainable development in their region. Certainly, the EU and volunteering projects should contribute to the increasing the community's degree of confidence in the usefulness of projects implementation in their region. It will be made a short presentation of some activities from different projects that have brought added-value to the students' extracurricular education.

**Keywords:** *sustainable development, education, projects, volunteering, sensors.*

### Methodological Approach of Applied Geomorphology Research in Highly Vulnerable Mountain Regions

*Mihaela VERGA<sup>1\*</sup>, Andreea ANDRA-TOPÂRCEANU<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>*University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

*\*e-mail address: [mihaela.verga@geo.unibuc.ro](mailto:mihaela.verga@geo.unibuc.ro)*

The strategy of territorial developing starts from the knowledge of the shape, nature and dynamic of landforms which are in a continuous evolution and transformation. The geomorphological analysis can be used to design development policies in order to organize sustainable socio-economic activities accordance with an efficient environmental planning and management, especially to protect the fragile environments such as the mountains regions are. Resources, thematic maps, patterns or models, and prediction tools, provided by applied geomorphologists are useful to other scientists, engineers, consultants, and decision-makers involved with hazards, land-use planning, natural resources, environmental management, and global environmental change. Geomorphological research carried out to determine the optimal spaces for various economic and social activities due to the significance of relief in the architecture and dynamics of the environment as well as the comprehensive survey of geomorphological elements could lead to establishing the restrictiveness or favourability of relief forms for specific human activities. This paper provides a methodological approach of applied geomorphology research in different mountain environments surveyed in terms of geomorphological hazards, which may endanger projects, and of geomorphological assets, which may be damaged to various extents by human activities.



## **Certeze village – the dilemma of traditional vs modern architecture in Țara Oașului, Romania**

*Iuliana VIJULIE<sup>1</sup>, Ana-Irina LEQUEUX-DINCĂ<sup>1</sup>, Mihaela PREDA<sup>1</sup>, Alina MARECI<sup>1</sup>,  
Elena MATEI<sup>1</sup>, Roxana CUCULICI<sup>1</sup>, Ana-Maria TALOȘ<sup>1</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup> University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Romania*

*\*e-mail address: [iuliana.vijulie@g.unibuc.ro](mailto:iuliana.vijulie@g.unibuc.ro)*

The traditional Romanian village has seen immensely unmistakable transformations recently. The import of EU countries' architectural styles and the need to modernise dwellings combined with serious voids in the legislature regarding the protection of the built-up heritage have strongly modified traditional architecture and resulted in irremediable losses in terms of rural authenticity and landscape aesthetics. This study aims to analyse the disappearance of traditional architecture in Certeze village. The authors used the survey method to evaluate the perception of both locals and tourists on this phenomenon. The results described the more conservative views of the older inhabitants who are still attached to traditional constructing styles while younger respondents preferred the more modern houses. On the other hand, most tourists also showed increased interest in the traditional architecture and criticised the newer constructions. The contrast between old and new, which at this point is ubiquitous in the area, remains an element of intergenerational negotiations and risks to diminish the Certeze's cultural authenticity even further.

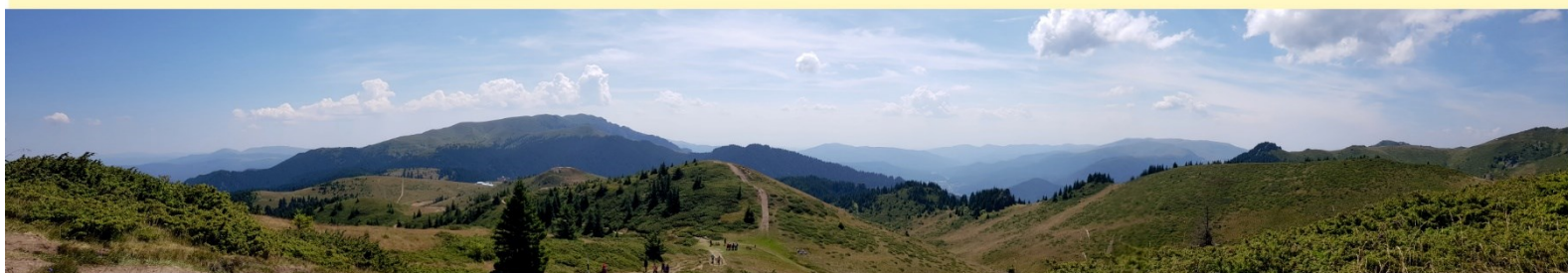


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