

## **THE FORMS OF RURAL TOURISM APPLIED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AND PRE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF BIHOR COUNTY**

**Dudaș Anca Iulia<sup>\*</sup>, Mitulescu Mirela Salvia<sup>\*</sup>**

<sup>\*</sup>University of Oradea, Faculty of Environmental Protection, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410048 Oradea; Romania, e-mail: mirelamitulescu@yahoo.com

### ***Abstract***

*This paper is a study on the forms of rural tourism practiced in the mountainous and pre-mountainous areas of the Bihor county. In the mountainous and pre-mountainous areas of Bihor county the following forms of tourism are practiced: mountain tourism, adventure tourism and speo tourism, cycling, fishing, ecotourism, cultural tourism, spa cleaning, religious tourism, agrotourism.*

**Key words:** rural tourism, cultural tourism, ecotourism, ciclotourism.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Rural tourism is a complex economic activity, with a broad coverage sphere which highlights the movement of rural tourism. Searching for rural rest and recreation is a general trend in global tourism practice. It is essential that rural tourism product remains a rural society product.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Rural tourism can be considered as a relaxation therapy necessary for modern man, in an adequate and pleasant space and at a reasonable price. Rural tourism implies the following elements:

- the existence of a rural area rich in traditions with a beautiful natural environment;
- people interested in such activity;
- the existence of a material base and a legislative framework that would quicken people to practice such activities.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the mountainous and pre-mountainous areas of Bihor county the following forms of rural tourism are practiced:

#### *Mountainous tourism*

Mountain tourism is a component of rural tourism development in Bihor county, since Bihor county holds 16.8% of the total area of the Apuseni Mountains. In Bihor county, mountainous region is represented by

the Bihor Mountains, Codru-Moma Mountains, Pădurea Craiului and Plopiș Mountains (lowland).

#### *Adventure tourism and speotourism*

This form of rural tourism attracts more and more followers, especially young people. In mountainous and pre-mountainous areas of Bihor county the following are practiced: "rafting", "kayak", "climbing", "canyoning", "speotourism", "paragliding" and "mountainbiking".

Rafting and kayak are practiced in some sectors of Crișul Repede, especially in Vadu Crișului-Bratca sector, average sector, and also on Crișul Pietros și Crișul Negru.

Canyoning is practiced on Valea Galbenă, Valea Oșelu and Valea Seacă.

Speotourism is practiced in Padiș-Cetățile Ponorului area, Defileul Crișului Repede, Cheile Albioarei and Iadei Valley.

Most climbing routes of various degrees of difficulty are concentrated in the sectors Vad - Șuncuiș and Aleu – Bohodei.

Paragliding is practiced in Roșia area, Padiș, Hidișelu de Sus, Stâna de Vale.

Mountainbiking is practiced in Stâna de Vale area, Pădurea Craiului Mountains, Padiș area.

#### *Cycling tourism*

Cycling meets all the requirements to be successfully practiced in the mountainous and pre mountainous areas of the Bihor county. The most suitable areas for cycling are: Pădurea Craiului Mountains and Dealurile de Vest.

#### *Fishing*

The tourism potential offered by fishing is important, but the recreational facilities adjacent to these places offer inadequate and poor quality services. In Bihor county fishing is practiced in the period May 1 to September 14 of each year. Fish stock is 440 ha to 3837 ha at the Forest Department of Oradea and the County Association of Hunters and Anglers.

#### *Ecotourism*

Ecotourism is the responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and supports local people's welfare. – fig. 1

Due to the presence of large areas in the county in the Apuseni Mountains Natural Park, of a relatively large wetland areas, biodiversity is one of the major attractions of the natural environment of Bihor. Distribution of protected natural areas in the county of Bihor makes possible the development of ecotourism in Bihor.

### *Cultural tourism*

Cultural tourism is visiting rural sites which are historical monuments, memorial houses, museums - figure 2 and in which the social events in the life of the community take place: patrons, Neda, weddings.



Fig. 1 Bears' Cave interior



Fig. 2 Remetea Village Museum

### *Spa treatment tourism*

In Bihor county the development of spa treatment tourism is facilitated by the existence of favorable climatic conditions (absence of pollution, atmospheric calm prevailing, negative ionization), the presence of mineral springs with therapeutic properties associated with the application of traditional therapies (phytotherapy, Apitherapy, hydrotherapy) . Stana de Vale pensions have such conditions, but the offer is modest, given that demand in these locations is high.

### *Religious tourism*

Religious tourism polarizes the interest of a large number of believers and can have a great impact on rural tourism – figure 3

There is a significant part of the population that return to traditional practices of spiritual life. In Bihor county it is known the attraction of the monasteries: Izbuc, Poiana Florilor, Voievozi.

### *Agrotourism*

Agrotourism is a tool to fully exploit the rural environment with its agricultural, forest, touristic, human potential – figure 4. Agrotourism takes place in areas of intense anthropic, through cereal farming, livestock, wine, fruit. Agrotourism represents all the services offered within a rural pension, which includes accommodation, meals from own products, recreation.

There are traditional peasant households in Bihor county offering accommodation, transport with typical means of the area, culinary products that could become successful local brands. Agrotourism is practiced successfully in the rural areas from Depresiunea Beiuşului, Platoul Zece Hotare.

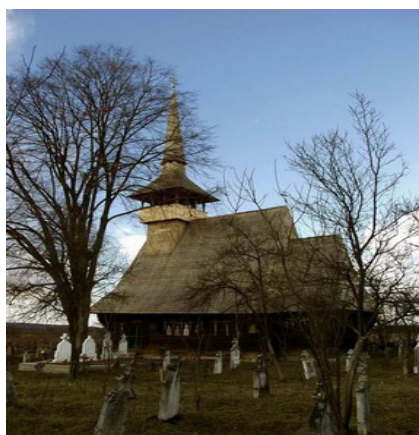


Fig. 3 Rieni wooden church



Fig. 4 TURUL guesthouse

## CONCLUSIONS

Mountainous and pre mountainous areas of the Bihor county have a high tourism potential, both natural and anthropic, with a variety of tourist resources and a geographic location favorable to several forms of rural tourism: religious, adventure, speotourism, cultural.

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