

STUDY ON STUDENTS' INTEREST IN HIGH SCHOOL "TOURISM AND ALIMENTATION" PROGRAMS

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Abstract

The Romanian high schools offer a wide pallet of educational programs. Some of these are represented by "Tourism and Alimentation". In Bihor County there are between 250 and 300 places available for these programs. Even if they are requested, not all the units can complete their schooling plans for these programs (from 64 to 100% occupancy). A better presentation and popularization of tourism and alimentation is needed, because of the real potential of the area.

Key words: programs, offer, students, high school, education

INTRODUCTION

Education in Romania is based on a free-tuition, egalitarian system. Access to free education is guaranteed by Article 32 in the Constitution of Romania. Education is regulated and enforced by the Ministry of National Education (www.edu.ro). Each step has its own form of organization and is subject to different laws and directives.

At the end of the 8th grade (at age 14 or 15) a nationwide test is taken by all students called "The National Test" and can be taken only once, in June. The subjects are Romanian Language and Literature and Mathematics (and additionally the language of the school for ethnic minority schools or classes and for bi-lingual schools). The passing mark is 5 for each of the exams. The results of the exams are being published and the marks are public, lists being placed both in schools and on the Internet.

In order to enroll in a high school, the student must choose a list of high schools he or she desires to attend (there is no automatic enrolment this time), based on his mark and options by filling in a nationwide form. A national computer system does the repartition, by taking into account students in the order of their preferences and their "admission grade".

High school studies are four years in length, two compulsory (9th and 10th year), two non-compulsory (11th and 12th year). There are no exams between the 10th and the 11 years.

The Romanian secondary education system includes:

- National College - the most prestigious high schools in Romania;

- Military College - there are 3 high schools administered by the Ministry of National Defense. They are considered extremely strict and legally they have the same regime as army units;
- Economic College or Technical College - a high school with good results and with an academic program based on technical education or services.
- Standard High school - an average high school, providing one of the available academic programs.
- Scholar Group - a merge of two schools: a high school (usually offering academic programs in the field of technical or services education) and a Craft and Trade School.

Each type of high-school is free to offer one or more academic programs (profile). These are:

- Theoretical program
 - o Science -"mathematics and computer programming" or "earth studies"
 - o Humanities -"social studies" or "languages"
- Technical programs
- Vocational programs
- Services and Economics programs

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Services and Economics High school programs will give a qualification in the fields of services, such as waiter, chef, tourism operator. Offering a quite balanced program, similar to the real studies in the theoretical program. This programs gives a valuable qualification.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the interest of youngsters for the Services and Economics programs: Tourism and Public Alimentation.

Data was collected from the site of the Romania Ministry of Education (<http://admitere.edu.ro/Pages/Specializari.aspx?jud=6>), regarding the period of time between 2014 and 2017. There was measured the number of students that have chosen these programs and the number of graduates in Oradea and Bihor County.

The information was collected from the following high schools:

- The Economic College “Partenie Cosma” Oradea (one of the most renowned high school in the city);
- Technical College “Mihai Viteazul” Oradea;
- Technical College “Traian Vuia” Oradea;
- Technical College “Transilvania” Oradea;
- Roman-Catholic “Szent Laszo” Theological High school Oradea;
- Technical College “Ioan Ciordas” Beius;

- Technological “Horea” High school Marghita;
- Technological High school No. 1 Salonta.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the last 2 years, there is a different interest for the high school program “Tourism and Alimentation” (fig. 1 and 2). In Oradea, there is a descending request for this program, while in the rest of the county, the demand grows or this is a new program in the offer of the educational units.

Except the “P. Cosma” Economical Collage and Technical Collage “M. Viteazul” (both from Oradea), the rest of the high school have a lower number of students admitted then their educational offer.

In 2016 there were 252 available places and just 247 candidates (98.01% occupancy), the lowest it was registered at Technological High school Salonta (64.28%).

In 2017 there were 308 available places and just 248 candidates (80.5% occupancy), the lowest it was registered at “Transilvania” Technical College Oradea (28.57%).

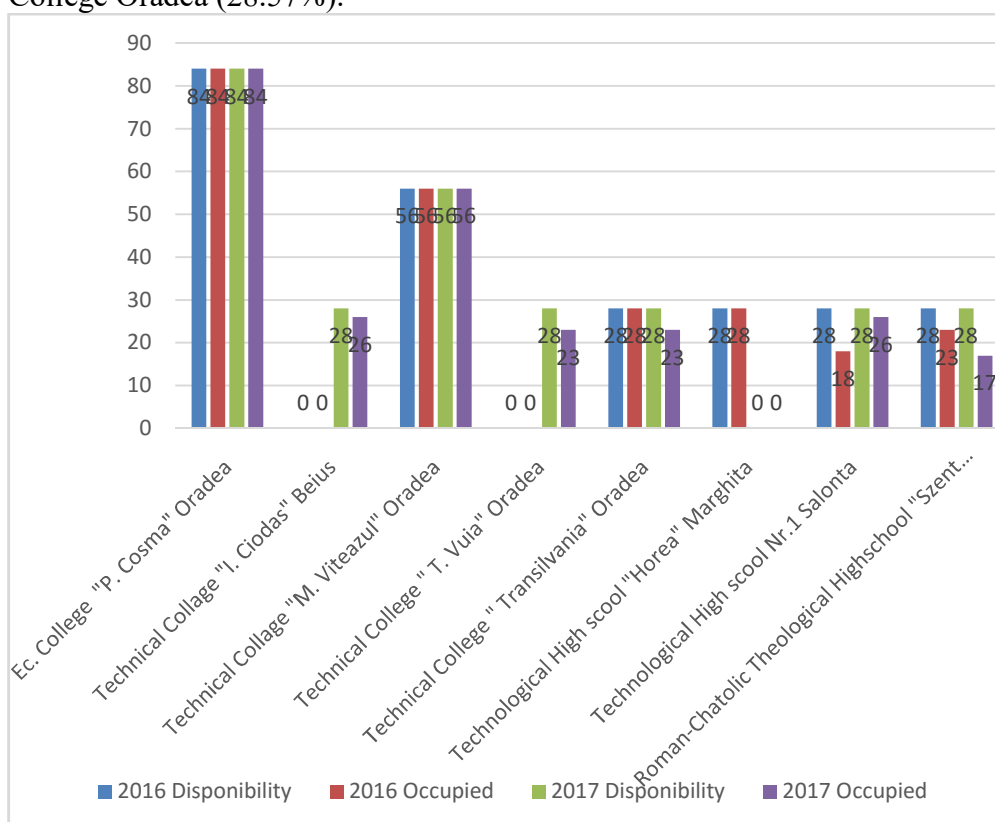


Fig.1. Comparison between educational offer and request for the “Tourism and Alimentation” program (2016-2017)

Regarding the marks (fig 2.) obtained by the students for the admission, there is an obvious descending trend that can reflect the following things: the program is requested by a low number of students, the uncertainty regarding this program, fewer candidates.

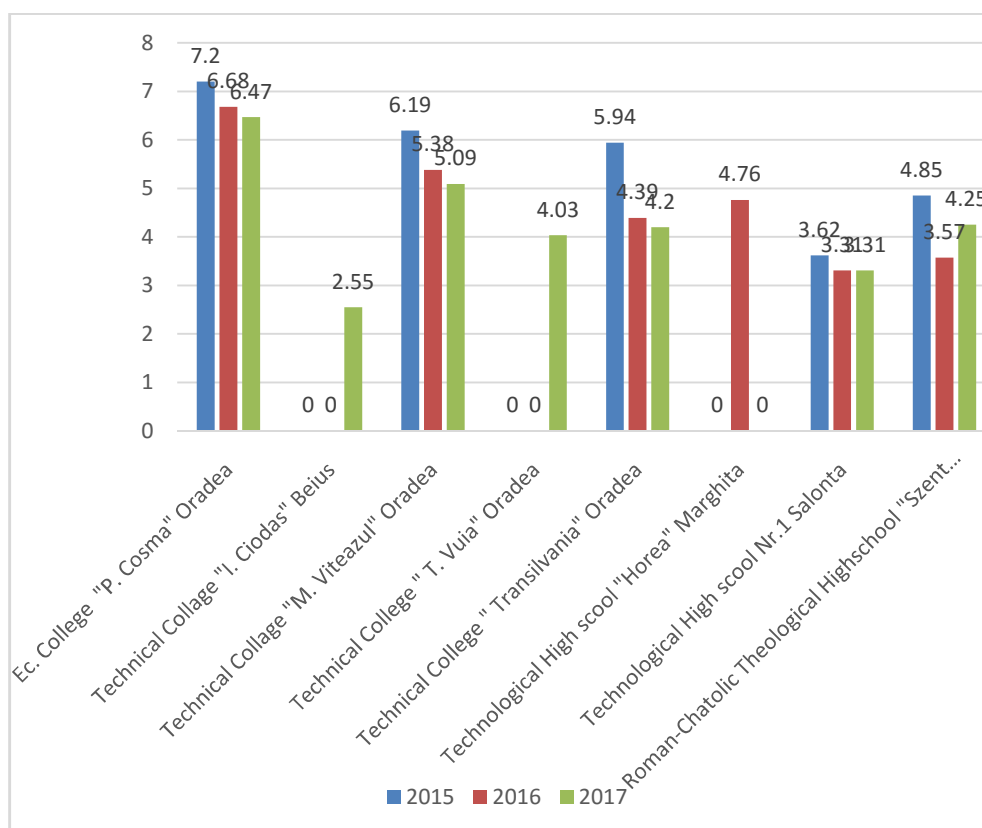


Fig. 2. The last mark for admission

The Economic College "Partenie Cosma" Oradea is one of the most renowned high school units from the county for its programs, including those in tourism and alimentations.

In the last five years, this college had the biggest request from the candidates for its 84 places divided in 3 classes: technician in tourism, gastronomy, banqueting organizer. But not only the admission is important, the number of those who give their interest to finalize the 4 years of study, is important too.

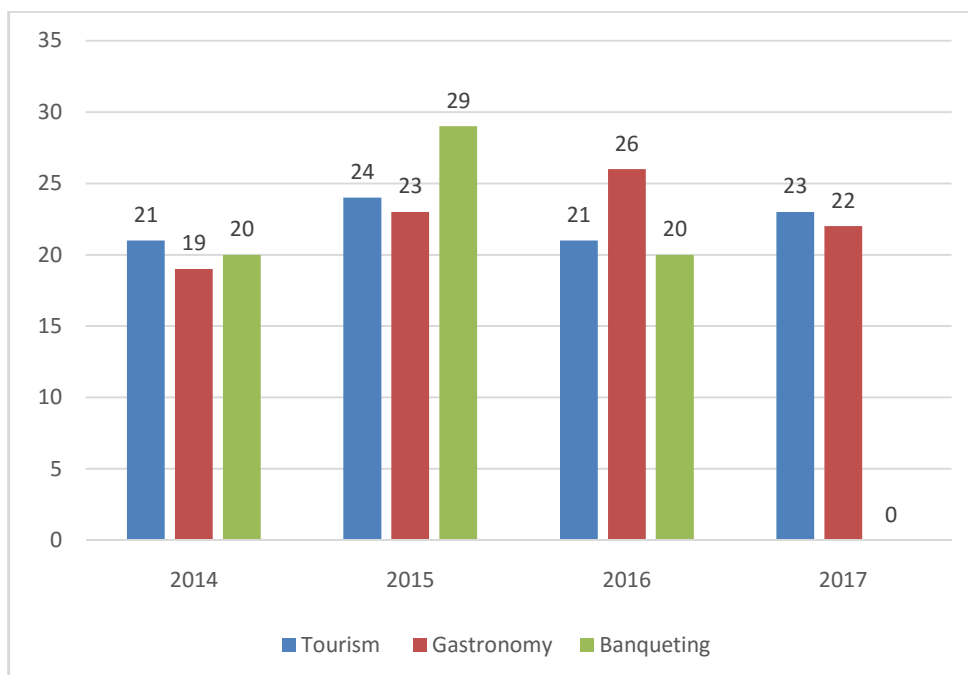


Fig. 3. Number of graduates in Tourism and Alimentation programs from the “Partenie Cosma” Economical College (2014-2017)

There is an obvious discrepancy between the number of admitted students and those who graduate; the percentage varies from 65.47% in 2017 and 89.28% in 2015. It is interesting that in 2017, banqueting had no graduates.

CONCLUSIONS

Tourism and Alimentation are a newer programs in the offer of high school unit on the educational market.

In Bihor County there are 8 high school offering these programs: 5 in Oradea (one in Hungarian language) and 3 in the rest of the county.

There is an evident, but limited interest for these programs. The demographic decrease has an impact on the number of youngsters that intend to follow a high school education, including the mentioned programs.

Taking into account the lowest marks needed to be admitted, we can determine that average training student access and are interested in tourism and public alimentation.

There are many students, that after admission don't exactly know what the curricula includes and what are their options after graduation. This may be a reason why not of the students graduate from these programs.

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