

RELAUNCHING POSSIBILITIES OF RURAL AREA FROM MOUNTAIN BANAT THROUGH AGRITOURISM ACTIVITIES

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Abstract: The region is composed of 15 villages organized in compact settlements at the contact between mountainous area and a depression with a population of about 16,000 inhabitants of Romanian origin. From west to east the following major settlements are found: Borlovenii Noi (village known as Breazova), Borlovenii Vechi, Pataş, Prigor, Putna Prilipet, Eftimie Murgu or Rudaria, Bania, Bozovici, Garbovat, Lapușnicul Mare, Dalboșet, Mocerîș and Șopotu Nou. The entire region is polarized from economic point of view by Bozovici village and from tourist point of view by Eftimie Murgu village. There must be mentioned as well Ravenska village belonging to commune of Șopotu Nou which differs by Czech ethnic population, called by locals as "pemi".

• Introduction

In terms of tourism, Almajului Valley is integrated part of tourist area Caraș-Anina, one of the areas with the highest potential in the Banat Mountains, forming a sub-area with unique characteristic: "Almajului Depression - Minis Gorges" which harmoniously blends two types of tourist attractions: those of ethno-folkloric nature from Almajului area and natural and anthropogenic resources of Minis Gorges area giving the whole region a great cultural and landscape value.

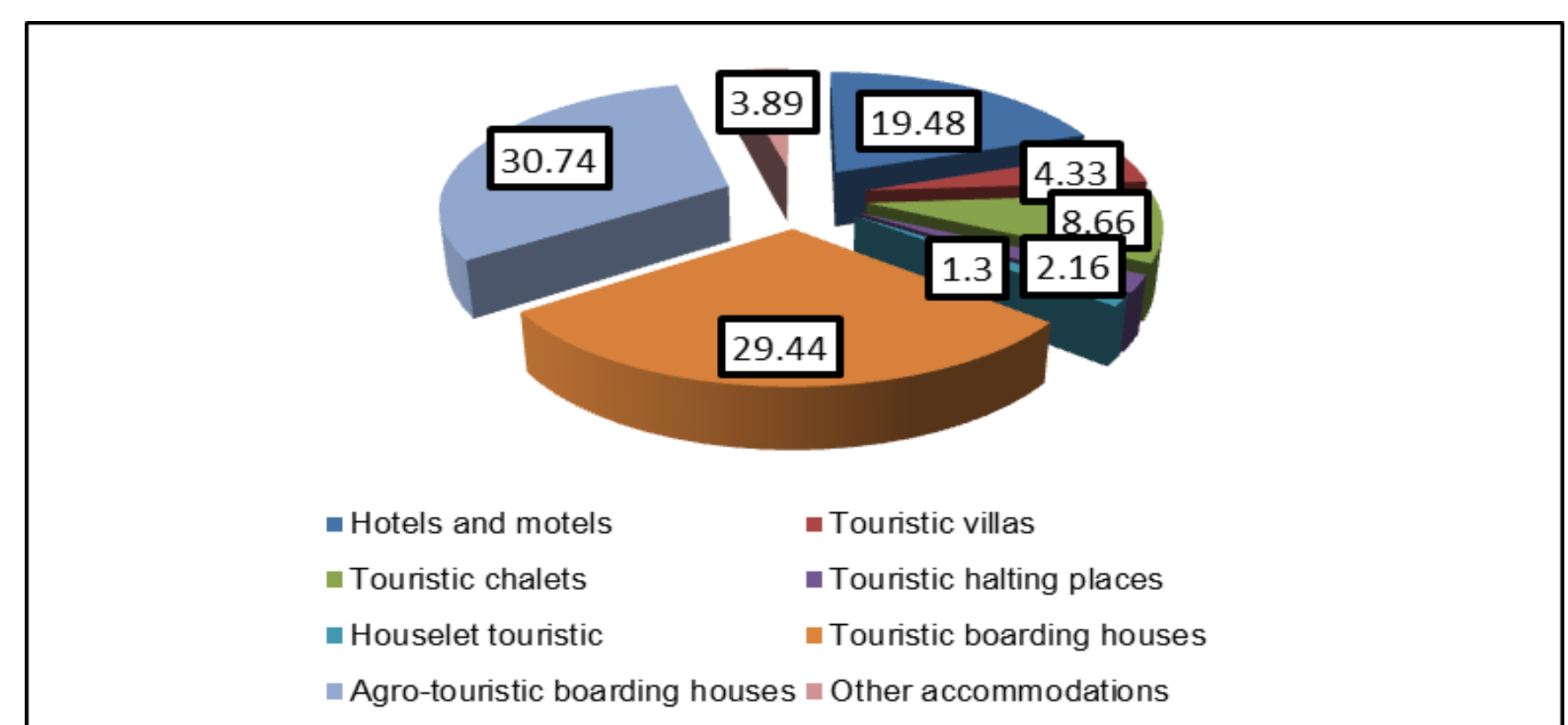
• Material and method

In order to indicate the importance of agritourism in promoting the Banat region, we made an analysis of static data regarding the specific indicators of tourist supply and demand, which indicate the intensification of rural tourism activity in this territory. Thus, we analyzed both the number of accommodation units, the degree of comfort of their use and the intensity of tourist traffic and the average length of stay.

• Results and discussions

One of the essential conditions for the appearance, development and practice of tourism is the existence of a suitable material base consisting of accommodation units, public catering, recreation facilities and treatment for resorts, equipments to provide practicing certain activities with tourism purposes. To all these there are added means of transport and communication ways which have the role to ensure easy access in areas with tourist facilities and objectives. All these form the tourism infrastructure through which the attractive resources of a given territory are exploited in terms of tourism.

Agri-tourist boarding houses represent the main accommodation unit in the county of Caraș-Severin, with a share of 30.74%, followed by tourist boarding houses with 29.44%. The high percentage of these accommodation structures is due to the fact that, Caraș-Severin county has a high tourist potential, and in recent years the tourism activity in this area has experienced a real increase.



Structure of material and technical base of accommodation by categories of tourist accommodation establishments, Caraș-Severin

Travel enthusiasts in the middle of rural traditions can spend unique moments in the traditional rural landscape from Banat, in an unpolluted environment, where the richness and originality of costume and folklore were kept unaltered.

• Conclusions

A strength of the region is represented by the anthropogenic heritage of ethno-folkloric nature, very rich and preserved in large part as well due to isolated position of villages in the Almajului depression. This heritage consists of a series of buildings such churches, monasteries, houses built in traditional style, but its uniqueness lies primarily in immaterial dowry consisting of customs and traditions specific to Romanian village, as well as of historical past who put the footprint especially over the spiritual dowry by all personalities who have given.

These initiatives must start locally by involving public authorities in taking measures and designing financing projects, attracting investors and funds aimed at supporting and implementing these projects and informing local people of the benefits that rural tourism can bring. It is necessary also the ongoing collaboration across the three levels: local, county, regional, given the importance it has today the overall development strategy at the level of regions and areas.