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## STUDIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM IN DENSUȘ COMMUNE, HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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**Abstract:** The present work aims to present the main aspects related to the tourist potential of Densuș commune in Hunedoara county as a possibility for sustainable development. The actual research carried out by the authors is directed at the following aspects: the analysis of natural resources and the presentation of the tourist potential of the Densuș commune, where the main objectives and tourist attractions will be presented. The research ends with the SWOT analysis, with the identification of possible proposals for superior exploitation of the tourist potential in the study area and with the main conclusions drawn from the research.

### • Introduction

- Tourism is considered a socio-economic phenomenon in continuous development, constantly influenced by the human need to recreate, to know different cultures, to discover new places, but also to recover mentally, following the high demand of the noisy urban environment, which leaves its mark on the entire population.

### • Material and method

The main methods used in the research are the analysis and diagnosis of the rural space, observation, comparison and SWOT analysis.

### • Results and discussions

The main type of tourism practiced in the Densuș area is the cultural one, represented by the existence of the historical monument "Sfântul Nicolae Church" in Densuș, which is defined by the locals as "a medieval Romanian architectural jewel", being one of the oldest churches in Romania, past by UNESCO in the universal cultural heritage. It can be said that the edifice was built in the 13th century in the Romanesque style. Today, the church is an architectural monument, visited by dozens of tourists every year.



Sfântul Nicolae Church from Densuș

Another representative tourist attraction for the Densuș commune is Peșteana Swamp, called by the inhabitants "Tăul fără fund", a botanical reserve. The name "Tăul fara fund", comes from popular legends which that is a bottomless lake, from where in the past animals were fed with water and were swallowed.



"Tăul fără fund" from Peșteană

*Casa Vulcanilor is an exploitation and visiting space built and coordinated in 2014 by the Drag Hațeg Association together with the volunteers of the UNESCO Geopark in Tara Hațegului and the community of Densuș village. It is an ecological construction made of earth, straw and water, adapting to the geological story of the Hațeg Depression, where traces of the volcanoes that dominated Hațegu Island can still be found today. Visiting the House of Volcanoes, tourists can discover dinosaur fossils, animal tracks and mechanical tracks.*



Casa Vulcanilor



Fossils traces

### • Conclusions

The tourist attractions representative of this commune are not highlighted and are not promoted to the maximum extent, in order to attract tourists both from the country and from abroad.