

THE BOGA-PADIȘ TOURIST AREA AS AN INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DESTINATION. STUDY CASE: MOTIVATION AND IMPRESSION OF TOURISTS COMMING FROM HUNGARY

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Abstract: In this article we present some aspects about the tourist potential, the tourist circulation and the tourist infrastructure of Boga-Padiș area, which is located in the Apuseni Mountains. Despite the fact that this area represents only 10% of Apuseni Natural Park, it includes over 80% of the park attractions. Although the infrastructure has many shortcomings, according to my estimate calculation, the area is visited by 20 000 tourists annually. Almost the half of the tourists are foreigners, most of them comming from Hungary. In the summer of 2011 we applied a questionnaire, the results of that being showed in the article. Finally, we are going to present some proposals for a better organization of tourism in this area.

Key words: Boga-Padiș area, tourism infrastructure, tourist traffic, tourists from Hungary

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INTRODUCTION

The Boga-Padiș tourist area lies in the Western part of the Apuseni Mountains, more precisely in the Central-Northern part of Bihor Mountains, within the Apuseni Natural Park (figure 1). Administratively speaking, the area is located in the Bihor county and greatly overlaps the Pietroasa township and part of the Budureasa and Buntești townships, respectively.

The Boga vacation village lies in the upper part of the Crișul Pietros river, between 450 and 600 m of altitude. Hydrologically speaking, the Padiș Plateau is a closed basin, which is largely due to the Crișul Negru river, by its affluent, Crișul Pietros, except for the North-East part of the area located in the hydrographical basin of the Someș Cald river. The plateau generally lies at a 1050 -

<http://istgeorelint.uoradea.ro/Reviste/Anale/anale.htm>

1250 m of altitude, being generally sloped from North to South, and it has a few peaks that exceed 1400 metres, such as Măgura Vânăta (1641 m) or Biserica Moșului (1466 m) (Varga, 2005).

The area has got an outstanding natural tourism potential, thanks to its countless karst landforms. Thus, on a relatively small area we see an impressive number of caves, stone wells (some of them sheltering such fossil glaciers as the Focul Viu Glacier, the Borțig Stone Well or the Barsa Glacier), passes (Someșul Cald, Galbena etc.), water springs (Ponor, Galbena, Bulbuci, Boga, Oșelu etc.), waterfalls (Evantai, Oșelu, Moloch), sinkholes (the Ponor Glade, the Căput Cave, the Cetățile Ponorului Cave etc.), permanent (Vărășoia) or temporary (the Ponor Glade) karst lakes, landscape admiring points (the Biserica Moșului peak, the Piatra Galbenei, the Boghii Stone, the landscape admiring points at the Someșul Cald passes) (Varga, 2006).

The landscape uniqueness is due to the great density of the karst forms and of the natural tourism points, which lie a relatively small distances ones from the others, as we talk about areas smaller than 70 sqkm and 7000 ha, respectively. We may thus say that this area, on around 10% of the Apuseni Natural Park surface, concentrates nearly three quarters of the natural tourism points, both in terms of their number and of importance, the area being yearly visited by approximately 20 000 tourists.

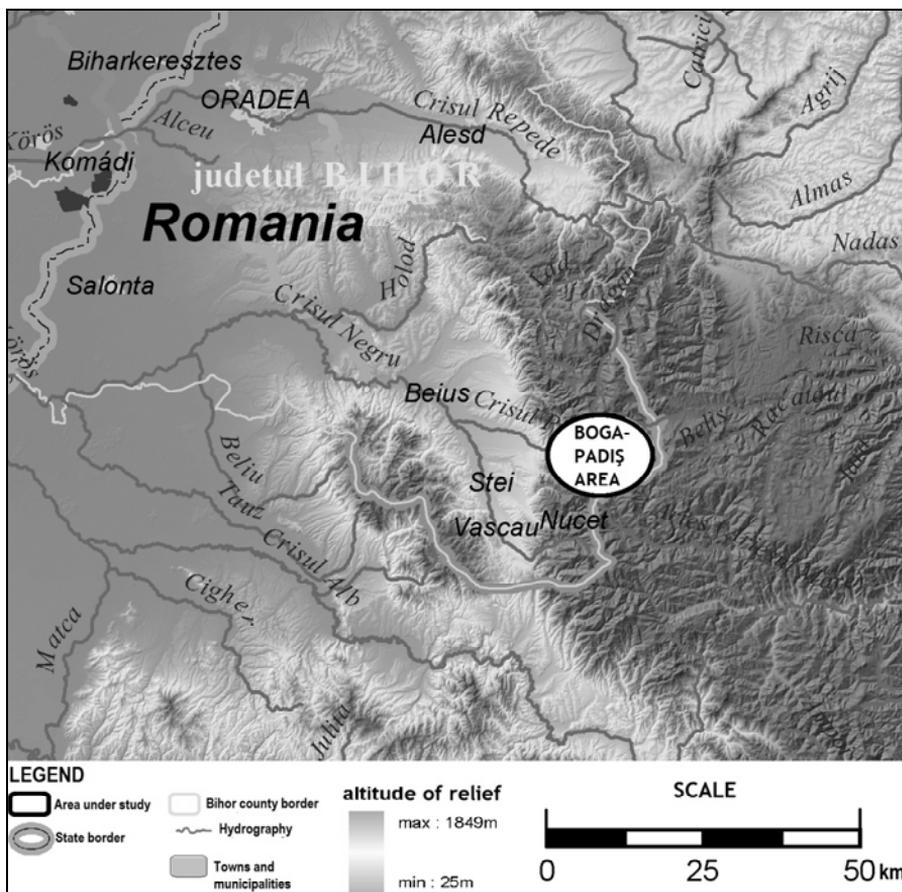


Figure 1. The geographical position of the area under study

The area was studied by many scholars from tourist point of view, who wrote books and articles about this area. The oldest tourist description belongs to Iuliu Czárán, a work entitled „Guide for making trips in the Stana Valley” (Stana de Vale), the book describes among others, also the tourist circuits on the Padiș Plain (Czárán, 1903). The majority of the specialists, not only

from geological, morphological or hydrographical point of view, but also from tourist point of view have treated separately the vacation destination village of Boga and the karst plateau or the closed Padiş - Ponorului Castles (Cetăţile Ponorului) reservoir (Bleahu & Bordea, 1981). In the stock of existing resources and tourist attractions in Bihor County (The development plan of Bihor County 2007 - 2013) the vacation village of Boga is linked to the Aleului valley, affluent on the right side of the Crisul Pietros River. Due to the geographical position (most of all from the perspective of the Yellow Gorges - Cheilor Galbenei) the Padiş area could be linked also to the Vârtoş area. Some of the writers even extend this tourist „zone” by using the name Padiş-Scărişoara (Indrieş, 2010) or they group the areas according to their access paths, even if the tourist „zone” lies on the territory of two or three counties (Tirpe, 2010).

However, an altitude difference of 500 - 700 meters exists between Boga and Padiş, we consider that they are in a very tight relationship from tourist point of view and they are linked by a road, which very soon needs to be reconditioned and modernized, while the linkage with other tourist areas as it would be Vârtoş-Arieşeni or Scărişoara is possible only by walk.

In the Boga-Padiş area, the main resource of attraction is the karst relief, which has been studied in detail (Cocean, 1984 & 2000). One of the most demanded tourist objectives are the caves and from the more than one hundred caves and potholes in this region of only 70 sqkm only those were selected, researched and described that has a higher level of potential to worth to get arranged (Cocean, 1995).

Currently many websites are available from which the tourists can get information about the Boga-Padiş tourist zone, not just in Romanian language but in other international languages that are circulation, but most of the time these websites are available also in Hungarian language.¹

METHODS OF RESEARCH

For this column I used several methods of research. First of all it was the direct observation on the field, by countless visits on the area under study over the past few years. Then I used indirect observation, too, by analysing the cartographic documents, the tourist maps and the satellite ones. I also used the opinion polls method, by means of 313 questionnaires applied to the tourists coming from Hungary. I further made interviews with the landlords / the administrators of 15 accommodation facilities and with the representatives of the Bihor Mount Rescue Department. Apart from these, I downloaded information from the accommodation web portals, the online columns from the local and national press, the webpage of the Ministry of Regional Development & Tourism and from www.mapper.acme.com for determining the GPS coordinates.

THE TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE BOGA-PADIŞ TOURISM AREA

Whereas the tourism potential represents the fundamental factor for the development of tourism in an area, the material base, namely tourism arrangement is a decisive factor, by means of which the potential tourism resource becomes a ‘consumable’ tourism product, so a valorisable one. The tourist infrastructure of the area is composed of the accommodation and public food base and of the communication ways, which bring forth the attraction and the maintaining, on a variable however limited time, of a group of tourists that use the tourist arrangements and thus valorise the existing primary tourism offer (Ciangă & Vescan, 2007, p. 44).

The accommodation base

The accommodation base, jointly with the access ways represent the essential elements of the tourist arrangements in an area, on which the development of the tourist activities depends. The sizes and the tourism orientation in the area thus depend on its evolution, as well. There is a correlation between the location, the size, the structure and the grouping of the material accommodation base and the characteristics of the tourism potential, all of them being likely to lead to and to direct tourist flows and the individualisation of new forms of tourism practice (Ciangă, 2010).

¹ www.padis.hu

Table 1. The accommodation facilities in the Boga-Padiș tourism area²

No.	Type of accommodation	Name of accommodation unit	Category of comfort	Adress/Location	No. of beds
1.	pension	Anett	3 flowers	Aleu valley, N 46.59647, E 22.58008	36
2.	pension	La Mama	3 flowers	Boga village no. 198, N 46.58988 E 22.63209	20
3.	pension	Dolvas	3 flowers	Boga village, no. 179/A, N 46.60328, E 22.64889	30
4.	pension	Apuseni	3 flowers	Boga village, N 46.60061, E 22.64524	30
5.	pension	Flora	2 flowers	Boga village 81/A, N 46.60819 E 22.65343	48
6.	pension	Perla Boghii	2 flowers	Boga village, N 46.60441 E 22.64461	40
7.	chalet	Boga	1 star	Boga village, N 46.60471, E 22.64424	24
8.	chalet	Cetățile Ponorului ³	2 star	Padiș, Seacă valley, N 46.56350, E 22.71010	65
9.	chalet	Brădet	2 star	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59606, E 22.73456	40
10.	chalet	Casa Verde	2 star	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59694, E 22.73306	40
11.	chalet	Vărășoia	unclassified	Vărășoia glade, N 46.61021, E 22.70948	32
12.	chalet	Padicaș	1 star	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59750, E 22.73180	24
13.	chalet	Padiș	1 star	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59585, E 22.73389	20
14.	camping	Popas Padiș	2 star	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59741, E 22.73471	32
15.	camping	Privat	unclassified	Plateau Padiș, N 46.59740, E 22.73344	16
16.	camping	Boga	unclassified	Boga village, N 46.59988, E 22.65298	16
17.	Holiday house	Harmonia	unclassified	Boga village no. 81, N 46.60849, E 22.65303	16
18.	Holiday house	Czárán	2 flowers	Boga village no. 83, N 46.60822, E 22.65367	10
19.	Holiday house	Julius	unclassified	Sat Boga, N 46.61020, E 22.66101	20
	Total				559

According to the researches made on the field between July and September 2011, the accommodation base includes 19 accommodation facilities, with 539 operational accommodation places, out of which 11 are in the Boga vacation village and 8 on the Padiș carst plateau. From the standpoint of the comfort category, 4 of them are 3-star rated, 7 are 2-star rated, 3 facilities are 1-star rated and 5 of them are unrated (see table 1). In the area under study there is no hotel, as the feature is represented by the boarding houses, the lodges, the vacation houses and the camping lots. Most of them are but operable in the warm semester of the year, generally speaking between April 1st through September 30th.

Apart from the accommodation possibilities set out in table 1, people can also camp in tents, which is an option of a relatively large number of tourists, even though there is no endowment in this respect. The most popular spot is the Glăvoi Glade, which is also called „*At the Stables*”, where on the weekends of July and August one can even see more than 200 - 300 tents, which represent, as an average, 600 to 800 visitors or more.⁴

Given the mountain climate conditions, more than 90% of those who choose the tent as an accommodation form arrive here in July and August. In this period, the mean temperature is around 14 - 15^oC and one may also experience rainfalls in more than 75% of the summer

² Data source: questionnaires and my own interviews; the GPS coordinates were determined by means of www.acme.mapper.com

³ www.padis.ro

⁴ The figures are approximate, as they are based on my own observations/measurements and on the assessment made by the Mount Rescue Dept.

days, because of the Western exposure and of the convection, June being the most rainy summer month (Gaceu, 2005). Here there is also a specific topoclimate due to temperature reverses. Seeing that Padiş is a closed basin, we experience the thermal inversion phenomenon (meaning that the cold air remains on the bottom of the depression). The thermal inversion generates vegetation inversions, too, meaning that the coniferous trees grow at a lower altitude (950 - 1250 m) than the broad-leaved trees.

The access ways

The car access in the aforesaid tourism area is possible by County Road 763 (Sudrigiu-Padiş-Doda Pili), which is thus accessible both from the European Road E79 (National Rd 76), namely from the Beiuş Depression, and from the European Road E 60 (National Rd 1), namely from the Huedin depression, by National Rd 1R (between Huedin and Călata) and County Rd 108C (Călata-Răchițele-Doda Pili)⁵. The county road no.763 is currently under modernization and reconditioning process, which according to the plans will be finalized by the end of 2012.⁶

Unfortunately, there are no regular bus travels beyond Pietroasa and Răchițele and the nearest railway stations are at even more considerable distances. Nevertheless, the Boga-Padiş tourism area is visited by approx. 20 000 tourists each year. Apart from County Road 763, the area may also be reached on foot, on the tourism routes marked out, Padiş being an important knot in this regard. These trails link the Padiş Plateau to the Stâna de Vale and Vârtope - Arieşeni resorts and to the Scărișoara Cave and Lodge, to the Vlădeasa Mount and Lodge.⁷

ISSUES ON THE TOURIST CIRCULATION

The analysis of the tourist circulation in this area is really difficult. At present there is almost impossible to determine the exact number of tourists and of their overnight stays in this area. If we wished to analyse and to refer to the official data obtained from the Bihor county statistics division, it is obvious that the officially recorded data are largely inconsistent with reality. I have therefore tried to determine the approximate number of tourists that arrive here by means of questionnaires, opinion polls and interviews.

Thus, according to the researches made between 2009 and 2011, notably in the hot season, I reached the conclusion that the area is visited by at least 20 000 tourists on a yearly basis, out of which 10 000 - 11 000 choose the accommodation facilities and 6000 - 7000 choose to put up their tent in wild camping lots. They account for around 25 000 - 30 000 overnight stays in the accommodation facilities and 20 000 - 25 000 in the Glăvoi Glade „wild” camping lot.⁸

They are added 2000 - 3000 one-day visitors, who, according to my own researches, in the extra-season represent more than one third of the number of arrivals, but during the season their percentage drops under 10%. Generally speaking, in this area there arrive more than 20 000 trip goers every year, but this number does not contain the people who have their own vacation houses in the Boga vacation village, which the landlords generally rent in the most part of the year.

According to a research performed in 2005, based on which the Apuseni Natural Park Management Scheme was drawn up, there are around 200 000 tourists that visit the park on a yearly basis, out of which approximately 40% are foreigners (PNA, 2007). This number seems to be significant, but if we refer to the fact that but the Bears Cave is visited by 80 000 - 90 000 tourists each year (Corina Tătar, 2010) and the Scărișoara Glacier by 10 000 - 12 000, the figure no longer seems so incredible. Yet, the number of the tourists in the Park and implicitly in the Boga-Padiş tourism area varies each year, subject to weather and to the condition of the access roads. This number could get double or triple if the visiting infrastructure, especially the access roads' were bettered and if the accommodation facilities number and quality increased.

⁵ www.maps.google.com

⁶ www.mdrt.ro

⁷ www.parcapuseni.ro

⁸ calculated on the questionnaires applied to the accommodation facilities' landlords/managers and to the Bihor Mountain Rescue Dept. representatives

The national and international tourist traffic

If we would analyze the situation for Bihor County, we could observe that in the past years, less than 10% of the tourist who came into the County were foreigners. In order of their origin by country on the first place is Italy, and on the second place is Hungary (Bihor County Directive of Statistics). In the area of study the situation is totally different.

In terms of the tourists origin, as a general rule, around 55% are Romanian tourists, most of them's visit not being the first one in Apuseni, but the area is also visited by a very large number of Hungarian tourists every year, approx. 35%, completed by tourists coming from Slovakia, The Czech Republic, Poland, The Netherlands, Belgium and France (see figure 2).

Yet, according to the researches carried out between 2010 and 2011, the findings were that in the accommodation facilities 48%, as an average, of the total number of tourists are visitors coming from Hungary, 43% from Romania and around 9% from other countries⁹ (see figure 3). If we only refer to the extra-season time (April 15th - June 15th and September 1st - October 31st), according to the Bihor Mountain Rescue Department approx. 80% of the visitors arrive from Hungary, half of them being however one-day visitors.

In summertime, nearly 40% of the Padiș campers are foreigners and most of them are from Hungary - around 30%, which represents 75% of the total number of the foreign tourists (figure 4). They are followed, at a relatively great distance, by Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and in a far lesser degree by some other West-European countries - France, The Netherlands, Belgium, UK etc. As a curiosity, I would point out that in 2011 the appearance of the Bulgarian tourists was noticed, who, according to the locals, had never be seen in Padiș before.

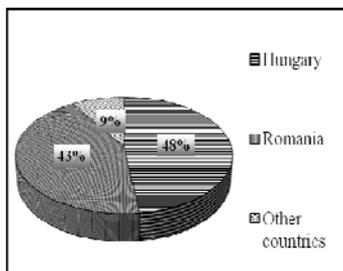


Figure 2. The structure of the tourists lodged in the accommodation facilities in terms of originating countries¹⁰

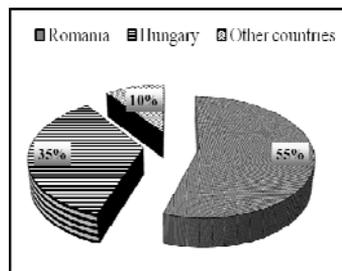


Figure 3. The tourists' structure in terms of originating countries – in general¹¹

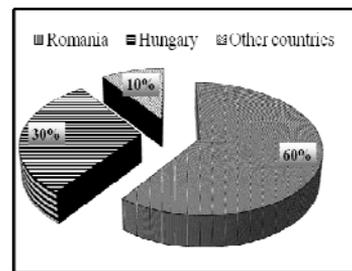


Figure 4. The structure of the tourists in the 'wild camping lots' in terms of originating countries¹²

STUDY CASE: MOTIVATION AND IMPRESSION OF TOURISTS COMING FROM HUNGARY

Within the field research period I questioned in all as many as 313 Hungarian nationals, seeing that they were dominating the foreign tourists category. More than one third (35.5%) had come from Pesta county (see figure 5), which was followed by the geographically closest counties: Csongrád (17.6%), Békés (14.7%) and Hajdú-Bihar (13.1%) (see figure 6). The tourists arrived from these four counties cumulate more than 80% of the total number of arrivals.

As regards the respondents' distribution according to genders and ages, I found out that a bit more than half of the questioned people were males (54%) and that from the point of view of the age groups the majority were people aged between 30 and 45 (37.1%), who were followed by young people ranged between 20 and 29 years old (24.9%) and by 46 to 64 year old (23.3%).

⁹ Data obtained from the questionnaires and the interviews made with the accommodation facilities' landlords/managers

¹⁰ Data obtained from the questionnaires and the interviews made with the accommodation facilities' landlords/managers

¹¹ The data are based on the assessment made by the Bihor Mountain Rescue Dept.

¹² Data obtained from the questionnaires and the interviews made with the accommodation facilities' landlords/managers

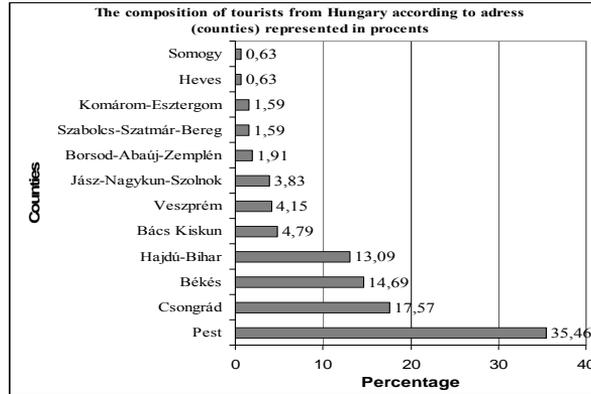


Figure 5. The composition of tourists from Hungary according to adress (counties) represented in procents

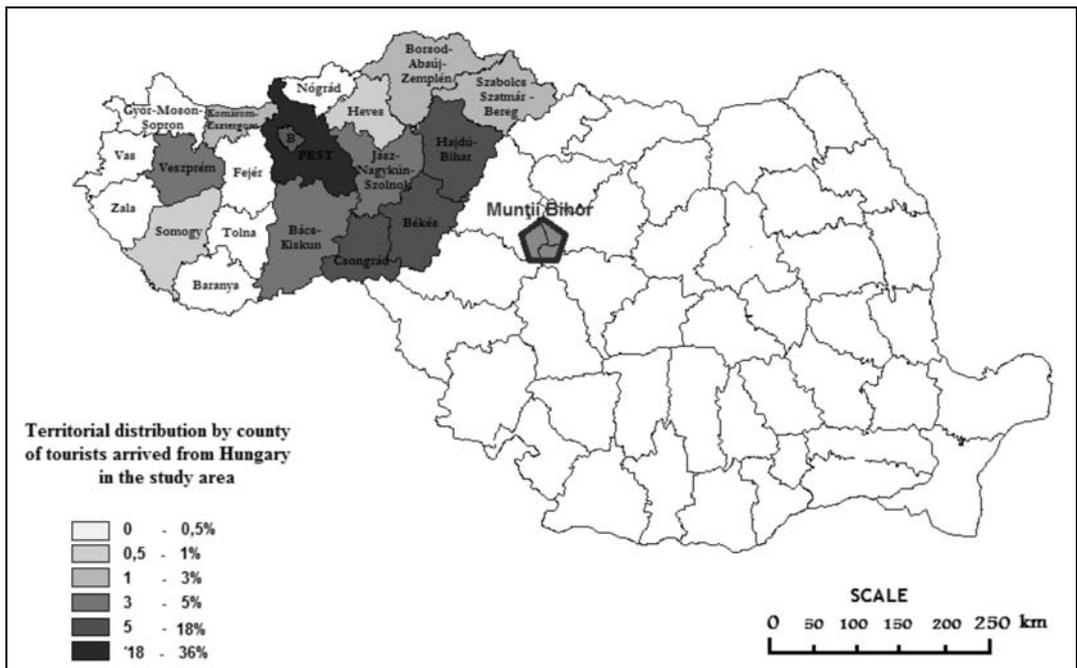


Figure 6. The map of territorial distribution by county of tourists arrived from Hungary in the study area

As we talk about an area where active tourism is mainly practised, notably outings, only 1.3% of the interviewed people were older than 65 (see figure 7).

From the occupation standpoint, 37.7% of the interviewed people declared to be intellectuals, that is employees that carry out intellectual activities, 23.6% pupils/students or undergraduates and 15.7% workers, i.e. employees that perform physical activities (figure 8).

The tourists were also questioned about how many days they allotted every year to stays / rest-leaves / trips, out of which how many in Romania. The data processing showed that 41.5% yearly allotted 7 to 14 days to the stays or to the vacations, 25.6% allotted 15 to 21 days and only 15% allotted more than 21 days per year to rest-leaves. The next question was about how many of these days they spend in Romania (not necessarily in Bihor). Around half the questioned people chose the 1 - 3 day variant and 31.3% ticked the 4 to 7 day option. Furthermore, the fact that 19.5% spend more than 7 days of their rest-leaves in Romania is of note (figure 9).

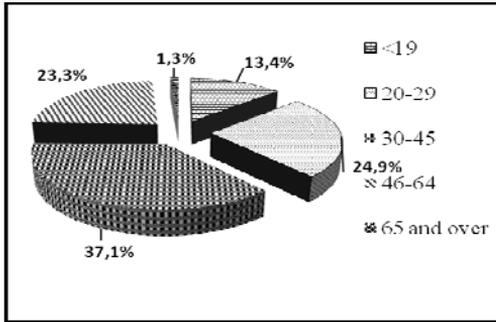


Figure 7. The respondents' distribution according to the age groups

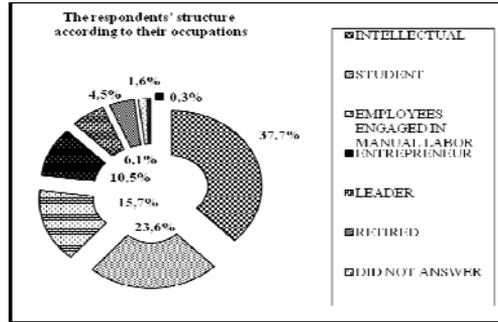


Figure 8. The respondents' structure according to their occupations

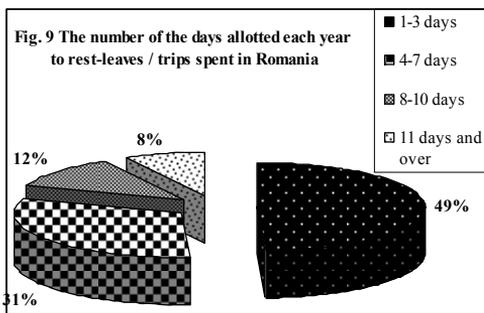


Figure 9. The number of the days allotted each year to rest-leaves / trips spent in Romania

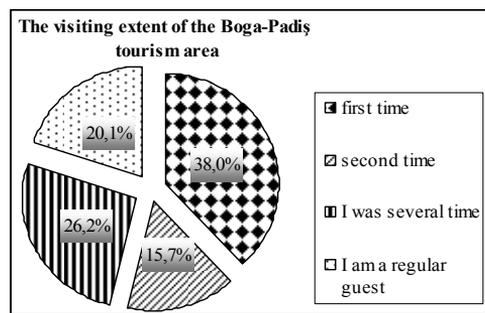


Figure 10. The visiting extent of the Boga-Padiș tourism area

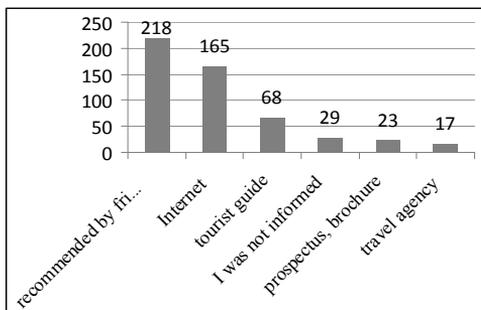


Figure 11. The information sources linked to the tourist destination selected (Boga-Padiș)

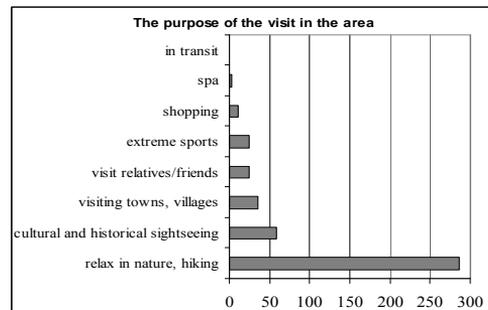


Figure 12. The purpose of the visit in the area

At the „How many visits have you paid in Bihor county ?” question, it turned out that 38% were there for the first time, 26.2% were several times and 20.1% declared to be tenacious visitors (which supposes that they had already paid more than 4 - 5 visits) (see figure 10).

The tourists were also questioned about the information sources linked to the tourist destinations of Bihor county in general and to the Boga-Padiș area in particular. At this question, the „Recommended by acquaintances” (72.6%) and „From the Internet” (55%) variants stood out, the third place being held by „The Tourist Guide”, by 2 % (see figure 11).

As concerns the visiting purpose, the „outings, relaxation in nature, protected areas visiting etc.” answering variants were chosen by far, that is more than 90% (figure 12). At a large distance, by only 21%, the answer was „the visiting of the cultural-historical points” (several variants of answers could be ticked at this question, too).

At the „What means of transport did you use to travel by ?” question, all questioned people chose the passenger car / mini-bus variant. Given the inefficiency of the current transport system in the Boga-Padiş tourism area, most tourists choose to come by their personal cars and in groups of 2 - 5 people. This is accounted for by the absence of the regular bus drives, by the precarious condition of the County Road 763 by means of which the Padiş Plateau can be accessed and by the fact that the nearest railway stations are at very large distances (more than 35 km). In addition, the area is not much frequented by trailer tourists, as there are no camping lots equipped in this respect. Lots of people prefer to stay in tents (43.1%), both because of the closeness to the main points of tourist interest and because of their low pecuniary possibilities (figure 13). The activities carried out in Padiş by tourists are notably trips, spelaeology, activities around the camping lot or the boarding house.

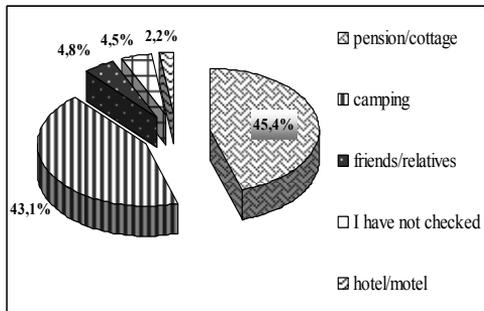


Figure 13. Accomodations types chosen by Hungarian tourists

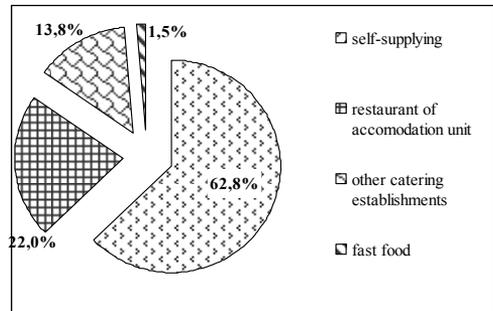


Figure 14. Results for the question „Where are you usually dining”

Nearly 45% of the Hungarian tourists chose the local boarding houses and lodges, almost 5% declared being accommodated by acquaintances or relatives and 5% of the questioned Hungarian tourists were one-day visitors. As regards the public food facilities (whose number is relatively small and many of them are not rated at all), the Hungarian tourists were largely satisfied both with the prices (70%), the serving (67%) and with the offer variety and the food and beverages quality (66%) (see figure 15). Nevertheless, I would like to point out the fact that approx. 25% of the interviewed people said having bought nothing from Romania, as they had brought the entirety of their food and consumer goods from home.

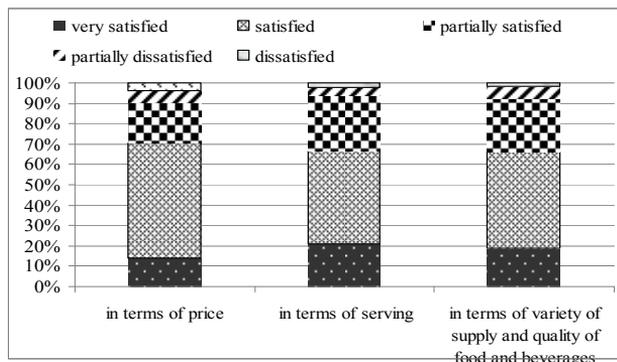


Figure 15. The degree of satisfaction regarding the public food facilities

At the „Do you intend to come back in the future in the Bihor county and Mountains?” question, nearly 93% of the people gave a positive answer (figure 16). The ones with a negative answer were asked to motivate it. Here 74% declared not being satisfied with the traffic conditions,

which are precarious (the bad condition of the access road), 17% declared not having found the right accommodation and 9% invoked the lack of hospitality or the unfriendly treatment (figure 17).

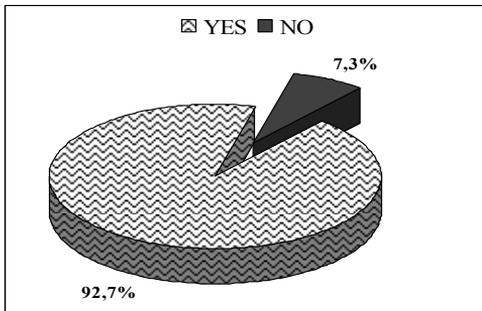


Figure 16. Results for the question: „Do you intend to come back in the future in the Bihor county”?

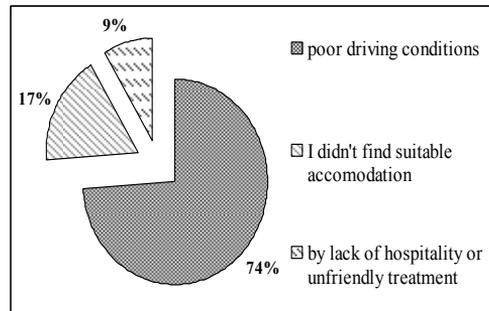


Figure 17. Results for the question: „If the answer is negative, why”?

The Hungarian tourists were also asked about what would be the factors that would cause them to spend more time in the Bihor Mountains and county. At this question, several variants of answers could be ticked, the first place being held, by 35.2%, by the facilitation of the access in the area, while referring to the bad condition of the access road. This was followed by the „Other reasons” answering variant, where most questioned people specified „More money and more time” and 18.6% ticked „The stress on the tourist attractions” variant, which shows that the region is not sufficiently well furthered in Hungary as compared to its tourism potential (see figure 18).

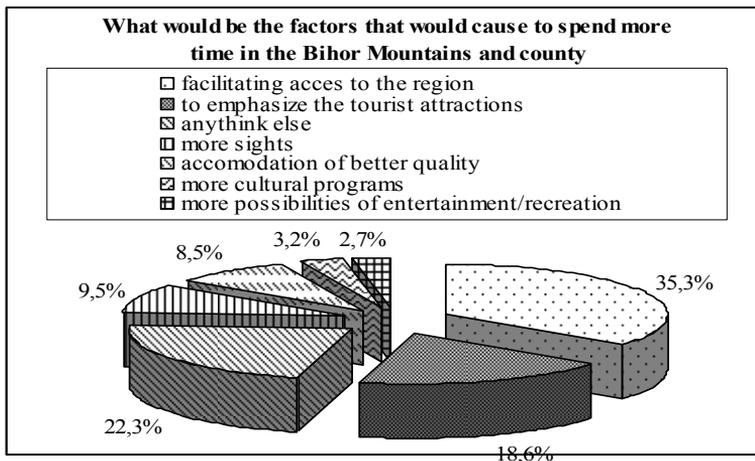


Figure 18. What would be the factors that would cause to spend more time in the Bihor Mountains and county

We should note the fact that only 8.5% ticked the variant according to which they would need accommodation facilities of a higher quality. Around 15% said that they are in the habit of coming to Padiș especially for this „wild world” untouched by civilisation, while specifying that if the access road and/or a modern camping lot (equipped with WCs, showers, electrical power etc.) were built/created, they would no longer come to Padiș.

One thing is certain: if the access road got built or modernised, the tourists’ flow would get double or triple in Padiș, but if a waste materials and waste waters evacuation system is not implemented, this would lead to an ecological „disaster”.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSITIONS

The access paths are in an uncertain condition, which however, until now offered the area a „*protection*” against the flow of unorganized tourism. The accommodation/lodging spaces are insufficient not only in number (if we not take into consideration the illegal accommodation possibilities, or „*black market*” accommodations), but in diversity as well (the lack of 3 star units on the table mountain). At the same time there is a lack of a well equipped camping (with showers, restrooms and toilets) in Poiana-Glavoi that lead to the un-satisfaction of the tourists and to the intense pollution of the Vai Cetatilor (Castles Valley) area and the surrounding forests. It is observed as well that there is a lack/insufficiency in the classified public alimentation units.

With all these shortcomings, the area is annually visited by approximately 20 000 tourists; a number that will double or even triple once the access road will be rehabilitated.

As strength points, I would mention the relatively high number (percentage) of foreign tourists (45%), most of them arriving from Hungary (35% of the total number of tourists).

Presently, this tourist area receives very low incomes - only a few accommodation unit owners - in comparison with the unexplored potential it possesses. It is strictly necessary the reorganization of tourism in the area, first of all to be protected and second of all to be able to bring income for local communities and administration.

The tourism and recreational activities, if well managed and combined in a balanced way with other economical and social initiatives inside the park, would positively contribute to the long-lasting development of this area, offering at the same time an occupational alternative to part of the local communities and would provide the material valorisation of certain traditional activities that tend to disappear from the daily landscape.

At present there are two major problems in this tourist area, especially on the Padiş plateau. The biggest problem that requires urgent settlement is the one linked to the waste materials evacuation, because alongside with the enhancement of the tourism flow (which will take place after the completion of the access road rehabilitation), this problem will increase exponentially. The other problem would be the wastewaters discharge, meaning the creation of a sewerage network, but this would suppose enormous investments, which is hard to imagine to be achieved in the 5 or 10 years to come. In the present tourism from this area exerts a huge pressure on the environment (Linc et al., 2011) and if the number of tourists will increase without making changes in the domain of environmental protection, the consequences could be severe.

For the first problem there would be a possibility that would not imply such greater costs, but only an agreement from the part of the landlords and the administrators of the lands that are in this region: the Romanian state by the Apuseni Natural Park Administration, Romsilva – the Forests National Division, then the local councils, private forestry departments, natural entities.

If we compare ANP with other natural or national parks from Europe, we can find a series of good practices through which in the Alps or in the Apennini for example it was managed to organize a national park and an ecotourism was practiced in the true sense of the world (Avram, 2011).

According to this proposition, which was also submitted by the Bihor Mountain Rescue Department and by some other specialised NGOs, the vehicle and people traffic monitoring and control in the Apuseni Natural Park in general and in the Boga-Padiş area in particular, would be necessary. This could be the most easily accomplished by the installation of two barriers on the County Road 763, the „*artery*” for the main access to the Padiş Plateau, used by approximately 99% of the tourists that come here (1% coming on foot, on various marked out tourist trails) and by the enforcement of fees bearing different names. In the Bihor part, the barrier could be placed either at the confluence of the Aleu Valley with the Crişul Pietros river (the park entrance) or in the Scăriţa Saddle. In the Cluj part, this barrier could be placed upstream the Doda Piliu hamlet or upstream the Ic Ponor vacation village.

The fees values would be symbolical both for the Romanian tourists and especially for the foreign ones; in exchange they would cover the expenses inferred for the maintenance and operation of the park's waste materials control, monitoring and evacuation system. Similarly to the

highway fees, these expenses would be differentiated according to the vehicle type, but they would also need paying according to the number of people entering the park. The construction and the installation of the control points and of the IT devices needed for the operation of this system could be financed from non-refundable money of European projects.

Upon entering the park, each tourist's personal data and vehicle registration number would be written down and each person would receive, depending on each of them's planned stay, 1-3 or more numbered domestic waste bags and each tourist would be briefly advised on „*the basic rules*” applying in the park. What is more, each tourist would have the obligation of collecting his/her residuary waste materials in those waste bags, which he would give over upon leaving the park.

Seeing the minimal number of visitors, we suppose that they would be enough for maintaining this monitoring and control system and for the expenses inferred by the waste materials storing and transportation from the control/collection points, even though part of this money (35 - 40%) were given to the town halls and to the natural entities that own lands in the area.

As a final conclusion, we can affirm that the Boga-Padis tourist area is a significant tourist destination for this region of the country, including numerous natural tourist resources, which enlarge the attractiveness of the region through different forms and unprecedented karstic procedures. However, if we wish for tourism to represent an important branch of the local and regional economy, this fact must be reformed, reorganized and rethought. First of all, the area must be sustainable from tourist fluctuation point of view, to which we can add the development of infrastructure and last but not least, all of these must be in accordance with the normative of environment, and the needs and necessities of the tourists. During the field research, we tried to question as many tourists as possible, in order to be able to analyze their opinion, motivation and impressions regarding the services, the accessibility and re resources of the region. Finally, as a result we found out that most of the tourists, who arrived in the area, are from Hungary, so it is not accidental that I've chosen this group as the target group in my questionnaire. Their answers can lead us in a way to create a really demanded tourist area by different segments of the population in order to stimulate the number of arrivals and sleepovers in the region. To this growth, it is necessary that the local community and authority contributes to the investments in their own part, which does not have to be a financial investment, but a moral or quality investment in all necessary domains. The foreign tourists, especially those from Hungary, underlined the variety of the resources and their attractiveness, however it must be planned very good the right moment and type of investment, not be too late for this region, so the transit zone will not become and area that everyone avoids.

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