

**GEORGE-BOGDAN TOFAN (2013)**

**BILBOR COMMUNE. GEOGRAPHIC AND TOURIST MAP**

Scale: 1: 60 000, with text depicting the geographic features and touristic sites of the area, in Romanian and English, PrintPlazzaTypography, Cluj-Napoca, ISBN 978-973-0-14528-1.

**GEORGE-BOGDAN TOFAN (2014)**

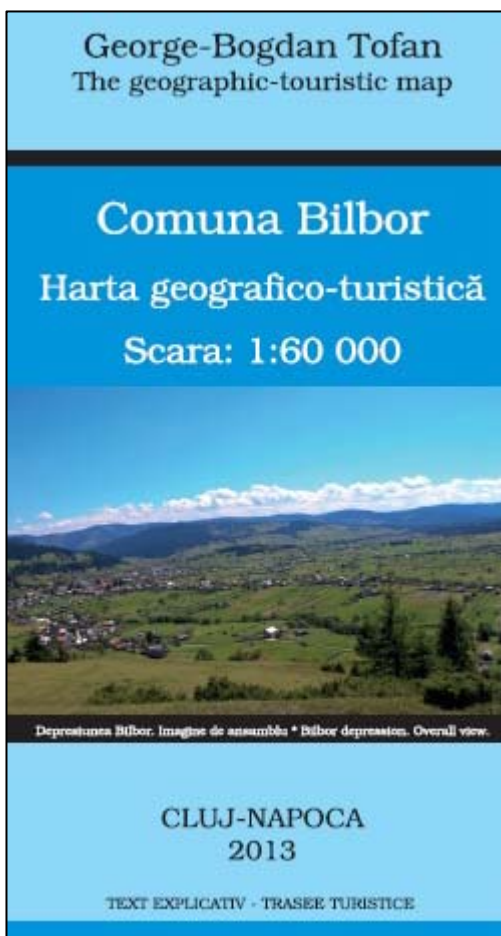
**TULGHEȘ COMMUNE. GEOGRAPHIC AND TOURIST MAP**

Scale: 1: 50 000, with text depicting the geographic features and touristic sites of the area, in Romanian and English, PrintPlazzaTypography, Cluj-Napoca, ISBN 978-973-0-15599-0.

**GEORGE-BOGDAN TOFAN, ADRIAN NIȚĂ (2015)**

**BORSEC. GEOGRAPHIC AND TOURIST MAP**

Scale: 1: 30 000, with text depicting the geographic features and touristic sites of the area, in Romanian, English and Hungarian, DHM Typography, București, ISBN 978-973-0-18656-7.



I would like to present the consecutive publication of three tourist maps that focus on a less „visible” area, the small depressions located within the Eastern Carpathians. This scientific endeavour, made by **Lecturer George-Bogdan TOFAN, PhD**, continues the theme and the region studied in his PhD thesis from 2012, titled „*Depresiunile mici, factori și componentă a umanizării (antropizării) Grupei Centrale a Carpaților Orientali. Studiu de caz: Componenta nordică a ulucului depresionar (Drăgoiasa-Glodu-Bilbor-Secu-Borsec-Corbu-Tulgheș)*”, under the coordination of prof. Nicolae CIANGĂ, PhD, from the Faculty of Geography, „*Babeș-Bolyai*” University Cluj-Napoca. In 2013, after the publication of said study at the Presa Universitară Clujeană, the first tourist map, depicting the author’s place of birth (Bilbor commune), scale 1: 60 000, was printed. The map’s size is 48 x 68 cm, with five parallel and one perpendicular fold, at 11.5 x 24 cm.

The main cover also contains a suggestive image, taken by the author, which emphasizes the central part of Bilbor Depression.

Following a positive feedback, a year later (2014), with the support and financial backing of the local authorities of Tulgheș, the author managed to publish, at the PrintPlazza Press Cluj-Napoca, *The Tourist Map of Tulgheș Commune*, at a 1:50 000 scale, the cartographic material following the exact same model as the

previous map.

The only difference is that the front cover contains the title in Romanian and English, as well as the coat of arms of Tulgheș. The front cover also contains a photograph, depicting the current view of the commune's centre. The photo was taken in 2013, during a promotional project (triff.ro).

In 2015 a third and last tourist map, that of Borsec, was published at DHM București Press, being much more complex than the previous two, at a 1: 30 000 scale.

The map size is still 48 x 68 cm, but its folding structure is different (17 x 24 cm). The co-author of this map is **Lecturer Adrian NIȚĂ**, who worked as a cartographer as well for all three cartographic materials.

These maps were thought and designed to be easy to read, without an overload of conventional signs, thus enhancing the user experience.

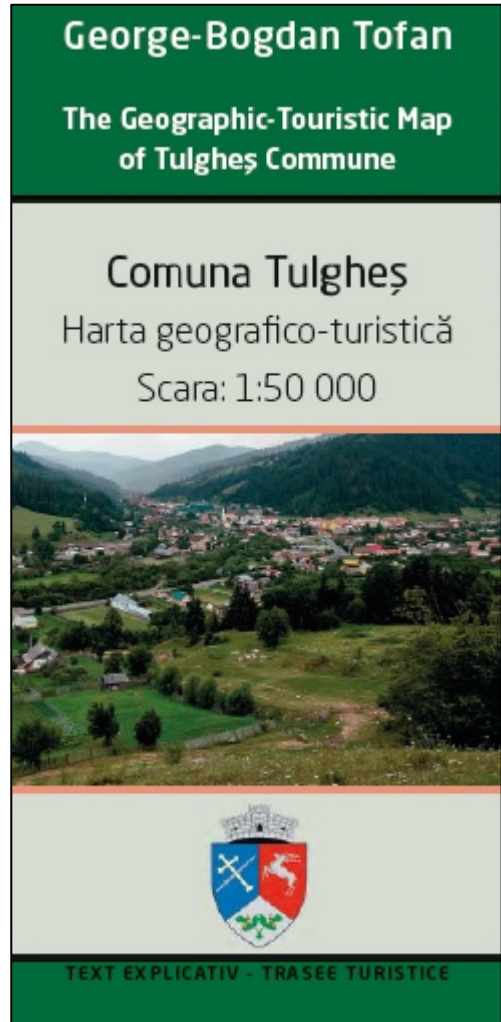
Each map contains an excellent medallion, at a large scale, which allows for an precise position of tourist sites. Furthermore, besides the graphical clarity and quality, there is a bilingual legend (Romanian/English), the different text fonts used and the proper colour palette fulfilling not only the academic valences, but also the practical attributes of such material.

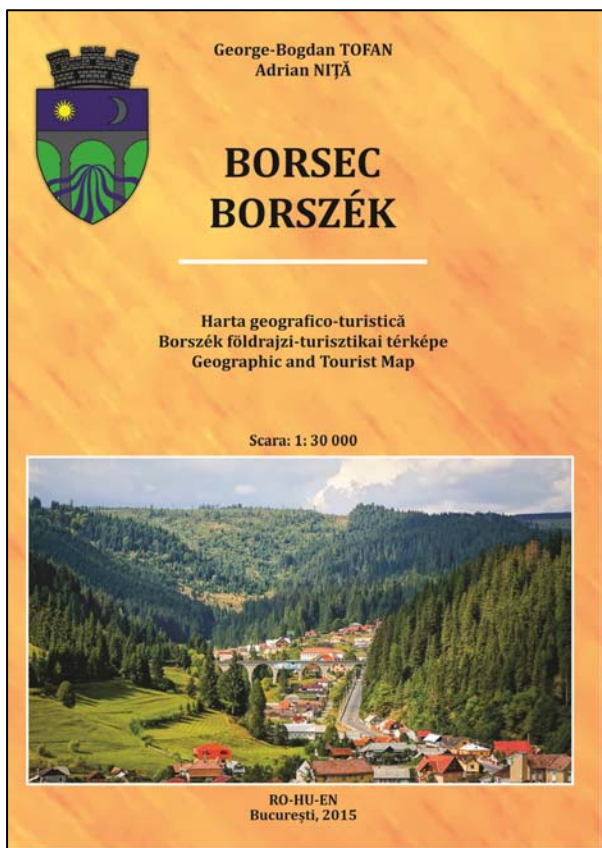
Two of the three maps contain a small text on their backside regarding the geographic features and the touristic sites found in the area, in Romanian and English (Bilbor and Tulgheș), while the map for Borsec contains an additional body of text in Hungarian, as the settlement has a large Hungarian population.

The translation into English was carried out by Bogdan-Nicolae PĂCURAR, PhD, while the translation into Hungarian (only for the tourist map of Borsec) by prof. Aladár FARKAS. The photographs were taken by János CSATLÓS.

The main features presented are *the natural touristic potential (geographic location, geological structure, terrain features, climate, hydrography, flora, fauna)* as well as *the man-made heritage and characteristics (population and settlements, access routes, accommodation, tourist trails)*, followed by a few references that captured different views of the area.

I believe that all three maps have a positive *practical* impact, which can contribute to the development of *spa and curative tourism* as well as *rural tourism (agricultural tourism)* in the area. In the near future, the town of Borsec might even receive the long lost *national interest resort* certification, once *the Multifunctional Spa Complex* opens, which will provide, besides the usual treatment, possibilities for rest and relaxation for all people, all year round.





In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance and the integrated nature of these cartographic materials, with real and practical applications in territorial development and planning, and acting as genuine „visiting cards” for the promotion and increase of touristic visibility of the area, nationally as well as internationally, taking into account that *the mineral water name of BORSEC* is the strongest Romanian brand.

**Martin Olaru, PhD**

Department of Geography

West University of Timișoara