

CROSS BORDER TOURISM AT LOWER DANUBE - BRIEF PRESENTATION -

Rezumat: Proiectul a fost finanțat în cadrul Fondului Comun al Proiectelor Mici – 2004 pentru Cooperare Transfrontalieră Romania – Bulgaria – dezvoltare economică și cooperare, inclusiv turism.

Obiectivul general este dezvoltarea coeziunii sociale și economice prin îmbunătățirea cooperării în cadrul regiunilor transfrontaliere de pe ambele maluri ale Dunării.

După perioada de implementare au fost obținute importante rezultate care au contribuit la promovarea regiunii transfrontaliere, atât din punct de vedere al resurselor naturale, dar și din punct de vedere social și cultural.

A. Acordul de Cooperare în domeniul turismului, crează baza pentru un parteneriat transfrontalier public-privat, cu scopul de a promova turismul transfrontalier.

B. Birourile de Turism sunt situate în cadrul Consiliului Județean Călărași și al Municipality Silistra.

C. Strategia pentru dezvoltarea turismului transfrontalier, redactată pentru regiunea Călărași-Silistra. Scopul strategiei este acela de a stabili direcții și modalități de dezvoltare economică a regiunii Călărași-Silistra prin promovarea turismului transfrontalier și identificarea celor mai bune oportunități în exploatarea potențialului turistic, identificarea ofertelor turistice în cadrul regiunii.

D. Pachete turistice comune sunt evidențiate în Strategia pentru dezvoltarea turismului transfrontalier, în regiunea Călărași-Silistra și oferirea acestora spre comercializare operatorilor de turism regionali.

E. Promovare și informare privind turismul, pentru elaborare și diseminare:

- Ghidul Turistic – conține o scurtă descriere a fiecărui operator turistic din ambele regiuni, hărți regionale care conțin obiectivele turistice, 2 propuneri de pachete turistice.

- Pliante care conțin imagini și informații privind principalele obiective, produse turistice din cadrul ambelor regiuni și informații privind Birourile Turistice (locație, persoane de contact, responsabilități, obiective etc.).

- Panouri – aflate la intrarea în localitățile în care sunt situate obiectivele turistice.

The project was financed under the priority of Joint Small Project Fund – 2004 for Cross Border Cooperation Romania – Bulgaria - economic development and cooperation, including tourism.

* Consiliul Județean Călărași.

The general objective was the development of social and economic cohesion by improving cooperation between the border regions on the both sides of the Danube.

After the implementation period were achieved important results which contributed to the promotion of cross – border and regional natural, cultural and social promotion.

A. **Cooperation Agreement** in the tourism field, which creates the basis for a public-private cross border partnership, in order to promote the cross border tourism.

B. **Tourism Offices**, established within Calarasi County Council and Silistra Municipality.

C. **Strategy for cross border tourism development**, drawn-up for Calarasi-Silistra region. The strategy is aiming to establish directions and modalities for the economic development of Calarasi - Silistra region by promoting the cross-border tourism and the best opportunities of exploiting the tourist potential, identifying the tourist offers in the region.

D. **Joint tourist packages**, emphasized in the **Strategy for cross border tourism development** in Călărași-Silistra region and offered for trading to the regional tourism operators.

E. **Promotion and information tourism matters**, to draw up and to disseminate:

- **Tourist Guide** with a short description of each tourist operator from the both regions, regional maps containing the tourist objectives, 2 proposed tourist packages.
- **Leaflet** which offers pictures and information concerning the main objectives, tourist products from the both regions and information about the Tourist Offices (locations, contact persons, responsibilities, objectives, etc).
- **Panels** – located to the entrance in the Romanian localities where the tourist objectives are situated.

The key messages included in the promotion materials are representative for the aim of the project: to transmit to the target beneficiaries the necessity to conjugate the local authorities and private sector efforts for the economic development in the tourism field, awareness of benefits offered by the cross border cooperation; to inform correctly and objectively the project potential beneficiaries over the tourist offers and the actions carried-out in the two regions in the cross border tourism field.

The project, through its activities and the achieved results, underlines the tourist potential of the county. In order to support this affirmation there is the **geographical position** of the region, which offers some advantages for considering Romania as a tourist destination:

- connecting like a bridge the two border regions, the presence of one of the three main natural elements, of great value in the and economical and social structure of the country is to be mentioned: the Danube River;

- the tourist accessibility function: Calarasi County and Silistra Municipality, the two border regions, enabling the access to the crossing point of the Danube and to the Black Sea, and also ensuring the connection to the Southern and Eastern European countries;
- the presence of the Priority Axis TEN –T no. 18 (Danube), which connects the European countries to the Black Sea basin.

The natural resources of the Danube space create the adequate frame for practicing different forms of tourism, which could be efficiently diversified and developed. The border region has an attractive tourist potential that allows the developing of different forms of tourism: cultural, religious, green tourism and agro tourism. A special attraction is represented by architectural, historical and cultural objectives. The natural reservations existing in this area could be representative and interesting tourist destinations, offering good opportunity for developing of relaxing activities.

On the basis of the natural potential of the region, the need for a better understanding of the specific value of this region - dwelt by centuries - is being considered, thus the printed materials within the project having this catalytic role.

The beautiful places, with great historical and emotional loading, spread all over the border region have been revealed in a special manner, thus underlining the need of people for finding out of their common roots, deep inside the history.

For attracting the potential visitors of these beautiful places along the Danube, some interesting tourist objectives have been highlighted:

Archaeological Reservations



The historical monument from Cătălui
(Căscioarele commune)

This is the oldest historical medieval monument of the county. It consists of historical vestiges dating from the bronze age, the first iron age (hallstatt), but there is mostly an architectural assembly, dated during 1560 – 1577 period, an old feudal housing, built by Stan from Corbi and his wife, Caplea (descendant from the voivode of Wallachia, Vlad Călugărul).

The Roman Tomb from the fourth century AD is the most popular ancient monument of Durostorum, within the country and abroad. The mural pictures are dating from the first half of the fourth century.

The church of the former Negoești Monastery - (Șoldanu commune)

It is an historical and religious monument,





founded by the prince Matei Basarab during 1648-1649.

The monument is an orthodox building. The architectural assembly consists in the bell tower, the main house, the monk rooms and the great walls of the monastery.

The history of Negoiești Monastery has deep implications in the history of Wallachia. During Matei Basarab, the Negoiești construction has been a real summer residence of Wallachia, where the prince issued 181 charters.

The Southern wall of Durostorum Fortress– Drustar – Silistra represents one of the strongest defense construction from Bulgaria, from high antiquity and Middle Ages. The fortress has been built during the Emperor Constantin the Great, at the beginning of the fourth century.



Coslogeni Pond – working point at

Clinici, Roseți, Dichiseni commune

- Neolithic settlement, Bolintineanu culture, 5th millennium, b.Ch
- The tower - the Early Bronze Age, 3rd millenium, b Ch.

Settlement dating from different historical times (Neolithic, Bronze Age and Daco-Getae).

Sultana – Malul Roșu, Sultana village, Mînaștirea commune
Neolithic settlement, Gumelnița culture, 4th millenium b. Ch.

This settlement represents one of the most interesting places which belongs to Gumelinita Culture. The researching of this dig began 80 years ago. One of the great discoveries of the last years has been made recently: a fired housing from 6000 years ago, where could be found more than 150 potteries, 300 stone/silex tools and ornaments.



The Metropolitan Cathedral " Saints Peter and Paul " and „The coffin for the relics of k Saint Dasie Dorostols), represents a cultural monument, built after the Crimeea war, by the School of Architecture Drianovska, prestigious Bulgarian school during Renaissance The frescoes belong to the well known Bulgarian painter professor Kojuharov.

Architectural monuments within the county region:

***Palace of Prefecture* – Călărași city.**

It is a monument of laic architecture, built in neo-classical style, having a concrete foundation, walls made from pressed brick, which was built between June 1895 and January 1898 by the Italian entrepreneur Giuseppe D. Ciconi, following the drawings made by the town engineer Ion Socolescu.



The archeological museum of Silistra

The building has been erected during 1923 -1924, for the branch office of the Romanian National Bank. From 1990 until present it hosts the archaeological exhibition of the History Museum from Silistra.

The exhibition is lying on a 400 sq m area and comprises from monuments belonging to the Prehistoric, Ancient and Middle Ages.

Among them there can be found unique exhibits like: a stone solar Roman clock, the biggest discovered by now on the Bulgarian territory; a helmet-masque of a Roman sportsman with griffons; funerary thesaurus made from noble metals belonging to the Roman and Middle Age; chariot – funerals of a famous Roman magistrate, from the end of the 3rd century; gold ring belonging to one of the first Christians from the end of the 3rd century, etc.



The Art Museum from Oltenița Municipality has an interesting exhibition consisting in a rich archaeological prehistoric collection, where the Gumelnita Culture is very well represented and in a special exhibition of unique elements of Gumelnita Culture, named “Art, Magic and Religion in Prehistoric Epoch”. From the Neolithic epoch there are also well represented the Dudești, Boian Cernavodă cultures.

The Ethnographic Museum - Silistra

The exhibition of the Ethnographic Museum is lying on a surface of 300 sq m and contains exhibits representing the life style and the culture of Dobrudjan people from Silistra Region, dating from the middle of the 19th century Silistra Region till the beginning of the 20th century. Many original tools are being exposed:



traditional costumes from Grebenti locality, disappeared in the middle of the 19th century; masques for folk dancers and “brezaia” masques, used within a winter custom for health and fertility.