



# The Evolution of Tourist Flow and Accommodation Facilities in Suceava County and their Possible Reconfiguration due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Accepted July 2020

Available online August 2020

### JEL Classification

L83

### Keywords:

Tourism reconfiguration, Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Tourist flow, Tourism accommodation units, Forms of tourism

## ABSTRACT

The study focusses on Suceava county, the administrative-territorial unit of Romania most severely affected by Covid-19 pandemic and at the same time with high tourist potential. Through this work we highlight the evolution along 20 years and the level of the tourist flow and of the tourist accommodation units, reached at the threshold of Covid-19 pandemic and it needs to be reference for possible future reconfiguration in tourism on this direction obeys the measures of limiting the spread of viral infections. The analysis and interpretation of the series of statistic data at the level of the whole county, of those 61 localities with tourist activity, especially in conjunction with the situations registered as answer to the action of implementing the policy of the development of tourism and rural space, outlines, in the year 2020, a certain tourist profile, a lot more different than the one in 2001. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will engender possible reconfigurations of the outlined profile. The balance seems to further lean to the smaller accommodation units, not hotels (already hold 51 % from the total tourist flow in 2019), such as the agrotourist boarding houses, camping sites, tourist chalets more on the basis of religious rural tourism and ecotourism.

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## 1. Introduction

According to official data regarding the evolution of Covid-19 cases in Romania, on March 18<sup>th</sup> (immediately after issuing the Military command from March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020) [27] along with establishing the emergency state throughout the national territory and until the first half of June the same year, hence after the modification / completion / relaxation of the prevention and combating the effects of the pandemic of COVID - 19 disposed during the alert state (Decision no. 434 from May 28<sup>th</sup> 2020) [19], Suceava county remained the administrative-territorial unit with the greatest / biggest number of cases confirmed with COVID - 19. On June 7<sup>th</sup> Suceava county registered 3,612 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections, i.e. 17.63 % from the total country amount (20, 479 infected people) and 5.69 cases per one thousand people, being far followed by Botoşani and Vrancea counties with 2.00 cases at each one thousand inhabitants [26].

Suceava county belongs to the North-eastern Development Region of Romania and is part of the counties that have reached a high level of tourist development right on the brink of Covid - 19, being dramatically affected on this side especially because the emergency and alert states coincided with the Fasting of the Orthodox Easter and everything concerning Easter holidays.

The religious and pilgrimage tourism is the form mentioned as characteristic [15] for Bucovina. (North - east) and obviously in which Suceava is listed, noted in The National Programme of Rural Development 2007-2013 or as a developing area - idea pointed out in The Strategy of Development and Promoting the Tourism in Suceava county through the reference to the statement from foreign press *Bucovina - the land of 1000 churches*.

When it comes to tourists' arrival in the tourist welcoming structures at the level of major administrative - territorial unit for the year 2019, except the capital( Bucharest), the county of Suceava is on the 8th place from the total number of tourists registered in Romania (13,374,922) with 465,921 tourists after Brasov (1,421,901), Constanţa (1,380,607), Cluj (670,560), Mureş (599,036), Prahova (585,785), Sibiu (575,545) and Bihor (540,675); registering 4.11% tourists from the 41 counties of Romania and 3.48 % tourists from country total.

The Suceava county achieved in 2019 a much more extended network of localities with tourist activity made of 61 places (that register welcoming structures which function as tourist accommodation), from which 10 towns and 51 villages in comparison with 1990 when it had 23 localities – 9 towns and 14 villages, compared with the rest of the country, too. [20] It has been one of the counties with the greatest number of villages with tourist activity for several years. [7] Besides, in 2017 Suceava county held a priority place at the level of Romania, including within the North eastern Development Area, as it emerged from *The Plan of Developing the National Territory- section VI – tourist areas. Studies of founding and evaluating the tourist potential in administrative – territorial units in the county* on the basis of the score carried out by the authorised institutions through applying the methodology [23] which stipulated its distribution (maximum 25 units) in basic administrative-territorial units (parish or town) for each of the following categories – natural tourist resources, antropoc tourist resources, specific tourist infrastructure and general infrastructure. According to the score [22] distributed in those more than 100 ATU, Suceava held almost 900 points for the natural resources, being the highest score at the level of the country, and half of this for antropoc resources, and the same for the infrastructure, was pretty high compared with more country counties.

And after reevaluating [14] the tourist potential of the Romanian territory for the periodical putting up-to-date of the appendices to the Government Emergency Ordinance no.142/ 2008, in "Proposals of modifying the development plan of the national territory- section VIII -areas with tourist resources" remains on priority position [24]:

- ✚ almost two thirds of its surface, which generally overlaps the mountainous area, is within the „area of concentrating the natural and antropoc tourist resources" and at the same time from those 4 groups at the level of the country when it comes to the degree of the concentration of tourist resources (low, medium, high and very high) all the ATUs dispose of a high medium concentration (14-24.99 points) and dominating very high (almost 60% of the ATUs) being given by those with high concentration (PATN map – section VIII – areas with tourist resources, p.10);
- ✚ there isn't any administrative – territorial unit (ATU) having issues connected with tourist and technical infrastructure.

The development of tourism in Suceava county was supported by the implementation of the policy of rural development of Romania lined up with the European one in which the rural pace was viewed as a potential insufficiently exploited through tourism.

In many situations the rural tourism proved to be a generator of income for the local economy and for governmental budget, of jobs directly into tourism and indirectly in other related sectors [4]; contributes to the development of the village, of the area or urban region by means of providing accommodation services and mediating other activities from the trade domain, of hospitability [6]; constitutes a way to maintain the cultural identity of the area.

## 2. Materials and methods

The research methodology is based on the study of the specialty bibliography, on the series of statistic data subject to data-processing, analysis and the interpretation of results, as well as on the drawing of conclusions.

In the research focused on the tourist flow and the tourist welcoming structures with tourist accommodation function prior to Covid-19, the following objectives have been taken into account:

- ✚ the identification of the aspects regarding the tendencies in spatial and temporal dynamics of the tourist flow and of the tourist accommodation units on all categories until the threshold of Covid-19 pandemic, including at the level of locality.
- ✚ the selection of the tourists on each category of accommodation units and on years and then the percentage transformation of these statistic data in order to deduce the degree of involvement and tourist attractiveness of each category;
- ✚ highlighting those categories of accommodation units which according to the tourist flow constituted and will constitute key / support elements in the development of tourism.
- ✚ stating a few ideas connected to possible reconfigurations in tourism.

The research has been carried out on Suceava county and has been based on the statistic data interrogation on the site of Statistics National Institute from Romania for about 20 years.

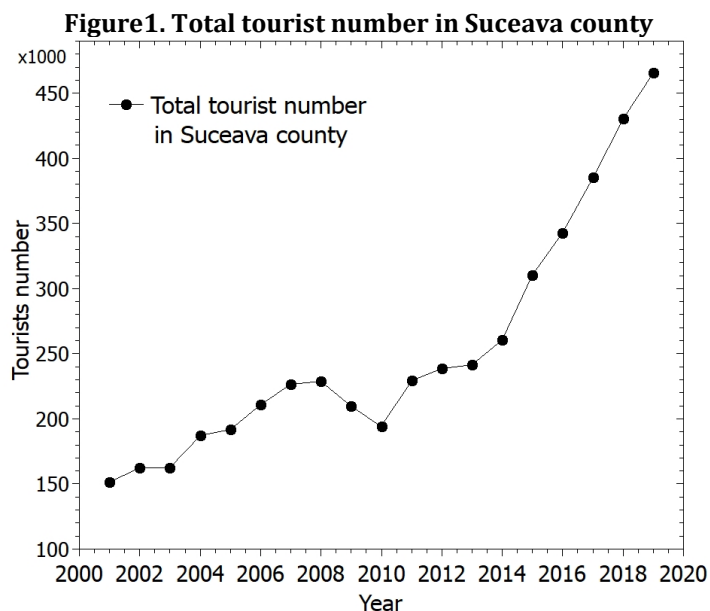
## 3. Analyses and discussions

The approaches connected with the size and the distribution of the tourist infrastructure and tourist flow of a space draw attention to some aspects related to the capitalization of the elements of territorial potential, of the geographic characteristics in territorial development, of the concentration of human activities, of the way of connecting the localities and territories, as well as the real cooperation in different domains.

**A) The tourist flow and the units of tourist accommodation from Suceava county in the period before Covid-189.**

**A.1)** Thus, a detailed analysis from 2001 to 2019 of the number of tourists, regarding the rate of the tourist welcoming structures with functions of tourist accommodation in the flow of tourists, per number of accommodation units for each category of the tourist welcoming structures, as well as the correlation between these indicators, point out created situations and supported by implemented policies, reaching the aspects previously stated, but also anticipate possible directions in the ongoing tourism after the Covid-19 crisis, taking into consideration the real situation of the potential of the space from Suceava.

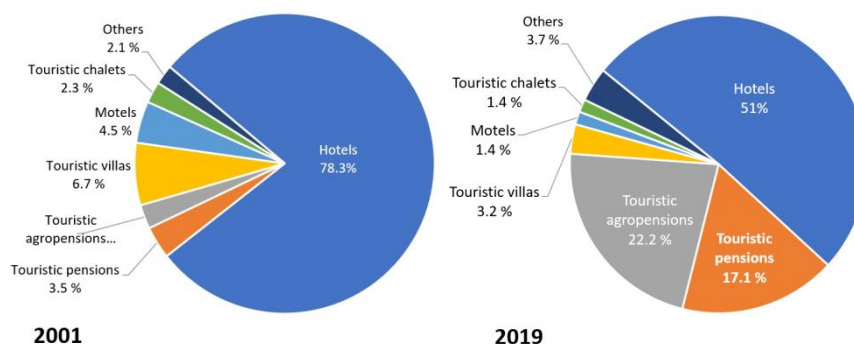
It must be firstly mentioned that when it comes to the tourist flow, Suceava county registers a growth of about three times higher in 2019 in comparison with 2001.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>; date accesate la 1 iunie 2020

In the distribution of the ratio of tourists on those 14 categories of tourist accommodation units (hotels, youth hostels, hostels, motels, tourist villas, tourist chalets, bungalows, holiday villages, camping sites, tourist halts, tourist houses, student camps, tourist boarding houses, agrotourist boarding houses) from those 15 registered in Romania, appear a series of changes, some even major for some categories of accommodation units, in comparison with the situation previous to year 2001; apartment hotels do not appear on the list of categories of accommodation units.

**Figure 2. The ratio of the stream of tourists on the structures of tourist welcoming with accommodation functions in Suceava county between 2001 and 2019**



Source: National Institute of Statistics, <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>; date accesate la 1 iunie 2020

Thus, in the comparison between 2019 and 2001, the following can be seen:  
 a decrease of the ratio of tourists for hotels (51 % against 78.3 %), units that still remain important within the whole structure of accommodation units (Fig. 2)

- ✦ an increase of the ratio of tourists by over 30 % for the tourist and agrotourist boarding houses (at 39 % against 6 %) categories that have become important in tourists' preferences, either through the price or through their disposition in the geographic place and offer, out of which the highest ratio belongs to the agrotourist ones. (Fig. 2) .

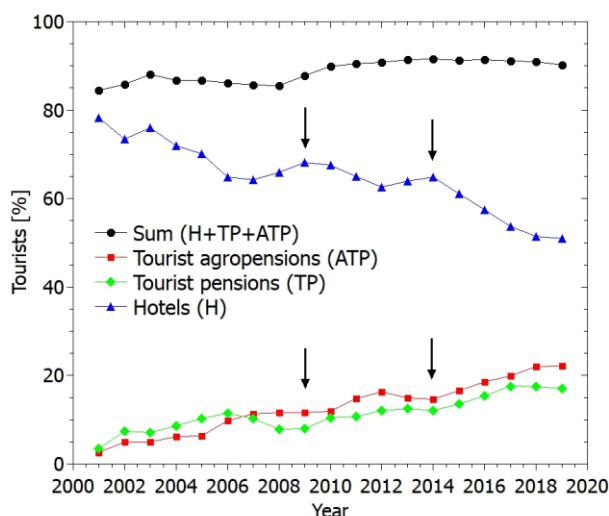
Furthermore, these three categories of accommodation units will be considered together in what concerns the comparative analysis. As well, they will be considered separately and the other categories of accommodation units which add up to a stream of 9 % each with a pretty low individual ratio in the tourist flow, because one of these can increase in importance in the period of the measures from the alert condition and post – Covid-19.

In fig. 3 through the presentation of the period from 2001 to 2019, of the dynamics of the tourist ratio distributed per hotels, tourist and agrotourist boarding houses, as well as the amount of the ratios of the whole stream of those three categories of tourist accommodation units the following aspects appear:

- ✦ overall, an increase of the ratio of tourist stream per boarding houses (tourist and agrotourist) is registered to the detriment of the hotel one (H); the latter one features a decrease of about 30% from 2001 to 2019 even though it maintains the highest percentage from the whole tourist stream;
- ✦ -the clear highlight of two time horizons – 2010 and 2014 – marked with arrows that correspond to two situations: one of impulse / start in the increase of the ratio of tourists for a period of several years in the case of the units of TP and ATP and the other of decrease in the case of H type. These time horizons mainly correspond to the effects of the implementation of the National Programme of Rural Development 2007-2013 “as the first extended programme after Romania joining EU [15] continued then through ”The National Programme of Rural Development for the period 2014-2020” when the rural tourism becomes encouraged to a great extent, the business environment as well, which led to the increase of the number of ATP and TP and the number of tourists through the attractiveness provided (its own offer, location in an exceptional natural environment, accessibility);
- ✦ because the amount of tourist stream of those three categories of accommodation units (H + ATP+ TP) remains still relatively constant (at / to 90%) starting with the year 2010, shows that the rest of the categories of accommodation units contribute with a small percentage to the whole tourist flow, meaning that all these add up to almost 10 % of the total / whole
- ✦ from 2008 to 2009 the total ratio of tourists in the three categories (Sum H+ATP+TP) starts to grow easily from the value of 85 % (which maintained constant in average from 2001 to 2009) and then later it stabilised at the value of 90 % from 2014 to 2018;
- ✦ -in the last four years (2014-2018) the variations are approximately linear, both for ATP ((+1.75%/year), TP (+1.25%/year) and for H (-3%/year).

These data entitle us to appreciate that the tourist flow started to refocus on the ATP and TP type starting with the period 2008-2009, the other categories of tourist units decreasing in the tourists' preferences. Nevertheless, the type H units still maintain 51 % from the whole tourist flow, being still key pieces in the tourist economy of Suceava county.

**Figure 3. The dynamics of the ratio of tourists per hotels, tourist and agrotourist boarding houses in Suceava county**

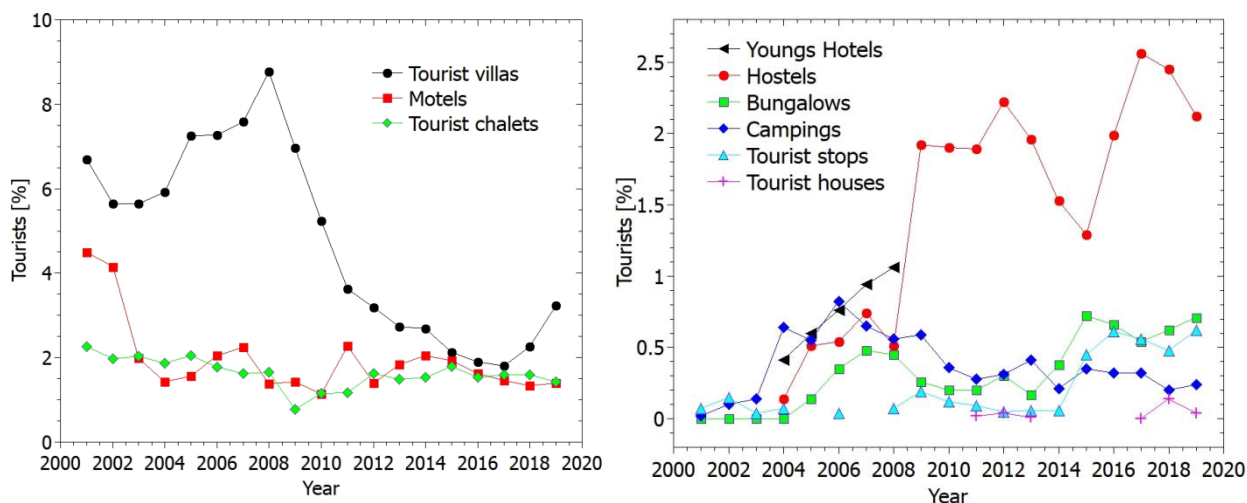


Source: National Institute of Statistics, <http://statistici.inse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/inse-table>; date accesate la 1 iunie 2020

The rest of the tourist flow of about 10 % on the other categories of tourist accommodation units (see Fig. 4 a and b) denotes:

- ✚ only the tourist villas from those 9 categories of tourist units featured a tourist attraction and interest, engendering an increase of the ratio of tourists from 2001 with a maximum of 8,88 % in 2008 through which they held the third place in the hierarchy of accommodation units at county level, after which the values decreased, being of about 3,5 % in 2019 almost the same as the tourist motels and chalets altogether; it is not out of the question for such villas to be transformed in TP and ATP, the tourist villas are the ones whose number decreased starting with the year 2008 (v. Fig.5);
- ✚ for the whole period analysed the flow engendered by most categories of units from Fig. 4b remains below 2 % ; for hostels appears a certain reinvigoration from 2008, but which remains insignificant in the total flow.

**Figure 4 (a and b). The rate of the tourist flow per tourist accommodation units in Suceava county, others than the holiday villages, student camps and H +ATP+TP**



Source: National Institute of Statistics, <http://statistici.inse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/inse-table>; date accesate la 1 iunie 2020

It is certain that the tourist flow per categories of accommodation units can be engendered by more factors, either acting separately or altogether: the price, the season, the modification of the number of accommodation units, major events such as Christmas, Easter, festivals and so on. It remains to be seen which of these categories of units will manage to attract a higher tourist flow after the COVID-19 period.

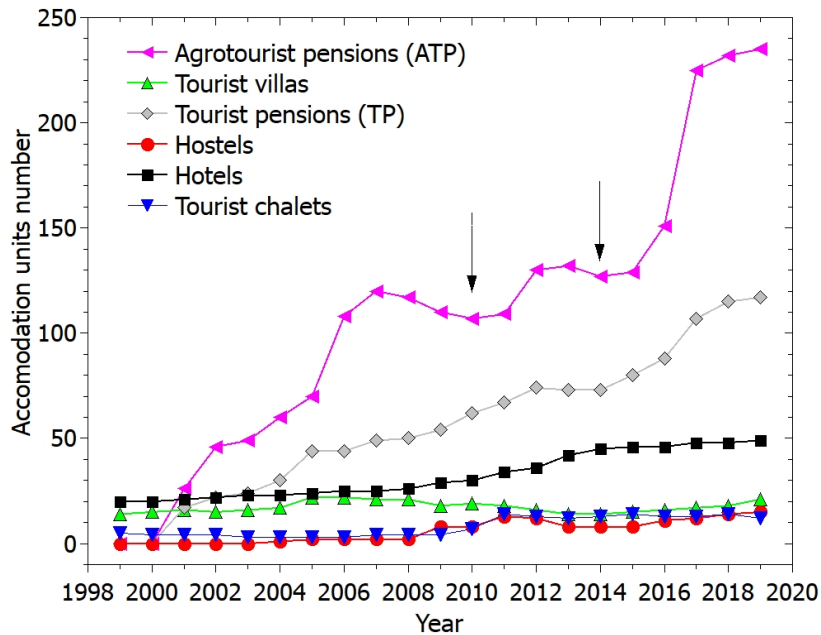
**A.2)** When it comes to the number of accommodation units per categories of tourist welcoming, it is certain that those categories of tourist accommodation units which registered in the annual tourist flow either with the highest ratios (hotels and boarding houses- Fig. 3 ), or with more obvious tendencies of increase for certain years in the segment of annual flow being under 10 % (tourist villas, tourist chalets and hostels – Fig. 4 (a and b), all these categories each dispose of a great number of units per year.

Fig. 5 grasps even those accommodation units in their dynamics, previously pointed out, for which the followings can be specified through analysis:

- ✚ and in this situation thresholds of variations of the number of such units (marked with arrows on the chart) can be noticed as very obvious in the case of the agrotourist boarding houses.
- ✚ the most significant increase can be noticed for agrotourist boarding houses (twice as much) and the tourist ones, from 2014 to 2019. The National Programme of Rural Development for the period 2014-2020 supports the investments in basic infrastructure and of communication because it is considered that it ensures a more attractive rural environment [17]; in 2014 Suceava county makes itself noticed through the high number of SAPARD projects in the country financed by Measure 3.4. (The development and diversification of economic activities in order to engender multiple activities and alternative incomes) which led to the increase of the number of boarding houses in the rural areas and favouring of qualitative development of the tourist offer in the area [3].
- ✚ the number of hotels increased a little, beginning with the year 2008, but it reached a limitation starting with the year 2014;
- ✚ in 2019 compared with 2000 a ninefold increase of the number of agrotourist boarding houses is registered, a sevenfold increase of tourist boarding houses and of about 2.5 times in the case of hotels, which supports the above statement that boarding houses gained ground against the hotels.



**Figure 5. Accommodation units in Suceava county**



Source: National Institute of Statistics, <http://statistici.insee.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insee-table>; date accesate la 1 iunie 2020

The rural tourism proved that it can be a good base for small business involved in tourism in a direct manner (attractions and accommodation units) and indirectly (food stores) and at the same time works well with the farms [12].

Thus, the increase of the number of agrotourist boarding houses can be attributed to the fact that farmers started to regard tourist entrepreneurship as being mainly an important strategy of household than a strategy of the individual farmer [5], as it happened with the agrotourist entrepreneurs from Norway according to the analysis made by Haugen and Vik (2008).

Those 10 years of Romania in EU have brought positive changes at the level of agrotourism. And in the case of Suceava county for the property owners these 10 years contributed to the increase of the receipts, the argument being that in 2007 the index of net using the agrotourist accommodation capacity was 15.5%, rising in 2017 to 22% [1].

Nevertheless, the hotels hold a pretty solid position through preferences and size and it remains to be seen what will happen in the future.

### **B) Possible reconfiguration in tourism imposed by Covid-19 pandemic**

According to the data presented it can be seen that until the threshold of the establishment of the Covid-19 epidemics Suceava county had managed to build itself a tourist profile through the capitalization of the elements of tourist potential at the level of basic administrative – territorial units (parishes and towns) under the “impulse” of the actors (from the central authorities to the level of rural / urban community).

Starting with the relaxation of the measures as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic it remains to be seen both within this county and all over the country, on the one hand what modifications will be induced and how deep they will be at the level of tourist welcoming structures with accommodation functions, of tourism forms, tourist flows (directions, sizes, structure) and on the other hand which will be its impact in the territorial profile, at the level of entrepreneurship, in the relations of tourism with the connected sectors.

But, besides these, taking into account few major aspects engendered by the Covid-19 pandemic and imprinted in the conscience of many people involved in actions which belong to the development of tourism- of the potential tourists, of those who are hosts- such as keeping the social distance, low-sized groups, preferred at family level, the awareness-raising of spiritual side, the tendency of increase of the desire to escape in nature and relaxation especially after a period of about two months of lockdown, we anticipate few suppositions on the basis of generally knowing the essence of the issue of tourism dynamics.

**B.1)** Among the tourism forms that can be practised there will be a possible increase of the preference amongst the potential tourists of religious and pilgrimage tourism. And at the same time, a larger development of cultural tourism can be registered because as a result of the Convention regarding the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage” (1972), accepted by Romania through The Decree no. 187 / 1990, at the end of the year 2019 on the List of Unesco World Heritage there were 8 cultural sites reunited in the category “Churches from Moldova” [16].

These forms can be followed by rural tourism and ecotourism (including agrotourism or ecoagrotourism) as an effect of a motivation started from the desire to escape in nature and relaxation and sustained by traditional cuisine- engendering of such a tourism itself.

Compared with the year 2015 when it still did not have a network of entrepreneurs with traditional products certified in the rural space [10], in 2018 Suceava county outlined a network by itself but integrated within new groupings that occurred at the level of the country and more precise Suceava – Neamt – Botosani (in the north-east of the country), according to the analysis of the distribution of entrepreneurs and traditional food products per counties and localities [8]. And all the more this thing because in 2017 the World Tourism Organisation highlighted the idea of becoming a major motivation of cuisine in order to visit a destination and that gastronomical tourism provides a huge potential of stimulating the local, regional and national savings and of enhancing the sustainability and inclusion [18]. But especially the agrotourist boarding houses are the ones that offer the tourists their own local and regional traditional products, through the criteria imposed on their functioning.

**B.2)** The tourists will play an important role as they will start the choice of accommodation units. Their choices / preferences will probably influence along the way a reconfiguration of the whole system of accommodation units.

**B.2.1)** An analysis of agrotourist boarding houses induces the idea of their maintaining in the tourists' preferences and this does not seem to be one of the categories of accommodation units which affects the entrepreneurship too much, to remain simple investments for their owner as a dwelling place and at the same time to be excluded from the plans of tourist arrangement of the rural territory as important elements.

Throughout the whole time period subject of the analysis, the statement is based on the distribution of the number of agrotourist boarding houses and the correlation between them and the tourists, of the average number of tourist arrivals per day unchanged on the whole analysed period at a time when their number increased a lot, taking into account not only the low capacity of accommodation of this category but also the functionality imposed through legislation (ensuring the meals mainly from their own farm / household and from the local / regional space), location in an exceptional natural area.

Thus, there are statistically registered boarding houses in many localities from rural space, right before the moment of Romania joining EU (in 2007), before the elaboration of The National Programme of Rural Development 2007-2013 in which it was mentioned that the development of rural tourism at regional level in 2005 greatly depended on the existence and the quality of the tourist boarding houses and the presence of some varied types of activities, folk art and the existence of the ethnographic regions and the practice of agriculture and wine growing / viticulture (agro-tourism) [15].

The implementation of the policies and different programmes has been mirrored in the increase of the number of agrotourist boarding houses at the level of locality and the extension of the network of localities with such units – for example – Vama village – 9 in 2001, 12 in 2002, Humorului Monastery – 11 in 2006, 20 in 2017; Sucevita – 6 in 2002, 23 in 2006, 24 in 2018. There were 27 localities with agrotourist boarding houses in 2006 and 46 localities in 2008 from all over the county.

When it comes to the localities from the rural space in which there are the churches from Moldova, built at the end of the 15th -16th century, it can be seen that this category of remarkable tourist resources impart inertness to the tourist act in those four villages – Humorului Monastery, Sucevita, Vatra Moldovitei and Patrauti. Besides the asset that nominates them on UNESCO list [21] there is also a repository of features [9], thus clearly differentiating them from more other churches of the county: design in exceptional natural environments, renaissance details, framing within the ensemble of fortifications (Sucevita case), collections of objects of a real artistic and cultural value (exhibited in their own museums), items of furniture, lecterns, some saints' relics and miracle-making icons.

On the basis of the analysis of the number of tourists in the agrotourist boarding houses and on the total accommodation units of each locality from the rural space with UNESCO churches from 2001 to 2019 the following come about:

- ✚ a tourists' preference for any of these localities, even though some of them do not have other categories of units except from agrotourist boarding houses (Vatra Moldovitei) or whether the agrotourist boarding houses are in an extremely reduced number (Humorului Monastery, Patrauti) except Sucevita case;
- ✚ on the whole an increase of the number of tourists throughout the whole period, being highlighted since 2015, but framed within the trend at the level of the country;
- ✚ Sucevita holds about 25 % of the tourists in agrotourist boarding houses from the total number of accommodation units, a pretty high percentage reported to the other accommodation units within the perimeter of the locality throughout the stated period (7 categories – hotels, youth hotels, hostels inns and motels, tourist chalets / villas, bungalows, camping sites).

The stated localities, except Patrauti, are in the statistical database compared with the rest of the localities from the rural space of the county with a pretty high number of agrotourist boarding houses in the last years (2017 and 2018 – almost 20-14 for Humor Monastery and Sucevita, 10 for Vatra Moldovitei).

An input for the increase of tourist flow can be ascribed to the action of promoting the Romanian cultural values and the increase of the awareness regarding the importance of knowing and preserving the Romanian UNESCO heritage as a result of initiating a strategic partnership between Bancpost and The National Commission of Romania for UNESCO at the beginning of the year 2018 [13].

**B.2.2)** Tourist sheepfolds could be a category of developing units following a process of homologation and classification, they not being yet a category in their own right in the Romanian legislation.

From the stage of proposal in the specialty literature in 2007 [11], two years ago it arrived to be found among the tourist offers of Suceava county, in Dornelor area, the accommodation unit called Tourist Sheepfold Magura”, later transformed as a result of the difficulties encountered by the owner with the name „Magura Chalet” (Tourist sheepfold) from Dorna Candrenilor [28], the tourist chalet being featured in the current legislation.

The toponymy [2] recorded the presence of sheepfolds in the Romanian space: Dealul Stânii-The Sheepfold Hill, Vârful Stânii -The Sheepfold Peak, Plaiul Stânii-The Sheepfold Plain, Piscul Stânii- The Sheepfold Pinch, Valea Stânii-The Sheepfold Valley, Coasta Stânii-The Sheepfold Coast, Poiana Stânii-The Sheepfold Meadow, Pârâul Stânii - The Sheepfold Stream, Vârful Ciobanului- The Shepherd’s Peak, Stânișoara-The Little Sheepfold etc.

According to the name of the place it is very clear that the tourist sheepfold attracts not only the potential that defines it but also the landscape one.

**B.2.3)** In the future, other accommodation units in the tourists’ preferences will be the camping sites and tourist chalets, the existing ones have the chance to register a degree of greater occupation under the conditions imposed by Covid-19 pandemic; it can be a revival to years ago when the caravans were preferred and the camping sites their “host”.

## Conclusions

- it is one of the counties most affected by Covid-19 epidemic through the number of infections and at the same time affected from a tourist point of view especially because the emergency state and alert state coincided with the Lent of the Orthodox Easter and everything that is related to orthodox holidays after Easter, the religious and pilgrimage tourism being the form mentioned as specific for Bucovina (North-East), obviously in which the county is registered;
- in the threshold of Covid-19 it reached a high level of tourism development, at the end of the year 2019 it had a vast network of localities with tourist activity (61 of which 10 towns and 51 villages) almost the highest at the level of the country and is at the same time on the 8<sup>th</sup> place in the hierarchy of the counties regarding tourists’ arrivals in tourist welcoming structures; this advantage is supported by the high tourist potential: almost two thirds of its surface which generally coincides with the mountainous area is registered according to the Plan of Arrangement of the National Territory – Section VIII – areas with tourist resources in the area of concentration of natural and anthropic tourist resources” and it belongs to the space of Bucovina which is known as the country of 1000 churches of which 8 churches are on the list of UNESCO monuments.
- the units from the category of hotels diminish their tourist flow reaching in 2019 at about 51 % compared with 2001 (78,3%) although they were in a slight increase of number on about 20 years, but still remaining key elements in the tourism economy of the county; starting with the period 2008-2009 the tourist flow orientates towards tourist boarding houses and agrotourist boarding houses, the latter standing out through the highest increase of their number among all the categories of accommodation units of the county, situation supported by the policies of rural development ; only the three categories – hotels, tourist boarding houses and agrotourist boarding houses – came to concentrate almost 90 % of the tourist flow at the end of the year 2019;
- in the lockdown period accompanied by extensive relaxation measures and after Covid-19 the tourists will play an important role, their choices / preferences will probably influence a reconfiguration of the whole system of accommodation units along the way; the agrotourist boarding houses will remain the tourists’ favorites, along with the camping sites and tourist chalets; the agrotourist boarding houses do not seem to be a category to affect the entrepreneurship that much, to remain simple investments for their own owner .
- there will likely be an increase of the preference among the potential tourists for religious tourism and pilgrimage compared with what has been registered so far, but also for rural tourism and ecotourism.

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