

THE EVOLUTION OF ROMANIAN TOURISM – A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE –

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Romania has a very rich fund of tourism resources which are either part of the natural environment or a result of human thinking and activities developed on its territory. They are randomly spread and differently grouped based on their specific, the degree of preservation and their involvement in different types of tourism activities. The correlation of tourism objectives to adequate structures and the resulting forms of tourism during different periods of time allowed the differentiation of several phases with various characteristics for tourism development in Romania:

- *the creation of the preliminary fund of tourism attractions (till the end of 18th century)*
- *the organization and development of tourism activities (19th century – 1950)*
- *the 20th century registered on its turn several phases among which the most important could be considered the one of central controlled planning in tourism activities (after 1950) and the post-communist phase of tourism development*

The study makes reference and exemplifies the main characteristics of tourism resources, structures and activities for each of these phases.

Keywords: *Romanian tourism, evolution, geography.*

Romania has a rich fund of tourist attractions which are both part of its natural environment and a result of human thinking and activities undergone for thousands of years on its territory. They are randomly spread and differently grouped based on their specific, the degree of preservation and their implication in different types of tourism activities. The correlation of tourism attractions to adequate structures and the resulting forms of tourism, leads to possible economic and other types of analysis both for the present day period and for different moments in the past. Consequently evaluative analysis and predictions can also be made. In this way the multicriterial analyses based on objective comparisons of present and past situations and on appreciations of future scenarios can also be applied for the Romanian space. Therefore several phases of evolution can be individualized for Romanian tourism.

Tourism, perceived as a unitary system formed from its basic elements cannot be regarded as an economic activity earlier than the 18th century both in Romania as well as in other European countries. Its systemic components

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appeared gradually. First of all natural tourism attractions were formed if the geologic time scale is considered, while the human elements appeared later on being dated on a historic time scale. In the end the communication structures were designed both for services in general and for various particular services. Consequently different forms of activities which can be entirely or partly integrated in the tourism domain imposed themselves in time in the sphere of services and amplified to a great extent in the last decades, developing also connections with different other domains (sciences, sport, social, politics etc.).

Although they suffered some changes through the impact of human activities, the natural attractions existed long before recreation activities manifested, raising tourism interest in different moments in time, based on their original character and their image but also on the development of ways of communication and of hospitality structures (e.g. accommodation, catering etc.). The cultural heritage attractions display a great variety as they belong to different historic, architectural, artistic and folk creation epochs and are mainly concentrated in the inhabited areas (cities, villages). The interest for them differs based on the demand's level of knowledge, capacity and desire to understand them.

All these lead to the idea that the transfer of natural elements or human works within the range of tourism attractions is a slow and difficult process based on the knowledge of their real value and the achievement of specific structures which should provide access in the region and insure proper conditions for tourism performance. As a consequence, since their appearance and the moment when they imposed themselves as tourist attractions generating specific activities and till the present day several phases with different characteristics may be emphasized, reflecting an achieved level of socio-economic development and indirectly the tourism exploitation of a certain location (which might be either a tourism axis or a tourist area, region, province etc.).

The simple monitoring of the knowledge and valuing level of tourism heritage linked to the dynamics of different activities connected to it lead to the outline of several significant phases for tourism development on Romanian territory (*Table 1*):

*Table 1***The Phases of Tourism Development in Romania**

Phase of tourism development	The period	Focus of tourism policies	Infrastructure	Organization	Types of traveling
<i>The resource-centered phase</i>	till the end of the 18 th century	Focusing on tourism attractions: thermal spas, natural attractions and later on human made attractions	Primary accommodation and hospitality structures appear (inns, bars)	Tourism destinations appear in the form of spa resorts	Scientific trips to study and discover spa resources on the Romanian territory

<i>The planning-centered phase</i>	19 th century – 1950	Focusing on tourism planning, revival of spa tourism, appearance of mountaineering, the beginning of cultural tourism	Accommodation and medical units in spa destinations, chalets on the most tourist attractive mountain ranges	Tourism clubs, societies and organizations appear next to a reinforcement of spa destinations and appearance of mountain attractive points, of nature or cultural oriented trips	Incoming or domestic individual and small group mediated trips with promoting purposes
<i>The tourism activities-centered phase</i>	the first half of 20 th century	Focusing on both resources and especially on infrastructure development as well as on planning	Expansion and planning of tourist attractions (museums, memorial houses etc.)	The foundation of tourism organizations, societies and associations	Incipient domestic individual, small groups or family traveling of rich members of the society
	the between wars period	Focusing on promoting publications for Romanian tourist attractions			Continuation of previous consume trends
	the second half of 20 th century (between 1950 and 1990)	The phase of central control and planning of tourist activities Tourism activity was entirely organized and controlled by state	Mass tourism structures The appearance of various sport tourism facilities (the design of ski domains, littoral and spa tourism resorts) Transport infrastructure	The founding of Tourism Ministry and organizations (general - ONT, county offices or profile organizations BTT – for youth tourism)	Group traveling overlapped individual traveling. Domestic demand was dominant. At the end of the period incoming group tours and also outgoing trips (almost only to socialist destinations) were organized by the state agency.
	the post-communist period after 1990	The phase of privatization and capitalization of the economy and tourism sector	New emergent small tourism structures coexist with degrading or privatized market reoriented old mass structures	Ministry of Tourism and numerous national and regional organizations or NGO-s act on different recreational themes (e.g. ecotourism, cycling etc.)	Modern tendencies of consume oriented to niche types of tourism coexist the old ones very inert at least for the domestic market which dominates by far tourist demand at the national level

a) *The resource-centered phase or the phase which generated valuable tourism elements creating a preliminary fund of tourism attractions* and achieving an integrated tourism services system, occurred until the 18th-19th centuries. It had as specific elements:

- the individualization of a range of landscapes and natural attractions (connected mostly to relief forms) to which the settlements and human works from Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Thracian-Roman period, Middle Ages, etc. could be added;
- the discovery of a rich scientific and cultural heritage, with an impressive aesthetic value, little known but valued during the following periods of time;
- the only natural elements considered by the economic activities and also by military strategies were the valley corridors and the plateaus for settlements and the thermal springs which became afterwards tourist demand triggering factors. They were locally used, especially in some Roman settlements (e.g. Herculane, Germisara (Geoagiu), Aquae (Călan)) where catchment basins were built (to direct springs' waters towards thermae) as well as towards buildings destined for inhabiting purposes, for entertainment or for Gods worship. An important role was played by the orientation of crests and summits bordering villages or urban settlements. On many of them, especially on isolated heights, fortresses and military points were established. A permanent importance was played by fords, gorges, gateways and cols as places that facilitated the circulation through the Carpathians and the fluxes of goods and values, not only among the inhabitants of the provinces within the Romanian territory but also with traders coming from other great urban centers within Europe.

Among the achieved human heritage elements that appeared in this period and became in time tourist attractions one may enumerate: Thracian and Roman settlements, Greek settlements in Dobrogea, Middle Age fortresses and castles, fortified churches, the „cule” (half-fortified buildings to be found in Oltenia Region), the churches built during 13th-18th centuries in various architectonic styles and the palaces and noble men houses displaying in the present moment different phases of conservation. They played during those times a certain role of defense, being inhabited or hosting different craft works whereas today they are part of various systems of tourism valuing (especially of cultural type).

A non-modern network of main roads was gradually built linking the entire assembly of urban settlements and the most important fairs. In time rural roads added mostly in the plain and hilly regions. Therefore the infrastructure of those times included the transcarpathian traditional axes of communication (in the Apuseni Mountains, the Transalpina Road, on the Olt – Lovișteța – Sibiu or

Câmpulung – Bran – Moldavia corridors) or roads overlapping the large valley corridors (Danube, Mureș, Siret, Prut, etc.) with connections towards various European regions. One could also add the paths leading to sheep farms in the mountains or to transcarpathians cols. Accommodation and catering units were barely represented in 16th-17th century by inns and bars in towns and cities or by shanties in the mountain regions.

The very few writings that appeared in the Antiquity period, usually in chronics or writings of foreign visitors hosted at noblemen's residences in the 15th-18th centuries are the only ones that remind among other aspects the specific of daily urban activities, the appearance of palaces and noblemen houses and, more rarely, the greatness of some natural objectives. One should also mention as important issues the geographical, historic and ethnographic etc. information containing tourism elements which appeared in *Descriptio Moldaviae* masterpiece written by Dimitrie Cantemir.

Therefore the above mentioned centuries outstand as a long phase of accumulation of natural and human elements considered later on as tourist attractions. During this period, tourism activities, as they are perceived today, were not performed yet and one may state rather the occasional trips for knowledge or usage of benefic elements found in thermal or mineral waters (Băile Herculane, Felix Baths near Oradea, some springs in the Subcarpathians).

b) *The planning-centered phase or the phase of organization and development of tourism activities* lasted till the first half of 20th century.

In 18th-19th centuries an important progress was registered in tourism development for the main regions of Transylvania compared to the extra Carpathian regions. As a consequence of the close connections with Central Europe and of the Austrian influence one should mention for this province in the first place a revival of the spa tourism based on thermal waters (e.g. Băile Herculane, Geoagiu, Moneasa, Episcopiei Baths (1 Mai)) or on mineral springs (e.g. Borsec, Sângeorz Băi, Vatra Dornei, Buziaș, Bazna, Ocna Sibiului). All these places became tourist destinations where specialized units for medical and relaxation purposes were built (providing mainly therapeutic and accommodation services). Another type of leisure activities for the second part of 19th century were the ascensions towards Carpathian summits especially in Făgăraș Mountains, in the mountains located in the southern part of Brașov County, in Bihor or in other parts of the Carpathians. Mountaineering activities were organized not only for recreation purposes but also for scientific reasons (especially to study the glacial relief and big rivers' gorges). They were organized mostly by foreigners and German ethnics inhabiting mountain areas, mainly under the influence of the Western Europe. Therefore ski tracks and various paths in the mountains located nearby the cities of Cluj, Oradea, Sibiu, Brașov etc. were registered as planned tourism infrastructure during that period.

At the same time impressive buildings and monuments ornamented with traditional architectonic motives (Romanian, German, Hungarian) combined with elements inspired by the art in the Central Europe (baroque, rococo, secession, etc.) were built. Other aspects important to be mentioned for tourism development during this period were the development of the ways of transport (including the cruises on the Danube from Vienna to Orșova and on Bega Canal); the presence in the great cities of some artistic and scientific personalities (Cluj, Timișoara, Oradea, Sibiu, etc.) or cultural and high-education institutions (Cluj and Timișoara had universities at the end of the 19th century) etc. which constituted in the end the germs of cultural tourism in Romania.

A great importance in implementing tourism activities had some societies (founded on the model of those in the Western Europe) which organized excursions on the summits of the Romanian Carpathians having as a main interest the study of the natural environment in the mountain areas as well as in the neighboring area of great cities and the training of guides. For more than 60 years distinct activities were linked to The Transylvanian Carpathian Society of Tourists (Sieben bürgerliche Karpaten Verein – SKV) which was founded in 1880 in Brașov and had branches located also in other cities. The society was involved in the planning of chalets and mountain paths and the publishing of about 56 works in the domain and had a rich informational data basis (referring to Carpathian Mountains, spa resorts, medieval fortresses, etc.).

Within the other Romanian provinces the beginning of tourism activities was registered later (mostly in the second half of the 19th century) and only in some regions with a particular specific. Bucegi Mountains outstand as the place where the first excursions were organized between 1833-1845 in locations such as: Peștera, Omu Peak, Caraiman Peak. Another destination was the upper Prahova Valley – around Sinaia which displayed as main attractions: the monastery, the Peleş Castle, some villas, 2 hotel units and was accessed by an important road leading from Bucharest to Brașov. In Moldavia important events were the tour of the Bishop in 1805 and of Gh. Asachi in 1838 in Ceahlău as well as the pilgrimages of literate people and of foreign journalists to monasteries, to whom we owe the first literary, artistic and scientific testimonials. Relevant for this period are as well the geographic researches of Emm. de Martonne for the Southern Carpathians and also geologic and naturalist researches entreprised by scientists who described in valuable works different destinations, based on data obtained from their traveling. Activities meant to value and promote both at national and European level (through presentations at international reunions – Viena, Paris etc.) Romanian spa resorts (e.g. Slănic Moldova, Băile Govora, Călimănești, Băltăești, etc.) may be added. In Bucovina (occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire) one may remark the commemorative celebrations of Putna Monastery, organized in the memory of Ștefan cel Mare, which gathered great personalities of Romanian culture and

had a complex symbolic value with rich religious and historical nuances. To all these events the activities of the Romanian Geographical Society should be added. Founded in 1875 and comprising among its members great personalities of our country (politicians, economists, historians, geologists, naturalists, writers etc.) the Society intended among its objectives to contribute to the knowledge and popularization through conferences and publications of the environment in our country at both national and international level.

Therefore in the 19th century the dominant tourism activities to be met in the Romanian provinces were the excursions to Carpathian summits, the traveling to monasteries (either as pilgrimages or for various cultural and patriotic manifestations e.g.: Putna 1871), the stays in spa resorts which were in the early stage of their evolution, the tours in the main urban centres (Iași, București, Târgoviște), the trips along the important valleys (Moldova, Suceava, Bistrița, Olt etc.). Impressed by the natural beauties and by the human settlements some writers (Gr. Alecsandrescu, C. Hogaș, Gh. Asachi, Al. Vlahuță etc.) created real literary masterpieces. An important role in the planning of mountain tourism in Bucegi Mountains was played by the Sinaia Carpathian Society, created in 1893 on the purpose to study nature in the region, to dwell accommodation units and shelters for travelers (e.g. Cu Dor Peak, Furnica, Peștera, Caraiman, Omu Peak) or winter sports facilities etc.

c) *The first half of XXth century* marks the beginning of *the tourism activities – centered phase* during which tourism was perceived as an economic activity in itself. The first period is to be placed in time especially after the great Union achieved in 1918 and has distinct characteristics for the development of Romanian tourism system among which one should mention:

- the expansion of the area containing tourist attractions by including alpine and subalpine objectives in Bucegi, Făgăraș, Retezat, Rodnei, Ciucaș etc., medieval fortresses, spa and littoral resorts, museums of national interest, famous historical places (commemorating great battles), monasteries etc. On the Black Sea coast the first tourist units appeared in Constanța area (1800-1920), followed by Carmen Silva, Movilă Baths, Eforie (1892) and Techirghiol (a sanatory since 1907) structures.
- the expansion of the tourism planning system (roads and railways, marked paths in many mountain chains, chalets, refugees and mountain huts, inns, hotels in towns, ski and sledge runs especially at Sinaia, Predeal, Păltiniș etc.).
- the tourism valuing of many scientifically studied natural objectives; the construction of numerous monuments dedicated to historical events or to great personalities etc.; the planning of museums

around a historical, artistic or an ethnic and folk theme (e.g. the Village Museum in Bucharest).

- the development of already existing tourism activities (mountain trips, winter sports, relaxation, medical treatment, training and education, cultural tours to monasteries, cities).
- the foundation of tourism societies and associations which contributed to the development of this domain. An important name was “The Romanian Tourist Society”, founded in 1903 by a group of personalities among whom one should mention the geologists Gh. Munteanu Murgoci and L. Mrazec, the geographer S. Mehedinți, the naturalist Gr. Antipa, the chemist C. I. Istrati, the mathematicians Tr. Lalescu and Spiru Haret, the writer Al. Vlahuță or many remarkable politicians: Petre P. Carp, Ion I. C. Brătianu, Tache Ionescu, D. D. Sturdza, I. Cantacuzino, etc.. The society had as main objectives the organization of trips in the country (in different ranges of the Romanian Carpathians at Slănic Prahova Curtea de Argeș, Târgoviște, at monasteries in Muntenia, Moldavia etc.), the printing of guides about the important tourist regions, the presentation of Romanian tourist attractions at conferences and events, the organization of exhibitions of promoting materials, the development of shelters and chalets in the intensely frequented mountains, etc.. Other important societies were The Romanian Touring Club, founded in 1926, which had an important journal of alpinism, The Association of Backpackers in Romanian Mountains (1929) which played an important part in the development of infrastructure in the Carpathian area etc. The Romanian National Tourism Office – ONT was founded in 1926 and limited its activity to spa resorts until 1933 when it was invested with complete functions as an authority for all tourism regions and types of destinations in Romania. Its main attributions were to stimulate Romanians internal and international traveling as well as to develop the incoming tourism. The first president of this institution was the great geographer G. Vâlsan.

d) During *the between wars period* tourism books and maps were published, among them an outstanding title being the “Romanian Tourism Encyclopedia” (1941) signed by Mihai Haret. One should also remark the publishing of numerous maps of the mountains frequently climbed by tourists (e.g. Bucegi, Gârbova, Piatra Mare, Retezat etc.). They were designed at big scales and with a satisfactory detail level so as to stimulate the trips (e.g. those organized by Mihai Haret). In 1984 all tourism societies and associations were

disestablished and their patrimony was taken over by the state under the umbrella of “The Association of Popular Tourism” through some ministers.

Therefore the first half of the 20th century would be generally defined by the tourism planning system based on the gradual expansion of tours within the mountain regions and the big cities; the dominance of several spa resorts; the inclusion of some littoral sectors (south from Constanța); the development of structures and services according to the financial and human resources of the moment; the diversification of domestic tourism activities (e.g. trekking, hiking, winter sports, relaxation, spa treatment, trainings, cultural and special interest trips etc.) as well as the development of the outgoing tourism especially to Europe (for cultural trips and relaxation) but also to other continents (expeditions); the elaboration of a rich volume of information (articles in newspapers, books, maps etc.); the presence of geographers in the leading councils of some tourism associations, organizing and supporting the planning of expeditions or of trips in the Carpathian areas or to historical places and promoting the value of tourism resources at the national level (through conferences, descriptions, maps, etc.). Journeys were enterprised by individual planning or through existing tourism organizations and included also educational trips which comprised physically demanding activities.

e) *The second half of XXth century – between 1950 and 1990* marks the phase of central control and planning of tourism activities during which there was a total dominance of a state centralized tourism system. Its main attributes referred to: the public ownership and administration of both natural and human tourism resources; the development of the infrastructure needed to provide various activities in this domain (e.g. trekking, entertainment, spa treatment, relaxation, cultural services, winter and water sports, fishing, hunting, hiking, cave tourism, etc.), all designed at a mass scale.

Tourism organized, at the beginning of this period, only by trade unions or through the Ministries of Education and of Health gradually expanded especially after the founding of O.N.T. Carpați and of the Tourism Ministry (in 1971). This is the phase during which the individual tourism overlapped the one of organized groups and when tourism displayed a modernized infrastructure especially in the spa resorts (e.g. Sinaia, Băile Herculane, Felix, 1 Mai, Borsec, Vatra Dornei, Eforie Nord and Eforie Sud, Techirghiol, Bazna, Buziaș, Slănic Moldova etc.) but also in other regions with important tourism resources. In the mountain areas a network of shelters and chalets was built and many tourism paths were marked. The first ski domain with proper tracks was planned at Poiana Brașov in view of the International Students Winter Olympics (which took place in 1951) after which similar domains were also built at Predeal, Sinaia, Semenic, Păltiniș etc.

The period also marked the beginning of outgoing group excursions (mainly to socialist destinations) while the incoming tourism was developed especially after 1965 when a priority was the building of seaside resorts on the southern part of the Romanian littoral and of modern accommodation, catering and treatment basis in other already famous national resorts. New organizations, specially designed for tourism, appeared (e.g. B.T.T. – The Youth Tourism Office, a department on the UNCAP Cooperation, departments within various ministries or trade unions). At the same time a clear separation between the attributions of O.N.T. Carpați and those of county tourism offices was made. The first institution organized tours in collaboration with various foreign partners located mainly in communist destinations both for the outgoing Romanians and for incomers. Inbound tours were planned towards different Romanian regions (Bucovina, Bucharest, Danube Delta) or for longer stays on littoral or spa resorts (Felix, Herculane, Neptun, Căciulata, Sovata, Covasna, Eforie Nord etc.). County tourism offices imposed themselves as the main authority in the planning of domestic tourism, performed especially for relaxation or theme trips in mountain, rural or spa destinations. In this way the organized tours became the main form of tourism, involving most people. Organized tourism was favored by standardized low prices and the variety of programs existing on the market despite the not very updated services and infrastructure.

During this period two major elements contributed to a great extent to tourism development. One of them referred to the building of infrastructure, an important issue being the construction of large relaxation and treatment units (usually providing in a single building accommodation, catering and medical services for mass tourism) in the most important and famous existing spa resorts after 1965, but especially between 1970 and 1975. Other directions were the planning of infrastructure according to the tourist profile based on age, motivation, etc. (e.g. Costinești for youth, Năvodari as a scholar camp for pupils, Izvorul Mureșului and Pârâul Rece for students, etc.); the planning of a large number of scholar camps in each county; the dominance on a local or a regional level of an important number of spa resorts for treatment and relaxation with different degrees of development in terms of services; the beginning of valuing through tourism of areas surrounding reservoirs in the mountains regions (e.g. those on Bistrița, Olt, Danube, Semenic region etc.) or of lakes for fishing within plain or hilly regions; the construction of important transcarpathian roads (e.g. Transfăgărășan road), etc..

A second element that contributed to tourism development during this period was the detailed knowledge and promotion of tourism resources for different regions, towns, mountains, littoral areas, etc. Beside the articles on tourism topics that were published in different newspapers one should remark the existence of „România pitorească” Journal and also the editing by various publishing houses of several works on tourism themes, among which several

collections could be enumerated (e.g. „Munții noștri” designed as a tourism guide which tried to underline tourism complex reality of the most frequented mountain ranges in the Romanian Carpathians, the theme collection „Tourism with the history / literature / ethnography / handbook” describing tours for various regions in Romania, „Nature reserves and tourism” etc.) or of synthesis works for different historic provinces, counties or for the whole national territory. Cartographic works for tourism (tourism maps for the national territory and for the regions of Romania, the Road Atlas of Romania etc.) should be also mentioned.

Individual tourism continues to exist orienting more towards weekend tourism for trekking and relaxation purposes. Another developing form is the one of small groups organized by different associations especially with a sport profile and oriented towards active forms of tourism (e.g. hunting, fishing, hiking, ski, canyoning, etc.).

After 1980 on the general context of economic decline essential changes occurred. The financial diminution affected not only the construction of tourism infrastructure destined for different services but also cancelled the opportunity of modernizing and maintaining the existent one, including the general transport infrastructure. Another aspect was the diminishing of service quality and the increase of prices. In these conditions tourism activities entered a decline in terms of the volume, frequency, length of stay of tourism demand and of number of objectives visited by tourists during their tours. However tourism activities connected to trekking purposes, spa treatments, special interest trips still determined an important volume of traveling in spite of decreases registered for the length of stay and the group size (e.g. for winter sport tourism).

Geographers played an important part in the evolution of the tourism system in: the organization of trips and camps for pupils and youth mainly in the Carpathian area; the participation as guides in leading tourist groups on various itineraries or accompanying and animating them during summer camps; the emphasis and valuing of tourism resources through different paper works including diploma thesis, PhD thesis; punctual analysis of the tourism phenomenon and its presentation at various scientific manifestations; the participation in guides and tourism labor force training.

f) *The postcommunist period after 1990* met significant transformations for all the components of the tourism system within the general transition process which displayed profound social, politic and economic changes.

In the first place old structures in tourism domain were replaced with new institutions meant to diversify and revive this economic sector. Therefore in the present moment among the main organizations and associations acting in the tourism domain in Romania one should mention: ANAT (The National Association of Tourism Agencies), ANTREC (The National Association of

Rural, Ecologic and Cultural Tourism), FIHR (The Patronal Federation of Hotels in Romania), F.P.T. (The Patronal Federation of Tourism), OPTBR (The Patronizing Organization of Romanian Spa Tourism), R.C.B. (Romanian Convention Bureau), A.N.T. (The National Youth Association), I.N.C.D.T. (The National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism), A.G.V.P.S. (The National Association of Hunters and Fishing Men in Romania) etc.. The supreme forum that focused on the elaboration, promotion and monitoring of the strategy and national policy in the tourism domain and on its multiple elements was the Tourism Ministry (known under various denominations due to the multiple transformations that it suffered in the last two decades) which shared this function with the National Authority for Tourism (between 1998 and 2007). At regional and local level numerous private institutions and societies played a part in planning and organizing tourism in general or of its different components in particular.

The state owned tourism structures, especially with accommodation and catering functions suffered a long and slow privatization process. In the first decade after the Revolution in 1989 the exploitation of tourism infrastructure and the lack of investments for its maintenance and modernization led to a continuous degradation especially of the large structures designed and destined for mass tourism during the communist period. This aspect determined an important loss in tourist demand (almost entirely for foreign tourist demand) in many tourist destinations. However an important part of tourism infrastructure managed to be rehabilitated in time whereas other new and modern units and equipments (e.g. transport infrastructure, ski lifts, entertainment and cultural units, sport infrastructure etc.) were put in place. As a result of these changes a new network of tourist units destined to winter sports, relaxation, entertainment, etc. appeared. All regions with tourist resources witnessed the rising up of boarding houses either along roads or within tourist villages as agricultural and rural tourism became recently popular forms of tourism.

A major change produced in tourism programs was their gradual orientation towards the demand motivation. This factor determined the shaping of several directions for tourism development namely: the outgoing traveling for organized groups; the individual or small groups tourism for trekking, relaxation, weekend tourism, seasonal active tourism (ski, hiking, hunting, fishing, extreme sports etc.); tourism in the Danube Delta and on the littoral; business tourism; tourism to religious attractions (pilgrimages organized in Romania or abroad for domestic demand). In parallel, the special interest trips and tours ponder diminished to a great extent for the internal demand.

In this new epoch of tourism development and dynamics, geographers are a growing part of the domain for which they contribute in a first place by identifying, presenting and promoting tourism resources through writings, books, guidebooks, maps, atlases and tourism brochures. Secondly they also

contribute to the organization of tourism activity as they are part of the tourism societies councils; they participate in the planning of tourism programs along tourism agencies, in the training of tourism labor force; they contribute to the elaboration of laws for tourism and environment protection and conservation; continue their studies in the domain through PhD thesis or through collaboration contracts in different institutions of the profile industry and contribute to publications in tourism domain (maps for tourism purposes, guides, brochures and other promoting materials, books and even encyclopedias, etc.).

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